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➤ News from the Embassy of Georgia in Pretoria

Information on SAGCC Executive Committee Meeting



On 4 July 2017, the Embassy of Georgia in Pretoria hosted the Management Committee meeting of South Africa-Georgia Chamber of Commerce (SAGCC). During the meeting the Embassy of Georgia was represented by Mr. Teimuraz Kereselidze, Counsellor of the Embassy of Georgia.

Management Committee discussed the efforts undertaken by SAGCC to promote bilateral trade and investments as well as prospective business projects.

Information on cooperation between Kakheti region and Cape Winelands District



On 27 July 2017, Agreement of Intent of cooperation between Cape Winelands District Municipality and Kakheti Region of Georgia was signed by Georgian side. Specifically, Mr. Irakli Kadagishvili, the Governor of Kakheti Region signed the Memorandum, thus completing the formalization of the relationship between the two regions.

It is notable that Ald. H. von Schlicht, the Executive Mayor of Cape Winelands District Municipality signed the Agreement of Intent in June 2017.

For more information about these topics or to schedule an interview with H.E. Mr Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia, please call Mrs. Mzia Broladze, PA at +27 (0) 12 346 1831 or send a request to pretoria.emb@mfa.gov.ge

The signature ceremony on 27 July 2017 took place in Kakheti Governor's office in Telavi and the ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Alexander Khvtisiashvili, the Director for International Economic Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ms. Nino Utiashvili, Chief of Staff of Kakheti Governor's Administration, Ms. Tamar Shaoshvili, Executive Director of Kakheti Regional Development Agency and Mr. Tengiz Mtvarelishvili, the First Deputy Mayor of Telavi.

It is important to emphasize that the cooperation between Kakheti and Cape region started several years ago with winemakers' exchange program and interactions in rugby. Telavi University and the University of Stellenbosch have also commenced dialogue on cooperation in wine and viticulture sciences.

According to the comments made on the occasion by Kakheti Governor Mr. Irakli Kadagishvili, the conclusion of the Agreement of Intent will facilitate not only increased links between the two regions but also will be conducive to South Africa-Georgia bilateral relations; It should also contribute to the increase of awareness of Georgia in South Africa.

Information on Presenting Letters of Credence in the Kingdom of Swaziland



On 3 August 2017, H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Kingdom of Swaziland (with residence in Pretoria) presented the Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Mswati III of Swaziland at Lozitha Royal Palace in Mbabane, the capital of Swaziland.

Bilateral meeting between His Majesty King Mswati III and the Ambassador of Georgia followed the ceremony of the presentation of credentials.

It should be emphasized that the diplomatic relations between Georgia and the Kingdom of Swaziland was established on 20 May 2016 and this is the first ever case of Georgian Ambassador's accreditation to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

On the same day, Ambassador Dvali also held the meeting with Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Swaziland, the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Senator Edgar E. Hillary and presented to him the copies of the letters of credence. During the meeting, the prospects of developing bilateral ties in various areas between Georgia and the Kingdom of Swaziland were discussed.

Information on the Photo and Art Exhibition in Gaborone, the capital of the Republic of Botswana



On 11 August 2017, in Gaborone, the capital of the Republic of Botswana, at the University of Botswana, H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia to Botswana (with residence in Pretoria) launched the Photo and Art Exhibition "Georgia Meets Botswana". It was the first ever occasion of highlighting Georgia in Botswana through art.

The event was co-organized and co-sponsored by the Embassy of Georgia in Pretoria, the Honorary Consul of Georgia in Botswana Mr. Mothusi

Serumola and Georgian artist residing in Botswana Mr. Sandro Eristavi.

In parallel with Georgia-themed photos and the exposition related to Georgian language and alphabet, major highlight of the exhibition was Sandro Eristavi's art from the series "African Colors, African Spirit".

Botswana citizens, the leadership of Botswana National Museum, the representatives of Botswana State Institutions, including the President's Administration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, also the members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Gaborone attended the exhibition.

Visiting guests had the opportunity to taste unique Georgian wine - "Saperavi" (red), "Rkatsiteli" (white) and "Tsinandali" (white) - produced by "Telavi Cellar".

Information on the meeting with the Director the National Museum of Botswana



On 11 August 2017, H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Botswana (with residence in Pretoria) held a meeting with Mr. Gaogakwe Phorano, the Director of the National Museum of Botswana. Honorary Consul of Georgia in Botswana Mr. Mothusi Serumola also took part in the meeting.

The prospects of arranging Georgia-themed exhibition at the National Museum of Botswana were discussed during the meeting. This project is expected to increase considerably the awareness of Georgia in Botswana.

Information on the meeting with South Africa-Georgia Chamber of Commerce Management Committee and the new members of the Chamber



On 24 August 2017, the Embassy of Georgia in the Republic of South Africa hosted regular meeting of South Africa-Georgia Chamber of Commerce (SAGCC) Management Committee. The meeting was followed by welcome reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia in honor of new members of SAGCC.

The issues related to pending projects under the auspices of SAGCC as well as Chamber's forthcoming activities were discussed during the meeting.

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At the reception honoring new members of South Africa-Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Ambassador Dvali spoke about recent developments in Georgia as well as reflected on Georgia's foreign policy priorities. Among them, Ambassador noted the diversification of Georgia's business links, including with African countries, in general, and with South Africa, in particular. It was emphasized that the objective is for both countries to benefit fully from the potential of bilateral trade and investment.

Mr. Marius Heyns, the Chairman of South Africa Georgia Chamber of Commerce, on his part, briefed the audience about pending and planned activities of the Chamber.

Information on the visit of U18 Rugby 7s Georgian team in the South Africa



On 24 August 2017, U18 Rugby 7s Georgian team arrived in Cape Town for 10 days' camp, in preparation of this year's Rugby Sevens U18 European Cup. They were hosted by Western Cape Rugby Academy.

At the Cape Town International Airport Georgian team enjoyed warm reception arranged by high level representatives of Cape Winelands District Municipality, which has recently entered into the cooperation agreement with Georgian wine region Kakheti.

We are pleased to note that contacts in rugby between Georgia and South Africa has recently intensified considerably due to active efforts exerted by Georgian Embassy in Pretoria in cooperation with South Africa-Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Georgian Rugby and Western Province Rugby Academy.

Information on Georgian Ambassador's interview at Classic FM Radio



On 10 September 2017, popular South African Radio Station "Classic FM" program "People of Note" (http://www.classicfm.co.za/on-air-1/people-of-note/copy67_of_people-of-note-this-sunday-6-march-2016) featured H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia in the Republic of South Africa.

Ambassador was interviewed by Mr. Richard Cock - renowned South African music expert, musician, conductor and journalist.

In the two-hour interview that was aired during primetime on Sunday, Ambassador Dvali spoke about Georgia, its history and modernity, about Georgian culture, music and sports. In the course of the interview, South African radio listeners and music fans had the opportunity to enjoy the playlist offered by Georgian Ambassador, featuring, among other musical pieces, Georgian folk, classical and modern music compositions.

Information on the visit of South African delegation to Georgia



During 18-23 September 2017, Georgian Embassy in Pretoria, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and South Africa-Georgia Chamber of Commerce facilitated the visit of South African delegation to Georgia. The delegation was composed of high-level officials from Cape Winelands District Municipality, South African Embassy in Ukraine (covering Georgia) and South African entrepreneurs. The objectives of the visit were to understand better Georgia business climate as well as to identify concrete avenues and modes of cooperation between Cape Winelands

District and Kakheti, based on the memorandum of cooperation entered into by the two regions in July 2017.

In the course of the visit, the members of the delegation held meetings in Tbilisi with high level officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Sustainable and Economic Development, Georgian National Tourism Administration, Georgian National Wine Agency, Techno Park and Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Important part of the visit included the meetings in Kakheti. In particular, South African delegation held meetings with Kakheti Governor Mr. Irakli Kadagishvili and his Deputy, with the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Telavi, with the representatives of Telavi State University and with Kakheti business community.

During Georgia visit, the members of South African Delegation also had the opportunity to do sightseeing and familiarize themselves with Georgia's rich historical and cultural heritage.

Information on the meeting with UNISA researcher

On 25 September 2017, H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia held the meeting with Dr. Babátúndé Fágàyíbò, Associate Professor at the Department of Public, Constitutional and International Law, College of Law of the University of South Africa (UNISA).



The issues related to the possible cooperation between the Embassy of Georgia and UNISA College of Law, for the purpose of increasing awareness of Georgia among South African law experts, were discussed during the meeting.

Information on the meeting with CEO of Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)



On 27 September 2017, H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia held a meeting with Professor Crain Soudien, CEO of Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and with Dr. Michael Cosser, Executive Director: Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery. Mr. Teimuraz Kereselidze, Counsellor of the Embassy of Georgia also participated in the discussion.

During the meeting, participants discussed the prospects of cooperation between the Embassy of Georgia and Human Sciences Research Council, for the purpose of increasing awareness of Georgia and of Caucasus Region among South African researchers and public in general.

Information on the visit of Georgian Forensics experts in South Africa



During 11-29 September 2017, a group of Georgian forensic experts, archeologists and anthropologists from Tbilisi State University and “Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau” consisting of Tinatin Niniashvili, Elguja Latchkebiani, Meri Gonashvili, Alexander Sturua, Nino Tavartkiladze and Sopio Vekua visited South Africa’s administrative capital Pretoria.

Georgian experts took part in the course “African School of Humanitarian Forensic Action”, co-organized by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Government of Argentina and hosted by University of Pretoria (UP).

On 15 September 2017, the participants were welcomed at the Embassy of Georgia in Pretoria by H.E. Mr. Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia and by the Embassy staff. On 27 September 2017, upon invitation from H.E. Javier Esteban Figueroa, the Ambassador of Argentina, Georgian Ambassador participated in the ceremony of awarding certificates of participation to Georgian experts.

➤ Georgia Highlights

August 11 of 2008 is written in the recent history of Georgia as the day of heroism and self-sacrifice for homeland

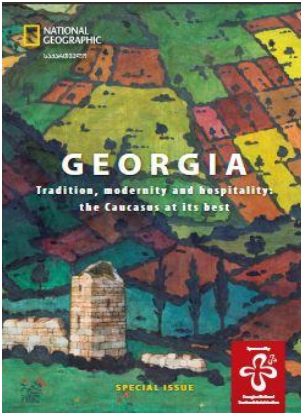


On 11 August Georgia commemorated those heroes of the Russia-Georgia war who sacrificed heroically their lives in a “David and Goliath” type battle that took place in Shindisi Village in central Georgia.

The Shindisi Battle took place on August 11, 2008.

See more: <http://agenda.ge/news/85163/eng>

National Geographic Georgia - Caucasus as its best



National Geographic Georgia & Georgian National Tourism Administration have released special issue “Tradition, modernity and hospitality: Caucasus as its best”.

See more:

https://issuu.com/nationalgeographicgeorgia/docs/national_geographic_georgia_-_cauca

Zurab Pololikashvili Elected as New Secretary General of UNWTO



The Ambassador of Georgia to Spain Zurab Pololikashvili has been elected as the new Secretary General of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for the for the term of 4 years, starting in January 2018.

See more: <http://news.gtp.gr/2017/05/12/zurab-pololikashvili-elected-new-secretary-general-unwto/>

Georgia officially takes Open Government Partnership chairmanship



Georgia has assumed the chairmanship of the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP) Steering Committee. Georgia took over this important responsibility from France and will lead OGP for a one year term.

See more: <http://agenda.ge/news/87251/eng>

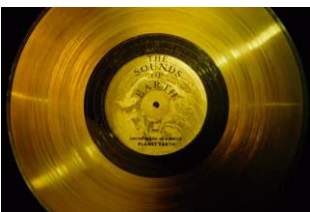
Invictus Games: Wounded Georgian servicemen claim sitting volleyball gold medal



The team from Georgia, consisting of the military servicemen injured during combat and peacekeeping operations, has won the Invictus Games gold medal in sitting volleyball. Prince Harry who is the patron of Invictus Games congratulated Georgian team and joined them in their celebrations. This year, Invictus Games took Place in Canada.

See more: <http://agenda.ge/news/87774/eng>

Tbilisi celebrates anniversary of Georgian song launched in space by NASA



Georgian capital Tbilisi has marked the anniversary of a historic event that brought together interstellar exploration and Georgian national folk singing within NASA's Voyager Golden Records project 40 years ago.

See more: <http://agenda.ge/news/87816/eng>