



e-CAMCA Forum Speaker Bios

Friday, June 25 – Panel Session

Moderator:



Yernar Zharkeshov, Principal and Head of Eurasia at Whiteshield Partners; CAMCA Network Member, Kazakhstan

Mr. Yernar Zharkeshov is Principal and Head of Eurasia at Whiteshield Partners.

Previously, he served as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner at the Center for Strategic Initiatives, a management consulting firm focused on helping government and private sector organizations to design long-term development strategies and organizational transformations.

Prior to joining the private sector, he served as Portfolio Manager at the UNDP in Kazakhstan from 2014-2017 where he led the Secretariat of the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, an international initiative of Kazakhstan and UNDP with participation of 40 countries, including all CAMCA countries. From 2012-2014, Mr. Zharkeshov served as Director of the Research Institute of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Zharkeshov holds an MA in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (2011) and a BSc. in Public Policy, Government and Management from the University of Birmingham, UK (2009).

Panelists:



Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Central Asia

Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha is the Diplomatic Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network in the Kyrgyz Republic and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Asia (UCA) co-founded by the Governments of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and His Highness the Aga Khan.

He led the planning, building and operation of the campuses and programs of UCA and before that for three decades as Founding President of the Aga Khan University which operates in seven countries. He began his career in business and for two decades was Managing Director of IPS, Pakistan, a venture capital and manufacturing company with a work force of 22,000.

Shamsh was Pakistan's Minister of Education as well as for Science and Technology, a consultant for the World Bank and is a Senior Distinguished Fellow of the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. He received his higher education in the UK and the USA. In recognition of his services he has received honorary degrees from McMaster University, Canada and AKU, and high national awards from the Presidents of Pakistan and France.



Fariz Ismailzade, Executive Vice Rector, ADA University, Azerbaijan

Fariz Ismailzade is Executive Vice Rector at ADA University. He joined ADA University in 2006 as Director of Executive Execution (2006-2010) and Executive Dean (2010-2011). He also serves on the Board of the State Examination Center, State Innovations Agency and American Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ismailzade has done research at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C and the Embassy of Azerbaijan in the U.S., with interests including political affairs in the Caucasus and Central Asia, energy security, and development. He has presented papers at the Heritage Foundation, Columbia University, Stanford University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, UCLA, as well as at international conferences such as Association for Study of

Nationalities (ASN), Wilton Park Conferences, Middle East Studies Association (MESA), German Marshall Fund and NATO Advanced Research Workshop and more. Mr. Ismailzade completed a Doctoral Degree in Business Administration at the Maastricht School of Management. He holds an Executive MBA from IE Business School (Spain), and a Master's Degree in Social and Economic Development from Washington University in St. Louis, as well as a BA in Political Science from Western University in Baku, with interim studies at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.



Hikmat Abdurahmanov, Entrepreneur, Co-founder of HM Partners/TEAM University; CAMCA Network Member, Uzbekistan

Hikmat is a graduate of the University of World economy & Diplomacy. Earning his Bachelors & Masters in International Economics with excellence at UWED. He earned a second Master's degree from the University of St. Andrews in International Business in UK. That helped him to calibrate his knowledge in the world of business, and together with his partners launch successful companies in fields like: leasing, foreign trade, and services to SMEs.

Hikmat also graduate of Skolkovo business school in Russia. He is a fellow of numerous leadership programs conducted in the U.S., Germany, Austria, UK, Turkey, Hong Kong, Israel, Singapore, India and more. As a certified Independent Director, Hikmat was invited to be a Board member to several profit and non-profit organizations, such as Korzinka, Chair at

Public Council of Tashkent, Chair at Central Eurasian Leadership Alliance, Poytaxt Bank, TEAM University and more. Having lived in four countries (UK, U.S., China, Singapore), and visited more than 50 countries, Hikmat has wide knowledge and experience in the areas of entrepreneurship, leadership in business and management. Alongside active members of the business community, he established TEAM University, the first entrepreneurship university in Uzbekistan which offers courses including Digital Innovation, International Business, Creative Industries and is partnered with British University LSBU.



Talant Sultanov, Co-founder and the Chair of the Kyrgyz Chapter of the Internet Society; CAMCA Network Member, Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Talant Sultanov is Co-Founder and Chair of the Kyrgyz Chapter of the Internet Society and Expert at the Center for Strategic Initiatives Taza Koom. Previously he served as an Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Coordinator of the Working Group on Taza Koom Digital Transformation Program; as an Adviser to the Chief of the Administration of the President; and the Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, as well as worked in Almaty and Washington Offices of the World Bank.

Additionally, he served as a member of the Supervisory Board of the National TV and Radio Corporation, the Council on Business and Entrepreneurship under the Speaker of the Parliament, the Board of Directors of the Bank of Asia in Kyrgyzstan and Humo Microcredit Foundation in Tajikistan. Mr. Sultanov holds an MA in International Finance from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (2006) and a BA in International Relations from San Francisco State University (1999). He has also received executive education at the Harvard Kennedy School (2016).



Dr. Irakli Laitadze, Chief Financial Officer of GMT Mtatsminda and Lecturer at Ilya State University in Tbilisi; CAMCA Network Member, Georgia

Dr. Irakli Laitadze is a Chief Financial Officer of GMT Mtatsminda and a Lecturer at Ilya State University in Tbilisi.

Previously, he worked as the Deputy CFO of the GMT Group, a leading private sector investor in Georgia. He has also worked for the Belgian company, Group Thermote & Vanhalst. Additionally, Dr. Laitadze has worked in the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Mission of Georgia to the European Union, and at the Embassy to Benelux countries.

Dr. Laitadze holds a PhD in Humanities from Free University of Tbilisi (2018), an MBA from the University of Cambridge, UK (2003), a Diploma from the Diplomatic School of Madrid, Spain (1997) and a BA in Economic and Social Geography from Tbilisi State University, Georgia (1993). He is writing a biweekly blog on international relations and economics for Forbes Georgia.