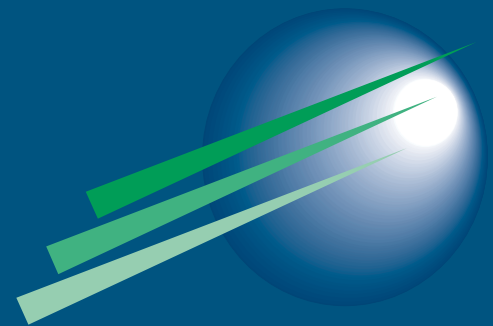


ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 5

May 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 fifth issue of our new “ACNIS Monthly Newsletter,” providing a brief summary of our work, activities and news for May 2010.

ACNIS PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

CENTER PARTICIPATES IN BRUSOV UNIVERSITY “JOB FAIR”



ACNIS staff Marina Abrahamian, Ashkhen Mushghian and Richard Giragosian represented the Center at a “job fair” organized on May 15 by Brusov University. Center staff manned a display table and distributed samples of some of the Center’s most prominent reports and publications. Stemming from a broader commitment to strengthening education in Armenia, the Center works closely with the faculty and administration of both the Yerevan State and Brusov Universities and regularly provides lectures, workshops and trainings for university students.

ACNIS PROVIDES BRIEFING TO VISITING OXFAM OFFICIALS



On May 19, the Center hosted a group of visiting senior officials from the London headquarters of the non-governmental organization OXFAM International. ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian provided a briefing on

the latest economic and political developments in Armenia and the broader region. Since 2009, the Center has provided assistance to OXFAM in its strategic planning and programs in Armenia.

CENTER DIRECTOR ADDRESSES REGIONAL CONFERENCE



On May 21-22, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian participated in a two-day conference in Yerevan sponsored by the Caucasus Institute. The conference, entitled “Main Trends in the Caucasus: 2009,” was attended by leading experts from Georgia, Russia, and Turkey. Giragosian presented a report on political and economic developments in Armenia in 2009.

ACNIS HOLDS SPECIAL WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS AND YOUTH ACTIVISTS



On May 24, the Center held a two-part special workshop for students and youth activists. The first part focused on the use of “political technology” in Armenian political campaigns, including the crafting of political messages, slogans and imagery.

The second part of the special workshop consisted of a presentation on leveraging social →

← networking technology for civic and political activism. Several dozen students and youth activists participated in the event, which was the latest in a series of special ACNIS workshops providing training in a wide range of areas, including research, analysis and writing, as well as oral presentation and debating skills.



ACNIS PRESENTS SPECIAL ANALYSIS OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SEVERAL KEY COUNTRIES



The Center organized a special presentation on May 26 assessing recent developments in several key countries, with a focus on the implications for Armenia. ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian presented an analysis addressing the recent political unrest in Thailand, the economic crisis in Greece, lingering instability in Kyrgyzstan, and the continuing political crisis in Iran.

CENTER STAFF PARTICIPATE IN RUSSIAN SEMINAR



ACNIS Administrative Director Karapet Kalenchian and Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian represented the Center at a seminar in Yerevan on May 25 entitled “The Situation in the Caucasus and Perspective of Regional Security.” Sargsian presented a formal report on Nagorno Karabagh at the event, which was organized by the Moscow-based “Institute of CIS Countries.”



The presentation was attended by over twenty guests, including Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, the head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, and other representatives from the diplomatic community, international organizations and a number of students, analysts and journalists.



CENTER PROVIDES CLOSED BRIEFING ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



In the fourth in a regular series of monthly briefings, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian provided a closed briefing on May 27 focusing on current developments in Armenia and the

region. The Center's monthly briefings provide international organizations and the diplomatic community in Armenia with an independent source of analysis and information on political, economic and security-related issues, with an added analysis of regional issues and trends.

Participants included Lithuanian Ambassador Giedrius Apuokas, Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, the Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Sylvia Zehe, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and representatives from the Italian, Polish, Romanian and U.S. embassies, as well as from the United Nations, the EU Advisory Group to Armenia, the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian Ministry of Justice.

ACNIS HOLDS SPECIAL PREPARATORY BRIEFING FOR YOUTH ACTIVISTS



In preparation for a meeting between youth activists from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Karabagh organized by the Council of Europe, the Center held a special preparatory briefing for the participants from Armenia and Karabagh on May 28. ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian briefed the participants on key issues related to the Karabagh conflict and provided practical training on debating and oral presentation skills.

ACNIS DIRECTOR GIVES KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO GRADUATES OF ARMENIA'S "LEADERSHIP SCHOOL"



On May 29, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian was the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony for the 2010 class of the Armenian "Leadership School." The Center has been actively assisting the Leadership School, providing a series of lectures and presentations.



● ACNIS MEDIA OUTREACH



RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY INTERVIEWS ACNIS SENIOR ANALYST HOVSEP KHURSHUDIAN

Кавказский Узел

On May 18, ACNIS Senior Analyst Hovsep Khurshudian was interviewed by the Russian-language "Kavkazskiy Uzel" electronic news agency. His interview is available at: <http://armenia.kavkaz-uzel.ru:80/articles/168970/>



ACNIS CITED BY NEW YORK TIMES & INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

The New York Times International Herald Tribune

ACNIS was cited in an article entitled, "Turkey Takes an Ambitious New Path," which was published on May 26 by both the *New York Times* and the *International Herald Tribune* daily newspapers. It was the second time that the Center has been cited by the two leading newspapers.

UPCOMING CENTER EVENTS

ACNIS ROUNDTABLE ON REGIONAL MILITARY SECURITY ISSUES



The Center is planning to convene a roundtable discussion on June 16 to address recent developments in regional military security, with an assessment of the balance of power, defense and security sector reform and civil-military relations in Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

FORTHCOMING ACNIS PUBLICATIONS

"ACNIS ALMANAC OF ARMENIAN POLITICS: 2010"

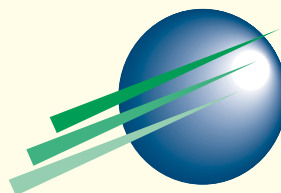
Center staff Marina Abrahamian, Ashken Mushghian and Lilit Saroukhanian are working on research in preparation for the launch of a new, first-ever annual publication entitled "*ACNIS Almanac of Armenian Politics: 2010*." This new publication will serve as an important resource by presenting a unique compilation of information, data and analysis focusing on many aspects of Armenian politics.

RECENT ARTICLES & REPORTS

On May 25, the Center published two new Russian-language articles. The first was written by ACNIS Senior Manvel Sargisian and entitled, "International law can not be a political mechanism for settling accounts." The second analysis, entitled "The leading powers' geopolitical role in the building of the new world," was authored by ACNIS Administrative Director Karapet Kalenchian. Both reports are available for download from the Center website, at: 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.