

Armenian, Swiss Presidents meet in Yerevan

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, and Swiss President, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Didier Burkhalter held a meeting at the Presidential Palace today.

President Serzh Sargsyan welcomed the high-ranking guest in our country and stressed that this meeting carries special significance for the Armenian side because they are hosting a friendly and reliable partner in the person of the President of the Swiss Confederation which at the same time is the Chairperson-in-Office of a structure that has for many years dealt with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict being of vital importance for Armenia. "Today, with great pleasure and eagerness we will discuss both the agenda of our bilateral relations and various aspects of our cooperation within the OSCE framework. Of course, I am glad that today you are also meeting with the President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and it is a great opportunity for you to meet all the parties to the conflict and listen to their opinions. Welcome to Armenia," said President Serzh Sargsyan at the meeting with Didier Burkhalter.

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Didier Burkhalter presented his appreciation for the warm reception



and underscored that he is glad to arrive in Armenia after visiting the other two countries of the region. "As you said, we have to discuss and dialogue with all parties if want to find a solution in difficult issues and that is what we, the Swiss, would like to do – to discuss and dialogue with all parties. Thank you for having prepared two

flags that recall us that we have two responsibilities and we work a lot for that," said Didier Burkhalter at the meeting with President Serzh Sargsyan.

The bilateral negotiations between Serzh Sargsyan and Didier Burkhalter were followed by an enlarged meeting with the participation of the official delegations.

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Serzh Sargsyan rejects linkage between Karabakh, Eurasian Union

President Serzh Sargsyan rejected on May 31 a pro-Azerbaijani precondition for Armenia's membership in the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union which was set by his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev at a summit in Astana on May 29.

Serzh Sargsyan insisted that Nazarbayev's demand for mentioning Armenia's internationally recognized borders in the upcoming accession treaty with Yerevan will not thwart his controversial efforts to join the union as soon as possible.

"As regards what was said by Nazarbayev, it is wrong to speak about borders to begin with," he told young activists of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK). "What borders are we talking about? The Karabakh problem is not supposed to be solved in the Customs Union.

"And who said that we are going to join the Customs Union with Karabakh? There has been and there can be no such thing because Karabakh, at least under our laws and from our perspective, is not an integral part of Armenia today."

"Of course, what Nazarbayev said was unpleasant but it cannot cause us any damage," added Sargsyan.

Nazarbayev cited a letter from Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev as he spoke at the summit on Thursday shortly after signing the new union's founding treaty with Russia's Vladimir Putin and Belarus's Aleksandr Lukashenko. "This is how you joined the World Trade Organization," Nazarbayev told Sargsyan. "There is a precedent."

The Armenian president did not respond to Nazarbayev's blunt



remarks at Astana, a fact that has prompted strong criticism from his critics at home opposed to Armenia's membership to the union.

Opposition politicians and pundits argue that the treaty transforming Russia's trade alliance with Kazakhstan and Belarus into the more closely-knit Eurasian Economic Union makes no references to their internationally recognized borders. They say Yerevan could be forced to tax goods imported from Karabakh if it accepts the condition demanded by Azerbaijan and backed by Kazakhstan. Armenian leaders have repeatedly ruled out the possibility of setting up customs checkpoints on the Karabakh frontier.

Serzh Sargsyan on Saturday did not say whether he believes that Armenia's accession treaty with the union will be signed by July 1, as was agreed in Astana. He said only that there are only "two or three technical issues" relating to trade that remain to be agreed upon in the ongoing accession talks.

Militaristic policy of Baku the biggest obstacle to NK settlement

On June 4 Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan met in Yerevan with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter.

A number of issues related to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict settlement and regional trends were discussed during the meeting.

President Sahakyan noted that the biggest hindrance to the conflict's settlement is the militaristic policy of official Baku and considered important for the international community to undertake appropriate measures to condemn and bring Azerbaijan to a constructive path.

At the same time, the President reaffirmed the position of official Stepanakert on peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict and the need to restore the full-fledged negotiation format within the frameworks of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Russia to provide \$300 mln for ANPP reconstruction

Armenian and Russian Prime Ministers Hovik Abrahamyan and Dmitry Medvedev discussed issues related to Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union at a meeting in Minsk held on the sidelines of the sitting of the Council of CIS Heads of Government.



"As President Serzh Sargsyan declared in Astana yesterday we are ready to sign the agreement by July 1st. The Russian Prime Minister agrees that there are no initial disagreements between the parties and wants Armenia to join the Union as soon as possible," PM Hovik Abrahamyan told reporters after the meeting.

The Prime Minister said concrete agreements were reached at the meeting. "The Russian Federation will allocate \$300 mln for reconstruction of the Armenian Nuclear Power Point," he said.

Hovik Abrahamyan will pay an official visit to Moscow in June, and Medvedev is expected to arrive in Armenia in the fall. During the meeting the parties discussed the upcoming visits.

Also, the interlocutors attached importance to successful implementation of programs in the military-technical, economic, cultural, humanitarian fields.

Belarusian Prime Minister Alexander Myasnikovich will also visit Armenia in autumn, Hovik Abrahamyan said, attaching importance to the meetings in that format for the intensification of economic cooperation.

Gagik Minasyan: Karabakh will de facto become part of the Eurasian economic space

Chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Financial-Credit and Budgetary Affairs Gagik Minasyan is confident Armenia will join the Eurasian Economic Union by July 1st.

According to him, Nagorno Karabakh will become de facto part of the Eurasian economic space without joining the Eurasian Economic Union, the products made in Karabakh will have the same status as those made in EEU member states.

Gagik Minasyan said Armenia's membership in the Union will open new economic perspectives for Nagorno Karabakh. He noted that Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh comprise a common economic space, and there can be no customs checkpoint between the two.

The lawmaker reminded that Nagorno Karabakh will not be the only "unrecognized" republic to be de facto included in the economic space of the Union. "Russian President Vladimir Putin has already signed agreements eliminating the customs borders with South Ossetia and Abkhazia," he reminded.

Speaking about the recent meeting in Astana, where Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said Armenia could join the Eurasian Economic Union with borders recognized by the UN and read out Azeri President Ilham Aliyev's statement, Gagik Minasyan said "it cannot be of any significance."



"With this step Nazarbayev attempted to reinforce his positions by demonstrating that the Turkish-speaking peoples have their advocate in his face," Gagik Minasyan said. He reminded that the Kazakh leader had raised the issue of borders when the "roadmap" was signed, but the proposal was not supported by the Presidents of Belarus and Russia. "In Astana Nazarbayev made the statement on behalf of the President of Azerbaijan as he did not want to lose for a second time," Minasyan said.

President Sargsyan meets Armenia's top diplomats



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan had a meeting with the leadership of the central apparatus of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the heads of Armenian diplomatic representations abroad. The President spoke about the most urgent issues on Armenia's domestic and foreign policy agenda.

Serzh Sargsyan presented the current level of Armenia's relations with partner countries and spoke about the perspectives. He referred to the process of settlement of the Karabakh issue in the format of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairman-

ship and the situation 20 years after the establishment of ceasefire. The President emphasized the role of diplomacy in the process and attached importance to the everyday work of every diplomat present at the meeting.

President Sargsyan spoke about the need to unite the efforts of all Armenians to organize the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on a proper level.

The President touched upon regional issues, Armenia-Turkey relations, the process of Armenia's accession to the Customs Union and the economic relations in this context.

President Sargsyan attached importance to the support to Syrian Armenians and hailed the activity of the Armenian Embassy and the Consulate General in Syria.

Serzh Sargsyan stressed the importance of Armenia's cooperation with the European Union and the continuous development and reinforcement of bilateral relations with EU member states.

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Yerevan Again Rules Out Customs Duties For Karabakh

Armenia will not start collecting any customs duties from goods imported from Nagorno-Karabakh after joining Russia's Eurasian Economic Union with Belarus and Kazakhstan, a senior Armenian official reiterated on June 2.

Parliament speaker Galust Sahakyan insisted what Karabakh will be a "de facto" part of the newly economic bloc whose members have to set uniform import duties for the vast majority of goods produced in third countries.

"As a customs territory, Karabakh will have the same status as it has today," he said. "So there can be no customs posts on [Armenia's] border with Karabakh."

"In terms of external turnover and investments, things in Karabakh will be the same as in Armenia," Sahakyan told reporters.

The remarks came less than a week after Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, citing the need to address Azerbaijan's concerns, demanded that the forthcoming accession treaty with Yerevan stipulate that Armenia is joining the Eurasian Economic Union with its internationally recognized borders. Such a provision could make it much harder for Armenia to avoid taxing goods coming from Karabakh.



President Serzh Sargsyan rejected Nazarbayev's precondition over the weekend. He argued that Armenia never aspired to officially joining the union together with Karabakh.

"Of course Nagorno-Karabakh will not be joining the Customs Union because it has not been de jure recognized as a state by the outside world," confirmed Sahakyan.

Didier Burkhalter: Status quo is not an option

By Karen Ghazaryan

The status quo is not an option in the current situation, and we must try to move step by step to a peaceful settlement, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Swiss President Didier Burkhalter declared at a joint press conference with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan in Yerevan.

Mr. Burkhalter expressed gratitude for Armenia's support to Switzerland in all stages of its chairmanship of the OSCE. He said Switzerland is an unbiased country and will keep the same impartiality throughout its chairmanship.

At a meeting in Yerevan earlier today the Presidents of the two countries discussed the Karabakh issue. "I reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to finding a solution to this complex issue as soon as possible. We agree that the conflict can't be resolved by means of war; on the contrary, it will become more complicated. The threats of use of force and the regular violations of the ceasefire greatly hinder the negotiation process," Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said.

Didier Burkhalter noted, in turn, that "the Swiss Chairmanship will try to reinforce the ceasefire regime and encourage a mechanism to investigate the border incidents, which has been welcomed by all



parties, but has not been implemented."

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office said their objective is to promote dialogue, first of all between the Presidents as suggested by French President Francois Hollande. "We fully support the initiative, which means that a new meeting between the Presidents can and must become the start of a new stage, where new constructive negotiations could lead to the conclusion of a peace deal," Mr. Burkhalter said. He said Switzerland is ready to provide support to the parties of the conflict even after it quits OSCE Chairmanship.

"We can provide support to encourage improvement of the peace atmosphere, particularly through people-to-people contacts and assistance to discussions on environmental issues," the Swiss President added.

President Sargsyan noted, in turn, that

"the primary confidence-building measure is, inter alia, the demonstration of proper respect towards the people of Nagorno Karabakh." "At last, this is a national liberation struggle for exercising the fundamental right to self-determination and any solution that ignores this reality is doomed to failure. We strongly believe that in order for it to be effective, every negotiation effort and process should take into account the position and opinion of the Nagorno Karabakh people," he added.

The Presidents agree that the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship is the most optimal format to resolve that conflict.

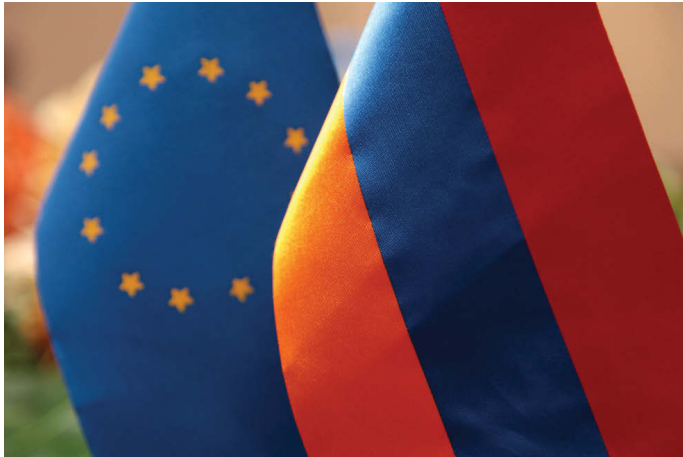
President Sargsyan expressed gratitude to Mr. Burkhalter for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the Swiss Parliament, Switzerland's devotion to universal values, as well as for its unbending commitment to promoting those values.

"We stated that because of Turkey's lack of commitment the Armenian-Turkish protocols mediated by the Swiss Confederation have been frozen up to the present day. In any case, we appreciate the role Switzerland played in that complicated process. I am sure that Turkey's illegal blockade of Armenia should always remain in the focus of all international organizations, including the OSCE," the President concluded.

EU provides 949,670 EUR for "Support to Democratic Governance in Armenia" project

The 3rd of June, 2014 marked the official launch of the EU-funded "Support to Democratic Governance in Armenia" project. The Project is implemented by the British Council in cooperation with its implementing partners Civic Development and Partnership Foundation, Grant Thornton and Thomson Foundation. The total budget of the EU-funded project is 949,670 EUR.

The overall objective of the project is to foster the process



of bringing Armenia closer to the European Union and strengthening democracy and good governance through support to democratic institutions, civil society and increasing awareness of the Armenian population on the process of EU-Armenia relations.

"Civil society has a greater role in ensuring transparency in the government decision making process. Despite the fact that Eastern Partnership countries are aiming towards this idea, the mechanisms for ensuring the participation of civil society are still limited. The main component of this project is to contribute to the creation of the legal and financial framework for the NGOs in order to strengthen their financial sustainability and capacity," said Traian Hristea, the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia.

"Through the work with state institutions and international experts and with proper consideration of the specifics of Armenian civil society sector, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the establishment of a favorable legislative framework for civil society development, thus enabling non-governmental organizations to conduct social entrepreneurship activities to ensure their social and financial stability," said Arevik Saribekyan, Director of British Council Armenia.

The project will be implemented in Vayots Dzor, Syunik, Gegharkunik, Tavush and Lori regions and in Yerevan.

ANCA presses Obama Administration about Turkey's role In Kessab attack

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) continues to press the Obama Administration for straight answers about Turkey's role in a March 21st cross-border attack by extremists that depopulated the historically Armenian town of Kessab, Syria.

In an exchange of letters with the Department of State, ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian has stressed that Armenian Americans remain "very troubled by the Administration's continued reluctance to provide a simple answer to a straightforward question: 'Is it the considered judgment of the U.S. government that the Republic of Turkey aided, abetted, facilitated, or otherwise played a role in the March 21st attack on Kessab?'"

The ANCA's May 15th letter, addressed to Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, noted that: "As Americans, citizens of a nation bound to Turkey by our NATO treaty obligations, we deserve to know if this U.S. ally has conspired with extremists – officially designated by our government as terrorists – in a cross-border attack against a peaceful population. If our government's investiga-

tion has found that Turkey played no role in this attack, the Administration should make this view known, challenging widespread media accounts of Ankara's complicity. If, however, our government's investigation has confirmed a Turkish role, the Administration should forcefully and publicly confront Turkey for conspiring with an al Qaeda-linked group to drive thousands of civilians from their homes. In either case, we ask the Administration to cooperate with all relevant Congressional investigations." Congressman Brad Sherman has played a pivotal role in ensuring that Members of Congress have been briefed by Administration officials concerning the attack on Kessab.

In a May 2nd State Department letter to the ANCA, which came in response to an ANCA meeting with Administration officials following the March attack, Assistant Secretary Nuland commented indirectly about Turkey, noting that: "We have reminded Turkey of its responsibilities for protecting civilian populations along the border and for ensuring that armed groups are not able to use Turkish territory for actions against civilians." Despite exten-



sive evidence of Ankara's facilitation of this assault, Assistant Secretary Nuland passed along the Turkish government's denial, without any critical commentary: "Turkish authorities have stated that they had no involvement in the displacement of the population of Kessab and did not allow armed groups to cross the border into Syria." In this letter, Assistant Secretary Nuland underscored the U.S. government's position regarding "the importance of ensuring that Armenian Christians can continue to live and flourish in the land of their ancestors, and we understand that the situation in Kessab is particularly fraught."

Foreign Policy Journal publishes a commentary on the 20th anniversary of ceasefire in Karabakh

On May 29, 2014, the Foreign Policy Journal published an article by Aram Avetisyan entitled "Twenty Years of Karabakh Armistice: No Peace, No Trust." The commentary discusses the Karabakh peace process and the obstacles that have made a comprehensive peace agreement so illusive.

The full text of the article is provided below:

Twenty years have passed since a cease fire agreement was signed between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno Karabakh. While the truce put an end to the large-scale hostilities, there is no final peace agreement, and the sides continue to suffer casualties. The question why the cease fire has not led to the comprehensive peace agreement remains rhetorical; the lack of confidence between the parties and aggressive behavior of Azerbaijan are major obstacles. Moreover, the current phase of the peace process remains incomplete with no comprehensive participation of Nagorno Karabakh authorities.

Why does Azerbaijan avoid negotiations with Nagorno Karabakh? Why does Baku deny previous contacts with NKR authorities? The answer lies in Baku's policy and goals towards everything Armenian. Throughout last 20 years of relative peace, the world and the region have witnessed Azerbaijan's aggressive warmongering, instigation of hatred towards Armenians, military build-up, and disregard of calls from the international community to initiate confidence-building measures.

The goals are evident and not new.

Just like during the war from 1991-1994, Azerbaijan uses cease-fire "breaks" to regroup and rebuild its military capacities. As soon as it feels ready for another attempt, the Azeri leadership begins blackmailing with renewed aggression and demands from the Armenian sides to accept the unacceptable. Sniper war and cross-border subversions are parts of these tactics.

Another aspect is Baku's efforts to distort the essence of the Karabakh problem and misrepresent the issue as "Armenia's territorial claim towards Azerbaijan". Azerbaijan manipulates with the UN Security Council's resolutions regarding the Karabakh conflict and complains about "occupation of its territories by Armenia". In reality, none of those resolutions, which remained unimplemented at Baku's fault, has ever mentioned Armenia as aggressor state, since Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh are the two principal parties to the conflict.

Two rhetorical questions: if the problem was between Armenia and Azerbaijan, why then would president Aliyev (the father of incumbent Azeri leader) delegate his envoys to negotiate with official representatives of the NKR; why was the 1994 ceasefire document entered into force after being signed by three parties, including Nagorno Karabakh?

Restoration of the previous, OSCE-supported framework with participation of the NKR will promote negotiations and facilitate final settlement. Implementation of confidence-building measures (CBM) by all sides, especially



between NKR and Azerbaijan, will help reduce the tension and create a favorable atmosphere for the two societies to overcome the existing problems. Unfortunately, all previous attempts to restore trust between the peoples failed after Azerbaijan blocked any CBM initiatives she had received through the OSCE mediators.

The peaceful formula is simple: less casualties, less warmongering, more trust, more chances to achieve regional peace. Through the last 20 years, Armenia and NKR have tried to persuade Azerbaijan that a peaceful solution had no alternative, that snipers along the border further aggravated the situation and postponed settlement. Today, the Armenian states send the same message to "hawks" in Baku, calling them to abandon revanchist aspirations and prevent another tragedy. International community and mediators should make it clear that Azerbaijani leaders must assume responsibility, and prepare its people for peace, rather than war.

Over \$2 million raised for ANCA civic education efforts at Telethon 2014

ANCA Telethon 2014 rallied unprecedented grassroots support during its 6 hour nationwide broadcast, today, with tens of thousands of Armenian Americans from across the U.S. joining in a true show of community power and unity to advance the civic education efforts of the ANCA Endowment.

After a host of informative segments on the growing Armenian American pres-

ence in all segments of civic life, along with a health dose of community commentary and entertainment, over \$2 million was raised in support of the educational and grassroots development efforts of the ANCA Endowment.

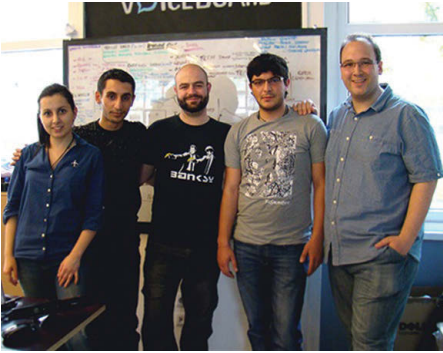
This year's telethon was accompanied by a rush of Social media support with Armenians from around the world turning to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to

spread the civic development message of the ANCA Endowment. The "#goANCA" selfie campaign spotlighted community groups, families and individuals - all united around the ANCA's community empowerment initiatives.

Supporters also showed ANCA pride, power and progress at over a dozen private receptions held across the country to ensure

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Armenian Startup's Tech May Spell Death of Powerpoint



"Entrepreneurship can come from all places. And just as Skype launched Estonia into the forefront of technological start-up innovation, a new company based primarily in Armenia hopes to bring the Caucasus start-up scene into the global spot-light," Freddie Dawson writes in an article published by Forbes.

If it succeeds in doing so, it could spell an end to Powerpoint: nobody's favorite presentation tool. The company - Voiceboard - is creating a presentation platform that incorporates different voice recognition platforms and Microsoft's Kinect - the technology used for body motion control of Xbox games - to give presenters the ability to control presentations through vocal commands and gestures.

Currently Voiceboard is expanding its Armenian office and just starting to offer a demo product to customers. It signed up its first customer in March and hopes to

have the first edition out in June. Initially the product will only have voice control features with gestures to be added in at a later date.

The company has grown significantly in a short period of time in order to get to this point. It has grown from four under-employed engineers brainstorming in a living-room to a company with offices in Bulgaria and Armenia, as well as a separate entity in the USA.

"We were sitting in my living room with a whiteboard thinking about getting into IT consultancy and brainstorming," says Nigel Sharp, co-founder of Lionsharp, the company behind Voiceboard. "We thought: 'It's so annoying to have to get up from sofa and write something and then the board would get filled up and we'd have to take a picture of it, wipe it clean and start again. Wouldn't it be great if we could just control everything from here digitally?'"

Development started and the start-up secured a series of opportunities. First it won a competition, organized in conjunction with Microsoft's Armenian Innovation Center - to go work in a business accelerator in Bulgaria called Eleven. The company then got a chance to demonstrate its presentation tools at TEDx - a popular series of lectures on science and technology. The start-up also had some success at the Microsoft Imagine Cup - an international innova-

tion competition for technology.

"TEDx is a fantastic platform to get the word out. We did our first ever presentation there and were getting phone calls from investors from a week after that," he says. "A month later and we had concrete offers on the table."

Sharp attributes some of the success the country had to the start-up scene in Armenia. "I found that young Armenians are ready to do a bit more to choose their opportunities," says Sharp. "My co-founders are 20-21 and they're throwing away a job that has a salary to come found a start-up."

Although Sharp worries about the potential geo-political situation of Armenia, he remains confident in both his economy and the wider opportunities available in Armenia.

"But there is huge potential. Collaborative entrepreneurship should be happening here," he adds. "Guys with good ideas and management skills should be bringing those into Armenia. There are plenty of good ideas but they need backing, organization, which is not always a strong point."

If Voiceboard can revolutionize business presentations in much the same way Skype changed international online communication, it would put Armenia on the map and could start a flood of investors searching for the next big technological solution.

Over \$2 million raised for ANCA civic education efforts at Telethon 2014

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the organization has the financial resources it needs to expand key youth development and civic engagement programs.

Nowhere was there more enthusiasm for ANCA initiatives than on the various Armenian School campuses, where educators used the ANCA Telethon as a teaching moment to instill the importance for youth civic involvement and community pride from kindergarten to the high school level.

The ANCA Endowment Fund supports a broad range of educational, youth, and civic programs that give voice to the views and values of the Armenian American community, strengthening our presence in the American civic arena, and empowering pro-Armenian stakeholders with the information

and resources they need to take on the powerful forces aligned against the Armenian nation.

The first three ANCA Endowment Fund telethons, held in 2006, 2009 and 2012, raised over \$6.5 million for Armenian American educational, youth, and civic programs. Both programs touched a common emotional chord, speaking directly to the devotion to the Armenian Cause that rests in the hearts of Armenians from across the U.S., regardless of organizational or political affiliations.

Countless organizations, volunteers, churches, community leaders, local ANCA's, performing artists, Members of Congress, and state legislators from across the nation participated in the telethons, con-



tributing to their enormous success. Both telethons featured several documentaries that highlighted various ANCA programs and numerous results the ANCA Endowment has achieved over the years, largely through its volunteer and grassroots network.



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- 1440. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698- **Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 1560. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished. Price: 400.000 USD
- 1156. **Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable..
- 2949. **Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 2300. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

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- 2958. **Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104. **Komitas Ave.**, Aram Khachatryan str., 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2950. **Aram str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD
- 2836. **Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990. **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789. **Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement,

capially repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable

- 1598. **Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603. **Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155. **Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- 2020. **Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986. **Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 2167. **Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq.m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122. **Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121. **Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013. **Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000 USD
- 1402. **Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m., facade - 25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090. **Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000 USD.
- 2406. **Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30 USD per sq.m
- 2310. **Monument, Babayan str.**, 1000 sq.m, facade-25m, privatized, Price: 350 USD negotiable
- 2107. **Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- 2413. **Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- 2414. **Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3348. **Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146. **Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- 3432. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.- 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC,

boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

•3576. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD

•3606. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking.



Price-1.500.000 USD

- 3574. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- 3590. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- 74. **Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m., walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows, no exploitation fees. Price: 1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.
- 107. **Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.
- 87. **Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms - 188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.
- 93. **Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas, parking. Price: 1500-1600 USD per sq.m, parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.
- 94. **Masiv**. 3 floors, 8 flats, each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.
- 130. **Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 131. **Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable



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1 ROOM

- 2037. **Baghranyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- 2189. **Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitally repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capitally repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2187. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2253. **Abovyan str.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 260sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 3500 USD
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170

sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.

- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish). Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi, /North Avenue/,** Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1191. **Aygestan**, Land-400 sqm, 2 storied bld.- 270 sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathroom, study, capitally repaired, partly furnished, garden, swimming pool, garage. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system.



Price: 8000 USD.

- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

•1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.

- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyanyan str.**, /parallel to Baghranyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitally repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.

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Armenia Helps Coordinate Worldwide Genocide Centennial Activities



By Harut Sassounian

Publisher, The California Courier

Two important conferences took place in Yerevan last week in preparation for next year's Armenian Genocide Centennial.

Participating in the first meeting, held on May 26, were representatives of Centennial Committees from 40 countries who reported on their plans for April 24, 2015. On this occasion, the emblem and motto for the Centennial were unveiled -- "I remember and demand..." The conference was a unique opportunity for the attendees to exchange contact information and discuss collaborative joint efforts.

The second meeting, held on May 27, brought together State Centennial Committee members, with representatives of the regional committees, and dozens of Armenian diplomats and high-ranking clergy from around the world. The State Committee consists of the leadership of Armenia and Artsakh (Karabagh), and heads of major Armenian organizations worldwide.

In a daring move, Pres. Sargsyan announced that he had invited the President of Turkey to visit Yerevan on April 24, 2015, in order to face the truth of the Armenian Genocide. Caught by surprise, Turkish officials have yet to respond to this challenging invitation. The Armenian President also informed the conference participants that he had invited several other heads of state to Yerevan on that date. French President Francois Hollande has already confirmed that he plans to be in Yerevan on the Genocide's Centennial.

After presentations by State Committee members, representatives from Argentina, France, Lebanon, Russia, and the United States were given the opportunity to address the conference. I was also asked to speak in my capacity as Co-Chair of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of the Western United States.

I began by explaining that Armenians around the world should not be obsessed with the expectation that Pres. Obama would include the word genocide in his 'memorial' statement of April 24, 2015. Contrary to popular misconception, the United States government has repeatedly recognized the Armenian Genocide, starting in 1951 with an official document submitted to the World Court; House of Representatives resolutions in 1975 and 1984; and Pres. Ronald Reagan's Presidential Proclamation of April 22, 1981. Consequently, there is no crucial need to insist that Pres. Obama also acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, save for the purpose of fulfilling his promise and sustaining his integrity.

In my talk I also suggested that since the Armenian Genocide lasted from 1915 to 1923, the planned Centennial activities should extend from 2015 to 2023. This would be a true nightmare for the Turkish government, having to confront not one, but eight years of Centennial events.

Since the Centennial is a historic milestone, I urged Armenian communities around the world to organize unique events which have a mass appeal and the potential of generating nationwide or worldwide publicity for Armenians' just demands from Turkey. The same old annual events should not be repeated on the occasion of the Centennial. However, before initiating any project, it is incumbent on all Armenian communities to first agree on the objectives to be accomplished and decide whether the planned activities meet those goals.

I proceeded to read to the conference participants the mission statement of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of Western United States:

"The 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide signifies a global demand for justice by Armenians worldwide and all people of good will.

The Centennial marks one of the 20th century's greatest crimes against humanity. In 1915, the Turkish Government began a

premeditated and systematic campaign to uproot the Armenian population from its ancestral homeland and slaughter 1.5 million defenseless men, women and children.

Turkey must finally acknowledge its responsibility for the Genocide and make appropriate moral, financial, and territorial restitution, as mandated by the fundamental norms of international law and civilized society."

I concluded my remarks by suggesting that Armenians worldwide coordinate their Centennial activities so that the same message is delivered to friend and foe alike. I also proposed that the motto chosen by the State Committee be modified from "I remember and demand" to "We remember and demand justice!"

While this gathering should have been held much earlier, it was most useful in terms of coordinating the planned Centennial activities. Not surprisingly, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu announced last week that his government was closely monitoring the Centennial Committee's Yerevan meetings. Fortunately, the organizers in Armenia were cautious not to make public the Centennial plans to keep Turkish officials in the dark, giving them as little time as possible to counter the Armenian initiatives!



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Global IT Award of the President of Armenia: The Project a Success



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

Recently The Highlights has received an invaluable gift from our long time friend, Chairman of the Armenia's Philatelists' Union, Chairman of the RA President's Global IT Award Committee Executive Board **Dr Hovik Z. Musayelyan**, - a portfolio containing two stamps and a postcard with a stamp dedicated to the "Global Award of the President of the Republic of Armenia for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity through IT" theme cancelled on Nov.15'13 by President **Serzh Sargsyan**, GIT Award 4th Laureate **Dr Tsugio Makimoto**, **Dr Musayelyan** and other relevant officials.

We The Highlights gratefully acknowledge such a nice present from **Dr Musayelyan** and, taking the advantage of the occasion, and also as a responsible mass media rep which has been covering

permanently and widely the GIT Award since its very establishment (and even before), decided to present our readers a brief overview of the Award, - its history, Laureates, achievements and prospects by putting the most memorable pieces of the Laureate's stay in Armenia.

Award and around it

On July 6th, 2009, President of the Republic of Armenia **Serzh Sargsyan** 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 Award annually honors a Laureate who has made extraordinary contributions to humanity through advancing the world of IT. It highlights Armenia on the world IT map as a growing high-tech destination. Inaugurated in 2009, the Global IT Award is granted on annual basis to a Laureate whose internationally acclaimed contributions to IT have resulted in near-revolutionary or revolutionary developments and they have positively impacted or hold the potential to positively impact the population of many countries. The contributions may be in the technological, educational, organizational or financial areas.

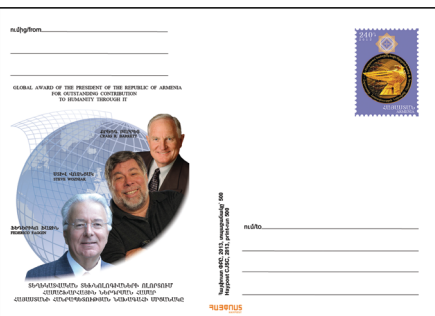
The Award is granted by the President of Armenia following the recommendation of GIT Award Committee.

Since the Award establishment its permanent sponsor is **VivaCell-MTS**, Armenia's leading telecom operator company (with its Founding GM **Mr Ralph Yirikian**), through **Hayastan All-Armenian Fund**.

bility, about the ability to refrain from short-lived and momentary profit if in the long run it can jeopardize the well-being of the society. It is about not surrendering to the temptations of big money - greed and arrogance. I am happy to state that there are such businessmen in Armenia, quite a few. I mean not the scope, of course, but the attitude."

Chairman of the Executive Board of the GIT Award Committee **Dr Hovik Musayelyan** declared: It's a historical day for Armenia, since a person having had greatest contribution to the high technologies, whose role has been of revolutionary significance in this field, is honored in Armenia.

...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*



Dr Hovik Z. Musayelyan

Legendary Intel Retired Chief: Laureate No.1

Dr Craig R. Barrett, legendary Intel retired chief (1997-2005), a world-recognized scientist, educator, public figure became the first ever person to receive this Award.

So on June 28 RA President **Serzh Sargsyan** handed the Award's Gold Medal, Diploma and Trophy to **Dr Craig R. Barrett**. In his first ever visit to Armenia **Mr Barrett** was accompanied by his spouse Ambassador **Barbara Barrett**.

As President **Sargsyan** stated at the awarding ceremony, "*Today, in the presence of Mr. Barrett I send a message to our young people: The future belongs to those who are endowed with knowledge, kindness and creativity*". **Mr Sargsyan** also qualified **Mr Barrett** as a role model for Armenian businessmen. "*This is my idea of the modern businessman. I want the businessmen of Armenia to reckon about this example. I want all our entrepreneurs to be like that. It's not about benevolence. It is about the ability to assume responsi-*

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".

- DrBarrett, 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!

"Mr Woz"- Laureate #2

On November 9 2011 **Steve Wozniak**, a legendary Co-Founder of Apple (with Steve Jobs of the blessed memory), inventor of Apple 1 PC, accompanied by his wife **Janet**, arrived in Armenia to become GIT Award Laureate No.2...

Below we'd like to cite Mr **Ralph Yirikian**, Founding General Manager of Vivacell-MTS, the permanent Sponsor of the GIT Award.

"As a part of the IT community of Armenia, the only thing I can say is "WOW!", commenced his speech Mr Yirikian (attractig a round of applause...) and continued: "You know, several decades ago, when I could only dream about today, I've never imagined I'll become involved in the business sector, and would be one of the reasons to make today reality, and I believe I'm speaking on behalf of so many people that they can only say "Wow, Steve is here!" ... I would only wish you to enjoy as much as you can in the Homeland of all Armenians, and to go back with memories that you can share with your friends, with your colleagues, and do always remember Armenia, the Homeland of all Armenians across the world".

As to Mr Wozniak himself, the latter 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-edit.)", 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 cre-

ative 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 UNBELIABLE 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!").

So on Nov.11 2011 Stephen Gary Wozniak received the Award from the hands of the Armenian President.

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 established in Armenia... Why? Most probably, because of the fact that there are young people here who can cre-

ate... 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" climate 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.....

No.3: Dr Federico Faggin, "father of microprocessors"

In accordance with decree of President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan Dr **Federico Faggin**, Chairman Emeritus of Synaptics, Inc., President of Federico and Elvia Faggin Foundation has been awarded with the 2012 Global Award of the President of the Republic of Armenia for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity through IT.

Mr Faggin worked for Intel Corporation from 1970 to 1974. In 1970-'71 he led the design and development of

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Global IT Award of the President of Armenia: The Project a Success

From page 13

the 4004, the world's first microprocessor.

In 1986 Faggin co-founded Synaptics, Inc., which developed the early touchpads now universally used in notebook computers and mobile devices.

Dr 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 response 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 lecture-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."

No. 4 : Dr Tsugio Makimoto, fmr Hitachi chief, has become the first non-American GIT Award Laureate

In the words of *Tony Moroyan*, a member of the Award Committee, 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 development".

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..."

At the dinner held on the occasion of

the Awarding ceremony, President Serzh Sargsyan made a statement. Below you might find an interesting extract from it:

"...With this Award, the people of Armenia manifest their admiration and gratitude to those who are moving forward the human civilization and in their own way become symbols of their times.



Tsugio Makimoto with Ralph Yirikian



With this Award we pay tribute not only to Dr Makimoto but also to his native land - Japan, the home of brave and diligent, wise and talented people. We witnessed how a horrific earthquake shattered Japan; we also witnessed how the people withstood tenaciously that natural catastrophe and how united and organized they work for healing their wounds. For our country and our nation, which have witnessed multiple earthquakes, it is a real lesson.

Japan's economic and technological achievements are remarkable and instructive not only for us but also for the entire world. With this Award, we also strive to attract attention of our young people to effective deeds and successful people. We want to give our young people right examples and true guidelines. We strongly believe that people are the greatest treasure of the land, and Japan is a strong proof of that..."

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 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...

And Dr Makimoto has kept his promise: as we have got knew, GIT Award Laureate No.4 has been lobbying Armenia as a good destination to invest in its IT sector publicly and widely.

Well, we must register that the GIT Award is a success, and the benchmark is high enough.

And we'd like to finalize with the following statement done by Dr Hovik Musayelyan at the Dr Makimoto's awarding ceremony:

"...We are confident that some years from now, we'll record that thanks to this Award, the most brilliant and outstanding individuals of the world science, education and business, real luminaries, becoming the recipients of the Award, will come to Armenia, bringing with them the contemporary culture of high-tech and will promote the image of our country and make it recognizable all over the world as a country which stands on knowledge and intellect.

Armenia's competitive advantages closely linked to the IT industry and our country has all the necessary prerequisites and resources to become a regional hub and an important player.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to cite the 2011 President's GIT Awardee, famous Steve Wozniak: "There is no Nobel Prize in the field of the IT, but for me, this Award is equal to the Nobel Prize, I am receiving it from the President of Armenia and proud of it".

Taking the opportunity of this occasion, we want to share with The



Armen S. Baldryan

Highlights readers recent IT/hi-tech news.

As **Armen S. Baldryan**, President of the Organizing Committee of the Ninth International Microelectronics Olympiad of Armenia told your author, recently the first stage of Olympiad 2014 has been started, and this year the number of countries represented by the participants has grown substantially, - 30 against 22 of the last year.

Mr Baldryan also stressed that they see an obvious increase of the enthusiasm of the participants. The Olympiad also provides an excellent platform to understand the level of knowledge of participants to improve educational programs in order to prepare qualified engineers to meet highest international engineering standards. It is increasing its attractiveness year by year growing both in size and geography. *The Annual International Microelectronics Olympiad of Armenia is a global contest for young engineers under 30 in microelectronics and EDA domain. Its Mission is to recognize and inspire young, talented engineers and increase interest in microelectronics among young specialists worldwide. And their success registered at the Olympiad could be considered an important cornerstone to built further career.* The First Armenian Microelectronics Olympiad was held in September of 2006 with 82 participants from Armenia. In 2013, the Eight Olympiad included numerous award categories and over 600 participants from 22 countries such as Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, India, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Turkey, UAE, Ukraine, Vietnam and the USA.

This Olympiad is a successful example of cooperation among Business-Government-Academia aimed at stimulating further development of microelectronics in Armenia and participating countries. Initiated by Synopsys Armenia under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Armenia, the Olympiad plays an important role in creating a global community of young specialists involved in microelectronics.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of VivaCell-MTS, Armenia's leading telecom operator, the opportunity to travel to Yerevan to participate in the Olympiad is proving to be a very attractive proposition around the world and is creating an event in this field that is unprecedented throughout the world.

Since 2012 the event is held in cooperation with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Test Technology Technical Council (TTTC). The involvement of IEEE, the largest organization of electrical and electronic engineers, highlights the contest's growing international reputation. It also benefits Armenia by highlighting it as a Center of Excellence for Microelectronics Education.

Photos by Zaven Khachikian and the author

Charitable Concerts for Children Sponsored by the First Lady of Armenia

Cartoon Non-Stop by Youth Orchestra and joint performance by the kids and pop "stars" amazed everyone



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

If frankly, when at a press conference held several days ago Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia **Sergey Smbatyan** expressed his absolute confidence that children, after listening a charitable concert within the framework of Cartoon Non-Stop Project to be held under the Armenia's First Lady **Rita Sargsyan's** patronage on the occasion of the International Children Protection Day celebrated on June 1st, will never forget impressions received during the concert, your author, - I wouldn't say, - doubted in such a statement, or, moreover, did not believe at all, no ... I should say, for a moment I thought, maybe, about a little exaggeration...

Now, however, few days after the Cartoon Non-Stop's four concerts (held within mere three days!), two of which yours truly attended in person, and on other two was informed from the people enjoyed them, I am ready to apologize before Maestro Smbatyan and the Orchestra's musicians for a kind of "mistrust" as impressions from Cartoon Non-Stop will be not forgotten not only by the children but also by their parents and grandpas/grandmas for a long.

Your author should admit that - without "shame" - I was

singing "We Are the Champions", Queen's legendary song just when the Youth Orchestra began to play its melody.

And it was a quite difficult thing to separate the young and the old when the "Lion King" by genius Elton John was performed.

Definitely, four concerts by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia held on May

30, 31(the two), June 1 at the Alexander Spendiaryan Natl Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre within Cartoon Non-Stop during which the soundtracks of the most popular and beloved cartoons such as "Pink Panther", "Lion King," "The Beauty and a Beast," "Cinderella," "Madagascar," "Shrek," "Aladdin" and others were performed, became an important and memorable event in the



cultural life of Armenia.

As we were informed, within the framework of the International Children Protection Day due to special care from the Armenia's leading telecom operator, VivaCell-MTS, children with special needs as well as those of vulnerable families were provided with the opportunity to attend the first, May 30 concert of Cartoon Non-Stop series by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia.

To note, Cartoon Non-Stop has been a continuation of the Hollywood Non-Stop project started in 2012 and became soon a favorite one for many. It was presented to large audience, including eight universities of Yerevan where more than 7000

students enjoyed soundtracks of Hollywood movies. In 2013, the Program was successfully presented in the regions of Armenia as well, - the cities of Gyumri, Vanadzor, Artashat, others.

As Sergey Smbatyan promised at a news conference, during the concerts performances by the Orchestra were accompanied by the screening of the cartoons' videos/sound effects which turned concerts into a real show, a colorful and spectacular one. As a colleague of mine aptly described, "the children were moved to the world of fairy tales".

On May 31, just before a charitable concert, answering reporters' questions, the First Lady of Armenia Rita Sargsyan stressed that it was a long time that they, together with the Armenian State Youth Orchestra Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan, cherished the idea of such a Project: "So we were even a little bit late with realization of this idea, but we'll try to correct this by making this Holiday a traditional one, so kids get more familiar with symphonic music," Mrs Sargsyan said. She emphasized that children have been invited to the concert not only from Yerevan, but also from Armenia's regions, - Gyumri, Vanadzor, others. And after the concert there was another pleasant surprise for the kids there: "Ojakh" restaurant was prepared a dinner for them.

Responding to a young lady journalist's question as to what was the First Lady's favorite cartoon, Rita Sargsyan said: "Hedgehog in the Mist" cartoon. (Shut some forty years ago).

Sergey Smbatyan said the following: "We are all very grateful to the First Lady Mrs Rita Aleksandrovna Sargsyan for the concert, - a real holiday. I'd like to specially mention that we are always happy to join to various social programs. Today's concert is organized on the occasion of the International Children's Day, and I would stress that we are excited to play music for children. So we are trying to introduce symphonic music in the

right, more comprehensible format. Today we all feel a lack of "positive charges", so by the concert we'll try to bring such charges to the children and their parents".

Sergey Smbatyan emphasized that they present to the children the best music from so popular cartoons, and, in his own words, "all the children who are in the Hall for the first time, will feel the excitement and spirit of the music that will be kept in memory for years." He also added that "it is a great honor for children that the First Lady herself invited them to the concert."

We'd like to mention that it is for a long time already that the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia gives 10 % of each sold ticket to "Gift the Life" Charity

The concert was commenced with the First Lady Rita Sargsyan's new song, "God's Angels" written on the occasion of the International Day for Autism (See The Highlights 10 June issue).

During the concert videos displaying music rehearsals of the well-known performers and children who courageously overcame incredible health difficulties, - due to the "Gift the Life" Foundation were demonstrated.

At the concert among the guests of honor was Minister of Health of Armenia Prof. **Armen Muradyan** with his spouse **Yelena** and their three children, **Rouben, Gayaneh and Alexander**.

This author who has written three books on the legendary Armenian undercover intelligence agents Hero of the



Foundation helping children suffering from blood/other serious diseases and having First Lady Rita Sargsyan as Honorary Chairman of its Board of Trustees.

Going ahead, we'd like to mention that the beneficiaries of the "Gift the Life" Foundation - the children, thanks to Armenia's First Lady Rita Sargsyan, on June 1st, the International Children's Day, have got a really unique chance to perform at the same stage with their favorite pop "stars", - **Aram Mp3, Gor Sujyan, Sophie Mkheyan, Razmik Amyan, Andre, Tata, Arman Hovhannisyan, Silva Hakobyan, Shushan Petrosyan, Arsen Safarian, Arsen Grigoryan** and many others who sung pop, folk and patriotic songs, which naturally created the holiday mood.

Soviet Union **Gevorg Vartanyan** (1924-2012) and his spouse and fellow **Gohar Vartanyan** enjoyed another pleasant surprise on that day: Dr **Rouzanna Khachatryan-Ohanyan**, the spouse of Armenian Defense Minister **Seyran Ohanyan**, invited to the concert Mrs Gohar Vartanyan, in whose presence and participation on May 17, at the V.Bryusov State Linguistic University building her husband's memorial plaque was inaugurated solemnly.

...The concert, - this touching event was finalized by performance of the "Gift the Life"'s anthem "We Are the Sun Together," a song authored by Mrs Rita Sargsyan.

Photos by Armenpress and the author

VivaCell-MTS: Non-Stop Support to the Borderland, Children, Art and the Subscribers Indeed...

The borderland village of Vahan stays in the focus of VivaCell-MTS attention

The north-eastern shield of Armenia, the village of Vahan (the Armenian word "vahan" means "shield"), Gegharkuniq region (Marz), shares a 28-km-long border with Azerbaijan. The village, located 128 km away from Yerevan, has a heroic history. Living in a borderland area, the locals are forced to be on the alert and live exposed to the foe's attention as true border guards.

VivaCell-MTS' strategic program for the borderland villages was first implemented in this village in 2008, when there was an urge to construct a gas pipeline in the settlement.

Armenia's leading telecommunication operator keeps to the principle of combining the business interest and the responsibility.

This time the project beneficiary was the school-aged population of the village. The secondary school has 171 pupils, who now have an opportunity to use 3G Wi-Fi router working with the "MTS Connect Limited" tariff plan free of charge for a year. The tariff plan is specially designed to limit children's access to web resources not intended for the junior and relieves parents and teachers from the obligation to constantly oversee schoolchildren using Internet.

The system of values based on the care for the society adopted at VivaCell-MTS has grown into a lifestyle for the Company's employees.

The AMD 2 million personal donations of the Accounting and Finance Department employees were used to build a toilet in the village school building.

Children in VivaCell-MTS' focus once again

On the occasion of International Children's Day, and owing to the special care of VivaCell-MTS, 68 children with special needs and from vulnerable families visited the National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet for the "Cartoon Non-Stop" concert presented by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia.

"Children have always been in the focus of VivaCell-MTS attention. This day is just another opportunity to give them bright emotions and good memories. We want to always see smiles on children's faces," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

The "Cartoon Non-Stop" exclusive concert program includes music from famous cartoons, such as the "The Pink

Panther", "Lion King", "Beauty and the Beast", "Cinderella", "Madagascar", "Shrek", "Aladdin" and others.

The exclusive concert program "Cartoon Non-Stop" is the continuation of another series of concerts of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia - "Hollywood Non-Stop", performed in

Mekinyan) the international festival "New Names" opened its doors to talented young musicians for the fourth time. The General Partner of the festival is VivaCell-MTS.

"To achieve success in performing arts one needs years of hard work and experience on stage before the audience.



2012. This time the concert was also accompanied by video fragments from the cartoons and special sound effects, making the performance even more memorable.

The Fourth International Festival of Young Musicians "New Names" Held

Upon the initiative of the "New Names" program in Armenia (coordinator, president of the Union of Cultural Workers, Honored Worker of Culture of the Republic of Armenia Silva

The-already-representative festival provides stage for young musicians to reveal and develop their performing abilities and talents. I welcome the beginning of the annual "New Names" festival and I am convinced that, besides revealing a new generation of talented performers, it will give the audience unforgettable moments," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

The festival held June 1 through June 4 in Yerevan, hosted about 40 talented young musicians from 10 countries: Armenia, Russia, Denmark, Canada, Cuba, Latvia, Vietnam, Georgia, Czech Republic and Malta. The participants of

the festival are winners of international and republican festivals and scholars of different funds.

This year the festival was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the "New Names" program and hosted also the "new names" of the previous years, which are already known internationally.

At the opening of the festival the young musicians performed musical compositions with the conductor of the State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia **Harutyun Arzumanyan**.

Solo performances were played at the Chamber Music House after Komitas during the festival. The closing ceremony of the festival and the performance of the young soloists together with the State Philharmonic Orchestra of Armenia took place on June 4 in the Aram Khachaturyan Concert Hall.



VivaCell-MTS implements an upgrade on its core network

VivaCell-MTS implemented a major upgrade on the core network with the aim to enhance the network reliability and capabilities in delivering high-quality voice and data services on the night of June 3-4.

Accordingly, to make sure that the subscribers will not be affected, VivaCell-MTS specialists worked after midnight hours, starting 2 am, when there is a minimal load on the network.

During the upgrade, the subscribers did not experience any difficulty using data services.

VivaCell-MTS Call Center is operational 24 hours /7days a week, and, reportedly, their "team is always ready to provide the subscribers with any support needed".

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The price of the "MTS Hay-Fi" in case of purchasing with a termless subscription is AMD 32 000. All prices include VAT. To remind, VivaCell-MTS' DC-HSPA+ (up to 42.2 Mbps in the download and up to 5.6Mbps in the download) network is available in over 87% of the populated areas of Armenia.

For more information one can visit www.mts.am or pda.mts.am mobile site, contact 111 free of charge hotline, chat with us through "111 Online", or approach one of our service centers across Armenia.

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For updates on our news join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/VivaCellMTSofficialpage>

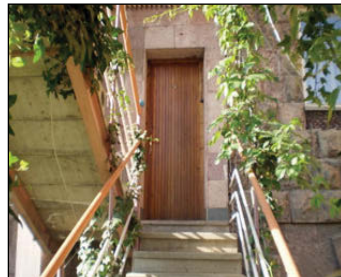
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