



Azerbaijan

Misir Mardanov
Minister of Education



Misir Mardanov was born on October 3, 1946. Graduated with honors from the faculty of mechanics- mathematics of Baku State University. Prof. Misir Mardanov was appointed Minister of Education in 1998. Prior to this he held positions of the Assistant professor, Vice Rector and Rector of Baku State University, Deputy Minister of Education. His pedagogical activity comprised issues related to improvement of education system, working out and implementation of education concept, formation and introduction of multi-tier education. Scientific researches are devoted to mathematical methods of management. Doctoral dissertation investigates systems with delayed arguments. Prof. M. Mardanov is the author of a number of fundamental scientific works. In 2006 by the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan Republic M. Mardanov was

awarded an "Order of Glory".

Inclusive education for equal opportunities and sustainable development

In compliance with the Law on Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, all citizens are guaranteed the right to education regardless of their race, national and religious affiliation, language, sex, age, state of health, social and financial status, field of activity, social origin, place of residence and political views. Citizens are provided with free choice of the education type, educational institution and language of teaching.

Education policy in Azerbaijan is directed to ensuring qualitative education to all citizens and in the process of reformation of the education system major attention is paid to provision of equal access to qualitative education for children representing national minorities, refugees and IDPs, as well as for children with special needs.

It should be mentioned that as a result of consistent policy of the Government, children representing national minorities have equal access to education in their native languages in general schools, including Russian and Georgian languages. In order to preserve and develop languages of smaller groups of national minorities, particular attention is paid to teaching these languages in secondary schools. In regions where national minorities reside compactly all conditions are provided for study of their mother tongue in secondary education institutions.

Implementation of Government Programmes in the sphere of education for refugees and IDPs that suffered during the conflict with Armenia over Upper Karabakch allowed provision of equal access to education for children representing these groups of population.

The first step taken in Azerbaijan towards the development of inclusive education for the children in need of special care was the elaboration of the State Programme on Inclusive Education. The draft project on the Development Programme (2005-2009) on Education for Children in Need of Special Care in the Republic of Azerbaijan was worked out and submitted to the Government and on February 3, 2005 this Programme was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Today, a total of three inclusive educational projects are being implemented in cooperation with international organizations within the framework



of the Development Program (2005-2009) on Education for Children in Need of Special Care in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Within this program inclusive education is implemented in a number of towns and regions of Azerbaijan. More than 30 pre-school and secondary educational institutions and over 200 children between 3-10 years old are involved in pilot projects, while 10 pupils completed their primary education and continue their studies at the basic education level.

A number of methodological aids on inclusive education for pre-school and secondary educational institutions are being prepared. A course on Introduction to Inclusive Education is offered in in-service teacher training institutes.

Currently, international experts invited by the Ministry of Education evaluate the results of the pilot projects. The second phase (2009-2015) of the state program will be worked out taking into consideration the results of evaluation process.

The wide-scale State Programme on De-institutionalization is also being currently implemented in Azerbaijan.

The main measures to be taken for the development of inclusive education are as follows:

- Establishment of legislative basis on inclusive education within the framework of educational policy.
- Broader involvement of all children in need of special care to inclusive education in pre-school, basic and vocational education.
- Development of up-date inclusive education curriculum for pre-service and in-service teacher training institutions.
- Exchange of international experience and partnership with international institutions.

Our long-term goal directed to the solution of challenges faced by the education system is “Provision of Qualitative Education for All”.