FORUM REPORT
TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN | JUNE 13th-14th, 2019

Two days of dialogue on the CAMCA region organized by the CAMCA Network, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Rumsfeld Foundation

THEME: “CAMCA: Shared Interests, Shared Aspirations”

SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS: International leaders and professionals from the 10 CAMCA countries, Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden and the United States

FOCUS AREAS: Intraregional trade, transport and transit, regional business and investments, economic development, entrepreneurship and innovation, human capital and education

PREVIOUS FORUMS: Baku, Azerbaijan - 2018; Dushanbe, Tajikistan - 2017; Tbilisi, Georgia - 2016; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - 2015; Astana, Kazakhstan - 2014

The Forum is a premier annual convening of rising leaders from the CAMCA (Central Asia – Mongolia – Caucasus – Afghanistan) region as well as top professionals and stakeholders from the broader international community. The Forum was founded and is organized by the CAMCA Network, the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the Rumsfeld Foundation with the support of local partners and sponsors.

The Forum's mission is to serve as a platform to connect top professionals across all sectors for region-wide discussions on means of advancing economic growth and social development in Greater Central Asia.

- Established in 2014, there have been 6 CAMCA Regional Forums.
- Attendance for all Forums totals more than 1,000 participants.
- Attendees have represented more than 25 countries.
- Over 200 speakers have contributed to Forum conversations.
- The Forum location travels each year across the CAMCA region.
2019 Forum Sessions

**Keynote Addresses & Interviews:**
- Senator Sodyq Safoev, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Dr. Arthur Laffer, Founder and Chairman of Laffer Associates
- “State Building and Reforms in Uzbekistan: Driving Force for Regionalism?” - Ruslanbek Davletov, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- “CAMCA: Whole vs. Sum of the Parts” - Giorgi Kvirikashvili, EBRD International Advisor and Former Prime Minister of Georgia

**Special Presentation:**
- “Prospects of Inclusive Economic Growth in the CAMCA Region” - Tigran Poghosyan, IMF Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic

**Plenary Sessions:**
- Intraregional Trade within CAMCA: Signs of Progress?
- Intraregional Finance: A Growth Industry?
- Transport: Opening Windows to West, South and Southeast
- Culture and Tourism: Regional Project?
- CAMCA Spotlights: Meet the CAMCA Network

**Breakout Sessions:**
- What Attracts Quality Investment in the CAMCA Countries? What Doesn’t?
- Models of Regional Coordination
- Building Modern CAMCA Skills: Innovation, Education and Training
- Afghanistan: A New Factor in Intraregional Trade and Investments?
- Is Digital Transformation Happening in CAMCA?
- Will there be Regional Media?

**Featured Breakout Session:**
- Meet Some CAMCA Entrepreneurs – Featuring pitches by nine entrepreneurs from across the region

View the [full agenda](#) online.

“In our fast growing and challenging world, the annual CAMCA Regional Forum is the best platform for young leaders from our region to come together to freely share ideas and enhance relationships.”

Hamrokhon Zarifi
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

“The CAMCA Regional Forum represents a unique platform for nurturing valuable ties among young leaders from the CAMCA countries. It brings together outstanding individuals that have the potential to take the development of the region to a new level. It was truly inspiring to observe participants of the Forum discussing topics that will shape the economics and politics of the region. The Forum is a driver for regional initiatives, numerous collaborations and innovative solutions to common challenges. It is a place where new ideas, new projects and new friendships are born, which only grow stronger with every Forum.”

Rusudan Mamatsashvili
First Deputy Head, Georgian National Tourism Administration

“The Forum was very useful both in terms of understanding the local context of Uzbekistan and Central Asia more broadly, as well as for developing necessary networking links with experts and peers which will be useful in future years. I was very impressed by the reforms in Uzbekistan and overall it was easy to witness the enormous potential for regional cooperation which we’ve underutilized so much thus far. The Forum will help us further think about creative ways for integration and cooperation for the sake of peace and prosperity.”

Fariz Ismailzade
Executive Vice Rector, ADA University, Azerbaijan

“I think the most important reason to attend the CAMCA Forum is networking – networking with a group of professionals and with a group of people who are making decisions about aspects of improving the day-to-day life of their people. That is the most important reason – to know the policy decision-makers and how to connect with them in order to improve our relationships – whether we are working in the government or the private sector.”

Assadullah Zamir
Former Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan; CAMCA Network Member
Saidakbarkhon Akbarov, Acting Deputy
Umid Aripjanov, Founding Partner, CENTIL Law*
Dulguun Baasandavaa, CEO, BGB Peak LLC*
Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Sarvar Babahodjaev, Deputy Minister of Public
Kazakh Export, Uzbekistan*
Bokhodir Ayupov, Country Representative,
Botir Arifdjanov, Founder, Bilim Onlayn
Dr. Kaush Arha, Senior Adviser for Strategic
Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia*
Arevik Anapiosyan, Deputy Minister of Education
Consulting
Amb. Irakli Alasania, Senior Partner, SP
Kazakhstan Council on International Relations*
Iskander Akylbayev, Executive Director,
Review, Japan
Hiroyuki Akita, Senior Staff Writer, Nikkei Asian
and Resort Chain*
Azamat Akeleev, Owner, Olive Eco Ethno Hotel
Economic Zone
Habib Abdullayev, Director of the Navoi Free
Economic Zone
Hikmat Abdurahmanov, Co-founder, HUMO
Partners*
Timur Abushkin, Head of Markets, Astana
International Exchange
Laziz Adkhamov, Director of SAP Uzbekistan
Saidakbarkhon Akbarov, Acting Deputy
Chairman, State Committee of the Republic of
Uzbekistan on Development of Tourism
Azamat Akeleev, Owner, Olive Eco Ethno Hotel
and Resort Chain*
Hiroyuki Akita, Senior Staff Writer, Nikkei Asian
Review, Japan
Iskander Akylbayev, Executive Director,
Kazakhstan Council on International Relations*
Amb. Irakli Alasania, Senior Partner, SP
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Arevik Anapiosyan, Deputy Minister of Education
Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia*
Dr. Kaush Arha, Senior Adviser for Strategic
Engagement, USAID
Batir Arifdjanov, Founder, Bilim Onlayn
Umid Aripjanov, Founding Partner, CENTIL Law*
Bakhodir Ayyopov, Country Representative,
Kazakh Export, Uzbekistan*
Dulguun Baasandavaa, CEO, BGB Peak LLC*
Sarvar Babahodjaev, Deputy Minister of Public
Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
John Batchelor, Host, The John Batchelor Show
Nazira Beishenalieva, Board of Trustees,
American University of Central Asia*
Nargiza Bobomuradova, Head of International
Department, National Association of Electronic
Media of Uzbekistan
Mukhtar Bubeyev, CEO, Astana Financial
Services Authority
Dr. Svante Cornell, Director, Central Asia-
Caucasus Institute
Edward Cox, Attorney and Secretary of The
Economic Club of New York
Jargalsaikhan Dambadarjaa, Executive Director,
DeFacto Institute
Ruslanbek Davletov, Minister of Justice of the
Republic of Uzbekistan
Marat Djanaev, CEO, Taza Bio Systems*
Sarkhan Hashimov, Director-General of Microsoft
for Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan*
Anvar Irtchaev, Director, Orient Capital
Management
Farrukh Irnazarov, Co-Founder, Central Asian
Development Institute*
Fariz Ismailzade, Vice-Rector, ADA University
Amb. Tedo Jarapidze, Vice-Chairman,
International Relations, Anaklia Development
Consortium
Dr. Shams Kassim-Lakha, Chairman of the
Board of Trustees, University of Central Asia
Shigeo Katsu, President, Nazarbayev University
Khusan Khasanov, Islamic Development Bank
Field Representative for Uzbekistan
Zafar Khashimov, Founder, Supermarket Chain
Korzinka.uz
Jamshid Khodjaev, Minister of Agriculture of the
Republic of Uzbekistan
Laziz Kudratov, Deputy Minister of Investment
and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan*
Amb. Daniyar Kurbanov, Director, Center for
International Relations Studies
Sen. Alisher Kurmanov, Chairman of the
Committee on Foreign Affairs, International
Economic Relations, Investments and Tourism of the
Senate of the Oly Majlis of the Republic of
Uzbekistan
Giorgi Kvirkashvili, EBRD International Advisor
and former Prime Minister of Georgia
Jenny Jenish Kyzy, Chairperson, Association of
Social Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan*
Dr. Arthur Laffer, Founder and Chairman, Laffer
Associates
Mariam Lashkhi, Deputy Chairperson, Georgia’s
Innovation and Technology Agency*
Rusudan Mameishvili, First Deputy Head,
Georgian National Tourism Administration
Aibeck Mambetaliyev, CEO, Euro Unternehmen
Anatoly Sokhat, President, StrategEast
Sardor Mukhamedaliev, Chief Business
Development Officer, Drozmd
Malik Mukhitalinov, Program Officer, Japan
International Cooperation Agency, Uzbekistan*
Bakhtiyor Mustafayev, Head of the Institute for
Strategic and Regional Studies, Uzbekistan
Nargiz Nasrullahova-Muduroglu, Adviser to the
Executive Director, State Oil Fund of
Azerbaijan*
Atabek Nazirov, Chairman, Capital Market
Development Agency of Uzbekistan
Gauhar Nurgaliyeva, Head of Eurasian Studies,
Skolkovo Institute of Emerging Markets Studies*
Akmal Payziev, CEO, MyTaxi and Express24
Dr. Jacopo Maria Pepe, Research Fellow,
German Council on Foreign Relations
Tigran Poghosyan, IMF Resident Representative,
Kygryz Republic
Bayramgani Pustag, Deputy Director,
Department of Public Diplomacy and Cultural
Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Mongolia
Zuhursho Rahmatulloev, Co-Founder,
Alif Capital*
Sen. Sodyq Safoev, First Deputy
Chairman of the Senate of Oly Majlis
of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Barry Salaam, Chairman, Independent
Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation
Committee, Afghanistan* Michael Sellman, Co-CEO, Calatrava
Grace Corporation
Najibullah Sharifi, CEO, Rumi
Consultancy
Omaid Sharifi, Co-Founder & President,
Art Lords*
Omar Sharifi, Director and Senior Fellow,
American Institute of Afghanistan
Studies*
Paul Shultz, Managing Director, Head of
Investment Banking and Corporate
Finance, First Heartland Securities
Kamila Sidiqi, CEO and Founder,
Kaweyan Group
Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman, Central
Asia-Caucasus Institute
Ravshan Sobirozoda, Central Asia
Economic Adviser, UK Department for
International Development, Tajikistan*
Talant Sultanov, Chair of the Internet
Society Kyrgyz Chapter*
Amb. Ingrid Tersman, Amb. of Sweden
to Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
and Uzbekistan
Sarah Tonucci, Executive Director,
Rumsfeld Foundation
Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli, Senior Fellow,
Central Asia-Caucasus Institute
Aziza Umarova, Co-Founder, SmartGov
Consulting*
Dr. Roman Vakulchuk, Co-Founder,
Central Asia Development Institute*
Emin Vali, Co-Founder, Keepface*
Amb. Wahidullah Waissi, Amb. of
Afghanistan to Australia*
Enders Wimbush, President, StrateVarious
Asset Yerali, CEO, Odyssey Investments
Group*
Assadullah Zamir, CEO and Partner,
Sabzwar Agribusiness and Food
Services*
Hamrokhan Zarifi, Former Foreign
Minister of Tajikistan
Zabiullah Ziarmal, First Vice Chairman,
International Chamber of Commerce of
Afghanistan
*CAMCA Network Member

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**FORUM EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS**

**CAMCA Expo of regional businesses and entrepreneurs**

**Keynote remarks from Senator Sodyq Safoev**

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**CAMCA FORUM MEMORANDUM SIGNING**

At the Forum, representatives of the Foreign Ministries of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CAMCA Forum organizers officially recognizing the Forum as an important regional platform and outlining areas of future cooperation. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with these countries in support of the Forum’s mission.

(Pictured from left to right: Amb. Hafiz Pashayev, ADA Rector and Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan; Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute; Tamar Kekebadze, CAMCA Network; Alexander Kvitisisadze, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia; Dr. Starr; Sarah Tonucci, Executive Director, Rumsfeld Foundation; and Darkhan Satybaldy, Kazakh Ambassador to Uzbekistan)

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**Art displayed by Omaid Sharifi, President of ArtLords and CAMCA Network Member, Afghanistan**

“CAMCA Spotlights: Meet the CAMCA Network” session with presenters from six countries
REGIONAL FORUM WAS AN AMAZING EVENT BRINGING TOGETHER BRILLIANT PROFESSIONALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. @RUMSFELDFOUNDTN HAS CREATED A UNIQUE NETWORK OF OVER 200 PROFS FROM 10 COUNTRIES. WHO HAVE NOT ONLY BECOME FRIENDS, BUT ALSO SHAPERS OF OUR COUNTRIES’ FUTURES.

- Arevik Anaposiyan, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia

#CAMCA2019 HAPPENED WITH #AFG HIGH REP — THEMES VARY FROM TRADE TO INVESTMENT, HISTORY TO ARTS, & MEDIA TO REGIONAL EXPANSIONS.

- Parwiz Kawa, Former Editor in Chief of Hasht e Subh DAILY, Afghanistan

“DO NOT PAY PEOPLE TO BE POOR, TEACH THEM TO BE RICH, BECAUSE THE LATTER PAY GOOD TAXES,” — ARTHUR LAFER SPEAKING ABOUT GOVERNMENT TAXATION POLICIES AT #CAMCA2019 FORUM IN TASHKENT THIS MORNING.

- Sanjarbek Toshbaev, International Organization for Migration Country Manager for Uzbekistan

THREE WEEKS AGO WE GOT TOGETHER IN #TASHKENT TO DISCUSS OUR COMMON OPPORTUNITIES AS NATIONS SURROUNDED BY COMMON CHALLENGES. I SPOKE ABOUT #CAMCA CONNECTIVITY THAT OFFERS MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION OF THE TALENTED, LIKEMINDED & ENTREPRENEUR GENERATION OF OUR REGION!

- Amb. Wahdullah Waissi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Fiji

Review #CAMCA2019 conversations on Twitter & Facebook.

View photo coverage on Flickr.

Video session coverage will be available on the CAMCA Regional Forum YouTube Channel.

Review the official press release, full agenda and all press mentions online.

PODCAST FEATURE
Renowned American radio host, John Batchelor, hosted the John Batchelor Show from the 2019 CAMCA Forum. Find several informative interviews in his “On the Road to Tashkent” episodes with Forum organizers and attendees online.

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To learn more about the 2020 CAMCA Regional Forum contact info@camcaforum.org.