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Regional Forum



2016 TBILISI  
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Regional Forum  
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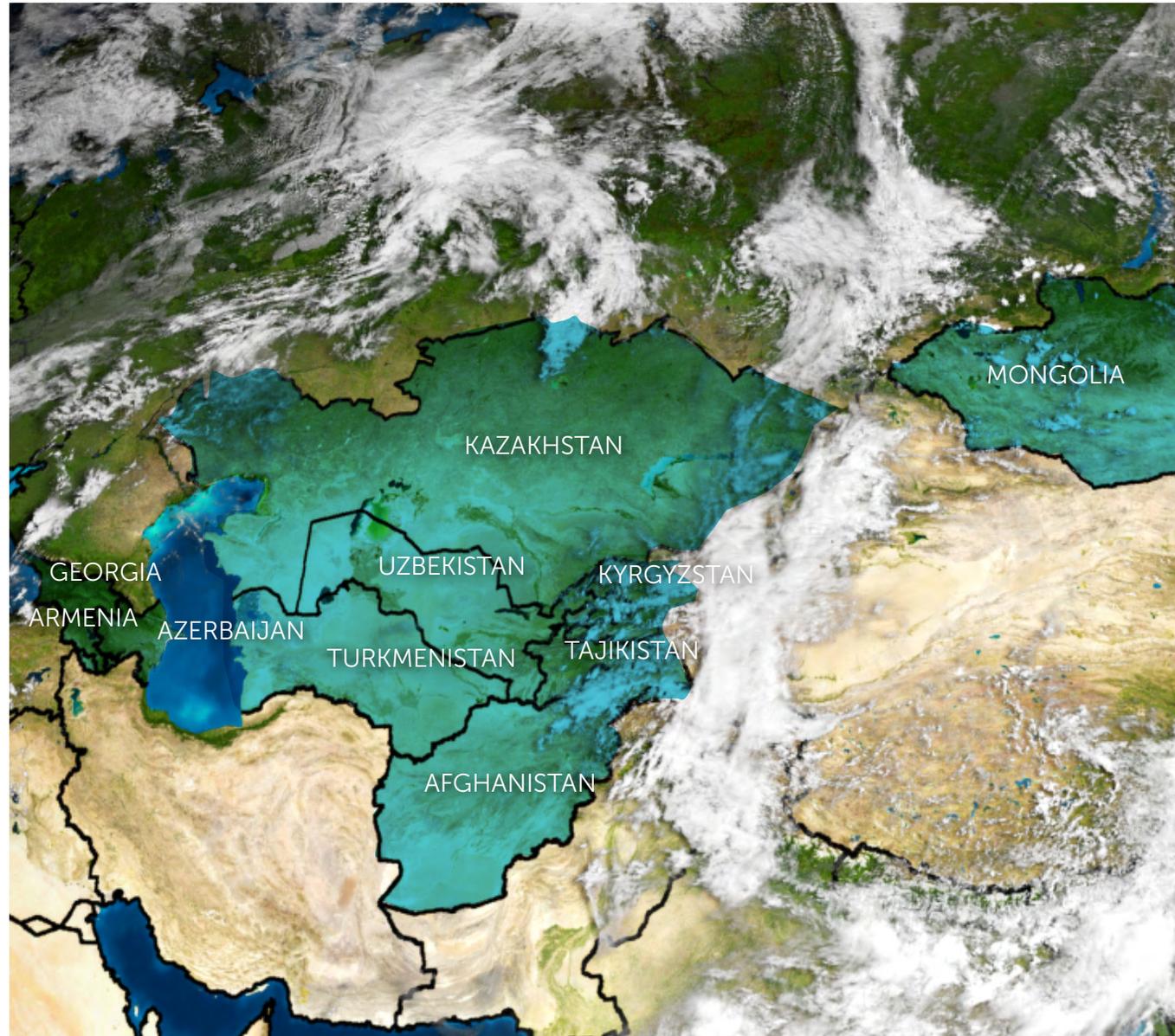
## WHAT IS CAMCA?

The CAMCA (Central Asia-Mongolia-Caucasus-Afghanistan) Regional Forum is a non-political and non-partisan entity 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 and elaborating 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 has evolved out of the Rumsfeld Foundation's Fellowship Program at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS. Since 2008, over 145 regional leaders have completed the Fellowship Program.

The 2016 CAMCA Regional Forum in Tbilisi, Georgia will discuss ongoing developments in the region as well as outlooks on broader global trends. The Forum will consist of plenary sessions, keynote addresses and a variety of panels on topics including recent geopolitical and economic developments, intraregional trade and transport, business and investment opportunities in the region, regional security issues and much more. Attendees will include Rumsfeld Fellowship alumni and other professionals from the CAMCA region and broader international community.





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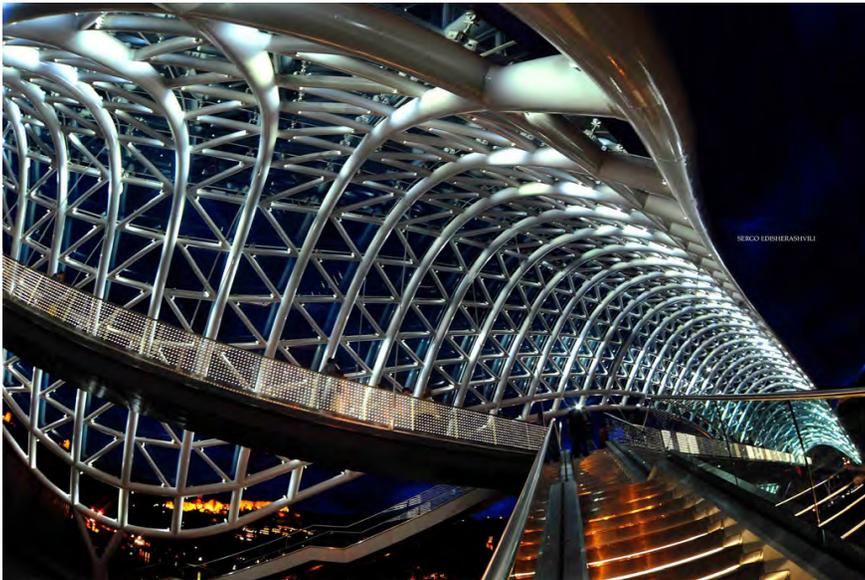
## WELCOME TO TBILISI

*"Wherever we had been in Russia... the magical name of Georgia came up constantly. People who had never been there, and most possibly never could go there, spoke of Georgia with a kind of longing and a great admiration. They spoke of Georgians as supermen, as great drinkers, great dancers, great musicians, great workers and lovers. And they spoke of the country in the Caucasus and around the Black Sea as a kind of second heaven. Indeed we began to believe that most... hope that if they live good and virtuous lives, they will not go to heaven, but to Georgia, when they die."*

John Steinbeck



Welcome to Tbilisi, the 1,500 year-old capital of Georgia. Visitors to this vibrant city are encouraged to explore the unique offerings of a land of vast history and ingenuity, and to enjoy a distinct and dynamic culture at the crossroads where the East meets the West. Like Steinbeck, perhaps you have already heard the country's name expressed with fond nostalgia or great admiration. Perhaps also like Steinbeck, you may soon believe that in Georgia you might find a second heaven.



The "Paris of Eurasia," renowned for its hospitality, superb wine and cuisine, melodic songs and effervescent dances, is an exceptional city with significant diversity and a rich cultural composition. It is where time seems to stop, as ancient mingles with modern and past coexists with future. On the list of the world's most breathtaking places to visit, the memory of Tbilisi and Georgia will stay with you everywhere you go.

While enjoying a flair for modernity, Tbilisi lives and breathes by history. Its roots are linked to the legendary 5th century King of Georgia, Vakhtang I Gorgasali, who built the city near

the hot springs discovered during a royal hunt, which would eventually lend themselves to the city's naming, rooted in the old Georgian word, "Tbili," meaning "warm." Nowadays, Tbilisi's world-renowned sulfur baths remain a major tourist destination in the oldest quarter of the city.

Multi-culturalism and tolerance have always been among Tbilisi's most distinctive traits. Located at a strategic nexus of the ancient Silk Road, the city has long been a melting pot of various cultures, languages, religions, traditions and customs, and remains so today with Georgian citizens of more than 80

ethnicities currently coexisting within its borders. In Tbilisi you will find churches of various denominations and synagogues and mosques built side by side – the ancient Anchiskhati Basilica, the Sioni Cathedral, pearl-domed Armenian churches, a spectacular Jewish synagogue, a Jummah Mosque and out on the horizon of the Elijah Mount, the Trinity Cathedral - the biggest orthodox church of Georgia symbolizing the unity of the Georgian nation.

The Old Town district is situated between the Botanical Gardens and the shadow of the imposing historic Narikala

Fortress, which dominates the iconic skyline. Nearby you will find numerous modern restaurants, clubs and art galleries located at the focal Chardin Street, named after a French Catholic missionary and scholar who once resided there. Continuing along the Mtkvari River leads you into the heart of Old Tbilisi with its picturesque Meidan square, famous for its thermal spas and a beautiful waterfall. A walk across the charming pedestrian Peace Bridge will take you to Rike Park situated on the opposite bank of the Mtkvari River. Close by are the recently renovated and charming Rustaveli and Agmashenebeli avenues, featuring sights such as the National Museum of Georgia, Museum of Soviet Occupation,

Art Museum of Georgia and further along, the Tbilisi Open Air Museum of Ethnography. For those fascinated with historic memorials and monuments, the "Georgian Stonehenge" is located on the hill by the Tbilisi Sea, with its impressively decorated pillars and long rows of statues of Georgian Kings. But what what surpasses it all is a ride in a modern cableway to the Tbilisi Funicular Complex on the top of the Mtatsminda Mountain overlooking the city's stunning panoramic views. Other impressive sights include the Gabriadze Theater located in the heart of the historic



quarter with its beautiful clock tower and dancing figurines, or the Dry Bridge, home to a famous flea market where art and antiques are on display. As Tbilisi's international reputation quickly grew after Georgia's independence in 1991, the city has continued to play host to a number of large-scale international forums and high-level events attracting leading business professionals and politicians from around the world. Moreover, after recently hosting a major European Youth Olympic Festival and the UEFA Super Cup final, Tbilisi marks a new hub for European sports alongside a surge of sporting and athletics development in the capital.



Beyond its cultural and historical importance, Tbilisi is steadily transforming into a regional hub for trade, transportation, energy, finance and tourism. Due to its business-friendly environment and strategic location, the city continues to attract major business projects, including pivotal railroads and pipelines across the area, aiming to fully unlock the potential of the surrounding region. Embracing its European heritage, Georgia continues along its path toward EU and NATO membership, and Tbilisi, much like the rest of the country, enjoys benefits from the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the EU and works vigorously to deepen its other global trade ties, including its strong strategic partnership with the United States. These developments and more attest to Georgia's aspirations to attract investment and expand its access to the vibrant regional, European, Asian and U.S. markets, and to become a true superhighway of communication and trade.

Perhaps most representative of Tbilisi, are the charming and creative tbilisians who preserve the genuine spirit and character of the city. Once you have had a chance to enjoy their warm hospitality, you will be ready to return to experience Tbilisi all over again, and, indeed, Georgia will always be on your mind.

Welcome to Tbilisi. While here, we hope you create your own history in this dynamic city that will always remain with you everywhere you go.





  
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## GIORGI MARGVELASHVILI

President of Georgia

Dear Fellows and participants of the CAMCA Forum,

It is my pleasure to welcome the CAMCA Regional Forum to Georgia. On behalf of the Georgian people, I welcome to Tbilisi, Secretary Rumsfeld - a friend of freedom, a great supporter of Georgia and of regional cooperation.

Historically a melting pot of various cultures and civilizations at a critical nexus of the geostrategic South Caucasus region that bridges East with West and North with South, Georgia has always been aware of the great potential of enhanced regional cooperation. Since its regained independence, the country has been gradually and successfully striding to become a trade, transport, logistics and financial hub in the region, through serving as a corridor for transportation of goods and free movement of labor and capital; hosting functional pipelines and railroad projects of global importance; and fostering trade and interaction through more global engagement, investment and the promotion of technological knowhow. The vigorous involvement and backing of the United States as Georgia's strategic partner, of this idea attests to its viability and sustainability, as well as promises to turn the New Silk Road concept into a vibrant superhighway of trade and communication. Georgia, along with other countries of the CAMCA region, will have a significant role to play to reinforce wider regional and global trade and connectivity.

As the closest of all European countries to Asia, Georgia is a gateway between East and West. Our country has always been actively involved in European development through the centuries. Europeanism is not the result of conjuncture, but the natural decision taken by our nation many times through history. Even the ancient Greeks recognized us as a European nation. We were not only a part of Christian-Judaic culture, but we have also contributed to the process of European civilization. With the active engagement of the United States, China, EU countries and other important international stakeholders, Georgia has promoted the revival of the historic Silk Road idea, fostering enhanced regional and global cooperation in the fields of transport, energy, trade and people-to-people contacts. Via this platform, political and business leaders have an opportunity to discover new ideas and possible scenarios for bolstering lucrative cooperation, deepening their contacts and prospective collaboration in all areas of interest.

This ongoing global integration process should prompt all countries and societies of the wider CAMCA region to push for deeper intra- and interregional cooperation. 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.

Thereby, I am sure that the bright and dedicated Fellowship alumni, invited guests and government representatives here will not only engage in interesting discussions and promote further understanding through the lively exchange of ideas and practical projects, but also will focus on regional integration through viable initiatives and contacts. 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.

I wish you all success and hope that you will enjoy your stay in Georgia.

Sincerely,





## **DONALD RUMSFELD**

Co-Founder and President  
Rumsfeld Foundation

Greetings,

Welcome to the 2016 CAMCA Regional Forum in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Each year I am encouraged and impressed by the level and breadth of talent that gathers from across Greater Central Asia at the CAMCA Forums. Among this increasingly significant collection of professionals, there is no question but that some of the brightest minds and foremost rising leaders of the Caucasus and Greater Central Asia are here contributing to this important regional dialogue.

Joining us in Tbilisi are nearly 90 talented alumni of our Foundation's Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program. Also in attendance are a number of other regional and international participants, representing some 18 countries, who have traveled to Tbilisi in interest and support of the CAMCA region, and with a recognition of the value of this growing network.

It has been a privilege for our Foundation to support this unique endeavor, from its beginnings as a simple idea in 2008 to bring five young leaders from Central Asia and the Caucasus to Washington, D.C. on a Fellowship Program, to the now dynamic and active network of nearly 150 rising regional leaders who have come together as the CAMCA network.

In support of this emerging network, we are pleased to host the annual CAMCA Regional Forums. Our hope is that those in attendance will learn, contribute and come away further engaged in the entire CAMCA region and the opportunities it has to offer.

We are pleased you have joined us.

Sincerely,





## **DR. S. FREDERICK STARR**

Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute,  
Johns Hopkins University-SAIS

Welcome to the CAMCA Regional Forum!

When these annual events were launched years ago, the term “CAMCA” was unknown and perhaps even puzzling to many. However, today the “CAMCA” concept, referring to “Central Asia, Mongolia, Caucasus and Afghanistan” – a broad geographical zone that amply warrants the title, “The Heart of Asia” – is promoted and supported by a growing network of influencers within the region. At present, the existence and importance of an economic, geopolitical, and even cultural region in this key part of the Eurasian land mass is increasingly understood and gaining momentum.

Over time, the CAMCA region appears destined to warrant attention in its own right, and not merely as a sub-set of one of the many great political and economic powers that surround it.

However, it is of note that this significant region continues to be buffeted by contradictory centripetal and centrifugal forces. Many of these forces, especially among the former, are positive. Others are not.

The purpose of the CAMCA Regional Forum is to bring together rising leaders of business, government, the media and independent sectors from across the region and to enable them to identify and evaluate opportunities for forward progress. To this end, CAMCA Forums promote and stimulate regional networking. Sponsored by the Rumsfeld Foundation in cooperation with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, CAMCA Regional Forums are open to all who share the organizers’ faith in the future of these ancient and culturally rich lands.

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## ABOUT THE RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP

*The Rumsfeld Fellowship Program was established in 2008 by the Rumsfeld Foundation in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. 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, encouraging an intraregional exchange of ideas, as well as fosters better understanding and stronger relations among the United States and the countries of the region.*





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

As of June 2016, after 16 successful Fellowship sessions, there have been a total of 147 program participants from 10 countries. The different groups have met with U.S. Senators Richard Lugar, Lamar Alexander, Christopher Dodd, Jon Kyl, Joseph Lieberman, and Ted Cruz; Congressmen David Dreier, Robert Pittenger, Robert Aderholt, Eni Faleomavaega, and Adam Kinzinger; the Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington; U.S. Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Ali-

to and the late Antonin Scalia; Senior Federal Judge Laurence Silberman; and Presidents of the World Bank Robert Zoellick and Paul Wolfowitz.

Fellows have also visited with some of the United States' finest military leadership including former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe Admiral James Stavridis, former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force General Norton Schwartz, former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers and General Peter Pace, and former Vice Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General James Cartwright, Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, and General Joseph Ralston. They have also toured the U.S. Navy Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) and visited the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania and the National Defense University at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

Groups have also had the opportunity to meet with such business leaders as Chairman of the Kellogg Executive Leadership Institute and former CEO of Campbell's Soup Company Doug Conant, Founder and Chairman of Thayer Lodging Group Fred Malek, CEO of International Strategy and Investment Group Ed Hyman, CEO of Rockefeller Financial Reuben Jeffery, Founder and CEO of New Magellan Ventures Richard Lawless, entrepreneur and Monumental Sports owner Ted Leonsis, Chief Economist of Bank of America Mickey Levy, CEO of Thompson Global LP Noel Thompson, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Blue Star Strategies, LLC Sally Painter, President of the Eurasia Group Ian Bremmer, President and CEO of N12 Technologies Brad Berkson, American

businessman and philanthropist Edward Scott, President and CEO of the Aerospace Industries Association and former Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration Marion Blakey, Founding Principal of Navigators Global LLC Cesar Conda, and many others. They have also met with representatives from The Boeing Company, OPIC, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, STRATFOR, Ford Motor Company, BP, Facebook, Google, The Carlyle Group, Lockheed Martin, Coca-Cola, Hunt Oil, McKinsey & Co., as well as the leadership of the American Beverage Association and the American Petroleum Institute.

In journalism, groups have spent time with Chairman of the Board of the Washington Post Company Donald Graham, Washington Post Editorial Page Editor Fred Hiatt, Executive Chairman of C-SPAN, Brian Lamb, New York Times columnist Thom Shanker, Editor-in-chief of U.S. News and World Report Mortimer Zuckerman, Political Commentators Brit Hume, Bret Baier, Greta Van Susteren, Jake Tapper and Juan Williams, Pulitzer Prize winning syndicated columnists Charles Krauthammer and George Will, American radio talk show host Laura Ingraham, news analyst and author, Cokie Roberts, political consultant and pollster Frank Luntz, and Senior Editor and columnist for Fortune Magazine Nina Easton.

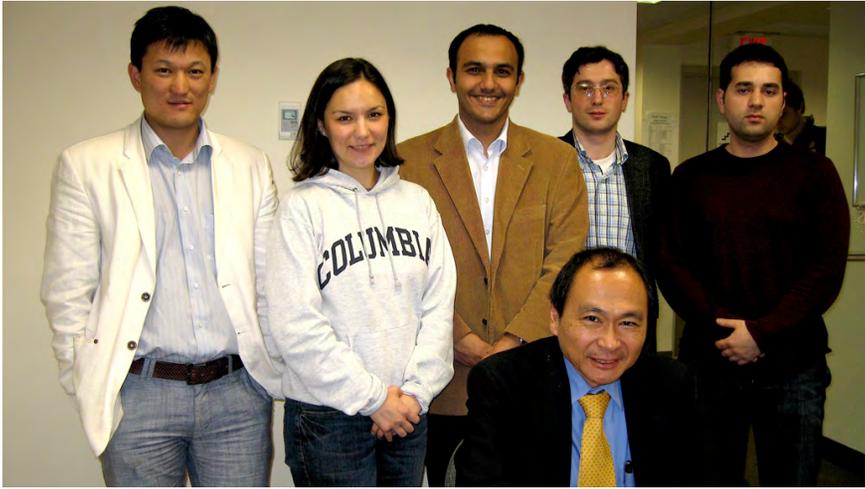


Fall 2009 Fellows with Dr. John Mearsheimer, American Political Scientist and Author



Spring 2010 Fellows with Gary Becker, Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics





Fall 2008 Fellows with Francis Fukuyama, Political Scientist and Author



Spring 2009 Fellows with Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

They have also met with former President of the United States George W. Bush, former Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Secretaries of Defense William S. Cohen and Donald Rumsfeld; Secretaries of Commerce, Education, Energy, Labor, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Carlos Gutierrez, Samuel Bodman, Bill Bennett, Elaine Chao, Ann Korologos, Ray LaHood and Carla Hills; former U.S. Attorney General Judge Michael Mukasey; former Directors of the CIA Amb. John Negroponte and James Woolsey; former Director of the National Security Agency General Michael Hayden; former National Security Advisers Dr. Henry Kissinger, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski and Stephen Hadley; former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich; former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Dr. Alan Greenspan; President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili; former Prime Minister of Georgia Grigol Mgaloblishvili; former Prime Minister of Spain Jose Maria Aznar; former Governors Mitch Daniels, Evan Bayh, and John Engler, along with many others. Each group also meets with current and former Ambassadors, as well as members of the current Administration including representatives of the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of State, National Security Council staff and more.

In addition, groups have met with the late Nobel Prize winner in Economics Gary Becker; world renowned political scientists and economists Francis Fukuyama, Arthur Laffer, John Mearsheimer and Hernando de Soto; author Lynne Cheney; and neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson. In the non-profit sector, groups have met with Directors

of the Rumsfeld Foundation Joyce Rumsfeld and Dr. Steve Cambone; President of Philanthropy Roundtable Adam Meyerson; President of the Partnership for Public Service Max Stier; President of Opportunity International Vicki Escarra; President of the Grameen Foundation Alex Counts; Founder and former President of the Heritage Foundation Dr. Edwin Feulner; Co-founder of the Stimson Center Dr. Barry Blechman; Director of the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library Mark Updegrove; Executive Director of the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs Randall Kempner; Senior Vice President of the Smith Richardson Foundation Dr. Marin Strmecki; and President and CEO of Mary's Center and recipient of the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal Maria Gomez. They have also met numerous world-class experts and scholars from various think tanks and universities.

The last twelve groups have also traveled to cities including Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Diego, and Seattle for high-level meetings, offering them a view of the United States beyond Washington, D.C. Additionally, since the fall of 2011, the Rumsfeld Fellowship has partnered with the Open World Program to organize local programs with host communities outside of Washington, D.C. to show the Fellows how America works on a local level. These programs offer insights as to how communities and city governments work with businesses, civil organizations and individuals to bring benefits to the economy and society. Groups have visited Albuquerque (New Mexico), Boise (Idaho), Charleston (South Carolina), Charlotte (North Carolina), Cleve-

land (Ohio), Columbus (Ohio), Denver (Colorado), Fort Worth (Texas), Helena (Montana), Huntsville (Alabama), Kansas City (Missouri), Memphis (Tennessee), Miami (Florida), Phoenix (Arizona), Reno (Nevada), Riverside (California), St. Louis (Missouri), Tucson (Arizona) and Tulsa (Oklahoma).

In addition to the group program, in order to accommodate the professional interests of each Fellow, the program assists in arranging individual meetings with officials and experts in their specific areas of research and interest.



Fall 2010 Fellows with Stephen Hadley, former U.S. National Security Adviser



Fall 2011 Fellows with Dr. Alan Greenspan, former Chairman of the Federal Reserve



Spring 2011 Fellows with Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. National Security Adviser



Spring 2012 Fellows with Secretary Rumsfeld and Dr. Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Secretary of State



Fall 2012 Fellows with Elaine Chao, former U.S. Secretary of Labor



Fall 2013 Fellows with Ambassador R. James Woolsey, Chairman of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies



Spring 2013 Fellows with Dr. Lynne Cheney, Author and former Second Lady of the United States



Spring 2014 Fellows with Dr. James MacDougall and Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, former Commandant of the U.S. Army War College



Fall 2014 Fellows with General Michael Hayden, former Director of the National Security Agency



Spring 2015 Fellows with Ambassador Carla Hills, former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development



Fall 2015 Fellows with STRATFOR leadership and analysts in Austin, TX



Fall 2015 Fellows with Robert Zoellick, former President of the World Bank Group



Spring 2016 Fellows with Frank Luntz, American political consultant and pollster



Spring 2016 Fellows with H.E. Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia

## ABOUT THE CAMCA NETWORK

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REGIONAL LEADERS  
THAT COMPRISE THE CAMCA NETWORK



**147** Fellows since 2008   **16** Fellowship Sessions   **10** National Coordinators   **45+** Alumni meetings in 2015

**1/3** in business are Directors   **30** Over 30 Fellows are C-level executives   **35** 35 Fellows founded their own company   **7** Fellows founded a non-profit   **3/4** Nearly 3/4 have Master's degrees   **15%** Over 15% have earned doctoral degrees

More than 75% work  
in their home country  
**FURTHERING**  
their nation's development & progress

ALL **CAMCA** REGIONAL FORUMS  
HAVE HAD **50%** OR GREATER  
participation

**1/3** WORKING IN ACADEMIA SERVE  
as Deans or Department Chairs

**OVER 1/2** ARE INVOLVED IN BUSINESS  
WITHIN THE **CAMCA** REGION

**28 FELLOWS** RECEIVED A DEGREE OR TRAINING  
at a U.S. Ivy League institution

**9 FELLOWS** HAVE EDITED, AUTHORED  
or co-authored **A BOOK**

**22 FELLOWS** work for international organizations including the  
**UN, World Bank, USAID and NATO**

**25%** IN GOVERNMENT POSITIONS  
work for their country's top level **LEADERSHIP**

## FELLOWS



**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 where he facilitates communication and networking among the business leaders of Kyrgyzstan. In addition, Mr. Abakirov was elected as Chairman of the Kyrgyz Software and Services Developers Association. He also initiated the development of High-Tech Park in the Kyrgyz Republic, a special low tax regime for IT companies. Mr. Abakirov holds a BA in Oriental Studies from the Kyrgyz National University in Bishkek (2002).

aaabakirov@gmail.com

**Dr. Nafisa Abdullaeva**  
Uzbekistan, Fall 2009

Dr. Nafisa Abdullaeva is a partner at Lex Mark Advocate Law Firm, specializing in the preparation of legal opinions on the subjects of compliance of foreign contracts with the current legislation of Uzbekistan and legal consultations on insurance, bankruptcy and liquidation matters. She has fifteen years of experience of conducting seminars and trainings on organizing and managing business for leading companies in Uzbekistan. Dr. Abdullaeva has consulted the Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan on legislative processes including monitoring of implementation of state programs. She has also served as a manager of numerous international and national projects sponsored by UNDP, ADB, EuropeAID and others. Dr. Abdullaeva is an author of more than 30 publications on Uzbek law in Uzbekistan and abroad. She holds a BA (1998) and a MA (2002) in International Law from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent and received her PhD at the Tashkent State Judicial Institute.

nafisa\_insurance@yahoo.com



**Mr. Hikmat Abdurahmanov**  
Uzbekistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Hikmat Abdurahmanov is the Chairman of the Association for International Business & Technologies of Uzbekistan and is Head of a commercial group of companies with a core staff of 70 people involved in international business including business tourism, trade, finance and advisory services for SMEs. Since 2006, the company has brought over \$100 million worth of mini-technologies to SMEs. With their assistance, over 3,000 Uzbek business executives and government officials have visited foreign trade shows, factories and forums in different countries. Mr. Abdurahmanov has successfully launched an Industrial Business Center named TechnoPlaza, a business center and incubator for local SMEs. Mr. Abdurahmanov is the Chairman of the Board of Central Eurasian Leadership Alliance (CELA). Mr. Abdurahmanov holds a BA (2001) and a MA (2004) in International Economic Relations from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent and a MA in International Business from the School of Management at St. Andrews, UK (2006).

h.abdurahmanov@gmail.com

**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 a Deputy Director of the Political Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, a 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 MA from the Central European University and a BA, MA and PhD from Tbilisi State 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 them is a recent article "Religious Systems and the Secular-religious Cleavage: Turkey and Western Europe Compared," and one of the authors of the policy paper "Georgia's Black Sea Policy: Forging Black Sea Identity."

dabesadze@mfa.gov.ge



**Dr. Alisher Abidjanov**  
Uzbekistan, Spring 2009

Dr. Alisher Abidjanov is the Deputy Director of the Republican Scientific-Practical Centre of Developing the Innovative 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 2005, he was a Visiting Scholar at Princeton University. From 2009 to 2010, Dr. Abidjanov was a Fulbright Scholar at SAIS at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., and during the 2011-2012 academic year, he taught at Constantine the Philosopher University (Slovakia). In 2013, he established a private educational center. Dr. Abidjanov holds a BA, MA and PhD in Philosophy from the National University of Uzbekistan.

abidjanov\_a@yahoo.com



**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 a BS in Economics and Law from the Turkmen Institute of National Economy (2000) and a LLM in Asian and Comparative Law from the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle, Washington (2007).

oagayev@myuw.net

**Ms. Larisa Agiarova**  
Turkmenistan, Fall 2015

Ms. Larisa Agiarova is a First Deputy Director and a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) Senior Reporting Accountant 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, 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 a BA in Economics from the Moscow Institute of Economic and Humanitarian Sciences, Russia (2009) and a MA in Accounting from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (2011).

lagiarova@gmail.com

**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 at 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 a BA from Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey (2001) and a MA in International Relations from Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey (2004). 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).

ganifa@yahoo.com

**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 a BA from AUCA (2002) and a MBA from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University (2006).

aakelev@gmail.com

**Mr. Muratbek Akhmatov**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2013

Mr. Muratbek Akhmatov is the Internal Auditor at the JSC Center for International Programs which administers the Kazakhstan Presidential Bolashak International Scholarship Program. Prior to his current position, Mr. Akhmatov 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 worked as a 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 a BA in Audit and Accounting from Kazakh Economic University, Almaty (2002) and an Engineering degree in Design, Construction and Operation of Oil Pipelines and Gas and Oil Storage Tanks from Kazakh National Technical University (2005).

zhaksaru.ami@gmail.com

**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 a 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 before 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 a MA in History of Diplomacy and International Relations from Tbilisi State University in Georgia (2003).

bekaaladashvili@yahoo.com



**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 a BA in Commercial Law from the State University of Commerce in Tajikistan (2002), a MA in International Economics from the Kazakh Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (2004) and a MS in Development Economics and Policy from the University of Manchester (2007).

kakhoraminov@hotmail.com



**Dr. Umid Aripdjanov**  
Uzbekistan, Spring 2014

Dr. Umid Aripdjanov is one of the founding partners of Colibri Law Firm which provides integrated legal, business advisory and government relations services for inbound foreign investors across Central Asia and Iran. Throughout his career, he has advised on multi-billion dollar investments and 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 Law Degree (1997) and PhD (2001) 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).

umid.a@colibrilaw.com



**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 the 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 a BA in Oriental Studies and International Relations from Bishkek Humanities University (1999) and a MA in Social Science (International Economics) from the Iwate University, Japan (2003).

a.baktybek@gmail.com



**Mr. Ashir Ashirov**  
Turkmenistan, Spring 2010

Mr. Ashir Ashirov currently is a staff member of the American Institute in Taiwan and is finishing the Mandarin Studies Program at the Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China. Recently he 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 a BA in Oriental and Iranian Studies from Turkmen State University (2001) and a MS in GIS studies from Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration (2006). 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.

ashir.ashirov@gmail.com



**Mr. Kuban Ashyrkulov**  
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2010

Mr. Kuban Ashyrkulov is the Advisor to the President of the Central Asian Corporation, one of the largest investment groups operating in Kyrgyzstan. In addition, Mr. Ashyrkulov is the Chairman of the Bishkek Business Club, a business association that unites proactive, objective, influential and independent local business leaders striving to contribute to the development of the Kyrgyz Republic. Before joining the Central Asian Corporation, he 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 a MA in Technical Engineering from the Kyrgyz Technical University (1996) and a MBA from the Academy of Management under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic (1998).

kuban.ashyrkulov@gmail.com



**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.

bayram.uae@gmail.com



**Dr. Anuar Ayazbekov**  
Kazakhstan, Fall 2014

Dr. Anuar Ayazbekov is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy at Nazarbayev University. Prior to joining Nazarbayev University, he worked at the Department of Foreign Policy Analysis and Forecasting of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Analytical Department of the Administration of the President of Kazakhstan in Astana, the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies in Almaty and at the Japan Institute for International Affairs. Dr. Ayazbekov's interests include Central Asian regional affairs and the diplomatic history of Kazakhstan in the 1990s. Dr. Ayazbekov holds a BA in International Relations from KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan (2003), a MA in International Diplomacy from Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia (2004) and PhD in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews, UK (2014).

anuar.ayazbekov@gmail.com



**Mr. Dulguun Baasandavaa**  
Mongolia, Spring 2013

Mr. Dulguun Baasandavaa is a Board Member of the Mongolian Business Development Association. Previously, he was a Vice President at Tenger Capital, a brokerage and investment-banking arm of Tenger Financial Group and served as a Senior Financial Analyst and Assistant to the Chairman at Newcom Group where he also was a member of the "Capital Market Development" working group initiated by the Prime Minister of Mongolia. 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.

dulguun.baasandavaa@gmail.com



**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).

d\_babaev@mail.ru



**Mr. Naidalaa Badrakh**  
Mongolia, Fall 2015

Mr. Naidalaa Badrakh is the Deputy Chairman of the National Labor Party of Mongolia. He is also a founding Board Member of "Khugjil Khun" club, 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. Mr. Badrakh worked as the CEO and Secretary-General of the Mongolian Bankers Association, 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, finance and banking. Mr. Badrakh holds a BA in Business Economics from the Institute of Finance and Economics of Mongolia (1997) and a MSc in Economics from the University of Kobe, Japan (2004).

naidalaa@gmail.com



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

Ms. Gunesh Bakgalova is working for the European Commission's project on budgeting reforms in the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan. Prior to her current position, she was a Senior Legal Counsel and Regulatory Compliance Manager at Schlumberger Corporation in Turkmenistan. Previously, Ms. Bakgalova worked for numerous national agencies, law firms, and international organizations including 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 a LLB from the School of Law & International Economic Relations of the Turkmen State University (1999), a LLM from the Law School at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2009), and a MA in Political Science from the Institute for European Politics in Berlin, Germany (2012).

bakgalova@mail.ru



**Ms. Afghani Barakzai**  
Afghanistan, Fall 2012

Ms. Afghani Barakzai is currently studying at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She holds a BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Kabul. During her studies in Afghanistan, she became involved in women's rights issues and served as a part-time co-coordinator 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, she 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 Administrative Manager for the USAID funded Central Asia Development Group. She continues to be involved with women's rights issues and has published articles on this topic, including in *The Washington Post*. She is currently pursuing a MA in International Studies with a focus on Women's Rights from Georgetown University.

Contact\_barakzai@yahoo.com





**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 the 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 BA in Journalism and Public Relations from the American University of Central Asia (1998), a degree in Accounting, Analysis and Audit from the Moscow Institute of Entrepreneurship and Law, Bishkek Branch (2004) and a Degree in Law from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University (2005). She also graduated from the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School (2014).

nazira1@gmail.com



**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 BA in Finance and Credit (2001) and a MA in International Economic Relations (2003) from the Tajik National University, as well as a Law degree from the Russian Tajik Slavonic University (2003). Additionally, he has a 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 was 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.

mboboev.tj@gmail.com



**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 a 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).

mbustoni@gmail.com



**Ms. Tatyana Bystrushkina**  
Uzbekistan, Fall 2013

Ms. Tatyana Bystrushkina is the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Uzbekistan, where she is responsible for developing and implementing the long-term strategy of the organization in accordance with the vision of the Board of Directors, comprised by nine CEOs of major American and international investors in Uzbekistan. Her responsibilities also include planning and executing advocacy initiatives in order to ease doing business in Uzbekistan; planning and conducting surveys, market research and white papers in line with the needs of the members; coordinating major internal and external events, and handling other administrative, managerial, and fiscal responsibilities in the office. To achieve these goals she closely works with business leaders representing over 100 US, multinational and Uzbek corporations, diplomatic corps, international organizations and the Government of Uzbekistan. Ms. Bystrushkina holds a BA in Philology from the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages (2002) and a MA in International Business at the Westminster International University in Tashkent (2016).

tatyana.bystrushkina@gmail.com



**Ms. Bahar Charyyeva**  
Turkmenistan, Fall 2012

Ms. Bahar Charyyeva is an Associate 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. Prior, 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 graduated from Turkmen State University, Faculty of Law and International Relations with the qualification of a lawyer (2001) and holds an LLM from Queen Mary University of London, UK (2010).

baharcharyyeva@gmail.com



**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, strategic planning and municipal service improvements. Ms. Chatinyan holds a BA in Philology from the Teachers' Training Institute in Armenia (1998), a MPA from the University of Delaware as a Muskie Fellow (2000), and a Certificate in Executive Management and Leadership from the Judge Institute of Management at the University of Cambridge (2003).

Zara.chatinyan@yahoo.com



**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 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 a BA in Business Administration from the American University of Central Asia (2002) and a MPA from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (2006). 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. Munkhbat Davaatseren**  
Mongolia, Fall 2013

Mr. Munkhbat Davaatseren is the CFO of Senj Sant LLC, a company implementing the "Moncement" project to construct a modern, dry process, integrated cement plant with 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 Securities LLC, as well as an investment advisor at Golomt Bank and JP Morgan Chase Bank in Mongolia. He also contributed to drafting a new securities market law adapting internationally accepted practices of investment protection in Mongolia. Mr. Davaatseren holds a BBA in Financial Management from Warsaw University in Poland (2006) and a MS in Finance from Kellstadt Graduate School of Business at DePaul University in Chicago (2010).

mdavaa@gmail.com



**Mr. Ozodkhon Davlatshoev**  
Tajikistan, Spring 2016

Mr. Ozodkhon Davlatshoev is the Director of Tethys Petroleum in Tajikistan. He also owns several businesses and is an Honorary Consul of Sweden in Tajikistan. For the past 20 years, Mr. Davlatshoev led the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) 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 in Kyrgyzstan and from 2006 on, he spearheaded investment development activities in Central Asia in renewable energy, mining, telecommunications, airport infrastructure and management, manufacturing and agro industry. He currently plays a lead role in the new initiative, Enterprise Growth Accelerator and Enterprise Development Platform in the region. Mr. Davlatshoev holds a BA in Middle-Eastern Studies (1997) and a BA in Economics (1999) from Khorog State University, as well as a MBA with specialization in Strategic Planning and Strategic Risk Management from Edinburgh Business School, Herriot-Watt University, UK (2004).

ozod.davlatshoev@ips-asia.net



**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. Marat 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 holds a BA in Political Science from Kyrgyz State National University (2001) and a MA in International Law from the International University of Kyrgyzstan (2003). He completed a PhD program in Public and Social Policy at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic (2014).

mdjanbaev@gmail.com



**Mr. Aibek Djangaziev**  
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2015

Mr. Aibek Djangaziev is the owner and CEO of Egoist 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 the President of Rotary Club of Bishkek, during 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 and promotes a healthy way of living. Mr. Djangaziev holds a BA in Economics from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University (2004).

aibek888@gmail.com



**Amb. 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 where 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 is also associated with supervising the implementation of projects in the field of democracy and development, as well as with the effective implementation of 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 a MA in International and European Security from Geneva University/Geneva Center for Security Policy (2009).

levandolidze@yahoo.com



**Col. Munkh-Ochir Dorjijugder**  
Mongolia, Spring 2012

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

munkhochir.dorjijugder@yahoo.com



**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 BA and a MA in World Culture and Literature (1997) and a PhD in Philosophy (2002) from Tbilisi State University and a 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).

nengenidze@eprc.ge



**Mr. Nemuun Gal**  
Mongolia, Spring 2016

Mr. Nemuun Gal is Co-founder and Partner at Novaterra LLC where he specializes in deal structuring, general contracts and regulatory framework advice, and was instrumental in closing several multi-million dollar deals 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. He served at the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations 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 a LL.M from the Columbia University Law School (2009), where he was the Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. Bretzfelder International Law Scholar from 2008 to 2009 and LL.M 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 a Corporate Affairs Director at AREVA Mongol LLC. Prior to this position, she worked as a senior officer in charge of Foreign Affairs at the Office of the President of Mongolia. She also worked for the President's election campaign in 2009. Previously, she worked as an analyst and an expert at the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia, a project analyst at DBI Construction Consultants Inc. in New York, a graduate intern at the United Nations Headquarters and an intern at the Parliament of Mongolia. Ms. Galindiv holds a BA in International Relations and English from the School of Foreign Service at the National University of Mongolia (1998), a MA in Global Political Economy and Finance from the New School for Social Research, New York, NY (2002) and a MA in Human Rights from the Legal Studies Department of the Central European University – a U.S. accredited university in Budapest, Hungary (2010).

sara3335@gmail.com



**Mr. Tuvshinzaya Gantulga**  
Mongolia, Spring 2015

Mr. Tuvshinzaya Gantulga currently is a graduate student and Fulbright Scholar at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University in New York, where he also serves 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 where 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. Forbes Mongolia recently 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).

tuvshin77@gmail.com



**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 Ger Hub, a nonprofit social enterprise that aims to develop uncommon solutions to common problems in Ulaanbaatar. By creating opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, Ger Hub 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 nongovernmental 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 Tomujin Academy. 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).

badruun@gmail.com



**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 5 years working in 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 a BA in Finance and Accounting from the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy and Georgia State University, USA (2007), a MBA from the University of Louisiana (2009) and a MBA from the Azerbaijan State Economics University (2010). He has also completed the Advanced Foreign Service Program at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and has earned a Master Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University (2015).

Emil.Gasimli@socar.az



**Ms. Diana Gaziyan**  
Armenia, Fall 2013

Ms. Diana Gaziyan is 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 the Republic of Armenia. She then moved to international development projects and worked towards the implementation of decentralization and local governance reforms (USAID) for a number of years. Ms. Gaziyan's international professional experience includes the Institute of Public Administration and Education Development Center in NYC, as well as the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. She holds a BA from Yerevan State University of Foreign Languages with a major in English Language and Psychology. In 2002, she was awarded a Muskie fellowship and received a MS in Management of International Non-Profit Organizations (2003) from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University.

dgaziyan@hotmail.com



**Mr. Sul Khan Glonti**  
Georgia, Spring 2016

Mr. Sul Khan Glonti is an elected Board Member and Chairman of the Faction of the "Free Democrats" political party, as well as a Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights Protection of the Supreme Council (Parliament) of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Georgia. Mr. Glonti is one of the founders of the Free Democrats party and from 2009 to 2012, served as the 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, 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 Theology from Tbilisi Theological Academy (2003) and a BA in Public Relations from Tbilisi State University (2007). He is an active blogger and an author of numerous of publications.

s.glonti@fd.ge



**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 where 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 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 a BA in Public Administration from Georgian Technical University (2000) and a MA in Public Administration from Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (2001).

ekagrigalava@hotmail.com



**Mr. Vahe Grigoryan**  
Armenia, Fall 2009

Mr. Vahe Grigoryan is a practicing lawyer in Armenia. He is largely involved in movements against human rights violations in Armenia by representing human rights cases before domestic courts and the European Court of Human Rights. He has participated in a number of human rights trainings and seminars organized by the Council of Europe, Strasbourg (2008), the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights/Poland, Warsaw (2007) and Interights, London (2009). Since 2007, Mr. Grigoryan has been a member of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates of Armenia. Mr. Grigoryan earned his postgraduate degree in Law from Yerevan State University, Armenia. In 2009 he completed his LLM in the Human Rights Law course at the Law School of the University of Nottingham, UK.

Current contact information not available



**Mr. Ara Hovsepyan**  
Armenia, Fall 2014

Mr. Ara Hovsepyan is the Chief Executive Officer of Contour Global Hydro Cascade, the Armenian subsidiary of Contour Global LLP, an American energy company investing in energy production around the world. He has led Contour Global's negotiations with the Government of Armenia to acquire Vorotan HPP, the biggest hydropower plant in Armenia. Mr. Hovsepyan started his career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995, leaving in 2000 to become the first local Head of the Armenia 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 BA from Yerevan State University of Foreign Languages (1995), a MA in Political Science and International Relations from the American University of Armenia (1997) and a post-graduate diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from Oxford University, UK (Exeter College, 1999).

ara.hovsepyan@contourglobal.com





**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 was also 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 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 a BA (2003) and a MA (2006) in International Law and International Relations from Baku State University and a MA in EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies from the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium (2008).

fidan160@gmail.com



**Mr. Mirzo Ibragimov**  
Uzbekistan, Fall 2014

Mr. Mirzo Ibragimov is an independent consultant providing research and analytical services to international organizations and foreign investors. From 2012 to 2015, he 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, Mr. Ibragimov 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. Previously, Mr. Ibragimov interned in the European Anti-Fraud Office, the International Criminal Court and the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Mr. Ibragimov holds a LLB in International Law from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent (2005) and a MA in Central Asian Studies from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (2006).

m.ibragimov@gmail.com



**Mr. Talgat Imangaliyev**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Talgat Imangaliyev is the General Director of WorleyParsons Kazakhstan. He has about 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 responsible for Regulatory Affairs and Internal Compliance, as well as Environmental Programs. Mr. Imangaliyev holds a BS in Petroleum Geology from Kazakhstan Polytechnic Institute (1994), a MA in International Studies from University of Washington, Seattle (2000) and a certificate from the Leaders in Development Executive Program at Harvard Kennedy School (2007).

talgat@hotmail.com



**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 BS in International Economic Relations from Karaganda State University in Kazakhstan (2000), a MS in Development Finance from Reading University, UK (2001) and a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in economic policy management from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

saule.iman@gmail.com



**Mr. Farrukh Irnazarov**  
Uzbekistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Farrukh Irnazarov 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 research projects on economic development, labour migration, regional trade and transport issues in Central Asia. From 2008 to 2011, he worked as a Researcher at the University of Applied Sciences in Goettingen, Germany. In 2007 and 2008, Mr. Irnazarov was an Associate Faculty Lecturer in International Trade at the School of Business at the National College of Ireland in Dublin. From 2000 to 2003, Mr. Irnazarov held different positions at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Uzbekistan. Mr. Irnazarov holds a BA in International Economic Relations from the National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent (2002), a Master of Social Science in International and European Relations from Linköping University, Sweden (2005) and a Master of Science in Business Administration and Economics from Stockholm University, Sweden (2006).

irfarrukh@yahoo.com



**Dr. Murod Ismailov**  
Uzbekistan, Fall 2009

Dr. Murod Ismailov is an Assistant Professor in International Relations at the University of Tsukuba, Tokyo, Japan where his teaching and research focus is on the regional side effects of globalization, mainly in relation to poverty and environmental degradation, as well as the role of civil society and civil capital in domestic and foreign policies in Central Eurasia. He previously served as Dean at the School of International Relations and Graduate Studies at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) in Tashkent, where he was also a Lecturer in Security Studies. He holds a BA in History from Samarkand State University (2001), a MA in International Relations from UWED (2004), and a MS in Global Security from the Royal Military College of Science at the UK Defense Academy (2006). In 2010, after defending his doctoral thesis on non-conventional threats to regional security in Central Asia, he earned a PhD in Political Science from UWED.

m\_ismailoff@bk.ru



**Mr. Anar Jahangirli**  
Azerbaijan, Spring 2015

Mr. Anar Jahangirli is a Visiting Scholar at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. His current 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. His experience in the private sector also includes serving as the Director for Corporate Communications at Azercell Telecom. 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 a BA in International Relations and International Law from Baku State University (1999), a MA in European Public Affairs from the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands (2001) and a MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2011). He has also completed courses at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, Austria and NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy.

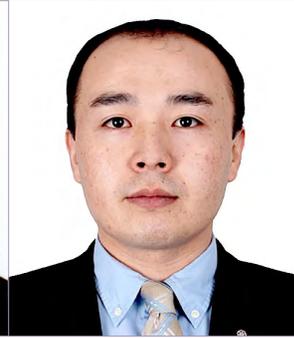
anar.jahangirli@gmail.com



**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-for-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 BS from Kabul Education University (2005) and a BBA from American University of Afghanistan (2014). 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.

aziz.jalal.afg@gmail.com



**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 Bishkek Office. Prior to this, he was an Aide to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic on economic reforms. Before 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 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), a Diploma in International Relations (BA equivalent) from Osh Technological University (2008), and a MA in Political Science from the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Japan (2011).

danielkadyrbekov@gmail.com



**Mr. Ruslan Karabukaev**  
Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Ruslan Karabukaev is the Investment Director at Kusto Vietnam, an investment company based in Vietnam. Prior to his current position, Mr. Karabukaev co-founded Besmart and Namba Taxi, 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, providing their students with mentorship and awards for academic excellence. Mr. Karabukaev holds a BA in Economics from the American University of Central Asia (1999) and as a Muskie Fellow received his MBA from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta (2010).

ruslan.karabukaev@kusto.com.vn



**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 BA in Chinese Language and Culture (2000) and a MA in International Policy (2004) from Beijing Language and Culture University at the United Nations Center, as well as a PhD in Diplomacy from China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing (2008). 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-Azerbaijan.

rashad.karimov@sam.gov.az



**Mr. Kairat Karmanov**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2011

Mr. Kairat Karmanov is Acting Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Investments under 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 served as a Head of 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 a LLB from the Law School of Eurasian National University in Astana (summa cum laude, 2005) and a MA in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida Atlantic University (2008).

kairat2001@mail.ru



**Ms. Gaukhar Kassymzhanova**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2011

Ms. Gaukhar Kassymzhanova is a 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 a Diploma in International Relations from al-Farabi Kazakh National University (2000) and a MA in International Development Policy from Duke University (2007).

gauhar@alumni.duke.edu

**Mr. Ato Kasymov**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Ato Kasymov is 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. Previously, Mr. Kasymov served as Deputy CEO of the Kazakhstan Mortgage Company where he was responsible for mortgage securitization efforts and implementation of the Affordable Housing Program, and as the Head of Corporate Finance at Samruk-Kazyna, the Kazakh sovereign wealth fund, consolidating strategic assets in the energy, mining and logistics sectors worth over \$100 billion. Mr. Kasymov holds a BS in Economics from Saint Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance (2006) and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Investments from Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College of the City University of New York (2008). Currently, Mr. Kasymov is pursuing a joint Executive MBA degree from London Business School and Columbia Business School in New York (EMBA-Global 2016).

ato.kasymov@gmail.com

**Mr. Parwiz Kawa**  
Afghanistan, Fall 2015

Mr. Parwiz Kawa is Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Hashte 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; a board member of Aid Afghanistan for Education; 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 and think-tank. Mr. Kawa holds a BA in Education from Baghlan Teacher Training Center (1996) and a BA in Law and Political Science from Kabul University (2011). He is also a poet and novelist and has published two collections of his poetry: "A Night from Exile" and "Two Guns, Two Stones."

parwiz.kawa@gmail.com

**Mr. Dadebay Kazakov**  
Turkmenistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Dadebay Kazakov is a Business Development Manager at Petro Gas Group of Companies, a company providing services in the onshore and offshore oil and gas sector of several countries and 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 overseeing 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 a BS in Economic Informatics and Automated Control Systems from the State Academy of Management in Moscow, Russia (1993), and a MS in Economics and Industry Management from the Turkmen Institute of National Economy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (1996).

dad-kazakov@yandex.com

**Ms. Tamar Kekenadze**  
Georgia, Spring 2014

Ms. Tamar Kekenadze is a Head of the Regional Office at the Free Democrats Political Party where she oversees party building in the regions of Georgia. Before joining the party, she was a Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia to NATO and the EU. Prior, she served as a Head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Division at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Previously, 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 holds a BA in Computer Systems and Networks (2003), a BA in Jurisprudence (2007) and a MA in Computer Engineering, Information Science and Control Systems (2006), all from Georgian Technical University.

tamuna.kekenadze@gmail.com

**Mr. Umit Khairollayev**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2015

Mr. Umit Khairollayev is the Chief Executive Officer at the Inculcate, an international investment holding group located in Kazakhstan which provides opportunities to generate ideas, attract investments and launch startup businesses. Currently, Inculcate runs several projects including PurePro (access to clean drinking water), Restea (access to affordable food), Diodey (smart lighting systems) and other startups. 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, and was the President of ElitEcoGarant Corporation where he built and implemented a complete distribution strategy for the Aquapick, PurePro, Lange, and Water Therapy brands in the region. Mr. Khairollayev holds a BA in Chemistry from Lomonosov Moscow State University (2004) and currently he is pursuing a joint Executive MBA degree at London Business School and Columbia Business School in New York (EMBA-Global 2017).

ceo@inculcate.com



**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 exporting commodities from Uzbekistan, and from 2007 to 2008 was a Logistics Analyst at Carlsberg Uzbekistan where she was involved in 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 holds a BA in English Language and Literature from Uzbek State University of World Languages (2003), a BS in Finance and Economics from Virginia Union University (2006) and is currently pursuing her MA in International Business and Management at Westminster International University in Tashkent.

rayhona@gmail.com



**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 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 a BBA from Francis Marion University, South Carolina (2003), a BBA from the School of Business Management, Tashkent State Technical University (2004) and a MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, with majors in Finance and Management (2014).

khurshidkholov@gmail.com



**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 started at the Georgian Foreign Service at 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 relations. Mr. Khurtsidze holds a BA and MA in History and Political Science from Tbilisi State University (2004), a MPA from the Georgian Institute of Public Administration (2004) and a MA in International Studies from Old Dominion University as a Muskie Fellow (2008). He also attended the International Defense Resource Management program at the Naval Postgraduate School in California (2005).

l.khurtsidze@mfa.gov.ge



**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 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 for the same company in Afghanistan, 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 received a MA in Public Policy from Rochester Institute of Technology, New York as a Muskie Fellow (2004). She also holds a MA in Political Science from OSCE Academy, Kyrgyz Republic (2005).

julianne779@yahoo.com



**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, social and cultural issues, the establishment of new diplomatic relations and advocacy for annual resolution at the UNGA addressing the rights of Georgian IDPs. Currently she is Vice-chair of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. Previously, she served as 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. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Kupradze served at the Georgian Ministry of Defense and the CUBIC Corporation, the U.S. Defense Consultants' team in Georgia. Ms. Kupradze holds her BA in International Relations from Tbilisi State University (2003) and a MA in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (2011).

t.kupradze@mfa.gov.ge



**Mr. Abdullo Kurbanov**  
Tajikistan, Spring 2015

Mr. Abdullo Kurbanov is Co-founder and CEO 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 a BA in Management from Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey (2008), and a MS in Finance from the London School of Economics, UK (2009).

abdullo.kurbanov@gmail.com



**Mr. Manuchehr Kurbonali**  
Tajikistan, Spring 2014

Mr. Manuchehr Kurbonali is the CEO of Axiom Investments LLC, an investment fund owning medical centers in Central Asia. He is also a founder of Nurafzo Diagnostic Center, a chain of private imaging facilities, and Sharayon Varid Cardiac Center which specializes in procedures like angioplasty and angiography to detect conditions of heart arteries. Both centers are leaders in their respective medical fields with six branches in major cities of Tajikistan. Mr. Kurbonali is also a founder of MBO Professional LLC, the largest private language and computer-learning center in Tajikistan. He is an active member of the Association of Tajikistan Businessmen and is currently working to launch Nurafzo Academy, an NGO supporting talented future doctors. Mr. Kurbonali holds an AA in International Economics from Technological University of Tajikistan (2001), a BA in Finance and Credit from the Tajikistan branch of Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Applied Informatics (2013) and a Certificate in Financial Management from Cornell University (2013).

[mkurbonali@me.com](mailto:mkurbonali@me.com)

**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 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 55 business associations. In the past, Mr. Kydyrbaev served as CEO of the Chamber of Tax Consultants from 2007 to 2014, a professional association of tax experts aimed at promoting tax literacy among entrepreneurs, and as CEO of the Bishkek Business Club from 2006 to 2013, an association that unites influential local business leaders striving to develop the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Kydyrbaev has extensive experience with international private and development organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic including the modernization project of Manas Airport and USAID funded business development projects. Mr. Kydyrbaev holds a Jurisprudence Specialization from the Kyrgyz National University (2004).

[uluk@bizexpert.kg](mailto:uluk@bizexpert.kg)

**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. 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 a BA in Economic and Social Geography from Tbilisi State University, Georgia (1993), a Diploma from the Diplomatic School of Madrid, Spain (1997) and a MBA from the University of Cambridge, UK (2003). Currently, he is pursuing a PhD in Political Science from Free University of Tbilisi.

[Ilaitadze@funicular.ge](mailto:Ilaitadze@funicular.ge)



**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 a Deputy Director of the Department of Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Earlier in her career she also served as a Head of the Defense Policy and Planning Department and a Head of the International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department at the Ministry of Defense. Ms. Laliashvili also worked as a 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 a BA in Public Administration from Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi (2001), and a MA in International Security Studies from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. (2012).

[laliashvilim@gmail.com](mailto:laliashvilim@gmail.com)

**Maj. Bayasgalan Lkhagvasuren**  
Mongolia, Fall 2015

Maj. Bayasgalan Lkhagvasuren has been a desk officer in the Foreign Cooperation Department at the Mongolian Ministry of Defense since 2013. He has been on active duty military service for 16 years, including several overseas deployments including Operation Iraqi Freedom (2004) and U.N. peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone (2006), Liberia (2010) and South Sudan (2012). From 2009 to 2013, Maj. Lkhagvasuren served as 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 holds a BA in Business Administration from the Defense University of Mongolia (2003) and is preparing to complete his MA in Security Studies at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

[bayasgalan@mod.gov.mn](mailto:bayasgalan@mod.gov.mn)

**Mr. Samiullah Mahdi**  
Afghanistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Samiullah Mahdi is the Chairman of the PAYK Investigative Journalism Center in Afghanistan. He previously 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 was also 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. Prior to joining 1TV, Mr. Mahdi began his career as a journalist in 2007 with Tolo TV, where he hosted a weekly show, "Hardtalk." Mr. Mahdi holds a BA from the School of Law and Political Science of Kabul University (2009) and a MA in International Relations from the University of Massachusetts Boston as a Fulbright Scholar (2016).

[mahdi.samiullah@gmail.com](mailto:mahdi.samiullah@gmail.com)



**Ms. Varya Meruzhanyan**  
Armenia, Fall 2012

**Dr. Sergey Minasyan**  
Armenia, Spring 2013

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

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

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

**Mr. Ibrahim Musaev**  
Uzbekistan, Fall 2013

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. Previously, she worked with UNICEF running a project focused on minimizing social consequences of labor migration in Armenia. Prior to joining the UN in 2013, Ms. Meruzhanyan worked for different international organizations including 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 NGO Youth for Achievements. She received a Diploma in English Language and Literature from Yerevan State Linguistic University (2005) and continued with a six-month course on Public Relations at the American University of Armenia (2006). Ms. Meruzhanyan also holds a MS in NGO's and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK (2008).

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 MA in International Relations from Yerevan State University (1998), a PhD in Military History (2002) and a Doctor of Political Science degree from the Institute for National Security Studies at the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia (2013).

sergey@c-i.am

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 a BSc in Business Administration, with a major in Finance from Duquesne University, Pennsylvania (2000) and a MBA from Tashkent State University of Economics (2004).

bmirzabaev@gmail.com

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 BA in English from Tbilisi State University (2001), a MBA from the Caucasus School of Business (2008), a PhD in Political Science from Georgian Technical University (2013) and a MS in Cyber Forensics and Intelligence at Utica College, NY (2014) where her thesis was on Russian cyber threats to its neighbors and to the United States.

mis\_khato@yahoo.com

Mr. Saintulga Munkhgerel is a consultant for energy projects in Mongolia working on a 54 MW wind farm project in Sainshand city with German investor, Ferrostaal. 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 negotiated with the Mongolian government to obtain a license to build a 450MW power plant. In 2009, while working as a relationship manager at Golomt Bank, Mr. Munkhgerel helped to structure a deal between Standard Bank, the Mongolian Ministry of Finance and other Mongolian commercial banks for the funding of gold mining projects worth 90 million USD. He is also a core member of NextGen Mongolia. He holds a BA in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2008).

saintulga@gmail.com

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. At the same time, 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 a BS in Management from Tashkent University of Information Technologies (1999), a Master of Public Policy and Administration from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York (2008) and an Executive MBA from the School of Management at Yale University (2012). He also completed the Clean Tech Execs program at Polytechnic Institute of NYU.

immusaev@gmail.com

varya.meruzhanyan@gmail.com





**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 a MBA from the Steinbeis-Hochschule University in Berlin, Germany.

bnajmudinov@gmail.com

**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 for the President on foreign policy issues, as well as speeches on international relations for officials of the Presidential Administration. He is also an op-ed columnist on leading Azerbaijani news sites. Mr. Namazov holds a BA in Law (2003) and a MA in Business and Civil Law (2006) from Baku State University. He also holds a MA in Public Governance from The Presidential Academy of Public Administration (2009) and a MA from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) (2013). In addition, Mr. Namazov 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.

n.ramid@hotmail.com

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

Ms. Bayasgalan Naranzul is a Second Secretary at the Mongolian Embassy to India responsible for Commercial Affairs. Prior to joining 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. Naranzul 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. Naranzul holds a BA and a MS in Structural Engineering from the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (2000) and a MA in Asia Pacific Policy Studies from the University of British Columbia in Canada (2010).

naranzul@yahoo.com



**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. Mr. Nardaia holds a BA (2002) and a MA (2004) in the History of Diplomacy and International Relations from Tbilisi State University and a MA in International Security Affairs from the College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University, Washington, D.C. (2011). Currently, Mr. Nardaia is pursuing his PhD in Modern History from Tbilisi State University.

dnardaia@mod.gov.ge

**Ms. Nargiz Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu**  
Azerbaijan, Spring 2013

Ms. Nargiz Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu serves as an Independent Board Member at AIG International's Baku office and a Member of the Advisory Board of ADA University School of Business. 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 Centre Manager at the Regus Business Centre Trading Ltd. in Baku. Ms. Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu holds a BA in Legal Regulation of Economy from Western University in Baku (2000) and a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2016).

nasrullayeva.nargiz@gmail.com

**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 holds a BA in Education Management from Arabeav Kyrgyz State University (2000), a diploma in Crisis Management from the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden (2007), a MA in Public Administration from Lomonosov State University of Moscow (2010) and is currently pursuing a MA in Health Safety and Human Resources in Mining from the University of British Columbia, Canada.

eliza.nishanbaeva@gmail.com



**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).

ermekn@gmail.com



**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 nation-wide network of young professionals of Afghanistan. Mr. Noorzai holds a BA in Political Science and Sociology from St. Joseph's College, University of Bangalore, India (2008), a MA in Diplomacy from the University of Nottingham, UK (2012) and a Masters level diploma in Advanced Security Studies from the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies, Germany (2010).

mahmoodnoorzai@yahoo.com



**Mr. Kodir Norov**  
Uzbekistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Kodir Norov is Co-founder and CEO of Stolik, a startup that is developing mobile applications for the restaurant industry (stolikapp.com). Previously, from its inception to May 2011, Mr. Norov served as the Founding Chairman of the National Association of Securities Market Participants of Uzbekistan. In 2003 Mr. Norov co-founded and served as the Chairman of Avesta Investment. 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 in the Sales and Trading and Investment Banking divisions of 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). From 1996 to 1997, he attended the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent.

kodir@yahoo.com



**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 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 a BBA from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (2001), a MBA from Moscow State University, Russia (2010), and a MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts (2014).

gaukhar.nurgalieva@gmail.com



**Ms. Shijir Ochirbat**  
Mongolia, Spring 2014

Ms. Shijir Ochirbat is a Senior Strategy and Policy Analyst at Oyu Tolgoi LLC/Rio Tinto Copper LLC, where she leads a team responsible for strategic analysis and corporate strategy development. Her team also provides the company's executives with analysis regarding country risks from economic, political and geopolitical perspectives. 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 a BBA in Finance from the National University of Mongolia (2006) and a MBA from the University of Sydney (2011).

shijir.ochirbat@gmail.com



**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 relations to regional geostrategic dynamics. Mr. Olomi holds a MA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the European Peace University in Austria (2008).

nafiolomi@gmail.com





**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 25 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 a BA in International Economics from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University (1998) and a MBA from the American University of Central Asia (2001).

semetei@gmail.com



**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 BS in Applied Mathematics and Engineering from Georgia Technical University (2001) and a Master of Public Finance from Indiana University, Indiana (2005).

david.oniani@gmail.com



**Dr. Döwran Orazgylyjow**  
Turkmenistan, Fall 2010

Dr. Döwran Orazgylyjow is a private lawyer and Founder and Chairman of the consulting firm Dogry Maslahat HK that offers legal consulting services to local and foreign companies in Turkmenistan. Dr. Orazgylyjow is also Partner and Editor-in Chief of Homeland Turkmenistan Journal, as well as manager of an analytical website, www.turkmenlawyer.com. Dr. Orazgylyjow 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 Magtumkuly State University. He holds a LLB from Dokuz Eylul University Law School, Turkey (2002) and a LLM (2005) and PhD in Law (2012) from the Department of Private Law at the Institute of Social Sciences, Dokuz Eylul University. Dr. Orazgylyjow is an author of the book, International Direct Investment and Joint Ventures, and more than 250 articles on legal, energy and economic issues in Turkmenistan and abroad.

turkmenlawyer@gmail.com



**Mr. Rakhim Oshakbayev**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2016

Mr. Rakhim Oshakbayev is a member of the Board of Trustees 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 robust 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).

rakhim@oshakbayev.kz



**Mr. Mashbat Otgonbayar**  
Mongolia, Spring 2011

Mr. Mashbat Otgonbayar is a Visiting Professor of International Relations and Foreign Policy at the National University of Mongolia. He 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 a LLM from the Law School of the National University of Mongolia (1998) and a MA in National Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California (2007). For his distinguished service, Mr. Otgonbayar was decorated with Order of Polar Star of Mongolia and Medal of Friendship of North Korea.

mashbato@gmail.com



**Mr. Almas Otyunshiyev**  
Kazakhstan, Fall 2013

Mr. Almas Otyunshiyev is a Chief Risk Specialist at Joint-Stock Company Volkovgeology, a leading company in the uranium industry in Kazakhstan, the main subsidiary of JSC Atomic Company Kazatomprom, a state-owned nuclear holding company. Previously, he served as an Economist at the JSC OGCC KazStroyService, a multinational oil and gas construction company. Mr. Otyunshiyev 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. Otyunshiyev holds a BA in Hindi Language and History of South Asia from Kazakh National University, named after al-Farabi (2005), a Hindi Language Advanced Diploma from University of Delhi, India (2003) and a 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).

almasoty@mail.ru



**Mr. Giorgi Pertaia**  
Georgia, Fall 2015

Mr. Giorgi Pertaia is the Director of the Georgian National Investment Agency which is responsible for Foreign Direct Investment facilitation in Georgia, creating the investment portfolio of the Government of Georgia's initiated projects and promoting Georgia's investment climate. Prior to his current position, 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 a BA in Finance from Tbilisi State University (1998) and a MBA from Western Illinois University (2009).

gpertaia@investinggeorgia.org



**Ms. Lilit Petrosyan**  
Armenia, Spring 2016

Ms. Lilit 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 a BA in International Economics from Yerevan State University (1999) and a MA in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2009).

lilitpetrosyan@yahoo.com



**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 a MD in Medical Sciences from Kabul Medical University (2005) and a MA in Public Affairs from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University (2012).

sqeyamat@umail.iu.edu



**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, etc. 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 a BA in Law from the Moscow Institute of National and Regional Relations (2004), a BA in Linguistics from the Russian People's Friendship University (2006) and a LLM in International Business Law from the University of Manchester (2009).

makhbub@mail.ru



**Mr. Shoaib Rahim**  
Afghanistan, Fall 2015

Mr. Shoaib Rahim is a 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. Before this promotion, he served as the Senior Advisor to the Minister of Defense on administrative and financial systems development. Prior to joining the MOD in 2013, he served as a Program Manager at CeReTechs Ltd., the President of H&S Consulting Services in Kabul and as an Energy Analyst at Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company in North Carolina. Mr. Rahim is a Fulbright Scholar and Asia 21 Fellow at the Asia Society's Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative. Mr. Rahim holds a BS in Electronics Engineering from Multimedia University in Cyberjaya, Malaysia (2008) and a MA in Engineering Management from Duke University (2011). He co-authored an essay, "Global Youth: Why this Group is more Important than Ever?" in a book titled, Millennials Speak. Essays on the 21st Century (2013).

shoaibr3k@gmail.com



**Ms. Firusa Rahimova**  
Tajikistan, Fall 2010

Ms. Firusa Rahimova is a National Program Officer for Quality Assurance, Monitoring and Evaluation at the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan. She is responsible for the quality of different documents, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of different programs of the Swiss Central Asian Cooperation Strategy. In 2012, she graduated from the International Program for Development Evaluation Training at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. 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 a MA in Linguistics and Intercultural Communications from Dushanbe Slavic University (2001) and a LLM from the Tajik National University (2010).

rahimova79@hotmail.com





**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 a Congressional Liaison in 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 a BA (1999) and a MA (2002) 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.

gragimli@yahoo.com



**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 a BA (2000) and a MA (2002) in International Economic Relations from Tajik National University and a certificate from courses at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary (2003).

jamshed.rahmonberdiev@gmail.com



**Mr. Mirzokhid Rakhimov**  
Uzbekistan, Spring 2015

Mr. Mirzokhid Rakhimov is Head of the Department of Contemporary History and International Relations at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and a Professor at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent. His academic interests include contemporary history in Central Asia and international and regional relations in Central Asia. Mr. Rakhimov 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, Italy; 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 an editor of several books, articles, and chapters. Mr. Rakhimov holds a MA in History from Navoi State Pedagogical Institute (1996) and a PhD in History (2001) from the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

mirzonur@yahoo.com



**Mr. Elyor Rakhmanov**  
Uzbekistan, Spring 2011

Mr. Elyor Rakhmanov is the Head of Department of Coordination of Specialized IT Units at the "e-Government" System Development Center under the Ministry of Development of Information Technologies and Communication. He works to create strategy on developing the electronic system of government, improving business processes of the state bodies in providing services to the population and businesses, as well as monitoring the introduction and development of information-communication technologies in Uzbekistan. 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. In addition, he previously 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). Mr. Rakhmanov holds a BS (2007) and PhD in International Economics from UWED, and a MS in Engineering from Seoul National University, South Korea (2010).

elyor.rakhmanov@gmail.com



**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 goals of this communication are 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 a MA in Public Policy Administration from the University of Missouri, St. Louis (2009).

ruslanramanov@gmail.com



**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 a Senior Financial Analyst, Corporate Finance, in JSC "Kazkommertsbank." Ms. Rogan holds a 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).

xeniya.rogan@gmail.com



**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 and a Research Associate at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies (OIES) at the University of Oxford and a contributing analyst to the Jamestown Foundation's Eurasia Daily Monitor. She has previously been a visiting Research Fellow at the Moscow Carnegie Center and at the Finnish Aleksanteri Institute of the Helsinki University. Ms. Rzayeva's area of expertise is energy security and she is recognized worldwide for her work. She is an author of the recent reports "Turkish Domestic Natural Gas Market: Policies and Challenges" and "Outlook of Azerbaijan Gas Export in the 2020s and 2030s," both published by OIES, numerous articles and is a frequent speaker at international conferences. Ms. Rzayeva holds a BA in International Relations from the Baku Slavic University (2003) and a MA in Global Affairs from the University of Buckingham, UK (2008).

gulmira.rzayeva@sam.gov.az



**Mr. Almaz Saifutdinov**  
Tajikistan, Fall 2015

Mr. Almaz Saifutdinov is a Economic/ Commercial Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan, where he is responsible for promoting U.S. commercial interests in the region. He is also Founder of the Economic News Tajikistan Facebook group. With over 6,000 members, including economists, business leaders and government officials, the group serves as a primary source of information and a discussion platform. Mr. Saifutdinov also serves as a member of the board at the Open Society Institute-Tajikistan. 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 BA in English and French languages from Dushanbe State Pedagogical University (1997) and a Master of Development Administration from Western Michigan University (2002). He is an author of numerous analytical articles on economic and commercial issues.

almaz2002@yahoo.com



**Mr. Narantuguldur 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). He has also completed a 3-month training program in International Capital Markets at the London Stock Exchange Academy (2011).

narantuguldur@gmail.com



**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. In 2012, he was elected 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 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 holds a BA in Persian Literature from Kabul University (2008) and has been awarded several prestigious fellowships in the U.S., U.K. and Germany focusing on journalism and cultural themes.

barrysalaam@gmail.com



**Mr. Davit Sanasaryan**  
Armenia, Spring 2014

Mr. Davit Sanasaryan is an Alderman and a Secretary of the Burev Yerevan faction in the City Council of Yerevan. Since 2007, he has been a member of the Heritage Political Party where he currently serves as a Press Secretary. From 2008 to 2010, he was the Chairman of the Youth Wing of the Heritage Party and from 2010 to 2012, he served as a Board Member of the Party. He also serves 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. From 2012 to 2013, he was the Editor-in Chief of the socio-political news web portal, Luter.com, and he is now the Founding Director of "Free Citizen" NGO. He also teaches at the International Academy of Education in Yerevan. Mr. Sanasaryan has a law degree from the International Academic Institute in Yerevan (2009).

sanasarian.davit@gmail.com



**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, 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 of Tufts University (2010), Conflict Resolution and Negotiations from Conflict Management Group (CMG), Harvard University (2001) and in Political Communication and Campaigning from the Amsterdam Maastricht Summer University (2001).

sargsyangaya@gmail.com

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**Mr. Bahtiyar Shadyyev**  
Turkmenistan, Spring 2009

Mr. Bahtiyar Shadyyev 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. Shadyyev was the Chief of Customs and Logistics Department and a Procurement and Logistics Specialist at Lotus Enerji. Mr. Shadyyev 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 Faculty of Economics and Business Administration Sciences, from Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey (2006).

bahtiyarsad@yahoo.com



**Mr. Timur Shaimergerenov**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2009

Mr. Timur Shaimergerenov is Head of the Research and Analysis Division and Deputy Director of the Library of the First President of Kazakhstan (Nazarbayev Center), a think tank that provides policy analysis on national strategy and foreign affairs. Previously, Mr. Shaimergerenov served as a Policy Advisor and Head of the Analysis Section in the National Security Council of Kazakhstan, an 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 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. Mr. Shaimergerenov holds a BA in International Relations from the Institute of International Professions, Almaty (2004), and a PhD in Political Science from Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies, Almaty (2009).

shaimergerenov\_tt@research-akorda.kz



**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, 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 3 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 domestic and foreign policies of Turkey. Dr. Shakaryan holds a BA and a MA in Turkish Studies from Yerevan State University and PhD in Ottoman Studies from the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. 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.

sugartak@yahoo.com



**Mr. Nazir Sharifi**  
Tajikistan, Fall 2010

Mr. Nazir Sharifi is the Head of the South, Central Asia and Russia Strategic Business Unit at Skyland Petroleum Corporation. He is the founder and Honorary Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia and Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Dushanbe School for Disabled Children. Mr. Sharifi previously served as President of Tethys Petroleum Tajikistan Limited, an international oil and gas exploration and production company. From 1996 to 2007, Mr. Sharifi worked at the Tajik Foreign Service, including as the Deputy Chief of Mission in the U.S. Mr. Sharifi holds a BA from the School of Tajik-Persian Literature and Journalism, Khujand State University, Tajikistan (1995), a degree from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (1998) and an engineering degree from the Tajik Mining and Metallurgy Institute (2013). Mr. Sharifi is pursuing an Executive MBA in Oil and Gas Management from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, UK.

m.sharipov@gmail.com



**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 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 earned a MA in Cultural Anthropology from Columbia University in 2008 and currently is a PhD Student at Boston University's Department of Anthropology. He has written several essays on social and political issues in Afghanistan published in national and international journals.

sharifi.omar@yahoo.com



**Dr. Aigerim Shilibekova**  
Kazakhstan, Fall 2010

Dr. Aigerim Shilibekova is the Founding Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Gumiyl'ov Eurasian National University in Astana and an Associate Professor at the Regional Studies Department of ENU. Her research interests include international organizations, regional security systems 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 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 BA in Economics from Taraz State University, Kazakhstan (1999), a MA in International Relations from Istanbul University, Turkey (2004) and a PhD in Political Science from Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan (2009). She is an alumna of the Executive Education Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard Kennedy School (2013).

aigerimsh@gmail.com



**Mr. Zaur Shiriye**  
Azerbaijan, Fall 2012

Mr. Zaur Shiriye 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 was the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the foreign policy journal, *Caucasus International*. Mr. Shiriye holds a BA in International Relations from Baku State University (2004) and a MS in Political Science from the University of Ankara, Turkey (2008). Mr. Shiriye is the author of numerous articles and commentaries and 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).

[Zaur.shiriye@gmail.com](mailto:Zaur.shiriye@gmail.com)



**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 a Board Member of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation-Tajikistan. Mr. Sobirzoda holds a BA in International Economic Relations from the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Service, Dushanbe, Tajikistan (2003), a MS in Development Economics from the University of Manchester, UK (2005) and a MA in International Affairs from Ohio University (2008). 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 received professional training from Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University and other universities in the U.S. and Europe.

[ravshan.tj@gmail.com](mailto:ravshan.tj@gmail.com)



**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 aimed to boost the startup ecosystem in Kyrgyzstan through policy making and event activities, Co-founder of the Kyrgyz Chapter of Internet Society which aims to improve connectivity of the country with global networks, and a Managing Partner in BOT Systems Venture Fund, 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).

[azizkin@gmail.com](mailto:azizkin@gmail.com)



**Mr. Rajabbek Sulaymonbekov**  
Tajikistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Rajabbek Sulaymonbekov is a Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Open Joint Stock Company Sohikborbank, one of the dynamically developing commercial banks in Tajikistan, and a CEO of Orien Leasing LLC. He joined Sohikborbank in May 2015 after spending 12 years as Deputy Chairman of the Board of OJSC Orienbank. Prior to joining OJSC Orienbank, 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 BA (1996) and a MA (1998) in International Economic Relations from Khujand State University, Tajikistan, a Certificate in International Accounting Standards from the Kazakh Institute of Professional Accountants and Auditors, Almaty, Kazakhstan (2000) and a BA in Law from the Tajik National University (2009).

[rsulaymonbekov@yahoo.com](mailto:rsulaymonbekov@yahoo.com)



**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 studied at Bemidji State University in Minnesota and holds a LLB from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent. She also holds a certificate of Export Management Development Adviser from ITC/WTO.

[hilola.suleymanova@gmail.com](mailto:hilola.suleymanova@gmail.com)



**Mr. Talant Sultanov**  
Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2014

Mr. Talant Sultanov is the Director of the Silk Road Studies Center in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Asia in Kyrgyzstan and a member of the Board of Trustees of the microcredit organization, "Humo," in Tajikistan. Mr. Sultanov is Co-founder of the Promotank Research Institute in Kyrgyzstan. Prior to his current positions, he served as the Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies and as the CFO of the American University of Central Asia. Previously, Mr. Sultanov worked in Project Finance at Kazkommertsbank in Almaty, and at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. and the Central Asia regional office in Almaty. Mr. Sultanov holds a BA in International Relations from San Francisco State University (1999), where he graduated as the top student in the program, and a MA in International Finance from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (2006). He also received executive education at the Harvard Kennedy School.

[talant@gmail.com](mailto:talant@gmail.com)



**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 holds a BA in Finance and Banking from Azerbaijan State Economics University (2001) and is currently pursuing a joint Executive MBA degree at Maastricht School of Management and ADA University. He was also 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).

itaghiyev@gmail.com

**Ms. Madina Tulesbayeva**  
Kazakhstan, Fall 2014

Ms. Madina Tulesbayeva is a Financial Analyst at ExxonMobil Kazakhstan Inc. where she is responsible for the preparation of financial reports to North Caspian Operating Company, as well as financial operating reporting to the company management. Before her current position, 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 a BA in International Economic Relations from the Kazakh State Academy of Management in Almaty (1999) and a MBA with a specialization in Finance from the Rochester Institute of Technology, New York (2007).

mtulesbayeva@aol.com

**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 BA (1998) and a MA (2000) in Pedagogy and Linguistics from the Mongolian University of the Humanities and a diploma of Business Administration from the Institute of Finance and Economy, Ulaanbaatar (2009). He has also received certificates for training programs from Queensland University of Australia.

sainaa08@gmail.com

**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 of 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 BA (2000), MA (2002), and PhD (2010) 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).

tornike\_t@hotmail.com

**Mr. Omer Uloomi**  
Afghanistan, Fall 2014

Mr. Omer Uloomi is a Regional Manager for Operations at Hanjin Intermodal America's Regional Headquarters in Los Angeles, CA. Previously, he served as the Vice President of Hanjin in Afghanistan, 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 the Chief of Logistics with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Kabul and as the UNOPS Regional Logistics Manager in Southern Afghanistan overseeing the Afghan Parliamentary and Presidential elections, where he 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 a BA from the Economic School of Kabul University (2004) and a MBA in Project Management from Preston University in Islamabad, Pakistan (2009).

omeruloomi2001@yahoo.com

**Ms. Aziza Umarova**  
Uzbekistan, Spring 2009

Ms. Aziza Umarova is a Regional Associate at the UNDP Global Center for Public Service Excellence in Singapore. Previously, she led the Governance Team at the UNDP Uzbekistan effectively designing and implementing their governance portfolio. As a strategist, sizing up situations and pulling together the best people, resources and solutions, she designed a new portfolio of projects, catalyzing national reforms for the public sector, regulatory quality and judiciary. She piloted functional reviews for improved efficiency in the public sector; "one-stop shops" for service provision; a galvanized open data ecosystem for greater transparency in the country; and launched a huge IT-driven court administration. Ms. Umarova holds a BA (1999) and MA (2005) in International Economics from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and a 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). Her main interests include public sector reform, strategic foresight, synergy of Islam and democracy, good governance in Central Asia and innovation in the development sector.

aziza.umarova@undp.org



**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, 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 BA in International Relations from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University in Bishkek (2005), a MA in International Relations from Bremen University/Jacobs University Bremen in Germany (2008), a MA in Peace and Security Studies from the University Hamburg in Germany (2009) and a PhD in Economics from Jacobs University Bremen (2013).

roman.vakulchuk@googlemail.com



**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 of 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 BA in History (1999) and a MA in History (2001) 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.

avaliyev@ada.edu.az



**Mr. Emin Valiyev**  
Azerbaijan, Spring 2014

Mr. Emin Valiyev is a marketing professional with 12 years of experience in the Central Asia and Caucasus regions. In 2010 he founded Uptime Marketing Agency with operations in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Prior to Uptime, Mr. Valiyev worked in marketing management units at Colgate-Palmolive Kazakhstan and Danone Kazakhstan where he helped establish local production. 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.

e.valiyev@uptime-marketing.com



**Mr. Wahidullah Waissi**  
Afghanistan, Fall 2014

Mr. Wahidullah Waissi is the Director-General for Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. In this position, he oversees multilateral development and regional economic cooperation, and coordinate regional projects like TAPI and CASA1000. Since 2015, he has been engaged in the process of the New Silk Road and regional connectivity. Mr. Waissi is the initiator and chief negotiator for the Chabahar transit and transport corridor agreement among Afghanistan, Iran and India, and for the Lapis Lazuli transit and transport corridor connecting Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. Previously, he served as a Senior Adviser to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance, as well as the Director and Formulation Manager of the Afghanistan's National Development Strategy and Millennium Development Goals. Mr. Waissi is a member of Afghanistan Policy Group focusing on conflict resolution through regional cooperation and a Co-founder and Chair of the Green Club. Mr. Waissi holds a MA in Development Economics from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts (2005).

wahid.waissi@gmail.com



**Mr. Asset Yerali**  
Kazakhstan, Spring 2010

Mr. Asset Yerali is the CEO of Odyssey Investments Group, a diversified investment group in Kazakhstan with businesses in logistics, finance, energy and infrastructure. Prior to this, he was the President of Remlokotiv JSC, an investment arm of the Kazakhstan National Railways Company, where he managed investment projects in the railways infrastructure and machinery. Previously, Mr. Yerali worked as General Director of Lancaster Industrials and Vice President of KUN Renewables JSC where he managed a strategic project on the construction of an integrated poly-silicon plant (solar industry) in Kazakhstan. He has also worked as a management consultant for government and private sector projects. Mr. Yerali holds a MPA from John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and a BA in International Relations and Economy from the Middle East Technical University.

asset.yerali@gmail.com



**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 2 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 a MA from the Dublin Metropolitan University in London, where he was also appointed an Honorary Professor of Diplomatic Studies. Mr. Zazai was also educated at the Herzing Institute, Canada in micro-computer management.

junobiwalsun@googlemail.com



**Ms. Aizhan Zhantayeva**  
Kazakhstan, Fall 2009

Ms. Aizhan Zhantayeva is a Director for Human Resources at the commercial bank ATF Bank. Prior to her current position, she served as a Director for Human Resources at the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a Deputy General Director for Corporate and Legal Affairs for the Central Asia region at Imperial Tobacco Kazakhstan, a Regional Director for investment attraction from the United States for the National Agency for Export and Investment, Kazninvest, a 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. Ms. Zhantayeva also actively participated in the implementation of the government project, "The Diversification of Kazakhstan's Economy through Cluster Development in Non-Extraction Sectors of the Economy." She holds a MBA from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Strategic Research (2002) and a MS in Finance and Accounting from the University of Birmingham, UK (2003).

azhantayeva@gmail.com

**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 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 a BA Equivalent in Law from the Academy of National Security in Almaty (2002) and a MA in International Finance and Policy from Columbia University, New York (2008). 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."

zhumadilovduman@gmail.com



**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 at the MBA Department of the American University in Central Asia. Mr. Zhunushov has a BA in Economics of Enterprises from UCTA University in Bishkek (2002) and a post-graduate diploma in International Management from the International Management Institute in New Delhi (2004).

bakaizh@gmail.com

**Ms. Parvina Zokirova**  
Tajikistan, Spring 2009

Ms. Parvina Zokirova is an Assistant Manager in the International Relations Department in the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan. She is currently working with other government agencies, the private sector and foreign investors to develop the energy sector of Tajikistan. Ms. Zokirova holds a BA in Electronics System Design from the School of Design, Engineering and Computing at Bournemouth University, UK (2006). While at Bournemouth University, she also completed a course at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Southampton University, UK, earning a certificate in Biomedical Science and Biotechnology (2005). Her medical background also includes a diploma in Medical Nursing from Medical College, Tajikistan (1999).

Current contact information not available

## RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCES

*After five years of successful fellowship sessions, in the summer of 2012 the Rumsfeld Foundation hosted the first regional meeting of its alumni. Since that initial meeting, the Foundation has hosted annual alumni gatherings, which since 2014 have taken place alongside the CAMCA Regional Forums.*



**Batumi, Georgia - June 23-26, 2012** - The inaugural Fellowship Conference explored a wide range of issues affecting the region such as transportation, trade barriers, energy security and diversification, Russia's and China's foreign policies, security in Afghanistan and business and investment opportunities in Greater Central Asia. Ambassador Batu Kutelia, Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia and former Ambassador to the U.S., provided keynote remarks



**Lake Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan - June 22-25, 2013** - The 2013 Fellowship Conference hosted discussions on several regional topics including investment climates and economic outlooks, foreign direct investment, entrepreneurship and SMEs, transportation and the political transition in Afghanistan. Dr. S. Frederick Starr provided keynote remarks.

## CAMCA REGIONAL FORUMS

Following the success of previous alumni conferences, in 2014 the Rumsfeld Foundation and program alumni organized a broader regional forum to allow interested professionals an opportunity to participate. The CAMCA (Central Asia-Mongolia-Caucasus-Afghanistan) Regional Forum was established to create a platform for the young leaders of the alumni network to engage with a larger international audience invested in the future of the region. The inaugural Forum was held in June 2014 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

### 2014 CAMCA Regional Forum, Astana, Kazakhstan – June 20-22, 2014

The Forum opened with remarks from Dr. Steve Cambone, Rumsfeld Foundation Board Member and Dr. S. Frederick Starr, followed by a welcoming address by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Ashikbayev. The ensuing panels and 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." Ms. Madina Abylkassymova, Vice-Minister of Economy and Budget Planning of Kazakhstan, 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 institutions such as the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, 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 throughout the Forum was provided by partners: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and the Nazarbayev Center.

### 2015 CAMCA Regional Forum, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – June 20-21, 2015

The Forum agenda included opening remarks from Secretary Rumsfeld and Dr. S. Frederick Starr, and a keynote address from Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament, Enkhbold Zandaakhuu. Several plenary panels, interviews and dialogue 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." Speakers and participants included notable professionals from Mongolia, the broader CAMCA region, Europe, India, the Republic of Korea, the United States and more.

Keynote speaker, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, presented his insights on developments in Afghanistan and discussed prospects for future cooperation among the countries of the CAMCA region. The following day, former Kyrgyz Prime Minister Djoomart Otorbaev made a keynote address on the importance of the evolution of democracy in the CAMCA region and the role Mongolia plays as a model for successful democratic transitions for its neighbors.



Key conclusions drawn from the Forum indicated that there is a need for closer cooperation, transparency and shared expertise across all sectors throughout the region. Additional takeaways from dialogue sessions included: the removal of barriers for investment across the region is essential; the diversification of economies and markets in the CAMCA countries is of key importance; CAMCA citizens need to further develop and build ties among their countries through business networks and joint investment projects; and, the main driver of change in the region will be human capital and further development in this area will require the growth of civil society and cultures of volunteerism.

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, there was a trip to the Chinggis Khaan Monument followed by a dinner at Terej National Park, where Secretary Rumsfeld and Deputy Defense Minister Battur Avirmed made closing remarks.



## REFLECTIONS

### "THESE UNDOUBTEDLY WERE THE BEST SIX WEEKS IN MY LIFE."

Aizhan Zhantayeva, Fall 2009

"A breath-taking panorama hard to imagine crammed into just six weeks. I am already building upon what I have learned during the Rumsfeld Fellowship." Khatuna Mshvidobadze, Fall 2011

"This was a time of discovery, rediscovery, learning, sharing of knowledge, networking and bonding that lasts for 6 weeks, but stays with you forever." Tamta Kupradze, Spring 2012



"I can hardly think of any other program that brings together so many high-level decision-makers and prominent thinkers for an open conversation with young people like ourselves. Some meetings were eye opening in terms of how U.S. politics and policies are shaped, while other speakers were truly inspirational by sharing their personal stories, pathways in life and recipes for success. This program has been one condensed learning experience and certainly a life-changing journey!"

Varya Meruzhanyan, Fall 2012

"This Fellowship Program helped build a strong network, facilitate academic research, and taught unforgettable lessons by some of the brightest minds from the United States and elsewhere. The meetings we attended conveyed an overarching theme that leaders are not born – they are created through hard work, perseverance, and commitment to a purpose. By the end of the course, I definitely felt ready to overcome new challenges in my home country."

Ravshan Sobirzoda, Spring 2013

"Trying to describe my experience of the program with words won't do justice. Meeting some of the most powerful, influential minds of our time and having intensive, meaningful discussions with them are experiences that only you will be able to cherish in your mind for the rest of your life. They will shape your views on recent history, world affairs, global business and, most importantly, your own perception of yourself against the backdrop of these great minds."

Saintulga Munkhgerel, Fall 2014



"I feel as if I have just concluded an executive Master's degree in International Relations - this program is similarly rigorous, challenging, and enlightening. However, what I treasure the most are the friendships that we made within our cohort of fellows and becoming a part of a broader network for the future."

Abdullo Kurbanov, Spring 2015

"This is an amazing program that helps one discover American society, politics, economy and culture from known and unknown angles. In addition, spending six weeks in the U.S. with representatives of 10 nations makes the program even more vibrant. By the end of the program you feel as though you stayed not only in the U.S., but also in 9 other countries."

Ilgar Taghiyev, Spring 2015

"This is a brilliant initiative which lays the foundation for a strong and constructive partnership between the countries of our region and the United States. The program gives its participants exceptional opportunities for professional growth and invaluable working contacts for the future."

Timur Shaimergerenov, Spring 2009

**"Intimate and vibrant. This is the only program I have ever seen** that reveals the full spectrum of contemporary United States politics, society and culture."

Murod Ismailov, Fall 2009



**"THIS PROGRAM WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE FULL OF INSPIRING, CHALLENGING, AND POWERFUL MOMENTS."**

Omar Sharifi, Spring 2010



"This experience within six weeks has filled the gaps of many diplomacy and policy books, and has enriched our career-driven endeavors."

Elyor Rakhmanov, Spring 2011



"This fellowship is an incredible opportunity to experience the U.S. policy-making process directly from the people who have been shaping it for decades."

Farrukh Imazarov, Spring 2012

"I am very proud to have completed a program that has exposed so many different angles of the United States. It has exceeded all my expectations. I was extremely impressed by the quality of high-level meetings that we had, and I am grateful to have widened my network of contacts in the United States, as well as throughout the region."

Dadebay Kazakov, Fall 2011



**"Each person has** important milestones in life that predetermine his or her future and destiny, and without any doubts, the Rumsfeld Fellowship became such a crucial milestone in my life."

Marat Djanbaev, Fall 2013



**"This program has** exceeded all my expectations. Perfectly organized and managed, it opens doors to the world of success, inspiration and great friendships."

Bahar Charyyeva, Fall 2012



"It was surprising we had to come all the way to Washington, D.C. to learn about our neighbors. The Rumsfeld Fellowship is more than a group of elite Fellows learning about the United States and the world, it is mostly about discovering how rich the Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia are and how much we are missing communications between one another."

Manu Kurbonali, Spring 2014

"While short-term in duration, the program is long-lasting in terms of influence and impact on its participants. It not only provides unbelievable opportunities to meet and learn from outstanding people in the U.S., but more importantly, it fosters a regional network of leadership that will ultimately develop much needed cooperation in our part of the world."

Roman Vakulchuk, Fall 2015



"The entire six week experience has been enjoyable, insightful and enlightening. It was refreshing to attend such a stimulating and comprehensive program that was focused around participation and active learning."

Bahtiyor Mirzabaeov, Fall 2015

"If one is interested in learning about the U.S. foreign policy, in being immersed into the exciting world that is Washington D.C. with all its politics, lobbyists, think tanks, businesses and NGOs, the Rumsfeld Fellowship delivers it all and more. Indeed, the scope, the level, the substance and the candor of the meetings were just mind-blowing. I am truly blessed to have been a part of the program. It will not be an overstatement to say that we all go back wiser and stronger in our resolve to make the best out of our lives."

Nemuun Gal, Spring 2016

"As impressive as the speakers and topics are, the most impressive and valuable aspect of the program is the level of openness and frankness these discussions are held, thanks to the Rumsfeld Foundation and CACI/SAIS's unparalleled ability to arrange such intimate meetings. I am honored to have been part of the Rumsfeld Fellowship and made friends and contacts in the U.S. and CAMCA that will last my lifetime."

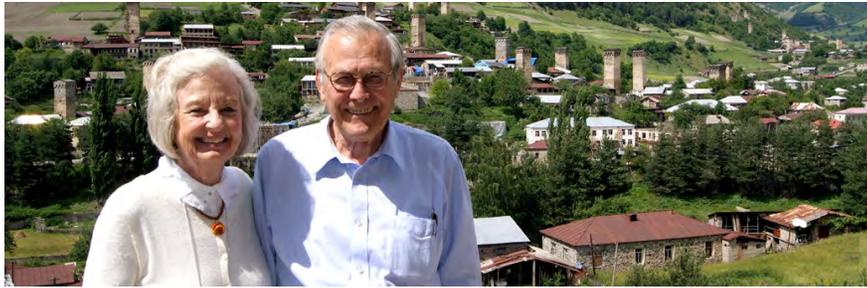
Narantuguldur Saijraakh, Spring 2016

**"THE WAY THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED, POLISHED AND ADJUSTED OVER THE YEARS IS AN ABSOLUTE MASTERPIECE."**

Ruslan Ramanov, Spring 2016

# ABOUT THE RUMSFELD FOUNDATION

In 2007 Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld established the Rumsfeld Foundation to focus their philanthropic efforts on encouraging public service in the United States and promoting freer political and freer economic systems abroad. To this end, the Foundation supports programs in the following focus areas: Fellowships for young leaders from the Greater Central Asia region, Graduate Fellowships for students interested in public service, and charities that benefit the men and women of the U.S. military and their families.



## DONALD RUMSFELD

Co-founder and President

Donald Rumsfeld currently chairs the nonprofit Rumsfeld Foundation with Joyce, his wife of more than 60 years. The Foundation was established in 2007 to support leadership and public service at home and the growth of freer political and economic systems abroad.

Rumsfeld published his number one New York Times bestselling memoir, *Known and Unknown* in 2011. The book spans his career and is complemented by extensive primary source documentation that can be found on his website, [Rumsfeld.com](http://Rumsfeld.com). His second book, *Rumsfeld's Rules*, was published in May 2013, and was also featured on the New York Times Best Seller list. Recently, Rumsfeld ventured into the tech world, with the launch of his Churchill Solitaire "app." All of Rumsfeld's profits from his memoir, *Known and Unknown*, and from his Churchill Solitaire app are donated to the military charities supported by the Rumsfeld Foundation.

Mr. Rumsfeld completed his second tour as Secretary of Defense in December 2006. During his tenure, he led the U.S. Department of Defense after the attack on 9/11 and in overseeing the reform and transformation of America's military to meet the new challenges of the 21st Century.

A graduate of Princeton University and former naval aviator, Rumsfeld previously served as a Congressman, U.S. Ambassador to NATO, White House Chief of Staff under President Ford, Presidential Envoy to the Middle East for President Reagan, and CEO of two Fortune 500 companies and Chairman of a third. Rumsfeld and his wife have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They reside in New Mexico, and spend time in Montana, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

## JOYCE RUMSFELD

Co-founder and Vice President

Joyce Rumsfeld was born in Billings, Montana and after moving to Fargo, ND, Minneapolis, MN, and Milwaukee, WI, she ended up in the Chicago area. She graduated from New Trier High School where she and her husband, Don Rumsfeld, were classmates, and later received a B.A. in Art History from the University of Colorado in 1954. Mrs. Rumsfeld was the founder of the Chicago Foundation for Education (CFE) in 1985 and served as Chairman of its Board of Directors for thirteen years. The Foundation is dedicated to improving the education of children in Chicago public elementary schools. In the last 30 years, CFE has invested more than \$6.5 million in the Chicago Public Schools, impacting nearly 30,000 teachers and more than 1 million students. Mrs. Rumsfeld has served on the Big Shoulders Program at the Archdiocese of Chicago, the National Advisory Council of Character Education Partnership, Inc., and the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. She also served on the Board of Visitors and Governors at St. John's College for 12 years. In honor of her work with members of the U.S. military and their families, on December 15, 2006, Mrs. Rumsfeld was awarded the Department of Defense's Distinguished Public Service Award. Mrs. Rumsfeld currently chairs the Rumsfeld Foundation with her husband. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren and reside in New Mexico.



## Dr. Steve Cambone

Director

Dr. Cambone is a member of the Board of Directors of the Rumsfeld Foundation. He is an independent consultant advising leaders and managers in strategic plans and planning, operations, resource allocation and the use of technology to transform operations and business practices. He is the founder of Adirondack Advisors, LLC, and an advisor to tech start-ups, companies serving the national security market and non-profits. Dr. Cambone sits on the Proxy Board of MDA IS LLC and chairs its Government Security Committee and on the Special Security Board of Elbit Systems of America. He served as a Thomas W. Smith Senior Fellow at Villanova and is an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins. From 2007-12 he served in senior positions for QinetiQ North America, including the Senior and Executive VP for Strategic Development. Prior, he served from 2001-06 in the Department of Defense during which he was twice nominated by President Bush and confirmed for senior positions, including as the first Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence. Dr. Cambone was awarded the DoD Distinguished Public Service Medal and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal by the DNI. He was a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Director of Research at the Institute for National Security Studies at the National Defense University. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance and the Advisory Board of the Volgenau School of IT and Engineering at George Mason University. Dr. Cambone holds Ph.D. and Master's degrees in Political Science from Claremont Graduate School and Bachelor's degree in Political Science from The Catholic University of America.



## Sarah Conant

Executive Director

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



## Bridget Sedlacek

Director of Programs

Bridget Sedlacek is the Director of Programs of the Rumsfeld Foundation. She assists in directing the many activities of the Foundation, including the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program and Graduate Fellowship Program, as well as the Foundation's grants for military charities. Before working with the Foundation, Ms. Sedlacek was a Staff and Research Assistant in the Office of former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, where she previously interned before graduating from the University of Virginia in 2011 with a B.A. in Foreign Affairs. During her undergraduate studies, she participated in a semester long study abroad program in Paris, France. She was brought on board to work for the Foundation in August of 2012.



## Melanie Passons

Program Coordinator

Melanie Passons is the Program Coordinator of the Rumsfeld Foundation. In this role she assists in coordinating public service related programs, to include the Foundation's work with military charities and its Graduate Fellowship Program. Before joining the Foundation in September 2015, Ms. Passons served as a Research Assistant in the Office of former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Previously, she held internship positions with the U.S. Department of State in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the Heritage Foundation, and the Office of Congressman Marsha Blackburn. Ms. Passons holds a M.A. in International Affairs from the George H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee.

# ABOUT THE CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE

The Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program is a Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center affiliated with Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C. and the Institute for Security and Development Policy in Stockholm (ISDP). The Joint Center was established to respond to the increasing need for information, research and analysis on the Caucasus and Central Asia, and to help bring these regions out of the shadows of the American and European consciousness to which fate had consigned them. By encouraging Americans and Europeans to enter into an active and multi-faceted engagement with the region, and by promoting serious and well-informed policies towards it, the founders aimed for the Joint Center to help a neglected region reclaim its legitimate and appropriate place in the world order.



## DR. S. FREDERICK STARR

Chairman

S. Frederick Starr is the founding Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, and a Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS. His research on the countries of Greater Central Asia, their history, development, internal dynamics, as well as on U.S. policy towards the region, has resulted in 23 books and more than 200 published articles. He has also written extensively on architecture, music, and Russian politics and culture. One of his recent books, "The Ferghana Valley: The Heart of Central Asia," involved the collaboration of some dozen scholars in four countries.

During the past decade, Dr. Starr has returned repeatedly to addressing the challenges of reopening continental-wide transport passing through Central Asia and Afghanistan, which he sees as a key to success in Afghanistan. This issue was the subject of a series of articles he published between 2000-2008, and of his book, "The New Silk Roads" (2008). For Starr's articles that have had direct policy implications, refer to "Beyond the Fog of Nation Building: An Economic Strategy for Afghanistan" and "Finish the Job: An Economic Strategy for Afghanistan." In October 2013, his major publication, "Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age from the Arab Invasion to Tamerlane," was published and is currently being translated into several languages worldwide.



## Dr. Svante Cornell

Director

Svante E. Cornell is the Director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, a co-founder of the Institute for Security and Development Policy in Stockholm and an Associate Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS. His main areas of expertise include security issues, state-building, and transnational crime in Southwest and Central Asia, with a specific focus on the Caucasus and Turkey. He is the Editor of the Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, the Joint Center's bi-weekly publication, and of the Joint Center's "Silk Road Papers" series.

Dr. Cornell is the author of several books, including "Small Nations and Great Powers: the Ethnopolitical Conflict in the Caucasus" (2001), the first comprehensive study of the post-Soviet Caucasus, and "Azerbaijan since Independence" (2011). His dozens of articles have appeared in numerous academic and policy journals.

Dr. Cornell received his undergraduate education at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, and he holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from Uppsala University. He also holds an honorary doctoral degree from the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. He is a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Military Science and a Research Fellow with the Wilfried Martens Center for European Studies in Brussels.



## Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli

Research Director

Mamuka Tsereteli is the Research Director at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program. He previously served as the Director of the Center for Black Sea-Caspian Studies at the School of International Service at American University. He also served as an Assistant Professor at the School of International Service from 2007-2011. Dr. Tsereteli teaches classes on energy markets and energy security at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS and at American University. He speaks frequently at events related to international relations, economic development, energy security and country risk analysis in the Caucasus and Central Asia. His areas of expertise include international relations and international economic policy, economic and energy security, political and economic risk analysis and mitigation strategies, and business development.

Dr. Tsereteli previously served as the founding Executive Director at the America-Georgia Business Council, and as Economic Counselor at the Embassy of Georgia in Washington, D.C., covering relationships with International Financial Institutions, U.S. assistance programs and business initiatives. He has actively facilitated the expansion and implementation of the multiple pipeline policies in the Caucasus.



## David Soumbadze

Director, Rumsfeld Fellowship Program

David Soumbadze is the Director of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. From 2009-2013 he also served as the Director of the Silk Road Media Program.

From 1994-2006, Mr. Soumbadze worked for the Embassy of Georgia in the USA, Canada and Mexico as a Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission in charge of political and security affairs. In both 2002 and 2006, he served as a Charge d'Affaires of Georgia in the United States. Prior to coming to Washington, Mr. Soumbadze worked as an adviser in the office of the National Security Adviser to the President of Georgia (1992-1994) and as a Deputy Head of NATO and Disarmament Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (1992). He also served as an Executive Secretary of the State Commission on Georgia's Participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace Program (1993-1994). From 1982-1991, Mr. Soumbadze was a Deputy Head of the System Analysis Department at the Institute of Information and Management in Tbilisi, Georgia. Mr. Soumbadze holds a B.A. and a M.A. in Economic, Political and Social Geography from Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia (1982) and a M.A. in International Policy and Practice from The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs (2008). He has a diplomatic rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.





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