

## **Completion ceremony of "The Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Restoration and Conservation of Archaeological Artifacts for the Scientific-Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage"**

On July 22, the completion ceremony of a new recovery laboratory equipped with modern equipment took place within the framework of "The Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Restoration and Conservation of Archaeological Artifacts for the Scientific-Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage" with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Ceremony was attended by Mr. Masanori Fukushima, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia, Mr. Ara Khzmalyan, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Mr. Yukihiro Ejiri, Resident Representative of JICA Georgia Office, Mr. Khachik Harutyunyan, director of the Scientific-Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage and representatives from the organizations.

The Grant Agreement between JICA and the Government of Armenia for this project was signed on February 16, 2018. The Project aimed at providing equipment to the Scientific-Research Center to improve the restoration and conservation of valuable archaeological artifacts. As a result, the laboratory was equipped with the latest generation of state-of-the-art equipment, which is unique in the field of restoration of archeological finds in Armenia.

During the Ceremony, warmly welcoming the participants, Mr. Ara Khzmalyan expressed his gratitude to the JICA and the Embassy of Japan in Armenia for the implementation of the program in Armenia. According to Mr. Ara Khzmalyan only the nation with an ancient history can thus appreciate the historical and cultural heritage of another ancient nation.

Ambassador Fukushima, in turn, congratulated all the participants on the successful completion of the project and expressed his sincere hope that this project will further enhance the goodwill and friendly relations that already exist between Armenia and Japan.

Director of the research center Mr. Khachik Harutyunyan expressed his deep gratitude towards the organizers of the program. He stressed that this laboratory with modern equipment will allow to organize the process of recovery and research more efficiently and accurately, as well as will help the development of projects and raising the qualification of specialists involved in the field of historical and cultural heritage.

Mr. Yukihiro Ejiri stated that the main reason the Japanese side assessed the application submitted by the Scientific-Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage as well-founded and prioritized is that it will serve the general public, since the restored items will later be showcased in various museums in Armenia, so the public will be able to get familiar with their own culture through them.



Ambassador Fukushima congratulating Mr. Khzmalyan



Newly equipped laboratory



Demonstration of equipment



Ambassador Fukushima (right), Mr. Yukihiro Ejiri (left) and JICA expert (middle).