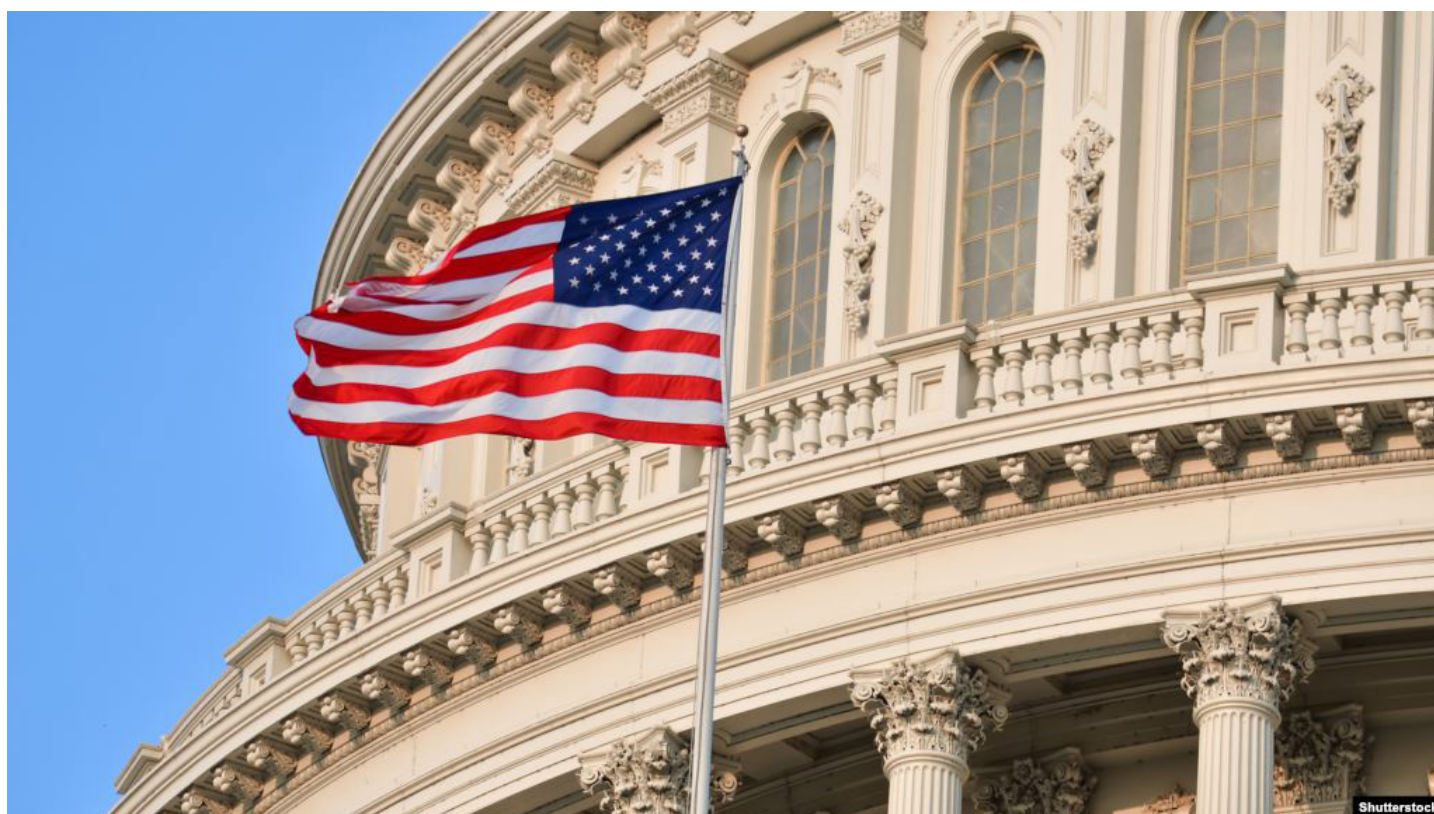


U.S. House Recognizes Armenian Genocide



After decades of lobbying by the Armenian community in the United States, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed on October 29 a landmark resolution recognizing the 1915 genocide of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey.

The resolution adopted by 405 votes to 11 calls on the U.S. government to “commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance” and to “reject” Turkish efforts to deny it. It says the government should also “encourage education and public understanding of the facts of the Armenian Genocide” and their “relevance to modern-day crimes against humanity.”

The resolution was introduced by several pro-Armenian U.S. lawmakers, including House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, in April. It reached the House floor after being backed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. They both reaffirmed their support during an hour-long debate on the bill that preceded the vote.

“It’s a great day for the Congress,” Pelosi said, urging a “strong vote” for acknowledging “one of the greatest atrocities of the 20th century.”

“This was genocide and it is important that we call this crime what it was,” House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel said as he presented the resolution to fellow legislators. He called on them to finally “set the record straight.”

More than a dozen other lawmakers, most of them Democrats representing constituencies with large numbers of Armenian Americans, spoke during the ensuing debate. They all made a case for recognizing the World War One-era slaughter

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US government supports Armenia's democratic and economic reforms

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan on October 31 received US Ambassador to Armenia Lynne Tracy, as well as Cheryl Fernandes, US Department of State Director of the Office of Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts, USAID Armenia Mission Director Deborah Grieser, etc., the PM's Office told Noyan Tapan.

Welcoming the US partners, Pashinyan thanked for the adoption of the US House resolution on recognizing the Armenian Genocide and stated that this resolution is a powerful step towards historical justice and is very important for the whole Armenian people and descendants of the Armenian Genocide survivors. Touching upon the Armenia-US partnership, the PM said the government has an ambitious agenda for democratic reforms, is committed to implementing it and the support of the international partners, including the US will further promote their successful implementation.

The US Ambassador thanked for the meeting and stated that the United States is also interested in further developing the



productive cooperation with Armenia. Ambassador Tracy said the US aid in 2019 increased by 40% compared to the previous year, and proposed to discuss the opportunities to serve it for Armenia's democratic

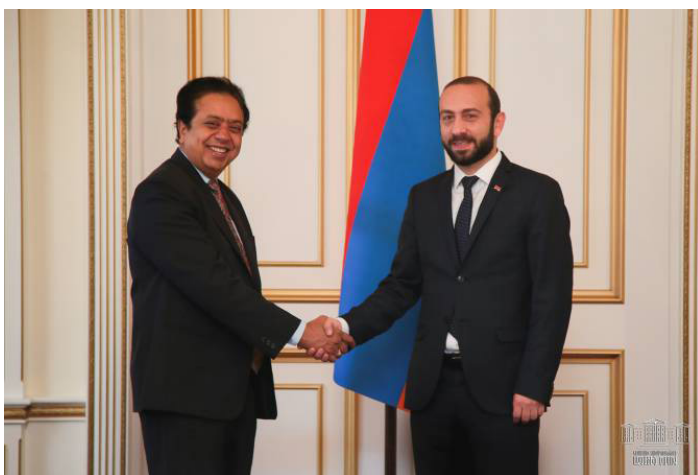


and economic development. In her turn Cheryl Fernandes said the US government supports Armenia's democratic and economic reforms, anti-corruption agenda and efforts directed for regional security. "We proudly reaffirm our relations with Armenia, by continuing the strategic consultations on these key issues", she said.

Issues relating to the Armenia-US partnership agenda and development were discussed at the meeting. The meeting also touched upon the cooperation opportunities in judicial, anti-corruption, economic and legislative reforms process. Within the frames of the economic development initiatives the sides exchanged views on the ongoing projects in tourism, energy, agribusiness, SMA promotion fields, discussed the future actions.

The US Ambassador expressed satisfaction over the joint work with the Armenian PM's staff, as well as state agencies and reaffirmed the US readiness to continue supporting the Armenian government's priorities.

Armenia plays key role in Open Government Partnership initiative



Speaker of Parliament of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan on October 31 received CEO of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Sanjay Pradhan, the Parliament told Noyan Tapan.

Speaker Mirzoyan said the OGP values are in full accordance with the Armenian values, and Armenia shares these values.

"The rule of law, fight against corruption are closely linked with transparency, accountability, and we adopted just these principles

and the strategic vision after the revolution that took place last year.

In line with these events, a transition from semi-presidential system to the parliamentary one took place in Armenia, and we are very happy that the Open Government Partnership expands its powers, by also trying to carry out actions in the direction of the parliamentary governance.

This really is in full accordance with our approaches", Speaker Mirzoyan said. He added that the Armenian Parliament has already taken some actions on this path, in particular it opened the doors of its park for the citizens and currently plans to establish a center for visitors so that the citizens can tour in the territory, as well as to establish an analytical expert center.

The OGP CEO said that Armenia plays a key role in the Open Government Partnership initiative and is distinguished among the 79 countries of the initiative as a country that recorded a democratic, an impressive progress.

Sanjay Pradhan said the Velvet Revolution was a great signal by the Armenian citizens reflecting the will to make changes in the country. He said the OGP is ready to fully support Armenia on the path to democracy.

Speaker Mirzoyan thanked the OGP CEO for the appreciation and support.

page 1 

of some 1.5 million Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

“This is a vote which I have waited for 19 years to cast,” declared a visibly emotional Schiff.

“We cannot pick and choose which crimes against humanity are convenient to speak out against,” said the prominent Democrat from California. “What we must do is to state the fact that the Ottoman Empire committed this grotesque crime against the Armenians.”

“Genocides, whenever and wherever they occur, cannot be ignored,” said Gus Bilirakis, a Florida Republican and a co-sponsor of the resolution.

Another Republican congressman, Christopher Smith of New Jersey, blasted Turkey for its “well-funded aggressive campaign of genocide denial”

The two leading Armenian-American lobby groups swiftly hailed the passage of the resolution. Bryan Ardouny, the executive director of the Armenian Assembly of America, said it “reflects the best of America.”

The full text of the resolution is below:

RESOLUTION

Affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide.

Whereas the United States has a proud history of recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide, the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, and providing relief to the survivors of the campaign of genocide against Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians;

Whereas the Honorable Henry Morgenthau, United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to 1916, organized and led protests by officials of many countries against what he described as the empire’s “campaign of race extermination”, and was instructed on July 16, 1915, by United States Secretary of State Robert



Lansing that the “Department approves your procedure ... to stop Armenian persecution”;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson encouraged the formation of the Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, which raised \$116,000,000 (over \$2,500,000,000 in 2019 dollars) between 1915 and 1930, and the Senate adopted resolutions condemning these massacres;

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide” in 1944, and who was the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the 20th century;

Whereas, as displayed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Adolf Hitler, on ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by saying “[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”, setting the stage for the Holocaust;

Whereas the United States has officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, through the United States Government’s May 28, 1951, written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through President Ronald Reagan’s Proclamation No. 4838 on April 22, 1981, and by House Joint Resolution 148, adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247, ad-

opted on September 10, 1984; and

Whereas the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–441) establishes that atrocities prevention represents a United States national interest, and affirms that it is the policy of the United States to pursue a United States Government-wide strategy to identify, prevent, and respond

to the risk of atrocities by “strengthening diplomatic response and the effective use of foreign assistance to support appropriate transitional justice measures, including criminal accountability, for past atrocities”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that it is the policy of the United States to—

(1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance;

(2) reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the United States Government with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any other genocide; and

(3) encourage education and public understanding of the facts of the Armenian Genocide, including the United States role in the humanitarian relief effort, and the relevance of the Armenian Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity. He was told that USD 5 million shall be invested within about a decade in order to rehabilitate all 9 facilities.

Known as a center of mud therapy, Vanadzor Armenia Resort boasts a long-standing tradition of peat therapy. In addition to mud therapy, there are hydrotherapy, paraffin therapy and climatology sections.

In addition to medical rooms, the renovated complex offers new standard, deluxe and luxury class hotel rooms. The resort will be open all year round.

Council of Europe Watchdog Alarmed By ‘Conflict’ Over Armenian High Court

(RL/RFE- Yerevan) - The head of the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission has expressed serious concern over what he described as the Armenian government’s “open conflict” with the Constitutional Court and called for a renewed “normal operation” of Armenia’s constitution.

In a statement released on Tuesday evening, Gianni Buquicchio said all branches of the country’s government should respect each other’s “prerogatives, obligations and competences” set by Armenian law.

“If this is not done, if there lacks democratic culture and maturity, the functioning of the state institutions is compromised and the democratic, civil and economic progress of the society is jeopardized,” warned Buquicchio.

“I call on all sides to exercise restraint, mutual respect and constructive institutional cooperation in order to de-escalate this worrying situation and re-establish the normal operation of the constitution of Armenia,” he added.

The statement came just hours after an Armenian law-enforcement agency said it has collected enough evidence to charge Constitutional Court Chairman of Hrayr Tovmasyan with abuse of power.

The Investigative Committee’s announcement was the latest in a series of criminal proceedings launched against Tovmasyan following the Constitutional Court’s rejection on October 15 of the Armenian parliament’s demands to replace its chairman.

Tovmasyan is under growing pressure from the Armenian authorities accusing him of maintaining ties to the country’s former government toppled in last year’s “Velvet Revolution.” His lawyers say that the criminal charges recommended by the Investigative Committee are part of the “illegal pressure.”

Buquicchio’s carefully worded statement did not explicitly mention the criminal cases against Tovmasian. But in an interview with



Armenia’s Shant TV channel aired on Tuesday, the Venice Commission president noted “pressure” exerted on the high court chairman and “many proceedings” against him. He said Tovmasyan must be respected because he heads “one of the main state institutions.”

Justice Minister Rustam Badasyan on October 30 welcomed Buquicchio’s statement and said Prime Minister Nikol

Pashinyan’s government will take it into consideration. But he also said: “The situation around the Constitutional Court is not a matter of mutual respect but rather the result of ... the dubious election of the Constitutional Court chairman [in March 2018.]”

Badasyan did not deny that the government wants Tovmasyan to resign. In that regard, he pointed to the recent circulation of a Justice Ministry bill offering Constitutional Court members installed by Armenia’s former governments financial incentives to resign.

“I attach great importance to refreshing the composition of the Constitutional Court,” the 28-year-old minister told reporters.

Earlier this month the Venice Commission voiced misgivings about the bill in a detailed report on judicial reforms planned by Pashinyan’s administration. It said early retirement proposed to the high court judges can be acceptable only if it is “strictly voluntary.”

“It would be unacceptable if each new government could replace sitting judges with newly elected ones of their choice,” warned the Strasbourg-based body scrutinizing the legislations of Council of Europe member states.

Meanwhile, Tovmasyan hailed Buquicchio’s statement, saying that its content “stems from the interests of our state.” “Our reaction to Mr. Buquicchio’s appeal is clear: The Constitutional Court once again reaffirms its readiness to resolve the existing situation through mutual respect and dialogue,” he said in written comments to the Pastinfo news agency.

PM Nikol Pashinyan thanks American lawmakers for House recognition of Armenian Genocide

The Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has commented on OSCE Chairperson in Office, Slovakia’s FM Miroslav Lajčák’s statement on an upcoming meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers due in Bratislava.

“First of all, let me mention that the meetings between the Armenian and Azerbaijani

FMs and leaders are taking place solely at the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and high level representatives of the co-chairing countries.

Indeed, the co-chairs have made a proposal on organizing a meeting, something which is mentioned in both the press statement regarding the New York meeting of

the Armenian and Azerbaijan FMs and the press statement as a result of the co-chairs’ regional visit. As you know, we announce these kinds of meetings in an agreed manner, and we won’t breach this principle,” foreign ministry spokesperson Anna Naghdalyan said.

Russian Defense Chief visits Armenia, praises close ties

Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu described Armenia as Russia's key regional ally and said Russian-Armenian military cooperation will continue unabated during a visit to the South Caucasus state on October 29.

Shoygu met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan after inspecting Russian troops stationed in Gyumri.

"Russia highly appreciates its cooperation with friendly Armenian and considers the republic an ally and key partner in the Transcaucasus," he told Pashinyan.

"We note the Armenian side's support for Russia's main positions on the international agenda," he said, according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

After their separate talks in Yerevan, Shoygu and Tonoyan signed a plan of Russian-Armenian military cooperation for next year. It reportedly includes more than



60 joint activities by the armed forces of the two nations.

"We are planning to continue our partnership just as intensively, without reducing the accumulated tempo," the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Shoygu as saying during the talks with his Armenian counterpart.

Earlier in the day, Shoygu visited the Gyumri headquarters of the Russian military base in Armenia. "The base is combat-ready and, being a guarantor of stability, is ready to confront emerging threats

and challenges jointly with the armed forces of Armenia," he told Pashinyan.

Both Pashinyan and Tonoyan also praised the current state of bilateral defense ties and, in particular, "military-technical cooperation," an official euphemism for Russian arms supplies to Armenia.

Russia has always been the principal source of military hardware supplied to the Armenian army. Membership in Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) allows Armenia to acquire Russian weapons at knockdown prices and even for free.

Russia has also trained scores of Armenian army officers and cadets at its military academies. Shoygu said that 248 Armenians are currently studying at 25 such institutions. Moscow and Yerevan are planning to "increase this number," he said.

Greminger expects new dynamics in NK process from upcoming meeting of Armenian, Azerbaijani FMs

OSCE welcomes the efforts of Yerevan and Baku to ensure stable security situation in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone, OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger said at a joint press conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow.

"The dynamics of the negotiation process has slowed down a little bit, but we hope that the upcoming meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers in Bratislava on the sidelines of the OSCE ministerial meeting [December 5-6] will give a new impetus to



the process", he said.

The OSCE Secretary General said the actions directed for ensuring stable security are very important because the loss of

human life in the conflicting sides is impermissible, and the protection of the human life is the duty of both the civilian and military structures.

In his turn the Russian FM highlighted the expected meeting in Bratislava as an opportunity to ensure a positive environment between the NK conflicting sides. "The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship's efforts are important for making closer the approaches and reaching a compromise", the Russian FM said.

Diaspora High Commissioner expects Armenia 2050 Vision to raise population to 5 million, at least

The Office of the High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs is working in the direction of the Armenia 2050 Vision and it expects Armenia to have a minimum 5,000,000 population by 2050, High Commissioner Zareh Sinanyan said at parliamentary committee debates of the 2020 state budget in response to MP Babken Tunyan's question.

Tunyan, the chair of the Economic Affairs Committee, asked Sinanyan to present his office's outlined targets regarding repatriation and involvement of experts.

"We understand that this is a lengthy process, but there should be certain targets, even approximate ones," the MP said, asking if the Diaspora's potential has been



evaluated when they are saying that "the Diaspora's potential must be utilized".

"Now we are working on the Armenia 2050 vision. Our expectation is for Armenia to have a minimum 5 million population by 2050", High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan said.

He highlighted the implementation of

continuous steps in this direction. He said the goal will not be achieved if in the next three years tens of thousands of Armenians don't immigrate to Armenia.

He said they are now planning the process of involving experts. Sinanyan highlighted that experts from the Diaspora must be involved in the public sector's 10-20%.

Speaking about the Diaspora's resource assessment, he said they do not know this resource in the sense of coordination, but they do know that a huge resource exists.

"We have a mapping program for this, which aims to recognize this resource not only globally but also individually", he said.

Armenian PM, EIB Vice President discuss opportunities to implement new projects

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received European Investment Bank (EIB) Vice President Vazil Hudák.

The Premier stressed the importance of implementing joint investment projects through closer interaction between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Bank. Nikol Pashinyan emphasized that the programs implemented in cooperation with the EIB are of great importance to the business community and the citizens of Armenia, as they seek to support the private sector and improve infrastructure. The Prime Minister noted that the Government



of the Republic of Armenia is interested in discussing the possibilities of implementing new projects with the EIB.

Vazil Hudák said that the cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Ar-

menia is effective, and the EIB is willing to discuss with its Armenian partners the possibilities of implementing new multifaceted projects in different sectors of the economy.

The interlocutors addressed issues related to infrastructure development, including the implementation of new projects in energy, transport, road construction, water supply and agriculture. In this context, they referred to the ongoing and projected programs implemented in the frame of cooperation between the Municipality of Yerevan and the EIB.

Armenia increases education spending

Next year the government plans to increase undergraduate and post graduate professional education program allocations by more than 263,000,000 drams, and the number of students who will receive scholarships will be increased by 900, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Arayik Harutyunyan told lawmakers at parliamentary committee debates of the 2020 budget.

He said the ministry's budget includes 21 programs and 176 events for which the allocations amount to 179 billion 459 million drams against 2019's 158 billion 886 million.

"Spending directed to the ministry from the state budget in 2020 increased by 20 billion 572 drams compared to 2019".

In addition to raising scholarships, the number of students who will receive loans

as part of the special crediting program for tuition will also be increased.

In 2020 the ministry is also planning to build, renovate or restore eight agricultural colleges.

Allocations for cultural heritage programs also grew.

4 museums are planned to be restored.

Made in Armenia: New garment factories open in Yerevan

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on November 2 attended the launch of new clothing factories in Yerevan. Alex Textile, Sartex and Asa Garment will be housed in a singly facility. The Prime Minister toured the workshops to get acquainted with the production process and the range of products.

The Head of Government welcomed the implementation of new investment projects in light industry, noting that the Government is prepared to support the sector's development within its toolkit.



Sartex represents Sartis Italian company in Armenia. The company is engaged in production of clothes of MaxMara, Moncler,

Peuterey, Dolce&Gabana, Dainese and other famous brands. Director of the company Mkhitar Aghabekyan said they want the Made in Armenia label become a warrant of quality.

Alex Textile is cooperating with a leading Chinese producer of garments. The whole range of the output will be marketed abroad.

In 2020, Alex Textile is expected to open a homemade textile and towel production facility and another clothing factory in Artashat. 1,500 new jobs will be generated altogether.



A total of 1000 new jobs have been created in the aforementioned clothing factories. This figure is expected to reach 3,000 in the near future. The factories will produce jackets, leather pieces, knitwear.

Sartex has been founded by the Italian Sartis and Armenian Alex Textile companies.



Unemployment rate drops in Armenia

The State Employment Agency of Armenia released data according to which as of October 1, 2019 the number of job-seekers is 83.3 thousand, which increased by 1.3% compared to the same period of 2018, and by 2% compared to the beginning of the year, Zaruhi Batoyan, minister of labor and social affairs, said on Facebook.

As of October 1, the number of unemployed people comprised



74.3% of the job-seekers or 61.9 thousand

people. From the beginning of the year 10,196 vacant, non-repeated positions were collected, 281 of which are new jobs.

As of October 1, 9,120 job-seekers were employed, 1504 of them via the programs ensuring stable employment.

According to the Statistical Committee, the unemployment rate in the 2nd quarter of 2019 comprised 17.7%, against the 20.2% of 2018.

Armenian-Indian ties have great potential for development in the pharmaceutical industry

Embassy of India in Armenia and PHARMEXCIL-Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India will be holding yet another India-Armenia Pharmaceutical Business Forum-Exhibition on November 10-13 in Yerevan. To explore this field, and in general, to discuss the prospects of development of economic relations between the two countries, the press service of the Embassy spoke to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Armenia H. E. Mr. K. D. Dewal.

- Mr. Ambassador, how would you describe the current level of economic relations between India and Armenia and prospects for development, particularly in the field of pharmacy?

- The economic ties between the peoples of India and Armenia, in particular, trade relations have deep historical roots. They are also evolving today, encompassing many areas ranging from commerce to high technology and pharmaceuticals. The comprehensive legal framework existing between India and Armenia has contributed to the development of economic ties in recent years, as well as Armenian Government's decision of November 2017 on ease of visa regime for Indian citizens to Armenia.

To characterize the current level of trade between the two countries, let's refer to statistics (for example, according to the RA State Revenue Committee). Thus, if during 2017 the export from India to Armenia made USD 29.56 mln, out of which USD 680.000 were pharmaceutical products, then in 2018, the export index amounted to USD 51.42 mln, of which USD 670.000 were pharmaceutical products. As you can see, the share of pharmaceutical products in the total volume of export of goods from India to Armenia is quite large.

As for the export of Armenian products to India, its volumes in 2017 and 2018



were USD 3.29 mln and USD 566.100, respectively, and in the first half of 2018 and 2019 - USD 121.500 and USD 681.200, respectively.

Meanwhile, pharmaceutical products from Armenia to India were exported in 2017 alone – USD 25.900 and in the first half of 2019 – USD 3000.

Summing up the above data, I would like to point out that, although India and Armenia have quite extensive and effective political relations, the opportunities for economic cooperation are not sufficiently used. Events such as the India-Armenia Pharmaceutical Business Forum-Exhibition, where 28 leading Indian pharmaceutical companies under the auspices of PHARMEXCIL will present their products to Armenian companies, are filling that gap. It is represented worldwide, with many Indian companies receiving Certificates from World Health Organization, PIC / S (The Pharmaceutical Inspection Convention and Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme), the US Food and Drug Administration and European GMP, as well as documents certifying the quality, efficacy and safety of drugs. A large number of Indian pharmaceutical companies are developing their own medicines.

As far as I know, the pharmaceutical industry in Armenia is also developing rapidly. So, Armenian-Indian ties in this field have great potential for development, and it is time for Indian and Armenian companies to realize this po-

tential, not only in the field of drug export-import, but also to open joint ventures, exchange experiences as widely as possible and why not, co-develop drugs.

- Armenia is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). EAEU and India plan to start talks on signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). How will the signing of this Agreement affect Armenian-Indian economic relations?

The signing of the EAEU-India free trade Agreement will definitely have a positive impact on Armenian-Indian economic relations, as such agreements, first of all, implies liberalization of mutual trade through the establishment of favorable tariff and non-tariff regulation regimes. Under these conditions Indian companies will have the opportunity to enter the EAU 160 million market, and the EAEU companies will have the opportunity to enter India's \$ 1.2 billion market, which is essential for the parties to exchange complete and accurate information and to know each other well. Indian business is working very actively in this direction, and it is not accidental that the PHARMEXCIL delegation will visit EEU countries also apart from Armenia - to Belarus, Russia, and then Uzbekistan.

I hope that the Armenian business community will also intensify its work to ensure its proper presence in the Indian market, and the Government of Armenia to assist entrepreneurs along the way.

The Indian and Armenian peoples have many cultural similarities, including in the field of business culture. Indian and Armenian businessmen can do their best by working together to create greater value, promote prosperity in India and Armenia. And the signing of free trade Agreement between India and the EEU may be one of the tools that will open them up to greater cooperation opportunities.

Secret Document Reveals State Dept.'s Interference in Genocide Recognition

By Harut Sassounian

The United States government has recognized the Armenian Genocide multiple times in the past. In an official document submitted by the U.S. government to the World Court in 1951, the Armenian Genocide was acknowledged for the first time as an example of Genocide. The House of Representatives adopted two resolutions in 1975 and 1984, acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Furthermore, President Ronald Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation on April 22, 1981 referencing the Armenian Genocide.

Nevertheless, recent U.S. administrations have made repeated attempts to block the acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide by the U.S. Congress, and successive American Presidents have avoided using the term Genocide in their April 24 commemorative statements.

For example, the Reagan administration, after President Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation in 1981 acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, opposed Congressional resolutions recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

The George H. W. Bush administration opposed Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole's efforts to have the U.S. Senate recognize the Armenian Genocide Resolution in 1990.

The Clinton administration blocked the passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution in 2000, moments before the House was to vote on it.

The George W. Bush administration objected to the adoption of the Armenian Genocide Resolution by the House of Representatives in 2007.

The Obama administration opposed the Armenian Genocide Resolution in 2010, preventing it from reaching a full House vote.

An unclassified "Secret" State Department document, dated October 2, 2000, discloses the length to which the U.S. government went to block the passage of House Resolution 596 in the year 2000, while Bill Clinton was President and Madeleine Albright was Secretary of State. Resolution 596 was approved by the House International Relations Com-

mittee on 24 yes, 11 no and 2 present votes on October 3, 2000, but not put to a vote in the House of Representatives.

The "Secret" document contains two letters: the first from Secretary of State Albright to Foreign Minister of Armenia Vartan Oskanian and Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Ipekci; the second letter is from Tom Pickering, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, to Dick Solomon, President of the U.S. Institute of Peace. In an introductory note, Steven Sestanovich, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for the new independent states of the former Soviet Union, tells U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Michael Lemmon that both Pickering and Solomon "are obviously part of the deal we are trying to put in place to head off the Genocide Resolution. I discussed them today with VO [Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian] and Van Krikorian [Co-Chair of the Armenian Assembly of America] did the same. VO was positively disposed but said he could not speak for RK [Pres. Robert Kocharyan], who had already gone home sick. VO will speak with him tomorrow and get his reaction...."

Secretary of State Albright, in her letter to the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Turkey states: "The U.S. Administration has strongly opposed this resolution, believing that it offers a completely counterproductive approach to the goal of improving relations between Turkey and Armenia and promoting reconciliation between the Turkish and Armenian peoples. I am hopeful that we will proceed in getting this resolution put aside, because we are strongly committed to what we believe could be a more promising approach.... I will be writing in due course with some ideas about how to make this effort a success."

In the second letter, Under Secretary of State Pickering wrote to Solomon, President of the U.S. Institute of Peace, an independent institution founded by Congress: "...Recently, the Congress has been deliberating a resolution, HR 596 on 'Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.' As you know, the Administration has opposed this resolution, but we firmly believe that a Truth and Reconciliation process on this subject is

needed.... The Secretary [of State] has asked me to write to propose that the U.S. Institute of Peace begin developing ideas for such a Truth and Reconciliation process with the goal of launching it in the near future.... As a first step, we hope you will consider convening a group of credible and recognized Turks, Armenians and others. These should include the representatives of public groups, scholars, archivists, government or former government officials, and others. Our hope is that an initial meeting could be held as early as December in Washington, D.C. This initial planning group would review the historical and political contexts and generate a consensus on the scope and timetable of subsequent activities, including creation of a commission to prepare a report."

The initiative proposed by the Department of State was finally launched in July 2001 when the "Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission" was founded with the participation of six Turks and four Armenians which included Van Krikorian from the Armenian Assembly of America, Antranik Migranian from Moscow, and two Armenian foreign ministry officials.

In the months succeeding the formation of TARC, I wrote several editorials opposing it, because it was clear that TARC was a ploy by the State Department to block the proposed congressional resolution to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Even without the knowledge of the "Secret" document disclosed in this article, most observers suspected that TARC was created and funded by the State Department in conjunction with the Turkish government to undermine the pursuit of the Armenian Cause.

Unfortunately, certain Armenian groups and individuals were deceived by this American-Turkish ploy, which was naively supported by the Armenian Foreign Ministry. It took a considerable effort on the part of many Diaspora Armenians to convince the Armenian government to drop its support of TARC.

Armenians need to remain vigilant not to fall in the trap of those who pursue their own interests at the expense of the Armenian nation!

Artsakh FM speaks at U.S. Congress

On October 30, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Artsakh Masis Mayilian delivered a speech as the keynote speaker at an event in the U.S. Congress dedicated to the independence of Artsakh.

The event was organized at the initiative of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues and through the joint efforts of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia and the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Artsakh to the United States, as well as the Armenian National Committee of America and the Armenian Assembly of America.

The Foreign Minister of Artsakh expressed his gratitude to the Congressmen present at the event for supporting the Resolution recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire in 1915-1923 adopted by the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress the day before.

In his speech, Masis Mayilian touched upon the processes of state-building and international recognition of the Republic of Artsakh and expansion of its international cooperation, as well as



the peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict.

Congressmen speaking at the event reaffirmed their determination to continue to contribute to strengthening the security of the Republic of Artsakh and its international recognition.

Congressmen Brad Sherman and Frank Pallone solemnly handed to the head of the delegation of the Republic of Artsakh, Foreign Minister Masis

Mayilian a copy of the U.S. House of Representatives' H.Res.296 Resolution recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide.

Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the USA Varuzhan Nersesyan, as well as representatives of the Armenian National Committee of America and Armenian Assembly of America also delivered speeches at the event.

Turkish Parliament responds to US House Resolution on Armenian Genocide

The Turkish parliament on October 31 condemned the U.S. House of Representatives' passing a resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide as well as a bill backing sanctions on Turkey, Anadolu Agency reports.

"The Turkish Grand National Assembly regrettably condemns and rejects the U.S. House of Representative's adoption of some thesis on so-called Armenian genocide and turning it to a decision despite the objection of some members who have wisdom and conscience," said a resolution of the Turkish parliament



approved on Wednesday.

The resolution was penned by deputy chairs of the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party, the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), the opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and the opposition Good (IYI)

Party.

It said the U.S. House's decision was an initiative to darken the historical realities.

Also rejecting the U.S. House's bill seeking sanctions on Turkey, the resolution said: "In the eye of us, the meaning of the U.S. House of Representatives' threat of sanctions is just an attempt to blackmail," the statement said.

"Turkey has never submitted to any blackmail and [...] we sharply refuse this decision," it added.

**ԱՐԵՒՍՏՅԱՆ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ
ԽՈՐՀՐԴԱՐԱՆ**

**PARLEMENT
D'ARMENIE OCCIDENTALE**



**PARLIAMENT OF
WESTERN ARMENIA**

**ПАРЛАМЕНТ
ЗАПАДНОЙ АРМЕНИИ**

APPLICATION

Of the Members of the National Assembly (Parliament) of Western Armenia

**To the member states of the United Nations Security Council,
To the European Parliament, to the member states of the Council of Europe,**

To Greek, Armenian and Assyrian peoples, their spiritual and national leaders, as well as peoples of the Greater Middle East and the Balkans whose historical rights were violated by the Turkish state and governments

(On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Turkish occupation of the Northern part of the Republic of Cyprus)

We, the undersigned, call on the Greek, Armenian and Assyrian, as well as other peoples of the Greater Middle East and the Balkans to establish strategic partnership based on historical justice and international law. We consider it our duty to finally fulfill the rights of our nations that were granted to us and enshrined in international treaties and conventions, but which were not brought to life.

This application is based on specific historical facts recorded in international documents. They are:

- UN resolutions Nos. 541 and 550, addressing states of the world not to recognize the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus as a state formation of Northern Cyprus, occupied by the Republic of Turkey in 1974. In fact, we are celebrating today the 45th anniversary of the Turkish occupation of the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus.
- The 99th anniversary of the occupation of Western Armenia and Cilicia by the Republic of Turkey.
- We consider it necessary to remind that the results of World War I were determined in 1919-1920 by the Versailles system of International treaties. Turkey's commitments to the countries of the Greater Middle East, the Balkans, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea Basins countries were fixed in 1920 by the Treaty of Sevres, which is one of the founding and key treaties of the Versailles System of International treaties.
- Decree of the Government of Russia (Council of People's Commissars of Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic) on "Turkish Armenia" ("On Western Armenia"), January 11, 1918.
- The Arbitral Award by 28th President of the United States Woodrow Wilson, November 22, 1920 on the instruction of the League of Nations (Full title: "Decision of the President of the United States of America respecting the Frontier between Turkey and Armenia, Access for Armenia to the Sea, and the Demilitarization of Turkish Territory adjacent to the Armenian Frontier").
- The Treaty of Sevres on the autonomy of Kurdistan and the probability of its future independence (in accordance with Articles 62, 63, 64).

It is also worth noting that the Turkish state, for more than a hundred years, has been pursuing a policy of genocide and state terror against its own Greek, Armenian and Assyrian citizens, who are indigenous peoples of the region. From the end of the 1920s, the same policy is applied to Kurds and Yezidis.

So the Turkish state continues its genocidal policy of persecution, massacre and deportation against the indigenous peoples, forcing them to leave their places of residence.

We consider it appropriate once again to list the crimes of the Turkish state, which were defined as "New crimes of Turkey against humanity and civilization" in a joint statement by the Great Britain, Russia and France in May 24, 1915:

- Propaganda of xenophobia, racism, ideology of national superiority under the guise of Pan-turkism and Neo-osmanism within the area of residence of the Turkish peoples and Turkish communities.
- Genocide and deportation of the Armenian people were carried out by the Turkish succeeding governments: Sultanate, Young Turks and Kemalist in the period of 1894-1923.

- Genocide and deportation of the Greek people were carried out in the period of 1915-1923.
- Genocide and deportation of the Assyrian people were carried out in the period of 1915-1923.
- Armenian genocide was carried out in Baku in 1918.
- Massacres and genocide of Armenians and Alievs were carried out in Dersim (Tungheli) in the period of 1937-1938.
- Massacres of Armenians and Greeks were carried out in Constantinople, Ankara and Izmir on 6-7 September, 1955.
- Destruction, ownership or elimination of historical, spiritual, cultural and material monuments of Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians and other indigenous peoples were implemented in the period of 1894-1923 and has continued until now.
- Falsification of the history of Turkey on account of histories of Greek, Armenian, Assyrian and other indigenous peoples of the region. "Turkish historical company" was established in 1931 by the order of Kemal Ataturk. Turkish and foreign historians hired by the Turkish government have been involved in that company. They were ordered to clean archive materials; to fake ancient histories of nations lived under the command of Ottoman Empire and make new ones. Of course, it is possible to clean archive materials, but how to explain disappearance of millions of Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians from the territory of Ottoman empire.
- The denial of historical facts and genocide of Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians leaves out the Government of the Republic of Turkey from the norms, principles and Conventions on the Prevention

and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted by the international community.

This is an incomplete list of crimes by succeeded governments of Turkey. Crimes, which have been done against Greek, Armenian, Assyrian and other nations of The Greater Middle East, Balkans, and of The Mediterranean and Black Sea basins, against humanity and civilization in last 100 years, which continues till now.

The Turkish government was not punished for the occupation of the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974. Thus today's Turkish impudent authorities continue roughly violate all norms of international law.

That is why today we are appealing to the Greek, Armenian, Assyrian and other nations of the region, as well as to their national and spiritual leaders by the offer to unite their forces for development joint tactics and strategy for facing historically unpunished occupier. We consider necessity to pursue the process of returning occupied territories and restoring the violated rights of our nations.

Only by such joint, united forces and efforts we will be able to put an end to state terrorism by the Republic of Turkey directed against peoples of The Greater Middle East, Balkans, and of The Mediterranean and Black Sea basins.

We all witness those atrocities, which the Republic of Turkey carries out today in the Middle East and in the Mediterranean area causing irreparable damage to the statehood and sovereignty of Syria, Iraq, and Cyprus and most importantly to the lives and prosperity of the peoples living at this region. We must put an end to Turkish powerlessness.

We are convinced that the international community, particularly United Nations should take every effort to ensure fundamental rights to peoples of the region for living, developing and for having future.

At the same time, we appeal to all forces of the region to unit for reaching above mentioned aims and for reining in the occupier. We hope that our appeal will be perceived with understanding and will find constructive response.

Eduard Polatidis (Polatov)

MP of National Assembly (Parliament) of Western Armenia

"Patrida" NGO of Greeks of Armenia and Artsakh, Chairman

"Talish: Settlements in the border area" of Patriotic organisation of Artsakh war veterans, Chairman

David Khiniov

MP of National Assembly (Parliament) of Western Armenia

Standing Committee on Indigenous people and national minorities, National Assembly of Western Armenia, Chairman

"Assyria" Patriotic Movement, Chairman

Martik Gasparyan

MP of National Assembly (Parliament) of Western Armenia

International Independent – legal Center of Recovery and Reimbursement, Chairman

International Academy of Spiritual Unity of Peoples of the World, Deputy Chairman

Mamber of Scientific Council of the Russian Academy of Science,

Academic of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences,

Doctor of Economic Sciences, Profesor.

31 October, 2019

Recent News from Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator: Working in the Name of the Nation

Two-year project on introducing irrigation system in Gnishik



VivaCell-MTS and the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) solved the problem of irrigation water in borderland Gnishik as part of a program implemented in two years within the framework of the “Eco Village Network” project. An efficient irrigation system has been built from the scratch in the period from 2018 to 2019 to ensure the irrigation water reaches the villagers without any leakages. The water is supplied to every home or garden via the village piping system, which starts at the entrance to the village. The new internal piping allows also regulating the water flow and using it as needed and prioritized, by regulating it using separation junctions and individual valves.

In 2019, a new 500-meter-long pipeline was built at the bottom of the mountain to Gnishik to increase the water amount flowing to the village. The water flowing from the source to the settlement is connected to the internal irrigation network. As a result, the land lots in the lower part of the settlement can be irrigated round-the-clock, and the former water source will be used for irrigating the upland areas of the community.

Overall, as a result of two years' work, a 1 500m long pipeline, 3 separation junctions and 25 individual connection points have

been constructed.

“Those willing to help villagers first of all have to give them opportunities to live and to work on the soil. This is especially

so for the villagers living in borderland communities. We clearly understand this and also that all these things require investments, and equally, patience, proper planning, devotion and efforts. Years ago, this community lacked infrastructure and any of the simplest conditions of life. I am glad to say that in the framework of this partnership we have solved major issues. Our achievements are a matter of years of work aimed at creating more comfortable conditions of life in yet another borderland village. I want to believe that this wish is



totally feasible,” VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph C. Yirikian** said.

The residents of Mozrov village also feel the effectiveness of the implementation of the two-year program. For many years, the Mozrov irrigation pipeline has also served

to irrigate the orchards of the Gnishik community, creating a problem in the neighboring settlement. The problem is settled now. There is enough water for gardening in Gnishik. The amount of water consumed by the Mozrov irrigation pipeline has been reduced by about 70%. Another project is being implemented by the partner organizations to improve the Mozrov water supply system. The works are in progress. They are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

At the meantime, the opening ceremony of the Gnishik Visitor Center took place, too, which is constructed by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC), with the support of VivaCell-MTS, World Land Trust and FPWC Board Member **Haig Balian**. The Center will play an important role in the development of the community, eco-tourism activation, biodiversity conservation and scientific work.

The Visitor Center will also include a library named after Armenian botanist-biologist, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor **Eleonora Gabrielyan**, whose main focus will be on the flora and related studies. As the community is rich in biodiversity, one of the main goals of the Center will be promoting the study and conservation of the unique species of the Armenian nature in this area, involving the specialists and foreign students, too.

VivaCell-MTS and FPWC have been implementing joint projects in Gnishik since 2015. Over the past five years, thanks to the joint efforts of the partners, a lot of problems were solved: street lighting system using LED lamps was implemented, drinking and irrigation water systems were built, and the village was supplied with the needed agricultural equipment and machinery.



Installation of LED Lamps as a Means of Saving the Community Budget

There Are Active Works in Shnogh

The etymology of the name of Shnogh village of Lori Marz, is related to reviving and constructing the land. And they tend to live in the village, likely. But there are almost the same problems that are typical of remote regions. One of them is the street lighting problem, which the community tried to solve but did not achieve the desired results. A certain part of the village has been illuminated, but some of the expensive lamps have gone out of order, causing new financial burdens. Shnogh has been assisted by partner organizations VivaCell-MTS and the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) to reduce the illumination costs and address lighting issues. The partners who acknowledge the importance of infrastructure development in the regions and the promotion of eco-friendly lifestyle, initiated the work of the installation of LED lamps in the eastern part of the Gugarats Range.

It was planned by the project to illuminate a 1.4 km long section, but during the research phase, the community expressed its willingness to make some investments, too. As a result, the length of the illuminated section has reached to 1.8 km instead of previously calculated shorter one. There is an awareness in the community that the effective management of the existing means should start with savings. The old and ineffective lamps made all this impossible. LED lamps are far superior in terms of savings, environmental impact and lighting quality.

“The final stage of the system introduction is underway. The works of installation of electric wires and mounting the lamps are carried out on the fixed poles. 47 energy-saving LED lamps will be installed in the village. Once commissioned, it will be possible to compare and assess the change,” said **Martin Maralchyan**, the Project Coordinator.

“Once the works are accomplished and the system is implemented, we can clearly

calculate and understand the cost difference between exploiting the old and new LED lamps. Although we are already convinced that the cost will be lower, for sure. It would be desirable to replace the old lamps with LED ones in the secondary streets, too, in the future. Old lights are coming out of order, very quickly, there is always a need to replace them with new ones, which results to additional costs,” said **David Ghumashyan**, the head of the Shnogh enlarged community.

In the village of Shnogh, about 200 kilometers from the capital city, the commotion created during the implementation of the installation works is received there, with big enthusiasm. There is confidence that the remote village is not ignored, the innovative technologies are also available here, and ultimately, the savings will have a significant impact on the community budget.

Partnership for the sake of environment Native wild tree species are planted in Vardahovit



With the efforts of VivaCell-MTS and the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets, important and serious environmental processes have been recorded in different regions of Armenia for over 15 years. This time the partners organized a tree planting in Vardahovit, Vayots Dzor region, to restore the degraded forest area. In order to make further seedling care more reliable, they have installed safe, portable electric fences.

The tree planting was implemented within the framework of the “Developing Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) on a basis

of Caucasus Wildlife Refuge area” project launched by FPWC several years ago. Over 15 000 tree seedlings are planned to be planted by the end of 2019 in Ararat and Vayots Dzor regions.

Three native wild tree species were planted (wild almond, wild pear and oleaster), which are grown in a completely new and experimental way for Armenia, which allows to have healthy tree seedling from the seeds gathered from local forests. The selection of these tree species is conditioned by the specificity to the area. By planting wild food trees reforestation also contributes to the resolution of the “human-wildlife” conflict, that is, providing sufficient food for wildlife in forest areas to avoid their entrance in populated areas of communities.

“I have lost the count of trees I have planted; but definitely, life is about devotion. If we want to live in a healthy, beautiful, clean, and safe environment, we shall be more than just consumers, and shall have our own contribution. And I don’t mean just financial aspects. Care and attention, diligence and consistency are important, too. Where there is unity on matters of value results become more tangible. I am happy to state our teams and staff members have been guided by these principles for quite a while, and they are role models for young people. Take care of the environment: it is immensely important,” VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph C. Yirikian** said.

Within the framework of the above mentioned program an innovative nursery was established, where the seedlings are grown from seed and by following strict and clear requirements of the growing process all year round, viable, healthy trees are grown able to withstand the climatic conditions of the given habitat. This technology was highly valued and considered successful by the US Forest Service and **Anthony Davis**, Dean of the Forestry University of Oregon. This year the FPWC reached an agreement with Mr. Davis to launch a program in 2020 to start growing IUCN tree species, which are hard to grow in natural conditions.

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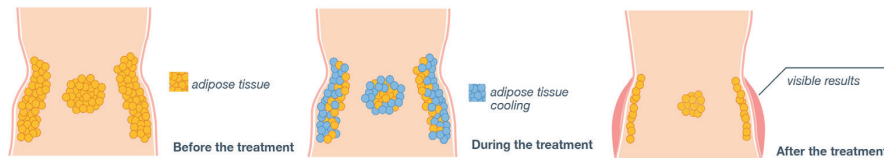
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Switzerland

**AZAD Pharmaceutical
Ingredients AG**

Durachweg 15
CH-8200 Schaffhausen
Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10
Fax: +41 52 632 09 11

AZAD Pharma AG

Bahnhofstrasse 9
CH-3125 Toffen
Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10
Fax: +41 31 810 40 11

Canada

**AZAD Fine
Chemicals Ltd.**

1895 - 55th Avenue
Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9
Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99
Fax: +1 514 636 75 55

Atlit Inc.

16 Westminster Ave.,
Suite 306A
Montreal, Qc H4X 1Z1
Phone No: +1 514 369 25 91
Fax: +1 514 369 81 67

China

**Hangzhou
Representative
Office of
AZAD Pharmaceutical
Ingredients AG**

Room 801-087, Lixin Plaza,
#102 Moganshan Road
310051 -Hangzhou China

Phone +86-571-8761 5336
Mobile +86-153-5505-0903
Fax: +86-571- 8895 8963

Germany

AZAD Pharma GmbH

Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a
DE-78315 Radolfzell
Phone No: +49 7732 939101510
Fax: +49 7732 9391016

Armenia

**AZAD Pharmaceuticals
LLC**

Vanahovit 8, Proshian
Ashtarak Ave., Kotayk Marz
Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62
Fax: +374 93 40 34 40



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E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am

Address in Armenia:
28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA
Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-22 (+374 60) 35-11-24

Address in France: Masion De L'Armenie,
Paris 17e-95, Bld. Gouvion, France
Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112,
Glendale, CA, USA, 91206
Tel.: +1 (818) 646 10 72

Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009