

**ABSTRACTS OF THE PRESENTATION
on Walled City of Baku (Icherisheher) World Heritage Site
to be done at International Forum
on Evolution and Preservation of Historic City Landscape**

The term “Icherisheher” (literally translation – “Inner city”) is used only for last few centuries, after the city began to grow beyond its medieval walls. Nowadays this historical center of Baku with 22 hectares area granted the title of State Historical-Architectural Reserve is the UNESCO World Heritage Site since year 2000 and included into the list under the *criteria IV* as a Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshahs’ Palace and the Maiden Tower.

After significant damage resulting from the earthquake in Baku happened in 2000 and being affected by urban development Walled City of Baku in 2003 was included into the List of World Heritage in Danger. This pushed the Government for gradual implementation of series of substantial reforms. The Head of the State, His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, plays a huge role and pays great attention to this issue. His good will in finding the best possible solution for preserving and providing basis for sustainable development of cultural and historical heritage of Azerbaijani Nation should be emphasized.

The Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established according to the Presidential Decree in 2005. Immediately following UNESCO World Heritage Committee’s recommendations the Administration developed Integrated Area Management Plan and Conservation Master Plan of the property. World Heritage Committee on its 33rd Meeting in 2009 welcomed development of more key documents and their immediate implementation, as well as number of

important projects on conservation and restoration successfully realized within short period of time. Status of World Heritage Property was recovered.

We are proud to quote text of the report WHC/ICOMOS joint reactive-monitoring mission visited Baku in 2009:

“...Azerbaijani authorities deserve significant credit for having turned around dramatically conditions which have threatened the OUV of the WH property. Their work and the innovative approaches employed can be seen as offering significant lessons for others involved with conservation of historic cities in the region and world round. In future for example, ICCROM could be encouraged to collaborate with the Azerbaijani authorities in organising training activities for regional professionals and administrators involved with conservation of historic cities based on the Baku experience.”

Meantime being in charge of a living city with several thousands of permanent residents the Administration is implementing the concept of “Living History”. We believe that, care for members of local community and provision of necessary quality of life within the territory of the Reserve is one of our main goals. At the same time we are paying big attention for saving and developing of existing cultural traditions, supporting and promoting art workshops, galleries and other cultural facilities.

The main goal of the Administration is to develop a unique management system, combining the functions and powers of central and local executive authorities in order to preserve and maintain the monuments located within Icherisheher and the entire architectural and urban complex for future generations.

The presentation will cover above mentioned issues and describe in details implemented projects, as well as future plans of the Administration aimed to provide proper preservation and development of the site.