

Representatives from Hungary, Norway, Great Britain and other countries took part in the seminars on the themes of "E-learning in higher education" (at Azerbaijan University of Languages), "National ICT and Education Development Strategy" (educational complex No. 132-134), and "One to one teaching for teachers and pupils" (Elitar Gymnasium) on the first day of the conference. Seminar participants took part in the video-conference as well.

Speaking at the opening of conference, Education Minister, Misir Mardanov, highlighted that, pursuant to constant attention and care of the President Ilham Aliyev, a wide range of measures is implemented for the use of ICT in the education sphere of Azerbaijan. The Minister noted works done at 3693 schools of the country within the "Programme for the provision of comprehensive schools of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the ICT (2005-2007)". Moreover, over 30 000 computers were given to schools, as well as computer rooms were established in more than 1722 schools during this period. He also emphasized the organization of training courses on the use of ICT for more than 7500 teachers of Baku, Sumgait and Ganja.

Talking about measures implemented within the State Program on informatization of the education system in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008-2012, the Minister noted works done for the development of ICT infrastructure, solution of e-management issue, improvement abilities of teachers in ICT, ICT as well as normative legal basis. Mr. Mardanov underlined the importance of provision the Education System Informatization Department of the Ministry and all schools with the internet, and creation of Information Resource Centre, which will implement a content filtering system.

Having noted the 10 percent of the total number of Internet users fall on the education system, the Minister informed that within the State programme "e-school" pilot project was implemented at 30 schools, 55 680 teachers gained ICT abilities, and this number will be increased up to 114 000 teachers by the end of the program. According to the Minister, approximately nine thousand teachers are benefited from the People's computer project implemented jointly by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies, Education Ministry, Microsoft and HP co-operations. The goal of which is to provide everyone with computers at preferential terms. He also noted that currently, the issue of provision each pupil with computer becomes more actual due to the teaching of information science at the primary classes.

Elmir Valizadeh, Deputy Minister of Communication and Information Technologies, in his presentation named "Special role of ICT in the socio-economic and human resource development" underlined that the use of ICT in the education is one of the priority areas of information technologies. He valued the use of ICT in the education as important steps directed to the future and noted that about 8 percent of specialties at universities of the country are directly connected with ICT. Talking about the direct activity of Communication and Information Technologies Ministry in the ICT use sphere, Deputy Minister underlined 145 students are studying in the leading universities of the world at the expense of the Ministry.

Marius Lukosiunas, UNESCO's Advisor for Communication and Information, gave broad information on UNESCO programme on teachers' literacy. According to him, over 11 million people are training in more than 700 ICT centres around the world.

Further, Balint Magyar, former Education Minister of Hungary, Joyce Fernandez, a spokesman for "Microsoft" Co., and Charles Anderson, professor of University of Edinburgh, made presentations at the conference. They talked about the positive role of ICT in terms of development of all spheres, formation of human capital and receiving uninterrupted education.