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Regional Forum 2017

Dushanbe



CAMCA NETWORK

The CAMCA network is a collection of professionals committed to sharing ideas, knowledge, expertise, experience and inspiration across the 10 countries of Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan (CAMCA). This new generation of regional leaders values free market economic systems, good governance, the rule of law and basic human freedoms; supports the sovereignty of their countries and traditional national values; and also acknowledges the importance of regional and global cooperation. Established by alumni of the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program, members of the CAMCA platform believe in the value of a connected region and are driven to contribute to the development, prosperity and cooperation of the CAMCA countries through a variety of joint activities and projects.



CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

The CAMCA Regional Forum is a non-political and non-partisan Forum established to promote region-wide discussions on means of advancing economic growth and development in Greater Central Asia (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). It promotes this goal by fostering dialogue and interaction among rising young leaders from all sectors in the 10 countries of the region, as well as with international leaders and stakeholders.

Countries of the region are all evaluating models of future economic, political and social development. Expanded communication and collaboration among talented professionals from a range of fields can contribute to this process on both a national and regional basis.

The CAMCA Regional Forum is an effort of the CAMCA network that has evolved out of the Rumsfeld Foundation's Fellowship Program with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at the American Foreign Policy Council. Since 2008, over 170 regional leaders have completed the Fellowship Program.





WELCOME TO TAJIKISTAN

Crowned by some of the world's highest mountain peaks, Tajikistan is a country of spectacular landscapes and mountains covering nearly its entire territory. Glacier-fed rivers supplying hydroelectricity traverse the Tajik countryside whose borders meet with Afghanistan to the south, China to the east, Kyrgyzstan on the north and Uzbekistan to the west.

Located in the southwestern Hisor Valley at the convergence of the Varzob and Kofarnihon rivers, Dushanbe is one of the highest mountain capitals in the world and was established along the medieval caravan pass that originated in China and transited through the legendary cities of Samarkand and Bukhara to the Middle East and Europe. Within its borders, archaeologists have uncovered the remains of Greek-Bactrian settlements, ancient settlements from the Kushan period, ancient sites of Shishi Khon village and other medieval settlements. While these remains date as far back as nearly the fifth century BC, historical evidence suggests that Dushanbe remained a small village until the early 20th century during which the first written mention of the village of Dushanbe occurred. This village flourished at a crossroads where a large bazaar for visitors near and far would take place each Monday, hence the city's name, Dushanbe, meaning "Monday" in the native Tajik language.

While strong political, economic and cultural ties link Tajikistan to other nations of Central Asia, Tajiks have historically also shared a close ethnic relationship with Persia, modern Iran and other Tajik groups living in northeastern Afghanistan. In fact, the Tajik and Persian languages are so closely related that they are nearly indistinguishable. Tajiks make up the nation's main ethnic group followed by Uzbeks, and then a small percentage of Kyrgyz, Russians, Turkmens and more.

The Tajik land is rich in natural resources and opportunity. The country's wide spectrum of mineral wealth includes deposits of coal, iron, lead, antimony, zinc, gold, tin and tungsten. Large, untapped reserves of natural gas and petroleum provide opportunities and prospects for further development. The historical tradition of farming and harvesting continues to play a major role in the Tajik economy. Cotton is a leading crop and almonds and dried apricots are key exports. In addition, the raising of livestock such as long-horned cattle, Hisor sheep and goats; the cultivation of fruits including apricots, pears, apples, cherries, grapes, pomegranates and figs; and the harvesting of vegetables, nuts and grains like wheat, rice and barley; remain a significant part of traditional Tajik life.





A leading cotton-textile center, Dushanbe produces silk, textile machinery, electrical appliances, clothing and leather goods. Another active industry is food processing, including the processing of fruits, vegetable oils and tobacco. The manufacturing and metal working sectors also specialize in the creation of power equipment, cables, agricultural tools and household instruments.

Tajikistan's capital city has grown into an industrial and cultural hub benefitting from its rich agricultural surroundings and the important regional railroad junction it harbors. Since the early 2000s, the lively city has continued to experience a construction boom which has given way to several beautiful structures including the central park named after Abu Abdullah Rudaki a great Tajik-Persian poet; an exquisitely decorated monument of Ismoil Somoni, the 10th century founder of the Samanid Dynasty; the Palace of Nations, ranked as one of the most beautiful presidential residences in the world; the Dushanbe flagpole, the second tallest free-standing flagpole in the world; the National Museum of Tajikistan, housing an excellent archaeological collection detailing the rich history of the Tajik nation; as well as many other impressive sites. Dushanbe also remains connected to its neighbors and the international community through a rail line to Termez, as well as air travel connections with Frankfurt, Dubai, Istanbul, Moscow, Tashkent, Almaty and other major cities.



Tajikistan looks forward to sharing opportunities for international business and tourism with citizens across the world eager to explore its potential and natural beauty.



2017 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM PARTNERS

The Forum would not have been possible without terrific partners including:



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Trip to Tajikistan
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Our appreciation to Bakhriddin Isamutdinov for providing photos of Tajikistan for this publication.



CAMCA REGIONAL FORUMS



2016 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

TBILISI, GEORGIA – JUNE 18-19, 2016



The 2016 CAMCA Regional Forum in Tbilisi, Georgia brought together over 160 representatives from across more than 20 countries to discuss issues and trends central to the region.

The Forum began with a welcoming reception hosted by the President of Georgia, H.E. Giorgi Margvelashvili, at the Presidential Palace with views overlooking the illuminated skyline of Tbilisi.

Opening remarks the following day were delivered by Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Ms. Aziza Umarova, a Fellow from Uzbekistan, who presented on behalf of the CAMCA network. The Prime Minister of Georgia, H.E. Giorgi Kvirikashvili, also provided a keynote welcoming address. Additional keynote speakers throughout the Forum included Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli, the Minister of Defense of Georgia, and Ambassador R. James Woolsey, Chairman of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

The Forum program included a presentation on “Centrifugal and Centripetal Trends in the CAMCA Region” by Dr. S. Frederick Starr, as well as several plenary and panel discussions on “CAMCA’s Changing Geopolitical Landscape: New Actors, Alignments and Strategic Options,” “Current Global Economic Trends: Implications for CAMCA Countries,” “Ideas and Influences: CAMCA’s Challenges and Opportunities,” “Boosting Investment In CAMCA: Understanding the Opportunities” and “CAMCA and East-West Transport and Transit Corridor.”

Participants also enjoyed an engaging conversation between Dr. Frank Luntz, Founder and President of Luntz Global, and Secretary Rumsfeld, on topics including leadership and the role of the U.S. in the world.

Forum speakers and participants included distinguished professionals from around the world including each of the 10 CAMCA countries, several European countries, India, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States, Vietnam and more.



Additional Forum highlights included a sightseeing tour, dinner in Tbilisi’s Old City and a spectacular closing dinner, generously hosted by the Government of Georgia, held at the Funicular restaurant overlooking the city from the Mtatsminda hilltop. At the closing dinner, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mikheil Janelidze, provided remarks and performers from the Sukhishvili Georgian National Ballet provided memorable entertainment to traditional music for dinner guests.



2015 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA – JUNE 20-21, 2015



The Forum included opening remarks from Secretary Rumsfeld and Dr. S. Frederick Starr and a keynote address from Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament, Enkhbold Zandaakhuu. Several sessions followed focused around three themes: “CAMCA’s Evolving Place in the World Economy,” “Foreign and Security Outlook of CAMCA in 2025,” and “Unlocking the Potential of CAMCA’s Human Capital.” Additional keynote speakers included Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and former Kyrgyz Prime Minister, Djoomart Otorbaev. Other speakers and participants included notable professionals from Mongolia, the broader CAMCA region, Europe, India, the Republic of Korea, the United States and more.

Attendees enjoyed several cultural activities including exceptional performances by the Mongolian Military Band and Dance Troupe organized by Forum partner, the Mongolian Ministry of Defense. In addition, participants visited the Chinggis Khan Monument followed by a dinner at Terelj National Park.



2014 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN – JUNE 20-22, 2014



The 2014 Forum discussions explored topics including “Macro-economic Stability and Foreign Direct Investments Along the New Transportation Corridors,” “Models of Economic Cooperation: From European Union to Eurasian Union and Beyond,” “Bridging Asia and Europe: Transportation and Transit Potential of CAMCA,” and “Exploring Linkages Between Economic Development and National Security in the CAMCA Region.” Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, provided welcoming remarks and Madina Abylkassymova, Vice-Minister of Economy and Budget Planning, provided keynote remarks on the “Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy.”

Participants included business leaders, government officials, regional experts and other professionals from across the region and beyond. Additional speakers and panelists included representatives from EBRD, the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Kazakhstan, the Public Policy Institute of the Nur Otan Party in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Concept Ltd. and McKinsey & Company. Support for the events was provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and the Nazarbayev Center as Forum partners.



REFLECTIONS

"We appreciate the important role of the CAMCA Regional Forum in helping advance regional economic growth and developments. To all Forum participants, and especially the Fellows, let this gathering strengthen your resolve to work together to ensure that peace, stability and democracy prevail."

- **Giorgi Kvirikashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia**



"The CAMCA Forum is a leadership training seminar weekend that brings together important and promising young leaders from around the region. By informally interacting with each other, as well as with the guest speakers from around the world, CAMCA is an active laboratory to test ideas, concepts, and policies in a supportive and constructive environment. The passion of the CAMCA network to improve leadership, governance, and transparency in all of these countries, and Secretary Rumsfeld's personal investment and commitment, inspires the Fellows to strive for excellence and to achieve their goals in each of their countries, even when faced with adversity."

- **Mitchell Barak, Founder, KEEVOON Global Research, CAMCA Speaker**



"In my opinion, the CAMCA Regional Forum is unsurpassed as a venue for engaging both government officials and business leaders in what is an increasingly important emerging market. The Forum is based on the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program, a unique network of young, high potential individuals from throughout the region who share experience and collaborate in such vital areas as infrastructure, energy security, and economic and social development. As a Forum attendee, I enjoyed incredible access to inspirational speakers and to the dynamic and creative participants from the region."

- **Edward Verona, Senior Director, McLarty Associates, CAMCA Participant**



"The annual CAMCA Regional Forum is a much needed platform for young leaders from Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Mongolia to come together to share ideas and best practices, and to build relationships that will be critical for progress in the region in the years ahead. It is encouraging to see so many rising leaders with an enduring commitment to the advancement of their countries and the region gathered together each year."

- **Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, President, Gryphon Partners, CAMCA Speaker**



"The ultimate reason for us to participate in the CAMCA Forums is to continue dialogues, enhance opportunities and to create overall shared prosperity for the future of our region."

- **Aziza Umarova, CAMCA Network, Uzbekistan**



“The purpose of the CAMCA Regional Forum is to bring together rising leaders from across the region and to enable them to identify and evaluate opportunities for forward progress.”

- **Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute**



“The CAMCA Regional Forum is a unique platform for the next generation thinkers and leaders of Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan who are working toward regional cooperation. The Forum stimulates more open and productive communications between the countries of the region, as well as an exchange of ideas, thoughts and approaches on how to deal with regional challenges and opportunities.”

- **Almaz Saifutdinov, CAMCA Network, Tajikistan**



FELLOWS

The collection of bios to follow feature the regional leaders who have participated in the Rumsfeld Foundation's Fellowship Program at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute since 2008.



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Mr. Azis Abakirov
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2011

Mr. Azis Abakirov is the owner and Founder of "Unique Technologies" IT company, one of the most successful software development companies in Kyrgyzstan, established in 2003. Mr. Abakirov is also an active member of the Bishkek Business Club, in which he facilitates communication and networking among the business leaders of Kyrgyzstan. In addition, Mr. Abakirov has been elected as Chairman of the Kyrgyz Software and Services Developers Association. He has also initiated the development of High-Tech Park, a special low tax regime for IT companies, in the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Abakirov holds a BA in Oriental Studies from the Kyrgyz National University in Bishkek (2002).

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Dr. David Abesadze
Georgia, Fall 2008

Dr. David Abesadze is a Senior Counselor at the Embassy of Georgia to the U.S. Before this assignment he served as Deputy Director of the Political Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Senior Counselor at the Mission of Georgia to the EU, and Head of the Policy Analysis Unit of the Georgian MFA. From 2005 to 2010, he was an assistant professor at Tbilisi State University. He holds a PhD, MA, and BA from Tbilisi State University, and an MA from the Central European University. He has been a fellow of non-degree programs at Stanford and Georgetown Universities, and was a visiting scholar at George Washington University. Dr. Abesadze is the author of several publications, among which is a recent article, "Religious Systems and the Secular-Religious Cleavage: Turkey and Western Europe Compared," and a policy paper, "Georgia's Black Sea Policy: Forging Black Sea Identity."

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Dr. Nafisa Abdullaeva
Uzbekistan, Fall 2009

Dr. Nafisa Abdullaeva is a partner at Aurora Legal Law Firm (listed in Legal 500), which is a full-service law firm specializing in cross-border transactions that advises foreign investors on corporate, commercial, and labour legislation of Uzbekistan as well as on insurance, bankruptcy, and liquidation matters. She has more than 15 years of experience in conducting seminars and trainings on organizing and managing business for leading companies in Uzbekistan. She has worked as a manager on numerous international and national projects sponsored by UNDP, ADB, EuropeAID and others. Dr. Abdullaeva has consulted the Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan and was involved in legislative processes for the Senate as well. Dr. Abdullaeva is an author of more than 30 publications on Uzbek law in Uzbekistan and abroad. She is a writer, poet, and anchor of a popular radio program Book Tashkent. Dr. Abdullaeva holds a PhD from the Tashkent State Judicial Institute, and an MA (2002) and BA (1998) in International Law from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent.

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Dr. Alisher Abidjanov
Uzbekistan, Spring 2009

Dr. Alisher Abidjanov is the Deputy Director of the Republican Scientific-Practical Centre of Developing the Innovational Methods for Teaching Foreign Languages under the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages. From 2003 to 2007, he served as a Program Coordinator at the University of Washington office in Tashkent. Dr. Abidjanov's research interests include theory of civil society, social changes in the transition period in Central Asia, and political culture and the democratization process. Throughout the 2002-2003 academic year and spring of 2004, he was a visiting Research Professor at George Washington University and in spring of 2005, he was a Visiting Scholar at Princeton University. From 2009 to 2010, Dr. Abidjanov was a Fulbright Scholar at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS in Washington, D.C., and during the 2011-2012 academic year, he taught at Constantine the Philosopher University in Slovakia. In 2013, he established a private educational center. Dr. Abidjanov holds a PhD, MA, and BA in Philosophy from the National University of Uzbekistan.

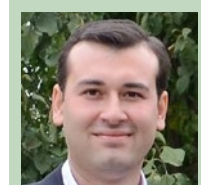
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Mr. Hikmat Abdurahmanov
Uzbekistan, Fall 2011

Mr. 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 BA (2001) in International Economic Relations from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent.

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Dr. Eduard Abrahamyan
Armenia, Spring 2017

Dr. Eduard Abrahamyan is a Deputy Director and Programs Coordinator at the Council for Cooperation with NATO in Yerevan. His areas of interest include security challenges of the Black Sea Region, conventional deterrence, NATO-Russia relations, national security and regional conflicts. Dr. Abrahamyan is a contributing analyst for the Jamestown Foundation, Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst publication, The National Interest, Defense One and other publications. He is also a military expert at the Armed Forces Assessment Desk for IHS Market (Jane's). Dr. Abrahamyan holds a post-graduate diploma in International Relations and Security from the University of Westminster, London, UK (2014), a PhD in Military History from the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (2009), and an MA and BA in International Relations and Politics from Yerevan State University. Since 2016, Dr. Abrahamyan has been a researcher at the Department of Intelligence, Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Leicester, UK.

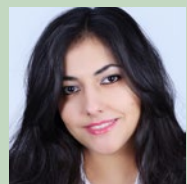
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Mr. Ovez Agayev
 Turkmenistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Ovez Agayev is a Legal Counsel and Contracts Manager with Schlumberger Logelco Inc. in Turkmenistan. He is responsible for legal compliance, identifying and managing legal risks, conducting operation assurance reviews and trainings, drafting and negotiating contracts for oilfield services and products, providing overall contractual advice to management, and is involved in business plans, strategies and operations as part of the management team. Mr. Agayev has more than a decade of experience working for multinational auditing and consulting companies including Deloitte and Arthur Andersen in the areas of legal and tax consulting, advising multinational oil and gas, energy, service, construction and other companies, and participating in audits of companies in the banking, oil and gas, and manufacturing sectors. Mr. Agayev holds an LLM in Asian and Comparative Law from the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle, Washington (2007), and a BS in Economics and Law from the Turkmen Institute of National Economy (2000).

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Ms. Larisa Agiarova
 Turkmenistan, Fall 2015

Ms. Larisa Agiarova is a First Deputy Director and Global Operations Finance Leader at the General Electric International Inc. (GE) branch in Turkmenistan. Prior to joining GE, Ms. Agiarova worked for international, non-profit projects funded by USAID and the German International Cooperation agency, GIZ, which facilitated economic and legal reforms in Turkmenistan. Her professional expertise covers accounting, U.S. GAAP, International Financial Reporting Standards, financial statement analysis, anti-money laundering and valuation. During her professional career, Ms. Agiarova has served both in governmental institutions such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Development, and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan, as well as in non-profits such as the Union of Economists of Turkmenistan and the Union of Accountants of Turkmenistan. Ms. Agiarova holds an MA in Accounting from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (2011) and a BA in Economics from the Moscow Institute of Economic and Humanitarian Sciences, Russia (2009).

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Mr. Hanifa Ahmadov
 Azerbaijan, Fall 2010

Mr. Hanifa Ahmadov works in the Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan as Head of the working group/division for the Baku International Humanitarian Forum of the Humanitarian Policy Issues Department. The objectives of the Baku International Humanitarian Forum are to consider humanitarian challenges of the 21st century. Mr. Ahmadov previously served as Deputy Head of the Department for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population. From 2006 to 2011, Mr. Ahmadov was a member of the Council of Europe's Governmental Committee for the European Social Charter. Mr. Ahmadov holds an MA in International Relations from Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey (2004), and a BA from Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey (2001). Mr. Ahmadov completed with distinction the Advanced Foreign Service Program at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA), where he was presented the ADA Distinguished Attaché Award (2010).

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Mr. Azamat Akelev
 Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2012

Mr. Azamat Akelev 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. Akelev 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. Akelev taught marketing, branding and strategy at the American University in Central Asia (AUCA) while chairing and redesigning its MBA program. Mr. Akelev holds an MBA from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University (2006) and a BA from AUCA (2002).

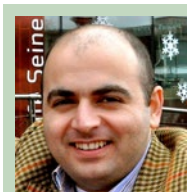
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Mr. Muratbek Akhmatov
 Kazakhstan, Spring 2013

Mr. Muratbek Akhmatov is an entrepreneur. Previously he worked as an Internal Auditor at the JSC Center for International Programs, which administers the Kazakhstan Presidential Bolashak International Scholarship Program; served as the Head of Strategic Analysis and Planning Division at the National Space Agency of Kazakhstan (Kazcosmos) where he worked on drafting Kazakhstan's "Law on Space"; helped to prepare the Strategic Plan and Sectorial Program of Kazcosmos; and organized a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the Baikonur Space Center. Mr. Akhmatov also has worked as Vice President of the National Space Company, Kazakhstan Gharys Sapary, where he was directly involved in high-level negotiations with the European Aerospace Corporation, EADS, on the construction of the Testing Complex of Spacecrafts and the Earth Observation System. Mr. Akhmatov holds an Engineering degree in Design, Construction and Operation of Oil Pipelines and Gas and Oil Storage Tanks from Kazakh National Technical University (2005), and a BA in Audit and Accounting from Kazakh Economic University, Almaty (2002).

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Mr. Beka Aladashvili
 Georgia, Fall 2009

Mr. Beka Aladashvili is a Fellow at the Atlantic Council of Georgia. Prior to his current position, Mr. Aladashvili served as Head of the Defense Policy and Planning Department at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Previously, Mr. Aladashvili worked in the Ministry of Internal Affairs as the Director of the Policy and Planning Department and prior to this appointment, served at the Ministry of Defense as the Acting Head of Defense Policy and Planning Department, Head of the Defense Policy Division, and as a Senior Specialist in national security affairs. Since 2003, Mr. Aladashvili has attended a number of professional development courses and activities on national security and defense policy in Europe and in the United States. From 2010 to 2011, Mr. Aladashvili attended the Royal College of Defense Studies, London. Mr. Aladashvili holds an MA in History of Diplomacy and International Relations from Tbilisi State University in Georgia (2003).

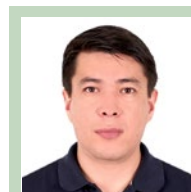
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Manduul Altangerel
Mongolia, Fall 2016

Ms. Manduul Altangerel is 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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Mr. Baktybek Asanov
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2010

Mr. Baktybek Asanov is the CEO at Victory Group LLC, a private equity management company based in Bishkek. He is also an Expert of the Business and Investment Development Council under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, where he is responsible for assisting the Secretary in improving policy dialogue between government and business. Prior to his current position, Mr. Asanov worked as an Adviser to the First Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, as Managing Director of Closed Joint Stock Company, Textonic, an oil and gas exploration company under the Australian companies Santos and Caspian Oil and Gas, and as a Commercial Attaché at the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Japan. Mr. Asanov holds an MA in Social Science (International Economics) from the Iwate University, Japan (2003), and a BA in Oriental Studies and International Relations from Bishkek Humanities University (1999).

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Mr. Kakhorjon Aminov
Tajikistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Kakhorjon Aminov is a Country Programs Manager for the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), where he is responsible for country programming and managing the portfolio of IDB's projects in Turkey, Kosovo and Kazakhstan. Prior to joining IDB, Mr. Aminov worked as an Economics Officer at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), where he worked on economic and sector analyses; design, implementation, and monitoring of budget support programs and projects in education; and processing projects to support public sector reforms, private sector development, and public sector management. His previous experience with ADB includes working as a Project Manager for the project to support the Government of Tajikistan in implementing the Private Sector Development Strategy. Mr. Aminov holds an MS in Development Economics and Policy from the University of Manchester (2007), an MA in International Economics from the Kazakh Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (2004), and a BA in Commercial Law from the State University of Commerce in Tajikistan (2002).

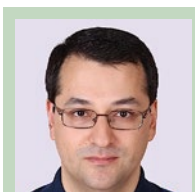
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Mr. Ashir Ashirov
Turkmenistan, Spring 2010

Mr. Ashir Ashirov is affiliated with the U.S. Department of State. He recently served as a staff member at the American Institute in Taiwan and completed the Mandarin Studies Program at the Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China. Prior to that Mr. Ashirov undertook professional training in the field of regional studies and management at the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. Department of State. His previous experience includes working for the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, for the OSCE Center in Ashgabat, and later for several UK entities in Jerusalem. Mr. Ashirov holds an MS in GIS studies from Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration (2006) and a BA in Oriental and Iranian Studies from Turkmen State University (2001). Additionally, Mr. Ashirov had professional trainings at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, the Geneva Center for Security Policy in Switzerland and the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Austria.

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Dr. Umid Aripdjanov
Uzbekistan, Spring 2014

Dr. Umid Aripdjanov is one of the founding partners of CENTIL Law (formerly Colibri Law Firm), which provides integrated legal, business advisory, and government relations services for inbound foreign investors and lenders across Central Asia. Throughout his career, he has advised on multi-billion dollar investments, project finance and commercial transactions related to upstream, midstream and downstream petroleum operations, mining, cement and petrochemical industries in Central Asian countries. In the past, Dr. Aripdjanov taught business law modules at the Westminster International University in Tashkent and tutored at the Tashkent State Institute of Law. For the past decade, Dr. Aripdjanov has been recognized as the "top-ranked" business lawyer by Chambers Global, Legal 500, and Who's Who: Legal. Dr. Aripdjanov holds a PhD (2001) and Law Degree (1997) from Tashkent State Institute of Law, and received his LLM from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio as a Muskie Fellow (2002).

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Mr. Kuban Ashyrkulov
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2010

Mr. Kuban Ashyrkulov is a Parliamentarian Consultant of the Business Development and Investments Council under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Council's main objective is to establish the efficient process of public-private dialogue and partnership. In addition, Mr. Ashyrkulov is the Advisor to the President of the Central Asian Corporation, one of the largest investment groups operating in Kyrgyzstan. Previously he also served as the General Director of Andash Mining Company LTD and as an Executive Director of the International Business Council (IBC). Prior to IBC, he worked for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) office in Bishkek, where he implemented projects on economic security, environmental safety and good governance. Mr. Ashyrkulov holds an MBA from the Academy of Management under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic (1998), and an MA in Technical Engineering from the Kyrgyz Technical University (1996).

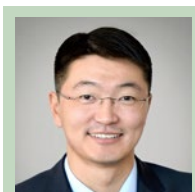
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Mr. Akmal Asoev
Tajikistan, Spring 2017

Mr. Akmal Asoev is the CEO & Co-Founder of NURAFZO MEDICAL GROUP, a chain of five innovative Medical Centres in Tajikistan. He is also a founder of the first American Car Care Centre in Central Asia. Mr. Asoev has more than 10 years of experience working in the medical sector and is currently working on a Multi-Specialty Hospital project in Dushanbe. In 2016, he became a Member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, a network of top healthcare leaders. Mr. Asoev holds a BA in Finance from Bellevue University in Nebraska (2007) and a BA in International Economics from the Technological University of Tajikistan (2001). Currently he is pursuing a law degree from the State National University of Tajikistan and in the near future plans to pursue his MBA in Healthcare Management.

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Mr. Dulguun Baasandavaa
Mongolia, Spring 2013

Mr. Dulguun Baasandavaa is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration/ International Development Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2018). Previously, he served as a Board Member of the Mongolian Business Development Association, as Vice President at Tenger Capital, and as a Senior Financial Analyst and Assistant to the Chairman at Newcom Group. Mr. Baasandavaa is a co-author of two books: Business Planning and Sun Tsi (2006) and An Opportunity to Enter the EU Market (2007). He also co-translated four books from English to Mongolian: Audacity of Hope by President Barack Obama (2009), Hot, Flat, and Crowded by Thomas Friedman (2010), Energy Autonomy by Hermann Scheer (2011), and 1 Hour China by Jonathan Woetzel (2015). Mr. Baasandavaa holds a BA in Economics and Mathematics from Connecticut College, Connecticut (2007). During his undergraduate studies, he completed a one-year study abroad program at the London School of Economics.

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Mr. Bayram Atayev
Turkmenistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Bayram Atayev is a crude oil professional engaged in crude oil sales and trading in the Caspian and Gulf regions for Dragon Oil Holdings, an upstream oil company based in Dubai. Dragon Oil is the largest independent crude oil exporter in Turkmenistan, producing from the offshore oil fields in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea. With more than 15 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, Mr. Atayev holds professional certificates from Oxford Princeton, Oxford, UK; Intercontinental Exchange, ICE, London, UK; and the Insurance Business School, Moscow, Russia. Prior to working in the oil and gas sector, Mr. Atayev held different positions in the banking, insurance and telecommunications industries as well as in business development and project management. Mr. Atayev holds a BA in International Economics from Moscow State Institute of Foreign Relationships (MGIMO), Russia (2001) and is currently pursuing an executive MBA degree from the London Business School.

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Mr. Dzhura Babaev
Tajikistan, Spring 2013

Mr. Dzhura Babaev is the CEO of Kazakhstan Cokey Central Asia and Caucasus Ltd., a Japanese holding company pursuing investment opportunities in the Central Asia and Caucasus regions. Mr. Babaev is responsible for the construction of a new plant in the Zhambyl region of Kazakhstan. In addition, he is responsible for the overall management of the company and the development of partnerships for potentially lucrative projects in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Prior to joining Cokey Central Asia and Caucasus Ltd., Mr. Babaev served as the Deputy CEO at the CJSC Avalin, which built the first modern pharmaceutical factory in Tajikistan. Mr. Babaev has been the main driving force for the success of this Tajik-Japanese joint venture that currently processes almost all of Tajikistan's licorice roots into a special medicine for the liver. Mr. Babaev holds a BS in Economics from the Finance Academy under the Government of the Russian Federation (2006).

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Dr. Anuar Ayazbekov
Kazakhstan, Fall 2014

Dr. Anuar Ayazbekov is a Director of the Institute of Diplomacy of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Prior to joining the Institute of Diplomacy he worked at the Graduate School of Public Policy at Nazarbayev University; the Department of Foreign Policy Analysis and Forecasting of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kazakhstan; the Analytical Department of the Administration of the President of Kazakhstan in Astana; and the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies in Almaty. He also was a visiting research fellow at the Japan Institute for International Affairs. Dr. Ayazbekov's interests include Central Asian politics, foreign policy analysis and historiography of Kazakhstan diplomacy. Dr. Ayazbekov holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews, UK (2014), an MA in International Diplomacy from Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia (2004), and a BA in International Relations from KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan (2003).

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Mr. Naidalaa Badrakh
Mongolia, Fall 2015

Mr. Naidalaa Badrakh is a founding member and the Chairman of the National Labor Party of Mongolia, an organization working to pioneer the public for social reform, and a Board Member of "Tsakhim Urtuu," the first and largest network of Mongolian expatriates around the world. Previously Mr. Badrakh worked as the CEO and Secretary-General of the Mongolian Bankers Association (MBA), a Chief Risk Officer at Anod Bank and Khan Bank, a Head of Business Development at Unitel MCS Group, a Senior Investment Manager at MCS Holding LLC and the CEO of the Mongolia Economic Forum. Areas of his interest include national development, strategies of developmental politics, economics, sustainable finance and banking. Mr. Badrakh holds an MSc in Economics from the University of Kobe, Japan (2004) and a BA in Business Economics from the Institute of Finance and Economics of Mongolia (1997).

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**Ms. Gunesh
Bakgalova**
Turkmenistan, Fall 2014

Ms. Gunesh Bakgalova is currently working for Petronas as in-house Legal Executive. Prior to her current position she worked for the European Commission's project on budgeting reforms in the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan. Previously, Ms. Bakgalova worked for numerous national agencies, law firms, and international organizations including Schlumberger Corporation in Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Justice, the National Coordinating Unit of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, ABA Rule of Law Initiative in Turkmenistan, OSCE Center in Ashgabat, AK Counsel-SNR Denton, PPG Industries Inc. and Miller & Martin PLLC. Ms. Bakgalova holds an MA in Political Science from the Institute for European Politics in Berlin, Germany (2012), an LLM from the Law School at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2009) and an LLB from the School of Law & International Economic Relations of the Turkmen State University (1999).

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Ms. Afghani Barakzai
Afghanistan, Fall 2012

Ms. Afghani Barakzai is currently working at a humanitarian charity in Washington, D.C. that provides community programs for refugees, the homeless and substance abuse populations. She holds a BA in Arts & Sciences from the University of Kabul. During her studies in Afghanistan, she became involved in women's rights issues at the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Kabul. There, she managed interviews, supported arbitration and counseling and pursued inquiries into domestic disputes and gender dynamics in Afghan families. After graduation, Ms. Barakzai shifted her focus to international development and worked at the Asia Consultancy Group, a large professional trade and export company, and later served as the Senior Administrator/Mobile Money Manager for the USAID-funded Central Asia Development Group. She continues to be involved in women's rights issues and has published articles on the topic, including in The Washington Post. She is very passionate about human rights, gender equality, conflict resolution, education and humanitarian work, especially regarding empowerment and economic development for women.

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**Ms. Naranzul
Bayasgalan**
Mongolia, Fall 2011

Ms. Naranzul Bayasgalan is a Second Secretary at the Mongolian Embassy to India and is responsible for Commercial Affairs. Prior to joining the diplomatic service, she was a Green Development Policy Advisor to the Minister in the Ministry of Environment and Green Development, and a Community Relations Manager at the Petro Matad Limited Company. Previously, Ms. Bayasgalan worked as an Executive Director of the Zorig Foundation, whose main mission is to advance the formation of a democratic society and support political reforms in Mongolia. She has also served as a senior staff assistant to Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, one of the most prominent female politicians and a Member of the Parliament of Mongolia. Ms. Bayasgalan holds an MA in Asia Pacific Policy Studies from the University of British Columbia in Canada (2010), and an MS and BA in Structural Engineering from the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (2000).

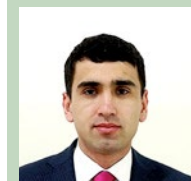
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**Ms. Nazira
Beishenalieva**
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2013

Ms. Nazira Beishenalieva is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of CJSC Bank of Asia, a family-owned business, where she oversees the activities of the Board in the formation of bank policy and the execution of bank strategy. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Central Asia. Previously, Ms. Beishenalieva was the Chairperson of the Bishkek Business Club and President of the Rotary Club of Bishkek. For the last eight years, Ms. Beishenalieva has engaged in educational, cultural and social charity projects in Kyrgyzstan. Ms. Beishenalieva holds a Degree in Law from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University (2005), a degree in Accounting, Analysis and Audit from the Moscow Institute of Entrepreneurship and Law, Bishkek Branch (2004), and a BA in Journalism and Public Relations from the American University of Central Asia (1998). She also graduated from the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School (2014).

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**Dr. Muhammadi
Boboev**
Tajikistan, Spring 2010

Dr. Muhammadi Boboev is an Economic Officer with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He has extensive managerial banking experience as a Deputy CEO of Spitamenbank, a Member of the Supervisory Board and Managing Director in OJSC Agroinvestbank, a Chairman of the Board of Open Society Institute-Assistance Foundation-Tajikistan, and a Board Director of Joint Arab-Tajik Leasing Company, ASR-Leasing. Dr. Boboev holds a Law degree from the Russian Tajik Slavonic University (2003), an MA in International Economic Relations (2003) and a BA in Finance and Credit (2001) from Tajik National University. Additionally, he has an MS in Development Economics from the University of Manchester (2004) and a Degree of Candidate of Economic Sciences (VAK of the Russian Federation, 2007). Dr. Boboev has been a Returning Scholar of the Academic Fellowship Program and a Senior Fellow at the Central Asian Research and Training Initiative. He is an author of a textbook and numerous country reports and articles.

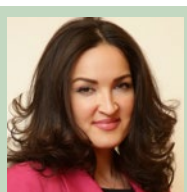
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Mr. Mansur Bustoni
Uzbekistan, Spring 2013

Mr. Mansur Bustoni is a transport sector specialist at the World Bank Group where he works on two multi-million dollar transformational infrastructure projects linking central Uzbekistan to the Ferghana Valley via railroad and highway connections. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2014, Mr. Bustoni was an investment officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for five years where he dealt with new business development and portfolio management of IFC investment projects in the Central Asia region. Previously, he served as an assistant to the First Deputy Minister and later to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Bustoni holds an MS in International Management from Loughborough University Business School, UK (2002) and a BS in Project Finance from Tashkent Institute of Finance (2001). He has also completed professional courses in International Affairs at the Clingendael Institute of International Relations in the Netherlands (2005) and in Diplomacy at the Diplomatic Academy of London (2004).

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B, D


Ms. Tatyana Bystrushkina
 Uzbekistan, Fall 2013

Ms. Tatyana Bystrushkina is currently completing her MSc in Sustainable Development and Economics with the strong emphasis on policy development in energy and environment at the University of St. Andrews, UK. She is also involved in consultancy in sustainable development and trade facilitation. Previously, Ms. Bystrushkina served as the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Uzbekistan, where she closely worked with business leaders representing over 100 corporations, the government of Uzbekistan and international organizations in the sphere of policy advising and development. At AmCham she supported private sector development through policy advising, lobbying and networking; developed and implemented public-private partnership projects, and promoted trade and regulatory reforms and a business-enabling environment in order to improve Uzbekistan's global competitiveness and to attract FDIs. Ms. Bystrushkina holds an MA in International Business from the Westminster International University in Tashkent (2016) and a BA in Philology from the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages (2002).

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Ms. Bahar Charyyeva
 Turkmenistan, Fall 2012

Ms. Bahar Charyyeva is a Counsel in the International Arbitration group of the U.S. law firm Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt and Mosle LLP. Her practice focuses on investor-state arbitration and international commercial arbitration proceedings under the auspices of various arbitral organizations including the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes and the International Chamber of Commerce. Previously, Ms. Charyyeva worked as an in-house counsel in the Turkmenistan branch of the Upstream Division of PETRONAS Caligari, a Malaysian multinational oil and gas company, from 2005 to 2011. There she focused on PSC/License-related issues, as well as the statutory, contractual, business and operational issues of the company in Turkmenistan, and was involved in negotiations on gas sales agreements. Ms. Charyyeva holds an LLM from Queen Mary University of London, UK (2010), and graduated from Turkmen State University, Faculty of Law and International Relations with the qualification of a lawyer (2001).

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Ms. Zara Chatinyan
 Armenia, Spring 2015

Ms. Zara Chatinyan is the Local Representative of German Development Bank (KfW) in Armenia. KfW manages more than 600 million euro investment portfolios in Armenia's energy, drinking water and irrigation, banking and agriculture sectors. Ms. Chatinyan works closely with the governments of Armenia and Germany to identify sectors in need of reform and infrastructure projects; to facilitate intergovernmental negotiations; to participate in multi-million sovereign loan negotiations; to support the introduction of international standards in project management; and to facilitate cooperation with international financial institutions. Ms. Chatinyan has more than ten years of experience with USAID-financed projects in decentralization, policy and institutional development and strategic planning. Ms. Chatinyan holds a Certificate in Executive Management and Leadership from the Judge Institute of Management at the University of Cambridge (2003), an MPA from the University of Delaware as a Muskie Fellow (2000), and a BA in Philology from the Teachers' Training Institute in Armenia (1998).

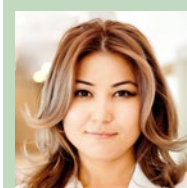
zara.chatinyan@yahoo.com



Colonel Grigol Chelidze
 Georgia, Spring 2017

Colonel Grigol Chelidze is the Commander of the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC) at the Ministry of Defense. Since 1993 Col. Chelidze has held various command and staff positions in the Georgian Armed Forces and at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia, including Chief of Staff of Land Forces Command and Acting Commander of Land Forces East Operational Group. He commissioned as an infantry lieutenant from the Georgian Military Academy (2000) and then from the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst, UK (2003). Col. Chelidze holds an MA in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Marine Corps War College at Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia (2015) and a BA in History from the Georgian Military Academy (2000). He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His areas of interest include military art and science, security studies and international relations.

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Ms. Zarina Chekirbaeva
 Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2012

Ms. 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 "Jerooyaltn," 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).

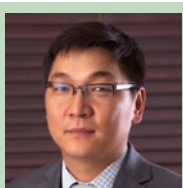
zarinach@gmail.com



Mr. Badamdash Dashdavaa
 Mongolia, Spring 2017

Mr. Badamdash Dashdavaa is CEO of the Mongolian Media Corporation, a leading private news production group in Mongolia, which includes Eagle News TV, www.eagle.mn, FM91.1, Ardyn Erkh (People's Right) newspaper, Undestnii Toim (Nation's Review) magazine and a social media team. Mr. Dashdavaa joined the Corporation in 2014 and has implemented an interesting civic engagement project "Voice of the People," utilizing the concept and methodology of deliberative democracy town hall meetings developed by Professor James Fishkin. He has also participated in several media advocacy campaigns and hosted the evening interview series, "Eagle 2200." Prior to joining the Mongolian Media Corporation, Mr. Dashdavaa worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia as well as in the private sector. Mr. Dashdavaa holds an MA in Political Science from Ohio University (2003) with a major in Comparative Politics and International Political Economy and a BA in Political Science from the National University of Mongolia (1997).

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D


Mr. Munkhbat Davaatseren
Mongolia, Fall 2013

Mr. Munkhbat Davaatseren is the CFO of Moncement Building Materials LLC, a company operating a modern, dry process, integrated cement plant with the production capacity of one million tons of cement per year. Mr. Davaatseren has vast experience in the financial services industry including banking and asset management. In the past, he served as the CEO of Golomt Capital LLC, a securities brokerage company in Mongolia, and as an investment advisor at JPMorgan Chase Bank in Chicago. He also contributed to drafting a new securities market law that adapts internationally accepted practices of investment protection in Mongolia. Mr. Davaatseren holds an MS in Finance from the Kellstadt Graduate School of Business at DePaul University in Chicago (2010) and a BBA in Financial Management from Warsaw University in Poland (2006).

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Mr. Ozodkhon Davlatshoev
Tajikistan, Spring 2016

Mr. Ozodkhon Davlatshoev is an entrepreneur and owns several businesses. For the past 20 years, he has led the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED)'s work in Central Asia. He began his career at AKFED's Enterprise Support Facility and later worked as Investment Officer in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, helping to launch and manage several companies in telecoms, energy and infrastructure. In 2004 he became AKFED's Deputy Director for Industrial Promotion Services in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and spearheaded investment development activities in Central Asia in renewable energy, mining, telecommunications, airport infrastructure and management, manufacturing and agro industry. Mr. Davlatshoev currently is the Executive Director of the new global initiative for Enterprise Development Platforms of AKDN and the Executive Director of Accelerate Prosperity. Mr. Davlatshoev holds an MBA with specialization in Strategic Planning and Strategic Risk Management from Edinburgh Business School, Herriot-Watt University, UK (2004), and a BA in Economics (1999) and BA in Middle-Eastern Studies (1997) from Khorog State University. He is the Honorary Consul of Sweden in Tajikistan.

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Mr. Marat Djanbaev
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2013

Mr. Marat Djanbaev is the CEO of TAZA BIO SYSTEMS, a waste water treatment and biogas station company. TAZA BIO SYSTEMS is the official distributor of Czech technology in Central Asia and Mongolia with complex solutions for effective utilization of waste water and other types of waste materials to preserve the environment and promote the "green economy." Mr. Djanbaev is an Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic to Kyrgyzstan. He is also Chairman of the Board at the Association of Social Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan and a member of the Bishkek Business Club. Mr. Djanbaev completed a PhD program in Public and Social Policy at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic (2014), and holds an MA in International Law from the International University of Kyrgyzstan (2003), and a BA in Political Science from Kyrgyz State National University (2001).

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Mr. Aibek Djangaziev
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2015

Mr. Aibek Djangaziev is the owner and CEO of Smart Invest Group, which operates restaurants and fashion shops in Kyrgyzstan. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of ENACTUS Kyrgyzstan, an organization that helps young students start projects in social entrepreneurship. From 2014 to 2015, Mr. Djangaziev served as President of the Rotary Club of Bishkek, with which he held many fundraising events and initiated various charity projects. Mr. Djangaziev is also a member of the Bishkek Business Club, a business association that promotes and supports the interests of small and medium businesses in the country and aims to create an effective dialogue between the government and business community. He is also the Vice President of the Triathlon Federation of Kyrgyzstan, through which he promotes a healthy way of living. Mr. Djangaziev holds a BA in Economics from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University (2004).

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Ambassador Levan Dolidze
Georgia, Spring 2011

Ambassador Levan Dolidze is the Director of the Georgian Center for Security and Development. Prior to his current position, he served as the Ambassador of Georgia to NATO and the First Deputy Defense Minister of Georgia. In his position as First Deputy Defense Minister, he coordinated the defense transformation process and supervised policy and planning, international relations and Euro-Atlantic integration. Ambassador Dolidze is a former Executive Director of the Levan Mikeladze Foundation. His experience also includes supervising the implementation of projects in the field of democracy and development, as well as effectively implementing international legal principles at the domestic level and their further application in practice by national and international stakeholders. From 2006 to 2008, he served as a senior Georgian diplomat (Consul) in Switzerland. Ambassador Dolidze holds a Degree in Law (LLM equivalent) from Tbilisi State University (2002) and an MA in International and European Security from Geneva University/the Geneva Center for Security Policy (2009).

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Colonel Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder
Mongolia, Spring 2012

Colonel Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder is the Director of Public Administration at the Ministry of Defense of Mongolia. Previously, he served as the Director of the Institute for Defense Studies at the National Defense University of Mongolia. Prior to this post, Col. Dorjjugder spent 16 years in active duty military service in various postings in the Ministry of Defense of Mongolia, the General Intelligence Agency of Mongolia and the Institute for Strategic Studies. Col. Dorjjugder holds an MA in Political Science and a BA in History (1996) from the National University of Mongolia where he is currently pursuing his PhD. He also holds an MA in Security Studies from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California (2003) and is an alumnus of the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies (2007) and the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (2005). In 2010, Col. Dorjjugder was a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies.

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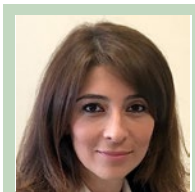
E, G



Ms. Nino Evgenidze
Georgia, Spring 2015

Ms. Nino Evgenidze is the Executive Director at the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) in Tbilisi, Georgia, which she joined in 2004. She is also an anchor of a morning economic show at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and a member of the Anticorruption Policy Coordination Council of Georgia. Prior to joining EPRC, Ms. Evgenidze served in various positions in the Government of Georgia, NGOs and international organizations. She holds a PhD in Philosophy (2002) and an MA and BA in World Culture and Literature (1997) from Tbilisi State University, as well as an MA in Economic Policy Management from the London School of Economics, UK (2005). She also graduated from the Department of Economic Policy Administration of the Joint Vienna Institute in Vienna, Austria, with a World Bank Scholarship (2000), has a diploma in Management of International Projects from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands (2010) and was a Draper Hills Summer Fellow at Stanford University (2013).

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Ms. Kamala Gafarova
Azerbaijan, Fall 2016

Ms. 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.

gak7yp@bp.com



Mr. Nemuun Gal
Mongolia, Spring 2016

Mr. 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.

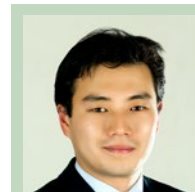
nemuun@yahoo.com



Ms. Sarnai Galindiv
Mongolia, Fall 2011

Ms. Sarnai Galindiv is an entrepreneur. Previously she worked as a Corporate Affairs Director at AREVA Mongol LLC and a senior officer in charge of Foreign Affairs at the Office of the President of Mongolia. In 2009 Ms. Galindiv worked as a volunteer for the President's election campaign. Prior, she worked as an analyst at the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia, a project analyst at DBI Construction Consultants in New York, and a graduate intern at the United Nations Headquarters. Ms. Galindiv holds an MA in Human Rights from the Legal Studies Department of the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary (2010), an MA in Global Political Economy and Finance from the New School for Social Research, New York, NY (2002) and a BA in International Relations and English from the School of Foreign Service at the National University of Mongolia (1998).

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Mr. Tuvshinzaya Gantulga
Mongolia, Spring 2015

Mr. Tuvshinzaya Gantulga has recently graduated from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University in New York, where he was a Fulbright Scholar and served as an editor of the prestigious Journal of International Affairs. Mr. Gantulga is the former Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Mongolia, at which he was in charge of management, public and media relations and advocacy efforts. During his tenure, Mr. Gantulga successfully positioned AmCham as one of the most influential business associations in Mongolia. A few years ago Forbes Mongolia named Mr. Gantulga on their "30 under 30" list of the most influential change-makers in the country. Mr. Gantulga holds a BA in Value Studies with a concentration in Political Philosophy and Literature from Bard College in Berlin, Germany (2012).

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Mr. Badruun Gardi
Mongolia, Spring 2015

Mr. Badruun Gardi is a civil society leader in Mongolia with a deep interest in issues of national development. He is Founder and CEO of GerHub, a nonprofit social enterprise that aims to develop uncommon solutions to common problems in Ulaanbaatar. By creating opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, GerHub seeks to transform the living environments of the urban poor. From 2011 to 2014, Mr. Gardi served as Executive Director of the Zorig Foundation, a leading non-governmental organization in Mongolia that focuses on three main areas: good governance, youth and education and community development. Mr. Gardi serves on the boards of the Institute of Engineering and Technology and the American University of Mongolia. He is an alumnus of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program and the inaugural class of the Asia Foundation Development Fellowship. Mr. Gardi holds a BA with a double major in Psychology and Communication from Stanford University (2009).

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G, H



Mr. Emil Gasimli
Azerbaijan, Spring 2016

Mr. Emil Gasimli is the Chief of Marketing and Business Development at the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 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).

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Ms. Diana Gaziyan
Armenia, Fall 2013

Ms. Diana Gaziyan has recently completed a Master's in Public Administration at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Previously she worked as the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia (AmCham), a leading business association aimed at improving the business and investment climate in the country. Ms. Gaziyan started her career in 1998 at the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Armenia, and then moved to international development projects and worked towards the implementation of decentralization and local governance reforms (USAID). Ms. Gaziyan's international professional experience includes work at the Institute of Public Administration and Education Development Center in NYC and the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. She holds an MS in Management of International Non-Profit Organizations from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University (2003) and a BA from Yerevan State University of Foreign Languages with a major in English Language and Psychology.

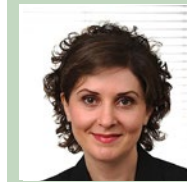
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Mr. Sulkhani Glonti
Georgia, Spring 2016

Mr. Sulkhani Glonti is the Chairman of the Department of Tourism and Resorts of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Georgia. Prior to that he was a Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights Protection of the Supreme Council (Parliament) of Adjara and Chairman of the Faction of the "Free Democrats" political party. Mr. Glonti was one of the founders of the Free Democrats party and from 2009 to 2012, he served as head of the party's youth organization. Prior to joining politics, Mr. Glonti was actively involved in civil society development and from 2006 to 2009, he worked at the Institute of Strategy and Development. From 2004 to 2005, he also served as a Member of the Presidential Council's Commission of Education and Culture of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara. Mr. Glonti holds a BA in Public Relations from Tbilisi State University (2007) and a BA in Theology from Tbilisi Theological Academy (2003).

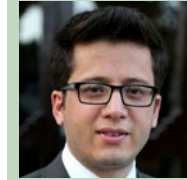
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Ms. Eka Grigalava
Georgia, Fall 2014

Ms. Eka Grigalava is a Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia. Prior to joining the public sector, she worked in the energy industry, first as NGO and Community Affairs Coordinator at BP Georgia, managing some of the company's key CSR project, and then as a Stakeholder Manager for the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) in Zug, Switzerland. There she was responsible for managing the project's stakeholder relations in three host countries: Greece, Albania and Italy. Ms. Grigalava has also worked on an expansion project of the SCP natural gas pipeline as Sustainability Manager at Saipem-Azfen JV. She has extensive experience in corporate social responsibility, social compliance, project management and stakeholder relations. Before working in the private sector, Ms. Grigalava coordinated civic and gender programs at the Tbilisi office of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Ms. Grigalava holds an MA in Public Administration from Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (2001) and a BA in Public Administration from Georgian Technical University (2000).

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Mr. Zafar Hashemi
Afghanistan, Fall 2016

Mr. 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 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 2006-7, Mr. Hashemi managed public affairs and communications at the Afghanistan Stabilization Program (ASP). Also, from 2004-6 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).

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Mr. Ara Hovsepyan
Armenia, Fall 2014

Mr. Ara Hovsepyan is the General Manager of Contour Global Hydro Cascade, the Armenian subsidiary of Contour Global LP, which is an American energy company investing in energy production around the world. In Armenia, Contour Global LP owns and manages Vorotan HPP, the biggest hydro energy-producing plant in the country. Mr. Hovsepyan started his career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995, leaving in 2000 to become the first local Head of the Armenian Office of the U.K. Department for International Development. From 2006 to 2011, Mr. Hovsepyan served as the CEO of the Millennium Challenge Account in Armenia. In 2011, Mr. Hovsepyan moved to lead the North-South Road Corridor investment project, funded by ADB and the Government of Armenia. Mr. Hovsepyan holds a post-graduate diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from Oxford University, UK (Exeter College, 1999), an MA in Political Science and International Relations from the American University of Armenia (1997) and a BA from Yerevan State University of Foreign Languages (1995).

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H, I


Ms. Fidan Huseynli
Azerbaijan, Spring 2011

Ms. Fidan Huseynli is currently a short-term consultant for the World Bank Group as part of the ENPI FLEG (II) Program Team in Azerbaijan. She also has been selected to perform as the National Consultant on Communication and Awareness Creation for the FAO project titled, "Support to Development of National Forest Program and Forest Legislation in Azerbaijan." Her professional career is linked to human rights organizations, where she has volunteered and later worked in the areas of conflict resolution, peace-building and European integration issues. In the summer of 2011, The Caucasus Edition: Journal of Conflict Transformation published her article on the EU capabilities in crisis management and conflict prevention. Her research interests include security, conflict resolution and peace building. Ms. Huseynli holds an MA in EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies from the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium (2008), and an MA (2006) and BA (2003) in International Law and International Relations from Baku State University.

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Mr. Mirzo Ibragimov
Uzbekistan, Fall 2014

Mr. Mirzo Ibragimov is a Communications Officer at the World Bank Country Office in Uzbekistan. Previously, from 2016 to 2017 he served as a Press and Information Officer at the Delegation of the European Union in Tashkent. From 2012 to 2015, Mr. Ibragimov served as the Deputy Head of the Political and Public Diplomacy Section at the British Embassy in Uzbekistan, managing the Embassy's media and public diplomacy activities as well as analyzing key political and economic developments in Central Asia. From 2008 to 2012, he worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation for Central Asia, implementing activities designed to build the capacities of the Ministries of Defense of the regional states in the field of Law of Armed Conflict. Mr. Ibragimov holds an MA in Central Asian Studies from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (2006) and an LLB in International Law from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent (2005).

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Mr. Talgat Imangaliyev
Kazakhstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Talgat Imangaliyev is the General Director of WorleyParsons Kazakhstan. He has more than 20 years of experience working in the energy industry with a focus on general management, business development and regulatory approvals of operations of upstream, downstream and service projects in Central Asia and the United States. Prior to joining WorleyParsons in 2007, Mr. Imangaliyev worked for Tengizchevroil for seven years in management roles, being responsible for Regulatory Affairs and Internal Compliance as well as Environmental Programs. Mr. Imangaliyev holds an MBA from the joint Executive Program by Fuqua School of Business at Duke University and Graduate School of Business at Nazarbayev University (2016), a certificate from the Leaders in Development Executive Program at Harvard Kennedy School (2007), an MA in International Studies from the University of Washington, Seattle (2000) and a BS in Petroleum Geology from Kazakhstan Polytechnic Institute (1994).

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Ms. Saule Imanova
Kazakhstan, Fall 2015

Ms. Saule Imanova is an Investment Officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Almaty, where she is responsible for business development in Central Asia with a primary focus on the sectors of manufacturing, agribusiness and services. Her professional interests include private sector promotion, investment climate in transitional economies, corporate governance and civil society. Ms. Imanova has more than ten years of investment and project finance experience in the countries of Europe and Central Asia and, prior to joining the IFC in 2007, she worked at the Innovation Fund of Kazakhstan and Astana Finance Investment Company. Ms. Imanova holds a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in economic policy management from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, an MS in Development Finance from Reading University, UK (2001) and a BS in International Economic Relations from Karaganda State University in Kazakhstan (2000).

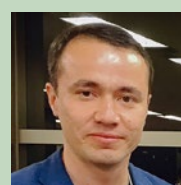
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Mr. Farrukh Inazarov
Uzbekistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Farrukh Inazarov is a Co-Founder and Country Director at the Central Asian Development Institute of Tashkent, Uzbekistan and a PhD Candidate in International Studies at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. He is in charge of several consulting and research projects on economic development, labour migration, regional trade and transport issues in Central Asia, and has conducted them for the World Bank, ADB, GIZ, USAID, IOM, Volkswagen and Gerda Henkel Foundations. From 2008 to 2011, Mr. Inazarov worked as a Researcher at the University of Applied Sciences in Goettingen, Germany, and from 2007 to 2008 was an Associate Faculty Lecturer in International Trade at the School of Business at the National College of Ireland in Dublin. Mr. Inazarov holds a Master of Science in Business Administration and Economics from Stockholm University, Sweden (2006), a Master of Social Science in International and European Relations from Linköping University, Sweden (2005) and a BA in International Economic Relations from the National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent (2002).

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Dr. Murod Ismailov
Uzbekistan, Fall 2009

Dr. Murod Ismailov is an Adjunct Professor of Politics at the University of Tsukuba, Tokyo. In April 2017, New York-based Palgrave Macmillan published his book entitled, "Social Capital Construction and Governance in Central Asia," which is co-authored with two prominent Japanese scholars. In 2016 he completed business training, and through participation in the Japan Market Expansion Completion he founded the business and technology accelerator TokyoLab with the ultimate goal of connecting start-up businesses and advanced science labs from the Asia-Pacific region with industries in Central Eurasia. Prior to moving to Japan, Dr. Ismailov spent 15 years in academia in Uzbekistan teaching and researching politics, security and social capital. He holds a PhD in Political Science from UWED (2010), an MS in Global Security from the Royal Military College of Science at the UK Defense Academy (2006), an MA in International Relations from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) in Tashkent (2004) and a BA in History from Samarkand State University (2001).

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J, K



Mr. Anar Jahangirli
Azerbaijan, Spring 2015

Mr. Anar Jahangirli is a Consultant to the Asan Khedmat (one-stop shop for public services) Authority of Afghanistan Ministry of Finance and a Visiting Scholar at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. His research is on energy security and geopolitics in Europe. Prior to academia, he was in business and established his own company, as well as advised several companies on communication strategies, process optimization and corporate governance. Prior to moving to business, Mr. Jahangirli worked at the Azerbaijan Foreign Service for more than a decade, including a tour in the Mission of Azerbaijan to the EU in Brussels. Mr. Jahangirli holds an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2011), an MA in European Public Affairs from the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands (2001) and a BA in International Relations and International Law from Baku State University (1999). He has also completed courses at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, Austria and NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy.

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Mr. Azizuddin Jalal
Afghanistan, Fall 2015

Mr. Azizuddin Jalal is the Chief Operating Officer at Arrow General Supplies Co, Ltd. Since 2003, Arrow GSC has been a major supplier of Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) to the U.S. Military in Afghanistan. Mr. Jalal is also a member of the Executive Boards for Hashimy Group, the corporate parent for 1TV, East Horizon Airline, Arrow Petroleum and Hashimy Mining. Prior to joining Arrow GSC in 2010, Mr. Jalal worked as a Patient Service Manager at CURE International Hospital, a non-profit hospital managed and operated by American doctors in Kabul to transform the lives of disabled children and their families in the country through medical and spiritual healing. Mr. Jalal holds a BBA from American University of Afghanistan (2014) and a BS from Kabul Education University (2005). He has also completed the Management Program at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey and earned a Certificate in the Health Insurance Program from Interhealth Egypt in Cairo, Egypt.

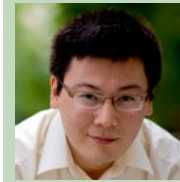
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Mr. Daniel Kadyrbekov
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2015

Mr. Daniel Kadyrbekov currently works as a Market Expansion Consultant at Tokyo-based machinery exporting company, Nikkyo Co.Ltd. He is in charge of creating opportunities for the Japanese export company abroad. He is also a political columnist for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Bishkek Office. Prior to this, he was an Aide to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic on economic reforms. Before his time in the Prime Minister's office, Mr. Kadyrbekov worked as an Aide to the First Deputy Prime Minister on economics and as a Senior Expert in the Department of FDI, Foreign Aid and Public- Private Partnership at the Ministry of Economy. He holds an MA in Political Science from the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Japan (2011), a BA in Finance and Taxation from the Department of Economics of Osh Trade College (2003), a Certificate in Political Science from Berea College, Kentucky (2007) and a BA in International Relations from Osh Technological University (2008).

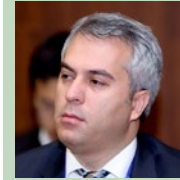
danielkadyrbekov@gmail.com



Mr. Ruslan Karabukaev
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Ruslan Karabukaev is the Managing Partner and Co-Founder at Namba Taxi/ Namba Food, IT ventures in Central Asia. He also was a founding member and the Deputy Director of the leading Kyrgyz airline, Avia Traffic Company, which he helped grow from a start-up to the largest airline in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Karabukaev is also Co-Founder of the regional high school mentorship program, "My School," a member-funded program that covers more than 15 schools in the rural areas of Kyrgyzstan, and provides their students with mentorship and awards for academic excellence. Mr. Karabukaev received his MBA from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta as a Muskie Fellow (2010) and holds a BA in Economics from the American University of Central Asia (1999).

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Dr. Rashad Karimov
Azerbaijan, Fall 2013

Dr. Rashad Karimov is a Senior Research Fellow at the Foreign Policy Analysis Department of the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He is also Founder and Chairman of the Public Union for Azerbaijan-China Cooperation. His areas of expertise include Chinese domestic and foreign policy with an emphasis on Central Asia and the Caucasus regions. Previously, Dr. Karimov served as an Assistant to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to China. Dr. Karimov holds a PhD in Diplomacy from China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing (2008) and an MA in International Policy (2004) and BA in Chinese Language and Culture (2000) from Beijing Language and Culture University at the United Nations Center. In 2013, Dr. Karimov was awarded a scholarship to attend the International Seminar for Young Scholars on Economic Development Issues at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Dr. Karimov is the author of several books and articles on China and Azerbaijan.

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Mr. Kairat Karmanov
Kazakhstan, Spring 2011

Mr. Kairat Karmanov is Deputy Chairman of the Investment Committee of the Ministry of Investments and Development. He previously served as Deputy Chairman of the Board for the National Export and Investment Agency (Kaznex Invest) under the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, where he worked on creating a national system of foreign direct investment attraction for Kazakhstan and promoting the country's investment image worldwide. Before, Mr. Karmanov worked as a consultant at the Analytical Center for Economic Policy in the Ministry of Agriculture, where he authored a long-term sugar industry development plan in Kazakhstan. He also has served as Head of the Socio-Economic Analysis Department at the Municipal Center for Sustainable Development under the Mayor of Astana, where he was in charge of the national capital's anti-crisis program. Mr. Karmanov holds an MA in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida Atlantic University (2008) and an LLB from the Law School of Eurasian National University in Astana (summa cum laude, 2005).

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K


Ms. Gaukhar Kassymzhanova
Kazakhstan, Spring 2011

Ms. Gaukhar Kassymzhanova is the Deputy Head of Secretariat for the State Secretary in the Administration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Previously, she served as an Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister. In the past, she has worked in managerial positions at the Senate Administration, Ministry of Education, National Analytical Center under the Prime Minister's Office and National Media Holdings. Ms. Kassymzhanova started her career working as a host for Kazakh State Radio. In her journalism career, she was honored with a Laureate Award of the Union of Journalists of Kazakhstan and a Laureate Award of the International Youth Information Forum, The Ring of Eurasia. In 2012, she was selected to participate in the Women in Public Policy Program of Wellesley College. Ms. Kassymzhanova holds an MA in International Development Policy from Duke University (2007) and a Diploma in International Relations from al-Farabi Kazakh National University (2000).

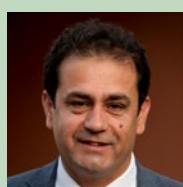
gauhar@alumni.duke.edu



Mr. Ato Kasymov
Kazakhstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Ato Kasymov is the Co-founder and Team Lead at Zentist, a dental care provider in the U.S. with the mission of bringing transparency and affordability to millions of people. Backed by several top Silicon Valley institutional funds, Zentist is currently operating in the four largest cities of California. Previously, he was the Deputy CEO of National Investment Corporation of the National Bank of Kazakhstan, a sovereign wealth fund responsible for global alternative investments for the National Oil Fund. Prior to that, Mr. Kasymov served as Deputy CEO of the Kazakhstan Mortgage Company, and as the Head of Corporate Finance at Samruk-Kazyna, which is the Kazakh sovereign wealth fund. Mr. Kasymov holds a joint Executive MBA in Entrepreneurship from the London Business School and Columbia Business School in New York (2016), a BBA in Finance and Investments from Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College of the City University of New York (2008) and a BS in Economics from Saint Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance (2006).

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Mr. Parwiz Kawa
Afghanistan, Fall 2015

Mr. Parwiz Kawa is a Founding Member and the Editor-in-Chief of Hashteh Subh Daily, the leading and largest independent newspaper in Afghanistan and winner of the International Press Freedom Prize from Reporters Without Borders in 2012. He has worked in local and national media outlets since 1998. Mr. Kawa currently also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Afghanistan New Generation Organization; an advisor and a member of the board of directors of Afghanistan Journalists' Center; and a founding member and the Chairman of Afghanistan Analysis and Awareness (A3), a civil movement organization and think-tank. Mr. Kawa holds a BA in Law and Political Science from Kabul University (2011) and a BA in Education from the Baghlan Teacher Training Center (1996). He is also a poet and novelist and has published two collections of his poetry: "A Night from Exile" and "Two Guns, Two Stones."

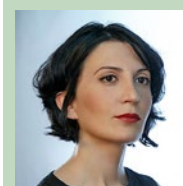
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Mr. Dadebay Kazakov
Turkmenistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Dadebay Kazakov is a Business Development Manager at Petro Gas Group of Companies, a company that provides services in the onshore and offshore oil and gas sector of several countries, and that is responsible for the development of business strategy, commercial negotiations and business partnerships. Previously, Mr. Kazakov worked as a Business Development Manager at Caspian Mainport Ltd., a UK company working in the Caspian region and for the Government of Turkmenistan that oversees various departments in the Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry and Mineral Resources. While heading the Control Department at the State Agency for the Use of Hydrocarbon Resources, Mr. Kazakov handled \$3 billion USD worth of PSAs by controlling the fulfillment of the projects. Mr. Kazakov holds an MS in Economics and Industry Management from the Turkmen Institute of National Economy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (1996), and a BS in Economic Informatics and Automated Control Systems from the State Academy of Management in Moscow, Russia (1993).

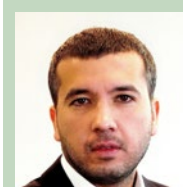
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Ms. Tamar Kekenadze
Georgia, Spring 2014

Ms. Tamar Kekenadze is the Secretary General and Member of the Board of the Free Democrats Political Party. Before joining the party in February 2015, she was a Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia to NATO and the EU. Previously, she served as Head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Division at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Prior to that, Ms. Kekenadze worked for five years in civil society organizations on national and international levels. In 2008, she was awarded the "Young European of the Year" Prize for outstanding commitment to fostering international understanding and the union of Europe. In 2009, she was privileged as a non-EU member country representative to intern in the Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament. Ms. Kekenadze is currently pursuing her PhD in Economics, and holds an MA in Computer Engineering, Information Science and Control Systems (2006) as well as a BA in Computer Systems and Networks (2003), all from Georgian Technical University.

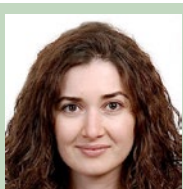
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Mr. Umit Khairollayev
Kazakhstan, Spring 2015

Mr. Umit Khairollayev is the Chief Executive Officer at Inculcate located in Sunnyvale, California, which provides opportunities to generate ideas, attract investments and launch startup businesses. Currently, Inculcate runs several projects including Oollee (access to clean drinking water), Elywa (global discount system) and Diodey (smart lighting systems). Previously, he was the CEO of the Carlyle Group in Kazakhstan, which supplied the markets in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Turkey and Mongolia with air freshening, water purifying and health care products. Mr. Khairollayev holds a joint Executive MBA degree from the London Business School and Columbia Business School in New York (EMBA-Global, 2017) and a BA in Chemistry from Lomonosov Moscow State University (2004).

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K


Ms. Raykhona Khashimova
 Uzbekistan, Spring 2016

Ms. Raykhona Khashimova is a Commercial Officer at the British Embassy in Uzbekistan where her responsibilities include the promotion of UK-Uzbekistan trade and investment relations, lobbying interests of British companies operating in the country and consulting with British investors on business opportunities in the local market. Prior to joining the British Embassy, from 2009 to 2012 she served as the Head of the Country Office of a Hong Kong-based company that exports commodities from Uzbekistan, and from 2007 to 2008 was a Logistics Analyst at Carlsberg, Uzbekistan, where she was involved in a procurement to launch a new, multimillion-dollar brewery in Uzbekistan. Ms. Khashimova is also a pro-bono consultant to a leading women's NGO in Uzbekistan, advising on women's entrepreneurship development. She is currently pursuing her MA in International Business and Management at Westminster International University in Tashkent, and holds a BS in Finance and Economics from Virginia Union University (2006) and a BA in English Language and Literature from Uzbek State University of World Languages (2003).

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Mr. Khurshid Kholov
 Uzbekistan, Fall 2010

Mr. Khurshid Kholov is a Consultant at Bain & Company, one of the world's leading consulting firms. Mr. Kholov consults Fortune 100 companies' C-suite in their strategy and overall business improvement engagements. Previously Mr. Kholov was Associate at Gotham Partners, a premier private equity advisory firm based in New York. Prior to that, Mr. Kholov was the Chairman of Ansher Investments where he oversaw direct investments in the capital markets of Central Asia, and a Chief Investment Officer and a Head of Sales at Ansher Fund Management where he was responsible for investing funds in emerging markets for all Ansher Family of Funds. Mr. Kholov has significant investment management and advisory experience in the emerging markets of CIS countries. Mr. Kholov holds an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, with majors in Finance and Management (2014), a BBA from the School of Business Management, Tashkent State Technical University (2004) and a BBA from Francis Marion University, South Carolina (2003).

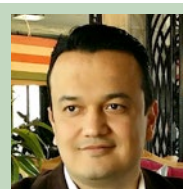
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Mr. Levan Khurtsidze
 Georgia, Fall 2012

Mr. Levan Khurtsidze is a Head of the U.S. and Canada Division in the Department of the Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, where he coordinates bilateral relations with the U.S. and the work of the U.S.-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission. He joined the Georgian Foreign Service in 2009 as the U.S. Desk, and was later transferred to the Political Department as a policy analyst and speechwriter. He then served as a Counselor at the Department of International Organizations. From 2000 to 2006, Mr. Khurtsidze was a senior staffer at the Georgian Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security where he supervised the Georgia-NATO and U.S.-Georgia relations. Mr. Khurtsidze holds an MA in International Studies from Old Dominion University (2008), an MPA from the Georgian Institute of Public Administration (2004) and an MA and BA in History and Political Science from Tbilisi State University (2004). He also attended the International Defense Resource Management program at the Naval Postgraduate School in California (2005).

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Mr. Laziz Kudratov
 Uzbekistan, Spring 2017

Mr. Laziz Kudratov is the First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Investments of Uzbekistan. Previously he worked as the CEO of Samina Project, an IT based company 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 Uzininvest 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).

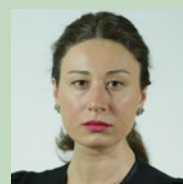
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Ms. Gulya Kolakova
 Turkmenistan, Fall 2012

Ms. Gulya Kolakova works as an independent consultant. She consults foreign companies seeking business in Turkmenistan and helps identify potential market segments where investment is needed, especially in government infrastructure projects and trade-related businesses. In her previous job, Ms. Kolakova was a Country Representative for Arrow Petroleum Co. Ltd. in Turkmenistan. Before moving to Turkmenistan, Ms. Kolakova worked in Afghanistan for the same company, which was a major supplier of goods to the U.S. and Afghan military. Prior to that, she worked for the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency. From 2004 to 2010, Ms. Kolakova worked on various UNDP projects, at the World Bank Country Office in Kyrgyzstan and on a World Bank project in Kazakhstan. Ms. Kolakova holds an MA in Political Science from OSCE Academy, Kyrgyz Republic (2005) and received an MA in Public Policy from the Rochester Institute of Technology, New York as a Muskie Fellow (2004).

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Ms. Tamta Kupradze
 Georgia, Spring 2012

Ms. Tamta Kupradze is a career diplomat currently working as a Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the UN focusing on human rights, humanitarian and social issues, establishment of new diplomatic relations and advocacy for the UNGA annual resolution addressing the rights of Georgian IDPs and refugees. Previously, she held the position of Head of the U.S. and Canada Division at the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, coordinating working group sessions under the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership. From 2006-2010, Ms. Kupradze was a Political Officer at the Embassy of Georgia in the U.S. focusing on bilateral defense and security issues. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Kupradze served at the Georgian Ministry of Defense and CUBIC Corporation, the U.S. Defense Consultants' team in Georgia. Ms. Kupradze holds her MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (2011) and her BA in International Relations from Tbilisi State University (2003).

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K, L



Mr. Abdullo Kurbanov
Tajikistan, Spring 2015

Mr. Abdullo Kurbanov is a Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of Alif Capital, a microcredit organization based in Tajikistan. Previously, he served as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Orientbank, one of the largest commercial banks in Tajikistan. Prior to joining Orientbank in July 2012, Mr. Kurbanov was Vice-President for Mining Investments at Origo Partners PLC, a private equity company with investments primarily in Mongolia and China. He was based in Ulaanbaatar and was in charge of Mongolia investments, managing the portfolio of existing assets (copper, coal, moly projects) and developing new deals. Earlier, Mr. Kurbanov was based in London working as an analyst in the Metals & Mining team of UBS Investment Bank, a Swiss global investment bank. He also worked for Oliver Wyman (Financial Consulting) out of London and Moscow. Mr. Kurbanov holds an MS in Finance from the London School of Economics, UK (2009) and a BA in Management from Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey (2008).

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Mr. Manuchehr Kurbonali
Tajikistan, Spring 2014

Mr. 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).

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Mr. Uluk Kydyrbaev
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2011

Mr. Uluk Kydyrbaev is a member of the Regulatory Impact Assessment Working Group under the Eurasian Economic Commission. He is Founder and CEO of the Analytical Center BizExpert that advocates for a favorable business and investment environment in the Kyrgyz Republic. Previously, Mr. Kydyrbaev chaired the National Alliance of Business Associations, the largest umbrella business organization in the Kyrgyz Republic that unites 70 business associations. In the past, from 2007 to 2014 Mr. Kydyrbaev served as CEO of the Chamber of Tax Consultants, a professional association of tax experts aimed at promoting tax literacy among entrepreneurs, and from 2006 to 2013 as CEO of the Bishkek Business Club, an association that unites influential local business leaders striving to develop the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Kydyrbaev has extensive experience in international private and development organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Kydyrbaev holds a Jurisprudence Specialization from the Kyrgyz National University (2004).

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Mr. Irakli Laitadze
Georgia, Fall 2009

Mr. Irakli Laitadze is the Chief Financial Officer of GMT Mtatsminda, LLC. Previously, he worked as the Deputy CFO of the GMT Group, a leading private sector investor in Georgia. He has also worked for the Belgian company, Group Thermote & Vanhalst. Additionally, Mr. Laitadze has worked in the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Mission of Georgia to the European Union, and at the Embassy to Benelux countries. From 2009 to 2011, Mr. Laitadze was the local expert of the London-based company, Exclusive Analyst, which forecasts commercially relevant political and violent risks worldwide. Mr. Laitadze holds an MBA from the University of Cambridge, UK (2003), a Diploma from the Diplomatic School of Madrid, Spain (1997) and a BA in Economic and Social Geography from Tbilisi State University, Georgia (1993). Currently, he is pursuing a PhD in Political Science from Free University of Tbilisi.

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Ms. Marika Laliashvili
Georgia, Fall 2010

Ms. Marika Laliashvili is a career diplomat and currently serves as a Senior Counselor at the Embassy of Georgia to the U.S. Her portfolio at the Embassy includes defense and security, counter-terrorism, Euro-Atlantic cooperation and other issues. Prior to her current position, she served as Deputy Director of the Department of Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Earlier in her career she also served as Head of the Defense Policy and Planning Department and Head of the International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department at the Ministry of Defense. Ms. Laliashvili also worked as Head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Division where she was responsible for coordinating the implementation of defense-related provisions of the national programs for cooperation with NATO. Ms. Laliashvili holds an MA in International Security Studies from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. (2012) and a BA in Public Administration from Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi (2001).

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Maj. Bayasgalan Lkhagvasuren
Mongolia, Fall 2015

Maj. Bayasgalan Lkhagvasuren has been on active duty military service for 18 years and has served in several overseas deployments including Operation Iraqi Freedom (2004) as well as U.N. peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone (2006), Liberia (2010) and South Sudan (2012). From 2013 to 2017 Maj. Lkhagvasuren served as a desk officer in the Foreign Cooperation Department at the Mongolian Ministry of Defense, and from 2009 to 2013 as a staff officer in J3 of the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces where he was responsible for planning and conducting military training and overseas exercises. During his time at J3, Maj. Lkhagvasuren published a Mongolian Armed Forces Survival Handbook based on his personal experiences of planning and participating in overseas trainings and exercises. Maj. Lkhagvasuren currently is pursuing an MA in Security Studies at the U.S. Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and holds a BA in Business Administration from the Defense University of Mongolia (2003).

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M



Mr. Samiullah Mahdi
Afghanistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Samiullah Mahdi is an Associate Director of TOLONews, where he began his career as a journalist in 2007 hosting a weekly show "Hardtalk." He also teaches Public Administration at Kabul University. Previously Mr. Mahdi worked as CEO of Khurshid TV from 2013 to 2014, and as Director of News and Current Affairs at 1TV from 2009 to 2012. At 1TV, Mr. Mahdi produced and hosted internationally acclaimed programs such as, "Kabul Debate Live," "The Mask," "Amaj" and others. He has also been an op-ed contributor to major Afghan newspapers and magazines. In 2012, Mr. Mahdi was awarded the prestigious Knight International Journalism Award from the International Center for Journalism for his excellent and courageous reporting. Mr. Mahdi holds an MA in International Relations from the University of Massachusetts Boston as a Fulbright Scholar (2016) and a BA from the School of Law and Political Science of Kabul University (2009).

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Mr. Samir Mammadov
Azerbaijan, Spring 2017

Mr. Samir Mammadov is a Chief Sales Officer at Nar Mobile in Azerbaijan, where he began working in 2012 as Head of Business Development and Future Labs and soon was promoted to senior executive positions. Previously he served as Country Director for Azerbaijan for Save the Children, an international non-governmental organization that promotes children's rights, provides relief, and helps support children in developing countries. He was the youngest National Director out of all 124 countries where Save the Children has offices, and actively supported advocacy activities across the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Mr. Mammadov is an active member of civil society and the business community in Azerbaijan. Mr. Mammadov holds an MA in Linguistics and Education from Lancaster University, UK (2006) and a BA in International Economics from Kvemo-Kartli Institute of the State Agricultural University of Georgia (2000).

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Mr. Muzaffar Mansurov
Uzbekistan, Fall 2016

Mr. Muzaffar Mansurov is a Deputy Head of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for the "Solid Waste Management," where he led efforts to secure a \$69 million USD loan agreement between the ADB and Uzbekistan and manages more than 40 international consultants to implement the Project. Prior to joining ABD, Mr. Mansurov was a Senior Commodity Exchange Manager at the Uzbek Commodity Exchange HQ (UZEX), where he successfully supervised a team to develop new professional Internet trades and E-Catalog platforms of UZEX. Since 2008, Mr. Mansurov has been Co-Founder and CEO of Agro Sanoat Invest Business LLC, which has production facilities and offices in Tashkent, Bukhara and the Fergana Valley producing consumer and specialty shoes for export to CIS countries. Mr. Mansurov holds a BA in ESL from Solex College in Chicago, Illinois (2008) and a BS in Economics with a concentration in Management from the National University of Uzbekistan (2004).

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Mr. Meirbek Mazhitov
Kazakhstan, Fall 2016

Mr. Meirbek Mazhitov is Chairman of the Chamber of International Commerce of Kazakhstan, which supports local businesses to expand globally and helps to attract investment and funding to the country. In addition, he is Chairman of the Council of Heads of Chambers of Commerce of the CIS countries, as well as the Co-Chairman of the Russian-Kazakh Business Council. Previously, from 2013-15, Mr. Mazhitov was the Director of the Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Astana, where he was responsible for overall management and guiding policy and the development strategy. Prior to that, from 2006-13, he served as the Director General of the Association of Kazakhstan Entrepreneurs "KAZKA," a non-profit organization supporting small- and medium-sized business development in Kazakhstan. He also has managerial experience in the tourism and commerce sectors. Mr. Mazhitov holds an MBA from KIMEP University in Almaty (2008) and a BA in English language from Kokshetau State University (1998).

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Ms. Varya Meruzhanyan
Armenia, Fall 2012

Ms. Varya Meruzhanyan works at the United Nations in Armenia where she is responsible for organizational, advisory and management coordination support to the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team. Prior to joining the UN in 2013, Ms. Meruzhanyan worked for different international organizations including UNICEF, the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, USAID and OSCE, in such areas as confidence-building, democratic governance, election observation, civic education, communications and outreach. In the early stages of her career, she served as Vice President of the local Youth for Achievements NGO. Ms. Meruzhanyan currently is pursuing a Master's in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2018), and holds an MS in NGOs and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK (2008). She also has received a Diploma in English Language and Literature from Yerevan State Linguistic University (2005) and continued after through a six-month course on Public Relations at the American University of Armenia (2006).

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Dr. Sergey Minasyan
Armenia, Spring 2013

Dr. Sergey Minasyan is the Deputy Director and Head of the Political Studies Department at the Caucasus Institute in Yerevan, Armenia. His areas of expertise are military history, security studies, regional conflicts and international relations. Previously, Dr. Minasyan has worked as a military and security expert at the Institute of Political Studies under the Administration of the President of Armenia, and as a regional military analyst for the IHS Jane's Information Group. Dr. Minasyan has authored and co-authored several monographs and reports, published dozens of academic and analytical articles and taught and researched international relations and security studies in universities in Armenia and abroad. Dr. Minasyan holds a Doctor of Political Science degree from the Institute for National Security Studies at the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia (2013), a PhD in Military History (2002) and an MA in International Relations from Yerevan State University (1998).

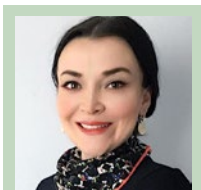
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**Mr. Bahtiyor
Mirzabaev**
Uzbekistan, Fall 2015

Mr. Bahtiyor Mirzabaev is a Project Management Specialist at the USAID Uzbekistan Country Office. In this capacity he oversees technical assistance projects in trade and agriculture. Before his current position, Mr. Mirzabaev worked as a Planning Executive at KNOC Ferghana Operating Company, an Uzbek subsidiary of Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC). He also served as the Secretary of the company's Management Committee and its two Subcommittees jointly run with Uzbekneftegaz. Prior to joining KNOC, Mr. Mirzabaev worked for UNDP's "Improving the System of Customs Administration in Uzbekistan" Project. Mr. Mirzabaev has an extensive background as a public officer both in local and central state bodies. From 2003 to 2007, he held different positions at the Ministry of Economy, as well as from 2001 to 2003 at Namangan Province Administration of Economics. Mr. Mirzabaev holds an MBA from Tashkent State University of Economics (2004) and a BSc in Business Administration with a major in Finance from Duquesne University, Pennsylvania (2000).

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**Dr. Khatuna
Mshvidobadze**
Georgia, Fall 2011

Dr. Khatuna Mshvidobadze is a Principal at Cyberlight Global Associates in McLean, VA, an Adjunct Professor on cyber security at Utica College, NY and a Senior Fellow at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies in Tbilisi, Georgia. Previously, Dr. Mshvidobadze was an Advisor to the Office of the Minister of Defense of Georgia and Deputy Director of the Information Centre on NATO. She has published articles on cyber security and geopolitical issues in Georgian and international media, and is an author of numerous expert opinion papers, monographs and training courses on cyber issues. Dr. Mshvidobadze holds a PhD in Political Science from Georgian Technical University (2013), an MBA from the Caucasus School of Business (2008) and a BA in English from Tbilisi State University (2001). She also holds an MS in Cyber Forensics and Intelligence from Utica College, NY (2014), where her thesis was on Russian cyber threats to its neighbors and to the United States.

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**Mr. Saintulga
Munkhgerel**
Mongolia, Fall 2014

Mr. Saintulga Munkhgerel is a consultant for energy projects in Mongolia with experience in a 54 MW wind farm project development in Sainshand city with German investor, Ferrostaal, and a coal fired power plant development in Southgobi to supply the largest copper mine in the country. He previously worked as CEO of Khotgor Minerals LLC, a company developing one of the largest rare earth element deposits in Mongolia. Prior to joining Khotgor Minerals, Mr. Munkhgerel worked with Rio Tinto Group on its Oyu Tolgoi copper-gold mine development project in Mongolia, where he was part of a team that negotiated power import from a Chinese SOE and the construction of a 95 km high voltage transmission line. Mr. Munkhgerel also hosts his own podcast, "Cool Mongol," in which he has conversations with inspirational Mongolians from different walks of life. He holds a BA in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2008).

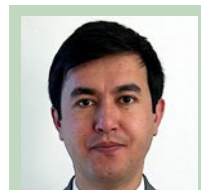
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Mr. Ibrahim Musaev
Uzbekistan, Fall 2013

Mr. Ibrahim Musaev is the Director of the Global Business Development unit at Global Business Incubators, a network of member incubators located in different regions of the world. In addition, Mr. Musaev serves as an advisor to the Chairman of the Turkish Foundation and World Political Forum in Istanbul, Turkey. Previously, Mr. Musaev headed a non-profit scientific research think-tank and worked in the investment field with substantial experience investing in Central Asia, Russia, Europe, Asia and the U.S. Mr. Musaev holds an Executive MBA from the School of Management at Yale University (2012), a Master of Public Policy and Administration from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York (2008) and a BS in Management from Tashkent University of Information Technologies (1999). He also has completed the Clean Tech Execs program at Polytechnic Institute of NYU.

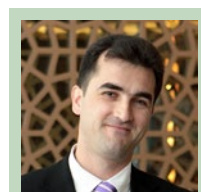
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**Mr. Lotfullah
Najafizada**
Afghanistan, Fall 2016

Mr. Lotfullah Najafizada is an award-winning journalist and Director of TOLONews, Afghanistan's top 24/7 news and current affairs television channel. At TOLONews, he oversees the largest news operation in Afghanistan with a newsroom of over 100 journalists and media professionals in Kabul and bureaus around the country, producing about 18 hours of television content per day. In 2012, Mr. Najafizada was selected by the Asia Society for a class of the Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative, and on World Press Freedom Day 2016, Reporters Without Borders awarded him with the prestigious medal of Press Freedom Hero for his fight for free press in Afghanistan. In 2016 TIME Magazine profiled him as a Next Generation Global Leader and in 2017 Forbes selected him among the 30 under 30 Asia influencers in Media. Mr. Najafizada holds a BSc in Economics from Kardan University in Kabul (2012) and has completed journalism trainings both in the U.K. and the U.S.

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**Mr. Bahriddin
Najmudinov**
Tajikistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Bahriddin Najmudinov is an independent consultant. Until recently, he worked as a Director of General Services Administration and Compliance and a Member of the Board of Directors at Bokhtar Operating Company B.V. (BOC), an oil and gas exploration company created in partnership with Tethys (U.S.), CNPC (China), and Total (France). He also served as a General Director of the State Unitarian Enterprise "Tajinvest" under the State Committee for Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan, where his main responsibility was improving the investment climate and attracting FDI to Tajikistan. Previously, Mr. Najmudinov served as a CEO of CJSC "Indigo Tajikistan," (now T Cell), a GSM/UMTS mobile operator that he managed from its inception and brought to international recognition in the telecom industry. Mr. Najmudinov holds a Systems Engineering degree from Tajik Technical University, where he is currently pursuing a PhD. He also holds an MBA from the Steinbeis-Hochschule University in Berlin, Germany.

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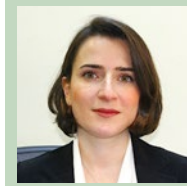
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Mr. Mirsuljan Namazaliev
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2016

Mr. Mirsuljan Namazaliev has been the Founder and Managing Director of the CAFMI Research Center since 2009. Previously, from 2014 to 2016, he was a Director General of K-News Information Agency, one of the leading online news sources in Kyrgyzstan, and from 2006 to 2014, was a country representative in Kyrgyzstan of New Eurasia, a Zurich-based Citizen Media Company. He also is a founding curator at the Global Shapers Hub in Bishkek, the World Economic Forum initiative. In the past, Mr. Namazaliev founded and led various civic movements and organizations promoting democratic changes in the country. He firmly stands for the rule of law, economic freedom and minimal governance. Mr. Namazaliev holds a BA in Political Science from Bishkek Humanities University (2009).

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Ms. Nargiz Nasrullayeva Muduroglu
Azerbaijan, Spring 2013

Ms. 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 to 2015, 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 to 2004, 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. Ramid Namazov
Azerbaijan, Fall 2011

Mr. Ramid Namazov is an Advisor in the Foreign Relations Department in the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan where he has worked since 2005. He prepares briefings and analytical reports on foreign policy issues, as well as speeches on international relations for officials of the Presidential Administration. Mr. Namazov holds an MA from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) (2013) and an MA in Public Governance from The Presidential Academy of Public Administration (2009). He also holds an MA in Business and Civil Law (2006) and a BA in Law (2003) from Baku State University. In addition, Mr. Namazov has attended special courses organized by the George Marshall Center for Security Studies together with the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of China, Egypt, and other countries.

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Ms. Eliza Nishanbaeva
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2016

Ms. Eliza Nishanbaeva is the Founder and Managing Director of Human Resources of Kyrgyzstan Ltd., a regional consultancy and recruitment service provider for assignments for highly qualified and experienced professionals in Central Asia. In addition, she is the Founder of Bishkek Business School, a leading institution providing business training and coaching in the country. Ms. Nishanbaeva is also a Deputy General Director at Manas Resources Ltd., an Australian-based gold developer and mining company in Kyrgyzstan. Ms. Nishanbaeva is also actively involved in numerous business associations in Kyrgyzstan. Ms. Nishanbaeva is currently pursuing an MA in Health Safety and Human Resources in Mining from the University of British Columbia, Canada, and holds an MA in Public Administration from Lomonosov State University of Moscow (2010), a diploma in Crisis Management from the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden (2007) and a BA in Education Management from Arabev Kyrgyz State University (2000).

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Mr. David Nardaia
Georgia, Fall 2013

Mr. David Nardaia is a Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia to NATO and the EU, where he is responsible for developing, implementing and supervising defense cooperation with NATO and the European Union. Since 2002, Mr. Nardaia has held different positions at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia including: Director of the International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department, Director of the Analytical Department, Director of the Public Relations Department, Director of the Defense Policy and Planning Department and Rector of the National Defense Academy of Georgia. Currently, Mr. Nardaia is pursuing his PhD in Modern History from Tbilisi State University. Mr. Nardaia holds an MA in International Security Affairs from the College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University, Washington, D.C. (2011), and an MA (2004) and BA (2002) in the History of Diplomacy and International Relations from Tbilisi State University.

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Mr. Ermek Niyazov
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2012

Mr. Ermek Niyazov has been a Board Member of the Bank of Asia since 2012 and a Board Member of Shoro, a leader in the national beverage industry, since 2015. From 2013 to 2015, he served as a Vice President and Commercial Director of KyrgyzTelecom, the incumbent operator in the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Niyazov has been in finance and marketing for most of his career working for such ICT companies as Oracle Corporation, Beeline, Cisco Systems and others. He is a well-known and self-made entrepreneur who has initiated several start-ups in Kyrgyzstan, most of which are still in operation. From 2011 to 2012, Mr. Niyazov served as the Chairman of the Bishkek Business Club, a business association that promotes and supports the business community of Bishkek. He was also President of the Rotary Club of Bishkek for the 2012-2013 term. Mr. Niyazov holds a BA from the American University in Central Asia (1998).

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Mr. Mahmood Noorzai
 Afghanistan, Spring 2016

Mr. Mahmood Noorzai is an independent political consultant and Director of the NGO, Kandahar Women, Peace and Unity Association. Prior to his current position, from 2013 to 2014, Mr. Noorzai served as the Open Source Intelligence Chief at the National Directorate of Security of Afghanistan; from 2012 to 2013, as Senior Political Advisor to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan; and from 2010 to 2012, as a Senior Political Analyst at the National Security Council of Afghanistan. He is also Co-Founder of "Afghanistan Forward," a leading civil movement with a nationwide network of young professionals in Afghanistan. Mr. Noorzai holds an MA in Diplomacy from the University of Nottingham, UK (2012), a Master's-level diploma in Advanced Security Studies from the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies, Germany (2010) and a BA in Political Science and Sociology from St. Joseph's College, University of Bangalore, India (2008).

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Ms. Shijir Ochirbat
 Mongolia, Spring 2014

Ms. Shijir Ochirbat is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2018). Previously she worked as a Senior Strategy and Policy Analyst at Oyu Tolgoi LLC/Rio Tinto Copper LLC, where she led a team responsible for strategic analysis and corporate strategy development. Prior to joining Rio Tinto Copper LLC, Ms. Ochirbat worked as a Senior Researcher at the National Development and Innovation Committee under the Office of the Prime Minister of Mongolia, where she participated in formulating medium term economic strategies for Mongolia. Ms. Ochirbat was also a Trade Analyst at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia, where she provided substantive input on trade-related policy formulation from development perspectives. Ms. Ochirbat holds an MBA from the University of Sydney (2011) and a BBA in Finance from the National University of Mongolia (2006).

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Mr. Kodir Norov
 Uzbekistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Kodir Norov is Co-Founder and CEO of Stolik, a startup that develops mobile applications to help restaurants increase their sales (stolikapp.com). Mr. Norov also serves as the Chairman of Avesta Investment Group, which he co-founded in 2003. Previously, from its inception to May 2011, Mr. Norov served as the Founding Chairman of the National Association of Securities Market Participants of Uzbekistan. From 2002 to 2005, he was the Head of the Investment Banking Department at the National Bank of Uzbekistan. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Norov worked in the Interest Rate Strategy Group of the Fixed Income Division of Morgan Stanley. During the summers of 2008 and 2009, he interned at Deutsche Bank and Credit Suisse First Boston. Mr. Norov holds a BS in Economics with majors in Finance and Statistics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (2000). Also, from 1996 to 1997, he attended the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent.

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Mr. Nafi Olomi
 Afghanistan, Spring 2013

Mr. Nafi Olomi is the Director of the Analysis Department at the National Directorate of Security of the Government of Afghanistan. Prior to his current post, he was an independent political analyst/consultant and CEO/owner of Blueberry Construction Company based in Kandahar, Afghanistan. From 2010 to 2011, he was a political advisor to the European Union Special Representative for Afghanistan. From 1997 to 2010, Mr. Olomi worked with UNDP and various international NGOs such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF). Mr. Olomi has done extensive work on the Afghan peace and reconciliation process, facilitated numerous track II peace talks and worked on regional economic cooperation promoting Afghanistan as a regional hub between Central Asia and South Asia. Mr. Olomi co-authored a book, The Battle for Khorasan, which studies the Afghan war and its relation to regional geostrategic dynamics. Mr. Olomi holds an MA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the European Peace University in Austria (2008).

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Ms. Gaukhar Nurgalieva
 Kazakhstan, Spring 2012

Ms. Gaukhar Nurgalieva is currently an investor in fintech companies, which include online and mobile financial services, in Kazakhstan and Russia. Prior to her involvement in the fintech sector, Ms. Nurgalieva served as an Adviser to the Commissioner on Transport and Infrastructure at the Eurasian Economic Commission in Moscow, where she dealt with transportation projects and integration policies of the Customs Union members. Before relocating to Moscow in 2012, she worked in Astana as a Managing Director of Corporate Development at the National Mining Company and as a Regional Director for Asia and the Americas at the National Agency for Export and Investment Promotion, Kaznex Invest. From 2006 to 2010, she was the Founder and General Director of Bookmark Bookstores, the first western-style bookstore in Kazakhstan. Ms. Nurgalieva holds an MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Boston (2014), an MBA from Moscow State University, Russia (2010) and a BBA from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (2001).

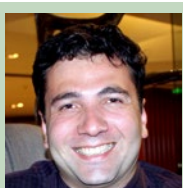
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Mr. Semetei Omurgazy
 Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2013

Mr. Semetei Omurgazy is the owner and CEO of Bishkek Fashion Retail Group, which combines several American, European and Turkish brands mainly presented by monobrand stores in Kyrgyzstan. With 18 operating stores, the company is considered one of the biggest in the apparel market of Kyrgyzstan. At the same time, Mr. Omurgazy is Chairman of the Board of the Association of Young Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan, which promotes the business community and improves the business environment by organizing educational courses and helping local business leaders attend international business exhibitions. Mr. Omurgazy is also a Council Member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic. Previously, Mr. Omurgazy was a General Director of Daniel Pharm, LLC Kyrgyzstan-India; a General Director of Asia Cement, LLC; and a General Director of Lunacom Telecommunication, LLC. He holds an MBA from the American University of Central Asia (2001) and a BA in International Economics from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University (1998).

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Mr. David Oniani
Georgia, Fall 2013

Mr. David Oniani is an Advisor for Strategic Planning at the Georgian State Oil and Gas Corporation (GOGC), where his responsibilities include commercial and external affairs of the company, project assessment and evaluation, international relations, capital debt management and business strategy development. Mr. Oniani works closely with the Ministry of Energy of Georgia and other relevant state agencies on industry development and energy policy issues. Mr. Oniani has held various managerial positions at GOGC since its inception in 2007 and served as the State Representative in international energy projects. Previously, Mr. Oniani worked as a fiscal expert at Development Alternatives, Inc., and for the Fiscal Administration Project at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., where he provided country risk analysis and creditworthiness studies, commodity analysis and trade policy development research. Mr. Oniani holds a Master of Public Finance from Indiana University, Indiana (2005) and a BS in Applied Mathematics and Engineering from Georgia Technical University (2001).

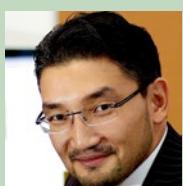
david.oniani@gmail.com



Dr. Döwran Orazgyljow
Turkmenistan, Fall 2010

Dr. Döwran Orazgyljow is a private lawyer who offers legal consulting services to local and foreign companies in Turkmenistan. He is also a Partner and the Editor-in-Chief of Atavatan Turkmenistan Journal, as well as a Director General of Atavatan Turkmenistan News Agency (ATHA - www.atavatan-turkmenistan.com). Dr. Orazgyljow has taught International Commercial Arbitration at the special school for state lawyers organized by the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan and the Law School of Magtunkuly State University. He holds a PhD in Law (2012) and an LLM (2005) from the Department of Private Law at the Institute of Social Sciences, Dokuz Eylul University, and an LLB from Dokuz Eylul Law School, Turkey (2002). Dr. Orazgyljow is the author of the book, International Direct Investment and Joint Ventures, co-author of the book, Entrepreneurship Law of Turkmenistan, and co-author of more than 250 articles on legal, energy and economic issues in Turkmenistan and abroad.

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Mr. Rakhim Oshakbayev
Kazakhstan, Spring 2016

Mr. 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 to 2015 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).

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Mr. Mashbat Otgonbayar
Mongolia, Spring 2011

Mr. Mashbat Otgonbayar is a Professor of International Relations and Foreign Policy at the National University of Mongolia. He also serves as Vice-Director for National Security Studies and an Associate Professor at the National Intelligence Academy of Mongolia. Mr. Otgonbayar started his career in the Parliament of Mongolia as Assistant to the Chair of the Standing Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy. He then worked at the Institute for Strategic Studies under the National Security Council of Mongolia for 15 years from researcher to a Vice Director and Dean of Research. In 2013 he was appointed as a Strategic Policy Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Otgonbayar holds an LLM from the Law School of the National University of Mongolia (1998) and an MA in National Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California (2007). For his distinguished service, Mr. Otgonbayar was decorated with the Order of the Polar Star of Mongolia and the Medal of Friendship of North Korea.

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Mr. Almas Otynschiyev
Kazakhstan, Fall 2013

Mr. Almas Otynschiyev is Almaty Branch Manager at Fircroft, a global company operating in 50 countries with its Head Office in the U.K. The core business of the company includes workforce, management, recruitment, logistics and travel, HSE and legal services. Prior to joining Fircroft Mr. Otynschiyev worked for mining and oil and gas companies in Kazakhstan. Mr. Otynschiyev has also conducted intensive research on historical and modern ties between Central Asia and South Asia and is the author of several publications related to the role of the Scythian and Turk rule in India in ancient and medieval epochs. Mr. Otynschiyev holds an MBA with a double major in Finance and Management from Bang College of Business at the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (2009), a BA in Hindi Language and History of South Asia from Kazakh National University, named after al-Farabi (2005), and a Hindi Language Advanced Diploma from University of Delhi, India (2003).

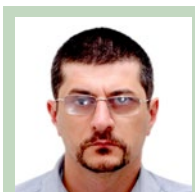
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Mr. Erdene-Urnukh Oyun
Mongolia, Spring 2017

Mr. Erdene-Urnukh Oyun is the Secretary of a Working Group on the Reforming of the Party bylaws of the Democratic Party of Mongolia. He is also in charge of coordinating activities and projects at the Research Centre for Fiscal Policy in Mongolia. From 2010-13, he served as Head of the Secretariat of the Democratic Party in Umnugobi province. Prior to joining the Democratic Party of Mongolia, from 2005-10, Mr. Oyun served as the CEO of Perfect Solution, LLC, where he worked on a wide range of research projects including private sector development strategies, socio-economic surveys, and economic and fiscal policies. Mr. Oyun holds an MSc in Economics from the University of York, UK (2015, Chevening Scholarship), an MA in Economics from the National University of Mongolia (2011) and a BA in Business from the Khan-Uul Institute (2004). His areas of interest include economics, econometrics, public policy, governance and democracy.

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Mr. Zurab Parjiani
Georgia, Fall 2016

Mr. Zurab Parjiani is a Deputy Head of the Political Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. His areas of interest are international affairs and security issues in the South Caucasus and the Middle East, European politics, and international terrorism, among others. Prior to joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 2014-16 Mr. Parjiani worked for the State Security and Crisis Management Council of Georgia and from 2009-14 at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Mr. Parjiani is a guest lecturer at the Georgian Institute for Public Affairs (GIPA) and the University of Georgia, Tbilisi. Mr. Parjiani holds an LLM from the School of Law at Tbilisi State University (2004), an MA in Security Studies from the College of International Security Studies at National Defense University, Washington, D.C. (2013) and an MA in International Relations from the Georgian Institute for Public Affairs (GIPA, 2008).

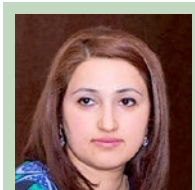
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Mr. Giorgi Pertaia
Georgia, Fall 2015

Mr. Giorgi Pertaia is a Founder and Director of Keystone Investments, an investment company based in Georgia. Previously, from 2012 to 2016, he served as the Director of the Georgian National Investment Agency, where he was responsible for Foreign Direct Investment facilitation in Georgia. Prior, from 2011 to 2012, Mr. Pertaia served as a Business Ombudsman of Georgia, responsible for defending the rights and interests of businesses with the government and protecting the rights and legal interests of taxpayers. In addition, from 2010 to 2011, Mr. Pertaia served as a Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Georgia, advising on issues of private sector protection. His experience also includes working for Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, Virginia; the American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia; and the Department of Customs of Georgia. Mr. Pertaia holds an MBA from Western Illinois University (2009) and a BA in Finance from Tbilisi State University (1998).

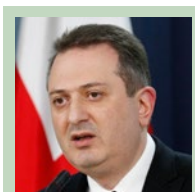
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Ms. Liit Petrosyan
Armenia, Spring 2016

Ms. Liit Petrosyan is the Commissioner of the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials, a corruption-prevention agency in Armenia that was established in 2012 to promote ethical conduct and standards in the public sector. She was nominated to this position by the Chairman of the Parliament and appointed by the President of Armenia. In her capacity as Commissioner, Ms. Petrosyan is responsible for the elaboration and implementation of ethics and integrity reform initiatives in Armenia. In addition, she coordinates ethics-related programs supported by international organizations and partners of the Commission. Previously, from 2007 to 2012, Ms. Petrosyan worked in the Office of the President of Armenia as an advisor to the Analytical Research Department, where she was responsible for preparing recommendations on draft legislation and reforms, as well as conducting research on best international practices. Ms. Petrosyan holds an MA in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2009) and a BA in International Economics from Yerevan State University (1999).

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Mr. Tengiz Pkhaladze
Georgia, Spring 2017

Mr. Tengiz Pkhaladze is an Advisor-Foreign Relations Secretary to the President of Georgia. Prior to joining the Presidential Administration, from 2008-14 he was the Chairman of the International Centre for Geopolitical Studies, an independent think tank in Georgia. Previously Mr. Pkhaladze held numerous positions in public service including Head of the Diplomatic Protocol Service of the Head of State, Vice-Governor of the Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region, Consul of Georgia to the Azerbaijan Republic, and Deputy Director of the Department of Asia, Africa, Australia and Pacific Rim in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Mr. Pkhaladze currently is a doctoral student at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) and holds a Degree in Jurisprudence from Tbilisi State University (1995). He is a Visiting Professor at GIPA and teaches International Negotiations Skills and Diplomatic Protocol. Mr. Pkhaladze is a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House).

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Mr. Sulaiman Qeyamat
Afghanistan, Spring 2010

Mr. Sulaiman Qeyamat is a Media Watch Editor at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan. His areas of interest include governance, public policy analysis and economic development. From 2008 to 2010, Mr. Qeyamat was a Fellow at Afghanistan's Center for Research and Policy Studies. Previously, he worked with a number of international organizations including the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. He served as Project Coordinator for the Afghan Young Leaders Forum from 2006 to 2008 where he was involved in empowering and engaging Afghan youth to raise their voice in policy and decision-making processes in their country. He was a representative of his country at the International Youth Dialogue on Millennium Development Goals in Berlin, Germany in 2005. He holds an MD in Medical Sciences from Kabul Medical University (2005) and an MA in Public Affairs from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University (2012).

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Mr. Makhbub Radzhabboev
Tajikistan, Spring 2011

Mr. Makhbub Radzhabboev is currently working at a law firm in Manhattan, New York. Prior to moving to the United States, he was Co-Founder of Dubai Messenger magazine and the Regional Manager for the Middle East at Green World Group, a group of companies involved in renewable energy, waste management, production of waste care products, bio-ethanol technology, metal manufacturing and so forth. Throughout his career Mr. Radzhabboev has worked in various positions in both the private and public sectors as well as in international organizations including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, the National Bank of Tajikistan, the World Bank Country Office in Tajikistan and TLG law firm in Dubai, UAE. Mr. Radzhabboev holds an LLM in International Business Law from the University of Manchester (2009), a BA in Linguistics from the Russian People's Friendship University (2006) and a BA in Law from the Moscow Institute of National and Regional Relations (2004).

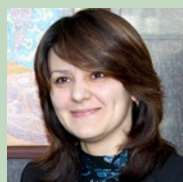
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R


Mr. Shoaib Rahim
 Afghanistan, Fall 2015

Mr. Shoaib Rahim is a Deputy Mayor of Kabul, managing administrative and financial portfolios of the Kabul Municipality and leading all efforts pertaining to city revenues, investments and development. Previously he served as the Deputy Director of Budget and Finance at the Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan, responsible for management and oversight of its \$1.5 billion USD annual budget, and prior to that served as the Senior Advisor to the Minister of Defense on administrative and financial systems development. Prior to joining the MOD in 2013, he was a consultant and analyst. Mr. Rahim is a Fulbright Scholar and Asia 21 Fellow at the Asia Society's Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative. Mr. Rahim holds an MA in Engineering Management from Duke University (2011) and a BS in Electronics Engineering from Multimedia University in Cyberjaya, Malaysia (2008). He also has co-authored an essay, "Global Youth: Why this Group is more Important than Ever?" in a book entitled, Millennials Speak. Essays on the 21st Century (2013).

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Ms. Firuza Rahimova
 Tajikistan, Fall 2010

Ms. Firuza Rahimova is an External Relations National Program Officer at the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan. Being part of the management team, she is responsible for all external relations with the Government of Tajikistan. She also supervises communications and small grants components. In 2012, she graduated from the International Program for Development Evaluation Training at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. In addition, she provided guidance to a local NGO and the World Bank Governance team in monitoring the state agency responsible for implementation of the World Bank Project on Land Reform. Previously, Ms. Rahimova served as an Executive Director at the American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan. In 2005-2006, she was a General Director of Tajik-American Joint Venture, Inter Fur, and in 2005, she won the prestigious award, "The Best Entrepreneur of Dushanbe City." Ms. Rahimova holds an LLM from the Tajik National University (2010) and an MA in Linguistics and Intercultural Communications from Dushanbe Slavic University (2001).

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Ms. Gunay Rahimova
 Azerbaijan, Fall 2009

Ms. Gunay Rahimova is a career diplomat and currently a First Secretary at the Humanitarian and Social Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Prior to this position, she served as a Second Secretary and Congressional Liaison at the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States, as the U.S. and Russian Desk Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as a Cultural Affairs Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Greece. Ms. Rahimova holds an MA (2002) and BA (1999) in the Science of Languages from the Azerbaijan University of Languages and is fluent in Azerbaijani, English, Russian and Turkish with a working knowledge of Greek and French.

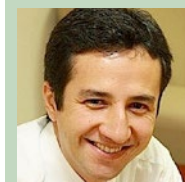
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Mr. Zuhursho Rahmatulloev
 Tajikistan, Fall 2016

Mr. Zuhursho Rahmatulloev is Co-Founder and CEO of Alif Capital, a micro-credit and deposit organization. Currently he is working on two projects in the fields of mobile payments and outbound tourism. Prior to joining Alif Capital, from 2011-12, Mr. Rahmatulloev served as CEO at BDO Tajikistan, one of the leading audit firms in the country. Previously he also co-founded a number of start-ups in real estate and tourism. In addition, he co-founded a Public Organization, "Peshraft," which supports young Tajik leaders through various stipend programs as well as different charity events. Mr. Rahmatulloev holds an MA in International Political Economy with merit from the University of Warwick, UK (2010) and a BA in Business Administration with merit from London South Bank University (2009). He also holds a Chartered Islamic Finance Professional degree from the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2013), a leading educational institution in the field.

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Mr. Jamshed Rahmonberdiev
 Tajikistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Jamshed Rahmonberdiev is a Banker at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He is involved in financing deals in the private and public sector. Until December 2012, he was the Chief Executive Officer of Somon Capital, an investment bank in Dushanbe, which he joined in February 2008 as the Head of the Capital Markets Department. From 2004 to 2008, Mr. Rahmonberdiev served as the representative of the U.S. Department of Commerce to Tajikistan, promoting U.S. investment and export opportunities. During that period, he played a key role in establishing the American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan. Mr. Rahmonberdiev holds an MA (2002) and BA (2000) in International Economic Relations from Tajik National University and a certificate from courses at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary (2003).

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Dr. Mirzokhid Rakhimov
 Uzbekistan, Spring 2015

Dr. Mirzokhid Rakhimov is the Head of Social and Humanities Branch of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and Head of the Department of Modern and Contemporary History at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. His academic interests include the contemporary history of Central Asia and international and regional relations in Central Asia. He has conducted research at the University of Washington, Seattle; the University of Georgia, Athens, GA; Leiden University, Netherlands; University of Cambridge, UK; NATO Defense College in Rome; The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London; University of Giessen, Germany; Slavic-Eurasian Research Center at Hokkaido University, Japan; the University of Bielefeld, Germany; and Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C. He is an author and editor of several books, articles, and chapters. Dr. Rakhimov holds a PhD in History (2001) from the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and an MA in History from Navoi State Pedagogical Institute (1996).

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Dr. Elyor Rakhmanov
Uzbekistan, Spring 2011

Dr. Elyor Rakhmanov is a Leading Inspector at the Service for Protection of Rights of Citizens in the Office of the President of Uzbekistan, where he analyzes appeals of the citizens and makes recommendations on improving legislation and law-enforcement practice to better protect citizens' rights and freedoms. Previously he served as the First Deputy Director of the "e-Government" System Development Center under the Ministry of Development of Information Technologies and Communications. From 2011 to 2012, he worked for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan as a Leading Expert in the Department on Attraction of Modern Mini-Technologies and Foreign Investments. He also served as the Deputy Dean at the School of International Economics and Graduate Studies at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent (UWED). Dr. Rakhmanov holds a PhD (2007) and BS in International Economics from UWED, and an MS (2010) in Engineering from Seoul National University, South Korea.

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Mr. Ruslan Ramanov
Uzbekistan, Spring 2016

Mr. Ruslan Ramanov is the Executive Assistant to the Head of the NATO Office in Central Asia, where his primary responsibilities are constant and direct communication with Foreign and Defense Ministries of the five Central Asian countries and their permanent missions to NATO. The goal of this communication is to maximize the countries' use of NATO's partnership, and to facilitate NATO's practical engagement with Central Asian partners in defense planning and review, defense education and training, civil emergency planning, cooperation on science and environmental issues and public diplomacy. Mr. Ramanov's responsibilities also include briefing NATO Headquarters on relevant political-military, security and defense news from the region and to implement various NATO Public Diplomacy activities in the region. Prior to joining the NATO Office, from 2001 to 2013 Mr. Ramanov worked at various international agencies and civil society institutions including UNDP, Freedom House and OSCE. Mr. Ramanov holds an MA in Public Policy Administration from the University of Missouri, St. Louis (2009).

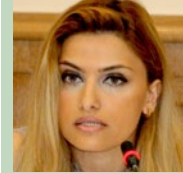
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Ms. Xeniya Rogan
Kazakhstan, Fall 2008

Ms. Xeniya Rogan is a Principal Banker of Energy and Natural Resources in the Russia and Central Asia team at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Kazakhstan Residence Office in Almaty. She previously served as a Deputy Head of Russian Project Finance and Subsidiary Companies and as a Senior Financial Analyst, Corporate Finance, in JSC "Kazkommertsbank." Ms. Rogan holds an MA with specialization in International Finance from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University as a Muskie Fellow (2005) and a BA in International Economics from Kazakh State University (2002).

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Ms. Gulmira Rzayeva
Azerbaijan, Spring 2010

Ms. 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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Mr. Hamid Saboor
Afghanistan, Spring 2017

Mr. Hamid Saboor is the Founder and CEO of Strategic Analysis for Peace and Stability (SAPS), a specialized consulting company that provides strategic analysis and assessment for the security sector in Afghanistan. He is also a visiting lecturer of Constitutional and International Law at Kardan University where he previously served as the Dean of the Law Faculty. Prior to this, Mr. Saboor served as a Country Director for the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development, a Canadian NGO, and as an Acting Director of Strategic Communication in the Office of the National Security Council of Afghanistan. Mr. Saboor is a regular contributor to Foreign Policy, The Diplomat and Huffington Post, focusing on regional political, security and strategic issues. Mr. Saboor holds an MA in Near Eastern Studies from New York University (2009), an MA in International Relations from Syracuse University (2009) and a BA in Law from Kabul University (2002).

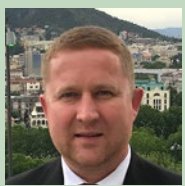
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Mr. Sami Sadat
Afghanistan, Fall 2016

Mr. Sami Sadat is the CEO of Blue Sea Logistics Company, a Kabul-based company that supplies defense equipment and technology to Afghan forces. From 2013-15, Mr. Sadat served at the National Directorate of Security (NDS) as Deputy Director for Intelligence Analysis and then as Director of Covert Influence Operations. From 2012-13 he served as Director for Strategic Communications at the High Peace Council, and from 2007-10 Mr. Sadat worked at the Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan as Deputy Director for Strategic Communications and then as Policy Adviser to the Minister. Mr. Sadat is a graduate of the Joint Services Command and Staff College at the Defense Academy of the U.K. (2011), the Polish Defense Academy where he completed the Battalion Command Course (2010) and the NATO Military Academy in Munich, Germany (2007). In addition, Mr. Sadat holds an MA in Strategic Management and Leadership from the U.K. Charter Management Institute (2012).

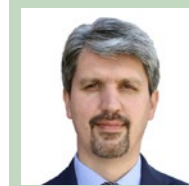
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Mr. Almaz Saifutdinov
Tajikistan, Fall 2015

Mr. Almaz Saifutdinov is an Economic/Commercial Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan, where he is responsible for promoting U.S. commercial interests in the region. He also serves as the Chairman of the Board at the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation in Tajikistan. Mr. Saifutdinov is also a Founder of the Economic News Tajikistan Facebook group. With over 10,000 members, including economists, business leaders and government officials, the group serves as a primary source of information and a discussion platform. Prior to joining the U.S. Embassy in 2003, Mr. Saifutdinov worked as the Deputy Manager at the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development in Tajikistan. Mr. Saifutdinov holds a Master of Development Administration from Western Michigan University (2002) and a BA in English and French languages from Dushanbe State Pedagogical University (1997). He is the author of numerous analytical articles on economic and commercial issues.

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Mr. Barry Salaam
Afghanistan, Spring 2016

Mr. Barry Salaam is a journalist, activist and entrepreneur. He is the Founder and President of NAW Media, a production company which produces a wide variety of radio and TV programs, as well as the Founder and President of Channel 7 TV Network. He is also the President of the Organization of Afghan Alumni. Mr. Salaam is a leading civil society activist and a well-known advocate of women's rights in Afghanistan. He is the founding member of Civil Society & Human Rights Network (CSHRN) of Afghanistan, which unites 120 member organizations. He also sits on the Board of Directors of 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 is currently pursuing an MA in International Relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and holds a BA in Persian Literature from Kabul University (2008).

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Mr. Narantuguldur 'Nick' Saijraakh
Mongolia, Spring 2016

Mr. Narantuguldur Saijraakh is a Director of Khan Investment Management Ltd., an investment boutique focused on Mongolia and the Khan Mongolia Equity Fund, the first Mongolian investment fund of its type. Mr. Saijraakh is a Board Member of TEDxUlaanbaatar, the organizing NGO of major TEDx events in the country, and a member of the Global Shapers Ulaanbaatar Hub, a local youth community under the World Economic Forum, having recently served as its Deputy Curator. In 2015, Forbes Mongolia named Mr. Saijraakh on their "30 Under 30" list of the most influential change-makers in the country. He is a Certified Private Banker by the Luxembourg Banking Training Institute and a Certified International Company Director by the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mr. Saijraakh holds a BA in Business Administration and Economics from the American University in Bulgaria (2009), and has also completed a 3-month training program in International Capital Markets at the London Stock Exchange Academy (2011).

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Mr. Davit Sanasaryan
Armenia, Spring 2014

Mr. Davit Sanasaryan has recently completed the Tavitian Scholarship Program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston, a six-month training program for Armenian mid-career professionals. Mr. Sanasaryan is a Co-Founder of the "Pro Bono Armenia" Anti-Corruption Centre. From 2013 to 2017, he was an elected member of the City Council of Yerevan. Since 2007, he has been a member of the Heritage Political Party and from 2008 to 2010, he served as the Chairman of the Youth Wing of the Party. Also, from 2010 to 2012 he served as a Board Member, and from 2014 to 2017 as a Press Secretary of the Party. He also served as a representative of the Heritage Party to the European People's Party. Mr. Sanasaryan is active in civic movements for human rights, environmental issues, social issues and other causes. Mr. Sanasaryan has a law degree from the International Academic Institute in Yerevan (2009).

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Ms. Farishta Sakhi
Afghanistan, Spring 2017

Ms. Farishta Sakhi is an independent consultant and promotes human rights and democracy in Afghanistan. Previously she worked as a Director General of the Department of Security Cooperation and Border Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. Prior to joining the MFA she served 13 years in numerous national civil society organizations, as well as international development institutions advising on institutional reforms, capacity development, conflict resolution, human rights and democracy. She also taught at the American University of Afghanistan. Ms. Sakhi holds an MA in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia (2010), an Executive MBA from Preston University in Islamabad, Pakistan (2006) and a BA in Commerce from Baluchistan University in Quetta, Pakistan (2001). She also held a Fellowship on Transitional Justice from Cape Town University, South Africa (2005) and worked for the Women's Leadership Program at the Desmond Tu Tu Peace Foundation.

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Ms. Gayane Sargsyan
Armenia, Spring 2009

Ms. Gayane Sargsyan is the Director of the Forum for the 21st Century Leaders, an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization working to promote new perspectives and opportunities for youth participation and active citizenship in Armenia and beyond. Ms. Sargsyan has 20 years of experience working with national and international organizations such as the Government of Armenia, the UN, the Council of Europe, the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, and Club de Madrid. She has also been active in various networks aimed at supporting and empowering young professionals networking in a broader region. Ms. Sargsyan earned her postgraduate degree in English and German languages from the State Linguistic University in Yerevan, Armenia. She also holds diplomas in advanced, interdisciplinary study of Nonviolent Conflict from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University (2010), Conflict Resolution and Negotiations from the Conflict Management Group (CMG) at Harvard University (2001) and in Political Communication and Campaigning from the Amsterdam Maastricht Summer University (2001).

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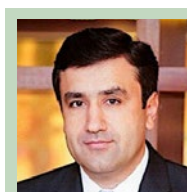
S



Mr. Bahtiyar Shadyev
Turkmenistan, Spring 2009

Mr. Bahtiyar Shadyev is a Logistics Manager and the Turkmenistan Logistics and Customs Coordinator for construction and industrial projects at Renaissance Construction. He previously served as Chief of Customs and Logistics at Renaissance Construction. Previously, Mr. Shadyev was the Chief of Customs and Logistics Department and a Procurement and Logistics Specialist at Lotus Enerji. Mr. Shadyev also worked in Moscow for one year for Credit Europe Leasing as a Head Specialist of the Financial Control Department. He began his professional career as a Broker and Foreign Trade Specialist for two years at Delta Petroleum Trading Company in Istanbul. He holds a BA in Management from the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration Sciences at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey (2006).

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Mr. Nazir Sharifi
Tajikistan, Fall 2013

Mr. Nazir Sharifi is the Deputy Director for Strategic Development at Yakutsk Fuel and Energy Company. He also serves as the President of the UNESCO Federation Clubs in Tajikistan, is the Founder and Honorary Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan and is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia. Previously he served as Head of the Strategic Business Unit at Skyland Petroleum Corporation and as President of Tethys Petroleum Tajikistan. From 1996 to 2007, Mr. Sharifi worked at the Tajik Foreign Service, including as the Deputy Chief of Mission in the U.S. He currently is pursuing an Executive MBA in Oil and Gas Management from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, UK. Mr. Sharifi holds an engineering degree from the Tajik Mining and Metallurgy Institute (2013); a degree from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (1998); and a BA from the School of Tajik-Persian Literature and Journalism, Khujand State University, Tajikistan (1995).

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Dr. Timur Shaimerzhenov
Kazakhstan, Spring 2009

Dr. Timur Shaimerzhenov is Head of the Research and Analysis Division and Deputy Director of the Library of the First President of Kazakhstan at the Nazarbayev Center, a think tank that provides policy analysis on national strategy and foreign affairs. Previously, Dr. Shaimerzhenov served as a Policy Advisor and Head of the Analysis Section in the National Security Council of Kazakhstan, Assistant to the Deputy Chairman of Mazhilis in the Parliament of Kazakhstan, and a member of the Editorial Board of the magazine, Central Asia and the Caucasus. From 2009 to 2015, he completed a series of executive education programs at École Nationale d'Administration; the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Said Business School, University of Oxford; Columbia Business School, Columbia University; and the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Shaimerzhenov holds a PhD in Political Science from Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies, Almaty (2009) and a BA in International Relations from the Institute of International Professions, Almaty (2004).

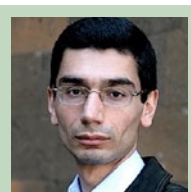
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Dr. Omar Sharifi
Afghanistan, Spring 2010

Dr. Omar Sharifi is a member of the Advisory Board of the Civil Society Development Center; a member of the Board of Directors of the Afghan Alumni Association and Afghanistan 1400; a member of Afghan 21 Young Leaders Forum; and is an Asia Society Fellow. In the past, Dr. Sharifi worked as a Senior Research Fellow and the Kabul Director of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies. After graduating from Kabul Medical Institute in 2003, Dr. Sharifi worked as Head of Research and Publications for the Foundation for Culture and Civil Society in Kabul, and as Director of the Open Media Fund for Afghanistan. Dr. Sharifi currently is a PhD student in Boston University's Department of Anthropology and received his MA in Cultural Anthropology from Columbia University in 2008. He has written several essays on social and political issues in Afghanistan that are published in both national and international journals.

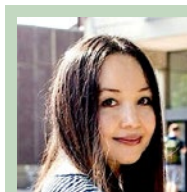
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Dr. Artak Shakaryan
Armenia, Fall 2010

Dr. Artak Shakaryan is a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Armenia. He previously worked at World Vision International, the Eurasia Partnership Foundation and the Armenian Assembly of America Yerevan Office, and as the Head of the School for Young Leaders, an executive education center that administers one-year leadership courses for mid-level managers. He is the author of three monographs: "Blood Tax" in the Ottoman Empire: the Case of Devshirme" (2006), "Beyond the Ararat: Decoding Turkey" (2011), and "Talking Points on the Armenian Genocide" (2014 Armenian edition, 2015 English edition), as well as numerous academic and analytical articles on the domestic and foreign policies of Turkey. Dr. Shakaryan holds a PhD in Ottoman Studies from the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, and an MA and BA in Turkish Studies from Yerevan State University. He has also received certificates for executive training programs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; and the School for Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

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Dr. Aigerim Shilibekova
Kazakhstan, Fall 2010

Dr. Aigerim Shilibekova is the First Vice-Rector of the Atyrau State University in Kazakhstan. Prior to this position she was the Founding Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Gumilyov Eurasian National University in Astana, as well as an Associate Professor at ENU for 11 years. Her research interests include international organizations, regional security and foreign policy analysis. Dr. Shilibekova was a Visiting Scholar at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University in 2013 and 2014. Dr. Shilibekova is also an author of numerous policy papers and two books: Iran, the co-authored monograph on Iranian domestic and foreign policy (2013), and Research Design and Methods in Political Science (2014). Dr. Shilibekova holds a PhD in Political Science from Eurasian National University (2009), an MA in International Relations from Istanbul University (2004) and a BA in Economics from Taraz State University, Kazakhstan (1999). She is an alumna of the Executive Education Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard Kennedy School (2013).

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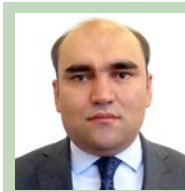
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Mr. Zaur Shiriyev
Azerbaijan, Fall 2012

Mr. Zaur Shiriyev is an Academy Associate at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) in London and a Senior Research Fellow at ADA University in Baku. Prior to joining ADA in 2014, he worked as a leading Research Fellow at the Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) in Baku, a Researcher at the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies in Istanbul and a Senior Researcher at the International Strategic Research Organization in Ankara. He also has been the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the foreign policy journal, *Caucasus International*. Mr. Shiriyev holds an MS in Political Science from the University of Ankara, Turkey (2008) and a BA in International Relations from Baku State University (2004). Mr. Shiriyev is the author of numerous articles and commentaries and has co-edited: "The Geopolitical Scene of the Caucasus: A Decade of Perspectives" (Istanbul, 2013) and "Energy Security and Geopolitics in Southeast Europe and Azerbaijan" (Washington, D.C., 2015).

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Mr. Rajabbek Sulaymonbekov
Tajikistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Rajabbek Sulaymonbekov is CEO of Orient Leasing LLC and Head of the OJSC Orientbank for the Sogd Oblast in Northern Tajikistan. From 2015 to 2017 he served as a Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Open Joint Stock Company *Sohibkorbank*, and before that spent 12 years as Deputy Chairman of the Board of OJSC Orientbank. Prior to joining OJSC Orientbank, Mr. Sulaymonbekov worked for USAID-funded projects for Central Asia implemented by the U.S.-based consulting company, *Pragma Corporation*. Mr. Sulaymonbekov played a key role in establishing the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Tajikistan and still serves as a member of the Board of Directors of AmCham. Mr. Sulaymonbekov holds a Certificate in International Accounting Standards from the Kazakh Institute of Professional Accountants and Auditors, Almaty, Kazakhstan (2000); an MA (1998) and BA (1996) in International Economic Relations from *Khujand State University*, Tajikistan; and a BA in Law from *Tajik National University* (2009).

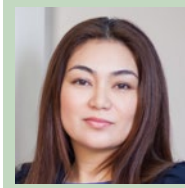
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Mr. Ravshan Sobirzoda
Tajikistan, Spring 2013

Mr. Ravshan Sobirzoda is a Chief Financial Officer and Managing Partner at *Inculerate*, a global investment holding group based in Kazakhstan. Previously, he served as a Country Officer at the World Bank Tajikistan Country Office; an Economic Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan; a Senior Lecturer at the School of International Economics and Law at the Tajik State University of Commerce; and as a Board Member of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation-Tajikistan. Mr. Sobirzoda holds an MA in International Affairs from Ohio University (2008), an MS in Development Economics from the University of Manchester, UK (2005) and a BA in International Economic Relations from the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Service, Dushanbe, Tajikistan (2003). He has also conducted academic research in Sustainable Human Development (2008) and Work and Inequality in a Global Economy (2009) at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. He has received professional training from Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University and other universities in both the U.S. and Europe.

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Ms. Hilola Suleymanova
Uzbekistan, Fall 2015

Ms. Hilola Suleymanova is Founder and Managing Partner at *DaVinci Solutions*, a human capital consulting company. Prior to starting her own business in 2014, from 2008 to 2013 she worked as a Country Manager and an Executive Search Consultant for *Pedersen and Partners Uzbekistan*, and then as a Consultant for *Pedersen & Partners* in Germany. Earlier in her career, Ms. Suleymanova worked as a Director at the Central Asia Consulting Group and as a Consultant in the Enterprise Management Development Section of the International Trade Centre/UNCTAD/WTO. Ms. Suleymanova holds an LLB from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent, and also holds a certificate of Export Management Development Adviser from ITC/WTO. In addition, she has studied at *Bemidji State University* in Minnesota.

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Mr. Aziz Soltobaev
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Aziz Soltobaev is Co-Founder and Chairman of *Svetofor Group* in Bishkek, which unites several online companies operating in the trading, e-commerce, IT and system integration areas in Central Asia and China. He is also Co-Founder of *KG Labs Public Foundation*, which seeks to boost the startup ecosystem in Kyrgyzstan through policy making and event activities; Co-Founder of the Kyrgyz Chapter of the Internet Society, which aims to improve connectivity of the country with global networks; and a Managing Partner in *BOT Systems Venture Fund*, which is designed to invest in disruptive technologies relevant to Central Asia. As an expert in information technologies, private equity and venture capital, Mr. Soltobaev actively promotes entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan and the region by giving guest lectures in leadership and entrepreneurship, providing trainings, and participating in different startup events. He also advises policy makers on economic reforms. Mr. Soltobaev holds a BA in Economics from the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek (1999).

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Mr. Talant Sultanov
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2014

Mr. Talant Sultanov is the Coordinator of the Working Group on the Digital Transformation Program "Taza Koom" in Kyrgyzstan. He is also the Director of the Silk Road Studies Center and Chair of the Internet Society-Kyrgyz Chapter. Additionally, Mr. Sultanov is a member of the Supervisory Board of the National TV and Radio Corporation, the Board of Directors of the Bank of Asia in Kyrgyzstan, the Council on Business and Entrepreneurship under the Speaker of the Parliament, and the Advisory Council of the Minister of Economy. Previously he served as the Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies and as the CFO of the American University of Central Asia. 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), where he graduated as the top student in his program. He has also received executive education at the Harvard Kennedy School.

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Mr. Ilgar Taghiyev
Azerbaijan, Spring 2015

Mr. Ilgar Taghiyev is the Senior Banking Expert at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Banking, an EBRD project. Mr. Taghiyev has extensive experience in the banking industry with a focus on micro lending. Previously, he was Chief Executive Officer at EMBAFINANS, one of the largest non-bank credit organizations based in Baku, Azerbaijan; Deputy CEO of Qafqaz Leasing; and a Senior Consultant for EBRD's project on SME lending and co-financing. He has served in various senior positions at Demir Bank and Bank of Baku. Mr. Taghiyev is currently pursuing a joint Executive MBA degree at Maastricht School of Management and ADA University and holds a BA in Finance and Banking from Azerbaijan State Economics University (2001). He also has been a MasterCard Foundation Scholar in Microfinance at the Summer Academy of Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and received certification as an Expert in Microfinance (2012).

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Mr. Aman Tentiyev
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2017

Mr. Aman Tentiyev is the Founder and Managing Partner at the IT Investment Company "The Farm" and the Investment Group "Avanta Capital," working on various projects in Central Asia and the Caucasus. In addition, he is a Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of JSC "Kambarata-1 Hydroelectric Power Plant" and a member of a working group promoting the "Digital Country" concept in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Tentiyev has more than 20 years of experience in corporate governance and crisis management. From 1994 to 2006 he worked in large international accounting firms including PricewaterhouseCoopers, Arthur Andersen and Deloitte, where he audited as well as consulted banks, financial institutions, FMCG companies, oil and gas companies, telecommunication companies and others. Mr. Tentiyev is the co-author of numerous laws reforming and implementing the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA) in the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Tentiyev holds a BA in Banking from Kyrgyz National State University (1998).

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Ms. Madina Tulesbayeva
Kazakhstan, Fall 2014

Ms. Madina Tulesbayeva is a Senior Accountant at ExxonMobil Kazakhstan Inc. Before her current position, she served as a Financial Analyst and was responsible for the preparation of financial reports to the North Caspian Operating Company, as well as financial operating reporting to the company management. Previously, she worked on other projects at ExxonMobil Kazakhstan, such as the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli in the Caspian. Ms. Tulesbayeva has more than 10 years of working experience in the financial sector and, prior to joining ExxonMobil Kazakhstan, worked for the National Innovation Fund JSC from 2003 to 2005 and for the Bank CenterCredit, JSC from 1999 to 2003. Ms. Tulesbayeva holds an MBA with a specialization in Finance from the Rochester Institute of Technology, New York (2007) and a BA in International Economic Relations from the Kazakh State Academy of Management in Almaty (1999).

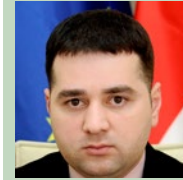
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Mr. Baska Tumurbat
Mongolia, Fall 2012

Mr. Baska Tumurbat is a Specialist for the Board of Directors at Oyu Tolgoi LLC, a joint venture between Rio Tinto Plc. and the Government of Mongolia that is developing and operating a copper-gold mining complex in southern Mongolia. Mr. Tumurbat is responsible for supporting the company's Board of Directors. Prior to joining Oyu Tolgoi, Mr. Tumurbat worked as a community and public relations expert at Canada's SouthGobi Resources Ltd. where he was responsible for community and media relations, community development and corporate social responsibility projects. Mr. Tumurbat has also served as Foreign Relations Manager at Aero Mongolia LLC, one of the leading civil aviation companies in Mongolia. Mr. Tumurbat holds a diploma of Business Administration from the Institute of Finance and Economy, Ulaanbaatar (2009) and holds an MA (2000) and BA (1998) in Pedagogy and Linguistics from the Mongolian University of the Humanities. He has also received certificates for training programs from Queensland University of Australia.

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Dr. Tornike Turmanidze
Georgia, Fall 2008

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 to 2013 and held various positions at the Information and Analysis Department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia from 2004 to 2010. 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).

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Mr. Omer Uloomi
Afghanistan, Fall 2014

Mr. Omer Uloomi is a Regional Manager of Operations for Hanjin Intermodal at America's Regional Headquarters in Los Angeles, CA. Previously, he served in Afghanistan as the Vice President of Hanjin Intermodal, which is a Prime Contractor for the U.S. Army's Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Defense Logistics Agency, and the U.S. General Services Administration. Prior to joining Hanjin in 2009, Mr. Uloomi served as Chief of Logistics with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Kabul and as the UNOPS Regional Logistics Manager in Southern Afghanistan, where he oversaw the Afghan Parliamentary and Presidential elections and received a prestigious Joint Electoral Management Body Award from the UN and Afghan Government for his outstanding services. During the Taliban ruling, Mr. Uloomi served with Médecins Sans Frontières. Mr. Uloomi holds an MBA in Project Management from Preston University in Islamabad, Pakistan (2009) and a BA from the Economic School of Kabul University (2004).

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Ms. Aziza Umarova
Uzbekistan, Spring 2009

Ms. 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, Uzbekistan.

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Dr. Roman Vakulchuk
Kazakhstan, Fall 2015

Dr. Roman Vakulchuk is Co-Founder and Country Director for Kazakhstan at the Central Asian Development Institute, and a Senior Researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs in Oslo. His research interests include economic transition and regional integration, trade, infrastructure and transport, energy policy, investment climate and business culture, climate change and emerging markets. He is an author of numerous articles and a book, Kazakhstan's Emerging Economy: Between State and Market (2014). In 2013, Dr. Vakulchuk won the prestigious Gabriel-Al Salem International Award for Excellence in Consulting in the category, "Consulting without Borders", for his contribution to the establishment of the Consortium of Consulting and Research Organizations of Kazakhstan. Dr. Vakulchuk holds a PhD in Economics from Jacobs University Bremen (2013), an MA in Peace and Security Studies from the University Hamburg in Germany (2009), an MA in International Relations from Bremen University/Jacobs University Bremen in Germany (2008) and a BA in International Relations from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University in Bishkek (2005).

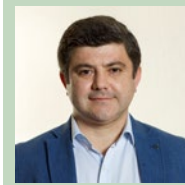
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Dr. Anar Valiyev
Azerbaijan, Fall 2008

Dr. Anar Valiyev is an Associate Provost at ADA University in Baku, Azerbaijan. Previously, he served as the Dean of the School of International Affairs at ADA, and from 2007 to 2008, Dr. Valiyev worked as an Assistant Professor on the faculty of Social Studies at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. Dr. Valiyev is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and encyclopedia entries. His areas of expertise are public policy of post-Soviet republics, democracy and governance and planning. Dr. Valiyev received his MA (2001) and BA (1999) in History from Baku State University. From 2001 to 2003, he studied public policy at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he received his second Master's degree. In 2007, he successfully defended his dissertation at the School of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Louisville, Kentucky.

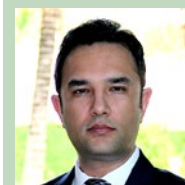
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Mr. Emin Valiyev
Azerbaijan, Spring 2014

Mr. Emin Valiyev is a marketing professional and entrepreneur with 13 years of experience in the Central Asia and Caucasus regions. In 2010, he founded Uptime Marketing Agency with operations in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. He is also a Co-Founder of Keepface, an influencer-marketing platform operating in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Iran. 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.

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Amb. Wahidullah Waissi
Afghanistan, Fall 2014

Amb. 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. Amb. 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. Amb. Waissi is a Co-Founder and Chair of the Green Club. Amb. Waissi holds an MA in Development Economics from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts (2005).

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Mr. Asset Yerali
Kazakhstan, Spring 2010

Mr. Asset Yerali is the CEO of Odyssey Investments Group, a diversified investment company in Kazakhstan with businesses in logistics, finance, energy and infrastructure. Prior to his current position, Mr. Yerali managed investment projects in railway infrastructure and machinery at the Kazakhstan National Railways Company. He has extensive experience as a management and investment consultant in private and government sectors. Mr. Yerali holds an MPA from John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (2012) and a BA in International Relations and Economy from the Middle East Technical University, Turkey (2004).

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Mr. Basir Yosufi
 Afghanistan, Spring 2017

Mr. Basir Yosufi is the General Director for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) of Afghanistan, where he previously worked as a Senior Policy Advisor beginning in 2010, and has significantly contributed to most of the MOI's strategic documents. Before joining the government, he worked in private and non-governmental organizations. Mr. Yosufi holds a Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in European and International Security from the University of Geneva and Geneva Center for Security Policy (2016), a Master of Science in Foreign Service in International Relations and Security from Georgetown University (2010), and a BA in Political Science from Delhi University (2006). Mr. Yosufi is a Fulbright alumnus and has received several awards including SFS Dean's Award for Academic Excellence and the University of Geneva award for the MAS Most Outstanding Research Paper. His research interests are security issues in Central and South Asia, counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency and security sector reform.

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Mr. Ajmal Khan Zazai
 Afghanistan, Spring 2009

Mr. Ajmal Khan Zazai is Chairman of United Afghan Tribes and CEO of Central Asian International Trading LLC-UAE and The Richmond Group. He is a tribal leader of over two million people living in the South Eastern regions of Afghanistan. He has been involved in humanitarian and aid projects and has also appeared on public stages and in western media on numerous occasions. Mr. Zazai has jointly worked with the Central Asian Development Group to implement Community Development Projects throughout Afghanistan. In addition, he created job opportunities for over 47,000 of his tribesmen in his stronghold of Paktia province from 2009 to 2012. Mr. Zazai holds a degree in the Doctorate of Law for Services to Democracies and an MA from the Dublin Metropolitan University in London, where he was also appointed an Honorary Professor of Diplomatic Studies. In addition, Mr. Zazai was educated in micro-computer management at the Herzing Institute, Canada.

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Ms. Gaukhar Zhanabay
 Kazakhstan, Fall 2016

Ms. Gaukhar Zhanabay is a Senior Manager at the Portfolio Investment Department at JSC "Samruk-Kazyna" Sovereign Wealth Fund, where she is responsible for portfolio performance monitoring, strategic long-term targeting of portfolio composition and independent review of investment projects. Prior, from 2009-16, she worked as a Senior Manager in the Department of Risk Management for "Samruk-Kazyna." Her professional interests include the promotion of corporate governance in portfolio companies, effective decision-making in quasi-governmental organizations and the promotion of investment decisions that are based on commercial feasibility of the projects, apart from their social goals. Ms. Zhanabay holds an MBA with a concentration in Corporate Finance from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (2010), an MPA with a concentration in Financial Management and Public Finance from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University (2008) and a BS in Business Administration from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (2005).

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Ms. Aizhan Zhantayeva
 Kazakhstan, Fall 2009

Ms. Aizhan Zhantayeva is the Director of Human Resources at the Astana International Financial Center. Prior to her current position, she served as the Director of Human Resources at the commercial bank ATF Bank and at the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan; as Deputy General Director for Corporate and Legal Affairs for the Central Asia region at Imperial Tobacco Kazakhstan as Regional Director for investment attraction from the United States for the National Agency for Export and Investment, Kazninvest; as Managing Director in the Corporation for Export Development and Promotion; as well as a consultant in the Center for Strategic Research and Analysis for the Administration of the President of Kazakhstan. She holds an MS in Finance and Accounting from the University of Birmingham, UK (2003) and an MBA from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Strategic Research (2002).

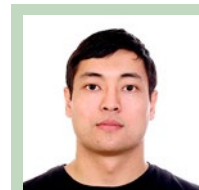
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Ms. Assel Zhumadil
 Kazakhstan, Spring 2017

Ms. Assel Zhumadil is a Senior Manager at the Treasury Department of the "Samruk-Kazyna" Sovereign Wealth Fund in Astana, which represents nearly 600 fully or partially state-owned enterprises that operate in different sectors of Kazakhstan's economy such as in finance, oil and gas, transportation, telecommunications, metallurgy, chemical industry, pharmaceuticals and others. Ms. Zhumadil's prior professional experience includes positions at Astana-Finance JSC, the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, and at the National Center for State Educational Standards and Testing. Ms. Zhumadil holds an MA in International Finance and Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (2008) and a BA in International Relations from Kazakh State University (2002). Her professional interests include strategic planning and management, corporate governance and the development of innovative activities.

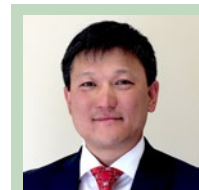
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Mr. Duman Zhumadilov
 Kazakhstan, Fall 2012

Mr. Duman Zhumadilov is Head of the PR and Marketing Department at Sokol motor-racing track in Almaty. Prior to his current position, Mr. Zhumadilov worked as Deputy Director at Natural Foods LLP, Special Project Manager at ADD Group LLP, and as the CEO's Assistant and Corporate Secretary at the Intellectual Schools of the First President JSC. Previously, Mr. Zhumadilov served in the Department of Analysis and Strategic Planning and in the Barlau Department (Kazakh Foreign Intelligence Service) of the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan. Mr. Zhumadilov holds an MA in International Finance and Policy from Columbia University, New York (2008), and a BA-Equivalent in Law from the Academy of National Security in Almaty (2002). He is a three-time silver medalist for Kazakhstan in the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Grappling Championship and is actively involved in coaching for the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Grappling Club, "Bars."

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Mr. Bakai Zhunushov
 Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2008

Mr. Bakai Zhunushov is an experienced professional in investments and consulting. He has vast experience in providing professional services to international banks and corporations. In 2011 he joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), where he leads the Advice for Small Businesses team in the Kyrgyz Republic. Before joining the EBRD, he led two consulting firms and also taught in the MBA Department at the American University in Central Asia. Mr. Zhunushov holds a post-graduate diploma in International Management from the International Management Institute in New Delhi (2004) and a BA in Economics of Enterprises from UCTA University in Bishkek (2002).

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THE CAMCA REGION'S SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL HERITAGE

An Interview with Ambassador Wahid Waissi Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Australia Fall 2014 Fellow



Q1: Afghanistan has been referred to as 'the Heart of Asia' for many years. How do you define Afghanistan's geo-political position in terms of its relations with the other Central Asian countries?

A1: Afghanistan has played an important role as a crossroad for the land-locked Central Asian countries. It was the shortest passage to warm waters until the Soviet invasion connected them to central Russia and Eastern Europe. The economic growth of the Central Asian countries now demands vast diversification, and therefore needs new mechanisms for connectivity. Afghanistan offers two-way support for this - first as a transit passage to South Asian and Middle Eastern markets, and second as an exchange of goods market for consumers. Once secure, Afghanistan can further contribute to all aspects of regional prosperity, from wider regional security to regional economic opportunity.

Throughout the country's history, our region's shared interests have been best served by cooperation. Afghanistan has developed the 'Heart of Asia' and the 'Kabul Process' approaches to build confidence and develop a common platform of shared regional interests, as well as a secure and prosperous region where Afghanistan plays a crucial role as a land bridge, connecting South Asia, Central Asia, Eurasia and the Middle East.

Q2: The CAMCA region seems to have enormous potential for cooperation in many ways – from economics to culture and politics to society, as well as energy and resources. You have worked with numerous counterparts across the region. What do you think is the most important sphere in which to increase the level of cooperation in the region?

A2: There is so much potential for economic cooperation in the region, and some bilateral and multilateral movements are already happening. I would also like to emphasize the great importance of cultural, as well as person-to-person, exchanges. These relationships enable more opportunity for business and economic ties. We need initiatives to get our people more connected - that is one way to combat terrorism and insecurity. Our region is the most culturally rich and ancient in the world. We have the most significant historical heritage and stories among our lands, mountains and rivers. They deserve to be reintroduced, explained and preserved in the world.

Q3: So, in such a culturally rich region, do you think we should come to form a sisterhood between regional cities, and through that share cultural values with new generations who are now separated by geographical borders?

A3: The regional sisterhood cities concept already exists and is bringing our people closer together. Our shared common denominator is our rich cultural values and the acceptance of those values. We can initiate a lot of innovations under the city friendship platforms to connect our people and economies. I hope one day the CAMCA network makes this possible. We have a path to choose now - either to provide new generations with the opportunity to come together and work towards building a prosperous region, or allow them to fall prey to outside forces and interest groups who perpetuate conflict in the region. Unfortunately, the latter seems to be growing into a serious threat to our region. It is better to decide now to change that before it's too late.

Q4: You are the mastermind of the Lapis Lazuli transit route that connects Afghanistan to Europe. How is this route beneficial to the CAMCA region and what countries are part of this route?

A4: Four out of five parties of the Lapis Lazuli Route are from the CAMCA region. There is a great need for opening and expanding our markets to the world. The route is revitalizing the ancient Silk Road and creating opportunities for economic and social activity. It also shortens transit time and reduces transport costs more than any other existing routes. The Lapis Lazuli Route would be the first multimodal transit and transport route (land, sea and air) initiated within the region. I am looking forward to the signing ceremony for this route in the near future. I hope to soon know a day when I can have breakfast in Georgia, lunch in Uzbekistan and dinner in Kabul.

Q5: In this case, is there any possibility to link other economic routes to the Lapis Lazuli Route? Currently there is a railway that starts in China and ends in Afghanistan, passing through some of the CAMCA countries. Do you think we

could connect more CAMCA countries by linking these two routes, and, as a result, connect more CAMCA countries from Far Asia to Europe? Can you also name these four CAMCA parties that are on the Route?

A5: Absolutely, that is the whole point. However, for now, bringing a smaller number of countries together is much easier than the whole region. A successful Lapis Lazuli Route could become a good example for the rest of the region. It prepares certain countries for economic ties and presents the best practice for other parties to join. It is always open for other countries to join once it has been signed and is operational; that is one of the agreement conditions. The current CAMCA parties of the Lapis Lazuli Route are Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia, with Turkey as the fifth party.

Q6: Do you think the region would be able to introduce a new regional diplomacy platform to reveal a new side of CAMCA to the world? I particularly mean a sort of sports diplomacy by holding regional leagues, or a food and culture diplomacy by holding regional cultural forums.

A6: We have all the resources we need within the region to come up with new platforms and attract tourism, create jobs and generate higher income for our people. They just need a little spark in order to get started. Cultural festivals, art exhibitions, poetry, tours, rural business orientations and educational activities, such as exchange programs for students, university and think tank research and development collaboration and debates, are just a few practical ideas within the CAMCA region's cooperative capacity. There is much to do and no time to waste.

Thank you, Ambassador Waissi, for your time.



Interview by:
Parwiz Kawa
Fall 2015 Fellow

ABOUT THE RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP

The Rumsfeld Fellowship Program was established in 2008 by the Rumsfeld Foundation in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. The program brings individuals from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Mongolia to Washington, D.C. to pursue research projects and establish ties with their counterparts in the United States. The program also connects talented professionals from across the region, encourages an intraregional exchange of ideas, and fosters better understanding and stronger relations between the United States and the countries of the region.



Over a period of six weeks, each group of Fellows meets with policy makers, business executives, journalists, academics, non-governmental organization leaders and regional experts to better understand how opinion making, decision making, policy making and policy implementation processes work in Washington, D.C.



As of June 2017, after 18 successful fellowship sessions, there have been a total of 171 program participants from 10 countries. Over the years groups have met with notable world leaders including former President of the United States George W. Bush; former Vice President of the United States Richard B. Cheney; President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili; former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich; former Prime Minister of Spain Jose Maria Aznar; representatives of the U.S. Administration; U.S. Senators and Congressmen; Supreme Court Justices; top military leaders; former Secretaries of Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor and Transportation; former National Security Advisers; Presidents of the World Bank; American business executives; renowned political scientists and economists; world-class experts and scholars from think tanks and universities; representatives of the media; seasoned diplomats and many more.



Fellows have also traveled to major metropolitan areas including Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle for high-level meetings, offering them a view of the United States beyond the nation's capital. Additionally, since the fall of 2011 the Fellowship has partnered with the Open World Program to organize local programs with host communities outside of Washington, D.C. for the Fellows to learn how democratic governing systems and free market economies work at the local level across the nation. To date groups of Fellows have visited 22 communities in 19 different states.

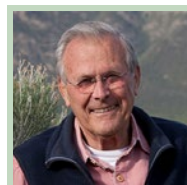
In addition to the group program, the Fellowship staff assists each Fellow in arranging individual meetings with top professionals and experts in their respective field or area of research.



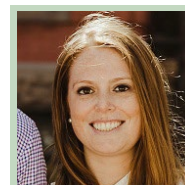
RUMSFELD FOUNDATION

The Rumsfeld Foundation encourages leadership, public service and free political and economic systems at home and abroad. To this end, the Foundation works in two focus areas – Public Service and Greater Central Asia. A key element of the Foundation's work is the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at the American Foreign Policy Council.

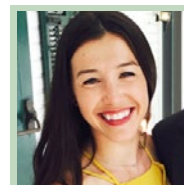
Learn more at www.rumsfeldfoundation.org.



Donald Rumsfeld
Founder and President



Sarah Conant
Executive Director



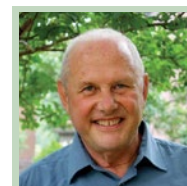
Bridget Sedlacek
Director of Programs



CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE

The Central Asia-Caucasus Institute (CACI) was founded in 1997 to respond to the increasing need for information, research and analysis on the vast territory of Central Eurasia stretching from Turkey to Western China, encompassing eight former Soviet republics as well as Afghanistan. CACI is affiliated with the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington, D.C. and forms a Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center with the Institute for Security and Development Policy's Silk Road Studies Program in Stockholm. Led by founding Chairman, Dr. S. Frederick Starr and Director Dr. Svante E. Cornell, CACI convenes regular Forum meetings and publishes the Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, Turkey Analyst, and Silk Road Papers.

Learn more at <http://www.silkroadstudies.org>.



Dr. S. Frederick Starr
Chairman

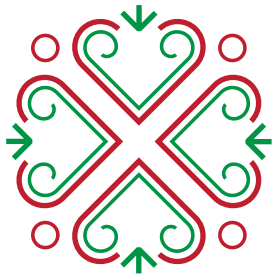


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