

## **Letter of Recommendation**

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**To Whom It May Concern,**

I am writing with the utmost enthusiasm to recommend Bashir Jabbarov, founder and leader of the youth-led Eco-Diving Youth Center and its flagship initiative, Blue Silence.

As a marine and climate scientist with over four decades of experience in hydrology, Caspian Sea ecology, and environmental policy—and as Director of Iqlim Research & Consulting—I have supervised and collaborated on numerous environmental efforts across the Caspian basin. Among these, Blue Silence stands out as one of the most impressive youth-led projects I have encountered.

When Bashir first approached me in early 2024, he presented a bold and thoughtful vision: to engage young people in diving-based environmental monitoring and underwater waste cleanup in the Caspian Sea. What began as an idea quickly evolved into a well-coordinated, high-impact initiative.

Under Bashir's leadership, Eco-Diving Youth Center has conducted multiple dive missions on the Caspian Sea, conducting monitoring of the underwater environment and successfully removing hundreds of kilograms of debris—ranging from plastics to fishing nets—from coastal waters. These are not symbolic actions, but data-informed, safety-conscious operations carried out by trained student volunteers.

More importantly, Bashir has demonstrated exceptional maturity, leadership, and strategic thinking. He is personally involved in all aspects of the project: training fellow divers, enforcing safety protocols, documenting ecological findings, and actively engaging the public through educational outreach. His ability to communicate—whether in school presentations or during diving sessions—amplifies the project's impact well beyond the shoreline.

Among the initiative's key accomplishments are:

- Tangible ecological impact through organized monitoring of the underwater environment and cleanups and proper waste sorting in collaboration with young volunteers from local communities;
- Youth empowerment, with new volunteers inspired by activities of Eco-Diving Youth Centre and its mission in Baku and Absheron region;
- Public recognition from relevant government entities, NGOs and schools as a model for youth environmental leadership.

What impresses me most is Bashir's understanding that conservation is not only about direct action—it is about long-term thinking, cross-generational collaboration, and community engagement. He embodies all three.

The Eco-Diving Youth Center is more than a simple group of young boys and girls engaged in monitoring or waste cleanup campaign - it is a movement. And Bashir Jabbarov is not only its founder - but he is also its heart and soul. He is, without question, one of the most promising young environmental leaders in Azerbaijan today.

I recommend him without reservation for any academic or leadership opportunity. His passion is matched by his discipline and his impact is already being felt.

Warm regards,

Prof. Mirzakhan Mansimov, PhD  
Founder & Director, Iqlim Research & Consulting  
Expert in Caspian hydrology, climate change, and environmental policy

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