



Regional Forum 2014 Astana

2014 CAMCA Regional Forum, Astana, Kazakhstan June 20-22, 2014

The Rumsfeld Foundation hosted the 2014 CAMCA (Central Asia-Mongolia-Caucasus-Afghanistan) Regional Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan from June 20-22, 2014. The Forum was organized in cooperation with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and the alumni of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program.

The CAMCA Regional Forum is dedicated to promoting region-wide discussions on advancing 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, as well as international stakeholders.



2014 CAMCA Forum Participants

The CAMCA Regional Forum has evolved out of the [Rumsfeld Fellowship Program](#) at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, which has been bringing rising young leaders from the region to Washington, D.C. since 2008. As of July 2014, over 100 professionals have completed the Fellowship.

Over 50 alumni of the Fellowship Program, with representatives from all 12 fellowship classes, met in Astana to participate in the 2014 CAMCA Regional Forum. Also in attendance were representatives of the Rumsfeld Foundation and the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, as well as several business leaders, government officials, regional experts and other professionals.

Additional assistance for the Forum activities was provided by partners including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and the Nazarbayev Center.

The Forum began on June 20th as participants were welcomed with an opening reception held at the Rixos President Hotel Gardens.

The following day, introductory remarks were provided by Dr. Steve Cambone, Rumsfeld Foundation Board Member, Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, Mr. Erzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and Mr. Timur Shaimerzgenov, Deputy Director of the Nazarbayev Center.



Welcoming Reception

After the opening remarks, Ms. Madina Abylkassymova, Vice-Minister of Economy and Budget Planning of Kazakhstan, made a presentation and answered questions on the “Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy.”



Baska Tumurbat, Mongolia and Kuban Ashyrkulov, Kyrgyzstan

The remainder of the Forum consisted of four panels focused on topics including “Macro-economic Stability and Foreign Direct Investments Along the New Transportation Corridors,” “Models of Economic Cooperation: From European Union to Eurasian Union and Beyond,” “Bridging Asia and Europe: Transportation and Transit Potential of CAMCA,” and “Exploring Linkages Between Economic Development and National Security in the CAMCA Region.”

Panelists included numerous alumni of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program as well as representatives from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Kazakhstan, the Public Policy Institute of the Nur Otan Party in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Concept Ltd., and McKinsey & Company.

Along with the speakers and panel sessions, Forum participants were treated to an afternoon tour of the capital city with visits to the Astana Opera House, Bayterek Tower, Independence Palace and Nazarbayev University. In addition, participants continued their discussions over Forum dinners held at a number of fine Astana restaurants.



Uluk Kydyrbaev, Kyrgyzstan

The 2014 CAMCA Regional Forum concluded on June 22nd after two days of presentations and discussions. The next CAMCA Regional Forum will be held in June 2015.



Aziza Umarova,
Uzbekistan



Central-Asia Caucasus Institute Staff



Welcoming Reception



CAMCA Forum Participants
at the Bayterek Tower



Coffee Break



CAMCA Forum Panelists on
"Models of Economic Cooperation"



CAMCA Forum Participants



Dulguun Baasandavaa,
Mongolia



CAMCA Forum Participants at Nazarbayev University



Final Dinner with U.S. Ambassador John Ordway



CAMCA Forum Participants



Dr. Steve Cambone, Rumsfeld Foundation Board Member



Asset Yerali, Kazakhstan



Aziz Soltobaev, Kyrgyzstan and Umid Aripdjanov, Uzbekistan



Azamat Akeleev, Kyrgyzstan



CAMCA Forum Participants at the Astana Opera