
Microsoft IT-Academies To Be Established At Armenia's Universities

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Microsoft IT-Academies will soon be established in Armenian Universities, Director of the Microsoft office in Armenia Grigor Barseghyan told ARKA.

"The establishment of IT-Academies implies certification Microsoft-conducted trainings as one of the components of the IT curriculum, affording a further opportunity for taking qualifying examinations for Microsoft certificate specialist, which open up ample opportunities for students after graduation," Barseghyan said.

According to him, IT-Academies will afford an opportunity for MSDN Subscription (a program of regular distribution of new software).

"The most up-to-date products and software platforms will be available in Armenia for organize the highest-level education," Barseghyan said.

According to him, IT-Academies will be established at four universities at the initial stage: Yerevan State University, Yerevan State Teachers' Training Institute, Vanadzor University and Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University (RAU). Relevant agreements have been signed.

Barseghyan pointed out that a special program, Microsoft Dynamics Academic Aliens (MDAA), not envisaged by the agreement, has been included for RAU.

"The MDAA program envisages global solutions and software platforms for big businesses, which will allow them to exercise complete control over their production process, accountancy, storehouse management, personnel potential analysis and financial flows," Barseghyan said.

He reported that, under an agreement with the RA Government, Microsoft elaborated a version of "Information Science" for schools, which has been submitted to the RA Ministry of Education and Science.

"Under the program, we are ready to retrain all Armenian teachers of information science," Barseghyan said. He added that the project is related with the Microsoft program of higher education.

In his earlier interview to ARKA, Director of the Business Development and Policy Center, Microsoft Corporation, Paul Muckleston reported that the annual number of Microsoft-certified graduates of Armenia's higher schools will have reached 1,000 by 2010.

The RA Government and the Microsoft Corporation signed a cooperation agreement in Edinburgh, Scotland, on January 30, 2007. Under the agreement, Microsoft is to implement a number of investment, education and innovation projects in Armenia.
