

cam|ca

Regional Forum 2018

Baku

CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

The CAMCA (Central Asia-Mongolia-Caucasus-Afghanistan) Regional Forum is a premier non-political and non-partisan convening established to promote region-wide discussions on means of advancing economic growth and social 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 top professionals from all sectors in the 10 countries of the region, as well as with international leaders and stakeholders.

The Forum organizers believe that expanded communication and collaboration among talented professionals from a range of fields can significantly contribute to economic, political and social development on both a national and regional basis.

The CAMCA Regional Forum was established in 2014 through collaborative efforts of the Rumsfeld Foundation, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the CAMCA Network.





BAKU: CITY OF FIRE AND WIND

Welcome to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan and the largest urban center of the Caspian region in both size and population. The bustling city of Baku is home to roughly 2.5 million people, with nearly one million more dwelling in the broader Absheron peninsula.



While the first documented reference to Baku in historical sources dates back to the 8th century, archeological findings suggest that the area has been inhabited since the times of the Stone Age. Baku was the capital city of the people of the Shirvan Kingdom in the Middle Ages until the Kingdom's fall in the 17th century, at which time the city became a trade outpost and fishing town. It wasn't until the mid-19th century that the city would be revitalized by the oil boom, bringing industrialization and urbanization to the forefront of the city's landscape. While oil from Baku had been sought from across the region for thousands of years, this wave of industrialization contributed to its new international reputation as explorers, bankers, industrialists and engineers from all over the world flocked to the city in hope of benefitting from opportunities created by the growing oil industry.

The burgeoning number of impressive and striking buildings, featuring fine examples of European Renaissance and late Baroque styles neighboring along ancient architectural pieces, brought an exquisite

new charm to the emerging city. In addition, due to increased immigration from across the region, Baku continued to develop into a truly international city open to embracing and celebrating religious tolerance and cultural diversity. By 1870, Baku's population had risen sharply from about 20,000 to more than 250,000 residents. After regaining its independence in the early 1990's, the city experienced yet another wave of rapid development due to its second major oil boom. This boom brought numerous new institutions of business and transport, paving the way for Baku to become the modern metropolis that it is today. At present, Baku boasts a globally acclaimed 5-star international airport, a new sea port with the potential to revolutionize the flow of trade and transit across the Caspian Sea, as well as numerous important transport and infrastructure projects underway that will help continue to position the city as a leading regional transit hub.



Baku's tourism and entertainment continues to evolve and grow as visitors flock to one of the world's largest seaside city boulevards, spanning 12 kilometers and filled with hundreds of cafes and restaurants, an aquatic center, playgrounds and the famous Crystal Concert Hall (the site of the recent Eurovision Song Contest). The city has also continued to play host to a number of large-scale international forums and high-level events attracting leading business professionals and government officials from around the world.

Moreover, after hosting the 2016 Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix, branded by international media as an "iconic" city circuit, Baku remains a new hub for European sports competition alongside a surge of sporting and athletics development in the capital. Looking ahead, Baku will host major football events including several games of the upcoming EURO 2020, which will be held at the new Olympic Stadium, able to accommodate 80,000 fans. The city has also hosted the Eurovision and European Games, as well as the Islamic Solidarity Games, and is currently bidding for a chance to host the World Expo 2025.

Baku's skyline displays a beautiful and actively developing cityscape of architectural wonders. One of the city's more famous buildings, the Heydar Aliyev Center designed by the late architect Zaha Hadid, is located at the gates to the historical district and is distinguished by its ultra-modern appearance and flowing white design.



The Flame Towers, a trio of skyscrapers located at the top of the Baku Bay area, have become iconic features of the city. Additionally, the “Baku White City” project leads the largest urban development and rehabilitation construction in the region, with residential and commercial space implemented with state-of-the-art urban and architectural planning techniques.

For history buffs, visiting the Old City of Baku, an open-space historical museum, is a must. Included by UNESCO on the List of World Heritage, the Icheri Sheher (“Inner City”) is a medieval town with a number of well-preserved monuments ranging from the 5th to the 16th century. Unique historic sites include the Maiden Tower (5th century), Saint Bartholomew’s Church (5th century), an ancient mosque from the 11th century, the Shirvanshah Palace (15th century) and authentic 16th century restaurants called Karavansarays that serve traditional tea and food.

In addition to its rich historical landscape, Baku's cultural scene is active and thriving. With groundbreaking achievements such as creating the first opera and ballet in the Muslim Orient, there are vibrant theaters and opera houses featuring distinguished local and international performances. The city regularly hosts an international jazz festival and is home to dozens of art galleries, museums and music halls. Renowned for its local flavorful food culture, Baku is also a city of international cuisine for any taste from Thai to Brazilian. Live music halls and bars create an energetic and buzzing atmosphere, which Lonely Planet recently ranked among the top-10 best nightlife scenes on the global scale. Beyond Baku's thriving cityscape is its natural beauty, with the warm sea and sandy beaches stretching along the coastline, a mere 20-minute trip from the city's center. The people of Baku proudly invite you to experience all their city has to offer - its ancient history and traditions, its multicultural synergy, its architectural splendors and its diverse heritage - all of which have formed the unique and striking city of Baku.

WE WELCOME YOU!

2018 - CELEBRATING **100 YEARS** OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

In 1918, after decades of political dependence and foreign rule, the Azerbaijani people unanimously voted for freedom and democracy. The Azerbaijani Democratic Republic (ADR) – the first democratic, secular state in the Muslim world – lasted only two years, but its monumental accomplishments have continued to impact the course of Azerbaijan's development until today. With achievements including building the strongest regional military forces, electing a first Parliament, granting voting rights to women years before many modern European states and establishing the first university, the story of the ADR continues to be a source of inspiration for the people of Azerbaijan and a notable time in world history.

PREVIOUS FORUMS

2017 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

July 1-2, 2017



The 2017 CAMCA Regional Forum in Dushanbe, Tajikistan brought together over 130 representatives from across 18 countries to discuss topics including geopolitics, international trade, geo-economics, regional and international security, entrepreneurship, investment opportunities, transport and transit, government transparency and accountability and more.



Keynote Speakers:

- H.E. Davlatali Said, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Ambassador Elisabeth Millard, U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan
- Mr. Amrullah Saleh, Former State Minister for Security Reform of Afghanistan
- Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, Chairman, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore
- Ambassador John Herbst, Director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council
- Mr. Salim Hatloni, Deputy Head of the Information and Analysis Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan
- Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM SERVES AS A CREATIVE PLATFORM FOR HONING STRATEGIC FORESIGHT, LEADERSHIP NETWORKS AND CO-DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

The three-day Forum brings together emerging young leaders in academia, policy development, entrepreneurship and media. Through a series of thematic panels and presentations, participants deliberate on the regional geopolitical ecosystem of diplomatic realities, security considerations, environmental challenges, norms and values. The CAMCA Regional Forum gives rise to a unique community who can scope and develop policy across this emerging region bridging Europe and Asia. The absence of regionally scoped platforms makes the CAMCA Regional Forum a unique experience for its participants and the region at large.

AMBASSADOR TEDO JAPARIDZE

FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER TO THE
PRIME MINISTER OF GEORGIA



CAMCA IS A UNIQUELY VALUABLE FORUM.

It was refreshing to have met so many bright, young Central Asians representing almost all the countries of CAMCA. I not only learned a lot from these young people, but meeting them collectively has given me confidence in the future of the CAMCA region.

AMBASSADOR BILAHARI KAUSIKAN

CHAIRMAN, MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE, NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

2016 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

June 18-19, 2016



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2016 TBILISI
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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. Topics included the changing geopolitical landscape, global economic trends, regional investment opportunities, transport and transit developments and more.



FOR ME AS A PUBLIC ACTIVIST, THE CAMCA FORUM IS A GREAT PLATFORM FOR EXCHANGING BEST POLICYMAKING PRACTICES, LEARNING LESSONS FROM NEIGHBORS AND WAYS TO IMPROVE POLICY ADVISORY IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC.

For me as an entrepreneur, the CAMCA Forum is the best place for networking and setting up new business partnerships with like-minded people from across the region. It is the best source of information for understanding the political and economic context of a country which helps significantly to make better investment decisions.

AZIZ SOLTOBAEV

CAMCA NETWORK, KYRGYZSTAN

Keynote Speakers:

- H.E. Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia
- H.E. Giorgi Kvirikashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia
- Mr. Mikheil Janelidze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
- Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli, Minister of Defense of Georgia
- Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, President of the Rumsfeld Foundation
- Ambassador R. James Woolsey, Chairman of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies
- Dr. Frank Luntz, Founder and President of Luntz Global
- Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute



WE HOPE THE CAMCA FORUM WILL FURTHER LEND SUPPORT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IDEA OF FREE ECONOMIES, AS WELL AS ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS.

Bringing together young and talented professionals from all segments of social life and from all countries of the CAMCA region provides an excellent foundation to tap the full potential of interregional cooperation and help to endorse a regional identity...

H.E. GIORGI MARGVELASHVILI
PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA





2015 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

JUNE 20-21, 2015
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



**MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORUMS
ENABLES ME TO REALLY “ZOOM
OUT” ON MY COUNTRY AND
CLEARLY SEE ITS PLACE IN THE
REGION AND WORLD, AS A PART
OF THE EAST-WEST CORRIDOR.**

The annual CAMCA Forums reinstate the size, power and the uniqueness of the CAMCA Network, fill me with pride for being a part of it and give me confidence that together we will be a force for positive change.

NARGIZ NASRULLAYEVA-MUDUROGLU
CAMCA NETWORK, AZERBAIJAN



2014 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

JUNE 21-22, 2014
Astana, Kazakhstan

**TODAY, THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA AND
THE CAUCASUS, AS WELL AS AFGHANISTAN AND
MONGOLIA, ARE BEING RESHAPED BY NEW POLITICAL
DYNAMICS AND FRESH ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.**

The CAMCA Regional Forum brings together the region’s rising stars in business, security and politics, providing them with a venue to interact, cooperate and collaborate. In the process, the Forum is helping to build the personal and professional bonds that will define the future complexion of the region.

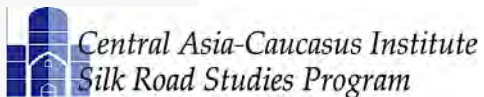
ILAN BERMAN
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL



CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM FOUNDERS



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. Brought together initially as participants of the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program, members of the CAMCA Network believe in the value of a connected region and are driven to contribute to the development, prosperity and cooperation of the CAMCA region through a variety of joint activities and projects. Learn more at <http://www.camcanetwork.com>



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>



Established in 2007 by Donald and Joyce Rumsfeld, the Rumsfeld Foundation encourages leadership, public service and free political and economic systems at home and abroad. Across its focus areas – Public Service and Greater Central Asia – the Foundation is committed to providing opportunities for rising leaders, honoring service to nation and to promoting liberty. A key element of the Foundation's efforts is the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program for talented professionals from the region, run in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute.

Learn more at www.rumsfeldfoundation.org

2018 CAMCA FORUM LOCAL PARTNERS



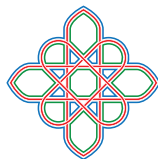
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