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**Hydropower Investment  
Promotion Project (HIPP)**

# HIPP MEDIA WORKSHOP IN KOBULETI

July 15-16, 2011

Draft Report

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# **WORKSHOP - CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL PRESS IN GEORGIAN HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

July 15-16, 2011

USAID HYDROPOWER INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROJECT  
(HIPP)

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DELOITTE CONSULTING LLP

IN COLLABORATION WITH BLACK & VEATCH AND PIERCE  
ATWOOD ATTORNEYS LLC.

USAID/CAUCASUS OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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## **1. Introduction and Activity Summary**

### **Introduction**

The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia asked the USAID Hydropower Investment Project implemented by Deloitte Consulting to provide assistance in organizing the public outreach seminar covering activities undertaken by the Ministry in the sphere of developing renewable energy potential of Georgia.

The goal of the workshop was to strengthen and promote cooperation between the energy sector and media representatives for the fostering of timely and accurate dissemination of information on developments in the sector; increase awareness and understanding of the media to cover issues related to the energy sector and the activities of the Ministry and USAID to stimulate and secure international investments into Georgia's small and medium-sized hydroelectric power market, investment projects implemented and planned in the hydropower sector .

### **Activity Summary**

The Workshop - "Capacity building for Local Press" was organized by Deloitte Consulting Hydropower Investment Promotion Project with the USAID funding and took place on July 15-16, 2011 in Kobuleti, Adjara Autonomous Republic, away from the participants' normal place of work. The workshop was attended by the representatives of MENR and other energy stakeholders and the representatives of local press working on energy and economic issues of the country.

According to the Agenda the first day of the workshop (15.07.11) was dedicated to introduction (made by HIPP Outreach and Communications Manager I. Iremashvili) and opening speeches (made by N. Okreshidze, CTO of HIPP, USAID and J. Delphia, COP of HIPP, Deloitte Consulting). After introduction and opening remarks of USAID and HIPP representatives, Minister Khetaguri welcomed the workshop participants and expressed his gratitude to the USAID / HIPP for organizing the seminar and underlined high importance of such working meetings, he also asked to give him the opportunity to introduce the Ministry's new approach towards natural resources to the invited media representatives, which were also very much interested in the issue.

According to the agenda, the second, working day (16.07.11) was fully dedicated to presentations and discussions around hydropower issues. It was opened by Minister Khetaguri's speech regarding energy sector issues followed by Presentation of Hydropower Investment Promotion Project made by G. Chikovani, DCOP of HIPP and Presentation of HIPP Environmental Issues made by M. Bakhtadze, HIPP Environmental Specialist. After HIPP representatives G. Kavelashvili, Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources made the Presentation on Investment Promotion and Investment Climate in Georgia. Presentation on Power and Energy Utilities under the EBRD funded projects was made by D. Managadze, EBRD Representative. The presentations were followed by questions and discussions between press and energy sector representatives. Media representatives were very active and eager to get information on specific data and figures of ongoing and planned investment projects in Georgian hydropower sector.

All participants of the workshop highly evaluated the seminar and underlined that such working meetings are essential and needed for further development of the relations between media and energy sector stakeholders in order to deliver comprehensive information on energy sector operations, investment promotion strategy and green energy development opportunities.

The first positive outcome of the Workshop has already been achieved - one of the workshop participants, Salome Kobalava, from "Georgia Today" published the article about Georgian hydropower plants based on the information provided by HIPP during the media retreat held in Kobuleti. "Georgia Today" is an English language newspaper with 3000 number of copies printed, which is distributed among international community in Georgia, sold in all hotels and airports in Georgia. (The article is attached to the document).

## Agenda

### Workshop - Capacity Building for Local Press in Georgian Hydropower Development Issues

Day I - Friday; July 15, 2011		
08:30	Departure – Tbilisi – Batumi	
16:00	Hotel Arrangements	
18:00	<b>Official Reception – Hydropower Investment Promotion Program</b>	
18:00 - 18:30	<b>Opening Speech – USAID Representative; HIPP COP</b>	30 min.
18:30 – 18:15	Introducing participants, presentation of the agenda - HIPP – I. Iremashvili	15 min.
19:00-20:00	Dinner	1 h.
Day II – Saturday; July 16, 2011		
08:00-09:00	Breakfast	
Hour	Topic	Duration
09:30-10:00	Registration	30 min.
10:00-10:15	Speech of the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources on Energy Development Issues	20 min.
10:15-10:30	Presentation - HIPP - <b>Hydropower Investment Promotion Project</b>	20 min.
10:30-10:45	Presentation - HIPP - <b>Environmental Issues</b>	15 min.
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break	15 min
11:00-11:20	Presentation – EBRD - <b>Power and Energy Utilities</b>	20 min.
11:20-12:00	Discussion	40 min.
13:00-14:00	Lunch	1 h
14:00-14:20	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources - <b>Hydropower Potential and Investment Opportunities in Georgia</b>	20 min.
14:20-15:00	Discussion	40 min.
19:00-21:00	Dinner	
21:30	Networking Banquet	2h
Day III - Sunday, 17, 2011		
09:00-10:00	Breakfast	
13:00-14:00	Departure to Tbilisi	

## **List of Participants**

### **Energy Stakeholders**

1. Alexander Khetaguri, Minister, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
2. Giorgi Khavelashvili, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
3. Natia Mikeladze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
4. Vato Khavtasi, Head of the Department of Investment Projects, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
5. Liza Tavdumadze, Deputy Head, Department of Investment Projects, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
6. Temur Izoria, Main Specialist, Department of Investment Projects, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
7. Teo Gvaramia, Deputy Head of legal Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
8. Kate Sandroshvili –Chief of Staff, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
9. Nana Gurgenidze – Head of International Department , Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
10. Salome Girkelidze, Head of the Public Relations Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
11. Nino Kikacheishvili - Main Specialist, Public Relations Department , Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
12. Giorgi Shukakidze, Main Specialist, Energy Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
13. David Khachidze – Energy Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
14. Kate Kanashvili – Main Specialist, Investment Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
15. Elene Goksadze – Main Specialist, Investment Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

16. Misha Zibzibadze, Head of Operational Department, Georgia State Electricity System
17. David Managadze, Associate Banker, EBRD
18. Teona Beraia – GEDF
19. Zaal Kherkheulidze – GEDF

### **Media Representatives**

20. Nino Arghviani, Journalist, InterPressNews, International Agency
21. Lika Bakhtadze, Journalist, GBC
22. Melsida Akopian, Journalist, BS Press
23. Lekso Nabakhtevili, Journalist, GHN
24. Victoria Gujelashvili, Journalist. Sarke
25. Nana Kirstkhalia, Journalist. Kavkas Press
26. Nona Kvlividze, Journalist. Newspaper Kviris Palitra
27. Ernest Petrosian, Journalist, Newspaper Messenger
28. Shota Kiknadze – Journalist, TV, Imedi
29. Mariam Dzeganiidze, Journalist, TV, Public Broadcast
30. Anano Lebanidze – Journalist, TV, Real TV
31. Mamuka Roinishvili - Journalist, TV, Real TV
32. Lika Zhorzholiani - Journalist, TV, First Caucasus
33. Beka Mshedlishvili – Journalist, TV, Rustavi 2
34. Irma Ebralidze - Journalist, Radio Imedi

35. Sopho Dvali – Journalist, Radio Commersanti
36. Eka Vepkhvadze - Journalist, Palitra
37. Eka Gaprindashvili - Journalist, Mtsvane Talga
38. Natia Ejoshvili - Journalist
39. Jake Delphia, Chief of Party, Hydropower Investment Promotion Project (HIPP)
40. Nicolas Okreshidze – USAID, CTO
41. Giorgi Chikovani, Deputy Chief of Party, HIPP
42. Irina Iremashvili, Communications and Outreach Manager, HIPP
43. Mariam Bakhtadze, Environmental Specialist, HIPP
44. Avto Lomiashvili, Engineer, HIPP
45. Marina Kevanishvili, Lead Technical Translator, HIPP

Photos of the Workshop



*Minister Khetaguri Introducing HIPP Presentation*



*Opening Speech of the Minister*



*Networking dinner with press representatives*

## **Attachment 1: Opening Speech of HIPP Chief of Party**

Good afternoon,

Welcome to the Media Workshop Retreat sponsored by USAID and its Hydropower Investment Promotion Project.

Change in the World's Climate is a prime concern of politicians from North America to Europe to Asia. According to the World Bank, we are producing more than 4.5 tons of carbon every year for every man, woman and child in the World. With an ever expanding world population and economy, that goal will require huge commitments from the public and private sectors.

Reducing carbon emissions by 20% and more is a target now accepted by most nations. We all have a part to play in helping our planet. Energy efficiency measures and renewable energy sources are seen as key parts of meeting the targets.

Hydropower plants are generally the most cost effective and environmentally friendly renewable energy resources. Though other renewable energy sources have made significant technological gains over the last 30 years, none have been able to meet or beat the economic benefits of HPPs. And by using best international practices, the social and environmental impacts from run-of-river hydropower projects become minimal.

With Georgia's abundant hydropower potential and the global need for cost effective, environmentally friendly power plants, Georgia can establish itself as a provider of clean energy for itself and for the region.

While other countries will struggle to meet the carbon emission targets, Georgia can reap economic benefits by selling to the region in the near term to help others meet their near term target, while ensuring a clean path to economic development by using the energy from same plants in the long term within Georgia.

Energy security means that a country does not to rely heavily upon energy sources outside of its territory. There is no reason that Georgia should ever be held hostage by energy importers as they potential resources are abundant. Energy use including transportation can be fueled by renewable energy sources.

Georgia is blessed with plenty of potential domestic energy sources— high mountainous rivers for hydropower projects, very windy areas at low elevations including the Black Sea which provide excellent sites for wind power, and sun intensity much greater than what is seen in Western Europe for solar PV sites.

The 2008 Renewable Energy Program is the first step in moving the private sector into development of renewable energy sources and the strengthening of energy independence. Encouraging private investment will not only bring badly needed foreign direct investment, but also technological knowhow on producing environmentally friendly and highly efficient renewable power generation.

Our project team has met with many people close to potential hydropower project sites. We have found that the residents near the plants are enthusiastic about the prospect of the new power plants but we also learned that past HPP development often created more problems than benefits for local communities and their residents. This has created concerns with organizations focused on protecting the environment. It is very important that we all learn from the past mistakes, not to stop the development of clean technologies, but to make sure that the technologies are built in ways that improve the lives of the people by the plant sites.

The media can play a great role to keep the public aware of HPP developments and to keep the investors honest in their construction practices and in how the new plants are operated. Done correctly, all Georgians will greatly benefit from the renewable energy program set forth by the government.

**USAID Hydropower Investment Promotion Project (USAID-HIPP)**

**Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects - HIPP**

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