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Speaking at the opening of the ceremony, Education Minister Misir Mardanov congratulated attendees of the conference on the 20th anniversary of the restoration of state independence of Azerbaijan noting that the celebration is being marked in all parts of the country. Having glanced at the history of the 20 years of independence the Minister said that, during these years, Azerbaijan has gone a long way in the development, achieved successes in all areas of life, and that this way was launched by the great leader Heydar Aliyev. Having noted the works for strengthening of the independence and economic potential of the country, have continued under the leadership of the President Ilham Aliyev since 2003, the Minister underlined comprehensive construction works have been done in Azerbaijan for a past period. Noting the President has always paid a great attention and concern to youth, the Minister talked on adopted State programme for youth, and steps taken to reveal and develop the capacity of talented young people.

Misir Mardanov gave information on XVI Republican Subject Olympiad of Students. According to him, the final stage of Olympiad jointly organized by the decision of the Ministry of Education and Republican Committee of the Independent Trade Union of Education Workers was held at Azerbaijan State Economic University on May 27 of the current year. He noted that, the first stage of the Olympiad which encompasses 12 subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, informatics, Azerbaijani language, History of Azerbaijan, Geography of Azerbaijan, English, French, German and Russian languages) was held at 36 universities, including 28 state-owned and 8 – private universities, and 684 in more than 1500 students have received a right to take part in the final stage. Moreover, the Minister noted that 595 students have participated in the republican stage of the Olympiad in different subjects.

Having underlined all universities of Azerbaijan took part in the Olympiad, the Minister reminded that the first Olympiad was held in 1994 on 4 subjects, and there were just 30 winners. He stressed that this work have been improved over the past years, and the number of subjects of Olympiad has reached 12.

Education Minister noted that at Olympiad a great interest has been shown to Azeri and English language subjects. Thus, about 15.2 percent (104) of participants have participated in Olympiad on Azeri language, and 15 % (103) on English language subjects. The Minister said that, in accordance with the decision of the Jury, 12 participants have won the first, 23 the second and 36 the third places. Moreover, 43 students have been awarded incentive prizes. He revealed a statistic of winners on universities and stressed that the winners of the first place have presented Baku State University, Qafqaz University, Baku Slavic University, Azerbaijan Military High School named after Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan State Oil Academy and Azerbaijan State Economic University.

Misir Mardanov noted that winners of Olympiad were awarded diplomas and cash awards from the Ministry of Education and Republican Committee of the Independent Trade Union of Education Workers. Thus, the first-place winners were presented 300, the second-place winners 150 and the third-place winners 100 AZN. After, the Minister congratulated the winners and wished them every success.

Speaking at the ceremony, chairman of the Republican Committee of the Independent Trade Union of Education Workers Sattar Mehbaliyev, rector of Baku State University Abel Maharramov, rector of Azerbaijan University of Languages Samad Seyidov, and rector of Lankaran State University Asef Isgandarov congratulated the winners, noted the attention and concern provided by the President for the education, and talked about the fruitful conditions created for youth.

Next, the winners were presented diplomas and cash prizes.

Speaking at the event, students have expressed their gratitude to care provided for them by the President, and noted that the knowledge competition was held in an impartial and transparent manner.