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At first, conference attendees visited the Alley of Honours to lay a wreath at the tomb of national leader Heydar Aliyev, and they also put flowers at the grave of the prominent ophthalmologist, academician Zarifa Aliyeva. Next, they visited the Alley of Martyrs to pay their tribute to those who gave their lives for the Azerbaijan's independence and territory integrity.

The conference began by singing the national anthem of Azerbaijan. It was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Afandiyev, Head of Humanitarian Policy Department at the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration Fatma Abdullazade, MPs, representatives of the relevant ministries, heads of higher and secondary, special education institutions, representatives of education community and international organizations

Speaking at the opening event, Education Minister Misir Mardanov highlighted historical contributions of national leader, architect and founder of modern Azerbaijani state Heydar Aliyev to Azerbaijan and to the people of Azerbaijan. Having underlined the successive results of the policy of great leader Heydar Aliyev, the Minister noted it is being successfully implemented by President Ilham Aliyev. He also emphasized the dynamic development of Azerbaijan and talked on successes achieved by the country.

Having talked on reforms launched by national leader Heydar Aliyev, Mr. Mardanov said that there were taken important steps to establish and strengthen a modern infrastructure for education over recent years. According to him, this work is continued today.

Head of the UNICEF Office in Azerbaijan Mark Hereward talked on activity of the organization in Azerbaijan and highlighted the importance of cooperation between UNESCO and the Ministry of Education. According to him, this cooperation has contributed to the implementation of many large-scale reforms. He also talked on projects carried out at relevant education institution of Azerbaijan.

Representatives of higher and secondary education establishments, comprehensive schools, preschool education establishments, State Student Admission Commission have delivered a speech at the conference talking on achievements in the education field and existing problems.

The role of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the renovating and developing the infrastructure of schools were highlighted at the conference. It was noted that the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO, MP Mehriban Aliyeva pays great attention and care to the education field. A number of modern schools was built and given to use, as well as provided with the necessary equipments by the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation over recent years.

There also were given information on programmes and projects implemented to develop the higher education of the country. It was noted that, in 2005, Azerbaijan has joined in the Bologna process and currently, relevant measures are taken at education institutions,

Within the State Programme for the Education of Young Azerbaijanis Abroad in 2007-2015, about 800 Azerbaijani youth were sent to top universities of Turkey, Germany, USA, France, Canada, Russia, Great Britain and other countries. Part of them have completed their study and returned to Azerbaijan.

There was given information on scientific researches conducted at higher education institutions, and were noted that a new mechanism for funding science has been applied since 2010. Over the last two years, there was allocated more than 6 million AZN from the state budget to implement scientific – research projects by the Science Development Fund under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Scientists of higher education institutions have won 22 grants at the competition announced by Fund in 2010 and 2011 years. Scientists working for the education system participated in 37 international projects in 2010. Baku State University, by financial support of different funds, is implemented 35 international projects worth 5 million AZN. Scientists have published 436 monographs, 338 textbooks, 620 tutorials, 1421 entitled programmes and methodical literature.

The number of scientific articles of scientists, who work at the system of the Ministry of

Education, published at magazines of Institute for Scientific Information of Thomson Reuter Agency have increased by three times. During the period of one year, 136 out of 260 published articles fall to the share of Baku State University, 53 of Azerbaijan State Oil Academy, and 37 of Azerbaijan Technical University.

According to the relevant order, the doctorate studies were established at 19 state-owned, 5 private higher education institution subordinated to the Ministry of Education and at Institute for Education Problems. The first admission to the doctorate studies will be held in autumn of the current year.

The importance of implemented reforms was highlighted at the conference. It was noted that, the study at primary schools of the country is held based on new subject curriculum and textbook sets. During this period, about 40,000 teachers were involved in the learning training courses on special programmes. Moreover, there were organized Centres of Enlightenment for teachers and parents at regions. After the application of subject curriculums for I - IV classes, there were done some works to prepare documents with the same content for the V - XI classes. The subject curriculum of V-XI classes have been discussed and approved in June of the current year.

53 graduates awarded gold and silver medals and 49 winners of Republican Subject Olympiad have scored a high mark at exams held for the admission to higher education institutions in 2010/2011 academic year.

Furthermore, it was noted that, the attention is always focused on the preschool education. There are 1683 registered preschool education institutions in the Republic, where have been involved 112,892 children. Several of the kindergartens were refurbished and the number of children involved in the pre-school education institutions have increased. The number of private kindergartens has reached 24.

In 2009, the percentage of children involved in the pre-school education was 15.8 per cent, currently, this number equal to 17.6 per cent. In Baku, there number has increased from 31,102 in 2009 to 34,369 children in the current year. Its coverage level surpassed 26 per cent.

According to the State Program on Socio-Economic Development of Baku and its towns in 2011-2013 approved by the President İlham Aliyev, 53 kindergartens are currently completely overhauling and these works will be done by the end of the year.

There was talked on achievements of pupils at international Olympiads as well, and was highlighted the importance of work done to increase achievements in this field, and develop creative potential of children with special talent. The presentations given at the conference reflected issues, such as education informatization system, projects implemented in this field, development of vocational education, and etc.

Moreover, there was given information on results of students' admission to higher and secondary special education institutions. It has been noted that the analyze of vacant seats and dynamics of applications over the period 1992-2003 have revealed that during these years the admission plan to higher education institutions have risen 85.24 per cent and number of applications have increased 2.67 times. The most vacant seats at higher education institutions were allocated in 2011, the less in 1993. The smallest number of applications of applicants were registered in 1992, and the largest - in 2008. This year the admission plan has been implemented 97 per cent. Due to the high competition conditions the highest passage score in the I group was for the Computer Engineering specialty of Qafqaz University (667 score), in the II group Management specialty of Academy of Public Administration (APA) under the President of Azerbaijan Republic (660 score), in the III group the Jurisprudence of APA and in the IV group Medical work of Azerbaijan Medical University (541).

Positive changes are also seen in the results of graduates on entrance examinations to higher education institutions. In this year, 1540 students, who represent 65 out of 73 regions of the country, have gained more than 600 points in entrance exams. The best results for 2011 were shown by representatives of Baku, Sumgayit and Gakh district.

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At the 26 state-owned and 10 private universities was held an admission to the Master's degree level and 73.52 per cent of admission plan was done. The admission to the secondary special education institutions on a complete and general secondary education base was completed and admission plan was implemented 96.7 percent.

Speaking at the event representatives of study abroad students expressed their appreciation of the care and attention that they received from the President Ilham Aliyev.

At the conference, there were made proposals to promote education.