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**REAP** Restoring Efficiency to Agriculture Production  
საპარტოვალო სასოფლო-სამეურნეო  
ნარგობების ეფექტიანობის აღდგენის პროექტი

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## **Ambassador Richard Norland attended the opening ceremony for the Global Diaspora Week**

US Ambassador Richard Norland, USAID Mission Director Stephen M. Haykin and “International Diaspora Engagement Alliance” (IdEA) honorary representative, Mr. Rom Bath has attended the Diaspora Economic Forum organized by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora on October 13, in the conference hall of the hotel Sheraton Metechi Palace

The Diaspora Economic Forum is the opening ceremony for the Global Diaspora Week. The Week is arranged in collaboration with the International Diaspora Engagement Alliance, the member of which the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora has been since August 1, 2014. The Alliance was founded by Hillary Clinton's initiative. The founders include the US Department of State, the US Agency for International Development and the Investment Fund - Calvert Foundation.

Representatives of the Georgian diaspora abroad, as well as invited experts from European Union candidate countries, business leaders from the regions of Georgia, Georgian central and regional authorities, the diplomatic corps, international organizations and representatives of civil society took part in the forum.

The forum started with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Memorandum aims to encourage diaspora entrepreneurship within the USAID/Restoring Efficiency to Agriculture Production (REAP) project.

The forum participants have discussed possible economic effects arising from the signing of the Association Agreement with the EU, various challenges and needs with regard to the diaspora, current state programs, European Union member and candidate countries' experience, and the diaspora's financial and human potential in the country's economic transformation process.

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