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MCA-Armenia Road Construction Begins

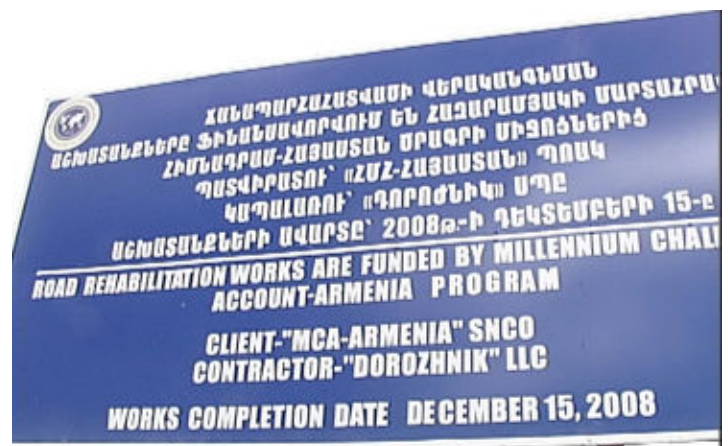
On November 9, 2007, Millennium Challenge Account-Armenia announced the start of construction on the Rural Road Rehabilitation Project. An opening ceremony was held in the village of Getap (Aragatsotn Marz) and attended by Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan and Millennium Challenge Corporation Vice President Darius Mans. The opening ceremony marked the beginning of construction on a 24.5 kilometer section of the H-17 “Armavir-Isahakian-Gyumri” road.



Andranik Papikyan, the head of one of these communities – Aragatsavan - has a lot of expectations in this regard: “We anticipate that upon the completion of this program the road to Gyumri will have higher traffic than before and will connect our villages with Gyumri. Our village is the biggest one in Aragatsotn marz with population of 7,200. Direct connection with Gyumri is vital for us, making trade, cultural and all other types of relations easier and more accessible.”

The H17 Armavir-Isahakyan-Gyumri road is the main link for a number of villages of Aragatsotn marz with Gyumri - the second largest city in Armenia - as well as a major agricultural market for the north of the country. By the end of the next year the first 9 village communities will become the first beneficiaries of the MCA-Armenia roads program.

The constructing company is Dorozhnik Ltd, a local firm that has got big experience and lengthy track record of construction works in country. Dorozhnik won the contract with a total bid of AMD 1,502bln, equivalent of appr. US\$4,5mln. The completion date for the project is December 15, 2008.



/from left to right/ Myron Himiak, MCC Deputy Resident Country Director, Andranik Manukyan, Minister of Transport and Communication of Armenia, Ara Hovsepyan, MCA-Armenia CEO, Ester Hakobyan, MCA-Armenia M&E Officer, Darius Mans, MCC VP, Serzh Sargsyan, Prime Minister of Armenia, Gabriel Gyozyalyan, Governor of Aragatsotn region, and Alex Russin, MCC Resident Country Director at the opening ceremony