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HIGHLIGHT

New resolution calling on U. S. Congress to recognize Armenian Genocide

Legislative power of California will discuss the second joint resolution on the Armenian Genocide. Thus the representatives of the legislative branch of power claim on the parliament to pin down the Genocide as a crime against humanity without judicial investigation or procedures.

As reports local media of Santa Barbara, the aforesaid resolution has been introduced by KachoAchajian. The term "Genocide" is used in the resolution to describe all those crimes and mass massacres initiated by the Ottoman Empire during the World War I. Among other things the authors called on the Government of the United States of America and the Congress to adopt the same attitude.

The Turkish lobby is doing its best to impede the ratification of the abovementioned resolution.

ArmTech Congress'12: Armenia Has a Chance to Turn into a "Silicon Valley of Caucasus"



On 10 December Armenia's IT and High-Tech Representative Office was officially inaugurated in the Silicon Valley Plug and Play Tech Center attended by the RA PM. See p.p. 9-10

Some political results of this year

by David Petrosian

In the foreign policy aspect, throughout the year Yerevan's further drift from the complementary policy, which was conducted by both predecessors of the incumbent President Serzh Sargsyan, has been observed. A notable imbalance in favor of the Western direction has taken shape, although Armenia continues to be the only military-political ally of Russia in the South Caucasus. Besides, it should be noted that after quite a long interval the exercises of the collective rapid response forces (CRRF) of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) were held in Armenia.

The foreign policy course of the Serzh Sargsyan administration receives complete support of Washington and Brussels. The support is unstinting to such an extent that Western partners confine themselves only to limited criticism of the Sargsyan administration when the matter concerns the problems with democracy, civil liberties, elections,

corruption, etc.

As regards the two main foreign-policy problems of Armenia, i.e. the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement and the Armenian-Turkish relations, this year can be described a complete stagnation. There has not been a hint of progress in these two issues, although it is worth noting that throughout the year the Armenian leadership at the highest level has repeatedly stated that:

- it considers its policy regarding Turkey as a correct one and for that reason does not withdraw its signature from the 2009 Armenian-Turkish protocols;

- it accepts the Madrid Principles on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement, proposed by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

The most significant internal political event of the year was the withdrawal of Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) led by Gagik Tsarukian from the ruling coalition, rather than the parliamentary elections. BHK

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Armenia Seeks Renewed Extra Aid From U.S.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan discussed his reform agenda with Vice President Joe Biden and sought greater U.S. economic assistance to Armenia as he ended a working visit to the United States late on Thursday.

Meanwhile, a senior U.S. State Department official dealing with human rights issues held talks with Armenian government officials, lawmakers and civic activists in Yerevan on December 14.

An Armenian government statement said Sargsyan and Biden met in the White House to discuss "prospects for the development of Armenian-American bilateral relations." It said they also spoke about "the course of the plan of reforms implemented by the Armenian government."

The statement gave no further details. The White House issued no statements on the meeting.

Sargsyan also met in Washington with Daniel Yohannes, the chief executive of a U.S. government corporation man-



aging the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) program. The MCA is designed to reward countries implementing political and economic reforms with targeted economic assistance.

"The two sides discussed possibilities of Armenia's participation in the program in the near future," the government statement said without elaborating.

Armenia already received in 2006 \$177 million in MCA fund-

ing for the rehabilitation of its rural irrigation networks that was completed in September last year.

The U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) managed by Yohannes also planned to allocate another \$60 million for the reconstruction of the country's battered rural roads. The MSS scrapped that allocation shortly after a disputed presidential election held in February 2008

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## President receives delegation headed by Thomas Melia



On December 15, President Serzh Sargsyan received delegation headed by the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Melia.

The President of Armenia welcomed the guest and stressed the importance of such meetings, which, according to the President of Armenia, allow to discuss in the framework of the multifaceted Armenian-American relations issues of mutual interest.

Serzh Sargsyan noted with satisfaction that relations between Armenia and the United States, which are based on mutual trust and respect, are on the high level and have positive dynamics.

The President thanked the US for the active involvement in the NK peace process in the framework of the

Minsk Group and for contributing greatly through that involvement to the peace and stability in the region.

The US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State hailed input made by Armenia to the peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

At the meeting, the parties spoke also about the upcoming presidential elections in Armenia and stressed the importance of conducting them according to international standards.

The President of Armenia and Thomas Melia highlighted also the importance of democratic reforms going on in our country and efforts aimed at the enforcement of the rule of law and underscored that Armenia's advancement is impossible without fundamental changes in that area.

## Armenia Seeks Renewed Extra Aid From U.S.

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and the ensuing government crackdown on the Armenian opposition.

Visiting Yerevan last year, Yohannes said Armenia no longer

even better."

As Sargsyan wrapped up his trip to Washington, Thomas Melia, a U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights



qualifies for MCA aid because it does not meet Washington's minimum requirements on democracy and good governance. "I think they [Armenian leaders] all understand areas that they need to work," he said.

Other U.S. officials indicated that the next parliamentary and presidential elections will be an opportunity to make Armenia again eligible for MCA assistance. The legislative polls held in May 2012 were praised by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Visiting Yerevan in June, Clinton urged the Armenian authorities to "ensure that the next election is

and labor, began a three-day visit to Armenia which the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan said will focus on "human rights issues and democratization." Melia met with Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, pro-government and opposition politicians as well as civil society representatives on Friday.

"We had some very good discussions not only with government officials but also civil society, members of parliament from the government and opposition sides," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service after the meeting with Nalbandian. "We'll continue to work with our Armenian friends to strengthen democracy and human rights here."

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, Nalbandian praised "U.S. support for democratic reforms in Armenia."



## Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan On Working Visit To United States

On December 8, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan's working visit to the United States kicked off.

On the first day of the working

physics, mathematics, general pedagogy.

Thanking the participants, Tigran Sargsyan urged them to strengthen ties



visit, the Prime Minister went to the California Institute of Technology, where he met with University President Jean-Lou Chameau.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister introduced the ongoing educational reform in Armenia aimed at improving the quality of education and promoting Armenian universities' international accreditation. As they discussed the prospects of bilateral cooperation, the parties touched upon the IT developments in Armenia and the existing growth potential.

In attendance of the meeting, Congressman Adam Schiff said Armenia has the potential to become a Silicon Valley in the Caucasus. Tigran Sargsyan next met with alumni and students of the Technological University of California and U.S.-based Armenians scientists.

Answering numerous questions asked by the audience, the head of government referred to the current status and the prospects of development in the sphere of humanities and natural sciences. Discussed were issues related to Armenian studies, astronomy,

with the Homeland and promote development of science in Armenia.



On the same day, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan met with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Welcoming the Armenian Prime Minister, the Mayor of Los Angeles highlighted the role of the Armenian community of Los Angeles in the city's public life. Discussing bilateral cooperation, the parties arranged to set up a working group to develop cooperation programs.

The official interview was followed by a Mayor of Los Angeles-hosted reception in honor of the Prime Minister of Armenia. The event was attended by numerous representatives from the Armenian community of Los



Angeles, clergy, U.S. Ambassador John Heffern, Prime Minister-led delegation members. On the same day, Tigran Sargsyan met with ARF and sister organization representatives.

Welcoming those in attendance, the Prime Minister stated in part, "It is a great honor for me to meet you and explain what we think of our future. We have dozens of outstanding issues that seem to be easy from the outside, but it does not mean that they are not so important. On the other hand, people are very knowledgeable in the Diaspora and are calling for immediate solutions. While the government may face overwhelming pressure due to criticism, I feel happy since dissatisfaction and criticism means that we have a very great potential and can succeed along the path of reform."

The Premier dwelt on his government's activities, vision and scheduled actions.



In conclusion, Tigran Sargsyan answered the questions of interest to the audience, which bore on healthcare, welfare, corruption, Artsakh talks, Syrian Armenians and other topical issues.

## Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan lectured at Harvard University

In the frame of working visit to the United States Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan visited Harvard University city. As Information and Public Relations department of the Government informs Tigran Sargsyan had a lecture in one of the world's leading Universities, Harvard University and Kennedy School of Government.

Armenian PM put down a note in a record book stipulated for high

ranking officials, after had a meeting in Belfer center with Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Tufts University teaching staff and students. US former diplomats, public servants engaged in scientific work and students studying by the help of "Luys" foundation scholarship in US Massachusetts state leading Universities. The head of Armenian Executive Body dwelled on issues refer to Armenian domestic and for-

eign policy and economic challenges.

By the request of the present people Tigran Sargsyan presented details over the fight against corruption, economic development prospects and the main directions of Armenian foreign policy. The Prime Minister thanked the audience for participation. Armenian top diplomat hailed the importance of human relations and thanked the organizers for an interesting meeting.

## Tigran Sargsyan handed over Mkhitar Gosh Medal to Governor of Massachusetts

Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Tigran Sargsyan had a meeting with Governor of Massachusetts Patrick Deval on December 12. The Head of Government handed over Mkhitar Gosh Medal to Governor of Massachusetts Patrick Deval in the name of the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.

The Prime Minister expressed

his gratitude to the Governor of Massachusetts for his assistance in erecting a memorial monument in honor of innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide.

In turn Governor of Massachusetts Patrick Deval asked to convey his gratitude to the President of the Republic of Armenia for the medal. At the course of the meeting the sides discussed the prospects of the future

cooperation.

Among other things Governor of Massachusetts Patrick Deval stated that he highly appreciates the role and involvement of the Armenian community in the life of the state. After the meeting Tigran Sargsyan visited the Park of Armenian Heritage in the city of Boston and placed flowers at the monument put up in the memory of the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide.

## Sargsyan Denies Election Pressure On Tsarukian

President Serzh Sargsyan did not force Gagik Tsarukyan, his most popular potential rival, to avoid challenging him in the upcoming presidential election, his ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) insisted on December 13.

"I am sure that President Sargsyan never resorted to pressure," HHK spokesman Eduard Sharmazanov, told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

"SerzhSargsyan is a prudent and broad-minded politician espousing democratic values. Serzh Sargsyan has never issued ultimatums," Sharmazanov said. Besides, he added, the president and Tsarukyan operate in "different weight classes."

Tsarukyan, whose Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) is the second largest in parliament, was widely expected to run for president until his weekend confidential meeting with Sargsyan. The BHK announced on December 12 that it will not field or support any presidential candidates. It gave no clear explanation for the move.

The announcement followed media reports that the BHK leader, who is one of the country's richest men, came under strong pressure to pull out of the race. Media commentators have speculated that Tsarukyan was warned that he could lose his business assets and face other forms of government retribution if he nominates his presidential candidacy.

Sharmazanov dismissed those claims as "empty talk and gossips."

"We are a democratic political force, and I think that this decision was entirely the BHK leader's and the BHK Political Council's," he said.

Senior HHK figures insisted earlier this month that Tsarukyan will not pose a serious threat to the incumbent president's reelection plans should he decide to enter the fray. Many Armenian analysts thought otherwise, however, pointing to government pressure reportedly exerted on the BHK and its leader in the past year.

The BHK finished second in last May's parliamentary elections after campaigning on an essentially opposition platform that predetermined its post-election exit from Armenia's governing coalition. Its decision not to contest the upcoming presidential election means that hundreds of thousands of votes will be up for grabs for both Sargsyan and his opposition challengers.

Sharmazanov and another senior HHK figure, Education Minister

Armen Ashotyan, expressed confidence that many BHK members and supporters will vote for Sargsyan.

The ruling HHK will formally nominate Sargsyan for a second term at a congress scheduled for Saturday. The Armenian president is expected to unveil the key points of his campaign manifesto in a speech.

It emerged on Thursday that unlike top representatives of two other political parties, OrinatsYerkir and Dashnaksutyun, Tsarukyan has not been invited to the HHK congress yet. BHK spokesman Tigran Urikhanyan downplayed this fact.

"Who says that the BHK is desperate to send a representative to one or another party congress?" Urikhanyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service. Prosperous Armenia has much more serious things to think about."

Urikhanyan was vague about his party's further steps. He said only that it will keep striving for "tangible changes for people."



## Statement of Participants of the Rights March Organized by ANC

We have been organizing the Rights march on the international day of the protection of human rights every year since 10 December, 2008. These marches have become an opportunity to take stock of what the Popular Movement has accomplished in its struggle for freedom and the restoration of constitutional rights, as well as an expression of our determination to continue the fight.

On this day we report on the state of human rights and democratic freedoms to our people and to the international community, as well as map out our future tasks in these areas. Here are then the most pressing areas of concern:

1. For more than a year and four months, the ruling regime of Armenia is keeping Tigran Arakelyan, who is an Armenian National Congress activist, in prison. The authorities released all the political prisoners in 2011 under pressure from the public and entered negotiations with the Armenian National Congress on the issue of forming a legitimate government through fair and free elections. In order to torpedo these negotiations, the authorities, with help from the police, organized a provocation against the group of young activists from the Armenian National

Congress on 9 August, 2011.

As a result, Tigran Arakelyan has been sentenced to 6 years in prison, and if Serge Sargsyan orders the obedient Appeals Court to confirm the sentences of First Instance and Appellate Courts, three other activists - ArtakKarapetyan, Sargis Gevorgyan, and Davit Kiramijyan - will also be imprisoned for 3, 2, and 2 years respectively. On behalf of today's march we demand freedom for the youngsters, who are fighting for the Armenia of their dreams.

2. Having created a machine for vote bribing, voter intimidation, and multiple voting, the Armenian authorities continue to deny the Armenian people's right to form a government through elections. The National Assembly, which was formed after the 6 May elections, does not reflect the true will of the Armenian people as a result. In the mean time, the authorities are gearing up for massive vote fraud in the upcoming presidential elections.

3. Television remains under the control of Serge Sargsyan's regime, which tramples on the basic right of the Armenian people to free speech and free access to information.

4. On 1 March, 2008, the authorities drowned the people's anger at election falsification in blood, violating the most basic of human rights

- the right to life -then failed to uncover that unprecedented crime and to punish anybody for organizing and carrying out the killings. The Armenian National Congress is calling on the people to continue its unbending struggle for its basic rights. Emigration is not the right answer to oppression and lawlessness. Citizens must take ownership of their destinies and rid the country of its dictatorial rulers.

We call on all the political forces that are not controlled by the authorities to join forces during the upcoming presidential elections for the sake of our people's freedom and prosperity.

Finally, we call on the international community, particularly the Council of Europe, its Parliamentary Assembly and the Council's Human Rights Commissioner not to turn a blind eye on the blatant violations of human rights and democratic freedoms by the Armenian authorities, to demonstrate solidarity with the people of Armenia in its struggle for those rights, as well as to take the necessary measures to make sure that the Armenian authorities are fulfilling their obligations and commitments in the area of human rights.

**Participants of the Rights March**

## Prosperous Armenia leader not to run for president



Two decisions have been made during the session of the "Prosperous Armenia Party" both regarding to the upcoming presidential elections in Armenia. Firstly it was announced that "Prosperous Armenia Party" will not have its candidate for the presidential elections. Secondly it was declared that the party will not support any of the candidates, who will run for president.

In the statement of "Prosperous Armenia Party" it is said: "Today on December 12, the joint session of "Prosperous

Armenia Party" has been held. In frames of the agenda of the session there was only one question regarding the format of the involvement of "Prosperous Armenia Party" in the upcoming presidential elections.

The Chairman of "Prosperous Armenia Party" Gagik Tsarukyan made opening remarks and declared that he will not run for president. Among other things Gagik Tsarukyan expressed his gratitude to his colleagues for unconditional trust and support."

## Armenia is determined to continue large-scale reforms, Edward Nalbandian says

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said that Armenia is determined to continue implementing large-scale reforms meeting European standards.

Nalbandian said this during his meeting with the Foreign Ministers of Poland, Sweden and Bulgaria RadoslawSikorski, Carl Bildt and Nikolai Mladenov, as the press service of the Armenian Foreign Ministry informs.

The Minister attached importance to the cooperation within the Eastern Partnership initiative.

It was registered during the meeting that there is rather good progress in a number of areas of Armenia-EU cooperation and the intention to deepen and develop the cooperation within the Eastern

Partnership was reiterated.

The sides pointed out the importance of making joint efforts to complete the negotiations on Armenia-EU Association Agreement including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement till the Eastern Partnership Summit due to be held in Vilnius in November 2013.

"We completed the negotiations on visa regime facilitation and we'll sign the relevant agreement in a few days. It'll give Armenian youth, students, artists, businessmen, sportsmen and representatives of other spheres a good opportunity to enter European Union countries more easily", noted the Armenian Foreign Minister.



## The Vice-President of the European Parliament does not wish to interfere in internal Armenian electoral processes

The Vice-President of the European Parliament Alejo Vidal-Quadras does not wish to interfere in internal Armenian electoral processes. This was the response of the EP Vice-Presidents office to the request of Armenpress to comment on his meeting with the representatives of Prosperous Armenia party.

"Mr. Vidal-Quadras met with some members of the Prosperous Armenia party last week in Brussels in order to gain an introduction to the party's aims and to enhance his understanding of the political situation in Armenia.

In the course of friendly conversation, he remarked upon MrTsarukyan's energy and optimism. These were personal posi-



tive impressions of MrTsarukyan's character and personality," the office of EP Vice-President noted.

On December 5 during a visit to Brussels the delegation of the Prosperous Armenia party headed by the party leader GagikTsarukyan had a meeting with the Vice-President of the European Parliament Alejo Vidal-Quadras.

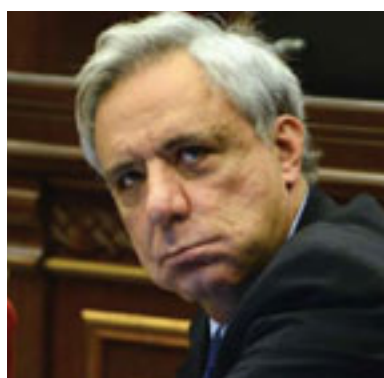
## Oskanian Disagrees With Party's Election Stance

Writing on his Facebook page late on Thursday, Oskanian said the BHK's decision announced on Wednesday "was not made easily" as there were "different opinions" within the leadership of Armenia's second largest parliamentary party. He said the BHK took into account the existing political situation in the country and its leader GagikTsarukyan's refusal to run for president.

"Although I imagined our further steps and struggle in a different way, I respect the adopted decision," added Oskanian.

Ever since joining Tsarukyan's party in February, Oskanian has been one of the most outspoken BHK critics of the Armenian government. He strongly supported the party's withdrawal from the governing coalition in June and has since advocated its participation in the February 2013 presidential election.

In October, Oskanian was charged with financial impropriety



after the pro-government majority in Armenia's parliament lifted his immunity from prosecution. The former minister denies the charges as politically motivated, having accused the authorities of harassing him and the BHK ahead of the presidential election. The BHK leadership has likewise alleged "political persecution" by the authorities.

Oskanian expressed readiness to run for president on the BHK ticket immediately after being formally charged by the National Security Service.

## RPA officially nominates Serzh Sargsyan as presidential candidate

As a result of voting at Saturday's 14th special congress of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), the party delegates unanimously nominated RPA Chairman and serving President Serzh Sargsyan as the RPA candidate for the presidential elections that will be held in the country on February 18, 2013.

"Dear Republicans, I thank you once again for nominating [me] and defending my candidacy with such enthusiasm. I am confident that we will jointly be able to win the trust of our people, and we will continue to bear responsibility for

Armenia's development for the next five years.

Once again, I assure [you] that during that time I will not permit any action which you could become ashamed of. I thank you," President Serzh Sargsyan noted, in his turn, addressing the delegates.

In accordance with the current information incumbent President Serzh Sargsyan, leader of "Heritage" party Raffi Hovhannisyan, former member of ARF Hovik Aghazaryan, NSU leader Paruyr Hayrikyan and Vardan Sedrakyan are running the running mates at the moment.

## Jerusalem Armenian Cemetery Vandalized

Vandals sprayed anti-Christian graffiti on Jerusalem's Monastery of the Cross and at an Armenian cemetery overnight, Agence France Presse reported.

Father Claudius, the monastery's abbot, said he had noticed the graffiti at 4:30 am local time when he got up to pray.

Vandals spray-painted "Death to Christianity" and "Jesus, son of a whore" on the Greek Orthodox monastery in Jerusalem.

The attacks drew a strong condemnation from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who expressed "disgust" over the incidents, his office said.

Outside the Monastery of the



Cross near the Israeli parliament, vandals also slashed the tires of

three cars belonging to staff, and wrote "price tag" and "Happy Hanukkah" the Jewish holiday now being observed.

"This is the seventh time this has happened," he told reporters at the scene, saying that if the vandals had simply knocked on the door he would have invited them in for tea to talk to them about his faith.

"The Jewish values by which we were raised, and by which we raise our children, firmly reject such actions," Netanyahu said in the statement. "Freedom of worship for all religions in Israel will be preserved and we will take legal action against the immoral people who committed these crimes."

## Some political results of this year

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refused to adhere to the memorandum signed in February 2011, under which the parties of the ruling coalition (along with BHK, the Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) and Orinats Yerkir (Country of Law) Party made up the ruling coalition) were to run in the 2012 parliamentary elections by a single proportional list and to endorse a joint presidential candidate (that is, President Serzh Sargsyan) in the 2013 presidential election.

Yet BHK ran in the elections as a separate political force, gained more than 450,000 votes, and did not enter into the ruling coalition. Later BHK recalled its representatives from the bodies of executive power, declaring that BHK is an alternative to the new two-party ruling coalition composed of HHK and Orinats Yerkir Party. It should also be mentioned that BHK members of the parliament did not vote for Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan's program and the 2013 draft state budget of Armenia. Thus, this year BHK has transformed from a ruling coalition party to an opposition one. This transformation is quite interesting in the sense that BHK was originally founded as part of the "party in power". BHK's withdrawal from the ruling coalition has weakened the monolith of the "party in power".

The parliamentary elections were held "as usual", with flagrant violations, the main of which was the constantly growing number of the voters participating in the election amid a high level of migration of citizens from the country.

The government policy, especially its socioeconomic and financial part, has been persistently criticized not only by the opposition and the press, but also by the expert community and NGOs. What is the uniqueness of the government of Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan?

It is possibly the Third Republic's only government, which has not implemented any noteworthy reform in any sphere. This is a unique phenomenon in the history of independent Armenia! Of course, it does not mean that all the reforms of the previous governments were successful, but there were rather successful projects among them. The main thing here is that the government led by Tigran

Sargsyan openly declares that it welcomes migration of the population from the country, as well as it states on behalf of the Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotian that the migration from the country, first of all of its intellectual potential, is hailed.

Naturally, the Tigran Sargsyan government is not only the most unpopular and corrupt in the history of the Third republic, but is probably also the one that is most frequently cursed by its citizens.

We should also point out the circumstance that the two-party government has not elaborated any reasonable program to help the country out of the economic crisis, create a sufficient number of well-paid jobs, and develop technologies and education. Tigran Sargsyan is implementing a program to transform Armenia into a country with two functions: tourist and banking-financial. The actions of the Serzh Sargsyan administration and the government which represent the interests of the comprador bourgeoisie, importers, and clannish-oligarchic capital can hardly be described as actions aimed at maintaining and promoting the high-tech branches and staking at an export-oriented economy, rather than import-oriented one.

The dramatically increased role of the president's son-in-law Mikael Minasian in the "party of power" should be regarded as one of the political results of the year, even though he does not hold any position in executive and legislative power and in general, he is not a public figure. At the same time M. Minasian exerts quite significant influence on the authorities' decision making virtually in all the spheres and moulds/tries to mould public opinion in the country through the mass media outlets, which are directly/indirectly under his control. The degree of his control over the information field is so high that it can only be compared with the control exerted in the last years of communist rule. By a strange confluence of circumstances, the numerous NGOs that work in the press and are funded by various Western grants "fail to notice" this super monopoly.

This year the share of the Armenian National Congress (HAK) on the domestic political scene of

Armenia has declined. In 2008-2011 this bloc formed the political agenda of the opposition and kept the Serzh Sargsyan administration in suspense.

After the parliamentary elections a number of notable persons (former Prime Minister Aram Z. Sargsyan, former Head of Armenia's special service David Shahnazarian and others) and parties (including Republic Party, one of the system-making parties) left HAK. All of them were opposed to the cooperation between HAK and BHK and believed that HAK takes a "pro-Russian position" on several issues of importance to Armenia.

In return for the loss of part of its positions "in the street", HAK has received a small faction in the parliament and an opportunity to launch interesting political initiatives, to which BHK and ARF-Dashnaksutyun factions as well as occasionally Heritage faction have joined, which has served as a good basis for parliamentary cooperation of the parties not making part of the ruling coalition. Of these initiatives, we should point out: the proposals for reforms of the electoral legislation, the proposals to set up a new commission on the 1 March 2008 events, the inquiry about monopolies to the Armenian government, etc. It should also be mentioned that it was the first time since 1998 that the parliamentary minority - on the initiative of HAK - has succeeded in collecting the necessary number of deputy signatures to call a special session of the parliament and appeal to the Constitutional Court of Armenia.

The abovementioned cooperation could have become a basis for the establishment of a political alliance of two and three sides (BHK-HAK or BHK-HAK-ARFD), which could have fielded and supported a single candidate in the upcoming presidential election). However, it did not happen. In particular, the strongest potential candidate of the extra-coalitional forces - the leader of BHK Gagik Tsarukyan has made a decision not to run in the upcoming election. Besides, the BHK leadership took a decision not to endorse the other candidates for President, including the incumbent head of the state Serzh Sargsyan. We will discuss the motives behind this decision in the next article.



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- ♦ **684. Mashtoc avenue**, 5/4, 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- ♦ **69. Khajaznuni street**. 9/2, habituated. 50.6 sq.m, 1 room, capially repaired, euro windows, Ariston, permanent hot and cold water, no balcony. Price: 52.000 USD
- ♦ **645. Baghramyan Street**, 5/1, 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 72.000USD

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- ♦ **1445. Sayat-Nova street**. 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capially repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ♦ **1467. Mashtoc av**. 8/5 81sq.m.2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
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- ♦ **1459. Baghramyan Avenue**. 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capially repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ♦ **1458. Bryusov street**. 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ **1469 Tumanyan st.** 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

### 3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2682** Aram Str. 13/6 187sq.m, newly built,4 rooms, 3 bedrooms, drywall, buckle,2 open balconies, beautiful view. 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 1sq.m 574 000 AMD
- ♦ **2676** Amiryan Str. 16/12 259 sq.m, 4 rooms, 3 bedrooms,N-3 meters, capially euro repaired,view to yard, concrete floor, heating system, water, gas, AC, underground parking, separate furnished kitchen Price: 550.000 AMD % included
- ♦ **2674** Qeru Str, 17/3 103 sq.m, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms,N-3U meters, elite building, 2 bathrooms, swimming-pool, tennis court,parking(not included in the price) heating, gas, water, AC, sold with and without furniture Price: without furniture 160000 USD with furniture 175000 USD
- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capially repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2348. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, conreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

## PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD

- ♦ **1727. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capially repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyan str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capially repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, cap- itally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street**. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foyer, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbandian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cols water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 , trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

## LANDS

- ♦ **1756 H. Qochar str**. 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Cascade**. 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1939. Kotayk region**, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2011. Proshyan street**. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ♦ **2013. Cascade**. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ **2028. District of Erebuni**, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ♦ **1402. Hr. Kochar St**, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1351. Monument**, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **3348. Blur, Barbyusi**. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ♦ **3059. Vahagan community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bed-rooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490.000\$.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestan community**. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3292. Arabkir**, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fire-place, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦ **3313 Blur, H. Emin**, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

## NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity,

water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m.



- 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str**. half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term
- ♦ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cottege 4 flats, totall-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

## FOR RENT

### 1 ROOMS

- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **853. Amiryan street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

### 2 ROOMS

- ♦ **2037. Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2189 Vardanants str**, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ **1961. Tumanian street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ **2186 Buzand str**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

### 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **2021** Teryan Str, building 8, 9/8,9 4 bedrooms, newly built, 245 sq.m, capially repaired, euro doors and windows, not inhabited,3 bathrooms, 2 halls, heating system. Preliminary price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **2043** Saryan Str., 24 appt 8/2 3 bedrooms,147 sq.m, 2 bathrooms, tiled floors, AC, heating system. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **2005. Northern Ave.**, 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ♦ **1998 Buzand Str.**, 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str.**, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capially repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str**. 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capially repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave**. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD

- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str**. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969.** Amiryan str, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capially repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capially repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built



- Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. Amiryan Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capially repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land** -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors' 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy black**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor- garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capially repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **1152. Baghramyan**, 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, each floor - 200 sq.m, 10 rooms, 7 bathrooms, newly capially repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 TV, heating system, garage. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **1197. Blur str**, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2ond floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ **211. Ajgedzor**. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capially repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD

- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD
- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capially repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1142. Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str**. 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capially repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capially repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capially repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1085. Aygestan district**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms, 7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1014. Norq Marash district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capially repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

## PREMISES

- ♦ **1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str**, newly built, vitrines, front 20 m, 196 sq m, Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1693. Malatia-Sebastia**, 4rh floor., repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, climate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1525. Hanrapetutyan street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1526. Byuzand street**, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1528. North Avenue**, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ **1482. North Avenue**, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1408. Zarobyany street**, parallel to Baghramyan, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmet-ic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

## Reflections of a Righteous Turk: Can Germany be a Model for Turkey?



By Harut Sassounian  
Publisher, The California  
Courier

If it were possible to clone prominent Turkish commentator Orhan Kemal Cengiz and make multiple copies of his kind heart and righteous conscience, the Turkish government would then be able to come to grips with Armenian demands from Turkey in a humane and just manner.

Cengiz visited Germany recently with a group of Turkish journalists and human rights activists at the invitation of the European Academy of Berlin with the financial support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Turkish visitors participated in a conference titled, "Difficult Heritage of the Past," on how today's Germans face crimes committed by Nazis.

After returning to Turkey, Cengiz wrote two poignant articles published in Today's Zaman: "Can Germany be a model for Turkey in confrontation with past

atrocities?" and "Turkey and Germany's past atrocities."

Cengiz confesses that before his visit, he thought that "Germans were forced to look at their troubled past by external powers who had them on their knees after World War II." He wonders whether Germany could serve as a model for other countries in facing their past voluntarily. To his surprise, the Turkish columnist discovered that even though Germans had begun confronting their past after a devastating defeat, they were determined to create a new country "based on an endless process of remembering, commemorating and confronting the past."

The righteous Turkish writer was "extremely impressed and touched" seeing a brick wall in a Berlin kindergarten. Every year teachers would ask students to identify themselves with Jews who once lived in the neighborhood before being killed by the Nazis. The students would then write the Jewish names on bricks and put them on top of each other forming a wall. It became clear to him that "remembering has become a part of daily life in Germany."

Cengiz hopes that someday Turkish "children would do a similar thing. I imagined children in Istanbul building a wall by writing on bricks the names of Armenian intellectuals who were taken from their homes on April 24, 1915 and never came back again." He is

convinced that "confronting the past is a clear state policy here in Germany. Museums, exhibitions and the school curriculum all show how the state apparatus invested in this endeavor. So little by little I started to realize that Turkey can significantly benefit from the German experience on this difficult terrain of confrontation with the past."

In his second article, Cengiz boldly describes the 19th and 20th centuries as "centuries of genocide," which included the Armenian Genocide. He explains that contrary to the mass crimes committed by other nations, the ones perpetrated by Germans and Turks were against "neighbors with whom they had lived side-by-side for centuries. I think this alone is the most distinctive element of the German and Turkish example. ... When you kill your neighbors, it creates a black hole, a gap in your national identity."

In seeking to emulate the German experience, Cengiz hopes that he would see memorials erected in Turkey about "Armenian massacres, pogroms targeting Jews and Greeks, massacres targeting Alevis and others. When Turkey starts to remember and commemorate past atrocities, the Topography of Terror Museum, which is built on a former Nazi headquarters, the Jewish Museum of Berlin and others might be good examples to follow.... Turkey has a lot to learn from Germany in coming to terms with past atrocities."



ties."

While Turkey's acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide is long overdue, the actual process of reconciliation could begin by removing the names of the Turkish masterminds of the Armenian Genocide from schools, streets and public squares throughout Turkey. The Turkish government should also dismantle the shameful mausoleum of Talaat in Istanbul and replace it with a monument dedicated to the Armenian Genocide. It should also pay billions of dollars in compensation to descendants of Armenian victims, similar to German payments to Jews. Most importantly, Turkey should return to Armenians the

occupied territories of Western Armenia!

Germany too, as Turkey's close ally in World War I, has an obligation to Armenians -- the acknowledgement of its role in the Armenian Genocide. It should apologize and make amends to the Armenian people. Only then would Germans fully deserve the praise heaped upon them by Orhan Cengiz for honestly facing their past.

While Turkey's genocidal precedent served as model for Nazi Germany in committing the Holocaust, it is now Germany's turn to become a role model to Turkey for reconciling with its genocidal past.



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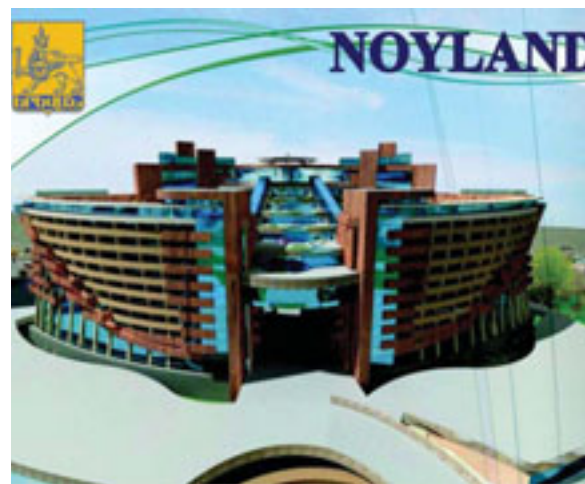
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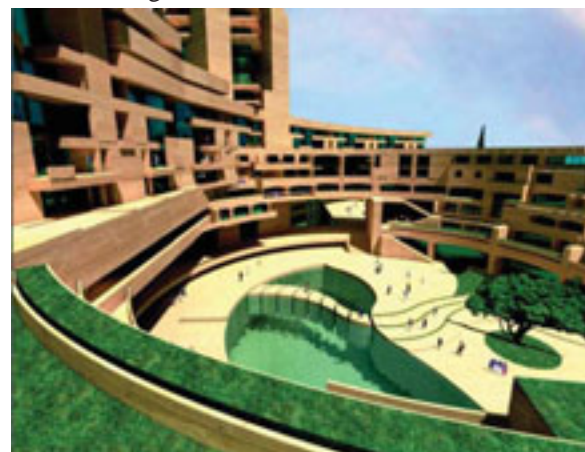
*There are so many places in the world where you  
can spend your money ...  
Give us a chance to spend it on you  
unforgettable trip!*

## Mosque, synagogue and Buddhist temple to be built in Yerevan



A historical-archeological and tourist center "Noyland" will be built in the territory close to Dalma gardens in Yerevan. The description of the investing proposal is on the Yerevan municipality's web site.

A thematic garden where the Noah's Arch plot will be presented is planned. Buildings symbolizing the four religions will be erected: Christian church,



Muslim mosque, Buddhist temple and Jewish synagogue.

As the Yerevan municipality official web site states the construction will start on 2013 and last for 3 years.

As for our sources, not a single investor expressed his readiness to participate in the given project.



## ABOUT THE "SPIDER"-WOVEN VISION (CONTINUED)

By Samvel Smbatyan, Yerevan,  
09-12.12.12

*"Life is doomed without the collision of tradition and innovation."-Herbert Read*

Continuing this piece from last week and underscoring the organic connection between the two parts by repeating Silva Kaputikyan's words here, as an opening, I hope that the readers will absorb the lessons from the classic in relation to the necessity for "the collision of tradition and innovation," as cited in the epigraph by Herbert Read. Here is the brilliant classicist Kaputikyan's assessment of the equally brilliant and innovative poet, prominent representative of vers libre, Sona Van, pronounced in 2003:

*Our poetic handwriting, our poetics, the approaches to art and literature are different, but that doesn't deter me from appreciating your poetry, the freshness of your style, uniqueness, your distinctive perceptions of the divine. Your "God / is my upstairs / neighbor / I / often knock on His door / and ask . . . for an onion / sometimes He helps me / sometimes He doesn't." † Your charming feminine "audacity" helps me to deeply think and appreciate your meditative state and your undeniable writing ability. I congratulate you on the publication of the volume I Don't Have a Name and its success and I wish that you find a nourishing literary atmosphere in the Diaspora, which will allow you to fully realize your divine gifts.*

#### The Furrows Left By the Poet's Pen

If we are talking about "divine gifts," then it is true that Sona Van's path is among the paths that lead to the "archive" of compositions that bear the seal of talent; they lead to that felicitous eternal refuge, the UNIVERSAL GOLD-EN ALMANAC.

Thus, art, including the first-born-twins of that large family, literature and poetry, being a power-



ful mode of influence on man, develops his dedication to national, which also means universal values, and nurtures his loyalty to the highest of the mankind. The great Russian philosopher Nikolai Berdyaev (1874-1948) said once: "All great national cultures are universal . . . There is but only one historical road, which takes to the highest point of universality, to the unity of humanity-that is the road toward national development, the path to national art. The universal reveals itself only through the national . . . Every cultural artifact



carries the seal of the national genius."

In the meantime, Sona Van is preparing her select works for publication, which also includes the poem "I Am the Eight-Legged Eternal Spider" that turned into a leitmotif in my writing. The forthcoming collection of best works is yet another literary gift to the

lovers of poetry, which she will present to the Armenian as well as non-Armenian public when she visits her homeland in 2013.

*"Will There Ever Be . . . a Yerevan Winter Again?"*

Residing across the Atlantic, married to the well-known doctor and talented prose writer Nubar Janoyan, mother of two, Sona Van received her education in psychology in her second homeland, the United States. Famous for her free verse, freedom of "suppressed-imprisoned" thoughts, and symbolic etymology, Van offers the reader to re-experience some of her best works in a new volume.

The poet's spirit hovers, wanders between her two homelands, or better yet, between the difference of those two places, as the "bird called Chara" of her poem that brings poetic optimism on her wings and lifts us out of our despondency. She returns as Noah's dove with a freshly plucked olive leaf in her beak, heralding that man is worthy of a new awakening.

I read the yearning for her first homeland in the poem "A Hot American Winter" (from I Hear a Voice, 2006), in which she writes about her memory of snow falling in Yerevan (just as it is falling today, the first snow in 2012, and nothing happens by chance), ending it with the poignant line "Will there ever be . . . a Yerevan winter again?" It is pure poetic snow, covering the dark, gloomy world; the playful flakes fall just as "beads falling from the pearl rosary." They fall under the auspices of Erato, the Muse of love and erotic poetry, and transform into poetic lines:

#### A Hot American Winter

*Will  
this lazy sun  
end some day  
and  
will this city  
ever  
recover  
from its  
chronic  
summers?*



*Will  
that heavy snow  
splitting your eyelashes  
into flakes  
and  
our knotted  
icy fist  
with which we pushed  
time  
from non-being  
to eternity  
repeat  
again?*

#### Will there ever be . . . a Yerevan winter again?

It is December, the month before the holidays. We, the fans of poetry, too have a present for our beloved poet. But before that, using this occasion we would like to wish Sona Van, as a famous critic put it, "the queen of Armenian poetry," the best for the upcoming holiday season, a peaceful Western Christmas ("the rose's" short-lived victory over "the war"), a happy new year, and a merry Armenian Christmas, which the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates on January 6. We wish the poet, who always keeps the memory of her birthplace alive in her spirit, mind, and heart, new creative fulfillments and success, and, of course, good health along with her family. May "the last war's dream" come true (read this poem full of optimism in the November issue of Noyan Tapan, 12).

And now about the present-this "prose" ode inspired by Sona Van's

poetic style, that is being published thanks to the editorial team of Noyan Tapan and as a result of editor-in-chief Marina Harutyunyan's and president of Noyan Tapan Holding Tigran Harutyunyan's dedicated work. The poems that have regularly appeared in the newspaper were translated by Shushan Avagyan. Sona Van who, during the past thirty-five years, has been active in the literary world and knows the "capricious" specificities and nuances of the English language considers Avagyan to be one of the best translators who preserves and transfers the essence of her poems.

P.S. The year is ending; it is



becoming old. But we still have time to devote this piece to two very important events in Armenia, the 500th Anniversary of Armenian book printing and UNESCO's selection of Yerevan as 2012 World Book Capital City.



\* † This poem was published in Noyan Tapan, Issue 38.



## Open House at Yerevan Brandy Company

Armenian brandy has won 125 gold medals

The Yerevan Brandy Company gave an original New Year present to hundreds of Yerevan residents and guests by holding an Open House. For two days, on December 15 and 16 all those interested had an opportunity to tour the brandy ageing workshop of the YBC and familiarize themselves with the production processes of "Ararat" Armenian brandies and

Minsk Group visited the Yerevan Brandy Company. The cask contains spirit distilled in 1994: it symbolizes the year of signing the cease-fire. The cask will be opened on the day when the Nagorno Karabakh problem will be regarded as solved.

The guests visited the brandy ageing workshop with personal casks of presidents of different countries.

Within the frame of the



including 125 gold medals, 54 silver ones, and 9 bronze medals.

In Armenia the development of brandy making began in 1887 when Nerses and Vasily Tairians founded a brandy factory. In 1899, however, they sold it to Russian "Shustov & Sons" Company. In 1921 the factory was nationalized, while in 1999 it was acquired by French Pernod Ricard



method of brandy making: white grapes undergo a two-stage distillation. At the first stage, 30 percent spirit is obtained, while at the second stage "the head, the heart, and the tail" are obtained, after which the "head" and the "tail" are mixed with wine substance. The "heart" distilled at the second stage is colorless spirit, which then ages in oak casks with holes.



methods of brandy production. As part of the Open House, the oldest casks and a brandy that was made in 1902 and won a bronze medal in 1907 in the city of Bordeaux, France, were displayed at the Yerevan Brandy Company.

Also on display was the "Peace Cask", in which spirit has been ageing since 16 November 2001 when the then Co-Chairs of the OSCE

Open House, it was planned to organize an inaugural exhibition of exclusive archival materials related to the history of "Ararat" brandies. Visitors also had a chance to see a unique sample of an Armenian brandy made in 1894. It was provided by the History Museum of Yerevan, on the occasion of the event.

The guests were introduced to the following



Company. The Yerevan Brandy Company currently exports 92% of its products to various countries. 70% of products are exported to Russia.

It was stressed that there is an art of brandy drinking: you should hold your brandy glass in the left hand so that all the positive emotions of the heart could be transmitted to the brandy glass.



Annually, 3-4% of spirit evaporates from each cask; this is the "portion of angels". The ageing is followed by a marriage of spirits of various ages, which are poured into vats and kept there for a period from 3 months to one year, after which the brandy is bottled.

Armenian brandies have won numerous medals,



## ArmTech Congress 2012: A Significant Step to Turn Armenia into a Silicon Valley of Caucasus



**By Gourgen James Khazhakian**  
Chief correspondent

...On December 12, in the early morning, I called **Anthony (Tony) Moroyan**, Co-Founder/Co-Chairman of the ArmTech Congress, but there was no response from him, - even after numerous "beeps", which was unusual for Mr Moroyan (as he has been starting his working day from the early morning for several decades already).

When, after all, I heard his "Hello", I "realized", at last, what was the "reason"...

The reason was very simple: the ArmTech Congress'12 ...

Although it lasted only a couple of days, its preparatory works have started a long before the date, and, as our readers might know, we, The Highlights have been covering most of them: sessions, discussions and news conferences.

And what about the outcome?

Mr Moroyan was very tired, but at the same time really happy: "Gourgen, gites, shat lav ancav!" ("You know, it was very good !").

Normally we, the mass media doubt everything, but it seems that this ArmTech Congress was an exception. The 5th annual high-tech industry business forum and conference took place on 10-11 December 2012 in Stanford University, the very heart of Silicon Valley, USA. It was exceptional due to a number of reasons, - be it increased number of participants, especially executive ones and state/other dignitaries, or range of themes discussed and energy of participants, or number of (promising) MOUs signed with the world leading way companies, and indeed the official opening of Armenia's IT and High-Tech Representative Office in the Silicon Valley Plug and Play Tech Center (accompanied by raising of the Armenian Eraguin (Tricolor), - an emotional ceremony, especially for our Diasporan sisters and brothers, and, especially, for those working right there, in Silicon Valley). In Tony Moroyan's words, "...ArmTech Congress 2012 was exceptional Conference that surpassed even the famous first conference in 2007 in various areas. This one is already been recognized as an exceptional conference of this kind on Stanford campus, in Silicon Valley and for Armenia. This one set a new benchmark for us and other countries. This was possible because of our Team both on operating levels as well as the executive levels. The new format was very interactive, informative and exciting as well as effective. The participants were very qualified and rose to the occasion. And the medals were to thank all those who contributed to the success. Unfortunately we could not cover all. The Certificates were "Certificates of Recognition" that came from State of California Senate. These were given to few deserving key people although there were many more deserving contributors.

Also 2012 ArmTech Congress was very much oversubscribed, i.e. many more qualified people wanted to attend both the Conference and the Gala than what we had expected. The number of people at Gala went from 200 to about 300. The number of conference participants went from 120 to 195. We had to turn many people away.

The feedback from Washington DC, other cities in the USA, Armenia, France, but most importantly, the participants was exceptional and very positive. The fact that the H.E. the Prime Minister, the

Honorable US and Armenia Ambassadors, Minister of Economy and the Minister of Communication and Transport and many executives and university top officials (from Stanford and UC Berkeley) stayed all through the conference is a testimonial of the success of the content, delivery, venue and interactions. Even the GIT first Laureate, Dr

moments/events/speeches.

So we start with what the ArmTech Congress is. According to the official site [www.armtech-congress.com](http://www.armtech-congress.com):

"ArmTech Congress is one of the largest public-private-international organizations partnerships in Armenia, it's a nonprofit global network and recurring event officially

and services sectors, and leading academics from Armenia, the U.S., Russia, European Union, CIS countries, the MENA region, South-East Asia to strengthen cooperation and identify new partnership and investment opportunities.

**The Mission of the ArmTech Congress is to build, maintain and enhance a strong bridge of open**



**PM Sargsyan delivering speech. From left to right: Amb. John Heffern, John Chilton, Thomas Huang**



**Tony Moroyan: "...It was a miracle..."**

**Craig Barrett** stayed all through the conference and even attended the Gala. Dr **Federico Faggin** (the third Laureate of the Global IT Award of the Armenian President received the Award just a few weeks ago - see The Highlights Dec.26 issue -G.Kh.) was there as well..."

...I do not remember already

adopted by the Republic of Armenia as its global high-tech industry platform. Conceived under the theme of "learning from the past and inventing the future" and held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Armenia, it is dedicated to further the success of Armenia's high-tech industry in a dynamic global free-

communication by:

- Providing network opportunities and resources;
- Showcasing Armenian contributions and business opportunities;
- Creating a truly global High Tech industry for Armenia;
- Guiding the development of Armenia's High Tech economy by



**The Audience, from right to left: Tigran Davtyan, Hovik Musayelyan, Director of Synopsys Armenia, Mrs Gohar Sargsyan, PM's spouse, Unicom CEO Armen Baldryan and Dr Craig Barrett, the First GIT Award Laureate...**



**...And the Second GIT Laureate Dr Federico Faggin (with Mrs Faggin) honored the ArmTech Congress'12 with his presence**

where I came across the following statement: "Armenia has a good chance to turn into a Silicon Valley of Caucasus", but I know exactly that among, alas, not so many products Armenia could export, No.1 is our "terrific logical brains", as the second GIT Award Laureate **Steve**

market economy.

Every year ArmTech Congress attracts an outstanding group of industry professionals, C level executives and interested parties from all over the world who gather together to improve communications and cooperation with and

defining and driving a comprehensive platform".

ArmTech Congress'12 was organized through the joint effort of the Government of Armenia, USAID-funded Enterprise Development and Market Competitiveness (EDMC) Project, Enterprise Incu-



**John Davies, Intel VP (left) signed MoU with Tigran Davtyan..**



**...And Raffi Kassarian signed with the RA Economy Minister a MoU Corporacion America-Armenia**

**Wozniak** called it.

(A joke from the author: it is quite natural that Armenians are successful in the high tech, as "high" [hai] in Armenian sounds as "Armenian".)

We'll talk to experts/ArmTech organizers/participants on the Congress results and the most interesting details in the coming issues of The Highlights.

By now we put together chronicle/infos/images of its important

within the Armenian high-tech industry.

The event focuses on Armenia's current and future successful participation in a dynamic global economy with emphasis on its high-tech industry and related businesses.

ArmTech Congress provides an unmatched opportunity to obtain business and professional information, and to connect with top industry representatives, government officials, major players in the financial

bator Foundation (EIF), Synopsys, Inc., Armenian-American Chamber of Commerce, ViaSphere Technopark, Armenian Development Agency (ADA) and Groupement Interprofessionnel International Armenien (G2IA), and its sponsors were D-Link, Intel, Unicom, Fainberg and some others.

So the Congress started with welcome and agenda overview by Professor **Anne Kiremidjian**, of Stanford University Civil and

Environmental Engineering Dept. which hosted the Event which followed by speech on the Congress objectives by Tony Moroyan, a Silicon Valley high tech industry veteran, Co-Founder & Co-Chairman of Executive Board, ArmTech Congress, Chairman Viasphere International and Viasphere Technopark

"Being actively involved along with other investors and high tech executives in helping architect the transition since the fall of Soviet Union and independence of Armenia which left Armenia at zero economy, I have seen the miracle of how this small country has been able to rise within few short years to an enviable level in high tech industry and start contributing to the global community. We greatly appreciate the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering for hosting this unique event on Stanford University campus", said Mr Moroyan, and added: "The fifth ArmTech Congress brings together the highest level of Armenia's government, business leaders, and academies in a show case of the high tech business economy in Armenia. The Congress has evolved from its early stages of discussions on building a high tech economy in Armenia to today's celebration of the successes of high tech in Armenia. Though there will always be more to do, Armenia's progress has been impressive, indeed!"

Welcoming the participants on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia HE Dr **Tigran Sargsyan** thanked the organizers: "Already traditional, ArmTech plays an important role in the economic life of Armenia. It helps us discuss and outline the leading sectors of the economy, as well as look at IT development prospects. I wish you all fruitful work in the hope that today's conference may boost development of information technologies."

The Prime Minister stressed that as a government priority, the IT industry has been stating over 25% annual growth in recent years. In this regard, the IT sector is of strategic importance to the economy.

"Having some competitive advantages in the region, first of all we should draw upon our people's high educational standard, the wealth of math and natural science teaching traditions inherited from the Soviet-era and the existing strong academic potential. Soviet Armenia was specialized in information technologies, including software, hardware, semiconductors, which served the military-industrial complex of the former Soviet Union. Armenia used to be a unique IT center, strong with the necessary infrastructure and adequate professional potential."

Tigran Sargsyan stressed the role of California's large Armenian community, which is one of Armenia's most powerful assets in the region. He said that the Diaspora has a huge networking and image-promoting potential.

Concerning the current trends in the IT sector, Tigran Sargsyan advised that over than 350 companies are operational in the IT sector, of which 107 are foreign companies - 50 with U.S. capital. The total turnover is USD 205 million, of which 120 million is exported. The number of those employed in this area is growing from year to year and makes 6760 as of this point of time.

The industry has attracted noted transnational organizations such as:

- Microsoft

Cont. on page 10

## ArmTech Congress 2012: A Significant Step to Turn Armenia into a Silicon Valley of Caucasus

From page 9

- ♦ D-Link
- ♦ National Instruments
- ♦ Synopsys
- ♦ Nokia
- ♦ Corporacion America
- ♦ India-Armenia High-Performance Computing Center
- ♦ Intel

Prime Minister Sargsyan stressed the importance of education in the development of information technologies. "Education is central in government programs. Luys Foundation has been established to enable Armenian youth worldwide to be trained at the world's 10 best higher education institutions. Learned people are the main driving force behind society development in the 21st century. Therefore, we should make serious investment in the education of future generations."

In turn, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia HE **John Heffern** welcomed the participants of the Conference. "When I arrived in Armenia, I could not even imagine that the country might boast such a well-developed IT industry. Creative mind is Armenia's key to the future. Based on a UNESCO survey, the U.S. Trade Ministry has published a report stating that Armenia tops the list of CIS countries for the number of per capita patent applications," he said in particular.

Ambassador Heffern expressed confidence that these inventions may be used in humanitarian and commercial ventures and that ArmTech is a nice opportunity to pave the way through to success.

John Heffern finished off by stating that Armenia needs to have a climate that nurtures creative environment. In response to a question from Mick Malone, a prominent author and columnist who was moderator of the Congress Panel Session 1: **HIGH TECH INDUSTRY IN ARMENIA - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND SUCCESS STORIES** about what the "elevator pitch" for Armenia would be, Ambassador Heffern quickly replied: a knowledge-based economy.

After that PM Sargsyan and Ambassador Heffern, with top executives of the world leading hi-tech/IT companies present in Armenia, **John Chilton**, Sr. Vice President of Synopsys Inc., **John E. Davies**, Vice President and General Manager of Intel Corporation and **Thomas Huang**, Vice President of D-Link Corporation participated in the panel.

As **Raffi Kassarian**, the ArmTech'12 Content Committee Co-Chair, Adviser to the Converse Bank Board kindly informed The Highlights, John Chilton of Synopsys described the company's growing presence in Armenia, driving by a series of acquisitions that led to today's 600-strong team in Armenia. He said he was proud of the fact that all 600 employees are local Armenians (no expats).

Why Armenia? The answer was: Because it's OK to be smart in Armenia, and people are smart in Armenia. Other factors:

1. Econ environment
2. People
3. High productivity/cost competitive
4. Stable and democratic government
5. Basic bones of legal infrastructure
6. Infrastructure
  - ♦ Internet
  - ♦ Airport
7. Technical strength

- ♦ Culture of education and intellect
- ♦ Teams in Armenia could be counted on to solve problems/crisis.

According to Mr Kassarian, next panelist, John Davies of Intel Corporation spoke about Intel's growing involvement in Armenia, which revolves around education, first with the *Computer for All* program aimed at delivering affordable PCs to the population at large, and more recently *Intel Teach*, which is aimed at training teachers to deliver relevant and up-to-date curricula in technology. (The Highlights has been covering widely the both programs, as well as Intel activities in Armenia in general.-G.Kh.). Finally, Intel intends to expand its venture arm (Intel Capital) reach in Armenia.

Finally, Thomas Huang of D-Link praised Armenia's technical strength and customer-service oriented culture, and confirmed D-Link growing presence in the country and becoming the company's main point of presence for customer service for the CIS market.

And during the break between the panels RA Minister of Economy **Tigran Davtyan**, on behalf of The Government of the Republic of Armenia and John Davies, on behalf of the Intel Corporation signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a research center in Armenia.

In parallel, Raffi Kassarian, for Corporacion America and Tigran Davtyan, for the RA Government signed Memorandum on the launch of a chip factory in Armenia and creation of IT R&D Center.

Panel Session 2 - **RESEARCH**,

depth the state of professional development of technical resources, - from undergraduate degrees to post-doctorate research, as well as private sector training.

Panel Session 3 - **BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES** moderated by Tony Moroyan with speakers **Tigran Davtyan**, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, **Robert Harutyunyan**, General Director, Armenian Development Agency, **Bagrat Yengibaryan**, Director, Enterprise Incubator



Panel Session 2, from left to right: Anahit Yeremian, Renate Fruchter, Ram Rajagopal, Bruce Boghossian

Foundation (EIF), **Artak Ghazaryan**, CEO, Pension System Awareness Foundation, **Paul Davis**, Chief Operating Officer & VP, The Pragma Corporation, **Esben Emborg**, Managing Principal Partner, SEAF Caucasus Growth Fund and **Manuk Hergnyan**, CEO, EV Consulting; Early Stage Equity Fund of Armenia tracked recent developments in the business and regulatory environment, including: free economic zones; business support infrastructure; access to regional markets; financing channels such as venture and pension funds; incubators and technoparks. Panelists discussed the overall investment climate and opportunities for new

high technology in Armenia, explored the changes required to accelerate the depth and breadth of foreign IT direct investment in the country such as changes in tax and legal spheres, university-private sector collaboration, and most importantly, investment to develop core competencies in areas beyond semiconductor design and software outsourcing will require a united effort between government policy, private sector investment, and the network of Armenian technologists and IT executives around the world.

According to Mr Kassarian, one could say that the panel was focused on opportunities and requirements. Opportunities in mobile apps, cloud computing and big data. Requirements to improve talent pool, and make labor regulations more in line with high-tech expectations. Dr **William Miller** of the Stanford Program on Regions of Innovation and Entrepreneurship spoke about building institutions of innovation, embracing/ tolerating failure, and making sure competitors could talk to each other as key requirements for success in innovation.

So, the prescription is simple: Develop the talent that will attract the capital that will build the organizations that will attract more talent, both from within the country and from around the world. This is an easy concept to explain, and devilishly hard to implement, but it's the "price of admission", or minimum acceptable conditions to drive growth based on a knowledge-based economy.

And in the evening of the same day, attended by the Prime Minister-

ing in touch with the Silicon Valley, while in this rapidly changing world we must be aware all novelties.

I would like to point out that this is a fairly good starting point. We are strong with the existing stock of Silicon Valley-based Armenian companies and the potential of young professionals. A network is up covering 200 small and medium-sized companies with Armenian participation."

Tigran Sargsyan appreciated the launch of a State-private sector partnership-propelled venture fund to promote development in the IT sector: "A memorandum of understanding has been signed on construction of an integrated circuit producing plant in Armenia. This is an important step on our way to developing the IT industry as we are going to produce hardware in addition to software," Tigran Sargsyan said.

RA PM highlighted the signing of another Memorandum of understanding with Intel on establishment of Intel's corporate mission in our country. He reminded that currently Armenia hosts such centers representing Microsoft, D-Link. The Head of the Armenian Govt. believes that the above mentioned arrangements will give new impetus to the development of the IT industry of Armenia.

"It is crucial that we have a place of our own in the Silicon Valley and the Silicon Valley knows that Armenia is strong with highly qualified labor on the IT map. Finally, we will be trying to get gold of several niches on the global IT map using our competitive edge," the Prime Minister added.

Tigran Sargsyan also met with Silicon Valley-based Armenian professionals most of which are running their own small and medium-size businesses, with others working in the world leading IT firms. The Prime Minister was told that they had launched an initiative to create a network of young professionals in the IT sector. Some two hundred specialists are currently involved in the network.

Tigran Sargsyan commissioned the reps of Enterprise Incubator Foundation to get in touch and strengthen the ties with the young professionals who told Mr Sargsyan on their activities and future plans.

On the next day December 11 PM Tigran Sargsyan visited Silicon Valley-based IBM company headquarters where an agreement was reached with the Company, which is a world leader not only in the field of inventions, but also in different fields of fundamental science, to set up a task force to look into the possibilities and prospects of bilateral cooperation.

It's expected that a group of IBM experts will come to Armenia to get acquainted with local IT companies as well as with the activities of those institutions engaged in fundamental science.

The task force is due to come up with findings by the end of the first quarter of 2013, which will provide a basis for the signing of a Cooperation agreement.

**Photographs: Greg Nemet**  
**Acknowledgement: Mr Raffi Kassarian, Adviser to the Board, the Converse Bank CJSC EIF Team**  
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**Gayane Markosyan, PR Manager,**  
**Synopsys Armenia**

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Armenian Tricolor is raised at the Plug&Play Center, - on the inauguration of the RA Rep Office..  
 PM Tigran Sargsyan, Economy Minister T. Davtyan, EIF Director B.Yengibaryan and the Center Founder/CEO S.Amidi



Just-awarded, from the ArmTech Congress and the California State Senate, from left to right: Bagrat Yengibaryan, Stanford Professor Anne Kiremijian, Ambassador Heffern, Raffi Kassarian

**INNOVATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** moderated by **Rich Goldman**, VP, Synopsys, CEO of Synopsys Armenia, Co-founder & Co-Chairman of ArmTech Congress was focused on the current state and main directions of R&D in universities, research institutes and laboratories in Armenia. The panelists - Dr **Bruce Boghossian**, President, American University of Armenia, **Jacqueline Karaaslanian**, Executive Director, Luys Foundation, Armenia, Dr **Ram Rajagopal**, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University, Dr **Renate Fruchter**, Director of the Project Based Learning (PBL), Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Stanford University, **Joe Mastroianni**, Director of Engineering, Deep Submicron Div., Mentor Graphics, Dr **Vasili Tsakanov**, Director, CANDLE Project, **Anahit Yeremian**, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Cosmic Ray Division, **Yeva Hyusyan**, Manager, Microsoft Innovation Center also reviewed copyright legislation and IP protection in Armenia. They discussed in

investment, in particular Armenia's alignment with emerging technology sectors and markets. In particular, Paul Davis from Pragma spoke about the focus on improving transparency and efficiency of government, and increased access to financing via new funds such as Small Enterprise Assistance Funds and the Caucasus Growth Fund, and, in turn, Manuk Hergnyan described the launch of the new Early Stage VC fund, Granatus Ventures to fuel innovation. The last, fourth panel session - **LOOKING AHEAD: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND FACTORS FOR SUCCESS** moderated by Raffi Kassarian with panelists Prime Minister **Tigran Sargsyan**, Dr **John Kibarian**, President and CEO, PDF Solutions **Aram Salatian**, General Director, National Instruments Armenia, **Hovhannes Avojan**, CEO, Sourcio, **Richard Bezjian**, President & CEO, Gallery Systems, **Berge Ayzian**, Sr. Consultant, Heavy Reading and **Ashot Mkrtchyan**, Sr. Manager, Strategy and Planning, Worldwide Partners Organization, Cisco focused on future opportunities for

led government delegation, Armenia's IT and High-Tech Representative Office was officially inaugurated in the Silicon Valley Plug and Play Technology Center.

And a Memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a first ever venture capital fund in Armenia to allow access to financial investment for local IT companies was signed there.

Answering the mass media reps questions after the signing ceremony, Tigran Sargsyan stated, "The meetings held during the previous ArmTech-s seem to have paved the way for a fifth congress. We witnessed today Armenia's significant achievements in the IT sector. We identified four landmark events that may lead to tangible results, including the opening of Armenia's representation the Plug and Play Center.

Many countries inclusive of developed ones have opened their representations in the Silicon Valley, because running a center like this means having a private sector development tool. It is even more important for Armenia since it would be impossible to follow the modern developments without keep-

## Latest News from the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia: Rising Staff Combat Readiness and Broadening Intl Collaboration



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**  
Chief correspondent

### Large-scale Drills in Yerevan

On November 30 RA MES initiated large-scale drills entitled "Population Defense Measures in Case of Heavy Earthquake", and after its initial, theoretical stage the second, practical stage of the drills started at 4 pm, in an unfinished building of a hotel complex located in the square of the Yerevan railway station. According to the scenario, the building has collapsed, trapping people in the rubble, it is necessary to evacuate people from the upper floors. Fire broke out in the building. At the former police unit in the same square, a truck has collided with a car, leaving several people injured.

The practical stage of the drills involved firemen rescuers detachments of the Yerevan Rescue Department and teams of the city's on-duty services. Four fire engines, two vehicles with fire ladders, and four ambulance brigades arrived on the conditional accident scene. An investigation revealed that there are dozens of "victims" in the building. The firemen rescuers immediately began extinguishing the fire and rescuing the victims from the burning building and the rubble. Displaying their professional skills, the rescuers of the special detachment used ladders and ropes to take out the victims through balconies of the upper floors. A "victim" who had suffered a spinal injury was carried down in a stretcher by rescuers. Using special tools, the firemen rescuers also pulled the car accident "victims" from the wreckage of the car. All the injured persons were handed over to the ambulance brigades. The population affected by the accident was evacuated to a safe area. First aid was provided to the injured people. Minister of Emergency Situations Major General Prof. **Armen Yeritsyan** was present at the practical stage of the drills. He told in particular to numerous reporters surrounded him:

*"The drills were held at a high professional level and served its goal. The firemen-rescuers fulfilled their task excellent. Our country is located in a seismic zone. Powerful earthquakes have struck Armenia in the past, they will occur in the future, too, so we must have a disaster-resistant state. Measures like this one teach all of us to behave correctly in an emergency. The final assessment of the training exercise will be given after a thorough analysis."*

### UNDP Acting Resident Rep received by the Minister Armen Yeritsyan

Minister of Emergency Situations Armen Yeritsyan received on December 4 recently appointed UNDP Acting Resident Representative in Armenia **Patrice Coeur-Bizot**. The Minister particularly said:

*"I think we have cooperated successfully with Ms Gercheva. I anticipate cooperating in the same fruitful way with you. The RA Ministry of Emergency Situations has an important part for our country. We have a lot of things to do together because our objective is to become one of the best in the world."*

The UNDP Acting Resident Representative said that while in Armenia, he had a keen desire to meet with the Minister of Emergency Situations. He thanked

Mr Minister for the reception.

*"I arrived in Armenia recently, but I have already noticed and been greatly impressed by the enormous work done by you as well as by your achievements. The main purpose of this meeting is to summarize the results and to discuss our future plans. We are ready to assist you*

*in wheelchairs. At the first stage, employment will be given to those who move around only in a wheelchair since they are the most vulnerable ones. We have created 30 jobs, all of them with the necessary conditions. The Minister's appeal and message is to inform all such people that we are prepared to accept them*

tform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) Foundation **Movses Poghosyan** said:

*"Our thematic group has been set up in order to work for the needs of all the disabled people in the Republic of Armenia. In the near future, we will carry out the same activities in Armenia's other settle-*



*with the implementation of your initiatives".*

During the meeting, the Head of the UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Program **Armen Chilingaryan** spoke about the institutional framework management and strengthening program, noting Armenia is the first regional country to have developed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.



*ments as well when regional Crisis Management Centers (CMCs) are created. This is a good example for other employers to follow".* The Committee invited 11 wheelchair-bound citizens, who have submitted job applications, for a job interview. 9 people showed up at the Ministry, 7 of them have been admitted to the next stage, based on the interview results.



Chilingaryan touched upon the further plans as well. At the end of the meeting **Patrice Coeur-Bizot** told Minister Yeritsyan that their cooperation with the RA Ministry of Emergency Situations will be of a lasting nature, adding that the UNDP is ready to provide funds for the implementation of the indicated program.



### The Ministry Creates Jobs for the Disabled

*The second session of the Committee on the assessment of criteria for disabled people who have applied for a job at the RA Ministry of Emergency Situations took place at MES on December 6. The Committee is composed of the Ministry employees and reps of NGOs dealing with problems of disabled people. Deputy Head of the RA MES Rescue service Colonel **Nikolay Grigoryan** said in particular:*

*"91 people with disabilities have so far submitted job applications to the Ministry of Emergency Situations. Most of them are people*

*for employment. I am sure this process will become a signal for the other ministries.*

Director of the National Pla-



Notably, by an order of Minister of Emergency Situations **Armen Yeritsyan**, the deadline for the ministry's job contest for disabled people has been extended until the end of December 2012.

### NATO Assesses RA MES Achievements

On December 10, NATO headquarters in Brussels hosted a kind of, let's say, unprecedented meeting in a flexible format: 28 NATO member states - at the ambassadorial level - along with Armenia's partner countries met with Armenian Minister of Emergency Situations Major General, Prof. **Armen Yeritsyan**. The subject of the discussion were Armenia's achievements and needs in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), with a focus on the Crisis Management Center. Prior to the main meeting, Minister Yeritsyan was received by NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations, Ambassador **Stephen Evans** who assists the North Atlantic Council and the Secretary

General in the NATO political directions and exercises management of operations. Director of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center (EADRCC) **Gunther Bretschneider** was also present at the reception. Ambassador Evans highly appreciated Armenia's contribution and significant progress in disaster risk reduction and response and its active participation in NATO-organized events. Mr Evans stressed the successful holding of Armenia 2010 exercise in Armenia. Minister Yeritsyan briefly spoke about the work done so far and his vision regarding cooperation in all the directions with NATO member states and partner countries. He expressed hope that Armenia will be actively involved in international disaster response operations. Ambassador Evans wished Minister Yeritsyan success, expressing confidence that the Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations which, in his words, constantly increases its potential, will, with the support of NATO, among others, make a serious contribution to operations aimed at disaster risk reduction and response.

The reception was followed by a meeting. In her opening speech, Ambassador **Francesca Tardioli** who is responsible for NATO civil-military planning, crisis management policy and functions, and high-level political-military exercises, stated that Armenia has made much progress in disaster risk reduction and response, particularly in crisis management, but, like any other developing country, it has to overcome serious economic and financial obstacles. Prior to giving the floor to Minister Yeritsyan, she reaffirmed on behalf of NATO that they will assist Armenia in its initiatives. **Armen Yeritsyan** informed those present about the management system of emergency situations in Armenia, its development stages, the achievements in disaster risk reduction, the international responses and opinions, the experience of cooperation with NATO and the lessons learned, and the vision of the future. The important message was that Armenia has clear ideas about the existing shortcomings, needs, and the directions and steps for brining tomorrow closer, that the vision of a disaster-resistant country and a disaster-resistant community will become a reality sooner or later, while the support from the international community may help use Armenia's enhanced potential in order to increase the efficiency of international operations. Following Minister Yeritsyan's report, a video about activities of the RA Ministry of Emergency Situations was screened, after which the Minister was asked questions which included words of praise, encouragement as well as gratitude. Representatives of the United States, Switzerland, Russia and other countries said that the RA MES is a reliable partner and that they are prepared to continue and deepen cooperation. An agreement was reached that after the submitted list of Armenia's needs is discussed in detail, cooperation with each country will begin under separate programs.

The joint development of programs will start from the beginning of the coming year.

As **Nikolay Grigoryan** wrote from Brussels, "this was a strong, completely new and the highest level of appreciation of the RA Ministry of Emergency Situations. The overwhelming feeling I experienced then was pride in my Country and the competent and efficient activities of its government bodies".

## VivaCell-MTS Continues its Long-Term Social Projects and Surprises for its Subscribers

### VivaCell-MTS' neonatal care project embraces more regions of Armenia

#### Stepanavan hospital neonatal department received neonatal care equipment in frames of the project in Lori region

On November 28 VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** and BirthLink NGO Director **Kathy Mellor** accompanied by a group of neonatologists, visited the neonatal department of the Stepanavan hospital, Lori region.

Stepanavan hospital neonatal department received the following neonatal care equipment in frames of the project in Lori region: an infant radiant warmer - intensive care cot, phototherapy unit for treating jaundice, pulse oximeter for monitoring oxygenation, heated mattress, portable oxygen cylinder with low flow meter, emergency bag for transporting sick babies, suction apparatus.

This essential equipment is necessary for maintaining the baby's temperature and stabilize or sustain the baby until transfer can be undertaken to a regional centre or to Yerevan. Some babies with potentially life-threatening problems, who receive immediate and appropriate care after delivery, may need no further intervention. This equipment can be the difference between life and death.

"We are happy that the Neonatal care project has reached Lori region as well. This project is aimed at improving access to medical services in the regions. People in the regions should have equal opportunities to receive medical services, especially when it comes to infants," VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** said and added: "Each child's life is a gift, and as a caring company VivaCell-MTS is committed to helping maternity hospitals in eradicating the biggest challenge that we have today - the infant mortality rate".

To remind, for the 5th year in a row VivaCell-MTS together with BirthLink NGO (of the U.K.) makes efforts aimed at reducing the level of infant mortality in our country. Within this period of time, the equipment for a total of about AMD 360 million has been installed in more than 30 medical centers of Yerevan and the regions. The specialists say the positive results are already obvious.

**FYI ! Every year, more than 4 million infants worldwide die in the first year of life. 98 percent of the cases are registered in the developing countries. 65 percent of lethal cases are registered within the first month, with two third of them - during the first week, and more than half - within the first 24 hours after the birth.**

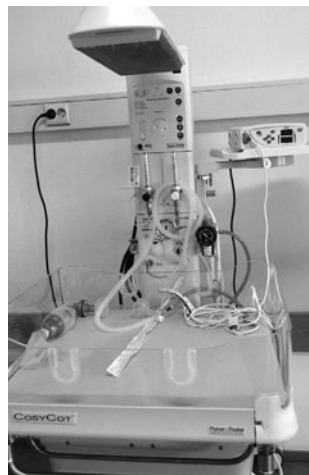
The neonatal care project has reached Spitak, Lori region

#### Spitak hospital neonatal department was replenished with essential equipment in the frames of the neonatal care project jointly implemented by VivaCell-MTS and BirthLink

And on December 3 Armenia's

leading telecom operator announced that Spitak hospital neonatal department was replenished with essential equipment in the frames of the neonatal care project jointly implemented by VivaCell-MTS and BirthLink.

Spitak hospital neonatal department received the following neonatal care equipment in frames of the project in Lori region: an infant



radiant warmer - intensive care cot, pulse oximeter for monitoring oxygenation, heated mattress, portable oxygen cylinder with low flow meter, emergency bag for transporting sick babies, suction apparatus.

This essential equipment is necessary for maintaining the baby's temperature and stabilize or sustain the baby until transfer can be undertaken to a regional centre or to Yerevan. Some babies with potentially life-threatening problems, who receive immediate and appropriate care after delivery, may need no further intervention. This equipment can be the difference between life and death.

"Spitak is the second city in Lori region that was embraced by



the neonatal care project. VivaCell-MTS has always been led by the belief that our country is not limited to the capital - Yerevan, but the regions should also be developed and given equal opportunities for better quality of life. From the very beginning of the neonatal care project we knew that it was going to be a road full of challenges, but we are determined to continue implementing the project until we are sure that each newly born baby that is in need of special care will be safe due to the necessary equipment installed in the hospitals", noted VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

And as we touched upon the social activities of VivaCell-MTS, it should be noted that...

#### Three-day Technical School sessions for students were held at VivaCell-MTS

December 5 through 7 VivaCell-MTS' Headquarters hosted 27 students from Yerevan and the regions who attended three-day training sessions on the radio access network and switching subsystem as well as site implementation and maintenance. The lectures were delivered by the Company's

technical specialists.

The first day session of the Technical school was devoted to the Radio Access Network and Switching Subsystem. The students learnt about the historical background of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) and RAN (Radio Access Network), as well as about HLR (Home Location Register) and MSC (Mobile

Switching Center).

The next two days' sessions were devoted to site implementation and maintenance. The students had the chance to learn all the details about the site structure, visit the site in the VivaCell-MTS HQ, as well as had a field trip to the nearest base station to see how the sites are maintained.

At the end of the school, at a special ceremony, the students received certificates of completion.

The Technical School sessions were organized in the frames of VivaCell-MTS' Career Development Program. VivaCell-MTS has always paid equal attention to both the strategies of development and the training of future specialists: theory is the generalization of

live in the era of free movement of the workforce, and the only way to attract qualified workforce to stay in Armenia is creating supportive environment for learning, development and competitive salary. This is the reason we are cooperating with Microsoft Armenia", VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** commented.

The mission of Microsoft Academy opened in State Engineering University of Armenia (SE-UA) is to host professional development courses, organize special tests, and provide Microsoft-certified specialist status. Also the IT Academy will help introduce LIVE@EDU system in the University. According

to a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Microsoft Armenia Office and the SEUA, the University will get licensed Microsoft products on preferential terms. A projection unit will be opened next to the Academy, where the students will be able to realize their ideas. The IT Academy is expected to create and improve links between the university and business, thus becoming a new opportunity to create new job places for the youth of the country.

**No doubt, permanent decrease of its services cost by Armenia's leading telecom operator is also a good proof of its corporate citizen's responsibility.**

So....

#### VivaCell-MTS offers AMD15/MB within "Alo We" tariff plan

On December 3 they announced that now the price of Internet within "Alo We" tariff plan has been decreased for more than 4 times and makes only AMD15/MB.

VivaCell-MTS also informed that the "Internet Night" service is not available within this tariff plan.

**And the Company's customers in Marzes of Armenia have always been in the focus of its social responsibility. Thus.....**

#### VivaCell-MTS offers AMD7/MB within "Dialect" tariff plan

Now the price of Internet within "Dialect" tariff plan has been decreased for more than 9 times and makes only AMD7/MB instead of AMD65 before.

And...

#### VivaCell-MTS undertakes network development, upgrade and expansion works in Aragatsotn and Shirak regions

On December 7 VivaCell-MTS informed that network development, upgrade and expansion works are being implemented in Aragatsotn and Shirak regions for the purpose of increasing the network capabilities and capacity. As the innovations leader, VivaCell-MTS undertakes works aimed at meeting the increasing market expectations and demand for more innovative technologies.

Due to the upgrading works, it is possible that in the period from December 2012 till the mid-January, 2013, subscribers will encounter short-term difficulties when making and receiving calls, and sending SMS messages, as well as accessing Internet.

In order to minimize to the greatest extent possible the inconveniences to subscribers, the upgrade works will be carried out after midnight.

VivaCell-MTS assures that it is doing its best to implement the upgrade related works the soonest, and apologizes for causing possible inconvenience caused to its customers.

VivaCell-MTS customer care staff will always be at our subscribers' service to provide with any assistance which may be needed.

And the following was at the top of mass media/TV breaking news on... **12.12.12 which was, definitely, a lucky figure for VivaCell-MTS subscribers...** as on that day

#### 26-years-old Rima Piloyan received the keys of the luxurious Chevrolet Camaro from VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian

On December 6, 2012, after long anticipation, the draw to identify the winners of the Chevrolet C-

amaro automobile as well as other valuable prizes, among VivaCell-MTS subscribers, finally took place at the Company's headquarters.

To remind, according to the rules, to take part in

the draw, one had to buy "MTS Connect" or "Internet Express" USB modem, or an E960 3G Wi-Fi router, subscribe to one of the "MTS Connect Unlimited+", "MTS Connect 256", "MTS Connect Student", or equally "Home-Zone Turbo" or "Office-Zone" tariff plans for one year, and get the modem for free. Those who would subscribe to the "Workday" package for one year could participate in the draw as well.

The subscribers were informed about the draw and the terms of participation via the Company's web page and other means of communication.

The winners were defined by random selection.

And on December 12, 2012, they were invited to VivaCell-MTS headquarters to participate in the solemn ceremony of handing the prizes.

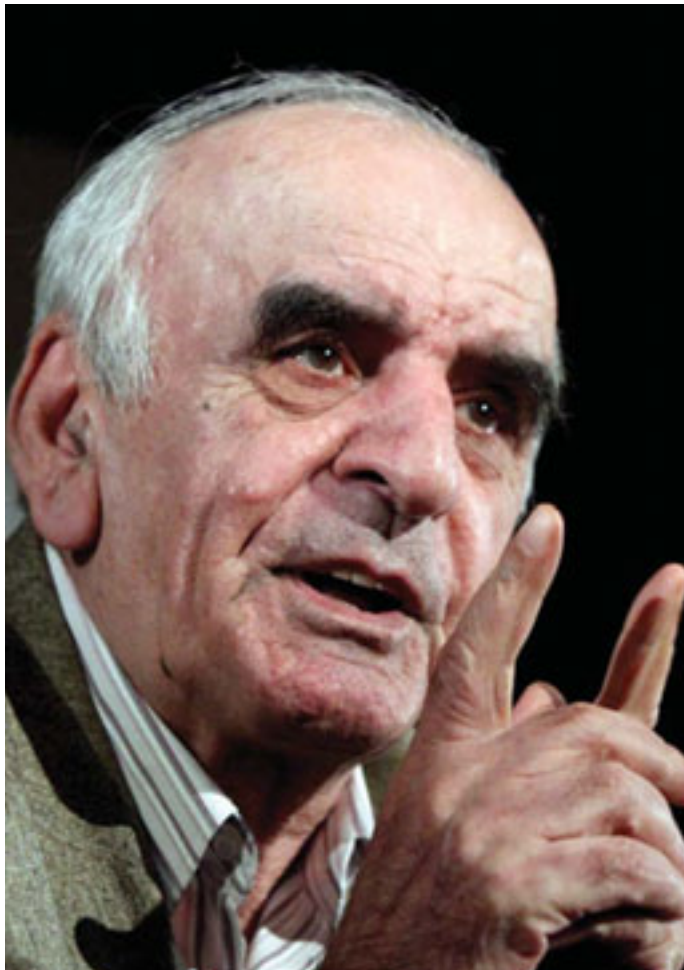
18 of the 132 winners received MTS Touch 551 phone, 57 received MTS Ego smartphone, 30 got BlackBerry® Bold™ 9700, and 20 were presented with Google Nexus S. Seven participants received HTC Flyer.

## Artavazd Peleshyan becomes citizen of the Republic of Armenia

Prominent Armenian filmmaker Artavazd Peleshyan became a citizen of the Republic of Armenia. President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan signed a decree of granting the outstanding filmmaker citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia handed over the passport to Artavazd Peleshyan. In her speech Hasmik Poghosyan stated that for her this is a great responsibility, as Peleshyan is a renowned person and the whole Armenian nation and all the mankind are proud of him.

As already citizens of the Republic of Armenia Artavazd Peleshyan and her wife Aida Galstyan sworn to be faithful to the Republic of Armenia, maintain the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, protect the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia, respect the official state language, culture and traditions of the Republic of Armenia.

The distinguished filmmaker did not want to say long speeches, but instead he noted that "a film must be made".



### ARMENIAN POETRY

#### Hagop Norashkharian

(Norouni)

(1923-1985)

#### New Morals...

What do you search for in this humid dungeon, you, my friend,  
My dear father, you who reached the threshold of seventy?  
Do not search for the sweet tracks of your past here just in vain,  
So long, so long ago they have been erased cruelly...!  
You want to cling, you still cling to life which has a sweet taste,  
You get mixed in this wildly cheerful crowd which is so mad,  
Which while buried in the smoke and the fumes and in the drinks  
Sings disjointly, or dances, or else dreams with open eyes...!  
Here, the women and the girls, having worn pants and sandals,  
With their reddish and long hair, with their glorious breasts as well,  
Stimulate the mad males and throw themselves in their laps  
So willingly, by themselves, with an impulse of all flame...!  
American morals have penetrated everywhere  
And they're pulling to them all of our new generations,  
To the end in a fever of drunkenness, lechery,  
In front of our helpless eyes, assimilates all mankind...!  
While you, father, ah, in vain, still search for your sweet feeling...  
Romantic love and discourse already now have been thrown  
In history's boundless lap...and morals spoiled totally  
No more can keep you content...Hence, having turned to object  
Of ridicule and sarcasm, you find yourself unwelcome,  
And decide to throw yourself, in a frenzy so quickly  
Out of the jail-like dungeon, where embracing each other  
Girls and boys dance inflamed with lust unrestrained, illicit...

(Beirut, 1970)



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

#### Aries (Mar. 20--Apr. 19) :

You have more energy than you know how to burn! This is a good week for workouts. Good news or helpful information comes to you from one or more of the following sectors: publishing, education, places of worship, travel and the law. Travel is possible.

#### Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

This is not the best of weeks to embark on a new sexual encounter, or a new broker/financial manager relationship. Your judgment is cloudy in these areas. Those who look like new friends may become a source of disappointment. So be really cautious. There may be concerns about your partner's resources.

#### Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

This week is all about communications of every sort. Even you will be talking, speaking, and writing way more than is normal. Some of your discussions will be intense, so be prepared. Read or at least scan all new information coming your way. A fresh piece of data might just be what you need to fill in the gaps.

#### Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

Your energy level is good. Positive outcomes related to your partner and/or children are reflecting well upon you. Almost anything you set out to accomplish is handled in unusually quick time. You have what it takes to be a warrior on behalf of yourself or others. People will listen to you.

#### Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

A project begun in late October is just beginning to yield results. The outcome is probably not what you imagined, but give it time to grow on its own before you press it to become your original image. Sometimes creative work takes on its own purposes and changes shape before our eyes.

#### Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Your focus shifts to matters of home, hearth, and family. Things of the past may float up in your mind for reflection. Think carefully about what is truly important to you now, at this time in your life. Don't allow old habits or rules from the past to make your decision for you. Obsessing is not good for your health.

#### Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22) :

Speak and act with conscious intention around children or with romantic partners. It is possible that communications could go awry. Don't allow a misperception to ruin a day. Discuss it immediately, if possible. You may encounter a short period of brain fuzz. Let it be and it will go by the end of the week.

#### Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21)

You occasionally confuse what you think with who you are. There are those who will disagree with you this week. Just don't let it become a battle to the death. Remain aware that your identity is not at stake in this situation. Coworkers may be challenging. You are bigger than that. Rise above it.

#### Sagittarius (Nov. 22 --Dec. 20) :

Mercury travels rapidly through your sign between Dec. 10 and the end of the year. During this period there likely will be greater emphasis on communications, errands, and other short distance travels. Your mind will be quick and your attitude persuasive. You are loaded with ideas, so remember not to monopolize conversations.

#### Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Take really good care of yourself throughout this week. You are moving toward a slump in your physical cycle that will reach bottom next week. Your responsibilities in managing groups may be getting the best of you. Make it a point to avoid a "life and death" attitude.

#### Aquarius (Jan. 20--Feb. 17) :

Things involving the Powers That Be continue to move forward on your behalf. Your social life is definitely on the upswing. This is a great week for a getaway. Do something novel, even if you don't leave home. Your mind is open to whatever seems fresh and unique.

#### Pisces (Feb. 18--Mar. 19) :

Take every precaution not to abuse your body during this period. Drugs or alcohol could have peculiar side effects. You are in a low physical cycle and will be unable to push yourself as hard as normal on any physical task. If you are affected emotionally, try not to worry about it. Your body/feelings will right themselves after the 15th.

## HUMOR

Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?"

"Outstanding," Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques-visualization, association-it made a huge difference for me."

"That's great! What was the name of the clinic?"

Fred went blank He thought and thought, but couldn't remember.

Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?"

"You mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's it!" He turned to his wife. . "Rose, what was the name of that clinic?"

## Quote of the week



Only love interests me, and I am only in contact with things that revolve around love.

Marc Chagall

## WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

# MEZZO

*classic house club*

## CLUBS

## MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan Street

**December 18 and 11 at 21:30**

"Impression" Band

**December 19 at 21:30**

Anushik Alaverdyan &amp; Karen Mamikonyan BAND

**December 20 at 21:30**

Vahagn Hayrapetyan 'Jazz Quartet'

## CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

**December 19 at 20:00**

Cadence Ensemble New Spirit and New Prospects Tangos and not only...

**December 21 at 20:00**

Vahagn Hayrapetyan, piano Armen Hyusnunts, saxophone, Norair Kartashyan, folk instruments, Varsenik Avanian, mezzo soprano.

## NAREGATSI ART INSTITUTE

Vardanants 16/1

**December 18 at 19:00**

Master Class with Joao Kouyoumdjian (Brazil) classical guitar

**December 19 at 15:00**

Concert of Shirak marz laureates of the "Renaissance" (Veratsnund) International

## Contest-Festival

Program: Armenian and foreign composers' works, folk music

**December 19 at 19:00**

Films screenings and meeting with director Arman Chilingaryan

Mosaic

Russia/ documentary/ 15 min./ 2009

Screening in Russian

**December 21 at 15:00**

French short film screening within the frames of "The SHORTEST DAY" festival

**December 21 at 18:00**

European Christmas at Naregatsi Art Institute

Program:

History and habits of Christmas

Holidays in Czech Republic and Poland

Fairy tales screening

## CONCERTS

## ARAM KHACHATURIAN CONCERT HALL

Mashtots avenue 16

**December 22 at 19:00**

Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker

**December 23 at 19:00**

Accord Gala Concert

**December 24 at 19:00**

Christmas Gala Concert

Conductor: Eduard Topchjan

## KOMITAS CHAMBER MUSIC HALL

1 A. Isahakyan Str.

**December 20 at 19:00**

National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia Artistic Director and Principal Conductor:

Vahan Mardirossian

Guest Conductor: Vardan Hakobyan

Aram

Khachaturian String Quartet

Program: Geghuni Chtchyan:

Chamber Symphony Eduard

Elgar: Introduction and

Allegro Antonin Dvorak:

Serenade

**December 24 at 19:00**

Concert-Premiere Yerevan State Chamber Orchestra

Artistic Director and Conductor: Harutyun Topikyan

Program: Komitas Davit

Poghosyan Sedrak

Yerkanyan Melik

Mavisakalyan Lilit

Yedigaryan Paul

Hindemith Maurice

Ravel Arno Zargaryan Eric

Whitacre Matthew

Haris Jaakko Mantyjarvi

Soloists: Seyran

Avagyan Edgar

Varosyan Vahagn

Vardazaryan Jenni

Nazaryan Ruzanna

Khandoyan Makruhi

Khachatryan Tamara

Mosinyan Eva

Podpomogova

## NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATER OF OPERA AND BALLET AFTER A. SPENDIARIAN

Tumanyan Str., 54 Building

**December 24 at 19:00**

"Cadence" Music Centre

presents "Foyer Concert"

Project at the Opera and

Ballet Theater

Music Director: Karen

Durgaryan Project Author:

Shmavon Grigoryan

Formal attire is requested.

## THEATRES

## YEREVAN STATE PANTOMIME THEATRE

**December 20 at 19:00**

Historical mimodrama

Author of Play` Zhirayr

Dadasyan and Naira

Yedigaryan Staging

Director` Zhirayr Dadasyan

## STATE MUSICAL CHAMBER THEATER

Proshyan 1, Blind Alley 1



**December 24 at 19:00**

Beauty and the Beast

## YEREVAN STATE CHAMBER THEATER

Mashtots avenue 58

**December 21 at 19:00**

Original "Jan &amp; Beatrice" by Carol Freshett. Director of

the play – Lusine Yernjakyan.

**December 25 at 19:00**

Musical-amusing show Author and director of the play – Ara Yernjakyan Optimistic comedy

**December 28 at 19:00**

Cabaret

## GALA ART GALLERY

**December 10-31 at 19:00**

You and the Color a festive collection of art work by more than 70



renowned Armenian artists. Fine art, sculpture, ceramics and silver jewelry...

The gallery is open every day, except Monday, from 11:00 - 20:00

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# MEZZO

production



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