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There are 4 state-funded scientific research institutes, 4 scientific research centers, 92 scientific research laboratories and one self-supporting research institute operating at universities. Moreover, 1243 (59.5%) doctors of science, 5869 (62.9%) doctors of philosophy, as well as 62 full and corresponding members of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences are working at the higher education field.

The higher education institutions have held 118 scientific and practical conferences, including 87 republican and 31 international conferences within a list of conferences agreed with the Cabinet of Ministries.

A new funding mechanism has been applied in the science since 2010. More than 6 million manats from the state budget have been allocated for the Science Development Fund under the President of Azerbaijan Republic over the last 2 years to carry out that mechanism which focused on the grant funding. In 2010 and 2011, 22 projects presented by higher education institutions of the Ministry were awarded a grant within the grant competitions announced by the Fund. Moreover, scientists of universities are taken part in 39 international grant programs.

Relationship between higher education institutions and establishments has been expanded in recent years. The number of contract based works and amount of expenditure has increased. Last year, the universities have been carried out fundamental and applied researches in 2411 subjects on 639 problems. 1853 of them have been completed.

Scientists working at universities published 333 monographs, 309 books, 620 study guides, 1307 programs and methodical manuals. About 1850 articles and 1114 theses of our scientists were published in foreign magazines. Last year, there were received 45 patents, including two Eurasian patents.

New PhD programs were established at 27 higher education institutions and scientific research establishments of the Ministry within the Education Act and first admissions at these universities was held in 2011.

On 23 and 24 February 2012 in the country was held "Scientists of Tomorrow" contest within the INTEL ISEF – International Science and Engineering Fair for the first time in order to attract high school students to scientific researches, help them to master latest research methods, motivate their activities in this area, as well as reveal talented students, who are prone to research activities, expand ties between universities and education institutions. Five students chosen among the winners of the contest took part in the exhibition of INTEL ISEF held in Pittsburgh, PA, USA on 13-18 May 2012.