

# IEDC alumni Success Story



*A School with a View*

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Nino Chedia, DEMP 2005, Deputy CEO, JSC Hualing Insurance, Georgia

**NETWORKING, WITH ITS WEAK AND STRONG TIES IS THE SOURCE OF TRUST, RECIPROCITY, AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY, AS WELL THE SOURCE OF NEW IDEAS AND INFORMATION**

*Ms. Nino Chedia is an IEDC Alumna from Georgia. She completed one of the IEDC summer school program, the Discover Entrepreneurial Management Program, in 2005 and since then has been a great Ambassador of the IEDC and its programs. During her recent visit to Georgia Prof. Danica Purg met with Georgian alumni. The IEDC Alumni Club is steadily growing and now has 45 members, who completed various IEDC Programs. Among them there are 19 MBA graduates, 21 GMP participant and 5 people attended IEDC summer schools.*

*At the alumni meeting, Ms. Nino Chedia was elected a new President of the IEDC Alumni Club Georgia. Nino has a lot of ambitious plans for developing the alumni network in her country as well as to promote the whole alumni community. Here is what she shared about herself and her plans. Welcome on board, Nino!*

*by Iva Eibel, Head of Corporate Communications, the IEDC*

**At the recent alumni meeting of IEDC graduates in Georgia you have been elected a new President of the IEDC Alumni Club Georgia. Congratulations! What is your view on the importance of networking?**

It is my pleasure to be honored with the responsibility and trust from our alumni members. I believe that when people with different talents, knowledge, and interests connect with one another in a trusting environment, they create conditions that are important for creativity and innovation. A network mindset, the approach that connects leaders across boundaries of race, sector, and geography, can increase exposure significantly enough to encourage new thinking and behaviors on a



larger scale. We need not only to be connected on a local market but with other IEDC alumni members as well, to share experience, help each other and increase sense of belonging to one big family. Networking, with its weak and strong ties, is the source of trust, reciprocity, and a sense of community, as well as the source of new ideas and information. For me as a leader the "networking" is a strategy to deal with adaptive challenges we face in everyday business decisions.

### **What are your plans for the club?**

It is very important to increase engagement and a cross-border networking. To share experience and bring to Georgia new perspectives, experience. As well as export our knowledge and ideas. The IEDC is a place where world class educators instruct. Where diverse people come to. Leaders unite. So we plan to use this access and increase the intersection between. Also it is very important to invest in strong and weak ties that emerged from the school and it all needs nurturing.

### **You have completed the IEDC summer school, the Discover Entrepreneurial Management Program, the DEMP. How did you first hear about the IEDC? Did anyone recommend it to you?**

It was years back and I recall that day, the one that made a difference in my vision and life. I was invited by my University, the Caucasus School of Business, to attend the meeting with Professor Danica Purg. All BBA and MBA students were invited.

When Prof. Purg, inspirational woman leader, entered the room and gave a speech, I remember my thoughts were – I wish one

day to be alike. After her speech we had a conversation and she suddenly announced: »If you have your business card, give it to me and I will invite you to IEDC-Bled School of Management!«. Of course I had! And an email followed with an invitation and a scholarship. It was the beginning of a new era in my life. The school, the vision and professors created a new approach towards the management, self-development and leadership. The program is very competitive and intense, it gives the vision, teaches how to survive in a very competitive environment and of course it is a world class experience.

### **What was the best takeaway for you from your studies at the IEDC?**

A different vision about management and leadership. Importance of ethics. An understanding what is a diverse team. And of course - new friends, who I can always contact for support.

### **Can you share with us a bit of your career history? Where do you get inspiration to do what you do?**

In my very young years I started a career as a member of a young pupil's parliament. I had ambitious plans to become a politician and change the world. After a year I understood that I have to spend some time in a business sector. So I became a senior corporate manager in a commercial bank. My career developed, I moved to different leading banking positions, including Treasury, Compliance, Marketing and Product Development. For more than 14 years, I have been in a banking sector. Currently I moved to a daughter company of a bank for which I worked for the past 5 years, Hualing Insurance and my occupation is the Deputy of CEO.

### **Lately you have been appointed as a lecturer at two universities in Georgia. Why do you think education is important?**

I'm currently an Associate Professor at the Business and Technology University - Silicon Valley of Georgia. I agree with Mandela that »Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world«. We need continuous updates because the world is changing rapidly. That is why I teach my students that one needs to nurture the knowledge and experience because for a wider vision you need diverse perspectives, shared experience of the world.

### **Can you share something specific about your country?**

Let me say, I believe that today Georgia is one of the best economies worth to invest in.

Georgia is located in the Caucasus region and is a gateway between Europe and Asia. It borders the Black Sea from the west, Russia from the north, Turkey and Armenia from the south and Azerbaijan from the southeast.

The country's impressive progress in improving a business climate has been well documented in a number of international indices. Georgia is considered as a politically stable, corruption-free investment destination with low business costs.

## MEET NINO IN EVERYDAY LIFE

### **A personality that inspires me is ...**

... my Mom, a person who always believed I can do it and taught me to believe in myself and be passionate about the purpose.

### **I love spending holidays ...**

... with my family. They encourage me and are the source of all the energy to my leadership.

### **I achieve a life-work balance by ...**

... leading with LOVE. I love what I do for my family; I love what I do at work, and I try to develop myself every day and every other minute. I believe it's really important to have family and friends around, and colleagues at work, who you trust. They are the source of truth and keep reflecting back to you what's really going on.

### **My friends would describe me as ...**

... :) to answer the question I've asked my friends: »A Leader. A person who can initiate and lead the change, a person who invests in followers and is happy when WE all together are happy«.