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“SABAH Graduate” ceremony was held at the Baku Convention Center on July 5.

Participants in the event included head of the Humanitarian Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Farah Aliyeva, head of the Youth Policy and Sport Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration, assistant to the First Vice President Yusuf Mammadaliyev, Minister of Education Jeyhun Bayramov, members of parliament, heads of public and private organizations, rectors of higher education institutions, media captains, education experts and students.

Prior to the ceremony participants viewed “I am SABAH” exhibition in the foyer of the center.

The event started with the playing of the state anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and then featured the screening of a documentary on the activity of SABAH groups.

Head of the Youth Policy and Sport Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration, assistant to the First Vice President Yusuf Mammadaliyev read out a congratulatory letter by First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva.

Addressing the event, Minister of Education Jeyhun Babayev said the development of education has been of exceptional importance to Azerbaijan at all stages. The minister said that President Ilham Aliyev’s “transformation of black gold into human capital” conception has become a crucial element of the state policy, noting that the reforms carried out in the country aim at this very target.

Jeyhun Bayramov said SABAH project is an education model established taking into consideration international experience, Azerbaijan’s values and tasks facing the country. The minister highlighted the achievements of the first SABAH groups, which were established four years ago. “A total of 721 SABAH students graduated from higher education institutions in 2017. Of them 30 percent are enrolled in master degree studies in Azerbaijan, while 16 percent in foreign countries, and more than 30 percent got employment.”

Jeyhun Bayramov said that in the rapidly developing world, the road to success is paved through the synthesis of professional knowledge and skills and openness to innovations. The minister wished SABAH students success.

SABAH graduates student of Baku Music Academy Vusala Babayeva and student of Azerbaijan State Economic University Samir Huseynov – highlighted the opportunities created by SABAH, saying these groups provide favorable environment for preparation of highly-qualified specialists. They said the knowledge and skills they received at SABAH groups will play a crucial role in their future career.

SABAH graduates with best academic achievements received certificates, while third year students were presented with symbolic SABAH keys in the ceremony.

SABAH groups’ anthem then was played.

SABAH groups were established in 34 specializations in 7 state higher education institutions in 2014-2015 academic year. SABAH groups now enroll more than 2300 students in more than 40 specializations in 12 higher education institutions.

A total of 842 SABAH students graduated in 2017-2018 academic year.