

The America-Georgia Business Council's 14th Annual Conference

October 25, 2011

Courtyard Marriott Hotel
Tbilisi, Georgia



Corporate Sponsors



October 23-24, 2011 Optional site visit to Kakheti. Planned activities include wine tastings at Teliani Valley, Pheasant's Tears, and Vinoterra (Schuchmann wines). The guests will also visit notable ancient historic sites such as the medieval monastic ensemble of Ikalto Academy, the Alaverdi Monastery and the winery on its grounds. We plan a tour of the Tsinandali museum and winery. Register separately for this event. Spaces are limited, and we can only accommodate 20 persons on the first come first serve basis.

October 25, 2011 CONFERENCE

9:00 – 9:30 **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

9:30 – 9:40 **WELCOMING REMARKS:**

Mamuka Tsereteli, President, America-Georgia Business Council
Frank P. Greinke, Honorary Consul of Georgia in California

9:40 – 10:20 **KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

From the Government of Georgia:
Nika Gilauri, Prime Minister

From the Government of the United States of America:
John Bass, Ambassador

10:20 – 12:20 **PANEL I: ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Moderator: **Gia Gvaladze**, BP Georgia

Speakers: Investment Opportunities in Energy Sector
Alexander Khetaguri, Minister of Energy

Port of Poti: Gateway to Caucasus and Central Asia
Joseph Crowley, Managing Director, APM Terminals

New Initiative: Georgian Renewable Resources Fund
Karlo Goginava, Managing Partner, Wings & Freeman Capital

12:30 – 2:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

2:00 – 3:45

PANEL II: COMPETITIVENESS OF GEORGIA: AVENUES FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Moderator:

Ted Jonas, DLA Piper

Speakers:

World Competitiveness Report and Georgia's Rankings

Tamar Janashia, Business Initiative for Reforms in Georgia (BIRG)

Unexplored Areas of Competitiveness in Georgia

Alen Safery, Economic Prosperity Initiative/USAID

Challenges for Competitiveness in Georgia and Role for Public-Private Partnerships

George Chirakadze, UGT CEO and President of Business Association of Georgia

SWOT Analysis for Investments in Georgia: Why We Are Here

Job Henning, OpenRevolution /MobiPay

3:45 – 4:00

COFFEE BREAK

4:00 – 6:00

PANEL III: DEVELOPING COMPETITIVE AGRIBUSINESS, WINE AND TOURISM SECTORS

Moderator:

Kenneth Angel, Director, OPIC

Speakers:

Tourism Sector Development:

Maia Sidamonidze, Chairwoman, Georgian National Tourism Agency

Investment Criteria in Tourism and Agribusiness: Experience of Georgia Regional Development Fund

Esben Emborg, Principal Partner, Caucasus Growth Fund/SEAF

Competition in Global Wine Markets: Implications for Georgia

Kym Anderson, George Gollin Professor of Economics and Executive Director, Wine Economics Research Centre, School of Economics, University of Adelaide

Boosting Product Competitiveness through Internationally Recognized Certification

Sandro Shelia, Senior Director, Accreditation Services, American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

6:00– 8:00

CLOSING RECEPTION AT U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE