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Education Minister Misir Mardanov welcomed the meeting attendees and talked about works implemented in the 2011/2012 academic year expressing his hope that the upcoming school year will be successful. According to him, in 2012/2013 academic year 1304687 students will be taught by 150998 teachers at 4523 secondary schools and 130454 children are expected to be enrolled in the first grade of schools.

Speaking about the modernization of school infrastructure in Azerbaijan, the Minister underlined 167 new education establishments for 50000 children to be opened in the new school year. He also added that extra buildings for 21 schools for 5104 children were built and 103 schools were completely refurbished.

The Minister stressed favorable conditions created for the development of the education system and noted that public spending on education has enjoyed year-on-year increases. He grounded his words with specific figures and underlined that fact as a constant care provided by President Ilham Aliyev for the education field. According to him, in conformity with duties assigned to the Ministry by the President, issues such as refurbishment of all state-owned education establishments, provision of new equipments for them and adjustment with current demands will be resolved in the near future.

The Minister noted that 194 textbooks and methodical manuals in 4018990 copies for secondary schools were published and delivered to schools. He added the modernization of libraries at 500 schools to be continued as well. Moreover, the mechanism for teacher recruitment was developed by considering an international practice and over 16 000 applications were registered this year. According to the results of contest, more than 2500 teachers were recruited to the vacant teaching posts at secondary schools of the country. The Minister also talked about forthcoming duties related to these issues.

Speaking about works regarding the education content, assessment of students' knowledge, deinstitutionalization, use of ICT in the education, extra-curricular education, further education, study abroad, recognition of educational documents, the Minister shared his views on forthcoming duties. Moreover, Mr. Mardanov touched upon the issues related to the preparation for traditional conferences of education employees held in September and gave his relevant recommendations.