

Final Report

Nobel Brothers' 1st International Research-Innovative Conference October 22-23, 2012, Baku, Azerbaijan

Since September 2011 Azerbaijan-Scandinavian Cooperation (ASCO) in close alliance with Baku Nobel Heritage Fund and our Swedish partner Centre for Business History in Stockholm (CBH) is implementing the project "History of Nobel Brothers" sponsored by State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and supported with "Nobel Oil Ltd." and Nobel International Fraternity (NIF).

The aim of the project is to encode a huge amount of materials on Nobel Brothers activity from Swedish Kingdom and National Historical Archive of Azerbaijan and make them accessible for international researchers free of charge. Furthermore researchers worldwide can use encoded material from www.branobelhistory.com which includes large archives of material specially collected for the project by ASCO and CBH.

One of the main goals for the project was also to organize Nobel Brothers' 1st International Research Conference (NBRC). Together with our partners we were pleased to experience the 1st Nobel Brothers' International Research Conference (www.branobelconference.com) in Baku in October 22-23, 2012. The conference was dedicated to the role of Nobel Brothers in oil and energy history of Azerbaijan, look at present and future innovations in energy field.

More than one hundred and fifty guests participated in the conference including the chairman of Nobel Museum in Stockholm, chairman of the Nobel Family Society, representatives of Nobel family, archives members from Russia, Georgia and various countries, international researchers and scientists, leaders of international companies, ambassadors, representatives of diplomatic corps and famous producer. There were also people working in Institutes, Universities and the national and regional historical archives from Azerbaijan, Canada, Finland, Germany and Sweden. There were researchers, mainly historians but also from the technical fields as from social sciences and humanities. A lot of scientists and representatives of Nobel family declared that their interest to participate was to learn from history and in this special context to learn from a history we share together with so many countries. During the conference 13 keynote speakers were delivered and 17 papers presented. A common round table discussion concluded the conference.

This conference was an important step towards a better understanding of unknown pages of Azerbaijan's oil history, the development of Nobel Brothers Oil Company and the implications of innovation systems. The conference focus on issues of how to build sustainable innovation system was seen as relevant.

It was defined that problems regard to transition of the company during the revolution and the time after and means to tackle it are important issues for coming research and conferences. Another important area for coming research and conferences is investigations into the relationship inside the triangle Standard oil of Rockefeller, Rothschild's family and BraNobel. Additionally, geopolitical realities of that time should be studied as well as consequences of BraNobel nationalization for the world oil industry.

Despite it was the first conference a substantial part of the speeches and the papers addressed questions that on one hand were important in the historical era of the BraNobel company time but on the other hand had implication for both our present time and for the future. In the Conference Declaration expressed conviction in the necessity of holding out Conference of such kind regularly. Selection of places and countries of future Conferences was entrusted to Advisory Board. During the meeting of the board on December 13, 2012 in Stockholm it was decided to hold next Conference on September 12-13 in Stockholm.

As the result of the Conference we can see the increased interest of international researchers to study the role of Nobel Brothers in oil and energy history, relation between oil and industry history, history of establishing of Nobel Prize in connections with Nobel Brothers progress in Azerbaijan. Besides this releasing a huge amount of digitalized materials on Nobel Brothers activity from Swedish Kingdom and National Historical Archive of Azerbaijan on www.branobelhistory.com web-site and creating conference web-site www.branobelconference.com make it possible for international and local international community, scientists and researchers to get information and acquaint with speeches of scientists and experts.

Holding the Nobel exhibition in the lobby during the conference was an effective way to visually present this history to the international community and researchers. Additionally there was organized presentation of book titled "Nobel and Baku oil" dedicated to the 130 anniversary of Nobel brother's activity in Azerbaijan.

Thanks to the fruitful cooperation with our partners and their valuable contribution we could realize the Nobel Brothers' 1st International Research Conference.

Bahram Atabeyli, Conference Coordinator

January 15, 2013

Partners:

1. Baku Nobel Heritage Fund - (Azerbaijani)
2. Centre for Business History in Stockholm - (English)
3. National Historical Archive of Azerbaijan - (Azerbaijani)
4. National Archives of Georgia - (English)
5. Nobel Oil Ltd. Azerbaijan Branch - (Azerbaijani)
6. Nobel Museum in Stockholm - (English)
7. Nobel Family Society - (English)
8. Nobel International Fraternity - (English)
9. Nobel Brothers Batumi Technological Museum - (English)
10. State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic - (Azerbaijani)