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HANDBOOK for

ARMENIANS ABROAD



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

RA Ministry of Diaspora

HANDBOOK

FOR ARMENIANS ABROAD

YEREVAN

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Handbook for Armenians Abroad

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The Handbook has been drafted by Georgi Kutoyan, Member of the Armenian Bar Association, with contributions from Nilim Baruah, Krishna Kumar and Anush Aghabalyan. Lusine Galajyan from the RA Ministry of Diaspora provided comments and editorial support.

The content of the Handbook is based on Armenian legislation in force as of January 1, 2010 and on information provided by contributors. The views expressed in the Handbook do not necessarily represent those of the ILO, EU or DfID.

While all efforts have been taken by the author to provide up-to-date and accurate information, in case of any inconsistency between information in the Handbook and corresponding legal acts and official documents, it is the latter which prevails.

FOREWORD

The internal and external challenges facing the state of Armenia, and Armenians all over the world in 21st century necessitates greater attention to Armenia-Diaspora cooperation and its development potential.

The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia aims to develop and strengthen Armenia-Diaspora relations, support resolution of problems related to the preservation of the Armenian identity, elaborate projects to encourage the repatriation of Armenians from all over the world, and take steps to inspire and deepen the sense of the Armenian national identity among Armenians of different language and religious backgrounds. This handbook serves as an important source towards the implementation of those goals and can be used as a guide-book both by the citizens of the Republic of Armenia living abroad and by all people of Armenian origin.

This handbook has attempted to select and analyze projects and sections of Armenian legislation, which contain useful information on the Republic of Armenia itself, and on Armenia-Diaspora cooperation. It also analyses projects concerned with the return and reintegration of Armenians, as well as on the legal status of foreign citizens of the Armenian origin living in the Republic of Armenia and the status of Armenian citizens permanently residing abroad.

The handbook outlines the issues related to entering and exiting the Republic of Armenia, living and residing in the Republic of Armenia, acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, and (for its citizens) issues related to serving in the military. The handbook also provides information on educational, cultural, labour, property and social rights, and gives answers to various questions on working opportunities and on making investments in the Republic of Armenia.

I hope that this handbook, being the first initiative of its kind, will serve its purpose and help both citizens of Armenia living abroad and foreign citizens of the Armenian origin to be better informed and find answers to frequently asked questions, and if necessary to apply to state and local government and receive answers to their questions.

Dear reader, it is worth mentioning that in case of difficulties, or unsolved problems; or if you need advice, information or help, the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia and any member of its staff welcomes you and will be glad to lend its support.

Hranoush Hakobyan
Minister of the Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ARMENIA	2
2. ARMENIA-DIASPORA PARTNERSHIP	5
3. RETURN, VISITING AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR PEOPLE OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN.....	8
4. LEGAL STATUS OF NON-RESIDENT ARMENIAN CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN IN ARMENIA.....	13
4. A. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PERMANENTLY RESIDING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.....	14
4. B. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING FOREIGNERS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.....	15
4. C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....	16
5. ACQUIRING THE CITIZENSHIP OF ARMENIA	18
5. A. RECOGNITION OF CITIZENSHIP IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.....	19
5. B. CONDITIONS FOR ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA BY INDIVIDUALS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN.....	19
5. C. DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA	21
5. D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....	22
6. MILITARY SERVICE IN ARMENIA	24
6. A. REGULATION OF THE LIABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA	25
6. B. CONDITIONS FOR EXEMPTING CITIZENS THAT HAVE ESCAPED MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE BY VIOLATING THE PRESCRIBED ORDER	28
6. C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....	31
7. ENTERING, STAYING/RESIDING IN, AND EXITING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA	32
7. A. ORDER OF ENTERING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.....	33
7. B. STAYING AND RESIDING IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.....	35
7. C. EXITING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.....	37
7. D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....	37
8. ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN ARMENIA.....	38
8. A. PUBLIC EDUCATION.....	39

8. B. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	40
8. C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	43
9. EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS IN ARMENIA	46
9. A. EMPLOYMENT	47
9. B. LABOUR CONTRACTS	47
9. C. INTERGOVERNMENTAL TREATIES ON REGULATING LABOUR MIGRATION	48
10. ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY IN ARMENIA	49
10. A. ACCESS TO RETIREMENT INSURANCE AND PENSION BENEFITS	50
10. B. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	51
11. PROPERTY RIGHTS OF NON-CITIZENS IN ARMENIA	53
11. A. PROPERTY RIGHTS	54
11. B. ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY AUTHORISED BODIES OF FOREIGN STATES	54
11. C. CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR INDIVIDUALS ARRIVING IN ARMENIA TO TAKE UP PERMANENT RESIDENCE	54
12. FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ARMENIA	56
12. A. REGULATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ARMENIA	57
12. B. ESTABLISHMENT OF ENTERPRISES WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS	57
12. C. USEFUL INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL INVESTORS	60
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	62
APPENDIX 1: Official Holidays and Commemoration days	64
APPENDIX 2: Diplomatic missions and Consular institutions of the Republic of Armenia	65
APPENDIX 3: Questionnaire for acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia	73
APPENDIX 4: Order to check the knowledge of the Armenian language and the Constitution of the RA of individuals applying for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia	75
APPENDIX 5: Order on informing the Government of the Republic of Armenia about receiving citizenship of another state by a citizen of the Republic of Armenia	79
APPENDIX 6: Republic of Armenia Visa Fees	80
APPENDIX 7: Application-questionnaire for receiving residence permit / extension of residence permit in the Republic of Armenia	81
APPENDIX 8: Fees for residence permits	82

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Handbook is to provide knowledge and information to Armenians living abroad that will enable them to participate and contribute to development of their homeland, as well as facilitate interaction with their country of origin. Armenians abroad can be broadly classified into two categories: Armenian nationals working abroad, i.e. migrant workers and their family members, and the Diaspora, i.e. foreign nationals of Armenian origin.

In spite of the fact that emigration from Armenia has sharply fallen since its peak of 1992-1994, it still remains high. According to the Study 'Returned Migration to Armenia in 2002-2008', conducted by Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Advanced Social Technologies (Armenia), the number of emigrants from Armenia in the 2002-2007 period is estimated at 230,000, compared to 760,000 between 1991 and 1998. 90% of all migrants are labour migrants or Armenian citizens working abroad and the majority of labour migrants are working in Russia.

The Armenian Diaspora is estimated at about 10 million. The Armenian Diaspora and Diaspora organizations are considered to be important players in the development of the country and the presence of a large Diaspora influences migration from Armenia. Both the Armenian Diaspora and the Armenian state authorities acknowledge that exchanges between the Diaspora and Armenians living in Armenia can be a powerful tool for social transformation and that they can positively contribute to Armenia's development. When compared with other countries in the region or even globally, policies and mechanisms to mobilize the Diaspora support for development in Armenia, is relatively advanced. This is primarily as a result of the motivation and efforts of the Diaspora itself. However, the establishment of the new Ministry for Diaspora Affairs should lead to better coordination of the Diaspora initiatives.

In 2008 Armenia reformed the structure of government and added a new Ministry for Diaspora Affairs (MDA). The new Ministry has been operational since the 1st of October 2008. Its importance in the context of actively engaging with the Diaspora cannot be overemphasized.

Every Diaspora is a repository of various resources – of skills, know-how, finances, contacts, ideas, etc. In the course of the interaction between the home country and its Diaspora, such resources get utilized, haltingly and to begin with but with greater mutual confidence later as the interaction deepens and its quality improves. As Armenia further reaches out to its Diaspora, it was thought useful to develop a handbook for Armenians abroad that they can use as an easy reference tool for all vital matters in their dealings with the homeland.

PART 1

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ARMENIA

Official name:	The Republic of Armenia (RA)
Capital:	Yerevan
Population:	3.2 million
Armenians in foreign countries:	10 million (approx.)
Territory:	29,800 square kilometres
Administrative territorial division:	10 marzes (provinces) and the city of Yerevan
Declaration of Independence:	21.09.1991
Religion:	Christianity
Language:	Armenian

THE FLAG OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



The flag of the Republic of Armenia is tricolour with red, blue and orange in even horizontal strips. The red symbolizes the struggle of Armenian people for the Christian faith, and for independence and liberty. The blue symbolizes the will of Armenian people to live under a blue, peaceful sky. The orange symbolizes the creative talent and diligence of Armenian people. The proportion of sizes of the flag is 1:2, width to length.

THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



The coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia consists of a shield with Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat in the centre, surrounded by the coat of arms of historical Armenia's four kingdoms: the top left is the coat of arms of the Bagratunis; the top right the coat of arms of the Arshakunis; the bottom left the coat of arms of the Artashisyans; and the bottom right the coat of arms of the Rubinyans. The shield is supported by an eagle (from the left) and a lion (from the right), and beneath the shield there is a sword, a branch of a tree, a heap of wheat ears, a chain and a ribbon. The colours of the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia carry the same symbolic meaning as the colours of the flag.

THE STATE STRUCTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The Republic of Armenia is a sovereign, democratic state. The state power is exercised in accordance with the Constitution and respective laws on the basis of a balanced separation of the legislative, executive and judicial powers. The current Constitution was adopted on July 5, 1995 following a national referendum. Amendments to the Constitution were adopted on November 27, 2005 following another such referendum.

The head of the state is the President of the Republic, elected by the citizens of the Republic of Armenia for a term of five (5) years. Executive power is exercised by the Government, consisting of the Prime Minister and Ministers. The highest legislative body is the single-chamber parliamentary National Assembly. It is elected by the citizens of the Republic of Armenia for a term of five (5) years. The National Assembly consists of one hundred and thirty one Deputies. Justice in the Republic of Armenia is administered by the courts in accordance with the Constitution and laws.

THE ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

There has been steady economic growth in the Republic of Armenia since 1998. GDP growth of 6.8% was recorded in 2008. Economic growth is stimulated mostly by internal consumption, services and construction and is bolstered by remittances from abroad. This flow of currency from remittances is directed primarily towards current consumption. Remittances to Armenia in 2009 amounted 1, 47 billion USD which equals 16.9 % of GDP¹. Armenia has a number of advantages for foreign investment including an educated and low cost labour force, skilled human resources and a liberalised financial sector and economy. The annual rate of inflation for 2008 was 5.2 percent.

SOME FIGURES AND DATA ABOUT ARMENIA

Currency denomination	Armenian Dram ² (AMD)
GDP (2008)	11.8 billion USD
GDP per capita (2008)	3,689 USD
Key fields of activity in GDP (2008)	Industry: 13%; Agriculture: 15.7%; Services: 34.3%; Construction: 27.1%.
External trade (2008)	5,480.8 million USD (23.5% increase over 2006)
Export	1,069.1 million USD (7.2% decrease)
Import	4,411.7 million USD (35.3% increase)
Main trade partners	Export countries: Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Israel, Switzerland, USA; Import countries: Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Germany, Belgium.
Inflation (2008)	5.2%
Average monthly nominal wage	298 USD (91,331.00 AMD)
Unemployment rate (2008)	6.3%
Life expectancy	73.5 (men 70.2 years – women 76.6 years)
Literacy	98.6%
Source: www.armstat.am	

Sources:

Statistical Reference Book of Armenia, 2009

www.president.am

www.academy.am

www.gov.am

¹ Central Bank of RA and. RA National Statistical Service. Remittances are private transfers and Include inflow of compensation of employees, other (private) current transfers and other (private) capital transfers

² Average exchange rate in January - November 2009: 1USD = 361.7AMD; 1EUR = 450AMD

PART 2

ARMENIA-DIASPORA PARTNERSHIP

The term 'Armenian Diaspora' today refers to Armenian communities that have settled outside the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh (NK). The Armenian population living united outside Armenia in different countries since 1920s has been called "Haykakan Spyurk" (the Armenian Diaspora). More than ten million Armenians reside in different countries of the world, while just over three million live in Armenia and NK. The largest Armenian communities are in Russia (2 million) and the United States (1.5 million). Significantly large Armenian communities live in France, Georgia, Iran, Ukraine, Poland, Lebanon, Turkey, Syria, Argentina and Canada. There are smaller Armenian communities in India, New Zealand, Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Japan and Philippines.

The ultimate priority of the Armenian Diaspora has been, and still is, the preservation of their Armenian identity in conditions of political, economic, and cultural influences of other states. The Armenian Apostolic Holy Church, together with its Diocesan Churches has historically played a very important role in supporting the Armenians in the Diaspora in preserving their national identity and in forging a sense of community. No less has been the role played by such pan-Armenian institutions and parties such as the Armenian Revolutionary Alliance ("Dashnaktsutyun"), the "Ramkavar Azatakan" (Liberal) Party, the Social Democratic "Hunchakyan" Party (SDHP), the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), and a host of other unions, all-Armenian associations and organizations.

The internal and external challenges that stand before the Republic of Armenia and Armenians in the 21st century demand an enhancement of the Armenia-Diaspora partnership with a new quality, form and content. It demands differentiated approaches and solutions directed towards satisfying the needs of different segments of the Armenian population: of each community, and region through mobilising people at grassroots to participate.

Since the declaration of independence in 1991 the Armenia-Diaspora relations have advanced to a new level. The collaboration has evolved in different directions: official diplomacy, the Armenian churches, all-Armenian organizations, individuals and individual organizations in Diaspora. Armenian churches were built and reconstructed in different Armenian communities and a new Diocese was established. The creation of the "Hayastan" ("Armenia") Pan-Armenian Foundation was the first step in coordinating the collaboration between Armenia and the Diaspora. The "Armenia-Diaspora" conferences provided opportunities to discuss the achievements of the Armenia-Diaspora collaboration, to evaluate new challenges and to identify new possibilities for the Armenian people. Numerous programmes and events were organized and accomplished in the spheres of education, science, business and youth affairs.

Since the declaration of independence, the involvement of Diaspora in the economic life of Armenia has increased in parallel with the growth of foreign investments in Armenia. Within the period of 1991-2007 the volume of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Armenia has been \$3.5 billion US, of which more than \$ 2.9 billion US was invested in 2000-2007. In 2007 the inflow of foreign investments amounted to \$845.4 million US (a growth of 34.6% as compared with 2006). The gross ratio of the FDI to the GDP was 27.2% as of January 1, 2008. Three thousand six hundred and ninety eight (3,698) enterprises were established in Armenia with the participation of foreign capital as of January 1, 2008, and almost 70% of foreign investors that have started business activities in Armenia are of Armenian origin, or people of other nationalities that have business relations with them. The share of Armenians from the Diaspora in total investments is around 30%. Three countries top the list in terms of foreign direct investments in Armenia: Russia, the USA and Iran. Next in the line are France, Syria and Lebanon.

The investment activities of the Armenian Diaspora have hugely supported the development of Armenian economy in the spheres of construction, financial services, information technologies, jewellery and diamond cutting, tourism and hotels, health care services, processing of agricultural produce and food production, light industry, retail and wholesale trade, recreation and entertainment, industrial manufacturing, machine-tool building, passenger transportation, publishing and printing services, legal and consulting services, as well as the small and medium size enterprises.

The Ministry of Diaspora has been part of the Government of the RA since October 1, 2008 with the purpose of overseeing the comprehensive and effective implementation of state policy on developing the Armenia-Diaspora partnership, sustaining its continuous improvement, and coordinating with the activities of other state bodies

The Ministry of Diaspora develops and implements the policy of the Government in the sphere of strengthening links between Armenia and its Diaspora, extending the scope of these links, exploiting the potential of the Diaspora, supporting repatriation, cooperating with the state and non-governmental

organizations, and accomplishing activities in other spheres that are within its mandate as prescribed by law. The Ministry also cooperates with diplomatic agencies in promoting Armenia-Diaspora relations.

The purpose of the Armenia-Diaspora partnership is to protect the fundamental rights and liberties, including rights relating to language, culture, religion, education, the free movement of any Armenian (whether an Armenian citizen or from the Diaspora) within the framework of international law, to preserve the national identity of Armenians and to reinforce links between the Homeland and the Diaspora.

The main tasks of the Armenia-Diaspora partnership are:

- a) Sustaining and inculcating Armenian national identity;
- b) Supporting and utilising potential among professionals in the Diaspora in the processes of developing both Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora;
- c) Supporting the integration of Armenians in the public, political, cultural and economic lives of the places of their residence or citizenship, consistent with their Armenian identity;
- d) Supporting the recreation and inculcation of Armenian national identity among Armenians speaking other languages and belonging to other confessions, thus supporting their "repatriation".
- e) Developing regional strategic programmes taking into account each regions own individual needs;
- f) Supporting the formation and development of an all-Armenian media and information network;
- g) Developing programmes that encourage national reunification and repatriation, and supporting the reinforcement of Armenian statehood.
- h) Supporting the consolidation of Armenian communities;
- i) Supporting the development of Armenian educational establishments;
- j) Supporting the Armenian research centres and departments in different universities around the world and developing independent programmes of Armenian studies.

For more detailed information see the 'Concept of Development of Armenia Diaspora Cooperation' developed by the Government of the RA and the Ministry of Diaspora of the RA at <http://www.mindiaspora.am/>.

The principles underpinning the Armenia-Diaspora partnership development are formulated in the political programme of the President of the Republic of Armenia (the programme of the President of the RA Serzh Sargsyan: <http://www.president.am/library/program/arm>). The main thrust is that the united potential of all Armenians is regarded as the competitive advantage for the Republic of Armenia in globalizing world.

PART 3

RETURN, VISITING AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR
PEOPLE OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN

PROGRAMME “COME HOME!”

The 2009 programme of the Ministry of Diaspora for organizing periodic visits of expatriate Armenian youth to Armenia, entitled “Come Home!” was approved by the Government on May 14, 2009, (Decision No. 575-N). An inter-agency steering committee and inter-agency working group for coordinating the implementation of the programme were created by the Prime Minister.

The main goals of the programme are:

- to introduce Armenia to expatriate Armenian youth as their ethnic Homeland;
- to support the formation of ‘a sense of homeland’ among expatriate Armenian youth;
- to inculcate the national value system, an awareness of national identity, and to familiarise the expatriate youth with traditions of Armenian people, with the ties and relations of Armenian family, and the spiritual tradition of Armenia;
- to support a moral, psychological, and educational cultural discourse between Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora.

In the course of six (6) months (May-October, 2009) groups of young people of aged 14 to 25, from different parts of the Armenian Diaspora were hosted by Armenian families for 2 weeks.

The selection of the teen-agers and young people was made by Diplomatic representations of the RA, Consular institutions, the Ministry of Diaspora of the RA, as well as by collaborating organizations and different Armenian community structures.

The young people either cover their own travelling costs, or they are covered by community organizations or other sponsors.

The programme encourages active interaction between expatriate young Armenians with their peers from Armenia. They visit Armenia's historic cultural monuments, familiarize themselves with Armenian history, go on sight-seeing tours through Armenia, and attend concerts, exhibitions, festivals.

Days are also spent in rural the communities and provinces (marzes) of Armenia under the Programme, in the course of which the local municipalities host festivals, concerts, receptions, and a number of other national traditional events.

Along with the other events of the Programme some educational courses are organized to familiarize the expatriate youth with the Homeland, including interactive intensive courses of Armenian language and literature, the history of Armenian people and the Armenian Church, as well as singing, dancing and art groups. The programme also provides for meetings with Armenian state officials.

In 2009 the programme included Yerevan city and the adjacent provinces (marzes) of Kotayk, Ararat, Armavir and Aragatsotn. Around 500 teenagers and young people from Armenian Diaspora have visited Armenia.

The programme is growing and will gradually include all provinces (marzes) of Armenia.

**In order to participate in the programme,
to get the application form
and other information contact:
The RA Ministry of Diaspora
Address: 26/1, V. Sargsyan Street, Yerevan, RA
Tel: (+37410) 585601/117/
Fax: (+37410) 589157
E-mail: allarmenian@mindiaspora.am
Web address: <http://www.armeniadiaspora.com/>**

PROGRAMMES ACCOMPLISHED BY "THE ARMENIAN VOLUNTEERS CORPS"

The 'Armenian Volunteers Corps' (AVC) was created in 2000.

The main purpose of this organization is to use the potential of Armenians in Diaspora for the development of Armenia.

The programmes of the organization create opportunities for Armenians from the Diaspora to live and work in Armenia for terms of as short as one (1) month to as long as one (1) year.

Armenians from Diaspora who are willing to volunteer can apply to AVC. There are no age restrictions.

The volunteers work in nongovernmental organizations, ministries and other institutions that are in need of volunteer work.

Different events, and educational courses including lessons in the Armenian language, sightseeing tours, etc., are organized for the volunteers.

The volunteers are hosted by local Armenian families, where they receive accommodation and food for a small fee.

**In order to participate in the programme,
to get the application form
and other information contact:**

The Union of Armenian Volunteers

Address: 108, build. 62, Hanrapetutyan Street, Yerevan, RA

Tel: (+34710) 540037

E-mail: info@avc.am

Web address: <http://www.armenianvolunteer.org/>

PROGRAMMES ACCOMPLISHED BY THE ORGANIZATION "TOWARDS ARMENIA" / "DEPI HAYK"

The benevolent foundation "Depi Hayk" was created in 2004. The main mission of the organization is:

- to acquaint the youth from Diaspora with Armenia;
- to strengthen the ties between Armenian youth of Diaspora and Armenians living in Armenia.

Within the framework of programmes accomplished by the organization, young Armenians aged between 20 and 32, at different stages of their education and careers volunteer in more than 150 private, state and non-governmental organizations. The young people themselves choose the sphere of activities and the work they want to do.

In the course of the whole project the participants not only get acquainted with their historic Homeland but also acquire professional experience in their chosen spheres of activity.

The benevolent foundation organizes different events for the volunteers, including workshops, courses in the Armenian language, meetings with local youth, and sight-seeing tours.

All costs, including transportation, are covered by the Foundation. In the course of the programme the volunteers are hosted by Armenian families.

**In order to participate in the programme,
to get the application form
and other information contact:**

in the USA

"Birthright Armenia"

Address: 333 E. Lancaster Ave #330

Wynnewood, PA 19096-9981
Tel.: 6106426633
E-mail: info@birthrightarmenia.org
Web address: [http://www.birtherightarmenia.org/
in Armenia](http://www.birtherightarmenia.org/in Armenia)
“Towards Armenia”/ “Depi Hayk”
Address: 108, build. 62, Hanrapetutyan Street, Yerevan, RA
Tel: (+34710) 540037
E-mail: info@birthrightarmenia.am
Web address: <http://www.birtherightarmenia.org/>

PROGRAMME “TOKTEN”

The “Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals” (TOKTEN) is run by the United Nations Development Programme in Armenia (UNDP).

The purpose of the programme is to support the social and economic development of Armenia through compatriots living in foreign countries.

Thanks to the programme, experienced Armenians from Diaspora get an opportunity to provide technical expertise, policy advice and research services to central and local governmental authorities, public and private companies, and universities and research centres in such spheres as environment, education, science, health, public administration, enterprise management and information technologies.

The travel costs for programme participants and the living allowances in Armenia are covered by the UNDP.

Interested Armenian professionals, who have permanent residency or citizenship of a foreign country can participate in this programme.

**In order to participate in the programme,
to get the application form
and other information contact:**
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ILO PROJECT “TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF LABOUR MIGRATION IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA”

The project is implemented by the International Labour Organization in the Russian Federation, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for the period of 2007-2010. The project is funded by the European Union. The specific objective for Armenia is to develop policies that enhance positive impact of migration on development in origin country.

Main project activities in Armenia are:

- A Skills Register for Attracting Qualified Armenian Migrants/Diaspora to Occupations in Armenia facing Shortages and to Facilitate the Reintegration of Returnees is being created on the basis of the www.employment.am website of the State Employment Service Agency at the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Issues. The Skills Register will enable Armenians living abroad to get information on the employment opportunities and occupations in shortage in Armenia and apply online.
- Support to Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia (CTUA) in establishment of an Information Centre for Labour Migrants intending to work in the Russian Federation was provided. Information on how to legally reside and work in Russia can be received via hotline: 374 10 589231
- Production of “Migration and Development” and “Migrant Remittances to Armenia: the Potential for Savings and Economic Investment and Financial Products to Attract Remittances” studies. The studies look at return migration, emigration of skilled human resources, Diaspora initiatives in Armenia and examine the savings and investment potential of remittances in Armenia, respectively.
- Support to development of remittance-backed financial products tailored to migrants and their families
- This Handbook has been developed within the framework of the project.

For additional information, contact:
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PROGRAMME “SUPPORT TO MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RELEVANT CAPACITY BUILDING IN ARMENIA”

The programme is implemented jointly by the British Council in Armenia, the Migration Agency at the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and the “International Centre for Human Development” (ICHD) with the support of the European Union.

The programme pursues the following goals:

- preventing irregular migration;
- assisting in the increasing the efficiency of return and repatriation processes;
- harmonizing the migration policy and legislation with norms and principles of international law.

The web-site www.backtoarmenia.com has been created within the programme, where Armenians from foreign countries can get valuable information on the return and repatriation processes and receive answers to their questions via a direct internet connection.

For additional information contact:
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PART 4

LEGAL STATUS OF NON-RESIDENT ARMENIAN CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN IN ARMENIA

4. A. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PERMANENTLY RESIDING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

“Each citizen... has the right to return to the Republic of Armenia.”
(Constitution of the RA, Article 25 (3))

The citizens of the RA that are permanently resident outside the Republic of Armenia have all rights, liabilities and responsibilities entitled to the citizens of the RA, with the exception of cases that are stipulated by the Law, as described below.

1. Restrictions in the rights of electing (the elective franchise), being elected, and in participating in national referenda

Before modifications in the Electoral Code of the RA in February 2007, the elective franchise of citizens of Armenia residing or staying in foreign countries was insured by diplomatic and consular representations of the RA in compliance with the Electoral Code and the order prescribed by the Central Electoral Committee of the RA.

However all principles concerning the order of voting in foreign countries were removed from the Electoral Code by the amendments adopted in February 2007.

In accordance with these amendments in the Electoral Code, voting is limited to those within the territory of the Republic of Armenia and the possibility of voting in diplomatic and consular representations is excluded.

The Electoral Code also limits the right of being elected and of participating in national referenda of RA citizens who are permanently resident abroad. An RA citizen can propose his/her candidacy for elected office, as well as participate in a referendum, only when he/she is permanently resident within the territory of the RA.

2. The registration in foreign countries

An RA citizen that leaves the territory of the RA for a period of more than six (6) months, or an RA citizen that resides in a foreign country for a period of more than six (6) months must inform the central office of the Police of the RA or corresponding consular service or diplomatic representation of the RA in writing (for the list of the diplomatic missions, consular institutions of the RA see Appendix 2). The latter will officially inform the central office of the Police of the RA about the fact of registration.

After receiving the above-mentioned information the corresponding office withdraws the person's details from the address register.

An RA citizen that has changed his/her permanent residence must within ten (10) working days after arriving in the foreign country apply to the corresponding consular service or diplomatic mission of the RA for permanent registration, presenting the following documents:

- a) a document confirming his/her identity;
- b) a military identity or military record card (for citizens liable for military call-up);
- c) a document certifying his/her place of residence.

The diplomatic representations or consular institutions of the RA can then insert a notice in the RA citizens' passport about his/her permanent residence in the foreign state.

3. The liability to participate in the defence of the Republic of Armenia

Regardless of the place of permanent residence, citizens of the RA must participate in the defence of Homeland in accordance with the order stipulated by the law (see Part 8 of this handbook).

4. The liability to have a passport of the Republic of Armenia

All citizens of the RA older than 16 must carry an Armenian passport of an RA citizen, regardless of place of residence.

In foreign states RA passports are distributed by diplomatic representations or consular institutions of the RA.

5. Responsibility for avoiding participation in the defence of Homeland, for violating the rules of registration, and for residing without a passport

Criminal responsibility is prescribed by the Criminal Code of the RA for those who avoid military or alternative service, the sequential call-ups, call-ups for training or manoeuvres. The grounds for exemption from these duties are in accordance with the order stipulated by the legislation of the RA (see Part 6 of this handbook).

Administrative penalties are prescribed in accordance with Articles 195 and 195.1 of the RA Code on Administrative Violations:

- for residing without a passport or without registration of the place of his/her residence: This violation gives rise to an administrative warning or a monetary penalty of between the 50 percent of the defined minimum salary and the full amount of the minimum salary³.
- for not informing the corresponding diplomatic representation or consular institution of the RA about the address of his/her permanent residence in accordance with the order prescribed by the legislation of the RA, when a citizen of the RA leaves the territory of the RA for a period of more than six (6) months or a citizen of the RA resides in a foreign country for a period of more than six (6) months, (also applicable if the citizen of the RA was born outside of the territory of the RA): This violation gives rise to an administrative warning or a monetary penalty of between 50 percent of the defined minimum salary and the full amount of the minimum salary⁴.

In accordance with Article 25 of the law of the RA on Citizenship, an RA citizen can lose the citizenship if he/she, while permanently residing in foreign countries for a period of seven (7) years, has not registered in the consulate without any reasonable excuse.

4. B. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING FOREIGNERS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

1. The legal status of foreigners in Armenia.

In accordance with the law of the RA 'On Foreigners', foreigners in the Republic of Armenia enjoy equal rights and liberties to RA citizens, unless prescribed otherwise by the Constitution and other laws of the RA and international treaties.

Foreigners, in accordance with legislation of the Republic of Armenia have rights for possessing property (with the exception of right of ownership of land), for engaging in labour activities, for entrepreneurial activities, as well as other rights.

Foreigners in the RA pay taxes, duties, other mandatory payments, in accordance with the order stipulated by the legislation of the RA.

Foreigners while protecting their rights are entitled to all the guarantees envisaged for protection of RA citizens' rights, as well as enjoying the diplomatic protection of the state of his/her citizenship.

³ In this context the size of the minimum salary is assumed to be 1,000 AMD.

⁴ In this context the size of the minimum salary is assumed to be 1,000 AMD.

Foreigners in the Republic of Armenia are obliged to respect the Constitution of the RA, other laws and legal acts, national customs and traditions.

Foreigners bear responsibilities equal to those of RA citizens while in the territory of the RA, with the exception of cases prescribed by international treaties of the RA.

Foreigners preserve legal ties with the state of their citizenship and receive patronage and protection of the latter.

The foreigners do not exercise the following rights:

- entering the territory of Armenia without a visa;
- electing and being elected to bodies of the state governance and bodies of local self-government⁵;
- voting in general referenda;
- entering public service;
- establishing and/or joining political parties;
- exercising the right of land ownership.

2. The legal status of foreigners of Armenian origin in Armenia

The legal status of foreigners of Armenian origin is different from the legal status of other foreigners in the following manner:

- Foreigners of Armenian origin can be given special temporary and permanent residence permits (see Part 4).
- Foreigners of Armenian origin can acquire Armenian citizenship through a simplified procedure (see Part 6).

An individual that has been given a special residence permit is given a special type of passport for a term of 10 years, which gives him/her the right:

- to travel to Armenia without entry visa;
- to exercise the right of ownership of land.

4. C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What documents must be presented in order to acquire a passport?

In order to acquire a passport, citizens of Armenia should present the following documents:

a) a completed application form (in foreign countries the application form is provided by diplomatic representations or consular institutions of the RA);

b) a birth certificate, for those individuals that have acquired the passport before the age of 16, or in case the RA citizen is unable to present the documents listed in this clause any other documents certifying identity;

c) two photographs of size 35 x 45 mm;

d) (for those individuals receiving passport that are under age of 16), the written agreement of the parent(s) or the legal representative of the parents signed at the moment of handing the application in. If the parent or the legal representative cannot be personally present to hand in his/her agreement, then his/her signature must be attested by a notary,

e) a military identity card or call-up card (for citizens liable for military service) (See Part 6).

⁵ There is one exception to this rule: in accordance with the Electoral Code of the RA foreigners and individuals with no citizenship are also entitled to participate in the bodies of local self-government, provided they have been registered as residents in that community for at least one year and are actually residing there.

2. How can the passport of the citizen of the RA be recovered if it has been claimed as not valid in a foreign state or has been lost?

An RA citizen whose passport has been invalidated while being in a foreign state or who has lost his/her passport should apply to the diplomatic representation or consular institution of the RA in that foreign state in order to replace his/her passport.

In cases where there is no diplomatic representation or consular institution of the RA in that given state, he/she can apply to the diplomatic representation or consular institution of the RA that is situated in the nearest neighbouring country.

PART 5

ACQUIRING THE CITIZENSHIP OF ARMENIA

5. A. RECOGNITION OF CITIZENSHIP IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The law 'On Citizenship' prescribes the following grounds for acquiring citizenship of the RA:

- 1) by recognition of citizenship;
- 2) by birthright;
- 3) by adopting citizenship;
- 4) by restitution of citizenship;
- 5) by group adoption of citizenship;
- 6) on the grounds of international treaties signed by the Republic of Armenia;
- 7) on other grounds stipulated by the law.

Up until 1991 there was a harmonized common citizenship on the territory of the Soviet Union, and the citizens of each of the Union Republics were, at the same time, considered to be citizens of the Federal State. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the newly independent Armenia sought to determine which citizens of the former Soviet Armenia, as well as of other former Soviet Union Republics would acquire citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

In accordance with the law of the RA 'On Citizenship' the following individuals are recognized as citizens of the RA:

- Former citizens of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia that reside in the territory of the RA, and who, before the entering into force of the Constitution (on July 1995) had not acquired citizenship of any other state, or had renounced such citizenship within a period of one year since the entry into force of the law of the RA 'On Citizenship' (November 26, 1995).
- Individuals who permanently reside in the RA and do not have citizenship of another state, or individuals that are not citizens of foreign states and have been citizens of other republics of the former USSR. Such persons could apply for Armenian citizenship until December 31, 2009.
- Former citizens of the Soviet Union who reside outside the RA, are of Armenian origin, and have not acquired citizenship of another state or states.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The 'recognition' of citizenship does not apply to foreign citizens. It exclusively applies to individuals that are not foreign citizens at the moment.

5. B. CONDITIONS FOR ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA BY INDIVIDUALS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN

The procedures for acquiring citizenship are defined by the law 'On Citizenship'. In accordance with this law individuals who do not have Armenian citizenship, are older than 18, and able-bodied (including individuals who have foreign citizenship) are entitled to apply to acquiring citizenship of the RA, when he/she:

- a) has permanently resided in the RA for three (3) years, as is prescribed by the law;
- b) can communicate in Armenian language; and
- c) is familiar with the Constitution of the RA.

Negating points a) and b) above, Armenian citizenship can also be granted to an individual, who:

- 1) has married a person with Armenian citizenship or has a child with Armenian citizenship;
- 2) whose parents or parent had Armenian citizenship in the past or were (was) born in the RA and who, after reaching the age of 18, had within three (3) years applied for citizenship of the RA;
- 3) who is Armenian by origin, i.e. has Armenian ancestors;
- 4) who has voluntarily renounced Armenian citizenship by his/her own volition after January 1, 1995.

Thus, the condition for Armenians by origin to acquire citizenship of the RA is the familiarity with the Constitution of the RA, which is tested through a special examination (see Appendix 4).

1. Procedures and conditions for presenting documents for acquiring citizenship of the RA

In order to acquire citizenship of the RA, an individual must present his/her documents to the following institutions:

- In the Republic of Armenia: the Police Agency of Passports and Visas (hereafter the Agency);
- In a foreign country: the embassy or acting consular institution of the RA.

In order to acquire citizenship of the RA the individual must present the following documents:

- an application form (in foreign countries the application form is provided by diplomatic representations or consular institutions of the RA);
- a self biography;
- a passport from the country of his or her nationality and a copy;
- 6 photographs of size 35x45 mm;
- a reference note on his/her health conditions;
- a reference note on his/her previous convictions, from the country where he/she has resided permanently or primarily in the course of the last ten (10) years;
- a reference note on his/her labour activities;
- a birth certificate and a copy;
- a document certifying his/her Armenian origin: the birth certificate of his/her parents (grandfather or grandmother, or sister, or brother) and a copy, or any other document certifying his/her Armenian national origin.

When presenting the above mentioned documents the person must also fill in a questionnaire (see Appendix 3).

The questionnaire must be completed in Armenian language in readable handwriting without corrections and strikethroughs. The questionnaire must be signed both by the person who has completed it, and the person who is receiving it on behalf of the Armenia government.

The embassy or the consular institution, after receiving the documents, assigns a day for examining the applicant's knowledge of the Constitution of the RA within ten (10) days.

The embassy or the consular institution, after examining the person's knowledge of the Constitution of the RA then forwards the completed application and the test results to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA within ten (10) days.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA, after receiving the documents, sends them to the Agency together with its final recommendations within one (1) month.

The Agency after receiving the copies of the documents sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA sends the package to the National Security Service of the Government of the RA within ten (10) days.

The National Security Service of the Government of the RA, after receiving the copies of the documents, sends its recommendation back to the Agency within two (2) months.

The Agency, after receiving the documents and all prior recommendations, presents the application to the President of the Republic of Armenia through the Staff of the Government of the RA within one (1) month.

In the case of a positive response to the application, the citizenship of the RA is granted by order of the President of the RA on granting citizenship.

The application is rejected when the applicant is deemed to be a threat to the state and public security, public order, public health and morals, the rights and liberties, honour and good reputation of other citizens.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Documents written in foreign languages must be presented together with the Armenian translations attested by a notary.

5. C. DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

In 2005 the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia was amended to allow citizens of the RA to acquire citizenships of other states (Article 30.1, part 4).

The law of the RA 'On Citizenship' was amended by Article 13.1 on the grounds of the above-mentioned amendment to the Constitution in accordance with which:

- a) a person who has more than one citizenship is considered to be a person with dual citizenship;
- b) a citizen of the RA is considered to be a citizen with dual citizenship if he/she, besides the citizenship of the RA, also has citizenship of another state (or states);
- c) a citizen of the RA that possesses dual citizenship is recognized by the RA as a person that is *only a citizen of the RA*. This stipulation also applies to individuals who after January 1, 1995 renounced citizenship of the RA not in accordance with the prescribed order, and have adopted or received citizenship of another state, as well as to citizens of the RA who have unilaterally renounced citizenship of the RA;
- d) dual citizens of the RA have all rights of citizens of the RA and bear all liabilities and responsibilities of citizens of the RA, with the exception of cases stipulated by the international treaties or by the laws of the RA;
- e) a citizen of the RA, when adopting or receiving citizenship of another state must inform the authorized body of the RA within one (1) month: In Armenia this body is the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the RA, or the local division of the Police of the RA; and in foreign states it is the diplomatic representation of the RA in that country (see Appendix 5). Failing to inform the authorities incurs a monetary penalty fifty times the amount of the minimum salary.⁶

Individuals of Armenian origin must present all documents listed in Paragraph B of this Section in order to acquire dual citizenship.

Citizens of the RA who, before the Constitutional amendments described above that laid ground for acquiring dual citizenship, had adopted citizenship of other states without renouncing the citizenship of the RA also must apply to one of the authorized bodies mentioned above so as to legalize their dual citizenship. Alongside the application such individuals should present a copy of their passport of the other state of which they are a citizen.

Individuals residing in foreign countries who seek to acquire dual citizenship can apply for citizenship in the diplomatic and consular representations of the RA, and individuals who reside in the RA should apply to the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the RA.

Dual citizens of the RA receive the same passport as other citizens of the RA.

1. Specific features of the status of a dual citizen

As a general rule a dual citizen of the RA has all the rights prescribed to citizens of the RA, and bears all responsibilities and liabilities so prescribed. At the same time the status of dual citizen has certain limitations defined by legislation:

- a dual citizen of the RA cannot be elected President of the RA, nor as a deputy of the National Assembly; he or she cannot be a member of the Constitutional Court of the RA, the Ombudsman

⁶ In this context the size of the minimum salary is assumed to be 1,000 AMD.

of the RA, the Mayor of Yerevan; he or she cannot hold a position in the national security bodies of the RA, and cannot hold high rank positions in the Police of the RA;

- A citizen of the RA, occupying a position which is by the law prohibited for those citizens of the RA that have also citizenship of another state, bears criminal responsibility for not informing the authorized body of the government of the RA about the fact of their dual citizenship within the terms prescribed by the law (see Appendix 5);
- a citizen of the RA that has adopted citizenship of other state is not automatically exempt from the mandatory military service, regardless of whether he has served in the army of the other state or not. However a citizen of another state that has adopted citizenship of the RA is discharged from mandatory military service if he has served for no less than twelve (12) months in the military forces of the other state, or has served at least for eighteen (18) months in the alternative to military service (e.g. social service in some countries) (see Part 6);
- People that have citizenship of both the RA and of another state and are registered in the RA can vote in accordance with the Electoral Code of the RA. In accordance with the Electoral Code of the RA, elections are held only in the territory of the RA (see Part 4), which means that in order to vote they must be in the RA on the day of elections.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Some foreign citizens who want to acquire citizenship of the RA can lose their citizenship in accordance with the legislation of their own states in case they adopt citizenship of any other state (e.g. Iran, Latvia, etc.). Such individuals should be informed by the relevant authorities of the states in which they have citizenship, so as to protect their rights and avoid any possible obstacles that may arise.

2. Citizens of the RA often write applications to renounce citizenship of the RA in order to adopt citizenship of other states, which, in accordance with their legislation, do not prohibit the institution of the second citizenship, and consequently in order to grant citizenship do not require the applicant to renounce their previous citizenship (e.g. Russian Federation, etc.). Thus it is important that individuals be made aware as well of the legislation pertaining to citizenship in any state to which they are applying for citizenship.

5. D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How is the citizenship of spouses regulated?

Marriage to a citizen of RA does not ipso facto mean one acquires Armenian citizenship. However; marriage can be a basis for applying for citizenship.

2. How is the citizenship of a child determined?

A child, whose parents are citizens of the RA at the moment of its birth, regardless of the place of birth, acquires citizenship of the RA.

A child who has one parent who is a citizen of the RA at the moment of its birth, where the citizenship of the other parent is unknown, or he/she is a person without citizenship, acquires citizenship of the RA.

In cases when one of the parents at the moment of the birth of the child is a citizen of the RA, and the other one is a citizen of a foreign country, the citizenship of the child is determined by the written agreement of the parents. In the absence of such an agreement the child acquires citizenship of the RA, if:

- he/she was born in the RA; or
- would become a person without citizenship if he/she does not acquire citizenship; or
- the parents of the child are permanently residing in Armenia.

3. Who grants Armenian citizenship?

Citizenship is covered by the order of the President of the Republic of Armenia on granting citizenship. Thus it is the president who grants citizenship.

4. When are the applications for acquiring citizenship rejected?

An application for acquiring citizenship of the RA is rejected when the applicant is deemed to cause damage with his/her activities to the state and public security, to public order, public health and morals, the rights and liberties, or the honour and good reputation of other citizens. The authorised bodies are not required either to explain or justify the rejection.

PART 6

MILITARY SERVICE IN ARMENIA

6. A. REGULATION OF THE LIABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

1. Liability for military service and the citizens liable for military call up

Undertaking military service is the constitutional duty of the citizens of the RA to participate in the defence of the Republic of Armenia.

Male citizens in the “pre-call-up age” (16-18), the “call-up age” (18-27), and those discharged to the reserve, as well as female citizens of military professions, or serving in the military system are considered to be liable for military service.

2. Forms of participation in the defence of Armenia

The Republic of Armenia recognizes the necessity for defending the country through defining a corresponding liability for all above-mentioned citizens. At the same time this liability is differently expressed for different categories of citizens. Thus, the law of the RA ‘On liability for military service’ states that the liability for military service of citizens includes:

- the registration for military service;
- the preparation for military service;
- the call up to, and undertaking of the military service;
- registration in the reserve.

3. The military registration of citizens

Military registration is the state system for registering pre-call-up, call-up and reserve citizens and for analysing of the resources of the Republic for military service, military training and military manoeuvres.

The military registration of citizens liable for military service who are residing in foreign countries (for more than one (1) month) is done by the diplomatic and consular bodies.

The military registration of citizens of the pre-call-up age is known as ‘military pre-conscription’. Male citizens who become 16 in the course of the given year are liable for pre-conscription.

Pre-conscription is undertaken by the military commissariats in the course of each year.

Citizens are obliged to present themselves for military registration at the military commissariats in their residence registration, or to diplomatic or consular bodies (those who are not registered must register at the commissariat in the place of their actual residence).

Citizens that have been discharged from the military reserve must present themselves for registration at the military commissariat in their place of residence within seven (7) days (those who do not have such registration offices in their area should present themselves at the commissariat in their actual place of residence).

Citizens liable for military service that change their place of residence must present themselves for registration at the corresponding military commissariat (diplomatic or consular bodies) within three (3) days after registering at a new place of residence (citizens residing in places that do not have a military registration facility should register at the commissariat of the actual place of residence).

Citizens that have been convicted of a crime and punished by imprisonment in the course of their military service must, within seven (7) days of the end of the term of imprisonment, present themselves for registration at the military commissariat of their area of residence (those that do not have such registration offices in their area should do it at the actual place of their residence).

Citizens liable for military service must, within seven (7) days, inform the relevant authorities about the changes in their marital status, their place of residence registration (for those without registration they should provide information about the actual place of residence), education, work place and their position at the military commissariat of their place of call-up (namely the diplomatic or consular bodies).

4. Citizens that are not subject to military service

While military service is compulsory for citizens, the law specifically indicates the certain categories of citizens that are exempt. For example citizens are not subject to military service if they have been sentenced to imprisonment; if they are female citizens that have no military profession, etc. Citizens are also exempt from military service if they are recognized by the Republican Military Draft Commission as unsuitable for military service because of their health (by withdrawing them from military registration), and in other cases listed below.

Thus, while all citizens of the Republic of Armenia bear responsibility for participating in the defence of the country, not all of them are considered to be legally subject to mandatory military service.

5. Different ways of doing military service

The law of the RA on military service stipulates the following ways of doing it:

- through military call-up (in the course of the mandatory military service);
- through contractual military service (on voluntary grounds); and
- through educational military establishments (on condition that mandatory military service is done after graduation).

The right of contractual military service is one of the forms of exercising the right to labour of the citizens of the RA.

6. The draft for mandatory military service

The draft for mandatory military service is for male citizens of age 18 to 27, and for reserve officers aged below 35, who after an examination of their health conditions, are deemed suitable for military service in peace time.

The draft and discharge of the rank and file is done by the command of the President of the Republic of Armenia twice a year, in April-June and October-December.

The draft and discharge of the reserve officers is done by the command of the President of the Republic. The list of the categories of the officers that can receive a temporary leave from the draft is confirmed by the Government.

After the announcement of the mandatory military draft all citizens liable for the call-up must present themselves at the military commissariats where they are registered within the terms indicated in the notifications.

7. Exemption and temporary exemption from mandatory military service

The following citizens are exempt from the mandatory military service:

- Citizens who are recognized as unsuitable for mandatory military service by the Republican Military Draft Commission because of health conditions and are withdrawn from the military register;
- Citizens whose father or mother, or natural brother or sister have died (were killed) in the course of participating in the defence of the Republic of Armenia or serving in the armed forces or other military organizations when he is the only other male son of the family;
- Citizens who are exempt by a decision of the Government;
- Citizens who, before acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, have done mandatory military service in the military forces of another state;
- Citizens who have a scientific degree (Candidate of Sciences or Doctor of Sciences) and are involved in professional, research or scientific activities.

A temporary exemption from mandatory military service is given:

- in connection with the marital status or a particular situation in the family;
- to citizens who wish to continue their education;
- to citizens who cannot take part because of temporary health conditions.

A temporary exemption from mandatory military service is given to the citizens liable for military call-up who:

- have a disabled father and mother when these parents do not have another able-bodied citizen son that is not on military service himself;
- have a child growing up without its mother;
- have two or more children;
- have a disabled wife in the first or second group of invalidity;
- have a younger natural sister or brother that is under eighteen (18) and disabled with the first or second group of invalidity, or is recognized as disabled by court decision, and there is no other able-bodied member of the family living with her/him;
- have a wife who is pregnant with a second child or twins;
- have been adopted for less than five (5) years before reaching the conscription age, or whose parents have divorced less than five (5) years before reaching the conscription age.

A temporary exemption from mandatory military service for the purposes of continuing the education is given to:

- regular students of the state's higher educational establishments (including the clinical medical studies, medical internships, and magistracy) and students of some professions that are taught in the secondary vocational educational establishments, and are included in the special list adopted by the government of the RA;
- students of the post graduate courses in the state research educational system that are pursuing their studies by order of the state;
- students of higher educational establishments of other states that are pursuing their studies by the order of the state, or by intergovernmental and interdepartmental treaties;
- students in medical clinical studies, in medical internships, students of law and the judiciary or post graduate students;

A temporary exemption from the mandatory military service can be given to conscripts that need medical treatment 3 times for periods of up to 1 year.

After the expiration of the third period of medical treatment the conscript is either a) recognized by the medical commission as suitable for military service and is called up; b) is recognized as not suitable for military service in peace conditions and is registered in reserve; or c) is recognized as not suitable for military service at all and is withdrawn from the military register.

Conscripts that are recognized as temporarily unsuitable for mandatory military service because of health conditions are given a onetime lay-off for three (3) years. After the expiration of the term of the lay-off the conscript is either a) recognized by the medical commission as suitable for military service and is called up; b) is recognized as not suitable for military service in peace conditions and is registered in reserve; or c) is recognized as not suitable for military service and is withdrawn from the military register.

8. The liability of dual citizens for military service

Citizens of the RA that have dual citizenship must participate in the defence of Homeland, by reporting at the location prescribed by the draft entering into military service on voluntary contractual basis. The above said also pertains to citizens who, after January 1, 1995, have renounced citizenship of the RA not in accordance with the prescribed order and have adopted or received citizenship of another state, and to those who have unilaterally renounced their citizenship of the RA.

9. The mandatory military service of dual citizens

In accordance with Article 3.1 of the law of the RA 'On liability for mandatory military service' a citizen of other state that has adopted citizenship of the RA is exempted from mandatory military service, if *before adopting* citizenship of the RA he has served in the military forces of other state for not less than twelve (12) months, or has served for at least eighteen (18) months in the military service in other state, with the exception of the states defined by the Government of the RA⁷. A citizen of the RA that has adopted citizenship of another state is not automatically exempted from mandatory military service, regardless of the fact whether he has done military service in other state or not.

6. B. CONDITIONS FOR EXEMPTING CITIZENS THAT HAVE ESCAPED MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE BY VIOLATING THE PRESCRIBED ORDER

The law 'On citizens that have not done the mandatory military service in accordance with the prescribed order' was adopted on December 17, 2003. The main purpose of the law is to exempt from criminal prosecution citizens that have avoided mandatory military service within the period between the autumn military draft of 1992 until May 1, 2009. The law instead obliges the payment of mandatory fees, provides them with military identity cards, and transfers them to the reserve.

1. The domain of the law

The power of the law covers all those (current and former) citizens of the RA that have not served in the armed forces of the RA or were not exempted from the mandatory military service on grounds stipulated by law or have not received a due temporary exemption. Not undertaking military service is equal to avoiding it regardless of whether the person has been registered with the military, whether or not he has received the call up from military commissariat, and whether he is still a citizen of the RA or not, etc.

2. The size of the mandatory payments

Citizens that have not completed mandatory military service, starting from the moment of not presenting themselves for the mandatory military draft are liable for penalties for **each** missed (avoided) call-up as follows:

Cases of avoidance from doing the mandatory military service	The sizes of payments for the exemption from the liability of military service for <u>each</u> not called-up (avoiding) citizen
1. The citizen has reached age 27 and, without qualifying for an exemption, has not done the mandatory military service:	A sum one hundred times the minimum salary. ⁸
2. The citizen liable for military call-up has not done the mandatory military service but has later been found to have due grounds for exemption from mandatory military service, i.e.: 1) the citizen has been recognized by the Republican Military Draft Commission as not liable for military service because of health conditions and has been withdrawn from military registration:	A sum thirty times the minimum salary

⁷ This list has not yet been determined by the Government of the RA.

⁸ In this context the size of the minimum salary is assumed to be 1,000 AMD.

<p>2) the citizen whose father or mother; or natural brother or sister has died in the course of the defence of the Republic of Armenia or while serving in military forces of the RA, and he is the only male offspring of the family. This exemption applies irrespective of his age.</p> <p>3) the citizen has a scientific degree (Candidate of Sciences or Doctor of Sciences) and is involved in professional scientific activities.</p>	<p>0 fine</p> <p>A sum fifty times the minimum salary</p>
<p>3. The citizen liable for military call-up has not done the mandatory military service and has acquired a temporary exemption from military service with the purpose of continuing his education.</p>	<p>A sum fifty times the minimum salary</p>
<p>4. The citizen has not done the mandatory military service but has later acquired grounds for temporary exemption from military service by virtue of his marital status and has:</p> <p>1) a disabled father and mother and these parents do not have another able-bodied citizen son t not in mandatory military service of the RA (disabled parents are defined as : - a father and mother of the age that entitles them to receive a senior citizen pension; - a father and mother with invalidity of first or second group; - father and mother that were recognized as disabled by a court decision);</p> <p>2) has a child that is growing without mother;</p> <p>3) has two children;</p> <p>4) has a wife with invalidity of first or second group;</p> <p>5) has a natural sister or brother with invalidity of the first or second group or who is recognized as disabled by court decision and there is no other able-bodied member of the family that lives with him/her;</p> <p>6) has a wife that is pregnant with the second child or twins or is in the sixth month of pregnancy;</p> <p>7) has the right to a temporary exemption due to other family reasons that are not stated in the law.</p>	<p>A sum 30 times the minimum salary</p>
<p>5. The citizen liable for military call-up has not done the mandatory military service but later has become a father of 3 or more children or a father of 2 children growing without their mother.</p>	<p>0</p>

6. The citizen liable for military call-up has not done the mandatory military service but later has acquired reasonable grounds for exemption from mandatory military service because of health conditions:	A sum thirty times the minimum salary
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3. The order and schedule for submitting and discussing the applications for exemptions from military service

A citizen resident in a foreign country can submit his application for an exemption to the diplomatic service or consular institution of the RA, which will then register the application and send it to the corresponding military commissariat.

The application must be signed, and dated with the day, month, and year and contain the following information about the citizen:

- a) surname, first name, and father's name;
- b) nationality (ies) (citizenship);
- c) place of residence (with registration) in the RA or in the foreign country;
- d) the time of requested exemption from the mandatory military service and the reasons for the exemption.

The following documents must be attached to the application:

- a) the copies of one's birth certificate and the passport;
- b) a reference note from the place of residence (registration);
- c) a reference note about one's family members;
- d) the grounds for applying for the exemption or temporary exemption from mandatory military service.

The time for processing and responding to the application cannot exceed two (2) months.

In the case of a negative decision or rejection of the application, the applicant receives a notice with a justification of the rejection.

In the case of a positive decision in respect of the application the applicant receives a notice with an indication of the bank account where he should make the payment defined by the law, the deadline for the payment, and information pertaining to the submission of the corresponding receipt. If the payment is not done within the period of time indicated in the notice, the payment will be rejected.

In case of disagreement with the response to the application, the citizen is entitled to appeal against the court decision within one (1) month of receiving the notice and in accordance with the order prescribed by the law.

4. Making the payment

Citizens that become exempt from mandatory military service must make the relevant payment via bank transfer within ten (10) days after receiving the response to their application. These payments accrue on an account opened by the Ministry of Defence of the RA and are used to cover the military needs of the Republic.

5. Abatement of criminal prosecution and discharge to reserve

Within one (1) month of paying the prescribed sum, the citizen receives the decision on the abatement of the criminal prosecution. He also receives a military identity card and is discharged to reserve.

6. C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What must a RA citizen do if he is not called up for military service?

The citizen must present himself by his own initiative at the military commissariat of his registered place of residence between ages of 18 and 27 to seek clarification for the reason of not being called up for military service. Inaction will be treated as avoidance of military service.

2. What should a citizen of the RA do if he has avoided the mandatory military service and is still under the age of 27?

The citizen must present himself at the military commissariat of his registered place of residence, so that the authorities can ascertain his suitability, or otherwise for military service. The military commissariat will call the citizen before a conscript commission. On the basis of the final decision of the this commission criminal prosecution initiated against the citizen for the latter's avoidance of the mandatory military service is withdrawn in accordance with the order prescribed by the law and the citizen is conscripted to the Army.

3. What should a citizen of the RA do, if he is of age 18 and does not have a passport?

The citizen must present himself for military registration at the military commissariat of the place of his registered residence (and if he does not have a registered residence then at the location of the commissariat nearest to his actual residence or at a diplomatic or consular office). Following military registration the citizen can receive a passport.

PART 7

ENTERING, STAYING/RESIDING IN, AND
EXITING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

7. A. ORDER OF ENTERING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Foreigners are permitted to enter the RA through the check points at the state border, provided they have valid passports and the permission of the border authorities of the national security service which as a rule is given on the grounds of:

- the entry visa, or
- a residence permit (see paragraph B of this Part).

The citizens of the following states can enter the RA without an entry visa:

1. The Russian Federation
2. Ukraine
3. Belarus
4. Georgia
5. Uzbekistan
6. Tajikistan
7. Kyrgyzstan
8. Kazakhstan
9. Moldova

The citizens of these states can stay in the territory of the RA for a maximum of ninety (90) days. If they wish to remain longer, they must apply for a residence permit (see paragraph B of this Part).

1. The types of entry visa

The types of entry visa are:

- a visiting entry visa (V);
- an official entry visa (O);
- a diplomatic entry visa (D);
- a transit entry visa (Tr).

The visiting entry visa⁹ entitles foreigners to enter and stay in the RA for a period of up to one hundred and twenty (120) days, with the possibility to extend the visa for a maximum of sixty (60) additional days. It is given for a single entry or for multiple entries within a period of up to one year.

The visiting entry visa is given for visiting relatives and friends, for family reunions tourism, medical treatment, study purposes, for participating in cultural, sport, scientific and other events, for conferences organized and held in the RA, for implementing short term programmes of technical assistance, of humanitarian, benevolent, financial support in the RA, for participating in business negotiations, for labour or economic activities, as well as to the crew members of the international air or land cargo and passenger transporting vehicles.

2. The entry visa

The entry visa is given:

- in a foreign country: by the diplomatic or consular institutions of the RA;
- at the check points of the state border of the RA: by subdivisions of the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the RA;
- by electronic means: (electronic visa): by the Ministry of Foreign affairs of the RA.

3. Applying for an entry visa

In order to receive an entry visa to the RA **in foreign countries and at the check points of the state border of the RA** foreigners must submit the following documents to the bodies authorised to give entry visas:

⁹ For details on official, diplomatic and transit visas see the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA: <http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com/>.

- 1) an internationally recognized travelling identity card or passport (the term of validity of which must be at least for one (1) month longer than the term of validity of the requested visa);
- 2) an application-form completed in Armenian or English (see <http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com/>);
- 3) in cases where the entry visa is requested at a diplomatic or consular institution of the RA in a foreign country, a colour photograph of size 35x45 mm should be attached to the application, and in cases where the entry visa is requested at a check point of the state border of the RA a copy of the foreigner's passport should be attached to the application;
- 4) Foreigners under the age of 18 should attach a document confirming that his/her visit will be with his/her parents, or parent, or with a legal representative or accompanying person, or, if alone, to visit one of his/her parents who is staying in the RA, or to visit another legal representative of his/her parents or a receiving organization (an application or reference note must be presented by the parents or parent or the legal representative of the parents or by the receiving organization);
- 5) Receipt of payment of the state duty (see Appendix 6).

For acquiring an electronic visa one must visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA: <http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com/> (go to: 'Visa Regulations').

4. The extension of the term of entry visa

Those who wish to extend their entry visa to the RA (as well as for extending the electronic entry visas) must submit to the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the RA a document confirming his/her identity, a completed application form indicating the reasons for the need to stay longer in the RA. These documents must be submitted a maximum of fifteen (15) days prior to the expiration date of the entry visa. The Agency of Passports and Visas will then either extend the duration of the entry visa within two (2) working days, or reject the application.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

The Government of the RA has issued a list of states whose citizens can only apply for entry visas to diplomatic and consular institutions of the RA in foreign states and only on the basis of a letter of invitation by its decision No. 329-N of April 4, 2008. These states are:

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Cameroon
4. China, with the exception of Hong-Kong and Macau special administrative territories
5. Egypt
6. India
7. Iraq
8. Niger
9. Nigeria
10. Pakistan
11. Palestine
12. Saudi Arabia
13. Somali
14. Sri Lanka
15. Sudan
16. Syria
17. Vietnam

Citizens of these states who are of Armenian origin, as well as close relatives of the RA citizens from these states (parents, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, and grandchild) may acquire entry visas to the RA without a letter of invitation.

The Armenian origin or familial relationship between RA citizens and the citizens of the above-listed states must to be proved by available official papers.

7. B. STAYING AND RESIDING IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The law of the RA 'On Foreigners' defines three types of residence permits for foreigners staying in the territory of the RA:

- short-stay;
- permanent;
- special.

The mentioned above status of residence are confirmed correspondingly by the following documents:

- a card for short-stay;
- a card for permanent residence;
- special passport.

1. The grounds for granting permits for short-stay and permanent residence

The permit for a short-stay is given with proof of one of the following reasons justifying staying in the territory of the RA for a period of one year and longer:

- study;
- work-permit;
- marriage to a citizen of the RA or to a person who is a permanent legal resident of the RA;
- being close relative of a citizen of the RA or of a foreigner who is a permanent legal resident of the RA (parent, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild);
- undertaking entrepreneurial activity in the RA;
- being of Armenian origin.

The permit for permanent residence is given in the following cases:

- the applicant proves that he/she has close relatives in the RA (parent, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild); or
- he/she has an apartment (place of accommodation) in the RA and sufficient means for habitation, or
- he or she has, before applying for permanent residence, has resided in the RA for at least three (3) years in accordance with the order prescribed by the law, or
- is undertaking entrepreneurial activity in the RA;
- is of Armenian origin.

2. The terms and conditions for acquiring the status of short-term and permanent residence

Short-term residence status is given for a period of up to 1 year, with the possibility of further extensions of 1 year each time.

The application for extending of the short-term permit must be submitted in at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of expiration of the previous residence permit. A foreigner that has acquired a short-term permit may, in case of divorce or cancellation of his/her marriage to a citizen of the RA or to a foreigner with the status of permanent residence in the RA, can apply for the extension of his/her short-term residence status if he/she justifies that he/she has been married and has resided in the territory of the RA for at least one year.

The status of permanent residence is given for a period of five (5) years with a possibility of multiple extensions of the same time period.

The application for extending the permanent residence permit must be submitted in at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of expiration of the previous permanent residence permit.

3. Applying for short-term and permanent residence

In order to acquire a permit for short-term or permanent residence the application must be submitted to the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the RA.

The decision to grant or refuse a permit is made by the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the RA within thirty (30) days of receiving the application.

In order to acquire a short-term residence permit or a permit for permanent residence (to extend the status) the foreigners need to submit the following documents to the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the RA:

- 1) a completed application form;
- 2) three colour photographs of size 35x45 mm;
- 3) a passport, a copy of the passport and an Armenian translation of the passport, attested by notary;
- 4) documents that justify the need to receive a residence permit in the RA (or the need to extend the residence permit);
- 5) a certificate of health;
- 6) a receipt on payment of the state duty;

When submitting the documents the foreigner must fill in the application-questionnaire (see Appendix 7).

4. Grounds for granting a special status of residence

A special status of (permit for) residence is granted:

- to foreigners of Armenian origin;
- other foreigners that are performing economic or cultural activities in the RA.

5. The terms and order of granting a special status of (permit for) residence

The special status of residence permit is given for a term of ten (10) years. It can be given more than once.

The application for a special status residence permit in the territory of Armenia is submitted to the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the RA, and in foreign states to diplomatic or consular institution of the RA.

In order to receive a special status residence permit the applicant must submit the following documents:

- a completed application form;
- a letter, containing information:
 - about the current citizenship;
 - about the former citizenship(s) if there is(are) any, as well as the reasons of abandoning it (or them);
 - about the citizenship acquired by the birthright;
 - the reasons for applying: economic or cultural activities, benevolence, etc.;
 - about the profession or job of the applicant at the moment of application;
 - about previous stays of the applicant in Armenia;
 - about any former conviction or involvement in a criminal investigation;
- two reference letters from prominent people in their community, or from individuals that have had significant input either in the RA or in a foreign state;

- the copy of their passport;
- the copy of their birth certificate;
- seven photographs of standard passport size.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

For fees see Appendix 8.

7. C. EXITING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Foreigners can exit the RA with a valid passport and a valid document confirming the legality of their stay or residence in the territory of the RA up until the moment of exit.

The exit of a foreigner from the RA is forbidden in cases where:

- there has been a decision to charge him/her with a crime; before the end of an investigation; or before the abatement of criminal prosecution against this person;
- he/she has been sentenced to such penalties, the accomplishment of which is only possible in the RA. He/she must then stay until the end of the term of the penalty; or until the abatement of such penalty.

7. D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. In which cases is the entry of foreigners into the territory of the RA forbidden?

Foreigners who do not have a passport, or who have arrived at the check point of the state border of the RA without a valid substitute to the passport, or have arrived with an invalid or false passport, or whose visa has been deemed null and, or who have not, or do not receive an entry permit are not allowed to enter the territory of the RA.

2. In what circumstances is an entry visa or visa extension refused? When is a foreigner's visa identified as void, and he/she is prohibited from entering the territory of the RA?

The foreigner is rejected an entry visa (or extension of a visa), if:

- a) he/she has been deported from the territory of the RA or the residence status has been rescinded and less than three (3) years have passed since the entry into force of the decision on his/her deportation or the rescinding of his/her residence status;
- b) there is reliable evidence that he/she is pursuing activities or is participating in, organizing or being a member of an organization which is pursuing goals that are forbidden by the legislation of the RA;
- c) he/she has provided false information about himself/herself in the application for the entry visa, or has not provided all necessary documents, or there is evidence that his/her entry or stay in the RA is for purposes other than stated in the application;

There are also a number of other grounds for refusing and application.

3. With what justification can a residence status (permit) be refused to a foreigner?

See the answer to the previous question.

4. How can a foreigner appeal against the refusal to grant him/her a residence permit?

With the exception of the 'special status' residence permit, a foreigner can appeal against the refusal to grant him/her a residence permit or to extend his/her residence permit in the courts.

5. In case of rejection, how much later can a foreigner re-apply again for a residence permit?

In case of rejection a foreigner can reapply for a residence permit after one year, as stated in the notice of rejection.

PART 8

ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN ARMENIA

The Republic of Armenia ensures access to education regardless of nationality, race, gender, language, creed, political or other convictions, social origin, proprietary status or other circumstances.

Foreign citizens are granted an opportunity to receive education in educational establishments and scientific research institutions, regardless of their origin; social and proprietary status; tribal, national and religious identity; gender, previous education, language, occupation and other circumstances. After graduating they receive a diploma (certificate) that is accepted in throughout the RA.

All foreign citizens studying in the RA have the rights and liberties as defined by the Constitution of the RA and bear certain responsibilities prescribed by the constitution of the RA.

These following are the different educational programmes available in the RA:

- 1) public educational programmes (both mandatory and optional);
- 2) vocational educational programmes (both mandatory and optional).

Foreign citizens can receive education in the RA:

- 1) in secondary schools;
- 2) in vocational schools;
- 3) in secondary vocational educational institutions;
- 4) in higher educational institutions;
- 5) in higher educational establishments and research institutions that specialise in post-graduate studies where they can improve their scientific and pedagogic qualifications and improvement their skills and clinical studies.

8. A. PUBLIC EDUCATION

The essential programmes of public education include:

- 1) pre-school education;
- 2) general elementary education;
- 3) general education;
- 4) general secondary education;
- 5) general special education.

General education is compulsory in the RA. It begins when the child is six and is compulsory until 16 years old. After a person turns 16 he/she can, with permission of his/her parents (adopting parents, foster parents or guardians), leave the school.

1. Secondary education and its duration

General secondary education is structured in a three tiers with total duration of twelve (12) years, as follows:

- 1) elementary school (1st to 4th grades);
- 2) middle school (5th to 9th grades);
- 3) high school (10th to 12th grades).

2. Public education programmes

Public education programmes are undertaken by preschool and secondary educational institutions.

The preschool, elementary, principal, secondary (complete) and special education programmes are built on the principle of 'succession', i.e. one follows logically from the other.

In the case of non-completion of one stage of the educational programme (with the exception of preschool), the student is not allowed to pass to the next level of public education.

3. Conditions for enrolling in secondary school

For enrolling a child in a secondary school the parents (or their legal representative) must submit the following documents to the school:

- a) a completed application form;
- b) 2 photographs;
- c) a copy of the child's birth certificate with the signature of the school director under the statement 'An accurate copy of the Original Document';
- d) a certificate on child's health status (from the medical institution where the child receives medical services);
- e) a record of academic progress for children changing school (applicable to those enrolling in a class higher than first grade);
- f) the personal file of the student (applicable to those enrolling in a class higher than first grade).

4. The choice of teaching language of children of foreign citizens or of individuals who do not have citizenship

The choice of the language of instruction for children of foreign citizens or of individuals who do not have citizenship is made by the parents of the children (or their legal representatives).

Children of citizens of the RA, who have completed the 1st and 2nd years of their education in a foreign language can continue their education in Armenian language in the corresponding grade when moving to Armenia.

The children of citizens of the RA who have completed six (6) consecutive years of their education in a foreign language can, upon returning to the RA continue their studies in that foreign language until the end of the academic year, on condition that they study Armenian in the intervening period of time, and transfer to an Armenian class starting from the beginning of the subsequent academic year.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Students that have enrolled in schools before 2006 will study for 11 years. Starting from 2006 a 12 year secondary education is in force.
- The education in state schools is free of charge.
- The education in private (paid) schools is delivered in accordance with state educational standards.
- The Academic year starts on September 1 and ends in June.

8. B. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

1. The types of vocational educational programmes

The principal vocational educational programmes in the RA are as follows:

- 1) primary vocational (craftsmanship);
- 2) secondary vocational;
- 3) higher professional;
- 4) post-graduate professional.

The purpose of the primary vocational (craftsmanship) education is to train the students for jobs that demand a professional qualification combined with a general education.

Primary vocational education is accomplished in vocational (craftsmanship) schools. The duration varies from between 6 months to 3 years.

The primary vocational education system has undergone considerable changes since 1991, closely connected to the economic changes that have taken place in the country. Specializations related to the

spheres of services, trade, and the food industries are more prominent now, whereas the number of students in the manufacturing and construction sectors has drastically decreased.

The purpose of the secondary vocational education is to prepare specialists in a particular vocation, combined with a general education. It is accomplished in specialist colleges. The duration of education, depending on the level of the basic education of the student and the chosen profession, ranges from between two (2) to five (5) years. The graduate receives the qualification of junior specialist.

The purpose of the higher professional education is to provide specialists with an enhanced professional qualification following general secondary and secondary vocational education.

The following levels of qualification in higher professional education are available in the RA:

- 1) Bachelor;
- 2) Certified Specialist;
- 3) Master.

These qualifications can be pursued in universities, institutes, academies and conservatoires, depending on the subject matter.

The purpose of post-graduate professional education is to raise the educational and scientific know-how of individuals that already have educational degrees.

Post graduate professional education is undertaken in the post-graduate departments, clinical study courses, research and clinical internship programmes of higher educational establishments, and in scientific research institutions.

The duration of educational programmes of the higher and post-graduate professional education is as follows:

- 1) at least four (4) years to receiving a Bachelor's degree, and at least five (5) years for medical sciences degree;
- 2) at least five (5) years to become a Certified Specialist, and at least four (4) years for a specialised qualification in art and physical training;
- 3) at least 1 year for a Master's degree and at least four (4) years for the equivalent in the medical profession.

Foreign citizens, (with the exception of those of Armenian origin, for whom, the state allocates a limited number of free places) must pay to attend state funded educational establishments. See point 3 of the present paragraph.

For the tuition fees and other information please contact the corresponding educational institutions.

The full list of Armenian State and Non State Universities is available at: www.armenic.am

2. Conditions of enrolment in vocational educational institutions

Foreign citizens whose level of education corresponds to the level of secondary public school education (after eight years of tuition) of the RA can enrol in vocational educational establishments.

Foreign citizens whose level of education corresponds to the level of secondary school education (and in certain cases the level attained after eight years) of the RA can enrol in secondary vocational educational institutions.

Foreign citizens whose level of education corresponds to the educational programme of secondary school of the RA can enrol in higher educational institutions. Individuals that have completed a Bachelor of Sciences (Arts) can study in higher educational institutions of the RA with individual training curricula.

Foreign citizens who do not speak Armenian or Russian, or have poor knowledge of Armenian and Russian must enrol in the preparatory departments of higher educational establishments (divisions) for

one year to study Armenian or the language of further training in their chosen subject (e.g. mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, history, etc.). They must also study the relevant the legislation of the RA in their chosen field.

At the end of this academic year they must take exams, and students that pass them may then continue the education in their chosen higher educational establishment.

Foreign citizens who have studied in the preparatory department and fail the exams are excluded from the higher educational establishment.

Foreign citizens who have a Masters degree can enrol in post-graduate departments of higher educational establishments and research scientific institutions.

Foreign citizens who have a higher medical qualification as well as at least two (2) years of working experience in a medical institution, or have completed two (2) years of medical clinical studies (specialization) can enrol in post-graduate departments of higher medical educational establishments and in scientific research institutions.

Foreign citizens with higher education, can without any age qualifications, enrol in courses to improve their skills and qualifications in departments of higher educational establishments and scientific research institutions.

Foreign citizens who want to study in the RA must present the following documents:

1. a completed questionnaire;
2. an application to the Ministry of Education and Science of the RA, with the chosen profession indicated;
3. a self-biography;
4. copies of their education certificates attested by notary, indicating the subjects taken and the relevant grades attained in state examinations;
5. a medical reference confirming his/her general good health and that the person is able to deal with climatic conditions in Armenia;
6. a copy of his/her passport or birth certificate attested by a notary;
7. six (6) photographs (of size 40x50 mm) with his/her surname and name written on the back of the pictures;
8. Those wishing to embark on post-graduate studies, should, in addition present:
 - 8.1 an essay or an official list of publications, indicating the date and place of publications and copies of two to three publications;
 - 8.2. an officially confirmed reference certifying language proficiency: (Armenian, Russian, English, French, German);

All documents must be certified in Embassies or relevant bodies of the RA.

All indicated above, documents are submitted to the Department of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Education and Science of the RA through the embassies or consular bodies of the RA.

Citizens of countries where there are no embassies or diplomatic representation of the RA, can submit their documents in person. In that case the above-mentioned documents must be verified in the corresponding state body and by the Ministry of foreign Affairs of the country in question.

The documents and abstract must be presented in Armenian, Russian or English languages.

3. Acknowledgement of international educational qualifications

Certificates of education issued by any foreign state, when submitted to authorities of the RA (for further studies or employment) will be acknowledged, and their equivalence confirmed in accordance with the Lisbon Convention of April 11, 1997. This 'certificate of acknowledgment' is issued on the basis of the act: 'the acknowledgment of international certificates and diplomas on the territory of Armenia'. Under this act the Ministry of Education and Science acknowledges and confirms the equivalence of certificates of education, academic titles, and academic ranks conferred by international educational establishments and issues a certificate detailing the equivalence.

In order to attain a certificate of acknowledgment the individual must submit an application together with the following documents:

1. a copy of his/her passport;
2. a copy of his/her visa;
3. the original of the certificate and transcripts of the educational qualification, both legalized in due form, indicating the subjects taken and the number of academic hours studied;
4. two certified copies of the certificate of and transcripts of the educational qualification;
5. two certified copies of the certificate and transcripts of the educational qualification translated into Armenian language;
6. Individuals who have graduated from an international educational institution must submit a document issued by the department of education (or relevant body) of the respective country confirming the official status of the said institution.
7. In order to receive confirmation of equivalence of their documents, individuals who have a second university degree, or wish to complete an abridged educational programme, master's programme, or international educational programmes (in case of partial completion of the programme in the RA) must submit documents certifying their previous education.

4. The acceptance of applications from expatriate Armenians

For Expatriate Armenian applicants, the procedures and deadlines for admission are set for each academic year separately. For example for taking free of charge Bachelor's programme in 2009/2010 that is free of charge the documents are accepted until August 20, 2009 inclusive; when studying in preparatory department: until November 6 inclusive; and for studying in post-graduate programmes, until September 30.

Expatriate Armenian applicants must present their documents to the RA Ministry of Education and Science in person or through Armenian diplomatic representatives in foreign states.

They must address their application to the Minister of Education and Science of the RA, and enclose a completed application form provided by the Ministry, the copies of all pages of their passport, the copy of birth certificate attested by state notary or a certificate of baptism, a copy of the certificate of secondary (complete) education verified by the consular or state notary; a medical reference on their general health conditions, and 4 photographs of size 30x40 mm. Applicants who wish to receive post-graduate professional education must also present a research abstract on the topic of the chosen profession.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

In the academic year of 2008/09 the Government of the RA has allocated 70 places, free of charge to expatriate students. Over and above the allocation of the Armenian expatriates by government order, applicants can also enrol in the paid system, where there is no numerical limitation

As a rule, free places are available only in the departments of Armenian studies, pedagogy and culture.

**For additional information apply to:
the Ministry of Education and Science of the RA.**

8. C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How is the appropriate grade of a child determined after returning to the RA?

The Ministry of Education and Science of the RA has adopted a 'table of equivalence' to equate the public education systems of the RA and those of foreign states, in accordance with which the grade of the returning child citizen of the RA is determined. The educational department of the municipality of the place of residence of the child, after determining the educational level, gives instructions to the school management to check the level of academic knowledge of the child and thereby determine the grade in

which he/she should enter the system. For children that have returned from Russian Federation there is on average a demotion of a single grade.

2. When is the school graduate exempted from the state Armenian language exam?

If the graduate of the 10th grade has studied Armenian language only in 9th and 10th grades then he/she, upon his or her own wish, can be exempted from the state examination in the Armenian language. In such cases the graduation certificate of the graduate shall indicate "NOT TAKEN" in the appropriate line.

3. When can the applicants take the entrance examinations in Russian language?

School graduates with Russian education can take the entrance exams in the Russian language (with the exception of the examinations in Armenian and foreign languages).

4. When can an applicant to a higher educational establishment take an entrance examination in a language other than Armenian?

Applicants that do not have grade points in Armenian language and literature in their certificate of secondary education (or in a corresponding graduation certificate) may instead take a written Russian language exam (written). Those who do not have grade points in Russian language and literature can take a written examination in English, French, German, Spanish, or Italian.

Applicants for the course Philology (Russian language and literature, foreign language) in Yerevan Linguistic University can take an oral examination in foreign language instead of the prescribed written Armenian language exam.

Applicants for the course Russian language and literature can, instead of a written Armenian language exam, take a written examination in a foreign language.

However, in the cases listed below the Armenian language exam is compulsory:

- International relations;
- Journalism;
- Armenian language and literature;
- Preschool pedagogy and psychology;
- Pedagogy and psychology
- Pedagogy of elementary education and methodology;
- Typhlo-pedagogy (a methodology for teaching blind people);
- Surdo-pedagogy" (a methodology for teaching deaf people)
- "Oligophreno-pedagogy" (a methodology for teaching oligophrenous people)
- Logopedia;
- Translation.

5. When can an applicant take Russian language instead of a foreign language as an entrance examination to a higher educational establishment?

Applicants that have no grade points in foreign languages in their certificates of secondary education or corresponding documents of graduation, can take a written Russian language exam instead of a written examination in another foreign language with the exception of specialities listed below, for which the written examination in a foreign language is compulsory:

- International Relations;
- Linguistics and Intercultural Communications;
- Foreign Language (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian);
- Oriental Studies" (Arabic Studies, Iranian Studies, Turkish Studies);
- Translation;
- Theoretical Economics;
- Economy of Labour and Sociology;
- Finances and Loans;
- Global Economics;
- National Economics;

Economics of Corporations and Management;
State and Municipal Management;
Management;
Trade (Commerce);
Mathematical Methods and Functional Analysis in Economy;
Customs Service;
Insurance Service;
Analysis and Management of the Securities' Market;
Business Organisation;
Information Systems;
Standardisation (harmonisation) and Certification;
Economics and Management of Food Production;
Finances and Loans of the Agricultural Food Production System;
Merchandise and Quality Examination of Goods;
Agrarian Policy and Regional Development;
Agro business and Marketing;
Consulting and Information of the Agricultural Food Production System;
Insurance (in the Agricultural Food Production System)

6. On what grounds or principles are students from foreign states or accredited higher educational establishments transferred to higher educational institutions of the RA?

The transfer of students from foreign state or accredited higher educational institutions is possible based on admission criteria of the institution concerned and the payment of tuition fees. In exceptional cases (connected with health or other valid reasons) students that have entered from a foreign state's higher educational establishment for targeted studies can continue their education free of charge in cases where there is a free place available in the area of corresponding specialisation in educational establishment to which he or she is transferring, or with the go-ahead of the provost of the educational establishment in question and the confirmation of the relevant Ministry.

The transfer of students to the RA educational institution is affected neither by the admission procedure of the foreign higher educational institution (e.g. interview, tests, examinations, number of examinations and competitions etc.) where the student studied, nor by the education format (on-campus, distant, etc.) or education system.

PART 9

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS IN ARMENIA

9. A. EMPLOYMENT

1. The general rules of employment

On receipt of the relevant visa and permit foreign citizens are entitled to work in the RA under similar regulations, and on similar conditions as the citizens of the RA.

Employment relations are governed in the RA by the Labour Code, adopted in 2004. This new legislation reduces the role of the state in employment relations and puts greater emphasis on contractual relations.

Each individual in Armenia has a work record or service record card, which contains entries about both the terms of employment and names of employers for each job undertaken.

2. Work duration, vacations

The normal working week is 40 hours (maximum 8 hours daily). Work cannot exceed 48 hours per week, or 12 hours per day.

Working night hours (from 22:00 till 6:00) is restricted for individuals under 18, and there are certain restrictions for pregnant women and mothers with children under the age of 3.

Statutory annual paid vacation is 28 days. According to the preferences of the employee, the annual vacation can be taken in different sized segments. The annual vacation must be taken in the given year, and the transfer of the annual vacation to a subsequent year is permitted only at the request of the employee or with his or her consent. The monetary compensation for unused annual vacations is agreed at the time of termination of the employment contract.

Women working in the RA receive both pregnancy and maternity leave as follows:

- 1) 140 days (70 days for pregnancy, 70 days for maternity);
- 2) 155 days (70 days for pregnancy, 85 days for maternity) in cases of difficult delivery;
- 3) 180 days (70 days for pregnancy, 110 days for maternity) in case of the birth of more than one child at a time.

The child's primary care giver, namely the mother of the family (or step mother), father (or step father), grandmother, grandfather or other relative (including the person who is assigned as guardian) can take a leave of absence until the child reaches three years of age and the employee reserves right for returning to his /her job (position).

9. B. LABOUR CONTRACTS

Employers in the RA must conclude employment contracts with the employees. The conditions governing these employment contracts are listed in the Labour Code of the RA. In accordance with the Labour Code there are several types of employment contracts. Employment contracts are signed for a definite or indefinite period of time. Employment contracts of a pre-defined period of time are to be signed only in exceptional cases.

Employment contracts are signed for a pre-defined period of time in the following cases:

- 1) the employee delivers services of personal character;
- 2) the work is done by an external consultant;;
- 3) the work is a second job;
- 4) the work is a seasonal job;
- 5) the work is a temporary job (up to two months in duration).

The employment contract may be terminated:

- 1) with the consent of both sides;
- 2) when the contract is expired;
- 3) by the initiative of the employee;
- 4) by the initiative of the employer;
- 5) in other cases stipulated by the Labour Code.

The Labour Code provides guarantees for the protection of employees against sickness, and injury; for pregnant women, and working mothers with children under age of 3. These guarantees are valid even when not specifically stipulated by the labour contract.

9. C. INTERGOVERNMENTAL TREATIES ON REGULATING LABOUR MIGRATION

Armenia has signed intergovernmental agreements on regulating labour migration with a number of CIS states, namely the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, as well as with Georgia and the Republic of Qatar.

By virtue of the above-mentioned treaties each of the countries is mandated to recognise (without specific legalization) certificates of education, qualifications and the corresponding papers granting titles. They have also agreed to recognise other documents necessary for employment, and the translations of these documents carried out in the employee's country of origin.

PART 10

ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY IN ARMENIA

10. A. ACCESS TO RETIREMENT INSURANCE AND PENSION BENEFITS

1. The guarantees given to retired citizens of the RA for pension provision when they emigrate to other states

Prior to the enactment of a new law on 05.02.2009, citizens of the RA lost their pension entitlements when taking up permanent residence in foreign countries. They were simply paid a one-off sum worth six months of payments or the remainder of the fund, whichever was the smaller amount. .

The above-mentioned sum was paid to the emigrating pensioner on the basis of a written application, within a period of one (1) month, and thereafter the remunerations were ceased.

With the amendments and changes in the Law 'On State Pension Remunerations' that entered into force on 05.02.2009, the above-mentioned provisions became void. Since that date, the pension of retired citizens living abroad is being paid on the basis of a letter of attorney.

The pension may be paid on the basis of one letter of attorney for not more than twelve (12) months, starting from the month after the last payment. After twelve months a new letter of attorney must be presented, which will in its turn be valid for twelve (12) months.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

It should be noted that the pension payments are not automatically reinstated with the letter of attorney. In order to reinstate the payments of the pension provision it is necessary to submit, in person, a written application to the subdivision (where the pension was originally granted) of the state social security service of the Ministry of Labour and Social Matters of the RA.

In the case of taking up permanent residence in one of the Commonwealth Independent States countries, the pensions of citizens of the RA ceases if a similar type of pension is provided for by the legislation of the state of the person's permanent residence (see point 2 of the present paragraph).

2. Pension rights of foreign citizens

The pension provision of a foreign citizen is done in accordance with:

- international agreements of the RA; and
- legislation of the RA.

2.1. The Commonwealth of Independent States have signed an agreement entitled 'On guarantees to citizens of Commonwealth Independent member-States', adopted on March 13, 1992, in accordance with which, CIS nationals with a residence permit in the RA are entitled to receive their pension in the place of their residence, when the country of their previous permanent residence has ceased remunerating their pensions.

This payment to CIS nationals is assigned on the basis of a reference note indicating the cessation of pension remunerations in the former country of permanent residence, or on the basis of the submission of a 'pension provision file' from the body that had previously been responsible for pension provision in the person's prior country of residence.

The above-mentioned agreement also stipulates that social security documents issued by CIS member-states of the CIS as well as by former state organs of the Soviet Union before December 1, 1991, are accepted without the need for verification.

2.2. People employing foreign citizens and the individuals without citizenship are exempted from the liability of making social contributions on their behalf.

Foreign citizens working in the RA are exempted from making social contributions.

The exemption of foreigners from social contributions does not, however, exclude them from making voluntary social security payments in accordance with the law. In accordance with the law of the RA 'On State Pensions', foreign citizens who make all necessary social security payments related to pension

provisions and who meet the necessary legal conditions have the right to a pension equal to that of citizens of the RA.

3. Individuals entitled to state subsidies in the RA

Individuals entitled to receive state subsidies in the RA are as follows:

- citizens of the RA;
- foreign citizens who have a valid residence permit for the RA;
- individuals without citizenship;
- individuals who have refugee status in the RA.

The types of the state subsidies are as follows:

- family subsidy;
- a subsidy for child care for children under the age of 2;
- a one-off payment for the birth of a child;
- a subsidy paid to the family of a deceased Armenian soldier, or to the family of a soldier who has been decorated with an Order of Martial Cross.

There is one off subsidy paid to families in case of:

- birth of a child in the family;
- enrolment of a child to the first grade of public school;
- death of a member of the family.

A payment for three months is paid to families facing difficult situations and to families that are not entitled to the family subsidy.

For additional information contact
The Ministry of Labour and Social Matters of the RA,
Address: 375010, Republic of Armenia,
Yerevan, Republic Square, Government building 3
E-mail: hasmik.khachatryan@mss.am
Web address: <http://www.mss.am/>

10. B. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

In accordance with Article 38 of the Constitution of the RA anybody, including foreign citizens, has access to medical care in accordance with law.

Basic medical services are provided free of charge. The list and the order of delivering these services is prescribed by the law, as outlined below.

1. Access of foreigners to medical services

The regulations governing the provision of medical services in the RA are regulated by the law: 'On Medical Assistance and Services to the Population'

In accordance with Article 4 of this law, anybody, irrespective of nationality, race, gender, language, creed, age, state of their health, political or any other convictions, social origin, proprietary, or other status has access to medical assistance and services in the RA.

Everybody, including foreign citizens has access to free medical assistance and services, within the framework of the state health care programmes provided by the state. However the state system does not provide cover for all medical conditions. These services paid by private medical insurance, personal means and other sources.

In accordance with Article 19 of the law: 'On the Medical Assistance and Services to the Population' medical practitioners must provide immediate medical assistance to everybody, regardless of whether they are insured, or any other factor.

2. Specific regulations of providing medical treatment to citizens of member-states of Commonwealth of Independent States

On April 5, 2000 the National Assembly of the RA ratified a treaty signed in Moscow on March 27, 1997 'On the order of providing medical services' to citizens of Commonwealth Independent member States.

The treaty stipulates that immediate and urgent medical care is provided free of charge to citizens of member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States. This does not refer to other forms of medical treatment.

10. C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there a compulsory medical insurance in the RA?

At the time of writing there is no legal obligation to purchase medical insurance in the RA. Medical insurance is undertaken on a voluntary basis with insurance companies.

**For additional information contact
The Ministry of Health of the RA,
Address: 375010, Republic of Armenia,
Yerevan, Republic Square, Government building 3
Web address: <http://www.moh.am/>**

PART 11

PROPERTY RIGHTS OF NON-CITIZENS IN ARMENIA

11. A. PROPERTY RIGHTS

In accordance with Article 5 of the law of the RA 'On Foreigners', foreign citizens in the RA enjoy rights, liberties and liabilities equal to those of the citizens of the RA, unless otherwise prescribed by the Constitution, laws and international treaties of the RA.

These principles extend to property rights.

In accordance with Article 32 of the Constitution of the RA everybody, including foreign citizens has the right to own, use, manage and transfer their property at their discretion. However, in exercising their rights to property ownership, individuals should not damage the environment, nor violate the rights and legal interests of other individuals, the public and the state. According to the Constitution, nobody can be dispossessed of property, with the exception of cases prescribed by a court decision. Moreover, the confiscation of a person's property to meet the needs of society and state can only be done in when there are exclusive prevailing public interests, in accordance with the law, and with adequate compensation, defined as 15% above the market value of the confiscated property.

Article 32 of the Constitution of the RA also stipulates that foreign citizens and individuals without citizenship are not entitled to own land, with the exception of cases prescribed by the law. Foreign citizens can only lease the land; never own it. Nevertheless, foreign citizens who have a special residence permit in the Republic of Armenia (see Part 7) may be granted the right of land ownership in exceptional cases.

11. B. ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY AUTHORISED BODIES OF FOREIGN STATES

Legal documents authorised and provided by the relevant authorities of foreign states are accepted by Armenian notaries only when verified by Consular authorities of the RA. Verification, unless otherwise stipulated by the law or the international treaties of the RA, as outlined in the paragraphs below.

Documents emanating from states that are party to the Hague Convention of November 5 of 1961, are however accepted by notaries if accompanied by an explanatory note.

In accordance with the Convention signed between the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States 'On legal assistance and legal relations in civilian, family and criminal cases', documents that have been duly prepared or verified by the relevant authorities of CIS member states with due process, and which bear the seal with the respective state's coat of arms, are accepted by notary offices without Consular verification or an explanatory note.

In addition, in accordance with international agreements on legal assistance signed with Georgia, Republic of Bulgaria, and Romania, documents that have been prepared or verified by the relevant authorities, which bear these countries' seals with the respective coat of arms, are accepted by notary offices without Consular verification or an explanatory note.

11. C. CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR INDIVIDUALS ARRIVING IN ARMENIA TO TAKE UP PERMANENT RESIDENCE

In accordance with article 105 of the Customs Code of the RA individuals that arrive in Armenia to take up permanent residence can import all items for personal use free of customs clearance.

In connection with this privilege it is necessary to be advised that:

- Items for personal use are considered to be one vehicle for personal use, and household items which do not have factory packaging and labelling and were acquired before arriving in Armenia;
- A person arriving in Armenia to take up permanent residence is, for customs purposes, considered in the same manner as a citizen of the RA who has left the territory of the RA for permanent residence in a foreign country and thereby cancelled his or her residence registration in the RA and is now returning. After arriving in the RA, the permanent resident must register and present all relevant documents to the customs proving his or her permanent residence in Armenia, and must present his/her passport (or other equivalent document).

- A citizen of the RA who has left to take up permanent residence in a foreign country must, when returning to the RA to re-establish permanent residence present to the customs bodies a document proving the former permanent residence in that foreign country, and a passport with a visa from the Consular service of the RA in that foreign country with a stamp stating: 'Registered by Consulate for permanent residence', and/or a reference provided by the relevant authorities of the foreign country proving the individual's former permanent residence in that country, the authenticity of which has been verified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA.
- The personal property of an individual arriving in the RA for permanent residence is to be imported within a period of 180 days of acquiring residence registration in the RA.
- This privilege can be used only once every five years.

PART 12

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ARMENIA

12. A. REGULATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ARMENIA

Foreign investment in the RA is regulated by the Law 'On Foreign Investments', adopted in 1994.

1. The guarantees for foreign investments

The Law 'On Foreign Investments' was adopted to attract foreign investments into the country. It provides guarantees against expropriation which can be accessed uniquely by a court decision, which, if vindicated, will secure full compensation for the value of the investment.

Foreign investors are protected from possible damages caused by illicit or inappropriate activities of the Government. The law gives guarantees to the investors to freely repatriation of profits and equity. In cases where the legislation on foreign investments has been modified after the investments are made, the investor will be entitled to enjoy exemption from any unfavourable principle of the law for a period of five years.

2. The types of foreign investments

Foreign investors can make investments in the territory of the RA in the following manner:

- a) in a foreign currency, or in the national currency of the RA;
- b) in movable estate and in real estate (i.e. buildings, facilities, equipment and other material values) while enjoying proprietary rights in connection with such;
- c) in stocks and shares, bonds and other securities defined by the legislation of the RA;
- d) by cession of claims; (the foreign investor is entitled to cede his/her rights of property);
- f) by engaging in economic activity stipulated as legal by the legislation of the RA or by a specific agreement, including the right of exploring natural resources, mining, processing or extracting;
- g) by engaging in paid services;
- h) by engaging in any type of investments that are not prohibited by the legislation of the RA.

The prohibition or restriction of foreign investments of the defined types can be done only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the legislation of the RA.

Foreign investors have the right to make monetary demands in fulfilment of a contract, and have the right to exercise intellectual property rights.

3. Ways of making foreign investments

Foreign investors are entitled to make investments in the following way:

- a) through creating or establishing enterprises fully belonging to foreign investors, as well as through establishing subdivisions, affiliations, branches, and representations belonging to foreign legal entities; or through purchasing as companies or enterprises already operational;
- b) through establishing new enterprises with the participation of legal entities of the RA or establishing companies with the participation of the citizens of the RA; or through purchasing divisions or shares in enterprises already operating;
- c) through acquiring or purchasing other securities and other stocks and bonds within the framework of the legislation of the RA.
- d) through acquiring the right to use land and acquiring concessions to use natural resources on the territory of the RA, either alone or with the participation of legal entities of the RA or via enterprises that do not have legal status in the RA;
- e) through acquiring other proprietary rights;
- f) through other forms that are not prohibited by the legislation of the RA, in particular through agreements signed with enterprises having the status of a legal entity or with enterprises that do not have a status of legal entity, or with citizens of the RA.

12. B. ESTABLISHMENT OF ENTERPRISES WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

It is forbidden to start entrepreneurial activity in the RA without state registration. People are permitted to

import goods and items for personal use to Armenia in restricted quantities. However for their resale, one must register as a private entrepreneur. The only enterprises that do not need registration in Armenia are those operating as exporters, while being located outside the territory.

For some types of activities a license may be required.

The state registration of legal entities is done by means of the State Register overseen by the Ministry of Justice. The State Register consists of Central and Territorial offices.

After registering and obtaining a certificate of registration, the enterprise must, within a month of the date of registration, register with the tax authority of the State Revenue Service of the Government of the RA.

The process of establishing an enterprise consists of two stages:

- elaboration and collection of documents envisaged by the law;
- submission of these documents to the RA State Register of Legal Entities for state registration.

1. Types of legal entities in Armenia

There are many different types of companies in Armenia. Below the most common ones are presented:

Joint Stock Companies

A joint stock company is a legal entity, the charter capital of which is divided into a certain number of shares, defining the rights and obligations of the stockholders in respect of the company. There are two types of joint stock companies: joint stock companies of open type and joint stock companies of closed type. Open Joint Stock Company may, without restrictions, issue shares and sell them to public. Every shareholder has the right to sell shares without acquiring the consent of the other shareholders. In closed joint stock companies shares are distributed only among the founders of the company and their number is restricted (a maximum of 49 shareholders is prescribed by the law).

Limited Liability Companies

A limited liability company is an economic entity, the charter capital of which is divided into shares, the number of which is determined by its charter. The participants of the company are not liable for the obligations undertaken by the company and, within the values of their contributions, shall bear responsibility for the risks of losses related to the activities of the company.

Branches

In Armenia it is easier and less costly to establish a branch rather than a sub-division or affiliate. Founding a branch does not require any capital investments. A branch of any foreign company must be registered in the State Register. For this the company must provide a letter proving the decision of the foreign company to open a branch, as well as a document proving that the company is registered in accordance with the legislation of its country of origin.

Representations

Having representation is very similar to having a company branch. It should be noted that, like a branch, it is also located and operates beyond the location of the founder company and does not have the status of legal entity. Finally, like a branch, it acts in accordance with authorities delegated to it by the founder company.

There is however one notable difference between a branch and representation. The latter is merely entitled to represent and defend the interests of the founder company, whereas a branch can perform all functions of a legal entity, including representative functions.

2. The documents required for state registration of legal entities

In order to register an enterprise, it is necessary to submit the following documents required by the RA Law 'On State Registration of Legal Entities' to the appropriate territorial subdivision of the RA State Register of Legal Entities:

- a) the application of the founder or founders of the legal entity, the head of the executive body, or the authorised person representing the founder (founders);
- b) the protocol of the constituent meeting (assembly or other body defined by the law) that was held by the founders when establishing the legal entity, signed either by all founders or by the chairperson and the secretary (with the exception of legal entities that are established by one person). In cases where one of the founders of the legal entity, is itself a legal entity, then it is necessary to present the founding decision of the management of its authorised body and a copy of its state registration certificate. In cases where a legal entity is established by one person, then the written decision of the founder is to be presented;
- c) at least two copies of the by-laws confirmed by the constituent meeting (assembly or other body defined by the law);
- d) receipt of the payment of the state duty (12,000 AMD paid in any bank);
- e) the application for registration of the company name (for registering the company name it is necessary to pay 5,000 AMD of state duty and to submit an application to the territorial subdivision of the RA State Register of Legal Entities, which is then forwarded to the Intellectual Property Agency affiliated to the Government of the RA).

If the founder is a foreign legal entity or there is a foreign legal entity in the list of founders, then the founder must submit the following documents, which should be translated into Armenian and attested by a notary.

- a) An extract from the commercial register of the country of origin of the enterprise, containing information on the organizational form of the enterprise declared at the time of its registration as a legal entity and its current legal status;
- b) The founding documents of the foreign legal entity, i.e. the charter of the enterprise or other equivalent documents;
- c) A decision of the authorized managing body of the foreign legal entity on establishing an enterprise.

These documents should contain the following information:

- a) the legal status and organizational form of the legal entity;
- b) the registration date in the country of residence;
- c) the juridical name of the enterprise;
- d) the location of the enterprise;
- e) the enterprise's length of operation;
- f) the names of the authorities of the management bodies of the enterprise (General Assembly of Founders, Board, Executive body);
- g) the names of people on management body, authorised to make decisions on the establishment of this enterprise, acquire shares in the charter capital, and terminate the participation in legal entity.

A foreign citizen who wants to open a firm in Armenia must also attach a translated and notarized copy of his or her passport to the list of the above required documents.

3. Registration of legal entities

In order to register a legal entity the above-mentioned documents must be submitted to the territorial office of the State Register at the legal entity's location. In order to register as a sole trader the documents must

be submitted to the territorial office of the State Register at the place of residence of the sole trader.

After presenting all required documents to the State Register, the territorial office of the State Register must process the information and register the data on the executive body of the legal entity within five (5) days.

12. C. USEFUL INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL INVESTORS

International organizations have assessed the investment and trade policies of Armenia as being amongst the most liberal in the Commonwealth of Independent States. The investment of foreign companies is encouraged and they enjoy certain advantages. Armenia's investment climate is continuously improving thanks to a strong government commitment to attracting the FDI and enhancing the legislation so as to provide incentives to invest. These incentives include:

- political and economic stability
- favourable investment legislation
- investment guarantees
- strong government commitment to attracting the FDI
- a well educated, and qualified workforce, particularly in the sciences
- a cost-effective workforce
- no limitations on foreign ownership
- competitive prices for electric power
- access to CIS and Middle Eastern markets
- no export duties
- free conversion of foreign exchange
- free repatriation of profits
- unrestricted labour recruitment
- unrestricted remittances

Since 1991 the inflow of foreign investment has increased and the dynamics of growth is encouraging for the future. From 2000 to 2008 the total sum of foreign investments in Armenia amounted to more than 3 billion US dollars.

For more information or advice, please contact:

1. The Armenian Development Agency

The Armenian Development Agency (ADA) was established in 1998 by the Government of the Republic of Armenia to facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment and to promote exports.

ADA operates as "one-stop shop" agency for investors by assisting them in setting up their business in Armenia, helping in project implementation, performing a liaison role with the Government, and by providing information on investment opportunities in the country, as well as on investment related regulations and laws. With its export promoting activities ADA helps companies find markets for products, undertakes market research, and seeks out partners for joint ventures so as to increase the volume of exports and develop Armenian enterprises. ADA also organizes international conferences, business-forums, trade fairs and exhibitions.

The Armenian Government sees ADA as the main national intermediary for bridging the gaps between the policy development and implementation and for promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Chairman of the Board of ADA is the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

ADA coordinates the work of the Secretariat of the Business Support Council of the Republic of Armenia, which provides an effective mechanism to channel issues of concern to the business community to the government, and in particular to the Secretariat of the IT Development Support Council of the Republic of Armenia.

ADA cooperates with many international organizations such as the World Bank, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the United States

Agency for International Development (USAID), Development Alternatives Inc (DAI) and others.

For further information go to: <http://www.ada.am/>

2. Trade and Industry Chamber of the Republic of Armenia

The functions of the Trade and Industry Chamber are as follows:

- keeping an unofficial register of commercial organizations and sole traders the RA, whose financial economic attributes testify to their reliability and trustworthiness in undertaking partnerships within the territory of the Republic and in foreign states;
- maintaining the unofficial register, which includes commercial organizations and sole traders in the RA whose financial and economic attributes testify to the reliability and trustworthiness of their operations in the territory of the Republic and in foreign states;
- providing independent expert analysis and assessments of products in response to applications lodged by domestic and foreign commercial organizations to check and monitor their quality, quantity and completeness;
- providing support to companies in patenting and registering their inventions, models, industrial samples, brand names, trademarks, service trademarks and the countries of origin of the goods and commodities, as well as supporting domestic and foreign commercial organizations and sole traders in participating in international trades and exhibitions;
- developing business plans;
- creating data-bases;
- organizing trades and fairs in Armenia and in foreign countries and supporting the participation of Armenian businesspeople in these events;
- performing other activities in accordance with the law.

For further information go to: <http://www.armcci.am/>

3. The Union of Manufacturers and Businesspeople (Employers) of Armenia

The Union of Manufacturers and Businesspeople (Employers) of Armenia undertakes the following tasks:

- assisting in creating beneficial conditions for supporting the development of business in Armenia;
- establishing close relations with similar foreign organizations and business circles among the Armenian Diaspora;
- supporting the improvement of investment policy in Armenia and attracting foreign and local investment;
- organizing business conferences, forums, exhibitions, fairs, and encouraging the production of competitive goods and the expansion of their exporting potential, etc.

For further information go to: <http://www.umba.info.am/>

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Foreigner - a person who is not a citizen of the Republic of Armenia and has citizenship of another state (foreign citizen), or does not have citizenship of any other state (a person with no citizenship).

Foreigner of Armenian origin - a foreigner whose Armenian origin is confirmed by documents provided by religious and community institutions, as well as by the state authorized bodies.

Citizen of the Republic of Armenia permanently residing in a foreign country (resident alien) - a citizen of the Republic of Armenia that has left Armenia to live elsewhere for a period of more than six (6) months or a citizen of the Republic of Armenia that has been resident elsewhere for a period of more than six (6) months.

Migrant worker - a person, who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national. (International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990)

Document confirming the fact of permanent alien residence - a passport of a citizen with the stamp of Consular Legalization of the Republic of Armenia in a foreign country, that bears the statement: "Registered by the Consulate for permanent residence" and(or) a reference, confirming the fact of permanent residence, given by the authorized body of a foreign country, the authenticity of which has been verified by a corresponding affirmative resolution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

Place of permanent residence - a place where a person is residing permanently or predominantly.

Entry Visa - a permit given by the authorized state regulating body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (see Part 7), that entitles a foreigner to enter the territory of the Republic of Armenia, to move in transit through the territory of the Republic of Armenia, to be in the Republic of Armenia and to exit from the Republic of Armenia in compliance with the purposes, conditions and terms indicated in it.

Status of Sojourning - a permit given by the authorized state regulating body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, that entitles a foreigner to reside in the territory of the Republic of Armenia for a certain period of time.

Status of Permanent Residence - a permit given by the authorized state regulating body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, that entitles a foreigner to reside permanently in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Status of Special Residence - a permit given by the President of the Republic of Armenia that entitles a foreigner to reside in the territory of the Republic of Armenia within the period of validity of the permit.

Foreign investor - a foreign state, any foreign legal entity, a foreign citizen, a person with no citizenship, a citizen of the Republic of Armenia with permanent residence in another state, as well as an international organization that, in accordance with the legislation of its/his/her place of registration, makes investment in the Republic of Armenia.

Foreign investment - any money and/or intellectual property that is being directly invested by a foreign investor in an entrepreneurial or other sphere of activity in the territory of the Republic of Armenia with the purpose of generating profit (income) or achieving other useful results.

Company with foreign investments - a company of any legal organizational form created in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, the founder or participant of which is a foreign investor.

Public education – the process of upbringing, educating and training an individual, accomplished through essential and additional programmes of preschool, elementary, principal, secondary education.

Preschool education – education that is accomplished by the preschool education programme and is called upon to prepare an individual for the elementary general education.

Elementary education - the first level of compulsory education that includes the first level of essential programmes of public education.

Principal education - the second level of compulsory education that includes the first and second levels of essential programmes of public education.

Secondary education - the third level of public education that includes the three levels of essential programmes of public education.

Primary professional (vocational) education –vocational educational programmes undertaken on the basis of the principals of general education, with the exception of workmanship training.

Secondary vocational education - secondary vocational educational programmes, undertaken on the basis of the principal general education.

Higher professional education - the professional education of bachelor's, certified specialist's, master's programmes undertaken after the successful completion of secondary (complete) general education.

Post graduate professional education - professional education (master's, certified specialist's) such as post-graduate, research, or academic degree programmes.

APPENDIX 1: Official Holidays and Commemoration days as per the Republic of Armenia Law on Official Holidays and Commemoration Days

December 31- January 2	The New Year (non-working days)
January 3-5	The Pre-Christmas holidays (non-working days)
January 6	The Holy Christmas and Appearance (non-working day)
January 7	Remembrance Day (non-working day)
January 28	Army Day (non-working day)
February 21	Mother Tongue Day
February 28	Day of Remembrance of Victims Massacred in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and of the Rights of Displaced Armenian People
March 8	International Women's Day (non-working day)
April 7	Maternity and Feminine Beauty Day (non-working day)
April 24	Day of Commemoration of the Genocide Victims (non-working day)
May 1	Labour Day (non-working day)
May 8	Erkrpah Day
May 9	Day of Victory and Peace (non-working day)
May 28	Republic Day (non-working day)
June 1	International Children's Day
June 14	The Day of Remembrance of Victims of Repression
July 5	Constitution Day (non-working day)
September 1	Day of Knowledge and Education
September 21	Independence Day (non-working day)
December 7	The Day of Remembrance of Earthquake Victims (non-working day)
The Thursday 8 weeks prior to Saint Easter	Saint Vardanant's Day, the Day of Benevolence and National Tribute
The Sunday 64 days after Easter the Holiday of Saint Etchmiadzin	

APPENDIX 2: Diplomatic missions and Consular institutions of the Republic of Armenia¹⁰

EMBASSIES

Republic of Albania
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Athens. See Greece.

South African Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Cairo. See Egypt.

Argentine Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Vladimir Karmirshalyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
J.A. Pacheco de Melo, 1922,
C1126AAD Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tel.: (54 11) 4816-8710
Fax: (54 11) 4812-2803
E-mail: armenia@fibertel.com.ar

Republic of Austria
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ashot Hovakimian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Hadikgasse 28, A-1140, Vienna, Austria,
Tel.: (43 1) 5227479 (43 1) 5243668 (consular)
Fax: (43 1) 5227481
E-mail: armenia@armembassy.at

Republic of Belarus
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Oleg Yesayan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
17 Kirov St., Minsk, Belarus,
Tel: (375 17) 2275153, 2270936, 220050
Fax: (375 17) 2275153
E-mail: armrep@cis.minsk.by

Kingdom of Belgium
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Avet Adonts, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Rue Montoyer, 28,
1000, Brussels, Belgium
Tel. (32 2) 348-44-00 / 03
Fax. (32 2) 348-44-01
E-mail: armembel@skynet.be
Web address: www.armembassy.be

Republic of Bulgaria
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Sergei Manasarian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
11 fl. "20 April" St. 11, 1606, Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel.: (359 2) 526046, 547970
Fax: (359 2) 526046, 526046
E-mail: armembsof@omega.bg, senal@mail.bg

Canada
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Arman Hakobian, Charge d'Affaires

¹⁰ For the complete list, see: <http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com/>.

7 Delaware Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0Z2, Canada
Tel.: (1 613) 234-3710
Fax: (1 613) 234 3444
E-mail: armcanadaembassy@mfa.am
Web address: www.armembassycanada.ca

People's Republic of China
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Armen Sargsian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
4-1-61, Ta Yuan Diplomatic Apartments,
Beijing, 100600, PR China
Tel: (8610) 65325677
Fax: (8610) 65325654
E-mail: armchinaembassy@mfa.am

Republic of Croatia
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Athens. See Greece.

Republic of Cyprus
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Athens. See Greece.

Czech Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ashot Hovakimian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Residence in Vienna. See Austria.

Kingdom of Denmark
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ara Aivazian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Residence in Yerevan, 2 Government House, Republic Square
Tel: (374 1) 544041 X 289
Tel/fax.: (374 1) 543925
e-mail: armscandebassy@mfa.am

Arab Republic of Egypt
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Armen Melkonyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Mohamed Mozhar 20, Cairo, Egypt
Tel.: (20 2) 7374157, 7374159
Fax: (20 2) 7374158
E-mail: armegyptembassy@mfa.am
web: www.armembegypt.com

Republic of Estonia
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Warsaw. See Poland.

Republic of Finland
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ara Aivazian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Residence in Yerevan, 2 Government House, Republic Square
Tel: (374 1) 544041 X 289
Tel/fax.: (374 1) 543925
E-mail: armscandebassy@mfa.am

French Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Vigen Tchitechian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
9 Rue Viete, 75017 Paris, France

Tel: (33 14) 2129800
Fax: (33 14) 2129803
E-mail: ambarmen@wanadoo.fr

Georgia
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Hrach Sylvanian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
4 Tetelashvili Street, Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel.: (995 32) 951723, 964286
Fax: (995 32) 964287
E-mail: armemb@caucasus.net

Federal Republic of Germany
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Nussbaumallee, D 14050 Berlin, Germany
Tel.: (49 30) 40509120 /15/11
Fax: (49 30) 40509125
E-mail: armemb@gmx.de

Hellenic Republic of Greece
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Vahram Kazhoyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
95 Konstantinou Paleologou Avenue,
Khalandri 15232, Athens, Greece
Tel.: (30 210) 683 1130
Fax: (30 210) 683 1183
E-mail: armemb@otenet.gr

Republic of Hungary
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Vienna. See Austria.

Republic of India
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ashot Khocharian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
E-1/20, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110057
Tel: (9111) 24112851 / 52
Fax : (9111) 24112853
E-mail: armemb@vsnl.com

Islamic Republic of Iran
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Grigor Arakelyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
1 Ostad Shahriar St. Corner of Razi, Jomhuri Eslami Ave., Tehran, Iran
Tel.: (98 21) 66704838 / 33
Fax: (98 21) 66700657
E-mail: emarteh@yahoo.com

Republic of India
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ashot Kocharian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
D-133, Anand Niketan, New Delhi 110021, India
Tel: (91-11) 24112851, 24112852
Fax: (91-11) 24112853
E-Mail: armemb@vsnl.com

Italian Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ruben Karapetian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Via Venti Settembre, 98/E, 00187 Roma, Italy
Tel.: (390 6) 3296638; 3297764

Fax : (390 6) 3297763
E-mail: embarmit@tin.it

Republic of Kazakhstan
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Vasili Ghazaryan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
579 Seyfulin St. Almaty 480075, Kazakhstan
Tel.: (7 3272) 917296
Fax: (7 3272) 917296
E-mail: akod100@hotmail.com

The Kyrgyz Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Almaty. See Kazakhstan.

State of Kuwait
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Fadey Charchoghlian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Residence in Abu Dhabi. See Abu Dhabi.

Republic of Latvia
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Warsaw. See Poland .

Lebanese Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Rabieh, Mtaileb, Jasmin St. Beirut, Lebanon
Tel.: (961 4) 402952
Fax: (961 4) 418860
E-mail: armenia@dm.net.lb

Republic of Lithuania
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Warsaw. See Poland.

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Brussels. See Belgium.

Republic of Moldova
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Kiev. See Ukraine.

Lybia
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Cairo. See Egypt.

Kingdom of Norway
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ara Aivazian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Residence in Yerevan, 2 Government House, Republic Square
Tel: (374 1) 544041 X 289
Tel/fax.: (374 1) 543925
E-mail: armscandebassy@mfa.am

Kingdom of Netherlands
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Brussels. See Belgium.

Sultanate of Oman
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Cairo. See Egypt.

Republic of Poland
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ashot Galoyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
50, Bekasow str.
02-803, Warsaw, Poland
Tel.: (48 22) 8990940-42.8990936-37
Tel/fax: (48 22) 8990935
E-mail: secretariat@armenia.internetdsl.pl

Romania
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Hamlet Gasparian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Bucharest, 1 Colotesti st., apt. 2
Tel.: (40 21) 3197604
Fax: (40 21) 3197603
E-mail: armembro@starnets.ro

Russian Federation
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Oleg Esayan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Armiansky per. 2, Moscow 101000
Tel.: (7 495) 9241269
Tel/Fax: (7 495) 9244535
Fax: (7 495) 9245030
E-mail: info@armenianembassy.ru
Web address: www.armenianembassy.ru

Serbia and Montenegro
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Athens. See Greece.

Slovak Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Vienna. See Austria.

Republic of Slovenia
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Athens. See Greece.

Kingdom of Sweden
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Ara Aivazian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Residence in Yerevan, 2 Government House, Republic Square
Tel: (374 1) 544041 X 289
Tel/fax.: (374 1) 543925
E-mail: armscandebassy@mfa.am

Swiss Confederation
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Charles Aznavour, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
28 Avenue du mail
1205, Geneva, Suisse
Tel: (4122)320-1100
Fax: (4122) 320-6148
E-mail: arm.mission@deckpoint.ch

Syrian Arab Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Arshak Poladyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Malki, Ibrahim Hanano St., P.O. Box 33241, Damascus, Syria
Tel.: (963 11) 6133560

Fax: (963 11) 6130952
E-mail: am309@net.sy

Tunisian Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
H.E. Mr. Levon Sargsian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
2 Government House, Republic Square, 0010 Yerevan
Tel: (37410) 544041 (ext. 2-72)

Turkmenistan
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Vladimir Badalyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Kioroghli St. 14, Ashgabad, Turkmenistan
Tel: (993 12) 295542; 354418
Fax: (993) 395538/49
E-mail: eat@online.tm

Ukraine
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Armen Khachatrian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Volodymyrska St., 45, Kyiv 01901, Ukraine
Tel.: (38044) 234-90-05, 235-10-04
Fax: (38044) 235-43-55
E-mail: despanut@voliacable.com

United Arab Emirates
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Vahagn Melikian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
P.O. Box 6358, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Tel: (971 2) 4444196
Fax: (971 2) 4444197
E-mail: aremire@emirates.net.ae

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Vahe Gabrielian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
25A, Cheniston Gardens,
London W 8 6TG
Tel.: (44 207) 9385435
Fax: (44 207) 9382595
E-mail: armemb@armenianembassyuk.com; consular@armenianembassyuk.com
Web address: www.armenianembassy.org.uk

United States of America
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Tatul Markarian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
2225 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA
Tel: (1 202) 319-1976
Fax : (1 202) 319-2982
Consular Section: Tel: (1 202) 319-2983, Fax: (1 202) 319-8330
E-mail: armpublic@speakeasy.net
Web address: www.armeniaemb.org

Oriental Republic of Uruguay
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Buenos-Aires. See Argentina

Ethiopia
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Residence in Cairo. See Egypt

CONSULATES

Federal Republic of Brazil
Consulate-General
Mr. Valeri Mkrtoumian
Av. Sao Luiz, 192 - Conj. 1301 - CEP 01046 - 913
Sao Paulo - SP
Tel: (55-11) 3255-77-07
Fax: (55-11) 3159-41-51
E-mail: consularm@vipsite.com.br

Cote d'Ivoire
Honorary Consul
Mr. Raymond Yezekelian
01 B.P. 816 Abidjan 01
Tel: (225) 35-60-35

State of Israel
Honorary Consul
Mr. Tsolak Momjian
1, Vitron Street Atolot Industrial Zone Jerusalem
Fax: (9722) 6565861
E-mail: momjian@netvision.net.il

The Republic of Italy
Honorary Consul
Mr. Pietro Kuciukian
Via Teodosio 7, 20131 Milano
Tel: (39-02) 70 600 741
Fax: (39-02) 70 633 900
E-mail: pietro.kuciukyan@tin.it

Luxembourg
Honorary Consul in the Luxembourg
Mr. F. Engel
Honorary Consul

Kingdom of Spain
Valencia
Mr. Luis Barbera Zapatero
Honorary Consul
Mr. Mher Badalian
Third Secretary
Regne de Valencia, 14-4, Valencia, Spain
Tel: (34) 963162475, Fax : (34) 963738059
E-Mail: consulenvalencia@mail.ru

Netherlands
Consulate-General
Mr. Arshak Manukyan
Sumatrastraat 222-224, 2585 CV The Hague ('s-Gravenhage), Netherlands
Tel: (3170)3311002
E-mail: armconsulatehaaga@mfa.am

Syrian Arab Republic
Consulate-General
Mr. Arthur Manaseryan
A1-Kawakibi 4, Taha-Hussein 12, Aleppo
Tel: (963-21) 268-7240
Tel: (963-21) 268-7241
Fax: (963-21) 268-7291
E-mail: consgenarm@net.sy

The Kingdom of Thailand
Honorary Consul
28B Lake Rajada Office Complex,
193/117 Rachadapisek Rd.,
Klong Toey, Prakanong, Bangkok 10110
Tel: (662) 6618477; 6618478
Fax: (662) 6618479
E-mail: armenia@ktech.co.th
Web address: www.armeniaconsulate.or.th

Ukraine
Honorary Consul
Mr. Suren Asatryan
47/45 Lazarenko St., Donetsk
Tel: (380623) 97 04 82
Fax: (380623) 82 88 68
E-mail: despanut@voliacable.com
Web address: www.armembassy.com.ua

US
Consulate-General
Mr. Grigor Hovhannisyan
1000 N. Central Ave., Suite 200,
Glendale, CA 91202
Tel: (818) 265-5900
Fax: (818) 265-3800
Hotline: (818) 454-7937
E-mail: armconla@aol.com

APPENDIX 3: Questionnaire for acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

1.	First name, father's name and, surname (if you have changed your first name, or your surname, please indicate all of your first names and surnames and the reasons for changing them):
2.	Date of birth (day, month, year):
3.	Place of birth (in full):
4.	Nationality (if you have changed nationality, please indicate when and the reasons why):
5.	Citizenship:
6.	If you have citizenship of other state, please indicate which state:
7.	Have you ever resided in other states? (When and where?):
8.	Marital status (married, divorced, single, widowed):
9.	Education and profession (Which educational establishment(s) have you graduated from and when?):
10.	Do you have a scientific degree and a scientific title to your name?
11.	Do you have research papers and inventions to your name?
12.	Have you ever been elected to a representational body? (If so, when and where?)
13.	Have you ever been criminally or administratively prosecuted? (If so, when and for what?)
14.	While residing abroad, have you ever been repressed for your political and religious creed?
15.	Have you ever participated in military or war activities? If yes, then indicate the country, the time of the activities and your position in the military. Have you been held in captivity?
16.	When did you arrive in the Republic of Armenia?
17.	What is your reason for coming to the Republic of Armenia:
18.	Have you ever been in the Republic of Armenia before? (When and with what purpose?)

19. Your close relatives (father, mother, sister, brother, husband, wife, children): If any of the above-mentioned persons has changed his/her first name, surname or nationality, then please indicate the name in full:

Relation:	First name, surname, father's name:	Date of birth/ day, month, year:	Nationality:	Citizenship:	Place of work, position:	Place of permanent residence:

20. Please list the work that you have undertaken, starting from the beginning of your working career (including education in higher and secondary vocational educational establishments, and military service). While filling in this part of the questionnaire it is necessary to indicate the name of the workplace as when you were working there. The information about military service should be given in accordance with the military card, stating the position and military rank.

Day, month, year:		Name of the workplace (or place of study), location, position:	The address of the workplace (place of study):
Accepted:	Dismissed:		

21.	Do you have any state awards?	
22.	Do you have any experience in military service, if so, what is/was your military rank?	
23.	The reasons for applying for citizenship:	
24.	Place of permanent residence (address in the Republic of Armenia and in the foreign state):	

25. Please list all documents attached to this questionnaire:

26. Any other information you deem relevant about you or your relatives, in addition to the mentioned above data?

27. Official notes: _____ has
(first name, surname)

a) passport: _____
(passport number, name or code of the state or organization that has issued the passport)

Issued on: _____ expiry date: _____

b) residence permit: _____
(document number and number of the special passport)

Issued on: _____ issued by: _____ expiry date: _____

c) certificate/document certifying absence of citizenship _____
(document number)

Issued on: _____ issued by: _____ expiry date: _____

28. The questionnaire and the list of documents attached were verified by:

(surname of the processing official, position and signature)

_____ 20__
(date of processing)

APPENDIX 4: Order to check the knowledge of the Armenian language and the Constitution of the RA of individuals applying for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia¹¹

1. The knowledge of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia of individuals acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is checked by a Test.
2. The Test for checking the knowledge of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter the Test) is comprised of 30 questions. Each question has three multiple choice answers, only one of which is unambiguously correct.
3. The Test is given to the individual that has applied for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by the body that is entitled to accept the application.
4. The Test is completed in situ, and must be finished within one hour.
5. The Test is completed by marking the correct answer to each question. If the mark is put next to more than one answer, then the person who has applied for citizenship may orally indicate which he/she thinks is the correct answer and if that answer is correct, then it is counted as a correct answer.
6. A person who has answered correctly to more than half of the questions of the test is considered familiar with the Constitution of the RA.
7. If the tested person has given wrong answers to more than half of the questions then he/she may, either on the next day, or on any other week day, take the test again. The person who has applied for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may take the test as many times as it is necessary to give correct answers to more than half of the questions.
8. A person who has applied for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is considered proficient in the Armenian language, if he/she correctly fills in the application for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in Armenian language and gives correct answers to more than half of the questions of the Test on the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

T E S T

FOR CHECKING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Question 1: In the Republic of Armenia the authority belongs to:

- 1) political parties;
- 2) the people;
- 3) private entrepreneurs.

Question 2: What kind of state is the Republic of Armenia?

- 1) democratic;
- 2) authoritarian;
- 3) totalitarian.

Question 3: Which is the legislative body in the Republic of Armenia?

- 1) the courts;
- 2) the National Assembly of the RA;
- 3) the political parties.

Question 4: The state language of the Republic of Armenia is:

- 1) Western Armenian;
- 2) Literary Armenian;
- 3) Russian.

¹¹ Approved by the Decision of the Government of the RA No 1040-N of August 30.

Question 5: The flag of the Republic of Armenia is tricolour:

- 1) red, blue, white;
- 2) red, green, white;
- 3) red, blue, orange.

Question 6: The capital of the Republic of Armenia is:

- 1) Gyumri;
- 2) Yerevan;
- 3) Erebuni.

Question 7: Who has the power to appoint ministers?

- 1) the political parties;
- 2) the President of the RA;
- 3) the Minister of Justice of the RA.

Question 8: Everybody is equal:

- 1) to each other;
- 2) before the law;
- 3) before the National Assembly of the RA.

Question 9: An individual is not liable to testify:

- 1) against a person that has committed crime;
- 2) against his friends;
- 3) against his spouse and close relatives.

Question 10: Who can be elected as President of the Republic of Armenia among those listed below?

- 1) any individual above the age of thirty-five, who is a citizen of the RA, has resided permanently in the RA over the course of the last ten (10) years and has the right to vote;
- 2) any citizen;
- 3) the Prime Minister of the RA and the Deputies of the National Assembly of the RA.

Question 11: Who can be elected as Deputy to the National Assembly among those listed below?

- 1) any citizen;
- 2) any individual above the age of twenty-five, who is a citizen of the RA, has resided permanently in the RA in the course of the last five (5) years and has the right to vote;
- 3) any individual undertaking entrepreneurial activity.

Question 12: For how many years is the President elected?

- 1) for five (5) years;
- 2) for his/her lifetime;
- 3) for eight (8) years.

Question 13: Which are the administrative units in the Republic of Armenia among those listed below?

- 1) regions and provinces;
- 2) districts;
- 3) marzes and communities.

Question 14: Who decides upon domestic policy of the Republic of Armenia?

- 1) the Government of the RA;
- 2) the People;
- 3) the Courts.

Question 15: Who makes decisions on declaring war and signing peace accords?

- 1) the National Assembly;
- 2) the Prime Minister of the RA;
- 3) the National Assembly on the suggestion of the President of the RA.

Question 16: Who has personal liberties and inviolability among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) anybody;
- 3) nobody.

Question 17: Who has right of privacy in communications among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) anybody;
- 3) nobody.

Question 18: Who has right to education?

- 1) everybody;
- 2) only citizens of the RA;
- 3) only students with good progress.

Question 19: Who has the right to exit the Republic of Armenia?

- 1) everybody;
- 2) repatriate Armenians;
- 3) foreign citizens.

Question 20: Who has right of legal assistance among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) anybody;
- 3) nobody.

Question 21: The right to vote and to participate in referendums is conferred upon:

- 1) every citizen;
- 2) foreigners;
- 3) citizens of Armenia above the age of 18.

Question 22: Who has right to privacy in their personal and family life among the listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) anybody;
- 3) nobody.

Question 23: Who has right to the inviolability of their place of residence among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) anybody;
- 3) nobody.

Question 24: Who has right to freedom of speech among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) anybody;
- 3) nobody.

Question 25: Intellectual property rights are protected by:

- 1) the agencies of national security;
- 2) the law;
- 3) the parties.

Question 26: Who is liable to participate in the defence of the RA, as prescribed by the law among those listed below?

- 1) every citizen;
- 2) foreigners;
- 3) state officials.

Question 27: The Government of the Republic of Armenia consists of:

- 1) the Prime Minister of the RA and his/her Ministers;
- 2) Ministers;
- 3) the Prime Minister of the RA and the Governors of the 'marzes'.

Question 28: By what type of order do the individuals of Armenian origin acquire citizenship of the RA?

- 1) simplified;
- 2) complex;
- 3) there is no order at all.

Question 29: Who opens and leads sessions of the Government of the RA?

- 1) the Chair of the National Assembly of the RA;
- 2) the Chair of the Court of Appeal of the RA;
- 3) the Prime Minister of the RA.

Question 30: The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia or amendments to the Constitution are adopted:

- 1) by the Government of the RA;
- 2) by the Constitutional Court of the RA;
- 3) through a referendum.

APPLICANT: _____
(signature) (first name, surname)

APPENDIX 5: Order on informing the Government of the Republic of Armenia about receiving citizenship of another state by a citizen of the Republic of Armenia¹²

1. The present order defines the procedures for citizens of the Republic of Armenia of informing the authorized body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia about the fact of receiving citizenship of other state, as well as about the facts of renouncing citizenship of the RA and the adoption of citizenship of other state not in accordance with the prescribed order and between January 1, 1995 till and the entering into force of the present order.

2. A citizen of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter Applicant) in case of receiving citizenship of other state must, within one (1) month of the date of receipt, inform the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter the Agency of Passports and Visas) or any of the territorial subdivisions of the Police of the Republic of Armenia of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter Subdivision), and in foreign states must inform the diplomatic or consular institutions of the Republic of Armenia either in person or by mail.

3. From the period since January 1, 1995 until the entering into force of this Order¹³ individuals that have renounced citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and adopted citizenships of other states not in accordance with the prescribed order within six (6) months after entering into force of the present order must either in person or by mail declare it to the Police Agency of Passports and Visas of the Republic of Armenia or the corresponding Police Subdivision; and in foreign states must inform the diplomatic or consular institutions of the Republic of Armenia.

4. While declaring the adoption of citizenship of another state the Applicant must present the following documents:

- 1) the application form;
- 2) the passport of the Republic of Armenia and a copy thereof
- 3) the passport of the other state;
- 4) copies of the passports of Republic of Armenia and of the other state, verified by a notary;

5. In the application form the Applicant must state the name of the organisation to which the application is submitted, the name of the Applicant, surname, date of birth (day, month, year), place of birth, the name of the state the of which citizenship has been received, the date of receipt of the foreign citizenship (day, month year). The application must also be signed by the applicant stating the day, month, and year of the submission of the application.

6. When informing the relevant authorities of the receipt of citizenship of another state in person, the applicant must present the documents prescribed in points 1, 2, 3 of paragraph 4 of the present order.

7. When informing the relevant authorities of the receipt of citizenship of another state by mail, the applicant must send, by mail, the documents prescribed by points 1 and 4 of paragraph 4 of the present order.

8. In cases outlined by paragraph 6 of the present order: after the verification of the authenticity of the passports and copies, the passports are immediately returned to the Applicant.

9. The Subdivision, after receiving the documents stipulated by paragraph 4 of the present order, will, within three (3) days, send to the Agency of Passports and Visas the application form and the copies of the passport to the Applicant.

10. Organs of the diplomatic service of the Republic of Armenia, in the territories of foreign states, after receiving the documents prescribed by paragraph 4 of the present order, shall within ten (10) days send them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

¹² Is approved by the Decision of the Government of the RA No 1110-N of September 20, 2007.

¹³ Has entered into force on 20.10.2007.

APPENDIX 6: Republic of Armenia Visa Fees

	Visa Type	Fee in AMD
1.	Visitor, single entry, up to twenty one (21) days of stay	3000,0
2.	Visitor, single entry, up to one hundred and twenty (120) days of stay	15000,0
3.	Visitor, multiple entries, up to sixty (60) days of stay; validity of up to six (6) months	20000,0
4.	Visitor, multiple entries, up to one hundred and twenty (120) days of stay; validity of up to one (1) year	40000,0
5.	Children under the age of 18 (all types of visas)	0

* the fee does not include the Embassy/Consulate visa application surcharges which may vary. Please contact the respective Embassy or Consulate.

In cases where the visa application is denied or travel plans are changed the visa fee is not refundable.

Visa fees may change without prior notice.

APPENDIX 7: Application-questionnaire for receiving residence permit / extension of residence permit in the Republic of Armenia

(underline)

1. Name, surname, father's name: _____

2. Citizenship: _____

3. Date of birth/day, month, year: _____

4. Place of birth: _____

5. Nationality: _____

6. Purpose of visit: _____

7. Marital status: _____

8. Children under 16 /name, surname, father's name, date of birth/day, month, year and citizenship:

9. Addresses in the Republic of Armenia and abroad: _____

10. Passport number, name or code of issuing state or organization, date of issue:

11. I am aware of my responsibility to provide information to the local register within fifteen (15) days of getting my residence permit, and within seven (7) days of changing my permanent residence in the Republic of Armenia:

Date: _____ 20__

Filled in by _____
(signature)

APPENDIX 8: Fees for residence permits

	Type of Document	Fee in AMD
1.	For granting status of short-stay residence, granting a card for short stay and registering in the RA	105000,0
2.	For granting status of permanent residence, granting a card for permanent residence and registering in the RA	140000,0
3.	For granting status of special residence, granting a special passport and registering in the RA	150000,0
4.	For extending the term of the status of short-stay residence	105000,0
5.	For changing permanent residence card	20000,0
6.	For retrieving the residence card of a foreigner who has short-stay or permanent residence of the RA	12000,0
7.	For replacing special passport of the RA	75000,0



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