



CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
Announcement of Spring 2016 Fellows

Today the Rumsfeld Foundation announced the 12 professionals who were selected to participate in the Spring 2016 Session of the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program. The Program is a partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University. Launched in 2008, the Program brings rising young leaders from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Mongolia to the United States to promote better understanding and stronger relations among the people of the ten countries of the region, as well as between the United States and the region. The Program aims to foster dialogue and an exchange of ideas among exceptional young professionals working across all sectors and encourages increased regional cooperation.

As participants of the Program's 16th successful session, the Spring 2016 group will join the growing alumni network of 135 former Fellows.

Throughout their six-week program, the Fellows will attend a series of private high-level meetings with top policy-makers, business leaders, journalists, academics, military personnel and regional experts exposing them to inside perspectives on how opinion making, decision making and policy making processes work in the U.S. The group will also spend a week traveling to major U.S. cities for meetings with local businesses and officials, providing them a view of the U.S. beyond the nation's capital. In addition to group meetings, the Program staff will assist Fellows in arranging individual meetings for their independent research projects and provide opportunities for professional development and networking. In the Program's final week, the Fellows will participate in a group presentation at a Central Asia-Caucasus Institute public forum, where they will engage with representatives from local embassies, businesses, universities, the media and others interested in current perspectives from the region.

The Spring 2016 Fellows consist of a diverse group of talented regional leaders:



Mr. Barry Salam - Afghanistan - Founder and President of NAW Media, Founder and President of Channel 7 TV Network, President of the Organization of Afghan Alumni, founding member and Board member of the Civil Society & Human Rights Network (CSHRN) of Afghanistan, Board member of Radio Television Afghanistan and member of the Afghan National Journalists Union.

Research Project: "Afghan Civil Society: A Path from the Most Oppressed to the Most Vibrant in the Region."

Mr. Mahmood Noorzai - Afghanistan - Independent political consultant, Director of the NGO, "Kandahar Women, Peace and Unity Association," and Co-Founder of a leading civil movement, "Afghanistan Forward."
Research Project: "Geopolitics of Central Asia Energy."



Ms. Lilit Petrosyan - Armenia - Commissioner of the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials, a focal point of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and member of the Eastern Partnership Panel's Working Group on Public Administration Reform. **Research Project: "Corruption Challenges in the Greater Central Asia-Caucasus Region."**

Mr. Emil Gasimli - Azerbaijan - Chief of Marketing and Business Development at the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR). **Research Project: "Caspian Energy: Source of Regional Conflict and Cooperation."**



Mr. Sulkhan Glonti - Georgia - Elected Board member and Chairman of the Faction of the "Free Democrats" political party, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights Protection of the Supreme Council (Parliament) of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Georgia, Founder of the Free Democrats Party.
Research Project: "International Terrorism: New Challenges for Georgia."

Mr. Rakhim Oshakbayev - Kazakhstan - Vice-Minister for Investments and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
Research Project: "How Strengthening Civil Society Can Help Kazakhstan Overcome Current Economic Difficulties."



Ms. Eliza Nishanbaeva - Kyrgyzstan - Founder and Managing Director of Human Resources of Kyrgyzstan Ltd., Founder of Bishkek Business School, Deputy General Director at Manas Resources Ltd., and member of the Women Entrepreneurs' Association "Kurak," Bishkek Business Club, International Business Council, the AmCham in Kyrgyzstan and the Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce. **Research Project: "Recruitment Strategies for the Government: Case of Kyrgyzstan."**

Mr. Narantuguldur Saijrakh - Mongolia - Country Director of Khan Investment Management Ltd., Board member of the Khan Mongolia Equity Fund, Incoming (Deputy) Curator of the Global Shapers Ulaanbaatar Hub, Board member of TEDxUlaanbaatar, and a Founder of the NextGen Mongolia community.

Research Project: "Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy for Mongolia: Development of the Financial Industry to Counter Cyclical Shocks Created by Mining Cycles."



Mr. Nemuun Gal - Mongolia - Co-Founder and Partner at NovaTerra LLC, specializing in corporate and project finance deal structuring, general contracts and regulatory framework advice. **Research Project: "FDI and International Arbitration: Lessons for Mongolia."**

Mr. Ozodkhon Davlatshoev - Tajikistan - Executive Director of Kulob Petroleum Limited, Director of Tethys Petroleum Representation in Tajikistan, Founder and Director of Shohsotoon LLC, an energy efficient construction technologies manufacturer and importer, Co-Founder and Director of Vantage Point Partners LLC, a UAE real estate and development company, Honorary Consul of Sweden in Tajikistan, and active participant with the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED). **Research Project: "Economic Empowerment through Impact Investments: Creating Jobs and Building Sustainable Enterprises."**



Ms. Raykhona Khashimova - Uzbekistan - Commercial Officer at the British Embassy in Uzbekistan, and pro-bono consultant to the Socio-Economic Development Center. **Research Project: "Partnerships between U.S. Based Donor Organizations and Microfinance Institutions in CAMCA Countries."**

Mr. Ruslan Ramanov - Uzbekistan - Executive Assistant to the Head of the NATO Office in Central Asia. **Research Project: "U.S. Foreign Policy in Central Asia following ISAF Withdrawal from Afghanistan: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Security Cooperation."**



To learn more about the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program please visit: www.rumsfeldfoundation.org/focus/our/central_asia.

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