The main purpose of the Conference is to provide a space for reflection on strategies, trends and practices of teacher professional development on the basis of competency based approach with application of different models of Knowledge Society key competencies - ICT, pedagogical and social - for teachers. The event was organized jointly by the UNESCO, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The initiative to hold the conference in Baku belongs to the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education.

One of the key goals of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) is to design programs on the ICT application in the education, support its realization and carry out programs directed to the requirements of the world and different countries. The IITE, within its status and functions, aims at expanding support for the education and training, strengthening national capacities in the information technologies field, eliminating the problem of the digital divide in the education and forming a society whereby everybody are able to get an education.

Moreover, the IITE has a good practice in the use of ICT in the vocational education field. In 2001, the organization carried out Information and Communication Technologies in Education Project and has yielded important results in this direction.

The conference was attended by local and international experts from Turkey, Malaysia, Slovakia, Finland, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Italy, Lithuania and Belarus.

Speaking at the opening of the event Deputy Education Minister Gulu Novruzov welcomed the participants on behalf of the Minister Misir Mardanov and stressed the importance of the conference, which will play an important role in the development of ICT and other fields of the country. According to him, the development strategy pursued by Azerbaijan has increased the importance of issues on learning the world's leading practices and its effective use in the education.

Speaking about steps taken in the country to develop the ICT, G. Novruzov drawn attention to achievements gained in the execution of adopted documents. He noted successes achieved in the field of training staff for the ICT application and in the e-education and e-Management fields. Deputy Education Minister also gave information on measures implemented within the State Program on Informatization of the Education System in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008/2012.

Deputy Minister of Communication and Information Technologies Elmir Valizadeh and Director of UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education Dendev Badarch in their speech highlighted the importance of the conference.

The event was continue with plenary sessions and discussions held by Working Groups on topics such as competence of teachers in the use of ICT, open educational resources and development of vocational education.

The conference will continue its work on 2 December.