

**« Des chercheurs qui cherchent on en trouve , des chercheurs qui trouvent on en cherche » (Charles De Gaulle)**

Table ronde de l'Institut ARPA

« Recherche scientifique et développement en Arménie et la « ville universitaire » »

Panélistes : Alasdair Reid, Göran Melin, Aram Pakhchanyan et Tigran Shahverdyan.

Modératrice : Mary Papazian

samedi 22 juillet 2023 à 11h00, PDT

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# TABLE RONDE



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## ARPA Institute Panel Discussion

“Scientific Research and Development in Armenia and the “Academic City””

Panelists: Alasdair Reid, Göran Melin, Aram Pakhchanyan and Tigran Shahverdyan.

Moderator: Mary Papazian

**Saturday, July 22, 2023 @ 11:00 am, PDT**

**Abstract:** There was a recent decision by the government of Armenia to establish a new technology-oriented university, an “Academic City”, thus aiming to consolidate all the institutes and universities into one university/research and development centre of excellence. A group of experts commissioned by the European Union and in coordination with the Government of Armenia carried out a study/analysis of the science/research system of Armenia and made recommendations in 2020 under the title “Raising the bar: a new mission for science in Armenia’s development”. Armenia has a diverse network of research institutes under the National Academy of Science. However, the higher education sector is mainly focused on education with limited research activities. While reforms are taking place, the structure of the research system remains highly fragmented with over 56 research organisations, and 13 universities. The 19 recommendations of the commission, stress consolidation of the public and higher education, research, system as highly important for the benefit of large-scale scientific programs on a global level, enhancement of teamwork, efficient use of scientific resources and facilities. The panel will address abovementioned issues and will discuss the pros and cons of “The Academic City” concept with its potential consequences.



Alasdair Reid has been working on European research and innovation policy since the mid-1990s. He follows the policy trends and theories about how innovation changes human life and the planet. Alasdair ensures that public policy fosters the transition of business, research and education, energy, mobility, and other systems towards more sustainable practices that hopefully help restore the Earth’s natural ecosystems on which we and future generations depend. Dr. Reid has worked for and with all sorts of people at the European Commission, the OECD, the World Bank, UNECE, and national and regional governments and agencies. Alasdair believes while a good strategy or policy is important, the real challenge is implementing it.



Göran Melin is Deputy Director at the Swedish office within the Technopolis Group and has 25 years’ experience of academic research, program management, policy making and evaluations targeting the research and higher education sector. He holds a PhD in Sociology of Science. He has extensive experience from his international evaluations and investigations. Among his recent works, evaluations or studies targeting researcher mobility, international student exchange periods, multi-disciplinary research, re-organization of universities, academic careers, and international academic cooperation are noteworthy. These examples cover many countries in Europe and occasionally beyond.



Aram Pakhchanyan is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ayb Foundation. He was the principle of the Ayb School in Armenia and is the Vice President of the ABBYY corporation. Pakhchanyan is involved in educational reform, projects, and initiatives, such as establishment of innovative learning environments, modern educational curriculum, and frameworks for professional teacher development programs. These are a part of the design of the Araratian Baccalaureate, an educational platform intended for Armenian schools. He leads the course on Leadership and Management in education, at Universal University, Moscow, and is an active Gituzh Initiative member.



Tigran Shahverdyan is Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer at Robomart, and Co-founder and ex-VP of Engineering at RoboCV. He is an alumnus of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. His early career focused on space exploration. During the last decade he has been specializing in mobile autonomous systems. He was recognized with Armenia’s Presidential Award for a discovery in theoretical physics. He is an active member of the Gituzh initiative.



Dr. Mary A. Papazian B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from UCLA. She was president of San José State University. Dr. Papazian has written extensively about state and federal budget matters related to higher education. Mary has also served as president of Southern Connecticut State University, as provost and senior vice president, as well as dean and associate dean in other universities and colleges. Dr. Papazian is Interim CEO of the Business Higher Education Forum.

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photo : D.R.