



Director's Message

Yesterday's history, today's reality

The history of co-existence of Armenians and Turks extends for centuries. For over nine centuries Armenians have lived in different states of Turkic conquerors, first as subjects of the Seljuq and Ottoman Empires, and later as citizens of the republic of Turkey. They have lived in what the great humanist has described as "the inextinguishable inferno of Anatolia", and have survived to our days.

Nowadays one may occasionally come across an opinion that the two nations have lived side by side in peace and accord, happy and content for centuries, and that their co-existence was marred by genocide only at the beginning of the previous century. Reality, however, differs. For centuries the relations between the two nations have been clearly asymmetric and unequal: on one side there were the Turkic state institutions and on the other, Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire. Neither in the past, nor in the present have the Turkic states and their institutions contributed to the preservation and development of the Armenian identity and culture. The relations of the two nations have developed in these conditions. The Armenian Genocide is unfortunately an integral part of this reality.

In our small corner of the world the previous century witnessed the decline of three empires: Ottoman, Russian and Soviet. In the melting pot of the 20th century the three Armenian states and the modern republic of Turkey were born as well. At the end of the previous century a new window of opportunity opened, a window of developing bilateral fair relations. However, until the first decade of the 21st century the relations between the newly independent Armenian state and Turkey remained buried under the centuries-old ashes of "the inextinguishable inferno of Anatolia".

It has become possible to revive the Armenian-Turkish relations from the ashes and breathe in a new life and a new quality only in the recent years. The Armenian-Turkish interstate rapprochement has only two years of history. These two years first have surprised thousands of people in Armenia and Turkey, then caused frustration and hope intermittently, and finally, offered the whole spectrum of hues imbued with disappointment. There was a time when it seemed that a tangible bilateral and good-neighbor policy would eventually melt the ice of intolerant and hostile relations between the two nations.

The ICHD Quarterly Newsletter is published since Spring 2010. The Newsletter is intended to improve our communications with partners in civil society, government and development community in Armenia and abroad. We hope that the Newsletter will help you stay informed about our activities and gain a better understanding of who we are and what we do.

However, the process ended up in a deadlock, when the good will for such a policy crashed with the asymmetric politics of pre-conditions.

Still, I am positive that the process will regain a momentum once again, when the principles of bilateralism and good-neighborliness will be reinterpreted as crucial again, and set at the heart of the process. Otherwise, there will always be rational and irrational, even absurd pre-conditions ("until the rivers change their routes, or the sun sets in the east") to be put forward, to impede the process.

In this regard we believe it crucial to promote partnership between the governments and the civil societies of the two countries, based on the mutually beneficial principles of a bilateral and good-neighbor policy. No cloud, whether political or economic, should overcast such partnership. Otherwise, why try to disperse the still fresh and burning memories of "the inextinguishable inferno of Anatolia" if new ones – the stormy clouds of the intergovernmental mistrust and political manipulations - are to replace them?

Tevan Poghosyan
ICHD Executive Director

Project Highlights

Supporting Repatriation of Armenian Migrants

ICHD and the Service of Repatriation and Return of the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Netherlands signed an agreement on providing post arrival assistance to Armenian returnees from the Netherlands for their further reintegration in the society on July 8, 2010.

In the frames of the project a realistic opportunity will be created for around 75 Returnees to be fully integrated into the Armenian society and economic life as well as to be able to exercise the fundamental rights and responsibilities of the citizen of Armenia. The Support project aimed at reintegration of returnees is supported by the European Union and will work till June 2011.

Town Hall Meetings on Armenia-Turkey Cooperation Perspectives



Education specialists discuss Armenian-Turkish co-operation perspectives. July 2010, Yerevan.



Experts in energy, telecommunication and transportation sectors discuss the status and opportunities of cross-border infrastructures at Town Hall Meeting. July 2010, Yerevan.

Town Hall Meeting (THM) on Turkey-Armenia common environmental issues with the participation of about hundred experts was organized by ICHD in the framework of the Bridging the Divide program in Yerevan on 8 July. In the frames of the same program THMs on “Armenia-Turkey Cooperation Possibilities in the Area of Infrastructures” and “Armenia-Turkey Education and Science Issues” were held in Yerevan in mid July.

First Advocacy Summit for the Bridge Project in Istanbul

On July 26 through July 28 ICHD and Bridging the Divide (BTD) Turkish Armenia Business Development Center (TABDC) and GAYA convened the first Advocacy Summit for the BRIDGE project in Istanbul, Turkey. This project was launched on April 1, 2010 through the generous support of BTD and initiative of ICHD. Before this conference, issues of public interest and concern to both Turkey and Armenia were discussed in six town hall meetings since April 2010. Armenian delegation consisted of 15 experts and facilitators, who participated in Town Hall Meetings in Yerevan.

These issues focused on three areas – environment, science and education, and infrastructure. Evaluations of these THMs indicated that two out of three participants in both Turkey and Armenia changed their opinion in favor of dialogue on issues related to the environment, infrastructure, and education and science. This process has increased the knowledge and understanding among Turkish and Armenian participants of concerns and problems that confront both countries and need common solutions to solve them.

Participants in the Istanbul Advocacy Summit included facilitators of the THMs, issue experts, opinion leaders, and policy makers. The purpose of this summit was to share findings from deliberations and debate, explore each other’s interests, and develop specific options for joint projects in these areas. The main outcome of the summit has been the commitment of the participants to continue efforts at generating cooperative cross-border initiatives. Specifically, the participants of the Advocacy Summit agreed to facilitate ongoing regional activities and initiate new ones for addressing Climate Change mitigation and adaptation issues, including development of Climate Change regional scenarios and data exchange modalities. In addition, the participants have prioritized addressing trans-boundary water management and biodiversity conservation issues. Participants indicated importance of Turkey taking more proactive



Arthur Martirosian facilitates a session at the Advocacy Summit. July, 2010. Istanbul.

stand in cooperation in the Caucasus region and integration into existing regional environmental projects to reinforce efforts with South Caucasus countries towards finding solutions to environmental issues with regional and global impacts.

The project will continue until December 2010 when the second Advocacy Summit will be held in Yerevan to discuss potential for cooperation in three other areas.

ICHD works with European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh

ICHD partners with Conflict Management Institute (CMI) in the framework of the initiative of the European NGOs Working in Partnership for Peace on the European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (EPNK).

The EPNK project particularly aims at enacting initiatives which will cumulatively contribute to a peaceful settlement over Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) in partnership with local and civil political actors. The projects specifically targets young leaders from Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. It strengthens the capacity of Conflict Affected Groups (CAGs) to engage in conflict resolution processes, contributing to the cumulative growth of a critical mass of social groups actively engaged in the peace process. A network of young leaders from Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh will develop their skills in conflict transformation, arrive at a common vision and thus contribute to a peaceful resolution of the NK conflict. Young leaders will also become skilled in planning and implementing cross-border joint or cumulative peacebuilding activities which contribute at a societal level to a peaceful resolution of the NK conflict. Young people living across the borders will be better able to play a constructive peacebuilding role through empowerment and improved mutual understanding.

In August 2010 the Expert Councils were consulted in order to select the future participants in the EPNK/CMI project. The experts have discussed the issues related to criteria and mechanism of selection of young leaders, as well as, selection of competent trainers who could provide peacebuilding skills. The consultation was led by a CMI delegation with the assistance of the local partners. In late September 2010 CMI and its partners brought together local level experts selected on the Experts Councils recommendations and regional level experts (experienced trainers/practitioners) as well as experienced practitioners (total 7-10 participants) to design a manual for peacebuilding in Tbilisi.

Through by November 2011 the trainers selected by the Expert Councils and that have participated at the Joint expert work-

shop in Tbilisi will provide training to a group of around 10 young leaders. Based on their training, the young participants will design and implement small scale peacebuilding projects/ activities. The participants will meet in order to share best practice/ lessons learned activities – sharing the experience of the previous activities. They will also be helped by trainers and experts to design a joint proposal to be supported by the local authorities. The group of young leaders and trainers will attend the Black Sea Peacebuilding Network (BSPN) Regional Meeting and present their work and proposal. The Expert Councils will support the young leaders in order to receive support for their proposal.



“Barmal Reactor” exercise at the training in ICHD. September 2010, Yerevan.

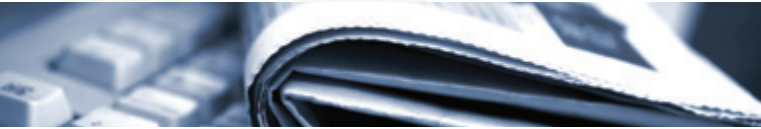
Technical Capacity Building Training Program for Armenian Small Hydro Powers

Norsk Energy in cooperation with its Armenian partner Hydroenergy and ICHD launched a four months long project aimed at technical capacity building and promotion of activities of numerous participants of small hydro power stations on 7th of September, 2010.

The training program is planned for the volunteer participation of the owners of 4-6 acting or newly built hydro power stations. The trainees elected in an open contest have high education on hydro technical structures, as well as planning and construction in the area of hydro energy, environmental economics and business. During the implementation of the project the participants will research on different business, strategic, and technical situations anticipated for HPS working with full strength. For few weeks the trainees will intensively attend to trainings, reports, seminars and will do personal research. ICHD will convey to the participants of the trainings deep knowledge and skills on negotiations and effective communication.

The project is supported by Ameriabank, the Ministry of En-

ergy and Natural Resources, GAF-RE-KfW (German Armenian Renewable Energy Fund), Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction, and is financed by the Foreign Ministry of Norway.



ICHD in the Media

Meeting with US Secretary of State

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had a meeting with the leaders of civil society during her visit to Yerevan NEWS.am reported. ICHD Executive Director Tevan Poghosyan participated in the meeting at Gafestchean museum on 5 July. The discussion was held in Off-the Record format. The issues of resolution of Nagorno Karabakh conflict, regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations and strengthening democracy in Armenia were discussed.

International Day of Democracy

On September 15, 2010, ICHD within the scope of Euroforum East West Network organized an interactive training dedicated to the International Day of Democracy, Weast Magazine reports.

According to the UN General Assembly's decision of 2007, 15 September of each year is observed as the International Day of Democracy. With this purpose, ICHD invited a group of young and promising individuals to debate through intellectual discussions on the principles of democracy. The participants defined a perfect leader by drawing an ideal image of a leader who is able to guide the others. Through simulation games, the participants personalized well-known politicians in Armenia by trying to represent their real and ideal image. The event included a short film watching called "Democracy through the eyes of a child", which voiced different opinions on the current democracy level in Armenia. At the end of the event the participants wrote a 'letter from future' as if from 2020 by making predictions on how Armenia will look from the democratic point of view. The young people expressed hope that by 2020 media will be freer and more open, the judicial system will be improved and less corrupted, and that Armenian NGOs will evolve more active participation due to more favourable conditions as provided by the government.

More about ICHD ▶

Established in March 2000 in Yerevan, the International Center for Human Development (ICHD or the Center) is a leading think tank in the South Caucasus that brings together a team of highly-qualified analysts and researchers with strong academic background and substantial experience in both public and private sectors committed to professional excellence and ethics. We cultivate a culture of inclusive policy making process, develop and introduce innovative instruments effective in the regional, national and local policy environments.

ICHD provides quality advice, policy analysis and development services to our stakeholders including government, civil society, the private sector and development partners, creating innovative policy communication tools and promoting adaptive environment for dialogue. We also champion development and introduction of new technologies used for effective participation of citizens in decision-making. Over the past decade ICHD became a center of excellence and knowledge in a broader region and internationally recognized as a credible and attractive partner.

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