

---

Speaking at the opening of the meeting Education Minister Misir Mardanov welcomed participants from different countries all over the world. According to him, the Olympiad is organized by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR), Cag Ogretim Isletmeleri Company, INEPO Eurasia Ecology Association and informative support by Public Television and Radio Broadcasting Company.

Noting the Olympiad has been conducted since 2007, the Minister underlined the number of participating countries is increasing every year. He stressed that, this year about 400 pupils from 42 countries are taking part in the Olympiad and expressed his belief that at the end of the competition strong participants will win and an impartial decision will be made.

He also stressed the important role of the Olympiad in order to become more familiar with Azerbaijan, gain new knowledge about the country, and thanked everyone, who contributed to the organization of the event.

Next, Mrd Mardanov recommended that participants get familiar with the rich history of Azerbaijan, its education system, with Baku city, and establish links with Azeri teachers and pupils. At the end, the Minister wished every success to participants and expressed hope that that they will return to their home country with positive impressions.

Participants from Thailand, Bosnia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Angola and others expressed their satisfaction with the meeting and thanked for the warm welcome.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Managing Board of Cag Ogretim Isletmeleri Company Enver Ozeren and head of Azerbaijan-Turkish Private Lyceum Main Office Arif Gomleksiz.