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Having welcomed participants, Education Minister Misir Mardanov spoke about the importance of the 18th Session of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) recently held in Baku. He stressed that the 18th Session of IBC was held in Baku by the initiative of Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO, the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, MP Mehriban Aliyeva.

The Minister talked about issues discussed at the meeting held at the Ministry of Education with Ms. Ms. Pilar Alvarez-Laso, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, and underlined that there were held discussions with management of Human Rights Institute of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) and its employees for teaching bioethics in Azerbaijan as well. According to him, due to the importance of bioethics in teaching of medicine and social humanity sciences they are planning to establish appropriate departments at some universities and approve the bioethics as a new subject at a doctoral level.

Vugar Mammadov, Assistant Director of Human Rights Institute of ANAS for Scientific works, Head of Azerbaijani Bureau of Bioethics Committee of UNESCO gave a presentation on the theme of "Bioethics and Human Rights: new ethical challenges." He noted that bioethics is a science on the moral part of activity of the human in medicine, biology and use of new technologies. Telling that UNESCO has implemented Bioethics Program since 1993, he gave information on activities and duties of Bioethics Committee of UNESCO. He also talked about main principles of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

According to him, the bioethics is becoming more actual in Azerbaijan in terms of rapid economic growth of the country, its turning into a leading country in the region and widening use of new technologies. He also gave information on works done in Azerbaijan in the bioethics field. Mr. Mammadov noted that they are planning to publish teaching materials on Bioethics in Azerbaijani, and touched on other issues on ethical challenges and research fields.

Further, have been given answers to questions of participants, and exchanged of views on some issues. Director of Human Rights Institute of ANAS, MP Ayten Mustafayeva has thanked the Minister for the organization of the event. Having estimated the bioethics as one of the parts of human rights, she underlined the interest of the country in this field. Expressing her views on modified food products, medical law and bioethics (transplantation) she underlined the importance of using a modern world practice in this field.

Senior teacher of Azerbaijan Medical University Aida Bandalievaya, Assistant Professor of Azerbaijan Medical University Gulnara Safarova and Professor of Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University Adalat Farajov have talked about teaching of bioethics at universities. According to them, it will have a positive impact on training of specialists for different specialties.

Noting the presentation and views expressed by participants was very stimulating Education Minister Misir Mardanov underlined the need for taken measures to implement in the bioethics field. According to him, a development program should be prepared, and the teaching of bioethics at universities further could encompass all systems of education. He gave relevant instructions on extra training of specialists who will teach the bioethics, and talked about works that will be implemented until the next study year.