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# We Need Extra Efforts For Stimulating Armenian-Indian Economic Ties: Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister

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YEREVAN - Deputy foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Armenia Sergey Manaseryan's interview to "Armenpress" news agency.

- We are informed that the next 6th session of Armenian-Indian inter-governmental committee will be held in Delhi.

How will you estimate current level of Armenian-Indian relations?

- When describing Armenian-Indian relations it is necessary to mention at first that they have rich historical past. About historical and cultural relations has been spoken and written a lot and I think that these themes still need to be studied. One thing is obvious: on this favorable ground have been built relations between Republics of Armenia and India.

During past periods several high-level visits and meetings took place, close cooperation was held between foreign ministries of two countries, diplomatic representations of Armenia and India function actively in Delhi and Yerevan. By the way, in parallel with intergovernmental committee's session in Delhi will be held political consultations between foreign ministries which have the aim to summarize results of political contacts and outline the future joint steps. I would like to mention that visits of chairman of Armenian National Assembly and minister of education and science to India are planned during this year.

As it is known in several leading Armenian universities learn students from India and official contacts of educational sphere responsible persons greatly help to raise the efficiency of exchanges. In framework of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)

during these years state officials and specialists from Armenian various ministries and organizations passed trainings in India.

- To development of which sphere is directed Indian technical support?

It is known that in 2011 in support of Indian side in Yerevan was opened Armenian-Indian center for Excellence in Information and Communication Technologies.

- During past years India provided humanitarian and technical support to our country among which specially should be mentioned the agricultural techniques provided to Armenian agricultural sphere in 2005-2006 as well as the program of creation of computer halls in Armenian regions implemented under joint efforts of Indian embassy in Armenia and "Hayastan" All Armenian Fund. By the end of 2012 such halls have been opened in 72 schools of Tavush region. At present implementation if such program is prepared in Lori region. Of course the implementation of these programs is greatly supported by Armenian-Indian center for Excellence in Information and Communication Technologies which was officially opened in November of 2011 in framework of India's minister of Communication and Information Technology Sachin Pilot's visit to the Republic of Armenia.

I should inform with satisfaction that during this short period the Center has implemented large-scale work. Among functions of the Center

is the development of high-speed computer technologies, implementation of joint research programs, organization of educational lessons and exchange of specialists, business meetings, seminars and contests.

It is the only organization in the region which has super-computer "Param" produced in India (Param Super-Computer). With the help of that computer are implemented 15 scientific-research programs, in the center teach 8 Armenian specialists which were trained in India and around 300 seminars have been organized. There was made arrangement with Indian side on organizing visits of Armenian specialist to India. The support given by Indian side is greatly favorable for development of above-mentioned spheres and we are grateful to our Indian friends for that.

- What prospects has Armenian-Indian cooperation in other fields?

- Before reverberating to practical spheres I would like to mention that between our countries close contacts are held in humanitarian spheres. Lately "Sugar and Spice" dance ensemble arrived from Mumbai and performed in Armenia. Cultural events make our nations more perceptible for each other both by introducing modern folk arts and creating friendship ties between our youth. I would also like to reverberate to one more moment: in august of current year Ministry of healthcare of the Republic of Armenia applied to embassy of India in Yerevan asking to find medicine for children who were ill with Thalassemia and due to active support of the embassy the medicine was brought to Armenia in a short period.

Speaking about prospects of trade-economic cooperation I should mention that we have yet many things to do. During last years the volume of turnover between Armenia and India was 70 million USD and goods imported from India form the major part of it. We need extra efforts for involvement of investments from India to Armenia and stimulation of export of Armenian goods to India. At present in participation of all interested Armenian departments are held active works for making the coming session of inter-governmental committee more practical and efficient.

<http://armenpress.am/eng/news/733443/we-need-extra-efforts-for-stimulating-armenian-indian-economic-ties-armenia%E2%80%99s-deputy-foreign-minister.html>

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