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On September 11-12, an international forum on "Prioritizing climate education on the global higher education agenda" was held within the framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Education and Times Higher Education International Rating Agency. Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University and Sumgayit State University hosted the forum organized by the State Agency for Science and Higher Education.

The purpose of forum is to enhance the role of higher education institutions in supporting 13th Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations (UN), encouraging joint cooperation between higher education institutions and other stakeholders to address the climate crisis, as well as exchanging ideas about the importance of tackling climate change in scientific research.

Minister of Science and Education, Emin Amrullayev, who gave an opening speech at the forum, emphasized the importance of holding an international forum for Azerbaijan's higher education institutions and increasing the competitiveness of universities in preparation for COP29.

Elnur Soltanov, Deputy Minister of Energy, Chief Executive Officer of COP29, spoke about energy security and activities of our country in the period of transition to green energy, steps to be taken against the global climate crisis, as well as the importance of active participation of the scientific community in issues related to climate change at COP29.

In their speeches, Acting Rector of the Azerbaijan State University of Oil and Industry Vazeh Asgarov and Rector of Sumgayit State University Rufat Azizov noted that active participation in tackling climate change has made an invaluable contribution to our country's transition to green energy.

In his speech, Phil Baty, Director General for Global Affairs at Times Higher Education, an international rating agency, spoke about the importance of participation and success of Azerbaijan's higher education institutions "in THE Impact" rating, actively applying strategies in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals in recent years.

Ulkar Sattarova, Director of the State Agency for Science and Higher Education, who participated in a panel discussion on "Country Context: Challenges and Opportunities Towards Climate Awareness in Post-Oil Countries" noted that in order to succeed in the area under consideration, it is necessary to raise awareness starting from the primary level of education and train academic staff and students in higher education institutions.

The forum, which continued with panel discussions, was attended by COP29 senior climate advocate Nigar Arpadaray, Director of Climate Education at the University of Cambridge Christine Ozden, Professor Siram Ramakrishna of the National University of Singapore, and Warwick University representative Geret Robert. The event was also attended by BP Azerbaijan Vice President for Caspian Region Bakhtiyar Aslanbeyli, ADA University Vice-Rector Fariz Ismayilzadeh, British Council Country Director Nargiz Hajiyeva and other official guests, heads of universities, politicians, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

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More than 200 representatives from 26 countries took part in the forum.