

Press Release

on The Conference on “Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways” was held in Baku

On December 19, 2019, the Conference on “Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways” was held in Baku with the participation of 44 key local partners.

Conference on "Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways" was held in Baku with the participation of 44 participants including government officials, representatives of business associations and NGOs, female entrepreneurs, representatives of the USAID and journalists attended the Conference.

Welcoming conference participants, Sabit Bagirov, president of the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation, notified that, the purpose of the conference is to identify problems in the field of business education and to discuss ways to solve them.

Orkhan Mammadov, Chairman of the Board of the Small and Medium Business (SMB) Development Agency said that entrepreneurship is at the center of attention of the government: “The agency is taking steps to improve the knowledge and skills of small and medium-sized businesses. Orkhan Mammadov said that Business Development Centers, which will be part of the Agency, will be established and the first center will be opened in Khachmaz soon.

Jaidev Singh, USAID / Azerbaijan Mission Director said that in recent years, the mission has signed a memorandum of understanding with three Azerbaijani universities: A trip to New York was organized. The mission will make every effort to introduce the best technologies in Azerbaijan”. According to the mission director, after meeting with people in the regions, he made sure that there were enough qualified specialists in Azerbaijan. “We have to think about how we can use this potential to turn Azerbaijan into a regional hub. Therefore, education should be based on best practices. Beyond formal education, we must demonstrate the uniqueness of Azerbaijani people. We need to achieve this through education and SME development”. The director of the mission also said that a number of initiatives to promote women's entrepreneurship have been put forward and will be continued. We will allocate our resources for the development of these areas.

Professor Adalat Muradov, rector of Azerbaijan State University of Economics spoke

about the work done at the university in the field of business education and the international cooperation in this area.

The first panel at the conference was devoted to the “Current Situation with Business Education in Azerbaijan”. Javanshir Abdullayev, director of Azerbaijan Bank Training Center spoke about the shortcomings in this area.

Ilkin Garayev, Director of the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Support Center, presented the results of a survey among girls in grades 10-11 studying in 18 schools in Baku. According to these results, 133 girls out of the 223 girls surveyed, about 60%, intend to pursue entrepreneurship after graduation. This is an unexpected but very good result. However, from the answer to another questionnaire, it is clear that these respondents do not have enough information about the basics of entrepreneurship and that school programs are not paying enough attention to this field.

In his speech, Ilkin Garayev emphasized that, the need for some specialties and professions is expected to decrease in the future. Therefore, in the near future, there will be no demand for such professions as an accountant, a credit specialist and an operator, a librarian, a journalist, a corrector, postal workers, guards, drillers, traffic police and so on. He mentions some of the future professions: Construction eco-analyst, Smart Path engineers, Robotic Systems Engineer, Big Data model designer, Digital Linguist, Intellectual Property Management Specialist, Artificial Intelligence Specialist, etc.

Galib Togrul, economic expert, head of the Economic Research Center spoke about Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB)”. He noted that the program initially aimed at the development of small businesses: “At present, the organization is implementing various assistance programs to assist entrepreneurs who want to build a new business and grow their businesses. Azad Rahimov, business trainer made a presentation on “Business Training. The experience of Azerbaijan and Ukraine”.

The conference ended with question and answer session. At the end of the conference, Sabit Bagirov, president of the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation, said that the problems and recommendations to address them will be summarized and a package of proposals will be submitted to the relevant authorities.