

The Eighth Group of the Rumsfeld Fellows Complete Program in Washington, DC

The eighth group of fellows from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Mongolia completed a six-week program of high-level meetings and research in Washington, DC from April 1- May 12, 2012. The group included *Ms. Tamta Kupradze* (Georgia), a Head of the United States and Canada Division of the Americas Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia; *Ms. Gauhar Zainullina* (Kazakhstan), a Managing Director of Corporate Development at the National Mining Company “Tau-Ken Samruk”; *Mr. Azamat Akeleev* (Kyrgyz Republic), the founding director of “Promotank” LLC, a marketing consulting company; *Colonel Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder* (Mongolia), a Director of the Institute for Defense Studies at the National Defense University of Mongolia; *Mr. Bahriddin Najmudinov* (Tajikistan), a Chief Marketing Officer at the privately owned cotton merchandising company, “Golden Lion” LLC; *Mr. Rajabbek Sulaymonbekov* (Tajikistan), a Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Open Joint Stock Company “Orienbank”; *Mr. Bayram Atayev* (Turkmenistan), a crude oil marketing specialist at Dragon Oil Holdings (UK/UAE); *Mr. Ovezmurad Agayev* (Turkmenistan), a senior legal and tax consultant with Deloitte Turkmenistan; *Mr. Kodir Norov* (Uzbekistan), Chairman and Partner at Avesta Investment Group; and *Mr. Farrukh Irnazarov* (Uzbekistan), Co-Founder and a Country Director of the Central Asian Development Institute in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and researcher at the University of Applied Sciences, Göttingen, Germany.



Fellows with Mr. and Mrs. Rumsfeld at the Final Dinner

The group had an intensive schedule of high-level group meetings with representatives of the US Administration, the US Congress, the Judiciary, business community, media, think tanks, academia, NGOs, and advocacy organizations.



Fellows with Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

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 how business and government work on the local level. This spring the fellows traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina and Miami, Florida. The program themes were “accountable governance,” focusing on how accountable and transparent local governments work with business, civil organizations, and individuals to bring benefits to American economy and society, and how people are empowered to take responsibility for themselves and others. The entire group then traveled to Boston, Massachusetts for meetings at Harvard University, the Romney for President Campaign, and the National Bureau of Economic Research.



Fellows with Doug Feith, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy



Fellows at Fox News Studio with Greta Van Susteren, Host of "On the Record"

In addition, through arranging individual meetings with relevant officials and experts the fellows were able to focus more specifically on their research topics in order to accommodate their professional interests. Finally, at the end of the program the fellows gave a presentation at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute where the topic of discussion was "Central Asia and the Caucasus: Prospects for Collaboration in Trade and Transportation."



Fellows with Stephen Hadley, former US National Security Advisor

Kodir Norov: *"I think this program successfully meets the needs of young business people from the region - we need fresh ideas, management know-how and most importantly an evolving network of contacts both within the US and in the region. The six weeks that I spent during the program will be a memorable part of my life."*



Fellows with Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State, and Donald Rumsfeld, former Secretary of Defense

Azamat Akelev: *“We were given a fantastic opportunity to learn first-hand about American democracy and governance from decision-makers and policy-makers. I believe that it will affect the thinking and worldviews of future leaders of the region, and positively influence the political landscape of Eurasia in years to come.”*

Gauhar Zainullina: *“This was the most motivational and inspirational six weeks of my life! The program provided a wonderful opportunity to understand where you stand and where you aspire to be.”*



Fellows with Martin Feldstein, President Emeritus of the National Bureau of Economic Research



Fellows with Ann McLaughlin Korologos, former US Secretary of Labor

Ovez Agayev: *"Meeting highly successful and influential business leaders left us all with a tremendous impression. One of the great features of the program was that it provided an opportunity to see life outside of Washington DC thanks to very-well organized visits to Miami and Boston where we saw the best of American hospitality and culture. The overall organization of the program was far beyond my expectations and it was a truly rewarding experience."*

Bayram Atayev: *"This program exposes the inner workings of the world's superpower while it is in motion."*



Fellows at the Washington Post with Fred Hiatt, Editorial Page Editor

Tamta Kupradze: *“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”.*

Farrukh Irnazarov: *“This fellowship is better than any other international relations program I have participated in. It is a great opportunity to experience the US policy-making process from the people who have been shaping it for decades. You may agree or disagree with what you hear during the fellowship, but at the end of the day you realize that you gained much more than you had initially expected.”*

The next group of fellows will visit Washington, DC from October 1 to November 10, 2012. The winners of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program for fall 2012 will be announced in late August.