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"The steps taken through public-private co-operation are important for the development of vocational education. We have made important advances towards the application of workplace learning models, and our employer partners have also made great contributions to this process."

These words were said by the Minister of Science and Education Emin Amrullayev on 7 September at an event organised within the framework of the project "Ensuring Access to Personnel and Employment in Azerbaijan" implemented with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Emin Amrullayev also emphasised that the state's attention and care to the sphere of vocational education has increased in recent years.

The event was attended by First Vice-President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Jurgen Riegerink, who is on a visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as other officials, representatives of the private sector and mass media.

Speaking at the event, First Vice-President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Jurgen Riegerink noted that along with common economic benefits, such projects will create new economic opportunities for all. It was noted that this project will be one of the successful public-private partnership initiatives implemented in Azerbaijan.

In conclusion, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State Agency for Vocational Education under the Ministry of Science and Education and "Aurora Ltd." to support training of personnel in accordance with the requirements of the industry. The Memorandum envisages training of qualified personnel in the field of food production, improving the knowledge and skills of students, improving the quality of training in this area, and creating dual programmes.

It should be noted that in the field of food production, the State Agency for Vocational Education and Training and "Aurora Ltd." have prepared a curriculum for the speciality "Grinding Production Operator" in order to support the training of personnel in accordance with the requirements and orders of the industry. Starting from the current academic year, teaching in this speciality will begin at the vocational education level.