



ARMENIAN
INTERNATIONAL
POLICY
RESEARCH
GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

AIPRG CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Promoting research on Armenia:

- a. AIPRG conferences present the largest venue of economic research on Armenia. Well over 100 papers addressing various aspects of Armenia have been presented.
- b. The AJPP contains the largest body of economic research on Armenia (outside IMF/WB). Some 60 articles are published.

2. Capacity building:

- a. AIPRG provides the greatest opportunity for Armenians to conduct and present research on Armenia.
- b. Conferences encourage and inspire local researchers. Some 40 proposals were submitted to the conference in 2008.
- c. Conferences provide opportunity for young Armenian researchers to learn for senior researchers and economists.
- d. AIPRG is currently housed at a local university with the goal of expanding research ties with academia and providing for opportunities for collaborative research.

3. Citations

- a. Most cited source on research papers on Armenia (other than IMF/WB).
- b. Published articles and papers commonly used in syllabi.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Black Sea Security Program Regional Workshop

October 27-28, 2008, Yerevan, Armenia

The primary mission of the workshop was to provide a forum for regional experts to discuss critical security issues pertaining to the Black Sea region. The primary topics of discussion were Black Sea security concerns, common approaches to Black Sea and Caspian Sea Security, as well as NATO and EU approaches to the region. The event in many ways was a continuation of the AIPRG January 2008 conference on the Wider Black Sea Security (see below).

The workshop was sponsored by the US Embassy in Armenia, the Ministry of Defense of Armenia, NATO, and the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (USAID).

Looking Forward: Global Competitiveness of the Armenian Economy

AIPRG Conference, May 17-18, 2008, Washington, DC

This conference, hosted at World Bank headquarters, addressed issues related to Armenia's global competitiveness – how second-generation reforms can foster further economic growth. Participants included representatives from academia, the policy sector, and NGOs. Approximately 100 people attended in Washington, DC, and for the first time, 50 people participated via videoconference from the World Bank office in Yerevan, making for a truly interactive set of proceedings.

Seventeen papers were presented and discussed by participants covering topics including dram competitiveness; productivity; financial intermediation; impact of aid on poverty reduction and institutional capacity building; competitiveness of the tourism, IT and food processing sectors; migration and the role of the Diaspora; market reforms and institutions; and education.

The conference's main beneficiaries were:

1. Government: undertaking policy discussions which later were reflected in actions related to improving competitiveness and linking with civil society and academia;
2. Non-government sector: discussing urgent policy issues pertinent to the development of a competitive public sector;
3. World Bank and IMF: interacting with a broad audience from various sectors in one cohesive setting; and
4. Diaspora and general public: connecting to the latest policy discussions and academic insights on this important topic.

Papers presented at the conference were published on the AIPRG website. Select papers were published in the Armenian Journal of Public Policy.

The conference was sponsored by the World Bank, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Wider Black Sea: Perspectives for International and Regional Security

AIPRG Conference, January 14-15, 2008, Yerevan, Armenia

This conference was aimed at enhancing the debate on the concept of the Wider Black Sea involving international and regional academic and political circles; bringing together differing evaluations and views on the Wider Black Sea to pave a way for discussing security perspectives in the light of a possible political-military strategy; and discussing the compatibility of Armenia's Foreign policy and security strategy within the concept of the Wider Black Sea region and the NATO strategy.

The Conference hosted political and social actors, scholars and researchers from Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Turkey, Slovenia, Germany, the UK, Portugal, the US, etc. Papers presented at the conference were published on the AIPRG website.

The conference was sponsored by OSCE, NATO, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Armenian Journal of Public Policy, Vol. 3 (1)

The regular installment of the Armenian Journal of Public Policy (AJPP) was published in 2008, with the support of the Eurasia Partnership Foundation. The scholarly publication presents peer-reviewed papers for discussion of various issues related to Armenia and the Diaspora and disseminates the resulting knowledge to scholars, libraries, and institutions that work in the arenas of economics and public policy. As the first Journal of its kind, the AJPP strives to stimulate research in these areas and provide a platform for scholarly exchange and debate of ideas.

Cooperation with Armenian State University of Economics

A long-term cooperation agreement was signed with the Armenian State University of Economics by which joint research projects with the University faculty will be carried out and AIPRG fellows will regularly deliver lectures at the University. In addition, the AIPRG administrative office is now hosted at the University.

ACTIVITIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Lecture at Armenian State University of Economics

June 16, 2009, Yerevan, Armenia

Dr. Ara Khanjian, Professor of Economics at Venture College and AIPRG Executive Board Member, will deliver a lecture at the Armenian State University of Economics on causes and consequences of the global economic and financial crisis for the world economy and Armenia.

Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Armenia: Short- and Long-run Perspectives

AIPRG Conference, July 7-8, 2009, Yerevan, Armenia

The conference aims to explore the impact of the global economic crisis on Armenia, develop scenarios for coping with consequences of the crisis, and provide policy recommendations to mitigate the impact of the crisis.

The conference will address:

1. Consequences of the global financial and economic crisis for low income and emerging economies: lessons for Armenia;
2. The impact of the crisis on Armenia and potential policy responses;
3. Prospects for growth and competitiveness of Armenian economy;
4. Opening the border with Turkey: impact on growth and new regional positioning of Armenia.

AIPRG MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP

The AIPRG is a nonpartisan professional organization examining public policy issues of relevance to Armenia and its Diaspora. In this capacity, the AIPRG seeks to:

1. Promote research on developments in Armenia and the Diaspora;
2. Consolidate Armenia-related expertise by bringing together accomplished researchers and practitioners specializing in economics, political science, law, government affairs, and related fields; and
3. Provide a platform for aspiring young professionals and graduate students to develop their skills and interact with experts in their respective fields.

AIPRG Fellows come from a wide variety of public policy fields. The AIPRG member network unites about 40 mostly PhD-level researchers and practitioners specializing in economics, political science, international development, law, and governmental affairs, who are located in a number of countries around the world. New fellows join to the group regularly.

