The International Scientific Conference entitled “History of Azerbaijan in international researches - current situation and prospects” was held at Humboldt University within the Week of Science and Culture of Azerbaijan in Germany.

The moderator of the conference held with participation of scientists from Germany, Azerbaijan and other countries, was Yorg Baberovski, Professor of Institute of History of the university.

Education Minister of Azerbaijan, Misir Mardanov had welcomed participants of the Scientific Forum. Highlighting the actuality of such events, the Minister said: “My studentship coincides with 1960s of the XX century. Then History of Azerbaijan had not been taught practically. Just at the last courses we were informing on this episodically. I can say that, we did not have a chance to learn our history at all, because not enough attention was paid to the teaching of this subject. The situation has changed fundamentally, after Azerbaijan gained its independence. Today History of Azerbaijan is the obligatory learned subject, and our country pays a great deal of attention to its teaching.” According to the Minister, it was impossible for Azerbaijan to imagine the opening of Department of History of Azerbaijan at one of the famous universities – at Humboldt University, whereas Armenians have had the opportunity to impact on the state and scientific spheres of many countries through their lobbies, as well open Department of Armenian Studies. “Today Azerbaijan has used this chance, and it was possible to achieve as a consequence of the state independence,” - said the Minister. He wished good luck to Prof. Eva-Maria Auch, and to Department headed by her.

Prof. Thomas Mergel, director of Historical Institute of Humboldt University, joined to the words of congratulations of the Minister. According to him, today successes that Azerbaijan has achieved on some issues could be the example for Europeans. They could learn a lot of things -such as, tolerance, openness, and sincerity on many fields from Azeri people indeed. Prof. Mergel said: “The activity of the Department of History of Azerbaijan will be mutually useful. Azerbaijan will have the opportunity to introduce its reach history in Europe, and there will be created a chance for us to learn this history closely. We are creating for you the opportunity to teach us your history. This what we called the mutual benefit.” He reminded that during the Nazi regime the Humboldt University was seriously damaged. A number of famous professors were arrested and killed. The scientific autonomy was ended. A large number of university staffs were cooperated with the Gestapo, some of them in a volunteer, some of them in forceful conditions. They became the member of the national socialist party. Today the situation in all areas is completely different. The main feature of the Humboldt University is the free science. Due to this fact, the University has become one of the famous universities of the world. Prof. Mergel thanked everyone, who worked on the creation of Azerbaijani History Department. Further, Jamil Hasanli, professor of Baku State University gave a presentation entitled “Current situation of Azerbaijani History.” He presented to Eva-Maria Auch, head of the new established department the copy of handwriting - “History of democratic movement in Iranian Azerbaijan” by Pishevari, who was shot in July 1947.

Later, Doctor Svante Cornell, director of Central Asia Institute, cofounder of Stockholm-based Institute for Security and Development Policy gave the presentation on the theme of “Researches of Azerbaijani history in the European context.” Moreover, Prof. Frederick Star, director of Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program of John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA, gave the presentation entitled “Learning of Azerbaijani history in the USA”, Prof. Tamara Dragadze on the theme of “Azerbaijan in the European context”, Prof. Aygun Attar, vice-chancellor of Giresun University (Turkey) entitled “Current situation of Azerbaijan Studies in Turkey”, Tasil Kamil, Professor Babes-Bolyai University, Romania, entitled “Learning Azerbaijani history in Romania”, Eva-Maria Auch entitled “Azerbaijan history as a new subject in the East Europe Researches”, Doc. Ingrid Schindlbeck, official of the Ethnological Museum in Berlin - “About learning of Azerbaijani ethnology in Europe”, Jorg Stadelbauer, Professor of University of Freiburg - “Azerbaijan at the world’s geography”, Udo Steinbach, professor of Marburg University - “Azerbaijan at the conflict issues.” Moreover, Prof. Walker Adam, director of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg delivered a speech at the conference as well.

Farida Mammadova, correspondent member of ANAS, Honoured Scientist Artist of Azerbaijan, head of Historical Geography Department of Institute of History of ANAS, director of Humanitarian Sciences Department of Azerbaijan Aviation Academy, Jamil Hasanli, professor BSU, Parviz Shahbazov, ambassador of Azerbaijan to Germany, Ahad Rahmanzadeh, professor of Bonn University, Rail Safiyev, the doctoral candidate of Free University of Berlin, Vugar Aslanov, the doctoral candidate of University

Mainz, Rizvan Nabiyev, director of Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and others delivered a speech at discussions held after presentation.