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The meeting was attended by the officials of the Ministry of Education, representatives of the Azerbaijan Chess Federation, chess experts and heads of specialized chess schools.

Having welcomed the attendees, Education Minister Misir Mardanov praised the State Programme for the development of chess in Azerbaijan for the years of 2009/2014 signed by the President Ilham Aliyev as an attention and care provided to this field. He talked about significant measures taken by the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev to develop chess at the Republic in the 1970s of the 20th century and gave information on achievements gained by chess players of the country.

According to the Minister, there are 66 children – youth chess schools operating in the system of the Ministry of Education and more than 36 thousand of pupils are learning chess at 2648 groups of these schools. He talked about the measures taken to strengthen the logistical base of these schools, and their full provision with equipments, computer, textbook and teaching materials. Moreover, he underlined the particular meaning of new children – youth chess schools constructed at some districts over recent years.

Stressing the importance of teaching chess as an independent subject at general education institutions of the Republic, the Minister noted the works that will be implemented within planned activities in accordance with State Programme. From this point of view, he underlined the importance of developing an appropriate education programme, selecting teachers who will teach the subject and the need for depth analysis of international experience. The Minister expressed his conviction that the selection of schools, which will apply this innovation, and based on the experience gained by them, introduction of chess as an independent subject at other schools will bear more fruitful results.

The Minister brought to the attention of participants the proposals submitted by the Azerbaijan Chess Federation to the Ministry, and gave advice and instruction to address the challenges ahead.

Having thanked the Minister Misir Mardanov for the conduction of such meetings, the vice-president of Azerbaijan Chess Federation Faig Hasanov noted the support of Azerbaijani government for the development of chess is being accepted by the international community as a good example. According to him, from this viewpoint, children – youth chess schools operating in the system of the Ministry of Education occupy a worthy place in the gained achievements. Noting chess is taught as an independent subject at schools of the developed countries, he talked about the role of chess in developing the intellectual potential of people, as well as underlined that this work will create a fertile ground for effective organization of leisure-time for students.

Next, there was held an exchange of views on the teaching of chess at schools, and put forward some proposals concerning the solution of this issue.