

---

The UK-Azerbaijan Interuniversity Forum was held in London on February 10 within the framework of the first meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on economic cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Jeyhun Bayramov, Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Ms. Rebecca Hughes, the British Council's Director of Education, made a speech at the opening ceremony of the Forum.

In his speech, J. Bayramov noted that Azerbaijan established successful cooperation with the United Kingdom after the restoration of independence, education was one of the most dynamically developing areas, the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan attached great importance to the educational reforms during the transition to knowledge economy, and "National Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan", approved by Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated October 24, 2013, was a road map for these reforms. Noting that there are already successful cooperation projects between the two countries in the field of higher education, Deputy Minister emphasized the importance of intensifying these projects both from a qualitative and quantitative point-of-view. Noting the attractiveness of higher education institutions of UK for Azerbaijani students, J. Bayramov underlined that one-third of the scholarships offered within the framework of the "State Program on education of Azerbaijani youth abroad in the years 2007-2015" were given to students studying in this country.

Then, within the framework of the working sessions, the representatives of Azerbaijan and UK Universities delivered a report on the current state of cooperation in the field of higher education and scientific studies, and the prospects for future cooperation. During the discussions, faculty and student exchange, dual degree programs, joint research projects, exchange of successful experiences in the field of higher education management and realization of cooperation in other directions were discussed in detail.