

TOP STORIES

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- o **Construction Costs Severely Impacting Real Estate**
- o **EU-Georgia Business Council Members Meet with EC Delegation to Georgia**
- o **790% Increase in the Number of Georgian Issued Credit Cards**
- o **Income Rising for Internet Service Providers, TV & Radio Broadcasters**
- o **EVENT: Vendor Conference - US Army Contracting - Sheraton July 21-22**
- > **Briefly Noted:** Goodwill, Populi, UGT and more...

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Events:

- > Vendor Conference - US Army Contracting - July 21st & 22nd
- > TBJ Networking & Happy Hour Event - Thursday July 31st 5:00-8:00pm
- > Looking to promote your event? Promote it here to maximize your events

Tenders, RFPs & Training:

- > RFQ: Preparation of TV and Radio Ads - OSCE Mission to Georgia
- > Tendering an RFP? Get in front of the key decision-makers in Tbilisi.

Jobs:

- > Director/General Manager - Realty.ge
- > Assistant Editor - Tbilisi Business Journal
- > Looking for qualified candidates? Reach thousands of professionals everyday

Top Stories**o Olympic Athletes Go for Gold, and the Cash**

Georgian Olympic athletes have some extra incentive this summer at the Beijing Olympic Games -- \$100,000 for winning a gold medal. Officials at the department of sports and youth affairs said athletes who win silver and bronze medals will be awarded \$70,000 and \$50,000 respectively. These new amounts are double what the government awarded its athletes for the Athens Games four years ago.

For more:

http://www.messenger.com.ge/issues/1649_july_16_2008/1649_news_in_brief.html

o Rising Construction Costs Severely Impacting Real Estate

As Georgia was busy holding elections in January, investors, wary of political instabilities, put investment projects on hold. With the elections over, the real estate market is showing signs of awakening with the prices on the real estate market jumping almost 15% the past two months.

Construction companies cite several reasons but they say the rising price of construction materials is a major factor in pushing the cost of real estate. The prices on construction materials have been steadily growing in recent years. According to the companies, the increased demand on one hand and the rising fuel prices on the other have been driving them up. Importers report that plants in Ukraine have almost doubled prices per ton of iron from \$600 to \$1,150 USD. Concrete, cement have also risen 5-10%. Construction company representatives say they will have to increase the prices on homes and commercial areas.

For more:

<http://www.newsgeorgia.net/2008/07/15/construction-materials-price-increase-impacts-real-estate/>

o EU-Georgia Business Council Members Meet with EC Delegation

On July 9th, The EU-Georgia Business Council organized its members meeting with Ambassador Per Eklund, Head of the European Commission Delegation to Georgia to discuss the Georgia's ongoing relations with the European Union. The issues discussed included: Implementation of European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan in Georgia; Trade relations referring to short statistical overview, GSP+, possible Free Trade Agreement between Georgia and EU, trade facilitation; EU-Georgia Agreement on Protection of Geographical Indications of Agricultural Products and Foodstuff; Direct Investments from the EU; Visa issues; Internal conflicts.

In addition, EUGBC presented to its members the printed version of the brochure: Exporting to the European Union Market - Specific Issues, published by EUGBC with support of the European Commission Delegation to Georgia.

According to the Vice-Chairman of EUGBC Board, Badri Japaridze, "the EU-Georgia trade relations as well as visa facilitation are very important issues for Georgian entrepreneurs. Receiving the first-hand information on these topics from the Ambassador Per Eklund was particularly interesting for the EUGBC members".

For more:

http://www.eugbc.net/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=4&info_id=123

o 790% Increase in the Number of Georgian Issued Credit Cards in 2008

National Bank of Georgia (NBG) reported that over 330,000 credit cards have been issued as of July 1, which exceeds the previous year's number by 7.9 times.

Accordingly, share of these cards in the total number made up 11.4%, instead of 2.8% fixed in last year's same period.

For more:

<http://www.sarke.com/cgi/search/news.asp?Code=21469>

o Income Rising for Internet Service Providers, TV & Radio Broadcasters

As Georgian Communications Commission informs, incomes of operators, working on internet service market segment, made up 42.5 million GEL in 2007, a 62.5% increase compared with the previous year. In addition, incomes of TV and radio broadcaster, made 80 million GEL in 2007, a 53.3% increase compared with the previous year. This compares to an increase of 64.6% in 2006.

For more:

<http://www.sarke.com/cgi/search/news.asp?Code=21466>

<http://www.sarke.com/cgi/search/news.asp?Code=21467>

o BRIEFLY NOTED:

* UGT Will Provide 5,100+ Computers to 509 Georgian Schools as part of a public school computerization program. Deer's Leap Foundation and UGT, an IT company, have signed an agreement.

* The Populi supermarket chain sales in 2008 reached 43 million GEL, with the biggest increase in April.

* Goodwill's revenue totaled 23.5 million GEL in the first six Months of 2008, with sales doubling in June compared to January.

For more: check out <http://gbc.ge/index.php?m=home&ncat=46&lang=eng>

EVENTS

To Post: send us your events at info@TbilisiBusinessJournal.com

Half Month: \$150 Full Month: \$250 USD

> Vendor Conference - US Army Contracting - July 21st & 22nd

The United States Army Contracting Command Europe (USACCE) will host a Vendor Conference on 21 and 22 July at the Sheraton Hotel Tbilisi. The conference is scheduled to last from 11:00 to 18:00 each day. Companies need only participate on one of the two days. Identical briefings will be provided on each day. The purpose of the conference is to inform local companies on the process and requirements for those who wish to participate in future contracting opportunities with the US Army.

Pre-registration is required in order to insure adequate seating. Seating is limited to 100 spaces. Please insure you identify how many seats you require. Please limit seating to two persons per company.

Registration is required no later than Friday, 18 July 2008. Please identify which day

you would like to participate. There is no fee to participate in the conference. An Interpreter will be available to translate from English into Georgian. Lunch and refreshments will not be provided.

To register, please e-mail james.conatser@us.army.mil or william.cundy@us.army.mil

>Tbilisi Business Journal Networking Event & Happy Hour- July 31st

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TENDERS / RFPs / TRAINING

To Post: send it to us at info@TbilisiBusinessJournal.com

Half Month Ad: \$150 Full Month: \$250

> RFQ: Preparation of TV & Radio Ads - OSCE Mission

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mission to Georgia
Request For Quotation (RFQ) No. 2606-2008: The OSCE Mission to Georgia invites you to submit your quotation for the preparation of TV (50 second video clips) and radio advertisements (40 second radio advertisement) in three languages (English, Georgian and Russian) for OSCE-led donor-funded Economic Rehabilitation Programme in the Zone of Georgian-Ossetian Conflict. To be considered, request an RFQ bid package by contacting us at Tender-GE@osce.org

JOBS

To Post: send us your job openings to info@TbilisiBusinessJournal.com

Half Month Ad: \$35 Full Month: \$50

> Assistant Editor - Tbilisi Business Journal

Looking for experienced journalist to join the TBJ team. The candidate's main responsibility will be writing and editing the Journal covering the business markets of Georgia, designed to be a concise summary of business, technological and regulatory developments that affect markets here and abroad. The candidate also will be actively involved in several other communications-related functions: contributing articles to a bimonthly magazine, assisting the editor in soliciting and editing articles for the magazine; and developing content for the web site.

The job requires the ability to write clearly, concisely and accurately about business news in both English and Georgian. The job also requires proficiency in copy-editing, proof-reading and fact-checking. 1-2 years experience writing about business markets is a plus but not essential. Send CV and current salary to info@tbilisibusinessjournal.com

> Director/General Manager - Realty.ge

Leading real estate brokerage company Realty.ge is seeking a qualified candidate for the full-time position of Director/CEO/GM. Candidate has to understand that

Realty.ge shareholder's target is to have company with the following slogan for its customers - "one stop shop for your real estate needs".

This is the sales job. If you are a highly motivated, results and sales oriented, passionate and driven professional, you should apply for this position. Only individuals who are able to multitask and manage through competing priorities will be considered to work for one of the best real estate brokerage companies operating in Georgia today.

Requirements: Education: MBA or BBA degree from recognized graduate business schools; At least 4-7 years work experience in the field of sales and marketing; work experience in finance, or as investment/corporate banker is welcome. Email your CV (including a photo) with the position indicated in subject line to mamuka@green.ge

> Need to hire? Reach thousands of Georgian professionals who rely on the TBJ everyday.

David Matthews
Editor, Tbilisi Business Journal

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