

# 2019 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

CENTRAL ASIA – MONGOLIA – CAUCASUS – AFGHANISTAN

## FORUM REPORT

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN | JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2019



camca  
Regional Forum 2019  
Tashkent



Dr. S. Frederick Starr introducing keynote speaker, Dr. Arthur Laffer

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

**THEME:** "CAMCA: Shared Interests, Shared Aspirations"

**SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS:** *International leaders and professionals from the 10 CAMCA countries, Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden and the United States*

**FOCUS AREAS:** *Intraregional trade, transport and transit, regional business and investments, economic development, entrepreneurship and innovation, human capital and education*

**PREVIOUS FORUMS:** *[Baku, Azerbaijan - 2018](#); [Dushanbe, Tajikistan - 2017](#); [Tbilisi, Georgia - 2016](#); [Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - 2015](#); [Astana, Kazakhstan - 2014](#)*

## 2019 IN NUMBERS



**300+** ATTENDEES



**65+** SPEAKERS



**18** SESSIONS



**20** COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

## ABOUT THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

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

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

- Established in 2014, there have been **6** CAMCA Regional Forums.
- Attendance for all Forums totals more than **1,000** participants.
- Attendees have represented more than **25** countries.
- Over **200** speakers have contributed to Forum conversations.
- The Forum location travels each year across the CAMCA region.

## 2019 FORUM SESSIONS

### KEYNOTE ADDRESSES & INTERVIEWS:

- **Senator Sodyq Safoev**, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- **Dr. Arthur Laffer**, Founder and Chairman of Laffer Associates
- “State Building and Reforms in Uzbekistan: Driving Force for Regionalism?” - **Ruslanbek Davletov**, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- “CAMCA: Whole vs. Sum of the Parts” - **Giorgi Kvirikashvili**, EBRD International Advisor and Former Prime Minister of Georgia

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- “Prospects of Inclusive Economic Growth in the CAMCA Region” - **Tigran Poghosyan**, IMF Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic

### PLENARY SESSIONS:

- Intraregional Trade within CAMCA: Signs of Progress?
- Intraregional Finance: A Growth Industry?
- Transport: Opening Windows to West, South and Southeast
- Culture and Tourism: Regional Project?
- CAMCA Spotlights: Meet the CAMCA Network

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- What Attracts Quality Investment in the CAMCA Countries? What Doesn't?
- Models of Regional Coordination
- Building Modern CAMCA Skills: Innovation, Education and Training
- Afghanistan: A New Factor in Intraregional Trade and Investments?
- Is Digital Transformation Happening in CAMCA?
- Will there be Regional Media?

### FEATURED BREAKOUT SESSION:

- Meet Some CAMCA Entrepreneurs – Featuring pitches by nine entrepreneurs from across the region

View the [full agenda](#) online.

*“In our fast growing and challenging world, the annual CAMCA Regional Forum is the best platform for young leaders from our region to come together to freely share ideas and enhance relationships.”*

**HAMROKHON ZARIFI**

FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TAJIKISTAN

*“The CAMCA Regional Forum represents a unique platform for nurturing valuable ties among young leaders from the CAMCA countries. It brings together outstanding individuals that have the potential to take the development of the region to a new level. It was truly inspiring to observe participants of the Forum discussing topics that will shape the economics and politics of the region. The Forum is a driver for regional initiatives, numerous collaborations and innovative solutions to common challenges. It is a place where new ideas, new projects and new friendships are born, which only grow stronger with every Forum.”*

**RUSUDAN MAMATSASHVILI**

FIRST DEPUTY HEAD, GEORGIAN NATIONAL TOURISM ADMINISTRATION



Keynote Interview with Giorgi Kvirikashvili

*“The Forum was very useful both in terms of understanding the local context of Uzbekistan and Central Asia more broadly, as well as for developing necessary networking links with experts and peers which will be useful in future years. I was very impressed by the reforms in Uzbekistan and overall it was easy to witness the enormous potential for regional cooperation which we've underutilized so much thus far. The Forum will help us further think about creative ways for integration and cooperation for the sake of peace and prosperity.”*

**FARIZ ISMAILZADE**

EXECUTIVE VICE RECTOR, ADA UNIVERSITY, AZERBAIJAN

*“I think the most important reason to attend the CAMCA Forum is networking – networking with a group of professionals and with a group of people who are making decisions about aspects of improving the day-to-day life of their people. That is the most important reason – to know the policy decision-makers and how to connect with them in order to improve our relationships – whether we are working in the government or the private sector.”*

**ASSADULLAH ZAMIR**

FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION AND LIVESTOCK OF AFGHANISTAN; CAMCA NETWORK MEMBER

## SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

**Bobur Abdullaev**, Head, Department of Strategic Development, Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications, Uzbekistan

**Habib Abdullayev**, Director of the Navoi Free Economic Zone

**Hikmat Abdurahmanov**, Co-founder, HUMO Partners\*

**Timur Abushkin**, Head of Markets, Astana International Exchange

**Laziz Adkhamov**, Director of SAP Uzbekistan

**Saidakbarkhon Akbarov**, Acting Deputy Chairman, State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Development of Tourism

**Azamat Akeleev**, Owner, Olive Eco Ethno Hotel and Resort Chain\*

**Hiroyuki Akita**, Senior Staff Writer, Nikkei Asian Review, Japan

**Iskander Akylbayev**, Executive Director, Kazakhstan Council on International Relations\*

**Amb. Irakli Alasania**, Senior Partner, SP Consulting

**Arevik Anapiosyan**, Deputy Minister of Education Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia\*

**Dr. Kaush Arha**, Senior Adviser for Strategic Engagement, USAID

**Botir Arifdjanov**, Founder, Bilim Onlayn

**Umid Aripjanov**, Founding Partner, CENTIL Law\*

**Bokhodir Ayupov**, Country Representative, Kazakh Export, Uzbekistan\*

**Dulguun Baasandavaa**, CEO, BGB Peak LLC\*

**Sarvar Babahodjaev**, Deputy Minister of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**John Batchelor**, Host, The John Batchelor Show

**Nazira Beishenalieva**, Board of Trustees,

American University of Central Asia\*

**Nargiza Bobomuradova**, Head of International Department, National Association of Electronic Media of Uzbekistan

**Mukhtar Bubeyev**, CEO, Astana Financial Services Authority

**Dr. Svante Cornell**, Director, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

**Edward Cox**, Attorney and Secretary of The Economic Club of New York

**Jargalsaikhan Dambadarjaa**, Executive Director, DeFacto Institute

**Ruslanbek Davletov**, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Marat Djanbaev**, CEO, Taza Bio Systems\*

**Sarkhan Hashimov**, Director-General of Microsoft for Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan\*

**Anvar Irchaev**, Director, Orient Capital Management

**Farrukh Irnazarov**, Co-Founder, Central Asian Development Institute\*

**Fariz Ismailzade**, Vice-Rector, ADA University  
**Amb. Tedo Japaridze**, Vice-Chairman, International Relations, Anaklia Development Consortium

**Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Central Asia  
**Shigeo Katsu**, President, Nazarbayev University  
**Khusan Khasanov**, Islamic Development Bank Field Representative for Uzbekistan  
**Zafar Khashimov**, Founder, Supermarket Chain Korzinka.uz

**Jamshid Khodjaev**, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Laziz Kudratov**, Deputy Minister of Investment and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan\*

**Amb. Daniyar Kurbanov**, Director, Center for International Relations Studies

**Sen. Alisher Kurmanov**, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, International Economic Relations, Investments and Tourism of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Giorgi Kvirikashvili**, EBRD International Advisor and former Prime Minister of Georgia

**Jenny Jenish kyzy**, Chairperson, Association of Social Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan\*

**Dr. Arthur Laffer**, Founder and Chairman, Laffer Associates

**Mariam Lashkhi**, Deputy Chairperson, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency\*

**Rusudan Mamatsashvili**, First Deputy Head, Georgian National Tourism Administration

**Aibek Mambetaliev**, CEO, Euro Unternehmen

**Anatoly Motkin**, President, StrategEast

**Sardor Mukhamedaliev**, Chief Business Development Officer, Zoodmall

**Malik Mukhitdinov**, Program Officer, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Uzbekistan\*

**Bakhtiyor Mustafayev**, Head of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies, Uzbekistan

**Nargiz Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu**, Adviser to the Executive Director, State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan\*

**Atabek Nazirov**, Chairman, Capital Market Development Agency of Uzbekistan

**Gauhar Nurgaliev**, Head of Eurasian Studies, Skolkovo Institute of Emerging Markets Studies\*

**Akmal Payziev**, CEO, MyTaxi and Express24

**Dr. Jacopo Maria Pepe**, Research Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations

**Tigran Poghosyan**, IMF Resident Representative, Kyrgyz Republic

**Bayarmagnai Puntsag**, Deputy Director, Department of Public Diplomacy and Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

**Zuhursho Rahmatulloev**, Co-Founder, Alif Capital\*

**Sen. Sodyq Safoev**, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Barry Salaam**, Chairman, Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, Afghanistan \*

**Michael Sellman**, Co-CEO, Calatrava Grace Corporation

**Najibullah Sharifi**, CEO, Rumi Consultancy

**Omaid Sharifi**, Co-Founder & President, Art Lords\*

**Omar Sharifi**, Director and Senior Fellow, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies\*

**Paul Shultz**, Managing Director, Head of Investment Banking and Corporate Finance, First Heartland Securities

**Kamila Sidiqi**, CEO and Founder, Kaweyan Group

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

**Ravshan Sobirzoda**, Central Asia Economic Adviser, UK Department for International Development, Tajikistan\*

**Talant Sultanov**, Chair of the Internet Society Kyrgyz Chapter\*

**Amb. Ingrid Tersman**, Amb. of Sweden to Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

**Sarah Tonucci**, Executive Director, Rumsfeld Foundation

**Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli**, Senior Fellow, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

**Aziza Umarova**, Co-Founder, SmartGov Consulting\*

**Dr. Roman Vakulchuk**, Co-Founder, Central Asian Development Institute\*

**Emin Vali**, Co-Founder, Keepface\*

**Amb. Wahidullah Waissi**, Amb. of Afghanistan to Australia\*

**Enders Wimbush**, President, StrateVarious  
**Asset Yerali**, CEO, Odyssey Investments Group\*

**Assadullah Zamir**, CEO and Partner, Sabzwar Agribusiness and Food Services\*

**Hamrokhan Zarifi**, Former Foreign Minister of Tajikistan

**Zabiullah Ziarmal**, First Vice Chairman, International Chamber of Commerce of Afghanistan

\*CAMCA Network Member

## FORUM EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

*CAMCA Expo of regional businesses and entrepreneurs*



*Keynote remarks from Senator Sodyq Safoev*



### CAMCA FORUM MEMORANDUM SIGNING

*At the Forum, representatives of the Foreign Ministries of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CAMCA Forum organizers officially recognizing the Forum as an important regional platform and outlining areas of future cooperation. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with these countries in support of the Forum's mission.*



*(Pictured from left to right: Amb. Hafiz Pashayev, ADA Rector and Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan; Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute; Tamar Kekenadze, CAMCA Network; Alexander Khvtisiashvili, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia; Dr. Starr; Sarah Tonucci, Executive Director, Rumsfeld Foundation; and Darkhan Satybaldy, Kazakh Ambassador to Uzbekistan)*

*Art displayed by Omaid Sharifi, President of ArtLords and CAMCA Network Member, Afghanistan*



*"CAMCA Spotlights: Meet the CAMCA Network" session with presenters from six countries*



## MEDIA



**#CAMCA2019 REGIONAL FORUM WAS AN AMAZING EVENT BRINGING TOGETHER BRILLIANT PROFESSIONALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. @RUMSFELDFOUNDTN HAS CREATED A UNIQUE NETWORK OF OVER 200 PROFS FROM 10 COUNTRIES. WHO HAVE NOT ONLY BECOME FRIENDS, BUT ALSO SHAPERS OF OUR COUNTRIES' FUTURES.**

- AREVIK ANAPOSYAN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE AND SPORTS OF ARMENIA



**#CAMCA2019 HAPPENED WITH #AFG HIGH REP – THEMES VARY FROM TRADE TO INVESTMENT, HISTORY TO ARTS, & MEDIA TO REGIONAL EXPANSIONS.**

- PARWIZ KAWA, FORMER EDITOR IN CHIEF OF HASHT E SUBH DAILY, AFGHANISTAN



**“DO NOT PAY PEOPLE TO BE POOR, TEACH THEM TO BE RICH, BECAUSE THE LATTER PAY GOOD TAXES,” – ARTHUR #LAFFER SPEAKING ABOUT GOVERNMENT TAXATION POLICIES AT #CAMCA2019 FORUM IN TASHKENT THIS MORNING.**

- SANJARBEK TOSHAEV, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION COUNTRY MANAGER FOR UZBEKISTAN



**THREE WEEKS AGO WE GOT TOGETHER IN #TASHKENT TO DISCUSS OUR COMMON OPPORTUNITIES AS NATIONS SURROUNDED BY COMMON CHALLENGES. I SPOKE ABOUT #CAMCA CONNECTIVITY THAT OFFERS MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION OF THE TALENTED, LIKEMINDED & ENTREPRENEUR GENERATION OF OUR REGION!**

- AMB. WAHIDULLAH WAISSI, AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

Review **#CAMCA2019** conversations on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#).

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

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

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

### PODCAST FEATURE

Renowned American radio host, [John Batchelor](#), hosted the [John Batchelor Show](#) from the 2019 CAMCA Forum. Find several informative interviews in his “On the Road to Tashkent” episodes with Forum organizers and attendees [online](#).

### MEDIA CONTACTS

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## FOUNDING ORGANIZERS



To learn more about the 2020 CAMCA Regional Forum contact [info@camcaforum.org](mailto:info@camcaforum.org).



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## Regional Forum

