



*A Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center*

**RUMSFELD FELLOWSHIP NATIONAL COORDINATORS for 2017-2018**

**Mr. Samiullah Mahdi (Afghanistan, Fall 2011)**, is an Associate Director of TOLONews, where he began his career as a journalist in 2007 hosting a weekly show “Hardtalk.” He also teaches Public Administration at Kabul University. Previously Mr. Mahdi worked as CEO of Khurshid TV from 2013 to 2014, and as Director of News and Current Affairs at 1TV from 2009 to 2012. At 1TV, Mr. Mahdi produced and hosted internationally acclaimed programs such as, “Kabul Debate Live,” “The Mask,” “Amaj” and others. He has also been an op-ed contributor to major Afghan newspapers and magazines. In 2012, Mr. Mahdi was awarded the prestigious Knight International Journalism Award from the International Center for Journalism for his excellent and courageous reporting. Mr. Mahdi holds an MA in International Relations from the University of Massachusetts Boston as a Fulbright Scholar (2016) and a BA from the School of Law and Political Science of Kabul University (2009).

**Ms. Zara Chatinyan (Armenia, Spring 2015)**, is the Local Representative of German Development Bank (KfW) in Armenia. KfW manages more than 600 million euro investment portfolios in Armenia’s energy, drinking water and irrigation, banking and agriculture sectors. Ms. Chatinyan works closely with the governments of Armenia and Germany to identify sectors in need of reform and infrastructure projects; to facilitate intergovernmental negotiations; to participate in multi-million sovereign loan negotiations; to support the introduction of international standards in project management; and to facilitate cooperation with international financial institutions. Ms. Chatinyan has more than ten years of experience with USAID-financed projects in decentralization, policy and institutional development and strategic planning. Ms. Chatinyan holds a Certificate in Executive Management and Leadership from the Judge Institute of Management at the University of Cambridge (2003), an MPA from the University of Delaware as a Muskie Fellow (2000), and a BA in Philology from the Teachers’ Training Institute in Armenia (1998).

**Mr. Emil Gasimli (Azerbaijan, Spring 2016)**, is the Chief of Marketing and Business Development at the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he is responsible for the coordination of marketing and business development activities in the Caspian region and beyond including the Southern Gas Corridor. Prior to his current position, Mr. Gasimli spent five years working for different IT consulting companies, as well as for BP. Over the years, he has participated in numerous international conferences and events on energy issues. Mr. Gasimli holds an MBA from the Azerbaijan State Economics University (2010), an MBA from the University of Louisiana (2009) and a BA in Finance and Accounting from the

Azerbaijan State Oil Academy and Georgia State University, USA (2007). He has also completed the Advanced Foreign Service Program at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and has earned a Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University (2015).

**Ms. Tamar Kekenadze (Georgia, Spring 2014)**, is the Secretary General and Member of the Board of the Free Democrats Political Party. Before joining the party in February 2015, she was a Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia to NATO and the EU. Previously, she served as Head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Division at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Prior to that, Ms. Kekenadze worked for five years in civil society organizations on national and international levels. In 2008, she was awarded the “Young European of the Year” Prize for outstanding commitment to fostering international understanding and the union of Europe. In 2009, she was privileged as a non-EU member country representative to intern in the Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament. Ms. Kekenadze is currently pursuing her PhD in Economics, and holds an MA in Computer Engineering, Information Science and Control Systems (2006) as well as a BA in Computer Systems and Networks (2003), all from Georgian Technical University.

**Ms. Gaukhar Zhanabay (Kazakhstan, Fall 2016)**, is a Senior Manager at the Portfolio Investment Department at JSC “Samruk-Kazyna” Sovereign Wealth Fund, where she is responsible for portfolio performance monitoring, strategic long-term targeting of portfolio composition and independent review of investment projects. Prior, from 2009-16, she worked as a Senior Manager in the Department of Risk Management for “Samruk-Kazyna.” Her professional interests include the promotion of corporate governance in portfolio companies, effective decision-making in quasigovernmental organizations and the promotion of investment decisions that are based on commercial feasibility of the projects, apart from their social goals. Ms. Zhanabay holds an MBA with a concentration in Corporate Finance from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (2010), an MPA with a concentration in Financial Management and Public Finance from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University (2008) and a BS in Business Administration from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (2005).

**Mr. Mirsuljan Namazaliev (Kyrgyzstan, Fall 2016)**, has been the Founder and Managing Director of the CAFMI Research Center since 2009. Previously, from 2014 to 2016, he was a Director General of K-News Information Agency, one of the leading online news sources in Kyrgyzstan, and from 2006 to 2014, was a country representative in Kyrgyzstan of Neueurasia, a Zurich-based Citizen Media Company. He also is a founding curator at the Global Shapers Hub in Bishkek, the World Economic Forum initiative. In the past, Mr. Namazaliev founded and led various civic movements and organizations promoting democratic changes in the country. He firmly stands for the rule of law, economic freedom and minimal governance. Mr. Namazaliev holds a BA in Political Science from Bishkek Humanities University (2009).

**Ms. Manduul Altangerel (Mongolia, Fall 2016)**, is a practicing lawyer with extensive experience in advising international clients in relation to major investments and projects in Mongolia. Previously, Ms. Altangerel worked for Allens LLP, a leading international law firm, where she provided a wide range of regulatory, compliance and strategic legal counsel regarding major investments in energy, mining and infrastructure projects in Australia, Hong Kong and Mongolia. Prior to Allens, Ms. Altangerel worked for Lehman, Lee & Xu Law Firm in Mongolia. In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Altangerel lectures at the School of Law of the National University of Mongolia and regularly writes on various socio-political matters for local current affairs publications. She also founded the Lean In Mongolia Community. Ms. Altangerel holds an LLM from the University of Warwick, UK (2010), and a Master of Laws (LLM, 2009) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB, 2007) from the National University of Mongolia.

**Mr. Zuhursho Rahmatulloev (Tajikistan, Fall 2016)**, is Co-Founder and CEO of Alif Capital, a micro-credit and deposit organization. Currently he is working on two projects in the fields of mobile payments and outbound tourism. Prior to joining Alif Capital, from 2011-12, Mr. Rahmatulloev served as CEO at BDO Tajikistan, one of the leading audit firms in the country. Previously he also co-founded a number of start-ups in real estate and tourism. In addition, he co-founded a Public Organization, “Peshraft,” which supports young Tajik leaders through various stipend programs as well as different charity events. Mr. Rahmatulloev holds an MA in International Political Economy with merit from the University of Warwick, UK (2010) and a BA in Business Administration with merit from London South Bank University (2009). He also holds a Chartered Islamic Finance Professional degree from the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2013), a leading educational institution in the field.

**Mr. Bayram Atayev (Turkmenistan, Spring 2012)**, is a crude oil professional engaged in crude oil sales and trading in the Caspian and Gulf regions for Dragon Oil Holdings, an upstream oil company based in Dubai. Dragon Oil is the largest independent crude oil exporter in Turkmenistan, producing from the offshore oil fields in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea. With more than 15 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, Mr. Atayev holds professional certificates from Oxford Princeton, Oxford, UK; Intercontinental Exchange, ICE, London, UK; and the Insurance Business School, Moscow, Russia. Prior to working in the oil and gas sector, Mr. Atayev held different positions in the banking, insurance and telecommunications industries as well as in business development and project management. Mr. Atayev holds a BA in International Economics from Moscow State Institute of Foreign Relationships (MGIMO), Russia (2001) and is currently pursuing an executive MBA degree from the London Business School.

**Mr. Mirzo Ibragimov (Uzbekistan, Fall 2014)** is a Communications Officer at the World Bank Country Office in Uzbekistan. Previously, from 2016 to 2017 he served as a Press and Information Officer at the Delegation of the European Union in Tashkent. From 2012 to 2015, Mr. Ibragimov served as the Deputy Head of the Political and Public Diplomacy Section at the British Embassy in Uzbekistan,

managing the Embassy's media and public diplomacy activities as well as analyzing key political and economic developments in Central Asia. From 2008 to 2012, he worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation for Central Asia, implementing activities designed to build the capacities of the Ministries of Defense of the regional states in the field of Law of Armed Conflict. Mr. Ibragimo holds an MA in Central Asian Studies from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (2006) and an LLB in International Law from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent (2005).