

CAMCA FORUM PARTICIPANTS





Mr. Asset Abdualiyev

Mr. Asset Abdualiyev is a Head of the Nur Otan Party School of Political Management, a leading policy and public administration training center in Kazakhstan. Before joining Nur Otan SPM, Mr. Abdualiyev was a Vice President of the Center for International Programs, and an administrator of the Presidential International Bolashak Scholarship. He also worked at the Administration of the President of Kazakhstan and Consolidated Contractors Company. In 2014, Mr. Abdualiyev was elected as a curator of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Astana Hub. He is a co-founder and 2012 President of the Astana Alumni Association ("Tanym" Award as the prominent volunteer group of 2012.) In August 2012, he co-organized TEDxYesil, the first TEDx event in Astana. In December 2012, Mr. Abdualiyev received the "Daryn" State Award, the highest youth award in Kazakhstan, in the nomination "Young Leader of the Year." He sits on the Board of Trustees of American University in Central Asia, a leading Central Asian liberal arts college based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and on the Supervisory Board of the Nazarbayev University Social Development Fund, a research and scholarship fund. Mr. Abdualiyev received his Master of Laws degree from University of Dundee under the auspices of the UK Foreign Office Chevening Scholarship. He was an exchange student at Winthrop University, USA under auspices of the U.S. Department of State Eurasian Global Undergraduate Exchange Program. He received a Bachelor of International Law degree with distinction from Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan.



Ms. Madina Abylkassymova

Ms. Madina Abylkassymova was born in 1978. She graduated from the Kazakh Public Administration Academy, majoring in International Economic Relations. In 2002, she received a Master's degree in International Relations majoring in Economic Policy Management from Columbia University. Ms. Abylkassymova then earned her Master's degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. From 1999 until 2003, she worked in the Strategic Planning Agency of Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning. From 2004 until 2006, she was a Director of the Department for Public Policy Analysis, Center for Marketing and Analytical Research. In February 2006, she was appointed as Deputy Head of the Social-Economic Division for the Republic of Kazakhstan Prime Minister's Office. From March 2008 to September 2011, Ms. Abylkassymova worked as a Deputy Head of Strategic Analysis Center of the Republic of Kazakhstan President's Administration, after which she was appointed as Vice Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Kazakhstan. After the restructuring of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning, she was reappointed as the Vice Minister for Economy and Budget Planning in January 2013.



Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev

Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev was born in 1974 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In 1998, he graduated from the Al-Farabi Kazakh State National University with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations. In 2012, he graduated with a Master's degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University as a Bolashak Presidential Scholar. Mr. Ashikbayev started his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1998 as a desk officer at the Asia, Middle East and Africa Division of the Fourth Department. From 1999 to 2001, he held consecutive positions of Attaché, Third and Second Secretary at the Department for International Economic Cooperation. From 2001 to 2002, Mr. Ashikbayev served as Head of the Unit for Economic Cooperation with Europe and the Americas at the Economic Policy Department. In 2002, Mr. Ashikbayev was posted as First Secretary to the Embassy of Kazakhstan in

Brussels. In March 2005, he returned to the Foreign Ministry as Deputy Director of the Department for International Humanitarian and Economic Cooperation. In June 2005, he was appointed Head of the Foreign Minister's Chancery. From 2007 to 2009, he served as Chairman of the International Information Committee; from 2009 to 2011, he held the position of Ambassador-at-Large – Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In September 2012, he was appointed as Deputy Head of the Prime Minister's Office and in October 2012, as Head of the Foreign Policy Center at the Presidential Administration. Since December 2013, Mr. Ashikbayev has served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He speaks English, Turkish and French, and holds a diplomatic rank of 1st Class Counsellor. Mr. Ashikbayev is married with two children.



Dr. Anuar Ayazbekov

Dr. Anuar Ayazbekov is currently the first Secretary of the Foreign Policy Analysis and Forecasting Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He completed his PhD on Kazakhstan's Foreign Policy at the University of St. Andrews, the United Kingdom. He holds a Master's degree in International Diplomacy from Bond University, Australia and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from KIMEP University, Kazakhstan. Dr. Ayazbekov has previously worked in the Analytical Department of the Administration of the President in Astana, as well as in the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies in Almaty.



Mr. Sukh-Ochir Bold

Mr. Sukh-Ochir Bold was born in 1954 in Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Arts in the University of Havana, Cuba. In 1976, he graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, and also completed the Moscow Diplomatic Academy in Russia from 1988 to 1990. Mr. Bold has vast experience working in Mongolia's government. He began his career by working as an attaché at the Policy Planning Division in the Foreign Ministry of Mongolia. Later, Mr. Bold worked as the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Mongolia from 1993 to 1996. He held positions as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Switzerland and the Holy See, as well as Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations' Office at Geneva, Vienna, Rome and other International Organizations from 1996 to 2001. From 2011 to 2013, Mr. Bold held the position of Director for International Security and Cooperation in the National Security Council of Mongolia. Since August 1, 2013, he has worked as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Embassy of Mongolia to Kazakhstan. Mr. Bold speaks English, Russian and Spanish and is married with three children.



Mr. Robert Bosworth

Mr. Robert Bosworth is the Central Asia Regional Manager and Head of the Representative Office for Booz Allen Hamilton in Kazakhstan. In addition to serving as the Resident Representative for the American Chamber of Commerce in Astana, he also chairs its Foreign Investment Working Group and works closely with members of the diplomatic and business community to address foreign investment issues in Kazakhstan. Ms. Bosworth represents the American Chamber of Commerce at government meetings and spreads awareness of the Chamber in Astana. He attends the monthly sessions for the Prime Minister's Council to Improve the Investment Climate and other meetings convened by the government to discuss foreign investment issues. Booz Allen Hamilton is a consulting company specializing in engineering, science and technology management issues. Mr. Bosworth has been responsible for its operations in Kazakhstan since 2012, and he leads a team of

regulatory and compliance experts that provide advisory services to government clients and commercial stakeholders for several ongoing projects. Previously, he worked for Booz Allen Hamilton as a logistics program manager in the Republic of Macedonia, as a Strategic Planner for the Asia – Pacific region at the Pentagon, and as a Director in the Office of Defense Cooperation at the Embassy of the United States of America in Tokyo, Japan. He has also worked in Germany and the Republic of South Korea.



Dr. Kadisha Dairova

In October 2009, Dr. Kadisha Dairova was invited to serve as one of the founding members of the national project group assigned by the President and Government of Kazakhstan to start Nazarbayev University of Astana, an international university which opened in June of 2010, where she is currently Vice President for Student Affairs, International and Government Relations. Prior to her work there, Dr. Dairova worked at several leading universities in Kazakhstan: Kazakhstan University of World Languages, Diplomatic Academy under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan Academy of Management (currently, National University of Economics after Ryskulov), Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, and KIMEP, rising from an instructor to Associate Professor, and later serving as Chair, Deputy Dean, and Vice President from 1972-1992 and then from November 2007 to October 2009. From 1978-1982, she undertook post-graduate studies at Moscow State University of Linguistics and obtained the degree of Candidate of Philological Sciences. In August of 1992, she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was assigned to work at the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the U.S. first from 1992-1995 and then from 1998-2005 as a senior diplomat in charge of humanitarian aspects of U.S.-Kazakhstan bilateral relations: education, science and culture. In 2007, she served as President of the Center of International Programs under the Ministry of Education and Sciences created for the administration of the Kazakhstan Presidential Bolashak Scholarship Program Bolashak. Dr. Dairova is well-known as one of the leading experts of international education in Kazakhstan and for her experience in the development and administration of the Bolashak program, including the placement of hundreds of Bolashak Scholars at more than 100 leading universities in the U.S. and Canada.



Mr. Michael Dixon

Mr. Michael Dixon is currently the Political-Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan. A career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Dixon previously served at the U.S. Embassies in the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Ukraine, Poland and Turkmenistan and in the Office of the European Union and European Regional Affairs at the Department of State. Mr. Dixon was educated at the University of Virginia and the University of Chicago and is a Distinguished Graduate of the National War College. Prior to joining the U.S. State Department, Mr. Dixon taught English in Poland as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer.



Mr. David Gamble

Mr. David “Chip” Gamble is currently the Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan. Mr. Gamble previously served at the U.S. Embassies in Russia, the Philippines and Poland. Mr. Gamble is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Prior to joining the Department of State, Mr. Gamble was an Army officer with service in Afghanistan. He is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Ms. Janet Heckman

Ms. Janet Heckman was appointed Country Director for Kazakhstan for The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in July 2012. Prior to working for EBRD, Ms. Heckman worked for Citigroup as a Managing Director in corporate banking for 32 years in 7 countries including: the UK, Algeria, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Greece and Bahrain. She was Vice President of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Romania and on the AmCham Board in Bulgaria. She was also Chairman of the Fulbright Board in Bulgaria and a board member in Hungary and Romania. Ms. Heckman has a MSFS degree in

International Relations from Georgetown University, an undergraduate degree in History from Kenyon College. She also studied at the American University in Beirut and between her degrees, was a Peace Corps volunteer in Bahrain.



Mr. Baurzhan Jumagaliyev

Mr. Baurzhan Jumagaliyev is the Director of Content and Post-Use Department in National Company “Astana EXPO-2017” JSC. After graduating Turar Ryskulov Kazakh Economic University with specialization in International Economics in 2005, he began his career at the JSC National Company “Kazspace” as a Manager and then Senior Manager of the Development Department. His key responsibilities included the analytical review preparation of ARSC Ishim, Earth Observation Satellite, and Science Satellites, and the management of interaction activities with

development institutions. Mr. Jumagaliyev also has experience in venture financing from his time working at the JSC “National Innovation Fund” as an Analyst of project financing department in 2008. Later, he continued his education and received a Master of Business Administration degree in Management from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management Economics and Strategic Research. The topic for his Diploma work was “Political Risks in International Business.” During his studies, he worked as a Head of Monitoring and Analyses division at the LLC “VITA” audit company, where he was responsible for the division’s work coordination, monitoring and exerting control of financial statement fulfillment. From September 2011 to April 2014 he worked as a Senior Specialist and then Head of Division of science and technology evaluation at the JSC “National Center of Science and Technology Evaluation”.



Mr. Chingiz Kanapyanov

Mr. Chingiz Kanapyanov is currently the Adviser to the Governor of the National Bank of Kazakhstan. Mr. Kanapyanov was born in 1978 in Almaty. In 2000 he graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Affairs with a Bachelor’s degree in International Economic Relations, and in 2002, received his Master’s degree with distinction (World Economy). In 2002, Mr. Kanapyanov started his career working on the Investment Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then as the American Desk of Economy of the Foreign Ministry. In 2003, he continued his diplomatic career in the Kazakhstan Embassy in London,

developing bilateral economic relations with the financial sector and the City of London. In 2007, President Nursultan Nazarbayev appointed Mr. Kanapyanov Deputy Chairman of the Agency of Kazakhstan on Regulation of Activities of the Regional Financial Centre of Almaty city (RFCA). In 2011, RFCA became part of the National Bank of Kazakhstan and he joined the NBK as Deputy Chairman of the NBK Committee for the Development of the Regional Financial City of Almaty. In 2013, Mr. Kanapyanov continued his career within the NBK as Deputy Chairman of the NBK Committee for Protection of Financial Services Consumers. In June 2014, he became Adviser to the Governor of the National Bank of Kazakhstan.



Mr. Michael Klecheski

Mr. Michael Klecheski assumed the position of Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy Astana in August 2013. A member of the Senior Foreign Service, he had just completed his assignment as Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at Embassy Moscow. Aside from earlier assignments in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Mr. Klecheski also served abroad as Team Leader of the Provincial Reconstruction Team Diwaniyah in Iraq, as well as in Manila, Krakow and Geneva. In Washington, he served at the U.S. Department of State as a Senior Watch Officer in the Operations Center, as well as being the NATO Desk Officer. In addition, Mr. Klecheski worked on Russian Affairs at the National Security Council. A graduate of Columbia and Georgetown Universities, Mr. Klecheski is married and has three children.



Mr. Jukka Maksimainen

Mr. Jukka Maksimainen is a Managing Partner of the McKinsey Kazakhstan office, a leadership team member in two of McKinsey's global industry practices (mining, oil and gas) and one of McKinsey's functional practices (capital productivity). He joined McKinsey nine years ago and has led over 70 client engagements in six continents. Prior to working for McKinsey, Mr. Maksimainen worked on the commodities trading team of Nordea Bank, a leading Scandinavian bank; in the strategy department of Wärtsilä, the largest engine producer; and as a Board Member of Maksila, a PE firm. Mr. Maksimainen has a Master's degree in Engineering from Helsinki University of Technology, with majors in Strategy and Applied Mathematics (2002-2005). He is a native speaker in Finnish, fluent in English, proficient in Swedish and German, and has a basic knowledge of Russian.



Mr. Nurlan Mussin

Mr. Nurlan Mussin was born in 1979 in Aktobe, Kazakhstan. He graduated from Suffolk University in Boston in 2003 with a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs. In 2007, he graduated from the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna with a Master's degree in Advanced International Studies, as well as from Kazakh Humanitarian and Law University. Since 2003, Mr. Mussin has served as Attaché, Third Secretary, First Secretary and Head of the Desk for the Department of Europe and the Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and as the First Secretary and Counselor at the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the USA. In 2005, he worked as Minister-Counselor (Head of Mission) at the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Norway. Since February 2013, Mr. Mussin has served as the Director of the Department of the Americas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.



Ms. Merrey Mustafina

Ms. Merrey Mustafina is a Representative Manager of Fryday™ in Astana – an international network of cosmopolitan professionals spread over Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and also a founder of Mirabilis Enterprise LLP. Prior to her current position, she worked as the Executive Education and Development Department Head and Economic Issues Counselor at JSC National Centre for Civil Service Personnel Management. She also served as a Deputy Director of the Eurasian Civil Service Training Centre under the Agency of Civil Service Affairs. In her positions she was responsible for operating the budget program on the executive education of top civil servants both at national and regional levels, as well as providing in-country training opportunities for

the state bodies. While working there, she expanded their scope of partner institutions, partnering with the best schools and training institutions that specialize in public administration. Ms. Mustafina was also involved in the process of creating professional competency appraisal methods for civil servants. Ms. Mustafina holds a diploma in English and German Languages from Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau State University (2003), a Bachelor's degree in Economics from T. Ryskulov Kazakh Economic University (2006) and a Master's degree in International Development Management from Westminster University (2007) as a Bolashak Presidential Scholar.



Mr. Sayasat Nurbek

Mr. Sayasat Nurbek received a degree in Political Science from Marshalltown College (USA), a degree in International Law from Gumilyov Eurasian National University, a Master's degree in Geopolitics from University La Sapienza (Italy), and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the "Kokshe" Academy. He has participated in internships and training courses in public administration and public policy, HR management, and the management of technology in the USA, Singapore, Belgium, Japan, the Netherlands. From 2000-2001, Mr. Nurbek worked as assistant to Congressman Mark Smith (USA) and was employed by the Government of the State of Iowa. From 2006-2009, he worked on investment projects of JSC "Sustainable Development Fund Kazyna," served as Head of the HR Policy Division of the Administration of the President of Kazakhstan, Vice-Rector of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan, and as Executive Director and Department Director of HR policy of the JSC "National Welfare Fund Samruk- Kazyna." In September 2009, Mr. Nurbek was appointed as Director of the National School of Public Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Between 2010 and 2013, he served as President of the JSC "Center for International Programs." Mr. Nurbek presently serves as Director of the Institute of Public Policy, a think tank affiliated with the ruling Nur Otan Party. He speaks Kazakh, Russian, English, Turkish, Italian, Spanish, Japanese and Latin and is married with two children.



Ambassador John Ordway

Ambassador John Ordway is a retired Foreign Service Officer who served as Ambassador to Kazakhstan (2004-2008) and to Armenia (2001-2004). He was Director of African Affairs at the National Security Council during the first Bush Administration, as well as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow from 1999-2001. More recently he was Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, Austria from May to July 2009; in Sofia, Bulgaria from August to November 2009; in Kathmandu, Nepal from December 2009 to January 2010 and in Prague, Czech Republic from May to October 2010. Ambassador Ordway graduated from Stanford University and the University of California's Hastings College of Law before entering the Foreign Service in 1975. He also did a year of graduate study in Soviet and Eastern European Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Ambassador Ordway has an extensive background in the Soviet and post-Soviet world. He is a fluent Russian speaker, has traveled extensively in the region, and served twice at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow (1985-1987 and 1996-2001). In Washington, he served twice in the Office of Soviet Union Affairs. Ambassador Ordway participated in the U.S. negotiating team that resolved the Angola-Namibia conflict. He continued to develop expertise in conflict resolution during his assignment to the U.S. Mission to NATO, as a U.S. member of the Alliance's Political Committee. Ambassador Ordway has received numerous State Department awards. He was the runner-up for the 2008 Charles Cobb Award, and received awards from the American Chambers of Commerce in Russia, Armenia and Kazakhstan. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. In addition to Russian, his languages include Czech, Italian, French, Spanish, German and basic Armenian and Kazakh.



Ambassador Zurab Pataradze

Ambassador Zurab Pataradze was born in 1973 in Batumi, Georgia. He received his Faculty of Finance and Credits, with the qualification, Economist, from Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University in 1994. In 2007, he graduated from Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University with a Bachelor's degree in Law. Ambassador Pataradze began his career in 1994, as a Senior Inspector at the Batumi Branch Office of the Savings Bank. From 1996-2000, he worked as an inspector for the Department of Criminal Police at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Adjara Autonomous Republic. In April 2000, he began his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, working first as a Main Specialist at the Foreign Policy Research and Analysis Center; then as II Secretary of the Visa Policy and Foreign Relations Division; and later as II Secretary in the General Consular Affairs Division of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2004-2009, he worked in the Embassy of Georgia in the Russian Federation. In 2009, Ambassador Pataradze worked as a Consul in the Georgian Interests Section of the Swiss Confederation Embassy in Russian Federation and then later that year, as an Advisor in the Consular Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. From 2009-2010, he worked as Consul General at the Consulate General of Georgia in Thessaloniki, Greece. In 2011, Ambassador Pataradze served as Ambassador at Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2011-2013, he served first as Consul General at the Consulate General of Georgia in Istanbul, Turkey and later as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Turkey. Currently Ambassador Pataradze serves as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. He holds the Diplomatic Rank of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.



Mr. Drew Peterson

Mr. Drew Peterson is a Foreign Service Officer serving as Deputy Cultural Attaché and Vice Consul at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan. He joined the Foreign Service in 2012 after working for the Department of State as a Pickering Fellow in Vilnius, Lithuania, and at the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the Foreign Service he was the Chief Strategy Officer of a non-profit corporation that promotes multilateral citizen diplomacy. Mr. Peterson holds a Bachelor's degree in International Politics from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and a Master's degree in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies from Harvard University, where his thesis research focused on defense cooperation between the Soviet Union and India. He speaks French and Russian. He currently lives in Astana, Kazakhstan, with his wife, who works remotely as a city planning consultant.



Mr. Mel Richmond

Mr. Mel Richmond is a founding Partner of New Magellan Venture Partners, LLC (NMV). Throughout a 35-year government career, he successfully built, managed and led numerous programs of national importance and myriad high-performing organizations varying from as few as 30 to well over 1500 people. Prior to joining NMV in September 2009, Mr. Richmond was the Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs and the Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Asia-Pacific. From 1996 to 2005, he served in the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office as the Chief of Staff and Senior Director for Policy. From May 1994 until June 1995, Mr. Richmond led U.S. activities in Vietnam to account for U.S. serviceman still missing from the Vietnam War. Mr. Richmond retired from the United States Army in September 2000 at the rank of Colonel following 26 years of service. During his service in the Army and as a DOD civilian, he was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Secretary

of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award and the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award. He also received the 1998 Paul H. Nitze Award for excellence in International Security Affairs. Mr. Richmond holds a Master of Military Science for Operational Art and a Master of Military Science in History from the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University. He also attended MIT's program, Seminar XXI: Foreign Politics, International Relations, and the National Interest.



Mr. Revaz Sakvarelidze

Mr. Revaz Sakvarelidze was born in 1982 in Tbilisi, Georgia. He graduated from Ivane Javakhishvili State University of Tbilisi in 2004 where he received his LL.M. From 2007-2009, he attended the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs where he graduated with a Master's degree in Business Administration. Mr. Sakvarelidze has also received several certificates from various international training courses and programs. From 2006-2007, he worked as the Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. From 2007-2011, he worked first as the III Secretary, and later as the II Secretary at the Department of International Organizations of the UN Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. From 2011-2012, he worked as a Counsellor at the Embassy of Georgia in the Republic of Belarus. Since 2013, Mr. Sakvarelidze has worked as a Counsellor at the Embassy of Georgia in the Republic of Kazakhstan.



Dr. Marat Shaikhutdinov

Dr. Marat Shaikhutdinov graduated with honors from the Karaganda State University in 1982, receiving a degree as a historian, and teacher of History and Social Science. From 1982-1990, he worked as Secretary of the Komsomol Committee of Karaganda mining college; Instructor Erementau Communist party of Kazakhstan, Tselinograd oblast; and Head of the Cabinet of Political Education of the Communist party Committee of the plant. From 1990-1994, he served as Junior Researcher of the Center of Social Sciences of the Central-Kazakhstan branch of the Academy of Science of the Kazakh SSR; Head of SPC "Otrar" and later, Head of the Department of Unification on the Implementation of Research and Development at the Central Kazakhstan branch of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. From 1994-2005, he worked as President of AIC "Sary-Arka" (Akmola city); President of CJSC "Miras" (Astana city); and Director of the Kazakhstan-Russian University (Astana city). From 2005-2007, he worked as Chief Inspector of the Secretariat of the State Secretary of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Deputy Head of the Center of Foreign Policy of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. From 2007-2009, he served as Director of the Institute of World Economy and Policy under the Fund of the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; and Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Policy Analysis and Forecasting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Since September 2014, he has worked as Deputy Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Dr. Shaikhutdinov is a Doctor and Professor of Historical Sciences. He was awarded with the state award, the 'order of Kurmet' in 2009, and is married with three children.



Mr. Mitsuhiko Tatsuno

Mr. Mitsuhiko Tatsuno is President and CEO of Tatsuno Central Asia LLC, established in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He is currently engaged in the management of many companies including Tatsuno Corporation, the parent company of the above-mentioned subsidiary. The Xinjiang Tatsuno Trading Company, one of the Tatsuno Corporation's subsidiaries, has been operating a shopping mall in Urumqi for more than 16 years and the corporation is well-known as a successful Japanese enterprise

in the Silk Road area. Before he joined his family business, Mr. Tatsuno worked as a Senior staff member at Sumitomo Corporation, one of the biggest trading companies in Japan. Both in his previous and current career, he has been working internationally, mainly in the U.S., Europe, China, South/East and Central Asia. He studied at a German high school, *Neue Nikolaischule*, in Leipzig and attended study programs in Fudan University, Shanghai and Oriel College, Oxford. He received his Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo. He speaks Japanese, English and German and is very much interested in enhancing relations between Japan and the Central Asian countries.



Dr. Joseph Tham

Dr. Joseph Tham is a Visiting Associate Professor at the Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University and the Duke Center for International Development (DCID). At DCID, Professor Shukla and Dr. Tham are the co-directors of the 19-week Executive Development Program in Public Policy and Management for senior government officials for the State Administration for Foreign Experts Affairs, People's Republic of China. Dr. Tham is also the director of the Executive Education Program for senior government officials from the Academy of Administration in Kazakhstan. His main research interests are cost benefit analysis, broadly defined, as well as applied risk analysis and econometric forecasting models. He has been working on the improvement of infrastructure investments in the public sector and is currently examining the issue of market-based tariff regulation in the power sector in developing countries. At Duke University and developing countries around the world, Dr. Tham teaches courses and workshops on project appraisal and empirical analysis for economic development. His numerous papers on cash flow valuation, project evaluation, cost of capital and risk analysis are available on the website of the Social Science Research Network. Dr. Tham has worked in Indonesia, Vietnam, India, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, China, Guatemala, Malaysia, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Georgia and Zambia.



Ms. Saule Tokkozhina

Ms. Saule Tokkozhina was born in 1979 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in 2001, receiving a degree as an expert in international economic relations. Ms. Tokkozhina has been on Kazakhstan's diplomatic service since September 2001, first as an Attaché and later as Third Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation and at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE in Vienna. In 2005 she worked as Second Secretary of International Relations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. Since February of 2012, she has worked as the First Secretary of the Department of the Americas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. Ms. Tokkozhina holds the diplomatic rank of Second Secretary of First Class. She speaks English, French and German and is married with two children.



Mr. Emil Umetaliev

Mr. Emil Umetaliev is the President of Kyrgyz Concept Ltd. in Bishkek, a leading tourist company which offers full business and tourist service for the Kyrgyz Republic and beyond. Mr. Umetaliev has also held government positions, including serving as Minister of Economic Regulation from 2010-2011 and Head of the State Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic from 1995-1996. In addition, Mr. Umetaliev is currently a member of the Working Group of the Council of Defense of Kyrgyzstan to monitor the implementation of the State Strategy for anti-corruption policy, the Working Commission to Deregulate the Economy of the

President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and The Public Chamber for Development of Economics and Business at the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Umetaliev is a Co-founder of the Bishkek Business Club, as well as a Co-founder and Chair of the Advisory Board of the European School in Central Asia. Mr. Umetaliev has been awarded numerous awards including the Honorary Reward of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic (2003), Businessman of the Year (2005), Best Tour Operator of the Kyrgyz Republic (2008), and the “Danaker” (Peacekeeper) Order (2011). Mr. Umetaliev attended Kyrgyz National University where he received a degree in Applied Mathematics.



Mr. Azim Usmanov

Mr. Azim Usamov is currently a partner of Colibri Law Firm and is in charge of the Kazakhstan practice. Mr. Usamov has established and managed two full-fledged legal practices in two countries for ten years. Prior to working at Colibri Law Firm, Mr. Usamov worked for several years at “Kazkommertzbank” Kyrgyzstan as Head of the Audit Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors, and at “KazkommertzInvest” JSC as Managing Director. He also has experience working as Head of the Audit Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors for “ZUM Holdings.” From 2001 to 2011, Mr. Usamov worked at Grata Law Firm, first as an Associate, then Senior Associate, and later as Partner. He graduated from KRSU Law Faculty with a degree in Administrative and Tax Law in 2001. His main areas of expertise are securities and mining. His recent activities include advising a major European Toll Road operator, working on Bridge Financing Transaction for a major telecom operator and consulting a leading Islamic bank on financial transactions with local finance institutions.