Organized by the Rumsfeld Foundation in cooperation with the alumni network of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program and the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, the 2016 CAMCA Regional Forum in Tbilisi, Georgia, brought together over 160 representatives from across more than 20 countries to discuss issues and trends central to the region.

JUNE 17TH

Forum participants were hosted for an evening welcoming reception by the President of Georgia, H.E. Giorgi Margvelashvili, at the Presidential Palace with views overlooking the illuminated skyline of Tbilisi.

DAY 1 – JUNE 18TH

Opening remarks were delivered by Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, President of the Rumsfeld Foundation, and Ms. Aziza Umarova, a Fellow from Uzbekistan, who presented on behalf of the CAMCA network. Following, the Prime Minister of Georgia, H.E. Giorgi Kvirikashvili, provided a keynote welcoming address.

The day’s program included a presentation on “Centrifugal and Centripetal Trends in the CAMCA Region” by Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, followed by several plenary and panel discussions on “CAMCA’s Changing Geopolitical Landscape: New Actors, Alignments and Strategic Options,” “Current Global Economic Trends: Implications for CAMCA Countries,” “Ideas and Influences: CAMCA’s Challenges and Opportunities,” and “Boosting Investment in CAMCA: Understanding the Opportunities.”
Forum speakers and participants included distinguished professionals from around the world including each of the 10 CAMCA countries, several European countries, India, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States, Vietnam and more.

An impressive keynote address was provided during lunch by the Minister of Defense of Georgia, Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli, who presented her insights on the security situation in the Black Sea region and remarked on the resulting implications for its neighbors.

Guests continued conversations from the day’s meetings at dinner over Georgian dishes and views of Tbilisi’s Old City.

**DAY 2 – JUNE 19TH**

The second day of the Forum began with a plenary session on “CAMCA and East-West Transport and Transit Corridor,” followed by an engaging conversation between Dr. Frank Luntz, Founder and President of Luntz Global, and Secretary Rumsfeld, on topics including leadership and the role of the U.S. in the world.

Chairman of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Ambassador R. James Woolsey, provided informative luncheon keynote remarks on actors and states challenging current global security. At the conclusion of the luncheon, attendees enjoyed sightseeing around the vibrant city of Tbilisi.

The closing Forum dinner, generously hosted by the Government of Georgia, was held at the Funicular restaurant overlooking the city from the Mtatsminda hilltop. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mikheil Janelidze, provided remarks and performers from the Sukhishvili Georgian National Ballet provided memorable entertainment to traditional music for dinner guests.

After a spectacular evening, the 2016 CAMCA Regional Forum concluded following two days of important exchanges and dialogue on the CAMCA region.
“Our location is our asset & will be realized through connectivity in this region #CAMCA2016”

“#CAMCA2016, inspiring speech by H.E. Giorgi Kvirikashvili”

“The #CAMCA2016 Regional Forum has started with a reception by the President of Georgia in his residence. The view of Tbilisi from here is gorgeous”

“Persuasion is a two-edged sword - reason and emotion - plunge it deep.” My favorite session of #CAMCA2016”

“Had a chance to speak at the annual #CAMCA2016 reunion in Tbilisi. An opportunity for sharing knowledge and practice for a common vision: #TheGreaterCentralAsia and its prosperity!”

“147 fellows from 10 countries, #CAMCA2016 has begun in Tbilisi to discuss cooperation in a disconnected region”
“In my opinion, the CAMCA Regional Forum is unsurpassed as a venue for engaging both government officials and business leaders in what is an increasingly important emerging market. The Forum is based on the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program, a unique network of young, high potential individuals from throughout the region who share experience and collaborate in such vital areas as infrastructure, energy security, and economic and social development. As a Forum attendee, I enjoyed incredible access to inspirational speakers and to the dynamic and creative participants from the region.” – Ed Verona, McLarty Associates

“The annual CAMCA Regional Forum is a much needed platform for young leaders from Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Mongolia to come together to share ideas and best practices, and to build relationships that will be critical for progress in the region in the years ahead. It is encouraging to see so many rising leaders with an enduring commitment to the advancement of their countries and the region gathered together each year.” – Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, Gryphon Partners

“The ultimate reason for us to participate in the CAMCA Forums is to continue dialogues, enhance opportunities and to create overall shared prosperity for the future of our region.” – Aziza Umarova, Rumsfeld Fellow
2016 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM PARTNERS

The Forum would not have been possible without the efforts of terrific partners including:

FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI MEETING - JUNE 17TH, 2016

Previous Annual Alumni Meetings:
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
  June 19th, 2015
- Astana, Kazakhstan
  June 20th, 2014
- Lake Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan
  June 22nd-25th, 2013
- Batumi, Georgia
  June 23rd-26th, 2012

Before the CAMCA Regional Forum sessions, the alumni of the Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program, established by the Rumsfeld Foundation in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, met throughout the day on June 17th to hear from top-level speakers on Georgian history and culture, politics and reforms, and the role the country plays in the broader region.

Fellows were welcomed by the Minister of Justice, Ms. Thea Tsulukiani, to the impressive Tbilisi Public Service Hall where they received a guided interactive tour of the facility which provides citizens an efficient and effective “one-stop shop” for their needs, offering the public services of several state agencies under one roof. The Hall is part of a system of Georgia’s major reforms working to combat corruption and promote transparency.

Over lunch, keynote remarks were provided by the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, H.E. David Usupashvili, on the topic, “Present Day Georgia: Achievements and Challenges,” followed by a presentation by General Director of the National Museum of Georgia, Professor David Lortkipanidze, on “Georgia and the Region’s European Aspirations: Building the Future on a Vibrant Past.”