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The event was attended by state and governmental officials, MPs, ambassadors of foreign countries to Azerbaijan, university rectors from Russia, Turkey, Northern Cyprus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and other countries, heads of leading universities, scientific centres of the country and representatives of society.

Before the ceremony, there was held an opening of memorial plaque dedicated to the national leader Heydar Aliyev, who had studied at this building at the main body of the university from 1952 to 1957. Next, attendees visited the memorial to the great leader at the foyer of the university and put flowers on it.

Speaking at the opening of the event Education Minister Misir Mardanov said that on September 26, 2011 President Ilham Aliyev has signed an order on awarding a Shohrat Order (Order of Glory), Tereggoy (Progress) medal and Honored Teacher title to some employees of the Azerbaijan State Economic University. He has read these orders to attendees, and congratulated awardees. The Minister estimated the conduction of 80th anniversary of the university and award of its staff as a specific example of care and attention provided by the President for the education field and educators. And thanked the President Ilham Aliyev on behalf of educators.

Noting the 80th anniversary of the university is one of the major events at the education history of Azerbaijan, the Minister thanked all guests, representatives of the state bodies most of whom are the university graduates and MPs for their acceptance of invitation to attend the event. He highly praised the fact that the most famous scientists, particularly, three winners of the Nobel economics prize, as well as a great-grandchild of Nobel had participated in the event and described this as an attention paid to the comprehensive reforms implemented in Azerbaijan.

Misir Mardanov also noted that a historical building of the university, in which a great leader Heydar Aliyev had studied, was refurbished over the last year by the order of the President and there were created good conditions for students. In his speech, he also touched upon the measures implemented to develop the higher education of the country, and emphasized due to the care and attention provided by the President the logistical base at almost all universities was renovated. According to him, today, more than 7 thousand of foreigners are studying at universities of Azerbaijan. Considering that fact as an indicator of respect for the education of Azerbaijan in the world Mr. Mardanov stressed that more than 10 thousand of Azerbaijani citizens are continuing their education at prestigious universities of foreign countries.

At the end of its speech the Minister congratulated the staff of University on 80th anniversary on behalf of all educators and wished them every success in the development of economics in the country.

Rector of ASEU, MP Shamsaddin Hajiyev gave a detailed presentation on the 80-year development history of the university, on contributions made by the university to economics and education of the country, reforms undertaken at the university over recent years.

Next, winners of the Nobel Prize for Economics Eric Maskin, Finn E. Kydland, and Christopher Pissarides, chairman of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan Elman Rustamov, Rector of Azerbaijan Medical University Ahliman Amiraslanov, Rector of Baku State University Abel Maharramov, vice-chairman of New Azerbaijan Party Ali Akhmedov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation Sattar Mehbalib, chairmen of parliamentary committees Rabiyyat Aslanov, Ziyad Samadzade, first vice-president of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences Arif Hashimov, Rector of Azerbaijan State Agricultural University Mirdamad Sadigov, rector of Azerbaijan University of Languages Samad Seyidov congratulated the staff of ASEU on its anniversary, and spoke about the important role of University in the economic growth of the country.