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

- “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
- “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

15:30 – 16:00  Afternoon Break

16:00 – 18:00  Session Three – Successes and Challenges in FOI Projects in the Caucasus and Russia

- “Projects of ‘Memorial’ and Existing Problems with Access to Information in Russia.” by Yan Rachinskii, Board Member, International Society “Memorial”, Russia
- “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