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Second Azerbaijan Science Festival opened on October 31. The event is organized by Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, Baku City Executive Authority, Knowledge Fund under the Azerbaijani President, Science Development Fund under the Azerbaijani President, US Embassy and Moscow State University.

Prior to the opening ceremony participants of the event visited the Alley of Honors to put flowers at the grave of national leader Heydar Aliyev.

Addressing the opening ceremony, president of ANAS Akif Alizade emphasized the importance of the event to the country. He said the primary goal of the festival is to promote scientific achievements and engage youth in research activities.

Minister of Education Mikayil Jabbarov highlighted Azerbaijan's accomplishments in the fields of science and education in the years of independence.

The minister said the years of independence saw rapid development of Azerbaijan's education system. "The number of those who entered higher education institutions grew two times in 2016 against 1990."

Mikayil Jabbarov said the Law on Science, which was adopted this year, proposed defining a "research institute" status for higher education institutions. He said this is linked to the stimulation of the research activities of higher education institutions and new requirements imposed on them.

Mikayil Jabbarov stressed the importance of the effective use of science in order to increase the quality of education. "To this end the Ministry of Education strives for closer ties and deeper scientific cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences, research institutions as well as business community. The launch of a master's degree program at ANAS helped by the Ministry of Education, and joint projects between the ministry and the academy is the product of this cooperation," said the minister.

Other speakers expressed their confidence that the festival will contribute to promoting scientific accomplishments and encouraging interest in science.

The participants of the ceremony then viewed an exhibition.

The festival continues with lectures at the Central Scientific Library of ANAS, Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Institute of Catalysis and Inorganic Chemistry, Institute of Physics, Baku State University, Baku Higher Oil School and Education Complex No. 132-134.