



Southeastern Intergovernmental Audit Forum

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April 23, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past 11 months, members of the Southeastern Intergovernmental Audit Forum (SEIAF) have been pleased to help host Mr. Roman Bokeria, former Deputy Comptroller General of Georgia, as he has pursued research for his PhD in Performance Auditing. Shortly after Mr. Bokeria's arrival in Atlanta, members facilitated his enrollment in Georgia Tech's English Language Institute to enhance his reading and composition skills so that his research would be as effective and meaningful as possible. Several of our members then made their time and staff resources available to Mr. Bokeria in his efforts to research and better understand the functional interrelationships between Federal, State, and local governmental audit organizations.

For example, Mr. Bokeria has worked with USDA's Office of Inspector General's Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta to study their Performance Auditing processes and also how they provide nationwide Federal oversight for Single Audits. He has worked for several weeks with the Georgia State Auditor's Office. While there, he spent time in every section of that office, studying performance, financial, single audit oversight, and quality control of audit reports. He will begin working with the City Auditor of Atlanta early next month to study that office's responsibilities and how it interfaces with State and Federal government entities. That meeting had to be delayed due to a city budgeting system crisis which the City Auditor's office had to manage over an extended period of time.

Finally, I would like to note that Mr. Bokeria was a featured speaker at the SEIAF's winter conference. Mr. Bokeria provided our 100 attendees with an amazing perspective of the difficulties his government has encountered in bringing about post-Soviet era transparency in its accounting operations. The SEIAF looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Mr. Bokeria as he broadens his understanding of our auditing processes and uses that understanding to advance his government's accountability.

Sincerely,

RONALD L. JONES
Chair