The event was attended by members of Board and Political Council of New Azerbaijan Party (NAP), representatives of the central apparatus of the Ministry of Education, heads of relevant structure divisions of the Ministry, deputies of Milli Majlis, rectors of universities, celebrated intellectuals; representatives of NGOs, and directors of general-education establishments directly subordinated to the Ministry of Education.

Speaking at the opening of “round table” deputy chairman and executive secretary of NAP Ali Ahmedov noted the rapid development of Azerbaijan. According to him, reforms covering all areas of country life, renovation and modernization processes are considered as a basis for future development of Azerbaijan. He noted that it is planning to specify the main direction of development and forthcoming goals for the next years as a concept within the Executive Order of President Ilham Aliyev on the preparation of development concept ‘Azerbaijan – 2020’ issued last year.

Noting the education occupies an important place in the development concept and significant works have been done to develop this field over the last years, A. Ahmedov underlined a concern about education is a priority of State and government policy. According to him, successes achieved in the education field have seriously changed the attitude of society towards education. He also noted a need in the current stage to determine the future goals of education and clearly express opinions concerning this issue.

Stressing the attendance in the ‘round table’ of those, who are working for the education system and have made contributions to the development of education will be very useful, A. Ahmedov expressed his belief that the valuable opinions will be voiced during the discussions.

Education Minister Misir Mardanov gave a presentation entitled “Future of national education: main goals and duties," noting thoughts of the founder of the modern state of Azerbaijan, nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev and President Ilham Aliyev about the importance of education and its leading role in the public life of society. He also touched upon stages of development of education in the country. Speaking on important achievements gained during the dynamic development of Azerbaijan over the 2003-2011 period, Minister Mardanov underlined more than 60 programs on social and economic development were passed; the level of poverty has reduced from 40 to 7.6%, and the unemployment rate has decreased to 5.4% by opening about 1 million new jobs.

The Minister said that the practice to promote and implement the development strategy of education systems of countries for near and far perspective is widely used. He listed the main factors playing an important role in the development of education and compared relevant indicators of Azerbaijan with a number of foreign countries.

Noting the education is a motivating force of progress, the Minister stressed the important role of education in forming human capital and intellectual potential, preserving national and moral values, abolishing poverty and promoting social welfare, as well as in building legal community. He gave information on projects, which were the basis for reforms implemented in the education field, and touched upon the Innovative Education Project from the years 1999-2003, Education Sector Development Project from 2003-2008, and Second Education Sector Development Project from 2009-2014, which goal is to improve the training level at general-education establishments, the effectiveness of spending on the general-education field. Noting the existence of great care for the education field in the country, the Minister demonstrated the diagram indicating year-on-year growth of total spending and investments on the education from the state budget.

Misir Mardanov gave information on works implemented on different stages of education, achieved results and forthcoming duties, overall, talked about measures taken to develop the education. Noting the support provided by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation for the education field, the Minister talked on works implemented by the support of Foundation over the last years.

Discussions were held at the end of the presentation.

Rector of Baku State University Abel Maharammov, correspondent member of Azerbaijan National Academy of Science Asef Hajiyev, Rector of Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University Yusif Mammadov,

Rector of Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University Gulchohra Mammadova, correspondent member of Azerbaijan National Academy of Science Salahaddin Khalilov, director of secondary school of Baku named after Zarifa Aliyeva Mahabbat Valiyeva and the vice-speaker of Milli Majlis Bahar Muradova made a speech highly praising the presentation given by the Minister. During the speech, they also expressed their views on discussed issue and made relevant suggestions.