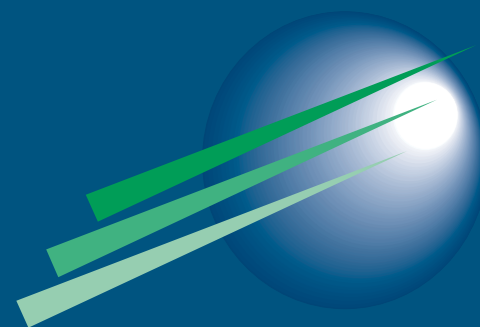


ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 3

March 2010



The Armenian Center for National and International Studies

THE ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

● ACNIS PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

ACNIS FOUNDER ADDRESSES SECOND ANNUAL “POLICY FORUM ARMENIA” EVENT ON ARMENIA- DIASPORA RELATIONS



ACNIS Founder Raffi K. Hovannisian served as the keynote speaker for the second annual “Policy Forum Armenia”

seminar on Armenia-Diaspora relations held in Washington, DC from February 28-March 2, 2010.

In his keynote address to the forum, entitled, “Armenia-Diaspora Relations: 20 Years since Independence,” Hovannisian hailed “a new generation of policy analysis, of a critical approach to Armenia-Diaspora relations,” but stressed the need to create “a unified or coordinated vision, or a blueprint for the future.”

As Armenia’s first foreign minister, Hovannisian reminded the participants that the daunting challenges facing Armenia today, including a lack of democracy, a weak or absent rule of law and uneven economic development, were all factors that

urgently demand a new sense of unity, commitment and engagement between Armenia and the Diaspora, reflecting a shared strategic vision.



ACNIS DIRECTOR PROVIDES BRIEFING IN LONDON FOR THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE.....



On March 2, Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) Director Richard Giragosian provided a briefing on regional developments at the invitation of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). Held in a main Foreign Office meeting room, the briefing was attended by two dozen officials from the British Foreign Office, the UK Ministry of Defense and several leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in activities in the Caucasus. While Giragosian addressed several broader →

← trends and topics related to regional security and stability, domestic political issues in Armenia, including serious shortcomings in democratization and political reform, were addressed separately in a presentation by Gevorg Ter-Gabrielian, the head of the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) office in Armenia.

.....AND SPEAKS AT A CHATHAM HOUSE SEMINAR ON ARMENIAN-TURKISH DIPLOMACY



CHATHAM HOUSE

The ACNIS Director also participated in a special closed seminar on Armenian-Turkish diplomacy on March 3 at Chatham House, home of London's Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), a prominent institute known for "the debate and analysis of international issues."

ACNIS PARTICIPATES IN NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY SEMINAR

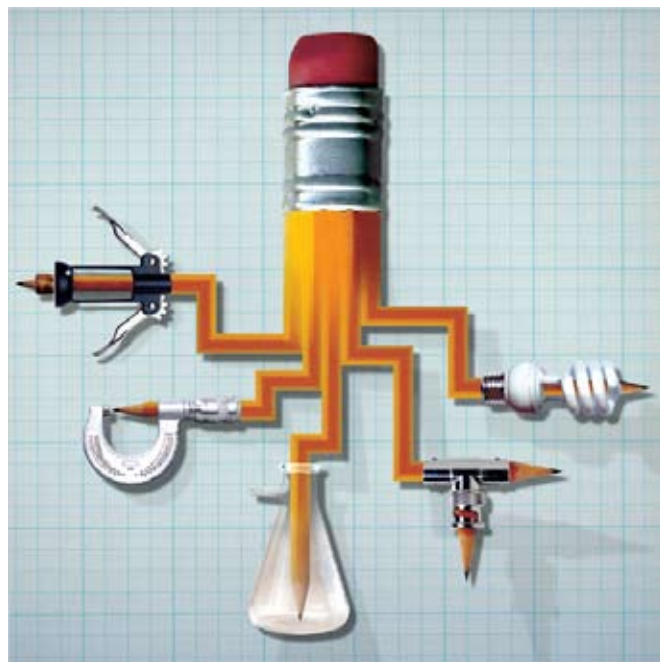


NATO Parliamentary Assembly
FORMERLY NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

ACNIS was invited by the Armenian National Assembly to participate in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 73rd Rose-Roth Seminar, held in Yerevan from March 11-13, 2010. ACNIS representatives joined some 41 parliamentarians from 16 NATO and partner countries at the three-day seminar, entitled "Regional Developments in the South Caucasus: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects." ACNIS was one of 72 official representatives from global research institutes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations attending the NATO event.

The seminar focused on Armenia's relations with NATO and the EU, but also addressed regional security issues such as energy security, conflict resolution and instability in the Northern Caucasus. The NATO seminar was the second time that Yerevan hosted a Rose Roth seminar, following an earlier event in Armenia in 2005.

ACNIS PARTICIPATES IN SEMINAR ON EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM



In cooperation with the Yerevan School of Political Studies (YPS), a Council of Europe-funded institution, ACNIS participated in a workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia from March 22-26, organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The workshop was part of a broader, three-year project to develop a new



**Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung**

curriculum for the intensive qualification of teachers on civic education in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, entitled "Democracy Starts with You! – Improving Political Participation of Young People from Minority and Rural Areas in the South Caucasus Region."

ACNIS PROVIDES CLOSED BRIEFING ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



On March 30, 2010 ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian provided a closed briefing on current developments in Armenia and the broader region to representatives of the diplomatic community and international organizations in Armenia. As the second in a new series of monthly briefings, ACNIS provided international organizations and the diplomatic community in Armenia with an →

← independent source of analysis and information on political, economic and security-related issues in Armenia, but with an added analysis of regional issues and trends.

Participants in the informal briefing included Georgian Ambassador Gregory Tabatadze, Indian Ambassador Achal Kumar Malhotra, Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, the head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, UN Resident Coordinator Dafina Gercheva, and representatives from the Italian, Romanian and U.S. embassies, as well as from the EU Delegation in Armenia and the EU Advisory Group to Armenia, among others.

● FORTHCOMING ACNIS PUBLICATIONS

ASSESSING DISPARITIES IN WEALTH AND INCOME IN ARMENIA.....



In support of a new World Bank review of socioeconomic 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.

.....AND ARMENIA’S “LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH & INFAMOUS”

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 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.

“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



CENTER'S CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF AZERBAIJAN'S ARMED FORCES PUBLISHED BY RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY (RFE/RL)



Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) published a crucial assessment of the Azerbaijani armed forces on March 15, 2010. The assessment, co-authored by noted RFE/RL Caucasus expert Liz Fuller and ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian, focused on conditions within the Azerbaijani defense sector in the wake of renewed threats of war in recent months by senior Azerbaijani officials.

CAUCASUSREPORT

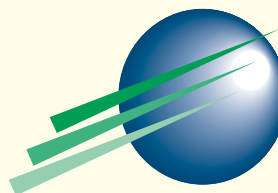
The assessment, which was published in the RFE/RL "Caucasus Report," noted the "profound disparity between such militant rhetoric and the military reality" in Azerbaijan. The authors also discussed the role of Azerbaijan's long-serving defense minister as a key figure in state corruption within Azerbaijan. Both the original English and the Armenian-language translation of the article are available at the ACNIS website (www.acnis.am/main).

NOVOSTI-ARMENIA NEWS AGENCY INTERVIEWS ACNIS STAFF



The prominent Novosti-Armenia News Agency published two interviews with ACNIS staff on March 10, 2010. The first interview was with ACNIS Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsyan and the second with Director Richard Giragosian. In both interviews, the ACNIS staff reviewed the latest developments in the "stalled" or "deadlocked" process of Armenian-Turkish diplomacy, and also assessed the current round of international mediation of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict by the OSCE. Each of the Russian-language interviews are available on the ACNIS website (www.acnis.am/main).

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 critical 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.