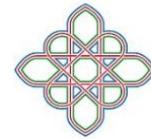


2018 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

CENTRAL ASIA – MONGOLIA – CAUCASUS – AFGHANISTAN

FORUM REPORT

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN | JUNE 21st-23rd, 2018



camca
Regional Forum 2018
Baku



2018 CAMCA Forum Participants

Two days of dialogue on the CAMCA region organized by the CAMCA Network, Rumsfeld Foundation and Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

THEME: *Emerging Regionalism*

SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS: *International leaders and professionals from the CAMCA countries, the EU, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Pakistan, Singapore, Ukraine, the United States and more.*

FOCUS AREAS: *Geopolitics, international trade, geo-economics, education, regional and international security, entrepreneurship, investment opportunities, transport and transit, reforms, government accountability, media and more.*

PREVIOUS FORUMS: [Dushanbe, Tajikistan - 2017](#); [Tbilisi, Georgia - 2016](#); [Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - 2015](#); [Astana, Kazakhstan - 2014](#)

2018 AT A GLANCE

 **230+** ATTENDEES

 **75+** SPEAKERS

 **22** SESSIONS

 **20+** COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

ABOUT THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

The Forum is a premier annual convening of rising leaders from the **CAMCA (Central Asia – Mongolia – Caucasus – Afghanistan)** region as well as top professionals and stakeholders from the broader international community. The Forum was founded and is organized by the CAMCA Network, the Rumsfeld Foundation and the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, with the support of local partners and sponsors.

The **Forum's mission** is to serve as a platform to connect top professionals across all sectors for region-wide discussions on means of advancing economic growth and social development in Greater Central Asia.

FAST FACTS

- Established in 2014, there have been **5** CAMCA Regional Forums.
- Attendance for all Forums totals more than **730** participants.
- Attendees have represented more than **25** countries.
- Over **165** speakers have contributed to Forum conversations.
- The Forum location travels each year across the CAMCA region.

2018 FORUM SESSIONS

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

- Welcoming Remarks by **H.E. Novruz Mammadov**, Prime Minister of Azerbaijan
- “Regional Prospects: CAMCA in 2030” by **Senator Sodyq Safoev**, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan

KEYNOTE INTERVIEWS:

- “The Nexus of Security and Development” with **Amb. Paul Wolfowitz**, Visiting Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, former President of the World Bank, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense
- “A Regional Economy?” with **Kairat Kelimbetov**, Governor, Astana International Financial Center, former Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

AMBASSADOR ROUNDTABLE:

- **Amb. Hafiz Pashayev**, Rector, ADA University, former Amb. of Azerbaijan to the U.S.
- **Amb. Tedo Japaridze**, Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia, former Amb. of Georgia to the U.S.
- **Senator Sodyq Safoev**, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, former Amb. of Uzbekistan to the U.S.

PLENARY SESSIONS:

- Economies of CAMCA: Innovating for Investment
- Models of Regional Coordination
- CAMCA's Changing Periphery: Harbingers of Strategic Change
- Caspian Connections and Beyond
- Reform Initiatives in the CAMCA Region
- Regionalism in CAMCA: Perspectives from the Region's Next Generation

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- Finding CAMCA's Voice in the World
- Connecting CAMCA's Entrepreneurs
- Digitalization and Good Governance in CAMCA
- Empowering Women of CAMCA
- The Future of CAMCA's Energy: Geopolitical Implications
- Digital Disruption: What Is It and How Does It Impact Businesses?
- CAMCA Media Roundtable
- Upgrading Policy Analysis Across the CAMCA Region
- Best Practices in Education Across CAMCA

View the [full agenda](#) and [speaker bios](#) online.

“THE CAMCA FORUM IS A UNIQUE ASSOCIATION OF IMPRESSIVE PROFESSIONALS FROM CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS. THE NETWORK CREATED IS A SIGN OF VITALITY OF THESE TWO REGIONS AND AUGURS WELL FOR THEIR FUTURES.”

AMBASSADOR JOHN HERBST

DIRECTOR OF THE EURASIA CENTER,
ATLANTIC COUNCIL

“IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, IN A TIME OF POLICY UPHEAVALS IN MANY COUNTRIES, THAT THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM PROVIDES A SETTING FOR INFORMED REFLECTION ON WHERE THE COUNTRIES IN QUESTION HAVE TRAVELED, WHERE THEY ARE GOING, AND HOW INTERESTED OUTSIDERS FROM THE EURO-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY CAN MOST PRODUCTIVELY ENGAGE WITH THEM.”

JONATHAN ELKIND

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



“I BELIEVE THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM IS AN IDEAL PLATFORM FOR DISCUSSING IDEAS THAT WOULD IMPACT THE WHOLE REGION AND FACILITATE ITS INTEGRATION. OUR COUNTRIES WOULD BENEFIT FROM TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN SUCH A MULTIDIMENSIONAL CONVERSATION... REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WHILE SUPPORTING AND BRINGING TOGETHER YOUNG LEADERS, IS THE ONLY WAY TO GO FORWARD.”

KAIRAT KELIMBETOV

GOVERNOR, ASTANA INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTER

“I AM ORIGINALLY FROM TAJIKISTAN, WHICH ON ITS OWN IS A SMALL MARKET TO SCALE A COMPANY, BUT CAMCA ON THE OTHER HAND, IS AN EMERGING MARKET OF MORE THAN 100 MILLION PEOPLE AND AN ADDRESSABLE MARKET WHERE YOU CAN GROW AND SCALE YOUR PRODUCTS. THE CAMCA FORUM IS SIGNIFICANT FOR ME BECAUSE I MEET WITH A LOT OF BUSINESS PEOPLE AND COUNTERPARTS AND WE DISCUSS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES. WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND SHARE OUR EXPERIENCES. IT'S A TREMENDOUS NETWORKING EXPERIENCE.”

MANUCHEHR KURBONALI

CAMCA NETWORK MEMBER

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Eldar Abakirov, Deputy Minister of Economy of Kyrgyzstan

Hikmat Abdurahmanov, Association for International Business and Technologies of Uzbekistan*

Azamat Akeleev, Promotank LLC, Kyrgyzstan*

Levan Akhvediani, Anaklia Development Consortium

Hiroki Akita, Nikkei Asian Review, Japan

Iskander Akylbayev, Kazakhstan Council on International Relations*

Manduul Altangerel, Corporate Lawyer, Mongolia*

Ambassador Nasir Andisha, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan

Kenneth Angell, Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Maryna Antonova, President Yushchenko Institute

Dr. Kaush Arha, USAID

Zia Asey, Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan*

Azim Azimov, Media Kitchen, Kyrgyzstan*

Sanjaasuren Bayaraa, CAREC Institute

Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan

Dr. Almazbek Beishenaliev, Department for Education, Culture, and Sports at the Government Office of the Kyrgyz Republic

Ilan Berman, American Foreign Policy Council

Peter Borovykh, Blockchain Solution Architect, www.blockchaindriven.com

Zarina Chekirbaeva, American Chamber of Commerce, Kyrgyzstan*

Edward Chow, Energy and National Security Program, CSIS

Dr. Svante Cornell, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

Jargalsaikhan Dambadarjaa, DeFacto Institute, and a columnist, radio presenter and host of the TV show 'DeFacto'

Khulan Davaadorj, Natural Essentials LLC, Mongolia*

Jonathan Elkind, Center on Global Energy Policy, SIPA-Columbia University

Thomas Firestone, Baker & McKenzie LLP and Chairman of the U.S.-Kyrgyzstan Business Council

Kamala Gafarova, BP, Azerbaijan*

Nemuun Gal, Hobby School, Mongolia*

Emil Gasimli, SOCAR, Azerbaijan*

Dr. Jeffrey Gedmin, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service

William R. Gill, U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan

Zafar Hashemi, Embassy of Afghanistan in the U.S.*

Sarkhan Hashimov, Microsoft, Azerbaijan*

Ambassador John Herbst, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

Fariz Ismailzade, ADA University

Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Taxes of Azerbaijan

Ambassador Tedo Japaridze, Office of the Prime Minister of Georgia

Shigeo Katsu, Nazarbayev University

Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

Kairat Kelimbetov, Governor of Astana International Finance Center, Kazakhstan

Yana Krimpe, Best Solutions, Azerbaijan

Ambassador Daniyar Kurbanov, Center for International Relations Studies

Manuchehr Kurbonali, Zentist*

Mariam Lashkhi, Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency

Ambassador Arthur Lenk, Israel Innovation for Africa

H.E. Novruz Mammadov, Prime Minister of Azerbaijan

Rear Admiral Raja Menon, Former Assistant Chief of Naval Staff of India

Jonathan Missner, Stein Mitchell Cipollone Beato & Missner LLP

Sardor Mukhamedaliyev, "OrientSwiss" CIS countries

Elshad Nasirov, SOCAR, Azerbaijan

Nargiz Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu, Adviser to State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan*

Rakhim Oshakbayev, Center of Applied Research TALAP in Kazakhstan*

Sally Painter, Blue Star Strategies

Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev, ADA University

Dr. Jacopo Maria Pepe, German Council on Foreign Relations
Yagub Rahimov, 7Marketz Group, Azerbaijan

Gulmira Rzayeva, Center for Strategic Studies, Azerbaijan*

Dr. Theresa Sabonis-Helf, National War College, National Defense University

Sen. Sodyq Safoev, Senate of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan

Barry Salaam, Afghanistan's Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee*

Dr. Brenda Shaffer, Georgetown University

Omaid Sharifi, ArtLords, Afghanistan*

Ash Singh, INSEAD Business School

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

Talant Sultanov, Internet Society Kyrgyz Chapter, Former Adviser to the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan*

Sarah Tonucci, Rumfeld Foundation

Gulnura Toraliev, Former Adviser to the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

Dr. Tornike Turmanidze, Tbilisi State University*

Aziza Umarova, SmartGov Consulting, Uzbekistan*

Emin Veli, Keepface, Azerbaijan*

Ambassador Wahidullah Waissi, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji*

Enders Wimbush, StrateVarious

Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz, Former President of the World Bank, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense

Nino Zambakhidze, Georgian Farmers Association

Yernar Zharkeshov, Center for Strategic Initiatives, Kazakhstan*

Taleh Ziyadov, Baku International Sea Trade Port

*Indicates CAMCA Network Member



Ambassador Roundtable



Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz Interview

ADDITIONAL FORUM EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Breakout luncheon discussions featuring guest speakers



Closing Dinner at the Four Seasons sponsored by the Port of Baku



Traditional Azerbaijani performers featured at the Closing Dinner



CAMCA Expo of regional businesses and entrepreneurs



Omaid Sharifi, CAMCA Network Member and President and Co-Founder of [ArtLords](#), a grass roots, "art for social change" organization in Afghanistan, developed a mural design for Forum attendees to participate in painting.



On the final day of the Forum, participants joined together to complete the mural depicting doves featuring the flags of the CAMCA region. The phrase "Together We Have It All" reflects the CAMCA Network members' belief in the strength and benefits of further regional cooperation.



Tour of Baku's Old City



Welcoming Reception Hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Baku



"Flag Handover Ceremony" to 2019 Forum Host: Uzbekistan



PRESS & MEDIA

Review #CAMCAbaku2018 conversations on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

View **photo coverage** on [Flickr](#).

Video session coverage will be available on the CAMCA Regional Forum [YouTube Channel](#).

Review the [full agenda](#) and all [press mentions](#) online.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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s.tonucci@dhrllc.net

David Soumbadze, Central Asia-Caucasus
Institute, soumbadze@afpc.org

I AM GLAD TO RECONNECT WITH THE FELLOWS FROM 10 CAMCA STATES FOR ITS 2018 REGIONAL FORUM IN BEAUTIFUL #BAKU IN MY 10TH VISIT OF AZERBAIJAN. ALWAYS REFRESHING AND WELCOMING #CAMCABAKU2018 @ADAUNIVERSITY



-AMBASSADOR WAHID WAISSI, AMBASSADOR OF AFGHANISTAN TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI

@ZAFARHASHEMI SPOKE ABOUT REGIONALISM AND CONNECTIVITY AND HOW THE YOUNG GENERATION IS LEADING THE PROCESS IN THE #CAMCA REGION. @CAMCAFORUM #CAMCABAKU2018



-OMAID SHARIFI, PRESIDENT, ARTLORDS

TODAY, SOA'S NICK ISRAEL ATTENDED THE KICK-OFF EVENT FOR THE @RUMSFELDFOUNDTN 5TH ANNUAL #CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES THROUGHOUT CENTRAL ASIA. #CAMCABAKU2018



-SPIRIT OF AMERICA WORLDWIDE

FOUNDERS



2018 LOCAL SPONSORS



2018 ORGANIZING PARTNER

THE 2019 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM WILL BE HELD NEXT SUMMER IN UZBEKISTAN. CONTACT [SOUMBADZE@AFPC.ORG](mailto:soumbadze@afpc.org) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



Azerbaijani CAMCA Network Members and ADA Rector Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev



Kairat Kelimbetov Interview

ca|m|c|a Regional Forum

