



CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
Announcement of Spring 2017 Fellows

Today the Rumsfeld Foundation announced the 13 professionals who were selected to participate in the Spring 2017 Session of the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program. Launched in 2008, the Program is a partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, now at the American Foreign Policy Council, which 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 their 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 18th session, the Spring 2017 group will join the growing alumni network of 158 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 additional cities including Des Moines, IA, Hartford, CT, and Philadelphia, PA 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 2017 Fellows consist of a diverse group of talented regional leaders:



Mr. Hamid Saboory - Afghanistan - Founder and CEO of Strategic Analysis for Peace and Stability (SAPS), a specialized consulting company providing strategic analysis and assessment for the security sector in Afghanistan; Visiting lecturer of Constitutional and International Law at Kardan University. **Research Project:** *"The Impact of Economic Integration Policies on Regional Security and Stability."*

Ms. Farishta Sakhi - Afghanistan - Independent consultant and promoter of human rights and democracy issues in Afghanistan; Previous Director General of the Department of Security Cooperation and Border Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Research Project: "Afghanistan in a New Regional Security Architecture."



Mr. Basir Yosufi - Afghanistan - General Director for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan.
Research Project: "Common Threats and the Need for Security Cooperation in Greater Central Asia."

Mr. Eduard Abrahamyan - Armenia - Deputy Director and Programs Coordinator at the Council for Cooperation with NATO in Yerevan; Head of the Armenia-based "Mitq" Analytic Centre; Doctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Intelligence, Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Leicester, UK. ***Research Project: "Understanding and Explaining Relations between NATO and Black Sea Partners Amid the Evolving Russia-West Standoff in 2008-2016."***



Mr. Samir Mammadov - Azerbaijan - Chief Sales Officer at Nar Mobile in Azerbaijan; Co-chair of the South Caucasus Child Protection Network; Chairman of Children of Azerbaijan; American Chamber of Commerce member.
Research Project: "Perspectives for the 'New Silk Road': Competing Interests and Transport Corridors."

Colonel Grigol Chelidze - Georgia - Commander of the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC) at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia.
Research Project: "NATO and EU Decision Making Process in Relation to Other Global Actors."





Mr. Tengiz Pkhaladze - Georgia - Advisor and Foreign Relations Secretary to the President of Georgia; Visiting Professor of International Negotiations Skills and Diplomatic Protocol at GIPA; Member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). **Research Project:** *"Georgia and CAMCA in the Foreign Policy of the Trump Administration."*

Mr. Aman Tentiyeu - Kyrgyzstan - Founder and Managing Partner at the IT Investment Company "The Farm" and the Investment Group "Avanta Capital," with projects in Central Asia and the Caucasus; Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of JSC "Kambarata-1 Hydroelectric Power Plant"; Member of a working group promoting the "Digital Country" concept in Kyrgyzstan.

Research Project: *"Digital Country Project: How IT solutions in Management can Change Government-Business Relations."*



Ms. Assel Zhumadil - Kazakhstan - Senior Manager at the Treasury Department of the "Samruk-Kazyna" Sovereign Wealth Fund representing nearly 600 fully or partially state-owned enterprises operating in different sectors of the Kazakh economy. **Research Project:** *"Can the 'Samruk-Kazyna' Sovereign Wealth Fund be Transformed into a Global Investor?"*

Mr. Badamdash Dashdavaa - Mongolia - CEO of the Mongolian Media Corporation, a leading private news production group including Eagle News TV, www.eagle.mn, FM91.1, Ardyn Erkh (People's Right) newspaper, Undestnii Toim (Nation's Review) magazine and a social media team. **Research Project:** *"The Role of Social Media in Policy Making in the United States: Lessons for the CAMCA Region."*



Mr. Erdene-Urnukh Oyun - Mongolia - Secretary of a Working Group on Reforming Party bylaws of the Democratic Party of Mongolia; Activity and project coordinator at the Research Centre for Fiscal Policy in Mongolia. **Research Project:** *"Potential Implications of Further Integration of Greater Central Asian Countries on Relations with Russia and China."*

Mr. Akmal Asoev - Tajikistan - CEO & Co-Founder of NURAFZO MEDICAL GROUP, a chain of five innovative Medical Centres in Tajikistan; Founder of the first American Car Care Centre in Central Asia. **Research Project:** *"Can Healthcare Become a Driver for Regional Cooperation and Connectivity in Greater Central Asia?"*



Mr. Laziz Kudratov - Uzbekistan - CEO of Samina Project, an IT-based company developing an online marketplace for connecting local professionals with customers. **Research Project:** *"Intraregional Cooperation: A Way Forward for a Prosperous Central Asia."*

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

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