



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Department for External Church Relations

DECR representative attends International Scientific-Practical Conference in Azerbaijan



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On October 22-23, Baku hosted an International Scientific-Practical Conference titled "Modern Models of Religious Education in the Context of Moral Values and Global Challenges." The conference was organized by the Azerbaijan Institute of Theology and the Foundation for the Promotion of Moral Values under the auspices of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Among those attending the conference were Mr. Ramin Mammadov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations; Mr. Rafael Huseynov, vice-speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament; Mr. Firudin Gurbanov, deputy minister of science and education; Mr. Anar Isgandarov, chair of the Parliament Committee on Science and Education; Mr. Fazil Mustafa, chair of the Parliament Committee on Public Associations and Religious Organizations; Mr. Ravan Hasanov, executive director

of the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre; Archpriest Georgiy Zviadadze, rector of the Tbilisi Theological Academy; Mr. Salman Musayev, first deputy mufti of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Transcaucasia; Mr. Agil Shirinov, rector of the Azerbaijan Institute of Theology; Mr. Vusal Goyushov, executive director of the Foundation for the Promotion of Moral Values; and Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Akman, rector of Kilis 7 Aralik University, the Republic of Turkey.

The conference gathered together over two hundred participants, including scholars from the United States, Turkey, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Albania and other countries, as well as students from the Azerbaijan Institute of Theology.

Russia was represented by Arif-Haji Saidov, rector of the Islamic University named after Sheikh Abdullah Affandi, Derbent, the Republic of Dagestan; Ms. Gyulchokhra Seydova, head of the Northern Caucasus affiliation of the UNESCO chair in comparative studies of spiritual traditions, their specific cultures and interreligious dialogue, the State University of Dagestan; Mr. Sergei V. Melnik, PhD in philosophy, head of the Department of Philosophy at the Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences (ISISS); and Mufti Damir Mukhetdinov, acting chair of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Russian Federation.

Taking part in the conference with the blessing of Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, was hieromonk Grigory (Matrusov). He presented a report, in which he underscored the importance of separating faith and knowledge as a factor in dialogue among religious communities.

The sectional sessions addressed the relevance of theological education, modern challenges, and artificial intelligence and its complexities and risks for religious education.

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