

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

“Public Dialogues” SPECIAL REPORT – Town Hall Meeting in Adjara

Activity Date: December 7 , 2006

Contact By: P. Ballonoff, B. Tsirekidze
CORE - “Advisory Assistance to the Ministry of Energy” a USAID Project

Method: Regional Trip to Batumi (Adjara Rregion)

Organization/Company Name: CORE - “Advisory Assistance to the Ministry of Energy” a USAID Project
Address: P. Ballonoff - Chief of Party
B. Tsirekidze – Communication and Public Participation Expert
Tel/Fax: 10 Lermontov Str. 0105 Tbilisi, Georgia
E-Mail: + 995 32 439020/+995 32 439022
btsirekidze@coregeorgia.ge

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

REPORT:

Under the USAID Advisory Assistance to the Ministry of Energy of Georgia Program, CORE International, Inc. conducted a town hall meeting in Adjara on December 7, 2006. The meeting was organized in close cooperation with: the Energy Consumers' Rights Defender – David Mikautadz; MoE, specialist of PR Department, Nino Kikacheishvili and General Director of Adjara Energy Distribution Company, Guram Jgenti.

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 90 persons.

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

After the show of the video the consumers in the audience asked the following questions:

Construction of Khudoni HPP – on the question, weather it is planned to complete construction of the Khudoni HPP, the representative of CORE International, Inc. answered that in the framework of USAID's “Advisory Assistance to the Ministry of Energy Program”, and upon the request of the MoE, CORE developed a pre-feasibility study, which worked as a background for announcing the tender for conducting a feasibility study for the HPP's construction. After the feasibility study is conducted, the GoG will be able to present it to investors and start construction of the HPP if an investor can be identified to implement the project.

The questions related to the electricity distribution were answered by the General Director of Adjara Energy Distribution Company, G. Jgenti. In his speech, Mr. Jgenti also highlighted the activities which were conducted in Adjara Energy Distribution Company during 2006.

Further, Mr. David Mikautadze provided a detailed explanation for the reasons for the tariff increases and explained the composition of the tariff paid by the consumers.

Consumers, attending the meeting



Summary of attitude of the town hall meeting:

- People watched the film with great interest

The town hall meeting was highlighted by the local “Achara” broadcasting channel. The interviews to the broadcasting channel were given by David Mikautadze and Guram Jgenti.

All participants and organizers of the meeting considered that such meetings are very useful and valuable to keep contact between the energy sector and its customers. The consumers also expressed a desire to have similar information exchanges on a continual basis.