

G E ORGIA
CITY HALL OF MESTIA MUNICIPALITY

## To the National Mountain Day Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,
It is a great honour for us, the residents of the mountainous Svaneti Region to greet our friends - the people of Japan. We are happy to congratulate you on a special celebration - Mountain Day.

Svaneti region situates in northwestern Georgia along the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus mountains. In Georgia, the mountains are symbols of freedom, and they have always had a special meaning for the people of Georgia. They have best preserved Georgia's culture, customs and art. Further, mountains have been the subject of numerous tales, works of art, and a place of pilgrimage for many. In times of hardship, during the invasion by enemies, Georgians took cultural treasures to the mountains and built churches and monasteries there to keep them safe.

In Svaneti, we perceive this celebration in a special way because the mountains are part of the history and identity of our people. As part of the events dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Georgia and Japan, we have the honour to celebrate the Mountain Day together with His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Georgia, Mr. IMAMURA Akira, and once again, to acknowledge the crucial role of mountains in providing key ecosystem goods and services to the planet.

During these 30 years, the cooperation between our countries has been special and remarkable in various fields. We are grateful for your friendship and express our hopes and willingness to strengthen future cooperation in the field of mountaineering.

Sincerely,
Kapiton Zhorzholiani
Mayor of Mestia Municipality






