



## **GEORGIAN-SWISS AND GERMAN-GEORGIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS SUM UP THEIR ACTIVITIES**

*Semi-Formal joined meeting between Georgian-Swiss and German-Georgian Business Associations was held at the German House on May 25, 2010 in Tbilisi. The meeting focused on developing economic partnership with Georgia.*

The event was attended by Swiss Ambassador Amberg, German Ambassador Hennig, members of German Business Association in Georgia and Georgian-Swiss Business Association.

The welcoming speech was delivered by Chairman of German Business Association in Georgia (DWVG) Claus Hipp, President of Georgian Swiss Business Association (GSBA) Mikhail Mikeladze, Ambassador Amberg and Ambassador Hennig.

Ambassador Amberg underlined increased role of business associations in economic development of Georgia and stressed that Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) from Switzerland in Georgia are increased and economic cooperation between our countries developing successfully. With support of GSBA cooperation in agriculture, tourism, energy sectors are becoming more sufficient.

“There are many reasons for changes, including the government’s stated policy to insure an open market for competitors, simplifying imports of high quality products and reducing market prices, as well as simplifying Tax Code,” Amberg said.

Ambassador Hennig focused on economic cooperation between Germany and Switzerland, and importance of attracting investors from Europe in Georgia. Currently, huge German companies Hipp GMBH, ProCredit Bank, HEIDELBERGCEMENT, Caparol Georgia and others are investing in Georgian economy.

Hipp referred to the backgrounds of the DWVG accentuating that the association was founded in 2007 and currently has 32 member companies from various Georgian and German industrial sectors. The DWVG aims to enhance trade and economic relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and Georgia and to represent German business interests locally.

Mikeladze shared five years of working experience with German business sector representatives. He underlined that GSBA is a service provider and supports Swiss businesses in Georgia, through promotional and networking activities.