

# Advisory Assistance to the Ministry of Energy of Georgia, Public Outreach Strategic Plan Implementation

## “Public Dialogues” SPECIAL REPORT – Town Hall Meeting in Kakheti

Activity Date: October 10, 2006

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CORE - “Advisory Assistant to the Ministry of Energy” a USAID Project

Method: Regional trip to Telavi (Kakheti Rregion)

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Cooperation with/Participant/Speaker Name: Energy Consumers' Rights Defender, David Mikautadze  
MoE Specialist of PR Department – Nino Kikacheishvili  
Kakheti Energy Distribution Company - General Director Zurab Jangava  
Kakheti Energy Distribution Company – Head of PR Department Ana Taktaqishvili

### **REPORT:**

Under the USAID Advisory Assistance to the Ministry of Energy of Georgia Program, CORE International, Inc. conducted a town hall meeting in Kakheti on October 10, 2006. The meeting was organized in close cooperation with: the Energy Consumers' Rights Defender – David Mikautadz; MoE, specialist of PR Department, Nino Kikacheishvili; General Director of Kakheti Energy Distribution Company, Zurab Jangava and Ana Taktaqishvili – PR Manager of Kakheti Energy Distribution Company.

During the meeting CORE organized the show of the 15 minutes video about the energy sector achievements made during the last two years. The "Energy Sector Achievements" video was produced as part of CORE's scope of work under the Advisory Services to the Ministry of Energy Program upon the request of the MoE.

The town hall meeting was attended by 40 persons.

The meeting started with the introduction and the show of the video.

After the show of the video the consumers in the audience expressed the opinion that they agreed that all the activities described by the video were indeed implemented and those actions taken by the energy sector representatives had resulted in positive changes.

The public forum was then opened for a discussion of difficulties, needs, and concerns that the consumers may be experiencing, focused on issues related to electricity distribution in their region.

The questions related to the electricity distribution were answered by the General Director of Kakheti Energy Distribution Company, Z. Janjgava.

Mr. David Mikautadze provided an explanation of the positive actions that consumers can take if they have difficulties related to energy supply or if they seek to question the accurateness of their meter readings.

**Show of the video on Energy Sector Achievements**



**Discussion**



### **Summary of attitude of the town hall meeting:**

- People watched the film with great interest and agreed that all activities had a real impact on the electricity supply of their communities;
- Unlike the focus of discussions in Town Meetings or citizen group meetings two years ago which invariably concerned the consumers *receiving electricity*, this Town Hall Meeting open forum concentrated on different subjects. These included the accuracy of their meters, the quality of the received electricity, and other issues.

The town hall meeting was highlighted by the local broadcasting channel. The interviews to the broadcasting channel were given by David Mikautadze, Zurab Janjgava and Nino Kikacheishvili.

All participants and organizers of the meeting considered that such meetings were very useful and valuable to keep contact between the energy sector and its customers and have information exchange on a permanent basis.