

The University of Montana, Office of International Programs, International Center

Missoula, Montana 59812

Tel. (406) 243-2288; Fax (406) 243-6194

(Transmitted by e-mail)

March 19, 2005

To Prof. Guram Chikovani, Rector, Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa

Dear Professor Dr. Chikovani:

On behalf of The University of Montana, I am writing to attest to the high esteem in which the faculty and staff of our university hold the quality of Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa and its academic programs. The University of Montana has international partnership agreements with many foreign universities. Among these institutions, the academic excellence of Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa stands at the top of the list.

As a result of our collaborative partnership over the past several years, we have been able to experience the high quality of your Institute at both the faculty and the student level. At the joint faculty conference which our two institutions held in Tbilisi in June, 2005, the presentations of your faculty and subsequent discussions were stimulating, filled with new information, and at the highest academic level. Moreover, all of the faculty and students you have sent to The University of Montana over the past several years have been excellent, and the students from our institution who have attended courses at your institution have had only the highest praise for the quality of your courses.

I also wish to confirm that The University of Montana recognizes both the undergraduate and graduate credits earned either by our own students, or those of other students, who have completed courses at Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa. The recognition of credit will also extend to students from Arab-speaking countries in the new partnership program. As part of this partnership, Visiting Faculty from The University of Montana will present lectures for the Arab students.

We are confident that the high level of academic quality on the part of your institution will be maintained in the new partnership program.

Sincerely yours,

Mehrdad Kia

Assistant Vice-President and Director, Office of International Programs