

## Siranush Vardanyan BIO

Currently I work with Habitat for Humanity Armenia as a Program Development Manager and my main responsibilities include participation in proposal developments, design strategies and concept papers for the program extension in the country, as well as facilitation of effective communication between the organization and governmental structures. Habitat for Humanity Armenia is National Office of Habitat for Humanity International for the Republic of Armenia.

**Educational Background:** I graduated from Yerevan State Institute of Foreign Languages with Diploma with Honors, holding MS in History and English. I have completed all required exams for my PhD (all but dissertation) titled "Innovative Programs in Secondary Schools of Armenia" at the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. Currently I am accepted as a student to study at Open University (UK, London) and from May till October 2011 will take an online course on Program Management.

### **Professional Background:**

I have more than 20 years experience of working with international organizations in Armenia, as well as 8 years of teaching English as a senior lecturer at Yerevan State Humanitarian College. During last several years I participated in more than 20 international conferences, seminars and workshops, where I presented different aspects of my professional development, such as technology integration into educational system, facilitation of online communities, human rights and migration issues, etc. I have several articles, published in local and international journals, related to my research work. I am Salzburg Seminar Fellow and participated in Academic Core Session: "International Legal Perspectives on Human Rights", in Salzburg, Austria and also Central European University alumni with participation at the course: "Human Rights and Forced Displacement: An Interdisciplinary Approach", in Hungary, Budapest.

During the period from 2000 till the end of 2007 I held different positions in Project Harmony Armenian Branch, working in Armenia School Connectivity Program project ([www.ascp.am](http://www.ascp.am)), which was aimed at integration of ICT into education sphere in Armenia. I was responsible for the overall administration of 330 Internet computer centers in secondary schools in Armenia. Within the Project Harmony organization, being in a senior management team, and being a Trainer of Trainers on Online Facilitation and Online Project Development, I have initiated and facilitated numerous online projects with involving different strata of the community, such as journalists, businessmen, teachers, students, children with fewer opportunities, NGO representatives, etc. I also initiated several online partnership projects with involving children and teachers from Armenia and US. For 7 years I was in the Senior Management Team of this organization and coordinated the works of about 700 people, including 2 teachers working in each Internet Computer Center (330 centers), Regional Field Coordinators (30 Regional Community Developers and Program Coordinators)

I started my involvement with Internet Governance issues on international level by being selected to participate at the **Online Course on Capacity Building Program** on Internet Governance in 2007, organized by Diplo Foundation. During online classes, I had been exposed to a wide variety of views on Internet Governance, with learning based to a large extent on the exchange of knowledge. After that, being one of the best students of the course, out of 138 total students, I received fellowship to participate at the **First Summer School on Internet Governance** in August 2008 in Meissen, Germany. During that summer school I had a chance to meet with different constituency representatives, involved in IG issues.

Since that period I learned about ICANN and actively participated in different ICANN Public meetings. I became a **four time ICANN fellow** - the 31<sup>st</sup> ICANN Public meeting in New Delhi in February 2008 and 33<sup>rd</sup> Public meeting in Cairo, in November 2008 and the 35<sup>th</sup> Public meeting in Sydney in July 2009, as well as I participated on my own expenses in 32<sup>nd</sup> ICANN Public meeting in Paris in June 2008. I also was one of the fellows in ICANN Public Meeting in Singapore this year.

At the end of 2008 I volunteered and was selected to be one of the 6 members of Internet **Governance Caucus (IGC) Nomination Committee for Multistakeholder Advisory Committee (MAG)**.

I served as a **consultant** for the National Center for Information Technologies (NCET) under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia, I use the knowledge gained from my continuous participation at ICANN meetings for providing a comprehensive support to NCET in the strategic planning and implementation of Internet related projects with participation of thousands of Armenian professionals.

As a **Diplo Foundation Alumnus** I volunteered to lead the remote participation project from Armenia for this year EuroDIG 2010, which took place in Madrid on 29-30 April, 2010. Armenia successfully participated for the first time through remote hub and I was the main organizer for setting up the remote hub in Armenia.

In 2010 I became an **ISOC Ambassador** for IFG 2010 in Vilnius, Lithuania. I am selected as an **ISOC IGF Returning Ambassador for IGF 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya**.

In 2010 I was also one of the **ALAC-appointed Nominating Committee member** from the Asia, Australasia and Pacific Islands region.

Though my current work doesn't directly relate to Internet related issues, but besides my job, I am also actively involved in different affiliations, such as I am a Board Member for the UN Association of Armenia local NGO, volunteer member of "Harmony" Information Technologies and Education Development Fund ("Harmony" Fund), as well as involved in different local organizations' activities, related to the development of IT sector in Armenia. **I am also the member of Global and Armenian ISOC Charters.**

In December 2010 I was one of the **Jury members of All-Armenian E-content Award**. It was already for the third time I am becoming a jury member for this award, which is implemented in Armenia after WSIS Tunis agenda.

During my more than 20 years professional career I have developed extensive managerial, communication, and project implementation skills. Due to my networking and communication skills, I am also capable to do also outreach work worldwide on the initiatives implemented by ICANN. My fluency in English, Russian and Armenian languages is a very helpful asset in doing so.