

JSC Bank of Georgia announces that UBDP was assigned the Principal Member status by Visa International

JSC Bank of Georgia (LSE: BGEO GSE: GEB), the leading Georgian universal bank, announced today that Universal Bank for Development & Partnership (“UBDP”), Ukrainian bank owned by Bank of Georgia, has become Principal Member of Visa International. The decision to upgrade UBDP from Associated to Principal member was made by the Board of Directors of Visa International on 26 June 2008.

The new Principal Member status allows UBDP to start direct settlement with Visa International, sponsor other banks and obtain license for merchant acquiring. The Principal Member status will also enable UBDP to migrate its card processing to the Georgian Card, Georgia’s leading card processing platform majority-owned by Bank of Georgia. In cooperation with Georgian Card, UBDP plans to build a new card platform, offer its clients additional services, expand the range of card products and issue co-branded debit and credit cards.

UBDP issued its first Visa card in 2003 as an Associated Member of Visa International and as of the end of June serviced approximately 74,000 Visa cards outstanding. All Visa cards issued by UBDP are chip enabled, equipped with secure data processing system and software in line with international card payment system standards.

“Visa Principal Membership status is the recognition of UBDP’s development and successful operation of its card business. The new membership status with Visa International will help UBDP strengthen its position on the Ukrainian plastic cards market and highlights our intention to continue the development of our plastic cards business in Ukraine,” commented **Nicholas Enukidze**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Bank of Georgia.

About Bank of Georgia

Bank of Georgia, the leading universal Georgian bank with operations in Georgia and Ukraine, is the largest bank by assets, loans, deposits and equity in Georgia, with 33.7% market share by total assets (all data according to the NBG as of March 31, 2008). The major component of the Galt & Taggart Index, the bank has 131 branches and over 770,000 retail and more than 120,000 corporate current accounts. The bank offers a full range of retail banking and corporate and investment banking services to its customers across Georgia. The bank also provides a wide range of corporate and retail insurance products through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Aldagi BCI, as well as asset & wealth management services.

Bank of Georgia has, as of the date hereof, the following credit ratings:

Standard & Poor’s	‘B+/B’	Stable
FitchRatings	‘B+/B’	Stable
Moody’s	‘B3/NP’ (FC) & ‘Ba1/NP’ (LC)	

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