

NEWSLETTER



INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



IDFI AT ADB 49TH ANNUAL MEETING IN FRANKFURT

Annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have become a premier forum for the discussion of economic and social development issues in Asia and the Pacific. The meetings provides excellent opportunity for member governments to interact with ADB staff, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), media, and representatives of observer countries, international organizations, academe and the private sector to discuss current issues and challenges that Asian region is facing, with the goal of identifying possible solutions.



PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL AND CONSULTATIVE GROUP DISCUSSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY RULES OF PROCEDURE

The meeting of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance and the Consultative Group was held on May 5. At the meeting amendments to the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure required for implementation of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan (2015-2016) were discussed. Members of the Parliamentary Council and Consultative Group as well as the representatives of the Parliament of Georgia, Non-Governmental and International Organizations attended the meeting.

TRANSPARENCY OF STATE AGENCIES - MONITORING RESULTS

The latest monitoring was conducted in May 1-15, 2016. This time, we monitored the websites of the Government Administration and 16mMinistries, and looked for public information from 2015 and the first quarter of 2016. The study examines the practice of proactive disclosure of mandatory public information and compares the results with those of the previous 2014 monitoring.



IDFI - GPSA GLOBAL PARTNERS FORUM

2016 Global Partners Forum held on May 19-24 (in Washington) covered almost 75 countries, as there were representatives from different local or international NGOs, governments, private sector or academics.

Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) was presented in the framework of Open Government Partnership by Saba Buadze. Buadze delivered his remarks and shared the experience of IDFI on the process of co-creation in the Open Government Partnership



IDFI - EVENT IN HONOR OF GEORGIAN OFFICERS EXECUTED BY RUSSIAN BOLSHEVIK

On May 20, IDFI in cooperation with Tbilisi City Hall, Ministry of Defense and the Archive of Ministry of Internal Affairs organized an event in honor of Georgian officers executed by Russian Bolsheviks in 1923. The event was opened with the Georgian anthem performed by the Defense Ministry's military orchestra. This was followed by a welcoming speech by IDFI director Giorgi Kldiashvili, who spoke about the contribution of the repressive officers to their homeland and their importance of both the past and the future of Georgia.

OVERPRICED TICKETS FOR TEACH AND LEARN WITH GEORGIA

IDFI has recently conducted an investigation into the National Center for Teacher Professional Development's procurement of flights for volunteers participating in its Teach and Learn with Georgia program. Our findings indicate that there were several irregularities in nine electronic tenders dating back to 2013 and totaling GEL 571,714. As a result, the government may have been significantly overcharged for these flight tickets.

THE PARLIAMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY DISCUSS MP CODE OF ETHICS

On May 20-21, the Georgian Parliament's Permanent Council on Open and Transparent Governance and its Civil Society Consultative Group held a meeting discussing the MP Code of Ethics. Improving the Code of Ethics is one of the commitments (4.4.) in the Open Parliament Georgia 2015-2016 Action Plan.



STATE AWARDS ISSUED BY GEORGIAN PRESIDENTS IN 2003-2015

IDFI requested public information from the President's Administration on state awards and found that the Georgian Presidents had issued 11,595 awards in 2003-2015, including 5,525 Orders of Honor, 2,541 - Medals of Honor, and 1,160 Medals of Military Courage. The largest number of awards was issued in the final years of Mikheil Saakashvili's presidency, 2,681 in 2012 and 1,926 in 2013.



THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR PUBLIC REVIEW IN AKHALTSIKHE

Public discussion of Georgia's 2016-2017 Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan was held in Akhaltsikhe. The event was organized by the Center for Civic Engagement and the Analytical Department of the Ministry of Justice.

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CASE SUMMARY - IDFI VS MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

On the following link please find the summary of the case IDFI vs MIA. The article reviews decisions of Tbilisi City Court, Tbilisi Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Georgia. All three instances of court held MIA responsible for disclosing information on salary supplements and bonuses received by high-ranking officials.

Other:

[IDFI - CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT ON GEORGIA'S INDEPENDENCE](#)

[THE COALITION CALLS FOR ACTION AGAINST VIOLATION OF JOURNALIST RIGHTS](#)

[INVESTIGATION OF KORTSKHELI INCIDENT IS INEFFECTIVE](#)

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