After the First Tenth Jubillee of Global IT Award of Armenia: The Project is Absolute Success

GLOBAL IT AWARD

STATE AWARD OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOR GLOBAL CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY THROUGH IT

By Gourgen James Khazhakian,
Chief Correspondent

…Ten years passed already since the very first Laureate of State Award of the Republic of Armenia for Global Contribution to Humanity through Information Technology (Global IT Award)…

And your humble servant, trough the virtue of a journalist who (plus being a writer) graduated from the Yerevan State Engineering University ("Polytechnic"), was "inside" it, "torturing" (almost) all the Laureates and the local authorities…

However, this year's GIT Award handing has become impossible, ALAS, due to (God damned!!) Covid19 pandemic. So as your author has got knew from the relevant sources, NONETHELESS, candicaies will be discussed and
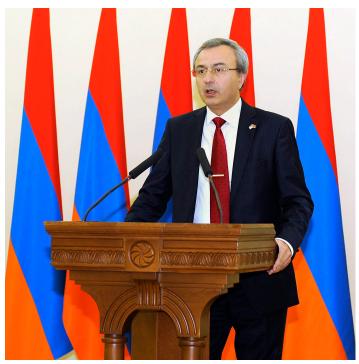
GLOBAL IT AWARD   *GLOBAL IT AWARD*   *GLOBAL IT AWARD*   *GLOBAL IT AWARD*

the 2020 Laureate will be announced.

Some details and explanations on this The Highlights has received from two men who were standing just at the Award establishment, and the first one is Coordinator of the GIT Award Committee, Director of the Synopsys Armenia CJSC **Dr Hovik Musayelyan**.

Mr Musayelyan, a real driving force

of the GIT Award, said in particular the following:

- Yes, surely the situation caused by the virus is a serious obstacle for us in terms of determining this year's winner. As of now the Selection Panel is reviewing 5 candidacies, however, the main issue, the basic condition, is that the winner has to visit Armenia **personally** to receive this Honorary Award. Of course, it would be a lot easier for us after determining the winner to send the Award via postal services. However, in that case the whole philosophy of the Award is being violated, per which a Laureate should visit Armenia persomally, have various meetings with high-level officials, academics, ICT community reps.

- Please tell us how the creation of

the GIT Award was initiated ?

- Well, it was initiated by the Synopsys Armenia CJSC.

-The main goal of the Award is to make Armenia recognizable on the ICT world map, as an investment center. Ten years later, in your opinion, to what extent has that main goal been achieved?

- All previous Laureates are the world famous scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs. They are legends of the global ICT community, and it is undoubtful that the fact of their' being the Laureate of the State Award of the RA and visiting our country raises interest towards Armenia for many people as a country that prioritizes ICT sector. As far as we informed, they refer to Armenia as an example of a small country but having serious technological traditions.

- What can you say about the current contacts of the Laureates with Armenia, and, vice versa, about our relations with them?

photo by Zaven Khachikyan

- We maintain contacting with all the Laureates. However, we are more

active with those who always respond to our proposals or congratulatory words on various occasions. We are always sharing any news regarding Armenia's ICT sector and of course their advice is of high importance to us.

I'd like to inform honorable readers of the Noyan Tapan Highlights that, in fact, the best media outlet that has been covering widely and actively Global IT Award since it's very establishment that by know we have the consent of two Laureates to participate in STARMUS festival which will take place in September next year.

-Mr Musayelyan, what would you advice the media people in Armenia in terms of the Award coverage?

- Hm….This is a quite "painful" topic… One of our main issues all these 10 years is the coverage of the award for foreign countries through the media. In Armenia, more or less the topic is being covered, however considering its value in terms of raising the recognition of Armenia it is very important that it be covered in different languages by foreign agencies. Also, it is very important for journalists of various agencies to have the corresponding skills and experience to do coverages about ICT sector. Unfortunately, it rarely happens. There are also exceptions, and that refers to you personally, and, as I've metioned above, your Weekly, The NT Highlights that has been making coverage of the Award quite well, so it is not accidental that you are covering the decennial chronicle of this extremely important Award events and the ceremony.

- And what would you like to add?

- I want to believe that the State Award of the Republic of Armenia for Global Contribution to Humanity through IT will have

a long path 'cause it had major impact on the further development of Armenia.

The second man is **Ralph C. Yirikian**, *Founding General Manager of Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator Viva-MTS that has been General Partner (Sponsor) of the GIT Award since its very establishment, responded to The Highlights questions by the following:*

-After 10 years, can we say that the main purpose of the GIT Award, i.e. to make Armenia recognizable at the world ICT map has been reached?

-This question has neither affirmative nor negative answer. Building country's brand or a much deeper phenomenon, the reputation, is a continuous process and not a single, one-time action. There is no yardstick here to apply and measure. Of course, the fact that so many outstanding people who have been invited to Armenia agreed to give some of their valued time for attending the ceremony, and the wide media coverage around the event, are the best proof that the GIT award is a success.

However, one thing should be clear. GIT is about communication image; and in this regard, it is a brilliant idea. At the same time, any image will easily vanish, if not supported by reality. And the reality is the true identity that's behind the image. Communicating image of a country as having its certain place on the world IT map, without having really developing and promising IT sector, would not have a result, if international ICT community had not seen the reality which is quite tangible - Armenia's sustainable growth in Information and Communication Technologies sector. So, GIT depends on two factors – image that we communicate via the GIT award and the identity of the state as having sustainable growth in IT sector. And these two processes are interconnected and complement each other.

-The GIT Award is rather of information technology than communication, and so why Viva-MTS has decided to sponsor the Award?

- It should be clear from the onset that Viva-MTS' support to the GIT Award is not driven by commercial considerations. GIT conveys one of the important principles of our national idea – strong statehood supported by strong industries which add to or are the core of the country's competitive advantage now and in the future. We should not be selective or focused on ourselves here: statehood and Homeland are above everything. And I would not be surprised if one day an FMCG or a construction Company would come and offer its support with realizing GIT or any other similar project.

On the other hand – year-by-year, month-by-month, with the accelerating speed of technology and consumer solutions, it becomes obvious that IT and Communication not only have blurred lines or gray zones, as in the past, but undergo synergy. With digitalization process going on, communication or telecommunication industry is no more limited to its traditional activities – provision of voice and data services. Viva-MTS as a telecommunication services provider has chosen to be a smart pipe and not a blind pipe, that is, to become a platform for offering other services and products as well. We now actively offer applications for entertainment, education, healthy lifestyle, financial services, video content, etc., and in this regard, we closely cooperate with the IT sector. Even more, we are in the process of developing our in-house developers' unit, as part of our Information Systems Department. We offer cloud solutions and other services, traditionally being offered by IT Companies. There was time, when IT had a function of support to major strategic directions in telecommunication companies. Now, IT has a strategic and leading role in the company. What we can see worldwide, is that major corporations are ecosystem companies, having diverse platforms. And here we are: we are diversifying at an accelerating speed, and in the near future, you cannot clearly state if Viva-MTS is just a telecommunication operator, or a company, with telecommunication as just one of the directions.

-Is the Company you has been

leading since its establishment ready to support financially the Award in the future as well?

-Viva-MTS has been supporting the GIT Award, from the onset. This is the case with other national projects as well. However, we prefer not to commit but to act.

-In your opinion, what is the future of the GIT Award?

-I think that the GIT Award has a lot to do in expanding the image and place of Armenia on the world map of countries having developed IT sector and at the same time, strong potential of further growth.

-And what would you like to add?

-I would like to wish the GIT Award further success, and express gratitude to the GIT Award Committee leadership and members, who have done a lot for making the idea of GIT Award a reality and an exciting and exemplary national project.

Arsen Ghazaryan, President of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia (UMBA) attaches great importance to the GIT Award as within a decade since it was established it gave serious impetus to the development of IT/high-tec and in general – country's economy development.

Many of the GIT Award Laureates visited Chess Academy of Armenia and even played with the youngest players...

In the words of Grossmeister Smbat

Lputyan, Founding President of the Academy (who is Champion of Chess Olympiad and of Europe), the honorable visitors were actually amazed by the atmosphere and environment in the Academy - the youngest players, mass character of the chess in Armenia, 'cause they realize very well that

chess could be a nice base for the IT knowledge development.

We hope our Reader will not consider inappropriate here a brief reminding history of the GIT Award...

On July 6th, 2009, President of the Republic of Armenia issued a Decree establishing a Global Award of the President of the Republic of Armenia for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity through IT (Global IT Award).

The Global IT Award annually honors an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to humanity through advancing the world of IT. The award highlights Armenia on the world IT map as a growing high-tech destination.

Inaugurated in 2009, the Global IT Award is granted on an annual basis to an individual whose internationally acclaimed contributions to IT have resulted in near-revolutionary or revolutionary developments that have positively impacted or

hold the potential to positively impact the humanity. The contributions may be in the technological, educational, organizational, or financial areas.

In 2018 Global IT Award became State Award of Republic of Armenia for Global Contribution to Humanity through IT.

The Award consists of golden medal, diploma and trophy evoking High Technologies.

The medal for the Laureate of the State Award of the Republic of Armenia represents a winged lion authored by Karen Aghamyan, President of the Artists' Union of Armenia redesigned by Erebuni's frescoes representing the power and the wisdom of the Armenian people.

The lion rests on the modern globe and its network of rings reflects rapidly growing Information Technologies.

The trophy is entirely made of optical glass decorated with jewelry made of Armenian gemstones.

The Awarding Program is implemented by the Award Committee and the international Selection Panel appointed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

Invitations for Nominations

Candidates eligible for the Global IT Award are those nominated by qualified persons who have

received an invitation from the Award Committee. Self nominations are not accepted.

The Committee extends invitations to submit nominations to a limited international group of IT professionals, industry leaders, scientists and educators, preselected by the Board based on advice of the Committee members, Co-Chairmen and Advisors of the Global IT Award Committee.

Completed nomination forms must reach the Award Committee according to the previously determined schedule. The Committee screens the nominations and with assistance and recommendations from Co-Chairmen and Advisors selects the preliminary candidates. The short-listed nominations are forwarded to the Selection Panel for review. The Committee may decide to verify the candidates' availability before sending the nominations to the Panel.

Laureate Selection

The Selection Panel votes on a date determined by the Award Committee to select the Global IT Laureate through a majority vote. At the discretion of the Committee, voting is arranged in person and/or by e-mail. The decision is final and without appeal. The Laureate is then informed by the Award Committee and his/her availability for the awarding ceremony is verified.

Awarding Ceremony and Accompanying Events

The Laureate receives his/her award from the hands of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia during a special ceremony held in Yerevan, Armenia on a pre-agreed date. The Laureate further enjoys a three day program which includes an introduction to the country and its ICT sector, presentations from the IT academic and business communities, and extensive international mass media coverage. All travel expenses are covered by the organizers.

Global IT Award Committee

The Committee sends invitations for nominations, receives the nominations, recommends nominees for final selection by the Selection Panel, and arranges necessary logistics.

Currently *Hakob Arshakyan,* Minister of High-Tech Industry of Armenia is the Chairman of GIT Award Committee, and Dr *Hovik Musayelyan,* Director of Synopsys Armenia CJSC, is the Committee Coordinator. **Below you could find pieces on/from Laureates the most memorable for your author:**

Craig Barrett, Legendary Intel Retired Chief: Laureate No.1, 2010

Dr *Craig R. Barrett*, legendary Intel Retired Chief (1997-2005), a world-recognized scientist, educator, public figure, UN highest-class expert became the first ever person to receive this Award.

..Asked by an Armenian girl student: "What you will tell your grandchildren when sharing with them impressions from Armenia?", Dr Barrett answered: *"To my grandkids ..., I will say that, first, it was exciting,- I was able to get Armenia's countryside,- you know, it's always important to get out the big cities to rural areas, you know, nature, and what I've seen there was very positive, and my wife and I are looking*

forward to come back and to spend some time in Armenia's countryside. And then we are at the fair position to tell our grandchildren exactly what Armenia is, but, Yerevan is a great city with its beautiful architecture, so thank you very-very much".

As to our IT engineers, Dr Barrett told reporters : "*We can express no discontent over the skills and professionalism of the Armenian IT specialists*".

-Dr Barrett, what was your very first thought when you've got to know you are first ever recipient of the RA President Global IT Award?

-I had known that Armenia had a long history of technical expertise and talent, so that was a very prestigious award from the country.

…I think, the most important thing you can do today is to allow every child equal opportunity, and, first of all, an opportunity to education; so many children around the world do not have educational opportunity…

There is nothing but education!

Nice man, with his spouse Ambassador Barbara Barrett, they enjoyed **FULL LOVE of the Armenian society!**

Steve Wozniak -"Mr Woz": Laureate No.2, 2011

"Mr Woz" said he was "*very impressed of how they in Armenia spare no effort to find the ways to turn the country in one of the technology world centers, and on efforts they make in education to achieve this goal*".

"*This is definitely a unique honor as I have never received*

anything like this (the GIT Award.)", stated a man honored by many top prestigious US awards and prizes.

And also he said, probably, the most important thing in the world for any creative man: "*Anything I was doing when working, I was doing with pleasure, so enjoying it all*", - again, your author would dare to state that the

above mentioned was reflecting "the main secret" of Wozniak's UNBELIAVABLE SUCCESS STORY.

And what the legendary engineer said later, we believe, could become a source for the great inspiration for all Armenian engineers (and not only engineers). "*What happened with us* (The Apple) *in America, could happen also here in Armenia, why not?*" (It seems now it is our turn to say "*WOW!*").

In his words of gratitude the legendary Awardee mentioned that *Nobel Prize in computer science does not exist; so it is a symbolic thing that such kind of Award has been estab-*

lished in Armenia… Why? Most probably, because of the fact that there are young people here who can create… And the fact that the Award is handed by the Head of State, emphasizes its importance, that was an answer of "Mr Woz", or the Apple's "another Steve" to his own question.

This country is small compared with such IT superpowers as the United States, so you think that you are small so that's why your capacity is also small, said Steve Wozniak. We, also, were a small group of enthusiasts of a college who, thanks to Steve Jobs, founded Apple which became a competitor for a giant, IBM, in the times when such a competition might seem to many absolutely unreal thing, he said.

Another rhetoric question asked aloud by him sounded as the following: could Armenia make a breakthrough in IT? And the answer was a quite positive one as, in Wozniak's opinion, our country is a very good venue for investment in IT sector, and Armenia has good potential for big achievements in that area. "*I believe in it* ", said a man who yet in 70s forecasted that decades later PC will enter every home and, importantly, did, with Steve Jobs indeed, everything for his own forecast's coming true….

And below The Highlights readers can find a really sensational statement by Wozniak The American: saying that Armenia has a "very favorable" cli-

mate for the manufacturing side of the IT industry, he explained : "*because it is economically more competitive than western countries like the United States*" (!!!).

During the two days which "Mr Woz" was in Armenia, since the early morning the main entrance of Armenia Marriott Hotel was under "siege" by Apple products'/ Wozniak's fans asking a living legend of Silicon Valley for signature on the Apple iPhones and notebooks.

And...

-Frankly speaking, before my coming here I had no much knowledge on Armenia, but now I think that Armenians have awful ability to participate in technical and computer world; I don't think that Armenia is enough strong and successful in technology yet, but the fact is if you have here the world chess champions, it means you have awfully good logical brains…..

Dr Federico Faggin, "Father of Microprocessors": Laureate No.3, 2012

Dr Faggin worked for Intel Corporation from 1970 to 1974. In 1970-'71 he led the design and development of the 4004, the world's first microprocessor, and the other 3 chips of the MCS-4 product family. In 1971-'72, Faggin led the development of the 8008, the world's first 8-bit microprocessor. He also architected and led the development of the Intel 8080 and the Intel 4040 microprocessors. Faggin was Department Manager of Intel's Research and Development Group from 1973 to 1974.

In 1974 F.Faggin co-founded Zilog, Inc., the first company entirely dedicated to the emergent microprocessors and microcontrollers market. Mr Faggin was Director, President and CEO of Zilog from 1974 to 1980. At Zilog Faggin conceived, architected and led the development of the Z80

microprocessor, one of the most successful microprocessors ever produced, still in high volume production in 2012. Under Faggin's leadership, Zilog was at the forefront of microprocessor technology for many years.

In 1982, Federico Faggin co-founded Cygnet Technologies, Inc., which developed the first personal integrated voice and data communication product. In 1986 Faggin co-founded Synaptics, Inc., which developed the early touchpads now universally used in notebook computers and mobile devices. He served as Director, President and Chief Executive Officer from March 1987 to January 1999. From January 1999 until November 2008 he served as Chairman of the Board, and he is now Chairman Emeritus.

From 2003 to 2008 Federico Faggin was President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Foveon, Inc., a company that developed a breakthrough technology for image sensors. Foveon was acquired by Sigma Corporation in 2008. Faggin is now President of Federico and Elvia Faggin Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the scientific study of consciousness.

…Traditionally, Mr and Mrs Faggin laid flowers to the Eternal Flame at 1915 Armenian Genocide Memorial....A couple of extracts from Dr Faggin's impressions he put in the Guestbook:

"... all this is to remember what happened so that mankind can never forget the horror that hatred can cause...

...I hope that lessons of history that this Memorial teaches will help the process of conversation from hatred to love and compassion..."

Elvia Faggin told your correspondent, *"... I am very impressed... If the Genocide committed against Armenians is not recognized, it can happen with anyone of us, any country, so it's a duty for all of us to know about it..."*

In his responce to a question from The Highlights *"What was your very first thought when he just learned that he has been nominated for the Armenian GIT Award?"* Federico Faggin said: "*Wow! Armenia!*"

"*Why*?" goes on your "tireless" correspondent.

"*Because Armenia is a cradle of civilization*."

What was a remarkable piece for yours truly at a Dr Faggin's lec-

ture-presentation on the future of informatics in the modern world? - A very philosophical statement reflects all the humanism of Federico Faggin, the man and the thinker: "***Humanity is entering a critical period of its evolution. Only through a renewed commitment to respect and love life in all its forms will this transition conclude happily***."

...During his tete-a-tete conversation with the Armenian President Dr Faggin said it was a big honor to receive the Award and shared with the Head of the State his impressions he has got from the "*ancient land of Armenia, a cradle of civilization.*"

Dr Tsugio Makimoto, fmr Hitachi Chief, the first non-American GIT Award Laureate, No.4, 2013

President of Semiconductor Industry Association, former CEO of the Hitachi Company

Dr Makimoto has been one of the most effective visionaries of Japan's IT industry. He has pushed the technology limits to bring the building blocks that have included advance semiconductors & display devices. These building blocks have enabled the electronics industry to develop and launch most of the electronics products that have changed the world, and impacted almost all aspects of our lives since 1970's, and continue today and going forward. Last fifteen years, we have seen many paradigm shifting products and platforms, e.g. Smart Card, Smart Phones, e-books, Tablet PC's, GPS navigation systems, Servers, PC's, HDTV, Telecommunications, Robotics and Automation, Electronic Games, Mobile Products, Internet, Social Networking, and others yet to come.

Hisvisionary models and projection let him to discover and publish the famous "Makimoto Wave" that relates to the cyclical nature of

semiconductor industry.

Prior to his retirement from Hitachi, Dr. Makimoto has served as the CEO of Hitachi Electronic Device Group and Senior Executive Managing Director. Since then,he has stayed active in various distinguished positions in the high tech multinational and industry groups. These have included: Sr. Corporate Advisor of Sony Corporation,Member of Advisory Panel of National Science & Technology Board of Singapore, Board Director of Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing in Singapore, Member of Industry Advisory Board of UC Berkley, Chairman of PDF Solutions, also he was instrumental in establishing WSC (World SC Council).

Currently he is the president of SSIS (Society of Semiconductor Industry Specialists) and the founder & President of Techno Vision. He also holds senior advisory positions with several multinational companies: Taiyo Nippon Sanso Corp, MicronicsJapan Corp and Nantero Corp. in USA.

In the words of **Tony Moroyan**, a member of the Award Committee Selection Panel, Viasphere Intl CEO and Chairman who has been knowing Tsugio Makimoto for several decades already, Dr Makimoto, with his famous theory on the chip production further direction called "Makimoto Wave", was *"a one who created building blocks for entire electronics further de-*velopment".

And, again, the most memorable pieces of the Laureate's stay in Armenia...

Asked by The Highlights correspondent what did he know about our country, world-known scientist recognized that started to read about Armenia after he had got knew about nomination to the GIT Award. He said that would be

staying in Armenia longer than he was initially planning and would like to familiarize closely with our country, the history and culture of the Armenian people.*"A person told me: if you go to Armenia, you'll fall in love with the country in a few days, but I fell in love with Armenia just in the first day"*, said Dr Makimoto. And...*"Yesterday we have had a fantastic Armenian dinner, people are very friendly, you know, my wife and me will stay here for ten more days to know more about two Armenias – an ancient one which started its history from B.C. times, and a new one – I see huge technological and scientific potential here, in particular, in your ICT specialists..."*

In his thank-you remarks, the Awardee Tsugio Makimoto said it was *"the great honor"* to him to be awarded *"one of the most prestigious awards"* in the IT area, as well as spoke about his professional experience - from the very first transistor radio in 1950s to the current smartphones, iPods, tablets and outlined prospects of development of information technologies in the world. Showing a digital translator to the gathered, he said in Armenian: *"Es shat em sirum Hayastann"("I love Armenia very much")*.

...On Saturday November 16 Mr Makimoto and Mrs **Kumiko Makimoto** visited the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, and on the next day paid tribute to the Genocide 1915 victims at Tsitsernakaberd Memorial where the Awardee planted a traditional tree. Tsugio Makimoto, a great son of the people survived Hiroshima and Nagasaki Tragedy, left the following inscription in the guestbook of the Genocide Museum-Institute: *"It was the most sad incident in the Human History. Should never happen again. Tsugio Makimoto, November 17, 2013"*

The Highlights correspondent succeeded to talk to Dr Makimoto just before depart.

-...If in a couple of words, what is in common between the Armenians and the Japanese?

-The both Nations have long history, - millennia-old culture, traditions, etc… They both are uniform peoples…

And both Armenia and Japan lack natural resources, so peoples are the most important resource of both countries.

So Armenia and

Japan as well are very much enthusiastic in education.

You know, we've visited Armenian Chess Academy and were very impressed that Armenia has been attaching such a great importance to the chess learning as a core for educating young generation.

We were also impressed much by what we've seen at the TUMO Center.

- As far as we know, previous years' Global IT Award Laureates have been keeping ties with Armenia. For instance, the ArmTech Congress held a year ago in Silicon Valley was honored by presence of Dr Craig Barrett, Retired Intel Chief (the first Award recipient) and Dr Federico Faggin, one of the contemporary microprocessors "fathers" (GIT Award Laureate No.3).

Moreover, we could say even that a MoU signing, - between Intel and the Govt. of Armenia was held "under aegis" of Dr Barrett…

So are you going to be "our man" in Japan, Makimoto-san?

-At present not so many people in Japan know about Armenia, so I would be happy to be a kind of a bridge between the two Nations/Countries, - to make many more Japanese being interested in Armenia; I will encourage them to come here, no doubt…

P.S. Mr and Mrs Makimoto stayed in Armenia for one more week - by the way, AT THEIR OWN, - to get know more about the country and its people.

P.S.1 Laureate No.4 kept his promise "to be our man": in Japan, he published a book entitled "Armenia as IT Country: Shining Silicon Valley in the Middle East/Caucasus……."

Mario Mazzola, Chief Development Officer, Cisco Systems: Laureate No.5, 2014

Mario Mazzola serves as Chief Development Officer at Cisco Systems. The Insieme team led by him is building next generation Data Center solutions with its Software Defined Networking vision – Application Centric Infrastructure – and is responsible for Cisco's Merchant and Merchant Plus Switching Portfolio, including the Nexus 3000 and 9000 portfolios. Prior the Cisco acquisition of Insieme in November 2013, Mario served as Chairman of the Board and Co-Founder of Insieme Networks, Inc. As a 21-year veteran of Cisco, Mario's guiding principles are communication, trust, fairness, and creating a challenging environment with an opportunity for growth.

Prior to Insieme, Mario served as Senior Vice President of the Server Access Virtualization Technology Group at Cisco Systems, where he led the team to grow Cisco's portfolio of Data Center access and virtualization solutions to a multi-billion dollar business,

photo by Zaven Khachikyan

garnering the #1 spot in US market share and #2 in Europe. The business began with the acquisition of Nuova Systems – a company co-founded and led by Mario as President and CEO. Nuova Systems focused on data center transformations, building the Nexus 2K, 5K, Unified Fabric and the Unified Computing System.

Prior to Nuova Systems, Mario held the position of Chief Development Officer at Cisco Systems. In this role, he was responsible for leading Cisco's overall R&D strategy and managing the entire engineering organization comprised of eleven technology groups: IOS Technologies, Internet Switching & Services, Core Routing, Network Management Services, Optical, Storage, Voice, Aggregation, Access, Ethernet Access and Wireless. In addition to these roles, Mario served as Senior Vice President of New Business Ventures and Senior Vice President of the Enterprise Line of Business at Cisco Systems.

As the Senior VP of New Business Ventures, he was responsible for heading the incubation effort to explore new technologies that aligned and promoted Cisco's business strategies. Under his leadership and guidance, Cisco acquired all major companies that, along with Crescendo, became the foundation for Cisco's multi-billion dollar switching business, including Kalpana, Granite, and Grand Junction. As the Senior Vice President of the Enterprise Line of Business, he helped guide Cisco's strategies for providing global end-to-end solutions and the convergence of data, voice, and video.

-…The strongest emotion that I've felt was at the Armenian Genocide Memorial, and, especially, in its Museum. And I am amazed

by the Armenians' will to reborn after this tragedy and to have their own independent state.

As to the Armenian people, we all have been very impressed from the immense sense of the hospitality we've enjoyed in Armenia, their warmth, steadiness to move ahead, to change something, to make a progress. And I've seen this desire to move ahead in a very clear way when meeting with students at the Engineering University.

Although within last decades the humanity have had revolutionary achievements in science and technology, but, still, there is a space for future great discoveries, and in these terms one should focus on the enthusiasm of the young with who I've always been working in a team with the great pleasure; you know, it has been a kind of "complementarism" between them and myself – their being "aggressive" incorporated with my experience. Yes, we should rely upon the young people, - like those I've met at the SEUA.

…As to your question on the Armenia's IT industry, I should say that I think for Armenia it is a just very moment to realize a very good opportunity based on the people's enthusiasm, capability and education… I felt the people here are eager to participate in changing the country.

Today (12 Nov.) I've visited Tumo Center, and there I was impressed much by the energy, passion of the teachers, - my colleagues, and also by the originality of the programs, in particular, those related to programming, robotics, animation, script languages.

If frankly, what I've seen there, is much more advanced that in many other places.

I've already been mentioning absolutely sincerely that the aspirations of the young here in many cases is to become equal technically and technologically to those we have in the United States.

So those programs and the enthusiasm of the Tumo Principal and the teachers are really unique ones…

-In the practical terms, what did you talk with the Armenian Premier?

- Well, about Mr Prime Minister's request to invest more in Armenia I'd

refer to the Cisco CEO **John Chambers.** Notably, Cisco recently made a small acquisition here in Armenia – Memoir Systems Armenia, and yesterday I've visited that office…

…Naturally, by the moment I can give no 100% guaranties, but, I think soon the number of employees who are very knowledgeable people will reach 20-30 as they could be very useful for Cisco...

-…Well, how soon?

- I think, in about five-six months.

In coming days **Tom Ezzo**, Chief Technological Officer (CTO) at my division with who I've been working since 1984 when Mr Ezzo was a just-graduated from the Stanford University, is to come to Armenia, so I believe ties between Cisco and Armenia

will get stronger in foreseeable future.

…What is the most important thing in today's rapidly changing world, especially in terms of IT, is the capability of employees and good education. And, as I see, these both elements are evident here in Armenia.

-…And what is the advice from the Fifth GIT Award Laureate Mario Mazzola's to his younger colleagues in Armenia?

- I think the overall attention to the application space, the data space and the security is very important. Yes, data preservation is very important in today's world.

-And the last, but not the least, not at all: according to common opinion, there is a lot in common between Armenians and Italians…

So have you found something really Italian in us the Armenians?

-I must be speaking on this issue very openly: I think, similarity you've just mentioned, in a bigger extent connected to Southern Italy such as, for instance, is my native Sicily.

…You know, both for the Italians and the Armenians family ties, respect to the elderly have been traditionally important.

My wife **Luciana** who was born in the Northern Italy, Milano, was coming for vacation to Sicily when we were very-very young, so we've been knowing each other for many-many years…

We've visited the beautiful Armenian churches, and we've seen the Ararat Mountain, which is, in particular, the Armenian special value, and, in general, a universal value – for entire mankind, so here we've realized all the contribution the Armenians have done in the entire human

history and culture.

So this was a unique experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

-So, you, Mr Mazzola, Mrs Mazzola and your younger daughter Francesca loved our country…

- ...Absolutely, no doubt…

-So when are you back in Armenia?

-…I've received invitation to participate in the Armenian Genocide Centennial commemorative events.

By the moment I can't declare my commitment to come in 2015 April as I have to check my schedule for the possibility to come, but I feel honored by that invitation, no doubt.

Important: Mr Mazzola donated 1mln US dollars to the American University of Armenia (AUA)

Eugene (Yevgeny) Kaspersky, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Kaspersky Lab: Laureate No.6, 2015

Eugene Kaspersky is a world-renowned cybersecurity expert and successful entrepreneur. He is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kaspersky Lab, the world's largest privately-held vendor of endpoint protection and cybersecurity solutions.

Eugene began his career in cybersecurity accidentally when his computer became infected with the "Cascade" virus in 1989. Eugene's specialized education in cryptography helped him analyze the encrypted virus and understand its behavior and then develop a removal tool for it. After successfully removing the virus, Eugene's curiosity and passion for computer technology drove him to start analyzing more malicious programs and developing disinfection modules for them. This exotic collection of anti-virus modules would eventually become the foundation for Kaspersky Lab's antivirus database. Today the database is one of the most comprehensive and complete collections in cybersecurity, detecting and preventing systems from being infected

defensive technologies, in 1990 Eugene started gathering a team of like-minded enthusiast researchers to create the AVP Toolkit Pro antivirus program, which four years later was recognized by the University of Hamburg as the most effective antivirus software in the world.

Wishing to combine their successful track record of antivirus programming with their entrepreneurial vision, Eugene and his colleagues decided to establish their own independent company. In 1997 Kaspersky Lab was founded, with Eugene heading the company's antivirus research. In 2007 he was named Kaspersky Lab's CEO.

Today Kaspersky Lab is one of the fastest growing IT security vendors worldwide, operating in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide. The company employs approximately 3,000 professionals and IT security specialists in dedicated regional offices across 30 countries and its cybersecurity technologies protect over 300 million users worldwide.

Eugene has earned a number of international awards for his technological, scientific and entrepreneurial achievements. He was voted the World's Most Powerful Security Execby SYS-CON Media in 2011, awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Plymouth University in 2012, and named one of Foreign Policy Magazine's 2012 Top Global Thinkers for his contribution to IT security awareness on a global scale.

Important: Eugene Kaspersky opened "Kaspersky Lab" branch at the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA, "Polytechnic") and signed MoU with the Armenian-Russian (Slavonic) University of Armenia

Eugene Kaspersky
Cybersecurity Expert,
CEO, Founder of Kaspersky Lab

KASPERSKY lab

MASTER CLASS
by Eugene Kaspersky

July 21, 11:00

RUSSIAN-ARMENIAN UNIVERSITY

Free entrance

Address: 123 Hovsep Emin str., Russian-Armenian University, House of Cultures

Probably, there is no PC in the world when the customer do not see Kaspersky antivirus system at the computer screen…

by more than 100 million malicious programs.

Further pursuing his passion for

Louis Pouzin of France, a Father of Internet: Laureate No. 7, 2016

Louis Pouzin is a world-recognized expert in computer communication and networking technology. He is also known internationally for his numerous publications, many of which are instructional materials for courses on computer network. L.Pouzin has released more than 80 articles and a book on the computer networking, and has received numerous prestigious awards such as IFIP Silver Core, ACM SIG-COMM, IEEE Internet, ISOC Hall of Fame, and Chevalier de Légion d'Honneur.

Monsieur Pouzin is one of the five founding fathers of Internet.

He was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Prize for Engineering. Within the frames of his trip Louis Pouzin, traditionally, met the RA Prime Minister, visited the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA, Polytechnic) where he was awarded the University Honorable Doctor title, paid tribute to the1915 Armenian Genocide victims at the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial, made a sightseeing tour in Yerevan

and the country.

Speaking to Armenian *168 Jam* newspaper correspondent, the 7th GIT Award Laureate said he discovered that here, in Armenia, there is a clearly developed strategic policy for the information technology development. This is a policy that you can not see even in many developed countries, he said. In GIT Award 2016 Laureate words, *"In Paris they've told me that the great work being done for the promotion of the IT sector here in Armenia, and I have received a pretty good explanation on what this Award is. And so I gladly accepted this offer, and here I am..."* And... *"The companies that make data collection and storage of private persons such as Google, Twitter, Facebook, Apple, Amazon, - these are instruments having the real threats to the society. People simply are not aware that such a collection of data about them is not in their favor. The information is provided and distributed to the people, - sports, politics, fashion and other works with well thought-out mechanisms that also contributes to interests of huge enterprises, or even to enrichment of the public sectors.*

Now the most important job of my life is to make the Internet more diverse, - by this freeing it from the American domination. My task is to make the Internet more useful for people and not to allow certain groups of people to become too rich at the expense of others..."

Louis Pouzin said that throughout his life he has been working with pleasure and has been happy to contact persons who are resolute in their steps. *"I am confident that there are many such people in Armenia with whom it is possible to work and implement programs. My objective is to maintain a constant contact with them and thanks to that link even to develop new programs and carry out works,"* said he.

Important: soon after his visit to Armenia Mr Pouzin opened here in Yerevan a subsidiary of his company, RINAARMENIA - working on Internet.

Tony Fadell, Inventor of iPOD: Laureate No.8, 2017:

"In Armenia, I have been Surprised Every Hour…"

And…*"To stay only two full days in Yerevan, Armenia as the Global IT Award 2017 Laureate will not be enough to see, experience and interact…I want to be helpful for Armenia…"* – The 8th Laureate of the Global IT Award promised to come back to Armenia with family…

Tony Fadell was born in March 22, 1969. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a BS in Computer Engineering in 1991.

Tony Fadell was famous as inventor, designer, entrepreneur, and angel investor.

A lifelong music lover, he hoped to develop a portable digital music player. While seeking financing for his own startup, he received an invitation to advise Apple. When he

presented Apple with his design, Steve Jobs offered him a full-time job leading a new Special Projects group.

He served as the Senior Vice President of the iPod Division at Apple Inc., and known as "one of the fathers of the iPod" for his work on the first generations of Apple's music player.

When Steve Jobs decided to move Apple into the mobile phone sector, he placed Fadell in charge of the new project. Efforts to add a phone to the architecture of the iPod failed, but when Fadell and his team reimagined the project as a mobile phone with a built-in iPod, they created another game-changing device, the iPhone. For the second time, Fadell and his team at Apple had overturned the equilibrium of the consumer electronics industry and set Apple on the path to becoming the most highly capitalized company in history. He resigned from Apple in 2008.

In May 2010, he founded Nest Labs.

The Nest Learning Thermostat reached the market in October 2011 and has been followed by Nest smoke detectors and security systems. Fadell

VIVA CELL ⬛ MTS

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SS ոլորտում համաշխարհային ներդրման համար 22 Նախագահի 8-րդ դափնեկիր

Tony Fadell
8th laureate of Global IT Award of RA President for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity through IT

has authored more than 300 patents. In 2012, he received the Alva Award as "the next great serial inventor." In 2014, Google acquired Nest for $3.2 billion. Fadell continued to run Nest as a division of Google for the first year. The following spring, Fadell resigned his positions with Nest and Google.

In 2014, he was listed in The World's Top 25 Eco-Innovators.

From 2016 Fadell is also the co-founder of Actev Motors, a young company creating all-electric smart go-karts for children.

…Questions from The Highlights were the following: 1) How and what Mr. Fadel knew about Armenia and the Armenians? 2) What made him to come to Armenia? 3) What was the main secret of his tremendous success?

Fadell: "...As I told you already, the first reason was tenacious Tony (Moroyan), and…People around me who about Armenians, told me stories, and one of them I want to share with you (looked like a kind of anecdote - **author**): a closest friend of mine, of the Jewish origin, told me the following: Armenians are very special people, and the reason is the following: it takes five Christian negotiators to equal one Greek negotiator; it takes three Greek negotiators to defeat one Jewish negotiator, and it takes seven Jewish negotiators to defeat one Armenian negotiator" (The audience laughed and applauded - **author**). And so then I said to myself: I have to learn a lot about the Armenian people and about what you do here, the tenacity and the resilience that kept Armenians to last and survive 3-4 thousand years, to keep your people, your language and your culture that I think I will love so much to learn more about it".

Asked about "the next technological breakthrough in the world", Tony Fadell replied: "Through my investments I've been doing for around twenty years already, I've been looking at different areas/industries around the world, and what I've found: the best new territory to break ground for new technologically enabled businesses is not just in consumer domain as you know like TV, etc., but in biology, - computation of synthetic biology is a big field, obviously, artificial intelligence, agriculture technology is one of the 10-15 biggest businesses in the world in terms of investment, it is a tremendous place where technology has been able to increase yield to help communities around the world, and both the energy generation and the waste remediation indeed …"

Dr James Truchard, Co-Founder of National Instruments: Laureate No.9, 2018

"Armenia has Real Chance to Be Excellent in the World ICT/High Tec…"

And…*"The Dream Has Come True":* **"Dr T" Heapes Praise to Our Talented Youngsters and Others as Well…**

Named an Innovation Agent by Fast Company, James Truchard, President and CEO, co-founded National Instruments in 1976 and has pioneered the way scientists and engineers solve the world's grand engineering challenges.

As one of Forbes' America's Favorite Bosses, Dr. James Truchard, commonly known around NI as Dr. T, has led the company from a three-man team to a multinational organization recognized as a Fortune 100 Best Places to Work and one of the top 25 "World's Best Multinational Workplaces" by the Great Places to Work Institute.

Under Truchard's leadership, the company's long-term vision, known as the 100 year plan, and focus on improving the world by providing tools that accelerate productivity, innovation, and discovery, has led to strong, con-sistent company growth and success of its broad base of customers, employees, suppliers, and shareholders.

Under Dr Truchard's leadership, National Instruments redefined the test and measurement market with a software-based approach.

This software-based approach instrumentation would come to be knows as virtual instrumentation with the tagline "The Software is The Instrument". Virtual Instrumentation also required significant innovation on how hardware was managed by the software. Vision driven mentoring played a key role in achieving a highly differentiated position for National Instruments.

When receiving GIT Award, Dr Truchard said in particular: *"I am honored and humble for this Award, and I thank the Award Committee for the Award…I've always been recognizing the importance of the awards because science and engineering are the key players in the industry…Again, it is great honor to me, and thank you for hospitality in Armenia, and Armenia for me has been a very important part of the world where National Instruments has been working, I recognize the strong level of Armenian talent in* this sphere, and one of my goals over the years has been to help Armenian engineers contribute and participate in the global IT economy".

"It is an exciting time for technology development and I believe Armenia is well-positioned to participate in this new exciting time of internet of things, autonomous vehicles, etc. Scientists and engineers in Armenia are well equipped and had passed personal learning and technical trainings, and I hope National Instruments can help provide access for them to global technology opportunities as well", Dr. Truchard added.

In response to your correspondent question what "Dr T" did know about Armenia before opening Natl Instruments branch here, the 2018 GIT Award Laureate said Aram Salatian introduced him the country and the people in detail, and as to what did he feel when knew about his nomination, James Truchard repeated that it was *"the great honor"* to him, and he is *"humble"*.

And…*"It's a great honor for me to visit this University* (Engineering) *where I feel recognized and appreciated since appreciation and recognition are one of the key factors encouraging the person. I think Armenia has all necessary preconditions and features to become a leading country in the IT field, and I wish you good luck on this process"*

Important: National Instruments Armenia branch has been working since 2007

Due to its efforts in the Natl Politechnic University of Armenia (NPUA) was established ANEL (Armenian National Engineering Laboratories) Center that is open for all students of the Armenian universities with a creative thinking.

AND…

Natl Instruments has been playing key role in establishment of the

Engineering City…

Construction of Engineering City aimed at developing the field of high technologies in Armenia will be completed in 1-1.5 years, Bagrat Yengibaryan, Director of the Enterprise Incubator Foundation told reporters before the groundbreaking ceremony of the City in Yerevan on 1 December.

The Project was initiated by the National Instruments, and this company created a consortium consisting of both Armenian and foreign companies in which NI has been playing leading role.

There are already an engineering center, library, museums of universe, science and technologies in the other side of the area there.

It is expected that in this city 32 organizations will be deployed with their separate buildings as well as a major engineering incubator with 38 newly-established companies.

Construction of the Engineering City aims at testing a new unprecedented model in the region. *"This model will prepare engineering specialists in one place, the companies will be able to use the joint equipment, observe and later produce jointly"*, Yengibaryan noted.

The Engineering City is created within the frames of the public-private partnership. According to the program, 1500 highly-qualified specialists of the field will be prepared and trained, 2000 jobs will be created, start-us will be established, as well as the companies' activity efficiency will raise and export volumes will grow.

Accordingly, the preliminary investments comprise 30 million USD, 10 million of which will be invested by the state.

Reportedly, National Instruments Co-founder and CEO James Truchard said Armenia has a very strong technological base which has been built for decades. *"Armenia has the latest in-frastructures, engineering laboratories and similar other platforms, and the young people have an opportunity to become leading specialists in this field. I think the automated vehicles are a very attractive direction to develop in Armenia since Armenia has all components to make it reality both in educational and engineering terms. Armenia has a good position in the field of high technologies"*.

Dr Takeo Kanade: Laureate No.10, 2019

"I'm Honored and Humbled!"… **And…***"There is a Lot of in Common between the Armenians and the Japanese"*

World famous scientist believes in the bright future of the country that is committed to its high-tech sector development

This year the Award Committee decided to "inaugurate" the Laureate with his appearance at the "Silicon Mountains" Forum held in Yerevan on 4-5 December. Dr Kanade had a presentation entitled "Many-Camera Technologies".

Your author was especially interested in use of this technology in entertainment – sports and stage, autonomous driving, virtual tourism, medicine and some other areas.

What is the main essence of this technology?

According to Dr Kanade, by observing things happening from many viewpoints will be at least one of the strongest ways to get the whole picture of the event. If you have too many pics, then it is too much for a human being to consume, and computer will help you to organize those many images into a consistent data structure, so you have a right picture, right understanding of what is happening. So that is the power of multi-view, i.e. multi-camera technology.

-Dr Kanade, however, there is a kind of contradiction between your nice technology and human's privacy…How to find a good balance between this two?

-It is always a good question…And the explanation is too long…But…

The fact is I'm not taking a new pic, I'm taking only pictures from existing cameras, so in that sense I'm not increasing any possibility of invading your privacy…

And I'm not proposing to put cameras in your bathroom or bedroom…

…In an age when most researchers specialize narrowly, Kanade has made important contributions in a number of areas ranging from foundational theoretical advances to innovative devices and algorithms that are widely used today. His earliest work was on face recognition where he ultimately developed techniques for facial expression analysis that could spot minute details and changes—unlike previous recognition systems which at best noted broad categories such as "happy" or "angry." Kanade also pioneered important techniques in motion analysis, introducing a fundamental algorithm for tracking particular image patches through a video sequence, opening the door for modern tracking and compression technologies. His interest in motion analysis led him to focus on 3-D images and the various ways one can extract three-dimensional information from two-dimensional images. He produced a seminal theory on how to recover the three-dimensional shape of an object from a single image in 1981 (known as the "Origami World" the-

ory). He also pioneered the concept of "Virtualized Reality" in which several images of an event taken from various vantage points are combined into a coherent model which can then be used to create novel views of the scene from any desired viewpoint. The techniques that his research group developed were used by CBS in its 2001 broadcast of the Super Bowl to provide images of the field from the player's point of view. Kanade's innovations in robotic vision have been incorporated into several autonomous robots, including a driverless car, an autonomous helicopter and a computer-assisted hip-replacement surgery system, which is currently being tested in a clinical setting.

Dr Kanade has around 300 academic publications and holds 20 patents.

-What was your first reaction when you heard you are the Laureate ?

- Surprise, and having learned two things - the previous Laureates are outstanding people, and so I am hnored to find myself in their list, and probably the most important thing the Award is given by the country that is committed to hi-tech…

So if I can do anything in the area of younger people education, I will be happy to do it in my capacity.

- And what about your plans to work with Armenia?

-You know, I do not know by this very moment…But I heard a lot of good things about Armenia, the talents here…Visiting universities and industry here I definitely would generate some collaboration.

-You are the second Japanese Laureate as few years ago Dr Tsugio Makimoto was awarded (who stayed with his spouse for one more week in Armenia at his own to know better our country). **Do you know Dr Makimoto personally?**

-I did not contact Dr Makimoto personally, but I've read his book on Armenia, and also I've read a book (in Japanese) by Dr **Hrant Poghosyan**, Armenia's Ambassador to Japan.

…In the beginning of this story we put authoritative opinions of men who have been driving forces of the Award since its very establishment, so if we add their answers to the question "Is the Project (the GIT Award) Success??" to all the above-mentioned, is there anybody who could have just a minor piece of doubt in the following statement:

Yes, ABSOLUTE SUCCESS!