

Tony Fadell: I'll Be Back, To Be Helpful For Armenia...



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Armenian President, Russian FM discuss hail bilateral relations

President Serzh Sargsyan received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov on November 21. To begin with, the President of Armenia noted with satisfaction that the year of the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Russia and 20th anniversary of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance was fruitful in terms of bilateral relations.

“Our relations are rightfully described as partnership of strategic alliance. I fully share this view, because at all levels they are marked with high-level political dialogue, wide coordination of foreign policy, fruitful cooperation on international platforms, cohesive interaction in economic, military, military-technical and humanitarian spheres,” President Sargsyan said, attaching importance to mutual visits, within the framework of which the Russian Premier, the Ministers of Industry, Education, Health visited Armenia over past few months. The RF Foreign Minister is currently visiting our country.

The President of Armenia mentioned those numerous joint events: the Armenian-Russian Interregional Conference, the Interna-

tional Conference on Eurasian Partnership, the Armenian-Russian Youth Forum, as well as the 30th jubilee session of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee, which was held earlier this month. Noting that the Armenian-Russian relations are developing consistently,



the President stressed that efforts should be continued to develop interstate relations, strengthen the friendship between the Armenian and Russian peoples.

Thankful for the reception, Foreign Minister Lavrov conveyed to President Serzh Sargsyan warm greetings on behalf of RF President Vladimir Putin, with whom the President of Armenia had recently inaugurated the exposition of Martiros Saryan's works

on the margins of the Days of Armenian Culture in Russia.

During the meeting, Sergey Lavrov presented the results of the meeting and discussion held with his Armenian counterpart within the framework of his official visit to Armenia. “In addition to attending together with you the opening of the exhibition dedicated to the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations and the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, I have held substantive talks with Edward Nalbandian, after which we made statements for the mass media, dwelling on all aspects of our strategic partnership.

I will not repeat myself if I say that as a matter of fact, there is no sphere of human activity in which Russia and Armenia have not developed real mechanisms of practical cooperation. The fact that you highly appreciate our cooperation in the field of foreign policy is a great honor for us. We will try to live up to your and the Russian President's confidence,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the meeting with the President of Armenia.

Belgium is of special importance to Armenia – President

Within the framework of his working visit to the Kingdom of Belgium, President Serzh Sargsyan on November 24 met with Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.

Thankful for the warm welcome, President Sargsyan stressed that Armenia is interested in intensifying the Armenian-Belgian dialogue and making mutually beneficial the cooperation with the friendly Belgium.

The interlocutors agreed that during the past 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Armenia and Belgium have developed relations in many areas based on mutual trust and understanding. President Sargsyan and Prime Minister Michel also agreed that their meeting is a good opportunity to outline ways of furthering cooperation. They highlighted the need for expanding cooperation on international platforms, especially within the EU.

With reference to EU-Armenia relations, Serzh Sargsyan expressed confidence that the signing of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement will open a new chapter in the history of bilateral relations, providing ever new opportunities for the deepening of relations with the European Union and its member states, including Belgium.

From the perspective of promoting the Armenian-Belgian bilateral cooperation agenda, the President of Armenia highlighted the activation of high-level political contacts and expressed the hope that the dialogue between Armenia and its friendly and reliable partner Belgium would be continuous, supported by regularly paid mutual visits.

President Sargsyan underscored that Belgium is of special importance to Armenia because it granted shelter to our compatriots who

had survived the Genocide and whose descendants are today the cornerstone of the Armenian community in Belgium.

The President conveyed to Charles Michel the appreciation of the Armenian people for his statement of June 18, followed by the adoption of a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide in the House of Representatives on July 23, which completed the process of recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Belgium. Note that the Belgian Senate passed a similar resolution on the Armenian Genocide as far back as in 1998.

The parties praised the Armenian community of Belgium, which was said to play an important role in the promotion of bilateral relations.

Serzh Sargsyan and Charles Michel next discussed issues related to Armenian-Belgian trade relations and cooperation in a number of mutually beneficial fields. The President suggested that Belgian companies consider the possibility of engaging in Armenia's economy, taking into account the business-friendly investment environment created in the country, as well as Armenia's involvement in different integration processes.

As the President pointed out, Armenia's proactive membership in the International Organization of La Francophonie is another opportunity to deepen bilateral cooperation in the fields of science and culture, municipal governance and other spheres.

Noting that next year Armenia will be hosting the 17th Summit of La Francophonie, the President thanked Belgium for support, and availed himself of the opportunity to invite Prime Minister Michel to attend the Summit due to be held in October, 2018.

Talks should continue despite Baku's 'non-constructive' stance, Armenian FM says

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Russia Edward Nalbandian and Sergey Lavrov paid special attention to the Karabakh issue as they met in Yerevan on November 21.

The top diplomats of the two countries referred to the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs' efforts aimed at implementation of the decisions made during the summits in Vienna, St. Petersburg and Geneva.

Speaking to reporters following the meeting, Minister Nalbandian said "it would be good if Azerbaijan's deeds met its words," especially when it comes to the agreements on easing tensions.

He said "Armenia is ready to continue the negotiations on the basis of the three principles incorporated in the five statements made by the leaders of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairing countries with a view of finding a solution to the Karabakh conflict." He added that Azerbaijan is doing its best to avoid referring to the five statements.

Edward Nalbandian said "Armenia has never retreated from agreements" and voiced hope that Azerbaijan would change its stance.

"Armenia is ready to work with the Co-Chairs towards an exceptionally peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict," he stated.

He noted that no agreement between the Presidents of the two countries is expected in December.

Minister Nalbandian said "all principles of settlement are on the table. We have been long holding talks on the main principles of



the Karabakh conflict settlement." He added that negotiations should continue despite the 'not very constructive position' of Azerbaijan.

"There is no alternative to the negotiation process," Armenia's top diplomat stated.

Sergey Lavrov: Negotiations not expected to be completed any time soon

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, in turn, that all components of the conflict settlement are enshrined in numerous documents that have been deposited with the OSCE Secretary General. These include the proposals of the Co-Chairs, which are still on the table."

Lavrov stressed that these components are compiled into a single package. "It's hard to take two or three of them and say "let's reach

an agreement on the basis of these."

Minister Lavrov welcomed the positive reaction of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to their recent meeting in Geneva. "It's important for this positive attitude to help us move towards settlement."

Russia's top diplomat said he will be consulting with French and American counterparts to see "where we are in the settlement process," with a view of intensifying efforts for creating favorable conditions to further the settlement process.

Minister Lavrov said he's not very optimistic about perspectives, considering that the "issue is a complex one."

"The experience of negotiations shows they will not be completed any time soon," Lavrov stated.

Armenia, EU sign Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

The agreement was signed by Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

"This comprehensive and ambitious agreement is our joint endeavor that opens a new chapter in the bilateral relations between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union," Minister Nalbandian said at the signing ceremony.

"By reaffirming commitments to the consolidation of democratic institutions, human rights, the rule of law the CEPA gives a strong impetus to the continuation of the reforms in Armenia," Minister Nalbandian added.

"It is important that CEPA reaffirms EU's clear support to the efforts and approaches of OSCE MG Co-Chairs for the peaceful settlement of Nagorno Karabakh conflict based on the norms and principles of intl law," the Armenian Foreign Minister stated.



Federica Mogherini: New agreement to benefit citizens of Armenia and EU



“The Agreement we have signed on November 24 will have a real impact on people’s lives, a positive one, both in Armenia and in the European Union,” EU High Representative/Vice-President, Federica Mogherini said at the ceremony of signing of a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Armenia.

“It will allow us to strengthen our cooperation on security matters, in particular through increasing resilience; to improve the investment climate, stimulating growth and jobs; and to find environmentally-friendly solutions to help communities prosper and businesses grow,” Mogherini said.

“It has been a long-term objective of ours to have an ambitious agreement in place that better reflects the priorities of our partnership with Armenia, to address the challenges we face and to make the most of the opportunities available to us through even stronger cooperation,” she added.

The EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership

Agreement (CEPA) was signed on 24 November in the margins of the Eastern Partnership Summit

The Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement will strengthen political dialogue and set a solid basis for the continuation of economic and social reforms. Some of the concrete ways in which the new agreement is expected to bring added value to citizens both in Europe and Armenia are:

A better investment climate: A better regulatory environment will improve the business climate and investment opportunities for Armenian and EU companies, encouraging Armenian companies to sell more goods and services to the EU and the EU companies to open subsidiaries in Armenia, which will contribute to economic growth and job creation.

A more empowered civil society: An independent civil society platform composed of Armenian and EU organizations will be set up to monitor the implementation of the agreement.

A safer living environment: The EU and Armenia will increase their cooperation in preventing and fighting crime, including terrorism.

Fairer and more transparent procurement procedures: Clearer rules on publication of tenders and review procedures will help to prevent corruption and discrimination.

Improved product safety and consumer protection: Armenia will seek to reduce differences with regard to EU standards to further protect the health and safety of consumers.

A cleaner, healthier environment: The EU will support Armenia’s adoption of EU environmental standards as well as its development of clean sources of energy.

“Through this agreement, the EU-Armenia partnership will continue to be anchored and based on our shared common principles and strong commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law,” Mogherini stated.

France hosts Days of Artsakh

On 20 November Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan partook in Paris at a solemn event organized in connection with the launching of the Days of Artsakh in France attended by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to France, representatives of the local Armenian community and French public and political circles.

In his speech President Sahakyan noted that the Days of Artsakh were held in Europe for the first time, and that was the reason of double responsibility and much greater expectations.

“We are sure that all the events planned by the program will be held on a proper level. That is because we have patriotic compatriots and true friends who will support the successful implementation of all the initiatives”, stressed Artsakh Republic President in his speech.

Bako Sahakyan expressed hope that the organization of the Days of Artsakh in France



would have an important contribution to the expansion of Artsakh’s cooperation with France introducing our country, its history, culture, economy and other spheres to the French and European societies, adding that the Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora firm trinity is the basis of all our achievements.

In the course of the event President Sahakyan handed in the “Gratitude” medal to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to France Vigen Chitechyan highlighting his consistent support to Artsakh and participation in the realization of various programs in our republic.

Emergency Situations Minister of Armenia Davit Tonoyan Meets with Gérard Collomb, Minister of Interior of France And other counterpart top-officials...

On November 21-24, RA Minister of Emergency Situations **Davit E. Tonoyan** was on a working visit to France at the invitation of the Ministry of Interior of France.

During the visit ES Minister had a number of meetings with Gérard Collomb, Minister of Interior of France, **Jacques Witkowski**, Director General of the Center for Civil Security and Crisis Management of the French Ministry of Interior and **Jean-Marc Lacave**, Director of "Météo-France" state organization.

During the meetings, the sides discussed new opportunities for expanding and deepening cooperation in the field of emergency situations between the two countries, particularly, the intensification of cooperation and activities in the spheres defined in the Letter of Intent signed between the RA Ministry of Emergency Situations and the French Ministry of Interior on May 15, 2014.

An agreement was reached to collaborate in retraining of staff and exchange of experience in carrying out rescue operations in mountainous areas and fighting wildfires for developing staff skills. Both sides also expressed readiness to exchange experiences in further development of the volunteer rescue movement as well as strengthen coop-



eration with the RA MES Psychological Assistance Department and Center of Disaster Medical Treatment through organizing and implementing professional trainings, conferences, video-conferences, seminars, symposiums, research works and mutual visits.

During the meeting with Jean-Marc Lacave, Director of Météo-France state organization, the possibilities of applying the progressive experience of "Météo-France" in modernization of the RA MES Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Service as well as the professional training opportunities of the service personnel were discussed.

Let's remind that within the frames of the working visit Minister of Emergency Situations also visited the 20th "Milipol Paris" exhibition organized by the French Ministry of Interior that is the first international exhibition-salon dedicated to security and innovations. The newest technologies and services in numerous spheres would be presented at the Exhibition: fight against terrorism and organized crime, border control, protection of the most important infrastructures, urban security, risks management analysis and cyber security, etc.



Yerevan hosts International Wine Forum



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan attended the opening of the International Wine Forum held in Yerevan November 23-24.

“Armenia is actually experiencing a revival of wine industry,” the Prime Minister said in his opening remarks. “While conserving our deeply rooted winemaking traditions, we combine them with modern state-of-the-art technology and research capacity. By saying Armenian wine, we understand more than 6,000 years of history, traditions, culture, dedication and love of grape vine and wine.”

“The Government has declared winemaking as a priority sector of the economy. We have established the Armenian Vineyard and Winemaking Foundation to promote viticulture in the country, upgrade the country’s winemaking rating and competitiveness in the international arena, step up exports and raise Armenia’s attractiveness as a wine-making country,” the Prime Minister said.

“Our ultimate goal is to make of Armenian wine an internationally recognized brand, attract new investments in winemaking industry, boost export volumes, and secure a solid and sustained place on the global map

of winemaking industry,” he added.

According to PM Karapetyan, the trends are quite positive. “About 7.5 million liters of wine was produced last year in Armenia, which is 14% more than in 2015. We also have a sound index of export: more than 1.8



million liters of wine was exported in 2016, which is 37% higher than in 2015. My partners have promised that the aforementioned positive dynamics will be maintained in 2017, though the analysis is not complete

yet.”

The Head of Government said that Armenian wineries are equipped with French, Italian, German technology and equipment. Investments have come from Argentina, the United States, Switzerland and Italy, including from the Armenian Diaspora.

“It is also gratifying to witness a drastic increase in domestic investment. This is important since domestic investment can trigger an influx of foreign investment. Armenia is open for attracting large-scale investment in winemaking, viticulture and other spheres, and we are ready to work with our partners to provide the best possible business environment for investors. As far as this forum is concerned, I believe it to be a unique platform for discussing global trends and best practices in wine industry with the world’s

best experts, establishing business contacts for the development of Armenia’s winemaking sector, and formulating new mutually beneficial projects with our international partners,” Karen Karapetyan said.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the conference would result in more targeted and specific steps aimed at developing the sector.

Referred to as “The global trends and best practices in winemaking: conclusions and recommendations for Armenia,” the international wine forum is hosted by the Armenian Vineyard and Winemaking Foundation.

The forum seeks to provide stakeholders and companies with a cross-border platform to identify new development vectors, attract investments, build professional capacity and discuss the prospects for the furtherance of business and scientific cooperation.



ICRC marks 25 years of presence in Armenia

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Delegation in Armenia marked the 25th year of its presence in the region in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Since the onset of the conflict in 1992 and until today, the ICRC has been carrying out its humanitarian work as a neutral, impartial and independent organization. Through the Delegations in Yerevan and Baku and the Mission in Nagorno-Karabakh, the ICRC addressed a range of needs of people affected by the conflict, mandated by the Geneva Conventions to protect and to assist them.

During a reception on November 23 the Head of ICRC Delegation in Armenia Caroline Douilliez noted, "After the ceasefire in 1994, we remained present in the region to address the consequences and recurring needs. Today, on the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, we continue to work in villages with people who deal with daily insecurity, the loss of livelihoods and economic opportunities."

As a highlight of the reception, the ICRC Delegation in Armenia focused on one of the tragic and long-lasting consequences of the conflict, which is the issue of the missing people. Through an exhibition, the ICRC showed different aspects of the problem. These included the plight of the families waiting endlessly for the news about their loved ones, the ICRC's work on the issue and what is needed to bring answers about their fate.

"Beyond recognition, there is only one thing that can bring closure to families. Knowing what happened. Finally getting a confirmation whether their relatives are alive or dead", said Mrs. Douilliez. "This is why the ICRC has offered all the authorities to be the neutral interme-



diary and support their efforts to determine the fate. We continue to be committed to play that role, whenever the sides are ready for this. We hope that this moment will come sooner than later."

In connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, there are over 4,500 missing people, both military and civilians, registered by the ICRC. More than 400 of them were registered in Armenia. Since 2014, the organization has been collecting DNA from the blood relatives of the missing to preserve information that may be used to identify human remains in the future. The ICRC supports the relatives by helping them improve access to medical, legal and administrative services. We provide economic and psychosocial assistance, and help with finding ways to commemorate their missing relatives and to sensitize communities around them.

Armenian President attends EPP summit in Brussels



On a working visit to the Kingdom of Belgium, President Serzh Sargsyan took part in the Summit of the European People's Party (EPP) in Brussels chaired by EPP President Joseph Daul. The summit was attended by European Council and European Commission Presidents Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker, President of European Parliament Antonio Tajani, as well as the heads of state and government representing EPP-member countries and Eastern Partner-

ship-member states.

The summit discussed issues of pan-European significance and the preparations for the Eastern Partnership Summit, which will focus on issues of further strengthening cooperation in the priority spheres as defined at the Riga Summit in 2015.

President Serzh Sargsyan delivered a speech at the summit, in which he touched upon the agenda of EU-Armenia cooperation and the dynamics of relationship devel-

opment, the importance of those issues of interest to Armenia to be discussed at the EPP and Eastern Partnership summits in Brussels, the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement between Armenia and the European Union, as well as on inter-party cooperation-related activities.

Noting that this year marks the 5th anniversary of RPA's membership of the EPP, Serzh Sargsyan stressed that despite the relatively short period of time, the RPA managed to fully integrate into this European family. RPA's cooperation with the EPP has become one of the most important platforms for Armenia's involvement in European politics.

Serzh Sargsyan said it was noteworthy that the November 15 resolution of the European Parliament qualifies Armenia as a country which successfully combines its EAEU membership with participation in the EU Neighborhood Strategy. The President assured that in the future as well, Armenia will abide by the aforementioned formula of co-existence.

President Sargsyan expressed the hope that discussions at the EU Eastern Partnership Summit will be so effective as to make the joint initiatives more targeted, and the results – more visible and tangible for societies.

Tony Fadell: "In Armenia, I have been Surprised Every Hour..."

"I want to be helpful for Armenia..." – The 8th Laureate of the Presidential Global IT Award promised to come back to Armenia with family...

Continued from The Highlights previous issue



By
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("Palace")..

Below The Highlights readers could find infos and essential extracts of the speeches said in that night taken from www.president.am (alas, this year The Highlights Chief correspondent had no chance to be in the list of the invitees):

First there was a private meeting where President Serzh Sargsyan received Tony Fadell, the 2017 Laureate of the Presidential Award for Global Contribution in the Field of Information Technology.

Welcoming the world-renowned scientist in a friendly and cozy setting with

...2017 Laureate of the GIT Award Tony Fadell proved to be a man of the great sense of humor, and a very open, sociable person (that is a very important feature for us the mass media reps). Just in such a manner he held his next meeting, at the new conference hall of Matenataran, with ICT specialists, students, mass media, others. If one tries to summarize that meeting held in a jam-packed hall, one could remind, again and again, his very valuable advice: "never give up, failures are important, no matter how big or small your team or your country is".

And something that has always been important for us the Armenians – family/kids...

A youngster asked Mr. Fadell: why did you leave Apple?

The answer was the following: *"When once, after a regular working day, my wife and I returned home in the late evening, our children rushed not to us, their parents, but to babysitter. This was an important realization for us that if we continue this way, we would lose our kids..."*

In the evening of the same day, 16 November, after the Madenataran very successful interactive encounter with Tony, the formal GIT awarding ceremony and dinner took place at Armenia's President's Office

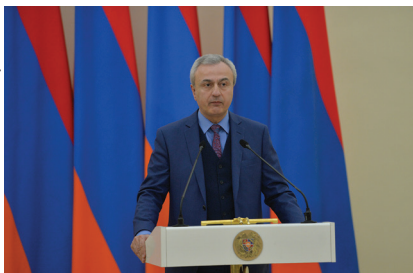


few attendees, "Serzh Sargsyan noted that the Presidential Award reflects the Armenian nation's admiration and gratitude for those individuals who promote humanity and civilization and, thereby, become the symbol of their time.

"We are thereby trying to draw our youth's attention to success stories and successful people by demonstrating that mankind's greatest asset is the human being with his/her shortcomings, problems, and with his/her talent. I feel that the focus on this area is already yielding results. Our youths are very interested in this sphere, and it is a great pleasure to see that the schoolchildren are fond of it, too", the President of Armenia said.

Tony Fadell thanked the President for hospitality, noting that he had already met with the Armenian Prime Minister and was aware of IT innovations in Armenia, especially in the e-governance.

"You need to open your country for the outside world, tell us what positive developments are happening over here. We are living in a very exciting time. Your education system is very well poised to teach physics, math, and other subjects, which gives you the opportunity to work with data and achieve great success in



data engineering.

If what I heard about your country over the last 12 hours is true, I will come to think that the startups that I have already set up can lead to new opportunities here through cooperation with the local workforce," Tony Fadell said, emphasizing that he would like to be back to our country again and asked the President which way he could be of service to Armenia.

After the meeting, the Presidency hosted a ceremony of cancelling of special envelope dedicated to the Laureates of the Presidential Award for Global IT Contribution. The envelope features American inventor of Lebanese descent Tony Fadell - the Eighth Laureate of the Presidential IT Award - who is the founder of Nest Labs

GIT Award Committee, first presented the background history of the Presidential Award for Global Contribution in the Field of Information Technology, the principles steering the Award Committee and the International Selection Panel established by the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia, and the world-renowned award-winners. The speaker highlighted Armenia's competitive edge in the priority sector of information technology, the great potential that dates far back as to the Soviet Armenia which later became a solid basis for further development.

Mr Musayelyan stressed that IT sector of Armenia's economy was a branch with the biggest added value registering 20-25% annual growth. It's share in GDP structure

start-ups to be completed by 2018, and, finally, The World IT Congress to be held in Yerevan in 2019.

Hovik Musayelyan also spoke about the joint state-private sector initiatives aimed at promoting the development of the IT sector, many of which have become traditional already.

The floor was next given to Award Committee member **Tony Moroyan** who formally introduced this year's award winner.

Tony Moroyan, a long-time friend of Tony Fadell in the Silicon Valley, said in particular:

"It took seven years to convince Tony Fadell to come to Armenia!

It is a great honor to introduce yet another



and the author of the iPod brand, as well as the seven previous.

The special envelope is a unique philatelic product - a thematic envelope with two Republic of Armenia postal stamps released in 2013 and devoted to RA President's Global IT Award. It is to be extinguished with a special seal".

Following this event, President Sargsyan and Tony Fadell joined the guests for formal GIT awarding ceremony and reception at the Presidential Palace Hall in honor of Tony Fadell, the 2017 Laureate of the Presidential GIT Award. The guests included the Honorable Ambassadors of USA and Lebanon, envoys of other countries, the top officials of the Government of Armenia, the Heads of universities and IT executives, other dignitaries.

"At the reception **Hovik Musayelyan**, Chairman of the Executive Board of the

is about 4% that is compatible with many developed countries' indicators.

According to Hovik Musayelyan, ICT industry of Armenia has some 17,000 high-scilled employees.

Dr Musayelyan attached special importance to several events being implemented in the country within recent years: annual presidential awarding of the best students and school pupils in the IT sphere, annual intl microelectronics olympiad, DigiTech Expo, ArmTech Congress, the Engineering City, - an incubator and technopark for

giant in IT industry that has changed humanity thru his inventions.

It is difficult to introduce so many accomplishments of more than 25 years in few minutes. Founding companies, completing and delivering several cutting-edge products, authoring more than 300 patents.

Tony Fadell finally did the impossible: he achieved his long-time vision. Tony as SVP of Apple lead the team that created 18 generations of iPod and the first 3 generation of iPhone.

This came with very hard work, resilience not to give up, breaking the barriers of technology and mind sets. The products he has completed have always been the best and the most innovative at General Magic, Phillips, Apple, Nest and others. His Nest thermostat has already passed the USD 1 Billion mark.

At Apple, his iPod revolutionized our sense of limitations and set the stage for iPhone, an even more revolutionary, disruptive and the ultimate mobile platform that shook the industry and sent shock waves to



competitors. In May 2016, *TIME* named Nest Thermostat, iPod and iPhone as the 3 of the "50 most influential gadgets of all time".

President Serzh Sargsyan handed the prize to Tony Fadell, and delivered a speech at the ceremonious reception held on that occasion. Tony Fadel reciprocated with words of thanks.

Remarks by President Serzh Sargsyan delivered at the presentation of the Presidential Award for Global Contribution in the Field of Information Technology

"...I am happy to hand the Presidential Award for Global Contribution in the Field of Information Technology to Tony Fadell, the founder of Nest Labs. He is really one of those people who are shaping our everyday life and life-style in this digital era.

During its millennial history, the Armenian people has always sought to master and adapt to the local medium everything progressive in the world. This award is the manifestation of our mentality, ideology and aspirations.

For over a decade now, our country has been looking for a niche in the global market of information technology in quest of new achievements. There are about 600 IT companies operating in Armenia, including many world-renowned organizations. This has helped solve the problem of employment for about 20 thousand people.

We have been experiencing an average of 20-25% growth over the past few years. It is important for us to not limit ourselves to the indicators we have. We need to dream up, think of and create new projects and implement them.

We should have thousands of IT companies and hundreds of thousands of specialists working in the field of information technology. That is why we need a dynamic system of special education, and we have a lot to do in this regard. The decades-old traditions and the youth with a strong will shall serve as a solid foundation for achieving those goals. That is my vision.

We shall have many new professionals who will bring our country to the point of changing their work and the overall climate in the country. They will break the psychological

women and men working in this field, we are steadfastly moving towards a knowledge-based technological economy in line with our goal of building an intellectual Armenia.

I think Mr. Fadell's solutions relating to iPod players or other innovations should be instructive for our specialists. He has gone through deeper roads overcoming difficulties, learning new lessons on his way to success.

Certainly, there are many major players in the IT industry. However, there are also successful professionals with innovative ideas and start-up companies set up by smaller groups.

New grant-venture financing tools are currently being introduced under the auspices of the Armenian Science and Technology Foundation - FAST - to encourage the startups. I am sure that they will be useful to our talented scientists and businessmen, and will help them to achieve the desired results. We are determined to provide new opportunities in this area in cooperation with the private sector. Information technology should be one of the driving forces behind the economy.

In this field, we have long been on the global track of competitiveness, and we are confident in our ability to compete with the leaders.

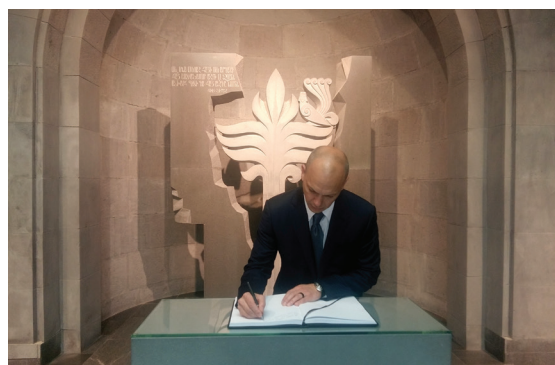
We have a lot of success stories, but the most exciting one is the recent victory of our schoolgirls from Karbi village school in Aragatsotn Marz. These and many other examples give us confidence in tomorrow's day.

Dear Mr. Fadell,

With this award, we wish to highlight the achievements of your team and yourself in the field of iPod players, iPhones, thermoregulators, safe and smart toys for children, and many more.

I hope you will be able to present your success story to our students and professionals and encourage them to reach new heights.

I can not tell how much your curiosity used to be fueled when you joined your grandfather, your father to change the wall outlets at home as a child of 3-4. However, you did not give up and eventually succeeded since you were strong with an earnest desire to live up to your new ideas even after



template of being a "small country" which sometimes comes to the forefront in our society.

Together with the active involvement of

having 80 applications rejected by 80 businessmen.

In my opinion, the first and most important lesson that your story can teach us is as follows: failures are another step forward on the way to achieving the desired goal. Failure is a new step towards success.

...We have been awarding this prize for the eighth time to individuals who have proposed and implemented revolutionary changes in information technology. Over the past years, we could witness the enthusiasm with which young people met and interacted with their heroes.

try from where it has been, where it is today and where it's going. So thank you everyone, especially Tony Moroyan for these several years of tenacious asking me. We have known each other for 25 years and I am really honored to be here. And in just the last 24 hours of being here, everything I've heard from Tony about Armenia, had been true and many of my preconceived notions have been thrown away. So very honored to be here and thank you again for this award.

I would like to leave you with a few words about things I have seen about success in my 25-30 years career in the IT business.

leadership.

I could talk about the stories about the US and leadership there, but I won't get into that, but government now has ability to not just have technology inside the government, it's now about shaping a digital society and creating laws, regulations and working in public-private partnerships to define what digital society is. It is about how we are going to embrace technology, what does privacy mean, what does security mean, what does data access mean for all demographics.

I believe that Armenia has this, after talking to the Prime Minister, after talking



Our prize winners are an excellent example of how to make the world better by improving people's lives and facilitating contacts.

On behalf of all of us, I once again felicitate Mr. Fadell and thank him for his work, as his accomplishment is for the whole humanity and many of us use it."

Remarks by Tony Fadell

Good evening,

This is quite an impressive room. When I walked in, I was quite surprised to see all of you, to see this amazing set of people coming out to see me, so thank you.

First, I would like to say thank you to the President, I would like to say thank you to the Prime Minister, the Committee that nominated and elected me for this award, I am very honored that I can come here and share my stories with you and you truly believe that there is a way to take your coun-

The first thing is about creating an environment for success to happen. There are three important things that President has already mentioned, the first one is education, education at all levels, from primary school all the way up and it is not just after postgraduate, but even beyond. The world is a changing place; it is changing faster than ever.

Today is the slowest the world will ever be, it will only accelerate through technology and the people, world citizens not just through the school they have done, but each day. And so whatever programs that you can create to continually educate yourselves as well as your constituents, as well as your population, the better off your economy will be and will allow new things to flourish that we haven't seen before. The second one, it is about government, it is about government

grow outside if you take advantage of this microcosm that you have and this community you have and lead, not just follow, not just adopt technology, but think about what your society can be and work towards it every day and unlike a startup I know tenacity of the Armenian people.

The government is not going away, so if you imagine it in 10 or 20 years and even if there is ups and downs, you'll get there, because the government is not going away, it's a state of mind and you will have different startups that will be able to create this digital society for all. So, I look forward to seeing how that goes.

The third thing is about public-private partnership, it's really about opening to accept things, people such as myself, investors, teams, mentors into your society as well as



to the President; you are on the press of this, onto creating a digital society, as the world has never seen before, because you have a microcosm here and if you look at startups, they always start with a small team. You are a small country, but it can

having them come into ours so that we can learn and communicate and take the best of the world, because I believe if you can set a digital society sooner than any other country, the world will be looking at you to see how it is done the right way. We can see China trying to do that today; I don't think they are doing it right with all the humanity endeavors. You could do that here.

So those three things I believe is what's going to bring you forward and create a new world here and continuing the success you had over the last 25 years. That said, it is hard. The first 10-15 years of my career I learned a lot, but failed along the way and it takes strength of the entrepreneurs, takes strength of the institutions to understand;



you will try, you will fail, but you will learn and you keep going, you don't stop, you keep trying, because if you know what you believe is true, it will be the future, you will get there one day as long as you keep learning along the way.

So again, I challenge you, I hope to come back, I hope to help you in some way to create that digital society, to show the world what it really means to embrace the next millennia. You have been around many millennia, this country, this people have been around many millennia, just like you have done to create the alphabet, to adopt the Christianity as the first country in the world. Adopt a digital society that is equality for all for all in the digital world and you will again set the stage like you have done in the past.

So, thank you again for this award, honored to be here, thank you Mr. President. Thank you everyone and I'm looking forward to having discussions this evening. Thank you."

Next day morning saw traditional awarding Fadell the 8th GIT Award Laureate the title of the National Polytechnic University Honorary Doctor ...

After speech of the University Rector Prof. **Vostanik Marukhyan** and Tony Moroyan's presentation of key points of Fadell's life and achievements, a Q&A exchange was held – that was another novelty as previous Laureates have had a lecture presentation there.

Below you could find several extracts from the mentioned Q&A:

"...Any time when you do hard work, there are always ups and down... I've spent ten years at Apple, and it was absolute wonderful time and incredible learning experience, and it shaped me..."

And what was secret of Fadell's tremendous success in building new companies? When you start something, you can have a



lot of mistakes, but hopefully you can work with someone, a team of people, mentors, you can help guide you and teach you about the problems you could experience...When you look back, you can think about the kind of things you could change, but it is more important to look forward and understand what you can change to make it better...So I look back and I say: wow, there were incredible successes, and we've got many-many things right, and we've got things wrong, but we've improved them, and so you can never make things perfect..."

"If you look back, what you would change?", a young lady reporter asked Tony Fadell. The answer was the shortest one: *"Nothing"*. And he shared with the youngsters his life credo: NEVER GIVE UP! Another key factor for Fadell's success was in his having good teachers...

And afterwards newly awarded Polytechnic Doctor Fadell toured at the University centers to get familiarized, in particular, electrical network automatized control systems. And, notably, it was a really nice surprise for your correspondent, an electromechanical engineer by trade that Tony Fadell was ask-

ing very professional questions...

From the Polytechnic Tony Fadell, accompanied by his long time friend and colleague Tony Moroyan, rushed to **Tsitsernakaberd Genocide Memorial...**

This time your correspondent needed no special invitation, and being there, noticed Fadell's very natural sadness when he was looking to the horrible documental evidences of the atrocities...And you, my reader, looking at the photographs captured these moments, will share my opinion...

In the Guestbook Tony Fadell left the following inscription: *"A human tragedy that cannot be ignored or ever repeated...A lesson for humanity..."*

And Tony Moroyan has written the follow-

ing words:

"The world has seen the first Genocide of the 20th century. If the world powers had punished the Guilty, following Genocides would have not repeated.

God rest the souls of all victims...God help and protect Armenia".

Speaking to cameras, Fadell, a grandson of a native Lebanese who most probably heard about the Genocide from his Armenian neighbors, said: *"I've heard about it (the Armenian Genocide) a few years back when the Turkey looked like was possibly going to recognize... Here, I've learned in a much more detailed way...Such a tragedy should not be forgotten or ever repeated!"*

And the next novelty, from www.yerevan.am:

"Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan meets (for the first time - author) with the founder of "Nest Labs", Tony Fadell"

17.11.2017

Yerevan Mayor **Taron Margaryan** met

with the 8th Laureate of GIT Award, an American inventor of Lebanese origin Tony Fadell. Mr. Mayor congratulated Tony Fadell on getting the RA President's Award for outstanding contribution to the sphere of information technologies and wished him good luck and new achievements. Presenting the guest the capital and the programs of development carried out in various spheres of urban economy in the recent years, Mayor Taron Margaryan stressed that consistent policy was carried out to make the City more comfortable for townspeople and for the guests of the Capital.

"Next year Yerevan is celebrating its 2800th anniversary, and our aim is to make our Capital appear before the world not only

willingness for cooperation. I am ready to cooperate with local specialists and to assist them. I have already made sure that Yerevan is the city with sustainable route of development. I'd also like to outline that it was a nice surprise for me to find payment terminals everywhere in the city. I want to outline that even in France where I live, and in Silicon Valley, where I lived for more than 10 years, there aren't such progressive payment infrastructures. And generally, the approaches in e-management applied in Yerevan are a good start for technological development and installation of innovation solutions which will create the opportunity to provide more effective management in various spheres of urban economy and to develop

great talent and high human quality who was happy when seeing every good things...No doubt, he was excited and inspired, I could say Mr Fadell was very impressed what he has seen here in the Academy. I think he saw here a good development for the future"

By the end of his agenda, Tony Fadell toured at **Viasphere Technopark**, the first business park and incubator in Armenia where he was greeted by his young colleagues working at SCDM (the second largest, after Synopsys Armenia, company residing at Technopark), Damaris, other firms, and yours truly captured several moments of Fadell the Genius' being very friendly and accessible for the youngsters...

And a world renowned inventor and inves-



as one of the oldest cities but also taking into account the big potential of our specialists in IT sphere to make Yerevan one of the cities where smart solutions and suggestions are created. With this aim we established commission for working out and implementation of "Yerevan-Smart City" program which already takes concrete steps to work out conceptions and strategies. Next year, within the frames of the events dedicated to Yerevan's 2800th anniversary, we plan to organize two big events: the international conference and international exposition Smart City Expo which will be closely connected with "Smart City" program. In the implementation of this program I expect your support and active cooperation with the Commission for working out and implementation of "Yerevan-Smart City" program".

Expressing gratitude for warm welcome, Tony Fadell accepted Yerevan Mayor's suggestion and stressed that he was ready to share his ideas with the members of the Commission and so to take part in "Yerevan-Smart City" program implementation.

"Mister Mayor, I'd like to express my gratitude for warm welcome, congratulation and

the city infrastructure. I must admit that I am already interested to know what Yerevan will be like in 10 years", said Tony Fadell.

At the end of the meeting Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan invited Mr. Fadell to visit Yerevan next year to take part in festive events dedicated to the 2800th anniversary of foundation of the Capital of Armenia.

At the **Chess Academy** of Armenia a tournament on the occasion of Tony Fadell's visit to Armenia was held with the mottoes "Chess Capital" and "Smart Yerevan", with participation about 150 players. It was an info spreaded widely that a kid won a game playing with Fadell The Genius...

Hovik Musayelyan commented on this: *"Yes, when we were walking alongside the rows of tables, I noticed a kid who had not partner for that moment. So, I suggested Tony Fadell to play with that kid. And in a few minutes six-year-old kid won Genius (smiling)..."*

In the words of GM **Smbat Lputyan**, Founding President of the Chess Academy of Armenia who is proudly holding titles of the World Chess Olympiad and Europe champion, *"I've seen in Tony Fadell a man of the*

tor looked very natural when asking groups of young specialists developing various projects about this or that at Synopsys Armenia.

Mr. Fadell was in rush as, in his own words, hundreds of letters were waiting for him in his mailbox. So, The Highlights correspondent succeeded to ask him only a couple of questions; the first one was on his impressions from what he has seen within two day stay in Armenia.

"I was surprised yesterday morning (at the meeting at VivaCell-MTS, Armenia's leading telecom operator, General Partner of the GIT Award since its very establishment - author), and I've become even more surprised every hour I've spent here in Armenia... And I've seen every kind of really interesting things, not just about technology but about green, logistics, education and very warm people from the top of the government to non-executive persons..."

And what about impressions from the Armenian ICT specialists?

"I've seen wonderful things when I've looked to (Armenia's) education system, infrastructure, what has been already built, and you should continue progressing in that

sphere, just keep added and put the best tools in the best education places...”

Your author asked to summarize Fadell's stay in a more detailed way Ralph Yirikian, Hovik Musayelyan and Tony Moroyan

Mr. Yirikian said he hoped strongly that Tony Fadell, the 2017 Laureate of the RA President's Global Information Technology Award would be helpful for Armenia's development in foreseeable future.

Mr. Musayelyan said in particular: “Due to some reasons Fadell's visit to Armenia was unprecedented: first, it was very short—just for two days while we had the Award Laureates who stayed in our country (at their own, by the way) for a longer time, at least for three days, and even up to a week (Tsugio Makimoto - author), - in Fadell's case it seems quite explicable as he is extremely busy with his investments in over 200 companies in all around the world, second, his wife did

be successful as Armenia is a small country, said our leadership Tony Fadell.

Interestingly, at the meeting with the Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan (which was the first one in the history of the GIT Award) Tony Fadell said that when having his jogging in Yerevan in the morning, across the City's center; - from Marriott Armenia to Cascade with Tony Moroyan at very early morning, he noticed many machines for various payments just on streets, a thing that you could not see neither in Silicon Valley nor in Paris - when he has been residing with his

do for Armenia...And Tony Fadell, in fact, gave such a promise to Armenia's leadership by saying “I want to do something for Armenia”... Yes, Mario Mazzola donated 1mln USD to the American University of Armenia, Tsugio Makimoto, in turn, wrote a nice book about Armenia, and we indeed highly appreciate this, but in Fadell's case we have another story...Probably, crucial reason for that is the fact that he is active, full of energy, hardworking entrepreneur/investor.

And when, surprisingly, investor of such a caliber is making this kind of statements during the short stay in a country, the following question may arise: how serious is such a promise? “Fadell is interested to invest in a very large range of areas - agriculture, energy, garbage removal/management, others. And we should add here his very deep knowledge on numerous topics. For instance, with Armenia's Prime Minister they talked on rock music, and Mr. Karapetyan gifted Tony Fadell unique Led Zeppelin LPs...
...I am confident that



not accompany him, and the third, and the most important: it was for the first time when the Laureate was expressing his sincere admiration for what he saw immediately; while other Laureates were sending us letters of gratitude some time after leaving Armenia... Notably, both President of Armenia and Prime Minister were impressed by meetings with Fadell as the latter was giving the top authorities of our country very important advises, and, I have to point out, in a very delicate manner. You have very good chances to

family at present. (See the official info with meeting with Mayor Taron Margaryan - author). When such a competitive advantage is pointed out by a person of such a tremendous caliber; it is very important as it is inspiring heavily, and President Sargsyan being impressed by Mr. Fadell, saying it would be a great thing to bring to our country more leaders of such a caliber...I am convinced that it is not we who should ask such a people to do something in our country, but it is themselves who are to say us what they can

Mr. Fadell is a person who could be helpful for us in not only bringing new GIT Award Laureates to Armenia, but also serious investors. To note, talking to President Sargsyan, he said he was impressed by our new airport buildings...I could guess that he would have stayed in Armenia for a longer time if knew what technological/scientific potential as well as warm reception he could see here. And the reason for such my statement is his assurance of Armenia's leadership he will be back in Armenia with his family.



And I have no reason to doubt in Fadell's sincerity...Mayor of Yerevan invited him to attend next year's celebration of our Capital's 2800th anniversary, and President and Prime Minister also stressed they would be happy to see Mr. Fadell again in Armenia. You know, the matter is not his possible investments in our country's economy, but, first, his presence here itself will bring a number of benefits for Armenia..."

Could we say that Tony Fadell was satisfied and even more – happy for his visit to Armenia?

Dr. Musayelyan's answer was the following: "Absolutely. And he himself was not hiding such a feeling...In general, he proved to be an open and sincere man..."

...You know, such a meeting with leaders of Fadell's caliber are very important for our youngsters...

Before coming to Armenia, Tony Fadell was informed that Synopsys, a world leader in EDA (electronic design automation), has its largest after US site here, and undoubtedly it was for him an indication of the Armenian specialists' level...

Meeting with leading technical specialists in Synopsys Armenia, he was impressed from their knowledge and vision. And, indeed, he was quite excited in Armenia's Chess Academy when seeing such a big number of talented kids playing with each other...

If to summarize Fadell's visit to Armenia, everybody was satisfied: President, Prime Minister, we the Award Committee members and organizers, and Fadell himself was very satisfied and happy".

Tony Moroyan: "He is fully operating person...It was an important MISSION to me to bring Tony Fadell here...And, after seven years to accommodate that visit, he came to Armenia...We used a different format this year in several terms - there were more exposures and interactions with the people in Armenia. The "lectures" style format was replaced more interactive Questions and answers, these gave a great opportunity for students, teachers, IT industry professionals and managers and even parents to

interact with Tony Fadell. His easy and relaxed nature and friendly attitude encouraged people to get closer and ask questions. GIT Award media coverage has been great in the past, this includes international press. There were also TV coverages in the past as were this year. But we thought to make the event place to the people of Yerevan and even outside Yerevan thru billboards – billboards with Fadell's portrait were at many streets, several banners were set in Viasphere Technopark, Matenadaran, other places. And for the first time the Laureate met the Yerevan Mayor, Mr. Taron Margaryan; that was a very important meeting as Yerevan is to turn to a modern Smart City..."

Mr. Moroyan once again reminded the major goals of bringing a world ICT celebrity of Fadell's caliber to Armenia, so they were: first, to attract the international attention on Armenia – via foreign mass media. Second, though it is hard to find celebrities, they are to serve as great role models for younger generation. Third, to give the chance of these celebrities to immerse in the Armenian culture, history, achievements and sad agonies like the Genocide and indirectly make them EVANGELISTS for Armenia and Armenians.



Tony Moroyan reminded Fadell's words told students of the Polytechnic University: failures are extremely important as they make a person stronger and better. "Fadell has been a man of the great resilience, he never gave up", said Tony Moroyan.

Mr. Moroyan, Ralph Yirikian and Hovik Musayelyan confident that visit of Tony Fadell will give new impetus to developing Armenia to a modern country (that is a DREAM of every Armenian - author).

In conclusion, Tony Moroyan thanked his colleagues in the GIT Award team, - Ralph Yirikian, Hovik Musayelyan, and many and many for their efforts in MAKING OUR DREAM COME TRUE.



I Did Not Die in Order to Live

On September the eighth, I was rushed to the hospital in a small town, my town, Talin. The loud sirens woke up the night, as they echoed after the ambulance that was transporting me, and haunted the muted streets like a ghost. After analyzing my condition, the hospital's head doctor, Armen Khatchatryan gave the orders for me to be transported to Astghik Institute in Yerevan urgently, because given my bad state they were left as helpless as I was.

After some time, I found myself in Yerevan, waiting. Yes, the wait. The wait of two hours that felt like two years. The wait of two hours that passed so slowly. The wait that made me feel like the clock did not want to tick anymore. The wait. The wait. Finally, they called me in. After various tests, and an ultrasound exam that resulted in nothing, the doctors were in panic. Without wasting any time, they laid all the possible options in front of me. All the different types of surgeries they could perform, and their cost. The way the doctors spoke, made me feel like they were businesspersons whose black suits were replaced with white coats, and their white shirts were replaced with the pale blue uniforms. Their technical language echoed in my head, as the white walls of paradise started closing in on me. I felt like I was an object at a pawn shop, at the hands of these businessmen who now are in charge of my life. The pressure made me want to run away, made me want to crawl in a hole and hide. If I were to die, I thought, I'd better be where the walls have embodied the sweet scent of my cooking, where the bed is comfortable, where my memories lie. If I were to die, I'd better do so at home.



The chaos was unbearable. From Yerevan, they issued my medical papers to go back to Talin. From Talin, they sent me back to Yerevan. And I, I was crawling in pain. After a spending hundred kilometres on the roads going back and forth, they have finally decided to keep in at Yerevan's hospital, but in the gynaecological department. The day is Sunday. The day is decided for me. I have to go through a surgery. Every second was counted, and many doctors did not want to take the risk perform the needed operation. But I, a hard headed woman, remembered the doctor who performed a successful surgery on me nineteen years ago. He was young, back then. The more other medical professionals refused to risk my life, the more I asked for Dr. Ara Drampyan.

My good Sunday turned into a dark one when we found out that Dr. Drampyan was leaving to Italy. However, staying loyal to Hippocrates theories, the humble doctor did not turn me down or away, and he successfully performed his second surgery on me. I owe my life to Dr. Drampyan, as well Dr. Marina Khachatryan, Dr. Artur Angelov, Dr. Lusine Torosyan, and the staff of the hospitals. Gratitude is one of the highest values a human being can have, and in return for the gratitude I've received, I called one of my silver fir trees in the name of Dr. Ara Drampyan.

I did not die in order to live.



*Written by
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Translated by
Meghri Doumanian*

Emmanuel Macron hands Chirac Prize to Rakel Dink



Hrant Dink Foundation has been awarded the Chirac Prize for Conflict Prevention by the Chirac Foundation.

President of Hrant Dink Foundation, Rakel Dink, received the prize from the President of French Republic Emmanuel Macron.

On the ninth year of the prize, the awardees were announced following the meeting of the Chirac Foundation's Jury on September 27th. The Chirac Foundation also presented its Culture for Peace Prize to Zoukak Theater Company, which has been contributing, through theater, to the rehabilitation efforts of refugees living in Lebanon camps.

Chirac Foundation was established in 2008 by the former President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac, with the mission to 'support efforts for prevention of conflicts, dialogue between cultures and increasing quality of access to health services'.

The full text of Rakel Dink's award speech is as follows:

Your Excellency President Macron, Esteemed Chirac Family, Distinguished Guests,

When we decided to establish this Foundation with our friends after the tragedy that our family suffered in 2007, we had just one intention: to continue Hrant's efforts with this institution, and try to fill the huge emptiness created in our lives with his struggle for human rights. The racist mentality

that made him a target, an enemy and that killed him, is not only trying to get its share of power in Turkey today, but this mentality is rising in the world too, creating new "others" and enemies", putting up new walls.

This world has seen so much pain, isn't it enough now? So much blood and tears have been shed, isn't it enough? Instead of propagating pain and suffering, shouldn't we try to find ways to heal the existing pain? The goal of the states should not be to kill, but to keep alive! For God "has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and self-control" [Bible, 2. Timothy 1:7]

As an Armenian who knows what it means to be displaced, it gives me great pain to see millions of refugees being uprooted and dispersed in the world today. And watching the response of the states to this situation is particularly

striking... Unfortunately hate speech is rising all around the world and pushing people into further withdrawing into their own religious or ethnic communities.

But hate speech is not the only thing on the rise. The voices of human rights defenders are also rising. The goal of our Foundation is to fight against discrimination, starting from our own home Turkey, create a language of dialogue and peace, bring different identities closer, protect cultural heritage, improve Turkey-EU relations, open borders in an era when walls are being erected, contribute to the development of Turkey-Armenia relations and most important of all, to overcome the borders in people's minds.

To achieve all these, in Turkey we are working together as Armenians, Turks, Kurds, Muslims and Christians. It makes us proud to be part of the huge family striving for the same ideals and fighting for human rights in the world. Even though it sometimes feels as if we were struggling against huge waves, it gives us hope to know that we are not alone, either in Turkey or in the world.

Receiving this prize together with the inspiring Zoukak Theater Company and being with you today has made us stronger. On behalf of myself and our Foundation, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for this prize, which we hope will give further strength to everyone striving for democracy and going through challenging times in Turkey.



Bernard Kouchner joins Aurora Prize Selection Committee

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative has announced that Bernard Kouchner, the co-founder of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), is joining the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity Selection Committee. The committee, which selects the annual Aurora Prize finalists and laureate, is comprised of humanitarians, human right activists and former heads of state, and is chaired by Academy-award winning actor and philanthropist George Clooney.

Internationally renowned politician and physician Bernard Kouchner co-founded the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Médecins Sans Frontières in 1971 and co-founded Médecins du Monde in 1980. From 2007 to 2010, he served as France's minister of foreign and European affairs, and earlier, as minister of health. He has organized humanitarian operations around the world, including in Somalia, El Salvador, Lebanon, Syria, Vietnam, Cambodia, Chad, Libya, Nigeria, Thailand, Uruguay, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, and elsewhere. He oversaw Médecins Sans Frontières' medical relief response to the Spitak Earthquake in Armenia, which occurred 29 years ago.

"We are pleased to have Bernard Kouchner as part of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee. He has spent most of his life contributing his time and expertise to assist in emergency situations in the developing world," said Ruben Vardanyan, co-founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative. "Thanks to Mr. Kouchner and his organization, the population impacted by the 1988 earthquake in Armenia received immediate medical care. We are grateful for his invaluable efforts and pleased to tap into his expertise as we review the Aurora Prize nominations."

"I am deeply honored to join the Aurora Prize Selection Committee and become part of an initiative that has already made an incredible impact on thousands of lives in such a short period of time," said Bernard Kouchner. "Throughout my career, I've had the opportunity to come into contact with many heroes while in emergency zones, and I am thrilled with the opportunity to select such admirable individuals as future Aurora Prize laureates."

Bernard Kouchner joins current Aurora Prize Selection Committee member Nobel Laureates Oscar Arias, Shirin Ebadi and Leymah



Gbowee; former president of Ireland Mary Robinson; former president of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo; human rights activist Hina Jilani; Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London Lord Ara Darzi; President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group and former foreign minister of Australia Gareth Evans; President of Carnegie Corporation of New York Vartan Gregorian; and Academy Award-winning actor and humanitarian George Clooney.

Founded on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors, the Aurora Prize is in its third year. For the 2018 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, there were 750 submissions from 115 countries. The Selection Committee will gather in Berlin, Germany on December 4, 2017 to review the nominations. Also in Berlin, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative will host its first Aurora Dialogues outside of Armenia. Entitled "Millions on The Move: Need for Development and Integration," the Aurora Dialogues Berlin is a joint effort of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, Global Perspectives Initiative, Robert Bosch Stiftung and Stiftung Mercator, to be held on December 4-5, 2017. Speakers will address the state of the global migration crisis and look at the role of different actors in advancing positive change.

The 2018 Aurora Prize Finalists will be announced in Armenia on April 24, 2018, when the world commemorates the Genocide of Armenians in 1915. The third annual prize — \$100,000 to the laureate and \$1 million awarded to organizations of the laureate's choice, will be announced on June 10, 2018 at a ceremony in Armenia.

'Armenia-Russia: Friendship Forged over Centuries' exhibition opens in Yerevan

President Serzh Sargsyan attended the Armenia-Russia: Friendship Forged over Centuries exhibition at the National Gallery of Armenia, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation.

The exhibition was opened by RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Accompanied by the two countries' Foreign Ministers, other officials and guests, the President of Armenia viewed the archival documents and photos representing the Armenian-Russian cooperation in different spheres of activity.

Then, in the presence of President Sargsyan, a stamp canceling ceremony was held with two stamps released on the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation. The stamps were cancelled by the Armenian and Russian Foreign Ministers and the RA Minister of



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'Armenia-Russia: Friendship Forged over Centuries' exhibition opens in Yerevan

Transport, Communication and Information Technologies.

The Presidents of Armenia sent a greeting message on the opening of the exhibition:

"The title of the exhibition dedicated to the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation reflects the true nature of our strategic partnership. For the past quarter of a century, Armenian-Russian relations have been brought to the highest level, covering all spheres of interstate cooperation.

A comprehensive legal framework has been set up, based on the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation, the 20th anniversary of which was marked in August, as well as on the Allied Partnership Declaration aiming the 21st Century.

The Armenian-Russian strategic interaction is marked with high



mutual trust-fostered political dialogue. We are keen to develop foreign policy coordination in the international arena within multilateral frameworks. We are making joint efforts to build up partnerships in defense and military-technical fields, develop effective cooperation in trade-economic, energy and transport sectors. Interregional ties are being strengthened and deepened; cooperation is being expanded in the fields of culture, science and education.

It is crucial that the Armenian-Russian exchanges involve millions of people, the business and scientific communities, youth and public structures. The ongoing interaction opens up new opportunities and prospects, which imply consistent work on the strengthening of allied partnership for the benefit of our two peoples, in the best interest of security and stability in the South Caucasus.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this all-comprehensive and interesting exhibition."



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