ARPA Institute 20th Anniversary Celebration Conference
Co-Sponsored by the ARPA Institute and the Glendale Public Library

Current Issues Facing Armenia And The Diaspora

Saturday, May 19, 2012, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 222 E. Harvard St., Glendale, CA
Free Admission

Conference General Chair: Professor Richard Hovannisian

11:00  Introduction
Elizabeth Grigorian, Armenian Outreach Coordinator, Glendale Public Library, CA

11:05  Opening Remarks
Richard Hovannisian, University of California, Los Angeles

Session I - Armenia

11:15 - 12:30  DEVELOPING ARMENIA INTO A Viable DEMOCRACY & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
Chair: Edgar Martirosyan, Dongell Lawrence Finney LLP, Los Angeles
Speakers: David Joulfaian, US Department of the Treasury*, Washington, DC
Prospects of & Challenges to Economic Growth in Armenia
Marina Kurkchiyan, University of Oxford, UK
Problems of Development of Civil Society in Armenia: Human Capital & Democratization
Razmig Shirinian, College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA
The Dilemmas of Development & Democratic Governance

Discussants: Ara Khanjian, Ventura College, Ventura, CA
Mark Chenian, UBS Financial Services, Beverly Hills, CA

12:30 - 13:15  Panel Discussion and Q & A

13:15 - 14:00  Lunch Break

Session II - Diaspora

14:00 - 15:15  THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA
Chair: Dikran Dalian, The Aerospace Corp., El Segundo, CA (Retired)
Speakers: Simon Payaslian, Boston University
Stephan Astourian, University of California, Berkeley
Armenia’s Governments, Diaspora Political Parties, & Issues of Coordinated Action
Hagop Gulludjian, University of California, Los Angeles
On The Demotion of Language as the Virtual Territory Sustaining Diaspora

Discussants: Talar Chahinian, California State University, Long Beach, CA
Myrna Douzjian, University of California, Los Angeles

15:15 - 16:00  Panel Discussion and Q & A

ARPA Institute 20th Anniversary Celebration Gala Banquet
following the conference, on May 19, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Dream Palace Banquet Hall
510 E. Broadway, Glendale, CA
Donation for the banquet: $75

* for identification purposes only
ARPA Institute 20th Anniversary Celebration
May 19, 2012
BOOKLET ADVERTISEMENT FORM

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Current Major Projects of the ARPA Institute

1. **Invention Competition:** ARPA helps build Armenia’s capacity for innovation by encouraging bright university students in advanced industrial production and to develop their genius in technology, applied science, and other fields. ARPA encourages the outstanding students to innovate through its annual “Invention Competition”. Since its inception in 2008, 43 inventions have been received, reviewed and assessed in various fields, and over $15,000 have been given to the winning students. The competition is open to all university students in Armenia.

2. **Distance Learning Program:** To help improve social life in Armenia and accelerate economic growth, ARPA is implementing its “Distance Learning” program through global learning networks and state of the art information technology. ARPA has thus far offered five multi-week seminars with the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA) and is committed to expand to other institutions of higher learning in Armenia by organizing lectures, conferences and seminars to help transfer knowledge and modern technologies.

3. **Armenia DNA Center of Excellence:** DNA testing is an important technology of the future. At the present, Armenia has no advanced DNA testing facilities. ARPA has initiated the DNA Center of Excellence project to help establish a modern center for use by all public centers of higher learning of Armenia. The DNA center of excellence will be equipped with advanced technical facilities and manned by highly trained personnel. This will also help develop a crucial technology field and create highly technical new jobs. We are cooperating with the Armenia State Committee of Science, as well as all public centers of higher learning.

4. **E-Archeology:** Armenia is an ancient country rich with archaelogical treasures. To make this available to scholars and archeologists world wide, ARPA has initiated the e-archeology project, which digitally documents all the national monuments and recently excavated treasures using modern software. The Ministry of Culture, the Institute of Antiquities of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Museums of Armenia, along with ARPA Institute are developing a unified approach and implement this program.

5. **Energy Efficiency Lab in State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA):** Armenia is working on developing specialized courses to teach university students on cost savings through energy efficiency. ARPA is working with the SEUA to develop a laboratory that will display and allow experimentation by students to learn about energy efficiency. This is a joint effort with the Polytechnic Graduate Students Association of California, and the plan is to implement it in several phases during the coming years.

6. **Monthly Lectures/Seminars in Los Angeles:** ARPA organizes monthly lectures in the Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks on various topics related to Armenia or Armenians of the Diaspora. We invite experts from various fields to present technical analyses and discussions on historical, political, economic, social, and cultural issues related to Armenia and the Diaspora. We are thankful to all the lecturers and participants in our panel discussions. We hope our community is appreciating our efforts through donations to ARPA Institute to help us continue with our mission.
Historical Background of ARPA Institute

ARPA Institute (Analysis Research & Planning for Armenia) is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) and was founded in 1992 in Los Angeles, California. ARPA promotes international cooperation and understanding for the Republic of Armenia through the provision of consulting, analysis, research and planning services in various fields. ARPA experts have served as consultants to public organizations and the government of Armenia in matters pertaining to education, economy, energy, transportation system, industry, Armenia-Diaspora relations, etc. ARPA is managed by its Board of Directors and membership is drawn from professionals with expertise in different fields, including specialists in economics, political science, health, education, law, industry and technology.

During the early years of its founding our members worked with several Ministries of Armenia to help them address numerous issues related to areas ranging from transportation and traffic control to energy, the economy and the new constitution. ARPA helped organize the first energy conference held in Yerevan, Armenia in 1992 where the major decision to re-start the Medzamor Nuclear Power Plant was taken. Our engineers, led by Harold DeMirdjian, worked with the Ministry of Energy to help resolve energy related issues. Our economists consulted with the Ministry of Finance and some members critiqued the Constitution in its early development.

ARPA established the “Sarko Tilkian” Blood Bank in Yerevan in 1998, and helped establish the Gyumri blood bank through Global Healing International more recently. The ARPA Health Education & Lifestyle Program (HELP) has taught more than 30,000 students in Armenia and Artsakh about the health risks of smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, and the health benefits of a good diet and exercise, among others.

One of the missions of the ARPA Institute is to build capacity for innovation by nurturing remarkable university students in Armenia to develop and explore their genius in science, technology, medicine, agriculture, communications, software, physics, chemistry, biology, genetics, or any other field. Our nation and the world urgently need the talents of applied scientists and engineers to drive innovation, enhance competitiveness and help solve critical problems Armenia faces. The ARPA Institute tries to identify young inventors in Armenia and change the mindset, to promote their innovative endeavors from an early stage. ARPA encourages these outstanding young people to innovate in collaboration with leading professors in various fields, through its annual “Invention Competition” for university students. To date 43 inventions have been received in various fields. We have also organized a conference on “Waste Management” in 2009 in the State Engineering University of Armenia, in order to address the major industrial and domestic waste issues facing Armenia.

ARPA promotes technology transfer through technical seminars using a network of communications between Los Angeles and Armenia. Our “Distance Learning” program has thus far implemented 5 multiweek seminars on power electronics, advanced motors, modern turbines and energy systems presented by experts. The plan is to expand capabilities to connect to all of the institutions of higher learning in Armenia and organize lectures, conferences and seminars.

In addition, the ARPA Institute monthly lectures on various subjects pertaining Armenia and the Armenians in Diaspora. We have organized over one hundred lectures, presented by well known experts in various fields, such as historians, economists, political scientists, educators and business people. We do our best to provide Analysis, Research and Planning for Armenia and Armenians of the world.