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At first, the Minister has congratulated Ambassador Richard Morningstar on new appointment and wished him every success in his work. He expressed his pleasure at welcoming the ambassador at the Ministry of Education and noted successful development of relations between Azerbaijan and the US in all directions, including in the education field.

Mr. Mardanov talked about the implementation of educational and exchange programs between the two countries and positive results achieved in this direction. Noting 82 US universities were included in the list of higher education institutions selected within the State Program for study of Azeri youth abroad for the years of 2007-2015, the Minister stressed the possibility of developing cooperation in secondary education level as well.

Ambassador Richard Morningstar thanked the Minister for the warm welcome and expressed his willingness to assist in the development of relations between the two countries. Noting the importance of educational ties between Azerbaijan and the U.S. Mr. Morningstar also touched on issues concerning the continuation of cooperation within the relevant exchange programs, particularly within the Fulbright program, study of Azeri students at US universities within this program, etc.

The ambassador expressed his belief that the addition of other famous US universities to the list of higher education institutions selected within the State Program will give positive results. He also supported the suggestion of the Minister regarding the improvement of ties at other levels of education.

The Minister noted the possibility of cooperation with the US in the scientific and research areas. According to him, the community should be informed about the works done for the development of educational ties between the two countries.

At the end, the sides underlined the importance of such meetings to develop bilateral relations, as well as exchanged views on other issues of common interest.