



USAID | **CAPS**
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PRESS RELEASE

2nd Pharmaceutical Competitiveness Conference to Take Place in Yerevan **Perspectives of the Pharmaceutical Sector**

Yerevan, Armenia. The USAID-funded Competitive Armenian Private Sector (CAPS) Project in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Scientific Center of Drug and Medical Technology Expertise, the Union of Medicine Producers and Importers of Armenia, Armenian Development Agency, and National Competitiveness Foundation are organizing the **2nd Armenian Pharmaceutical Competitiveness Conference** on December 1 in Yerevan.

The event aims to update industry representatives on the current status of the sector, promote collaboration among pharmaceutical sector stakeholders, and encourage discussions on major industry issues, including financial crisis impact on pharmaceutical production, adoption of Good “X” Practices (GXP) regulations and export market opportunities.

The conference builds upon the success of the first Pharmaceutical Competitiveness Conference, held last November by CAPS and its major partners in the pharmaceutical industry. The conference focused on introducing Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Since then, notable steps have been taken toward GMP implementation in Armenia. For example, in May this year, a GMP training program featuring international experts was conducted in Armenia for the first time through the joint efforts of the CAPS Project and major industry stakeholders. The GMP training was followed by a trainers’ course, creating local GMP trainers able to continue pharmaceutical training through the GXP Center of Excellence, which was established in June this year.

Conference participants will discuss opportunities for Armenian pharmaceutical producers in domestic and foreign markets, the need for improvements in medicine regulation, as well as the current situation of medicine production in Armenia and possible development scenarios.

The event is open to pharmaceutical producers, government and international organizations, educational institutions, NGOs, business associations, pharmaceutical professionals, the press and those interested in Armenia’s pharmaceutical industry.

The conference will take place on **Tuesday, December 1, at 10:00 in Ani Plaza Hotel**. For further information, please see the draft conference agenda below.

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The USAID-funded Competitive Armenian Private Sector (CAPS) Project provides technical assistance to the Armenian private sector to help them better compete nationally, regionally and internationally. CAPS is currently working with the growing Armenian information technology, tourism, pharmaceuticals and the engineering services clusters to identify globally competitive products and services, and to build robust companies around those products and services. CAPS technical assistance takes many forms and includes: firm level consulting, business association capacity building, policy research, public education, work force training and development of public / private initiatives.

COMPETITIVE ARMENIAN PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECT (CAPS)

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SECOND ARMENIAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPETITIVENESS CONFERENCE

PHARMACEUTICAL CLUSTER PERSPECTIVES

December 1 2009

Draft Agenda

9:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:30	Welcoming Remarks Harutyun Kushkyan, Minister of Health Ara Babloyan, Chairman, Standing Committee on Healthcare of the National Assembly U.S. Agency for International Development Representative Emil Gabrielyan, Director, SCDMTE Artak Ghazaryan, Chief of Party, USAID/CAPS Project

PREVAILING ISSUES

10:30 – 10:50	Current Situation of Medicine Production in Armenia and Scenarios for Development Sergey Matevosyan, Director, Liqvor Pharmaceutical Company
10:50 – 11:10	Medicine Procurement Process and Reform Sergey Shahnazaryan, Ministry of Finance
11:10 – 11:30	Armenian Government's Private Sector Development Policies in the Current Economic Climate – Opportunities for Companies Artak Baghdasaryan, Ministry of Economy

11:30 – 11:50 **Coffee Break**

11:50 – 12:10	The Challenges for Good Distribution Practice in a Global Market Michael Kimber, USAID/CAPS International Consultant
12:10 -12:30	Role of Wholesalers and Pharmacy Chains in Developing Armenia's Pharmaceutical Market Hrach Minasyan, Director, Esculap Pharmaceutical Company
12:30 – 12:50	Role of Pharmacist in Healthcare System Ghukas Ulikhanyan, President of Armenian Pharmaceutical Association
12:50 – 13:00	Questions and Answers

13:00 – 14:00 **Buffet Lunch**

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS

- 14:00 – 14:20** **Pharmaceutical Sector Priorities – Achievements and Status**
Frans Stobbelaar, USAID/CAPS International Consultant
- 14:20 – 14:40** **GXP Centre of Excellence Training Programs**
Aram Ghazaryan, Director, GXP Centre of Excellence
- 14:40 – 15:00** **The Importance of Industry Cooperation**
Armen Aghayants, Executive Director, Medicine Producers and Importers Union
- 15:00 – 15:20** **Questions and Answers**

15:20 – 15:40 **Coffee Break**

PERSPECTIVES

- 15:40 - 16:00** **Global Experience in Biotech Development**
Pegor Papazian, Chief Executive Officer, National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia
- 16:00 - 16:20** **Improvements in Medicine Regulation**
Albert Sahakyan, Deputy Director, SCDMTE
- 16:20 - 16:40** **Marketing Opportunities in Domestic and Foreign Markets**
Heghine Urshatyan, Marketing Manager, Medical Horizon
- 16:40 – 17:00** **Questions and Answers**
- 17:00** **Conference Closing Remarks**