

Dear colleagues!

Armenian National Academy of Sciences and its Presidium congratulates the Romanian Academy and the entire scientific community of the country with the jubilee, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Romanian Academy.

Over the years, the Romanian Academy passed a glorious way, has achieved outstanding results in the most advanced scientific fields and areas of human knowledge. It has become the leading scientific center influencing the economic, technological, social and cultural development of Romania. The results of scientific work of Romanian scientists have had a significant impact on the world's science as well.

In my welcoming speech, I would like to concentrate on the Armenian-Romanian relations and primarily on scientific connections, which are multifaceted and multi-level.

The first mention of Armenians in Romania go back to the early Middle Ages, when in 1350 the first Armenian Church was founded in the city of Botoșani, Romania. Subsequently, due to the different historical ups and downs the number of the Armenian community had been changing. Especially it increased by Armenians who escaped the genocide in the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century.

From the very beginning and until today the Armenian community of Romania has been enjoying the favor of the people and of the Romanian state, for which we express our sincere gratitude.

Armenians of Romania, faithfully served their host state and were worthy citizens of the country, dedicated their life to serving it. Together with the Romanian people, we are proud such names as: Ion Armianul, Armin Petre, Manuk Bay (Mirzaian), Vasile Conta, Theodor Aman, Spiru Haret, Petre Missir, Gregory Trankzhi-Yash, Grigor Zambaccian and many others.

Armenians worthy served to the Romanian science as well, among them such outstanding representatives as Anna Aslan, Gheorghe Assachi, Peter Misir, Spiru Haret, Karapet Ibraileanu, Virgil Madgearu, Dumitru and Nikolae Baghdasar, Gheorghe Manea, Matei Socor, Grigor Zambaccian, Mihail Jora, Henry Keshiaian and finally Hakob Siruni, an outstanding scientist and a student of the Romanian eminent historian Iorga Nikolae.

I would like to note that we are not satisfied by our historical achievements and together with our Romanian colleagues are constantly working on their improvement and development. Especially the development of our relations acquires the period after gaining independence by our countries. An intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of science, culture and education was signed. Within its framework each year Romania allocated 8 seats for university and post-graduate training of Armenian youth.

For the last years our scientific and inter-university communication have significantly been intensified. In 2013 we signed a Cooperation Agreement between the Romanian and Armenian Academies of Sciences. The agreement on cooperation was signed between the Yerevan and Bucharest, Yerevan and Cluj-Napoca Babeş-Bolyai universities. I especially want to mention the foundation in 2014 in Cluj-Napoca Babeş-Bolyai University the Institute of Armenian Studies, headed by well-known Armenologist, prof. Lucian Nastasă Kovacs. At the University of Bucharest the Armenian language courses were organized as well as a textbook of the Armenian language for the Romanian-speaking listeners was published. At the same time the Yerevan University of Foreign Languages and Social Sciences after V. Bryusov has begun teaching the Romanian language.

Within the framework of cooperation programs a variety of joint activities have been held. In particular, in 2015 the Romanian Academy organized and hosted an international symposium dedicated to the 125th anniversary of Hakob Siruni. An international symposium on the legacy of the Armenian community of Romania was held in 2015. At the end of the current year it is planned to hold an exhibition on the same topic at the National Museum of Romanian History.

And in the end, I would like to note the remarkable fact. One of the prominent Armenian religious and cultural leaders, the Catholicos (Supreme Patriarch) of All Armenians from 1955 to 1994 Vazgen the First was born, grew up and was educated in Bucharest, Romania, that he always emphasized with satisfaction.

Dear colleagues!

Congratulating you on the glorious jubilee, we sincerely wish you further success, scientific advances and achievements!

We are confident that Romanian Academy, using the high potential of the Romanian people, will continue its development and improvement for the benefit of your country and the world civilization!

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