

National Security Archive

International Conference on Freedom of Information in the Caucasus

AGENDA

Friday, May 8, 2009

15:00 – 19:00 Arrival in Telavi, Hotel “Rcheuli Marani”

20:00 Dinner

Saturday, May 9, 2009

9:00 – 9:30 Greetings: Alexander Rondeli, Ketevan Rostiashvili, Svetlana Savranskaya

9:30 – 12:00 Session One – The Present Status of FOI Laws and Regulations in the Caucasus and Russia

- “International Movement for Freedom of Information.” by **Tom Blanton**, Director, National Security Archive, United States
- “Freedom of Information in Georgia: Successes and Challenges.” by **Tamar Gurchani**, Project Director and Board Member, Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association, Georgia
- “Russian Freedom of Information Act: How it Happened?” by **Ivan Pavlov**, Chairman of the Board, Institute for Information Freedom Development, Russia

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

- “The Right to Freedom of Information: The Practice of Legal Protection in Armenia.” by **Karen Mujlumyan**, Lawyer and Member of the Lawyers Bureau of Armenia, Freedom of Information Center, Armenia
- “From Drafting to Monitoring: Freedom of Information Law in Azerbaijan” by **Rashid Hacili**, Director, Media Rights Institute, Azerbaijan

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:30

Session Two – FOI Implementation in the Caucasus and Russia

- “Promotion of Transparency and Accountability in Georgia.” by **Tamar Kordzaia**, Lawyer and Board Member, Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association, Georgia
- “Oral Information Inquiries: Practices and Realities in Azerbaijan.” by **Emin Huseynov**, Chairman, Institute for Reporters’ Freedom and Safety, Azerbaijan
- “Legislation and Practice of Freedom of Information in Armenia” by **Ashot Melikyan**, Chairman, Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression, Armenia
- “Implementation of Law on Freedom of Information in Russia.” by **Victor Monakhov**, Institute of State and Law, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia
- “Freedom of Information in Georgia: Transparency International Experience.” by **Nina Khatiskatsi**, Program Director, Transparency International, Georgia

15:30 – 16:00

Afternoon Break

16:00 – 18:00

Session Three – Successes and Challenges in FOI Projects in the Caucasus and Russia

- “Freedom of Information in Georgia: Experience of Public Defender.” by **Salome Vardiashvili**, Lawyer, Head of Division for Administrative Law and Socio-Economic Issues, Public Defender of Georgia
- “Projects of ‘Memorial’ and Existing Problems with Access to Information in Russia.” by **Yan Rachinskii**, Board Member, International Society “Memorial”, Russia
- “The Legal Status of Access to Information and Challenges in Azerbaijan.” by **Alesger Mammadli**, Lawyer, International Research and Exchanges Board, Azerbaijan
- “Challenges in Access to Information in Armenia.” by **Mesrop Harutyunyan**, Board Member, Journalists’ Union of Armenia, Armenia
- “E-Government in Georgia.” by **Dr. Ketevan Rostiashvili**, Professor, Tbilisi State University, Georgia

19:00

Dinner

Sunday, May 10, 2009

9:00 – 11:00 Session Four – Archival Research and FOI Journalism in the Caucasus and Russia

- “Informational Policy: A Challenge of Change for Georgia.” by **Levan Avalishvili**, PhD Student, Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- “The Present Situation in the Russian Archives.” by **Yury Vdovin**, Deputy Chair, Citizens’ Watch Non-Governmental Human Rights Organization, Russia
- “Investigative Journalism and the Practice of Freedom of Information in Armenia.” by **Levon Barsegyan**, Chairman, Journalists’ Club “Asparez”, Armenia
- “Declassification and Historical Research in Azerbaijan.” by **Jamil Hasanli**, Professor, Baku State University, Azerbaijan
- “Where are the Russian Documents—Russian Archival Collections Abroad” by **Svetlana Savranskaya**, Director of Russia Programs, National Security Archive, United States

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12: 30 Session Five – Workshop. How do we defend and promote freedom of information: looking for collaborative solutions and building partnerships across borders

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 Cultural Program

20:00 Dinner

Monday, May 11, 2009

9:00 – 11:00 Travel from Telavi to Tbilisi

11:00 – 2:00 Session Six – The Georgian Security Archives

- “Archives of the Communist Epoch in Georgia: Past, Present, and Future Plans.” by **Omar Tushurashvili**, Director, Archival Department, Georgian Ministry of Interior, and **Giorgi Kldiashvili**, PhD Student, Tbilisi State University, Georgia

2:00 Lunch

End of Conference