

---

El Elchin Babayev, executive director of Science Development Foundation making speech at the ceremony, noted that the competitions are attended by the groups of scientists and experts, as well as individual scientists from Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS), higher educational institutions, research institutes operating under ministries, government agencies, non-government organizations and other scientific organizations.

It was noted that, the University grant competition is being held for the first time and the Ministry of Education provided organizational support to the contest.

According to speeches, University grant competition with the total budget of 910 thousand manat involves 37 projects. Among these projects were determined 11 winners with the total funding of 890 thousand manat. These projects will be implemented in Azerbaijan State Oil Academy (4 projects), Azerbaijan Medical University (3), Azerbaijan State Agricultural University (2), Azerbaijan State University of Economics (1) and the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1).

The Industrial grant competition held for the first time determined 6 winners. One of the winner-projects was presented by Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University.

According to Deputy Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Education Yagub Piriyev, one of the main tasks of the higher education institutions under "National Education Development Strategy of Azerbaijan Republic" is to become center of science, research and innovations. In order to ensure it, higher education institutions should operate as scientific centers that can guarantee the quality of education and reflecting the latest achievements of science. Thus, in modern conditions, it is impossible to achieve the quality education and high-level scientific innovations without providing integration between education and science. The solution of this problem is highly contributed not only by the higher education institutions, but also Science Development Foundation. It's expedient for the Foundation to build the relations with higher education institutions at the new plane and higher level. In other words, Science Development Foundation should provide greater support to science development in higher education system.

Y. Piriyev mentioned that there are 9579 PhD and 2251 Dr among more than 32 thousand experts conducting researches at the different universities and organizations. "This means a huge army of scientists. More than half of the scientists with degree are working at the education system. "

Y. Piriyev noted that heads of 94 projects from 315 projects presented to 17 different competitions held by Science Development Foundation within 2010-2014 acted on behalf of higher education institutions. 74 of those 315 projects were executed by the higher education institutions.