

CHINA HAY

NEWSLETTER #2



Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year
from The Armenian Community of China...
May it be filled with lots of happiness, peace
and love

ChinaHAY

The Armenian Community of China
亚美尼亚人在华社团

Newsletter #2
December 2014

ChinaHAY President Henri
Arslanian's New Year Message

Christmas Gathering In Guangzhou:
Armenian Mass in Mainland China

The Lecture of Khachik Mouradian:
"Do not fall off the World; The
Armenian Community in China in
19th-20th centuries

The Armenian Students Union and the
1st Online Conference of the Armenian
Students and Researchers in China

Michael Hayrapetyan: 'The secrets of
Armenia'
An Exclusive Interview to ChinaHAY
Newsletter

Armenian Language Classes at Beijing
Studies Language University

CHINA HAY

The Armenian Community of
China

www.chinahay.com

Jack and Julie Maxian Hong Kong
Armenian Centre
11/F, Block A, Tonic Industrial
Centre, 26 Kai Cheung Road,
Kowloon Bay, Kowloon

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Henri Arslanian

President, Armenian Community of China

Dear ChinaHAYS,

As 2014 draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for your service and your support to the Armenian Community of China in the past year. Our achievements would never have been possible without the dedication, service and support of each one of you.

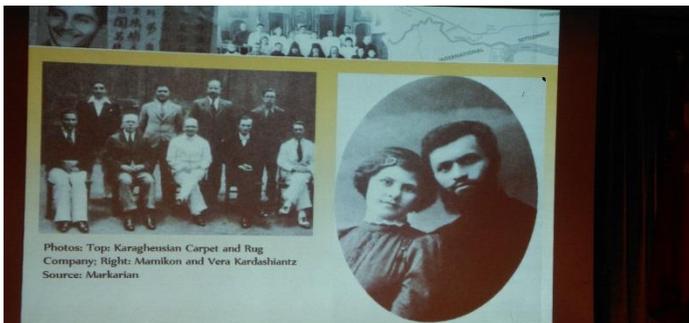
In the past year, we worked towards our ambitious goal of becoming the premier Armenian organization globally with best in class governance, transparency and accountability with a continuous focus on our core goals of bringing the community in China together and sharing with the world the history of Armenians in China.

A particular thank you to the members of the Executive Committee and Council of Advisors who have been donating their spare time to serve our community and to our benefactors who have kindly and generously donated funds to make some of these achievements possible.

So how did it go? Here are some highlights from the past year:

- **Community Level**

Events – we held dozens of events across China bringing together the community in **Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen** and **Hong Kong**.



History – we partnered with the **Gulbenkian Foundation** in Portugal to provide two fellowships to academics to research the old Armenian history in China. Khatchig Mouradian (Rutgers University) and Xi Yang (UCLA) visited China for research purposes and will come again this year to follow-up on some of the

incredible discoveries they have made with the aim to publish their findings by year end.

Professional Networking – 2 professional groups, the **Armenians Students Association of China** (which aims to connect the approximately 90 Armenian students studying in China every year) and the **Armenians in Finance in Asia** (which connects the 20 people strong Armenian financial community in Asia), were launched and have been very active.

Academic Gatherings – the **1st Online Conference of Armenian Students and Researchers in China** took place on 30th November 2014 with great success bringing together the Armenian academic community in China to allow for better collaboration and representation at the various academic gatherings across the country.



Education – Armenian languages are now being offered at the **Beijing Foreign Studies University** to Chinese students with 18 students enrolled in the first year. We are also continuing to push for the implementation of the **Armenian Virtual**

College across Asia allowing for community members across Asia to attend Armenian classes.

- **Global Level**

Pan-Asia Collaboration – the various Armenian communities across Asia are working closer together than ever before with the **1st Pan-Asian Armenian Gathering** to take place in Bangkok on 10 January 2014. The community also participated, along with many other dedicated individuals globally, in the efforts of preserving the Armenian heritage in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Singapore. The visit to Myanmar along with His Holiness Karekin II was of particular importance as it allowed us to save the Armenian Church of Yangon.

Global Awareness – Community member Ruben Giney's documentary "Armenian Journey Chronicles" describing links between China and Armenia has been winning numerous awards and prizes globally and sharing with the world the old Armenian history in China and Asia.

Cultural Awareness – we supported a number of Armenian cultural events in China, including the visit to Guangdong in August 2014 of the 40 people strong **State Youth Orchestra of Armenia**. Many similar events are planned for 2015.



Media – we continue our global media push in order to create awareness and share with the world the Armenian history in China and Asia. For example, recent press stories including on the **First Armenian Mass in Mainland China** in decades on 14 December 2014 in Guangzhou (<http://armenianweekly.com/2014/12/15/china/>) were shared thousands of times and the BBC video on the efforts to save the **Armenian Church in Myanmar** (<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-magazine-monitor-29505568>) were seen by viewers from all around the world on TV and online.

● **Internal**

Governance – **Ernst & Young** have kindly accepted to act as our pro bono auditors and **Bryan Cave LLP** as our pro bono legal advisers, reinforcing our desire of building a world class organization with an emphasis on best-in-class governance and accountability.

Legal - The **Armenian Community of Hong Kong and China Limited** was officially incorporated in March 2014 as a Hong Kong company limited by guarantee. We are currently working with our legal advisers to apply for a tax exempt status with the HK Inland Revenue Department.



2015 will be a very important year for the community and your Executive Committee is continuing to focus on our core goals. In addition to some of the initiatives listed above, we will continue the organization of cultural events for the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, a new digital push that will see us revamp our website and entire technological platform, elections which will be held online using a secured platform and the re launch of our community newsletter.

Thank you once again for your dedication and support and looking forward to 2015!

Yours truly,

Henri Arslanian



Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year
from The Armenian Community of China...
May it be filled with lots of happiness, peace
and love



Annual Gathering of
ChinaHAY in
Guangzhou
December 13-14
2014

ARMENIAN MASS IN CHINA

14 December 2014, Armenian community in China gathered at a church in Guangzhou to celebrate mass for the first time in decades. Bishop Haigazoun Najarian presided over the mass that brought together dozens of Armenians from Guangzhou, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hong Kong, and other cities. Bishop Najarian, Primate of the

Armenian Diocese of Australia and New Zealand and Pontifical Legate of All Armenians in India and the Far East, said he was pleased that decades after the last church mass was held by the Armenian community in China, Armenians from around the world who now call China and Hong Kong home gathered again to celebrate mass. A small yet vibrant Armenian

Community existed in Harbin, Shanghai, and Hong Kong from the late 19th till the mid-20th century. In that period, Harbin had an Armenian church and Shanghai boasted a vibrant community center. Most Armenians left for the Americas or for Soviet Armenia by the 1950s.



Lecture on Armenian community in China

Guangzhou

December 13, 2014

Khatchig Mouradian is the Program Coordinator of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights at Rutgers University, where he also teaches in the History and Sociology departments. Khachig Mouradian was the editor of the Armenian Weekly from 2007-2014. He is the recipient of the Gulbenkian Armenian Studies research fellowship to study the Armenian community in China in the 20th century (2014).

13 December in Guangzhou scholar Khatchig Mouradian presented his illustrated talk on the Armenian communities in Harbin and Shanghai from the late 19th to the mid-20th century.

Pulling from memoirs, accounts, archival material, and photographs from China, Armenia, and missionary archives in the U.S., Mouradian depicted the life of Armenians from the Caucasus and the Ottoman Empire who went east in search of opportunity or to escape genocide and political upheavals.

In August, Khatchig Mouradian received a Gulbenkian Armenian Studies fellowship to research the history of the Armenian community in China.



Armenian Language classes for Chinese Students



From September 2014 Armenian language is taught in Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), with the support of the Chinese State Ministry of Education. Teaching of Armenian language is entrusted to Mary Knyazyan, BFSU PHD student, member of Armenian students' Union Executive Committee.



BFSU is one of the leading Universities in China and Chinese students are interested in learning the Armenian language. Currently it is taught to the students of 2nd and 3rd grades as a 3rd foreign language. Besides learning Armenian language, students also have an opportunity to get acquainted with the Armenian culture and history.

Armenian Students Union in China and The 1st Online Conference of Armenian Students and Researchers

Last year was a great year for the Armenian Students Union in China. From the beginning of 2014, it effectively succeeded in a short time to unite around 90 Armenian students and researchers across China. In the same year on 30 November, the first Online Conference of Armenian Researchers and Students in China took place.

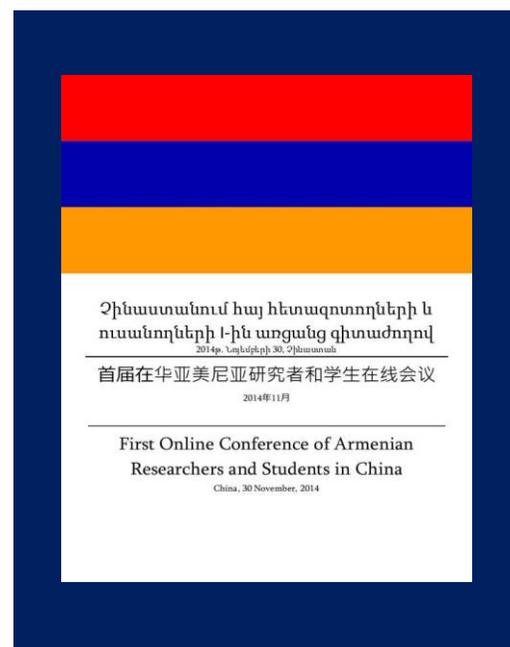
This conference aimed to bring together Armenian students, doctoral candidates, and researchers based in China. The focus of the conference was on multi-disciplinary science perspectives. The head of the Armenian Students Union Mher Sahakyan said that the conference gave the opportunity for Armenian students and researchers to find new ways for academic cooperation and help each other on their research fields. Taking into consideration the fact that in recent years, the number of Armenian students and researchers in Chinese Universities has increased, the conference aimed to form a team of Armenian Sinologists who will introduce Armenian investigations in various academic conferences in China. The online conference lasted three hours. The Armenian media was highly interested in the conference and the participants got interesting offers of cooperation with analytical journals diplomat.am and chinastan.org.

Armenian media also introduced the historic conference. For example, recent press stories ran on armedia.am, hayernaysor.am, diplomat.am, armscoop.com, and chinastan.org.

A number of the works were published in diplomat.am and chinastan.org. This includes Mher Sahakyan (PhD researcher, Nanjing University) "How and why to introduce the Armenian Genocide to the Chinese"; Liu Lai Chun (Researcher and Author;

Liaoning University) "The Legend of the Mamikonyan dynasty: From Chinato Armenia"; Naira Grigoryan (Director of the YSLU Confucius Institute); "The Peculiarities of the Chinese Character and the Differences of Mentality"; Robert Tsaturyan (Renmin University) "Glamour girl writers" – Zhai Yongming; Nare Haroyan (PhD student at Shanghai Normal University) "The Influence of Facial Emotional Clues on the Intention of Cross-Cultural Communication"; Araksya Nersisiyan (Minzhu University of China); "Along the Way of the World's two Strongest Cultures"; Barseghyan Ghazaros (Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications) "Car Crash Detection System for Android Smart Phones"; Astghik Poghosyan (Shanghai Conservatory of Music) "What it is like to be an Armenian Musician in China?".

It is worth mentioning that the works of Mary Knyazyan and Lilit Zakharyan about the teaching methods and textbooks of the Chinese language in Armenia is of great importance. The Conference was unique as it allowed Armenian researchers and students in various parts of China to participate in the conference and to formulate a team.



MICKAEL HAYRAPETYAN: The Secrets of Armenia

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CHINA HAY NEWSLETTER

We are honored to introduce Mickael Hayrapetyan, who is an Armenian musician, pianist, producer, and social activist



Hayrapetyan was born in Armenia in Yerevan in 1984 to a family of artists. He graduated from Moscow Conservatory and studied under one of the best pianists in the world, Russian Professor Mikhail Voskresensky.

While still a student at the Conservatory, Hayrapetyan decided that he would devote himself to promoting Armenian classical music around the world. As a postgraduate student and pianist, he was also drawn to the scientific side of the Armenian piano music. He is the founder of the musical project, The Secrets of Armenia, which aims to introduce Armenian classical music to the world. Within the framework of the project, he produced three CDs and performed the compositions during his concerts.

In June 2015, in the Tchaikovsky Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, Hayrapetyan is planning to organize a concert dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

How did you come to China?

I came to China with the federal program on cultural cooperation between the Russian Federation and China, to teach the art of playing the piano to Chinese university students. I work as a senior lecturer at the Moscow State University of Culture and Arts. With this program I present Russian and Armenian pianism in China.

What is your Chinese dream as a foreigner?

China is a fascinating country with a very developed extensive population who aspire to learn something new in general, and that includes art and music. My dream in China is to extensively promote Armenian music among the Chinese population. Throughout Chinese history, the people of this country have always been very sensitive to art, painting, music, poetry, etc. and I am sure that the pearl of the Armenian people's music will eventually be revered and loved in China. This is my dream. Now it is very necessary for our people.

What difficulties and obstacles may an Armenian musician face in China?

I am of the opinion that the obstacles and difficulties can only occur in two cases: lack of professionalism and the reluctance to evaluate their skills and knowledge. I do not see any other obstacles. Chinese people appreciate a high level of professionalism in all areas, be it an art, sports, or science. They can easily determine this level. I have very a definite goal, which is to promote Armenian music, and I will work to do this in China with great vigor. Among my wishes is the consolidation of the Armenian community in China, for our common goal is worth mentioning: "Art should not remain in oblivion!" Through our unity and love for high art, we can be much stronger.

Tell us about your musical project "The Secrets of Armenia" How it came to you?

As a musician and pianist, my interest is Armenian classical music. After my graduation I founded the musical project, Secrets of Armenia, and began to collect the music of the undeservedly forgotten Armenian composers in the musical archives of Yerevan, and I organized meetings with



relatives of the composers. During this work, I have investigated a huge amount of materials of Armenian piano music that was previously unknown to the world. As my next step I began to learn these materials and perform them during my concerts. In Moscow, I successfully open my record label, Armenian Music Records, which started recording this Armenian music material. I started the production of these records of Armenian piano music at the same time, performing them at my concerts within the framework of my musical project, Secrets of Armenia.

In 2013, Naxos Corporation, one of the world's leading labels in the field of classical music, signed a contract with me. They produced three CDs of Armenian piano music followed by the production of the records worldwide. It is worth mentioning that the corporation has branches in more than 25 countries around the world.

That work was followed by the feedback and reviews of leading producers in the field of classical music, Grammy winners, and the world's leading music magazines. In 2014 in Moscow, Secrets of Armenia organized a big concert devoted to the 145th anniversary of Komitas in one of the best concert halls in the world, the Tchaikovsky Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

On December 29, 2014 you had your first concert with this project in China, Tianjin, how was it? What was the response of the Chinese audience?



My first concert in China was great. I was amazed at how sensitively and tenderly the Chinese people listened to the Armenian music. The hall was completely silent during the performance. Then they burst into applause. At the concert, high-ranking officials, representatives of the Party from Beijing, and the city administration were

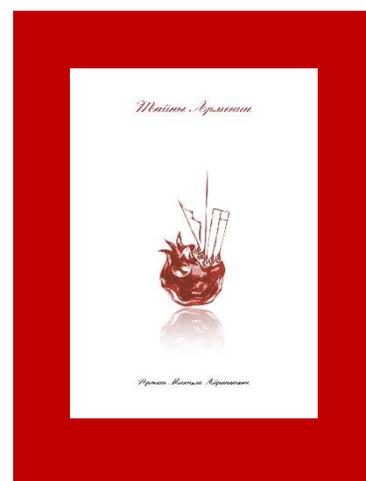
also present. After the concert and my speech, they all came to express their appreciation for the Armenian music and took photos. There were so many flowers. There is a pre-agreement on another concert in April 2015. The concert will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.



Are you planning to travel to other cities in China with this project?

Yes, of course. Currently we are working on the organization of concerts in the main, major cities in China, and in the various provinces. We are also open to cooperating with the Armenian Diaspora to work together to organize concerts. The more there are, the better for our people, our art and our country.

We would like to thank Michael Hayrapetyan for his prominent work, and wish him great achievements and success with this interesting and important project. Interview by Anahit Parzyan



ChinaHAY in Photo-LIFE



Bilingual Festival in
Han Lin School, Suzhou
Levon Mikayelyan's class
has chosen to act for
Armenia



ChinaHAY

The Armenian Community of China
亚美尼亚人在华社团

www.chinahay.com

Jack and Julie Maxian Hong Kong Armenian Centre
11/F, Block A, Tonic Industrial Centre, 26 Kai Cheung Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon

Editor Anahit Parzyan