

# **AEN Hosts Policy Discussion on Environment and Public Health in Armenia**

**Press Release**  
**February 8, 2008**

WASHINGTON, DC--The Armenian Environmental Network (AEN) hosted a policy discussion on “Current Challenges to Environment and Public Health in Armenia: A Policy Discussion” on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at the World Bank in Washington.

The speakers were Dr. George Jakab and Dr. Charles Dunlap, who discussed recent research on emerging environmental health threats in Armenia, and threats to public health in Armenia from lead pollution and pathogens in public swimming waters.

“AEN’s mission is to present to the Diasporan community urgent environmental issues that are impacting the Armenian nation,” said AEN Director Ursula Kazarian. “We are proud to be one of the first groups in the Armenian Diaspora to present original environmental research as a live event for public review and discussion. We hope that the community will take advantage of both the live events and the online community forming on our website to discuss questions of both science and policy.”

George Jakab is a professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He is a respiratory toxicologist who teaches and researches environmental health at Johns Hopkins as well in Armenia and Pakistan. Dr. Jakab is experienced in environmental health problems in transitional societies and will present data from recent research by his public health masters students in Yerevan.

Charles Dunlap is a senior program manager at the US Civilian Research and Development Foundation. He was an assistant professor at American University of Armenia from 1999-2004 and director of AUA’s Environmental Conservation and Research Center. Dr. Dunlap’s research includes the use of lead isotope analysis to trace the origin and movement of lead contamination, and he currently oversees international science programs at the US Civilian Research and Development Foundation.

This was the second in a series of environmental discussions hosted by AEN in Washington. The first, “Deforestation in Armenia and the Path to Recovery,” was held at the World Bank on April 9, 2007. Panelists included Frauke Jungbluth, senior rural development economist at the World Bank, Jeffrey Tufenkian, president of Armenian Forests NGO, and Jeff Masarjian, executive director of Armenia Tree Project.