

ISSUES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORIES AT THE BAKU MEETING

On September 16-20, 2014, Baku (Azerbaijan) hosted a meeting of the XVII Joint Scientific Council on Fundamental Geographical Problems of the International Association of Academies of Sciences (IAAS) and the Scientific Council on Fundamental Geographical Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS). Such meetings are held annually. The meeting in Baku was devoted to geographic problems of the Caspian Sea region and ways to achieve sustainable development of territories. The Institute of Geography of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) named after its member H. Aliyev, contributed greatly to the organization of the meeting. The meeting included seven sessions.

The first presenter was member of ANAS R.M. Mamedov; his report "Climate change and anthropogenic impacts on the Caspian Sea ecosystem" analyzed the current environmental situation, climatic changes, modern anthropogenic impacts on the ecosystems, and integrated monitoring of the Caspian Sea region. Corresponding member of RAS S.A. Dobrolyubov et al. discussed an integrated electronic atlas of the Caspian Sea. The presentation summed up the results of comprehensive research in the region, which has been conducted over the last half-century by a team of geographers from M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU). The atlas consists of maps pertaining to the history of research in the Caspian Sea region, hydrometeorological conditions, geomorphology, and landscape; the maps contain up-to-date socio-economic data and forecast for the regional development in the nearest decades. F.A. Kadyrov and A.A. Feyzullaev (Institute of Geography, ANAS) presented a geodynamic

model of the hydrocarbon potential for the South Caspian basin.

The report by corresponding member of ANAS E.K. Alizade et al. (Institute of Geography, ANAS) analyzed landscape and ecological features of geosystems of the west coast of the Caspian Sea and the results of detailed landscape-geochemical mapping. D.V. Desinov et al. (Institute of Geography, RAS) presented strong evidence for feasibility of the use of international space stations for monitoring of oil pollution of the Caspian Sea region. Member of RAS V.A. Rumyantsev (Institute of Limnology, RAS) discussed the Caspian Sea region in his presentation "Blooming blue-green algae – a global social and environmental problem."

A report by N.I. Koronkevich et al. (Institute of Geography, RAS) "Factors that affect the Volga River inflow into the Caspian Sea" summarized the results of long-term hydrological research in the Volga River basin and discussed inter-annual variability and long-term water flow into the Caspian Sea. F.A. Imamov (Baku State University) spoke about the natural and anthropogenic transformation of the annual flow of the Kura River. A.V. Izmaylova (Institute of Limnology, RAS) discussed the role of large and small lakes in the development of territories, using the Caspian Sea region as an example.

A.I. Chistobaev et al. (Research Institute of Spatial Planning "ENKO," Russia) and V. Sefihanly (Company R.I.S.K., Republic of Azerbaijan) analyzed territorial planning of the foothill regions of Azerbaijan. O.B. Glezer (Institute of Geography, RAS) and S.G. Safronova (MSU) presented "The territorial population structure and prospects of modernization in the Caucasus region."



R.G. Gracheva and Yu.P. Badenkov (Institute of Geography, RAS) spoke about the current state and prospects of the pan-Caucasian scientific collaboration.

A.A. Tishkov and E.A. Belanovsky (Institute of Geography, RAS) discussed strategies for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity of the northern coast of the Caspian Sea. A.N. Barmin (Astrakhan State University) presented "The dynamics of the environmental features of land cover of the Volga River delta as a function of climate change." Corresponding member of RAS V.A. Snytko (S.I. Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology, RAS) talked about the historical timeline of scientific research in the Caspian region in the 1930s, using the Lower Volga expedition of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR as an example.

A special session was devoted to achieving sustainable development of territories beyond the Caspian region. Thus, the report by scientists from the Institute for Natural Resources Management (National Academy of Sciences, Belarus [NASB]) V.F. Loginov (member of NASB), B. M.I. Struk, and V.S. Homich discussed sustainable territorial development of Belarus. Corresponding member of RAS A.A. Chibilev et al. (Institute of Steppe, Ural Branch RAS) spoke about the

Ural basin as a transboundary region and its sustainable development. Corresponding member of RAS B.A. Voronov (Institute for Water and Environmental Problems, Far East Branch, RAS) talked about some aspects of environmental policy for sustainable development of the Russian Far East. "Geographic vectors of sustainable development of Siberia" was presented by L.A. Bezrukov, L.M. Korytny, and V.M. Plyusnin (V.B. Sochava Institute of Geography, Siberian Branch [SB] RAS). Features of sustainable development of mountain regions in transboundary conditions (Altai case study) were discussed by Yu.I. Vinokurov and B.A. Krasnoyarova (Institute for Water and Environmental Problems, SB RAS).

Overall, the meeting covered a wide range of physico-, economic-, and socio-geographic problems related to the Caspian region, as well as sustainable development of Eurasian territories of various geographic dimensions.

The Azerbaijanian geographers organized field trips for the meeting participants to the north-eastern slope of the Greater Caucasus and the Azerbaijanian coast of the Caspian Sea.

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