



>> **Mingachevir State University**

Report

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



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Mingachevir State University (MSU), in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has identified the preservation of social, economic, and environmental balance as one of its main priorities. Among the initiatives implemented in this direction, **SDG 11 – “Sustainable Cities and Communities”** holds particular significance. The university has carried out various projects and awareness-raising activities aimed at supporting the development of urban and community environments, promoting environmental cleanliness, efficient use of resources, and fostering social solidarity.

Events, Forums, and Scientific Conferences An environmental forum titled **“From Green Solidarity to a Safe Future”** was held at **Mingachevir State University (MSU)**.

An **Environmental Forum** titled *“From Green Solidarity to a Safe Future”* was held at **Mingachevir State University (MSU)** to promote environmental protection and address ecological challenges. The event was organized by the Mingachevir City Executive Authority, MSU, and the Mingachevir Regional “ASAN Service” Center, with the support of several state institutions and the **“Green ASAN”** program.

As part of the forum, exhibitions featuring students’ eco-themed handicrafts, recycling samples, and innovative projects were showcased, and a **tree-planting campaign** was carried out.

In his opening speech, the Head of the Mingachevir City Executive Authority, **Ilham Ismayilov**, emphasized the planting of **15,000 trees** in the city and the ongoing efforts to expand green areas. The Director of “ASAN Service,” **Elkhan Jafarov**, and the Head of the “Green ASAN” program, **Rza Mirzazade**, shared insights on ecological initiatives, particularly waste recycling and awareness-raising projects.

MSU lecturers **Vusala Mustafayeva** (“What advantages does climate change bring to education?”) and **Aysel Bayramova** (“COP29: Saving the Green Planet through Azerbaijan’s Leadership”) delivered presentations. During the panel discussions, representatives of the city administration, the university, and other organizations exchanged views on environmental solutions and youth engagement.





The forum concluded with a **Q&A session** and an **award ceremony** for the winners of an environmental-themed intellectual competition. Overall, the event made a significant contribution to **enhancing environmental awareness, promoting recycling, and encouraging a green mindset** among the participants.

At **Mingachevir State University (MSU)**, the **2nd International Scientific Conference** on “Sustainable Development Strategy: Global Trends, National Experiences, and New Goals” was held. At **Mingachevir State University (MSU)**, the **2nd International Scientific Conference** on “Sustainable Development Strategy: Global Trends, National Experiences, and New Goals” was held.

The conference was jointly organized by the **Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mingachevir State University (MSU)**, and the **Mingachevir City Executive Authority**, in partnership with **Gazi University (Türkiye)**, **Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University (Türkiye)**, **Düzce University (Türkiye)**, **Kayseri University (Türkiye)**, **RISEBA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)**, **Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)**, **Kyrgyz Economic University (Kyrgyzstan)**, and the **Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (Ukraine)**.

The conference received nearly 500 abstracts and papers from 54 local higher education and research institutions, as well as 26 universities from 8 foreign countries.

MINGƏÇEVİR
DÖVLƏT
UNİVERSİTETİ

**YENİ DÖVRDƏ TƏHSİL VƏ TƏDQIQAT FƏALİYYƏTİ:
REALLIQLAR VƏ ÇAĞIRIŞLAR
II BEYNƏLXALQ ELMİ KONFRANS**

ISCERA|2024

Educational and Scientific
Activity in a New Time:
Realities and Challenges

Образовательная и научная
деятельность в новую эпоху:
реалии и вызовы

Yeni Çağda Eğitim ve
Araştırma Faaliyetleri:
Gerçekler ve Zorluklar

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13-14 dekabr 2024-cü il,
Mingəçevir, Azərbaycan

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A scientific-practical conference of young researchers on “Sustainable Tourism and the Environment” was held at Mingachevir State University (MSU).

A scientific-practical conference of young researchers on “Sustainable Tourism and the Environment” dedicated to May 28 – Independence Day, was held at Mingachevir State University (MSU) within the framework of the “Year of the Constitution and Sovereignty.” The event was jointly organized by the Department of Science and Innovations and the Center for Tourism and Environmental Research.

The conference began with a minute of silence in memory of the martyrs, followed by the performance of the National Anthem.

Opening the event, Rector of MSU, Anar Eminov, emphasized the importance of training qualified specialists in the field of tourism and provided information about the ongoing efforts to improve academic programs and strengthen cooperation with the real sector in this area.

The event continued under the moderation of Vugar Mustafayev, Head of the Department of Science and Innovations. He noted that the aim of the conference was to promote scientific discussions on sustainable tourism and environmental issues and to create a platform for young researchers to exchange ideas.



During the panel session, presentations were delivered by Lala Ahmadova, Nazim Niftaliyev, Aysel Gojayeva, Leyla Ahmadova, Narmin Aliyeva, as well as students Joshgun Bahadurbayli and Melekkhanim Soltanova on various topics. The presentations were met with



great interest, followed by discussions and a Q&A session.

The conference continued with sectional meetings. It should be noted that throughout the year, a number of events are being held at MSU within the framework of the “Year of the Constitution and Sovereignty.”

The Environment Protection Day was celebrated at Mingachevir State University (MSU).

On the occasion of Environment Protection Day, Shabnam Islamova, a lecturer at the Department of Physics and Ecology of Mingachevir State University (MSU), together with the university’s youth volunteer team “Bir Könüllülər” (“One Volunteers”), organized an excursion to the beach area located near the Mingachevir Reservoir. The main purpose of the excursion was to draw attention to environmental protection and actions aimed at addressing ecological problems.



During the excursion, young volunteers from the university collected plastic waste and other harmful materials left in nature, carrying out beach cleanup activities. The volunteers emphasized that their common goal was to make a positive impact on nature and contribute to keeping the environment greener and cleaner by reducing waste.

MSU’s young lecturer, Shabnam Islamova, delivered an informative speech during the event about the importance of environmental protection and the harmful effects of plastic waste on ecology. She highlighted the damage plastic products cause to soil and water ecosystems and the negative effects arising during their decomposition process, emphasizing the importance of taking this issue seriously.



She also spoke about the significance of the measures implemented within the framework of the national strategy, sharing information about ongoing projects and awareness-raising activities addressing ecological problems. Islamova called on citizens, especially the younger generation, to be more active in protecting the environment and to participate in such initiatives that contribute to ecological preservation.



At the end of the excursion, the “Bir Könüllülər” team expressed their intention to continue similar cleanup campaigns and their hope that this eco-friendly example would inspire more people in the community. It should be noted that within the framework of the “Year of

Solidarity for a Green World,” various environmental activities and educational initiatives are being carried out at MSU to promote environmental awareness among the youth.

Center for Sustainable Development and Regional Innovation Research

The Center for Sustainable Development and Regional Innovation Research (SDRIR) was established by the decision of the Scientific Council of Mingachevir State University (MSU) and by the order of the university’s rector.

The Center functions as a structural unit of MSU that implements the university’s goals and objectives in the following areas: conducting scientific research and creative activities aimed at the acquisition, application, and dissemination of scientific knowledge; publishing and exchanging research outputs; promoting innovative scientific activity; supporting the development of education, technology, ecology, and various sectors of the economy; and implementing projects that contribute to the advancement of these fields.

In carrying out its functions and exercising its rights, the Center operates in close cooperation with the structural units of MSU, as well as with state and local self-government bodies, legal entities, and individuals.

The main areas of activity of the Center are as follows:

- Studying and systematizing the results of scientific activities in order to ensure the regular publication of MSU’s official scientific journals;



- Forecasting and managing opportunities for the exchange and commercialization of promising scientific research outcomes and products;
- Developing and ensuring the effective functioning of mechanisms that support scientific and scientific-technical activities, as well as education, technology, ecology, and various economic sectors;
- Implementing projects and other initiatives that promote innovative scientific activities in the regions and support the development of different areas of the economy.

Green and Eco-Friendly Campus Initiatives

Let's Get to Know Our Campus Flora

The campuses of Mingachevir State University (MSU) are home to more than **225 trees and plant species**, including plane trees, pines, rose trees, palms, oaks, cherry, mulberry, poplar, apple, mandarin, evergreen, medlar, and ash trees, among many others.

Within the framework of this project, all flora on campus have been categorized and recorded based on their **age, height, type, and genus**. Additionally, to help people become more familiar with the campus flora, **QR codes** have been created for each species, accompanied by **informative notes** about the plants.



Some of the species found on campus include:



- *Raphiolepis bibas* (Lour.) Galasso & Banfi

- *Cupressus sempervirens* L.
- *Trachycarpus fortunei* (Hook.) H. Wendl.
- *Laurus azorica* (Seub.) Franco
- *Agave americana* L.
- *Cycas revoluta* Thunb.
- *Euonymus japonicus* Thunb.
- *Phoenix canariensis* hort. ex Chabaud



Let's Save!

Let's protect our environment and **save for the future generations!**

SAVE ENERGY!

SAVE WATER!

KEEP CLEAN!

DISPOSE OF WASTE IN THE APPROPRIATE BINS!

LET'S EACH PLANT A TREE!

MAKE YOUR DAY BETTER WITH SPORTS!

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Ekoloji cəhətdən təmiz məhsullardan istifadə

- ✓ Ətraf mühiti qorumaq
- ✓ Sağlam həyat tərzini qorumaq
- ✓ Təkrar emala fayda vermək
- ✓ Enerji və pula qənaət etmək
- ✓ Karbon emissiyalarını azaltmaq

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Mingachevir State University (MSU) actively contributes to the implementation of **Sustainable Development Goal 11 – “Sustainable Cities and Communities.”** The university takes significant steps in strengthening cooperation with local communities,



promoting environmental awareness, conducting research on sustainable tourism and urban development, and engaging students and young researchers in these fields.

As a result of the activities carried out in this direction, the following key points can be highlighted:

✔ **Scientific support for urban and regional development:**

The MSU Center for Tourism and Environmental Research conducts studies on the region's ecological and tourism potential, presents research findings on reducing the ecological load of the Mingachevir Reservoir, and promotes sustainable tourism models.

✔ **Community integration and social partnership:**

The university implements joint projects with city communities, municipalities, and state institutions, contributing to solving local issues and enhancing social welfare.

✔ **Educational and awareness-raising activities:**

Conferences, seminars, and training sessions are organized on topics such as sustainable tourism, environmental protection, and ecological culture.

✔ **Youth engagement and innovative approaches:**

The involvement of young researchers in scientific conferences supports the dissemination of sustainable development values among the student community.

In conclusion, MSU serves as a higher education institution that contributes to urban and community development by integrating principles of ecological responsibility and sustainable planning into its teaching and research activities.

