



THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

THE ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

The annual report is for the period of January to December 2019.



Attention! The annual report contains active links. While reading you can move from one chapter to another by clicking hyper-links.



"Today you have the best opportunity to live and advance on your own land, to reckon and dream about tomorrow, to make Fatherland a unified idea and a powerful and viable state unit. We cannot be content with the achievements we had in the past; today we have a historic chance to make our country even better, to make our country even stronger and more than ever we can and we must, all together to make the triple power and potential of Armenia, Artsakh, and Spyurk serve Armenia."

Armen Sarkissian
The President of the Republic of Armenia



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<div>23.06.1953</div> <div>■ Born in Yerevan</div>	<div>1970</div> <div>■ Graduated from № 114 Secondary School, Yerevan.</div>	<div>1976</div> <div>■ Graduated from the Department of Physics at the Yerevan State University.</div>
<div>1978</div> <div>■ Completed post-graduate studies at the Chair of Theoretical Physics and Mathematics at the Yerevan State University and was awarded a scientific degree of Doctor of Science.</div>	<div>1976-1990</div> <div>■ Was Professor of Physics at the Yerevan State University. In the same period, Armen Sarkissian founded the Sub-division for Computer Modelling of Complex Systems at the Department of Theoretical Physics of the YSU.</div>	<div>1984-1985</div> <div>■ Was first a Visiting Researcher and later Professor at the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.</div>
<div>1986-1992</div> <div>■ Continued his professional career as a Research Fellow and Visiting Professor at the Moscow State University, as well as in various universities in Germany, the US, Greece, and the United Kingdom.</div>	<div>1991-1996</div> <div>■ Was appointed the Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Armenia to the United Kingdom, and was appointed the Ambassador of Armenia to the UK.</div>	<div>1992-1996</div> <div>■ Armen Sarkissian was Armenia's Senior Ambassador in Europe, Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Vatican, and the Head of the Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the EU.</div>
<div>1996-1997</div> <div>■ Served as Prime Minister of Armenia.</div>	<div>1998-2000</div> <div>■ Was reappointed as Armenia's Ambassador to the UK and Vatican.</div>	<div>2000-2013</div> <div>■ Served as an advisor and chairman of multiple organizations and corporations.</div>
<div>2013-2018</div> <div>Armen Sarkissian was Armenia's Ambassador to the UK.</div>	<div>2018</div> <div>Was elected President of the Republic of Armenia by the National Assembly of the RA. The inauguration of the President-elect took place on April 9, 2018.</div>	

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03.04.2019

Solo Concert of Svetlana Navasardian

In order to make the Presidential Palace – Republic House closer to and more accessible for the public, on the initiative of President Armen Sarkissian, different cultural events will be held at the Presidential Palace, including concerts, exhibitions, presentations, and poetic nights in the halls of the Palace.

On 03.04.2019 Presidential Concert, series commenced with the solo concert of the renowned pianist, laureate of many prestigious international competitions, RA People’s Artist Svetlana Navasardian.

The concert was attended by President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian, Speaker of the National Assembly Ararat Mirzoyan, state, public, science, and culture figures, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Armenia, representatives of mass media.

For more information:



08.05.2019

President Sarkissian hosted a group of veterans of the Great Patriotic War: No nation can live without memories

“No nation can live without memories, no state can be built without memories,” President Armen Sarkissian.

President Armen Sarkissian stressed the importance of the victory over fascism nearly 75 years ago and congratulated the veterans on the occasion of this great holiday. During the meeting, President Sarkissian mentioned; “Thus we, a small republic of the Soviet Union made a tremendous contribution to the victory in that war both as Soviet Armenia and as a nation. We proved once again that though we are a small country but we are a global nation.”

For more information:



EVENTS ORGANIZED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

09.05.2019

Within the framework of the event dedicated to the veterans of the Great Patriotic War President Armen Sarkissian visited the veteran of the war Mikit Amirian in his home. The President visited the veteran to congratulate him not only on the occasion of the Victory and Peace Holiday but also on the occasion of his birth anniversary. During the frank conversation, President Sarkissian inquired about Mikit Amirian's health condition, asked about his family and life. The ninety-nine-year-old veteran started his military service in the Caucasus, fought in Ukraine, Poland, participated in the liberation of Prague and Berlin. Long with cordial congratulations, President Armen Sarkissian also expressed his gratitude to the veteran and in his person to all veterans for the victory, their contribution, and dedication to Fatherland.

President Armen Sarkissian participated at the Immortal Regiment march. The objective of the march is to uphold the message of the glorious triple victory day of the Armenian people and to pass it to the next generations.

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01.06.2019

Festive events for kids on the occasion of Children’s Day

Festive events for kids were held on the grounds of the Presidential Palace on the occasion of Children’s Day. The holiday commenced with a special concert, followed by joyful singing and dancing. Instructive and funny games were organized for the kids. They also had the opportunity to watch their beloved fairy tales performed by the artists of the Young spectator’s theatre.

For more information:



17.06.2019

Armenian romance in the Presidential concert series

In the framework of Presidential concert series, another event was organized at the Residence of President of the Republic. The event was dedicated to the classical Armenian romance. Present at the event were Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian, state, public figures, representatives of the scientific and cultural circles, heads of the diplomatic missions accredited in Armenia, representatives of the mass media. The objective of the event was to reintroduce and bring to the public the Armenian romance in all its beauty and geniality.

For more information:



12.07.2019

Reception for participants of the Golden Apricot film festival at Presidential Palace

In the framework of 16th Golden Apricot film festival, a reception was held at the Presidential palace of the Republic of Armenia. During the event, The President of Armenia welcomed the participants and guests of the festival, had a cordial and sincere conversation with the artists and art professionals.

For more information:



05.09.2019

Exhibition of ancient Roman mosaics has opened at the Presidential Palace

The Presidential Palace hosted an exceptional exhibition showing few precious mosaics from one of the world's oldest museums, Capitoline Museums of Rome. The President of the Republic of Armenia wanted to create another opportunity to come close to the Italian culture and make interstate relations even closer. The exhibition was organized with the support of National Gallery of Armenia and The Embassy of Italy in Armenia in the person of the Ambassador of Italy to Armenia Vincenzo Del Monaco. The collection of mosaics from the world's oldest museum, Capitoline Museums of Rome, includes mosaics from villas and gardens as well as unique pieces found in the tombs. Three exhibits on display at the Presidential Palace were found in Rome in 19-20 centuries when the city was undergoing reconstruction to become the capital.

For more information:



EVENTS ORGANIZED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

12.09.2019

President Sarkissian opened an exhibition of renowned Armenian photographers

“Photo pictures also tell history, and today’s exhibition proves that photographs carry a massive bulk of information about the periods and peoples.” The President of the Republic of Armenia Armen Sarkissian. An open-air exhibition titled “The Historical Legacy of the Armenian Photography” has been opened in the framework of the First Armenian International Photofestival at the Presidential Palace. Stressing the importance of holding such exhibitions, President Armen Sarkissian underscored that photography became an inseparable part of our daily life and every one of us, through our cellphones, has become a kind of photographer; however, one should remember that photography is first and foremost a great art. According to the President, the exhibition has another purpose, too - make us learn about ourselves, our values, and our most extraordinary personalities. The exhibition was organized through the joint efforts of the Presidential Administration and the founder of the photo festival Tatev Mnatsakanian. The pictures have been provided by the Andranik Kochar Museum of Photography, while the collection for the exhibition has been prepared by the son of the renowned photographer, Vahan Kochar. The exhibition also presents works of the famous Armenian photographers Abdullah brothers, Antoin Sevruguin, Yusuf Qarshi, Ida Kar, Ara Guler, Vladimir Mussaelian, Harry Kundakjian, and others.

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06.12.2019

“Gyumri, My Love” concert

“I bow to the memory of innocent victims whose life ended 31 years ago in Kirovakan, Spitak, and Leninakan and also to all those mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters who did not despair and believed that life is stronger than death and brought their dedication to their children, grandchildren to prove once again that Vanadzor, Spitak, and Gyumri will live forever” President Armen Sarkissian. In the framework of the Presidential Concert Series initiated by President Armen Sarkissian, the “Gyumri, My Love” concert took place at the Presidential Palace. The concert was dedicated to Gyumri and was attended by President Armen Sarkissian, Speaker of the NA Ararat Mirzoyan, state, public, science and culture figures, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Armenia, guests from the marzes of the Republic. Along with presenting the musical art of Gyumri, the concert was also a tribute to the victims of the 1988 earthquake. Before starting the concert, the attendees honoured their memory with a moment of silence. Students of Gyumri’s musical and art schools performed classical, songsters’ and folk music. After the concert, the public had an opportunity to observe the exhibition of the artworks by the residents of Gyumri opened at the Presidential Palace.

For more information:



24.12.2019

New Year festive event

“All children are gifted; they have a great future and need our public attention. Each of them is a vast universe, have great ideas, and imagination,” the President Armen Sarkissian. Earlier, during his working visits to Tavush and Shirak marzes, the President of Armenia had invited children to the Presidential Palace to participate at the New Year festive event and celebrate the approaching New Year. A festive show was held for the little guests at the Presidential Palace with multiple games and quizzes. The kids were greeted by President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian after which they all together lit the lights on the Christmas tree. Armen Sarkissian conversed with the kids and inquired about their interests. President Sarkissian noted that he would like to host all children from the regions of Armenia should it had been possible, especially those who need attention much.

For more information:



7-9.06.2019

“Armenian Summit of Minds”

Famous French «Summit of Minds» which traditionally is held in Chamonix, France, for the first time took place in Armenia: Yerevan and Dilijan in 2019. The exceptional agreement to hold the Summit in Armenia was reached in September 2018 when President Armen Sarkissian participated at the annual Summit of Minds in Chamonix as the keynote speaker. Armenia is the first country, which hosted the Summit of Minds besides Chamonix. The main topic of the Armenian Summit of Minds bore the title “Regional Geopolitics, Economy, and Investments: The Impact of Multipolarity on Trade and Investment Flows.” Famous speakers from different countries made presentations on the topic. One of the unique features of the event was the rich cultural program, which included visits to the historical and cultural sites of Armenia to familiarize the participants of the conference with the history and culture of Armenia and the Armenian nation.

For more information:



CHARITY PROJECTS

The President of the Republic of Armenia has always attached importance to the implementation of charitable programs. Relevant groups were targeted, taking into account the key issues of various sectors. During the reporting period, the Administration of the President assisted and supported various NGOs and individuals.

The support was mainly aimed at solving issues in areas such as education, culture, youth and sport, social support and other sectors.

Financial support was provided to cover the costs of participation in international tournaments, preservation and restoration of historical and cultural monuments, and to cover the costs of other social and cultural programs.

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Sport

Support was provided to the RA National Federation of Disabled Sports for participation in the World Cup on Armwrestling for disabled athletes.
Support was provided to Gevork Afrikian to participate in the Paratriathlon World and European Championships.



Education

Financial support was provided to Shirak Armenology Research Center (National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia) for the implementation of the International Conference entitled “Historical and Cultural Heritage of Shirak: Modern Issues in Armenian Studies”, setting up a tent camp in the Artsakh city of Shushi.



Culture

Financial support was provided to the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, Yerevan Dancing Art State College SNPO, “Aram Khachaturian competition” Cultural Foundation to hold 15th jubilee Khachaturian International Competition, the restoration of the “Glory to the Armenian Alphabet and Schooling” fresco at the Saint Mesrop Mashtots Church in Oshakan, the implementation of design works on the restoration of Odzun church. Support was also provided for the organization of an Armenian national pavilion at the Venice Biennale.



Social support

Social support was provided to the Gyulagarak Community Nursery, Ahnidzor primary school of Lori region of the Republic of Armenia and “Jrapi Secondary School” SNCO of Shirak region.



**VISITS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA:
DOMESTIC, ARTSAKH**

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20-21.12.2019

Visit to the Harav village of Askeran region, Engineering-demining division of the Defense Army, the State Geological Museum of Shushi

For more information:

In the framework of the working visit to the Republic of Artsakh, President Armen Sarkissian met with the President of the Republic of Artsakh Bako Sahakian in Stepanakert. The Presidents discussed a wide range of issues pertinent to the cooperation of the two Armenian states.

Harav village of Askeran region.

In the framework of the working visit, the President Armen Sarkissian together with his wife Nouneh Sarkissian and President Bako Sahakian visited Harav village of Askeran region, paid tribute, and laid flowers at the memorial dedicated to the victims of the Great Patriotic War and Artsakh Liberation War. Afterwards, President Sarkissian conversed with the residents and toured the community, where the illumination works have been completed through the financing of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, and the community has its illumination system. President Sarkissian visited the Sourb Mesrop Church of the village and observed the current conditions of the church, which was built in the 18th century.

For more information:



VISIT TO THE HARAV VILLAGE OF ASKERAN REGION, ENGINEERING-DEMINING DIVISION OF THE DEFENSE ARMY, THE STATE GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF SHUSHI

Engineering-demining division of the Defense Army.

President Armen Sarkissian visited a detached N engineering-demining division of the Defense Army. The President conversed with the troops and officers on duty, familiarized with their social and living conditions, and new arrangements in the food supply.

For more information:

The State Geological Museum of Shushi.

During the working visit, the President Armen Sarkissian together with his wife Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian was hosted at the Grigori Gabrieliants State Geological Museum of Shushi. Accompanied by the founder of the Museum, Professor Gabrieliants they familiarized with the samples of the stones brought from more than 40 countries of the world and the collection of rare minerals, their origin, and history. President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian in Shushi also visited the Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral.

For more information:



01-02.04.2019

Republic of Artsakh. Visits to Maghavouz and Talish Villages in Martakert Region and Culture and Youth Palace of Stepanakert, Togh Village: «Kataro» Wine Factory

Maghavouz Village.

President Armen Sarkissian, together with the President of Artsakh Bako Sahakian and Primate of Artsakh Diocese Pargev Archbishop Martirosian, participated in the unveiling of the monument, dedicated to the seventeen residents of the Maghavouz village in Martakert region, who gave their lives in the Artsakh War. Presidents Armen Sarkissian and Bako Sahakian laid a wreath at the monument and paid tribute to the memory of the residents of Maghavouz, killed in the Artsakh and Great Patriotic Wars.

For more information:

Talish Village.

President Armen Sarkissian, together with Bako Sahakian, visited Talish village in Martakert region. The Presidents of two Armenian states laid a wreath to the memorial of the heroes, who fell during the April 2016 war unleashed by the foe and sons of the Armenian nation, who sacrificed their lives in Artsakh war and paid tribute to their memory.

Later, Presidents of Armenia and Artsakh met with the servicemen and freedom fighters participants of the April War in 2016.

The President of Armenia handed gifts to the servicemen and freedom fighters participants of the April War and thanked them for their outstanding service, patriotism, and dedication.



≡ VISITS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA: DOMESTIC, ARTSAKH

REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH. VISITS TO MAGHAVOUZ AND TALISH VILLAGES IN MARTAKERT REGION AND CULTURE AND YOUTH PALACE OF STEPANAKERT, TOGH VILLAGE: «KATARO» WINE FACTORY

Concert Dedicated to the 15th Anniversary of the Artsakh Chamber Music Orchestra.

President Armen Sarkissian, President of Artsakh Bako Sahakian, and Primate of the Artsakh Diocese Pargev Archbishop Martirossian were present at the concert, dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the Artsakh Chamber Music Orchestra, which took place at the Culture and Youth Palace in Stepanakert.

Togh Village: «Kataro» Wine Factory.

Both Presidents visited Kataro Wine Factory in the Togh village of Hadrut region, where the founder of Kataro Edik Avetissian and his son told about the history of their family business, the factory and future programs.

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25.01.2019

Visits to Shirak Marz

The social and educational center of the Shirak Diocese.

President's and Mrs Sarkissian's this visit started with the candle lighting at the Cathedral of the Holy Mother of God (Seven Wounds). Later, the President, his wife, and the renowned composer, RA People's Artist Tigran Mansurian were hosted by the Primate of the Shirak Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Ter Michael Bishop Ajapahian. He presented the activities of the Diocese and its structures to the guests. President Sarkissian inquired about the ongoing programs and forthcoming projects and expressed readiness to assist in their implementation. The Social and Educational Centre is carrying out educational, social, youth-oriented, spiritual, and cultural programs. President Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian toured the Centre, had a cordial and warm conversation with the kids studying in painting, computer, language, and other classes. Children were impressed with the meeting and asked the President to sign in their exercise books.

For more information:



VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

Concert Dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the Gyumri State Symphonic Orchestra.

The festivities at the V. Adjemian Dramatic Theatre of Gyumri were the high point of the President’s visit to Gyumri on January 25. President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian together with the RA People’s Artist Tigran Mansurian and representatives of the art-loving community were present at the concert, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Gyumri State Symphonic Orchestra. After the concert, President Sarkissian met with the Director of the orchestra and cordially congratulated him on the occasion of the anniversary. He expressed gratitude for the boundless dedication to arts and cultural endeavour, which allowed Gyumri to have such a high-class orchestra.

For more information:



22.03.2019

VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

President Armen Sarkissian took part in the traditional “Taste of France” dinner, which was organized in Gyumri.

The French cuisine, which is considered to be part of the intangible heritage of UNESCO, was presented at a solemn event at the centre “The Virgin of Armenia” in Gyumri with the participation of statesmen, diplomats, artists, culture entrepreneurs. In his turn, the President welcomed the holding of this event in Gyumri, stressing that the place was chosen very correctly. The President suggested the ambassadors of foreign countries participating in the event should organize similar presentations of the national cuisines of their countries and expressed readiness to attend those events. Meantime, the President indicated three necessary conditions: to hold suggested events in Gyumri, presentation of the taste and culture of a particular country and participation of people willing to invest in the development of the city would be an obligatory condition. The President also proposed to hold an annual festival, commencing September 21st within a month, called Taste of Armenia.

For more information:



VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

Gyumri.

The President of Armenia toured the centre of Gyumri, conversed with the folks on the streets, familiarized with the construction works along the way. On Abovian street, Armen Sarkissian accidentally came across a movie set. The President acquired the film story and was particularly charmed with little Ani and Manvel who were participants in an episode of the film. The President approached the kids and conversed with them and with the representatives of the film crew. By the proposal of President Sarkissian, the shooting continued at the Aregak inclusive bakery-cafe located next to the set. Bakery-cafe is one of the President's favourite places in Gyumri which he visits each time he is in Gyumri.

The President saluted the idea to shoot a film in Gyumri and any event in general which refers to Gyumri's culture, history, traditions which will once again highlight the revival of the city. Later, President Sarkissian continued to walk on the streets of Gyumri and observed the construction works on Abovian, Shiraz, and Ghorghanian streets.

For more information:



11.06.2019
VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

Meeting with the group representing the National Association of Builders of Italy (ANCE) and Association of Italian Engineering, Architectural and Technical-Economic Consulting Organizations of Italy (OICE).

During the working visit to Gyumri, President Armen Sarkissian had a working dinner with the group representing the National Association of Builders of Italy (ANCE) and Association of Italian Engineering, Architectural and Technical-Economic Consulting Organizations of Italy (OICE) and discussed possibilities of cooperation for the reconstruction of the old structures of Gyumri, which represent historical and cultural value. President Sarkissian visited and observed the site of the “Our Gyumri” program, which is implemented by the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. The program envisages a full reconstruction of the semi-complete structures, which had been damaged during the earthquake. It will allow providing housing to dozens of needy families living in temporary structures. Accompanied by the governor of the region and the mayor of Gyumri, President Sarkissian also visited the Black Castle, which serves as a cultural centre and familiarized with other programs aimed at the development of tourism.

For more information:



VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

The art studio of the sculptor Albert Vardanian.

President Armen Sarkissian visited the art studio of the sculptor Albert Vardanian in Akhurian. The President observed the works of the sculptor and inquired about the yet unfinished pieces. The sculptor, who is working in the modern style, spoke about the symbolism of his works which is anchored in the idea of national unity. Works of the sculptor’s son Hrach Vardanian, which have already been exhibited in many international art salons, were also shown to the President. The artists told President Sarkissian about their programs and exchanged views on the trends of contemporary art.

For more information:

“Italy: (In)visible stories” exhibition.

In the framework of the working visit to Gyumri, President Armen Sarkissian participated at the opening of the “Italy: (In)visible stories” exhibition at the Style art gallery in Gyumri, which presented the works of the contemporary Armenian and Italian artists.

For more information:



21.09.2019

VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

President Armen Sarkissian congratulated people of Gyumri on the occasion of Independence Day .

President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian, participated at the festive events dedicated to the 28th anniversary of Independence. In the Black Castle of Gyumri, President Sarkissian, Mrs Sarkissian, His Holiness Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Garegin II, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian, President of Artsakh Bako Sahakian, other high-level officials and guests were present at the award ceremony titled the Hero of Our Times. President Armen Sarkissian handed one of 13 awards.

After participating in the festive events dedicated to the 28th anniversary Independence Day, President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian took a stroll in the centre of the city. In a cordial and frank atmosphere, the President conversed with the residents of Gyumri and guests of the city, congratulated them on the occasion of Independence Day and wished them all the best.

President Sarkissian and Mrs Sarkissian also visited the Aregak inclusive bakery-café where he was hosted cordially. This place has long ago become a special place for the President.

For more information:

For more information:



07.12.2019
VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

Visit of the President Armen Sarkissian to Gyumri.
On the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the 1988 earthquake, President Armen Sarkissian visited Gyumri to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the earthquake.
At the Sourb Astvatsatin (The Seven Wounds) Church of Gyumri, the President of Armenia was present at the liturgy for the memory of the victims.
Afterwards, President Sarkissian laid a wreath at the monument dedicated to the memory of the innocent victims of the earthquake and paid tribute with a moment of silence.

For more information:



VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

The Austrian Hospital for Maternity and Children’s Health.

President Armen Sarkissian in Gyumri visited the Austrian Hospital for Maternity and Children’s Health. The President toured the hospital and conversed with the medical staff. The President handed gifts to the parents of the four babies born on the night of the visit. President Sarkissian congratulated them and wished that the babies bring joy to their parents, families, and Gyumri. President Armen Sarkissian got acquainted with the young obstetrician Armen Mkrtchian who went to Sudan to substitute the winner of the Aurora humanitarian award, Tom Catena. The President welcomed his humanitarian work.

For more information:

The Chalet Gyumri center.

In the framework of the conducted working visit to Gyumri, President Armen Sarkissian visited the Chalet Gyumri centre of the Shirak Center non-governmental organization. The Shirak Center non-governmental organization implements different social programs for the children who live in small houses. Armen Sarkissian met and conversed with the children residing in the small houses, gave them presents and invited to the Presidential Palace to participate at the New Year festivities.

For more information:



VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

LOFT center.

President Armen Sarkissian visited the LOFT Center, where leadership and communication courses for the beginner women entrepreneurs of the city are offered through the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

President Sarkissian conversed with the women entrepreneurs-participants of the course, responded to their questions, listened to their stories and observations. He proposed that the ADB establishes a special fund to finance women’s startups.

For more information:

Aregak inclusive bakery-café.

President Armen Sarkissian visited the Aregak inclusive bakery-café.

The President conversed in a warm and sincere atmosphere with his friends – employees of the café Michael, Grisha, and others, inquired about their lives and work and enjoyed some of their freshly baked pastry.

For more information:



VISITS TO SHIRAK MARZ

Workshop of the “Gyumri Is My Home” youth initiative.

In the framework of his working visit to Gyumri, President Armen Sarkissian visited the workshop of the “Gyumri Is My Home” youth initiative.

The young people told about their various projects, such as a skating ring in Gyumri, creation of mosaics on different themes, aphorisms on the streets of Gyumri, ecological actions, tree planting, and beautification of the city. The main objective of the initiative is to disclose and solve problems existing in Shirak marz, particularly in the social, tourism, culture, and sports areas.

Accompanied by the founders of the initiative, President Sarkissian familiarized with the unique works of the young people, observed their yet another gift to the city – a mosaic made of corks. Later, President met with the members of the initiative and spoke of the role of the young people in the reviving Gyumri.

For more information:



05-06.07.2019

Visit to Syuniq Marz

Meghri free economic zone.

During his working visit to Syunik marz, President Armen Sarkissian visit the Meghri free economic zone (FEZ).

The President familiarized with the created infrastructure and existing conditions.

Regional medical center.

President Armen Sarkissian visited also the Meghri regional medical center. He toured the premise, observed the exiting conditions, conversed with the staff, inquired about the adequacy of the equipment used in the center, and the problems.

Armen Sarkissian visited also the Sourb Astvatsatsin Church in the Mets Tagh of Meghri.

For more information:



VISIT TO SYUNIQ MARZ

Combat position of the RA Armed Forces.

During the working visit to Syunik Marz, President Armen Sarkissian visited the combat position of the N military division of the RA Defense Army.

The President met with the troops and officers on duty, toured the position, familiarized with the service conditions, and combat readiness of the unit.

The President congratulated the soldiers and officers on duty and noted in particular that it was a great joy and honor for him to be on the border on Armenia’s Constitution Day. “Every one of you, you all not only defend our borders but also the Constitution, our Fatherland, your families and friends, children, mothers, and us all. I bow to you all, I understand that this position is one of the most important points of defense for our Fatherland.” stated President Sarkissian. A group of servicemen on combat duty were awarded watches engraved with their names from the President of Armenia for their diligent and dedicated service.

For more information:

Zangezur copper and molybdenum producing plant.

President Armen Sarkissian visited the Zangezur copper and molybdenum plant and the company’s mining site.

President Sarkissian stressed as important for business, industry and mines to be also an organization which also creates a social life and culture. “It is my message, my request and my proposal to the administration of this company: Continue to pay attention to the social life,” President Sarkissian said.

For more information:



VISIT TO SYUNIQ MARZ

Syunik Food Company.

The President observed the production process and conversed with the employees.

The company purchases produce not only in the region but also from the farmers of Artsakh. The production of the company is being sold not only at the local markets but is exported as well.

Marila Company.

President Sarkissian's next stop was Marila company which has 55 employees and produces dairy and meat products.

The owner of the company underscored that the company, which currently is present only on the domestic market, intends to expand. President Sarkissian noted that he was ready to assist the company in entering foreign markets.

Mulberry festival.

During the working visit to Syunik marz, President Armen Sarkissian participated in the annual festival of mulberry in Qarahunj community. President Sarkissian walked through the pavilions representing the communities of the marz, tested the produce prepared from mulberry, observed works of the artists and folk master of Syunik, conversed with the organizers of the festival, participants, and guests.

For more information:

For more information:



VISIT TO SYUNIQ MARZ

Qarahunj community.

Accompanied by the children of the village, President Sarkissian visited the community library and presented them with the books of the fairy tales authored by his wife Nouneh Sarkissian.

For more information:

Cultural centers of Syunik.

In the framework of his working visit to Syunik, President Armen Sarkissian visited the cultural centers of the marz.

In Goris, President Sarkissian visited the Home-Museum of the famous Armenian author Aksel Bakunts. At the courtyard of the museum, the pupils of the Charles Aznavour musical school of Goris welcomed the President.

The President familiarized with the conditions and exhibits of the museum and conversed with the staff. President Sarkissian was informed on the performed and forthcoming events dedicated to the jubilee of Aksel Bakunts.

Afterwards, the President walked in the town. He visited the town square where the monument authored by the architects Rafael Israelian, his father, Vartan Sarkissian, and sculptor Ara Harutyunian was installed. It was mounted in Soviet times in the memory of the fallen soldiers. President Sarkissian discussed the options for the restoration of the monument. The mayor informed President Sarkissian on the programs for the reconstruction of the square and other projects to be implemented in the town.

For more information:



VISIT TO SYUNIQ MARZ

Armenian-French Cardio-Vascular Center in Goris.

Accompanied by the Armenian-French cardiologist, Founding Director and Vice Chair of the France-Armenia Health Action Association, President Sarkissian toured the center, observed the existing conditions and provided services.

This center, which has high-class specialists and is equipped with modern devises, serves patients with cardio-vascular issues not only of Syunik but also of Artsakh, and Vayots Dzor marz.

For more information:



20-21.07.2019

Visit to Lori Marz

President Armen Sarkissian was welcomed in Stepanavan with bread and salt, performance of the brass orchestra, singing and dancing.

President Sarkissian had a warm and candid conversation with the residents of Stepanavan.

At the park adjacent to the street named after Sos Sargsyan, the President of Armenia laid flowers at the memorial of the RA and USSR People's Artist, renowned artist Sos Sargsyan and paid tribute to the memory of the famous artist of movies and theater.

For more information:



VISIT TO LORI MARZ

Lori Citadel.

During his working visit to Lori marz, President Armen Sarkissian visited one of the most famous historical sites of the marz, the medieval Lori Citadel.

The President toured the territory of the Citadel. Noting that along with its historical value, the site is eye-catching also because of the surrounding picturesque landscape, President Sarkissian said that it is an attractive place for tourism, and especially from the viewpoint of developing archeological, historical, and ecotourism.

For more information:

For more information:

Odzun monastery complex.

During the working visit to Lori marz, President Armen Sarkissian visited the Odzun monastery complex which is an outstanding monumental complex of the Medieval Armenian architecture.

It was an important educational and cultural center of the Medieval Armenia.

The complex has eye-striking valuable monuments and frescos.

Accompanied by the Primate of the Gougark Diocese Sepouh Archbishop Chouljian, President Sarkissian toured the premise of the monastery complex.



VISIT TO LORI MARZ

Gyulagarak community of Lori marz.

President Armen Sarkissian visited the kindergarten of the Gyulagarak community of Lori marz. Back in December 2018, the Presidential Administration provided financial support for furnishing the kindergarten.

The President walked through the premise, familiarized with the conditions, and conversed with the staff.

They expressed their gratitude to the President of Armenia for the provided assistance.

For more information:



VISIT TO LORI MARZ

Ahnidzor village.

During his working visit to Lori marz, President Sarkissian visited Ahnidzor village – the birthplace of the renowned author Hrant Matevossian. President Sarkissian was hosted at Hrant Matevossian’s paternal house which currently his brother, Hamo Matevossian lives in. Together with the brother of the writer and his son, David Matevossian, he toured the house, sat at the table with the remote participation of the writer and dined with the family of the author. The founding Director of the “Hrant Matevossian Fund”, presented the activities of the Fund. Stressing the importance of reevaluating the literary legacy of the writer and noting that 2020 will mark the 85th birth anniversary of Hrant Matevossian, he spoke about the problems of the “Hrant Matevossian” cultural center and museum in Yerevan.

For more information:

Vanadzor Technological Center.

In the framework of the working visit to Lori marz, President Armen Sarkissian was hosted at the Vanadzor Technological Center and familiarized with the works of the Center. Director Patvakan Hakhinian noted that the Center aims to create a favorable business environment for technological companies. The Center is assisting startup companies in translating ideas of their technological teams into successful businesses. The President of Armenia toured the premise of the Center, conversed with the kids participating to the classes. Later, the President met with the representatives of the companies located in the Center, inquired about their activities, and responded to their questions.

For more information:



VISIT TO LORI MARZ

VABA Company.

President Sarkissian visited the VABA company in Vanadzor specializing in the production anti-hail nets and systems for their installment. Accompanied by the Head of the Company Armen Gharajian, President Sarkissian toured the plant, familiarized with the production capacities, applied technologies, and production.

For more information:

Diocese of Gougark and Tsitsernak camp.

President Armen Sarkissian was hosted at the Diocese of Gougark of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The metropolite of the Diocese Archbishop Sebouh Chouldjian presented the history of the told about the works of the Gougark Diocese, and implemented programs. President Sarkissian and Archbishop Chouldjian visited the Tsitsernak camp of the Diocese which these days has gathered in Vanadzor a group of schoolchildren from Shirak marz, Javakhk, Alaverdi, and Stepanavan. The campers welcomed the guests with national songs and dances.

For more information:



VISIT TO LORI MARZ

Dsegh - the birthplace of the all-Armenian poet Hovhaness Tumanian.

The President laid flowers at the memorial of the great poet. Armen Sarkissian visited also his home-museum which is the paternal home of the all-Armenian poet and was turned into a museum in 1939. He familiarized with the exhibits related to the life and work of the writer – books, personal items which represent certain stages of the great poet’s life and literary works. The President inquired about the future programs of the museum. Prsident Sarkissian visited the chapel located nearby where Tumanian’s heart is buried.

For more information:



21-22.07.2019

Visits to Tavush Marz

“UWC Dilijan” international college.

President Armen Sarkissian visited “UWC Dilijan” international college. It opened its doors in October, 2014 accepting 94 students and becoming one of 18 UWC college movement and the first international boarding school in Armenia.

The President held a warm and candid conversation with the students and alumni, speaking in particular about Armenia’s development prospects and vision.

For more information:



VISITS TO TAVUSH MARZ

Dilijan City Hall.

During his working visit to Tavoush marz, President Armen Sarkissian visited Dilijan City Hall, met with the governor and Mayor. The President informed that French Chamonix town, where the prestigious Summit of Minds is held traditionally, has expressed wish to establish deeper friendly relations with Dilijan. The world-famous Summit of Minds, which is usually being held in Chamonix each year, acquired a sister summit which will be held each year in Dilijan.

For more information:



VISITS TO TAVUSH MARZ

Haghartsin monastery compound.

President Armen Sarkissian visited the Haghartsin monastery compound. Accompanied by the Primate of Tavush marz Diocese Bagrat Bishop Galstanyan, the President toured the 10th century cloister, lit a candle, and listened to sharakan spiritual music.

In the yard of the compound, Armen Sarkissian conversed with the visitors and tourists, students of the Arevik social and educational center of the Tavush Diocese.

For more information:

Reception center of the Haghartsin compound.

At the reception centre of the Haghartsin compound, President Sarkissian met with young people of the marz and had a warm and candid conversation with them. Armen Sarkissian responded to their questions, spoke in particular about the role of the Armenian Apostolic Church in our life, national unity and national identity and shared his advice with the young people.



08.11.2019

VISITS TO TAVUSH MARZ

Chinari border community.

The working visit of the President of Armenia started from Chinari border community in Tavush marz. The President met and conversed with the residents who came to greet him. Observing a dance performance by the children of Chinari, the President invited them to visit the Presidential Palace on New Year. President Sarkissian said that he had visited Chinari for the first time in his student years and had been particularly impressed with it the land's nature and hospitality of the residents.

Tropical garden created by Melis Babayan.

In the Aygedzor border community, President Armen Sarkissian visited a tropical garden created by Melis Babayan.

The 78-year old agrarian established a garden with unique tropical plants and trees. Side by side with apple and plum trees, he grows kiwi, banana, and palm trees.

The President toured the garden, conversed with the dedicated gardener, inquired about the produce sales and wished him every success.

For more information:

For more information:



VISITS TO TAVUSH MARZ

Eco Garden Corporation food processing enterprise.

President Sarkissian visited the Eco Garden Corporation located between Chinary and Aygedzor communities which procures and processes agricultural produce. The President toured the enterprise and familiarized with the production capacities. Eighty percent of the fruits and vegetables used in production is acquired from the local agricultural communities. The employees of the company come mostly from Chinary, Aygedzor, and Artsvaberd communities.

For more information:

Eco Meat corporate unit of agricultural production.

In Navour community President Sarkissian visited Shamshadin Eco Meat corporate unit of agricultural production. High-quality products are manufactured here and will soon be sold at the local markets. It was opened by the initiative of the Tavush Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

For more information:

Ijevan branch of the Yerevan State University.

President Armen Sarkissian together with his wife Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian visited the Ijevan branch of the Yerevan State University, met with the faculty and students. President Sarkissian conversed with the students, responded to their questions and told about his impressions of visits to the border communities of the region. He also advised the young people and urged to use their time allocated for education efficiently. President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian also observed the exhibition of the creative works of the University students.

For more information:



VISITS TO TAVUSH MARZ

Ijevan wine and brandy Factory.

In the framework of the working visit to Tavush marz, President Armen Sarkissian was hosted at the Ijevan wine and brandy factory.

During the tour of the factory, President Sarkissian familiarized with the production capacities and volumes of the factory. The factory is producing wine, fruit spirits, and brandy, while the grape is procured mostly at the territory of Tavush marz. The management of the factory told the President of the accomplished works, export markets, and forthcoming projects.

For more information:



19.12.2019

Visit to Armavir Marz

Aknashen community.

The President started his visit from Aknashen community where he was hosted at Elmira Karape-tian's multi-child family.

President Sarkissian got acquainted with the kids and conversed with them. They told him about their lessons, hobbies and interests President Sarkissian congratulated all those present on the oc-casion of the approaching holidays and invited the children to visit the Presidential Palace next year to celebrate the New Year together. The family received presents from the Presidential Administra-tion as well as the gifts, which the kids had requested from Santa Claus.

For more information:



VISIT TO ARMAVIR MARZ

N. 2 High School.

During the working visit to Armavir marz, President Armen Sarkissian visited N. 2 High School and in the framework of the More for Metsamor project met with the students and residents of the town. President Armen Sarkissian responded to the questions from the audience; spoke about the importance of science and technologies for Armenia's future.

Holy See of Saint Etchmiadzin.

At the Holy See of Saint Etchmiadzin President Armen Sarkissian and His Holiness Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Garegin II met with a group of young disabled servicemen. The young people are mostly servicemen, who became disabled in recent years but have been able to overcome difficulties and established themselves as specialists in different areas. The President viewed as necessary that after decommissioning each soldier finds his place in life. He noted that there are young men in the Presidential Administration who fought bravely, now have physical impediments but can fully participate in the works of the Administration. Later, President Sarkissian and His Holiness had dinner with the young men, congratulated them on the upcoming holidays and conveyed their best wishes.



OFFICIAL VISITS CONDUCTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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Official Visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the United Arab Emirates

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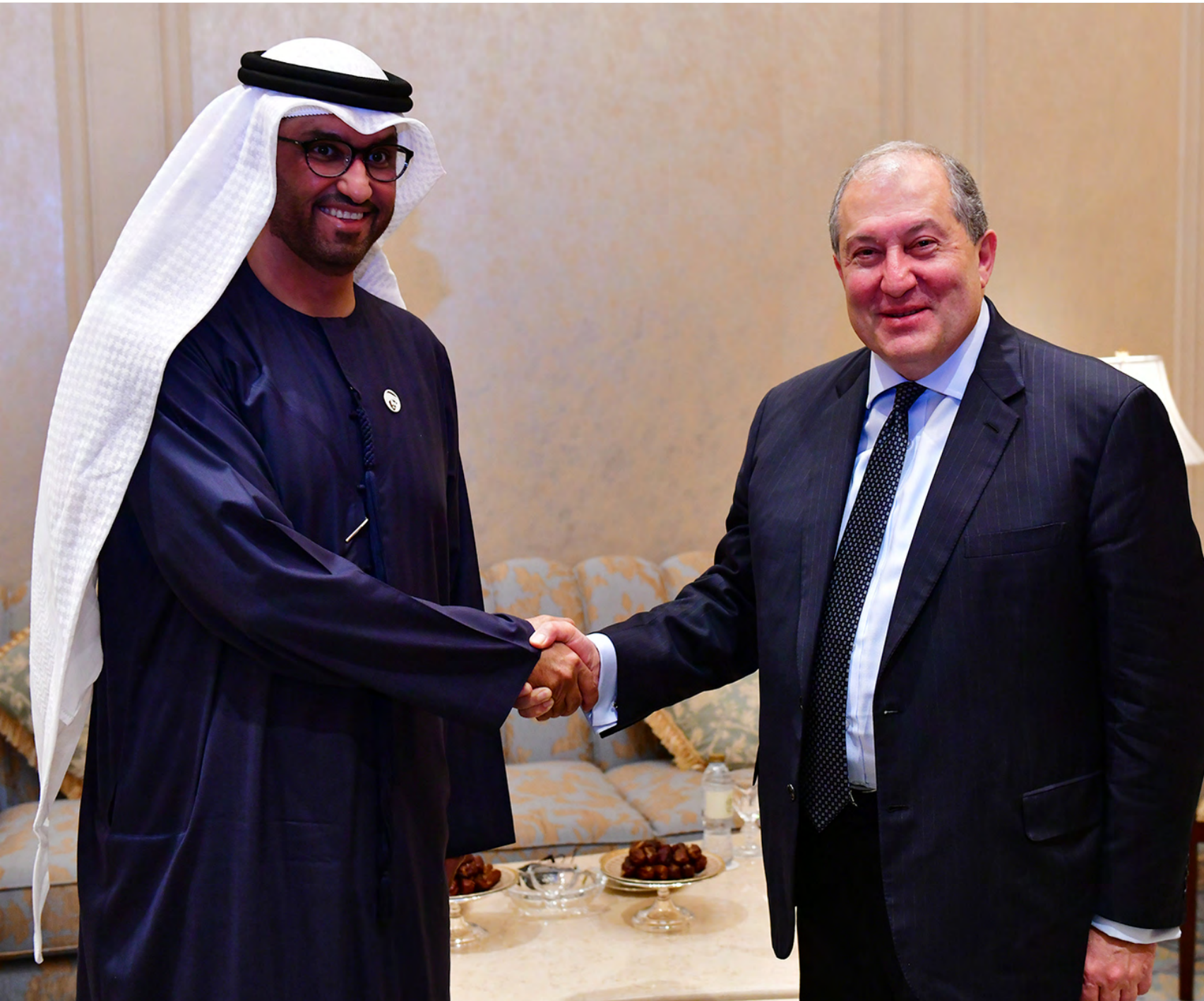
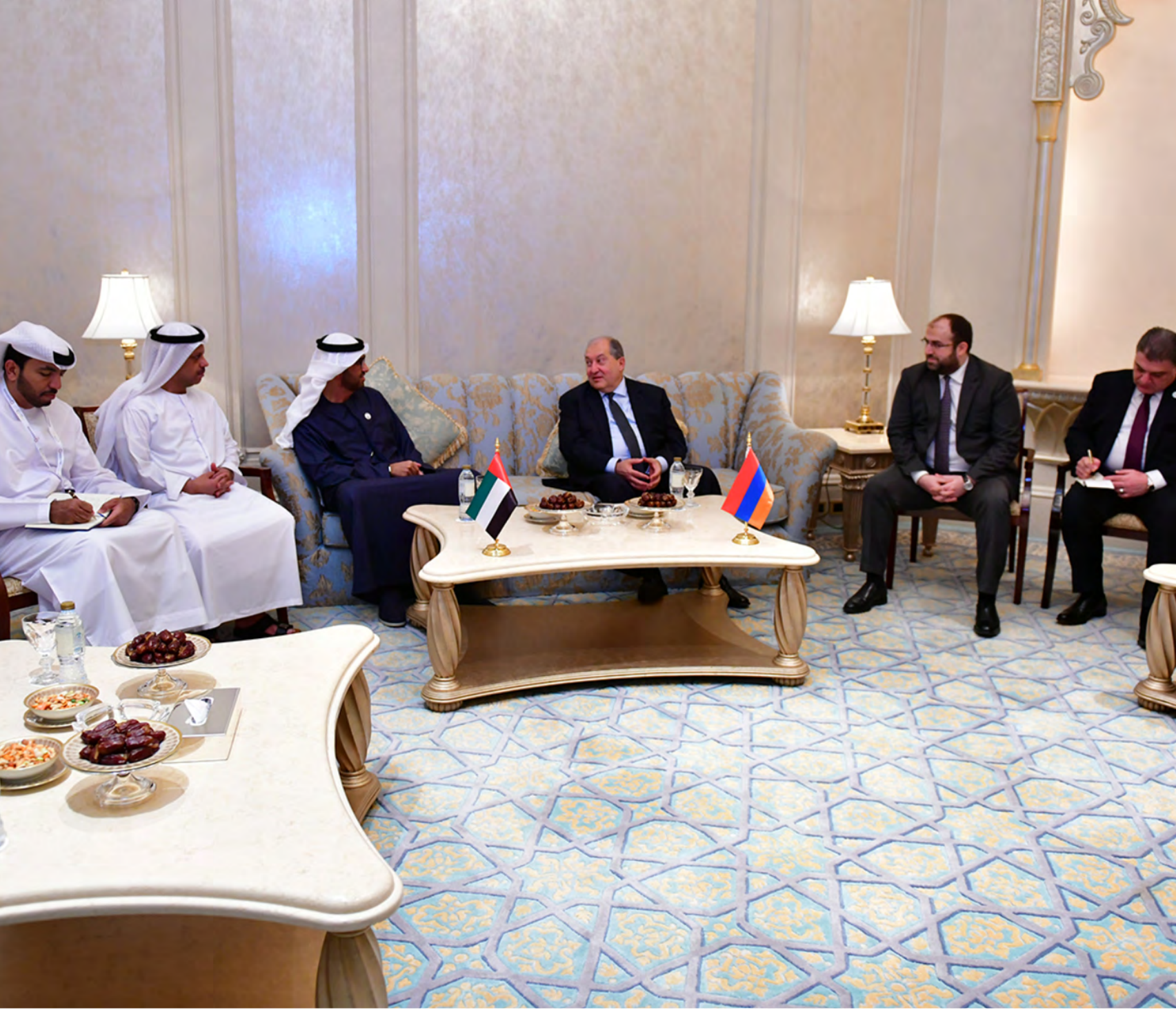
14.01.2019

Meeting with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan

The official visit of the President of Armenia to the United Arab Emirates commenced with the meeting with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the UAE Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan. Underscoring the existing great potential in the trade and economic areas, President Sarkissian viewed as promising cooperation, particularly in the areas of agriculture, renewable energy, chemical production, information technologies and telecommunication areas.

Noting that Armenia views the UAE as an essential gateway to the Persian Gulf region and other countries, Armen Sarkissian said that Armenia in its turn might become a bridge for the UAE towards the EAEA and CIS countries and markets.

For more information:



14.01.2019

Meeting with the Minister of State of the UAE Sultan Al Jaber

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian met with the Minister of State of the UAE Sultan Al Jaber twice during the official visit.

The President of Armenia and Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates spoke about opportunities for cooperation, in particular, implementation of joint projects in different areas. According to President Sarkissian, through the years, there have been minor and significant achievements, but the existing potential is much greater.

Among promising areas of cooperation, President Armen Sarkissian singled out areas of tourism, infrastructure, and services and noted that Armenia could offer different solutions in these areas such as eco-tourism and cultural tourism.



17.01.2019

Meeting with the Vice President, Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

President Sarkissian and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum discussed in particular issues related to the expansion of business and financial cooperation between the two countries. They stressed the importance of the steps aimed at the development of the tourism area.

For more information:



17.01.2019

Meeting with the Sovereign Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, Sheikh, Doctor Bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi

For more information:

President Sarkissian hailed Sheikh Sultan Bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi’s warm attitude and superior attention towards the Armenian people, visibly manifested through the programs, which are implemented through his support and donations.

They also discussed an opportunity to sign an agreement on declaring a town from Sharjah and a town from Armenia sister-towns.

President Armen Sarkissian invited Sheikh Sultan Bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi to visit Armenia. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.



Other Meetings and Visits

- Participation in “Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week” forum.
- Visited the innovative Masdar City. The development philosophy of Masdar City is based on the principle of maintaining economic, social, and ecological sustainability.
- Meeting with the founder and Chairman of the ALNOWAIS Investment Company Hussain Al Nowais. The company is active in the hotel and real estate, infrastructure and energy areas. The Chairman of the company said that he was interested in cooperation with Armenia, particularly in the implementation of joint programs in the area of renewable energy.
- Meeting with the Managing Director of the MUBADALA investment company Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak. The MUBADALA investment company is working mainly in the areas of high technologies, telecommunications, energy, health care, real estate, infrastructures, education, and science.
- Meeting with the Governor of the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) Essa Abdulfattah Kazim and the CEO Arif Amiri. During the meeting, parties discussed the possibility of establishing in cooperation with the DIFC an analogous structure in Armenia, which will provide similar services. After the meeting, President Sarkissian toured the Centre.



Results of the Visit

- Sharjah government proposed to send a delegation of the Emirate of Sharjah to the Republic of Armenia after the holy month of Ramadan, from June 10 to June 20.
- Agreements were reached with Minister of State of the UAE Sultan Al Jaber, Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, on ALNOWAIS Investments and MUBADALA companies to conduct a visit to Armenia shortly to learn firsthand about the opportunities existing in Armenia and work on concrete programs.



Official Visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Republic of Serbia

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04.10.2019

Meeting with the President of the Republic of Serbia

For more information:

Welcoming ceremony for the President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian was followed by the face-to-face meeting of the two Presidents and a meeting in the extended format with the participation of the delegations. President Sarkissian stressed the importance of cooperating in the areas such as new technologies, artificial intelligence, mathematical modelling and other sectors. The President of Armenia noted that the startup culture is being cultivated in Armenia and informed about the Sea-side startup organized in Armenia every year. President talked about ATOM (Advanced Tomorrow) presidential initiative and expressed a wish to see Serbian companies or institutions in Armenia in the framework of the programs mentioned above.

President Sarkissian welcomed the establishment of a visa-free regime for the citizens of Armenia and the decision of the Serbian side to open an embassy in the Republic of Armenia. He noted that these are essential steps toward the strengthening of the relations between the two countries. President’s of both countries summarized the results of the meetings with statements for the representatives of the mass media.



04.10.2019

Meeting with with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia Ana Brnabić

For more information:

Prime Minister of Serbia welcomed the official visit of President Sarkissian and noted that they were glad to host the President of friendly Armenia and would be interested in the deepening of the bi-lateral relations in all areas.

At the meeting discussed were promising areas of cooperation. The parties underscored that particularly beneficial might be relations in the areas of high technologies, artificial intelligence, science, education, culture, tourism, food production and some other sectors.

They also spoke about the upcoming signing of a free trade zone agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and Serbia. It was noted that the signing of the Agreement would create new trade opportunities for Armenia and Serbia.



04.10.2019

Meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia Maja Gojković

For more information:

In the framework of his official visit to the Republic of Serbia, President Armen Sarkissian met with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia Maja Gojković. The parties also discussed inter-parliamentary relations which play an essential role in the Armenian-Serbian interstate ties. They stressed the importance of developing cooperation between the legislative bodies which, according to the interlocutors, stems from the traditional spirit of friendship existing between the Armenian and Serb peoples. In this context, they also highlighted the necessity of cooperation between the Armenian and Serbian delegations in the parliamentary assemblies. The parties stressed culture as an essential direction for cooperation. It was noted that soon the famous Serb musician Goran Bregovic would perform in Yerevan.



Other Meetings and Visits

- **Science Technology Park of Belgrade.**

Accompanied by the Serbian Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development Mladen Sarcevic, Minister Nenad Popovic, who is in charge of innovations and technological development, and Director of the Park Gordana Danilovic, President Sarkissian toured the Park, familiarized with the areas of activities, and conversed with the representatives of the companies, which cooperated with the Science Technology Park in Belgrade. Director of the Park noted that the structure creates ideal opportunities for the companies that strive to become part of the high technology community.

- **Mihajlo Pupin research institute.**

President Armen Sarkissian visited the Mihajlo Pupin research institute in Belgrad. Sanja Vranes briefed the President of Armenia on the areas of the Institute's activities and informed that they include telecommunications, management of defence and security information infrastructure, and some other sectors.

- **Visit to Chemuni administrative region at the western part of Belgrade.**

President Armen Sarkissian together with Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian visited Chemuni administrative region. The region is at the western part of Belgrade where in the vicinity of St. Gabriel Archangel church an Armenian cross-stone is installed in the memory of the Serb pilots who were killed in the crash of their aircraft which was delivering assistance to Armenia after the devastating earthquake of 1988 in Spitak.

Presidents of Armenia and Serbia paid tribute to the memory of the fallen pilots. Present at the ceremony were also members of the families of the pilots.



• **Serbian Academy of Science and Arts.**

In the framework of the visit to the Republic of Serbia, President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian were hosted at the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts.

Accompanied by the President of the Academy Vladimir Kostic, President Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian toured the scientific establishment and met with the leadership. Vladimir Kostic presented the structure of the Academy and areas of its activities.

President Sarkissian inquired about the scientific and research works of the Academy and opportunities of cooperation.

• **Meeting with the Serbian Patriarch, His Holiness Irinej.**

President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian met with the Serbian Patriarch, His Holiness Irinej.

The President of Armenia and Serbian Patriarch underlined the warm, friendly relations established between the Armenian Apostolic Church and Serb Orthodox Church. Noting that destinies of the Serb and Armenia people have similarities when it comes to difficulties and calamities, Patriarch Irinej stressed the importance of close cooperation between the two Churches.

• **Visited the memorial of the Unknown Soldier located in the south-western part of Belgrade on Avala hill.**

President Armen Sarkissian together with his wife Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian visited the memorial of the Unknown Soldier located in the south-western part of Belgrade on Avala hill, which immortalizes the memory of the Serb soldiers who fell in the WWI.

At the memorial, President Sarkissian and Mrs Sarkissian, accompanied by the Ministry of Defense of Serbia Aleksandar Bulin paid tribute to the memory of the soldiers killed in WWI, after which President Sarkissian made an inscription in the Guest Book, “At this historical moment, we remember all those who gave their lives for the Fatherland.”

Afterwards, Mr and Mrs Sarkissian visited the ancient Kalemegda Fortress located in the historical centre of Belgrade.



Resultes of the Visit

- The President of the Republic of Armenia Armen Sarkissian officially invited Aleksandar Vučić to Armenia.
- President Sarkissian proposed to look into the opportunity of declaring Gyumri – a town of rich cultural traditions – and Serbian Novi Sad sister cities.
- The Serbian side announced its intention to open an Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Armenia .
- Establishment of a visa-free regime for the citizens of Armenia.



Official Visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the State of Qatar

- **75** Private meeting between the President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani
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19.11.2019

Private meeting between the President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

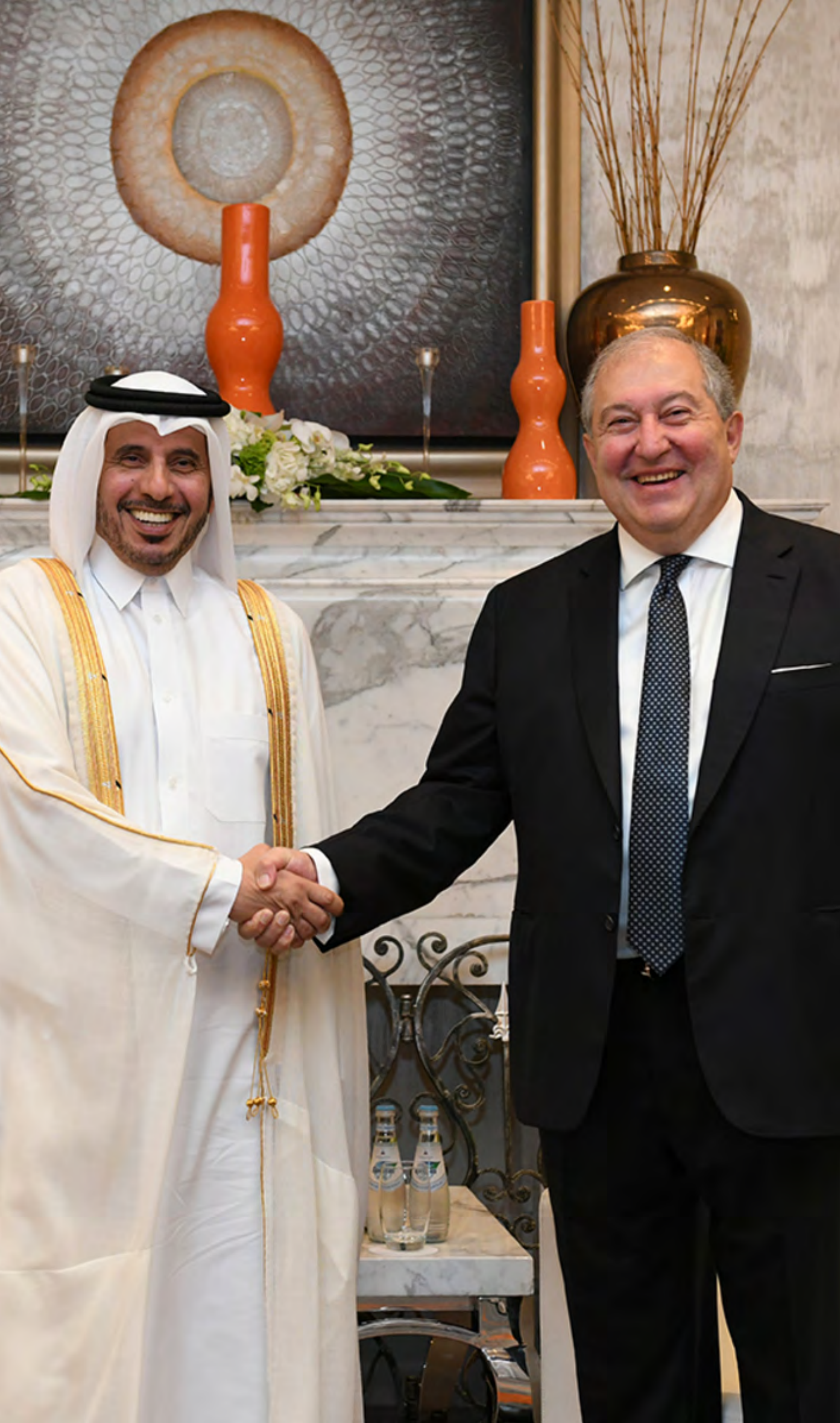
For more information:

The private meeting between the President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani took place at the Diwan of the Emir of the State of Qatar.

Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani welcomed the President of Armenia and underscored their years-long superb relations and congratulated on the occasion of the opening of the Embassy of Armenia. He noted that our countries enjoy excellent relations. President Armen Sarkissian thanked the Emir for abolishing visa requirements for the citizens of Armenia and the assistance in the opening embassy of Armenia in Qatar.

The President expressed confidence that the abolishment of visa requirements would have a positive impact on the further enhancement of the economic, cultural, scientific, educational and prominent touristic areas.

The President of Armenia and Emir of Qatar underlined the great potential for cooperation existing between the two friendly nations, the importance of expanding and strengthening the relations. Among possible areas of collaboration, they noted healthcare, education, and agriculture, as well as the opportunities to study in Doha.



19.11.2019

Meeting with the Prime Minister of Qatar, Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian met with the Prime Minister of Qatar, Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.

The Prime Minister of Qatar welcomed the official visit of the President of Armenia to the State of Qatar and stressed the importance of the interstate relations with Armenia.

President Sarkissian expressed gratitude to the government of Qatar for assisting in the opening of the Embassy of Armenia in Qatar and noted that it would elevate the bilateral relations to a new level. He expressed hope that Qatar, in its turn, would open an embassy in Yerevan.

At the meeting discussed were opportunities for deepening the relations between the two countries. The parties concurred that there exist significant opportunities and a good base for the expansion and strengthening of the cooperation between the two friendly states.

President Sarkissian noted that Armenia, as a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, has every chance to become a transit state for entering the markets of other countries.



19.11.2019

Visit to the Qatar Foundation

President Armen Sarkissian visited the Qatar Foundation.

President of Armenia was informed on the main areas of the Foundation's activities and its structure, as well as the ongoing programs.

After the tour of the Foundation, President Sarkissian met with its head and co-founder Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al-Misned.

The latter presented to Armen Sarkissian educational and scientific programs and expressed gratitude to the President of Armenia for his participation at the opening of the World International Summit for Education initiated by the Foundation.

President Sarkissian conveyed his impressions of the tour and said that the opportunities for cooperation were tremendous because of joint and coinciding interests.

The President noted that he wishes to see Armenia as an educational and scientific hub, to have a new educational system based on innovation, to be modern and inventive.

For more information:



Other Meetings and Visits

- **Visit to the National Library of Qatar.**

President Armen Sarkissian, who is in the State of Qatar on an official visit, together with his wife Nouneh Sarkissian was hosted at the National Library of Qatar, which is one of the Foundation of Qatar’s structures.

President Sarkissian and Mrs Sarkissian toured the library, familiarized with the materials kept there, publications as well as the exhibits of the Heritage Museum including unique books, manuscripts, maps, other valuable samples of the Arab and Islamic culture.

- **Meeting with the Head of the Qatar Investment Authority on Investments Ahmed Ali Al Hamad and Regional Director Faisal Thani Al Thani.**

President Armen Sarkissian met in Doha with the Head of the Qatar Investment Authority on Investments Ahmed Ali Al Hamad and Regional Director Faisal Thani Al Thani. Present at the meeting was also the CEO of the Armenian National Interests Fund David Papazian.

Discussed were opportunities for cooperation with Armenia, implementation of investment programs. They also stressed the importance of establishing efficient collaboration between the Armenian National Interests Fund and Qatar Investment Authority.

Among possible areas of cooperation with Armenia mentioned were areas of energy, food safety, and logistic infrastructure.



- Meeting with the leadership of the Qatari Businessmen Association, members of the Association and representatives of some companies.

President Sarkissian met in Doha with the leadership of the Qatari Businessmen Association, members of the Association and representatives of some companies.

Armen Sarkissian presented to the entrepreneurs the investment and competitive opportunities of our country and noted that Armenia – a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, cooperates closely with the European Union and could offer promising prospects as a transit route to enter markets of other countries.

From the viewpoint of developing the bilateral cooperation, the President of Armenia viewed as promising areas of tourism, science, education and technologies, food production and supply, jewelry making and the other sectors.

- Meeting with the Father Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

In the framework of the visit to the State of Qatar, President Armen Sarkissian met with the Father Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

His Majesty welcomed the first official visit of President Armen Sarkissian to the State of Qatar.



Resultes of the Visit

- President Sarkissian invited the Qatar Foundation to cooperate within the framework of the ATOM (Advanced Tomorrow) initiative, aimed in the development of the latest technologies and science in Armenia.
- An agreement was reached on the exchange of necessary information between the Armenian National Interests Fund and “Qatar Investment Authority” and the continuation of discussions on further opportunities for cooperation.
- An agreement was reached to organize a visit of Qatari businessmen to Armenia shortly to get acquainted with the opportunities of co-operation in situ, to discuss the directions of cooperation.
- Establishment of a visa-free regime for the citizens of Armenia.
- Opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the State of Qatar.



WORKING VISITS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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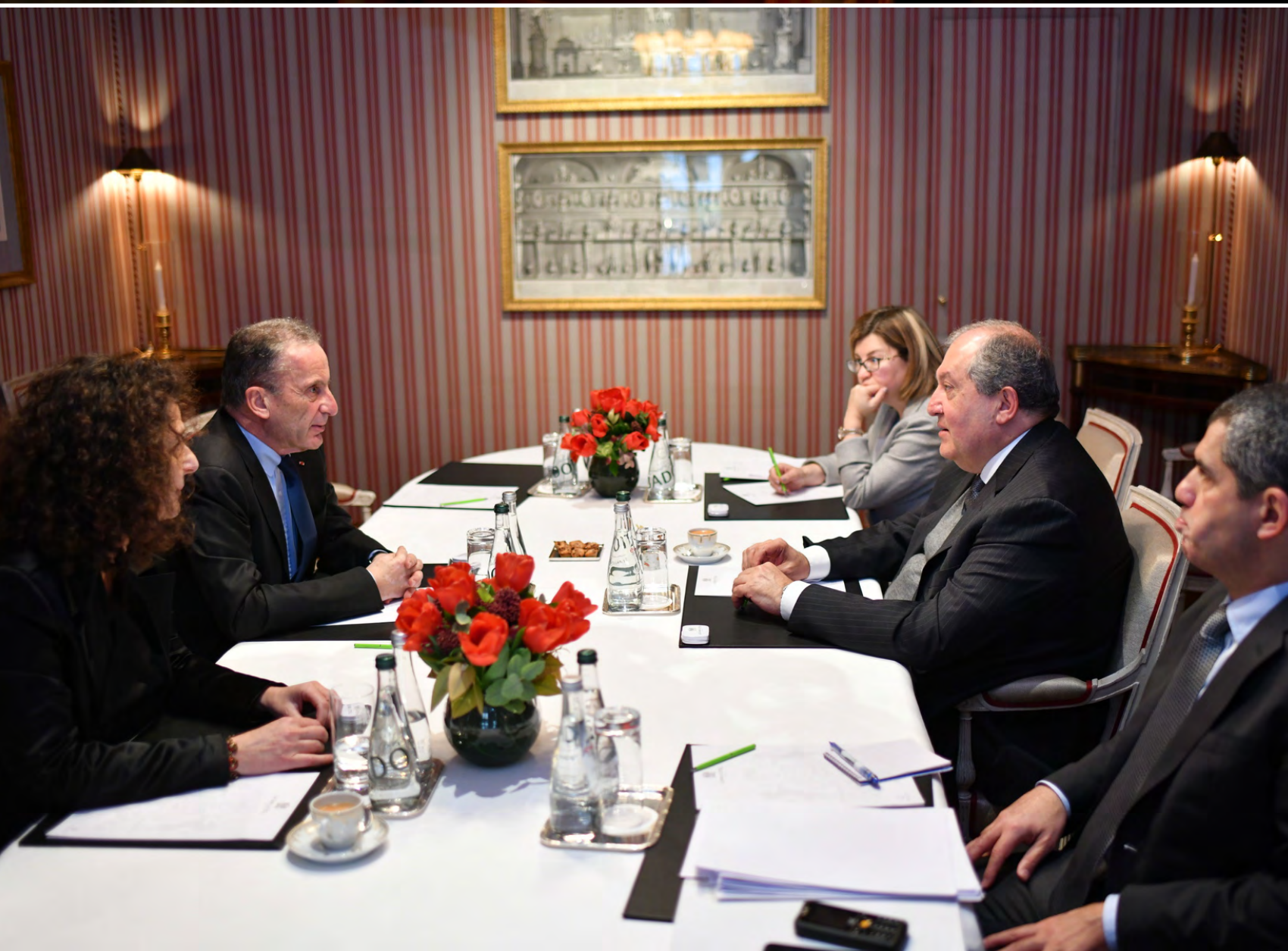
06.02.2019

Meeting with the Vice President of French Dassault Systèmes Company Christian Nardin

During the meeting of Vice President of the renowned French Dassault Systèmes Company Christian Nardin and President of Armenia, both sides emphasized, in particular, the great potential for cooperation in the areas of science, education, and technologies and readiness to implement joint programs. President Sarkissian mentioned that Armenia, with its educational, scientific and innovation institutions and experts, might become a good partner for the French side. The parties reached an agreement that representatives of the company would visit Armenia in April to outline more precisely the programs of cooperation.

For more information:





07.02.2019

Meeting with French entrepreneur Henri Proglio

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian met with the famous French entrepreneur, former Chairman of the Electricité de France Company Board and its CEO, former CEO of the Veolia Environnement Henri Proglio. They discussed opportunities for cooperation and perspectives of cooperation in the areas of ecology, energy, and efficient management of water resources. They underscored the existing big potential in the area of alternative energy and opportunities to implement joint programs. The President noted that Armenia is rich with sources of renewable energy and that alternative energy business is a perspective area for the country.



08.02.2019

Meeting with the leadership of the THALES Company

For more information:

During the meeting of President Sarkissian with the leadership of a leading world company THALES, the parties continued the discussions on the previously reached agreements and detailed that at the end of February the Vice President and Regional Director of the Company Paul Remi would visit Armenia to see firsthand the opportunities for cooperation and to put the existing proposals on a practical base. President Sarkissian stressed, especially, the role of modern systems equipped with up-to-date technologies, particularly, with artificial intelligence.





09.02.2019

Meeting with the former Prime Minister of France Dominique de Villepin

For more information:

In the framework of his working visit to Paris, President Armen Sarkissian met with the former Prime Minister of France Dominique de Villepin who was also the foreign minister and minister of internal affairs of France in different periods. President Armen Sarkissian and the seasoned state and political figure exchanged views on the international politics and security, spoke about the problems and challenges existing in the South Caucasus region. Armen Sarkissian also spoke about the programs and preliminary initiatives, which he pursues and noted that they were pointed into the future and were aimed to make Armenia a centre of modern technologies and startups. The President of Armenia invited former Prime Minister of France Dominique de Villepin to visit Armenia shortly. The invitation was accepted.



09.02.2019

Meeting with the Executive Director of the Nestlé Waters company Maurizio Patarnello

For more information:

In the framework of his working visit, President Sarkissian met in Paris with the Executive Director of the Nestlé Waters Company Maurizio Patarnello. Noting that Armenia is prosperous with natural resources and drinking water in the country is among the best in the world, the interlocutors spoke about possible cooperation in this area. They concurred that there are severe perspectives for cooperation and agreed that the Executive Director of the Nestlé Waters Company would visit Armenia shortly to continue the dialogue and to bring the discussions to a more practical level. At the meeting, discussed were also issues of the efficient management of the water resources.



Resultes of the Visit

- President Armen Sarkissian and the famous French entrepreneur, former Chairman of the Electricité de France Company Board and its CEO, former CEO of the Veolia Environnement Henri Proglio agreed that as the first step of cooperation in the areas of ecology, energy, and efficient management of water resources, Mr Proglio would visit Armenia, to learn firsthand the existing opportunities, to continue with the discussions, and to bring the cooperation to a more practical level.
- On February 27, President Armen Sarkissian hosted the Vice President of the world-famous French THALES company, regional Director Paul Remi who has arrived in Armenia at the invitation of the President of Armenia. Paul Remi said, "We should also remember about the Central Asia market. We see that Armenia is at the crossroads between Europe and Asia. Armenia is involved in the One Road, One Belt project, which is in the focus of our attention. I am glad that you offered opportunities for cooperation with Armenia. We have not looked into such opportunities in the past."



Working Visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

- **90** Participation in the discussions of Middle East and Northern Africa Conference of the WEF named New Energy for the Middle East
- **91** Meeting with the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein Al-Hashimi
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06.04.2019

Participation in the opening of the Middle East and Northern Africa Conference of the World Economic Forum (WEF)

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian participated in opening of the Middle East and Northern Africa Conference of the World Economic Forum.

King of Jordan Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein welcomed the participants of the Forum. The speakers referred to the problems and challenges facing the region and the world and spoke in particular about energy security, clean and renewable energy sources, climate change, and many other issues. Participation in the discussions of the Middle East and Northern Africa Conference of the WEF named New Energy for the Middle East.

At the meeting, the President spoke about energy sources in the contemporary world and in that context stressed the importance of “not to damage the nature” principle. Speaking about coal, oil, and gas as energy sources, the President of Armenia underlined the significance of using renewable energy. At the same time, he noted that nuclear power also should be used.



06.04.2019

Meeting with the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein Al-Hashimi

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian met with the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein Al-Hashimi.

The President of Armenia and King of Jordan in a genial and friendly atmosphere spoke about the development of the bilateral relations and opportunities for the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation in different areas.



Other Meetings and Visits

Meeting with the founder of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab.

President Armen Sarkissian met with the founder and Executive Chairman of the WEF, famous economist Klaus Schwab.

The interlocutors spoke of cooperation in the area of innovation and technologies. Referring to the intention to start cooperation with the Fourth Industrial Revolution Center, they said a successful start would open new opportunities for collaboration.

Meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres.

President Armen Sarkissian met with the UN Secretary General António Guterres.

Stressing the importance of our country's cooperation with the UN, President Armen Sarkissian said that Armenia is actively involved in the works of the United Nations and its structures.

Armen Sarkissian also underscored António Guterres' enormous contribution to the activities of the Galust Gulbenkian Foundation.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the prospects of cooperation in the framework of the UN and its structures.



Meeting with the Chief Executive of the Majid Al Futtaim Holding Company Alain Bejjani.

President Armen Sarkissian met with the Chief Executive of the Majid Al Futtaim Holding Company Alain Bejjani. The Carrefour Armenia Company is also a member of this group of companies. The parties discussed a program of expanding the Company's presence in Armenia and investment opportunities, as well as discuss how the Company's worldwide network could be used to export and sell products manufactured in Armenia. Discussed were also possibilities of using Armenia as a partner for entering the countries of the region.

President Sarkissian visited Jesus Christ baptism site on the Jordan river.

President Armen Sarkissian visited Jesus Christ baptism site on the Jordan river during the working visit conducted to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The President toured the sacred Christian site and made an inscription in the Book of Honor Guests.



Resultes of the Visit

- The King of Jordan will send a delegation to Armenia to discuss the possibilities of cooperation in situ.
- The President of Armenia invited King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein Al-Hashimi, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to visit Armenia.



Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Portuguese Republic

- **96** Participattion in the annual global meeting of Horasis analytical center
- **97** Meeting with the Prime Minister António Costa
- **98** Meeting with the President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
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07.04.2019

Participattion in the annual global meeting of Horasis analytical center

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian participated at the annual global meeting of Horasis analytical centre, which is the largest annual event of the centre.

President Armen Sarkissian made a statement as a speaker in the framework of the Shaping the Future panel. The participants of the meeting spoke about the current challenges and avenues to address them. President Armen Sarkissian noted that any country would approach the existing problems differently. The President of Armenia spoke of the fourth industrial revolution and noted that we are dealing with a permanent revolution and a lengthy process of evolutionary development. The President is confident that there is no need to be afraid of artificial intelligence.

Armen Sarkissian noted that it is the same as 30 or 40 years ago, people were afraid of information technologies, were worried that computers would take their jobs. No, artificial intelligence will create new jobs.

Among essential topics of discussions were the climate change and damage caused to nature by human activities. President Sarkissian noted that the right technologies are needed to solve this problem, as well as political will, investments and collective responsibility. In conclusion, President Sarkissian spoke about technological achievements and their role and significance in our life. He expressed confidence that they would change our social and political behaviour dramatically.

“Many individuals will be influencing politics just using their electronic devices, through the posts on Twitter and Facebook. This is a new way of doing politics. We are facing a new world in which voices of individuals will be audible and will have a serious impact on the decision making,” the President of Armenia said.



08.04.2019

Meeting with the Prime Minister António Costa

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian met with the Prime Minister António Costa. The President of Armenia and Prime Minister of Portugal exchanged views on the possible areas of cooperation. Armen Sarkissian underlined that the two countries have great potential for cooperation in the areas of science and education, scientific exchanges and implementation of joint research programs. The parties concurred that Armenia and Portugal possess great potential for cooperation in the areas of information technologies, natural sciences, and artificial intelligence. President Sarkissian added that tourism might become one of the most promising areas of Armenian-Portuguese cooperation.



09.04.2019

Meeting with the President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian in the framework of the working visit to Portugal, met with the President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

The Presidents of Armenia and Portugal exchanged views on the possible areas of cooperation. They concurred that the two countries could become successful partners in the areas of science, education, and modern technologies.

Referring to Portugal's space station program for launching satellites, President Sarkissian said that Armenia has a great scientific potential in this area.

The interlocutors also mentioned tourism as a perspective area of cooperation.

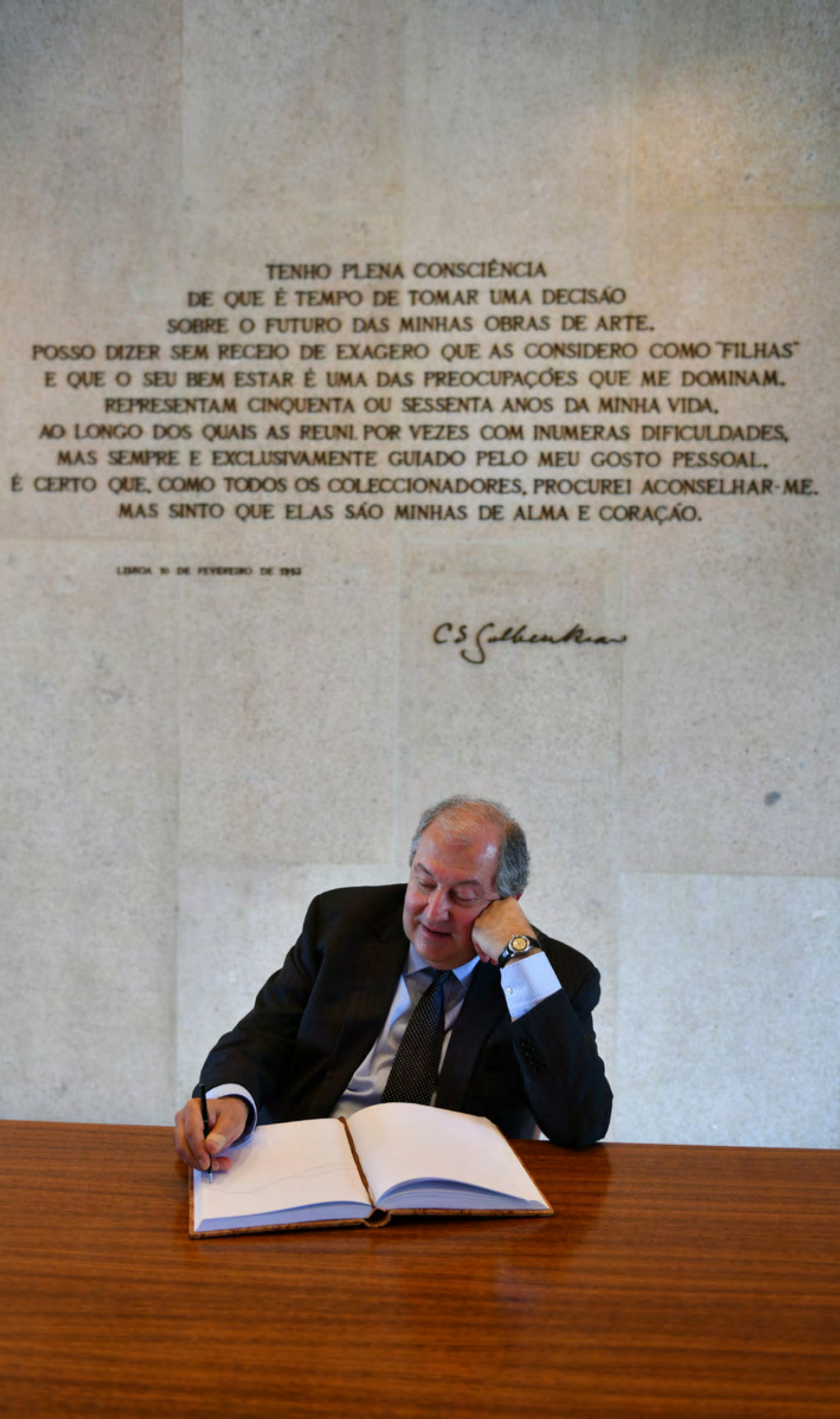


Other meetings and visits

Meeting with the founder and Chairman of the Horasis international center Frank-Jürgen Richter. Speaking about the possible avenues of cooperation, the interlocutors underscored the intention of organizing one of the future programs of the centre in Armenia. It was noted that the centre would consider holding the Horasis China 2020 meeting in Armenia.

Meeting with the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal Mr. Manuel Heitor.

At the meeting, the parties discussed opportunities for cooperation in the areas of science, education, modern technologies, as well as the implementation of joint scientific research programs. Armen Sarkissian noted that Armenia is interested in Portugal's program of building a space station for launching satellites since Armenia has a great scientific potential in this area.



Meeting with the Chairman of the Hinduja Group in Europe Prakash Hinduja.
President Sarkissian and the entrepreneur exchanged views on the opportunities for the economic cooperation between Armenia and India and efficient use of the existing potential. Prakash Hinduja said that the Hinduja Group is interested in cooperation in the areas of science and technologies and implementation of various joint programs.
The President of Armenia invited Mr Prakash Hinduja to participate at the Armenian Summit of Minds which will be held in Armenia in June.

Visit to the National Museum of Ancient Art in Lisbon.
The President of Armenia toured the halls of the museum, which contain the most significant art works and collections of Portugal, including paintings, sculptures, gold and silver jewelry, furniture, and decorative art pieces.
Armen Sarkissian observed the cultural heritage on display and art works, which were declared to be Portugal’s “national treasure.”



Resultes of the Visit

- An agreement was reached to study the issue and opportunities for improving air communication between the two countries.
- President Armen Sarkissian invited the President of Portugal to pay an official visit to Armenia.
- Marcelo Rebelo de Soza invited his Armenian counterpart to pay an official visit to Portugal.
- The possibility of holding the Horasis China 2020 meeting in Armenia will be considered.



Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to Italy

- **103** Participation in the Cybertech Europe 2019 international conference on the cybersecurity related issues
- **104** Meeting with the President of Italy Sergio Mattarella
- **105** Other meetings and visit
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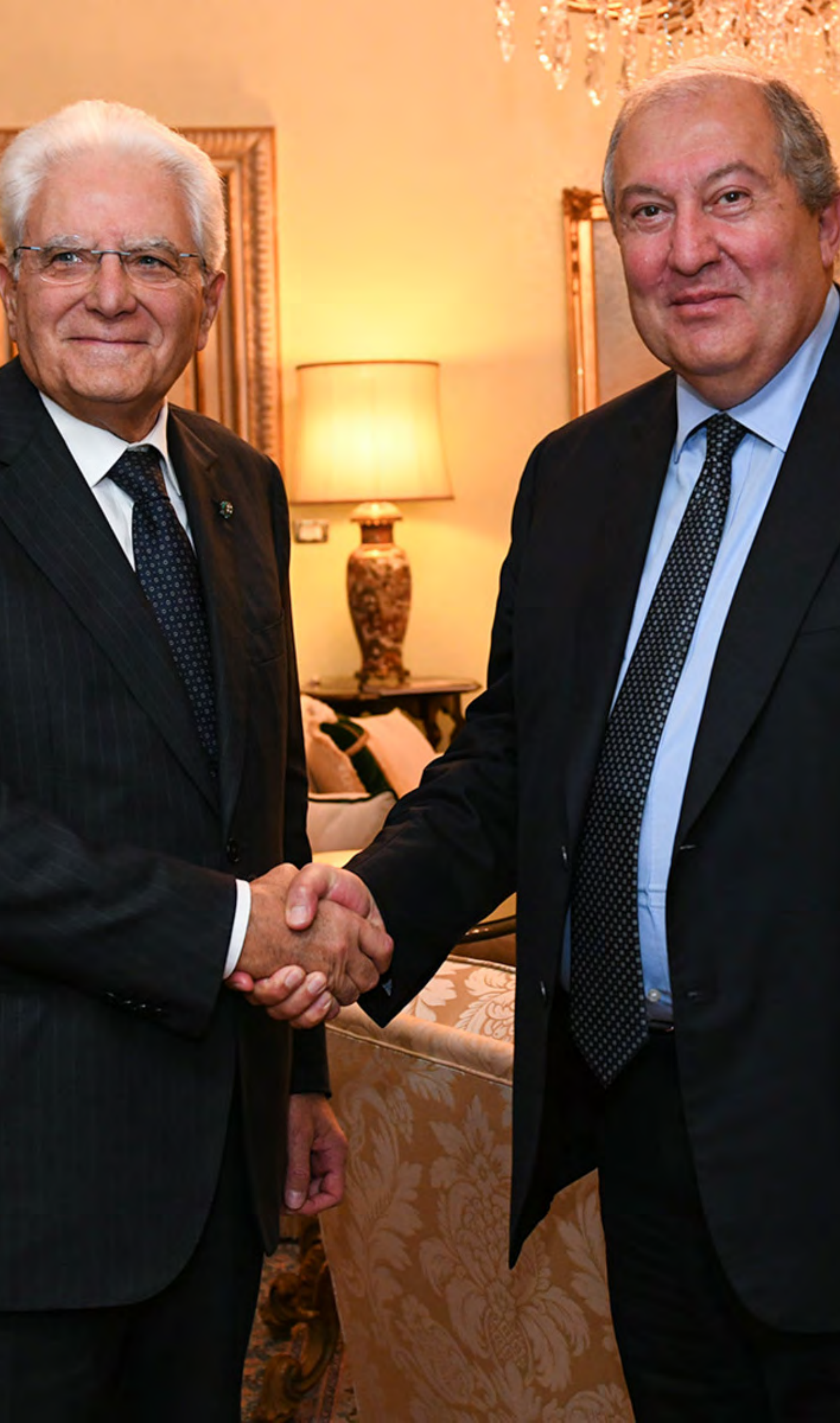


24.09.2019

Participation in the Cybertech Europe 2019 international conference on the cybersecurity related issues

For more information:

On September 24, 2019, President Armen Sarkissian participated at the largest in the world Cybertech Europe 2019 international conference on the cybersecurity-related issues. President Sarkissian delivered a speech entitled “Armenia as an emerging regional hub on the issues of cybersecurity and an attractive venue for investments”.



25.09.2019

Meeting with the President of Italy Sergio Mattarella

For more information:

President Sarkissian informed his counterpart on the meetings he held with various Italian companies in the framework of the visit, reached agreements, and noted that he wants to assist them in organizing visits to Armenia and familiarizing with the opportunities of mutually beneficial cooperation. He added that agreements have been reached to take practical steps in that direction. Stating existing great opportunities for cooperation in the economic, educational, cultural, and scientific areas and stressing the importance of full utilization of the existing potential, the Presidents noted that high-level reciprocal visits will considerably contribute to the deepening of the bilateral relations and will give a new impetus to multifaceted cooperation of the two friendly countries. They expressed readiness to put great efforts into the development of bilateral ties.



Other meetings and visits

- Meeting with the owner of the famous Rizzani de Eccher construction company, Claudio de Eccher.

During a dynamic exchange, the parties discussed opportunities of cooperation, particularly in the areas of construction, implementation of investment programs in the area infrastructure development.

President Sarkissian said that the experience of Rizzani de Eccher Company, which is famous for its high standards in constructions, introduction of research and innovative engineering solutions, is very important for Armenia.

Claudio de Eccher in his turn noted that they were interested in the implementation of joint programs with Armenia.

- Visit to the headquarters of Elettronica Group in Rome and met with the CEO and President of the company Enzo Benigni.

President Sarkissian noted that Armenia is a leader in the technological area, and cooperation with Armenia might be carried out predominantly in the areas of mathematics and artificial intelligence.

President Sarkissian said that to understand Armenia's potential, the Italian company, as other major companies, should visit the country.

The interlocutors expressed hope that efficient cooperation would be established and would stem from the interests of all parties.



- Conversation with the reporters
- Meeting with the IBM Director for research, innovation and technologies in Italy Fabrizio Renzi.

The interlocutors noted that the cultural supremacy of the two countries is a severe base for working together. They discussed opportunities for making art and culture more accessible for the public at large and stressed in that context the role of modern technologies, particularly, of artificial intelligence.

The parties also stressed the importance of researching the areas of arts, culture, education, and science.



Resultes of the visit

- The President of Italy invited Armen Sarkissian to pay a state visit to Italy.
- The agreement was reached that the working group of Rizzani de Eccher construction company would visit Armenia shortly to continue discussions and evaluate what programs could be carried out.
- The agreement was reached to start cooperation with Elettronica Group in the area of preservation of the cultural heritage.



Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the United Arab Emirates

- **109** Participation at the official agreement signing ceremony between the Masdar Company and the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) for the joint development
- **110** President met with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- **111** Meeting with UAE Minister of State for Food Security
- **112** Other meetings and visits
- **114** Resultes of the visit

مكة لتطوير مشاريع طاقة متجددة في جمهوري
the Development of Renewable Energy Projects in



30.11.2019

Participation at the official agreement signing ceremony between the Masdar Company and the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) for the joint development

For more information:

President Armen Sarkissian was present at the official agreement signing ceremony between the Masdar Company and the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) for the joint development. According to the agreement, solar energy projects of 400-megawatt general capacity will be developed in Armenia and investments over 300 million USD will be made. The first project envisaged by the agreement relates to the construction in the western part of Armenia of the solar photovoltaic stations of 200-megawatt general capacity. After the signing ceremony, which took place at the New York University of Abu Dhabi, President Sarkissian had a meeting with the Executive Director of the Mubadala investment company Khaldoon Al Mubadarak and Minister of Energy and Industry Suhail Al Mazroui. The President hailed the accomplished works and noted that this cooperation establishes a good base for broader collaboration. At the same time, President Sarkissian suggested viewing Armenia as a platform for entering the big market of the Eurasian Economic Union. He expressed hope that the results of the meetings earlier this year and this one would promote the development of Armenia-UAE relations. President Sarkissian was present also at the Mubadala business forum held in the New York University of Abu Dhabi and had a brief conversation with the President and Executive Director of Siemens Joe Kaeser.



30.11.2019

Meeting with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Commander in Chief of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and National Security Advisor to the President of UAE Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan

For more information:

At the meeting discussed were opportunities for expanding Armenia-UAE relations. It was noted that various areas hold great potential for cooperation. Among the promising areas of cooperation were mentioned in particular areas of information and high technologies, food security, tourism, real estate and some others.



01.12.2019

Meeting with UAE Minister of State for Food Security

For more information:

In the framework of his working visit to UAE, President Armen Sarkissian met with the Minister of State for Food Security Mariam Al Muhairi. Minister presented to President Sarkissian the UAE concept for food security and experience as well as the steps undertaken in the UAE toward the development of the area. Stressing the importance of developing food security structures in Armenia, President Sarkissian noted that it is necessary to work together and utilize the existing great potential. President Sarkissian invited the UAE Minister of State to Armenia to discuss once again the upcoming programs as well as to see firsthand the competitive opportunities of our country.



Other meetings and visits

- Meeting with the President and Executive Director of Siemens Joe Kaeser.
The interlocutors discussed the prospects of implementing joint programs in the areas of modern technologies, artificial intelligence, and electrical power management. They also discussed opportunities of implementing joint programs in the areas of science and education, of experience exchange as well as looking into the opportunities for cooperation in the framework of the Presidential ATOM (Advanced Tomorrow) initiative which is aimed at the development of modern technologies in Armenia.



- **Meeting in Abu Dhabi with the COO of the Spanish Telefonica company Ancel Vila Boix.**
Telefonica provides services for fixed and mobile phones, internet and data communication in 24 countries and has 350 million customers. The parties discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest. President Sarkissian presented competitive advantages of Armenia and opportunities and noted that in the technological area, our country moves steadily forward. The COO of Telefonica said that they would examine the opportunities of cooperation with Armenia, particularly in the area of Cloud technologies, and would soon present their proposals.
- **Other meetings.**
President Armen Sarkissian held meetings with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Emirate Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Advisor to the President of UAE on Security Issues Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of UAE, Minister on Presidential Issues Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi Emirate Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as well as the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammed bin Salman Al Saudi, other officials and entrepreneurs and discussed the prospects and opportunities of expanding the bilateral cooperation. Along with the highest leadership of the country in Abu Dhabi was present at the official ceremony dedicated to the National holiday of the UAE. The event was held under the auspices of the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan.



Resultes of the visit

- An agreement was reached in the framework of the meeting to undertake steps to make Armenia a regional platform for food security. In this context, parties discussed the necessity of signing a pertinent agreement between the governments of Armenia and the UAE.
- Prospects of implementing joint programs in the areas of modern technologies, artificial intelligence, and electrical power management was discussed with Joe Kaeser, the CEO of Siemens. An agreement was reached to form in near future working groups to study opportunities of broad cooperation in the mentioned areas.
- The COO of Telefonica said that they would examine the opportunities of cooperation with Armenia, particularly in the area of Cloud technologies, and would soon present their proposals.



MEETINGS AND EVENTS WITH DIASPORA

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18.01.2019

United Arab Emirates

President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Sarkissian in the framework of the official visit to the United Arab Emirates visited the Armenian Church of Holy Martyrs in Abu Dhabi. In the yard of the Church, they laid flowers at the cross-stone, dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide and paid tribute to their memory.

After a thanksgiving prayer, the President of Armenia at the “Ara Khanoyan” Sunday school met with the representatives of the Armenian community. In the framework of the official visit to the United Arab Emirates President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian visited the Embassy of Armenia in the UAE. The President of Armenia planted a tree in the backyard of the Embassy.

For more information:



09.02.2019

French Republic

In Paris, on February 9, 2019, President Armen Sarkissian participated in the 90th General Assembly of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). (Armen Sarkissian has been a member of the Central Board of Directors of the AGBU since 2016). Within the framework of the assembly, President participated at the conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Critical Thinking. The President of the Republic made a speech.

In the framework of the working visit to Paris, President Armen Sarkissian was present at the concert, dedicated to the memory of Armenia's National Hero, world-famous performer Charles Aznavour, which was organized in the framework of the 90th General Assembly of the AGBU.

For more information:



09.04.2019

Portuguese Republic

On April 9, 2019, President Armen Sarkissian visited Galust Gyulbenkian foundation, where he met with the representatives of the Armenian community of Portugal, during the working visit to Portugal.

President Armen Sarkissian stressed the importance of the Armenia-oriented programs of the Foundation and its significant contribution to the preservation of the Armenian identity and development of the Armenian studies.

Armen Sarkissian offered the leadership of the Foundation to expand programs implemented in Armenia, also increasing the Foundation's continuous assistance to students, scientists, and researchers. Armen Sarkissian also visited Galust Gyulbenkian Museum and toured the exhibition halls. Galust Gyulbenkian was a great admirer of art and collected paintings, sculptures, coins, books, and pieces of decorative arts, which are now exhibited in this Museum.

For more information:



05-06.04.2019

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

On April 5, 2019, President Armen Sarkissian visited Jesus Christ baptism site on the Jordan River in the framework of the working visit, conducted to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The President toured the sacred Christian site and made an inscription in the Book of Honour Guests. He noted that care, which Jordan demonstrates towards that sacred site of global significance, is the best manifestation of the solidarity and dialogue of civilizations. President Armen Sarkissian also visited the Armenian Church of Sourp Karapet.

For more information:

On April 6, 2019, the President met with the representatives of the Armenian community of Jordan. Addressing the local Armenians, President Sarkissian said, “The very fact that we are residing in different countries of the world, and are spread all over might be not a disadvantage, but on the contrary, an advantage because we are one of a few nations, which can state clearly: We are a small country, but a global nation.” According to the President, “We are all Armenians and have a responsibility to serve our Fatherland.” He also informed the Armenians residing in Jordan that he had invited King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein to visit Armenia.

For more information:



18.05.2019

Republic of Kazakhstan

President Armen Sarkissian met with the representatives of the Armenian community. Present at the meeting were also our compatriots from Uzbekistan.

President Sarkissian hailed the input of the Armenian community to the development of Kazakhstan. Armen Sarkissian underscored that in the 21st century, essential resources are not natural resources but human resources. With this regard, he stressed the importance of using the potential of Spyurk and the unity of the Armenian people.

The President of Armenia highlighted the honest and dedicated work as another prerequisite of success.

At the same time, Armen Sarkissian stressed the importance of providing the new generation with the best possible education as a guarantee of a stronger and more confident future.

The President of Armenia stated that the 21st century would be the century of Armenians, and we have both opportunity and potential to become a successful nation.

After the meeting, President Armen Sarkissian listened to the representatives of the Armenian community and responded to their questions.

For more information:



26.07.2019

French Republic

President Armen Sarkissian met in Paris with the Nuncio of the Mkhitarian Congregation of Venice, His Eminence Ter Levon Archbishop Zekian. They conversed about the works of the Mkhitarian Congregation, current difficulties and problems, particularly, about the future of the Mouradian School and the cultural centre.

After the meeting, the President of Armenia and His Eminence visited the Samuel Mouradian School and the cultural centre located in Sevre community of Paris.

For more information:



05.10.2019

Republic of Serbia

President Armen Sarkissian together with his wife Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian met with the representatives of the Armenian community of Serbia.

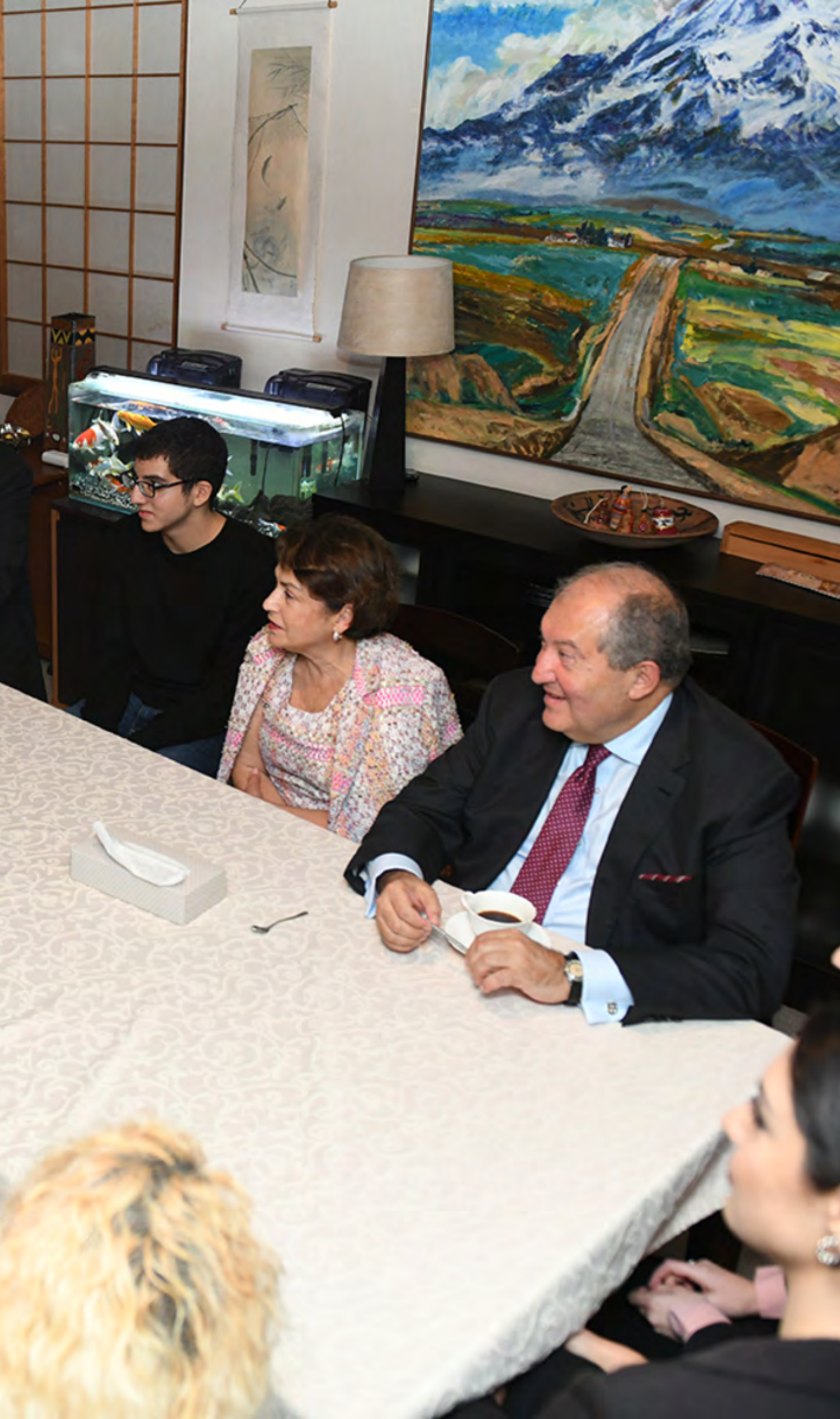
He noted that the Armenian and Serb peoples had a common history and a similar destiny and then underscored that currently, the two countries share very similar problems.

Among other incentives for deepening relations with Serbia, the President mentioned the country's great potential in the areas of electronics and technologies.

He reminded that specialists from Yugoslavia were once actively involved in the construction of Mars plant in Yerevan because that country had advanced electronics industry. He stressed that Armenia and Serbia also need to develop transportation ties and boost tourism. There is also good potential for cooperation in the area of food production, and investments could be attracted to this and other areas.

Armen Sarkissian also spoke about deepening the cooperation of the two countries in the area of technologies, the intention of conducting Armenian Sevan Startup festival in Novi Sad town along with the annual EXIT musical festival, agreement to declare Gyumri and Novi Sad sister-cities and noted that the mayor of Belgrade expressed readiness to establish similar relations with Yerevan.

For more information:



26.10.2019

Japan

In the framework of his working visit to Japan, President Armen Sarkissian and Mrs Nouneh Sarkisian met with the representatives of the small Armenian community in Japan. In the beginning, President Sarkissian inquired about their activities, then spoke briefly about the meetings he held during the visit and reached agreements.

He noted that there is genuine interest toward Armenia and he has had very concrete talks on what can be done together. According to the President, the areas of cooperation are very precise – modern technologies, emergency situations, trade deals, food export and security.

For more information:



18.11.2019

State of Qatar

In the framework of his official visit to the State of Qatar, President Armen Sarkissian visited the Embassy of Armenia in Doha. President Sarkissian was welcomed by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the State of Qatar Gegham Gharibjanian, spiritual leader of the Armenian Diocese of Qatar, His Grace Ter Poghos Vardapet Tinkjian, representatives of the Armenian community, and students of the Armenian Mesropian school. The President congratulated all present on the opening of the Embassy and expressed special thanks to Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and the friendly people of Qatar for the assistance in establishing Embassy. Opening of the Embassy would not be possible without goodwill and enormous, including financial assistance of Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani». He noted that any significant change-taking place in the world right now creates problems for all but each difficulty is also an opportunity for the nations, which can concentrate, unite and possess a precise plan for moving forward.

For more information:



02.12.2019

United Arab Emirates

President Armen Sarkissian met in Abu Dhabi with the representatives of the Armenian community. Present at the meeting was also the Prelate of the Armenian Diocese in the UAE and Qatar His Grace Ter Bishop Mesrop Sargsyan. President Sarkissian informed briefly about the meetings he has had during the visit and reached agreements. He also spoke about the opportunities for developing the Armenia-UAE friendly relations. The President also responded to the questions from the audience.

For more information:

OFFICIAL VISITS CONDUCTED AND HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE RE-
PUBLIC OF ARMENIA (ANNEX 1)

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14-18 JANUARY 2019
Official visit of President Armen Sarkissian to the United Arab Emirates



13-14 MARCH 2019
Official visit of the President of Georgia Salome Zurbashvili to the Republic of Armenia



3-5 OCTOBER 2019
Official visit of President Armen Sarkissian to the Serbian Republic



5-6 NOVEMBER 2019
Official visit of the President of Greece Prokopis Pavlopoulos to the Republic of Armenia



17-20 NOVEMBER 2019
Official visit of President Armen Sarkissian to the State of Qatar

WORKING VISITS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOREIGN COUNTRIES (ANNEX 2)



6-10 FEBRUARY 2019

Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the French Republic



14-18 FEBRUARY 2019

Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Federal Republic of Germany



5-6 APRIL 2019

Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



7-9 APRIL 2019

Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Portuguese Republic



16 MAY 2019

Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Republic of Kazakhstan



19 JUNE 2019

Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the French Republic



24-25 JUNE 2019

Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Swiss Confederation



30 JUNE 2019

Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia the Republic of Belarus



24 JULY 2019
Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the French Republic



23-25 AUGUST 2019
Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Italian Republic



19-23 OCTOBER 2019
Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to Japan



NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 2 2019
Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the United Arabic Emirates



12-13 AUGUST 2019
Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Kingdom of Spain



5-7 OCTOBER 2019
Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the Swiss Confederation



21-23 NOVEMBER 2019
Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the United Kingdom



14-15 DECEMBER 2019
Working visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to the State of Qatar

PARTICIPATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA IN CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES (ANNEX 3)



JANUARY 15, 2019

United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi - Future Summit conference held in the framework of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week forum



FEBRUARY 8, 2019

France, Paris - Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Critical Thinking held in the framework of the 90th General Meeting of the Armenian General Benevolent Union



FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Federal Republic of Germany, Munich - Official Opening Ceremony of the Munich Security Conference



APRIL 6, 2019

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - Opening Ceremony of the Regional World Economic Forum



APRIL 7, 2019

Portugal - Annual Global Meeting of Horasis analytical centre Shaping the Future panel held in the framework of the Horasis



MAY 16, 2019

Republic of Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, 12th annual economic forum (Inspiring Growth: People, Cities, and Economies)



JUNE 19, 2019

French Republic, Le Bourget, the International Paris Air Show



JUNE 24, 2019

Swiss Confederation, STARMUS science and art international festival



JUNE 30, 2019

Republic of Belarus, Minsk, the closing ceremony of the Second European Games



SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Italian Republic, Rome, Cybertech Europe 2019 international conference “Armenia as an emerging regional hub on the issues of cybersecurity and an attractive venue for investments”



OCTOBER 6, 2019

Swiss condeferation, Geneva, Conference of the UNCTAD Panel of Eminent Persons



NOVEMBER 20, 2019

State of Qatar, Doha, 10th World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE2019)



NOVEMBER 22, 2019

United Kingdom, London, First Eastern Partnership (EaP) Investment Summit organized by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development



DECEMBER 14, 2019

State of Qatar, Doha, Doha Forum “Reimagining Governance in a Multipolar World.”