

Concept Note
Yerevan Economic Forum 2018
(Within the 17th Summit of La Francophonie)

Date: 09-10 October, 2018

Place of Stay: Golden Palace Hotel, Tsaghkadzor, Armenia

Location: Tumo Center for Creative Technologies, Yerevan, Armenia

Yerevan Economic Forum will be organized within the framework of the 17th Summit of La Francophonie under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Armenia, H.E. Mr. Armen Sarkissian to be held in Yerevan, Armenia, in October, 2018.

The Purpose of the Forum

At the 15th Francophonie Summit held in Dakar in 2014, the participants expressed their willingness to further develop the economic dimension of La Francophonie by adopting the first Stratégie économique pour la Francophonie. The objective of the Strategy is “to strengthen the francophone economic zone in order to address the issues that lead to economic, social, energy and environmental challenges, as well as the growing imbalances in the global economic and financial system”.

The role of the private sector in achieving these objectives is significant. To further develop the economic dimension of the Summit and to enforce sustainable economic cooperation within the member states, the Economic Forum aims:

- to form a format for an annual economic forum of La Francophonie
- to develop common perspectives of economic cooperation based on Francophone Economic Strategy
- to promote favorable conditions for mutual investments and cooperation
- to establish and develop institutional and professional networks between francophone entrepreneurs and international organizations
- to form a network of high-tech ministers from member states

Format and Topics

09 October, 2018

On the first day of Yerevan Economic Forum 2018, business tours will be organized.

The participants will be offered the opportunity to visit [DigiTec Expo](#), the largest technological exhibition in the region that attracts more than 70.000 visitors, including official delegations and leading companies from all over the world.

Those who are interested in Armenian beverages are welcome to take a tour in [Ararat Brandy](#) and [Armenia Wine](#) factories. Wine- and brandy-making presentation will be accompanied by a special degustation on site.

The President of the Republic of Armenia, H.E. Mr. Armen Sarkissian, will host a supper for the participants.

10 October, 2018

The second day of Yerevan Economic Forum 2018 will kick off with an official opening ceremony, followed by three parallel thematic sessions.

Welcome Remarks:

- President of Armenia, H.E. Mr. Armen Sarkissian
- Secretary General of La Francophonie, Ms. Michaëlle Jean

Guest Speaker Sessions:

Three keynote speakers will introduce the topics of Yerevan Economic Forum:

1. 4th Industrial Revolution & the future of work
2. Sustainability in development: from traditional to modern economies
3. The perspectives and challenges of international commercial relations

Thematic Sessions:

After the main topics of the forum are introduced by the guest speakers, three thematic sessions will be held simultaneously.

1. 4th Industrial Revolution & the Future of Work

- Industrial internet of things: challenges and solutions
- Evolution of automotive industry: unman vehicle
- Blockchain technologies: business & innovation
- The role of informal education in transforming global workforce industry

2. Sustainability in Development: from Traditional to Modern Economies

- Modernizing the traditional sectors of economy: towards smart agriculture
- Infrastructure development in boosting economies
- Sustainable energy as a key for inclusive development
- Paradigm shifts in private sector financing

3. The Perspectives and Challenges of International Commercial Relations

- The role of Francophonie in regional and global economic development
- Business to business: boosting economic growth and competitiveness through trade
- Investment and export promotion: success stories of reaching the target markets
- The role of free trade zones in enhancing economic growth

Closing Ceremony:

- Closing remarks by the Prime Minister of Armenia, H.E. Mr. Nikol Pashinyan
- Closing remarks by the President of France, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron (TBC)
- Adoption of the Declaration of Yerevan Economic Forum
- MoU signature between participating companies
- Networking Event

Technical Information

The forum will be bilingual: French-English simultaneous translation will be provided. The organizers will be glad to support the participants in acquiring visa to travel to Armenia. Local transportation and meals will be covered by the organizers.

The participants of the Forum are kindly suggested to reserve their rooms at [Golden Palace Hotel](#) in Tsaghkadzor.