(LFP) Outbound Project Report

Title of Project: “Style of Governance: Personal and Professional Relationships”

Name of LFP Fellow in Harrisburg of Outbound Project: Mr. Arsen Nikoghosyan

Name of Reciprocal Visitor: PA Senator Mike Brubaker

Executive Summary: The main goal of Armenian LFP Outbound Project was announced: “Using minimum resources to achieve maximum results in the lawmakers processes” and the main objectives were:

- Studying best management practices in the context of breaking down stereotypes,
- Comparing and combining the methods and principles of the governance of the lawmaking (legislative, state) bodies and educational institutions in the context of offering the opportunity for comparative study,
- Building inter-parliamentary relationships between Armenian and Pennsylvanian legislative bodies,
- Creating possible cooperation between Armenian and Pennsylvanian agricultural and economical development agencies,
- Creating educational cooperation between Armenian and Pennsylvanian universities,
- Exchanging the best practice of team work as a part of good governance.

Participating Organizations:

- National Assembly of RA
- Ministry of Justice of RA
- Ministry of Agriculture of RA
- Ministry of Economic of RA
- Yerevan State University
- Armenian State University of Economics
- Armenian Association of Accountants and Auditors NGO
- School of Advocates of RA Foundation

Project Revised Schedule:

Arrival date for US Participant: April 22, 2013

Departure date for US Participant: April 28, 2013
April 22 (Monday) – Arrival – Meeting at the Airport, Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan (Rest, Dinner)

Meeting at the Airport
PA Senator Mike Brubaker is in Yerevan

Afrikyanneri Pandok Tavern, Restaurant
Cuisine and Armenian music:
Very tasty Armenian food

April 23 (Thursday) – Official part of the Day – National Assembly of Armenia (Day in NA of Armenia) – (http://www.parliament.am/?lang=eng)
RA NA President Hovik Abrahamyan Receives the Senator of the U.S.
Pennsylvania State Mike Brubaker

The NA President Hovik Abrahamyan has noted with satisfaction that since independence the Armenian-American relations distinguish at high level of political contacts and today the bilateral relations are of upward character of development. The NA President has noted that processes aimed at the establishment of democracy, strengthening of rule of law and the protection of human rights in Armenia are at the center of the authorities’ constant attention. In the establishment of democratic institutes in Armenia the NA President also highly assessed the U.S. support.

The Senator Brubaker thanked for reception and noted that the goal of his visit was to closely get acquainted with Armenia and Armenian people. To his conviction, the bilateral contacts, similar visits promote the further development of bilateral relations, the activation of inter-parliamentary relations and the deepening of cooperation in a number of spheres.

In the course of the meeting other issues concerning the Armenian-American relations were also discussed, both sides highlighted the deepening of inter-parliamentary cooperation at all levels, the cooperation in the spheres of economy, science and education, the fulfillment of concrete programmes and exchange of experience.
Meetings were held with the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Financial-Credit and Budgetary Affairs Gagik Minasyan, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations Artak Zaqaryan and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Artak Davtyan

In particular, Mr. Minasyan mentioned the role of the Parliament and emphasized 3 main areas: Legislative initiation, budgetary improvement and Parliamentary oversight about which he shared his ideas and asked the practice of US.

He said that laws could be enacted for e.g. 3 or 5 or 7 years, so parliament could examine the laws without Government wishes or make Committees to organize the hearings of the areas that they are

He told about the “Budgetary office” idea and mentioned several questions which are very important for the idea: How to organize the staff of the Office, the Office has to be under the Parliament or other state body, etc.

What about the parliamentary oversight, he said that he liked the idea of current year’s budgetary oversight, so called “running oversight” idea.

Senator Brubaker told about the American experience and suggested appropriate ways of cooperating of the Committees in PA and Armenia.

Mr. Zakaryan introduced the functions of the Committee and spoke about international agreements and inter-parliamentary commissions which are 51 (though we have only 21 years experience of that) and also told about the cooperation of inter-parliamentary assemblies. He told about our big Diaspora and the ways that Armenia trying to find to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and also about our closed borders with Turkey.

Mr. Zakaryan also spoke about the Genocide and said that 21 countries have already recognized and condemned it.

Senator Brubaker agreed that the reconciliation processes were very important and he supported the Minsk Group efforts.

Mr. Davtyan introduced the main activities of the Committee and told the last reforms which were done in Armenia in the education system. And Senator Brubaker told about the War College in PA (about the Master Program of strategy thinking). He said that around 60 countries sent their representatives to study there.
Minister of Agriculture Sergo Karapetyan met with PA Senator Mike Brubaker

Minister of Agriculture briefly touched upon Armenia's agricultural achievements since independence, stressing the gratitude of the U.S. government's extensive support to agriculture in Armenia, due to a number of branches modernized industry able to provide high quality products, and gradually increase the volume of exports to enter foreign markets.

Sergo Karapetyan spoke about the sustainability of the trends observed in the agricultural sector, particularly the last two years, which could have become in reality first of all because of the support to the large-scale projects implemented by the Government of Armenia.

Expressing gratitude for the reception (meeting), in his turn, Senator Brubaker presented Agriculture overview of Pennsylvanian noting that the State of Pennsylvania is the most developed Agricultural state in the U.S.A. and the State has a rich experience in the area of production and maintenance of Agricultural goods.

On this occasion, Minister Sergo Karapetyan offered to assist U.S. businesses to invest in agriculture in Armenia.
Senator Brubaker expressed willingness to promote the realization of the problem.

Meeting with the Minister of Economy Tigran Davtyan

Mr Davtyan presented our economy noting that our export connected with the mining and metallurgy, the food staff industry (cognac, wine, fresh food and vegetables) including process production, diamonds, textile (carpets), stones (travertine, basalt) and the IT sector … Senator Brubaker told about the PA Department of Economic Development’s activities and functions and said that there was an opportunity to have a representation in Armenia too as in around 23 countries in the world.
April 24 (Wednesday) – Tsitsernakaberd Memorial – The Genocide Memorial in Yerevan

Every year, on 24th of April, many Armenians and foreigners visit the Tsitsernakaberd memorial and bring flowers. Sometimes the height of the flowers laid around the fire reaches to 1 meter.
- Vagharshapat city: Armenians holly center

**St. Gayane Church**

Saint Gayane Church is a 7th century Armenian church in Ejmiatsin, the religious centre of Armenia. It is located within walking distance from Mother Cathedral of 301. St. Gayane was built by Catholicos Ezra I in the year 630. Its design has remained unchanged despite partial renovations of the dome and some ceilings in 1652. Gayane was the name of an abess who was martyred with other nuns by Tiridates III of Armenia in the year 301, and subsequently made a saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church. St. Gayane is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List 2000.

**Genocide Museum.**
([http://genocide.am/article/about_tsitsernakaberd.html](http://genocide.am/article/about_tsitsernakaberd.html))

**Visiting to the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin and other great churches**
([http://www.armenianchurch.org/index.jsp?&lng=en](http://www.armenianchurch.org/index.jsp?&lng=en))

Ejmiatzin is the center of the Armenian Church. Ejmiatzin means the coming of the only begotten because it was built were people said Jesus Himself descended from heaven to show where He wanted a church built. Urartu arrows have been found in the temples of Zvartnots and Ejmiatzin and remnants of an ancient hearth of a heathen tabernacle - in the altar part of the latter. Ejmiatzin cathedral was the main Christian temple of Vagharshapat. Ejmiatzin cathedral is Ejmiatzinthe most ancient Christian temple of Armenia. It was built in 301-303 by Grigor Lusavorich (Gregory the Enlightener), the founder of the Armenian Gregorian church next to the king’s palace, in place of a destroyed heathen basilica. The monastery which took shape around the cathedral is the residence of Catholicos the head of the Armenian clergy. The interior murals, created by the Armenian painter Naghash Ovnatan in 1720, was restored and elaborated upon by his grandson.
Evening Museum of the Treasury of Holy Etchmiadzin
The Museum of the Mother Cathedral is situated in the southeast section of St. Etchmiadzin Mother Cathedral. Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Kevork IV (1866-1882), built the museum in 1869. The museum wraps around the main altar on the south and east sides.
Unique holy relics and religious art are now exhibited in the museum. Among the treasures kept here are the Holy Lance, which pierced the side of Christ, housed in a silver reliquary; the relics of Noah’s Ark in a reliquary crafted in 1698; relics of the Apostles, Sts. Thaddeus, Bartholomew and Andrew, and St. George; Khotekerats Sourp Nishan reliquary with the relic of Jesus Christ’s wooden cross (914-929); the cross of King Ashot Yerkat (the Iron) (914-928) with its chest, one of the oldest processional crosses in existence; the cross of King Hovhannes-Smbat (John-Smbat) (1020-1040) of Ani, made of mountainous crystal; the wooden icon from Havouts Tar Monastery (10th century).

In addition to the pieces on display, visitors are able to see an exhibit which is located underneath the Cathedral’s Holy Main Altar. In 1958, during archaeological excavations which were conducted due to renovation work of the Holy Altar, remnants of the original Holy Altar, founded by St. Grigor Lusavorich (St. Gregory the Illuminator), dating back to 301-303 AD, were discovered. Visitors may also see remnants of a pagan fire altar, atop of which the original Holy Altar was constructed.

- Evening

Rest (Walking, music …late dinner)
April 25 (Thursday) – Official part of the Day

- Armenian State University of Economics – (http://www.asue.am/en)

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR MIKE BRUBAKER WAS HOSTED AT ASUE (ASUE Media and Public Relations Division)**

The Rector of Armenian State University of Economics, Doctor of Economics, Professor Koryun Atoyan, the Vice-Rector of Science and International Relations Gagik Vardanyan hosted Pennsylvania State Senator Mike Brubaker at our University today, who was accompanied by the Manager of “Style of Governance: Professional and Personal Relations” project Arsen Nikoghosyan. The Head of ASUE Media and Public Relations Division Gohar Gevorgyan and the Head of International Relations Division Vard Ghukasyan also took part in the meeting with the Senator.

ASUE Rector Koryun Atoyan thanked Mike Brubaker for visiting Armenian State University of Economics and presented the University’s past way, present, as well as future challenges, underlining that the University of Economics had prepared a number of graduates, who were presented in different fields of the country. “Today our University tries to develop in all directions”, said the Head of the University, mentioning the steps directed to the modernization of educational programs implemented in the University, development of scientific research activity, internationalization of the University, improvement of the building and reformation of several other directions. At the same time the Rector was interested in cooperation with American Universities: especially exchange programs of lecturers and students, opportunities of implementing joint studies and researches.

ASUE Vice-Rector of Science and International Relations Gagik Vardanyan presented the steps implemented by the University to make it as a Scientific Research Center, stressing the innovative step of creating Research Center at the University, as well as mentioning the fields, which should become a subject for research. “We have a good scientific basis, which should be developed”, said Gagik Vardanyan, adding that it would be interesting to implement researches joint with American Universities.
Senator Brubaker expressed gratitude for the warm reception, mentioning that it’s a great honor for him to be hosted at Armenian State University of Economics. He presented the education system at their state, reflecting the Universities’ activity and underlined that the education field was at the first place in 90 percent of the state budget expenditures. In response to ASUE Rector’s question to cooperate with American Universities the Senator assured that many of their Universities would like to cooperate with the University of Economics, so he would try to find out which of those Universities were interested in cooperation with this Armenian University. “Our nation have many values and one of them is friendship. I am sure that our future meetings will turn into a friendship”, mentioned Koryun Atoyan at the meeting with the Senator. The Senator also mentioned that he had already managed to admire Armenian warm hospitality, about which he would speak during the lecture which was planned to be held on after the return. ASUE Administration organized a tour around the University at the end of the meeting, presenting the guests the University’s yard and other projects being implemented at this moment.

- Yerevan State University (http://www.Ysu.am)

SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA MIKE BRUBAKER VISITED YSU

U.S. Senator was introduced to the history and structure of YSU and proposed a cooperation project. In the framework of the project under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State and American Councils Style of Governance: personal and professional relationship member of the Pennsylvania State Senate Michael W. Brubaker is on a one-week visit in Armenia. On April 25 he was hosted at Yerevan State University. The project is supervised by the Deputy Head of Legal Department at State Revenue Committee of Armenia Arsen Nikoghosyan (Associate Professor at YSU Chair of Civil Procedure). It is aimed at the development of cooperation between the state, public and educational institutions of Armenia and the State of Pennsylvania. As a result we will be provided with the opportunity to localize the leading American experience.
YSU Rector Aram Simonyan highlighted the visit of the high-ranking official and his interest in the development of the cooperation.

Mr. Brubaker, who is the Chairman of the Senate Financial Committee, in his turn, said that such countries, as the USA is, show information, financial and other kind of assistance to those countries, which have chosen the way of stability and prosperity.

Rector Aram Simonyan, vice-rectors Gegham Gevorgyan and Alexander Grigoryan presented the structure of Yerevan State University, the educational programs, the reputation of the university, institutional self-assessment process, etc.

As April 25 was the day of the session of YSU Academic Council, Mr. Brubaker made a speech before the start of the session and spoke about the Pennsylvanian government system, budgeting, education issues etc. Supervisor of YSU Information Technology Education and Research Centre, Academician Samvel Shukuryan spoke about the prospects of cooperation between YSU and universities of Pennsylvania in the IT sphere.

In response the senator assured he will accept any offer for the discussion.

The participants of the meeting also highlighted the visit of the senator and asked him various questions, mainly related to the academic tours, student exchanges and other forms of cooperation.

Mr. Brubaker was also received by the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Sciences of the RA, Professor Gagik Ghazinyan. The Law School of the University of Pennsylvania is famous worldwide. Mr. Ghazinyan discussed with the senator the prospects of the cooperation.

Mr. Brubaker also visited YSU buildings, Library, Centre for European Studies, the Armenian-Indian Centre for Excellence, academic classrooms, etc.

- US Embassy, Yerevan

Ambassador told about the mission of the Embassy. He was interested about the Outbound Project and asked Senator’s opinion of Armenia in general and the Project in particular.

We told him about our meetings in the National Assembly and were shared about the activities that we were going to realize in coming days.
April 26 (Fryday) – Official part of the Day

- Armenian Association of Accountants and Auditors (NGO)

Meetings with the Deputy Minister Yeghishe Kirakosyan - Brief summary of Armenian Legal System, Role and place of the Government in the lawmaking processes.

Meeting with CEOs of AAAA.

They told that the “Association of Accountants and Auditors of Armenia” (AAAA) (Association), is a non-profit public organization founded by citizens on volunteer on general interests of its members.

The AAAA has been established on October 18, 1997 by the meeting of founders as a “Union of Certified Accountants” NGO. Later, by the decision of the General Meeting on March 6th, 1999 the organization was renamed the “Association of Accountants and Auditors of Armenia”. The mission of AAAA is to support development of accounting and audit areas in Armenia in accordance with international standards.
The goals of the Association are to:

- support the development of accounting and audit activities in the RA;
- assist the members of the Association in gaining professional skills and experience;
- represent the accounting profession to the public and protect the public interests in that field;
- support professional independence of accountants and auditors;
- assist in the adoption and introduction of International Accounting and Audit Standards;
- protect the legal rights and interests of the Association members;

AAAA became an associate member of International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in November 2005 which is based in New York and represent the profession in the world.

From the very beginning the AAAA has been deeply involved in training activity. Starting from 1998 the AAAA has delivered English language ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, UK) courses.

Since 2002 the AAAA has developed and run its own Armenian National Certification program which fully comply with International educational standards of IFAC. The success of classes and examination diets held to date has proven that the AAAA has the capacity to run a quality program. The other prove of the quality of the program is the intention of ACCA (Association of Certified and chartered Accountants, UK) to grant the AAAA students exemptions from up to 9 papers.

Nowadays the Association has 274 full members and 65 associate members.

Nowadays the AAAA is seeking direct contact with professional accounting body of United States like CPA, PCAOB

Senator Brubaker thanked for the meeting, told about their organizations in the field of accounting and audit and suggested his contacts to make arrangements for the same type organizations in PA.

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- “School of Advocates of RA” Foundation

Meeting with the Director of the School Nikolay Baghdasaryan

Mr. Baghdasaryan presented the history of foundation of the School, mentioning that the School of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia was founded on February 9, 2012.

The main legal documents, which regulates the activity of the School of advocates, are “On advocacy” the law of the Republic of Armenia, “On foundations” the law of the Republic of Armenia, the Charter of the School of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia and other legal acts.

The goal of the School of Advocates is the studying of lawyers and training of advocates. However one of the major objectives is the training of lawyers, who have qualitatively a new way of thinking.

He also said that in Armenia there are around 1370 advocates and each advocate must pass training 48 hours in 2 years.

In the School of Advocates The training programme includes “Civil procedure”, “Protection and representation in criminal cases”, “Administrative procedure law”, “Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms” European convention, “The establishment and management of legal office”, “Deontology and professional status” themes. As a result of the training advocates are given certificates.

Senator Brubaker was interested in Armenian experience of this area and told about the US system of advocates and the Bar associations and made suggestions to connect American and Armenian organizations in this field.
Yerevan Ararat-Brandy-Wine-Vodka Factory is situated in Hrazdan Gorge which is believed to be one of the most beautiful places in Later in 1898, a major Moscow merchant Nikolay Shustov got the plant from Tairov and expanded the production of alcoholic drinks. Major winemaking specialists were invited to improve cognac and wine production on the basis of classic French technologies using due French equipments. Shustov wines and cognacs enjoyed success not only in Russia, but also in the rest of the world.
Nikolay Shustov was bestowed to supply cognacs and wines to the Russian Yard of His Imperiality. In 1920 the plant was nationalized and renamed into the Erevan Trust of Ararat.

Yerevan Ararat Brandy-Wine-Vodka Factory Tour (http://brandy.am/)

Ararat Armenian Brandy
The ArArAt brandies from the Yerevan Brandy Company are legendary, embodying Armenia, its cultural and historical heritage. This product has been an inalienable attribute of life for many generations. And today it’s on the most famous and successful brand in Armenia as well as worldwide. ArArAt has been preserving the traditions of brandy production since 1887. Only local varieties of grape with special properties are used in the production an authentic Armenian brandy, based on the unique microclimate of the Ararat Valley. The method of double distillation preserves the flavor and aroma of grapes, and transfers them into the brandy spirits. The ageing of the brandies is done exclusively in oak barrels, and in 2002 the factory rebuilt its own cooperage industry in accordance with classic technology and using only Armenian varieties of oak. During the ageing process the spirit is enriched with natural flavors of dried fruits, spices, chocolate and vanilla. Each of the 7 brandies included in the ArArAt line: 3 stars, 5 stars, Ani, Otborny, Akhtamar, Vaspurakan, and Nairi, has its own unique taste.
In 2011, Yerevan Brandy Company launched the ArArAt Exclusive collection uniting the most exquisite and unique brandies in the ArArAt range: Armenia and Dvin.

Yerevan Brandy Company Tour
Yerevan Brandy Company is almost as renowned a symbol of the Armenian capital as Mount Ararat. Immense reserves of precious brandy spirits, many put into barrels as far back as in the 19th century, are stored in its cellars. In 1887 the enterprise was equipped with Charente type distillers and specialized premises for spirit ageing. After Nikolai Shustov acquired the factory from Nerses Tairyan the auxiliary production units, new storage facilities and even a power plant were constructed. In 1953 the factory was moved to a new monumental building which is situated at the hill and decorated with traditional Armenian bas-reliefs, as if hovering over the city. It is only here that up to this very day the legendary Armenian brandies under ArArAt trademark are produced.

Visiting the ancient Temple of Garni
(http://www.armeniapedia.org/wiki/Garni_Temple)

Garni is on the road to Geghard and both can be comfortably seen on the same day. When you get to Garni, it will remind you of a somewhat plain Parthenon. It was built in the first century A.D. by the Armenian King Tiridates. The temple was destroyed in 1679 in an earthquake, but was reconstructed in Soviet times. (You can recognize the new stones by their lack of carving, which allows you to appreciate the originals.) It is an excellent reconstruction and a very worthwhile place to visit. You can even see carved graffiti in Arabic... There are also ruins of mosaic ancient baths and residences in Garni. The structures of Garni combine elements of Hellenistic and national culture, which is an evidence of antique influences and the distinctive building traditions of the Armenian people. The structures of the fortress of Garni are in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature. The fortress is situated in a picturesque mountain locality and commands a broad panorama of orchards, fields and mountain slopes covered with motley carpets of varicolored grasses, of the jagged and precipitous canyon of the Azat river.
The monastery of Geghard contains a number of churches and tombs, most of them cut into the rock, which illustrate the very peak of Armenian medieval architecture. The complex of medieval buildings is set into a landscape of great natural beauty, surrounded by towering cliffs at the entrance to the Azat Valley.

The Geghard complex is an exceptionally complete and well-preserved example of a medieval Armenian monastic foundation in a remote area of great natural beauty at the head of the Azat valley, surrounded by towering cliffs. It contains a number of churches and tombs, most of them cut into the rock, which illustrate the very peak of Armenian medieval architecture and decorative art, with many innovatory features that had a profound influence on subsequent developments in the region. It was founded in the 4th century, according to tradition by St Gregory the Illuminator. The first monastery was destroyed by Arabs in the 9th century, but it was flourishing again by the 13th century. The monastery was famous because of the relics that it housed, the most celebrated the spear that wounded Christ on the Cross. Relics of the Apostles Andrew and John were donated in the 12th century and pious visitors made numerous grants of land, money, manuscripts and so on over the succeeding centuries.
April 27 (Saturday) – Traveling (Armenian Nature and Ancient Churches)

Khor Virap monastery-fortress (Short time visiting),
(http://www.findarmenia.com/eng/sights/khorvirap)

The 17th century monastery-fort of Khor Virap is located in the Ararat district, in the surroundings of the Pokr Vedi village, on top of a hill. It was known as the pilgrimage place for Grigor the Enlightener. In ancient times this is the place where the historical Artashat city was located. Up until the monastery-fort was built, this section was used as a royal prison. Khor Virap (The Deep Pit) was where the prisoners were tossed, and which was full of poisonous snakes and insects. According to Aghatangelos and other historians, Grigor the Enlightener was tortured in Khor Virap. In or about 642 the Catholicos Nerses III ascended to a chapel in there. The chapel with its composition and construction principles reminds us of Zvartnots. A new chapel was built in 1662 on its ruins, which is still preserved today.

The St.Astvatatzin church was built in the 17th century and has an attached bell-tower. The Khor Virap monastery was an educational center. In the 13th century it had close to forty students.
Though its status rests in its medieval achievements, Noravank also shows signs of having been a place of worship from a much earlier time. A cloistered monastery was built at the site in the early Christian era, the basis of its transition into one of the preeminent communities of prayer, learning and politics in the 13th-14th cc. Noravank is also where some of Armenia's most famous medieval artists lived, worked and are buried. Noravank was founded by Bishop Hovhannes, abbot of Vahanavank (near Kapan), who moved Syunik bishopric to Noravank in 1205 when he became the bishop of Syunik Diocese. In the following two centuries the monastery grew with the fortunes of the ruling Orbelian clan of kings, who bequeathed riches on the church, establishing it as the center of the Church in historic Siunik while commissioning patrimonial sepulchres at the monastery. Mongols looted the monastery in 1238, but a truce between the Agha Khan and Prince Elikum Orbelian brought peace to the region and the chance to rebuild the monastery, establishing a new golden age that lasted until the Timurid invasions in the late 14th c.

Noravank was a major cultural center of its time, closely tied to religious and educational centers like the universities at Gladzor and Tatev Monastery, among others. Owing to its Orbelian benefactors, the monastery was also a fulcrum in the political developments of the time. One of its most famous bishops was Stepanos Orbelian, author of History of the State of Sisakan (ca. 1299), and largely responsible for forging the Siunik bishopric into a powerful political, cultural and religious center.

Noravank, Magic Monastery of Armenia
(http://www.armenianmonuments.org/en/monument/Noravank/16)
Yeghegnadzor city, visiting wine factory “Ginetun”

Wings of Tatev is a 5.7 km (3.5 mi) cableway between Halidzor and the Tatev monastery in Armenia. It is the longest reversible aerial tramway built in one section only. Construction was finished on 16 October 2010.

Tatev monastery complex

Century of Foundation: IX Date of Foundation: 895 Region: Syunik Location: Tatev village The Tatev monastery was built during the 9-13th centuries as an Armenian intellectual center where philosophers, musicians, painters, calligraphers, and monks lived. This monastery’s teachers produced manuscripts for the whole Armenian world. The complex started to act in between 895 and 906. St. Gregory the Illuminator, who spread the word of Christ throughout Armenia, is buried here in a small church built in 1295. The tall "Gavazan" was engineered and erected in 904, with a khachkar on top. Amazingly, this column was used to predict seismic activity in ancient times by its patterns of motion. The column was badly damaged in the 1931 by an earthquake. The periphery of this rocky terrain is covered with a variety of structures: homes, utility and subsidiary buildings, among them a vaulted font and fortification walls that date back to the 17th century.
Candle of the HOPE
Thus, the visit of Senator Brubaker included only 3 weekdays, as he arrived on Monday evening and left on Sunday early morning. Wednesday was not working day in the Republic of Armenia and that day all Armenians and all nations that had humanitarian system of values have remembered the Armenian Genocide accrued in the first part of 20th century.

During these 3 days more than one dozen of official meetings were organized the main idea of which was the presentation of the style of governance and the creation of personal and professional relationships between the agencies and officials of two countries.

As a result it was posted cordial and constructive responses in the official internet sites of these state bodies and the universities as well as some agreements have been reached on creation of future cooperation and escalation of them started with the inter-parliamentary cooperation till the exchange programs between universities and the creation of the connections between the same style organizations like Bar associations or Auditors associations.

The ideas were presented about the creation of relationship of the agencies of agricultural sector and the economic development. Taking into account that the American Councils great program aimed to create relationships not only in the sphere of official, but also in the cultural sphere and break all stereotypes, all other days and the free part of the weekdays provided familiarization of the Armenian centuries-old cultural heritage. In other words, there were visits to churches, temples, monasteries, etc.

So, this program is a unique and excellent opportunity to create intercontinental relationship and as it was said by Senator Mike Brubaker: to establish the relationship «Friends for Life».

So, I am proud of that now we are FRIENDS FOR LIFE!

It was a great honor for me to have You in my Country.

Friends for Life: Arsen Nikoghosyan and Mike Brubaker