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On May 19, the British Council Azerbaijan in partnership with the Ministry of Education launched English Language Centre at secondary school No. 23.

Participants in the opening ceremony included deputy Minister of Education Jeyhun Bayramov, British Council Regional Director Andy Williams, English Language Regional Director Jill Coates, British Council Azerbaijan Director Elizabeth White, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Baku Stephen McCormick, and media representatives.

Deputy Minister of Education Jeyhun Bayramov said that advanced teaching methods, resources and technologies will be applied at the centre. It will also provide professional development trainings for English language teachers of both school No. 23 and other schools. "Involving English language teachers in professional development training is part of cooperation of the British Council Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Education," he added.

Other speakers said that one of the main goals of the English Language Centre was to improve communication skills of those wishing to learn English through providing them with rich language learning resources.

Students of the schools, located in the vicinity of the centre, will have an opportunity to develop independent learning and communication skills, extra-curricular activities by paying a nominal fee. The centre is provided with rich library, magazines, DVDs, electronic resources, computers and laptops with necessary language learning software.

Two more English Language Centres will be launched at a selected educational institution and Education Staff Development Institute in Baku in September.

Each centre will act as a mini network for four educational institutions located in the vicinity. The centres will also allow schools students to communicate with those learning English through face-to-face conversation or multimodal talk.

Afterwards the participants of the ceremony viewed the English Language Centre and attended the classes.