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The ceremony was attended by Deputy Education Minister Gulu Novruzov, the delegation headed by Rector of Hacettepe University Professor Murat Tuncer, as well as heads of several leading educational institutions of Azerbaijan.

Deputy Education Minister Gulu Novruzov welcomed the ceremony attendees and noted that relevant protocols were signed between the leading universities of Azerbaijan and Hacettepe University of Turkey for the first time in 20 years of Azerbaijan's independence.

G. Novruzov conveyed the greetings of the Minister of Education Misir Mardanov to the guests and spoke about the educational reforms implemented in Azerbaijan, as well as works done for the development of higher education field. The Deputy Minister emphasized the importance of using the experience of top universities in the world, including the universities of Turkey, and expanding inter-university relations in order to improve higher education to modern standards level.

G. Novruzov gave information on successful implementation of State Programme on Study Abroad approved by the Executive Order of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and noted that thousands of Azeri students will be sent to prestigious universities in the world in the coming period. Stressing that young people of Azerbaijan have already had an opportunity to study at the top universities of the world, G. Novruzov underlined a great interest of the country in universities of Turkey.

Rector of University of Hacettepe Murat Tuncer expressed his satisfaction with the visit to Azerbaijan, and noted relations between the two countries have given impetus to the development of educational ties. Mr. Tuncer highly praised the scientific cooperation and exchange protocols, which will be signed between the number of leading universities of Azerbaijan and University of Hacettepe. He gave detailed information about an educational institution headed by him and said that full support will be provided for further development of cooperation.

Speaking about the relationship between Azerbaijan and Turkey, as well as bilateral relations with educational institutions Rector of Bakı State University Abel Maharramov and Rector of Nakhchivan State University Isa Habibbayli noted the importance of expanding educational cooperation for the sake of common interests.

At the end of the ceremony, scientific cooperation and exchange protocols were signed between University of Hacettepe and Bakı State University, Azerbaijan State Oil Academy, Nakhchivan State University, Azerbaijan State University of Architecture and Construction, Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, Bakı Music Academy, Azerbaijan Technical University, Ganja State University, Bakı Slavic University and Azerbaijan State Academy of Physical Culture and Sports.