

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

**Dates Covered:** October 1 – December 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 2008-2009 EMDAP Adviser, James Lykos, currently on assignment with the American Chamber of Commerce in Yerevan, Armenia.

**Tasks completed this quarter:**

- Program Officer Aaron Mitich traveled to Armenia in November and met with James Lykos. His observations are noted below.
- Disbursed funds to Adviser.
- Monitored Case Study development of current Advisers and alumni.
- Received and evaluated reports submitted to IIE. (All Adviser Projected Impact Reports and Training and Technical Assistance Activity Reports received during this reporting period are included as separate files with this report).
- James Lykos completed his assignment on December 1, 2008;

**Publicity:** An article covering the activities of Mr. Lykos appeared in page 1 of the [November/December edition of the VEGA newsletter](#).

**Site Visit Report:** Aaron Mitich, Program Officer, EMDAP, made a site visit to Yerevan, Armenia on November 12-15, 2008. He met with James Lykos, Ms. Diana Gaziyan (AmCham Executive Director), David Atanessian (AmCham President), and USAID/Armenia CTO, John L. Caracciolo to get a 360 degree perspective on the quality of the technical assistance being provided by James. While AmCham mentioned that they would welcome an additional adviser after James has left, John mentioned that it is very hard for him to convince his superiors at USAID to fund additional EMDAP placement in Armenia. Aaron spoke with John about the realities of having another EMDAP adviser next year and how we could be sure to “knock on the right door,” for an adequate placement. They brainstormed possible placements and came up with the following: AmCham (renewing), Ministry of Economy, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Center of Armenia (SME-DNC), American University of Armenia, and/or The Armenia Agribusiness SME Market Development Project (ASME). Aaron will continue to inquire with John about possible placements for the 2009-2010 cycle.

**Volunteer and Assignment:**

**James Lykos, Senior Adviser, American Chamber of Commerce/Yerevan, Armenia**  
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Assignment Period: 10 Months: February 1, 2008 – December 1, 2008

James Lykos completed his ten-month assignment at the American Chamber of Commerce – Armenia (AmCham) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2008, as planned. James achieved his overall goals as indicated in his original and revised action plans. He states that when he arrived, “AmCham was losing members at a rapid pace because AmCham was essentially not functioning as an organization.” To stem the loss of members, James spent the better part of the year involving the members in projects, programs, and member meetings. This stopped the loss of members and allowed AmCham to hire a new person to concentrate on increasing the size of their membership. James also created an AmCham Business Magazine that is a major expansion of their existing Newsletter. Before departing, James also was in the process of creating a new Internet site that should be on-line around the end of 2009.

Reflecting on his experience, James writes in his final report that the most rewarding part was building AmCham from the ground up – he states “...AmCham essentially was not functioning at all when I started working there and now we are the most active business association in Armenia. Taking the organization from nothing to where it is now in only 10 months with the cooperation of my supervisor was very rewarding.”

Adviser Lykos leaves from his EMDAP experience with the acquired knowledge on the inner operations necessary to collaborate with other businesses to address common interests. He has recently accepted a position with the Foreign Service Economic Growth Officer (Junior Officer Position) with USAID. James will have one years training in Washington, DC before his overseas assignment begins.

Finally, James also submitted his final draft of a case study on The Global Financial Crisis and Armenia – its Impact and Challenges.

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