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ARPA Institute,
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ԼՐԱԲԵՐ

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Տեղեկագիր «Առողջ Ապրելակերպ եւ Կեանքի Ոճ» Ծրագրի Մասին

Չորրորդ տարին է որ Արցախի մէջ, Ստեփանակերտի, Ծուշիի եւ շրջաններու կարգ մը դպրոցներու մէջ, ԱՐՓԱ-ի «Առողջ Ապրելակերպ եւ Ժամանակակից Ուղղեցույց» խորագրով դասագիրքը կ'օգտագործուի ուղղութիւն տալու եւ ճիշտ դաստիարակելու համար նոր սերունդը: Այնտեղ ներկայացված է ակոհոլի, ծխախոտի, ինչպէս նաեւ ոչ ճիշտ սնունդի օգտագործման վնասակար ազդեցութիւններու մասին, ինչպէս նաեւ մարզանքի, ճիշդ սնունդի եւ դրական կեցուցքի կարեւորութեան եւ օգտակարութեան մասին:

1998 ուսումնական տարուայ Սեպտեմբերի մէկէն իվեր ԱՐՓԱ Հիմնարկի կազմակերպած «Առողջ Ապրելակերպ եւ Կյանքի Ոճ» ծրագրին հետեւած են ատէլի քան 20,000 աշակերտներ Արցախի եւ Հայաստանի տարացքին:

Առողջութեան պահպանման եւ վերականգման համար պետք է սկսիլ մանկութենէն, դպրոցական հասակին, քանզի վատառողջ ապրելակերպի որոշ սովորութիւններ կը որդեգրուին տղոց եւ աղջկանց կողմէ դպրոցական հասակին: Ահա թէ ինչու անհրաժեշտ են ԱՐՓԱ Հիմնարկի կազմակերպած «Առողջ Ապրելակերպ եւ Կյանքի Ոճ» դասընթացքները եւ տպագրված գիրքերը, որոնք դպրոցական հասակի երեխաներուն որոշ պատկերացում կուտան իրենց օրկանիզմի եւ կատարվող Ֆիզիքական փոփոխութիւններուն մասին՝ նպաստելով ոչ միայն առողջ ապրելակերպի ձեւաւորմանը, այլ նաեւ նախնական կանխարգելիչ միջոցներու ծանոթացմանն ու իրագործմանը:

Այս տարի ուրախութեամբ կը յայտնենք որ, ըստ Պրն. Բագրատ Եսայանի, Հայաստանի Կրթութեան եւ Գիտութեան Նախարարի Տեղակալ՝ դպրոցներու գծով, որ պատասխանատու անձն է պետական դպրոցներու պաշտոնական ծրագրին, ԱՐՓԱ Հիմնարկի կազմակերպած «Առողջ Ապրելակերպ եւ Կյանքի Ոճ»-ին նմանօրինակ ծրագիր արդեն իսկ պատրաստուած է եւ դասագրքերը գրուած: Այս դասերը Յունուար 1, 2009 թուականէն սկսեալ պիտի դասաւանդուին բոլոր պետական դպրոցներուն մէջ:

Երկրորդ ուրախ լուրը որ կուզենք յայտնել հետեւեալն է. Անճար Հայաստանի Գալուստ Կիւլպենկեան-Յարաջ Վարժարանին, եւ նաեւ Հայ Աւետարանական Երկրորդական Վարժարանին մէջ պիտի դասաւանդուի «Առողջ Ապրելակերպ եւ Կյանքի Ոճ» ծրագիրը: Աւելին, Պէյրութի Նշան Փալանճեան Շեմարանի աշակերտները նոյնպէս պիտի ուսուցուին «Առողջ Ապրելակերպ եւ Կյանքի Ոճ» ծրագիրը: Դասագրքեր ուղարկուեցան Երեւանէն Լիբանան որպէսզի անմիջապէս, Յունուար ամսէն իսկ սկսին դասաւանդութիւնները: Կենթադրենք որ այս նորութիւնները ցուց կուտան որ ԱՐՓԱ-ի տարած աշխատանքները իրենց կարեւոր դերը կը կատարեն նպաստելով մեր նոր սերունդի առողջ դաստիարակութեան: Առողջութիւնը ազգային արժեք կարելի է համարել, եւ առանց առողջ սերունդի ոչ մէկ երկիր, ոչ մէկ ազգ, կրնա շրջափելի յաջողութիւն արձանագրել: Ուստի, նոր սերունդի առողջութիւնը եւ առողջ դաստիարակութիւնը հայ պետութեան եւ ազգին գերակայ խնդիրներու շարքին պետք է դասուի:

Editorial: Respect the Past and Imagine the Future

Those who look only to the past or present will certainly miss the future. If, however, each one of us does a little more than our duty then the future will take care of itself. The future belongs to those who see possibilities. It is not a place where you are going, but the reality that you are creating. The right path to choose is not found by chance but created, and on the way it changes both the maker and the destination. The future will belong not only to the educated man, but to the man who is educated to use his time wisely. If we can recognize that the future will bring change and uncertainty, and that these are basic principles of life, we can greet the future and the transformation it brings about with a good understanding of what we want and where we want to go. Instead of striving to be right at a high cost, it is better to be flexible and be open to change to lower the cost. If you cannot accurately predict the future, which we will never be able to do, then you must be flexible to deal with various possible futures. The future could be dangerous if you don't anticipate failures and take necessary caution. "The major advances in civilization are processes that all but wreck the societies in which they occur", (Alfred North Whitehead). Don't dwell too much on the past, because you may turn around to find the future has run out on you. The only way that you can predict the future is if you can figure out what is happening to and around you **now** and if you have the power to shape it. It's all a matter of mindset. There are those of us who let things happen the way they want to, those of us who strive to make it happen the way we want to, and those of us who wonder what happened. So, it's all a matter of how you imagine the future. What you see in your mind for your future, is what your body will try to achieve. It's all a matter of perspective.

A story has been told that some years ago a French businessman, who owned a shoe factory, wanted to expand his market into Northern Africa. So he sent one of his salesmen to travel to those countries and evaluate the market and come back with a report. This salesman traveled and came back and said it is not a viable market. The businessman asked why? His salesman replied "no one wears shoes". The businessman was not convinced. So, he called upon his best salesman (who happened to be Armenian) and sent him on to North Africa to assess the market himself. The Armenian salesman came back and reported "There is a huge market potential down there, they are all ill equipped. No one wears shoes." So, it's all a matter of perspective. When you set your mind and work hard you can achieve more than you think, even the impossible (sometimes). A wise man said "They researched and found out that it can not be done. So, they went ahead and did it anyway".

Երեւանի Պետական Ճարտարագիտական Համալսարանի «Պոլիտեխնիկ» պաշտոնաթերթին մէջ տպուած գրութիւնը ԱՐՓԱ-ի կազմակերպած Նորարարութեան Մրցումի մասին - Գերբեւի Գկար:

http://www.seua.am/arm/tert/Hoktember29_2008/10.html

http://www.yasu.am/site/index.php?lang=1&page=2&search_keyword=&m=&y=&p_num=2&id=1701

http://www.yasu.am/site/index.php?lang=2&page=2&search_keyword=&m=&y=&p_num=2&id=1589



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Trip Report, by H. Panossian

During a trip to Armenia in September and October of 2008 I had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education and Science, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Economy, the Minister of Diaspora, the deputy Ministers of Education and Science and that of Nature Protection, the president of the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA) and members of the faculty and staff of the SEUA and the Yerevan State University:

On September 16 I had an interview with the Voice of America representative in Armenia, Ms. Shoushanik Marashlian. It was broadcast on TV and sent as a link for everyone to view. A good overview of the ARPA activities in Armenia was covered. In the evening of the same day I attended a reception of the 250th anniversary of mining in Akhtala, Armenia, organized by Metal Prince (The ARPA V.P. in Armenia, Serop Der Boghossian's mining company) and the Akhtala Municipality. Prime Minister Sargsyan was supposed to attend, but he had last minute change of plans. At the reception we were going to talk with him and invite him to the ARPA "Invention Competition" awards ceremony.

On September 17 I met with the President of the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA), Prof. Vostanik Maroukhyan in his office and had long discussions about the "Waste Management" conference and the "Invention Competition", as well as ways and means of cooperation and steps that need to be taken to make these events a success. Also present were Prof. Laert Hovhannissyan, Pro-rector for financial and student activities and social programs and Prof. Norik Haroutiunyan. The agenda for the "Waste Management" conference was discussed and finalized after a few changes. They were all very cordial and showed a great deal of cooperation. Several other meetings were also held with SEUA during several other occasions and issues related to helping the SEUA be actively involved with the industry, among others, were discussed.

On September 18 I had a meeting with Dr. Aram Hajian, the deputy Dean of Engineering, and talked with Dr. Artak Hambaryan, the Chair of Industrial Engineering of the American University of Armenia (AUA). The "Invention Competition", the "Waste Management" conference, cooperation between ARPA and the AUA and how the AUA can participate were discussed.

On September 22 I had a meeting with the Minister of Education and Science, Hon. Spartak Seyranyan, and discussed with him the "Invention Competition" awards ceremony and the "Waste Management" conference and invited him to attend the first and hand out the certificates and the awards. He did not promise, but said to call him the next day and see how to schedule it at an appropriate time. He was called the next day and the day after and his response was that he would not be able to attend but he will assign Mr. Bakrat Yesayan, his deputy Minister in charge of the school system of Armenia, to attend. Mr. Bakrat Yesayan was visited and the waste management conference and the awards ceremony were discussed and the latter event was scheduled on October 1 at 3:00 pm in the SEUA, based on his availability. Also, Mr. Ara Avedisyan, the other deputy Minister of Education and Science was visited. He has been the liaison with ARPA regarding both the "Waste Management" conference and the "Invention Competition". Both Deputy Ministers promised to

attend these events and even agreed to say a few opening remarks and words of encouragement to the participants.

On September 23 Dr. Madeleine Tashjian, our Executive Director in Armenia and myself visited Hon. Dr. Harutiun Koushkyan, the Minister of Health and discussed with him the "Waste Management" conference and invited the Ministry to send a representative. Also discussed was the possibility of cooperation with ARPA in preparing videos on matters related to health issues of the youth of Armenia. He was very receptive.

On September 25 and 26 Dr. Madeleine Tashjian, ARPA Executive Director in Armenia, and I had already made all the arrangements for the "Waste Management" conference implementation and the small receptions during breaks. The conference was held in the nuclear training center of the Polytechnic and started on time with opening remarks by Hon. Deputy Minister Bakrat Yesayan and Prof. Vostanik Maroukhyan. The conference was directed by Prof. Laert Hovhannissyan. The local press was also invited. There were over 60 attendees from the Government, academia and public and private organizations. Presentations were made by local experts and by Dr. Ara Kasparian, Director of the Environmental Management Program, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works of the Los Angeles City and by Mr. Varouj Abkian, Assistant Director Bureau of Sanitation, Department of Public Works, City of Los Angeles. At the end of the conference there was a panel discussion with the participation of our experts from LA and various experts from Armenia. Dr. Anahit Alexandryan, the deputy Minister of the Ministry of Nature Protection did not participate in the panel, as was planned, although she did make a presentation on the first day of the conference.

On October 1, Wednesday at 3:00 pm, over 50 university students, professors, press representatives and university staff were gathered in the Nuclear Training center of the SEUA (Polytechnic) for the awards ceremony of the ARPA Invention Competition. We waited for Mr. Ara Avetisyan and Mr. Bakrat Yesayan, the deputy Ministers of Education and Science, to arrive. But they did not show up. So, the ceremony was started without them at 3:30 pm. I made a few opening remarks, congratulated all the participating students and their advisors and discussed the way the competition was organized, evaluations were carried out and the winners were selected. I also discussed the rules and criteria for the competition, formally announced/launched the competition for next year and then announced the names of the participants and their advisors to come to the podium and receive their certificates and the awards for the winners. At the end some of the advisors made a few remarks and congratulated their students and thanked ARPA for this very important event. Dr. Alexander Markarov, the VP of the Yerevan State University, congratulated the winners and all the participants and thanked ARPA for this very significant competition. He expressed hope that ARPA could also work with the YSU and organize such events in the future. Prof. L. Hovhannissyan, VP of the SEUA, also thanked ARPA and congratulated the students and their advisors.

On October 4 and 5 the Armtech Congress 2008 was attended in the Marriott/Armenia Hotel. This was a forum of all high tech industries and companies working in Armenia, where presentations were made by Government officials

regarding the laws on investments and rights and obligations of foreign companies, and stressed the need for better communication and technological environments in Armenia. The Minister of Economy, Mr. Nerces Yeritsyan, was also present and made a speech. During the intermission, I met with Minister Yeritsyan and his deputies and presented the activities of ARPA Institute to him. He promised to be very responsive to our needs and instructed his deputies, Mr. Bakrat Yengibaryan, the director of Enterprise Incubator Foundation, and Ms. Zhenya Azizyan, head of the IT Development department of the Ministry, to coordinate all future ARPA activities with them.

On October 6 Dr. Tashjian and myself met with Mr. Yesayan and his expert on education, Ms. Anahit Mouradyan, who is in charge of the Government sponsored course on health education, which is similar to our “Health Education and Lifestyle Program”, and is currently in progress. The textbooks are being finalized, and the course is planned to start in February 2009 and will be taught to the 8th and 9th graders in all secondary schools of Armenia. She was very thankful to ARPA for starting the HELP program and stressed the benefit that the Ministry has derived from our HELP textbook and all the advice and inputs received from ARPA. So did Mr. Yesayan and promised to keep ARPA posted on the progress being made in this area.

On October 15 I made a presentation about the ARPA activities in Armenia to the press representatives of all the Armenian papers in Beirut, Lebanon, including the Aztag daily, Ararat and others. There was a great deal of interest from the audience and Mr. Dickran Jinbashian, the principal of Jemaran wanted to have a copy of the textbook on HELP and promised to teach the course in his school. Similar discussions were held with the principals of the C. Gulbenkian and the Armenian Evangelical School in Anjar and they wanted to teach the HELP course in their schools as well. So, two textbooks were sent to each of these schools from Armenia.

On October 21 at 10:30 am I appeared live on the Yerkir Media television station of Armenia for half an hour. ARPA activities were discussed and the announcement for next year’s “Invention Competition” was shown on TV. I also talked with Minister Seyranyan on the phone about the no-show of deputy Ministers Yesayan and Avedisyan and expressed my disappointment. He promised to take action and make sure such neglect will never occur again. I thanked him for his cooperation and sponsorship of the events.

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Dr. H. Panossian & Dr. M. Tashjian with Hon. Spartak Seyranian, Minister of Education & Science of Armenia



Dr. Ara Kasparian & Dr. Hagop Panossian with Hon. Harutiun Kushkyan, Minister of Health



Dr. M. Tashjian & Dr. H. Panossian with Deputy Minister of Education & Science Bakrat Yesayan and Head of Health Education, Ms. Anahit Manoukyan



Waste Management Conference

On October 22 at 4:45 pm Mr. Gabriel Injejkian and myself met with the Minister of Diaspora of Armenia, Hon. Mrs. Hranoush Hakobyan. plans for coordinating Armenia-Diaspora future activities ARPA activities and ways and means that we can provide assistance to the Ministry were discussed, as well as her and various important issues that relate to strengthening Armenia.



Dr. H. Panossian & Mr. Gabriel Injejkian with Minister of Diaspora Hon. Hranoush Hakobyan



Above are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th place winners with their advisors and ARPA President H. Panossian & Executive Director, M. Tashjian

Առաջին: Սոֆիյա Ալիկյան, Դավիթ Դավթյան, Վարդան Դանդեան, Արթուր Աղույան
Երկրորդ: Հայաստան Չախալյան
Յրրորդ: Արուսյակ Մանուկյան
Չորրորդ: Վահրամ Մուրադյան -բացակա- եւ Էդիկ Մկյան



Pictured is a scene from the “Invention Competition” At the Head of the Table Speaking is Dr. M. Tashjian



The “Invention Competition” Reception

ԱՐՓԱ Հիմնարկի 2008-ի Նորարարության Մրցույթին Մասնակցողների Ծանկ

Առաջին Տեղ «Մետաղների եւ Դժվարամալ Սիլիցիդների Մանրադիտաբա Փոշիների Առաջույժ ԲՆԱ Եղանակով»	
1. Սոֆիյա Ալիկյան	Մկյան - Սուրեն Խոստայան
2. Դավիթ Դավթյան	Մկյան - Սուրեն Խոստայան
3. Վարդան Դանդեան	Մկյան - Սուրեն Խոստայան
4. Արթուր Աղույան	Մկյան - Սուրեն Խոստայան
Երկրորդ Տեղ «Արագընթաց Ռոբոտային Հանգույթ»	
5. Հարստան Չախալյան	Մկյան - Արտ Պապյան
Յրրորդ Տեղ «Էդիկի Տակացու»	
6. Արուսյակ Մանուկյան	Մկյան - Արտ Պապյան
Չորրորդ Տեղ «Հաստատուն Հոսանքի Էլեկտրասնունցման Աղբյուր»	
7. Վահրամ Մուրադյան	Մկյան - Բորիս Մամիկոնյան
Չորրորդ Տեղ «Էնցքերի Հեղուկբյուրեղային Տեսակի»	
8. Էդիկ Մկյան	Մկյան - Բորիս Մամիկոնյան
«Lycoperdon Perlatum» ԱՍԵԻ Կիրառումը Հողերի Կենսաբանական Ռեկուլտիվացիայի Համար»	
9. Նուրեն Մարգարյան	Մկյան - Կարեն Գրիգորյան
10. Արտն Պապյան	Մկյան - Կարեն Գրիգորյան
11. Նիկոլայ Ավրամովյան	Մկյան - Կարեն Գրիգորյան
«Մատրի Գաղամի Զատան Եղանակ»	
12. Հրանտ Պապիկյան	Մկյան - Հ. Բարսեղյան
13. Արտն Պապյան	Մկյան - Հ. Բարսեղյան
14. Մարիս Եմիլյան	Մկյան - Հ. Բարսեղյան
«Ճեղմանաբանական Փոշիների Մագնիսական Պարամետրերի Ուղղման Եղանակ»	
15. Արտուր Կարապետյան	Մկյան - Գևորգ Կարապետյան
«Էնզիմ Կրթերի Տեսակարար Դիմադրության Չափման Տրանսֆորմատորային Եղանակ»	
16. Էստն Պապյան	Մկյան - Բաղդ Բոնյան

ARPA Lectures given from July 2007 to December 2008 in Merdinian Armenian School Auditorium, Sherman Oaks, CA.

1. Prof. Vahe Petrosian of Stanford University, California, presented a lecture on “Manifestation of Matter & Energy in the Universe; Black Holes, Dark Matter and Dark Energy”. How to Build a Universe? Physicists looking inward and astronomers peering outward, have increased our knowledge about the universe, resulting in new theories & ideas, some good and some crazy. May be our universe was built out of nothingness or vacuum. Is this the truth or is it the figment of our imagination? Perhaps the universe was actually constructed 5000 years, 5000 days or 5 seconds ago? The answer to these questions is hidden in the nature of the matter and energy which run the universe. It turns out that what we and Earth are made of is a tiny fraction of the Visible Matter in the universe, which is a tiny fraction of the Ordinary Matter (mainly invisible), which is also a tiny fraction of the not so ordinary matter called Dark Matter, which in turn is a small fraction of the (yet unknown) substance called Dark Energy. So why do we seem so insignificant? Are we? What are all this stuff made of and exactly how do we measure them? What was the past and what will the future of our universe be? The lecture will address these questions and issues.

2. Mrs. Sonja Simonian-Zeitlian presented a lecture on “The Folk Tradition of Musa Dagh”. The folk tradition or the orally transmitted stories engender a strong connection that links the generations. Those folktales are vehicles of age-old manners, customs and folk wisdom. As such, they are instruments for asserting cultural identity, based on shared experiences and values. The oral tradition has been central to the lives of Musa Daghtsis as a form of popular entertainment during festivals and especially as a means to while away the long winter nights. Its importance has waned as the living conditions have changed after the relocation of Musa Daghtsis to Anjar, Lebanon and Armenia. The heroes of the Musa Dagh folktales are mostly kings, princes, princesses, traders and peasant men and women. The virtues of the folk hero integrate physical aptitude with a dedication to justice, integrity and audacity, as well as a merciful attitude, modesty, hard work, honest gain and patience. The hero seeks freedom and proudly endures hardships for the sake of boldly asserting his independence of thought and action. The heroines of the tales have the defining role of either motivating the hero to realize lofty ideals or letting him sink into the depths of despair. The patient, diligent and conciliatory heroine overcomes difficulties and always stands by her husband. She is modest, loyal and rates the family honor as a precious gift. Motherhood ennobles her, deepens her great capacity for love, even enables her to make the ultimate sacrifice for her children. Musa Daghtsis consider such a heroine “the greatest treasure on earth.”

3. Dr. Nikola Shahgaldian, a former RAND Corporation political analyst and an advisor to the President of Armenia, gave a lecture on «Հայաստանի Հանրապետության Արտաքին Հարաբերությունների Ապագա Մարտահրավերները»: Հայաստանի Հանրապետության (ՀՀ) տարիներու շրջափակման եւ Արցախի հարցի լուծման հետ առնչվող դժվարություններուն պատճառով արտաքին քաղաքականությունը թե՛ ճնշված թափանցիկ բարդություններով լիքն է: Դասախոսությունը պայմանավորող գործոնները հետեւյալներն են.

Ա. ՀՀ-ի քաղաքական դոկտրինան ինչ է և ինչ է: Ինչ է նրա կարելությունը: Ծարունականություն, հստակացում, սահմանափակում:

Բ. ՀՀ-ի քաղաքական դոկտրինայի նպատակները՝ պահպանում անկախության, պետական սահմանների եւ սահմանադրական կարգերի:

Գ. ՀՀ-ի քաղաքական դոկտրինայի նպատակների իրագործման քաղաքական ելքերն ու նրանց առաջնահերթությունները:

Դ. ՀՀ-ի արտաքին հարաբերությունների բնույթը հինգ հիմնական դերակատարների հետ:

Ե. Արցախի հիմնահարցը:

4. Mr. Vartkes Yeghiayan, the attorney who pursues claims of Pre-Genocide insurance cases against various European banks, presented a lecture on: "Fighting in the Trenches on the Genocide Asset Recovery". The continuous denial of the Armenian genocide by Turkey is evidence of a serious defect in the international system of nation-states that needs to be rectified. In this respect, the continued pursuit of legal justice by attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan and others provide the impetus for younger generations to ensure that never again such inhuman treatment of minorities ever be practiced by sovereign nations. The lecture covered the initiation, the outcome and the current status of the legal cases of Armenian Genocide survivors' children and grand children with New York Life, Axa Insurance Co (French), Victoria Insurance Co (German) and the three German Banks; namely, the Deutsche Bank, the Deutsche Orient Bank and the Dresner Bank. Mr. Yeghiayan outlined the background facts of some of the numerous legal cases and the legal issues involved. The New York Life Insurance, for instance, sold more than 5,000 life insurance policies to Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. More policies were sold before 1915 in Ottoman Turkey than in twenty-one states in the United States. After the Genocide of 1915-1923, many Armenian survivors fought for compensation for the loss of life of their relatives, to no avail. Also discussed will be the terms and status of lawsuits in preparation and planned direction of the future pursuits.

5. Dr. Aram Galstyan of USC Information Sciences Institute, Intelligent Systems Division, spoke about "Intelligent Machines & Artificial Intelligence Brief Survey". The term Artificial Intelligence (AI) was coined at the now famous Dartmouth conference in the summer of 1956. Despite the optimism generated by the early success of AI programs, fifty two years later we are still very far away from the so called "strong" AI, as efforts to build machines with general human-like intelligence have been largely fruitless. At the same time, a pragmatic and problem-solving oriented AI research has been tremendously successful in developing intelligent systems and technologies for various applications, such as automated speech recognition, machine translation and image processing. A brief survey was given on modern AI and machine learning (ML). The latter is concerned with how to make machines learn through discovering regularities and patterns in data. A brief introduction to main ML approaches and what applications in AI can still be achieved that can influence how we live was presented and discussed. Also discussed was the potential prospect of starting machine-learning research in Armenia.

6. Dr. Ara Kasparian, the head of the Environmental Management Division of the City of Los Angeles spoke on: "Los Angeles River Revitalization". Did you know that Los Angeles has a river? Beyond all the jokes about the LA River,

there is a genuine plan to use this resource to revitalize Los Angeles, create open space, parks, water related recreational facilities, such as canoeing, and establish river friendly developments. Similar river improvement efforts implemented in other countries, such as Armenia, South Korea, and Spain were discussed. Can a “San Antonio Riverwalk-like” development be implemented here? Where would the water come from during the dry season? Will the value of properties near the river increase? How much will the plan cost? And finally, what’s in it for you? What are the similarities of the LA river to the Hrazdan river that flows through Yerevan?

7. Raffi Kendirjian, Financial Analyst, UBS, & ARPA Secretary presented a lecture on “Economic Development in Armenia: Opportunities and Challenges” on October 30, 2008. The presentation also discussed the many challenges facing the government of Armenia today. Despite strong economic growth, Armenia's unemployment rate remains high. Combating corruption, strengthening the financial sector, fostering productivity growth and increasing the competitiveness of the enterprises in Armenia are some of the many challenges facing policymakers and civil society in Armenia today and in the years to come. Economic growth in Armenia has been robust and steady throughout the past decade, averaging over 13% in recent years. Armenia has managed to reduce poverty, slash inflation, stabilize its currency, and privatize most small- and medium-sized enterprises. Today, the Armenian economy is strategically positioned to play a greater role as a regional hub for many multinational firms by providing them with the infrastructure, business environment and human resources.

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