



**MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE
ACCOUNT - ARMENIA**
STATE NON-COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION



PRESS RELEASE

April 10, 2010

We Construct-We Take Care MCA-Armenia's April 10 Action

Yerevan, Armenia - On April 10, 2010 the Millennium Challenge Account - Armenia (MCA-Armenia) marked the completion of 550 meters of the tertiary canal in Norabats community (Ararat marz) through a unique event. In collaboration with Foundation for Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and Sunchild Eco-clubs, MCA-Armenia, its partners, and Norabats community members joint their efforts to clean the area around the canal and to plant 150 trees along the canal length.

The event intended to increase awareness of MCA-Armenia's environmental practices and to contribute to social responsibility for irrigation infrastructure and its surrounding environment.

In all of its construction and programmatic activities MCA-Armenia emphasizes environmentally sensitive behavior including leaving the construction area clean and planting trees where possible.

Combining this environmental event with the canal opening was a forceful way of raising issues about the importance of green areas and the harm of garbage disposal into the canals. It sensitized program-related staff, community members and the general public about the need to act responsibly and sensibly toward nature in general and irrigation water in particular.

The main messages of the event included: "We Construct, We Take Care"; "Why Clean?" and "Why plant?". The event started with a small opening ceremony followed by the cleaning and planting and completed with releasing the water into the canal. Ara Hovsepyan, the CEO of MCA-Armenia and Galust Galstyan, the mayor of Norabats community signed a memorandum about respective responsibilities with regard to tree planting and their further care.

14 communities in Armavir, Ararat and Vayots Dzor Marzes are currently benefiting from the tertiary canal rehabilitation under MCA-Armenia's Infrastructure Activity. While Norabats (and its almost 2000 residents) is the first among these communities to receive water through the newly rehabilitated canal section, it is expected that many of these communities will be able to use their canals already during this irrigation season. Construction of this canal is implemented by Yerevanshin RPU LLC.

MCC's total investment into the agricultural and water sector in Armenia, through the MCA-Armenia Program, should amount to about 180 million USD by the time the program ends in September 2011.

For more information regarding this event and the MCA-Armenia program, please visit:

www.mca.am

Millennium Challenge Account–Armenia (MCA–Armenia), a State Non-Commercial Organization established by the Government of Armenia, is responsible for overseeing the transparent implementation of the Compact signed between the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Government of Armenia.