



Azerbaijan's Baku International Multiculturalism Centre commemorates its V Anniversary

By Peter Tase

On May 6, 2019 the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre (BIMC) commemorated the 96th anniversary of Azerbaijan's national leader Heydar Aliyev and the 5th anniversary of its establishment as a globally renowned center of multiculturalism and inter-religious tolerance. The event was held in the International Mugham Center in Baku.

This event was attended by Leyla Aliyeva, the Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, member of the Board of Trustees of Baku International Multiculturalism Centre.

In his opening statement BIMC Executive Director H. E. Dr. Ravan Hasanov emphasized that the Centre, established in 2014, aims to promote multicultural values of Azerbaijan, and intercultural and interethnic friendship.

A video highlighting the 5-year activities of BIMC was screened.

According to Azerbaijan State News Agency (AZERTAC), other keynote speakers shared their expertise and thoughts at this historic event including: Chair of the Board of Trustees of Baku International Multiculturalism Centre and Rector of Azerbaijan University of Languages Kamal Abdullayev; Head of the Department of Interethnic Relations, Multiculturalism and Religious Affairs of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan Etibar Najafov, Ph. D.; Deputy Minister of Education Firudin Gurbanov; Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations Gunduz Ismayilov; member

of the Board of Trustees of BIMC Aleksandr Sharovski; Deputy Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims' Office Fuad Nurullayev; Chairman of the Religious Community of Mountain Jews in Baku Milikh Yevdayev; Ordinary of the Roman Catholic Church's Apostolic Prefecture in Azerbaijan Vladimir Fekete. The Azerbaijani and International Scholars hailed the multicultural and tolerant atmosphere existing in Azerbaijan, as well as BIMC's activity towards promoting Azerbaijan's multicultural values worldwide.

In her remarks, Executive Director of the U.S. Branch of the BIMC Dr. Janna Scott said that the multiculturalism has become a lifestyle of every citizen of Azerbaijan regardless of their ethnicity, language and religion.

Head of the Moldova Branch of Baku International Multiculturalism Centre Aurelia Grigoriu also hailed the multiculturalism policy pursued by President Ilham Aliyev, noting that Azerbaijan today is among the five most tolerant countries in the world and is considered a model of religious tolerance.

According to AZERTAC: "The Head of the Dresden Branch of the Baku International Multiculturalism Center Prof. Birgit Weisgerber hailed the opportunity created for her to familiarize herself with the history, culture, and traditions of Azerbaijan.

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