## Dr Takeo Kanade of Japan is the Tenth Laureate of the Global IT Award of Armenia



World famous scientist believes in the bright future of the country that is committed to its high-tech sector development (See p.p. 6-11)

From The Highlights previous issue

...Dr Takeo Kanade, the 2019 Laureate of the Global IT Award of Armenia: "I'm Honored and Humbled!"... And..."There is a Lot of in Common between the Armenians and the Japanese"

By Gourgen James Khazhakian, Chief Correspondent

#### ...at VivaCell-MTS

...Ralph C.Yirikian, VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager said the following:

"We are happy to announce that it's for the tenth year already a Master is awarded, and today we are honored to receive Professor Takeo Kanade. VivaCell-MTS is happy and proud to support this Award for ten years already, because we believe that it has been helping for finding Armenia at the world technological map and the Award succeeded in this sense, i.e. our country is much more recognizable at the world ICT map. And in these ten years Armenia has done a lot of work for turning to technologically developed country via various international platforms.

And indeed visits to Armenia such a luminaries also give huge impetus to development of above-mentioned, and they, sharing their invaluable experience and vision with our youth, are stimulating them to learn more and more to contribute to the Homeland's further development".

According to *Armen Abroyan*, RA High-Tech Industry Deputy Minister, Dr Takeo Kanade is inventor of the so-called "virtual reality" that has been used widely in medicine, security, entertainment and some other areas, and he stressed that due to events like GIT awarding Armenia has been becoming a regional ICT center, heaping praise not only its own specialists, but also a foreign ones, using their tremendous achievements. He thanked organizers of the awarding.

Dr Hovik Musayelyan: "... You all have seen what kind of genius people has been coming to Armenia to receive Global IT Award of Armenia within ten years... Traditionally, we start the Laureate's visit from the headquarters of Armenia's leading telecom operator, VivaCell-MTS, and taking the advantage of this occasion I'd like to thank the Company and its GM Mr Yirikian for invaluable support for this Award since its very establishment. In fact, I believe, this is a unique opportunity for our country and people to have such a lead-

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## Yerevan denies discussing Karabakh peace plan with Baku

Armenia denied Azerbaijan's claims that the foreign ministers of the two states discussed a framework peace agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh during their talks held in Bratislava last week.

In a TV interview aired earlier this week, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov said the "tough" talks focused on the most recent version of the so-called Madrid Principles of a Karabakh settlement originally drafted by the U.S., Russian and

French mediators in 2007. He said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov presented it to the conflicting parties two years ago.

"We have repeatedly made clear that no document is being discussed," said Anna Naghdalyan, the Armenian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman.

"It is not clear what Mr. Mammadyarov is talking about," she told a news briefing.

In Mammadyarov's words, the peace deal which he discussed with Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan at Bratislava is based on a joint statement made by the mediators in March this year.

That statement said that "any fair and lasting settlement" must involve "return of the



territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijani control; an interim status for Nagorno-Karabakh providing guarantees for security and self-governance; a corridor linking Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh; future determination of the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh through a legally binding expression of will."

The latter provision presumably involves a referendum in which Karabakh's predominantly Armenian population would be able to determine the territory's internationally recognized status.

In a "memorandum" circulated ahead of the Bratislava talks, the Azerbaijani mission to the OSCE said, however, that Karabakh residents can only be granted "the status of self-rule ... within Azerbaijan."

Zohrabyan denounced this "maximalist" stance in his speech at an OSCE ministerial conference held in the Slovak capital the day after his meeting with Mammadyarov. He insisted on Karabakh's right to "maintain and determine a status outside the jurisdiction, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Azerbaijan."

Naghdalyan likewise stressed that "recognition of the Karabakh people's right to self-determina-

tion" must be at the heart of any compromise settlement.

In a joint statement on the Mammady-arov-Mnatsakanyan meeting, Lavrov and senior U.S. and French diplomats urged the warring sides to "engage in good faith substantive negotiations without artificial delays or conditions." They said the two ministers agreed to meet again early next year "to intensify negotiations on the core issues of a peaceful settlement."

Mammadyarov told the CBC TV channel that his next meeting with Mnatsakanyan will take place in January. Naghdalyan did not confirm this.

### PM Pashinyan congratulates Boris Johnson



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan congratulated Prime Minister of the



UK Boris Johnson on the occasion of the victory of the Conservative Party in the

parliamentary elections.

As Noyan Tapan was in formed from the Office of the Prime Minister of Armenia, the message runs as follows,

«On behalf of the Government of Armenia I extent to you sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the confident victory in the elections and re-assumption of the post of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. I wish you productive work and new achievements.

I wish to re-affirm the interest and commitment of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to further deepen cooperation with the UK in the spheres of mutual interest.

I am confident that the reforms aimed at the strengthening of the democratic institutions in Armenia establishment of rule of law open new horizons for the Armenian-British cooperation".

### US Senate recognizes the Armenian Genocide

The U.S. Senate joined the House of Representative on December 12 in recognizing the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

In a bipartisan resolution adopted by unanimous consent, the Senate said "it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance." It also rejected attempts to "enlist, engage, or otherwise

associate the United States Government with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any other genocide."

The resolution was introduced in April by Democratic Senator Robert Menendez and his Republican colleague Ted Cruz and co-sponsored by 26 other senators. Menendez and Cruz stepped up their push for its passage after the House adopted in late October a similar resolution that was for decades championed by the Armenian community in the U.S.

For three consecutive weeks the Senate bill was blocked by other Republican

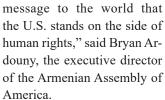


"I am thankful that this resolution has passed at a time in which there are still survivors of the genocide," he added with tears in his eyes.

"It was an atrocious genocide," Cruz said for his part. "That it happened is a fact and an undeniable reality,"

"We have a moral duty to acknowledge what happened to 1.5 million innocent souls. It's the right thing to do," said the former Republican presidential candidate.

Adam Schiff, the main author of the House resolution on the Armenian genocide, was quick to welcome the Senate move. "The Congress is now united in speaking the



Aram Hamparian, the executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America, called the resolution "truly historic."

The Assembly and the ANCA have spent decades campaigning for such a mea-

sure. Genocide resolutions drafted by pro-Armenian lawmakers have been repeatedly approved by U.S. congressional committees in the past. But they did not reach the House or Senate floor because of opposition from former U.S. administrations.

Armenia also swiftly reacted to what Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan described as a "historic event."

"We are overwhelmed with appreciation," tweeted Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan. "A tribute to the victims and their dignity."

"U.S. Senate Resolution is nothing more than a political show. It is not legally binding and it has no validity whatsoever," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Twitter.

Ankara also strongly condemned the House resolution. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated that condemnation when he visited Washington and met Trump last month.

Successive Turkish governments have vehemently denied a deliberate Ottoman government effort to exterminate the Ottoman Empire's Armenian population. Ankara's continuing denials are dismissed by most scholars outside Turkey.

"The historical record on the Armenian Genocide is unambiguous and documented by overwhelming evidence," the International Association of Genocide Scholars said in 2007.

The Armenian genocide has also been recognized by about three dozen states, including Canada, France, Germany, Russia and the Vatican.



senators, reportedly at the request of the White House concerned about its impact on U.S.-Turkish relations. Menendez's and Cruz's fourth attempt to get it passed proved successful, with no senators voicing objections this time around.

"It is fitting and appropriate that the Senate stands on the right side of history," Menendez declared on the Senate floor. truth about the genocide," tweeted Schiff. "It's now time for the President [Donald Trump] to join us."

The two leading Armenian-American lobby groups also hailed the passage of the resolution.

"Today's Senate action unequivocally gives meaning to U.S. affirmation of the Armenian genocide and sends a strong

## Poll: 70% of Armenians feeling optimistic about the country's future

Generally speaking, do you think that things in Armenia are going in the right direction or the wrong direction?



A new nationwide poll of Armenia by the International Republican Institute's (IRI) Center for Insights in Survey Research shows strong support for the government's anti-corruption efforts and an optimistic view of the country's trajectory.

However, citizens also wish to see further action on socioeconomic concerns and transitional justice. Additionally, 66 percent think that the government is doing enough to fight corruption (up from 59 percent), and 70 percent think that the fight has been effective.

"Recent charges against former high-level Armenian officials highlights how serious the problem of corruption was under the previous regime," said Stephen Nix, IRI Regional Director for Eurasia. "It is encouraging to see that the data reflects a positive view of the new government's anti-corruption efforts."

Poll results indicate that Armenians have a positive view of the future, with 70 percent feeling optimistic about the future of the country, and 62 percent saying that the country is going in the right direction. Satisfaction with the government remains strong, with approval for the work of the Prime Minister's office and the National Assembly at 76 percent and 63 percent, respectively.

Despite the general positivity, some concerning trends are begin-

ning to emerge. The proportion of respondents citing job creation (38 percent, up from 30 percent) and socio-economic issues (29 percent, up from 18 percent) as key priorities continues to increase, as does the proportion of people citing poor management as the top governmental failure (up five points, to 27 percent). Nix stated that, "even though the government has delivered well on anti-corruption reforms, we see signs that the population is concerned over progress in the socio-economic field."

The Armenian populace also shows a strong interest in judicial reform and the implementation of transitional justice. Eighty-two percent think that judicial reform should be an important priority, and 60 percent want to see the creation of a transitional justice system to address everything from corruption and illicit enrichment to human rights violations and electoral fraud under the previous regime.

Of additional note for a historically patriarchal society, 96 percent of Armenians think that all forms of violence against women ought to be punishable by law, and 90 percent believe that the state should abolish laws and practices that discriminate against women.

The survey was conducted on behalf of IRI by Dr. Rasa Alisauskiene of the Baltic Surveys/The Gallup Organization, with the fieldwork carried out by the Armenian Sociological Association. Data was collected throughout Armenia between September 20 and October 13, 2019 through face-to-face interviews in respondents' homes.

The sample consisted of 1,200 permanent residents of Armenia aged 18 or older and eligible to vote. It is representative of the general population by age, gender and region. The margin of error does not exceed plus or minus three percent for the full sample, and the response rate was 66 percent. This survey was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

## PM Pashinyan receives new head of IMF Mission in Armenia

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received on December 13 new head of the mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Armenia Nathan Porter. The meeting was also attended by IMF Resident Representative for Armenia Yulia Ustyugova.

Congratulating Nathan Porter on assuming office, the Armenian PM highlighted the partnership with the IMF and the Fund's constant assistance to the government's economic agenda. Pashinyan touched upon the current economic situation in Arme-



nia and stated that this year more than 7% economic growth is forecast which creates optimistic preconditions to record higher results next year and implement ambitious programs.

Nathan Porter in turn said Armenia and the IMF have formed firm, mutually beneficial partnership and he is ready to make efforts to further intensify and deepen it. Mr. Porter welcomed the Armenian government's ongoing reforms and stated that the IMF will continue assisting the government to implement its economic development agenda.

The officials exchanged views on the partnership agenda, the joint programs, as well as the educational reforms, capacity development and future actions.

## Pashinyan accuses state bodies of sabotage

YEREVAN (Azatutyun.am)— Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan lashed out Armenian government and law-enforcement agencies on December 12, saying that they are sabotaging the fight against corruption, economic policies and reforms initiated by him.

"As the prime minister of Armenia, I want to say frankly that all of the successes and gains that we have now have been achieved ... in spite of the state governance system," Pashinyan charged during a weekly

cabinet meeting in Yerevan. "Don't take offense, but the fight against corruption is also taking place in spite of the state governance system."

"Let us note that the entire state system is resisting the revolution and I am going to break that resistance," he added. "There is no other option because the people of Armenia voted for our political force and me personally so that changes happen in this



country.'

The angry outburst followed a tense verbal exchange between Finance Minister Atom Janjughazyan and the head of the State Revenue Committee (SRC), Davit Ananyan. Janjughazian categorically objected to a five-year SRC action plan and, in particular, continued construction of a new customs terminal near Gyumri which requires 6.2 billion drams (\$13 million) in additional government funding.

While acknowledging the validity of

some of Janjughazyan's arguments, Pashinyan effectively sided with Ananyan. He noted that the government decided at his initiative earlier this year to relocate to Gyumri most SRC facilities processing car imports to Armenia. He reiterated his view that this will stimulate economic activity in the country's second largest city that has long been suffering from high unemployment.

Pashinyan did not name concrete state bodies or officials in his ensuing diatribe. He complained that he

has trouble receiving detailed economic information from relevant government agencies and has to constantly "push" the state bureaucracy to address various issues.

Pashinyan also claimed that law-enforcement authorities are too slow in investigating corruption cases. "You have to ask the entire law-enforcement system from time to time, 'What happened? What happened?" he said.



#### Embassy of India Yerevan JOB VACANCY

Embassy of India in Yerevan, Armenia invites application from the interested candidates for filing up the post of "LOCAL CHAUFFEUR".

Eligibility

**Minimum Education:** Intermediate (equivalent to 12<sup>th</sup> Standard) with fluent knowledge of English and local languages-Armenian, Georgian and Russian. Candidates knowing all these languages will be given higher preference.

**Documents:** (a) Valid Driving License of the Republic of Armenia and Georgia or International Driving License (b) Medical Fitness Certificate (c) Birth Certificate (d) Educational Certificates.

**Age:** 25-35 Years

Work Experience: 4 Years of driving experience with a reputed company or international organization (certificates from previous and present organization are required). Preference will be given to applicant with "No Accident Record" and he must be aware of routes in Yerevan, Tbilisi and other important cities in Armenia and Georgia.

**Responsibilities:** The person will be responsible for driving the diplomatic car of Embassy of India, Yerevan. He can be asked for staying back after office hours.

Interested candidates may address their Application/Curriculum Vitae to:

**Head of Chancery** 

Embassy of India 50/2, India Street (Dzorapi Street), Yerevan, Armenia

By e-mail their resumes to the following emails: hoc.yerevan@mea.gov.in, accounts.yerevan@mea.gov.in

Last Date for acceptance of application: January, 15 2020

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ership to receive, honor and enjoy presence of such a world giants in Armenia. And contacts of our youth with such a giants is a serious investment in our country's future".

Then Dr Musayelyan reminded the gathered the names of all the previous Laureates.

He stressed also that it is not by chance that Dr Kanade is the second Laureate from Japan.

"I desire thank all of them who supported this awarding. Believe me, ten years ago a very few people believed that the project will be success, and so world legends will come to Armenia every God-given year...Many people were saying us: why such a luminaries should come here if you are not paying them? Well, I do not think such a giants need so much our financial prize - some of them were arriving in Armenia with their own airplanes...And I am happy so much that this Award has international recognition already; please let me remind you the following words of legendary Steve Wozniak, No2 Laureate: there is no Nobel Prize in the area of IT, but I consider this Award of Armenia as such a Nobel Prize.

So let me congratulate everybody!"

Armenia's Ambassador to Japan Dr *Hrant Poghosyan* who proposed Dr Kanade as a nominee for the 2019 GIT Award, presenting Takeo Kanade, said he was happy and honored to do it. He said that before starting his diplomatic career, he worked in academic area, lecturing math, applied math and other IT-related subjects for many years in

row. "So from the very establishment of the Award I was following it, the Laureates, and was in contact with the Award Committee.

I've been knowing Dr Kanade since 2016, within the framework of the Kyoto Prize awarding (founded some thirty years ago) that I could call with no hesitation

a Nobel Prize of Japan. And its 2016 Laureate in technology area was Takeo Kanade so we meet. I desired to extend my contacts with him, so we met at our Embassy and spoke not only on IT, but also on Armenia. I told this outstanding scientist I would like him to be helpful to our country...Last June a symposium was organized personally for Dr Kanade, and his students from all over the world gathered there with reports,



attending the event, and I've realized what a hugest job has been done by them and what a giant Dr Takeo Kanade is...

It is for fifty years Dr Kanade has been working in the area of Artificial Intelligence, AI that is very popular now..."

Asked by The Highlights correspondent about his impressions, world-known Japanese scientist said: "Wow! You are working hard, you take it seriously, and that is important, so I can say I am in love with this country".

And your author's question to Mr Yirikian was the following: "How does it feel to have completed 10 years supporting this project, the GIT Award?"

In his response Ralph C. Yirikian said

that VivaCell-MTS, he personally feel the great honor, and so if to unite these two, they are proud undescribable for that having what happened in these ten years. "Cause our dream we had in 2009, i.e. to make Armenia more recognizable at the world ICT map, has come true thanks to our and our partners efforts", Mr. Yirikian said.

And there was a question (among others) to Dr Musayelyan on the media coverage of the Award in ten years, so was it satisfactory?

"This is really important question... In my opinion, visits to Armenia of world luminaries aimed at increasing our country's role in the ICT world were covered in a not satisfactory way, definitely...I remember visit of Steve Wozniak was very widely covered by the leading way intl newspress..but others...The "Noyan Tapan Highlights" Weekly in fact the only media leaflet that has been covering visits in English (Thank you Mr Musayelyan! – The Highlights)...Yes, we have a problem here and so the Award Committee should think about it seriously..."

## At the Polytechnic University: Awarding academic title of Doctor Honoris Causa plus interactive lecture

Dr Takeo Kanade: "...This (title) will be treasure for the rest of my life!"

Traditionally, the Global IT Award Laureate visits National Polytechnic University of Armenia where he/she is awarded with the title of the NPUA Doctor of Honoris Causa.

So the same "happened" on 5 December with Dr Takeo Kanade of Japan.

NPUA Rector Professor Vostanik Marukhyan welcomed the guest and in his introductory remarks mentioned in particular: "It has become a tradition for the Polytechnic University to host world-class individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of information and communication technologies. This is the 10th awarding already, and all the previous Laureates have visited



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the Polytechnic, taking into account the University's essential role in engineering education. And the University has always marked those visits with the



awarding of the title of Honorary Doctor that is one of its highest titles."

And..."I would like to emphasize that at a time when many researchers have chosen the path of narrow specialization, you have made significant investments in several areas simultaneously, ranging from fundamental achievements to innovative devices and algorithms, initiated digital method's analysis and development of new methodology. You authored the concept of "virtual reality".

Your role in the field of robotics is

great. For over 9 years you have run one of the internationally recognized centers in this field, and then set up a Technology Research Center. "RA Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry Armen Abroyan also delivered a welcoming speech.

Dr Hovik Musayelyan (who is also Chairman of the NPUA Board of Trustees) also congratulated Dr Kanade: "There are many important people in the field of information technology, but there are exceptional people who have contributed to changing the course of human life. Ten years ago a very few people believed that the legends will come to Armenia with no huge honoraria paid, but the time has told it is possible...Through this Award we honor such people, but most importantly, have the opportunity to communicate with such a luminaries who bring to Armenia a new culture. First of all it is very important for our youth, they

have a lot to learn from them. Another 10 years will pass, 10 new legends will come to Armenia, receive this Prize, visit Polytechnic University, meet students, share their experience. They will also be awarded the title of NPUA Honorary Doctor which will not only raise Armenia's recognition, but also of the Polytechnic University."

Armenia's Ambassador to Japan Dr Hrant Poghosyan who proposed Dr Kanade as



the tenth GIT Award Laureate (and who

was a University Associate Professor several dozens years ago) introduced Dr Kanade, his achievements, explained why he proposed to the Award Committee to nominate Takeo Kanade.

He especially pointed out famous Japanese scientist's role in the AI development, in particular, invention of the "computer vision".

Thanking for the University Honorary Doctor title awarding, Dr Takeo Kanade said with excitement: "... Thank you...I am honored... This will be treasure for the rest of my life!"

The Japanese luminary had a lecture for NPUA students entitled "Value of Research" during which he demonstrated how the so-called Lucas-Canade Optical Flow method works for solving tracking problem in a car driving, especially in case rain/snow - headlight that sees through rain and snow due to having confocal arrangement of camera and a super-powerful projector. According to Takeo Kanade, 450 car accidents happen annually 'cause of eye glare, and, for instance, for a 55-year-old man it takes eight times longer to recover from a glare than in case of a 16-yearold youngster. So rain streaks appear dense, but drops are sparse, and those drops become non-visible for driver.

Due to this technology it is possible for a driver to see a pedestrian sooner, longer, more clear.

To note, the students were pretty active in asking questions to a legendary lecturer. Thus, one of them asked Dr Kanade what doest it mean to be a per-

fect engineer?

The answer was: to be optimist, believe in what you are doing, and when having a problem, do not rush to solve that problem but, first of all, to formulate it.

Another question was whether the time will come when robots will replace humans?

In Dr Kanade's words, "the best robot is that what you want it to do minus what you can make it to do".

Also he said that while people in Japan are not



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enthusiastic as before, he saw that Armenians are very enthusiastic for the future.

## At Synopsys Armenia: "...I'd Stay in Armenia if Having a Team Funded, but my Wife...??))"

At the traditional meeting with the Synopsys Armenia team and ICT community members at Synopsys Armenia Dr Kanade made a presentation that demonstrated what he did or got involved: computer vision/face, color, stereo, motion, video, 3D recognition, etc used in virtualized reality, medical robotics, humanoid, vision-based autonomous air vehicle, autonomous ground vehicle, manipulator design and control...

Takeo Kanade touched upon his "favorite" topic: driving in rain and snow when rain drops and snow flakes that are highly reflective appear white, and block the field of view. He shown the evolution of the car's headlight within last 120 years. And indeed Dr Kanade spoke about multi-camera technology.

When a company younger employee (half-jokingly) asked world renowned scientist would he stay and work here in Armenia, naturally, with a "good salary", Kanade's answer was the following: yes, if your company will fund my team created for some problems solution, however, the main problem could be my dear wife... ©)

## The Culmination: The Award Handing...

In the evening of 5 December Prime Minister of Armenia *Nikol Pashinyan* received *Takeo Kanade*.

The Prime Minister noted that the

decision to award Mr Kanade with the State Award of the Republic of Armenia for Global Contribution in IT reflects the Government's appreciation of his achievements. Nikol Pashinyan stressed that Mr. Kanade's long experience in the sphere of science and high technologies could set an example for those young Armenians who are taking their first steps in the IT sector. Takeo Kanade thanked PM Pashinyan for high appreciation of his activities, stressing that he sees a great future for developing the high-tech industry in



Armenia. He presented his activities and expressed readiness to closely cooperate with the Armenian partners in a bid to forward his experience and skills.

The meeting was followed by a stamp cancelling ceremony dedicated to the presentation of RA State Award for Global Contribution to Information



Technologies. Attended by Prime Minister Pashinyan, the stamp was canceled by RA Minister of High-Tech Industry *Hakob Arshakyan*, 2019 Laureate of the RA State Award for Global Contribution to Information Technologies Takeo Kanade, Haypost CEO *Hayk Avagyan* and President of the Union of Philatelists of Armenia *Hovik Mu*-

sayelyan.

Below The Highlights readers could find speech of Dr Hovik Musayelyan, the Coordinator of the Award Committee:

"Honorable President, Honorable Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Distinguished members of the Government and guests.

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State Award of the Republic of Armenia for the Global Contribution to Humanity through Information Technology. This is a unique opportunity for

us to have such leadership in the world, to receive, honor and enjoy the presence of the world legends. And what is the reason behind our ambitions to set up such an award and expect that the world IT giants will come to Armenia every year to receive this prestigous award?

It is for a long time now that our country has been moving to take its place in

the global IT market and record new successes. The number of operating companies reaches around 1000, including offices of many world-famous companies, and what is the most important, there are a number of research centers of transnational companies operating in Armenia, employing thousands of qualified specialists. The ICT sector in Armenia is the largest added value branch of economy with a growth of 20-25% annually. Its share in GDP is about 6% which is comparable to similar indices in many countries. Such rates of development are going on, and moreover, there is an understanding that the ICT sector, High-Tech are the locomotive through which all sectors of our economy can be developed.

There are many major players in the world of information technology, but there are people who have made exceptional contributions to changing the course of human life and we want, first of all, to celebrate

such individuals with



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this annual awarding and then, hosting them in Armenia, to communicate with these giants as we have much to learn from them. It is also an exceptional opportunity for our youth to have direct contact with the world legends.

I want to thank everyone who made this Award the reality. Undoubtedly, this is a great contribution to the future of our country and our people. From the very first day financing of this internationally recognized and sounding Award is fully realized by Viva-Cell-MTS company, Armenia's leading telecom operator, for which we are very



grateful.

On behalf of the Award Committee, we thank the Prime Minister's staff, the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund and, of course, the members of the International Selection Panel. Let us remember the names of the legendary individuals who have come to Armenia for the last nine years to receive this prestigious Award. I would also like to make quotes from the words they have expressed about Armenians and Armenia.

2010, Dr Craig Barrett, USA, Retired CEO/Chairman of the Board of INTEL Corporation "I am very impressed with the rich history and culture of the the Armenian people. I have been in Jerusalem many times and have visited the Armenian district each time, where I have seen

tremendous devotion and warmth. And I see the same thing in Armenia. Armenians are very intelligent, bright, hard working people. I was happy to see that people in Armenia realize the importance of technology for the future of the country."

**2011,** *Steve Wozniak*, USA, Co-Founder of the Apple Corporation



"After all, Artificial Intelligence will become a reality. Sooner or later this will happen, the cars will go to the car wash on their own, feeling that they are dirty, while the host is asleep, the robot will collect the dirty dishes spreaded in the kitchen by itself and start washing. This is my vision of the future of computers and technics - everything will become human-like".

And at the Award handing ceremony he said no more, no less: "There is no Nobel Prize in the field of information technology, and I accept this Award which I receive in Armenia as a Nobel Prize."

USA,

2012, Federico Faggin, Member of the Microprocessor Invention Team "I think Armenia has chosen the right course of development. In this regard, I attach great importance to cooperation with IT companies and educational institutions which is already noticeable here. In Armenia, I have met many talented people who are ready to respond to the ever-evolving technologies, and I consider it an important precondition for

the development of the innovative envi-

ronment of any country."

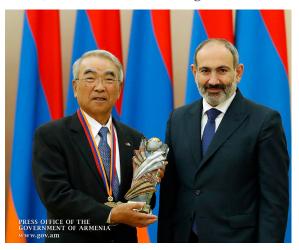
**2013**, Dr *Tsugio Makimoto*, Japan, President of Semiconductor Industry Association, former CEO of the Hitachi Company

"To be successful in the IT field, one must first be successful at the global level. It is very important for young people to do business not only in Armenia but also abroad. They should consider where the world is heading, which branches are growing, and also where it is easier to access."

I would also like to remind you that he wrote a book about the impressions of his visit to Armenia entitled "Armenia as an IT Country: Shining Silicon Valley in the East" " 2014, Mario Mazzola, USA, Chief Development Officer, Cisco Systems "It was unexpected. I am pleasantly surprised by all what I saw in Armenia. I am confident that your country will have a bright future." On the last day of his visit Mr Mazzola announced that he donates \$ 1 million to the American University of Armenia. That money is now used as a capital, and as a result, the best students receive scholarships.

2015, Yevgeny (Eugene) Kaspersky, Russia, Founding President of KASPERSKY Lab

"Armenia is a small country, and Armenians are an amazing people. With its small size and flexibility, I am confident that Armenia can achieve great success".



Kaspersky estab-



#### page 9 ...Dr Takeo Kanade, the 2019 Laureate of the Global IT Award of Armenia



lished a master's degree program in Information Security at the Slavonic (Russian-Armenian) University.

**2016**, *Louis Pouzin*, France, an Internet Father

"I am impressed with the targeted steps aimed at the development of the IT sector in Armenia. I have found that here in Armenia, there is a well-tailored strategic policy for the development of information technologies."

Louis Pouzin has proposed new RINA technologies for the Internet, and Armenia has been chosen for its approbation as a small country with serious technological traditions. RINA is a Recursive Internet Engineering and is offered as an alternative to the widely used Internet model.

Note: in 2019 April RINArmenia company has been established in Yerevan – **The Highlights** 

**2017**, *Tony Fadell*, USA, Founder of NEST LABS

"This people has lived for millennia and you created the alphabet millennia ago and are the first state in the world that adopted Christianity. So in the same way you can adopt a digital society that will ensure equality for all in the digital world and the base of which will be put again by you, as you have done in the past." Fadell is now the most active participant in the Starmus Festival of our fellow world-renowned astrophysicist Dr Garik Israelyan. By the way, Garik is a member of the Award Committee's Selection Panel.

**2018**, Dr *James Truchard*, USA, President of the National Instruments LLC "A number of large world major IT

companies are currently operating in Armenia, and I am confident that their number will increase, given the government's steps and programs aimed at developing the sector."

As you know, National Instruments, together with the Government have initiated construction of an engineering city, just half of the \$ 20 mil-

lion project was invested by National Instruments.



And finally, the 2019th year...

International Selection Panel of 22 members, many of whom are world-renowned people, selected Japan's renowned scientist Takeo Kanade as the winner of the RA State Award for 2019 whose official visit began yesterday with "Silicon Mountains"



Global Forum where Dr Kanade was honorary guest. And today he met with students at the Armenian Engineering University (Polytechnic) and was awarded honorary doctorate. H.E. Dr Hrant Poghosyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to Japan, gave interesting details on biography and activities of Dr Kanade, their contacts and further relationship and why he suggested Takeo Kanade as a nominee for the Award.

Then the Award was handed over the Laureate by the PM Pashinyan at the solemn ceremony...

During the reception in honor of the State Award Laureate Dr Takeo Kanade, the Prime Minister delivered the following speech:

"...Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to host world-famous IT scientist, Dr Takeo Kanade in Armenia.

The Laureate of the State Award of the Republic of Armenia, Dr Kanade, has made an exceptional contribution in the field of three-dimensional image research, the development of virtual reality technologies and other important spheres.

Mr Kanade's revolutionary innovations came as a breakthrough in global science and technology to open up new horizons for scientists and for mankind, as whole. It is not surprising that Dr Kanade has been awarded and, I am sure, he will be awarded many other prestigious awards.

2019 was a year of revolutionary developments in our country's technologi-

cal environment: Armenia strengthened its standing on international platforms. During the Global IT Congress and dozens of other events, Armenia brought together leading companies, thousands of scientists and high-profile IT experts, who had worked hard to ensure the rise of science around the globe.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the inception of the State Award of the Republic of Armenia

The Noyan Tapan Highlights



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for Global Contribution to Information Technology.



I would like to compliment and thank the organizers and contributors, as well as the laureates of previous years. Each of them has made an exceptional contribution to the recognition and promotion of Armenia as a technological country. This Award has become a unique opportunity and a benchmark for us in the field of technology.

Our country is becoming not only recognizable on the global technological map, but it also sets a good example. As a country with great ambitions in the field of high technology, Armenia is developing rapidly and is strengthening its position on the technological map of the world. Our country is becoming a unique center in the sphere of global technologies thanks to its geographical location, integration with economic unions, significant intellectual potential and a wide range of opportunities coming from the Diaspora. This opens up new opportunities for entering international markets and establishing cooperation platforms.

Our development vision implies building a knowledge-based society, and a technologically advanced economy. Armenia, which has no access to the sea and lacks mineral resources, speaks the language of science and innovation. Armenia gave the world numerous scientists and inventors whose work has had a profound impact on research and industry. Due to its technological and scientific potential, as well as its achievements, our country used to be

called the "Silicon Valley" of the Soviet Union.

The Armenian government has declared the high-tech sector a strategic direction. A free, non-corrupt and democratic state, a knowledge-based society and the state's unconditional support for technological advances are a pledge for making bold investments in this area.

Congratulations, Dr Kanade, and I hope you will leave a strong mark on the

development of Armenia's technological sector, and Armenia will become an appropriate venue for you to solve the most difficult problems..."



Takeo Kanade thanked the Prime Minister, noting that it is a great honor for him to receive the State Award of the Republic of Armenia for Global Contribution to Information Technology. Mr Kanade stressed that Armenia is a good platform for high-tech activity and went on to highlight the role played by the National Polytechnic University of Armenia in training IT specialists.

## 6 December: at the Genocide Memorial...

After laying flowers at the Eternal Flame in memory of the Genocide innocent (and canonized) victims and touring the exposition of the Museum Institute Takeo Kanade wrote in the Memorial Guestbook: "The memory of learning this horrific tragedy will remain forever in my life".

-...I can't find any better word than "overwhelmed"......(a pause)... it is horrible...What I've seen and felt here will probably remain in my heart for-



ever...This is one of the most important things I've learned in my first visit to this country...

-Dr Kanade, please share with our readers your impressions from the visit to Armenia...

- ...(pause)...
- Is it difficult for you, dear Dr Kanade?
- -Yes, it is difficult! (smiling)
- -Why??
- From my heart...I think I've found commonality between Armenians and the Japanese: obvious emphasis on intelect and education, family values thru which obviously new things are learned, I see here something my parents taught me...You know, it is difficult to me...

...Later on the day the 2019 Global IT Award Laureate Dr Takeo Kanade was received by the President of Armenia



and the Mayor of Yerevan, and after that visited Japanese Center "Hikari" when the kids sung songs for him and presented a gift...

P. S. This is the second time we received a Japanese, and I do not know why I felt inner sympathy...Kanade and Makimoto, the both Giants were open, sincere, modest here...Kanade-San, please pass our best wishes and memories to Dr and Mrs Makimoto...

12 SOCIETY

#### See The Highlights previous issue

## By Gourgen James Khazhakian, "Silicon"

#### **Chief correspondent**

As President of the Union of Employers of the ICT, Founding CEO of the well-known Unicomp CJSC *Armen Baldryan* said in a brief chat with your correspondent held at the break of the Forum's first day, he was impressed by the atmosphere, the list of participants, and the topics there calling them "very actual ones", and not only topics for today, but also for the future. And Armenia must find its niche in the world ICT market, Mr Baldryan said.

In his opinion, for that reason educational system should meet hi-tech industry requirements. According to him, Armenia has today some 15,000 specialists while Ukraine, for instance, has 200,000 of them. And the UEICT will present soon its program for educational reforms.

"Armenia should find those directions that would allow produce those solutions which are expensive at the world markets", concluded Armen Baldryan.

*Hakob Arshakyan*, Minister of High-Tech Industry of Armenia noted that 2019 was a technological year for Armenia.

«We plan to make Armenia a regional center. Why Silicon Valley is a center? Because there are big players, talented people who are eager to go there, as there is the infrastructure, the ecosystem, the opportunities to learn, to share, the chance to become a great company. Being a center means giving, being a center means having a strong ecosystem. The Armenian Virtual Bridge project aims to connect Armenia with other centers, such as the Silicon Valley. We plan to have our own area there where Armenian engineers and entrepreneurs can live, learn, have their office and plan projects for some time", said the Minister.

On the Forum, The Highlights talked to Dr *Yervant Zorian*:

"...We have many conferences on ICT cameras, s in Armenia, but uniquness of this in that freezer etc.

#### ... "Silicon Mountains" Forum in Yerevan

we combine

"Silicon" and "Mountains".

"Mountain" means innovation, and the largest mountain, Ararat, has the most innovative complex structure amid, the Noyan Tapan (Noah's Arch), at the time. And from other side we took "silicon", i.e. chips that were laid in the base of computers. And then we moved to networking systems. Every ten years we go to a new domain. But Silicon Valley was able to adapt from computers to networking, then it moved to Internet. And this decade we moved to a new domain called Artificial Intelligence (AI) and together with the 5G Internet they created the newest domain, Internet of Things.



So the program of today's event, the speakers is such that it brings together the elements of the mountain and silicon, i.e innovation and the adaptability, jointly.

And indeed we took into account the three elements that make technology happens: education, R&D and government as this triangle is very important.

So we took all the three components.

We had two very good talks about cyber-security, one of them on the big systems of security, and the other one was on the chips – how can you protect your chip from the external intrusion.

And also we extended the security to the Internet of Things in which all these points are connected to each other, millions and millions of small points: small cameras, small censors, your car, your freezer etc. But this connectivness is dangerous: it gives to you a lot of services but it is also risky – serious protection is needed.

Now, all of this needs intelligence; so we have concentrated on the AI...

And AI is a very good way of thinking for the future, but it is risky as well – if we do not have enough data to feed it, AI will not work.

As I mentioned in my talk that AI is not a new thing, - it was created some fifty years ago but it was not popular until now... Why?

Because semiconductors were not able to give you enough speed and memory for AI. To do Artificial Intelligence you need very fast judgement like our brain and therefore the multi-mega-

> hertz speed today is necessary for that. And today we have necessary hardware — semiconductors are advanced, and these chips are the backbone of AI. And the data for AI is also exists now. Putting these two things together we have very good AI chip.

> And the list of AI applications is a broad one...So AI can help humanity, security, to protect people, in many aspects...

> Dr Kanade had very interesting talk on multi-camera technology...

All the information coming from numerous cameras needs processing, i.e. we need image processing, and so we need chips for that.

My conclusion was that all the above mentioned topics are interconnected.

But the next year Forum's topics may be different, so having the forum regularly is important..."

As it was mentioned above, the special guest of the Silicon Mountains Forum was the 2019 Laureate of Global IT Award Japanese scientist Dr Takeo Kanade.

Speakers from world famous companies such as Microsoft, Cisco, nCipher Security and NXP Semiconductors took part in the forum.

On the Forum's second day B2B contacts were held.

SOCIETY 13

### Erdogan's Backers Threaten to Commit a New Genocide Against Armenians

By Harut Sassounian



A group of extreme nationalist Turkish lawyers, members of the Istanbul Bar Association, published an article in their November Bulletin

threatening "to deport" all Armenians from Turkey, once again. The author of the article, Mustafa Chalik, writes that the "deportation" would be "the mildest action" against the Armenians. Since the Turkish government denies the occurrence of the Armenian Genocide, the author refers to it as "deportation." The article describes the Armenian Genocide as "a crowning achievement."

To make matters worse, Chalik blesses the memories of the chief henchmen of the Armenian Genocide: "the great martyr Talaat Pasha," Enver Pasha, and Bahaddin Shakir, saying that "we bow in front of the saintly memories of all Unionists [Young Turks] and kiss their blessed hands.... We wish God's mercy and eternal bliss in Heaven to all unnamed [Turkish] martyrs who lost their lives in the Armenian massacres."

Chalik goes on to write that, "If the Committee of Union and Progress [Young Turks] committed 'a crime,' their only 'crime' was to prevent the catastrophe that occurred to us in the Balkans from happening to us in Eastern Anatolia."

The writer states that, "we support the Armenian deportation of 1915. Those who call the deportation a genocide are making a declaration of war. Armenians and others, who call it a genocide, are threatened with a new deportation which will be the lightest measure against them."

"Our ancestors entered the World War to defend their sacred homeland and honor. It is our honor and the crown of our heads in all our struggles from Sarıkamısh to Chanakkale and from the Armenian deportation to Independence War. We will carry this crown with eternal pride," writes Chalik.

Chalik continues: "If we believe that there is no other way to defend our homeland and national existence, whoever we are, the smallest gratification we will resort to is a new 'deportation."

In the preface of his book, "Armenian Genocide Claims," Chalik describes the Ar-

menian demands regarding the 1915 Genocide as "a crying literature.... Great nations with deep roots do not manage to cry and whine. They regard pity and seeking pity for themselves as demeaning. For this reason, 'weeping and crying literatures' are either not developed or have disappeared. This is one of the serious issues. From time to time, we, too, are influenced by the richness of the Armenian crying literature, and unnecessarily accuse ourselves for not publishing as much as they do. As a matter of fact, we can't compete with them even if we wanted. We have such a vast 'mourning literature' that is not only related to the Armenian atrocities, but other catastrophes we are experiencing. In fact, it is said that the silence that the Turks came to exhibit in the face of Tashnak propaganda, which has been carried out for decades with a full cry, has been seen as 'denial' of the crime of slander and genocide."

In addition to Chalik's article, there is a second article in the extreme nationalist Turkish lawyers' Bulletin, written by Faruk Ulker, titled "1915 Events and Armenian Atrocities."

Ulker writes that "the Armenian issue and the claim of the Armenian Genocide still remain one of the most important problems of our nation in the last century." He calls the genocide, "self-defense." The article also quotes Yusuf Halacoglu, a former member of the Turkish Parliament and a denialist of the Armenian Genocide, as stating: "the 300,000 Armenians who died during the deportations lost their lives due to disease in the Caucasus."

As if such denialist lies were not enough, the Turkish newspaper Daily Sabah published an article on December 8 titled "Turkey to boost efforts to fight defamation campaign."

The Turkish government's Directorate of Communications formed a website, "1915. gov.tr," posting materials that deny the facts of the Armenian Genocide. Daily Sabah states that "Turkey objects to the presentation of the 1915 incidents as a 'genocide,' rather referring to it as a tragedy in which both Turks and Armenians suffered casualties amidst the throes of World War I.... 'This website will respond to Armenian genocide slander used against our country at every possible opportunity in the international area, by putting historical information and data to the fore,' said Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun on Saturday during a training program in the coastal province of Antalya.'

Daily Sabah further reports that, "In 1915, the Ottoman Empire relocated Armenians in

eastern Anatolia following revolts in which some sided with invading Russian forces. There were many Armenian casualties during this relocation process. Armenia has demanded an apology and compensation, while Turkey has officially refuted Armenian allegations over the incidents saying that, although Armenians died during the relocations, many Turks also lost their lives in attacks carried out by Armenian gangs in Anatolia. The Turkish government has repeatedly called on historians to study Ottoman archives pertaining to the era in order to uncover what actually happened between the Ottoman government and its Armenian citizens. Rebuffing the 'genocide' allegations, Turkey has officially acknowledged past experiences as a great tragedy in which both parties suffered heavy casualties, including hundreds of Muslim Turks."

Altun was also quoted by Daily Sabah as stating that Turkey will step up its efforts against Armenians targeting the country. "We should wage a stronger fight against dark propaganda."

More importantly, Altun added that Turkey's negotiating power in the international arena has been increasing as a result of its growing regional strength. "Our aim is to conduct high-quality, valuable work to equal to the upsurge of our country, which has a voice in the region and in the world," Altun stated.

We should make two conclusions from the above materials:

Those who say that the "Bloody Turk" has not changed much in the past 100 years are right, except that we should not generalize to all Turks. There are many Turks who are righteous and readily acknowledge the crime of Genocide against Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks. However, there are many other Turks who are the blind followers of Turkish officials who intentionally deny the Armenian Genocide. Good examples of the denialist Turks are the authors of the two articles referenced above, and the website set up by Erdogan's Turkish Government to deny the Armenian Genocide.

Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun claims that, with the increasing prestige of Turkey, it has become a stronger country. While this is unfortunately true, it should encourage all truth and justice loving people in the world to work tirelessly to expose the true barbaric nature of Turkey, not only 100 years ago, but also today in Northern Syria against Kurds and Christians. Countering and diminishing Turkey's clout in international relations should be one of the main objectives to establish historical justice!

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## ICMPD ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF «SUITCASE 2019» ANNUAL JOURNALISM CONTEST ON MIGRATION ISSUES

12 December 2019

«Suitcase 2019» annual journalism contest on migration issues marks its 10 year anniversary of encouraging and motivating journalists raising awareness and reporting on challenges and opportunities in the field of migration. On 12 December 2019, ICMPD office in Armenia, together with UNHCR office in Armenia and «Repat Armenia» foundation, recognized the winners and rewarded the journalistic excellence, relevance and newsworthiness of press pieces dealing with migration in all its aspects.

The jury panel, which consisted of some of the most recognized experts in the field of journalism and migration, picked the 10 winners out of 81 shortlisted entries. This year edition honoured the best journalism in seven categories and offered 250 000 AMD equivalent prize to each winner. There was no winner identified in the category of "The best re-integration story" and Special prize was awarded for the most touching and original story on migration issues.

#### 1. The best TV reportage on migration issues

Eliza Zakaryan, Noyan Tapan TV, «This is motherland, it is sweet», https://bit.ly/2LI67ry

- 2. **The best radio reportage on migration issues**Satik Isahakyan, Public Radio, « The temple guarding the border of Anipemza and the kids that are not afraid of barbed wire», <a href="https://bit.ly/2OJpjac.">https://bit.ly/2OJpjac.</a>
- 3. The best print article on migration issues

Ani Gasparyan, www.ankakh.com, «I came, open the door, Armenia», https://bit.ly/36lQbmA

4. The best multimedia reportage on migration issues

Sona Martirosyan, www.medialab.am, « 30 years in 30 square meter room», https://bit.ly/2LKwFs3

5. The best photo reportage on migration issues

Vaghinak Ghazaryan, 4plus.org, « Tatevik», https://bit.ly/2LI6Ed2

6. The best integration success story

Lusine Gharibyan, mediamax.am, «Comrade Tigran who came to Arzni from a world unknown», https://bit.ly/345CjeB

7. Special prize

Vahe Nersisyan, www.comics.am, «Deport», https://bit.ly/34a9VYX

UNHCR office in Armenia and «Repat Armenia» foundation awarded the prizes in the following categories:

1. Challenges and integration success stories of displaced Syrians in Armenia,

Anush Khachatryan, Public TV, Aravot Luso program, «Address: Armenia. Nerses Arslanyan», https://bit.ly/2sfocX7

2. Integration prospects of refugees in Armenia

Urbanista team, www.urbnews.com, «The sounds of Moldovakan street», https://bit.ly/2LIjM1w

3. The best material on Repatriation

Piruza Khalapyan, 4plus.org, «Natasha», https://bit.ly/2YGuo6G

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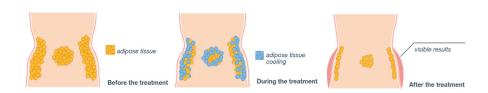


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