

Conference on Gender in Urban Governance and Transport

24–25 April 2018 • Tbilisi, Georgia

Speakers' Profiles

■ Session Chairs and Moderators

Nana ADEISHVILI, *National Conference Manager (Consultant), Future Cities, Future Women Initiative, Asian Development Bank (ADB)*



Ms. Adeishvili is a specialist with 20 years of experience working in 12 countries transitional and less developed economies with the World Bank and other international development organizations (ADB, EU, UNDP, DFID, USAID, GIZ) in the field of private sector development with an emphasis on enterprise restructuring, value chain, and competitiveness analyses, and with experience as a corporate executive. During the past yearss, she has expanded her focus as ADB national urban planner coordinating projects of the Future Cities, Future

Women Initiative in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Previously, she served as CEO of Georgia's incumbent telecommunications operator, United Telecom of Georgia, where she completed a successful restructuring and prepared the company for privatization. For seven years, she managed the US\$17 million Enterprise Rehabilitation Project, where the turnaround and business development of than 100 companies were achieved, the training programs in business education for company executives were developed and delivered to 400 managers.

She holds Executive MBA from Bled School of Management, Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, NY in Economic Policy Management and Ph.D. in economics from Moscow State University.

Arad BENKÖ, *Ambassador, Embassy of Austria in Georgia*



Mr. Benkö is the first resident Austrian Ambassador to Georgia.

Prior to taking on this post in 2016, he has served in various diplomatic positions under the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1998. He was the Attaché at the Embassy in Bonn in 1999; political advisor to the UN Special Representative in Pristina with UNMIK in 2000–2001; Deputy Chief of Mission in Bucharest in 2002–2005; Political and Security Committee at the Representation in Brussels in 2005–2006; Director of the Cultural Forum in Tel Aviv and Spokesman of the Embassy in 2006–2009; and Head of the EU Coordination Unit in Vienna in 2009–2015; and Austrian Ambassador to Latvia in 2015–2016.

Gillian BROWN, Principal Gender and Urban Planning Specialist (Consultant), and Team Leader for the Future Cities, Future Women Initiative, ADB



Ms. Brown is an independent consultant with 27 years of experience working on gender and social development issues. She is currently the lead consultant of ADB's *Future Cities, Future Women* project in Georgia, Indonesia, and Myanmar. She also provides technical advice on gender equality and women's empowerment to a number of programs funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Ms. Brown was Principal Adviser on Gender Equality at Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) between 2010 and 2012. She joined AusAID after 12 years at the World Bank, where she was the senior social development specialist for the East Asia and Pacific Regional Department, and managed projects and a broad range of analytical work on gender and social development.

Ms. Brown holds graduate and post-graduate degrees from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the UK.

Elene KHUNDADZE, Head of Transport Policy and Planning Division, Transport Department, Tbilisi City Hall



Ms. Khundadze has been working at Tbilisi City Hall since autumn 2015. Her professional experience covers a wide range, including urban activism and teaching. She studied Urban Planning at Saxion University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands and Urban Development Planning MsC from University College London. Ms. Khundadze's fields of interest are urban development, ensuring right to the city, and equal access to opportunities for all population groups. Transport plays an important role, in that sense, as it either provides accessibility or serves as a barrier for certain groups to access urban opportunities, such as employment and education. In a car-oriented city where mobility demands good access to finances and time, low-income women are particularly vulnerable. Hence, it is of high importance to take into account different travel needs and patterns of various groups of people.

Rusudan MIRZIKASHVILI, Head, Urban Development Department, Tbilisi City Hall



Ms. Mirzikashvili, born in 1980, studied Architecture at Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts, followed with post-graduate degrees in Conservation of Monuments and Sites at the University of Leuven (Belgium) and in Management of World Heritage Sites at the University College Dublin (Ireland). She started her career in the field of heritage at the Monuments Preservation Department of Georgia in 2002, with the focus on urban heritage and conservation areas. In 2009–2017, she led the UNESCO and International Relations Division of the National

Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia and the Cultural Heritage Department of the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia. She worked closely with the Council of Europe through different regional projects focusing local urban development. She has been the focal point for several UNESCO and Council of Europe conventions and member of different professional international organizations, actively collaborating with the nongovernmental sector. Since 2018, she leads the newly established Urban Development Departments of Tbilisi City Hall.

Massimo PETRONE, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Georgia Resident Mission, ADB



Mr. Petrone is a Senior Urban Development Specialist at ADB, focal person for the urban sector, and team leader for the water supply and sanitation programs in ADB Georgia Resident Mission.

He is an engineer with more than 15 years of experience in urban management, water supply and waste management, urban infrastructure planning, design, and implementation.

Sonomi TANAKA, Chief of Gender Equity Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB



Ms. Tanaka is responsible for overseeing and providing advice on ADB-wide operations in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. As Chief of the Gender Equity Thematic Group, she facilitates knowledge management on gender and development in ADB and coordinates gender mainstreaming initiatives across different departments and through different sector and thematic groups.

She has worked on gender and development, poverty reduction, social analysis, social protection, and community participation issues in Asia and the Pacific for nearly 20 years. She has covered several sectors including education, finance, health, infrastructure, natural resources management, public sector management, and urban development. Prior to working with ADB, she worked in the World Bank's South Asia Department and in development institutions in Japan.

She holds a Master of Arts on Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University and a post-graduate diploma on development studies from the Institute of Developing Economies Advanced School in Japan. She has a bachelor's degree on International Relations from the University of Tokyo.

■ Panelists

Irma AREVADZE, Financial Director, Tbilisi Transport Company Ltd.



Mrs. Arevadze is the Financial Director of Tbilisi Transport Company Ltd., where she is actively involved in the implementation of the Equal Opportunities Project.

She has 21 years of experience working in the field of finance. She has implemented various projects in this area. During this period, she has been in various leadership roles. Since 2003, she has been a Deputy Head of the Settlement Department under the State Treasury Service, where she has been recording, processing, and analyzing Georgia's funds, and analyzing and implementing financial transactions of tax and customs duties. Under her leadership, reforms on budget, accounting and settlement in the national treasury have been carried out. From 2007–2008, she has been working in the Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation as Head of the Financial Department. From 2008–2017, she continued her work as Head of the Financial Department of the Georgian Gas Transportation Company, where she oversees purchases, logistics, financial management, transportation, and property management. Her experience also includes government purchases, warehouse management, control of costs related to transport vehicles and control of accounting records. During 2017, she has been a Head of the Office of the Special Manager of KazTransGaz Tbilisi.

She studied Mechanical Engineering and General Management at the Georgian Technical University, Financial Management at the Public Administration College of "TACIS," Finances and Credits, and Banking at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

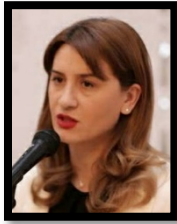
Maia BITADZE, Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi, Tbilisi City Hall



Ms. Bitadze holds the position of the Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi since 2017. She is the author of more than 12 scientific articles on International Environmental Law and Human Rights Law. She graduated from Tbilisi State University International Law School in 1999 with Honors, and was awarded with a Doctorate Degree in Law in 2007, after defending her thesis in the field of Environmental Human Rights Law.

She is an Associate Professor on Environmental Law at Tbilisi State University and the Caucasus School of Law. She is also an invited lecturer at the Georgian University and Grigol Robakidze. She has worked as a legal expert for various international organizations, such as UNDP, OSCE and FAO, focusing on environmental issues. She also holds various positions in governmental institutions of Georgia, under the Parliamentary Committee of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia. In 2011–2014, she served as the Head of the Legal Department of the Ministry. She held the position of Deputy Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia from 2014 until the end of 2017. She is the Chair of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, and the Chair of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.

Nino BURDZENIDZE, Gender Advisor to Tbilisi Mayor, Tbilisi City Hall



Ms. Burdzenidze works as an Advisor to the Mayor for Gender Equity Issues at Tbilisi City Hall, where she develops gender strategies, studies gender issues, and implements projects. She has worked at nongovernment organizations where she has contributed to the development of democracy support projects around Tbilisi and other regions. She has also participated in observation missions in Ukraine and Moldova.

Prior to this, she served as a mayor at the Tbilisi Management Gallery Agency. She has implemented many important projects, including Children's Pre-school and Inclusive Education Project.

She holds teacher qualification in the humanity science from Ilia State University and Master's degree in Public Administration from Georgian Institute of Public Affairs.

Ketevan CHKHEIDZE, Gender Specialist (Consultant), Georgia Resident Mission, ADB

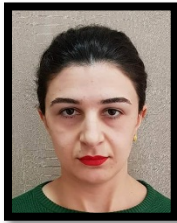


Ms. Chkheidze is a gender specialist/consultant for ADB. Based in Georgia, Ketevan is implementing ADB Regional Technical Assistance Program 'Strengthening Gender-Inclusive Growth in Central and West Asia' in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, under which she assists in the preparation of gender-sensitive project designs and pilot projects, supports project teams, provides capacity building for project implementation, and keeps abreast of country-level and sub-regional studies and issues.

She has worked on gender and development for more than 10 years. Prior to working with ADB, she worked with international development agencies and civil society organizations on gender equality and women's rights issues. She has deep understanding of sub-regional level gender issues and has covered a number of sectors including infrastructure, urban development, water supply and sanitation, finance, gender equality policy, community development, and civil society cooperation. She also has research experience and teaching practice in gender studies and women's rights and is author of a few articles on gender.

She holds an international PhD degree in Gender Studies from Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia) and Master's degree in Gender Studies from the Central European University (Budapest, Hungary).

Madona DALAKISHVILI, *Bus Driver, Tbilisi Transport Company Ltd.*



Ms. Dalakishvili is a sports correspondent by education and profession.

She has been working as a bus driver at the Tbilisi Transport Company Ltd. since December of 2017. She is one of two women operators of municipal buses in Tbilisi.

She has previously worked at the Liberty Bank as a cashier-operator, and as an interviewer in a marketing research company.

Marika DARCHIA, *Vice Chair, Tbilisi City Assembly*



Ms. Darchia has served in the capacity of Vice Chair of the Tbilisi City Assembly since 2017. She also chairs the Assembly's Gender Equality Council and is a member of the Assembly's Education and Culture Commission, and Symbols and Naming Commission.

Since 1995, she has been teaching public relations at different universities and is author of two books and articles. She has more than 20 years of experience of working in academia and an author of 2 books. With her initiative, the first public relations center was established in Tbilisi in 1995, with the first undergraduate university program. For 10 years, she was a Creative Director of "Media Palitra Ltd.," where she initiated numerous important projects, such as "50 books to read while you are alive." She was a founder of a women's magazine and an author of a radio program "Only for Women."

She holds a Ph.D. in the field of public relations. She is also a member of a number of PR associations, holds a "Golden Wing" award, and has founded a PR club. She is one of the first activists of the Georgian environmental movement.

Yesim ELHAN-KAYALAR, *Country Director, Georgia Resident Mission, ADB*



Ms. Elhan-Kayalar has over 29 years of work experience in development agencies, private sector, and academia in 27 countries. She has worked at regional, national and local levels to create long-term development solutions with private sector and beneficiary participation in energy, public management, transport, and water sectors. As Country Director, she leads ADB's development strategy formulation in Georgia and oversees country program implementation. Prior to her current post, Ms. Elhan-Kayalar led the public management and governance portfolio of ADB in 10 central and west Asia countries. She developed policy, provided operational support, and knowledge solutions for ADB operations on public management and public-private partnerships across Asia and the Pacific.

She has a PhD in economics from University of California; degrees, qualifications in finance and management from Harvard University and University of Michigan, among others. She has published and taught in the fields of economics, finance, and led research on behavioral finance and competitiveness policy.

Zhala HAJIYEVA, *Executive Director, Azerbaijan Microfinance Association*



Ms. Hajiyeva is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of microfinance institutions. She is an experienced executive leader with more than 15 years of expertise in project management, microfinance, access to finance, and financial sector development. She has been engaged in promoting diversification of financial products, leading country- and regional-level microfinance networks, and introducing policy-level innovations in the financial industry. She has nearly 10 years of expertise in the field of association management and development.

Her contribution towards sustainable development of the country-level network was recognized by several awards issued by the Small Enterprise Education and Promotion (SEEP) Network, USAID–Iraq, IFC, and EBRD.

In April 2017, she was awarded with a Medal of Progress by the President of Azerbaijan Republic for her contribution towards economic development and expanding entrepreneurship in the country.

She served at the Board of Directors of the Microfinance Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and New Independent States from May 2008 to May 2014, on the last five years of which she served as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors. In November 2009–November 2015, she served at the Board of Directors of the SEEP Network. In 2012, she served as a member of the SEEP’s Association’s Development Advisory Council. In 2013, she served as a Board member and Chair of the Women Entrepreneurship Development Commission, and a member of the Financial Institutions Commission within the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers’ Organizations) of Azerbaijan (ASK). In October 2017, she became Deputy Chair of Azerbaijan Women Entrepreneurs Association (AWEA).

Margarita HAKOBJANYAN, *Advisor for Women Entrepreneurship and Results Monitoring, Support to SME Development in Armenia (EU-SMEDA) project, Private Sector Development in South Caucasus Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*



Ms. Hakobjanyan has more than 20 years of extensive professional experience, with 15 years in senior management positions within the NGO sector, working with various international relief and development organizations, as well as within Armenia’s private sector. She has in-depth knowledge of strategic economic sectors of the country and has acted as a liaison between public, private, and international institutions.

In 2010, she established her own consulting company, Modus Consulting LLC, which provides business advisory and coaching services to Armenian SMEs. She has implemented several projects for women-led businesses in the frame of EBRD Advice for Small Businesses Program. In 2011, she took part in the Invest for the Future Conference in Istanbul, initiated by the US Department of State. Participation in this conference resulted in the establishment of Women in Business: Invest for the Future Association, initiated by majority of Armenian attendees of the conference. The aim of the Association is to support linkages among women entrepreneurs and empower women in advancing their business. She also participated in the Women's Mentoring programs by the US Embassy in Yerevan. In 2016, she started to work in GIZ Armenia as Project Expert for the Economic Integration of Syrian Refugees in Armenia project, and since April 2018, she has joined EU-SMEDA team as Advisor for Women Entrepreneurship, which is a cross-cutting activity for the project components.

She holds MS in Industrial Engineering from the American University of Armenia.

Nasreen HAQUE, Vice President, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology



Ms. Haque possesses 41 years of experience as a senior civil servant retiring as grade-22 Federal Secretary. Her last assignment was Secretary to the President of Pakistan prior to which, she was Chairperson of Karachi Port Trust. Prior to this, she headed Pakistan Railways as its Chief Operating Superintendent and Chief Commercial Manager. She has held positions of Managing Director for Karachi Urban Transport Corporation; Director General for the Export Promotion Bureau; and Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Port Qasim

Authority.

Mrs. Haque is founding member and Chairperson of Civil Services Academy Alumni Sindh. She is Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, UK; and holds the position of Chairperson of Women in Logistics and Transport. She was elected as member of executive committee of International Association of Ports & Harbors in Tokyo, Japan, to represent Asia-Oceania region.

Mrs. Haque holds a Master's degree in Defense and Strategic Studies and a Bachelor's degree in Law. She has done her post-graduate study in Transport Studies. Besides numerous trainings at prestigious national institutes, she was trained at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Canadian Pacific Railways and British Railways.

Eva KAIL, Gender Planning Expert, Executive Group for Construction and Technology Competence Centre, City of Vienna



Ms. Kail is one of the leading experts for gender planning in Europe.

She has worked for the City of Vienna since 1986. She was the first Head of the Women's Office (1991–1998). She built up and run the Co-Ordination Office for Planning and Construction Geared to the Requirements of Daily Life and the Specific Needs of Women (1998–2009). Since 2010, she has worked as the Gender Planning Expert in the Executive Group for Construction and Technology Competence Centre, Overall Urban Planning, Smart City Strategy, Participation, Gender Planning. She has coordinated about 60 pilot projects in the fields of housing, mobility, public space, urban development and social infrastructure. She studied Urban and Regional Planning at the Technical University of Vienna.

Nato KURSHITASHVILI, Gender Specialist, Transport and Digital Development Global Practice, World Bank



Ms. Kurshitashvili is a Gender Specialist with the Transport and Digital Development Global Practice at the World Bank. Previously, she worked as a Principal Gender Adviser at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), responsible for the development and implementation of projects to mainstream gender into EBRD's operations. She has strengths in the infrastructure sector projects where she has successfully implemented a broad range of gender initiatives across various regions with a focus on Europe and Central Asia. Some of her transport sector projects include Equal Opportunities initiatives with Tbilisi Transport, Kosovo Railway and Osh Bus companies, which aim to increase number of women employed in the companies at all levels. Prior to EBRD, she had been part of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe working in a multi-country project to support national statistical offices to improve collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data.

She holds an MSc in Social Policy and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and MA in Public Policy from the Central European University.

Ermira LUBANI, *Gender-Responsive Budgeting Technical Advisor and Regional Project Manager, Promoting Gender-Responsive Policies in Southeast Europe and the Republic of Moldova, UN Women*



Mrs. Lubani has 15 years of professional experience in international development working with UN Women, SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Regional Environmental Centre, and other international organizations. Her fields of specialization are human rights, gender-responsive policy making and budgeting, gender mainstreaming, and community development. She is author of different publications and training manuals and has supported the development of numerous policy analyses and research in the field of gender for governments, academia, and non-government actors. She participated in several international conferences when she presented the work on gender-responsive budgeting and the results achieved in Southeast Europe.

Mrs. Lubani holds Master of Science (MSc) from the Faculty of Philology at the University of Tirana, and a post-graduate degree in International Project Management from Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, Toronto, Canada.

Frances MCANDREW, *Lead for Diversity and Inclusion, Transport for London*



Ms. McAndrew is currently the Lead for Diversity and Inclusion at Transport for London responsible for a wide portfolio of work supporting the capital's transport provider to harness the benefits of diversity for its people, passengers and partners. Formerly, she was the Strategic Lead for Diversity, Inclusion and Social Integration for the Mayor of London. Within that role, she delivered a new long-term strategy to build a capital where everyone can reap the rewards of their city's growth with strong, thriving and connected communities.

In her previous role, she led on managing a business-wide diversity and inclusion program within Network Rail. The program was delivered through a network of local champions and project managers, sponsored by a member of the executive team. The program delivered the culture, behavior, policy and system change needed to help the organization become more open, diverse and inclusive for employees and customers.

Previous experience includes leading a two-year project to design and deliver the strategy and change processes needed to mainstream diversity and inclusion within Amnesty International. As part of her Executive MBA at Ashridge Business School, she was a key player in a prize-winning team who delivered a new marketing strategy for a peer-to-peer microfinance scheme in Beijing. As a consultant, Frances has provided management advice to a range of organizations across the private, public and third sector including project managing the drafting of large sections of the non-statutory guidance for the Equality Act.

Ramola NAIK SINGRU, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Central and West Asia Department, ADB



Ms. Singru has more than 19 years of international experience and leads the technical assistance for Livable Urban Areas in Georgia. She also leads urban sector operations with a focus on integrated urban development for climate-resilient urban infrastructure and services. She is the country focal for urban sector operations in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, and is the alternate urban sector cluster leader for the cluster that includes both countries along with Azerbaijan and Georgia. She is also the urban sector focal for the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation and the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor. She formulated ADB's framework for undertaking national urban assessments and developed toolkits for enabling inclusive cities under ADB's Urban Operational Plan 2012–2020. She worked on several projects, notably the GrEEEn Cities initiative in Southeast Asia. She has authored several publications including Green Solutions for Livable Cities (ADB, 2016) and the Georgia national assessment.

Prior to joining ADB, she has worked in academe, private sector and as a consultant to UN Habitat and the Cities Development Initiative for Asia. She holds a Master's degree in City Design and Social Science from the London School of Economics, and Political Science in the United Kingdom, and a Bachelor's (Hons.) degree in Architecture from Sir. J. J. College of Architecture, University of Mumbai in India.

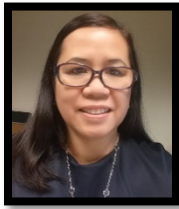
Marianna PETROSYAN, Deputy Executive Director, SME Development National Center of Armenia



Ms. Petrosyan is currently the Deputy Executive Director of the SME Development National Center of Armenia in charge of analytics. She is also engaged in project management within SME DNC's international cooperation unit. Prior to this assignment, she oversaw a UNIDO project aiming at youth entrepreneurship development in Armenia.

She has 12 years of experience in investment finance, particularly financial risk management of fixed-income portfolios. Ms. Petrosyan hold a Master's degree in Economic Modelling from Yerevan State University, and MBA from Kogod School of Business, Washington DC.

Mary Alice ROSERO, Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), Central and West Asia Department, ADB



Before becoming an ADB staff, Ms. Rosero was the Gender and Social Development consultant tasked with mainstreaming gender in ADB-funded projects in Pakistan, Tajikistan, Armenia, and the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as in the developing member countries of the South Asia Department. In a career spanning more than two decades, she has been mainstreaming gender in different development contexts—government, academe, and NGO.

Prior to joining ADB, she headed the policy division of the Philippine Commission on Women, which facilitated the passage of laws against gender-based violence (such as the anti-trafficking and anti-violence against women laws) as well as the comprehensive *Magna Carta of Women*. She also did a gender audit of UNDP programs in the country. In the academe, she led the establishment of the gender mainstreaming program in the Philippines' second biggest state university. Her NGO work consisted of doing research and producing advocacy materials on the situation of workers in various sectors, including contractual labor.

She has a Master of Arts degree on Women and Development (“With Recognition”) from the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands, and a Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from the University of the Philippines.

Sonal SHAH, Senior Programme Manager, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy



Ms. Shah leads urban planning, gender and transport strategy, research, projects and policy at ITDP India. She has 13+ years' experience across multiple scales on city development, neighborhood plans, transit-oriented development and station accessibility planning, street design, historic precinct conservation, urban redevelopment, housing policy research, and gender aspects of these thematic areas.

Some of her projects include contributing towards India’s national street design guidelines called the Indian Roads Congress Guidelines; Gender Assessment of Public Transport in Delhi; Women’s Safety in Public Transport in Bhopal; Transit-Oriented Development Policy for Jharkhand state; Transit-Oriented Development in Naya Raipur; Improving Safe Access and Pedestrian Environments in Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Marol (Mumbai); and Recreation and Tourism Development Plan for Manori-Gorai-Uttan Notified Area (Mumbai).

She wears dual hats as a practitioner and educator. She has conducted capacity building sessions with over 150+ students, professionals and government officials. She has taught at Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Anant National University, Kamla Raheja Vidyaniidhi Institute for Architecture, Academy of Architecture and the JJ School of Architecture.

Ms. Shah completed a Bachelor of Architecture from Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture, Mumbai University, and Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University. She was featured in the Alumni Spotlight in Fall 2013-2014.

Lika TAVARTKILADZE, Head, Non-Credit and Non-Financial Service Development and Project Coordinator, Women in Business Project, Bank of Georgia



“The SME segment is growing and women entrepreneurs are making contribution to the global economy. In just 2012, approximately 126 million women were running new businesses worldwide and created new jobs not only for themselves, but for other people as well. I believe Georgia has great potential to have successful women entrepreneurs but, unfortunately, in our country, we have extremely low ratio of women’s engagement in businesses. That’s why Bank of Georgia decided to launch the special program for women entrepreneurs. The main idea of Women in Business project is to encourage women entrepreneurs to become more involved in business and to somehow support them to become successful entrepreneurs.” – Lika Tavartkiladze

Ms. Tavartkiladze has been working at the Bank of Georgia, since 2016, as the Head of Non-Credit and Non-Financial Service Development, in Retail Business Banking Department. In parallel, she is the coordinator for the Women in Business project. She has 20 years of working experience in different fields, including banking, communication technologies, TV and other fields.

Maya TSKITISHVILI, Minister, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Government of Georgia



Mrs. Tskitishvili held the position of the Head of Administration of the Government of Georgia, since November 2012. Prior to moving into the public sector, she held managing positions within Kartu Management Ltd. and JSC Parcount. She has extensive experience working in managerial positions within both the aviation and construction sectors. She has held the position of Project Manager at JSC Bagebi City Group, Deputy Head of Logistics Department at Burji Ltd., and Head of Logistics Department, also at Burji Ltd., at different stages of her career. During the earlier stages of her career she also gained experience working within the aviation sector. In particular, she worked as a Senior Manager at Georgian Air, as well as Assistant to Commercial Director and Head of Contracts Department at Georgian Airways.

She graduated from the Faculty of International Economic Relations at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. She continued her studies at the University of Economics in Prague, Faculty of International Trade and completed post-graduate studies at the Caucasus Business School.

In addition to being fluent in English and Russian, she completed a course in Czech language at the Charles University, Prague.