



2022 SPEAKER BIOS



RUSLAN AKCHURIN

Mr. Ruslan Akchurin is Co-founder and General Manager of AZCHEMCO LLC. Prior to his current position, he was Head of the Representative Office of Switzerland Caspian Container Company SA in Azerbaijan and Georgia and was Director of Azerbaijan logistics company, Caspian EPC Company LLC for the last 6 years.

Mr. Akchurin holds a BA in Business organization management from the Kyiv National Economics University.



ISKANDER AKYLBAYEV

Mr. Iskander Akylbayev is Director for Central Asia at the Oxford Policy Advisory Group. Previously, he served as the Executive Director of the Kazakhstan Council on International Relations, a recently established analytical platform, and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Diplomacy at the Academy of Public Administration, where he provides training to junior and mid-career diplomats. Mr. Akylbayev is also a foreign policy analyst at the national “Qazaqstan” TV channel. Previously, Mr. Akylbayev worked as a Senior Fellow at the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Kazakhstan, where his research focused on foreign policy and security

issues in Central Asia and Afghanistan as well as China-Russia relations. He is also a fellow at the Pacific Forum CSIS Young Leaders Program. Mr. Akylbayev holds an MA in International Area Studies from the University of Tsukuba, Japan (2014) and a double BA in International Relations from the School of Economics and Administrative Sciences and in English Language and Literature from the School of Arts and Sciences at Fatih University in Istanbul, Turkey (2011).



GENERAL HAIBATULLAH ALIZAI

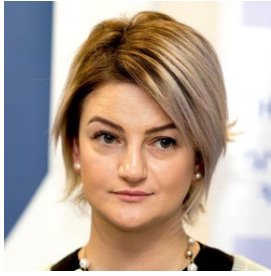
Gen. Haibatullah Alizai was Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Army from 11 to 15 August 2021, succeeding Wali Ahmadzai. He previously served as head of the ANA's Special Operations Command at the time of the 2021 Taliban offensive amid the Afghanistan War.



HADEIA AMIRY

Ms. Hadeia Amiry formerly served as Special Adviser to the National Security Adviser to the President of Afghanistan. Prior, she served as the Deputy Director General of the Fifth Political Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan in charge of the Americas, Australia and New Zealand Bureau. Previously from 2013-16, Ms. Amiry worked at the Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington, D.C. as the Head of the Economic Department and then as a Senior Political Affairs Officer analyzing U.S. policy and relations with South and Central Asia. Since 2010 Ms. Amiry has been actively promoting women's rights and awareness in Afghanistan. She is a 40 under 40 award

winner. Ms. Amiry holds an MA in Global Security Studies from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University (2016), an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy from Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey (2015), a BA in English Language and Literature from Kabul University (2011) and a BBA from Kardan University in Kabul (2010).



AREVIK ANAPIOSYAN

Ms. Arevik Anapioosyan is Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser at the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Armenia. Previously, she served as Deputy Minister of Education of Armenia. Previously she served as the Executive Director of the Institute of Public Policy, where she has been involved in a number of policy research initiatives aimed at the development and enhancement of quality education policies in Armenia and regionally. She is also an adjunct faculty member at the American University of Armenia and at the Centre for European Studies at Yerevan State University. Ms.

Anapioosyan holds an MA in Political Science from the American University of Armenia (2008) as well as an MA (2008) and a BA (2006) in International Relations from Yerevan State University. From 2012-2015 she was a visiting fellow at the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, UK, in 2015 she was a visiting Ph.D. researcher at the University of Tartu, Estonia and in 2016 she did an academic fellowship at the University of Massachusetts, in collaboration with Harvard University, on the Study of U.S. Political Thought and Politics.



KENNETH ANGELL

Mr. Kenneth Angell is Managing Director of Project Finance at the U.S. International Development Corporation. Kenneth Angell has over forty years of international financial experience with expertise in project financing, commercial and development banking, investment promotion, and institutional development. Mr. Angell has worked in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Russia, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Mr. Angell is a Managing Director in the Office of Development Credit of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), where he manages a team of people which originate and structure loans for project finance and corporate finance transactions. Mr. Angell has been with DFC for over twenty-five years.

Prior to joining DFC, Mr. Angell worked with Development Alternatives, Inc. where he served as a financial and private sector development specialist. He began his career with American Express International Bank in Singapore as a Commercial Bank Lending Officer.

Mr. Angell holds an M.B.A. in Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He received an M.A. in International Relations and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania.



DR. KAUSH ARHA

Dr. Kaush Arha is a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. He has advised the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council, which works to develop sustainable strategies to address security challenges facing the U.S. and its allies and partners. He previously served as the senior advisor for strategic engagement at the US Agency for International Development. In 2020 he served as the US G7 sherpa for the Blue Dot Network. Dr Arha has co-edited a book entitled The Endangered Species ACT and Federalism: Effective Conservation Through Greater State Commitment treating the role of states in implementing and enforcing environmental laws.



AIBEK ARTYKBAEV

Mr. Aibek Artykbaev has worked in the State Departments of Kyrgyzstan for more than ten years, during which he spent three years working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in various positions, and one year as the Expert at the Prime Minister’s Office. During that time, he gained practical experience in international politics, regional cooperation, geopolitics and globalization. The knowledge collected from these experiences resulted in numerous academic publications in the fields of Political Science, Geopolitics, and International Relations, and led Artykbaev to pursue a PhD in Political Science at the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow, Russia. Aside from other publications, the PhD

resulted in a book titled, “Geopolitical Processes in Central Asia in the Era of Globalization”. Artykbaev holds a Master’s degree in Management.



MIRBEK ASANGARIEV

Mr. Mirbek Asangariev is a serial entrepreneur and the founder and CEO of the 4-star eco-friendly business Hotel "Bridges" in Bishkek as well as the Founder and Owner of the social enterprise, "Bishkek Furniture," which he founded in 2005 employing young disabled people and has gone on to become one of the most successful and largest players in the Kyrgyz market. As a social entrepreneur, Mr. Asangariev decided to establish the Association of Social Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan, which has now prepared more than 2,000 young leaders and helped to launch more than 80 startup social enterprises. Mr. Asangariev was also a founder and a leader of the political party, "For Barrier Free Life," from 2008-2013 and a Co-founder and Chairman of the Liberal Political Party, "Reforma," from 2013-15. In addition, he founded a public association, "Movement of Disabled Youth of Kyrgyzstan," where he served as Chairman from 2002-2010. This organization successfully advocated for legislation to be adopted to help disabled people and played a leading role in ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Asangariev holds an MBA from the American University in Central Asia in Bishkek (2017) and a BA in Law from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan (2005).



ALI ASLAN

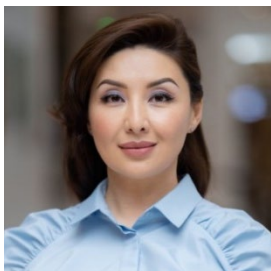
Mr. Ali Aslan is an internationally renowned TV presenter and journalist with over 20 years' experience as a talk show host, news anchor, correspondent and moderator. His journalistic career spans three continents and includes work for CNN in Washington DC, ABC News in New York, Channel News Asia in Istanbul, and Deutsche Welle TV in Berlin. An experienced TV anchor, Aslan hosted the international talk show „Quadriga“ on Deutsche Welle TV which reached 200 countries and 90 million viewers each week. Aslan regularly moderates at high-level global conferences and has shared the stage with top world leaders, including Angela Merkel, Emmanuel Macron, Justin Trudeau, Christine Lagarde and Bill Clinton. Aslan studied International Affairs and Journalism at Columbia University and International Politics at Georgetown University.



DR. CAGRI BAGCIOGLU

Dr. Cagri Bagcioglu has spent his career in international education working in U.S. and international state and private higher education institutions and organizations. Currently, as a founding team member, Dr. Bagcioglu serves as the senior executive for Eastern Europe and Central Asia region at Cintana Education. Before joining Cintana, he provided operational leadership to the mature centers of INTO University Partnerships in North America as well as support to INTO's senior leadership in innovation and new projects. Prior to that, Dr. Bagcioglu worked for Laureate International Universities between 2009 and 2018 in different capacities and roles, becoming the CEO of Laureate's Turkey operations. During his tenure in Turkey, Dr. Bagcioglu led Istanbul Bilgi University to triple its enrollment, growing to over 30,000 students, to improve all outcomes of the University including its position in national and international rankings, and to seek and obtain national and international accreditations.

He has served as Senior International Officer for various U.S. state universities and has provided consultancy to different higher education institutions and companies in the United States and other countries. Dr. Bagcioglu is a member of several international education professional organizations and has presented numerous times at various events. Dr. Bagcioglu obtained his BBA in Economics and Finance at the University of North Alabama where he also completed his MBA in Marketing and Finance. He received his doctoral degree in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Liverpool.



NAZIRA BEISHENALIEVA

Ms. Nazira Beishenalieva is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of CJSC Bank of Asia, a family-owned business, where she oversees the activities of the Board in the formation of bank policy and the execution of bank strategy. She is also the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kyrgyzstan, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Central Asia. Previously, Ms. Beishenalieva was the Chairperson of the Bishkek Business Club and President of the Rotary Club of Bishkek. For the last eight years, Ms. Beishenalieva has engaged in educational, cultural and social charity projects in

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



AMB. JOHN BOLTON

John R. Bolton served as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs from April 8, 2018 until his resignation on September 10, 2019. From January 2007 until April 2018, he served as a Senior Fellow at American Enterprise Institute in Washington. John R. Bolton was appointed as United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations on August 1, 2005 and served until his resignation in December 2006. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Bolton served as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security from May 2001 to May 2005. Throughout his distinguished career, Ambassador Bolton has been a staunch defender of American

interests. While Under Secretary of State, he repeatedly advocated tough measures against the nuclear weapons programs of both Iran and North Korea, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction worldwide. He led negotiations for America to withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty so that the Bush Administration could proceed with a national missile-defense program.

Ambassador Bolton has spent many years of his career in public service. Previous positions he has held include assistant secretary for International Organization Affairs at the Department of State, 1989-1993; assistant attorney general, Department of Justice, 1985-1989; assistant administrator for Program and Policy Coordination, U.S. Agency for International Development, 1982-1983 and general counsel, U.S. Agency for International Development, 1981-1982.

Ambassador Bolton is the author of *Surrender is Not an Option: Defending America at the U.N. and Abroad*, published by Simon and Shuster (November 2007) and *How Barack Obama is Endangering our National Sovereignty*, published by Encounter Books (April 2010). Ambassador Bolton was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Yale College in 1970, and received his Juris Doctor from Yale Law School in 1974. He currently resides in Maryland with his wife, Gretchen. They have one daughter, Jennifer Sarah, who also graduated from Yale College, and received her MBA and SM degrees from MIT in 2014 and is currently a senior manager at Nissan's manufacturing facility in Nashville.



ERIC BROWN

Mr. Eric Brown is a senior fellow at Hudson Institute where he studies Asian and Middle East affairs, international security and development, alternative geopolitical futures, and U.S. diplomacy and strategy. He is also the editor, with Hillel Fradkin and Husain Haqqani, of the review [Current Trends in Islamist Ideology](#). In recent years, his work has focused on the contest over order in West Asia, the geo-strategic ramifications of growing Trans-Asian connectivity, coping with state fragility, and U.S. security strategy. For 15 years, he has conducted research across Eurasia on strategic, governance, educational and political issues as well as on developing new expeditionary diplomacy

and stabilization tools and plans. He has a special interest in the geopolitics of mountainous areas, from the Zagros to the Himalayas. In 2017, he completed a field-work intensive study on U.S. alliances from the Maghreb to India, and on strategies for bolstering allies against state fragility and breakdown and expanding grey zone conflict.



AMB. MATTHEW BRYZA

Ambassador Matthew Bryza completed a 23-year career as a U.S. diplomat in 2012, culminating as Ambassador to Azerbaijan. Earlier, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (2005-2009) and Director on the National Security Council Staff at the White House (2001-2005) for Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus. During 1998 to 2001, Ambassador Bryza was the Deputy Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State on Caspian Basin Energy Security. Bryza served in the U.S. Missions to Russia (1995-1997) and Poland (1989-1991). Currently,

Ambassador Bryza serves on the Boards of energy, mining, and telecommunications companies operating from the Greater Caspian Region to Texas. Simultaneously, Bryza is managing director of the Istanbul office of Ballard Partners, a major US and lobbying and public affairs firm that helps companies navigate political and legislative issues.

He is also CEO of Lamor Turkey, a Finnish-Turkish joint venture that provides solutions to environmental problems. Bryza is a Board Member of the Jamestown Foundation, a think tank headquartered in Washington, DC. He was Director of the International Center for Defence and Security in Tallinn, Estonia, during 2012-2015, where he founded the Center's energy security and cyber security programs. He is a frequent commentator in media outlets including CNN International, Al Jazeera, The BBC, Fox News, The Financial Times, Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, and Chicago Tribune, as well as numerous outlets in Turkey and the South Caucasus. Bryza is the recipient of Estonia's Cross of Terra Mariana (Fourth Class) and Georgia's Order of St. George. He received his bachelor's degree in international relations from Stanford University and his master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.



MUKHTAR BUBEYEV

Mr. Bubejev is a Member of the Board of Directors at Astana Financial Services. He is a qualified professional in banking supervision and financial services sector. Previously he headed banking supervision at the Financial Markets Supervision Agency of Kazakhstan. He also served as board member of Kazakhstan's central bank responsible for monetary policy. Mr. Bubejev served in capacity of Chief Executive Officer of the Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) from 9 July 2018 till 17 March 2022.



CODY CARBONE

Mr. Carbone is the Director of Policy at the Chamber of Digital Commerce, the world's leading trade association representing the digital asset and blockchain industry. At the Chamber, Cody leads all federal policy education and advocacy efforts with Congress and the Biden administration representing viewpoints of the Digital Chamber's +200 members. Previously, Cody spent six years in the office of public policy at Ernst & Young (EY), where he led federal government engagement and advocacy efforts on issues related to financial services and technology. Cody has also spent time serving as legislative staff in the US House of Representatives and US Senate.

Cody received his Juris Doctorate (JD) and Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from Syracuse University and is admitted to the New York State Bar. Cody currently lives in Washington, DC.



ZARINA CHEKIRBAEVA

Ms. Zarina Chekirbaeva is Founder and CEO of BGLobal Ltd., and formerly served as the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in the Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to joining the AmCham, she was a Corporate Affairs Director at CJSC "Jerooyaltyn," a gold mining company based in Kyrgyzstan. Her previous work experience also includes working at the U.S. Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Democratic Institute Office in Bishkek, the Academy for Educational Development and the Eurasia Foundation Office in Washington, D.C. Ms. Chekirbaeva holds an MPA from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (2006) and a BA in Business

Administration from the American University of Central Asia (2002). She is also a graduate of the Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the East-West Center in Hawaii (2006). She is an alumna of several international leadership programs and is actively involved in several social projects in Kyrgyzstan. Since November 2013, Ms. Chekirbaeva has been a Regional Network Development Manager for the Central Eurasia Leadership Alliance (CELA).



VICTORIA CLARKE

Ms. Victoria Clarke is a highly respected communications leader in both the public and private sector. Her distinguished career includes working as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, as a senior public relations counselor to Comcast Corporation and most recently as head of Global Corporate Affairs (GCA) for SAP, responsible for building credibility for SAP's vision and strategy with priority audiences.

Clarke is currently the host of the successful podcast, "Chatter on Books," that features leading authors in diverse and often provocative topics, and serves as a Senior Advisory

Committee Member for the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School. Clarke is also pursuing her Master's in Social Work to further the development of equine therapy for military veterans with P.T.S.D.

A published author, she has been a featured guest on programs ranging from ABC's This Week to The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. Clarke graduated from George Washington University.



LUKE COFFEY

Mr. Luke Coffey is the director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. Coffey, named to the post in December 2015, oversees foreign policy and international affairs issues. Coffey previously was Heritage's Margaret Thatcher fellow, focusing on relations between the United States and the United Kingdom and on the role of NATO and the European Union in transatlantic and Eurasian security. Before joining the think tank's Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom in 2012, Coffey had served at the UK Ministry of Defence since 2010 as senior special adviser to then-British Defence Secretary Liam Fox. Coffey, a U.S. Army veteran, was the first non-

UK citizen appointed by the Prime Minister to provide advice to senior British ministers. Among his duties was helping shape British defense policy in relation to transatlantic security, NATO, the European Union, and Afghanistan. Coffey previously worked in the House of Commons as an adviser on defense and security issues for the Conservative Party. He helped develop and implement policy initiatives on security and defense matters, in particular drafting the defense section of the party's 2010 election manifesto. Coffey's work in British politics followed his service to the United States as a commissioned officer in the Army. He spent his entire time on active duty overseas and was stationed in Italy with the Army's Southern European Task Force.

In 2005, Coffey deployed to Afghanistan for a year and was awarded the Bronze Star. Coffey has testified before Congress on NATO, Arctic, and South Caucasus issues. He has provided written testimony to the UK's House of Lords Committee on the Arctic. His research has been quoted in reports by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee and the House of Lords Committee on the Arctic. Coffey received a master of science degree in the politics and government of the European Union from the London School of Economics. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and studied African politics as a visiting undergraduate at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa.



DR. SVANTE CORNELL

Dr. Svante E. Cornell is the Director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program Joint Center, and a co-founder of the Institute for Security and Development Policy, Stockholm. 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.

Cornell is Senior Fellow for Eurasia at the American Foreign Policy Council. He was educated at the Middle East Technical University, received his Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from Uppsala University, and holds an honorary degree from the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. He is a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Military Science, and a Policy Advisor to JINSA's Gemunder Center for Policy. Formerly, Cornell served as Associate Professor of Government at Uppsala University and as Associate Research Professor at the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

Cornell is the author or editor of ten books, including Small Nations and Great Powers, the first comprehensive study of the post-Soviet conflicts in the Caucasus. His most recent books include The Long Game on the Silk Road: U.S. and EU Strategy for Central Asia and the Caucasus, and Uzbekistan's New Face.



KHULAN DAVAADORJ

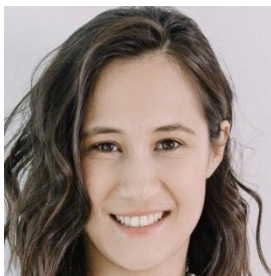
Ms. Khulan Davaadorj is a social-entrepreneur, Founder, Director and Chief Technologist of Natural Essentials LLC. In 2014 Ms. Davaadorj started Mongolia's first organic skincare brand, LHAMOUR, with the vision to make a positive social change. Through the example of her company she is aiming to pave the way for others in Mongolia to try and overturn conventions and to contribute to positive social change and economic growth. Ms. Davaadorj is also the Founder of the "Finding Your Passion" program that provides teenagers with the skills and mindset to find their inner passion and get prepared for the international world. In 2016 she received the Best Young

Entrepreneur of Asia-Pacific award and in 2018 she was selected as the International Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization's World Ambassador for Mongolia. Ms. Davaadorj holds an MPA in International Energy Management and Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (2012) and an MSc in Public Policy from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany (2011).



TUVSHINZAYA GANTULGA

Mr. Tuvshinzaya Gantulga is a Visiting Fellow at the Project 2049 Institute. Previously, he served as the Foreign and Economic Policy Desk Officer of the Office of the President of Mongolia. Prior to that he served as the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Mongolia where he was in charge of management, public and media relations, and advocacy efforts. During his tenure, Mr. Gantulga successfully positioned AmCham as one of the most influential business associations in Mongolia. A few years ago Forbes Mongolia named Mr. Gantulga on their "30 under 30" list of the most influential young change-makers in the country. Mr. Gantulga holds an MPA from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) of Columbia University in the City of New York (2017), where he served as an editor of the prestigious Journal of International Affairs, and a BA in Value Studies with a concentration in Political Philosophy and Literature from Bard College in Berlin, Germany (2012).



DINARA GAPLAN

Ms. Dinara Gaplan, is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of "Bolashak" Corporate Foundation. She is also an honorary member of the Association of the "Bolashak" International Scholarship Program, a member of the Council for the Development of Charity under the Government of Kazakhstan, a member of the Council of NGOs under the Ministry of Education and Science, a member of the Council on Children's Rights Protection and a member of the working group on the development of charity-related legislation. Ms. Gaplan was also in charge of the only national-level project to elevate the Kazakh language by dubbing foreign movies into Kazakh. She developed partnerships with companies such as Disney, Sony, Pixar, LucasFilm and Bazelevs and organized the first Disney concerts to be held in Kazakhstan. Along with promoting the Kazakh culture and language, Ms. Gaplan is a passionate advocate for people with special needs and is currently leading a project that provides children with special needs equal opportunities in the educational system. Ms. Gaplan holds an MSc in Economics from the Caspian State University of Technologies and Engineering, Kazakhstan (2010), a BA in World Economy from Taraz State University, Kazakhstan (2006) and is a certified coach of The Erickson International Program (2018).



SEC. CARLOS GUTIERREZ

Mr. Carlos Gutierrez is Executive Chairman and Co-Founder of EmPath after serving as Chair of the Albright Stonebridge Group. He served as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce from 2005 to 2009 under President George W. Bush, and joined ASG from Citi, where he served as Vice Chairman of the Institutional Clients Group and a member of the Senior Strategic Advisory Group. His background adds to the firm's already deep understanding of the different languages of business, government and civil society, and where they intersect. His global business insights, international expertise, and integrity add value for clients worldwide in the practice of commercial diplomacy.

Mr. Gutierrez was born in Havana, Cuba. He joined the Bush Administration in 2005 after spending nearly 30 years with Kellogg Company, a global manufacturer and marketer of well-known food brands, where he started as a sales representative in Mexico City. After assignments in Latin America, Canada, Asia, and the United States, he became President and Chief Executive Officer in 1999 -- the youngest CEO in the company's 100-year history. In April 2000, he was named Chairman of the Board of Kellogg Company.

As the 35th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Secretary Gutierrez was responsible for heading a Cabinet agency with almost 40,000 employees and a \$6.5 billion budget focused on promoting American business at home and abroad. During his tenure as Secretary, he worked with foreign government and business leaders to advance economic relationships, enhance trade, and promote U.S. exports. Secretary Gutierrez also played a key role in the passage of landmark free trade agreements that strip away trade barriers, expand export opportunities and boost global investment.

Mr. Gutierrez is chairman of Republicans for Immigration Reform, the political action group that he co-founded in 2012. He also serves as a National Trustee at the University of Miami and as a visiting scholar at the University's

Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies. He is on the Board of Trustees of Meridian International Center, and a Member of the Board of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation. He also sits on the boards of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Met Life, Inc., and Time Warner, Inc.



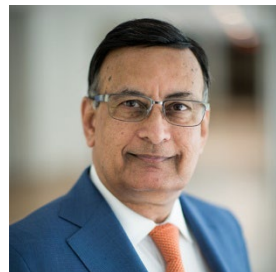
EKATERINA GVELESIANI

Ms. Ekaterina Gvelesiani is Partner at E.G. Holding and Owner of the Paliani Hotel in Svaneit, Georgia. Previously, she served as Chairperson and Founder of Data Research, Analysis and Planning Center and a Board Member of the Atlantic Council of Georgia. Ms. Gvelesiani worked at the National Security Council (NSC) as an advisor to the Deputy Secretary and as the Deputy Director of the Defense and National Security Policy Department in 2011-2014. Previously she worked as Marketing Manager at Tbilisi Aircraft Manufacturing Company, as Assistant International Affairs Manager at Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Kliniken in Germany and as Assistant Branch Manager at Credit Agricole in France. Ms. Gvelesiani holds an MBA in Hospitality from Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland (2020), MSc in International Management from Superior Institute of International Commerce in France (2009) and a BA in Business Administration from the Caucasus School of Business (2007). Gvelesiani holds an MA in International Management from Superior Institute of International Commerce in France (2009) and a BA in Business Administration from the Caucasus School of Business (2007). In 2017 she completed a joint program of Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law and the Economic Policy Research Center's Leadership Academy for Development.



ZAFAR HASHEMI

Mr. Zafar Hashemi is Special Adviser at SIGAR and previously served as Senior Counselor at the Embassy of Afghanistan in the United States. Prior to that he served as Deputy Spokesman of the President of Afghanistan – in this position, he managed and coordinated communications and messaging of the Presidential Palace across the Afghan government and society as well as the international community. Mr. Hashemi is an award-winning journalist, and from 2007-15 he worked for the Afghanistan Service of Voice of America, reporting on Afghan, American and world affairs for radio, television and web in both Farsi and English. From 2006-7, Mr. Hashemi managed public affairs and communications at the Afghanistan Stabilization Program (ASP). Also, from 2004-2006 he managed a UNDP funded project to produce media content about democracy, elections and civic participation in post-9/11 Afghanistan. Mr. Hashemi holds an MA in Public Management from Johns Hopkins University (2015), and a BSc in Political Science and Journalism from the University of Maryland University College (UMUC, 2012).



AMBASSADOR HUSSAIN HAQQANI

Amb. Husain Haqqani is a Senior Fellow and Director for South and Central Asia at the Hudson Institute. Previously he served as Pakistan's ambassador to the United States from 2008 to 2011 and is widely credited with managing a difficult partnership during a critical phase in the global war on terrorism.

Amb. Haqqani's distinguished career in government includes serving as an advisor to four Pakistani Prime ministers: Yusuf Raza Gilani, Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif, and Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. He also served as Pakistan's ambassador to Sri Lanka from 1992 to 1993. Amb. Haqqani is the author of four books: *Pakistan Between Mosque and Military* (Carnegie, 2005), *Magnificent Delusions: Pakistan, the United States and an Epic History of Misunderstanding* (Public Affairs, 2013), *India vs Pakistan: Why Can't We Just Be Friends?* (Juggernaut, 2016) and *Reimagining Pakistan: Transforming a Dysfunctional Nuclear State* (Harper Collins, 2018).

Considered an expert on radical Islamist movements, Amb. Haqqani is co-editor with Hillel Fradkin and Eric Brown of Hudson's journal, *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology*.

Amb. Haqqani was formerly director of the Center of International Relations, and a professor of the practice of international relations at Boston University. His areas of expertise include diplomacy, Muslim political movements, international journalism, intercultural relations, South Asia, Central Asia, South-East Asia, the Middle-East, and U.S.-Pakistan relations.

Amb. Haqqani received his bachelor's and master's degrees in international relations from the University of Karachi. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, he acquired traditional Islamic learning as well as a modern education in international relations. His journalism career started with work as East Asian correspondent for *Arabia: The Islamic World Review* during the turbulent years following the Iranian revolution. During this period he wrote extensively on Muslims in China and East Asia and Islamic political movements. Later, as Pakistan and Afghanistan correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, he covered the war in Afghanistan and acquired a deep understanding of militant Islamist Jihadi groups.



FIDAN HUSEYNLI

Ms. Fidan Huseynli is in charge of all Marketing Communication activities at Huangpu Europe she as well as the Huangpu office's European stakeholder management.

She is a communications specialist with more than 10 years of professional experience in international communications, content development and stakeholder management. Her professional experience includes work for the EU Twinning projects, the World Bank, FAO in Azerbaijan as well as content specialist for mc Group - leading PR and communications agency headquartered in Berlin. Fidan is native in Russian, fluent in English and German.



FARRUKH IRNAZAROV

Mr. Farrukh Irnazarov is Head of the Representative Office Chemonics International Inc. Previously, he was Co-Founder and Country Director at the Central Asian Development Institute of Tashkent, Uzbekistan where he was in charge of several consulting and research projects on economic development, labour migration, regional trade and transport issues in Central Asia, and has conducted them for the World Bank, ADB, GIZ, USAID, IOM, Volkswagen and Gerda Henkel Foundations. From 2008 to 2011, Mr. Irnazarov worked as a Researcher at the University of Applied Sciences in Goettingen, Germany, and from 2007 to 2008 was an Associate Faculty Lecturer in International

Trade at the School of Business at the National College of Ireland in Dublin. Mr. Irnazarov holds a Master of Science in Business Administration and Economics from Stockholm University, Sweden (2006), a Master of Social Science in International and European Relations from Linköping University, Sweden (2005) and a BA in International Economic Relations from the National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent (2002).



FRAUKE JUNGBLUTH

Ms. Frauke Jungbluth is Practice Manager for the Europe and Central Asia Region in the Agriculture and Food Global Practice, under Sustainable Development Vice Presidency. She is holding this position since September 2019. Ms. Jungbluth, a German national, joined the Bank in 1999 as a Young Professional. She has since held various positions, including Senior Rural Development Economist in the Africa and Europe and Central Asia and South Asia regions in the Agriculture and Food Global Practice, including field assignments in Mozambique, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. Prior to her position as Practice Manager, she was Lead Agriculture Economist in the Agriculture and Food Global Practice in the East Asia and Pacific region, based in Manila, Philippines.



PARWIZ KAWA

Mr. Parwiz Kawa is Central Asia News Editor and Head of Office at Afghanistan International TV. Previously, he was Founding Member and the Editor-in-Chief of Hashte Subh Daily, the leading and largest independent newspaper in Afghanistan and winner of the International Press Freedom Prize from Reporters Without Borders in 2012. He has worked in local and national media outlets since 1998. Mr. Kawa is also a founding member and the Chairman of Afghanistan Analysis and Awareness (A3), a civil movement organization and think tank. Mr. Kawa holds a BA in Law and Political Science from Kabul University (2011) and a BA in Education from the Baghlan Teacher

Training Center (1996). He is also a poet and novelist and has published two collections of his poetry: "A Night from Exile" and "Two Guns, Two Stones."



TAMAR KEKENADZE

Ms. Tamar Kekenadze is the Chairperson of the Free Democrats Political Party and Associate Professor in Political Science at the British University in Georgia. Before joining the party in February 2015, she was a Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia to NATO and the EU. Previously, she served as Head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Division at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Prior to that, Ms. Kekenadze worked for five years in civil society organizations on national and international levels. In 2008, she was awarded the “Young European of the Year” Prize for outstanding commitment to fostering international understanding and the union of

Europe. In 2009, she was privileged as a non-EU member country representative to intern in the Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament. Ms. Kekenadze is currently pursuing her PhD in Economics, and holds an MA in Computer Engineering, Information Science and Control Systems (2006) as well as a BA in Computer Systems and Networks (2003), all from Georgian Technical University.



DR. DAVID KIRVALIDZE

Dr. David Kirvalidze is Member of the Board of Directors at US-based, international, non-profit organization – Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA). Kirvalidze has 28 years of leadership experience in agriculture and rural development sectors. He previously served as an Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia.

Dr. Kirvalidze also served two terms as Minister of Agriculture, and served as the chairman of the Agrarian Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia.



JENNY JENISH KYZY

Ms. Jenny Jenish kyzy is Head of Experimentation of the Acceleration Lab at UNDP Kyrgyzstan. Previously, she was Chairperson of the Association of Social Entrepreneurs (ASE) of Kyrgyzstan. She is also a Founder of a non-profit, “New Schools Foundation” (NSF), and “J-Invest Consulting” firm in Kyrgyzstan. In the frameworks of ASE and NSF, she has been leading a school of social entrepreneurs, a cinema school and an International Kids Film Festival to provide entrepreneurial and creative education to young students.

Ms. Jenny Jenish kyzy has provided consultancy to the largest educational companies in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. In previous years, she also had consulting experience with the Ministry of Economy, the Investment Promotion Agency and other economic policy agencies in Kyrgyzstan. From 2017-18 Ms. Jenny Jenish kyzy worked in Kazakhstan as an investment expert on the Belt & Road Initiative at the national company “Kazakh Invest” under the Ministry of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan. Beside her professional work, she is actively engaged in community services, such as serving the Bishkek Hub of Global Shapers Community (an initiative of the World Economic Forum) and the Professionals’ Club ProKG. She is an author of numerous analytical articles and a publisher of the book “Kyrgyz Nomad Dances.” Ms. Jenny Jenish kyzy holds an MSc in Social Enterprise Administration from Columbia University’s School of Social Work, New York (2014) and a BA in Sociology from the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (2011).



SHUHRAT MIRZOEV

Mr. Shuhrat Mirzoev is a Managing Partner and Founder of IRSHAD Consulting LLC, a Tajikistan-based professional consulting firm, which offers advisory services to public and private sector clients. Mr. Mirzoev is a development economist, specializing in public sector reform and business environment. He has held senior economist posts at the World Bank and at the UK Department for International Development (DFID) where he led a \$30m portfolio of multi-country programs in Central Asia. Mr. Mirzoev has also worked on numerous development projects funded by the EU, DFID, the World Bank, UNICEF and others, and has provided consulting services for more than 10 years in

economic governance, public finance management, labor markets and fiscal and monetary policy. Mr. Mirzoev is an active participant of a high-level Wilton Park dialogue and advises the Ministry of Finance on fiscal policy and broader PFM reforms in Tajikistan. He holds a MSc in International Strategy and Economics from the University of St Andrews, UK (2006) and a BSc in Economics from the Technological University of Tajikistan (2005). Mr. Mirzoev is currently pursuing his PhD in Economics from Rutgers University in New Jersey.



DR. KHATUNA MSHVIDOBADZE

Dr. Khatuna Mshvidobadze is a Professorial Lecturer of cybersecurity at The George Washington University. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Rondeli Foundation in Tbilisi, Georgia. She developed and taught cyber security courses for M.S and M.P.S programs at Utica College.

She has been Deputy Director of the Information Center on NATO in Georgia and Adviser to the Office of the Minister of Defense of Georgia. Her articles have appeared in Georgian and in English, including in Defense News, Jane's Defense Weekly, US News & World Report, Jane's Foreign Report, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and more. She is also the author of numerous Rondeli Foundation "Expert Opinion" papers and reports on cyber issues.

Her presentations on "Russian Cyber Threats" have been presented at FBI Headquarters and field offices, US Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, as well as in various American private companies, think tanks, institutions and associations. She is an invited guest speaker at various international conferences, including the Def Con and RSA conferences. In 2015, she published a monograph, Georgia Cyber Barometer Report, under the auspices of the UK National Crime Agency.



AMBASSADOR MAMUKA MURJIKNELI

Amb. Mamuka Murjikneli is CEO and General Manager of Wondernet Express Investment Group. Prior, he was the Director-General of the Batumi Multimodal Terminal. He is qualified and experienced in the field of diplomacy, as well as in the field of economics and business. He started his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At various times, he served as Attaché (for Commercial Affairs) and as a Senior Counselor at the Embassy of Georgia to the United States, Canada, and Mexico. From February 2019 to May 2021, he held the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Turkmenistan. He also has extensive experience in private

business. In 2005-2007, Mr. Murjikneli worked at Camargo Energy Corp as Manager External Affairs. In 2007-2015, he worked for Tethys Petroleum Limited and he held the positions of Manager of External Affairs, Head of Corporate Affairs, and Vice President of External Affairs. In 2015-2017, he worked at Skyland Petroleum Group as Vice President of External Affairs. In 2017-2018 he was an Independent Consultant in the regions of Central Asia and the Caucasus.



SARDOR MUKHAMEDALIEV

Mr. Sardor Mukhamedaliev is Founder of Biz Network (Consulting & Events); and Founder of SM's 5 AM Club. Previously, he served as the Chief Business Development Officer of the Swiss-based leading online shopping marketplace, ZoodMall, operating in the Silk Road countries. He is an action-driven executive with 20 years of experience with unique multi-functional business leadership skills, entrepreneurial DNA and a successful proven track record in leading multinational companies like Huawei Technologies, Samsung Electronics and Procter & Gamble in CIS countries. Since 2019, Mr. Mukhamedaliev is an expert at "BuyukKelajak," an international NGO founded by

natives of Uzbekistan living abroad with the goal of helping to develop and implement the Development Strategy of Uzbekistan 2035. His professional expertise is in sales, marketing, business development and networking, and he is a frequent speaker and moderator at international forums and conferences. Mr. Mukhamedaliev successfully completed an online MBA course at Harvard Business School (2010) and also holds an MA in Marketing and Management from Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration (2004) and a BA in Economics from Tashkent State University of Economics (2002).



LOTFULLAH NAJAFIZADA

Mr. Lotfullah Najafizada is an award-winning journalist and director of TOLONews, Afghanistan's top 24/7 news and current affairs TV channel. At TOLONews, Mr. Najafizada oversees the largest news operation in Afghanistan. Mr. Najafizada has interviewed many global leaders, including former British Prime Minister David Cameron, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and former US NSA Gen HR McMaster, among others. His international recognition include Reporters Without Borders's prestigious

medal of Press Freedom Hero for his fight for free press in Afghanistan in 2016, TIME Magazine's title of Next Generation Global Leader and Forbes magazine 30 under 30 Asia influencers in media.

He has a BSc in Economics.



GAUKHAR NURGALIEVA

Ms. Gaukhar Nurgalieva is Senior Advisor at FMA. Previously she served as Head of Eurasian Studies at the Skolkovo Institute of Emerging Markets Studies (IEMS), an international business think tank network supported by EY in Russia, China and India. Skolkovo IEMS is part of the Skolkovo-Moscow School of Management, a leading private business school in Russia. Her research is focused on Russia and Eurasia, development economics and infrastructure, negotiations, Islamic economy, and migration. Prior to her involvement in academia, Ms. Nurgalieva served as an Adviser to the Commissioner on Transport and Infrastructure at the Eurasian Economic Commission in Moscow,

where she dealt with transportation projects and integration policies of the Customs Union members. Before relocating to Moscow in 2012, she worked in Astana as a Managing Director of Corporate Development at the National Mining Company and as a Regional Director for Asia and the Americas at the National Agency for Export and Investment Promotion, Kaznex Invest. From 2006 to 2010, she was the Founder and General Director of Bookmark Bookstores, the first western-style bookstore in Kazakhstan. Ms. Nurgalieva holds an MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Boston (2014), an MBA from Moscow State University, Russia (2010) and a BBA from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (2001).



RAKHIM OSHAKBAYEV

Mr. Rakhim Oshakbayev is the Director of the Center of Applied Research "TALAP," a think-tank focused on macroeconomic research and economic policy. Before joining "TALAP," from 2015 to March 2016, Mr. Oshakbayev served as a Vice-Minister for Investments and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan where he was responsible for the development and implementation of investment policy and international cooperation in this area. Prior to joining the Ministry of Investment and Development, from 2011 to 2015, he served as a First Deputy Chairman of the Board of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan "Atameken." Mr. Oshakbayev also has

substantial experience working in senior management positions in different state-owned and private companies in Kazakhstan. He holds a BS in Economics from Lomonosov Moscow State University (1999).



SALLY PAINTER

Ms. Sally A. Painter is Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer at Blue Star Strategies, LLC where she provides corporate, institutional, and public sector clients with external affairs, foreign and security policy guidance, and global business development strategies. Ms. Painter also serves on the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Council as a senior advisor to its Future Europe Initiative as well as on the International Advisory Board of GLOBSEC. From 1993-1995, Ms. Painter was a senior advisor in the Clinton Administration where she managed the Office of Business Liaison's outreach and advocacy program for the late Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown, providing

strategic advice and advocacy for U.S companies bidding on overseas contracts.

Ms. Painter's work focuses on supporting the democratic, economic development, and rule of law aspirations of countries around the world, particularly those undergoing transition. She is a key leader and trusted advisor in the European space, representing global businesses and governments on their most important investment and foreign policy issues, including NATO, EU, and OECD accession and the historic legislation passed by the U.S. Congress allowing their citizens to enter the U.S. visa-free.

Previously, Ms. Painter served as director of international at Tenneco Inc., a Fortune 500 company and was instrumental in the creation and management of the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue and the French American Business Council. Ms. Painter serves on the boards of the U.S. Committee on NATO, Truman National Security Project, Global Fairness Initiative, Muslim Jewish Conference, PartnersGlobal, National Center for Sustainable Development, Spend Consciously, and 4D PAC.

She is the recipient of the Golden Laurel Branch Award from the Republic of Bulgaria, Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Hungary, and the Minister of Defence Award for Distinction from the Republic of Latvia. She is also a producer of the Broadway theater production ANN, a dramatization of the life of former Texas Governor Ann Richards. A certified downhill ski instructor, Ms. Painter is married with one son, George, a design stylist.



TENGIZ PKHALADZE

Mr. Tengiz Pkhaladze is a Senior Fellow at ECIPE. His research interests cover different areas, including Eastern Partnership Countries, Black Sea Region, European integration and Russian foreign policy towards the Black Sea and Eastern Partnership Countries. Mr. Pkhaladze has a long-standing experience working in the government, civil society, think-tank and academia, mainly in areas of foreign and security policy, geopolitics, Russia and post-soviet countries, Eastern Partnership, European and Euro-Atlantic integration, institutional building and democratic development. He held senior management positions in the public service and NGO sector. He participated in the design and implementation process of Georgia's European reforms agenda. He has a deep understanding of the state institutions and civil society, intergovernmental relations, inter-agency and CSO-Government cooperation, networking, and policymaking. In 2014-2018 Mr. Pkhaladze served as an Advisor – Foreign Relations Secretary to the President of Georgia. Since 2019 he is an Associate Professor, Head of the BA program in Political Sciences at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs. He is currently finalizing his PhD thesis on the Russian “soft power” policy towards neighboring countries.



SHOAIB RAHIM

Mr. Shoaib Rahim is Associate Professor at the American University of Afghanistan and Visiting Scholar at The New School in New York. Previously, he served as Mayor of Kabul, managing administrative and financial portfolios of the Kabul Municipality and leading all efforts pertaining to city revenues, investments and development. Prior to that he served as the Deputy Director of Budget and Finance at the Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan, responsible for management and oversight of its \$1.5 billion USD annual budget, and prior to that served as the Senior Advisor to the Minister of Defense on administrative and financial systems development. Prior to joining the MOD in 2013, he was a consultant and analyst. Mr. Rahim is a Fulbright Scholar and Asia 21 Fellow at the Asia Society's Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative. Mr. Rahim holds an MA in Engineering Management from Duke University (2011) and a BS in Electronics Engineering from Multimedia University in Cyberjaya, Malaysia (2008). He also has co-authored an essay, “Global Youth: Why this Group is more Important than Ever?” in a book entitled, Millennials Speak. Essays on the 21st Century (2013).



ZUHURSHO RAHMATULLOEV

Mr. Zuhursho Rahmatulloev is Co-Founder of Alif Bank in Tajikistan and a fin-tech company in Uzbekistan. Prior to founding Alif, from 2011-12, Mr. Rahmatulloev served as Business Development Manager at BDO Tajikistan, one of the leading audit firms in the country. Previously he also co-founded and failed a number of start-ups in real estate and tourism. In addition, he co-founded a Public Organization, “Peshraft,” which supports young leaders through various stipend programs as well as different social initiatives. Mr. Rahmatulloev holds an MA in International Political Economy with merit from the University of Warwick, UK (2010) and a BA in Business Administration with merit from London South Bank University (2009). He also holds a Chartered Islamic Finance Professional degree from the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2013), one of the leading educational institution in the field.



DANIEL RUNDE

Mr. Daniel F. Runde is a Senior Vice President and Director of the Project on Prosperity and Development (PPD), and holds the William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a leading global think tank. Mr. Runde also serves as the Director of the CSIS Americas Program. His work is oriented around U.S. leadership in building a more democratic and prosperous world. Among his many other contributions, Mr. Runde was as an architect of the BUILD Act, contributed to the reauthorization of the U.S. EXIM Bank in 2018, and was an architect of Prosper Africa, a U.S. government initiative to deepen the United States' commercial and development engagement in Africa. He has been a leading voice on the role and future of the World Bank Group and U.S. leadership in the multilateral system. Prior to CSIS, Mr. Runde held leadership roles at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank Group. Earlier in his career, Mr. Runde worked in commercial banking at Citibank in Argentina and in investment banking at Alex. Brown & Sons. Mr. Runde was granted the Officer's Cross in the Order of Isabel la Católica, a Spanish civil order. Currently, he serves on the board of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF), the Spirit of America, and the Ashesi University Foundation. Mr. Runde is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Bretton Woods Committee. He is also a columnist for The Hill and hosts a CSIS podcast series, Building the Future: Freedom, Prosperity, & Foreign Policy with Dan Runde. He previously chaired two U.S. government advisory committees: the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Assistance at USAID and the Sub-Saharan Advisory Committee at the U.S. EXIM Bank. Fluent in Spanish, he graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College and holds a master's in public policy from Harvard University.



DR. THERESA SABONIS-HELF

Dr. Theresa Sabonis-Helf is a Professor of the Practice in the Georgetown School of Foreign Service Master's Degree program, and serves as the Inaugural Chair of the Science, Technology and International Affairs concentration. Prior to joining Georgetown, she was a Professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College in Washington, D.C. She has lived and worked in seven countries of the Former USSR, has assisted two nations with the development of their first National Security Strategies, has written a textbook on Caucasus regional energy issues, and has co-edited two volumes on Central Asia's political and economic transition. She has also published and lectured extensively on energy security, climate change policies, post-Soviet energy and environmental issues, regional water politics, energy transition, and the politics of electricity. She is a frequent advisor to the US Department of State and USAID and is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a PhD in Political Science from Emory University, and an MPA in International Affairs from Princeton University.



HAMID SABOORY

Mr. Hamid Saboory is an expert on South and Central Asia, with experience serving as the Founder and CEO of Strategic Analysis for Peace and Stability (SAPS), a specialized consulting company that provides strategic analysis and assessment for the security sector in Afghanistan. Prior, Mr. Saboory served as a Country Director for the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development, a Canadian NGO, and as an Acting Director of Strategic Communication in the Office of the National Security Council of Afghanistan. Mr. Saboory is a regular contributor to Foreign Policy, The Diplomat and Huffington Post, focusing on regional political, security and strategic issues. Mr. Saboory holds an MA in Near Eastern Studies from New York University (2009), an MA in International Relations from Syracuse University (2009) and a BA in Law from Kabul University (2002).



DR. NILOFAR SAKHI

Dr. Nilofar Sakhi is a senior fellow (NR) at the Atlantic Council. She has been teaching courses as a professorial lecturer of International Affairs at Elliott School of George Washington University. She has also served as course coordinator and instructor at U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute and a Director of Policy and Diplomacy at McColm & Company. Sakhi also taught at George Mason University and American University of Afghanistan. She also served as a country director of the Open Society Foundation-Afghanistan office and an executive director at the American University of Afghanistan.

A former Fulbright fellow, Sakhi has written extensively on various aspects of traditional and nontraditional security, geopolitics of peace, peacemaking and peacebuilding processes and human security. Her recent book is on Human Security and Agency: Reframing productive power in Afghanistan. Sakhi has been involved in assisting peace, development, and counter insurgency policy formulation. A former visiting fellow at National Endowment for Democracy and Columbia University, and a fellow at Asia Society and International Center for Tolerance Education, Sakhi has researched a wide range of research projects pertaining to politics of peace, and rights and democracy.

She will be joining Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame University in the Fall of 2022 as a visiting research fellow where she will be advancing two lines of research. She will be working on regional security with a case study of Afghanistan-South and Central Asia and exploring the domestic and external incongruences that impact regional peace diplomacy. Nilofar Sakhi received her Ph.D. from George Mason University in 2018.



JEFFREY SCHOTT

Mr. Jeffrey J. Schott joined the Peterson Institute for International Economics in 1983 and is a senior fellow working on international trade policy and economic sanctions. During his tenure at the Institute, Schott was also a visiting lecturer at Princeton University (1994) and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University (1986–88). He was a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (1982–83) and an official of the US Treasury Department (1974–82) in international trade and energy policy. During the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations, he was a member of the US delegation that negotiated the GATT Subsidies Code. He previously was a member of the State Department's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and cochaired the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee for the US Trade Representative.



OMAID SHARIFI

Mr. Omaid Sharifi is a Fellow at Harvard University's Mahinda Humanities Center and the Co-Founder and President of ArtLords. ArtLords is a leading urban art management organization in Afghanistan and a grassroots movement of artists and volunteers motivated by the desire to pave the way for social transformation and behavioral change through employing the soft power of art and culture as a non-intrusive approach. He is also an Atlantic Council Millennium Leadership Fellow and an Asia Society 21 Fellow. Mr. Sharifi is a winner of the Best Animation for Peace and Tolerance Award from the MiSK-UNDP Youth Forum (2017), an Anti-Corruption Excellence Award Winner from Ban Ki-Moon and Emir of Qatar (2016) and Afghanistan's Social Media Award Winner for encouraging offline action (2015). Previously he served as a Program Manager for the British Council of Afghanistan's Tawanmandi project for strengthening civil society in Afghanistan from 2012-2016 and as an aide to Dr. Ashraf Ghani at the Transition Coordination Commission from 2011-2012.



DR. OMAR SHARIFI

Dr. Omar Sharifi is Director of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies. Previously, Dr. Sharifi worked as a Senior Research Fellow and the Kabul Director of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies. After graduating from Kabul Medical Institute in 2003, Dr. Sharifi worked as Head of Research and Publications for the Foundation for Culture and Civil Society in Kabul, and as Director of the Open Media Fund for Afghanistan. Dr. Sharifi holds a PhD from Boston University's Department of Anthropology (2017) and received his MA in Cultural Anthropology from Columbia University in 2008. He has written several essays on social and political issues in Afghanistan that are published in both national and international journals.



DR. S. FREDERICK STARR

Dr. S. Frederick Starr joined the American Foreign Policy Council as Distinguished Fellow for Eurasia in January 2017. He serves as the founding chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. Starr is also a Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS in Washington and Head of Advisory Council at the Institute for Security and Development Policy in Stockholm.

Starr has focused on 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 between 2000 and 2008 and of a book, *The New Silk Roads*, published in 2007. For writings that have had a direct impact on policy see *The Key to Success in Afghanistan* [with A. Kuchins et al] and *Afghanistan Beyond the Fog of Nation Building: Giving Economic Strategy a Chance*.

Starr is a frequent commentator on the affairs of the region, and the author of numerous articles in journals including *Foreign Affairs*, *The National Review*, *Far East Economic Review*, and op-eds in various leading American and international newspapers. His most recent book, [Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age from the Arab Conquest to Tamerlane](#), has been widely acclaimed. In this book on the history of the region between the 8th and 11th centuries, he argues that Central Asia was the center of the world.

Starr was the founding Chairman of the Kennan Institute in Washington, and served as Vice President of Tulane University and President of the Aspen Institute and of Oberlin College (1983-94). He was closely involved in planning the University of Central Asia and the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and is a trustee of the Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan. He earned his PhD in History at Princeton, MA at King's College, Cambridge, and his BA at Yale, and holds five honorary degrees. Starr is also a founding member of the Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble of New Orleans and founded the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the single largest non-governmental sponsor of post-Katrina recovery in that city.



KHILOLA SULEYMANOVA

Ms. Khilola Suleymanova is Managing Partner/Founder of DaVinci Management Consulting. Previously she was the Director and Co-founder of Business Development Group (BDG), a consultancy company and a business school, which has been accredited by the UK's Chartered Institute of Marketing in 2017. Ms. Suleymanova is also a member of the Public Council under the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan and represents the interests of the Ministry of National Education of Uzbekistan in vocational education as consultant (2018). From 2012-15 she served as a Training Coordinator for Central Asia and the Caucasus and an HR Business

Partner in British American Tobacco Uzbekistan. Previously she served as a financial analyst at AFS Research, conducting due diligence and developing feasibility studies for client companies. She holds a BA in Business Administration from Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (2003).



AMB. KIP TOM

After decades of multiple roles in support of agriculture on local, state, national and international levels, Kip Tom was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Rome-based United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in 2019.

He oversaw the largest contributions to UN food programs and dealt with emergency assistance, safety standards, agriculture, fisheries, forests, and rural development financing. Ambassador Tom's diligent efforts to modernize agriculture and increase sustainability has enhanced U.S. objectives in foreign policy and agriculture priorities.

It all started in northeast Indiana at Leesburg-based Tom Farms, an eighth-generation Kosciusko County farming operation known for innovation and operational excellence. Tom is chairman of the Tom Family of Agribusinesses, Tom Farms, CereServ and Tom Family Real Estate Holdings. Kip also is Chairman of GlobalAg an Ag Consulting Firm. The diverse operation has more than 19,000 acres in the U.S.

Ambassador Tom has done work and served as a board member with various organizations including Farmers Feeding the World, the Farm Foundation, Farm Journal Foundation, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana state Department of Agriculture and National 4-H and FFA foundations.

Ambassador Tom has been intimately involved sharing his expertise and experiences in advancing agriculture's technology sector. His servant leadership to Agriculture have been marked with many successful outcomes from his tireless efforts to advance sustainable modern agriculture for the benefit of the US and the International community.



SARAH TONUCCI

Ms. Sarah Tonucci is the Executive Director of the Rumsfeld Foundation. In this capacity she manages the Foundation's programs including fellowships for U.S. graduate students interested in public service and for young leaders from Central Asia and the Caucasus. In addition, she oversees the Foundation's events and conferences, including an annual Graduate Fellowship Conference and annual conferences held in the Greater Central Asia region. Prior to her work with the Rumsfeld Foundation, Mrs. Tonucci 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, Mrs. Tonucci returned to Donald Rumsfeld's staff full-time. After assisting with the Foundation's various programs and grant giving, in March 2011 she was appointed the Executive Director and now oversees all of the Rumsfeld Foundation's activities.



DR. MAMUKA TSERETELI

Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli is a Senior Fellow at Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at American Foreign Policy Council, President of America-Georgia Business Council and adjunct Professor at American university in Washington, DC. He is a Co-Founder of the American University Kyiv, newly created university in Ukraine. Dr. Tsereteli has more than thirty years of experience in academia, diplomacy and business development, focusing on security and economic/business/energy developments in the Black Sea-Caspian region.



KEITH URBANH

Mr. Keith Urbahn is president and founding partner of Javelin. For five years Keith worked for former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, most recently serving as his chief of staff. He helped oversee the publication of Rumsfeld's No. 1 New York Times-bestselling memoir. Previously he worked in the United States Senate for Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and as a Pentagon speechwriter. A summa cum laude graduate of Yale University, he also serves as a commissioned reserve intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy. He is credited in many media outlets as the first person to break the news of the death of Osama bin Laden to the world over Twitter. Urbahn lives in Alexandria, Virginia and has two children, Benjamin and William.



WAHID WAFI

Abdul Wahid Wafa joins the Humanities Council this year as a professional specialist, co-appointed in the Program in Journalism. He will participate in journalism courses and events and advise reporting and writing projects about Afghanistan and the surrounding region. He is the former director of the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University (ACKU), a non-profit organization that promotes and facilitates research and information sharing through the dissemination of knowledge and the enhancement of the capacity of Kabul University and other private institutions in Afghanistan.

From 2001-2010, he worked as a local reporter for *The New York Times* based in Kabul, Afghanistan. While reporting for *The New York Times*, Mr. Wafa travelled to almost all provinces of Afghanistan and gained vast knowledge about Afghanistan's people and its culture.

He holds a BA in Law and Political Science from Kabul University (2007) and was awarded the prestigious Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University where he studied leadership, democracy, and communication at the Kennedy School of Government from 2010-2011. He is also a member of the steering committee at Silk Rout initiative, working on preserving the tangible and intangible heritage of Afghanistan. He also serves as a board member of Journalists Safety Committee and the Heart of Asia Society in Afghanistan.



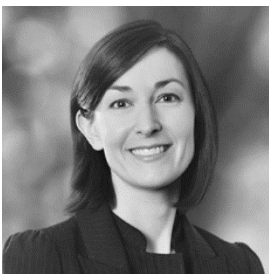
SCOTT WORDEN

Mr. Scott Worden is director of Afghanistan and Central Asia Programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). He comes into this role with an extensive background in reconstruction, development, democracy and governance, policy, among others; as well as extensive regional expertise on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Prior to joining USIP, Worden was director of the Lessons Learned Program at the office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), and served as acting director of policy as well as a senior policy advisor for the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In the latter position, he was responsible for advising senior officials on strategies for sustainable development in Afghanistan and Pakistan.



ASSET YERALI

Mr. Asset Yerali is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Aktau Marine North Terminal and Board Member at Port of Aktau. Previously, he served as CEO of Odyssey Investments Group, a diversified investment company in Kazakhstan with businesses in logistics, finance, energy and infrastructure. Prior to his current position, Mr. Yerali managed investment projects in railway infrastructure and machinery at the Kazakhstan National Railways Company. He has extensive experience as a management and investment consultant in private and government sectors. Mr. Yerali holds an MPA from John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (2012) and a BA in International Relations and Economy from the Middle East Technical University, Turkey (2004).



KRISTEN YOUNG

Ms. Kristen M. Young is a Partner at White & Case LLP and practices with the International Arbitration and Litigation Groups in Washington, DC, where she focuses on international investment treaty and commercial arbitration.

Kristen has been recognized as one of the 2020 Emerging Women Leaders in Private Practice by DCA Live and as a Future Leader in Who's Who Legal: Arbitration. Kristen is "acclaimed for her 'ability to simplify complex facts into a compelling narrative,' as well as her 'excellent knowledge of the law' and "strong analytical skills.'" Clients also have praised Kristen for her "full command of the facts in the case and legal theories – she has them all at her fingertips."

Kristen represents multinational corporations and sovereign states in high-stakes international disputes involving complex issues of law and fact. She has obtained significant victories for her clients, including for the Ukraine in *Global Trading Resource Corp. and Globex International, Inc. v. Ukraine*, the first case ever dismissed under ICSID Arbitration Rule 41(5).

Kristen represents clients in arbitrations before all major arbitral forums, including ICSID, the PCA, and the ICC, as well as in ad hoc arbitrations under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. She has served as counsel in cases arising under numerous bilateral investment treaties and the DR-CAFTA. Her experience spans a wide range of industries, including electricity, mining and minerals, oil and gas, textile manufacturing, construction, and consumer and retail services.

Kristen speaks and writes regularly on arbitration and international law-related issues, and served as an Associate Editor of the *World Arbitration & Mediation Review* from 2014 to 2016. She has been a guest lecturer on international arbitration at the Georgetown University Law Center, the University of Richmond School of Law, and the Tashkent State University of Law.

From 2009 to 2011, she was resident in the Firm's Paris office, and works both in English and in French. At Georgetown University Law Center, Kristen was a Global Law Scholar and a member of the *Georgetown Law Journal*.



ASSADULLAH ZAMIR

Mr. Assadullah Zamir is the Founder and Managing Director at Zamir Foundation. Previously he served as CEO and Partner of Sabzwar Agribusiness and Food Services as well as the Founder of Abreshum Venture, the first Afghan venture capital firm focusing on social entrepreneurship and private sector development. Prior to entering private business, Mr. Zamir served as the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan from March 2015 to September 2017. He has more than 15 years of leadership experience both in the public and private sectors focusing on rural development, education, agriculture and natural resource management. Over the years

Mr. Zamir has worked in different managerial and advisory positions in the Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, and Mines and Petroleum, as well as served as Deputy Chief of Party for a mining project financed by USAID and as a consultant to various World Bank and UNDP projects. Mr. Zamir has also served on the Board of Directors of many NGOs focusing on women empowerment and capacity development. In 2008 Mr. Zamir co-founded a grassroots non-profit organization to serve rural communities in the areas of education for women, sustainable development and skill building. Mr. Zamir holds an MA in Economics from California State University, East Bay (2006), as well as an MBA in Finance and Banking (2002) and a BBA (2001) from Preston Institute of Management Science and Technology in Pakistan.