



Armine K. Hovannisian's Address

As we bid farewell to another year of successful events, we take the opportunity to thank you, our supporters for your continued assistance, understanding full well that no matter how great our programs are, we cannot realize them without your assistance. As Junior Achievement enters its 18th year of service in the educational sphere of Armenia, we are ever more proud of our record. As you will read below, our main benefactor USAID, has been joined by private sector representatives such as the HSBC Bank, Armentel CJSC and VivaCell-MTS. We are also very happy that the British Council continues working with us in implementing the Skills@Work program.

Our reputation is well established and our credibility unquestionable. Recently, the Swedish Ambassador Hans Gunnar Aden approached us with a request to assist them in

organizing a day of celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the international Convention on the Rights of the Child. Below, you may read more about that event.

However, the USAID grant which supports the bulk of our expenses comes to an end in June of 2010. This is why more than ever, we need your financial support. Please take a few minutes to learn more about our work and consider sending in your tax deductible donation.

We thank you once again for your support and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Armine K. Hovannisian
 Executive Director

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SKILLS@WORK TAKES THE STUDENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Five students of Guimri's Traintrack College took part in the Skills@Work Challenge international competitions in Bulgaria. The Skills@Work Challenge is a national and international competition to encourage young people to use their skills in enterprising and innovative ways, and is aimed at increasing their employability and entrepreneurial flair.

Sofia was the site of the first international finals of the Skills@Work Challenge for young entrepreneurs. The event took place on 12 March 2009. Participants from the vocational schools of 10 countries came together in this joint British Council, Junior Achievement and ArmenTel CJSC (Brand Beeline) initiative encouraging the entrepreneurship spirit of young people.

The organizers presented e-governance as the theme for the first Skills@Work international challenge. The students were asked to develop projects that would permit governments to utilize electronic means to respond to the needs and provide services to their citizens. The criteria for the assessment of the jury included innovation, feasibility of the idea, awareness of the business environment and presentation skills.

The five students who represented Armenia

in the competition after emerging as winners in the first two local and international competitions were Anna Sargsyan, Anzhela Sargsyan, Hayk Harutyunyan, Hovhannes Mkrtchyan and Narine Baloyan of the Tracktrain College. In Sofia, they were assigned to different teams. Anna Sargsyan who was on a team which included students from Bulgaria, Serbia and the UK took second place. "I found the competitions to be very exciting and educational. We got to travel and meet so many wonderful people from all over the world. I know that from now on, I have much bigger dreams than I used to have and I am confident that I can realize them" stated Anna upon her return.

The Skills@Work Challenge was such a big success that the British Council and ArmenTel CJSC continued to sponsor the program. This time, students were asked to present essays on the topic "What I would do if I was General Director of ArmenTel CJSC". Three hundred fifty students submitted their essays. Fifty were selected to participate at a weekend camp where their new assignment was to develop an interesting web page. Among the jury

members were General Manager of ArmenTel, Mr. Igor Klimko, member of Parliament, Mrs. Anahit Bakhshyan, director of British Council Ms. Arevik Saribekyan and Head of Technical Colleges of the Ministry of Education Mr. Artak Aghbalyan.

On November 27, the names of the students were announced at the headquarters of ArmenTel. They were Ani Vanyan of the Humanitarian State College and Levon Madatyan, a student at the Information College. The two students will present Armenia in the international competitions in Serbia in the spring of 2010.



The winning team at the Skills@Work challenge competition



Open Doors Event held at VivaCell-MTS for college students from Armavir marz

On September 18, twenty five students from various colleges of the Armavir region took a tour of VivaCell-MTS and met with General Manager Mr. Ralph Yirikian. The event was part of the Career Day organized annually to give the students the opportunity to actually see an enterprise at work and offer them an alternative in choosing their career.

“Investing in children and youth is important for the long-standing goals of our country: stimulating the interest of the young people toward the applied sciences and encouraging innovation. And in many ways our interests with Junior Achievement of Armenia’s coincide, which is the reason we supported this organization in this initiative,” stated VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

The open door event began by a small presentation of the Company’s latest achievements and the operational systems. The presentation was conducted by VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian who then introduced the students to the Company’s major centers of operation – the Service Center, where they were introduced to the innovative queuing system and the Call Center. The next site was the Core Unit with its Switch Section – the center of the network management. VivaCell-MTS General Manager explained to the children how the mobile communication is set up, how the signal is transmitted and how the connection is made between subscribers.



Ralph Yirikian with JAA students

HSBC Sponsors Junior Achievement of Armenia’s 15th Annual Summer Camp

HSBC was the principal sponsor of Junior Achievement of Armenia’s 15th annual summer camp (22-27 July 2009) at Tsakhkadzor where more than 75 high achieving students from remote and economically poor villages had congregated.

The camp activities included elections of student government, stock market simulation, advertising initiatives, natural products competition, sports, talent show and other educational and fun activities.

The highlights of the week were the visits of such prominent people like Armen Ashotyan, Minister of Education and Science, Her Excellency Marie L. Yovanovitch, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia, and Tim Slater, HSBC Bank Armenia CEO.

The day of the Minister’s visit coincided with his birthday. The children had a surprise waiting for him - they greeted the Minister singing Happy Birthday with a cake and candles for his 34th birthday. After thanking the children, the Minister answered the questions of the campers which varied from corruption in the educational system to his personal achievements.

The children also enjoyed the informative meeting with Ambassador Yovanovitch who discussed the different projects that the US government implements in Armenia. They will never forget her advice “to be present” so as not to miss opportunities to excel.

The meeting with Mr. Tim Slater was especially touching as the students expressed their gratitude for HSBC’s sponsorship of the program and for the camp. Mr. Slater remarked, “The students are now armed with practical skills which will augment their academic capabilities

and enable them to become Armenia’s future entrepreneurs and business people. Fourteen of HSBC Bank Armenia staff, our Goodwill Ambassadors have volunteered to share their knowledge and experience with the students. They lectured in 16 classes in 10 marzes. The lectures were highly inspiring and motivating for children as well as for our managers”.

“I thought the camp was very interesting and informative. We learned a lot, met with important people and made great friends. We really felt very special and privileged to be here and we hope that as we continue our lives, we in our turn will assist such programmes like Junior Achievement”, - said Nairouhi Khatchaturyan, a student from Mrgashat village in Armavir region.

Armine K. Hovannisian, the Executive Director of Junior Achievement of Armenia since 1993 concluded: “We are grateful to HSBC and to the continued support of USAID. This project is a perfect example as to what can be accomplished when the private sector, represented by HSBC Bank, an international institution such as USAID, the government of Armenia through the Ministry of Education and an NGO such as ours come together. I hope that business companies in Armenia will follow the leading example of HSBC Bank Armenia”.



Armen Ashotyan, Minister of Science and Education of RA, Tim Slater, HSBC Bank CEO and Armine Hovannisian with the camp students



JAA's BRAINS

On May 11, the final round for the Brain Ring Competition took place at the premises of the Central Bank with an impressive list of jury members, Armen Ashotyan, Minister of Education; Vache Gabrielyan, Vice President of the Central Bank; Tim Slater, CEO of HSBC Bank and Armine K. Hovanisian, Executive Director of Junior Achievement of Armenia. This favorite annual competition tests the students' knowledge on economic principals. The competition takes place in four rounds. The following teams graduated to the finals:



JAA students at the Brain Ring Competition

School Number 106 of Yerevan, School Number 1 of Ijevan, School of Antanut, Vardenik Academia, School of Dashtavan, School Number 30 of Vanadzor, School Number 1 of Mrgashat, School of Ashotsk, School of Aghavandzor, School Number 2 of Kajaran, School Number 3 of Yeghvard.

The students, working in teams, had to answer 15 questions in a given time. Vardenik Academia from the region of Gegharkunik was declared the winner. Their prize was to attend Junior Achievement's summer camp sponsored by the HSBC Bank.

JAA's Work in Brief

Junior Achievement of Armenia has been operating its youth program in the Republic of Armenia since 1992. Begun as an afterschool class in eight schools, today JAA reaches all 1,359 high schools in the Republic of Armenia and embraces 170,000 students each year with its economics, human rights, and civics, state and law courses. JAA courses (civic education, human rights applied economics, as of this year all merged into social studies) are offered at high schools and at institutions of higher learning including nine campuses of the Pedagogical Institutes, Yerevan's medical college, as well as a number of other colleges. JAA has trained over 3,000 teachers to teach human rights, civic education, state and law, and free market economics – all disciplines introduced by JAA. Over sixty teachers have been trained in

the United States. Through its lobbying efforts, JAA has placed all of the above subjects into the schools' mandatory curriculum.

JAA is also noted for its extracurricular activities. The most popular event is an annual children's festival that attracts 50,000 spectators. Another landmark activity of JAA is the summer camp. Over the years, thousands of students have participated in this educational activity. Some years the camp has focused on issues of ethnic minority students, in others street children, refugees and high achieving students. Throughout the years, JAA has also been asked to get involved in international projects. For example, in 2003, JAA was asked to host Abkhazian and Georgian students as they were on their way to the United States for a conflict resolution camp.



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JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMENIA

December 2009

JAA celebrate 20th anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention on Children Rights

Karlsson on the Roof is Flying Again, was the first exhibition devoted exclusively to the drawings of Ilon Wikland. It was on view at the Children's Art Gallery of Armenia from November 19 through December 3, 2010. The Exhibition was organized by the Swedish EU Presidency in cooperation with the Consulate of Estonia, Junior Achievement of Armenia and Oriflame of Armenia.

Karlsson on the Roof, a story written by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, was turned into a famous cartoon. The cartoon which aired for many years from Soviet Armenia to independent Armenia has been a favorite for generations.

The exhibition was part of the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the international Convention on the Rights of the Child. "I am pleased that we could offer the opportunity for Armenians to come and enjoy one of their favorite cartoon characters come to life through the work of Ilon Wikland. At the same time, the event gives us the occasion to once again emphasize the importance of bringing into public's attention the fundamental rights of children." stated Hans Gunnar Adnn, Ambassador of Sweden.

At the opening of the exhibition on November 19, skits on children's rights performed by school children were presented. Four hundred students from 20 schools of all regions of Armenia took part in a competition organized by Junior Achievement of Armenia. The teams studied the rights of children, discussed, wrote and presented a script on one or more rights. The winning 3 teams: school 149 of Yerevan School, school number 5 of Etchmiatzin city and Nersesian College of Etchmiatzin were joined by the Children of Orran, a center for needy and vagrant children and the students of the comedy school of Ashod Ghazaryan in presenting the winning acts. Famous star comedians Hrant Tokhatyan, Ashod Ghazaryan and Zara Aramyan added a twinkle to the show by making guest appearance.

The speakers at the event included Laylee Moshiri, Representative of UNICEF, Ambassador of Sweden Hans Gunnar Adnn, Ambassador of Estonia Toomas Lukk, and JAA's Executive Director Armine K. Hovannisian.



JAA students at the exhibition

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMENIA

www.jaarmenia.org

TO: Junior Achievement of Armenia
 Attn: Mrs. Armine Hovannisian, Executive Director
 P.O. Box 292074,
 Los Angeles, CA 90029

FROM:

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Code _____

Enclosed is my check, payable to **Junior Achievement Worldwide**. I understand that all contributions will go to directly benefit the JA/Armenia organization.

Note: Your donations to Junior Achievement Worldwide (JAW) benefiting Junior Achievement of Armenia are federal, tax deductible under the non-profit status of Junior Achievement Worldwide, a Colorado-based 501(c)(3) with Federal Tax ID # 84-1267604 and Group Exemption # 1116. Junior Achievement of Armenia is registered in the Republic of Armenia. Contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations are welcome.

JAA thank you

Volunteers and in kind donations are the backbone of any NGO and we much appreciate the assistance of the following institutions and people:

Guimri's School #20 and its principal Mr. Grigor Arutunyan who has provided free of rent offices for our Guimri branch since the year 1994. We also thank Mr. Khachatur Harutyunyan, rector of the Grigor Lusavortich school in Etchmaitzin who has welcomed our office in the school since 2000.

Ms. Zemfira Poghosyan, principal of School Numbe 42 of Yerevan deserves special recognition for her contribution in offering training venue free of charge for our program. We are especially pleased since Ms. Poghosyan is a former JAA teacher.