

Dimitri SHASHKINI

Minister of Education and Science of Georgia

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests, it gives me a great pleasure to welcome you at the opening of the International Conference “Globalization and Security in Black and Caspian Sea Regions”. Topic of the conference is of special interest to us as reforms implemented in our country, including reforms undertaken in education system are first of all aimed to respond to the demands of the modern world and processes like globalization constituting essential part of its development.

Georgia has strong commitment towards integration into international community that is confirmed through legislative, institutional and conceptual changes. Policies aimed at establishment of international institutions on one hand and promotion of universal values on another are widely implemented in different areas of our country's political, cultural and social life.

Wide package of reforms have been introduced in education system of Georgia aimed at aligning it with International standards has become one of the major focus of the reforms. The new curriculum, teaching and learning methodologies, student assessment, teaching and learning materials, quality enhancement procedures and mechanisms for its further improvement, approaches to professional development of teachers, unified national exams, as fair and competitive procedure for admitting students at higher education institutions have signified orientation of making our education system more open to the globalized world. Simultaneously, changes in management and organization of the education system, policies aimed at increasing mobility of academic staff and students have been implemented to ensure international openness of education system of Georgia.

These changes have been implemented in unison with reforms aimed at aligning Georgian education system with European and international standards. Georgia became member of Bologna Process in 2005 when European Integration of education system entered the crucial stage. Up to now Georgia has made significant progress toward its integration in European Higher Education Area: Law on Higher Education was adopted in 2004 and three cycle-system was introduced entitling students to move freely within national and international system, Georgia has ratified Lisbon Convention on Recognition granting right for full recognition of the knowledge and qualification acquired, National Qualification Framework compatible with European Qualification framework was elaborated providing opportunity for studies with lifelong perspective. Moreover, special programs for various social groups are implemented by the ministry to ensure more access and inclusion in higher education.

Since 2010 Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia has been implementing the project “Teach and Learn with Georgia”. The main goal of the project “Teach and Learn with Georgia” is to recruit 1,000 native English speakers who will be willing to help Georgian schoolchildren learn the English language in public schools across Georgia. As we strive towards globalization and acknowledge the advantages of new technology, we still consider that human interaction and people-to-people communication are irreplaceable and have far more tangible or intangible benefits than any other means of communication. This is why “Teach and Learn with Georgia” is so important for a small country like Georgia that has exceptional customs and traditions and is willing to share them with the rest of the world.



Ensuring safety at schools has become one of the main priorities of ongoing reform aimed at establishment international standards in general education. Introduction of the institute of school resource officers is one of the components of a Safe School Program. Responsibilities of a resource officer include prevention of conflicts and crime at school and providing relevant assistance to schoolchildren. Resource officer does not punish schoolchildren; instead, they are obliged to provide safety of schoolchildren at school. Responsibilities of a resource officer also include observing the internal rule of school.

In 2010, the Program of Resource officers was piloted at seven public schools in Tbilisi. Piloting of this program at schools and as a result significantly reducing school violence has convinced the population and the Ministry in the necessity of further expanding this program.

Internalization of higher education is the cornerstone of the education policy. The main directions are increasing number of academic programs in English attracting more students from abroad, establishing direct contacts between Georgian and foreign universities, expanding cooperation, implementing joint programs, implementing students exchange programs. Since 2005 Government of Georgia has been implementing program aimed at funding Georgian students at master's level at leading world universities.

In order to respond to the current challenges facing the world in terms modern technology development Georgia has launched new project aimed at establishment of university of international standards in Batumi – one of the most beautiful regions of Georgia. Batumi Technological University (BTU) will be a higher educational institution of a new type, oriented on teaching science and technology. It is an upscale university with advanced background and readiness to solve rapidly changing, technology-oriented global problems of the society; to direct its main efforts towards innovations, inter-disciplinary research and education in the spheres of advanced technologies, science and teaching; to become a synergic partner for local and regional industry, Government, universities and all interested parties; to be one of the extremely creative, innovative universities both within the country and on regional level.

In conclusion I want to thank the hosts of the conference. We believe that events like this considerably contribute to the exchange of ideas and enhancement of relationship between Georgia and the globalized world community.