

ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2010

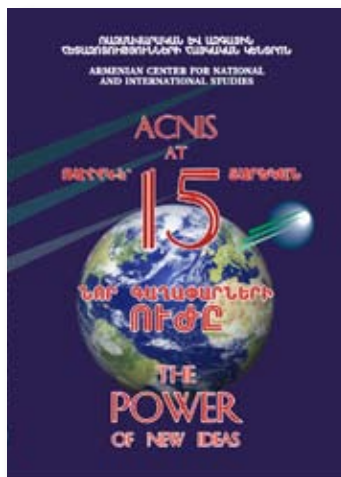
The Armenian Center for National and International Studies

ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Last month, the Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) launched the publication of a regular series of monthly newsletters. This is the second issue of our new “ACNIS Monthly Newsletter,” a publication that provides a brief summary of our work, activities and projects for the month of February 2010.

ACNIS PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

NEW ACNIS ANNUAL YEARBOOK: “ACNIS at 15: The Power of New Ideas”



On February 19, the Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) hosted a special reception to release the new ACNIS annual yearbook publication, entitled “ACNIS at 15: The Power of New Ideas.” The reception was attended by over 100 guests, including members of the Armenian parliament and government officials, representatives from international organizations and members of the diplomatic community in Armenia, including Italian Ambassador Bruno Scapini, British Ambassador Charles Lonsdale and Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, the head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

The nearly 500-page “ACNIS at 15: The Power of New Ideas” yearbook offers a unique collection of two dozen essays and articles, in Armenian, English and Russian, authored by leading Armenian and international experts. The yearbook also includes a

comprehensive summary chronology of significant events in each of the countries of the South Caucasus region since 1991 and offers the reader a set of reference maps, documents and materials.



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The “ACNIS at 15: The Power of New Ideas” yearbook is available by contacting the Center and the electronic version can be downloaded from the ACNIS website at www.acnis.am/main.



ACNIS SELECTED TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM

In cooperation with the Yerevan School of Political Studies (YPS), a Council of Europe-funded institution, ACNIS was selected to work with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on a project to develop a new curriculum for the qualification of teachers on civic education in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. →



← ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian participated in a project seminar in Tbilisi from February 15-18, and was selected as the “Armenia Expert” for the project, which is a component of a larger three-year Council of Europe program entitled “Democracy Starts with You! – Improving Political Participation of Young People from Minority and Rural Areas in the South Caucasus Region.”



ACNIS MEETS WITH VISITING EXPERTS FROM LEADING TURKISH THINK TANK



ACNIS staff, interns and volunteers met on February 10 with a delegation of visiting experts from the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), a leading Ankara-based Turkish think tank. TEPAV Director Professor Dr. Güven Sak and TEPAV staff Professor Erol Taymaz, Dr. Burcu Gültekin Punsmann and Mezenef Hatam briefed ACNIS on their project for cross-border economic development, including the restoration of the historic Armenian city of Ani.



ACNIS interns Astghik Abrahamyan, Garine Baghdasaryan, Sevak Harutiunyan, Shushanik Karapetyan, Mariam Pahlavuni, Heghine Simonyan, Lusine Vartanyan and ACNIS volunteers Anna Kalenchyan and Nina Dangourian also presented their views on Armenian-Turkish diplomacy to the Turkish visitors.

ACNIS HOLDS WORKSHOP ON POLITICAL TECHNOLOGY



ACNIS convened a special workshop for staff and interns on February 12 focusing on the use of “political technology” in Armenia. ACNIS Analyst Armine Ghazarian and ACNIS Public Affairs Specialists Lilit Saroukhanian and Ashkhen Mushghian each presented their analysis of different aspects of political technology in Armenia. ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian also assessed the use and misuse of images in political campaigns and advertising in Armenia.

ACNIS PROVIDES CLOSED BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ARMENIA

On February 26, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian provided a closed briefing on current developments in Armenia to representatives of the diplomatic community and international organizations in Armenia. Participants in the informal briefing included British Ambassador Charles Lonsdale, Estonian Ambassador Toomas Lukk, Georgian Ambassador Gregory Tabatadze, Sylvia Zehe, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative to Armenia Dirk Boberg, representatives from the American, British, Egyptian and Italian embassies, and officials from the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the EU Advisory Group to Armenia.



SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN ARMENIA



As part of the Center's commitment to the advancement of education in Armenia, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian opened the first lesson of a semester graduate-level course on US foreign policy at Brusov University on February 27.

"ACNIS Almanac of Armenian Politics: 2010"



ACNIS staff are actively engaged in preparatory research for a new, first-ever annual publication entitled "*ACNIS Almanac of Armenian Politics: 2010*." This new publication will serve as an important resource by presenting a unique compilation of information, data and analysis focusing on many aspects of Armenian politics.

FORTHCOMING ACNIS PUBLICATIONS

A LOOK AT ARMENIA'S "LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH & INFAMOUS"



In support of a new World Bank review of socio-economic inequality in Armenia, ACNIS is preparing an innovative analysis of the widening disparities of wealth and income, with an added focus on corruption and the inefficient and arbitrary nature of tax collection. One section of the report, entitled "*Dollars &*

Sense," will focus on the role of remittances in the economy and for supporting family budgets.

The report will also include a section on Armenia's "*Lifestyles of the Rich & Infamous*" that will study the nature of oligarchic business enterprises and examine the barriers to economic activity posed by the country's "commodity-based cartels" and other related monopolies.

"ACNIS Security and Military Studies"



ACNIS is preparing for the launch of a new series of analytical reports entitled "*ACNIS Security and Military Studies*," which will offer a compilation of articles and essays focusing on critical issues of Armenian national security and military reform.

This unique series of peer-reviewed reports, which will include trilingual Armenian-English-Russian contributions from Armenian and international experts, seeks to become a forum for the analysis and debate of national, regional and international security affairs, military strategy, the art and science of warfare, and other topics of significance to the formulation of national security and defense policy in Armenia.

MEDIA OUTREACH



ACNIS DIRECTOR PROVIDES UPDATE ON TURKISH-ARMENIAN DIPLOMACY: “NO LAUGHING MATTER”



On February 4, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian spoke at a press conference at the “Hayatsk” press club and provided a critical assessment of the current state of Turkish-Armenian diplomacy, arguing that in light of Turkey’s “latest display of political posturing and dubious attempt to pressure Armenia, the state

of Armenian-Turkish diplomacy is no laughing matter.” (For the full statement, go to the ACNIS website at: www.acnis.am)

TODAY'S ZAMAN

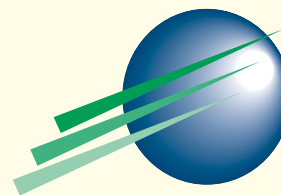
On February 6, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian was interviewed by Servet Yanatma, the diplomatic correspondent for the Turkish daily newspaper “Zaman.” Giragosian was quoted as warning that “if efforts by Ankara and Yerevan to restore relations fail due to Turkey’s uneasiness over a recent ruling by an Armenian court that Ankara says threatens agreements between the two, it will be Turkey that will lose credibility.”

ACNIS PRESS CONFERENCE MARKING RELEASE OF YEARBOOK



On February 24, the “DeFacto” Press Club hosted a press conference for ACNIS devoted to the release of the Center’s new annual yearbook, “*ACNIS at 15: The Power of New Ideas*.” ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian, Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian and Analyst Armine Ghazarian presented an overview of the new yearbook and noted that the publication was only the latest example of the Center’s innovative analysis. The ACNIS staff also stressed that after fifteen years of consistent analysis and research, the Center remains committed to its mission of raising public awareness and elevating the national debate of critical strategic challenges facing Armenia.

MORE ABOUT US



The Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) is a leading independent strategic research center located in Yerevan, Armenia. As an independent, objective institution committed to conducting professional policy research and analysis, ACNIS strives to raise the level of public debate and seeks to broaden public engagement in the public policy process, as well as fostering greater and more inclusive public knowledge. Founded in 1994, ACNIS is the institutional initiative of Raffi K. Hovannisian, Armenia’s first Minister of Foreign Affairs. Over the past fifteen years, ACNIS has acquired a prominent reputation as a primary source of professional independent research and analysis covering a wide range of policy issues.

For more information on ACNIS, our work and activities, please contact us at: root@acnis.am or visit our website at: www.acnis.am.