

# History and

**Azerbaijan is one of the world's oldest scientific and cultural centers. Residents of this historical territory have created rich material-cultural heritage for thousands of years.**

Azerbaijan People Republic (1918-20) has vital role in adoption Azerbaijan science, its intellectual values as national opulence. Establishment of University of Baku, Azerbaijani students' delivery to the European highest schools, extension of national language and culture were the key factors that affecting generally to Azerbaijan science development. In early 1920, the scientific researches were mainly concentrated at the University of Baku. In 1920-22, Scientific Association was organized comprised of humanitarian, medical and natural sciences research sections. Association aimed at providing comprehensive assistance in research of various scientific problems along with education and training of young researchers and scientists. In late 1921 Society of Naturalists and Medics and then Society of Orientalists and Medics were organized at the University of Baku. In 1920 a technical education provider - Polytechnic Institute was founded in Baku which was engaged to conduct researches in the fields of technical science, economics and agricultural chemistry.

In 1923 with aim of conducting scientific research the Azerbaijan Society for Scientific Research and Studies was established in Baku by initiative of Nariman Narimanov. This Society became the leading scientific research organization in Azerbaijan. In its early time, Society had History-Ethnography, Economy and Nature sciences sections. In 1925 Turkish Research section attached to the History-Ethnography section was established. With aim of conducting research and studies in various fields of science the commissions and sub-commissions on history, historical-literary studies, ethnography, philology, lexicography, law, industry, Caspian Sea studies, fine arts, theatre, music and others were organized. The regional branches of the Society were organized in towns of Shamakha, Ganja, Lankaran, Zagatala and some other regional centres along with organizations of branches in Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous District. In 1925 the Society was transferred under direct Government control. In 1929 the Society was re-organized into the Azerbaijan State Scientific-Research Institute. The Institute was comprised of Departments of Natural Sciences, Biology, History and Ethnography, Philology, Literature and Art, Philosophy, Soviet and Foreign East, Governmental and Legal. The Institute played important role in coordination of scientific research and education and training of scientific staff in Azerbaijan. Already in 1929-30, 33 young scientists were trained and educated at the Department of Postgraduate Studies of the Institute, and 43 students in 1930-1931, with 34 of them being indigenous Azeri, enrolled at the Institute for postgraduate studies.

By the end of 1932 there were 30 scientific organizations and more than 10 higher education institutions in Azerbaijan. Within that period, there were 800 research scientists, including 87 professors and 138 senior lecturers actively working in Azerbaijan. However, neither the Azerbaijan State Scientific-Research Institute (ASSRI) nor other branch-wise scientific organizations were in position to meet satisfactorily the demands for development of science in Azerbaijan.

In 1932 on the basis of the ASSRI the Azerbaijan Branch of Trans-Caucasian Affiliate Organization of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR was organized in Baku. R. Akhundov was appointed as a Head of Branch. The Branch was comprised of 11 sections and several commissions. A group of famous Russian scientists such as F.Y.Levinson-Gubsky, I.M.Gubkin, A.A.Grossheim, N.Y.Marr, I.I.Meschaninov, A.Mammadov, S.Mumtaz, A.Taghizadeh, I.G.Yesman, A.N.Derjavin, B.Chobanzadeh, V.Khuluflu, M.Efendiyev and others were actively involved in scientific research at the Branch.

In 1935, Branch was shifted into Azerbaijan Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Then existing sections and commissions were further developed into Scientific Research Institutes of Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, History, Ethnography and Archaeology, Philology and Literature. Along with this the Sections of Energy, Physics, Geology and Soil Sciences were organized as well. Russian Academician I.M.Gubkin was elected as a Chairman of the Presidium of the Affiliate Branch. Later, another Russian Academician S.S. Namyotkin succeeded him in this post.

In addition to the Institutes and Sections of the Branch, Scientific-Research Institutes of Petroleum, Cotton, Petroleum Machine Building, Balneology and Physical Therapy, Hydraulic Engineering and Melioration and a number of other scientific laboratories and base stations were created within the same period of time in Azerbaijan. The active research work was also being conducted at the Institutes of Tropical Diseases, Microbiology, Protection of Maternity and Childhood, Azerbaijan Scientific-Research Institute of Veterinary, Azerbaijan Branch of the Trans-Caucasian Institute of Construction Materials, Lankaran Station of Subtropical Plants, laboratories of the Azerbaijan State University, Industrial Institute, Institutes of Agriculture, Pedagogical and Medical Institutes. By 1940 there were 60 scientific institutions and organizations functioning in Azerbaijan. From 1936 till 1941, 34 Research Scientist and Postgraduate Students successfully defended their dissertations at the Azerbaijan Affiliate Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, including 5 ones for Doctor of Sciences degree. If in 1938 there were 16 Doctors of Sciences and Professors and 20 Candidate of Sciences working at the Affiliate Branch, in 1941 these numbers increased up to 21 and 161 respectively.

By decree of the Council of the People's Commissars of the USSR dated January 23, 1945 the Azerbaijan Affiliate Branch was transformed into Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. At that time the Academy was comprised of 4 sections, 16 Scientific Research Institutes, Scientific Research Departments, 3 museums, Central Scientific Library, Scientific Bases in Nakhchivan, Ganja, Khankendi and Guba. Within the same year. Thus, the searches, checks and discussions that began on January 23, 1945, lasted more than two months, and finally the first 15 founders of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR, the first academicians, were determined. By the decree of the Council of People's Commissars of the Azerbaijan SSR "On the establishment of the Academy of Sciences of the

# Development Path



Azerbaijan SSR" dated March 27, 1945, No. 316, the establishment of the Academy of Sciences in our country was formalized. its Charter was approved.

On March 31, 1945 at the General Meeting of the Academy M.Mirgasimov was elected as the President of the Academy. After that this post at various times was held by Y.Mammadaliyev, M.Aliyev, Z.Khalilov, R.Ismayilov, H.Abdullayev, E.Salayev, F.Magsudov, M. Kerimov, A.Alizadeh. Academician Isa Habibbayli was elected the new president of ANAS on October 25, 2022.

Currently, ANAS consists of 6 Departments: Physical-Mathematical and Technical Sciences; Chemical Sciences; Biological and Medical Sciences; Humanitarian sciences (Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi, Institute of Linguistics named after Nasimi, Institute of Folklore, Institute of Architecture and Art, Institute of Manuscripts named after Mahammad Fuzuli), Social sciences (Institute of History named after Abbasgulu Agha Bakikhanov, Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Institute of Oriental Studies named after Academician Ziya Bunyadov) Earth sciences (Republican Seismic Survey Center), 2 regional departments operates in ANAS: Nakhchivan Branch (Institutes of History, Ethnography and Archaeology, Art, Language and Literature, Manuscripts Foundation), Ganja Branch (Nizami Ganjavi Center, Institute of Humanitarian Researches, Institute of Local lore.); as well as Sheki and Lankaran Regional Scientific Centers.

In addition, a number of organizations operate attached to the Presidium of ANAS: Central Scientific Library, Research Center of "Azerbaijan National Encyclopaedia", Free Trade Union, Council of Veterans, Council of Young Scientists and Specialists, "Science" Publishing House.

By order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev dated January 12, 2004 Encyclopedia has been assigned to ANAS and pursuant to another order dated May 5, 2004, "Azerbaijan National Encyclopedia" Scientific Centre was established.

There are 56 active and 85 corresponding members in ANAS.

ANAS gets in touch with foreign organizations, holds exchange of view to the foreign scientists on the modern problems of science and scientific organization. Scientists of the academy deliver lectures in the international scientific congresses and symposia on urgent problems of science and technology. International scientific meetings and conferences are held periodically by organization and initiative of ANAS. 604 books and 4208 papers (2427 papers on the journals with impact factor) were published by academy scientists. ANAS is a member of many prestigious international scientific organizations, its employees conduct researches via leading scientific organizations of CIS countries, USA, Japan, Israel, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Germany, Pakistan, Turkey, Iran and other countries within the framework of the joint program, attend the staff trainings and data exchanges.

During the period of Heydar Aliyev, significant measures have been taken in the spheres of science development, strengthening scientific and technical capacity, and training of highly qualified staff. By the Decree of President Heydar Aliyev dated May 15, 2001, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences has gained the status of "National Academy of Sciences". This decree proves the fundamental achievements of science in Azerbaijan, role of science in socio-economic,

cultural and spiritual formation of Azerbaijan, and its prestige in social-political life of the country.

By the Heydar Aliyev's decree dated January 4, 2003, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences was charged the status of a public authority implementing scientific and technical policy of the state. Its charter was given state's charter document, and its president was assigned the member of supreme executive power. Thus, there was a legal basis for the development of ANAS, expanded the scope of the academy, increased powers and governmental responsible tasks were put before.

On October 25, 2022, at the General Assembly of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS), academician Isa Habibbayli was elected President of the Academy.

From that date, a period of multi-vector renewal and reforms began at the Academy. For the first time in its 80-year history, ANAS became a member of international scientific organizations such as the International Science Council, the InterAcademy Partnership, and the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia. By participating in the General Assemblies of these bodies with voting rights, ANAS gained the opportunity to closely study global developments and new challenges in science.

During the renewal and reform period at ANAS, a digital transformation was launched and the "Electronic Academy" Department was established within the Presidium's Office. For the first time in the Academy's history, a Human Resources Scientometric Database, a Digital Scientific Information Resources System, and a National Journal Park network for scientific journals were created; a mechanism was formed to determine the scientometric realities and citation indicators of each employee's research activity; and, based on the System for Universal Functional Processing of Words, a working robot model called SUFI was developed. At present, the "Digital Academy, Artificial Intelligence, and Electronic Services" Department, created on the basis of the former "Electronic Academy" Department, is conducting research aligned with the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In addition, in line with President Ilham Aliyev's calls regarding the priority of the Turkic World, a Department of the Philosophical Heritage and Modern Philosophy of Turkic Peoples was established at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology; a Department of Turkic Art History and Cultural Heritage at the Institute of Architecture and Art; and departments for the study of Turkic manuscripts at the Institute of Manuscripts. Existing departments were also improved.

In accordance with President Ilham Aliyev's policy of Return to Western Azerbaijan, departments on the history of Western Azerbaijan, the folklore of Western Azerbaijan, the study of Western Azerbaijan and Karabakh manuscripts, the policy of return to Western Azerbaijan, and Armenology were established at the Academy, and broad research was conducted in a short time.

The structures of the Institutes of History and Ethnology, and of Archaeology and Anthropology were reorganized, and their scientific directions were renewed.

During this period, special attention was also paid to youth policy. The publication frequency of the "Young Researcher" journal of the ANAS Council of Young Scientists and Specialists was increased to four times a year, including one issue in English, and many incentive projects and competitions were implemented for young people. For the first time under the Academy, a "Youth Academy" was established.

At the same time, to implement broader-scale reforms at the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, the "ANAS Development Concept and Roadmap for 2025-2030" was prepared.

Today, at the National Academy of Sciences, in line with the tasks set by President Ilham Aliyev, the priorities of the Azerbaijani state, and the challenges of modern global science, extensive research is being carried out under the leadership of academician Isa Habibbayli on pressing issues in the humanities and social sciences, and our scientists continue to contribute to the development of our state through their scholarly work.