

Application for Associate Membership: Western Caspian University (WCU) Mountain Club

Zoom meeting (22.09.2020): UIAA & Western Caspian University (WCU) Mountain Club

In Attendance: (UIAA) Peter Muir, Lode Beckers, Nils Glatthard, Stephanie Stettbacher

(WCU) Hussein Baghirov, Elmir Badalov

Founding year: 2005

Annual turnover 7,000 USD

Members: 200

Western Caspian University (WCU) Mountain Club:

WCU, founded by Mr Baghirov in 1991, has now over 5,000 students of which 200 are members of the Mountain Club. The mountain club has about 50/50 ratio of male and females, and the club numbers are on the raise. Mountaineering and outdoor climbing are part of the WC University Club's activities

WCU Mountain club has organised international conferences with Mountain Partnership delegates from over 40 countries. It was also one of the main supporters and donors of the UIAA Mountain Protection award for 2015-2016.

Throughout the lockdown and covid 19 restrictions the club has continued to function by using virtual technology to hold various webinar programs, and e-meetings.

WCU wants to maintain its' relations with the UIAA, the mountain club wants to keep its' young students involved and connected to other international mountaineering federations and community. The mountain club continues research and scientific "online" conferences and looks forward to close affiliation with the UIAA and the international mountaineering community.

Background of Mr Baghirov and FAIREX:

Mr Baghirov was the past president of the member federation FAIREX in Azerbaijan until 2018. He has a strong background in sustainability and protecting mountain culture and has been an active delegate in the Mountain Protection Commission since 2012. In 2018, resigned from all his post in FAIREX, to concentrate his time and efforts with the Western Caspian University (WCU).