

Armenia Tree Project



ARMENIA TREE PROJECT

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ATP to Participate in Upcoming UN DPI/NGO Conference in New York City

WATERTOWN, MA-Armenia Tree Project (ATP) has been invited to attend the 57th Annual United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization Conference (DPI/NGO) to be held at the UN headquarters in New York City. The conference will be held from September 8-10 and is titled "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action."

The conference will focus on the roles of NGOs as well as civil society and governments for implementing the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the UN assembly during its high-level millennium session in 2000.

ATP was invited to participate in the conference by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) in association with Rotary International, NGO Committee on Human Rights, Peace Action, and the World Federation for Mental Health.

The MDG target areas that ATP specifically focuses on in Armenia through its multi-faceted environmental restoration efforts include poverty alleviation, hunger reduction, sustainable development, and reversing the loss of environmental resources through reforestation programs.

ATP has already begun implementing ambitious programs in the villages of Aygut and Dzoravank located in the Getik River Valley aimed at restoring the environmental integrity of the surrounding areas while jumpstarting the local economic development of rural communities. Village residents are provided economic incentives for fostering the growth of tree seedlings to be transplanted in nearby decimated forests, thereby helping to reduce poverty.

ATP also provides resources to local schools for teaching fundamentals about environmental protection and is also strengthening communities by helping to create fruit and nut orchards, which will provide greater food security and economic development. Mr. Masarjian will outline these and other ways that ATP is contributing to the development of civil society in Armenia during a panel discussion with representatives of two other NGOs.

Conference delegates will attend five plenary sessions with UN agency, NGO, civil society, and governmental leaders to assess the challenges associated with meeting each of the goals by the target date, set for 2015. That same date marks ATP's goal to have planted 15 million trees throughout Armenia.

Since 1994, Armenia Tree Project has been dedicated to restoring, revitalizing, and protecting Armenia's environment, while simultaneously alleviating the socioeconomic burdens facing its people. Thus far, over 531,000 trees have been planted and restored under ATP's guidance throughout Armenia. By 2006, ATP programs will have the capacity to produce and plant over 1 million trees per year.

For more information about ATP, please visit www.armeniatree.org.

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