

---

Education Minister Misir Mardanov warmly welcomed the guest and expressed his pleasure at meeting him at the Ministry. Talking about the existing relations between Australia and Azerbaijan, he underlined the importance of promoting further education cooperation between two countries. The Minister estimated the election of Azerbaijan as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council while the country is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence as a significant event for Azerbaijan, and gave information on constructive activities implemented in the country, particularly, on achievements gained in the education field.

Talking about Azeri youth studying at the top universities in the world within the State Programme for the education of Azerbaijani youth abroad in the years of 2007/2015, the Minister emphasized 21 Australian universities have been added to the 'List of higher education institutions selected for the education of Azerbaijani youth abroad' approved in accordance with the Programme. According to him, currently, there are some Azeri students studying at universities of Australia. Moreover, the Minister talked about opportunity to acquaint the country with Australian universities, and stressed that this work will have a positive effect on the number of Azeri students wishing to study at universities of Australia. The Minister expressed his conviction that the cooperation between two countries in the various stages and fields of education and organization of mutual visits will contribute to the cooperation.

Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia to Azerbaijan Ian Biggs has thanked the Minister for the warm welcome. He noted the importance of promoting education cooperation between Australia and Azerbaijan, and effectiveness of this area. He highly praised the study of Azeri students at universities of Australia within the relevant State Programme, and underlined its role in strengthening bilateral educational ties. The guest said he attaches importance to the inter-university cooperation, and mutual visits of experts.

In conclusion, there were exchanged views on other issues of cooperation.