

---

Education Minister Misir Mardanov welcomed the guests and noted that the relationship between Azerbaijan and Turkey has been rapidly developed in all directions, including the field of education. According to him, there over 4 000 young people of Azerbaijan are currently studying at prestigious universities of Turkey and about 4 000 students from Turkey educating at universities of Azerbaijan. The Minister praised this fact as a display of fraternal relationship between two countries.

Stressing Azerbaijan has pays a great importance to the oversea education of youth, Misir Mardanov underlined the need to strengthen the relations with the universities of Turkey. He touched upon the importance of sending students abroad on important specialties, and said that, from this viewpoint, the cooperation with the relevant state institutions of Turkey is very important.

The Minister highly praised the activity of Azerbaijan Turkish private lyceums and Qafqaz University and draw attention to the issue of joint preparation of textbooks for more efficient organization of educational cooperation. He underlined the need to hold discussions with this respect between experts of both countries.

Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag gave information on educational opportunities of Turkey's universities, and underlined the importance of education in the development of intellectual potential of the nation. Mr. Bozdag noted that 150 places will be allocated for students from Azerbaijan at universities of Turkey for the next academic year. He stressed the importance of discussing suggested proposals to promote educational ties of two countries and said that Turkey is always interested in the development of relations with Azerbaijan.

At the meeting, the sides have discussed issues regarding the expansion of bilateral relations in the education field and admission of Azeri students to doctoral programmes in Turkey.