



Baku Summer Energy School 2026: 20th Anniversary Edition *20 Years of Inspiring Change: Energy, Innovation, and Beyond*

Energy Security and Innovation **6-17 July 2026, Azerbaijan**

In 2026, the Baku Summer Energy School (BSES) proudly celebrates its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of advancing global dialogue on energy, sustainability, and innovation. Coinciding with a milestone year for ADA University, the upcoming edition will spotlight the shared theme of *20 Years of Inspiring Change: Energy, Innovation, and Beyond*.

This commemorative edition will not only honour the legacy of BSES as a platform for education, research, and policy exchange but also set the stage for the next generation of energy transformation. Bringing together global experts, policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, BSES 2026 will explore how innovation, collaboration, and strategic foresight can redefine energy security in a rapidly evolving world.

BSES 2026 will offer a comprehensive deep dive into Azerbaijan's role in the regional and global energy landscape and provide participants with a unique opportunity to explore Karabakh as a model of post-conflict reconstruction built on smart and sustainable energy systems.

Program Overview

Week I Global Energy Markets, Law, and Geopolitics

Day 1 The Global Energy System in Transition: Global Trends and Caspian Implications

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Session

Formal launch of the 20th Anniversary edition, featuring welcoming remarks from rector, high-level governmentals, industry leaders, and international guests.

Keynote: Global Energy Security in a Fragmented World

Strategic insights on the evolving global energy order, supply disruptions, and the role of multilateral partnerships in building resilience.

I. Global Energy Demand and Supply Outlook

Structural transformation of the global energy system under demographic growth, industrial policy shifts, electrification, and decarbonization pressures. Comparative demand trajectories across advanced economies, emerging Asia, and resource-exporting regions. Implications for hydrocarbon producers, including Azerbaijan and the broader Caspian basin, in a potentially plateauing demand environment.

II. Energy Security, Affordability, and Sustainability

The energy trilemma in practice: balancing reliable supply, cost stability, and climate objectives. Strategic positioning of energy exporters and transit states in a fragmented global order. Investment cycles, inflationary pressures, and state intervention in energy markets.

III. Market Fragmentation, System Resilience, and Energy Geopolitics

Sanctions regimes, weaponization of energy, supply-chain concentration, and the restructuring of global trade flows. Caspian energy as a diversification vector for European and regional markets. Energy geopolitics as a structural determinant of investment, infrastructure, and alliance formation.

Day 2 Oil Markets: Security, Supply, and Transition Pressures

I. Global Oil Demand and the Timing of Peak

Sectoral oil demand trends (transport, petrochemicals, aviation), electrification scenarios, and peak demand debates. Strategic implications for Azerbaijan and Caspian crude producers under varying transition pathways.

II. Upstream Investment, Decline Rates, and Supply Security

Capital discipline, ESG pressures, natural field decline rates, and underinvestment risks. Production sharing agreements (PSAs), stabilization clauses, and contractual certainty as pillars of long-term upstream investment in the Caspian region.

III. Market Structure, OPEC+, and Fiscal Stability

OPEC+ coordination mechanisms, price volatility cycles, and the macroeconomic exposure of hydrocarbon-dependent states. Oil revenue management, sovereign funds, and long-term fiscal resilience under energy transition uncertainty.

Interactive Simulation: Oil Supply Shock Scenario

Participants assume roles as producers, consumers, and finance ministries responding to a geopolitical disruption in supply. Decisions on production quotas, fiscal buffers, and strategic reserves under price volatility.

Day 3 Natural Gas and LNG: Markets, Infrastructure, and Diplomacy

I. Global Gas Dynamics and the Caspian Export Architecture

Gas demand in Europe and Asia, pipeline versus LNG competition, and the strategic importance of the Southern Gas Corridor. Azerbaijan's evolving role as a reliable supplier and transit actor.

II. LNG Contracts, Arbitration, and Market Flexibility

Long-term contracts vs. spot markets, destination clauses, take-or-pay provisions, and arbitration practices. Legal stability and contractual flexibility under geopolitical uncertainty.

III. Gas in the Transition: Emissions and Regulatory Pressures

Methane regulation, carbon pricing, and gas's role as a bridge fuel. Interaction between EU regulatory frameworks and Caspian exporters.

IV. Cultural program

Day 4 Renewables, Hydrogen & Transition Bottlenecks

I. Scaling Renewables in Azerbaijan and the Caspian

Solar and wind resource potential, grid absorption capacity, auction mechanisms, and investor protection frameworks. Regulatory reform and market design for renewable integration.

II. Hydrogen and Emerging Export Strategies

Green hydrogen ambitions, infrastructure requirements, transport options (pipelines, ammonia), and commercial viability. Prospects for Caspian-European hydrogen partnerships.

III. Critical Minerals and Strategic Dependencies

Rare earth elements, processing concentration, supply-chain vulnerabilities, and geopolitical competition over transition materials.

Interactive Workshop: Clean Energy Supply Chain Risk Mapping

Identification of strategic bottlenecks in minerals, technology manufacturing, and logistics affecting renewable and hydrogen deployment.

Day 5 Power Markets, Grids and System Resilience

I. Power Market Design and Regulatory Reform

Electricity market liberalization, tariff reform, capacity mechanisms, and regulatory independence in Azerbaijan and neighboring systems.

II. Grid Expansion and Cross-Border Interconnections

Caspian–Black Sea connectivity, regional electricity trade, and system balancing challenges in high-renewables environments.

III. Digitalization, Cybersecurity, and Infrastructure Protection

Smart grids, digital optimization, hybrid threats, and resilience planning under climate and geopolitical risk.

Cultural program

Week 2. Climate Policy, Regional Connectivity, and Caspian Strategic Leadership

Day 6 Climate Change, Sustainability & Policy Constraints

I. Carbon Budgets and Transition Pathways

Climate science fundamentals, emissions trajectories, and implications for hydrocarbon exporters.

II. Carbon Markets, ESG, and Regulatory Instruments

Carbon pricing systems, EU CBAM implications, sustainability disclosure requirements, and investor-driven decarbonization pressures.

III. Climate Finance and Just Transition Strategies

Blended finance, multilateral institutions, mitigation and adaptation funding, and economic diversification for resource-dependent economies.

Interactive Policy Lab: Designing a Net-Zero Framework

Development of a national climate policy balancing growth, fiscal stability, and decarbonization commitments.

Day 7-8 Karabakh Field Visit: Energy Led Reconstruction and Smart Regions

I. Smart Cities and Villages in Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Digital infrastructure, energy-efficient planning, decentralized generation, and sustainable development models in Karabakh.

II. Renewables, Microgrids, and Resilience-Oriented Infrastructure

Distributed energy systems, microgrid deployment, and modern distribution architecture.

III. Governance, Investment, and Legal Architecture

Public-private partnerships, infrastructure contracting, regulatory oversight, and reconstruction law.

Field Dialogue Component

On-site briefings with institutions and stakeholders followed by moderated analytical discussion on scalability and regional replication.

Day 9 Regional Energy Connectivity and Strategic Corridors

I. Pipelines, Power Interconnectors, and Transit Geography

Strategic role of Caspian energy corridors linking Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Türkiye, and Europe.

II. Legal Harmonization and Transit Governance

Transit agreements, dispute resolution, third-party access, and regulatory alignment across jurisdictions.

III. Strategic Competition and Energy Diplomacy

Energy corridors as geopolitical leverage, alliance-building tools, and instruments of economic integration.

Interactive Simulation: Corridor Diplomacy Negotiation

Multi-state negotiation on a new energy corridor involving transit fees, regulatory harmonization, and security guarantees.

Day 10 Azerbaijan's Energy Policy and Regional Role

I. National Energy Strategy in a Transforming System

Azerbaijan's long-term policy framework across hydrocarbons, power, renewables, and diversification.

II. Managing Transition Risks and Opportunities

Revenue management, sovereign wealth strategy, renewable expansion, and industrial policy.

III. Caspian Leadership and Regional Energy Diplomacy

Azerbaijan's positioning within the Caspian, Black Sea, and broader Eurasian energy architecture.

Closing Session and Certificate Ceremony