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Ayshan Rasulova

Educational Institute of the Republic of Azerbaijan

ayshan.rasulova@arti.edu.az

Orcid ID: 0009-0005-7953-3268

**FROM KHANKENDI PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE
TO KARABAKH UNIVERSITY**

***Keywords:** Karabakh University, student, Khankendi Pedagogical Institute, education, specialty*

***Açar sözlər:** Qarabağ Universiteti, tələbə, Xankəndi Pedaqoji İnstitutu, təhsil, ixtisas*

Important military successes were achieved as a result of anti-terrorist measures that started on September 19 and ended on September 20, 2023, and lasted only 23 hours and 43 minutes. Our army, showing professionalism, courage, and heroism, dealt heavy blows to the enemy. As a result, the illegal military units of the Armenian armed forces, which raised the white flag, surrendered. This victory was a very valuable contribution to the “Year of Heydar Aliyev”. Thus, as a result of the anti-terrorist operation, Azerbaijan was able to regain control over the city of Khankendi.

After this event, on November 28, 2023, Mr. President Ilham Aliyev signed an Order on the establishment of Karabakh University (“Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the establishment of Karabakh University, 2023: 2). On February 6, 2024, the “Charter of Karabakh University” was approved (2). According to the charter,

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Karabakh University will operate as a public-legal entity in the city of Khankendi.

After the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Ilham Aliyev, who won the extraordinary presidential elections held on February 7, 2024, the first order was related to Karabakh University. Thus, the head of the country has allocated ten million manats to the Ministry of Science and Education from the presidential reserve fund provided for in the 2024 state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan in connection with the organization of the activities of the Karabakh University (Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the allocation of financial resources for organizing the activities of Karabakh University, 2024: 1). This shows how much importance the president attaches to education, science, and young people. President Ilham Aliyev is taking confident steps towards solving the problems of science and education. Ilham Aliyev especially emphasized that the state of Azerbaijan primarily refers to the intellectual potential of the society in the process of economic development.

About 50 years ago, the newly established Karabakh University functioned as a branch of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical Institute, that is, the Khankendi Pedagogical Institute. Khankendi Pedagogical Institute was established in 1969. On May 16, 1988, the teachers and students of the Azerbaijani branch of the Institute had to leave the city of Khankendi under physical and moral pressure. Since November 1988, the Khankendi Pedagogical Institute has continued its activities in the city of Ganja. In 1989, the Shusha faculty of the ASPI was established on the basis of the Azerbaijani branch of the Khankendi Pedagogical Institute.

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After the Shusha branch of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University was canceled in 2000, the Aghjabedi branch, which continues to operate, was established on its basis. At that time, “about 500 students were admitted to the institute every year, of which 300 received full-time education. In 1980, 2000 students studied at Khankendi Pedagogical Institute. In 1985, the number of students in that institute reached 2100 people. Teaching was conducted here in Azerbaijani, Russian, and Armenian languages” (Mammadov, 2011: 156).

In the 2024-2025 academic year, it is planned to have about 1000 students and about 70 employees at the university. In the first phase, education will be organized in 5 directions and 20 specialties at the bachelor’s level. These are specialties related to pedagogy, economy, engineering, humanities and social sciences, art, and tourism (5). In the first stage, students will receive free education. At the same time, students will have the opportunity to stay in the dormitory.

Minister of Science and Education Emin Amrullayev said: “The goals of Karabakh University is not to create competition with other universities, but to unite other universities of Azerbaijan around one value and to return our young people to the territories freed from occupation through bilateral programs”.

On February 19, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of Turkey-Azerbaijan University was signed between the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Higher Education Council of the Republic of Turkey in Ankara (6). This is one of the important steps taken regarding our education. The university, which is supposed to be headquartered in Baku, will receive its

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first students in the academic year. According to the minister, it is planned to transfer the students of SABAH groups admitted to the second year to Karabakh University. “We consider such specialties as elementary school teaching, preschool education, mathematics teaching, computer science teaching, remedial training, and social-psychological service in education”.

As a result, it should be noted that, if education in the newly established university is based on research, if students can engage in research work, good specialists can be trained here. I wish success to the faculty and students of Karabakh University from now on. I believe that Karabakh University will always be at the forefront with the educational indicators of its students, with the richness of the teaching staff who will teach here, and the success of its students. May the name of Karabakh University always be heard in prestigious audiences of the world!

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