With the support of the Ministry of Science and Education and organized by the "STEAM Azerbaijan" project, the International STEAM Azerbaijan Festival (SAF 2025) has kicked off at the Baku Expo Center from 17 to 19 November.

The opening ceremony of the festival was attended by representatives of government agencies, members of parliament, rectors, directors of research institutes of the National Academy of Sciences, representatives of international organizations, media executives, education experts, prominent public figures and other guests.

First, the national anthem was played.

Then a video dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the SAF festival was shown.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, "STEAM Azerbaijan" project manager Igrar Nazarov presented statistics on the project's activities. It was noted that the "STEAM Azerbaijan" project covers more than 300,000 students and more than 400 schools. Currently, STEAM lessons are held in grades III-IX. There are 21 STEAM centers operating throughout the country.

Igrar Nazarov noted that this festival is not only a competition, but also an international platform that provides an opportunity for young people in our country to participate in a global exchange of knowledge.

According to Minister of Science and Education Emin Amrullayev, STEAM education in Azerbaijan has developed significantly over the past five years, with thousands of students joining the process, and the expansion of innovative thinking in the education system further enhances the importance of the festival.

Touching upon the main components of STEAM education, Emin Amrullayev noted that, compared to the early years, more than 50 times more educational resources, methodologies and systemic models are being introduced. The minister emphasized that STEAM will become the main leading content of Azerbaijani education in 2027–2030.

After the speeches, there was a presentation of the teams that will compete in the final stage of the festival, followed by a creative segment.

It should be noted that thousands of schoolchildren, students, mentors and experts from more than 20 countries are participating in 18 categories of the festival. The competition categories cover robotics, artificial intelligence, renewable energy,

unmanned and satellite technologies, art, innovative projects and engineering.

The Azerbaijan-2025 International STEAM Festival will run until 19 November.

More than 1,400 participants reached the final stage of the festival. 202 of them represent 19 foreign countries. A total of 22 countries are represented at the festival, including Azerbaijan.

It should be noted that STEAM is a joint education program covering five main areas. Thus, the STEAM-based education model is founded on the idea of comprehensive teaching of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.