



America - Georgia Business Council

BRINGING BUSINESSES, PEOPLE AND IDEAS TOGETHER

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10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CHOOSING GEORGIA

September 11-13, 2007
Courtyard Marriott Hotel
4 Freedom Square
Tbilisi, 0105 Georgia

SUPPORTED BY:



AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN GEORGIA

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 11

7:00 – 9:00 PM Welcoming Reception at the US Ambassador’s Residence
Hosted by the US Ambassador to Georgia H.E. John Tefft

SEPTEMBER 12

**Courtyard Marriott Hotel
4 Freedom Square**

9:00 – 10:00 Conference Registration / Coffee

10:00 – 10:10 Opening Remarks: **Larry Storch**, Director, AGBC/Fulbright & Jaworski LLP

10:05 – 10:20 **Choosing Georgia**
Address by H.E. **Zurab Noghaideli**, the Prime Minister of Georgia

10:20 – 11:30 **PANEL I: WHY GEORGIA MATTERS**

Moderator: **Roy Southworth**, Resident Representative, World Bank

Speakers: *Georgian Perspective: Economics and Politics*
Giorgi Arveladze, Minister of Economic Development

US Perspective: Geopolitics and Strategy
John Tefft, US Ambassador to Georgia

US Perspective: Business
James Polan, Vice President, OPIC

11:30 – 11:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:45 – 13:00 **PANEL II: KEY GROWTH SECTORS OF THE GEORGIAN ECONOMY**

Moderator: **Matthew Taylor**, BP Georgia

Speakers: **Real Estate – George Tavadze**, CEO, GMT Group

Communications – David Lee, CEO, Magticom

Financial Sector – Ian Hague, CEO, Firebird Management

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:00 – 15:30 **PANEL III: TOURISM – POTENTIAL ENGINE FOR THE GEORGIAN ECONOMY**

Moderator: **Bill Thomas**, Author

Speakers: **Otar Bubashvili**, Head, Department of Tourism

Scott Wayne, Project Manager, Tourism Strategy for Georgia

Saba Kiknadze, CEO, Caucasus Travel

15:30 – 15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:45 – 16:00 **Millennium Challenge Georgia: Status Report**
by **Lasha Shanidze**, CEO, MCG

15:45 – 17:30 **PANEL IV: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Moderator: **Paul Bate**, Partner, Matterhorn Investment Management LLP

Speakers: **Kenneth Angell**, Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Margaret Kostic, U.S. Ex-Im Bank

Jerome Sooklal, International Finance Corporation

Irakly Burdiladze, COO, Bank of Georgia

Davis Broach, Georgia Regional Development Fund/MCG

17:30 – 18:30 **TECHNOLOGY ROUNDTABLE: HIGH TECH FUTURE OF GEORGIA**

Presenters: **Michael Zigman**, WR Hambrecht + Co

George Chirakadze, UGT

18:30 – 19:30 **RECEPTION**

SEPTEMBER 13

10:00 – 20:00 **A DAY TRIP TO THE WINE COUNTRY - KAKHETI REGION OF GEORGIA**

REGISTRATION FORM

Please confirm your participation by faxing this registration form to (202) 293-3083 or mailing it to 2300 M Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington DC, 20037. **Participation fee is \$195. Optional trip to Kakheti: additional \$30.**

Discounted rate of \$95 is available for students and government officials. The participation fee covers the official program, lunch, and Georgian wine reception.

Payment should be made by check or via transfer, payable to the America-Georgia Business Council, United Bank, 2301 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC, 20037, ABA #: 056004445, Account #: 0069644581.

The deadline for the registration is September 1, 2007. Hotel reservations for the event can be made by individual attendees directly with Courtyard Marriott by calling 1-800-321-2211 or +995-32-779-100. The negotiated group rate for the conference participants is \$215 per night + tax (18%). Courtyard Marriott guarantees the rate if reservations are made before August 15, 2007. For more information about the conference please call the America-Georgia Business Council at ☎ (202) 416-1606, email at agbdc@agbdc.com or visit our website at www.agbdc.com.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____