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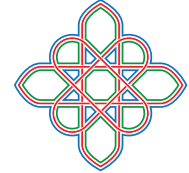
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FORUM SPEAKERS



H.E. NOVRUZ MAMMADOV

PRIME MINISTER OF AZERBAIJAN



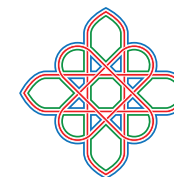
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Mr. Novruz Mammadov was appointed Prime Minister of Azerbaijan in April 2018. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Mammadov was serving as an Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan on foreign issues as well as serving as Head of the Department of Lexicology and Stylistics of the French Language at the Azerbaijan University of Languages. Previously, Mr. Mammadov has served as a senior interpreter in Algeria and Guinea, Dean of Preparatory Faculty and Dean of Faculty of the French Language at the Azerbaijan Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages, Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan, and interpreter to former President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev. He was granted the rank of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by the decree of the President of Azerbaijan in January 2002 and in September 2005, Mr. Mammadov became a member of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO. Mr. Mammadov has received a number of honors including the French Legion d'Honneur Order by former French President Jacques Chirac, the Order of the Legion of Honor of Poland by former Polish President Lech Kaczyński, and the Order of Glory (Shohrat) by the decree of the President of Azerbaijan.



MR. ELDAR ABAKIROV

DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMY OF
KYRGYZSTAN



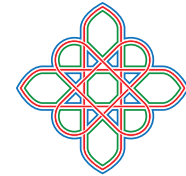
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Eldar Abakirov is Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and a Board Member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyzstan. From 2010-11 he worked as an expert at the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan and from 2003-10 he held several positions including Chief Specialist to the Deputy Director of the Treasury Department at JSC Bank Center Credit in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Over the last decade Mr. Abakirov has co-founded and managed numerous small businesses in Kyrgyzstan including Green City Management LLC, a tourism and fitness company; D-Center LLC, a construction company; Green Clinic medical center; Barbulak Mineral, bottled mineral and drinking water production; Daamdan fast food center; and a farm in the Chu District. Since 2010 he has been an active member of the Business Association JIA of Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Abakirov holds an MA in Law and Economics from the Kyrgyz State Law Academy in Karakol (2004) and an MA (2004) and a BSc (2002) in Mechanics and Mathematics from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty.



MR. HIKMAT ABDURAHMANOV

CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF UZBEKISTAN



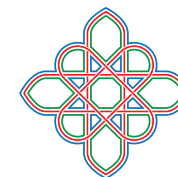
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Hikmat Abdurahmanov is the Chairman of the Association for International Business and Technologies of Uzbekistan. He is a serial entrepreneur with a global focus. He heads a commercial group of companies with a staff of 100 people involved in international business including trade, finance, business tourism, logistics and advisory services, and owns a business center with a co-working space, providing various B2B services with the overall mission of serving as a bridge between Uzbek Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and foreign companies. Since 2006 this commercial group has delivered products for over \$100 million to local SMEs that comprised over 1,000 executed contracts. Mr. Abdurahmanov is an active member in local and regional business communities, and is a public speaker and opinion leader with a personal mission of fostering a strong class of entrepreneurs in his country. Mr. Abdurahmanov holds an MA in International Business from the School of Management at St. Andrews, UK (2006), and an MA (2004) and a BA (2001) in International Economic Relations from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent.



MR. AZAMAT AKELEEV

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, PROMOTANK LLC



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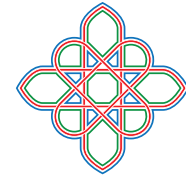
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Azamat Akeleev is the Founding Director of Promotank LLC, a consulting company and leading think tank in the field of communication and research. Promotank's clients include local private sector entities as well as international organizations such as Bosch Group, World Bank, GIZ, Eurasia Foundation, JICA, USAID and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The company provides these organizations with market research, economic and industry analysis, promotional campaigns and communication products. Mr. Akeleev is also Co-Owner of a private energy distribution company and is interested in investments in the renewable energy sector. He is an active member of the Bishkek Business Club. Prior to starting his own business, Mr. Akeleev taught marketing, branding and strategy at the American University in Central Asia (AUCA) while chairing and redesigning its MBA program. Mr. Akeleev holds an MBA from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University (2006) and a BA from AUCA (2002).



MR. LEVAN AKHVLEDIANI

CEO, ANAKLIA DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM



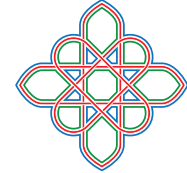
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Levan Akhvlediani was appointed CEO of the Anaklia Development Consortium in September 2014, and has been involved in developing its projects since mid-2013. He has 10 years of experience in corporate and project finance. Previously, he served as CEO of TBC Holding, an affiliate of one of the largest Georgian banks, TBC Bank, leading various project development initiatives. Prior to this, he was the Chief Investment Officer in Georgia of Gazelle Finance, a SME focused impact investment fund, and co-founded and served as Managing Director of Kagri Ltd. Hong Kong, concentrating on agricultural commodity trading from the CIS region to Southeast Asia. Prior to Kagri, he was Chief Financial Officer for TBC Holding's Georgian Reconstruction and Development Company (GRDC) with a \$60M asset portfolio, managing the finance department and gaining extensive experience in capital formation, project finance, real estate project development and asset management. Prior to GRDC, he served as Executive Director at TBC Holding's New Construction Company, a leading construction company in Georgia. Mr. Akhvlediani holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.



MR. HIROYUKI AKITA

SENIOR STAFF WRITER AT NIKKEI ASIAN REVIEW



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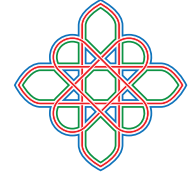
Hiroyuki Akita is Commentator at Nikkei Shimbun, Japan. He joined Nikkei Shimbun in 1987 and served as Correspondent at the Beijing Bureau (1994-98), Staff Writer at the Political News Department (1998-2001), Chief Correspondent at the Washington, D.C. Bureau (2002-06), Deputy Editor and Senior Staff Writer at the Political News Department (2007-09) and Editorial Writer in charge of foreign & international security affairs (2009). Since March 2016, he regularly writes commentaries and columns on international security and foreign affairs as Commentator. He received his BA from Jiyu Gakuen College (Tokyo) in 1987 and MA in International Relations from Boston University in 1991. He was also an Associate of the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at Harvard University (2006-07). In 2016, he worked on the Leader Writing Team at the headquarters of Financial Times in London from October to December. He is an author of two books, which are about U.S.-China-Japan triangular relations.



MR. ISKANDER AKYLBAYEV

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KAZAKHSTAN COUNCIL
ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Iskander Akylbayev is the Executive Director of the Kazakhstan Council on International Relations, a newly established analytical platform, and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Diplomacy at the Academy of Public Administration, where he provides training to junior and mid-career diplomats. Mr. Akylbayev is also a foreign policy analyst at the national “Qazaqstan” TV channel. Previously, Mr. Akylbayev worked as a Senior Fellow at the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Kazakhstan, where his research focused on foreign policy and security issues in Central Asia and Afghanistan as well as China-Russia relations. He is also a fellow at the Pacific Forum CSIS Young Leaders Program. Mr. Akylbayev holds an MA in International Area Studies from the University of Tsukuba, Japan (2014) and a double BA in International Relations from the School of Economics and Administrative Sciences and in English Language and Literature from the School of Arts and Sciences at Fatih University in Istanbul, Turkey (2011).



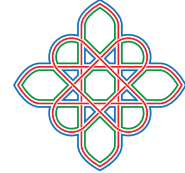
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MS. MANDUUL ALTANGEREL

CORPORATE LAWYER IN MONGOLIA

Manduul Altangerel is currently a Master of Laws (LLM) candidate at Harvard Law School. Prior to beginning her studies at Harvard, Ms. Altangerel was a practicing lawyer with extensive experience in advising international clients in relation to major investments and projects in Mongolia. Previously, Ms. Altangerel worked for Allens LLP, a leading international law firm, where she provided a wide range of regulatory, compliance and strategic legal counsel regarding major investments in energy, mining and infrastructure projects in Australia, Hong Kong and Mongolia. Prior to Allens, Ms. Altangerel worked for Lehman, Lee & Xu Law Firm in Mongolia. In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Altangerel lectures at the School of Law of the National University of Mongolia and regularly writes on various socio-political matters for local current affairs publications. She also founded the Lean In Mongolia Community. Ms. Altangerel holds an LLM from the University of Warwick, UK (2010), and a Master of Laws (LLM, 2009) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB, 2007) from the National University of Mongolia.

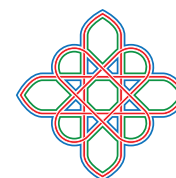


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DR. NASIR A. ANDISHA

DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
AFGHANISTAN



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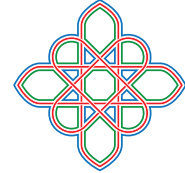
Dr. Nasir Andisha is the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Andisha was the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Fiji. Other previous positions include Director General of the Fifth Political Division, Director of Multilateral Economic Relations and International Financial Institutions, consultant at the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels and Permanent Mission of Afghanistan at the UN Headquarters in New York City. Before joining the Foreign Service, Dr. Andisha worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross as a field officer and taught International Relations and Principles of Economics at the Institute of Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and at Al Beroni University in Afghanistan. In the summer of 2007, Dr. Andisha received a Fulbright Scholarship and completed his Master's degree in International Affairs at The George H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. He later completed an Advanced Security Studies Diploma from the Marshall Centre for European Studies in Germany and the Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies in Hawaii. Dr. Andisha has a PhD from the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy at the Australian National University.



MR. KENNETH ANGELL

**MANAGING DIRECTOR IN THE SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISE FINANCE DEPARTMENT, OVERSEAS PRIVATE
INVESTMENT CORPORATION (OPIC)**

Kenneth Angell has over 35 years of international financial experience with expertise in project financing, commercial and development banking, investment promotion and institutional development. Mr. Angell has worked in Eastern Europe, Georgia and the Caucasus, Central Asia, Russia, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Angell is a Managing Director in the Small and Medium Enterprise Finance Department of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), where he manages a team of people which originate and structure loans for project finance and corporate finance transactions. Mr. Angell has been with OPIC for over 25 years. Prior to joining OPIC, Mr. Angell worked with Development Alternatives, Inc. where he served as a financial and private sector development specialist. He began his career with American Express International Bank in Singapore as a Commercial Bank Lending Officer. Mr. Angell holds an M.B.A. in Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He received an M.A. in International Relations and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania.



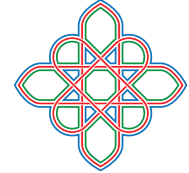
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MS. MARYNA ANTONOVA

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS,
PRESIDENT YUSHCHENKO INSTITUTE

Maryna Antonova currently serves as Director of International Programs at President Yushchenko Institute, an NGO established by President Yushchenko aimed at the promotion of rule of law and democracy in Ukraine, European integration, as well as Ukraine's culture, history and art. Ms. Antonova also serves as Vice-President of the International Black Sea-Baltic Sea Center, which unites 15 former Presidents from the region and is aimed at promoting dialogue and security in the region. For the last 7 years she has chaired the Board of the Ukraine 3000 International Foundation, one that works in the area of health care, education and culture. She also serves on the Board of the Association of Charities of Ukraine. From 2005-10, Ms. Antonova served as Press Secretary and later as Chief of Staff to the First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko under President Yushchenko's Administration. Prior to that, Ms. Antonova worked with KPMG Consulting/Bearing Point in the area of consulting, training and development on the market of financial services in Ukraine. She has a Masters' Degree in Linguistics and a MBA from the International Management Institute of Kyiv.

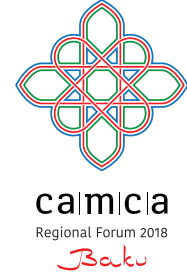


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DR. KAUSH ARHA

SENIOR ADVISOR FOR STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)



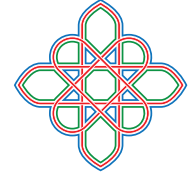
Dr. Kaush Arha is Senior Advisor for Strategic Engagement to the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Prior to joining USAID, Dr. Arha served as the Vice Chairman and Strategic Advisor at the International Conservation Caucasus Foundation. Previously, he served as Senior Advisor on Transition and Senior Coordinator for Agriculture at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he advised Embassy leadership on transitions for Afghan leadership, U.S. strategies for economic development assistance to Afghanistan and anti-corruption and governance efforts in Afghan institutions. Additionally, Dr. Arha has directed U.S. agricultural assistance to Afghanistan across civilian-military agencies to meet the goals of agricultural development, counter-insurgency and counter narcotics. He previously served as the Associate Solicitor General and Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Prior to that, he worked for the state of Wyoming and was an attorney in a global law firm. Dr. Arha received his PhD and MSc from the University of California-Berkeley; JD from Stanford University; MA from Boston University and BA with Honors from St. Stephen's College.



MR. AHMAD ZIA ASEY

DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR MONITORING AND
EVALUATION AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN

Ahmad Zia Asey is the Director-General for Monitoring and Evaluation at the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan. He also heads the Secretariat of the Strategic Leadership Board, the Ministry's highest forum for discussion, implementation and follow-up of reform efforts. Prior, he worked as Senior Policy Adviser to the three previous Ministers of Interior. In that role, he had the responsibility of providing strategic advice and recommendations to the Minister on improving institutional development, donor coordination and the implementation of the Ministry's reform priorities. Mr. Asey holds an MA in International Affairs with a specialization in International Economic Policy from the Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po (2013), a BA in Economics from University of Pune, India (2010), as well as a Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Management from the Indian School of Business Management (2010) and an Advanced Post-Graduate Diploma in National Security and International Relations from Deccan Education Society in Pune (2010).

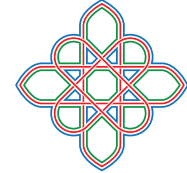


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MR. AZIM AZIMOV

FOUNDER AND CEO, MEDIA KITCHEN



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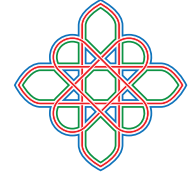
Azim Azimov is a public relations and political communications consultant and the Founder and CEO of Media Kitchen, an award-winning creative company focused on producing feature films, documentaries and commercials. In the last few years, Mr. Azimov has been actively involved in the political process in Kyrgyzstan by providing strategic communications and reputation management services to major political figures and parties. His client list includes Kyrgyzstan's former President, several Prime Ministers, mayors of Kyrgyzstan's largest cities and the leading factions in the Parliament. He has conducted numerous election campaigns for his clients where he served as a media strategist, spokesman or campaign manager. Mr. Azimov is also a political commentator and produces and hosts the "Context" web series about Kyrgyz politics during which he shares his take on major issues in the country. Mr. Azimov holds a BA in Mass Communication and Journalism from the American University of Central Asia (2011).



AMBASSADOR SANJAASUREN BAYARAA

DIRECTOR OF THE CAREC INSTITUTE

Ambassador Sanjaasuren Bayaraa is Director of the CAREC Institute. He is an international specialist in political institutions development, including political parties/election campaigns, parliament and the executive branch. He has experience in managing international and local NGOs. Ambassador Bayaraa is also a public relations and media specialist. Recently he gained valuable experience in the diplomatic service working at the Embassy of Mongolia in India as the counselor (deputy head of mission) and as an Ambassador of Mongolia to India. Other previous roles include an Advisor to international NGO, World Growth; Senior Advisor to the Zorig Foundation; Policy Research Fellow with the Open Society Institute; Secretary for International Relations of the National Committee of the Mongolian National Democratic Party (MNDP); Executive Director of the Mongolian Free Democratic Journalist's Association (MFDJA) and many more.

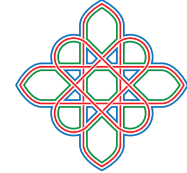


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MR. JEYHUN BAYRAMOV

MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF AZERBAIJAN



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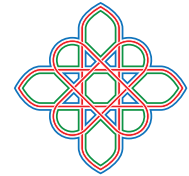
Jeyhun Bayramov was appointed Minister of Education by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on April 23rd, 2018. Prior, he served as Deputy of the Minister of Education as well as the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Education. Previously, he worked in various positions at the Ministry of Taxes (1996-2000), as a lawyer in “Salans Hertzfeld & Heilbronn (Baku) Limited” company (2000-02), and was the Director of “OMNI” law firm (2002-13). He was on the list of the leading lawyers in taxation and civil rights in Azerbaijan from 2004-12 by global law publications such as Chambers Global, IFLR1000 and Legal500. Mr. Bayramov received his degree in Economics from the Azerbaijan State University of Economics and a degree in law from Azerbaijan University.



DR. ALMAZBEK BEISHENALIEV

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE,
AND SPORTS AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Dr. Almazbek Beishenaliev is head of the department for Education, Culture, and Sports at the Government Office of the Kyrgyz Republic. He was a visiting professor at the School of Education at Johns Hopkins University's School of International Advanced Studies and the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. Prior, he worked as vice-chancellor for student affairs at Vistula University in Warsaw, Poland and vice rector at International Alatau University in Bishkek. Dr. Beishenaliev holds a PhD in Education and a PhD in History with a dissertation on the United States' role in Central Asia, particularly as it relates to Kyrgyzstan's foreign policy. Dr. Beishenaliev also received a Master's degree in Education from the University of Ludwigsburg in Germany.

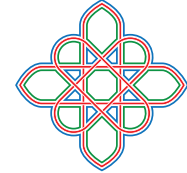


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MR. ILAN BERMAN

VICE PRESIDENT, AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL



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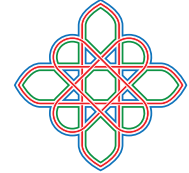
Ilan Berman is Vice President of the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington, D.C. An expert on regional security in the Middle East, Central Asia and the Russian Federation, he has consulted for both the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Department of Defense as well as provided assistance on foreign policy and national security issues to a range of governmental agencies and congressional offices. He has been called one of America's "leading experts on the Middle East and Iran" by CNN. Mr. Berman is also a member of the Associated Faculty at Missouri State University's Department of Defense and Strategic Studies. A frequent writer and commentator, he has written for The Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, The New York Times, Foreign Policy, Washington Post and USA Today, among many other publications. Mr. Berman is the editor of four books and the author of four others: *Tehran Rising: Iran's Challenge to the United States* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005), *Winning the Long War: Retaking the Offensive Against Radical Islam* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), *Implosion: The End of Russia and What It Means for America* (Regnery Publishing, 2013) and most recently, *Iran's Deadly Ambition: The Islamic Republic's Quest for Global Power* (Encounter Books, 2015).



MR. PETER BOROVYKH

BLOCKCHAIN SOLUTION ARCHITECT AT
BLOCKCHAINDRIVEN

Peter Borovykh is a renowned advisor, consultant and speaker on blockchain and its future possibilities. Mr. Borovykh is a blockchain solution architect at BlockchainDriven where he consults large corporations, governments and startups on integrating blockchain solutions. He has been featured in Forbes, Fortune, Bitcoinist, Business Inside, Inside Bitcoins and many others and has spoken at a number of conferences on blockchain and crypto markets across the world. He is the author of the book, Blockchain Applications in Finance.

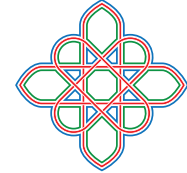


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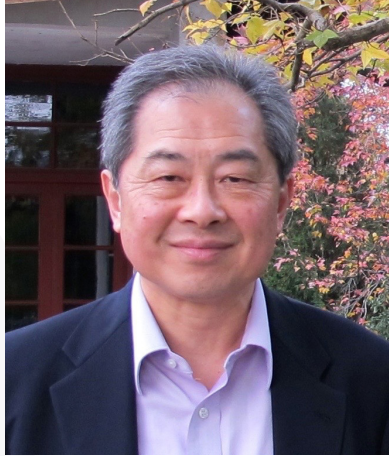
MS. ZARINA CHEKIRBAEVA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



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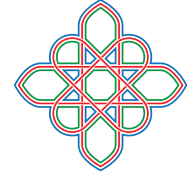
Zarina Chekirbaeva is the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in the Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to joining the AmCham, she was a Corporate Affairs Director at CJSC “Jerooyaltyn,” a gold mining company based in Kyrgyzstan. Her previous work experience also includes working at the U.S. Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Democratic Institute Office in Bishkek, the Academy for Educational Development and the Eurasia Foundation Office in Washington, D.C. Ms. Chekirbaeva holds an MPA from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (2006) and a BA in Business Administration from the American University of Central Asia (2002). She is also a graduate of the Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the East-West Center in Hawaii (2006). She is an alumna of several international leadership programs and is actively involved in several social projects in Kyrgyzstan. Since November 2013, Ms. Chekirbaeva has been a Regional Network Development Manager for the Central Eurasia Leadership Alliance (CELA).



MR. EDWARD C. CHOW

SENIOR FELLOW, CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Edward Chow is a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. He is also a visiting professor at Ohio University and Fudan University in Shanghai. He is an international energy expert with 40 years of industry experience from working in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, South America, Europe, Russia and the Black Sea and Caspian regions. He has developed government policy and business strategy, as well as successfully negotiated complex, multibillion-dollar international business agreements on the side of commercial companies and of host governments. He specializes in oil and gas investments in emerging economies. He has advised governments, international financial institutions, major oil companies and leading multinational corporations. He spent more than 20 years with Chevron Corporation in U.S. and overseas assignments.

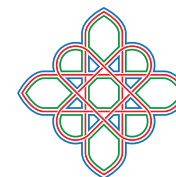


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DR. SVANTE E. CORNELL

DIRECTOR, CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE



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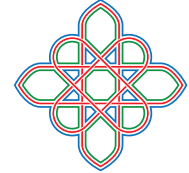
Dr. Svante E. Cornell is Director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program, a Joint Center affiliated with the American Foreign Policy Council and Institute for Security and Development Policy. He is a co-founder of the Institute for Security and Development Policy, the Editor of the Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, the Joint Center's bi-weekly publication, and of the Joint Center's Silk Road Papers. Dr. Cornell is the author of *Small Nations and Great Powers*, the first comprehensive study of the post-Soviet conflicts in the Caucasus, and of *Azerbaijan since Independence*, as well as co-author of *The Long Game on the Silk Road*, an overview of Western policies in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Dr. Cornell previously served as Associate Professor at Uppsala University and Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. He was educated at the Middle East Technical University, received his Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from Uppsala University, and holds an honorary degree from the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. He is a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Military Science and a Research Associate with the W. Martens Center for European Studies in Brussels.



MR. JARGALSAIKHAN DAMBADARJAA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEFACTO INSTITUTE AND
EDITOR OF 'THE DEFACTO GAZETTE'

Jargalsaikhan Dambadarjaa (known as Jargal DeFacto) is a Mongolian political and economic observer, columnist and host of Defacto Debate, Defacto Review and Defacto Interview. He hosts weekly television interviews on MNB in Mongolia, featuring distinguished Mongolian, English and Russian-speaking guests from across the globe. Jargal also hosts Radio DeFacto, a radio talk show aired daily on Business Radio. He is a founder of The Defacto Institute, an independent research think tank that publishes the The Defacto Gazette, a weekly analytical newspaper covering the politics and economics of Mongolia—in English, Japanese and Mongolian. Since 2009, Jargal has been writing weekly articles on the current economic, political and social issues in the country, which are printed in Mongolian and English daily newspapers. He contributes to public opinion formation in the country through a range of formal and social media. Jargal has a long career history in the industries including banking and financing, public office (Chairman of the Foreign Investment and Foreign Trade Agency of Mongolia), tourism and petroleum sectors. His volunteer and board positions include the Mongolian National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Mongolian Association of State Alumni, Moscow State University Mongolian Alumni, the Silk Road Foundation and The Economic Club of Ulaanbaatar.

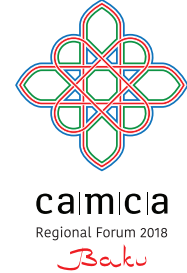


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MS. KHULAN DAVAADORJ

FOUNDER, DIRECTOR AND CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST OF
NATURAL ESSENTIALS LLC



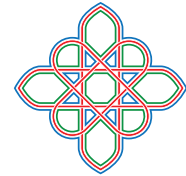
Khulan Davaadorj is a social-entrepreneur, public speaker, mentor and the Founder, Director and Chief Technologist of Natural Essentials LLC. In 2014 Ms. Davaadorj started Mongolia's first organic skincare brand, LHAMOUR, with the vision to be a leading role model. In the last 25 years most of the focus in Mongolia has been on political reforms and natural resources utilization but Ms. Davaadorj tries to change this image by showing how traditional ways can be incorporated into modern forms that can be accepted globally. Through the example of her company she is aiming to pave the way for others in Mongolia to try and overturn conventions and to contribute to positive social change and economic growth in the country and even Asia more broadly. Ms. Davaadorj is also the Founder of the "Finding Your Passion" program that provides teenagers with the skills and mindset to find their inner passion and get prepared for the international world. In 2016 she received the Best Young Entrepreneur of Asia-Pacific award and in 2018 she was selected as the UN Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization's World Ambassador for Mongolia. Ms. Davaadorj holds an MPA in International Energy Management and Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (2012) and an MSc in Public Policy from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany (2011).



MR. JONATHAN ELKIND

FELLOW AND ADJUNCT SENIOR RESEARCH SCHOLAR,
CENTER ON GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY, SIPA, COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY

Jonathan Elkind is a Fellow and Senior Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy. From 2009-14, he worked on international energy and climate issues at the United States Department of Energy (DOE), serving ultimately as Assistant Secretary for International Affairs. Before DOE, he created and led Eastlink Consulting, LLC focusing on commercial energy projects in Europe and Eurasia, and served as a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Earlier in his career, Mr. Elkind focused on energy, environment and economic issues in Europe and Eurasia in positions at the Joint Global Change Research Institute, the National Security Council, the Office of the Vice President of the United States, DOE and the Council on Environmental Quality. Mr. Elkind holds a Master of Business Administration in Strategy and International Business from the R.H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, a Master of Arts from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

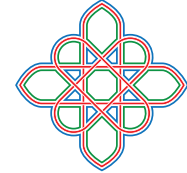


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MR. THOMAS FIRESTONE

PARTNER AT BAKER & MCKENZIE LLP



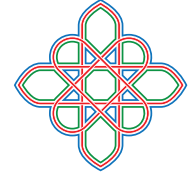
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Thomas Firestone is Partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP, where he represents clients in international white-collar criminal and compliance matters, including FCPA, internal investigations and transactional due diligence. Mr. Firestone represents companies and individuals before the U.S. Department of Justice, State Department and other U.S. and foreign agencies in connection with transnational criminal investigations, extradition proceedings and other sensitive matters with an international aspect. He also regularly advises foreign governments on issues relating to anti-corruption and the rule of law, and has represented individuals in Interpol matters. Prior to joining the Firm, Mr. Firestone spent 14 years at the U.S. Department of Justice. He worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York where he prosecuted transnational organized crime cases. He also worked as Resident Legal Adviser and, intermittently, Acting Chief of the Law Enforcement Section at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. In the latter capacity, he facilitated U.S.-Russian law enforcement cooperation, assisted the Russian government in drafting new criminal legislation, advised the U.S. government on policy issues related to criminal justice in Russia and twice won the U.S. State Department's Superior Honor Award. He is a member of the Firm's Global Compliance & Investigation Steering Committee.



MS. KAMALA GAFAROVA

PROJECT SERVICES MANAGER AT BP



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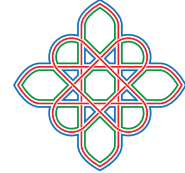
Kamala Gafarova has been since March 2017 a Project Services Manager at BP's South Caucasus Pipeline Expansion Project in Azerbaijan, where she is responsible for developing and managing strategy, systems, plans and procedures in the areas of planning and reporting, estimating, cost control and support and information management associated with onshore pipelines projects. Previously she worked as a Resources Team Leader at BP's Southern Gas Corridor Project. Prior to joining BP, from 2003-14 Ms. Gafarova worked for Petroplan Limited, a global recruitment organization, where since 2010 she served as the Regional Director for the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey region. In this position she was responsible for the overall operations of the Azerbaijan and Georgia branches, including finance, accounting, tax planning and administration and annual budgeting. Ms. Gafarova holds an MA in Finance and Credit from Azerbaijan State Economic University (2002). She also holds a Postgraduate Diploma from Nottingham Business School (2012) and completed a two-year postgraduate program in Human Resource Management from Nottingham Trent University.



MR. NEMUUN GAL

VICE-PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL COUNSELOR AT HOBBY SCHOOL

Nemuun Gal is a Vice-Principal and a School Counselor at Hobby School, a preeminent bilingual school in Mongolia. He is also a co-founder of NovaTerra LLC, an investment advisory firm in which he specializes in deal structuring, general contracts and regulatory framework advice. In the past, Mr. Gal has served as General Counsel at SouthGobi Sands LLC, a leading Mongolian coal mining company, and Newcom Group, a major Mongolian investment holding. Prior to joining the private sector, Mr. Gal worked for the Mongolian Foreign Service for seven years, including at the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the U.N. where he was in charge of political and legal affairs. Mr. Gal holds a law degree in Jurisprudence from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (2001) and an LLM from the Columbia University Law School (2009), where he was the Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, Bretzfelder International Law Scholar and LLM Class Speaker in 2009. Mr. Gal has been a member of the Bar of the State of New York since June 2010.

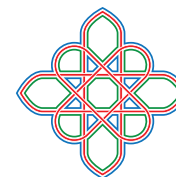


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MR. EMIL GASIMLI

CHIEF OF MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, SOCAR



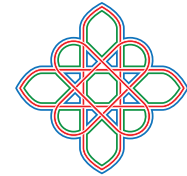
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Emil Gasimli is the Chief of Marketing and Business Development at the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), where he is responsible for the coordination of marketing and business development activities in the Caspian region and beyond including the Southern Gas Corridor. Prior to his current position, Mr. Gasimli spent five years working for different IT consulting companies, as well as for BP. Over the years, he has participated in numerous international conferences and events on energy issues. Mr. Gasimli holds an MBA from the Azerbaijan State Economics University (2010), an MBA from the University of Louisiana (2009) and a BA in Finance and Accounting from the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy and Georgia State University, USA (2007). He has also completed the Advanced Foreign Service Program at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and has earned a Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University (2015).



DR. JEFFREY GEDMIN

SENIOR FELLOW AT THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
OF FOREIGN SERVICE



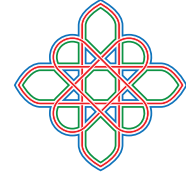
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Dr. Jeffrey Gedmin is a nonresident senior fellow for the Future Europe Initiative at the Atlantic Council. He is also a senior fellow at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a senior adviser at Blue Star Strategies. From 2011-14, Dr. Gedmin was president and CEO of the London-based Legatum Institute. Prior to joining the Legatum Institute in early 2011, Gedmin served for four years as president and CEO of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) headquartered in Prague. Before RFE/RL, Dr. Gedmin served as president and CEO of the Aspen Institute in Berlin. Before that, he was a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) in Washington, D.C. and executive director of the New Atlantic Initiative. He is the author of several books, including *The Hidden Hand: Gorbachev and the Collapse of East Germany* (1992). Dr. Gedmin also served as co-executive producer for two major PBS documentaries: "The Germans: Portrait of a New Nation" (1995) and "Spain's 9/11 and the Challenge of Radical Islam in Europe" (2007). He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on several boards, including the Institute for State Effectiveness, the Kleptocracy Initiative (based at the Hudson Institute), the Center for Entrepreneurship and Development (part of the University of California Berkley) and the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Master's Program.



MR. WILLIAM R. GILL

CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES, U.S. EMBASSY IN AZERBAIJAN



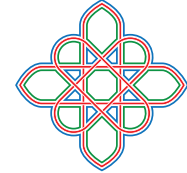
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William R. Gill is the Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Baku. He is a career member of the Foreign Service and joined the U.S. Department of State in 1995. Most recently, he served as a Career Development Officer in the Bureau of Human Resources. Prior to that, he was Acting Director and Deputy Director of Western European Affairs from 2011-13. Earlier, he served as U.S. Consul in Milan, Italy from 2007-11. He also served as U.S. Consul in Beirut, Lebanon from 2005-07, where he coordinated the evacuation of 15,000 Americans during the July-August 2006 war. Mr. Gill's assignments in Washington, D.C. include tours as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research and as Desk Officer for Sri Lanka and the Maldives. His other overseas postings include Mumbai, India and Casablanca, Morocco. Mr. Gill holds an A.B. degree in History from The College of William and Mary. He is a native of Virginia, and his foreign languages are French, Azerbaijani, Italian and Arabic.



MR. ZAFAR HASHEMI

SENIOR COUNSELOR AT THE EMBASSY OF AFGHANISTAN IN
THE UNITED STATES



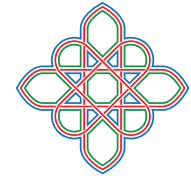
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Zafar Hashemi is a Senior Counselor at the Embassy of Afghanistan in the United States. Previously he served as Deputy Spokesman of the President of Afghanistan – in this position, he managed and coordinated communications and messaging of the Presidential Palace across the Afghan government and society as well as across the international community. Mr. Hashemi is an award-winning journalist, and from 2007-15 he worked for the Afghanistan Service of Voice of America, reporting on Afghan, American and world affairs for radio, television and web in both Farsi and English. From 2006-07, Mr. Hashemi managed public affairs and communications at the Afghanistan Stabilization Program (ASP). Also, from 2004-06 he managed a UNDP funded project to produce media content about democracy, elections and civic participation in post-9/11 Afghanistan. Mr. Hashemi holds an MA in Public Management from Johns Hopkins University (2015), and a BSc in Political Science and Journalism from the University of Maryland University College (UMUC, 2012).



MR. SARKHAN HASHIMOV

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MICROSOFT FOR AZERBAIJAN,
TURKMENISTAN AND TAJIKISTAN



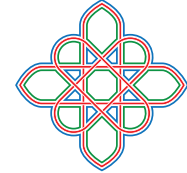
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Sarkhan Hashimov is the Director-General of Microsoft for Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. He also serves as a Board Member of Microsoft for CIS countries. In this role, Mr. Hashimov oversees the execution of the company's strategic priorities, working to accelerate its Cloud and Mobility journey, ensuring that Microsoft delivers true value to customers, optimizing customer benefits through high levels of deployment and consumption, and improving customer satisfaction, retention and long-term growth. Previously, Mr. Hashimov worked as a Country Representative of SAP for Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, where in 2015 he was recognized as one of the best employees of SAP and was personally invited by SAP CEO Bill McDermott to attend Winners Circle celebrations in Hawaii. Mr. Hashimov has extensive experience in project management, consulting and business development. His technical knowledge covers cloud technologies, mobile applications and enterprise resource planning (ERP). Mr. Hashimov holds an MBA (2007) and a BA in International Economic Relations (2004) from Azerbaijan State University of Economics. In addition, Mr. Hashimov is an international chess master. He is a 10-time champion of Azerbaijan, a second runner-up at the European championship and a winner of the elite tournament in San Sebastián, Spain.



AMBASSADOR JOHN HERBST

DIRECTOR OF THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL'S EURASIA CENTER



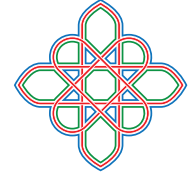
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Ambassador John Herbst is the Director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center. Amb. Herbst served for 31 years as a foreign service officer in the U.S. Department of State, retiring at the rank of career minister. He was the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine from 2003-06. Prior to his ambassadorship in Ukraine, he was the Ambassador to Uzbekistan from 2000-03. Ambassador Herbst previously served as U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem; Principal Deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large for the Newly Independent States; Director of the Office of Independent States and Commonwealth Affairs; Director of Regional Affairs in the Near East Bureau; and at the embassies in Tel Aviv, Moscow and Saudi Arabia. He most recently served as Director of the Center for Complex Operations at the National Defense University. He has received two Presidential Distinguished Service Awards, the Secretary of State's Career Achievement Award, the State Department's Distinguished Honor Award and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Distinguished Civilian Service Award. Ambassador Herbst's writings on stability operations, Central Asia, Ukraine and Russia are widely published.



MR. MIKAYIL JABBAROV

MINISTER OF TAXES OF AZERBAIJAN



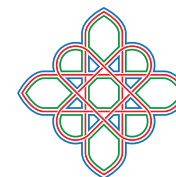
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Mikayil Jabbarov was appointed Minister of Taxes of Azerbaijan by the decree of the President of Azerbaijan in December 2017. Prior, he served as the Minister of Education of Azerbaijan. Mr. Jabbarov has also worked as a lawyer, an Adviser to the Minister at the Ministry of Economic Development, President of the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO), Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Head of the Old City State Historical-Architectural Reserve. In 1992, he was admitted to the International Law Faculty of Baku State University and in 1997 graduated with honors. Mr. Jabbarov obtained a Master's Degree in Law from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific (Sacramento, California, U.S.), and a Master's Degree in Economics from Azerbaijan State Economic University. Since 1999, he has been a Member of the New York State Bar Association.



MR. SHIGEO KATSU

PRESIDENT OF NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY



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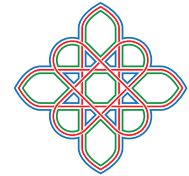
Mr. Shigeo Katsu is President of Nazarbayev University, a position he has held since December 2010. Prior to that, over the course of a 30-year career at the World Bank, Mr. Katsu held various positions including leading financial sector reform support for China, Director for Cote d'Ivoire and Vice President for Europe and Central Asia. After his retirement from the World Bank, he served on the U.S. board of a youth oriented international development NGO and was an Advisory Panel member of the ASEAN+3 Macro-Economic Research Office (AMRO). In addition to his responsibilities at the university, he is a member of the National Commission on the Modernization of the Republic of Kazakhstan and serves as advisor to international and bilateral development institutions. In 2010/2011 he authored a chapter of *Asia, 2050: Realizing the Asian Century* by the Asian Development Bank. Additionally, in 2014 he served as an editor for the book, *Kazakhstan 2050 – Towards a Modern Society for All (2014)*, and in 2015/16 was involved in the book *Central Asia 2050 – Unleashing the Region's Potential*.



MR. BILAHARI KAUSIKAN

CHAIRMAN, MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Bilahari Kausikan is currently the Chairman of the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore. Prior to this he was Ambassador-at-Large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Permanent Secretary of MFA from 2010-13 and Second Permanent Secretary from 2001-10. His service also includes a variety of appointments in the Ministry and abroad, including as Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and as Ambassador to the Russian Federation. Mr. Kausikan has been awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) and the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Meritorious Service Medal) by the government of Singapore. He has also been awarded the "Order of Bernardo O'Higgins" with the rank of "Gran Cruz" by the President of the Republic of Chile, and the Oman Civil Merit Order by the Sultan of Oman.



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MR. KAIRAT KELIMBETOV

GOVERNOR OF THE ASTANA INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL CENTRE

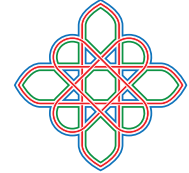


On December 24, 2015, Kairat Kelimbetov was appointed Governor of the Astana International Financial Centre by order of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Previously, Mr. Kelimbetov served as Chairman of the National Bank of Kazakhstan. From 2012-13, he served as the Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, where he governed issues of macroeconomics, budget policy, state companies and finance sector, tax and custom regulations and more. He also served as the Chairman of the Council of Eurasian Economic Commission, where he represented Kazakhstan. Other previous leadership positions include Minister of Economic Development and Trade and Minister of Economy and Budget Planning of Kazakhstan, Head of Administration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and CEO of Sovereign Wealth Fund “Samruk-Kazyna” JSC and of Kazyna Sustainable Development Fund. For a time, Mr. Kelimbetov served as a member of the Supreme Economic Council under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and as Chairman of the Agency for Strategic Planning under the First Vice-Minister of Finance of Kazakhstan. Mr. Kelimbetov graduated from Moscow State University and Georgetown University (USA).



MS. YANA KRIMPE

CEO AND FOUNDER, BEST SOLUTIONS



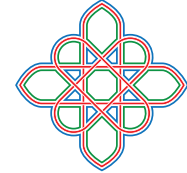
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Yana Krimpe is an accomplished visionary in the field of e- and m-Government as well as in the fast-growing arena of mobile digital identification and signature technology (m-ID). With more than 20 years of experience in implementing innovative ICT solutions in both the public and private sectors, she has earned a strong reputation for success in international circles. In 2018, Ms. Krimpe has been named in USA One World Identity's Top 100 Digital Identity Influencers. In 2016, the Financial Times and Google listed her among the top 100 change makers in Central and Eastern Europe. In addition to being the founder of the Azerbaijani-Estonian ICT company BEST Solutions, an award-winning leader in m-ID, Ms. Krimpe is head of the Mobile-ID Consortium in Azerbaijan, Chairwoman of the Azerbaijani-Estonian Chamber of Commerce and founder of Azerbaijan Women in ICT Club FEMMES DIGITALES. Ms. Krimpe is passionate about providing expertise based on the real-world experience she and her colleagues gained when they successfully implemented e- and m-Government solutions in the Republic of Azerbaijan. This work has expanded and re-defined how identity and signatures are managed digitally, issued by governments and made legally binding, all to create a seamless business environment and an inclusive, efficiently-connected society.



MR. LAZIZ KUDRATOV

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
OF UZBEKISTAN



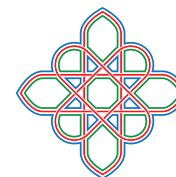
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Laziz Kudratov is the Deputy Chairman of the State Investment Committee of Uzbekistan. Previously, Mr. Kudratov was CEO of Samina Project, an IT based company that is developing an online marketplace for connecting local professionals with customers. Prior to joining Samina Project, from 2014-16 he served as the Executive Director of Uzinfoinvest State Investment Promotion Agency. From 2010-14, Mr. Kudratov served as a Counsellor on Trade and Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in the United States. From 2003-10, Mr. Kudratov worked at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade of Uzbekistan, where he held various positions from junior officer to head of a department. Mr. Kudratov holds an MA in International Relations and World History from Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies (2006) and a BS in Business Administration from Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan (2002).



AMBASSADOR DANIYAR KURBANOV

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS STUDIES



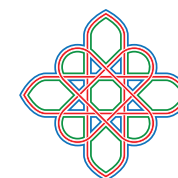
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Ambassador Daniyar Kurbanov is the Deputy Director of the Center for International Relations Studies. Prior to this, he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to China. Other previous positions include Deputy Director of the Institute of Strategic and Interregional Researchers under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Head of division of the Department for Cooperation with Asia-Pacific Countries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan; 1st secretary and Counselor of the Embassy of Uzbekistan in China; and Referent and Attaché of the Consulate General of Russia in China. Ambassador Kurbanov received his PhD in Economics from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan (2003) and MSc in International Relations from Moscow State Institute of International Relations in Russia (1990).



MR. MANUCHEHR KURBONALI

CO-FOUNDER AND GROWTH LEAD AT ZENTIST



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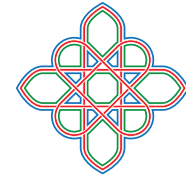
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Manuchehr Kurbonali is the Co-Founder and Growth Lead at Zentist, a dental care provider in the U.S. that currently operates in the four largest cities of California. Zentist is a 500 Startups portfolio company. Mr. Kurbonali is also a Founder of Nurafzo Diagnostic Center, a chain of imaging, lab and consultation facilities, and a Co-Founder of Sharayon Varid Cardiac Center, which specializes in procedures like angioplasty and angiography. Both centers are leaders in their respective medical fields with six branches in the major cities of Tajikistan. Mr. Kurbonali is also a founder of MBO Professional LLC, the largest private language and computer-learning center in Tajikistan. Mr. Kurbonali holds a Certificate in Financial Management from Cornell University (2013), a BA in Finance and Credit from the Tajikistan branch of Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Applied Informatics (2013) and an AA in International Economics from Technological University of Tajikistan (2001).



MS. MARIAM LASHKHI

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT,
GEORGIAN INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY



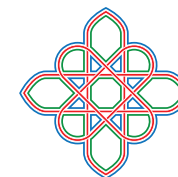
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Mariam Lashkhi has 12 years of working experience in the public and private sectors, international organizations and civil society. She joined the process of building innovation and knowledge-based economy development in 2014, when Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) was established under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. Ms. Lashkhi contributes to strategic planning and innovation reforms and is leading international partnerships and fundraising at the Agency. Before joining GITA, she worked at the World Bank Group, private export companies and the Statistics Department (current Sakstat). She also founded the NGO "Youth Association for Better Future" and worked at the State Office for EU and NATO Integration. Ms. Lashkhi holds a Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy and a Bachelor's Degree in IT and Engineering. She also obtained diplomas and certificates from various international institutions (Georgetown University, USA; Charles University, Czech Republic; R. Karl's University, Heidelberg Germany, DAAD). She speaks English, Russian, German and Turkish.



AMBASSADOR ARTHUR LENK

PRINCIPAL, ISRAEL INNOVATION FOR AFRICA

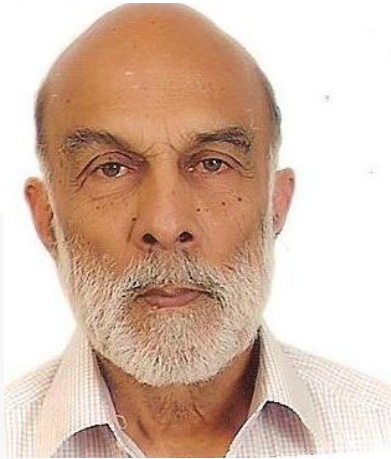


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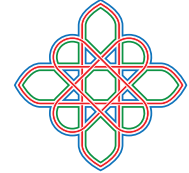
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Ambassador Arthur Lenk is the principal of Israel Innovation for Africa, a consultancy that promotes and facilitates social development cooperation for innovative Israeli companies in a number of African countries and in Azerbaijan. He is a former Israeli diplomat who served as Israel's ambassador to South Africa, Lesotho and Switzerland from August 2013 to July 2017. He served as ambassador of Israel to the Republic of Azerbaijan from August 2005 to July 2009. He also served as director of the Department of International Law in the Office of the Legal Adviser of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as a member of the United Nations Secretary General's Panel of Inquiry on the Gaza flotilla raid.



REAR ADMIRAL RAJA MENON

FORMER ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF OF INDIA



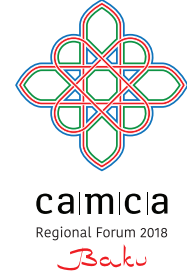
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Rear Admiral Raja Menon was a career officer and a submarine specialist in the Navy and retired in 1994 as the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations). His current areas of specialization are nuclear strategy, maritime strategy, net assessment and strategies scenarios and politico-military simulation and gaming. Published work includes, Maritime Strategy and Continental Wars, a standard text for the Staff College; A Nuclear Strategy for India, recommended reading for the Indian Strategic Force; and The Indian Navy: A Photo Essay, the official gift of the navy. He is also the author of The US-India Non-Proliferation Divide: The Way Ahead by the Cooperative Monitoring Center, Sandia in 2005 as well as The Long View from Delhi: The Grand Strategy of Indian Foreign Policy, which was published in India and the U.S. in 2010. Admiral Menon is a visiting lecturer at all institutes of higher study of the Indian armed forces and the Foreign Office and headed the group that recently wrote the Indian Navy's New Maritime Strategy. Admiral Menon recently retired as the Chairman of the Task Force on Net Assessment and Simulation in the National Security Council and is a distinguished fellow in the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies as well as in the National Maritime Foundation.



MR. JONATHAN E. MISSNER

MANAGING PARTNER OF STEIN MITCHELL CIPOLLONE
BEATO & MISSNER LLP

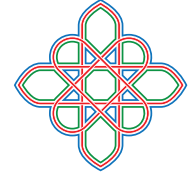


Jonathan Missner is the Managing Partner of Stein Mitchell Cipollone Beato & Missner LLP. He is also Chair of the Firm's Global Practices and Corporate Strategy Groups. Mr. Missner has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center since 2000. With his background of running and leading businesses on a global platform, Mr. Missner works with clients on their most complex matters, including venture capital, private equity, conflict resolution, litigation, as well as guiding emerging companies and their growth and corporate governance. A key area of focus of his practice is advising growing businesses and creating value driven partnerships, including advising clients on raising capital and maintaining and creating synergistic private and public partnerships. In addition to founding and running several companies in the United States, Mr. Missner spent more than a decade at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee ("AIPAC"), most recently as Managing Director. He led AIPAC's Strategic Planning and was responsible for all capital raising, among other things. At AIPAC, he worked to empower activists to be politically engaged and build relationships with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. Mr. Missner holds a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, an M.B.A. from The George Washington University and a B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University.



MR. SARDOR MUKHAMEDALIEV

CEO OF "ORIENTSWISS" CIS COUNTRIES



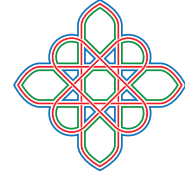
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Sardor Mukhamedaliev is the CEO of "OrientSwiss" CIS countries. He is a multifunctional business leader with 20 years of experience and an expert in all aspects of sales, marketing, business development and networking in the CIS. Mr. Mukhamedaliev has worked in Kazakhstan in leading multinational companies in the fields of telecommunications, consumer electronics, FMCG and the internet. Previous leadership positions include Country Manager, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, at Huawei Technologies (2012-15), Product Marketing Manager/Key Account Manager in Central Asia at Samsung Electronics (2009-12) and Market Planning Manager at Procter & Gamble in Central Asia and the Caucasus (2007-09).



MR. ELSHAD NASIROV

VICE PRESIDENT OF INVESTMENTS AND MARKETING, SOCAR



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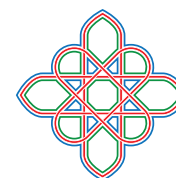
Elshad Nasirov was appointed Vice President of Investments and Marketing of SOCAR on December 28th, 2005 by decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Prior to this role, Mr. Nasirov worked as a Chief of the Foreign Economic Operations Department (1997-2003) and as a Chief of the Marketing and Operations Department of SOCAR (2003-05). Previously, Mr. Nasirov worked in a number of positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the former Soviet Union. As Azerbaijan gained its state independence, Mr. Nasirov worked in the Permanent Representative Office of Azerbaijan in the UN and later was promoted to the position of Chief of Division in the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. Mr. Nasirov is also Vice President of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan. In 2010, he was awarded the Glory Order under the decree of the President of Azerbaijan. He is fluent in Russian, English, Persian and Indian.



MS. NARGIZ NASRULLAYEVA- MUDUROGLU

**ADVISER TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL OIL
FUND OF AZERBAIJAN**

Nargiz Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu is an Adviser to the Executive Director of the National Oil Fund of Azerbaijan. Previously, she worked as Director of Business Operations and as Chief Operations Officer at Landmark Business Center, the leading office and hotel complex in Baku. From 2004-15, she served as the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan, the largest international business association in the country. Ms. Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu started her career in the Baku Branch of HSBC Bank Middle East in February 1997 as a Customer Service Representative, moving on to the Trade, Finance, and Loans Department in 2000. From 2001-04, she served as a Center Manager at the Regus Business Center Trading Ltd. in Baku. Ms. Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu holds an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2016), and a BA in Legal Regulation of Economy from Western University in Baku (2000).

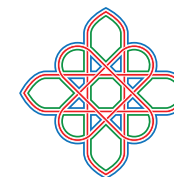


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MR. RAKHIM OSHAKBAYEV

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER OF APPLIED RESEARCH “TALAP”



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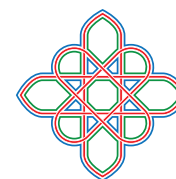
Rakhim Oshakbayev is the Director of the Center of Applied Research “TALAP,” a think-tank focused on macroeconomic research and economic policy. Before joining “TALAP,” from 2015 to March 2016, Mr. Oshakbayev served as a Vice-Minister for Investments and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan where he was responsible for the development and implementation of investment policy and international cooperation in this area. Prior to joining the Ministry of Investment and Development, from 2011-15 Mr. Oshakbayev served as a First Deputy Chairman of the Board of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan “Atameken.” Mr. Oshakbayev also has substantial experience working in senior management positions in different state-owned and private companies in Kazakhstan. Mr. Oshakbayev holds a BS in Economics from Lomonosov Moscow State University (1999).



MS. SALLY A. PAINTER

CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AT BLUE STAR STRATEGIES, LLC

Sally Painter is Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer at Blue Star Strategies, LLC, where she provides corporate, institutional and public-sector clients with external affairs, foreign and security policy guidance and global business development strategies. Ms. Painter also serves on the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Council and as a senior advisor to its Future Europe Initiative. From 1993-95, Ms. Painter was a senior advisor in the Clinton Administration where she managed the Office of Business Liaison's outreach and advocacy program for the late Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown, providing strategic advice and advocacy for U.S. companies bidding on overseas contracts. Ms. Painter's work focuses on supporting the democratic, economic development and rule of law aspirations of countries around the world, particularly those undergoing transition. She is a key leader and trusted advisor in the European space, representing global businesses and governments on their most important investment and foreign policy issues. Previously, Ms. Painter served as director of international at Tenneco Inc., a Fortune 500 company, and was instrumental in the creation and management of the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue and the French American Business Council. Ms. Painter is the recipient of the Golden Laurel Branch Award from the Republic of Bulgaria, Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Hungary, and the Minister of Defence Award for Distinction from the Republic of Latvia.



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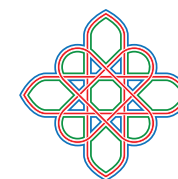
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AMBASSADOR HAFIZ PASHAYEV

RECTOR, ADA UNIVERSITY



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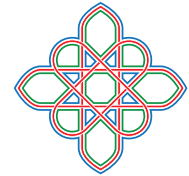
Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Rector of Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy. Ambassador Pashayev was the first Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States. He assumed his official duties in November 1992, and presented his credentials to President Clinton on April 14th, 1993. Prior to his diplomatic career, he taught physics at Baku State University and served as Director of the Metal Physics Laboratory at the Academy of Sciences in Azerbaijan. Ambassador Pashayev received his degree in physics from Baku State University in 1963, and his Ph.D. in solid state physics in 1971 from the Institute of Atomic Energy in Moscow. From 1975-76, he undertook research at the University of California at Irvine. Ambassador Pashayev is the author of more than 100 scientific articles and books. His articles on Azerbaijan affairs and Azerbaijan-U.S. relations have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Boston Globe, etc. His most recent books are *Racing Up Hill* (2006) and *Manifesto of One Ambassador* (2007). Ambassador Pashayev is also the Director of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and a Trustee of the U.S.-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce.



DR. JACOPO MARIA PEPE

ASSOCIATE FELLOW, ROBERT BOSCH CENTER FOR CENTRAL
AND EASTERN EUROPE, RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIA,
GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Dr. Jacopo Maria Pepe is currently Associate Fellow at the Robert Bosch Centre for Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Eurasia at the DGAP, Berlin, Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, and co-founder of the Berlin Center for Caspian Region and Eurasian Studies. An analyst of global and Eurasian geopolitics and geo-economics, his main research interests are the political economy of transport, infrastructure, logistics and energy in the post-Soviet space and in greater Eurasia as well as the geopolitics and geo-economics of trade against the backdrop of changing supply and value chains. His latest book, *Beyond Energy: Trade and Transport in a Reconnecting Eurasia*, was published by Springer in January 2018.

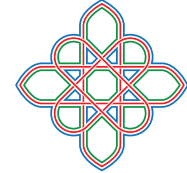


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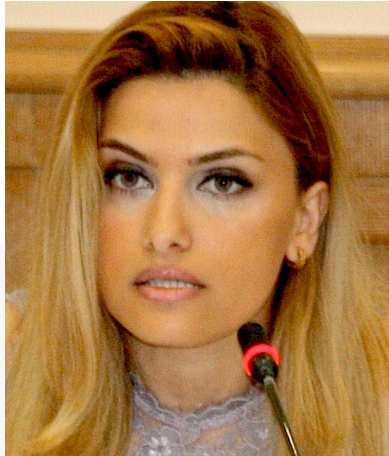
MR. YAGUB RAHIMOV

CO-FOUNDER, 7MARKETZ GROUP



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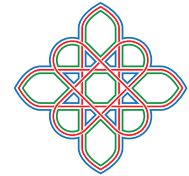
Yagub Rahimov is co-founder and CEO of 7MARKETZ Group and NewsOgram AI. 7MARKETZ Group is one of the world's top 5 blockchain media agencies and a holding group handling 19 brands globally. Mr. Rahimov has been supporting and donating blockchain startups with a vision to empower the community. He is currently focused on developing: "iCoinSentiment.com," an AI powered decentralized Coin Market Data platform; "AtoZMarkets.com," a media platform combining blockchain to FinTech; "NewsOgram.com," an AI Powered Blockchain based smart news aggregator; "GrowthChannel.io" and "iCoinSummit.com."



MS. GULMIRA RZAYEVA

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES IN AZERBAIJAN

Gulmira Rzayeva is a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan; a Research Associate at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies (OIES) at the University of Oxford, UK; an Expert/Advisor to the World Energy Council's Global Gas Center based in Geneva; and a Founder and Managing Director of Eurasia Analytics consulting company based in London. Ms. Rzayeva's area of expertise is energy security. She is recognized worldwide for her work and is a frequent speaker at international conferences. She is also an author of numerous reports and articles including the most recent reports, "Turkish Domestic Natural Gas Market: Policies and Challenges" and "The Outlook for Azerbaijan Gas Supplies to Europe," both published by OIES. Ms. Rzayeva holds an MA in Global Affairs from the University of Buckingham, UK (2008) and a BA in International Relations from the Baku Slavic University (2003).

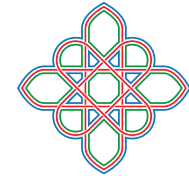


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DR. THERESA SABONIS-HELF

PROFESSOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY, NATIONAL
WAR COLLEGE, NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY



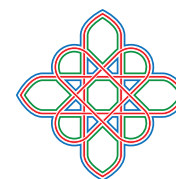
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Dr. Theresa Sabonis-Helf is a Professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College in Washington D.C., where she has taught since 2001. She specializes in energy security, international energy politics and politics of Central Asia and the Caucasus. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University in the Science, Technology and International Affairs Program and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She has served on the NATO Defence College's Academic Advisory Board and on Admiral Stavridis' European Command Advisory Panel during his tenure as Supreme Allied Commander of European Forces. She just completed a sabbatical, conducting research in Central Asia and the Caucasus on the security implications of transboundary electricity trade. She previously worked as a Visiting Fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development, as an Energy and Environment Policy Advisor for the Harvard Institute for International Development and as a Policy Analyst for think tanks in the United States and Russia. She has lived and worked in seven countries of the former USSR, has assisted two nations with the development of their first National Security Strategies and has co-edited two volumes on Central Asia's political and economic transition. She has also published and lectured extensively on climate change policies, post-Soviet energy and environmental issues, Russian energy behavior, regional and international energy trade and the politics of electricity.



SENATOR SODYQ SAFOEV

FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE OF OLIY MAJLIS
OF UZBEKISTAN



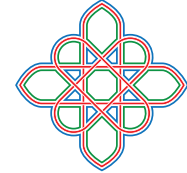
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Senator Sodyq Safoev has served as the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan since 2016. Prior to this, Senator Safoev worked in a number of governmental agencies focusing on foreign policy and international economic relations. In 1993, he was named Ambassador to Germany. During this assignment, he also represented Uzbekistan in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Austria and the Netherlands. In 1996, he was appointed Counselor of State to the President of Uzbekistan and Ambassador to the United States of America and to Canada. In 2001, Senator Safoev became a First Deputy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and later was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. He served in this role until 2005 when he became Senator and was elected Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. In 2005, he also served as a Rector of the University of Diplomacy and World Economy. He also taught economics at Tashkent University and served as a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Institute for International Development (HIID). He has written numerous publications on issues of economy, security and international relations. Senator Safoev graduated from the Economic Department of Tashkent University in 1976 and completed his doctoral work on problems of labor productivity in industry in 1984.



MR. BARRY SALAAM

COMMISSIONER AT AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENT
JOINT ANTI-CORRUPTION MONITORING AND EVALUATION
COMMITTEE (MEC)



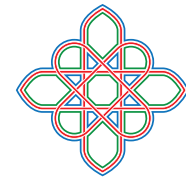
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Barry Salaam is a Commissioner at Afghanistan's Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC). Mr. Salaam is a well-known journalist, civil society activist and entrepreneur. He is the Founder of NAW Media, a production company which produces a wide variety of radio and TV programs, as well as the Founder of Channel 7 TV Network. Mr. Salaam is also the President of the Organization of Afghan Alumni. He is the founding member of the Civil Society & Human Rights Network (CSHRN) of Afghanistan, which unites 120 member organizations. He also sits on the Board of Directors of the Afghanistan Institute for Civil Society. Mr. Salaam is a frequent participant in international conferences promoting democracy, women's rights, free media, development and security in Afghanistan. Mr. Salaam holds an MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University (2017) and a BA in Persian Literature from Kabul University (2008).



DR. BRENDA SHAFFER

VISITING RESEARCHER AND PROFESSOR, GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY



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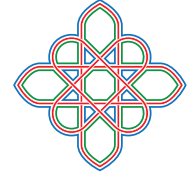
Dr. Brenda Shaffer is a foreign policy and international energy specialist, focusing on global energy trends and policies, European energy security, politics in the South Caucasus and greater Caspian and Black Sea regions, Caspian energy and Eastern Mediterranean energy. She is a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center in Washington, D.C., and a visiting researcher and professor at Georgetown University. Dr. Shaffer is the author of several books: *Energy Politics* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), *Borders and Brethren: Iran and the Challenge of Azerbaijani Identity* (MIT Press, 2002) and *Partners in Need: The Strategic Relationship of Russia and Iran* (Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 2001). She has also served as the editor for *Beyond the Resource Curse* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012) and *Limits of Culture: Islam and Foreign Policy* (MIT Press, 2006). Dr. Shaffer frequently provides research and expert counsel to international institutions, governments, energy companies and regional security organizations. She has given testimony to several committees of the U.S. Congress, including the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and to the European Parliament. She frequently appears on CNBC and in major news outlets worldwide to provide insight on developments in the global oil market. She previously served as the Research Director for the Caspian Studies Program at Harvard University.



MR. OMAID SHARIFI

CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF ARTLORDS

Omaid Sharifi is the Co-Founder and President of ArtLords and a patron of the arts. ArtLords is a leading urban art management organization in Afghanistan and a grassroots movement of artists and volunteers motivated by the desire to pave the way for social transformation and behavioral change through employing the soft power of art and culture as a non-intrusive approach. He is also an Atlantic Council Millennium Leadership Fellow and an Asia Society 21 Fellow. Mr. Sharifi is a winner of the Best Animation for Peace and Tolerance Award from the MiSK-UNDP Youth Forum (2017), an Anti-Corruption Excellence Award Winner from Ban Ki-Moon and the Emir of Qatar (2016) and Afghanistan's Social Media Award Winner for encouraging offline action (2015). Mr. Sharifi also co-founded the famous "I See You" campaign against corruption, the Hamdeli (Empathy) Network for bringing joy to Afghan citizens and the SELA Foundation in Afghanistan. Previously he served as a Regional Manager for the British Council of Afghanistan's Tawanmandi project for strengthening civil society in Afghanistan from 2012-16 and as an aide to Dr. Ashraf Ghani at the Transition Coordination Commission from 2011-12.



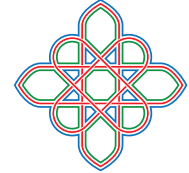
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MR. SAMIR SHARIFOV

MINISTER OF FINANCE OF AZERBAIJAN

Samir Sharifov was appointed Minister of Finance of Azerbaijan in April 2006. In addition to being a minister, Mr. Sharifov is a member of the supervisory board of the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan. Prior, he worked as the head of department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and was a department director at the Central Bank of Azerbaijan. In January 2001 he was appointed Executive Director of the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan by President Heydar Aliyev. Mr. Sharifov received his MA in Economics from the Department of International Economic Relations of the Faculty of International Relations and International Law at Kiev State University, Ukraine.

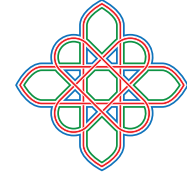


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MR. ASH SINGH

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INSEAD
BUSINESS SCHOOL AND FOUNDER, STARTUPCOURSE.COM



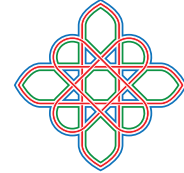
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Ash Singh has accumulated over a decade of diverse experience in sales, marketing, business development, business model innovation and general management. His success in the field was noted by Business Week in 2009 as one of "Asia's Top Young Entrepreneurs" and reiterated by the Economic Times in 2012 for having "built a solid reputation as one of the most successful serial entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia." Mr. Singh has focused on creating and bringing to market, applications and services in the mobile, trans-media, digital and Internet spaces. While still a student at Chinese University in Hong Kong, he conceived and launched SNBS, a corporate social networking company, which was acquired when he was just 22 years old. In his next role, Mr. Singh served as the Chief Technology Officer for At-Life, which created Singapore's largest customer loyalty rewards program with 500,000 members, for McDonald's in all of their 125 restaurants. He is the founder of Interactive SG - Asia's leading digital media and new business accelerator based in Singapore. His project, "The Angel's Gate," is Asia's first 360 TV platform for entrepreneurs. Mr. Singh is also committed to nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs. He is a speaker and honorary judge for business venture competitions at the INSEAD, SMU, NUS, NTU, Synergy Business School (Russia) and his alma mater, The Ivey Business School. He is also a co-owner and "super fan" of the Singapore Slingers professional basketball team.



DR. S. FREDERICK STARR

FOUNDING CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE



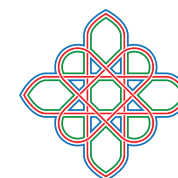
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Dr. S. Frederick Starr is the founding chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program, a Joint Center affiliated with the American Foreign Policy Council and Institute for Security and Development Policy. Dr. Starr was the founding Chairman of the Kennan Institute in Washington, and served as Vice President of Tulane University and President of the Aspen Institute and of Oberlin College (1983-94). He was closely involved in planning the University of Central Asia and the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and is a trustee of the Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan. He earned his PhD in History at Princeton, MA at King's College, Cambridge, and his BA at Yale, and holds five honorary degrees. His 2013 book, *Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age from the Arab Conquest to Tamerlane*, has been widely acclaimed. In this book on the history of the region between the 8th and 11th centuries, he argues that Central Asia was the center of the world. It has been translated into 22 languages. Dr. Starr has focused on the challenge of reopening continental-wide transport passing through Central Asia and Afghanistan, which he sees as a key to success in Afghanistan itself. This issue was the subject of a series of articles between 2000 and 2008 and of a book, *The New Silk Roads*, published in 2007.



MR. TALANT SULTANOV

CHAIRMAN OF THE KYRGYZ CHAPTER OF THE
INTERNET SOCIETY



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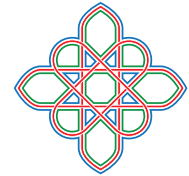
Talant Sultanov is Chairman of the Kyrgyz Chapter of the Internet Society. Previously, Mr. Sultanov was an Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Coordinator of the Working Group on Taza Koom Digital Transformation Program. He also previously served as an Adviser to the Chief of the Administration of the President and the Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, as well as worked in Almaty and Washington Offices of the World Bank. Mr. Sultanov is a Founder of the Silk Road Studies Center and the Kyrgyz Chapter of the Internet Society. Additionally, he served as a member of the Supervisory Board of the National TV and Radio Corporation, the Council on Business and Entrepreneurship under the Speaker of the Parliament, the Board of Directors of the Bank of Asia in Kyrgyzstan and Humo Microcredit Foundation in Tajikistan. Mr. Sultanov holds an MA in International Finance from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (2006) and a BA in International Relations from San Francisco State University (1999). He has also received executive education at the Harvard Kennedy School (2016).



MS. SARAH TONUCCI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RUMSFELD FOUNDATION

Sarah Tonucci is the Executive Director of the Rumsfeld Foundation. In this capacity she manages the Foundation's programs including fellowships for U.S. graduate students interested in public service, fellowships for young leaders from Central Asia and the Caucasus, and grants to organizations supporting active duty troops, wounded military veterans, their families and the families of the fallen. In addition, she oversees the Foundation's events and conferences, including an annual Graduate Fellowship Conference and annual conferences held in the Greater Central Asia region. Prior to her work with the Rumsfeld Foundation, Ms. Tonucci held internship positions at various organizations including the Seeing Eye Foundation, McKinsey & Company, Feeding America, Coyne Public Relations, and the Office of former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Following her graduation from Northwestern University in 2009 with a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies, Ms. Tonucci returned to Donald Rumsfeld's staff full-time. After assisting with the Foundation's various programs and grant giving, in March 2011 she was appointed the Executive Director and now oversees all of the Rumsfeld Foundation's activities.



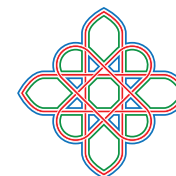
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MS. GULNURA TORALIEVA

HEAD OF THE BISHKEK SCHOOL OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND
PARTNER AT PROMOTANK

Gulnura Toralieva is a head of the Bishkek School of Public Relations and a Partner at Promotank, with 10+ years of practical experience in media, governance and civil society development. Prior to Promotank, Ms. Toralieva worked as an Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and coordinated the Open Government Partnership (OGP) programme, as well as the open data initiative. In 2013-15 she led the media and communications team at the Prime Minister's office in the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition to teaching journalism at the American University of Central Asia for more than five years, she has also served as a media advisor at BBC World Service Trust and USAID. Ms. Toralieva has a PhD from the Russian Academy of Sciences and an MA in Science Journalism from the City University in London.



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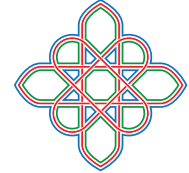
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DR. MAMUKA TSERETELI

SENIOR FELLOW, CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE



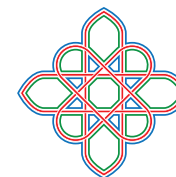
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Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli is a Senior Research Fellow with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program Joint Center based in Washington D.C. His expertise includes international economic policy, economic and energy security, political and economic risk analysis and mitigation strategies, and business development in the South Caucasus and Central Asia. He teaches classes at American University in D.C. and at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS. From 2009-13, he served as Director of the Center for Black Sea-Caspian Studies at American University. Dr. Tsereteli is a Founding Executive Director and currently serves as the President of the America-Georgia Business Council. He also served as Economic Counselor at the Embassy of Georgia in Washington, D.C. Dr. Tsereteli holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Academy of Sciences in Moscow and an M.A. in Social and Economic Geography from Tbilisi State University.



DR. TORNIKE TURMANIDZE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY



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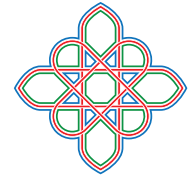
Dr. Tornike Turmanidze is an Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations at Tbilisi State University and at the School of Governance at Caucasus University. He is Founder and Chair of the Board at the Georgian think tank, “BTKK - Policy Research Group.” Dr. Turmanidze served as Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia from 2011-13 and held various positions at the Information and Analysis Department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia from 2004-10. His areas of expertise include national and global security, IR theory, U.S. foreign policy in Eurasia, foreign policies of small/weak states, Russia-Georgia relations and the security situation in the Russian-occupied Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Dr. Turmanidze holds a PhD (2010), MA (2002) and BA (2000) in International Relations from Tbilisi State University. He is also the editor of *International Relations Theory: A Chrestomathy* (2004) and the author of *Buffer States* (2011 Georgian edition, 2009 U.S. edition).



MS. AZIZA UMAROVA

CO-FOUNDER OF SMARTGOV CONSULTING

Aziza Umarova is Co-Founder of SmartGov Consulting, a Singapore-based consulting firm specializing in public administration reform in post-Soviet countries, Afghanistan and Mongolia. Her expertise is innovation in the public sector, anti-corruption and integrity, public service delivery, e-Governance and digital strategies. Recently she also joined the GovInsider media platform as an Associate Editor for Eurasia and Columnist at Large, catering to an audience of over one million government officials worldwide. Ms. Umarova has a decade of experience in leading large development projects and previously served as an Advisor on Public Sector Innovation at the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Global Center for Public Service Excellence in Singapore. Prior to that, she led the Governance Team at UNDP Uzbekistan. Ms. Umarova holds an MA in Security Studies in Central Asia and the Middle East from the School of International Relations at the University of St. Andrews, UK (2006), and an MA (2005) and BA (1999) in International Economics from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan.

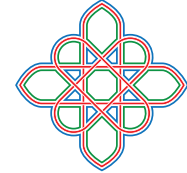


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MR. EMIN VALIYEV

CO-FOUNDER, KEEPFACE, AZERBAIJAN



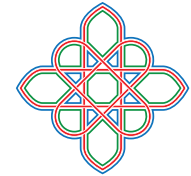
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Emin Valiyev is a marketing professional and entrepreneur with 13 years of experience in the Central Asia and Caucasus regions. He is a Co-Founder of Keepface, an influencer-marketing platform operating in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Iran. In 2010, he also founded Uptime Marketing Agency with operations in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Prior to entrepreneurship, Mr. Valiyev worked in marketing management units at Colgate-Palmolive Kazakhstan and Danone Kazakhstan. Mr. Valiyev began his career in 2004 at Colgate-Palmolive Azerbaijan as the Assistant Brand Manager. Soon after, he was promoted to the regional role in the CIS Countries Head Office in Istanbul, later moving to Kazakhstan in 2007. Mr. Valiyev holds a BA in International Economic Relations from Azerbaijan State Economic University in Baku (2004). He has also attended numerous seminars, trainings and summer schools on management, marketing and negotiations in different countries throughout Europe and Asia.



AMBASSADOR WAHIDULLAH WAISSI

AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
TO AUSTRALIA



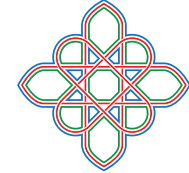
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Ambassador Wahidullah Waissi is the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Australia. Previously he served as the Director-General for Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, where he oversaw multilateral development and regional economic cooperation and coordinated regional connectivity projects. Ambassador Waissi has initiated and was chief negotiator for the Chabahar Transit and Transport Corridor Agreement among Afghanistan, Iran and India, as well as for the Lapis Lazuli Transit and Transport Corridor connecting Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. In the past he also served as a Senior Adviser to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance, and as the Director and Formulation Manager of Afghanistan's National Development Strategy and Millennium Development Goals. Ambassador Waissi is also a Co-Founder and Chair of the Green Club. He holds an MA in Development Economics from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts (2005).



MR. ENDERS WIMBUSH

PRESIDENT OF STRATEVARIOUS, INC.



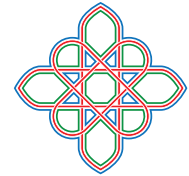
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S. Enders Wimbush is President of StrateVarious, Inc. and Distinguished Senior Fellow of The Jamestown Foundation. From 2011–12, he served as Senior Director of Foreign Policy and Civil Society at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) where he was responsible for GMF's offices in Warsaw, Berlin, Paris, Bucharest, Belgrade and Ankara, in addition to managing GMF's broad foreign policy portfolio in Washington, D.C. Before joining the GMF, Mr. Wimbush served as Senior Vice President of the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. and spent many years in the private sector with Booz Allen Hamilton, Science Applications International Corporation and Runzheimer International. Mr. Wimbush also served as (Republican) Governor of the United States Broadcasting Board of Governors from 2010–12 and earlier (1987–93) as Director of Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany. Mr. Wimbush founded the America-Georgia Business Council in 1997 at the request of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, who awarded him Georgia's Order of Honor. He is the author, co-author or editor of seven books and numerous articles in professional and popular media, as well as dozens of policy studies. His ideas have appeared frequently in professional, policy and popular media, including The Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, Washington Times, Washington Post, Journal of Commerce, National Interest, Survival, Global Affairs and The Weekly Standard.



AMBASSADOR PAUL WOLFOWITZ

VISITING SCHOLAR, AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK AND FORMER U.S.
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



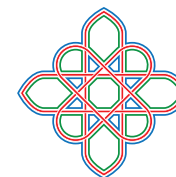
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Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz is a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) where he works on development and national security issues. Before joining AEI, Ambassador Wolfowitz spent more than three decades in public service and higher education, working in the administrations of seven different presidents. Most recently, he served as President of the World Bank and U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense. At the World Bank, he focused on the problem of corruption and the challenges of sub-Saharan Africa. As U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia in the Reagan administration, Ambassador Wolfowitz was an advocate of reform and political openness. He was involved in Persian Gulf security for almost 30 years during three different tours at the U.S. Department of Defense. Ambassador Wolfowitz has been widely published in many outlets, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and The Sunday Times of London. His television appearances include NBC's "Meet the Press," CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360," and Fox Business Network's "Lou Dobbs Tonight." Ambassador Wolfowitz has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in Mathematics from Cornell University.



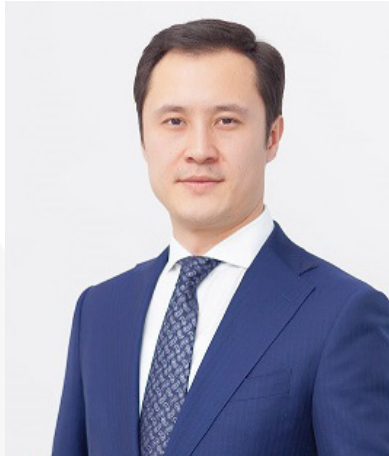
MS. NINO ZAMBAKHIDZE

CHAIRPERSON, GEORGIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION



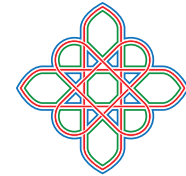
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Nino Zambakhidze is the founder of L.T.D. “LBN Line Distribution Company,” an official representative of Coffee Vergnano and Tea Ronnefeldt in Georgia. Having started farming in 2008, she founded L.T.D. “Georgian Business Zone” (milk processing farm, cattle farm, apple orchard and food production farm) where she also acts as Executive Director. In 2010, Nino founded the “Regional Development Association” in Akhaltsikhe and since then has been leading various rural development projects. She became a prize-winner for “Woman Entrepreneur of the Year” at the first annual Business-Award “Mercury 2011” ceremony, and was also the first woman leader to become an honorary coordinator of the organization “Invest for the Future,” functioning under the patronage of Hilary Clinton. In 2012, Nino founded the “Georgian Farmers’ Association” where she serves as a chairwoman of the organization and manages all donor-funded projects. In 2014, Nino became the founder of the Georgian Entrepreneurs’ Network supporting both beginners and experienced entrepreneurs in business development. Since 2013 she has also been an advisor in agro-directions at the State Partnership Fund. Nino received an MBA with Distinction in Global Management (GGSB) & International Executive MBA (CSB) at Grenoble Graduate School of Business (France) and the Caucasus School of Business (CSB). In 2017 Nino was nominated and accepted as a YGL (Young Global Leader) by the World Economic Forum.



MR. YERNAR ZHARKESHOV

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND MANAGING PARTNER AT THE
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



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Yernar Zharkeshov is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner at the Center for Strategic Initiatives, a management consulting firm in Kazakhstan focused on helping government and private sector organizations to design long-term development strategies and organizational transformations. Mr. Zharkeshov also heads the firm's governance practice and leads transformation strategies for central and local governments. Prior to joining the private sector, he served as Portfolio Manager at the UNDP in Kazakhstan from 2014-17 where he led the Secretariat of the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, an international initiative of Kazakhstan and UNDP with participation of 40 countries, including all CAMCA countries. From 2012-14, Mr. Zharkeshov served as Director of the Research Institute of the Academy of Public Administration under Kazakhstan's President where he contributed to civil service reforms including the introduction of Senior Executive Service by leading various applied research projects. Mr. Zharkeshov holds an MA in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (2011) and a BSc. in Public Policy, Government and Management from the University of Birmingham, UK (2009).



DR. TALEH ZIYADOV

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF BAKU INTERNATIONAL SEA
TRADE PORT



Dr. Taleh Ziyadov is Director-General of Baku International Sea Trade Port in Azerbaijan. He holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Cambridge (UK) and a Master's degree from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He specializes in transport, logistics and energy issues in the Caspian region. Since 2008, he has advised a number of private and public companies as well as international organizations on the matter of transport and logistics in Azerbaijan and the Greater Central Asian region. He is the author of the book, *Azerbaijan as a Regional Hub in Central Eurasia* (Baku:ADA, 2012), which provides a strategic analysis of the Euro-Asian trade and transportation networks through Central Eurasia, outlining the vision for developing Azerbaijan into a “regional hub” by 2030. Previously, he served as Deputy Executive Director of the U.S.-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce (USACC) in Washington, D.C. and as Assistant Dean and Senior Research Fellow at ADA University in Baku.

