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VEGA Armenia Long Term Business Advisors Quarterly Report (January – March 2008)

**LEADER WITH ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT (LWA)
EEM-A-00-04-00002-00**

**Associate Cooperative Agreement
111-A-00-05-00061-00**

**Prepared for the United States Agency for
International Development (USAID)**

Implementing Organizations:

INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION



Subject: **Quarterly Report: USAID/Armenia Long Term Business Volunteers – IIE Emerging Markets Development Advisers Program (EMDAP)**

Dates Covered: **January 1 – March 31, 2008**

Reference: **Associate Cooperative Agreement No. 111-A-00-05-00061-00 Under Leader-with-Associate CA No. EEM-A-00-04-00002-00**

Summary:

This report covers the progress of 2008 EMDAP Adviser, James Lykos, currently on assignment in Armenia.

Tasks completed this quarter:

- Held Adviser de-briefing and group events for returned 2005-2007 Advisers on January 17-18 in Washington D.C., including Adviser Marshall Chase of American Chamber of Commerce/Yerevan, Armenia;
- Held pre-departure orientation and briefing scheduled for new Adviser James Lykos from January 23 –25 in Washington D.C.;
- Obtained an Armenian visa for Adviser;
- Facilitated international travel for Adviser to Yerevan, Armenia;
- Received and evaluated reports submitted to IIE from James Lykos;
- Monitored case study progress of Adviser Marshall Chase;
- Disbursed funds to Adviser James Lykos.

Tasks for next quarter:

- Receive and evaluate reports to be submitted to IIE;
- Monitor case study progress of Adviser;
- Disburse funds to Adviser;
- IIE site visit.

Volunteers and Assignments:

1. James Lykos, Senior Adviser, American Chamber of Commerce/Yerevan, Armenia

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Assignment Period: 10 Months: February 1, 2008 – November 30, 2008

At the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), James assists in representing the interests of U.S., Armenian, and multinational member companies doing business in Armenia. As a Senior Adviser, James primarily



Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance

advises and assists the AmCham Executive Director in all areas related to organizational development. James is also responsible for public outreach and marketing efforts including the AmCham website and its newsletter. The newsletter is an important means of communication between the organization and its members, and enjoys a 300 printed copy distribution, with many more copies downloaded from the AmCham website.

While James recognizes tremendous potential for growth and development at AmCham, he does make note of several challenges currently facing the organization: a small American-related business community, limited resources, a passive membership base, and an unresponsive government structure are all obstacles for AmCham to overcome. Still, James categorizes the current organizational outlook and likelihood of achieving development goals as good.

James also reports a smooth and rapid adjustment to Armenian living. He credits initial welcoming efforts on the part of In-Country Logistics Officer, Liana Yeganyan, and his two-years of work experience in neighboring Georgia, with contributing to his seamless transition.

In his preliminary report, James notes the following as primary objectives of his assignment at AmCham:

- Strengthen AmCham advocacy with regards to Member issues of concern;
- Improve the organization, participation, and efficiency of membership meetings;
- Enhance information exchange and networking between AmCham, its members, and the broader national business community;
- Explore and develop new opportunities for membership services such as conferences, trainings, and other needed projects; and
- Increase awareness of AmCham activities and services within Armenia and abroad