



Official Opening of the “Armenian Republic-Diaspora Cooperation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” Conference



Haidostian announces the establishment of the Haigazian University Diaspora Research Center

In the presence of spiritual, political, academic and community leaders Mrs. Mira Yardemian, Public Relations Director, Haigazian University, welcomed the audience and noted that the conference "Armenian republic-Diaspora Cooperation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" is the result of the cooperation of the Yerevan State University, Haigazian University and the Diaspora Ministry of the Republic of Armenia.

After the welcome those in attendance watched a video that showed snapshots of the various ceremonies, activities, seminars and conferences held on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of Haigazian University.

H.E. Mr. Ashod Kocharian, ambassador of the Republic of Armenia in Lebanon, stated that it is an honor to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the declaration of the Republic of Armenia and the state of Karabagh along with the 55th anniversary of Haigazian University. Mr. Kocharian emphasized the fact that several students from the Republic of Armenia who graduated from Haigazian University represent the Armenian Republic around the world.

Next, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University, welcomed the audience and stated that this conference will conclude the events dedicated to the 55th anniversary of Haigazian University. These had started in September 2010, when a group of Haigazian University faculty and staff visited the Republic of Armenia. Rev. Haidostian stressed that the conference is the implementation of what both Haigazian University and Yerevan State University had agreed and signed in October 2009. This type of cooperation confirms how the relationship between Armenia and the Diaspora can be close and warm.

Rev. Dr. Haidostian announced the establishment of the Haigazian University Diaspora Research Center and considered it a dream come true. Rev. Haidostian thanked Mr. Yercho Samuelian for being the first to actively support the Center. Next he thanked the Punig Fund for its generosity in supporting this conference.

In his speech, the Yerevan State University Rector, Dr. Aram Simonian, highly appreciated the role Haigazian University plays in preparing exemplary citizens. He handed the president of Haigazian University, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, the award of the Yerevan State University Academic Board and gave him the gold medal of the University for his community service, and donated an oil painting of the renowned painter Anatoly Grigorian to the arts collection of Haigazian University.

Mr. Armen Kecheh, on the piano, and Mr. Hovig Karakhanian, on the violin, beautifully played the "Nocturne" of Edward Baghdassarian and "Ghaytarma" of Alexander Sbentiarian.

The Diaspora Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Dr. Hranoush Hagopian, in her welcoming word, considered Lebanon the nest of the Armenian culture, mentality and spirit. She stressed the fact that in this fast changing world the role of the Diasporas have become more essential. She quoted President Sarkisian saying that Armenia is a different country with the Diaspora. Finally Minister Hagopian presented a painting of an Iraki-Armenian artist to Rev. Dr. Haidostian.

At the close of the evening, Rev. Dr. Haidostian presented to the Minister Hagopian and Rector Simonian special souvenirs commemorating the occasion.

Source- <http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/NewsEvents/Pages/default.aspx?NewsID=380>