

Ms. Lali Khvedelidze

Head of Administration – Chencellor of Batumi Navigation University

Ms. Lali Khvedelidze is one of the distinguished public figures in the field of maritime education in Batumi and Georgia, whose many years of professional activity have been closely connected with the educational, maritime, and social development of the city of Batumi.

Lali Khvedelidze was born on October 22, 1950. She received her higher education at the Shota Rustaveli Pedagogical Institute in Batumi, where she obtained the qualification of a teacher of Russian and English languages.

Her professional career began in the field of education. From 1976 to 1998, she worked as a lecturer of English language and literature at Batumi Polytechnic Institute, where she made a significant contribution to the professional development of many students.

In the late 1990s, Ms. Lali Khvedelidze took an important step toward the development of maritime education in Batumi. In 1999, together with her husband, Captain of Long-Distance Navigation Parmen Khvedelidze, she founded the “Batumi Maritime College – Seafarers’ School.” This institution later underwent significant transformation and development and is today known as Batumi Navigation University, a maritime educational institution that meets international standards.

In 2001, on her initiative, the Makhinjauri Maritime School was established, where she continues to serve as Director to this day. This educational institution has been preparing young people for maritime professions for many years and plays an important role in the development of vocational education in the region.

Ms. Lali Khvedelidze has been actively involved in the management of Batumi Navigation University for many years. Since 2009, she has served as the Head of Administration (Chancellor) of the University, and since 2017 she has also been leading the Department of Vocational Education. Her activities significantly contribute to the institutional development of the university, the introduction of modern educational programs, and the strengthening of international cooperation.

Ms. Lali Khvedelidze continuously strives for professional development and actively participates in various international and national conferences, trainings, and professional programs. She has completed numerous professional trainings in such areas as leadership and management, quality assurance in education, ISO quality management systems, modern teaching methodologies, organizational management, and staff development.

She has also participated in numerous international and scientific conferences, which once again demonstrates her active engagement in the development of education and the maritime sector.

Ms. Lali Khvedelidze pays special attention to the promotion of women's empowerment in the maritime sector. She serves as the President of WISTA Georgia – the Georgian branch of the international organization Women's International Shipping & Trading Association.

On her initiative, an important social program was introduced at Batumi Navigation University, providing full tuition coverage for female students enrolled in the higher educational programs of Maritime Navigation and Marine Engineering. This initiative aims to increase women's participation in the maritime sector and promote gender equality.

Ms. Lali Khvedelidze's long-standing activities have been recognized multiple times by the state and professional community.

On September 22, 2022, she was awarded by the Parliament of Georgia for her outstanding contribution to:

- Women's Empowerment
- Advancing Gender Equality

She was also awarded a Government Award for her outstanding contribution to the maritime sector (Outstanding Maritime Contribution).

Through her many years of professional and public service, Ms. Lali Khvedelidze has made a significant contribution to the development of Batumi as an international center for maritime education. Her work supports the professional education of the younger generation, the development of the maritime industry, and the expansion of opportunities for women in this field.