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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA PLANS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FOUR TIMES



YEREVAN, September 27. / ARKA /. The American University of Armenia (AUA) is planning to increase the number of students four times by 2017, AUA president, Bruce Poghosian, said at a Tuesday news conference.

The AUA is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its establishment with a variety of events that will run from September 26 to October 1 under the motto "20 years of progress."

"Soon we will publish our development strategy for 2011-2017 that will focus on unprecedented development of the university, including the introduction of Undergraduate System. This will allow the university to enrol four times as many students," he said.

According to him, the AUA is also planning to develop interdisciplinary research.

"We want to have our faculty involved in research work in the field of environmental protection, health care, "green" energy and sustainable business practices," he said.

He said to mark the 20th anniversary the university has released a photo album, screened a film about its history and posted relating stories in Internet.

The idea to establish the American University of Armenia was prompted by the Spitak earthquake in 1988. In order to alleviate the disaster many experts in earthquake resistance engineering visited Armenia, including a delegation from the United States that included a well-known American professor Mihran Agbabyan, and Armen Ter-Kyureghian, a professor of University of California, Berkeley, who together with Professor Stephan Karamartyan developed the blueprint for the future of the university.

The bulk of the funding was provided by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). The project was supported by the governments of Armenia and the United States, University of California, the Ministry of Education and Science. -0-