



Director's Message

Our decade-long experience encourages us to present our future endeavors to society and our partners. With this perspective in mind we begin publication of ICHD Quarterly, our newsletter, which will review our activities and achievements on quarterly basis. We hope that it will help strengthen ties with those who follow the activities of ICHD and cooperate with us.

On this 10-year anniversary, it is with particular pleasure that I would like to highlight that we have been successful in establishing a modern think tank in Armenia meeting best international practices. This view is supported by most credible international institutions ranking think tanks. Their reports recognize that Armenia's ICHD is one of top 25 think tanks in Central and Eastern Europe.

This success is both an honor and a challenge to us. More than ever, ICHD has a clear vision of its future endeavors. We will focus first of all on promotion of more effective interaction between the state and civil society in Armenia and in the region.

Again, I hope that you will find this newsletter informative and interesting.

Tevan Poghosyan
ICHD Executive Director

Project Highlights

Peacebuilding in BSEC Region: Myth or Reality?

Over 50 Armenian civil society institutions are involved in the Black Sea Peacebuilding Network. In 2010 ICHD organized 2 working meetings in this framework. Main directions and principles of the new working year were discussed and accepted during these meetings.

The Black Sea Peacebuilding Network is a regional initiative that builds on extensive peacebuilding expertise available within the civil societies of the countries covered by the project. The network provides inclusiveness to civil society representatives and peacebuilding practitioners from seven countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Turkey and Russian Federation) and intends to play an im-

The Quarterly ▶

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.

portant role in coagulating regional cooperation on peacebuilding issues on the NGO sector level. The project is aimed at working towards greater capacity building in conflict transformation on the grassroots level in the 7 countries in order to provide solid foundations for sustainable peace in the Black Sea Region.

In 2009 ICHD organised 4 Network meetings inviting a number of speakers and consulting several external experts. According to recent estimations, approximately 80 experts have participated in discussions and contributed to development of four policy briefs prepared by ICHD in Armenian and English.

“Men should be at the frontier of breaking down gender barriers that hinder women's advancement!”

Gender based violence is a phenomenon that is found in every country of the world and which reflects traditionally women's subordinate status in most societies. Frequently victims of such violence refuse to speak out, because they



Police officers share experience and practical problems of preventing gender-based violence

are afraid of their husbands and don't trust those who are trying to offer support. These factors make establishing relations with victims in order to help them difficult.

The perception among Armenian population of the gender based violence and society's stereotypes are quite troubling. Thus 22% of Armenian women and about one third of men agree that husband's beating his wife can be justified under some circumstances (Demographic and Health Survey/DHS Armenia, 2005, provides latest and comparatively credible data on this matter). Both women and men with higher education are less likely to justify gender based violence, as are women and men who are employed.

Since September 2008 ICHD has led a consortium of civil society organizations that seek an environment conducive for elimination of gender based violence in Armenia and implementation of the country's commitments in this area. The UNFPA sponsored project "Combating Gender-Based Violence in Armenia" implemented by ICHD, Association of Women with University Education and Tatev-95 Psychological Support and Counseling Center aims at promoting public awareness of the issue, ways to end violence and developing potential victims' skills for dealing with violence.

About 250 women and girls - victims of domestic violence and those leaving under permanent stress of gender based violence - have been trained by the Consortium of partners. The partners have targeted a variety of risk groups ranging from orphanages, care centers, hostels for poor families to patients of surgical, neurosurgical, trauma and gynecology clinics.

Special attention was paid to confidence building among the victims. Women and girls have been also trained in individual protection to ensure their physical security. They have been particularly informed about the use and availability of the psychological counseling for the violence victims.

Fifty seven victims of gender-based violence (all women) received psychological counseling and practical aid. They have been offered comprehensive assistance including financial, medical, legal, vocational, child care and other free services using resources of consortium members and their partners. Training helped women and girls to get psychological help, jobs, legal advice, social security, as well restored their self-confidence and helped them reintegrate in the society.

In the framework of this project ICHD and its partners have organized training sessions which raised the awareness of over sixty health professionals, sixty police officers, fifty civil servants, and twenty NGO representatives now concerned with women's issues countrywide in early 2010.

New Solutions to an Old Problem

Prevention of gender based violence in Armenia needs consistent work by the civil society representatives and policy makers, raising public awareness of the issue.

The Armenian Government with resolution of Prime Minister of Armenia in March 2010 created an Interagency Commission, aimed at raising effectiveness of actions implemented to prevent gender based violence, information collection as well as for drafting the National Program on Combating Gender Based Violence. ICHD is represented in the Commission by an expert in this area.

EU-Armenia Cooperation on Management of Migration Issues

Reforms in the migration management system of Armenia have become one of key directions of Armenia-EU cooperation recently. A number of extensive and crucial projects have been implemented in this area in the last few years.

In 2007-2009, one of these projects was the EU-sponsored "Support to Migration Policy Development and Relevant Capacity Building in Armenia" implemented by the International Center for Human Development (ICHD) in cooperation with the Migration Agency at the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration (MA MTA) and British Council Armenia. The project results, achievements and lessons learned were reviewed at the final conference on 19 February 2010.

ICHD's Executive Director Tevan Poghosyan mentioned in his opening remarks noted some of the achievements:



Closing conference of the Migration Project. February 2010, Yerevan.

"Within the project's framework the Migrants' Support Union was created, which operates currently with state budget funding and has provided its services to about 1700 migrants in 3 years. An official web site www.backtoarmenia.com was created, which is a very effective way of communication between the Armenian migrants living abroad and the Armenian authorities. A number of drafts of legislative acts, as well as the draft of the republic's Concept on Strategy of State Regulation of Migration for 2010-2014 have been elaborated. The latter has been officially circulated by the Working Group on Migration issues attached to the National Security Council of Armenia".

In this respect during the conference the Secretary of the

National Security Council of Armenia Arthur Baghdasaryan praised the working group.

“We hope that in the nearest future these works will be finished and we will have a comprehensive document that will enable us to solve migration problems. Solving these issues is important both from the viewpoint of security and right management of migration flows and risks”.

Head of the European Commission’s delegation in Armenia Raul de Lutzenberger identified easing of the visa regime between Armenia and EU countries as an important issue. To make progress on that issue, Armenia will need to implement reforms and approximate its legislation to European standards. Particularly, the policy making and its implementation according to European standards will enable making vital steps towards protection of rights and interests of Armenian citizens living in the EU.

Armenia and Collective Security Systems: Choice or Cooperation?

Around 200 young people in Gyumri and Vanadzor participated in Town Hall meetings on Armenia-NATO cooperation in February-March 2010. ICHD and Armenian Atlantic Association (AAA) organize such discussions with young people in various regions of Armenia regularly. Young people from Gyumri and Vanadzor voiced over 300 ideas, opinions and suggestions on the subject of Armenia-NATO cooperation.

Future Generation and Future Challenges: Global Security and Climate Change

One of the vital directions in ICHD’s activities is to promote better understanding within Armenia about NATO’s mission and activities in the changing international environment. ICHD works in conjunction with the Atlantic Association of Armenia (AAA).

Fifty young representatives, as well as a number of experts from Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine participated in the regional seminar “South Caucasus Youth Forum: New Strategic Concept of the Alliance – Do we have a Stake?” The seminar was organized by AAA and ICHD with the assistance of the Norwegian Atlantic Committee (DNAK) on February 4-5, 2010 in Yerevan.

The first day of the seminar was focused on the New Strategic Concept of NATO and trends in NATO’s relations with the South Caucasus. For this purpose a number of Armenian and foreign experts and officials were invited to present. Also discussed was impact of climate change on security.

The second day was devoted mainly to environmental issues. It contained a Simulation Game on the basis of Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, where young participants tried to solve issues of climate change and environmental pollu-

tion in general, while acting roles of heads of states and different ministers. At the end of the day a “Protocol on Carbon Emission Reduction” and a “Protocol on Global Environmental Fund” were signed by seminar participants.

Should We See the Friendship of Neighbors Beyond Initial Armenian-Turkish Track Two Diplomacy Efforts?

David Phillips, who led public diplomacy initiatives in Turkey and the Caucasus as the chairman of Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Committee (TARC) in 2001-2004, presented the Armenian translation of his book “Unsilencing the Past”. In the book he narrates the experience and the lessons learned from TARC.

The translation was published by the International Center of Human Development and Eurasia Partnership Foundation with support of USAID. Track Two Diplomacy practitioners, Armenian state officials, representatives of international organizations and NGOs attended the presentation on February 4, 2010 in Yerevan, Ani Plaza hotel.

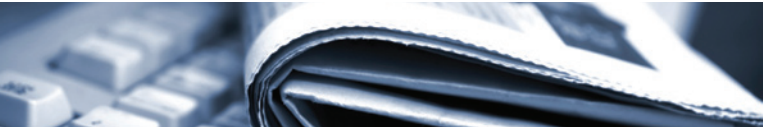


Dr. David Phillips at the presentation of his book in Yerevan. February 2010.

David Phillips thanked the initiators of the translation commenting: “When I first started to interview the Armenian-Turkish reconciliation process [participants], I can tell you how unwilling particularly the Turks were in engaging in any kind of dialogue. When Track Two was announced it broke the ice and unleashed a whole series of projects involving civil society groups of two countries. And today I am especially pleased to see in this hall a new generation of both Armenians and Turks who will be next to develop these projects. I would like to know what each of you is going to do to change the course of history and that in that endeavor you will use as guide and information the story told in the pages of the book “Unsilencing the Past”.

ICHD’s executive director Tevan Poghosyan noted that: “At the beginning of the century perhaps there were a few de-

cent Turks in the world who bowed their heads in memoriam of the victims of the Genocide. Today hundreds of Turks recognize one of the most horrible crimes committed in the past century. I believe that the cohort of Turks who regained their national dignity will increase to hundreds and thousands and number of those who deny the Genocide will decrease rapidly. The step leading to that day is already made. And it is made also with the help of David Phillips, his initiative, his knowledge and patience, his faith and his book!"



ICHD in the Media

Several Armenian and international news agencies mentioned that Armenian ICHD ranks among world's top 50 and among Eastern Europe's 25 international think tanks in a recently issued United Nations' rating. The think tanks were ranked by their activity, achievements, success and reputation. In an interview with Armenpress, ICHD Executive Director Tevan Poghosyan mentioned that this appraisal gives a boost to Center's activity. "This success is important not only for the Center but also for Armenia. ICHD's activities led to improving the reputation of our country worldwide. Of course, with success also come new challenges".

News.am and Youtharmenia.ru news agencies posted interviews with ICHD's Tevan Poghosyan. According to Poghosyan "Armenia's initiative in foreign policy was a key event of 2009 that enabled such a small republic to speak with world powers as equals, and "put itself on the world map".

Poghosyan added that this initiative provided Armenia with an opportunity to increase its profile in international organizations such as CSTO. "Armenia's initiative in CSTO turned this largely formal organization into a more credible structure through creation of rapidly-deployable armed forces," the expert stated.

Forecasting the coming year's developments, Poghosyan supposes that no breakthrough is expected in Karabakh issue, in both due to recent rotations among OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs as well as Azerbaijan's uncompromising stance.

The coming year will be quiet in terms of politics, but challenging from economical viewpoint. Poghosyan also noted the significance of progress in Armenia's integration into Europe in 2010.

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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