

Yerevan Public Environmental Information Center / Aarhus/ Report of 2007

Aarhus Centres with their activities promote the realization of pillars of the Aarhus Convention in Armenia.

By execution of the first pillar of Aarhus Convention, the environmental information is inclined to society as requested and through the web site of Public Environmental Information /Aarhus/ Centre: www.aarhus.am. Web site was renovated by financial support of OSCE Office in Yerevan, including new sections, which provide new requests of information possession. From the section of Aarhus Centre's web site refer to www.osce.org the web site of OSCE Office in Yerevan and www.mnp.am the web site of the Ministry of Nature Protection, where the information about the environment of RA /atmosphere, water, soil, subsurface, biological resources, expertise/ is given.

Information gathering and distributing of Aarhus Centre's web site is implemented by Yerevan Aarhus Center.

In Yerevan Aarhus Centre, 2007 the following public hearings and discussions were organized:

- Public hearings on “ Environmental impact problems of exhausted gas render harmless project of Nubarashen dump ”.
- Public discussion on "The plans, programs related with the environment, the confirmation of the order of public participation in decision making process about the policy and the forming of public ecological board attached to the Minister of the Nature Protection" .
- Discussion on the exploitation of Teghut Copper Molybdenum deposit.
- Discussion on the preparation of Second National Report of Aarhus Convention's Implementation in Armenia.
- Public hearings on “Development of Solid Waste Management Policy” document.

The Centre also participated in public hearings concerning Zoning project of the “Kentron” Community of Yerevan.

In 2007 assisting to the implementation of third pillar of Aarhus Convention, educational seminars were organized for judges, procurators, lawyers and legal counsellors in the Centre, which were financed by OSCE Office in Yerevan. The aim of

those seminars was to aware society the implementation methods of third pillar of Aarhus Convention, which is: access to justice.

Aarhus Centers, by their activities, raise eco-education to a higher level. During 2007 a number of measures were organized for this purpose in the Center, such as:

The Centre in close cooperation with "Biom" environmental, young public organization organized a meeting with Mrs. Karine Danielyan, the member of the Board of Experts of Centre and the chairmen of "Association for Sustainable Human Development" NGO and the 30 volunteers of NAGGGS "Astghik" scouts group. During the meeting the pupils got acquainted with the activities of Centre and the problems of Sustainable Development in Republic of Armenia.

The open lesson of environment was organized in school N84 n/a K. Abovyan of Yerevan titled "Lets save our planet" by supporting and participation of the Centre.

The Centre with International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) Armenian organization organized the representation of "Edmund Muskie" scholarship program in the Centre.

Environmental film watching was organized in Centre for pupils and students of different Higher Educational Institution.

Every day many visitors use library, internet and other information of the Center. Most of the visitors are students.

The Centre cooperates with UNDP Armenian representation, participating in environmental measures organized in the office and receives literature.

In 2007 the meetings took place in Centre with many representatives of non-governmental organization, where the questions of future possible co-operation were discussed.

Besides above-mentioned measures a lot of other measures were organized in the Centre in 2007, such as:

- The seminar-meeting on the topic of "Yerevan-GEO"
- The meeting between Ministry of Nature Protection and representatives of environmental NGOs
- Consultation about the formation of Third National Report of implementation of Aarhus Convention.
- Annual Training for the Coordinators of Aarhus Centres of RA.

"In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives Through Enhanced Information Management" project /UNEP/GEF CWR Project/ .

There were organized measures in the Centre on the following topics: "Using the crop wild relatives in botanic cultivating" and "Decisions making in environmental sphere".

Coordinator of Yerevan Aarhus Centre

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