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Regional Forum 2014

Astana





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WHAT IS THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM?



What is CAMCA?

The CAMCA Regional Forum is dedicated to promoting region-wide discussions on how to advance economic growth and development in the heart of Eurasia (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) to fulfill the individual and regional potential of these countries. It promotes this goal by fostering dialogue and interaction among rising young leaders from all sectors of life in the 10 countries of the region, as well as international stakeholders. We believe that the region must find and affirm its own identity and model of economic, political, and social development and that greater communication and collaboration among talented young leaders from a full range of fields will help to achieve these goals.

The CAMCA Regional Forum has evolved out of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, which has been bringing rising young leaders from the region to Washington, D.C. since 2008.

The 2014 CAMCA Regional Forum in Astana will discuss ongoing economic, political and social developments in the region and beyond, the importance of the region's movement towards freer economic and political systems to benefit its more than 113 million people, as well as the significance of fashioning an environment that is hospitable to investment, including respect for the rule of law, reduction of corruption, competitive tax and trade policies and ease of movement of people and products among the countries.

ABOUT ASTANA

Astana is the capital city of the Republic of Kazakhstan, its name standing for the word “capital” in the Kazakh language. Over the past decade, Astana has justified its name by becoming a central city of the country with vast population growth and architectural splendor. Kazakhstan’s capital is a thriving hub for international travelers, businessmen, and investors. Located in the heart of Eurasia, Astana’s central location serves as a natural crossroads where global markets, commerce, and institutions of the East and West converge. Since Astana was named the new capital of Kazakhstan in 1997, the city has flourished, drawing in young Kazakh professionals, as well as numerous international professionals, working on large-scale projects in the country’s oil and gas sector, and international visitors attending global conferences hosted within its limits.

Astana serves as Kazakhstan’s center for international communications and relations. Several important international forums have been hosted in Astana, among them such prominent meetings as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Summit in 2010, the 38th Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers in 2011, the Congress of World and Traditional Religions since 2003, and the Asian Games in 2011 (together with Almaty).

Another significant upcoming global initiative focused in Astana is EXPO 2017. Selected by the International Exhibitions Bureau, Astana will host and develop a unique platform for testing new ideas, sharing experiences and nurturing new-generation professionals around the Expo’s theme, “Future Energy.” Over 100 countries and 6 international organizations are expected to participate in EXPO 2017, and visitors from around the world are expected to number over 5 million.

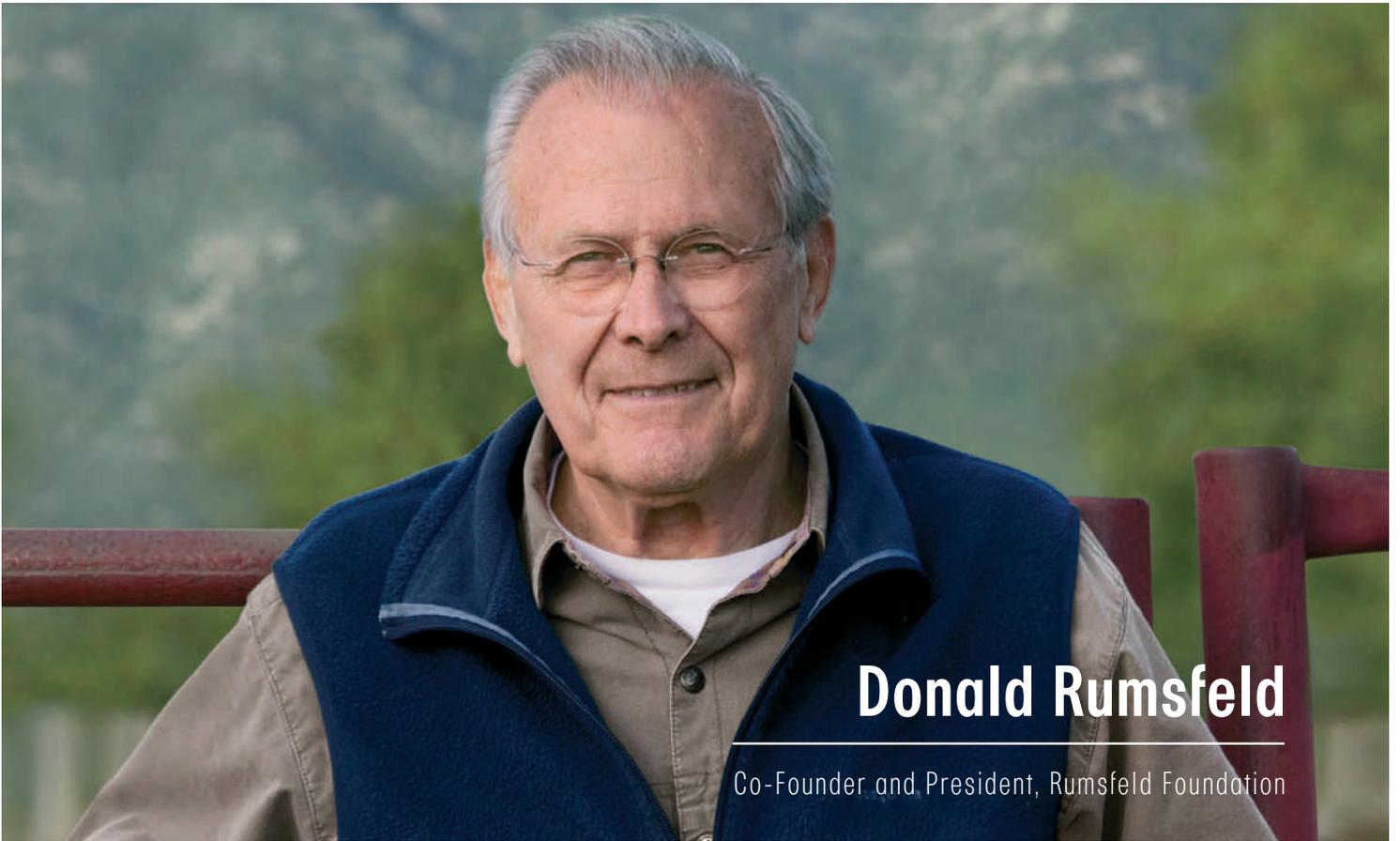


The city’s dynamic growth and expansion is also reflected in Astana’s striking skyline filled with impressive landmarks and captivating architectural sights. The most renowned of these landmarks is the iconic Baiterek Tower located in the city’s center. Visitors can take in the picturesque city panorama from the tower’s 97-meter viewing platform, chosen to signify the year in which the new capital was established.

Aside from the Baiterek Tower, Astana boasts many other interesting attractions, many of which were designed by world-famous architects like Norman Foster and Manfredi Nicoletti. These impressive sights include the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, the unique transparent tent of the Khan-Shatyr Entertainment Center, the Atameken Outdoor Museum, the Duman Entertainment Complex, the Nur-Astana Mosque, the second largest mosque in Central Asia, and many more.

Over the last twelve years, Astana has tripled both its territory and population, with thousands of new companies working successfully in the vibrant capital city. Much like its impressive modern skyline, the vision of Kazakhstan’s capital and its citizens continue to look toward the future. It is no wonder why Astana is known today as the “Central Asian phenomenon.”





Donald Rumsfeld

Co-Founder and President, Rumsfeld Foundation

“ Welcome to the 2014 CAMCA Regional Forum in Astana. We are delighted you are able to attend this important event. Over the years, I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to travel throughout the Central Asia-Caucasus region. Throughout my travels, I have always been greatly impressed by the talent and potential that exists within these countries. I had also been disappointed with the lack of linkages that exist between the region and the United States.

For that reason, when my wife, Joyce, and I established the Rumsfeld Foundation in 2007, we decided one of our key focus areas would be providing fellowships for rising young leaders from the region to visit our country. In partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University, we have done so and have now had 12 successful fellowship sessions bringing over 100 impressive young leaders from the region to the United States.

As our Fellowship Program has developed, I have come to realize that there is another benefit of our Program beyond familiarizing young leaders from the region with the United States, and in turn, better informing Americans about these important countries. This benefit, likely the most significant, is the unique network that is developing among our alumni from the 10 countries.

It is in service to this growing and influential network that we are delighted to host the 2014 CAMCA Regional Forum in Astana. We hope the Forum will provide an opportunity for increased dialogue and interaction among the people of the region.

After spending time with our network of talented young leaders, I am confident that with their growing collaboration, the futures of the CAMCA countries are bright.

Thank you for your participation. I hope you enjoy the Forum. ”

Donald Rumsfeld



Dr. S. Frederick Starr

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

“Meet the “CAMCA Forum,” a new and unique platform for contact and discussion among the rising leaders of all sectors of society in Eurasia’s heartland. Founded by the participants themselves and supported by the Rumsfeld Foundation, the CAMCA Forum traces its origins to the Rumsfeld Fellowship program, which brings together promising young men and women from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan, and Mongolia for periods of intense study, interaction with American officials and prominent persons from many fields. When the number of alumni of this program passed 100, they decided they would like to meet annually to discuss issues of common interest and concern, especially those concerning their region as a whole. After two such reunions, held in Batumi, Georgia and Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, the participants decided they wanted to invite non-Fellows from throughout the region and abroad to attend and participate in separate sessions from the reunions themselves. This was the origins of the “Central Asia, Mongolia, Caucasus and Afghanistan” Forum.

The CAMCA Forum reflects the deepest convictions of the over 100 men and women who founded it. Their view is unapologetically positive. Like them, the CAMCA Forum foresees a regional future richer in possibilities than problems, illuminated more by prospects than impediments. The CAMCA Forum is a gathering of those committed to seizing the possibilities and realizing the prospects. And like the societies that are its focus, the Forum turns with special interest and hope to younger leaders in such sectors as business, communications, technology, and civic initiative, as well as government.

CAMCA members from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan, and Mongolia invite business, civic, and governmental leaders from within the region and worldwide to join in their deliberations, both as auditors and contributors. From their innovative gatherings emerge new ideas and relationships that help build market economies and open systems of government throughout the region. The Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program in Washington and Stockholm have been closely involved from the outset with both the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program and the CAMCA Forum. It is my honor, as Chairman, to join Secretary Rumsfeld and Foreign Minister Idryssov in welcoming you to the 2014 CAMCA Forum.

”

Dr. S. Frederick Starr



Erlan Idrissov

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

“ Dear Fellows and participants of the Forum,

It is with great pleasure that I am welcoming you in Kazakhstan. Indeed, it is an honor to have this Forum at the heart of Eurasia, capital of Kazakhstan, Astana. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and myself I would like to express our gratitude to Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, a true friend of our country, for his steadfast friendship and support and for the noble activity of the Rumsfeld Foundation.

Today, Kazakhstan and the United States enjoy fruitful bilateral relations. Astana and Washington are proved to be true strategic partners since our independence more than twenty years ago. Ever since the early 1990s we have cooperated in each and every vital sphere – trade and energy, defense and security, science and technologies, culture and education. As President Obama stated, “Kazakhstan is a leader in Central Asia thanks to the wise economic and international politics conducted by the President Nursultan Nazarbayev.”

As part of our comprehensive cooperation, the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program along with the Greater Central Asia initiative demonstrate the United States’ continuing support to emerging democracies in the Caucasus, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Central Asia. Giving young people a chance to find new ways for self-improvement by developing communication skills and getting better knowledge of international relations, geopolitics, economics and global security cannot be overestimated.

Kazakhstan, on its part, can play a role of a unique platform for dialogue on a wide range of issues. As you might know, we have hosted a number of events of great importance, such as 5+1 negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program, the triennial Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, the World Islamic Economic Forum, the Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the recent signing of the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty, to name but a few.

We are happy to have the representatives of our Government invited to the Forum. I hope they can share their experience with you by presenting Kazakhstan’s economic and political development trends. So I am confident that discussions at the CAMCA Regional Forum would be a success.

I wish you extremely interesting discussions at this Forum and I hope you enjoy your stay in Astana.

”

Best regards,
Minister Erlan Idrissov

ABOUT THE RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP

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Spring 2012 Fellows with Dr. Henry Kissinger and Donald Rumsfeld

The Rumsfeld Foundation has partnered with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University to establish the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program. The program was launched in the fall of 2008 to bring individuals from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Mongolia to pursue research projects and establish ties with their counterparts in the United States.

Over a period of six weeks, each group of Fellows meets with policy makers, business leaders, journalists, academics, non-governmental organizations, and regional experts to better understand how opinion making, decision making, policy making and policy implementation processes work in Washington, D.C. Another goal of the program is to foster

better understanding and build stronger relations between the United States and countries of the region, as well as among the people of the countries of the region.

As of June 2014, after 12 successful fellowship sessions, there have been a total of 102 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 Pittinger, Robert Aderholt, Eni Faleomavaega; U.S. Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito; Senior Federal Judge Laurence Silberman, and Presidents of the World Bank Robert Zoellick and Paul Wolfowitz.



Fall 2008 Fellows with Francis Fukuyama, Political Scientist and Author



Spring 2009 Fellows with Donald Rumsfeld



Fall 2009 Fellows with Senator Richard Lugar

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



Spring 2014 Fellows with Major General Tony Cucolo, at the U.S. Army War College

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, 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 sports team 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



Spring 2010 Fellows with Fred Hiatt, Editorial Page Editor of the Washington Post

Painter, President and CEO of N12 Technologies Brad Berkson, American businessman and philanthropist Edward Scott, and many others. They have also met with representatives from The Boeing Company, BP, The Carlyle Group, Coca-Cola, Hunt Oil, McKinsey & Co., as well as the leadership of the American Beverage Association and the America Petroleum Institute.

In journalism, groups have met with Chairman of the Board of the Washington Post Company Donald Graham, Washington Post Editorial Page Editor Fred Hiatt, 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, and Juan Williams, Pulitzer Prize winning syndicated columnists Charles Krauthammer and George Will, and American radio talk show host Laura Ingraham.



Fall 2010 Fellows with General James Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

ABOUT THE RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP



Spring 2011 Fellows with General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force



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

They have also met with former President of the United States George W. Bush, former Vice President Richard B. Cheney, former Prime Minister of Spain Jose Maria Aznar; former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Dr. Alan Greenspan; Secretaries of Defense William Cohen and Donald Rumsfeld; Secretaries of Commerce, Education, Energy, Labor, and Transportation Carlos Gutierrez, Samuel Bodman, Bill Bennett, Elaine Chao, Ann Korologos, and Ray LaHood; former Directors of the CIA John Negroponte and James Woolsey; former National Security Advisers Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski and Stephen Hadley, as well as former Governor of Indiana Mitch Daniels, along

with many others. Each group also meets with members of the current Administration including representatives of the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of State, National Security Council staff and many others.

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



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



Fall 2012 Fellows with Dr. Charles Krauthammer, Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist



Spring 2013 Fellows with Lynne Cheney, author and former 2nd Lady of the United States

Joyce Rumsfeld, 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, 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 think tanks and universities.

The last ten groups have also traveled to cities including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Philadelphia, San Diego and New Orleans for high-level meetings, offering



Fall 2013 Fellows with the U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito



Spring 2013 Fellows with Carlos Gutierrez, former Secretary of Commerce

ABOUT THE RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP

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 American democracy and what is being done at the local level. Over the last few years, groups have visited Charlotte (North Carolina), Columbus (Ohio), Helena (Montana), Huntsville (Alabama), Kansas City (Missouri), Memphis (Tennessee), Miami (Florida), Phoenix (Arizona), Reno (Nevada), St. Louis (Missouri), and Tulsa (Oklahoma). These programs offer information as to how local communities and governments work with businesses, civil organizations, and individuals to bring benefits to the American economy and society.

In addition to the group program, in order to accommodate the professional interests of each Fellow, the program assists them in arranging individual meetings with officials and experts to enable them to focus specifically on their individual research interests.



Fall 2013 Fellows on the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70)



Spring 2013 Fellows with Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. National Security Adviser



Spring 2014 Fellows at the reception hosted by Ambassador Kairat Umarov at the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Washington D.C.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



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 the communication and networking among the business leaders of Kyrgyzstan. In addition, Mr. Abakirov was elected as Chairman of Supervisory Board of the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, as well as the Chairman of Kyrgyz Software and Services Developers Association. Mr. Abakirov holds a BA in Oriental Studies from the Kyrgyz National University in Bishkek (2002).



Dr. Nafisa Abdullaeva

Uzbekistan, Fall 2009

Dr. Nafisa Abdullaeva is the founder of three companies and has fifteen years of experience conducting seminars and trainings on organizing and managing business for leading companies in Uzbekistan. Since 2013 Dr. Abdullaeva has been a Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Rugby Federation of Uzbekistan. She is also 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, legal consultations on insurance, bankruptcy, and voluntary liquidation matters. Dr. Abdullaeva is the head of the "Business Law" chair at the High Business School, where high and middle level governmental officials and managers are educated. Dr. Abdullaeva is an author of more than 30 publications on insurance law in Uzbekistan and abroad. Prior to her current position, Dr. Abdullaeva served as the Deputy Project Manager of the "Parliamentary Development Assistance" project in Uzbekistan. 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. She has also participated in women entrepreneurs' courses at Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center, Israel (2014), diplomatic courses at Cairo State University, Egypt (2005) and carried out research from 1999-2008 when she taught at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.



Hikmat Abdurahmanov

Uzbekistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Hikmat Abdurahmanov is a Head of a commercial group of companies with a core staff of 70 people involved in international business, including business tourism, trade, finance, logistics, and advisory services for local small and medium enterprises. Countries of cooperation include China, EU, USA and other export oriented markets offering highly competitive technologies and equipment for Uzbekistan. Under Mr. Abdurahmanov's supervision, this successful company was established from scratch in 2006 and has brought mini-technologies for almost \$100 million for SME's comprising more than 1,000 executed contracts. With the help of their activity, over 3,000 Uzbek business executives and government officials visited foreign trade shows, factories, forums etc. In recent achievements, the U.S.-Uzbek business cooperation can be named, including a signed agreement with the Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan and the U.S. Department of Commerce on facilitation of business tours for local entrepreneurs to the U.S. Another achievement is building and launching an Industrial Business Center named TechnoPlaza in Tashkent that is working as a business incubator for local SME's in their international business initiatives. Currently, Mr. Abdurahmanov acts as a Chairman of the newly established Association for International Business & Technologies of Uzbekistan. 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 (2006) in International Business from the School of Management at St. Andrews in the UK.



Dr. David Abesadze

Georgia, Fall 2008

Dr. David Abesadze is a Deputy Director of the Political Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. He formerly served as a Senior Counselor at the Mission of Georgia to the European Union and Head of the Policy Analysis Division in the Political Department of the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2005-2010, Dr. Abesadze was an assistant professor of Social and Political Studies 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 University and Georgetown University, and from 2004-2005 was a visiting scholar at George Washington University. Areas of his interest include foreign policy, national security, politics of development, and religion-politics relationship. Dr. Abesadze is the author of several publications, among them a recent article titled "Religious Systems and the Secular-religious Cleavage: Turkey and Western Europe Compared," as well as one of the authors of the Policy Paper "Georgia's Black Sea Policy: Forging Black Sea Identity."

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Dr. Alisher Abidjanov

Uzbekistan, Spring 2009

Dr. Alisher Abidjanov is the Deputy Director of the Republican Scientific-Practical Centre of Developing the Innovational Methods for Teaching Foreign Languages under the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages. From 2003-2007, he served as a Program Coordinator at the University of Washington office in Tashkent. He holds a BA, MA and PhD in Philosophy from the National University of Uzbekistan, where he taught courses in Philosophy of Law, Political Philosophy, and Theory of Civil Society as an Associate Professor at the School of Philosophy of the National University of Uzbekistan. 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. In 2010, he became a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Central and Inner Asian Dialogue. From September 2009-July 2010, Dr. Abidjanov was a Fulbright Scholar at SAIS at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. During the 2002-2003 academic year and spring of 2004, he was a visiting research professor at George Washington University, affiliated with the Research Program in Social and Organizational Learning. In spring 2005, he was a Visiting Scholar at Princeton University and from 2011-2012 academic year taught at Constantine the Philosopher University (Slovakia). In 2013 he established a private educational center. He is an author of numerous articles, some of which he co-authored with Dr. Laura Adams of Harvard University.



Ovez Agayev

Turkmenistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Ovez Agayev is a Senior Client Contracts Analyst with Schlumberger Logelco Inc. in Turkmenistan. He is responsible for pre-award and post-award management, drafting and negotiating client 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 holds a BS in Economics and Law from the Turkmen Institute of National Economy (2000) and Master of Laws (LLM) in Asian and Comparative Law from the University of Washington, School of Law in Seattle, Washington (2007). He studied Economics as an exchange student at the Bemidji State University in Bemidji, MN, from 1997-1998. Mr. Agayev has nearly a decade of experience in the areas of legal and tax consulting, advising multinational oil and gas, energy, service, construction and other companies on several issues, including legal, tax, corporate, employment and others. Mr. Agayev's career began at Arthur Andersen in 1999, where he worked on tax consulting projects and participated in audits of companies in the energy, banking, oil and gas, and manufacturing sectors in Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan. He later joined Deloitte by interning at the Seattle office of the international tax group, Deloitte Tax LLP, where he concentrated on international tax compliance, research, consulting and planning issues. Upon returning to Turkmenistan in 2008, Mr. Agayev assisted in establishing the first Deloitte practice in Turkmenistan as a senior legal and tax consultant. Mr. Agayev is also committed to voluntary public service.



Hanifa Ahmadov

Azerbaijan, Fall 2010

Mr. Hanifa Ahmadov is the Head of the working group/division for the Baku International Humanitarian Forum of the Humanitarian Policy Issues Department of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The objectives of the Baku International Humanitarian Forum are to consider the humanitarian aspect of new challenges of the 21st century and bring together representatives of the natural, economic and humanitarian sciences, as well as the cultural elite, from around the world to hold dialogues, exchange views, and discuss a wide range of global issues in the interests of all humanity. Mr. Ahmadov previously served as Deputy Head of the Department for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, where he was responsible for international relations and cooperation regarding issues of labor and social protection of the population. From 2006-2011, 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).



Azamat Akelev

Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2011

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 and foundations such as Bosch Group, World Bank, GIZ, Eurasia Foundation, JICA and USAID. 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. At the same time, Mr. Akelev chairs the Public Supervisory Board at the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic and 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 simultaneously 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). In 2010, Mr. Akelev won AUCA's award for the best alumni of the business administration department.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



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 the Industry Development Division at the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning of Kazakhstan, where he was part of a team responsible for developing the strategic goals, priorities and the major directions of economic developments of industry and space activities in the country. Before that, Mr. Akhmatov was the Head of Strategic Analysis and Planning Division at the National Space Agency of Kazakhstan (Kazcosmos). In this capacity he worked on drafting the "Law on Space" of Kazakhstan, 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).



Beka Aladashvili

Georgia, Fall 2009

Mr. Beka Aladashvili is Head of the Defense Policy and Planning Department at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Prior to his current position, 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 and Deputy Head of Defense Policy and Planning Department, Head of the Defense Policy Division, Deputy Head of the Defense Policy Division, and as a Senior Specialist in national security affairs. From 2001-2002, Mr. Aladashvili was a Senior Specialist in the Department of Demography at the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. 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. In 2010-2011 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). Currently he is pursuing his PhD in Political Science at the Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia.



Kakhorjon Aminov

Tajikistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Kakhorjon Aminov is an Economic Officer with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), where he is responsible for policy dialogue, budget support programs, and designing and implementing technical assistance projects supporting the government. In this position he also provides key inputs to ADB country partnership strategy in Tajikistan and leads the formulation of operations business plans, as well as facilitates knowledge management and participates in policy dialogue with the government of Tajikistan. His previous experience with ADB included serving as a Project Coordinator/Policy Advisor for the project on supporting the government of Tajikistan to implement Private Sector Development Strategy. Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Aminov worked for USAID projects including Small and Medium Enterprises throughout Central Asia where he identified competitive advantages of local business enterprises and developed effective business solutions. Mr. Aminov holds a BA in Commercial Law at the State University of Commerce in Tajikistan (2002), a certificate in Political Science from the New York State University in Oswego, NY (2002), a MA in International Economics from the Kazakh Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (2004), a MS in Development Economics and Policy from the Institute of Development Management and Policy at the University of Manchester (2007) and the Hansard Research Scholars Program diploma in Democracy and Public Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (2007).



Dr. Umid Aripdjanov

Uzbekistan, Fall 2013

Dr. Umid Aripdjanov is one of the founding partners at Colibri Law Firm, which provides integrated legal, tax, and business services for inbound foreign investors throughout all of Central Asia, Mongolia and the Caucasus. Dr. Aripdjanov has more than 15 years of legal experience, specifically in the subsoil sector. He has advised on multi-billion investments and project finance transactions related to upstream, midstream and downstream petroleum operations, mining, cement and petrochemical industries in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Recently, Dr. Aripdjanov has also advised foreign clients on investor-state arbitrations. Prior to co-founding Colibri Law Firm in 2011, Dr. Aripdjanov worked for another law firm with a focus on foreign investments. He also worked for the USAID-funded project on Trade Facilitation (WTO Accession Program) and Enterprise Development. In addition, Dr. Aripdjanov has taught business law modules at Westminster International University in Tashkent, guest-lectured at Tashkent State Institute of Law and worked as a lead expert at the Institute of Monitoring of Acting Legislation under the Parliament of Uzbekistan. From 2006-2014, Dr. Aripdjanov has been recognized as the "top-ranked" business lawyer by Chambers Global, Legal 500, Who's Who Legal, and Best Lawyers directories. Dr. Aripdjanov holds a Law Degree (1997) and PhD (2001) from Tashkent State Institute of Law, and as a Muskie Fellow received his LLM from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio (2002).

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Baktybek Asanov

Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2010

Mr. Baktybek Asanov is the Vice President and COO at Tatsuno Central Asia LLC, a joint venture with Tatsuno Corporation of Japan. He is also an Adviser to the Head of Secretariat of 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, and establishing regional investment councils to improve investment climates in the regions. 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. Since 2009, Mr. Asanov has been a Member of the Bishkek Business Club and has also been teaching a course on Strategic Management at the Kyrgyz National University since September 2011. 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).



Ashir Ashirov

Turkmenistan, Spring 2010

Mr. Ashir Ashirov is currently an independent researcher. Most recently, he has conducted a number of research and consulting jobs with EU entities such as PASOS, a Czech think tank; Control Risks, a UK consulting company; and NUPI, a Norwegian think tank. Mr. Ashirov also worked for the UK NGO "TIRI – Making Integrity Work," coordinating its Integrity Education Network Program in Europe and Central Asia at Jerusalem's TIRI Office. Prior to that, he worked on the staff of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime where he oversaw over 15 diverse operational projects in Turkmenistan and before that for the OSCE Center in Ashgabat. Mr. Ashirov holds a BA in Oriental and Iranian Studies from Turkmen State University (2001) and an MS in Environment and GIS studies from Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration (2006), where he was a Tempus Fellow (EU). He also undertook further graduate studies in Political Science and International Relations at the OSCE Academy and the Kyrgyz Republic's Diplomatic Academy. Additionally, Mr. Ashirov undertook professional trainings at the Geneva Center for Security Policy and Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, VA, as well as completed the International Anti-Corruption Summer School at the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Austria (2011).



Kuban Ashyrkulov

Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2010

Mr. Kuban Ashyrkulov is the General Director of Andash Mining Company LTD. In addition to his General Director's duties, he is also involved in negotiations with high profile officials and stakeholders representing the mining business community in Kyrgyzstan. He previously served as an Executive Director of the International Business Council (IBC), one of the largest and most respected business intermediary organizations in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Ashyrkulov is an active member of the Business and Investment Development Council under the Government of Kyrgyzstan, where he represents the interests of large investor groups. Prior to IBC, he worked for the OSCE office in Bishkek, where he implemented projects on economic security, environmental safety, and good governance. Mr. Ashyrkulov also has vast experience in the tourism development business. While working for the Swiss International Development Association, HELVETAS, he developed the concept of "community based tourism" and implemented it throughout different parts of Kyrgyzstan. 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).



Bayram Atayev

Turkmenistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Bayram Atayev is a crude oil professional, responsible for sales of crude oil in the Caspian and Gulf region for Dragon Oil Holdings (UK/UAE), a Dubai based and LSE listed upstream oil company. Dragon Oil Holdings is the largest independent crude oil exporter in Turkmenistan, producing from the offshore oil fields in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea. Mr. Atayev is responsible for negotiations and operational management of crude oil contracts worth more than \$2 billion a year. Mr. Atayev has more than 10 years of experience in the Oil & Gas industry as well as professional certificates from Oxford Princeton (Oxford, UK), Intercontinental Exchange, ICE (London, UK) and Insurance Business School (Moscow, Russia). Prior to focusing on the Oil & Gas sector, Mr. Atayev held different positions in 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). Mr. Atayev speaks Turkmen, Russian and English.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Dulguun Baasandavaa

Mongolia, Spring 2013

Mr. Dulguun Baasandavaa is a Vice President at Tenger Capital, a brokerage and investment-banking arm of Tenger Financial Group. He also serves as a Board Member of the Mongolian Business Development Association. Prior to joining Tenger Capital, Mr. Baasandavaa served as a Senior Financial Analyst and Assistant to 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 was one of the first to work with Nasdaq-Omx Group under the Mosdaq Project and London Stock Exchange Group in developing Mongolian capital markets. He is also a co-founder of NextGen, an initiative of Mongolian Business Development Association for young professionals. 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 three books from English to Mongolian: "Audacity of Hope" by President Barack Obama (2009), "Hot, Flat, and Crowded" by Thomas Friedman (2010), and "Energy Autonomy" by Hermann Scheer (2011). From 2011-2012 he studied Chinese in Beijing and Tianjin, and travelled extensively throughout China. Mr. Baasandavaa holds a BA in Economics and Mathematics from Connecticut College, Connecticut (2007). During his undergrad studies he completed a one-year study abroad program at the London School of Economics.



Dzhura Babaev

Tajikistan, Spring 2013

Mr. Dzhura Babaev is the CEO at Cokey Central Asia and Caucasus Ltd., a Japanese holding company that is currently pursuing investment opportunities in the Central Asia and Caucasus regions. Mr. Babaev is responsible for the overall management of the company and 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. Earlier in 2008, he served as the Head of Customer Services Department at CJSC Kazkommertsbank Tajikistan where he was responsible for significantly increasing the number of large corporate clients of the bank. From 2006 to 2008 he held the position of the Leading Specialist at the Department of Macroeconomic and Financial Statistics at the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan. During his tenure in the government, Mr. Babaev earned certificates for the IMF sponsored courses on Financial Planning and Analysis; Macroeconomic Management and Fiscal Policy; and Government Securities Markets. Mr. Babaev holds a BS in Economics from the Finance Academy under the Government of the Russian Federation (2006).



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, serving as a part-time co-coordinator at the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Kabul where 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 (ACG), a large professional trade and export company, where she handled administration and human resources for their Afghan and expat operations. Later she worked as the Administrative Manager for the USAID funded Central Asia Development Group, where she was a lead liaison between expat management and Afghan staff. This project was one of the largest public works programs in Afghanistan, providing employment to over 200,000 "at-risk" Afghans to build and repair critical rural and municipal infrastructure across the most insecure southern and eastern provinces of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, she continues to be involved with women's rights issues and has published articles on this topic including in "The Washington Post." She plans to pursue a MA in International Studies with a focus on Women's Rights from Georgetown University.



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 policies and the execution of strategic targets of the bank. Previously, Ms. Beishenalieva was a Chairperson of 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. In addition, Ms. Beishenalieva is President of the Rotary Club of Bishkek for the 2013-2014 term and will be responsible for various charity projects of the Club. She also founded the Association of Free Economic Zone (FEZ) Investors to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between FEZ investors and government agencies. For the last seven years, Ms. Beishenalieva has engaged in educational, cultural and social charity projects of the country. In 2013, she received a special award from the Mayor of the City of Bishkek and the Ministry of Social Protection for her contributions in social and economic life of the city. 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 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 the Harvard Business School (2014).

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Dr. Muhammadi Boboev

Tajikistan, Spring 2010

Dr. Muhammadi Boboev is the Deputy CEO of “Spitamenbank.” Until March 2014 he was a Member of the Supervisory Board at one of the largest Tajik commercial banks, “Agroinvestbank,” and Managing Director of the Bank in charge of International Relations, Reporting and Analysis. Dr. Boboev was also Chairman of the Board of the Tajik Branch of the Open Society Institute-Assistance Foundation, Board Director of Joint Arab-Tajik Leasing Company, “ASR-Leasing,” and a Senior Lecturer at the International Economic Relations Department of Tajik National University. Earlier in his career, he served as Head of Information and Analytical Directorate, Director, and Deputy Director of the International Financial Relations Department and a Head of Financial Institutions at “Agroinvestbank.” He has also been a National Consultant of the World Trade Organization and an Expert of the Asian Development Bank. 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 Slavic University (2003). In addition, 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 Academic Fellowship Program and a Senior Fellow of Central Asian Research and Training Initiative. He has attended various professional international training courses and is an author of numerous publications including the Asian Bank of Development Country Report, a textbook, and several articles.



Mansur Bustoni

Uzbekistan, Spring 2013

Mr. Mansur Bustoni is a transport sector specialist at the World Bank Group where he works on two large 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. From 2003 to 2007, Mr. Bustoni served as an assistant to the First Deputy Minister and later to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, focusing on Uzbekistan’s relations and cooperation with international finance institutions. In 2007, he interned at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. Since 2012, Mr. Bustoni has also been a Board Member and Treasurer at the Central Eurasian Leadership Academy. 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).



Tatyana Bystrushkina

Uzbekistan, Fall 2013

Ms. Tatyana Bystrushkina is the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Uzbekistan, a voluntary, independent association of business people and entities established in 1997 that unites foreign and Uzbek companies. As a Chief Administrative Officer of the organization she is responsible for developing and implementing services to support the interests of AmCham members, designing long-term strategy of the organization in accordance with the vision of the Board of Directors, representing the organization to the corporate and diplomatic communities in Uzbekistan, seeking to increase membership, organizing AmCham events, preparing AmCham publications and reports, supervising and training the staff, and handling other administrative, managerial and fiscal responsibilities in the office. On behalf of the organization, Ms. Bystrushkina also maintains a dialogue with the Government of Uzbekistan on a wide range of issues that affect the business community and investment climate in the country. Ms. Bystrushkina holds a BA in Philology as a teacher of English and French languages from the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages (2002) and a diploma in the intensive MBA type course (professional management program) offered by the Uzbekistan-Japan Center for Human Development and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Investment and Trade of Uzbekistan (2008). Ms. Bystrushkina is currently pursuing her MA in International Business at the Westminster International University in Tashkent.



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 to joining Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt and Mosle LLP, from 2005-2011 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. There she focused on PSC/License related issues, as well as the statutory, contractual, business and operational issues of the company in Turkmenistan. She was also involved in negotiations on gas sales agreements. In addition, Ms. Charyyeva has experience serving as a legal clerk and law enforcement officer in the judiciary of Turkmenistan. Ms. Charyyeva graduated from the 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) under the prestigious Chevening Scholarship sponsored by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Zarina Chekirbaeva

Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2012

Ms. Zarina Chekirbaeva is a HR and Administration Director at CJSC "Jerooyaltyn," a gold mining company based in Kyrgyzstan. She oversees eight departments, including legal, HR, CPR, and GR. Prior to joining "Jerooyaltyn" in June 2008, Ms. Chekirbaeva worked as a Public Outreach Coordinator at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic, managing the Ambassador's public outreach events and promoting exchange programs and grants. For several years, Ms. Chekirbaeva worked as a Civic Programming Training Coordinator at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs where she developed and implemented country-wide civic programs (election monitoring, advocacy trainings, parliamentary public hearings and lobby days). Ms. Chekirbaeva holds a BA in Business Administration from the American University of Central Asia (AUCA, 2002) and a MA in Public Administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (2006) where she had a full scholarship from the Asian Development Bank. She also received a Freeman Foundation Fellowship to participate in the graduate Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the East-West Center in Hawaii (2006). Ms. Chekirbaeva is an active member of the AUCA Alumni Council, and one of the founders of the April Relief Fund, established in 2010 to help the victims of tragic events in Kyrgyzstan. Since November 2013, Ms. Chekirbaeva has been a Regional Network Manager for the Central Eurasia Leadership Alliance, a 385 member multicultural network, promoting regional cooperation and fostering the development of tomorrow's most forward-thinking leaders in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Afghanistan.



Munkhbat Davaatseren

Mongolia, Fall 2013

Mr. Munkhbat Davaatseren is the CEO of Golomt Securities LLC, the wholly owned subsidiary of Golomt Bank of Mongolia. With his vast experience in the financial services industry, including banking and asset management, Mr. Davaatseren was invited to join Golomt from JP Morgan Chase with the responsibility to boost its investment banking activities. Golomt Securities LLC specializes in structuring, sourcing, negotiating and closing debt and equity financings as well as providing investment analysis and market research for private companies and public sector agencies and institutions. Mr. Davaatseren is a frequent guest on financial market television programs as well as other financial news outlets and is widely quoted in the financial press. He is a frequent speaker at national economic and investment conferences and workshops. He also contributed to drafting the recently passed new securities market law adapting internationally accepted practices of investment protection. Mr. Davaatseren holds a BBA in Financial Management from Warsaw University in Poland (2006) and a MA in Finance from Kellstadt Graduate School of Business at DePaul University in Chicago (2010).



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 of effective utilization of waste water and other types of waste materials to preserve the environment and promote the "green economy." At the same time, Mr. Djanbaev works as a Senior Technical Specialist at the International Youth Foundation office in Kyrgyzstan where he leads a youth entrepreneurship component focusing on marginal youth. In this capacity, Mr. Djanbaev oversees the implementation of four projects aimed at creating and supporting young business start-ups and raising the employability capacity of marginal youth. He is also a member of the Political Council of the Political Party "Reform." 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). Currently he is pursuing a PhD in Public and Social Policy from Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic supported by the International Scholarship Program of the European Union. He is fluent in Kyrgyz, English, Czech, and Russian.



Amb. Levan Dolidze

Georgia, Spring 2011

Ambassador Levan Dolidze is the Ambassador of Georgia to NATO. Prior to his current position Amb. Dolidze was 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. Amb. Dolidze is a former Executive Director of the Levan Mikeladze Foundation. His experience is also associated with supervising the implementation 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 the national and international stakeholders. From 2006-2008 Amb. Dolidze served as a senior Georgian diplomat (Consul) in Switzerland. He 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).

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Mongolia, Spring 2012

Col. Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder

Colonel Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder is the Director of Public Administration at the Ministry of Defense of Mongolia. Before December 2013, he served as the Director of the Institute for Defense Studies at the National Defense University of Mongolia. Prior to this post, Col. Dorjjugder spent 16 years in active duty military service in various postings, including Director, International Cooperation, Ministry of Defense of Mongolia (2009-10), Director, Intelligence Analysis, General Intelligence Agency of Mongolia (2007-09), Senior Fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies (2001-07), Desk Officer, Ministry of Defense (2000-01) and Analyst, General Intelligence Agency (1996-2000). Between 2001 and 2007 he also worked as a faculty member of Mongolian History at the School of Social Sciences, National University of Mongolia, and from 2007-2008 he taught International Relations Theories at the School of Foreign Service, National University of Mongolia. Col. Dorjjugder 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. Dorjjugder was a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies.



Mongolia, Fall 2011

Sarnai Galindiv

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. It was a great honor for her to work for the President who was one of the leaders of the peaceful democratic revolution that brought democracy and a market economy in Mongolia in 1990, and she was also privileged to have worked for his election campaign in 2009. Her interests include international security issues, fair elections, transparency and anti-corruption measures. Before working for the Office of the President, 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 National University of Mongolia's School of Foreign Service (1998), an MA in Global Political Economy and Finance from the New School for Social Research, New York, NY (2002) and an MA in Human Rights from Legal Studies Department, Central European University – a U.S. accredited university in Budapest, Hungary (2010) with a full university scholarship.



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 in the country. Her duties as the Executive Director include a variety of aspects of organizational management, including financial management, human resource management, public and media relations, and most importantly, advocacy activities for AmCham Armenia. Ms. Gaziyan's prior professional experience is both local and international. She started her career in the Ministry of Finance and Economy in 1998 as an Assistant to the Deputy Minister and then in the External Relations Department as staff of the Minister. Ms. Gaziyan then moved to the area of international development projects and over several years worked for the USAID funded "Local Government Program" in Armenia that aimed to assist the government in implementing effective decentralization and local governance reforms. She headed the public relations component of the program and was responsible for providing technical assistance to the local municipalities of Armenia. Ms. Gaziyan's international experience includes working at the Institute of Public Administration and Education Development Center in New York City and as a Research Associate at the Urban Institute in Washington D.C. Ms. Gaziyan holds a BA from Yerevan State University of Foreign Languages with a major in English language and Psychology (1999). In 2002, Ms. Gaziyan was awarded a Muskie fellowship and continued her studies at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University where she received a MS in Management of International Non-Profit Organizations (2003).



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. Due to his professional activities in human rights, he has been greatly harassed by the authorities up to and including detention. 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.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



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." She previously served as a Communication Specialist within the ENPI/FLEG, "Improving Law Enforcement and Forest Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia" Program in Azerbaijan, which is funded by the EU. Her professional career is inextricably linked to the human rights organizations where she volunteered and later worked in the area of conflict resolution, peace-building and European integration issues. Ms. Huseynli is a member of the Azerbaijani Helsinki Citizen's Assembly, National Public Council on Resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, and Azerbaijani National Committee on European Integration. In the summer of 2011, her article on the EU capabilities in crisis management and conflict prevention in light of the Nagorno-Karabakh peace negotiations failure in Kazan, Russia was published by the Caucasus Edition: Journal of Conflict Transformation. 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). Her research interests lie in the area of security, conflict resolution and peace building.



Talgat Imangaliyev

Kazakhstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Talgat Imangaliyev is the Director for Business Development and Government Affairs at WorleyParsons Astana where he is responsible for securing new projects for the company, providing strategic input on marketing and the development of business plans, and building and maintaining relationships with existing and potential clients, governmental agencies, as well as national and international industry groups and organizations. Mr. Imangaliyev has more than 15 years of experience working in the energy industry with a focus on regulatory approvals of operations and upstream and downstream projects in Central Asia and the United States. Prior to joining WorleyParsons in 2007, Mr. Imangaliyev worked for Tengizchevroil for 7 years in management roles responsible for Regulatory Affairs and Internal Compliance, as well as Environmental Programs. Outside of his professional career, Mr. Imangaliyev is actively involved in improving educational programs for youth at the colleges in Atyrau, Kazakhstan. Mr. Imangaliyev holds a BS in Petroleum Geology from Kazakhstan Polytechnic Institute (1994), a BA (1998) and MA (2000) in International Studies from University of Washington, Seattle, a BA in Jurisprudence from Atyrau State University, Kazakhstan (2005) and a certificate from the Leaders in Development Executive Program at Harvard Kennedy School (2007).



Farrukh Irnazarov

Uzbekistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Farrukh Irnazarov is a Co-Founder and Country Director at the Central Asian Development Institute, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He is also a PhD Candidate in International Studies at the University of Groningen, Netherlands and a Visiting Research Fellow at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Irnazarov is in charge of several research projects on economic development, labour migration, and regional trade and transport issues in Central Asia. In 2008-2011 he worked as a Researcher at the University of Applied Sciences in Goettingen, Germany. In 2007-8 Mr. Irnazarov was an Associate Faculty Lecturer in International Trade and Strategic Management at the School of Business at the National College of Ireland in Dublin where he was also doing postgraduate research. 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).



Dr. Murod Ismailov

Uzbekistan, Fall 200

Dr. Murod Ismailov is an Assistant Professor in International Relations at the University of Tsukuba (Japan) and a Senior Research Fellow at the Central Asian Development Institute. He previously served as the Dean at the School of International Relations and Graduate Studies at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) in Tashkent, as well as a Lecturer in Security Studies at the same university. 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 and global security, he earned a PhD in Political Science from UWED. His present teaching and research focuses on the problems of social and political transition in the countries of Central Eurasia, economic causes of political violence, and poverty eradication in Central Asia and beyond.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Ruslan Karabukaev

Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Ruslan Karabukaev is the Business Development Director at Avanta Capital in Bishkek, where he manages the group's technology companies including the cab order service, Namba Taxi, the online media portal, Namba.kz/Namba.kg, and the deal-of-the-day/coupon website, BeSmart.kz, that operates in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, Mr. Karabukaev was a founding member and the Business Development Director of the leading Kyrgyz airline, Avia Traffic Company, which he helped grow from a start-up to the largest airline in Kyrgyzstan. He also serves as an adviser to the "Open Skies" Policy Feasibility Study Group of the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, which is currently preparing to submit new legislation on the "Open Skies" Policy to the Parliament in the winter of 2014. Mr. Karabukaev is also a co-founder of the regional high school mentorship program "y6My School," a member funded program that covers 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).



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. His areas of expertise include domestic and foreign policies of the People's Republic of China with an emphasis on Central Asia and the Caucasus regions. Before his current position, from 2007 to 2011, Dr. Karimov served as an Assistant to the Ambassador at the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the People's Republic of 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. In 2008 he earned his PhD in Diplomacy from China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing. In August of 2013, Dr. Karimov was awarded a full scholarship to attend the International Seminar for Young Scholars on Economic Development Issues at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), a prestigious academic research organization in the fields of philosophy and social sciences. Dr. Karimov is the author of several books and articles on China-Azerbaijan relations and has translated a number of books from Azerbaijani to Chinese language. He is fluent in Azerbaijani, Chinese, English, Turkish and Russian.



Kairat Karmanov

Kazakhstan, Spring 2011

Mr. Kairat Karmanov is Deputy Chairman of the Board for the National Export and Investment Agency (Kaznex Invest) under the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, where he works on the creation of a national system of foreign direct investment attraction to Kazakhstan. Prior to his current position, he served as Managing Director in the same agency. The scope of his work includes initiating legislation changes aimed at creating favorable conditions for foreign investors, coordinating republican and local government entities in serving foreign investors, facilitating acting investor activities in the country, and promoting the country's investment image worldwide. Mr. Karmanov previously worked as a consultant at the Analytical Center for Economic Policy in the Agricultural Complex under 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). He was a recipient of a prestigious President of Kazakhstan Bolashak Scholarship and the Excellence in Planning Stipend for talented researchers from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Karmanov is fluent in Kazakh, Russian and English.



Gaukhar Kassymzhanova

Kazakhstan, Spring 2011

Ms. Gaukhar Kassymzhanova is an Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan. Prior to her current position, she served as a Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In the past she has worked in managerial positions at National Media Holdings, served as a Project Manager of the National Analytical Center under the Prime Minister's Office, and was a senior expert of the Senate Administration. She also worked in a team of experts on the EU funded project on public administration reform in Kazakhstan. Ms. Kassymzhanova started her career working as a host for the 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." She was selected for a U.S. Media and Political Campaign of the U.S. Department of State International Visitors Program in 2004. 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 an MA in International Development Policy from Duke University (2007). Nowadays she is actively involved in the activities of the Duke Alumni Club for Central Asia.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Ato Kasymov

Kazakhstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Ato Kasymov is the Deputy CEO of National Investment Corporation of the National Bank of Kazakhstan (NIC), a sovereign wealth fund responsible for alternative investments globally for the National Oil Fund. Prior to his appointment as the Deputy CEO at NIC, Mr. Kasymov served as Deputy CEO of the Kazakhstan Mortgage Company (KMC), where he was responsible for mortgage securitization efforts and implementation of the Affordable Housing Program. Before joining KMC, Mr. Kasymov worked 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. His experience in finance also includes serving as an investment banking and finance analyst at Renaissance Capital, a leading investment bank focused on emerging markets, and as a financial analyst in global corporate sales in the New York office of American Express. 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). Mr. Kasymov is fluent in Tajik, Russian, English and Turkish.



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 in Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. He 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., UK working in the Caspian region. Before that, Mr. Kazakov worked for the Government of Turkmenistan and headed various departments in the Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry and Mineral Resources where he carried out analyses of gas sale agreements and upstream activities for export pipeline projects, including TAPI and TCP, as well as coordinated EU TACIS projects for the oil and gas sector. Mr. Kazakov was also closely involved in the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) negotiations with potential foreign investors. While heading the Control Department at the State Agency for the Use of Hydrocarbon Resources under the President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Kazakov handled 3 billion USD worth of PSAs by controlling the fulfillment of the projects and providing "one-stop-shop" support for all of the PSA Operators in Turkmenistan. 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). Mr. Kazakov is currently a member of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators.



Tamar Kekenadze

Georgia, Spring 2014

Ms. Tamar Kekenadze is a Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia to NATO and the EU, where she is responsible for developing, implementing and supervising defense cooperation with NATO and the European Union. Prior to her current position, she served as a Head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Division at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Before joining the government in 2009, Ms. Kekenadze worked for five years in civil society organizations on national and international levels in the fields of Security and Foreign Policy, Election Monitoring, Formal and Non-Formal Education, Sustainable Development and Youth. Ms. Kekenadze is an elected Board Member from Eastern Europe in the European Youth Forum (based in Brussels), a platform that brings together tens of millions of young people in Europe. In this position, she was responsible for designing capacity building programs for NGOs in Europe, as well as advocacy work towards governments. In 2008 Ms. Kekenadze 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 International Affairs in the Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament in Brussels. 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 the Georgian Technical University.



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 served as an Assistant Director for Public Relations at the Afghan Health & Social Assistance Organization (AHSAO) for Afghan refugees in Pakistan from 1986 to 1989. He has been involved in humanitarian and aid projects and has also appeared on public stages and in the media in the West on numerous occasions. Mr. Zazai has jointly worked with the Central Asian Development Group (CADG) to implement Community Development Projects throughout Afghanistan. In addition, he has created job opportunities for over 47,000 of his tribesmen in his stronghold of Paktia province from 2009 to 2012. He also formed a Reconciliation Jirga to reach out to those local Taliban in the area who are not supporting Al Qaida. Amongst his educational achievements, in 2011 he received a degree in the Doctorate of Law for Services to Democracies and an MA from the Dublin Metropolitan University in London, where he was also appointed as an Honorary Professor of Diplomatic Studies. Mr. Zazai was also educated at Sidq-i-Akbar High School, in Peshawar, Pakistan and at the Herzing Institute, Canada in micro-computer management.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Khurshid Kholov

Uzbekistan, Fall 2010

Mr. Khurshid Kholov will be joining Gotham Partners, a frontier mid-cap PE advisory and consulting firm in New York in September 2014. Prior to his new position, Mr. Kholov was the Vice President at Ansher International, a leading investment holding company with Headquarters in Singapore, as well as Chairman of Ansher Investments where he oversaw direct investments by international investors to the capital markets of Central Asia. Prior to moving to Ansher Investments, Mr. Kholov was a Head of Sales at Ansher Fund Management where he was responsible for investor relations and overseeing marketing and distribution of all Ansher Family of Funds. Mr. Kholov has significant experience in investment management, investment banking, and advisory experience in the emerging markets of CIS countries including Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. He has held senior management positions at Ansher Group, including Chairman of the Board of Ansher Invest. Throughout Central Asia and the Caucasus, he has advised multinational companies, international investors, government agencies and regional companies. Mr. Kholov holds a MBA degree from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania with majors in Finance and Management (2014) and Bachelors of Business Administration from the School of Business Management, Tashkent State Technical University (with Honors, 2004) and Francis Marion University, SC (2003).



Levan Khurtsidze

Georgia, Fall 2012

Mr. Levan Khurtsidze is a Head of the U.S. and Canada Division, Department of the Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, where he coordinates a range of bilateral foreign policy, security, political, economic and people-to-people issues, as well as partakes in all phases of the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership. He started with the Georgian Foreign Service as the American Desk at the U.S. and North America Division of the Department for the Americas, later transferring to the Political Department as a policy analyzer, planner and speechwriter. Before reuniting with the Department of the Americas as a Counselor/U.S. Desk Officer, he served as a Counselor at the OSCE Division, Department of International Organizations, where he coordinated the OSCE human dimension and politico-military components, and cooperated with the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the OSCE, as well as with various OSCE offices. From 2000-2006, Mr. Khurtsidze was a senior staffer at the Georgian Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security, where he analyzed strategic and conceptual documents, supervised the Georgia-NATO relations from the Parliament, and worked as a co-secretary of the Georgian Parliamentary Delegation to NATO. Mr. Khurtsidze holds a BA and MA in History and Political Science from Tbilisi State University (2004), a MA in Public Administration from the Georgian Institute of Public Administration (2004), and, as a Muskie Fellow, received a MA in International Studies from Old Dominion University (2008). He also attended the International Defense Resource Management program at the Naval Postgraduate School in California (2005).



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, which procured fuel products from the Turkmen Government with direction to Afghanistan. Prior to moving to Turkmenistan, Ms. Kolakova worked for the same company in Afghanistan, Arrow General Supplies Company, a major supplier of goods to the U.S. and Afghan military in Afghanistan. Within the company, she worked in the positions of Project Manager, Program Manager, and International Procurement Manager. From 2009-2010, Ms. Kolakova worked as the Communications and Strategy Coordinator for the World Bank's Central Asian AIDS Control Project in Kazakhstan. She also has several years of experience working with the Afghan Government and the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency, providing assistance to local and foreign investors and facilitating licensing and promotion of investment in Afghanistan. From 2004-2007, she worked for the World Bank Country Office in the Kyrgyz Republic and with various UNDP projects in Bishkek. Ms. Kolakova is a Muskie Fellow and received a MA in Public Policy from Rochester Institute of Technology, New York (2004). She also holds a MA in Political Science from OSCE Academy, Kyrgyz Republic (2005). Ms. Kolakova is part of the Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry network, led by Lehigh University, Pennsylvania.



Tamta Kupradze

Georgia, Spring 2012

Ms. Tamta Kupradze is a career diplomat and currently works as a Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations in New York focusing on Human Rights and Social Affairs in multilateral settings. She is actively involved in advocating and attracting support for Georgia's Resolution tabled at the UN General assembly "on the Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia." Her portfolio also includes facilitation of establishing diplomatic relations. Previously she served as a Head of the United States and Canada Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia where she was responsible for preparing policy papers and analytical material for senior Georgian officials. She also coordinated working group sessions under the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership. From 2006-2010 Ms. Kupradze worked as a political officer at the Embassy of Georgia in the United States, Canada and Mexico, where she worked on a range of bilateral foreign policy, security and political-economic issues. During the August 2008 War she coordinated the Embassy's public outreach. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Kupradze served at the Defense Policy and Planning Department at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. She also worked with CUBIC Corporation, the U.S. Defense Consultants' team in Georgia. Ms. Kupradze holds a MA in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (2011) and a BA in International Relations from Tbilisi State University (2003).

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



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, as well as a founder of 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 with four branches in the capital city of Dushanbe. His experience in medical business also includes serving as a Managing Partner at Avamex Healthcare Technologies LLP in Almaty, Kazakhstan and as a Director of MedConcept LLC in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Mr. Kurbonali 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).



Uluk Kydyrbaev

Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2011

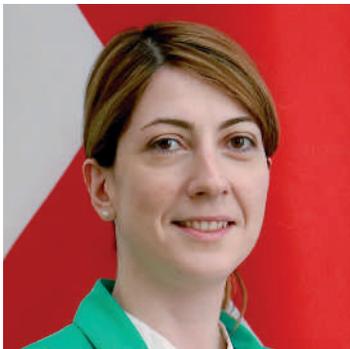
Mr. Uluk Kydyrbaev is the Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber of Tax Consultants, a professional association of tax experts aimed to promote tax legislation literacy among entrepreneurs, where he has worked since 2007. Mr. Kydyrbaev also chairs the National Alliance of Business Associations, the largest umbrella business organization in the Kyrgyz Republic, which unites 51 business associations. In the past, Mr. Kydyrbaev served as CEO of the Bishkek Business Club (2006-2013), an association that unites proactive, creative, energetic, influential, and independent local business leaders striving to contribute to the development of the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Kydyrbaev also has extensive professional experience with international private and development organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic. In 1999-2001 he worked for the American Engineering Company, CH2MHILL, on the Modernization Project of Manas Airport and from 2002-2006 worked for two USAID funded business development projects in Kyrgyzstan. In 2007-2009 Mr. Kydyrbaev served as a Co-Chair of the Consultative Council under the State Customs Service and in 2008-2010 as a member of the Investment Council under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. In 2010-13 he was a Member of the Council on Business Development and Investments under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as a Member of the Supervisory Board of the Energy Transparency Initiative under the Ministry of Energy, the State Tax Service, and the Ministry of Economic Development. Mr. Kydyrbaev holds a Jurisprudence Specialization from the Kyrgyz National University (2004).



Irakli Laitadze

Georgia, Fall 2009

Mr. Irakli Laitadze is currently the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of GMT Mtatsminda, LLC. He worked previously as the Deputy CFO of the GMT Group, the leading private sector investor in Georgia, with over \$500 million in capital invested across four portfolio companies in several industries. He has also worked for the Belgian company, "Group Thermote & Vanhalst." Mr. Laitadze has worked for the foreign service of Georgia in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as in the Mission of Georgia to the European Union and the Embassy to Benelux countries. From 2009-2011, Mr. Laitadze was the local expert of London-based company, "Exclusive Analyst," which forecasts commercially relevant political and violent risks worldwide. He is also one of the founders of the Georgian Oxbridge Society, part of the non-profit worldwide association of Alumni of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. He holds a BA degree in Economic and Social Geography from Tbilisi State University, Georgia, a Diploma from the Diplomatic School of Madrid, Spain and a MBA from the University of Cambridge, UK.



Marika Laliashvili

Georgia, Fall 2010

Ms. Marika Laliashvili is the Deputy Director of the Department of Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. She is responsible for managing bilateral cooperation with the U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, and promoting Georgian interests in the region. Prior to her current position, she served as Head of the Defense Policy and Planning Department at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Previously, she directed 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 in the same department where she was responsible for coordinating the implementation of defense-related provisions of the national programs of 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). She is fluent in English and Russian.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Sami Mahdi

Afghanistan, Fall 2011

Mr. Sami Mahdi is currently pursuing his Master's degree in International Relations at the University of Massachusetts Boston through a Fulbright Scholarship. He is also Chairman of the PAYK Investigative Journalism Center in Afghanistan, which produces investigative reports for multimedia on the economy, politics, security and corruption. He previously worked as CEO of Khurshid TV (2013-2014) and as Director of News and Current Affairs at 1TV, one of the most popular, private channels in Afghanistan (2009-2012). At 1TV Mr. Mahdi produced and hosted such internationally acclaimed programs as "Kabul Debate Live," "The Mask," "Amaj" and others. In 2012 Mr. Mahdi was awarded the prestigious Knight International Journalism Award from the International Center for Journalism for his excellent and courageous reporting, especially for exposing violence against women in Afghanistan. Prior to joining 1TV, Mr. Mahdi began his career as a journalist in 2007 with Tolo TV, where he hosted a weekly "Hardtalk" show interviewing such prominent politicians as UN Special Representative to Afghanistan, Kai Eide, NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, and others. During the Taliban regime, Mr. Mahdi was forced to leave the country with his family and finished his primary education in Tajikistan. After the fall of the Taliban he returned to Afghanistan and studied at the School of Law and Political Science of Kabul University, graduating in 2009. Mr. Mahdi was also a lecturer at the School of Law and Political Science at the Albironi University and an op-ed contributor to major Afghan newspapers and magazines.



Varya Meruzhanyan

Armenia, Fall 2012

Ms. Varya Meruzhanyan works at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Armenia, where she is responsible for effective coordination among various UN agencies and other development partners working in Armenia, and building strategic partnerships. 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 at Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia Office on a large-scale USAID-funded project supporting Armenia-Turkey rapprochement, managing activities enhancing the dialogue between Armenia and Turkey, focusing on youth, arts, culture and civil society, as well as facilitating cooperation between Armenian and Turkish NGOs. In the past, she ran the Democracy and Governance portfolio within another USAID-funded project, as well as had brief engagements with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, working with election observation missions to Armenia and with USAID/Armenia supporting communications and outreach. In the early stages of her career, she served as Vice President of the local NGO Youth for Achievements, where she helped to start a countrywide civic education project that set up debate clubs in Armenian schools. 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 MSc in NGOs and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK (2008) as a recipient of the Chevening Scholarship sponsored by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Dr. Sergey Minasyan

Armenia, Spring 2013

Dr. Sergey Minasyan is the Deputy Director and Head of the Political Studies Department at the Caucasus Institute in Yerevan, Armenia. Since 2011, Dr. Minasyan has also represented the Academic Swiss Caucasus Network in Armenia. The main areas of his expertise are military history, security studies, regional conflicts and international relations. His current research is focused on regional security and settlement of ethno-political conflicts in the South Caucasus. Dr. Minasyan has published dozens of articles, including in such publications as *Iran and the Caucasus*, *Central Asia and the Caucasus*, *Russia in Global Affairs*, *Insight Turkey*, *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo* and *Demokratizatsiya*. Dr. Minasyan has also authored and co-authored several monographs and reports, including "Ethnic Minorities in Georgia: Potential for Integration. A Case Study of the Country's Armenian Population." (Yerevan, 2006); "Pragmatic Policies vs. Historical Constraints: Analyzing Armenia-Turkey Relations," *Caucasus Institute Research Papers # 1* (Yerevan, 2010, with Alexander Iskandaryan); "Nagorno-Karabakh After Two Decades of Conflict: Is Prolongation of the Status Quo Inevitable?" *Caucasus Institute Research Papers #2* (Yerevan, 2010); and "Nagorno-Karabakh: The Paradoxes of Strength and Weakness in an Asymmetric Conflict," *Caucasus Institute Research Papers #3* (Yerevan, 2011, with Larisa Deriglazova.) Dr. Minasyan holds a MA in International Relations from Yerevan State University (1998), a PhD in Military History (2002), a Doctor of Political Science degree from the Institute for National Security Studies at the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia (2013).



Dr. Khatuna Mshvidobadze

Georgia, Fall 2011

Dr. Khatuna Mshvidobadze is a Senior Associate at the Georgian Security Analysis Center, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies in Tbilisi, Georgia and an Associate Academic Fellow at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. Earlier, 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 is extensively published in Georgian and has published articles in English in *Defense News*, *Florida Times Union*, *Investor.ge*, *Jane's Defense Weekly*, *Jane's Foreign Report*, *Jerusalem Post* and *JINSA Global Briefing*. As a member of the Cyber Security Forum Initiative, she co-authored a training course, "Russian Cyber Capabilities, Policy and Practice." For the last three years she has also been presenting on the same topic in many countries. Another presentation, "New threats: Energy Security, Cyber Defense, Critical Infrastructure Protection," at the 2009 Bucharest Conference on NATO is listed as a source in the official bibliography of the new NATO strategic concept. Dr. Mshvidobadze holds a BA in English from Tbilisi State University (2001) and a MBA from the Caucasus School of Business (2008). In 2013 she earned a PhD in Political Science at Georgian Technical University. Her dissertation was on policy aspects of global information and cyber security. She is also working toward her MS in Cyber Forensics and Intelligence at Utica College, NY.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Ibrahim Musaev

Uzbekistan, Fall 2013

Mr. Ibrahim Musaev is the Director of the Global Business Development unit at Global Business Incubators (GBI), a network of member incubators located in different regions of the world. GBI has a UN affiliation through South-South News, a digital media platform tasked with disseminating news about Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. At the same time, Mr. Musaev serves as an advisor to the Chairman of the Turkish Foundation and World Political Forum in Istanbul, Turkey. Held annually in Istanbul, the World Political Forum attracts statesmen, CEO's, opinion leaders, bureaucrats, business elite and renowned academics from around the globe. Previously, Mr. Musaev headed a non-profit scientific research think-tank and, prior to that, 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.



Bahriiddin Najmudinov

Tajikistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Bahriiddin Najmudinov is the Director of General Services Administration and Compliance and a Member of the Board of Directors of Bokhtar Operating Company B.V. (BOC), Oil & Gas Exploration company created in a partnership of Tethys (U.S.), CNPC (China) and Total (France). BOC is operating for and on behalf of three partners exploring in Tajikistan. Prior to his current position, Mr. Najmudinov was 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 attraction of FDI. Previously, he served as a Chief Marketing Officer at "Golden Lion" LLC, a privately owned cotton merchandising company, one of the leaders in this industry in Tajikistan, CEO of CJSC "Indigo Tajikistan," GSM/UMTS mobile operator, brand Tcell, which he managed from its inception and brought to a leading position among internationally recognized brands in the telecom industry. Mr. Najmudinov organized the Association of Mobile Operators of Republic of Tajikistan. He was also an active participant in establishing the American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan and was a member of the Board of Directors for two years. Mr. Najmudinov is a member of the National Association of Medium and Small Enterprises, and the Association of Entrepreneurs of Tajikistan. Mr. Najmudinov holds a Systems Engineer's degree from Tajik Technical University and is currently pursuing a PhD from the same university. He also holds a MBA from the Moscow Business School.



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 at positions of increased responsibilities. He contributes to preparing 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 (e.g., www.news.az, www.newtimes.az). 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. His research interests lie in the area of conflict resolution, international law and security.



Bayasgalan Naranzul

Mongolia, Fall 2011

Ms. Bayasgalan Naranzul is a Second Secretary at the Mongolian Embassy to India, and is responsible for Trade and Economic Affairs. She has been a Green Development Policy Advisor to the Minister in the Ministry of Environment and Green Development. Prior to this position, she was working as a Community Relations Manager at the Petro Matad Limited Company, which is a national leading oil exploration company in Mongolia. The scope of her work was focused on implementing the company's social responsibility policies. Prior to joining Petro Matad, she worked as a program coordinator and executive director at one of the most prominent NGOs, the Zorig Foundation, whose main mission is to advance the formation of a democratic society and support political reforms in Mongolia. At the Zorig Foundation, Ms. Naranzul was responsible for projects on good governance, anti-corruption policy, human rights, poverty reduction, and informed decision-making and policy-making. She has also served as a senior staff assistant to one of the most prominent female politicians from the opposition party 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). Her research interests and experience lie in better decision-making and policy-making at the government and Parliament level.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



David Nardaia

Georgia, Fall 2103

Mr. David Nardaia is the Director of the International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia where he is responsible for coordination, implementation and monitoring of the international cooperation programs of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of Georgia, as well as the defense component of NATO-Georgia relations. Since 2002, Mr. Nardaia has held different positions at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia, including 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 (2002) in the History of Diplomacy and International Relations from Tbilisi State University. He has attended numerous workshops and courses on security issues in Europe and the United States. From 2010-2011 he was a Counterterrorism Fellow at the College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University, where he received a MA in International Security Affairs. Currently, Mr. Nardaia is pursuing his PhD in Modern History from Tbilisi State University. Mr. Nardaia's areas of interest include international relations, national and international security, conflict resolutions and security policy issues.



Nargiz Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu

Azerbaijan, Spring 2013

Ms. Nargiz Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu is the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan, the largest international business association in the country. In her role as a Chief Executive and Administrative officer of the organization, she is responsible for a full range of activities including membership, policy work, organizational structure and procedures, income generation and expenditures, employment, supervision, staff training, and long-term planning. 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 2001-2004, she served as a Centre Manager at the Regus Business Centre Trading Ltd. in Baku, a part of the world's largest serviced office providers. Today Ms. Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu serves as an Independent Board Member at AIG International Baku office, a Member of Board of Directors of Junior Achievement in Azerbaijan, a Member of the Board of Trustees of AISEC Azerbaijan, and a Member of the Advisory Board of ADA University School of Business. Ms. Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu holds a BA in Legal Regulation of Economy from Western University in Baku (2000).



Ermek Niyazov

Kyrgyz Republic, Fall 2012

Mr. Ermek Niyazov is a Vice President and Commercial Director of KyrgyzTelecom, the incumbent operator in Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to joining KyrgyzTelecom in 2013, he worked as a Technology Sales Representative at the Oracle Corporation, Head of Corporate Sales for Beeline Kyrgyzstan, and as an Account Manager at Cisco Systems. Mr. Niyazov has been in sales and marketing for most of his career. He is a well-known and self-made entrepreneur, who has initiated several start-ups, most of them still in operation. In addition, Mr. Niyazov was the Chairman of the Bishkek Business Club from 2011-2012, a prominent business association that promotes and supports the business community of Bishkek. As Chairman, he led the Club in developing numerous projects in defense of the interests of the business community in the country and sought to create an effective dialogue between the government and business. Mr. Niyazov was also the President of the Rotary Club of Bishkek from 2012-2013, where he has been a member since 2007. He has also actively participated in several of the Rotary Club's various charity projects in support of orphans and the elderly. Mr. Niyazov holds a BA from the American University in Central Asia (1998).



Kodir Norov

Uzbekistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Kodir Norov joined Enter Engineering Pte. Ltd. in September of 2013, where he currently heads the External Affairs Department. Enter Engineering acts as an EPC contractor for major oil and gas projects in Uzbekistan and Russia. Mr. Norov co-founded Avesta Investment Group in December of 2003 and continues to be a Partner and non-executive Chairman at the firm. Avesta Investment Group is an investment advisory and securities firm that provides investment advisory, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, privatization, project finance, banking and insurance, securities brokerage and custody services in Central Asia and CIS. Mr. Norov has over 14 years of experience in the investment banking industry. Since its inception and until May 2011, Mr. Norov served as the Founding Chairman of the National Association of Securities Market Participants of Uzbekistan, a nonprofit organization for the securities industry. 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 in New York. 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).

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



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 information and analysis regarding country risks from economic, political and geopolitical perspectives, marketing, as well as other mining and economic developments. 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 into trade-related policy formulation from the 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).



Nafi Olomi

Afghanistan, Spring 2013

Mr. Nafi Olomi is the Deputy Director of Analysis at the National Directorate of Security, 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. In 2010-2011, he was a political advisor to the European Union Special Representative for Afghanistan. From 1997 to 2010, Mr. Olomi worked with the United Nations Development Program (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 and has facilitated numerous track II peace talks. His experience includes working on regional economic cooperation over Afghanistan as a regional hub between Central Asia and South Asia. Mr. Olomi has co-authored a book, "The Battle for Khorasan," that 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).



Semetei Omurgazy

Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2013

Mr. Semetei Omurgazy is the owner and CEO of the Bishkek Fashion Retail Group, which combines several American, European and Turkish brands mainly presented by monobrand stores in Kyrgyzstan. Operating 25 stores, this company is considered one of the biggest players 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. This Association promotes the business community and improves the business environment by organizing educational courses on how to effectively do business and helping local businessmen attend international business exhibitions. Mr. Omurgazy is also a Council Member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to founding the Bishkek Fashion Retail Group, Mr. Omurgazy was a General Director of Daniel Pharm, LLC Kyrgyzstan-India in 2008-2010; a General Director of Asia Cement, LLC in 2004-2006, launching a cement factory in the Penza Region of Russia; and a General Director of Lunacom Telecommunication, LLC in 2003-2004, providing services of prepaid long distance calling cards in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Omurgazy is a sponsor of the Kyrgyz National Team in Sambo wrestling. 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).



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. In his capacity as a Strategic Advisor, 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 been holding various managerial positions at GOGC since its inception in 2007, including supervising external contractual relations, handling commercial oil and gas sale activities, and advising the Board of Directors on regional policy and energy industry processes. Previously, Mr. Oniani was a Manager for Strategic Planning and Development at the Georgian International Oil Corporation and served as the State Representative in international energy projects in which he represented Georgia during Energy Charter meetings and EU funded energy cooperation projects. Mr. Oniani also worked as a fiscal expert at Development Alternatives, Inc., 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).

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Dr. Dowran Orazgylyjow Turkmenistan, Fall 2010

Dr. Dowran Orazgylyjow is a private lawyer and the 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 a Partner and Editor-in-Chief of "Homeland Turkmenistan Journal" as well as Manager of an analytical website, www.turkmenlawyer.com. Prior to his current positions, he served as a counselor to the General Director of LE EPC Company and previously as an assistant to the Director of the Oil Products Trade Department of Turkmenistan Office of Chalk Energy EPC Company. Dr. Orazgylyjow has also taught "International Commercial Arbitration" at the special school for state lawyers organized by the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan and the Law School of Magtymkuly State University. From 2002-2006, Dr. Orazgylyjow worked as a lawyer in different law firms in Turkey. He holds a LLB (2002) from Dokuz Eylul University Law School (Turkey), 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.



Mashbat Otgonbayar Mongolia, Spring 2011

Mr. Mashbat Otgonbayar is a Strategic Policy Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. He also serves as a Foreign Policy Adviser for the Civil Will Party Leadership and Coordinator of the Coalition of Asian Liberals and Democrats. Before his political appointment to the MFA in 2013, Mr. Otgonbayar served as a Vice Director and Dean of Research at the Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS) under the National Security Council (NSC) of Mongolia. In this position, he was responsible for all research programs and coordinated activities for the Centers of ISS, as well as provided policy analysis and recommendations on the security strategy to the Executive Secretary of the NSC and the Ministry of Defense of Mongolia. He also actively participated in drafting of the National Security Concept of Mongolia. For his distinguished service Mr. Otgonbayar has been awarded the National Order of "Polar Star" and different commemorative and service medals. 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).



Almas Otynshiyev

Kazakhstan, Fall 2013

Mr. Almas Otynshiyev is an Economist at the Joint-Stock Company “OGCC KazStroyService,” a multinational oil-and-gas construction company for pipelines, gas plants, compressor stations, etc., that implements multibillion-dollar projects, such as the construction of long-distance pipelines from Central Asia to China and Russia. Prior to his current position, Mr. Otynshiyev worked at Sand Plast Kazakhstan LLP as the Head of the Business Development Department. Mr. Otynshiyev 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. His current areas of academic interest include perspectives of economic and political ties between Central Asia and South Asia. Mr. Otynshiyev 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). Mr. Otynshiyev is fluent in Kazakh, Russian, English, Hindi, and Turkish, and has working knowledge of Urdu and Italian.



Sulaiman Qeyamat

Afghanistan, Spring 2010

Mr. Sulaiman Qeyamat is a Media Watch Editor at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan. He holds a MA in Public Affairs from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University (2012) and a MD (Medical Doctor) in medical sciences from Kabul Medical University (2005). He was a fellow at Afghanistan’s Center for Research and Policy Studies from 2008-2010. Mr. Qeyamat’s areas of interest include governance, public policy analysis, and economic development. He has worked with a number of international organizations including the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES) and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). He served as Project Coordinator for the Afghan Young Leaders Forum (YLF) from 2006-2008, where he was involved in empowering and engaging Afghan youth to raise their voice in policy and decision-making processes in their country. Mr. Qeyamat has been a selected member of the Young Leaders Forum since late 2004. He was a representative of his country at the International Youth Dialogue on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Berlin, Germany in October 2005.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Makhbub Radzhabboev

Tajikistan, Spring 2011

Mr. Makhbub Radzhabboev is 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. Previously, he was the Head of Banking and Finance at The Legal Group law firm in Dubai, UAE. Prior to moving to Dubai, Mr. Radzhabboev was a Private Sector Development Consultant for the World Bank Tajikistan Country Office where he was responsible for cooperation between the World Bank and the Government of Tajikistan for the improvement of the business environment in the country. From 2009-2012 he managed Arvand Consulting Firm, which provides legal and financial advisory services to local and foreign businesses. During 2006-2008 Mr. Radzhabboev worked for the National Bank of Tajikistan where he dealt with the legal protection of the NBT's interests, designing the public policy and regulation of the financial sector, and strengthening Tajikistan's cooperation with international financial institutions and donors. In 2004-2005 he served as an attaché at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he was responsible for coordination of the visits of official foreign delegations to Tajikistan and developed bilateral relations with Europe and the United States. 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 LL.M in International Business Law from the University of Manchester (2009). He is fluent in Tajik, Russian, English and Turkish.



Gunay Rahimova

Azerbaijan, Fall 2009

Ms. Gunay Rahimova is a Second Secretary in the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States. Prior to this position, she served as the U.S. and also Russian Desk Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2004-2008, she served as the 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 Azerbaijan University of Languages, and is fluent in Azerbaijani, English, Russian, and Turkish with knowledge of Greek and French.



Firuza Rahimova

Tajikistan, Fall 2010

Ms. Firuza Rahimova is a National Program Officer for Controlling and Quality Assurance at the Swiss Cooperation Office, Tajikistan. She previously served as an Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan. The area of her expertise is legislation and policy making. Prior to joining AmCham, she worked with several USAID projects such as land reform and market development, economic reforms for enhancing competitiveness, and local government and enterprise development. In 2005-2006, Ms. Rahimova was a General Director of one of the biggest leather processing companies in Tajikistan, the Tajik-American Joint Venture, "Inter Fur," and in 2005 won a prestigious award, "The Best Entrepreneur of Dushanbe City." Ms. Rahimova regularly participates in seminars and conferences on legal and economic problems and capacity building. She is a frequent contributor to local newspapers and TV programs where she defends AmCham Tajikistan members' rights and interests. Ms. Rahimova holds a MA in Linguistics and Intercultural Communications from Dushanbe Slavic University (2001), and a LLM from the Tajik National University (2010).



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. Prior to joining Somon Capital, 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. In May 2005 Mr. Rahmonberdiev received the U.S. State Department Franklin Award for organizing the first-ever American Investment Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and in May 2006 was a recipient of the State Department Meritorious Honor Award for supporting the U.S. Trade and Development Agency's missions and Secretary's Infrastructure Integration Initiative. Mr. Rahmonberdiev served as a member of the Board of Directors of Somon Air (aviation), Jilo Holdings Limited (mining), the American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Eurasia Foundation Central Asia. He was also a Chairman of the National Association of Professional Securities Market Participants. 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).

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Elyor Rakhmanov

Uzbekistan, Spring 2011

Mr. Elyor Rakhmanov is the Head of Department on Specialized IT Units' Coordination at the Center for Development of "e-Government" System under the State Committee of Uzbekistan on Communication, Information and Telecommunication Technologies. He works to create strategy on developing the system of electronic 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. Prior to his current position, he served as an Executive Director at the Social Initiatives Support Fund, which focuses on healthcare, education, social support, social infrastructure, and the environment. From 2011-2012, 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. His responsibilities included negotiating with potential foreign investors in Uzbekistan and abroad, and inputting information on investment project into the internet-portal of the Chamber and catalogues of investment projects. 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. Mr. Rakhmanov holds a BS in International Economics from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (2007), a MS in Engineering from Seoul National University, South Korea (Technology Management, Economics and Policy Program, 2010), and a PhD in International Economics from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. His academic interests include e-Government initiatives, public administration and good governance issues.



Xeniya Rogan

Kazakhstan, Fall 2008

Ms. Xeniya Rogan is an Associate Banker of Energy and Natural Resources in the Russia and Central Asia team at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) 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 (2005, Muskie Fellow) and a BA in International Economics from Kazakh State University (2002).



Gulmira Rzayeva

Azerbaijan, Spring 2010

Ms. Gulmira Rzayeva is a senior research fellow at the Center for Strategic Studies (CSS) 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. Her area of expertise is energy security, covering issues such as the energy policy of Azerbaijan and Black Sea/Caspian regional energy security. As part of her engagements in this field, she has worked as a visiting research fellow at the Moscow Carnegie Center and the Finish Aleksanteri Institute of Helsinki University, as well as lectured at the Universities of Helsinki, Jouensuu and Tampere. Over time she has participated as an invited speaker at a number of international conferences on energy security issues in Europe, the U.S. and Asia. Having a BA in International Relations from the Baku Slavic University and a MA in Global Affairs from the University of Buckingham, UK, Ms. Rzayeva has published several scholarly publications focusing on her area of expertise. She is a co-author of the report entitled, "Strategic Imperative: Azerbaijani Gas Strategy and the EU's Southern Corridor," published at the SAM Review Journal of CSS, and author of the report "Turkish Domestic Natural Gas Market: Challenges and Opportunities," published at OIES.



Davit Sanasaryan

Armenia, Spring 2014

Mr. Davit Sanasaryan is a Member of the City Council of Yerevan and a Secretary of the Heritage Party Fraction. During City Council elections he served as the Heritage Party spokesman and was responsible for the Party's public relations campaign. Earlier in 2012, Mr. Sanasaryan was actively involved in the Armenian Presidential elections representing the Heritage Party Presidential candidate, and was responsible for his relations with civil society. From 2010-2012 Mr. Sanasaryan served as a Board Member of the Heritage Party and from 2008-2010, as the Chairman of the youth wing of the Party. From 2007-2012 he was an assistant to the Member of the Parliament (National Assembly) of Armenia from the Heritage Party and during 2006-2011 also worked as paralegal in "Shirinyan Legal Consulting Firm." Mr. Sanasaryan is active in civic movements for human rights, environmental issues, social issues and other causes. From 2012-2013 he was Editor-in-Chief of the socio-political news web portal, Luter.com. Mr. Sanasaryan has a law degree from the International Academic Institute in Yerevan (2009). He has attended numerous courses, trainings, summer schools and internships on democracy and national security issues in Europe.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



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 aiming to promote new perspectives and opportunities for youth participation and active citizenship in Armenia and beyond. She is also in charge of coordinating activities and projects of the Caucasus Forum for Solidarity and Cooperation and Black Sea Sustainability Platform. Ms. Sargsyan has 20 years of experience working with national and international organizations, such as the Government of Armenia, UN, Council of Europe, European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, and Club de Madrid. She has also been active in various networks, such as South Caucasus Youth Political Networking (SCYPN), Momentum, Central Eurasian Leadership Academy (CELA), and others 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).



Bahtiyar Shadyev

Turkmenistan, Spring 2009

Mr. Bahtiyar Shadyev 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. Prior, Mr. Shadyev was the Chief of Customs and Logistics Department and a Procurement and Logistics Specialist at Lotus Enerji. Mr. Shadyev also worked in Moscow for one year for Credit Europe Leasing as a Head Specialist of the Financial Control Department. He began his professional life 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 Bo azi i University in Istanbul, Turkey (2006).



Timur Shaimergerenov

Kazakhstan, Spring 2009

Mr. Timur Shaimergerenov is Deputy Director of the Library of the First President of Kazakhstan (Nazarbayev Center) and Head of the Research and Analysis Division of the Center, an internal Presidential think tank. Prior to being appointed to his current political position, Mr. Shaimergerenov served from 2010-2014 as a Policy Advisor and Head of the Analysis Section in the National Security Council of Kazakhstan. In 2006-2010 he served as an Assistant to the Deputy Chairman of Mazhilis in the Parliament of Kazakhstan. Before joining the government, Mr. Shaimergerenov was a research fellow at the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies. From 2006-2010, Mr. Shaimergerenov also served as a member of the Editorial Board of the social-political research magazine, "Central Asia and Caucasus," based in Sweden. He has authored numerous articles in the areas of international relations and security. In 2009-2013 he completed a series of Executive Education Programs at Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University), Saïd Business School (University of Oxford) and Columbia Business School (Columbia University). 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).



Dr. Artak Shakaryan

Armenia, Fall 2010

Dr. Artak Shakaryan is a Youth Activism Specialist at World Vision International and is responsible for seven countries, including Armenia, Georgia, Pakistan, Lebanon, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Romania. He previously served as Manager of the Armenia-Turkey Program at the Eurasia Partnership Foundation's (EPF) Armenia Office. He also serves as a Founding Head of the School for Young Leaders, an executive education center that administers one-year leadership courses for mid-level managers, which was established in 2006. Prior to joining EPF, Mr. Shakaryan held leading positions at the Armenian National Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. Mr. Shakaryan is editor in chief of a quarterly analytic journal, "Regional Affairs," and a frequent contributor to print media, as well as a recurrent participant in different radio and TV programs. He is an author of the monographs "'Blood Tax' in the Ottoman Empire: the Case of Devshirme" and "Decoding Turkey: Discovering Turkish Foreign Policy," as well as numerous academic and analytical articles on domestic and foreign policies of Turkey. Mr. 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 training programs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Dr. Omar Sharifi

Afghanistan, Spring 2010

Dr. Omar Sharifi is currently a PhD Student at Boston University in the department of Anthropology. Prior to coming to Boston University, he was a Senior Research Fellow and the Kabul Director of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies. Dr. 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, a member of Afghan 21 Young Leaders Forum, as well as an Asia Society Fellow. In the past Mr. Sharifi also worked as a National Consultant for UNICEF Afghanistan. Dr. Sharifi graduated from Kabul Medical Institute in 2003. Following his medical studies, he 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. From 2006-2008, he studied Cultural Anthropology at Columbia University in New York under a Fulbright Fellowship. Dr. Sharifi has written several essays on social and political issues in Afghanistan, and his articles are published in national and international journals.



Nazir Sharipov

Tajikistan, Fall 2013

Mr. Nazir Sharipov is the President of Tethys Tajikistan Limited which is a part of Tethys Petroleum Limited, an international oil and gas exploration and production company focused on Central Asia and the Caucasus with projects in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Georgia. Tethys Petroleum is a public company with its primary listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange, the world's largest exchange for oil and gas companies, and with secondary listings on the London Stock Exchange and the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange. Mr. Sharipov also serves as a Political and Economic Advisor for Central and South Asia for Tethys Petroleum Limited, as well as the Director of the Representative Office of Kulob Petroleum Limited in Tajikistan. Mr. Sharipov is the Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan, as well as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Eurasian Foundation of Central Asia. Mr. Sharipov also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Dushanbe School for Disabled Children. Mr. Sharipov previously worked in the Tajik Foreign Service from 1996-2007, including as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'affaires to the U.S. Mr. Sharipov 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. Sharipov is pursuing an Executive MBA in Oil and Gas Management from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, UK.



Dr. Aigerim Shilibekova

Kazakhstan, Fall 2010

Dr. Aigerim Shilibekova is Director of the Department for International Cooperation and Founding Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Gumilyov Eurasian National University in Astana. Dr. Shilibekova is also an Associate Professor at the Regional Studies Department. Her research interests include international organizations, regional security and politics of Central Asia and the Middle East. In 2008-2009 Dr. Shilibekova received the prestigious TokioBoeki Award, a stipend for talented young scholars and researchers, as well as a number of fellowships and research grants from various institutions in Turkey, Germany, Greece and South Korea. Dr. Shilibekova is an author of numerous publications and policy papers including "Development Strategy of ENU till 2020" (2012) and "Iran," her recently co-authored monograph in Kazakh on Iranian domestic and foreign policy (2013). Dr. Shilibekova holds a BA degree 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 in National and International Security at Harvard Kennedy School (2013). In the fall of 2013, Dr. Shilibekova joined the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University as a Visiting Scholar, where she currently conducts research on the changing security landscape in Central Asia.



Zaur Shiryev

Azerbaijan, Fall 2012

Mr. Zaur Shiryev is a senior research fellow at the Caspian Energy Center at ADA University. Before his current position, he worked as a leading research fellow in the Foreign Policy Analysis Department at the Center for Strategic Studies, a Baku-based think-tank, from 2009-2014. Previously, Mr. Shiryev worked in Turkey as a researcher at the Caucasus-Middle East Study Department of the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies in Istanbul, and as a senior researcher for the Caucasus-Central Asia Department at the International Strategic Research Organization in Ankara from 2004-2008. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Caucasus International*, a foreign policy journal that examines policy-making and the role of the Caucasus region in the international arena. He holds a BA in International Relations from Baku State University (2004) and a MS in Political Science from the University of Ankara, Turkey (2008), and an executive degree in Security Studies from the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Germany (2011). His areas of expertise include security, energy issues in the post-Soviet space, Turkish foreign policy, and the foreign and national security policies of the South Caucasus states. He was awarded the "Black Sea Young Reformers Fellowship" in 2011 and was elected by the Atlantic Forum as a young leader from Azerbaijan for the XII European Young Leaders Conference. Mr. Shiryev is the author of more than one hundred professional articles and commentaries. He is co-editor of the book, "The Geopolitical Scene of the Caucasus: A Decade of Perspectives" (Istanbul, 2013).

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Ravshan Sobirzoda

Tajikistan, Spring 2013

Mr. Ravshan Sobirzoda is a Country Economist at the World Bank Tajikistan Country Office. Mr. Sobirzoda is also a Senior Lecturer at the School of International Economics and Law at the Tajik State University of Commerce, a Member of the Board of Directors of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation-Tajikistan, and a Co-Founder and Board Member of the Nurafzo Diagnostic Center in Dushanbe. Previously, he served as Economic Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan and a Coordinator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cochran in Tajikistan. Mr. Sobirzoda has vast experience working with several development agencies such as the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Program, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the UN Headquarters in New York. 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, Ohio (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, the University of California – Davis, Kansas State University, North Dakota State University, American University, and Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Sobirzoda is currently pursuing his PhD in empirical models for the non-randomized impact evaluations of microfinance at the Tajik National University.



Aziz Soltobaev

Kyrgyzstan, Spring 2014

Mr. Aziz Soltobaev is the Chairman of Svetofor Group in Bishkek. Svetofor Group unites several online companies: Svetofor.biz, Svetofor.kg, Svetofor.kz, Ototo.kg, Zapchasti.kg, and HTC-online.kz, which operate in the trading, e-commerce, IT and system integration areas in Central Asia and China. He is in charge of developing company strategy and managing all projects for the Svetofor Group, which is one of the fastest growing companies in Central Asia. Mr. Soltobaev co-founded Svetofor Group in 2004 and, before becoming the Chairman in 2009, served as Chief Executive Officer of the company. From 2008-2009 he also served as Deputy CEO of Tash-Kumyr Silicon Productions, a chemical plant producing solar-grade quality polysilicon, trichlorosilane, silicon tetrachloride and other subsequent chemical products in Kyrgyzstan, where he was responsible for increasing factory effectiveness, public relations, international procurement and global product sales. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, Mr. Soltobaev was a policy analyst and a contributor to the "Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst," "Eurasianet.org," "IRIInews.org," etc. and has published more than 100 news and analytical online publications. He works to actively promote entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan and the region by providing training, giving guest lectures and TV interviews, and participating in different startup events. Mr. Soltobaev holds a BA in Economics from the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek (1999) and is active in the AUCA Alumni Association.



Rajabbek Sulaymonbekov Tajikistan, Spring 2012

Mr. Rajabbek Sulaymonbekov is a Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Open Joint Stock Company Orientbank, one of the largest commercial banks in Tajikistan, and a Chief Executive Officer of Orient Leasing Limited Liability Company, owned by OJSC Orientbank. He joined OJSC Orientbank in October 2003 as a Head of the Representative Office in Afghanistan where he worked for almost four years. Mr. Sulaymonbekov returned to the OJSC Orientbank Head Office in Dushanbe in 2007 to lead the Trade Finance Department. After undergoing a professional development course in Germany with Commerzbank AG in Frankfurt an Main, he was assigned as a Deputy Chairman of the Board of OJSC Orientbank. Prior to joining OJSC Orientbank, 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, due to his efforts, OJSC Orientbank is one of the founders of AmCham. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of AmCham and Orient Leasing LLC. 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).



Baska Tumurbat Mongolia, Fall 2012

Mr. Baska Tumurbat is a Specialist for the Board of Directors at Oyu Tolgoi LLC, a JV between Rio Tinto Plc. and the Government of Mongolia that is developing and operating a world-class copper-gold mining complex in southern Mongolia. Mr. Tumurbat is responsible for supporting and facilitating the works of the company's Board of Directors. Prior to joining Oyu Tolgoi, Mr. Tumurbat worked as a community and public relations expert at SouthGobi Sands LLC, a coal-mining subsidiary of Canada's SouthGobi Resources Ltd, listed on the Toronto and Hong Kong stock exchanges. At SouthGobi, Mr. Tumurbat 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. From 1998-2001 he taught various courses at the University of Humanities in Ulaanbaatar including Methodology of Teaching English as Foreign Language, and Translation Theory. Mr. Tumurbat holds a BA and a MA in Pedagogy and Linguistics from the Mongolian University of the Humanities (1998 and 2000), and a Diploma of Business Administration from the Institute of Finance and Economy, Ulaanbaatar (2009). He has also received certificates for training programs from the Queensland University of Australia.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Dr. Tornike Turmanidze

Georgia, Fall 2008

Dr. Tornike Turmanidze is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the Department of Social and Political Sciences at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, and the Caucasus University's School of Governance. He is a founder and Chair of Board of the Georgian think tank "BTKK - Policy Research Group." Previously, Dr. Turmanidze served as Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia from 2011-2013, and as Head of the Analysis and Coordination Division at the Information and Analysis Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. 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 earned his BA (2000), MA (2002), and PhD (2010) in International Relations at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. He is also the editor of "International Relations Theory: A Chrestomathy," the first Georgian language reader in international politics (2004) and the author of a book titled, "Buffer States" (2011 Georgian edition, 2009 U.S. edition).



Aziza Umarova

Uzbekistan, Spring 2009

Ms. Aziza Umarova is a Head of the Governance Team at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Uzbekistan. Ms. Umarova played a pivotal role in strategic repositioning of UNDP in Uzbekistan and since 2008 has championed projects on public administration reform, parliamentary development, strengthening civil society, and civil justice reform. Having built a reputation as an innovator, she was seconded to the UNDP Bratislava Regional Center for Europe and Central Asia to work on user innovation in UNDP and development toolkits for development practitioners in partnership with the Innovation Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ms. Umarova holds a BA (1999) and MA (2005) in International Economics from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. She also earned a MA in Security Studies in Central Asia and the Middle East from the University of St. Andrews, School of International Relations, UK, as a Chevening Fellow (2006). Ms. Umarova was part of academia in China, Guangzhou, and served in various capacities at the Center for Terrorism and Political Violence under the University of St. Andrews and the OSCE Secretariat. Her main interests include security studies in Central Asia, synergy of Islam and democracy, good governance in Central Asia, and innovation in the development sector.



Emin Valiyev

Azerbaijan, Spring 2014

Mr. Emin Valiyev is the Founder, Partner and General Manager at Uptime Marketing Agency operating in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan with regional offices located in Baku and Almaty. Prior to launching Uptime Marketing Agency, Mr. Valiyev worked in marketing management units at Colgate-Palmolive Kazakhstan and Danone Kazakhstan where he helped to set up 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, before 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. Mr. Valiyev is fluent in Azerbaijani, English, Russian and Turkish.



Dr. Anar Valiyev

Azerbaijan, Fall 2008

Dr. Anar Valiyev is an Associate Provost at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) University. Prior he served as the Dean of the School of International Affairs at ADA. From 2007 to 2008, Dr. Valiyev worked as an assistant professor at 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 Bachelor's degree in History from Baku State University (1999) and Master's degree in History (2001) from the same 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.

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



Asset Yerali

Kazakhstan, Spring 2010

Mr. Asset Yerali is the President of Remlokomotiv JSC, an investment arm of the Kazakhstan National Railways Company. He is responsible for investment projects in rail infrastructure and machinery. He previously 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. Prior to this, Mr. Yerali worked as a management consultant for government and private sector projects. He was a member of the team working on the Kazakhstan Competitiveness Project implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning of Kazakhstan in cooperation with JE Austin Associates and Economic Competitiveness Group. 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.



Gaukhar Zainullina

Kazakhstan, Spring 2012

Ms. Gaukhar Zainullina began her career as a consultant at the Tax and Legal Services Department at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Almaty office. In 2006-10, Ms. Zainullina was the Founder and General Director of "Bookmark Bookstores," the first western-style retail book sale business in Kazakhstan. From 2010-11 Ms. Zainullina served as a Regional Director for Asia and the Americas at the National Agency for Export and Investment Promotion, Kaznex Invest, under the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Kazakhstan. In that role, she coordinated negotiations with such large Multinational Corporations as GE, Samsung, Marubeni, AGCO Corporation, SNC-Lavalin, and played an active role in securing multimillion investment deals with Toyota Tsusho Corporation and POSCO. In 2011-12 Ms. Zainullina was a Managing Director of Corporate Development at the National Mining Company, "Tau-Ken Samruk," the national operator of state assets in the mining industry. She was responsible for forming and implementing the company's development strategy, ensuring adherence to the code of corporate governance, supervising policy on working with financial institutions, and attracting investments to develop subsoil use projects. In 2012 Ms. Zainullina became 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. Ms. Zainullina holds a BBA in Business Administration from The 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.



Aizhan Zhantayeva

Kazakhstan, Fall 2009

Ms. Aizhan Zhantayeva is a Director for Human Resources at the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Prior her current position, Ms. Zhanateyva served as the Deputy General Director for Corporate and Legal Affairs for the Central Asia region at Imperial Tobacco Kazakhstan. In 2009 Ms. Zhantayeva was a Regional Director for investment attraction from the United States for the National Agency for Export and Investment, "Kazninvest." Previously she served as a Managing Director in the Corporation for Export Development and Promotion and 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 (2002) from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research. Ms. Zhantayeva also earned a MS degree in Finance and Accounting from the Birmingham University, UK in 2003.



Duman Zhumadilov

Kazakhstan, Fall 2012

Mr. Duman Zhumadilov is the Deputy Director at Natural Foods LLP, a company that currently incorporates several plants for water, lemonade, iced tea, and juice production in Kazakhstan. He is also a Special Project Manager at ADD Group LLP. Prior to joining Natural Foods LLP, Mr. Zhumadilov worked for the Intellectual Schools of the First President JSC as a CEO's Assistant and Corporate Secretary. He also previously served for the Intelligence Service "Barlau" of the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan and at the Department of Analysis and Strategic Planning 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 of Kazakhstan in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Grappling Championship and is actively involved in coaching for the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Grappling Club "Bars."

THE RUMSFELD FELLOWS



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 Small Business Support team in the Kyrgyz Republic. Before joining the EBRD, he led two professional consulting firms and also taught International Business and Entrepreneurship courses in 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). Mr. Zhunushov's international professional recognition is verified by the Certified Management Consultant certificate from the U.S. Institute of Management Consultants.



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 in order 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).

Rumsfeld Fellowship Conferences

RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCES



After five years of successful Fellowship sessions in collaboration with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, the Rumsfeld Foundation hosted the first regional gathering of its alumni in the summer of 2012 in Batumi, Georgia.

Following this initial gathering, the Foundation recognized the significant value in bringing together the impressive alumni from across the region in order for the Fellows from all sessions to have the opportunity to connect and exchange ideas. The following year, the Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to encouraging and supporting

the growing alumni network, and was pleased to host a second conference in Lake Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan in the summer of 2013.

In both Batumi and Lake Issyk Kul, conference discussions have focused on important issues and challenges throughout Central Asia and the Caucasus, such as transportation and energy issues, as well as ways to increase regional cooperation. Participants have also discussed ways to strengthen and improve their growing network. Both conferences have been productive and memorable meetings, bringing together the bright minds of these rising young leaders of the region.



Batumi, Georgia - June 23-26, 2012

Of the 62 alumni of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program at the time, 43 Fellows with representatives from 10 countries traveled to Batumi, Georgia to participate in the first Fellowship Conference. Panel discussions covered topics relevant to the region including "Regional Cooperation in Greater Central Asia," "Regional Security Challenges," and "Business Opportunities Along the New Silk Road."

Conference participants considered 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. In addition, Mr. Batu Kutelia, Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia and former Ambassador to the United States, presented a keynote address.

To experience more of Batumi, the Fellows also spent an afternoon on a guided driving tour with stops around the city. The closing session of the Conference focused on the "Future of the Rumsfeld Fellowship" and ways to improve the program and strengthen the alumni network.



RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCES

Lake Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan - June 22-25, 2013

The Foundation hosted its second Fellowship Conference in the summer of 2013 at Lake Issyk Kul in the Kyrgyz Republic. Over 40 alumni attended, with participants from all 10 countries and each fellowship class. Additional assistance for the Conference activities was provided by local partner and sponsor, the Bishkek Business Club. Panels focused on regional issues including “Doing Business in Greater Central Asia, the Caucasus and Mongolia: Challenges and Opportunities,” and “Regional Economic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia: Bridging Asia and Europe.” The Fellows considered several regional topics including country specific investment climates and economic outlooks, trends of foreign direct investment, entrepreneurship and SMEs in the region, transportation, and the political transition in Afghanistan.

To gain a feel for the host country, the participants spent an afternoon on a boat cruise on Lake Issyk Kul and went on a guided tour of “Rukh-Ordo,” a spiritual site along the shores of the Lake.

Dr. Fred Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, provided remarks and insights to the Conference discussions, concluding with a session focused on the future of the Fellowship and network.



REFLECTIONS



REFLECTIONS



"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, Uzbekistan, Fall 2009

"I consider this program as one of the major investments in my educational and professional "capital." I earned invaluable assets in the form of acquiring a broad network of colleagues and friends as well as knowledge on many issues. The knowledge and experience I obtained during the program will help me generate new ideas and principles throughout my professional development in the future."

Gauhar Kassymzhanova, Kazakhstan, Spring 2011

"This program was an incredible experience full of inspiring, challenging, and powerful moments. We were able to witness how ideas, thoughts, and determination influence decision making, which will ultimately affect the course of history."

Omar Sharifi, Afghanistan, Spring 2010

"Without any doubt, meeting through the program such prominent people from the United States and the young leaders from the region made a great positive impact on my mind and my heart. It was a sincere privilege and honor to be part of this experience."

Kairat Karmanov, Kazakhstan, Spring 2011

"This six-week program is comparable to a high level Masters program."

Levan Dolidze, Georgia, Spring 2011

"In the past I had the good fortune of serving four years as a high-ranking diplomat in Washington but never had access to this level of influential political and business leaders that we had in just six weeks. This program gave me a unique opportunity to look into American politics and life from an absolutely different angle. Without any doubts this was a once in a lifetime experience."

Nazir Sharipov, Tajikistan, Fall 2013



"The program encouraged me to think outside of myself, my country and the region. I was constantly inspired by outstanding people we met as well as the exceptional fellows that I shared all of these unique experiences with."

Nargiz Nasrullayeva-Muduroglu,
Azerbaijan, Spring 2013



"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, Tajikistan, Spring 2013

"My best take away from this program is a genuine belief in the greatest potential of our region which will help to shape my future aspirations."

Shijir Ochirbat, Mongolia, Spring 2014

"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, Tajikistan, Spring 2014

"This was a time of discovery, rediscovery, learning, sharing of knowledge, networking and bonding that lasts for 6 weeks, but stays with you forever. The program offers a once in a lifetime experience of innovative scholarship, stimulating analysis and unmatched practical exposure to the U.S. policy towards the world, and a unique platform for connecting fellows from the neighboring regions of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia."

Tamta Kupradze, Georgia, Spring 2012



REFLECTIONS



"This program was a life changing experience for me. Not only did it fundamentally change my perceptions about American politics and culture but these six weeks gave me the opportunity to gain a broader and deeper understanding of the problems and achievements of countries of the Central Asia-Caucasus region and the impact they have on my own country. Thanks to this program, I now have greater confidence in choosing a career path that will bring more value to my country. These undoubtedly were the best six weeks in my life."

Aizhan Zhantayeva, Kazakhstan, Fall 2009

"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, Armenia, Fall 2012



The Rumsfeld Foundation was established in 2007, building on the work of the Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld Foundation, established in 1985, which continues to support a wide range of charities from national parks and educational programs to cultural and health initiatives. Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld decided to create the Rumsfeld Foundation to focus their philanthropic efforts by encouraging public service in the United States and promoting free political and free economic systems abroad. To this end, the Foundation has four focus areas: graduate fellowships for students interested in public service, global microfinance, supporting charities that benefit the men and women of the U.S. military and their families, and building linkages between young leaders from Central Asia and the Caucasus to the United States.



Donald Rumsfeld

Co-founder and President

Donald Rumsfeld chairs the Rumsfeld Foundation with his wife, Joyce. The Foundation supports leadership and public service at home and the growth of free political and free economic systems abroad. The Rumsfeld Foundation funds fellowships for graduate students interested in public service, microfinance projects, charitable causes that benefit the men and women of the U.S. armed forces and their families, and the development of linkages between young leaders from Central Asia and the Caucasus and the United States.

His proceeds from the sales of his New York Times bestselling memoir, *Known and Unknown*, published in February, 2011, go to the military charities sponsored by the Rumsfeld Foundation, that assist the wounded, their families, and the children of those who have fallen in combat. He authored a second book, *Rumsfeld's Rules*, which was published in May, 2013.

Mr. Rumsfeld attended Princeton University on scholarships (B.A., 1954) and served on active duty in the U.S. Navy (1954-57) as an aviator, a flight instructor, and an instructor of flight instructors. He ended his service in the Naval Reserve as a Captain when he became the 13th Secretary of Defense in 1975.

Mr. Rumsfeld served as a U.S. Congressman, U.S. Ambassador to NATO, White House Chief of Staff for President Gerald Ford, Special Presidential Envoy to the Middle East for President Ronald Reagan, and Chief Executive Officer of two Fortune 500 companies. He completed his second tour as Secretary of Defense in December, 2006.

During his tenure, he led the U.S. Department of Defense in overseeing the reform and transformation of America's military to be better able to meet the challenges of the information age in the 21st Century.



ABOUT THE RUMSFELD FOUNDATION



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 the Chicago public elementary schools. In the last 25 years, CFE has invested more than 5.5 million dollars 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 one great grandchild and reside in New Mexico.



Dr. Steve Cambone

Director

Dr. Cambone is an independent consultant. Drawing on his extensive experience in government and business, he advises public and private sector leaders in strategic planning, operations, resource allocation, and the use of technology to transform business practices, increase capability and improve efficiency.

He is the founder of Adirondack Advisors, LLC, and is an advisor to technology startups, companies that service the national security market, and non-profits. He sits on the Proxy Board of MDA IS LLC and chairs its Government Security Committee. He recently completed his tenure as the Thomas W. Smith Senior Fellow at Villanova University.

From 2007-2012 he served in senior positions for QinetiQ North America, including the Senior and Executive Vice President for Strategic Development, as well as President of QNA's Mission Solutions Group. Dr. Cambone served from 2001-2006 in the Department of Defense during which he was twice nominated by President Bush for senior positions, including as the first Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence. Dr. Cambone received the DoD and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medals. He was a Senior Fellow at CSIS and Director of Research at the Institute for National Security Studies at National Defense University. He is on the Advisory Board of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance and the Board of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. He is on the Advisory Board of the Volgenau School of IT and Engineering at George Mason University.

Dr. Cambone received his Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science from Claremont Graduate School and his B.A. 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 in four focus areas including global microfinance, 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 helping to manage 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
Program Coordinator

Bridget Sedlacek is the Program Coordinator of the Rumsfeld Foundation. She assists in coordinating the activities of all four focus areas of the Foundation, including the Central Asia and Caucasus Fellowship Program and the Graduate Fellowship Program, as well as the Foundation's grants for microfinance organizations and 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. She was brought on board to work for the Foundation in August of 2012.

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. The Joint Center was formed 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 world area to 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 SAIS, Johns Hopkins University. 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 twenty-three 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 some dozen scholars in four countries.

During the past decade he has returned repeatedly to the challenge of reopening continental-wide transport passing through Central Asia and Afghanistan, which he sees as a key to success in Afghanistan itself. This issue was the subject of a series of articles published between 2000 and 2008, and of a book, *The New Silk Roads* (2008). For articles that have had a direct impact on policy, see "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 work, *Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age from the Arab Invasion to Tamerlane*, was published. It is being translated into many 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 SAIS, Johns Hopkins University. 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 of occasional papers.

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 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

Director of Research

Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli is the Director of Research 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 and Security at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University and at American University. He frequently speaks 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 covering relationships with International Financial Institutions, U.S. assistance programs and business initiatives. He actively facilitated the elaboration and implementation of the multiple pipeline policies in the Caucasus. Dr. Tsereteli's most recent publication is "Azerbaijan and Georgia: Strategic Partnership for Stability in a Volatile Region" in the "Silk Road Papers" series of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute.



David Soumbadze

Director, Rumsfeld Fellowship Program

David Soumbadze is the Director of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. From 2009 to 2013 he was also the Director of the Silk Road Media Program. Mr. Soumbadze holds a BA and a MA in Economic, Political and Social Geography from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia (1982) and a MA in International Policy and Practice from the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs (2008).

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THE LIBRARY OF THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN - NATIONAL LEADER

The Library of the First President of Kazakhstan-National Leader, informally known as “Nazarbayev Center,” was established by the Decree of the Head of State on March 13, 2014.

It combines the services of the presidential archive, museum, and research and analysis center in a way similar to presidential libraries and museums in the USA, France, Russia and other countries.

The Presidential Administration Library’s Research and Analysis Center has a strong and unique impact on policy-making. The mission of the Center is to support President Nazarbayev’s decision-making through research and policy analysis, as well as the promotion of strategic initiatives of the First President of Kazakhstan inside the country and abroad.

The Nazarbayev Center has been created in the form of Western-type think tanks and aims to provide high-quality

strategic insights and alternative policy solutions. The Library’s think tank holds two research subdivisions for Geopolitics and Regional Studies and Strategic Studies and Forecasting.

The research subdivisions conduct complex analyses of Kazakhstan’s domestic and foreign policies, strategic research in the field of country and geopolitical studies (focusing on the USA, Russia, China, EU, Caspian and Central Asian states), and risk assessment and forecasting in national security leading to concrete policy recommendations.

The Library’s Research and Analysis Center is strongly interested in close cooperation with think tanks from the USA, Russia, China, the EU and Central Asian states and is open for communication with experts and media communities throughout the world.



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