

I welcome the participants of the 75th Conference of FIAF on behalf of the Azerbaijan State Film Fund. I express my gratitude to the organizing committee, especially Maral Mohsenin for the opportunity created for the presentation of our Fund. We were delighted to see Ms. Maral who visited the Azerbaijan State Film fund last year.

As you know Azerbaijan was part of Soviet Union by 1991. Since all the films produced in this process were filmed on the order of the USSR Cinematography Committee or the USSR Radio Television Fund, those films were handed over to Moscow and the films were kept in archives in Moscow. During this time there was no separate archive organization in Azerbaijan, there was an archive of documentary photographs under the State Archive, and only censored newsreels were kept there.

After Azerbaijan gained its independence in 1991, the film studio "Azerbaijanfilm" centralized cinema market, as well as movies and other film materials from the personal archives, gathered together for several years. The State Film Fund of Azerbaijan was established in 1994 under the Ministry of Culture. Initially, one of the old cinema buildings was given to Fund. Despite the inadequate conditions, people who worked in the Film Fund have made great efforts in collecting archival materials and protecting films.

The Fund was accepted as a member of FIAF in 1999.

After 14 years, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has signed an order for the construction of a new, modern standards building for the State Film Fund. On April 13, 2008, a new building of the Film Fund was inaugurated with the participation of the President of Azerbaijan Republic Ilham Aliyev.

The Fund continues its activity in five main areas:

1. Restoration and protection of films
2. Propagandize of national and foreign cinema
3. Collection of archive materials
4. Science investigations and researches
5. International relations

The total area of the Fund is seven thousand square meters. The Fund has been provided with the best technical equipment needed for archival organization. There are 2 cinema halls, 10 restoration rooms, 2 rooms for transferring movie tapes to digital media, 3 rooms for photos and other archive materials, museum

and rooms for staff on the first and second floors of a five-storey building. There are 18 rooms for keeping movie tapes on the upstairs of the building. There are 75 thousand storage units in the Fund. 40 thousand of these are movie tapes, 20 thousand are photo materials and others are rare film techniques and different film materials. The oldest archive material is the topical film which was shot in Baku in 1898 and the feature film Qiz Qalasi shot in 1923. Before Movie tapes were kept in iron boxes. Now We have began changing iron boxes to new plastic boxes. Since more than 7 years ago, we are making digital copies of all archive materials and keeping them on server database, 80 percent of this process has already been completed.

A series of books dedicated Azerbaijan cinema are published by the Fund every year. Fund is preparing different drafts and documentary films with television about Azerbaijan Cinema. Every month various events, jubilees, exhibitions, film presentations are organized by The Film Fund.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Rashad Qasimov