



ARA PRESIDENT's MESSAGE

Dear Participants,

I am very pleased to extend my greetings to all those who have gathered here, for the 37th Annual Congress of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences (ARA) in 2013 hosted by the **University of European Political and Economic Studies (USPEE)**, in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

The "American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences" (ARA) was founded in 1975 in California by a group of Romanian intellectuals residing in USA. Every year, ARA organizes a Congress that provides an open forum for intellectuals to present their ideas and achievements in fields such as literature, philosophy, medicine, social sciences, arts, engineering, mathematics, physics, and chemistry etc. The highlight of the annual congress is its Proceedings, which is published on an annual basis. Since 1975, ARA had honorary members amongst well-known personalities like: the writers Eugen Ionesco and Virgil Gheorghiu, the philosopher Mircea Eliade, the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, Prof. George E. Palade and others.

Thus, the major objective of ARA is academic and its important mission is to promote a dialogue between Romanian intellectuals and their colleagues in the "diaspora" in the West. I recall that I was the Chairman of the first ARA Congress after the collapse of communism in Romania in 1990 at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique which was sponsored by the Bombardier Aeronautical Chair, the position that I was holding at that time, and by the Prime Ministers of Quebec and Canada. Some of you did attend the ARA Congress in Montreal and the others knew this from the stories that circulated about this great ARA event. Great, it was indeed. At this event, 450 participants, Romanians and friends of Romania, such as the famous Romanian dissidents like: Paul Goma, Ana Blandiana, Ioan Botez, Doina Cornea, Octavian Paller, Mihail Bacanu and very known writer from France Virgil Gheorghiu, gathered together on the invitation of the Chairman Ion Paraschivoiu. Also present amongst these honorary guests of the ARA Congress in Montreal was Nadia Comaneci, the famous and legendary Olympic champion in Gymnastics at the Olympic Games in 1976 in Montreal. It was a very successful Congress in the sense that news about Romania and our Academy was highly publicized on all media and news outlets, Radio, Television and in the local and national Newspapers.

This year is the third time, in the ARA history, when the Congress of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences takes place in Chisinau city. The first one was organized by the President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Acad. Andrei Andries (1992) and the second one was organized by the Rector of the Academy of Economic Sciences of Moldova (ASEM), Prof. Dr. Hab. Grigore Belostecinic (2005). We invite you, again this year in Chisinau, to contribute by your presence, by your ingenious and creative support towards a greater future for us and for our children. You should take this opportunity to strengthen the common bonds between all delegates and to share the results of your research in various disciplines. ARA-AS has become a very dynamic organization thanks to a growing community of its members that share a common goal. We have improved communications with our members by creating, 12 years ago, ARA Web-Site which is well designed and well structured. We keep in touch with our members about their professional achievements and allow them to share their achievements with other ARA members through the photos page of the ARA website. ARA must strive to become stronger and stronger to keep the status of a very respectable professional organization by its academic activities, as well as the Annual Congress, the ARA publications: ARA Journal, Congress Proceedings, ARA website, books and the joint projects between the people of Romanian origin (and friends) and to have collaborative links with other Academic institutions, Universities and Research Institutes within Romania, Moldova and "diaspora". To accomplish these objectives, the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences

needs your help, your continuous effort, your professional talent, your imagination and most of all your friendship that reflects a very honorable academic and intellectual comportment.

We are now living in a very competitive world of globalization for which one should be well prepared. In this era of incredibly fast industrial development we need to think green and align our efforts to focus on the renewable energy sources and no-gas emission technologies for keeping clean air environment.

You are here because you represent the best professional people in your fields, and as ARA President for 15 years now, I am very proud to be and ARA associate with you. As per our tradition, we have elected excellent candidates to add to our growing portfolio: 6 new ARA Full members from Canada, Italy and USA and 7 new Corresponding members from Moldova and Romania. When I accepted this responsibility in 1998, I proposed several ambitious projects to improve the ARA activities, and I am very happy to say now that most of them are already accomplished. One of the major goals was to publish ARA Congress Proceedings with an ISBN number provided by Polytechnic International Press Publishing House, Montreal, Canada. I am very proud to report to you today that we have consistently provided the volumes with papers presented at the ARA Congress plenary and technical sessions with ISBN numbers. Such academic activity has not been seen before in the history of ARA (under the presidency of others). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all authors for their valuable contributions and I am very grateful to Scientific Editors of ARA Congress Proceedings for their professional work in maintaining the high standards.

The ARA Congress at the **University of European Political and Economic Studies (USPEE)** has a broad spectrum of Technical and Plenary Sessions and a very interesting social program. The Congress represents an excellent forum for exchange of a wealth of ideas and experiences on a range of diversified topics from the arts to history, the political sciences, the economy and the environment, the physics and chemistry to applied mathematics and engineering. The American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences (ARA) and Prof. Dr. Hab. Gheorghe Avornic, Rector of USPEE, are proud to have several Honorary Guest speakers amongst us that include:

- **His Excellency Professor Dr. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania from 1996-2000.** Dr. Constantinescu is also a university professor, scientist, and writer who was previously the President of Bucharest University and Chairman of the National Council of Romanian Universities' Rectors from 1992-1996. Dr. Constantinescu has published 12 books and more than 60 scientific studies. Since 2001, Dr. Constantinescu has been a member of the International Board of the East West Institute, the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, and the International Centre for Democratic Transition, among others. He received his Bachelor of Laws and his Bachelor of Geology from the University of Bucharest, and holds a Ph.D. in Geology. Prof. Emil Constantinescu is a ARA Honorary Member and participated, as Guest Speaker, at the ARA Congresses in Sibiu (2009) and Timisoara (2011). He is a good friend of our Academy (ARA).
- **The Inventor Deng Yun He**, Chairman of ENGGA Investment Ltd. and president of Guangzhou ENGGA Generators Co., Ltd, Guangzhou Province, China,
- **Dr. Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu, Romanian Astronaut (1981)** who is an ARA Honorary Member, an Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy (elected in 2011), and Doctor Honoris Causa of the Technical University of Moldova and since 2011. Dr. Prunariu is the President of the Association of Space Explorers (www.space-explorers.org). This Organisation has 400 astronauts and cosmonauts in the 35 countries worldwide.
- **The Honorable Ambassador Ion Bistreanu**, the first ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Moldova. He is the author of a very interesting book "Chisinau'92" published in 2012.

The social activities of the 37th Annual Congress of ARA include: Welcome reception offered by the Rector of the USPEE, City Officials' Reception, Visit to Mileștii Mici including a Dinner party, Visit to Vadu lui Voda and a tour of the Chisinau surroundings.

As ARA President I would like to convey many thanks to all the ARA Members for their unrelenting support especially those who helped me in the difficult tasks during past 15 years. ARA is also indebted to Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal for not only providing a permanent base for the ARA Head Office but also the innumerable material and human resource support it received through my position as the Bombardier Aeronautical Chair Professor. Ecole Polytechnique has also hosted the ARA website by providing

specialized personal for this task. Many thanks go to Presses International Polytechnique, Montreal (Quebec), Canada for providing ARA an ISBN number for ARA Congress Proceedings on an annual basis and also for the ARA Journal. At Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, Bombardier Aeronautical Chair organized two ARA Congresses in 1990 and in 2001 with the help of many researchers and graduate students who worked for the Chair. During my presidency I have received invaluable and timely help especially from Dr. Farooq Saeed and Dr. Liliana Surugiu who worked as researchers for the Bombardier Aeronautical Chair in running the affairs of the ARA Head Office as well as through their scientific contributions and technical presentations at several of the ARA Congresses and also as Scientific Editors for ARA Journal. In the last three years, I received an important support at the ARA Head Office from Mr. Norbert VouthiDy, M.Sc. Ing., a PhD candidate under my direction, at Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal.

I am very grateful to Dr. Farooq Saeed, Associate Professor, Aerospace Engineering Department at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia for his continuous support during 15 years of my Presidency. Between his major tasks, just to give you a rough idea, I have listed below some of the activities that Dr. Saeed performed almost regularly and sometimes with the help of other researchers and graduate students in the context of my Bombardier Aeronautical Chair and even after this period (until now) in spite he moved away: managing the ARA website, correspondence between members, assistance in ARA Proceedings and Journals, assistance in organizing ARA congresses for the work involved to ARA remaining a lot of his work as a voluntary contribution to ARA. I am greatly indebted to him for this. I would like to state for the record that all the effort amongst the contributing members has been based on mutual trust, respect, support and on voluntary basis without which ARA would not survive another day. Trust and regard for authority and the due process within the confines of the ARA Bylaws is a must for the survival of ARA.

As ARA President, I had the opportunity to meet very interesting persons from all walks of life as well as to be among the excellent high level intellectuals, from Romanian origin or our friends from a host of countries at all congress meetings. These meetings are like coveted souvenirs and I will certainly cherish these memories in times to come.

As many of you already know, I'm retiring from ARA Presidency, at this Congress in Chisinau, after nearly 15 years working as President of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences. It's been a great career (with a few rough spots here and there), but all good things must end. That doesn't mean that I'm abandoning ARA however - I'll take a couple of months off and then may be to attend the next ARA Congress as a simple participant. Every start must have a finish!

On behalf of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences (ARA) I would like to address my acknowledgments and special thanks to **Rector Prof. Dr. Hab. Gheorghe Avornic** and the Senate of the University USPEE for hosting the 37th ARA Congress in 2013. I would also like to express my great appreciation to Associate Prof. Vlad Vlaicu, the Chairman of Local Organizing Committee, and its team members, as well as Alina Botezatu and Cristina Graur who assumed this very hard task to organize the ARA Congress in Chisinau.

My best wishes to all participants for a most productive and enjoyable ARA Congress!



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