



America – Georgia Business Council

In Cooperation with

Stanford Institute of International Studies

Supported by

American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia

SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Georgian Crossroads: Politics, Economy, Business

December 4-5, 2003

**General Sponsor:
Bank of Georgia**

Corporate Sponsors:

**BP, JT International, Ernst & Young, TBC Bank, GMT Group, Teliani Valley, ACDI/VOCA, Soros
Capital Investment LLC, Northrop Grumman, United Georgian Bank**

**Bechtel Conference Center
Encina Hall, Stanford University**

**Sheraton, Palo Alto
625 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94301**

Conference Program

December 4, 2003

Morning Session

Sheraton, Palo Alto

- 08 : 00 - 09 : 00 Registration
09 : 00 - 09 : 10 Opening Remarks: **S. Enders Wimbush**, President, AGBC/Booz, Allen, Hamilton
Professor Gail Lapidus, Stanford Institute for International Studies
- 09 : 10 - 09 : 25 **The Growing Potential of US Investments in Georgia:
Address By Virginia Green, Vice President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation**
- 09 :30 - 11 : 00 **FIRST PANEL: Energy and Transportation in the South Caucasus**
- Panel Chair: **Fiona Hill**, Fellow, The Brookings Institution
- Speakers: The Progress of Pipeline Projects in Georgia
David Glendinning, BP, External Affairs Manager
- The Power Sector of Georgia: Existing and Potential Challenges
Dean White, PA Consulting Group
- Gateway To the Caucasus: A Development Strategy for the Port of Poti
Jemal Inaishvili, General Manager, Port of Poti
- A Long View on the Caspian
Steve LeVine, Institute of International Studies/Wall Street Journal
- 11 : 00 - 11 : 10 BREAK
11 : 10 - 12 : 30 **SECOND PANEL: Challenges of the Environment and Success Stories of Business Development**
- Panel Chair: **James Cox**, Vice President, Northrop Grumman Corporation
- Speakers: Serving Regional Projects—Developments and Financial Solutions at Bank of Georgia
Vladimer Robakidze, Deputy General Director, Bank of Georgia
- Success Story of TBC Group
Badri Japaridze, Vice Chairman, TBC Group
- Business Environment: Challenges and Potential
Fady Asly, President, American Chamber of Commerce/Chairman, Georgian Business Confederation
- Critical Factors for Business Success in Georgia
George Tavadze, Chairman, GMT Group/JSC Hotel Tbilisi
- Regional Airline is Making Success
Robert Christian, President, Pacific International Holdings, Inc.
- 12: 30 - 2:00 LUNCHEON
The keynote Speaker: To be confirmed
Introduction:

Afternoon Session

Bechtel Conference Center, Encina Hall, Stanford University

2:30- 3:45

THIRD PANEL:

Georgia at a Crossroads

Panel Chair: **Ambassador Kent Brown**, Vice President, JT International

Speakers: **Levan Mikeladze**, Ambassador of Georgia to the United States, Canada and Mexico

Danny Robertson, Director, USAID in Georgia

Revaz Adamia, Representative of Georgia to the UN

3:45 - 5:45

FOURTH PANEL:

Internal and External Threats to Security of Georgia

Panel Chair: **Paul Henze**, Historian

Speakers: Security Environment After Pankisi Operation

Valeri Khaburzania, Minister of Security of Georgia

The Economic Security of Georgia and Framework for Development in Georgia

Irakli Managadze, President, National Bank of Georgia

US Strategic Interests in Georgia

Gail Lapidus, Stanford University

Strategic Position of Georgia in the Changing Security Landscape of Eurasia

Vladimir Socor, Senior Fellow, Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies/Columnist, Wall Street Journal

Georgia After Elections and the Approaching Transition

Archil Gegeshidze, Senior Fellow, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and Int. Studies

6:00 -8:00

RECEPTION, Wine Tasting and Cultural Program

December 5, 2003
Sheraton, Palo Alto

09 : 00 - 10:30

FIRST PANEL: [New Business Opportunities in Georgia](#)
Part 1: Technology

Panel Chairs: **Robert Medearis**, Chalice Investments
George Bazgadze, Managing Partner, Ernst & Young Georgia

Speakers: Nano-powders and Their Use in Composite Materials with Applications in Engineering and Photonic fields

Archil Mikeladze, *Director of Halibi Ltd*

Polarization Holography and its Applications in Data Storage and Optical Elements

Barbara Kilasonidze, Director, Holoretex Ltd

Examples of Industrial Optical Applications:

Alexander Kurasbediani, Director, Advanced Optical Technologies Ltd

Solid State Ultra Violet Lasers and their Applications in Medicine and Biology

Zaza Melikishvili, Director, Coheren Ltd.

Biodegradable Polymers and their Biomedical Applications (based on alfa-amino acids)

Ramaz Katsarava, Director, The Research Center for Medical Polymers and Biomaterials

10 :40 - 12 : 00

SECOND PANEL: [New Business Opportunities in Georgia](#)
Part 2: Agribusiness and Financial Services

Panel Chair: **Joan Morgan**, BISNIS, Department of Commerce

Georgia's Strategy for Agribusiness Development
David Kirvalidze, Minister, Agriculture and Food

Teliani Valley and Wine Industry in Georgia
Irakli Talakhadze, Teliani Valley Winery

Food Processing in Georgia
Givi Gachechiladze, Director, Geo Agro Export

Animal Feed and Poultry Industry in Georgia
Irakli Chikhladze, General Director, Agro Corp Caucasus

12: 15 - 2:00

LUNCHEON

Introduction: **Coit Blacker**, Director
Stanford Institute for International Studies

The keynote Speaker: **To be confirmed**

2 : 15 - 4: 00

THIRD PANEL: [Financing Business Opportunities in Georgia](#)

Panel Chair: **Ronald Drake**, Chairman, The Soros Investment Capital Management LLC

Speakers: Local Banking and Financial Services for Businesses in Georgia
Mamuka Khazaradze, Chairman, TBC Group

International Finance Corporation: Successful Track Record in Georgia
Thomas Lubeck, Senior Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation

Variety of OPIC Products for Georgia
Peter Ballinger, Senior Investment Officer, Caspian Investment Center

Funding Opportunities for Georgian Ports and Maritime Businesses
Hew Crooks, Managing Partner, Great Circle Investments

Universal Bank from consumer loans to corporate customers
Gia Morchiladze, Manager, Central Office

4: 00-5:30

Roundtable Discussion: **The Future of Georgia**
Moderators: Mamuka Tsereteli, AGBC and Dan Sneider, Jose Mercury News

Featured Speaker: George Isakadze, Deputy State Minister

5:30

Closing Remarks



AMERICA-GEORGIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

The America - Georgia Business Council's objective is to maximize business opportunities in Georgia for member companies

***AMERICA-GEORGIA BUSINESS COUNCIL
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE:***

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Senior US and Georgian government officials, business leaders and experts of the region will discuss politics, security, economic, business and technology development strategies for Georgia. Particular emphasis will be placed on business development in sectors—e.g., energy, transportation, tourism, agribusiness, financial services and new technologies—that are likely to become dominant sectors of Georgia's future economy.

Registration: Please confirm your participation by faxing the attached registration form to (202) 416-1607, or mail it to 2300 M Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington DC, 20037.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Area of interest: _____

Participation Fee: \$195 for full program. Alternatively, participants may register for the first day of the event for \$115, or second day of the event for \$85. The full Participation Fee covers the official program, lunches, Georgian Wine Reception at Bechtel Conference Center at Stanford University. Participation fee should be paid by check, payable to the America-Georgia Business Council, and received no later than November 25th, 2003 (2300 M Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington DC, 20037). A discounted rate of \$149/night (+ California and City Tax) is available for the conference participants at the Sheraton, Palo Alto. For reservations please call (650) 328-2800. For travel arrangements please contact Special Fares at (301)-315-2201.

For more information about the conference or sponsorship opportunities, please contact the America-Georgia Business Council at ☎(202) 416-1606, or Email agbdc@agbdc.com