

Dr. Jafar Jafarov



Dr. Jafar Jafarov has completed his Fulbright scholarship at Wagner school of Public Service, New York University in 2000-2001. His research devoted to “Maximization of exploitation of full potential of NGO and CBO Community in Countries of Transition (Azerbaijan). At present, he serves as the Rector of Azerbaijan Tourism Institute (ATI), the youngest university of the country. Prior to this, he had held senior positions in various institutions, such as Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism, UNDP where he has been actively involved in development programs and professor at Baku State University. He has publications on history of Azerbaijan; organized defense sessions of the doctoral dissertations in the field of history for the prospective doctoral candidates; conducted presentations and lectures on general historical development of Azerbaijan and contemporary issues of history and civil society. Jafar Jafarov holds Ph.D. in History from the Moscow State University.

While working as a Project Manager of the UNDP/UNDESA project titled “Strengthening Civil Society by Building the Capacities of NGOs/CBOs” in Baku, Dr. Jafarov administered the establishment of National NGO Forum (NNF), a network of over 400 national NGOs throughout the country. Under Dr. Jafarov’s close guidance, NGO Forum prepared and had adopted the current “Law on NGOs (Public Unions and Foundations) of Azerbaijan Republic”, and amendments were made to the Civil and Tax codes. Although development of civil society in Azerbaijan was taking large place in its capital and large cities during infancy period of NGOs, inclusion of regions into this process was also important. Based on this, serious steps were taken in the area of establishment of Regional NGO Resource and Training Centers (R-NRTCs) and organization of NGO-Government relationship, as well as formulation of public policy on NGOs. In 2004, Dr. Jafarov initiated the establishment of International Press Centre in Baku, in order to develop Mass media access in Azerbaijan, developing relationship of mass media with the Government and deepening work with international mass media. Assistance was given to the establishment of press council and radio and TV council in order to provide sustainable development of radio and TV broadcasting. Under his leadership, the International Press Center promoted democracy, social development and peaceful international cooperation through the active participation of media; worked in development of the professional qualifications of journalists; maintained an effective communication between various parts in the society. Besides all of the above, this center became a hub for the training courses, seminars and conferences for journalists, producers and managers.

He has done a significant work as the Head of the “Tourism Development Project” run by UNDP and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan Republic. He has actively participated in formulation of tourism policy, providing tourism trainings and establishment of 10 tourism information centers in Baku and the regions. He has established international education programs with Austrian Krems IMC University of Applied Sciences; organized research project to study the tourism potential of Azerbaijan; founded student and staff exchange within the EU Erasmus Mundus Program.