



## The Fall 2016 Group of Rumsfeld Fellows Complete Program in Washington, D.C.

The Fall 2016 group of Fellows from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Mongolia completed a six-week program of high-level meetings and research in Washington, D.C. from October 4 to November 11, 2016. The group included *Mr. Zafar Hashemi (Afghanistan)*, Deputy Spokesman of the President of Afghanistan, *Mr. Lotfullah Najafizada (Afghanistan)*, award-winning journalist and Director of TOLONews, *Mr. Sami Sadat (Afghanistan)*, CEO of Blue Sea Logistics Company, *Ms. Kamala Gafarova (Azerbaijan)*, Resources Team Leader with the Global Projects Organization at BP Azerbaijan, *Mr. Zurab Parjiani (Georgia)*, Deputy Head of the Political Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, *Mr. Meirbek Mazhitov (Kazakhstan)*, Chairman of the Chamber of International Commerce of Kazakhstan, *Ms. Gaukhar Zhanabay (Kazakhstan)*, Senior Manager at the Portfolio Investment Department at JSC “Samruk-Kazyna” Sovereign Wealth Fund, *Mr. Mirsuljan Namazaliev (Kyrgyzstan)*, Owner and Director General of K-News Information Agency, *Ms. Manduul Altangerel (Mongolia)*, a lawyer at Allens LLP, *Mr. Zuhursho Rahmatulloev (Tajikistan)*, Co-founder and CEO of Alif Capital, and *Mr. Muzaffar Mansurov (Uzbekistan)*, Deputy Head of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Project Implementation Unit for the “Solid Waste Management Improvement Project.”

The group had an intensive schedule of high-level group meetings with representatives of the U.S. Administration, the U.S. Congress, business community, media, think tanks, academia and NGOs. In addition, they attended conferences and workshops at various institutions to better understand how opinion-making and policy-making happens in the U.S. capital.



*Fellows with Don Rumsfeld, President of the Rumsfeld Foundation*

The Fall 2016 Fellows met with former Vice President of the United States *Richard Cheney*; Chairman and CEO of The Cohen Group and former Secretary of Defense *William Cohen*, Distinguished Fellow at the Hudson Institute and former Secretary of Labor *Elaine Chao*, Chairman of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency *Ambassador James Woolsey*, Chairman of Ridge Global and former Secretary of Homeland Security *Governor Tom Ridge*, President of Gryphon Partners and former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq and the United Nations *Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad*, British Ambassador to the U.S. *Sir Kim Darroch*, as well as with members of the current Administration including representatives of the Departments of Defense, Energy, and State, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, OPIC and many others.



***Fellows with Secretary Elaine Chao, former Secretary of Labor***

In addition, the group had the opportunity to meet with business leaders and representatives of the media, think tanks, non-profits and other organizations including President and CEO of the Grocery Manufacturers Association *Pamela Bailey*, President and CEO of Meridian International Center *Ambassador Stuart Holliday*, CEO of the International Executive Service Corps *Ambassador Tom Miller*, Executive Chairman of C-SPAN *Brian Lamb*, Founder and President of The Institute of World Politics *Dr. John Lenczowski*, Vice President of Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) *Ambassador Alberto Fernandez*, and Vice President of Client Services at iStrategy Labs *Kristen Hans*.



***Fellows with former U.S. Vice President Richard Cheney***

Since the fall of 2011, the Rumsfeld Fellowship has partnered with the [Open World Program](#) to organize programs with host communities outside of Washington, D.C. to introduce the Fellows to how democratic governing systems and free market economies work at the local level across the nation. This fall the Fellows traveled in two groups to Spokane, Washington and Bismarck, North Dakota.

Following the Open World visits, the entire group then traveled to San Francisco and Stanford, California where the program included meetings with senior leadership at Gilead Sciences, as well as at the Hoover Institution with Visiting Fellow and former Commander of U.S. Central Command *General James Mattis*, Research Fellow *Dr. Kori Schake*, and world-renowned political scientists *Professor Francis Fukuyama* and *Dr. Larry Diamond*.



***Reception at the Afghan Embassy hosted by Ambassador Hamidullah Mohib***

In the final week of their program, the Fellows gave a presentation at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, SAIS on their chosen topic: [\*“Heart of Asia Business Partnerships from the Black Sea to Mongolia.”\*](#)

The next group of Fellows will visit Washington, D.C. from April 1 to May 10, 2017. The selected participants of the Fellowship Program for spring 2017 will be announced in February of 2017.



***Fellows with Governor Tom Ridge, former Secretary of Homeland Security***

**Muzaffar Mansurov:** “This six-week program in Washington was one of the brightest moments in my professional life.”

**Lotfullah Najafizada:** “The program challenges you immensely and opens your world as a result. After scores of meetings and interactions, you leave the program as a different person -- a more sophisticated one and a believer of engagement within your region and beyond.”



*Fellows with Dr. John Lenczowski, President and Founder of The Institute of World Politics*

**Manduul Altangerel:** “This program provided the luxurious opportunity of reflection and learning on many layers: personal, professional, national, regional and global, to name a few. I can say that we all left feeling empowered to think harder and do better, enriched with yet another dimension of awareness and experience. The Program zoomed me out to a full-time bigger-lens angle. To top it off, we were able to build the most inspiring and long-standing friendships with each other!”

**Kamala Gafarova:** “I feel privileged to become part of the growing Rumsfeld Fellows network which, I am confident, will make a change and contribute towards the integration of the CAMCA region. The Fellowship lays the foundation of strong professional and interpersonal relationships between the young leaders of the region and sets a vision for long-term cooperation. The dynamics and the diversity of the program make participants think beyond their countries, regionally and continentally.”



*Fellows with Dr. Francis Fukuyama, world-renown political scientist, political economist, and author*

**Meirbek Mazhitov:** “The Rumsfeld Fellowship Program is a unique project, which provides a tremendous opportunity to broaden your worldview of policy-making inside and outside the U.S.; an incredible exposure to best practices to implement in our countries; a valuable network with global leaders and decision-makers of the U.S.; and an enormous impression from the smart and talented Fellows from the CAMCA region.”



*Fellows with Torie Clarke, Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs, SAP*

**Zafar Hashemi:** “An extraordinary opportunity for emerging leaders of the CAMCA region to see how the United States operates at the national, state and local levels, including how it feels to be in an American community and all that the U.S. has to offer.”



*Fellows with General James Mattis, former Commander of U.S. Central Command*

**Mirsuljan Namazaliev:** “This program makes an outsider an insider in D.C. in just 6 weeks.”

**Zurab Parjiani:** “The Rumsfeld Fellowship gave me more than a one-year full Master’s Degree program in terms of understanding how D.C. works and thinks.”