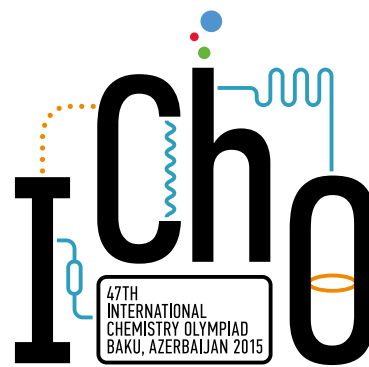


# CATALYZER

No.2, MONDAY, 20 JULY, 2015

LIFE IS A HUGE LAB



## NATIONAL FLAG OF AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan is a country in the Caucasus region of Eurasia. The capital of Azerbaijan is Baku. Baku is used to serve as one of the most important commercial centers on the Silk Road. National Flag of Azerbaijan consists of three horizontal stripes: blue, red and green.

Blue symbolizes the Turkic heritage

Red is for the progress to establish a modern state and the development of democracy

Green shows the relation to the Islamic civilization



## COAT OF ARMS OF AZERBAIJAN

The National Emblem of Azerbaijan combines traditional and modern symbols. The focal point of the emblem is the fire symbol. This symbol comes from the fact that Azerbaijan has many everlasting fires which also gives its name "land of eternal fire". The colours used in composing the emblem are taken from the national flag. The star itself stands for the eight branches of the Turkic peoples. At the bottom of the emblem is a stalk of wheat, representing the main agricultural product of the nation, which was also part of the earliest arms. The other plant represented at the bottom is oak.



## ABOUT ICHO

- The idea of holding IChO occurred in the former Czechoslovakia and the first Chemistry Olympiad was held in its capital Prague in 1968;
- 3 countries – Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary and 18 students took part in the first IChO;
- Azerbaijan has begun participating in IChO since 2000;
- The 46th IChO was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. 75 countries and 291 students took part in the contest;
- This year 75 countries and 290 students are taking part in the 47th IChO in Baku, Azerbaijan;
- The total number of IChO participants, including the 47th IChO is 7140.



Weather for 21 July

22°C / 29°C

### PROGRAM FOR 21 JULY

FROM

TO

Breakfast at "The Crescent Beach Hotel"	8:00	9:00
Transfer to Heydar Aliyev Center	9:30	10:30
Opening ceremony and grand reception in Heydar Aliyev Center	11:00	13:00
Lunch Party at Heydar Aliyev Center	13:00	14:00
Baku city tour	14:30	17:30
Transfer to "The Crescent Beach Hotel"	17:30	18:30
Dinner at "The Crescent Beach Hotel"	19:00	21:00
Disco Party at "The Crescent Beach Hotel"	21:00	23:00

# MUST SEE IN BAKU

Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is the largest city on the Caspian Sea and of the Caucasus region. The name Baku is widely believed to be derived from the old Persian name of the city Bad-kube, meaning "wind-pounded city" referring to a place where the wind is strong and pounding.

The first written evidence for Baku dates back to the 1st century AD. So Baku has an ancient history and enjoys hundreds of important historical and cultural places to visit.

The Old City (known as "Icheri Sheher") which is surrounded by an ancient wall remains at Baku's core.



Maiden Tower is recognized as architectural symbol of Baku. Located more than a block away from the Caspian, centuries ago the Tower used to be in the sea. According to scientists, it was built in the 12th century or possibly earlier and various hypotheses have been suggested as to its original purpose including defense, observatory and part of a system of fire signal towers. There is also a legend that it was named after a maiden (the daughter of the Khan of Baku) who threw herself off its top to her death in the waves below.

## PEARL OF URBAN LANDSCAPE



Some people who have never visited Azerbaijan before may consider Baku to be an old-fashioned city, but in fact it is not. The guests will feel it from the very start of their journey by having a look at Heydar Aliyev Center, the futuristic construction resembling a flying saucer.

The construction is an eternal cycle, connecting the past with the present. This magnificent building inaugurated in 2012 has turned into pilgrimage destination not only for tourists, but also for most locals.

The center houses a conference hall, a gallery hall, and a museum. Today guests of the center can enjoy international and Azerbaijani modern and traditional art as well as concerts.

The park of the Center is also remarkable, descending with funny paths adorned with bright modern art expositions.

## ICHO PRIZE WINNERS FROM THE HOST COUNTRY

**In 2008 (40th IChO)** – Aghazadeh Sadyg (silver medal); Almammadov Toghrul (bronze medal);

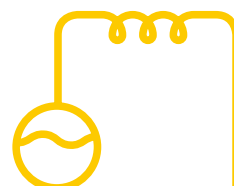
**In 2009 (41st IChO)** – Azimzadeh Agil (bronze medal); Bunyadov Mehman (bronze medal); Almammadov Toghrul, (bronze medal);

**In 2010 (42nd IChO)** – Azimzadeh Agil (bronze medal); Yusifov Rashad (bronze medal);

**In 2012 (44th IChO)** – Bashirov Balagardash (bronze medal);

**In 2013 (45th IChO)** – Bashirov Balagardash (silver medal); Guluzadeh Sona (bronze medal);

**In 2014 (46th IChO)** – Rahimov Murad (bronze medal).



# AT FIRST SIGHT



## Murad Rahimov (Azerbaijan)

I won a bronze for Azerbaijan last year. This year I participate as a guide as it is a very interesting experience for young chemists.



## Edgars Kletnieks (Latvia)

I participated in the International Chemistry Olympiad in Vietnam and got a bronze medal. This time I hope to get a silver medal.

I heard that you have lots of interesting buildings, modern architecture, classical architecture is really nice.

My grandmother is from Azerbaijan. She told me that she lived in a farm with lots of watermelons when she was little. Then she moved to Ukraine, and after that to Latvia.



## Dilnora Yusupaliyeva (Uzbekistan)

I twice became a winner of International Mendeleev Chemistry Olympiads but it is my first time in IChO. I expect a good result, and hope that I can win a gold medal.



## So Young Lee (Republic of Korea)

In Korea we have a lot of companies supporting researches in chemistry. Universities are also very enthusiastic in doing chemistry researches.

I heard that Baku is the city of wind and Azerbaijan is country of the fire. I saw the photos of your country, Flame Towers, Carpet Museum and I am really excited to go there. I would also like to visit the Old City. I've heard it is very beautiful and it is in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

## ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT





# ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE OF BAKU OIL



The history of Azerbaijan and its capital Baku is connected with oil from the earliest days. In ancient manuscripts written prior to the time of Christ, references are made to oil extraction from wells and its utilization in life, construction, medicine and the military. More than 2600 years ago people already knew the value of this "fire water". During the siege of Persia in 331 BC, Alexander the Great's tent was lit by fire vessels filled with oil taken from inhabitants living near the Caspian seaside. Oil was one of the elements of the famous "Greek Fire" used by the Arabs as an incendiary mixture.

The first reliable information about oil extraction on the Absheron Peninsula, where Baku is located, dates to the 7th and 8th centuries. At that time, the oil was taken primarily by very primitive or natural ways. In the 10th century, the Arabian traveler, Marudee, reported that both white and black oil were being extracted naturally from Baku.

## LEARN THE AZERBAIJANI PHRASES

Salam	[sa`lam]	— Hello
Necesiniz	[`nedzæsiniz]	— How are you?
Yaxşıyam	[yakh`fiyam]	— I am fine
Çox sağol	[`tʃokh `saghol]	— Thank you very much

Happy Birthday



**Ricardo Perez-Lopez Áron** (Hungary)

21 July, 1997

# REGISTRATION



Science is a lot of little guys in tweed suits cutting up frogs on foundation grants.

Woody Allen

## Two Atoms

Two atoms are walking down the street. One atom says to the other, **"Hey! I think I lost an electron!"** The other says, **"Are you sure?"** **"Yes, I'm positive!"**

## CATALYZER TEAM

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