
PREFACE

Nerses Yeritsyan
RA Minister of Economy

The publication of the second Armenian Competitiveness Report institutionalizes the annual compilation of an objective analytical mechanism for studying the country's economic competitiveness. The importance of unbiased and comprehensive studies of Armenia's fundamental economic issues and the strategic options for long-term development is growing, particularly during the current ambiguous economic climate.

While trying to mitigate the implications of the global recession, the RA Government acknowledges the need to create foundations of long term economic development. For this to happen, we require fundamental structural and institutional reforms. The definition of Armenia's strategic goals, the means for achieving them, as well as the elaboration and the implementation of coherent and complementary activities, become urgent.

Indeed, a knowledge and creativity-driven economy is the only option for Armenia. The report, appropriately, reveals the challenges over the retention and creation of the country's knowledge generation potential.

The report also reveals four alternative jumpstart strategies for the development of the country's innovation system, based on the benchmark analysis of the success stories of different countries, and a comprehensive assessment of Armenia's innovation system performance.

I am convinced that the second Armenian Competitiveness Report will serve as a yardstick and a source of concepts for the elaboration of Armenia's national innovation system strategy, with the participation of academic, educational and public sectors.

PREFACE

Samvel Haroutiunian

Chairman of the State Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia

The creation of a knowledge-based economy can, undoubtedly, be categorized as one of Armenia's 21st century challenges; impossible to imagine without the preservation and development of demanded knowledge generation capacities within the country.

Being isolated from the former Soviet centralized and interconnected system, Armenia's scientific system has, on its agenda, to reevaluate and find its unique role in the process of global scientific and technical progress. It is obvious that alongside having huge scientific potential, Armenia faces serious challenges in commercializing scientific products, i.e. converting them for commercial or economic benefit. This will not only capture higher value added, but will become a major source for financing scientific activities.

The State Committee of Science, being in charge of developing and implementing state policy in science, welcomes the Economy and Values Research Center's initiative to address national innovation system issues in the second National Competitiveness Report.

Having comprehensively examined national innovation systems, the authors have indeed highlighted fundamental issues and proposed distinct options for the development of strategy choices.

The suggested approaches can serve as the strong basis for discussions around Armenia's state strategy development process for science and innovation support, and for choosing a well-defined strategy for innovation system development.