

## **Mzia Mikeladze**

**(1961-2012)**



The history of Caucasus University and Caucasus School of Governance is closely linked with the name of Professor Mzia Mikeladze, one of the founders of the University and the first Dean of the School, a high-level professional and multi-faceted, innovative person.

Ms. Mzia Mikeladze graduated from the Faculty of Computational Techniques and Information Technologies of Georgian Polytechnic Institute in 1982; she pursued her education in Moscow at the Institute of Problems Management at the Academy of Sciences, where she was awarded PhD in IT. After graduating, she started working at Georgian Technical University in the field of Computing Techniques and Information Technologies. In the early 1990s, due to the ongoing changes in Georgia, her interests narrowed down to state governance. These changes prompted her to enroll at the Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) in 1995, after successful completion of which she was awarded Master of Governance.

Dr. Mikeladze's contribution to the establishment and development of Caucasus University is special. She was among the pre-selected Georgian specialists who in 1998 were sent on training courses to Mack Robinson Business School at Georgia State University (Atlanta, USA).

She and her colleagues established the up-to-date pedagogical and research approaches used in the newly founded Caucasus School of Business. Many students of Caucasus School of Business graduated with great honors and are successful business leaders in whose professional success great is the merit of Ms. Mikeladze.

Under the leadership of Ms. Mikeladze, CU conducted many innovations, among which establishment of Caucasus School of Governance is one of the most significant. It is important to note that the foundation of the high standards and worthy traditions in Georgian State Governance were laid by Ms. Mikeladze

Mzia Mikeladze was one of the few enthusiasts who shared their accumulated knowledge, experience and expertise in different fields with others to help their homeland establish connections with different institutions around the globe. She successfully used her professional career in more than one academic forums – knowledge from Sanaia (Romania), Belfast (Great Britain), European Central University (Budapest, Hungary), Mack Robinson Business School of Georgia State University (Atlanta, USA), Pennsylvania and George Mason University (USA). She was highly motivated and proceeded to make necessary public reforms in the public sector of Georgia, which was why she was actively involved in implementing a number of

international projects supported by the World Bank, USAID and other organizations.

Professor Mzia Mikeladze's scientific and academic activities were diverse. At various times, she worked at Georgian Technical University in the USSR Institute of Scientific Academic Problems, PACT - Public Administration Collage of TACIS; she was the founder and the Dean of the Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA), Program Director of an American Non-governmental organization –Urban Institute of Civil Education, Youth and Gender, one of the founders of the state management school in Kutaisi and the chairman of the Board of its Governors;

Ms. Mzia Mikeladze was a founder and the Administrative Director of the International School of Economics (ISET), set up at the initiative of the World Bank at Tbilisi State University. At the same time, she worked in the Center for Training and Consultancy (CTC) as a member of the Organizational Board.

Professor Mzia Mikeladze was the author of many scientific works published in Georgia and abroad, as well as a member of various professional unions. In 2001-2004 Mzia Mikeladze was a member of NISPAcee (Public Administration Network of the Central and Eastern European Institutes and Schools Public Administration Network), was re-elected as a member of the Committee in 2006 and 2009. She served two terms as NISPAcee president, indicating her undeniable recognition among the members of this organization. Her contribution to the development and recognition of this organization is invaluable not only in Europe but also worldwide. The NISPAcee Managing Committee awarded Mzia "Aliona Brunovska Award" for

her singular contribution to the education in state governance in Central and Eastern Europe.

It is disappointing that such a distinct person is no longer with us today. Mzia Mikeladze passed away suddenly and prematurely on January 20, 2012. "Georgia and the international community have lost an extraordinary person who devoted her life to the idea of making the world a better place to live. She was not only an exemplary and irreplaceable professional, but an open, joyful and friendly person" – this is what NISPAcee, the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe, said about her.

The academic community of Georgia suffered a severe loss because Mzia Mikeladze could have done a lot more and achieved far greater success. Thankfully we still continue on with her students, graduates, colleagues and friends. Mzia Mikeladze was deeply convinced that "show of confidence and the use of your maximum abilities in the frames of bravery is necessary for achieving your goals"

NISPAcee and ISET will award the best doctoral thesis and successful students with Mzia Mikeladze's awards.

Finally, we would like to complete this by saying:

Mzia Mikeladze introduces a deep, and at the same time, wide range of ideas in the rhythm of an artificially accelerated life. She does not hurry, she continues to serve quietly, with a convincing gaze, and an aristocratic stance. That is why nobody is surprised by her oral or written messages – the expression of appreciation of professional recognition and good faith from her colleagues. Every

day, she gives herself over to anything she does, and lonely and mysterious at a glance leads a way to the worlds of the mind, where the homeland begins. You realize that something transient in this world can become eternal in mind.