



Press Release

23 February 2009

FREE UNIVERSITY



Project Management College

Supporting Georgian Economy through Capacity Building in Project Management

StatoilHydro



BP, on behalf of its Oil and Gas Co-venturers, initiated and is funding the establishment of the Project Management College (PMC) in Georgia, in partnership with the Free University.

INPEX



“BP has operated in Georgia since 1996 and has spent hundreds of millions of dollars with local Georgian companies. Effective project management – the skills, knowledge and ability to execute work efforts on time, within budget repeatedly – is a fundamental requirement for any successful business and partnership. Having recognised the long term business benefits that could be gained by developing a larger pool of local, talented project managers we wanted to take practical action and do something about it”, said Neil Dunn, BP Georgia General Manager at the Project Management College launch event, held on 23rd of February.

ExxonMobil



Through this initiative, both private and public sectors in Georgia will have access to an integrated, comprehensive program, focusing on the simultaneous goals of improving immediate project management performance and establishing long term project management capability in the country. To ensure high quality training, BP has contracted the world’s leading project management training and solutions company, ESI International.



The Minister of Economic Development, Lasha Zhvania, expressed his support to the programme: “ We look forward to seeing the Program achieve its full potential, creating a larger network of certified Project Managers in Georgia, and making substantial impact on business profitability and country’s economy, ensuring successful delivery of infrastructure projects, and improving the overall investment climate in Georgia.”



“Free University has always strived to provide opportunities life-long learning and continuous professional development to people willing to gain new knowledge and skills no matter what occupation they come from or what stage of their lives they are at. We are proud to partner with BP in building up a strong cohort of Georgian project managers and thus contribute to the development of country’s private and public sectors” stated Simon Kadagidze, Rector of the Free University.



The Project Management Programme consists of seven modules: Managing Projects, Project Leadership, Management and Communication, Risk Management, Scheduling and Cost Control, Quality for Project Managers, Project Management Applications, and Project Management Professional (PMP) Exam Preparation.



The PMC curriculum leads to two globally recognised certifications: the “Masters Certificate in Project Management”, awarded by the George Washington University (GWU), and the “PM Professional” certificate, awarded by the Project Management Institute (PMI).

NICO



Initially the language of the course will be English. The aim of the project is also to increase capacity of the local training institution, and in 2-3 years time local professionals will be trained by ESI International to carry out future class deliveries in Georgian language.

ConocoPhillips

Notes to Editors

BP

BP in Georgia operates three major pipelines: the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline (BTC), the Western Route Export oil pipeline (WREP) and the South Caucasus Gas pipeline (SCP). BP also operates an aviation fuel business – Air BP – at Tbilisi's International Airport.

Social investment projects in Georgia funded by BP and its Oil and Gas Co-venturers in the field of local enterprise development include Georgia Business Enabling Environment Project and Georgia Corporate Governance Project in partnership with IFC (International Finance Corporation) and CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) Agro-business Development Project in Samtkhe-Javakheti Region, establishment of EU-Georgia Business Council to promote Georgia within the European Union Member States as a place to invest and do business, etc. We also continue to support local enterprises across the regions through our Community Investment Program. For more information about BP and its programs please visit www.bpgeorgia.ge

Free University

Free University was established in 2007. Today, Free University comprises three schools –Business School (ESM), Institute of Asia and Africa, and Law School, delivering academic programs at undergraduate, graduate and doctorate levels.

In addition, Free University conducts a wide array of short-term courses, runs several research centers and summer school programs. About 600 students attend Free University, of which 492 are enrolled in undergraduate programs, 88 are graduate students and 6 pursue doctorate studies.

Free University has broad network of partners, among them professional organizations such as Chartwell Education Group, Microsoft IT Academy, AIESEC, The European Federation of Schools (FEDE), and universities worldwide - Mosbach University of Cooperative Education, Montana University, University of Kairo, Xian Jiaotong University, to name the few.

In 2009, Free University concluded the renovation of its new building, which has modern infrastructure and is equipped with modern technologies, thus providing for learning-conducive environment. www.freeuni.edu.ge

ESI International

ESI International is the recognized leader in innovative project management, contract management, business analysis, sourcing management training and business skills training. ESI provided the services to Fortune Global 500 companies worldwide and nearly every major agency of the U.S. government. Since 1981, ESI has helped more than 800,000 people from 100 countries achieve excellence in individual and organizational performance through effective project management. Over the course of our 25-year history, ESI International has formed partnerships with some of the most prominent and impressive organizations in project management field including The George Washington University (GWU) and Project Management Institute (PMI). www.esi-intl.com

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