Global Innovation Forum Transforming Intelligence

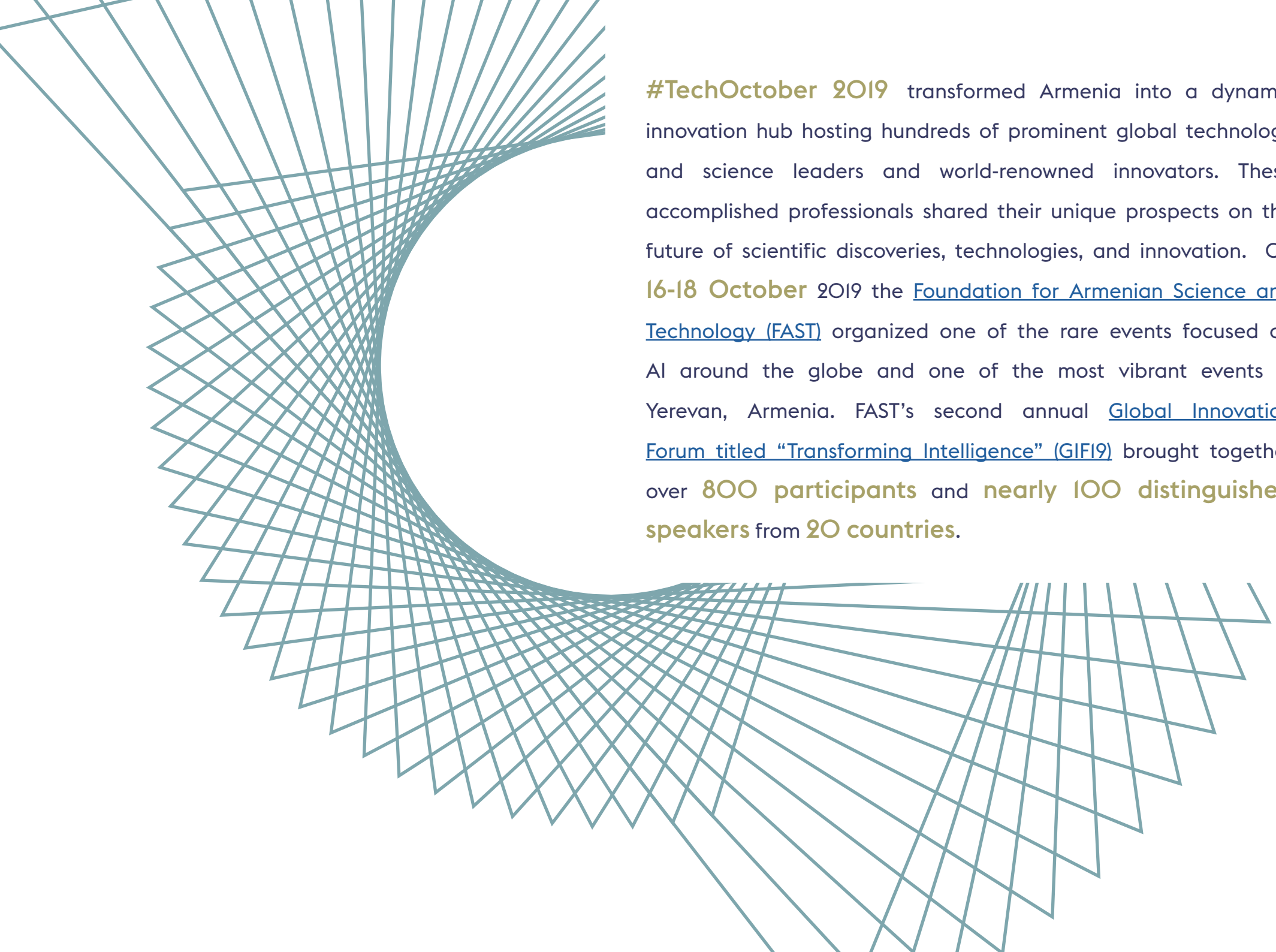
OCTOBER 16-18, 2019
YEREVAN, ARMENIA

SUMMARY

#GIF19

FAST DISCOVERING THE FUTURE

AURORA FORUM
powered by



#TechOctober 2019 transformed Armenia into a dynamic innovation hub hosting hundreds of prominent global technology and science leaders and world-renowned innovators. These accomplished professionals shared their unique prospects on the future of scientific discoveries, technologies, and innovation. On **16-18 October** 2019 the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST) organized one of the rare events focused on AI around the globe and one of the most vibrant events in Yerevan, Armenia. FAST's second annual Global Innovation Forum titled "Transforming Intelligence" (GIF19) brought together over **800 participants** and **nearly 100 distinguished speakers** from **20 countries**.

GIFI9 turned into a hub for vigorous debates, captivating presentations, and policy discussions delivered by eminent scientists and thought leaders from such tech giants as **Google DeepMind, Google Brain, Facebook AI, Microsoft, and Flagship Pioneering** as well as from globally leading academic institutions such as **Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,** and **Stanford University.**

#GIF19

800+
Participants

88
Speakers

20
Countries

11
GIF Talks

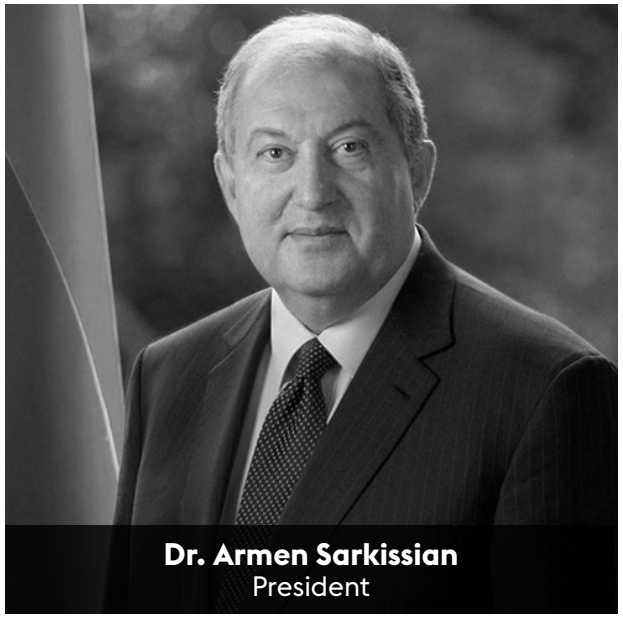
300+
GIFTalks Participants

1000+
Impact nightOut
Participants

33
Sessions

CO-ORGANIZERS

The Forum was organized in partnership with **Armenian Scientific Diaspora Association (ASDA)** and **the Government of Armenia** and was graced by the participation of the Government leaders as distinguished speakers of the Forum and its adjacent events.

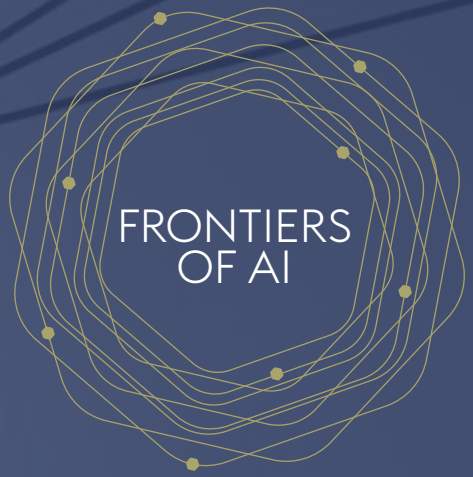


Dr. Armen Sarkissian
President

Mr. Nikol Pashinyan
Prime Minister

FORUM TRACKS

Global Innovation Forum 2019, true to its title of "Transforming Intelligence", was an invigorating, thought-provoking and a truly transforming event. To virtually live through the memorable days of GIF19, you can watch the **live streams** of the Forum through the following links:



Frontiers of AI track explored the potential of AI to serve a life-altering role in the critical domains of human life.

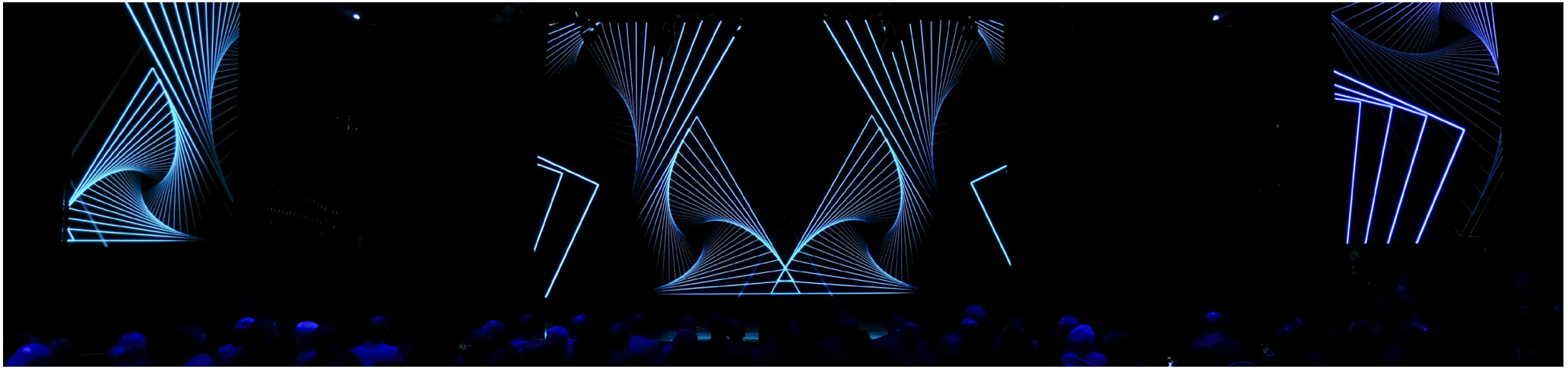
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3

Science & AI focused on the ability of AI to transform the way we do science today and what the future of AI is in the field of natural sciences.

Day 1 Day 2 Day 3

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

The atmosphere of futurism was palpable not only in the discussions, but was also enlivened with immersive experience. GIF attendees were submerged into an all-encompassing **projection mapping** that transformed the walls of the hall into an awe-inspiring animated visual experience. The Forum's interactive Opening Ceremony was especially impressive, bringing the current science fiction and the topic of AI together all the while engaging the audience by challenging them to imagine the future of the humankind's interaction with AI.



SESSION TYPES

Keynote Speeches by prominent scientists providing insight on the future developments within the main topics of the Forum.

Visionary Talk on “Emergent Value from Artificial Intelligence”.

Deep Insights on research findings, conclusions and implications for further research.

Industry Dialogues with leading organizations on industry-related topics.

UNCONVENTIONAL & UNIQUE FORMATS

Fishbowl Session on Smart Globe, hosted representatives of the Government of Armenia, heads of international organizations, ambassadors and opinion leaders on the topics of **Smart Future, Smart Earth** and **Smart Cities.** Among the presenting organizations were Ministries of Economy and Environment, United Nations Country Representation, Embassy of France, AECOM, ERI and others.

Panel Discussion on **Reshaping Innovation Ecosystems,** which included representatives from the Ministry of Economy, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank, explored the role of **development finance.** Simultaneously, representatives of 500 Startups and University of Maryland discussed the opportunities and impact of **venture finance** in reshaping innovation ecosystems.

NOTABLE SPEAKERS

Mr. Tigran Avinyan
Deputy Prime Minister, Armenia

Lord Ara Darzi of Denham
Professor of Surgery at Imperial College London, UK

Mr. Eiichi Hasegawa
Special Advisor to Prime Minister of Japan

Dr. Danielle Belgrave
Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research, UK

Mr. Soumith Chintala
Engineer at PyTorch, Facebook AI, USA

NOTABLE SPEAKERS

Dr. Noubar Afeyan
Managing Partner and CEO of Flagship Pioneering, USA

Ms. Tesi Rusagara
Head of Kigali Innovation City, Rwanda

Dr. Alex Graves
Research Scientist at Google DeepMind, UK

Mr. Erik Grigoryan
Minister of Environment, Armenia

Prof. Ricardo Baeza-Yates
CTO NTENT & Professor at Northeastern University, USA

NOTABLE SPEAKERS

Mr. Werner Liepach
Director General of the Asian Development Bank, the Philippines

Mr. Arnel Paciano Casanova
Country Representative of AECOM, the Philippines

Ms. Julie Lenzer
Chief Innovation Officer at the University of Maryland, USA

Dr. Tigran Khachatryan
Minister of Economy, Armenia

Prof. Su-Huai Wei
Chair Professor and Head of the Materials and Energy Division at Beijing Computational Science Research Center, China

GIF TALKS

In its effort to make GIF an event that engages the largest possible number of participants, in partnership with leading scientific and technological centers FAST organized 11 GIF Talks, which provided the chance to additional **300+ local students** and **researchers** to interact with the distinguished national and international experts.

The Forum was truly global, gathering not only revered speakers but also participants from around the world. Alongside individual participants, within the framework of FAST's **international partnerships**, special emphasis is put on the inclusion of international delegations at the Forum. This year a **special delegation** from the **Republic of Rwanda** attended GIF, building upon the partnership between FAST and the Rwandan government aimed at creating a bridge between Armenia and the African continent with one of the forerunners of its innovation ecosystem.

As part of the FAST - UNDP cooperation, a special edition of Impact nightOut entertainment event was co-hosted within the frames of the Forum.

The evening gathered over 1000 impact enthusiasts, innovation evangelists, entrepreneurs and tech gurus, giving them a platform to share various innovative financing mechanisms aimed at mobilizing additional capital for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) acceleration.

The event also featured live music by local bands and DJs, and an expo area where partners with cultural impact on Armenia's national heritage presented the history and ongoing projects through a modern lens.

10.10.10

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan jointly with the Minister of Environment Erik Grigoryan and FAST Founding CEO Armen Orujyan made an announcement that the Government has launched the **10.10.10 Tree initiative** to plant 10 million trees across the Republic on 10 October, 2020.

FAST will lead the initiative from the perspective of finding tech solutions in support of national endeavour of building green and innovative Armenia.

GIFI9 was a thrilling experience that became possible in large measure thanks to the co-sponsorship by the organization's co-Founders as well as distinguished sponsors & partners.

ՀՀ Կառավարություն
RA Government

ASDA
Armenian Scientific Diaspora Association

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

MINISTRY OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

SOFTCONSTRUCT

SOLARON
CONNECT TO THE SUN

500

Applied Innovation Institute

ImpactAim
Venture Accelerator

UNDP
Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

DVIN
MUSIC HALL

TOVMASYAN
CHARITY FOUNDATION

THE ALEXANDER YEREVAN
THE LUXURY COLLECTION

MARRIOTT
ARMENIA YEREVAN

arloopa

SmartClick
Where Technology Predicts The Future

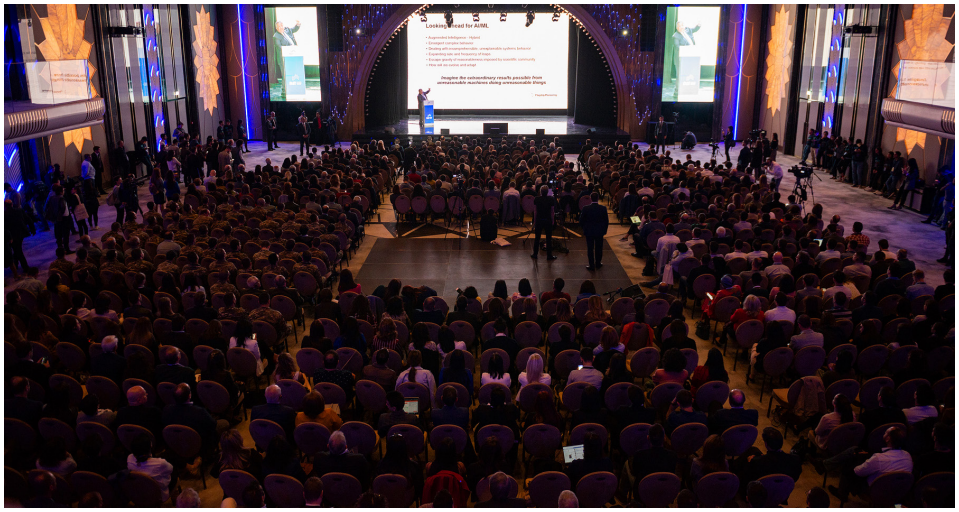
ARARAT
THE LEGENDARY ARMENIAN BRANDY
1887

U!com

ARMENIA

SPRING
STRATEGIC PR INITIATIVE GROUP

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF #GIF19



SEE YOU AT #GIF20

LIFE ALTERING TECHNOLOGIES

07-09
OCTOBER
2020

YEREVAN | ARMENIA