



PRESS RELEASE

ServSafe – Essentials of Consistent Food Safety Certified Program on Food Safety Introduced in Yerevan

Yerevan, Armenia – The USAID-funded Competitive Armenian Private Sector (CAPS) Project, the American University of Armenia Extension Program, and the Armenian Restaurant Association are launching the “*ServSafe: Essentials of Consistent Food Safety*” certification program on September 29 in Yerevan. A three-day training course will be held for representatives of Armenia’s food service industry to assist in setting high food safety standards. The course has been developed by the American National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and covers five key areas:

- Basic Food Safety
- Personal Hygiene
- Cross-contamination & Allergens
- Time & Temperature
- Cleaning & Sanitation

The training course is designed to be of benefit to hotels, restaurants, catering services, supermarkets, government officials and educational institutions, and will be taught by Dr. Mahmood A. Khan, Ph.D., R.D., F.M. P., a Professor at the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management at one of the most prestigious American educational institutions, Virginia Tech / Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Mr. Khan has over 30 years of experience in this field.

An academic partnership between Virginia Tech and some of Armenia’s educational institutions was established earlier this year when, on the initiative of the CAPS Project, the professor first visited Armenia to conduct an assessment of specific program needs. In the framework of this and a later visit in April, Dr. Khan introduced several Armenian universities to leading edge curricula, offering modern teaching methods and approaches, as well as conducting training courses on Food Safety and Marketing/Sales for the Armenian hospitality industry representatives.

“The availability of an effective food safety system and qualified workforce is essential for restaurants and catering services. By supporting this and similar initiatives we try to assist hospitality companies improve the quality of their services and staff knowledge.” Anush Shahverdyan, CAPS Workforce Development Specialist said. “The training course will be followed by an exam to allow participants to qualify as internationally certified trainers.”

The course will begin on **September 29 at 11:00a.m** at the Paramaz Avedisian Building, American University of Armenia, 40 Baghramian Street, Yerevan.

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The USAID-funded Competitive Armenian Private Sector (CAPS) Project provides technical assistance to the Armenian private sector to help it 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.