
UNDP continues successful partnership with Dilijan city

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United Nations, Yerevan - On 21 May 2008 Ms. Consuelo Vidal, the head of the United Nations in Armenia (UN Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative), and Mr. Armen Santrosyan, the Mayor of Dilijan city, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the rehabilitation of the city center in support of its thrust towards becoming a major touristic and a financial center. Dilijan city, located in north-eastern part of Armenia, is famous for its wild forestry and mineral water. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has a long history of cooperation with Dilijan municipality. In 2005 it was chosen as one of the first pilot cities for the implementation of its Performance Based Budgeting Project, which works with the Municipalities to improve its planning and budgeting processes.

-In line with the emerging priorities, UNDP will continue its efforts of successful partnership with the regions to decrease disparities. Considerable reduction of differentials between Yerevan and the regions, through encouraging private investment, is an important goal for the country to prevent social inequalities and migration. This applies also to Dilijan city, which the government plans to transform into a main regional financial center,- stressed Ms. Consuelo Vidal. Reaffirming the importance of this partnership, the sides stated that this is the second joint project and the community is very pleased with the support of and cooperation with UNDP.

The rehabilitation of the famous Lions' Stairs and beautification of Dilijan city are among the top issues prioritized by the community. The implementation of this project as well as Dilijan's development as a touristic and financial center, will create additional job opportunities for the local population. UNDP, together with the National Center of Small and Medium Size Enterprise (SME) Development, will provide through another of its on-going projects, support to the establishment of SMEs related to the tourism sector. UNDP has already been supporting the development of tourism in Dilijan, as well as in the region, through a very successful B&B (bed & breakfast) promotion project in Tavush region.

The United Nations in Armenia fosters governance and human development, and focuses on achieving of the Millennium Development Goals. UN established its office in Armenia in December 1992.

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