

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

for a better business environment

#### **April 2023**



AmCham is an independent business association operating in Armenia since 2000. AmCham represents the interests of 150+ member companies from almost all sectors of the economy. AmCham's goal is to enhance the U.S.-Armenia business relations and improve the business and investment climate in the country. The Chamber is pleased to have both local companies and companies from all over the world among its members. AmCham Armenia is a member of U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AmChams in Europe.

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# Discussion on the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences at the Ministry of Economy

On April 4, 2023, the AmCham Board of Directors and members attended a discussion on the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Program at the Ministry of Economy.

The event featured two guest speakers: Mr. Jason Buntin, Director for Europe and Middle East Affairs at the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), and Ms. Laura Buffo, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).



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### **AmCham Legal Committee Meeting**



On April 5, 2023, AmCham Legal Committee had a meeting with 13 members present. The first agenda item was the Government's proposal on regulations regarding the engagement of male employees in military training.

Next, committee members discussed the proposed changes to the Law on Advertising, specifically the total restriction of the advertisement of alcoholic drinks.

The final agenda item was the pilot program in Armenia for several sectors on track and trace, where the concern was the businesses facing all the challenges while the system was not ready for such regulations.

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#### **AmCham Sustainable Development Committee Meeting**

On April 5, 2023, AmCham Sustainable Development Committee had a meeting with the SWM project signatories. During the meeting, Elina Markaryan, the Chair of the Committee, provided a comprehensive overview of the Committee's current standing, future plans, and upcoming activities.

The members were also briefed on the collaboration between AmCham and the internationally renowned expert, Mr. Kyriakos Parpounas, who will be spearheading the pilot launch and PRO creation.



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#### Reception Hosted by the U.S Ambassador to Armenia



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On April 7, 2023, the AmCham Executive Team and Board of Directors had the honor of attending a reception hosted by the Ambassador of the United States of America, Kristina A. Kvien, in honor of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets, Mr. Arun Venkataraman.

During the reception, the Executive Director of AmCham Armenia, Lilit Gevorgyan, signed the EMPOWER HER declaration on behalf of the organization thus joining AmChams around Europe.

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The EMPOWER HER initiative, announced by Gina M. Raimondo, US Secretary of Commerce at AmCham EU's Transatlantic Conference in March, aims to promote the role of women in international business and trade. It will explore ways to encourage US and European companies to support women owned and operated exporters and business interests abroad.

# AMCHAM Comprehensive Health Insurance Working Group Meeting The World Bank Representatives



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On April 17, 2023, the World Bank convened a meeting with the AmCham Comprehensive Health Insurance Working Group in conjunction with the AmCham Board of Directors. During the meeting, AmCham representatives actively engaged in discussions pertaining to the implementation of the Universal Health Coverage program in Armenia, where Ms. Adanna Chukwuma briefly presented the program.

AmCham representatives raised their questions and concerns on the Comprehensive Health Insurance Law. The discussion proved to be productive, instilling optimism for the future collaboration.

### Conference on The PPT Project for the Issuance of Biometric Passports and National ID cards

On April 17, 2023, AmCham Executive Director and representatives of interested AmCham member companies attended a conference on the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project for the issuance of biometric passports and national ID cards.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs on behalf of the Government of Armenia, with the aim of supporting the country's digital transformation and improving service delivery to the public. The event served as a forum for potential Service Providers to gain insights into the project and explore opportunities for collaboration within the framework of the PPP.



### **AWDA\_WFD Committee Meeting**

On April 25th, 2023, AmCham Armenia held a Workforce Development Committee Meeting with the partners of the Armenia Workforce Development Activity project.

The first topic of discussion was the organization of national career days by employers for high-grade school pupils.

The second topic on the agenda focused on the Code of Conduct for employers to ensure equal opportunities and rights for both men and women in the workplace. The committee intends to finalize and submit the draft Code of Conduct to the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues. Once accepted by the Ministry, it will serve as a best practice model for employers who may voluntarily join and sign it.



# ARTWINE NIGHT AT KATAPULT PAVILION















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### BE MY GUEST WITH "MY PROJECT EVENTS"













