
Congress of Union of Armenian IT Enterprises Held

NOYAN TAPAN – 7/2/2008

A new concept of Armenia's IT sector is being developed by the RA ministry of trade and economic development jointly with the Union of IT Enterprises (UITE). The union is the main initiator of developing this document and will be the ministry's partner in implementation of this concept. The RA deputy minister of trade and economic development Vahe Danielian stated this at the February 6 congress of the UITE.

The chairman of UITE Hovhannes Avoyan said in his speech that since the foundation of the union in 2000, the number of its members has considerably grown, as well as its role and influence have increased. At present the UITE is a full and associate member of 23 big organizations of IT and other sectors. H. Avoyan attached importance to 2007 - the year in the union's history "when during a meeting with the RA president, our important problems were outlined and prerequisites for developing a new strategy were created", as well as discussions and other events were held.

The executive director of the union Karen Vardanian pointed out in his summary report that the 2008 state budget for the first time envisaged allocations for development of the IT sector: for research, presentation of the Armenian IT sector abroad, specialized contests, and other programs. According to him, if the Armenian government adopts the indicated concept in the form of the current draft, the UITE must develop a new strategy of the union because the problems of the current strategy will be solved with adoption of this concept. K. Vardanian said that the appreciation of the Armenian dram against the US dollar, the imperfect customs legislation, inconsistency between the educational system and the requirements of the IT sector may be an obstacle to implementation of the ambitious goals envisaged by the draft. He considered the absence of a separate state body performing the function of the sector's management as an obstacle to development of the sector too. It was stated that proposals to create such a body and to discuss the problems hindering the sector's development have been submitted to the Armenian prime minister.

The director general of Synopsys Armenia company Hovik Musaelian and the director of the Enterprise Incubator Foundation Bagrat Yengibarian also made speeches at the congress. Then the UITE's financial report and reports of various sections of the union were presented. After discussion of the presented programs, speeches and proposals, the congress delegates took part in elections of chairman and members of the UITE board.
