

2022 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

CENTRAL ASIA – MONGOLIA – CAUCASUS – AFGHANISTAN

FORUM REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 15-16, 2022



camca
Regional Forum



Dr. S. Frederick Starr providing keynote introductory remarks

Typically held in the CAMCA region, the 2022 Forum was hosted in Washington, D.C., providing a unique opportunity for participants to forge productive partnerships within the United States' capital.

THEME: "New Geopolitics and Geoeconomics in CAMCA"

SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS: A diverse group of leaders and professionals including CEOs, Ambassadors, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Chairpersons, Executive Directors, Board Members, entrepreneurs, C-suite executives, academic deans and professors, and more from the 10 CAMCA countries, the United States, Germany, Pakistan, Poland, Singapore, Sweden and Turkey

FOCUS AREAS: Intraregional trade, regional connectivity, private sector investment, economic development, entrepreneurship and innovation, geopolitics and echo-sanctions, food security and agritech, cryptocurrency and more

2022 IN NUMBERS



200+ ATTENDEES



60+ SPEAKERS



17 SESSIONS



17 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

ABOUT THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

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 regional 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 **7** CAMCA Regional Forums.
- Attendance for all Forums totals more than **1,200** participants.
- Attendees have represented more than **26** countries.
- Over **260** speakers have contributed to Forum conversations.
- The Forum location travels each year across the CAMCA region.

2022 FORUM SESSIONS

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES & INTERVIEWS:

- **Ambassador John Bolton**
Former National Security Adviser to the U.S. President
- **Secretary Carlos Gutierrez**
Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce
- **Dr. S. Frederick Starr**
Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

FORUM SESSIONS:

- CAMCA Geopolitics After Ukraine: What's Desirable, What's Possible?
- How to Deal with Echo-Sanctions: Challenges and Opportunities for CAMCA
- CAMCA Network Spotlights: Afghanistan
- Trade and Transport in CAMCA: Regional and Global Connectivity
- What's Next in Afghanistan?
- Boosting CAMCA's Private Sector Through Investments: How to Seize Opportunities
- Building Modern Skills in CAMCA Countries
- Securing CAMCA's Digital Future in an Era of U.S.-China Geo-tech Rivalry
- Women Taking Power in CAMCA: Prospects and Barriers
- Geopolitics of Cryptocurrency
- Food Security and Building Agritech in CAMCA
- Meet the Entrepreneurs of CAMCA
- Accelerating Regional Cooperation in Policy Analysis: A Roadmap

FEATURED SESSION:

- **Remembering Secretary Rumsfeld –**
Panelists spoke about Rumsfeld's impact throughout the CAMCA region through the work of the Rumsfeld Foundation as well as during his prior service as U.S. Secretary of Defense.
(Photo at right.)

View the [full agenda](#) online.

"We are here to celebrate our regional identity, the CAMCA identity. What does that mean for the participants of this Forum? It means getting to meet a Network composed of a group of highly qualified individuals from all walks of life – business, NGOs, think tanks, security, thought leaders and intellectuals. Among our Network, we have current and former ambassadors, cabinet members, deputy ministers, mayors, entrepreneurs, and people who are movers and shakers in their own field and their own country. We continuously engage with each other throughout the year to find synergies and we gather once a year with the relevant people and decision makers in the region to discuss what matters to us, what matters to the region and what matters to the world."

SHOAIB RAHIM

CAMCA NETWORK BOARD CHAIR, AFGHANISTAN



"That is the uniqueness of this platform. It is the knowledge you can get, the insights, information and access to high-level people."

SARDOR MUKHAMEDALIEV

CAMCA NETWORK MEMBER, UZBEKISTAN

"The Forum is an opportunity to exchange ideas, to find solutions and also to understand that there are likeminded people, so no matter what challenges you are fighting, you are not alone."

TAMUNA KEKENADZE

CAMCA NETWORK MEMBER, GEORGIA

"We see the Forum as a unique convening where leaders from all across the region can come together, share initiatives, share expertise and find ways they can cooperate as a region."

SARAH TONUCCI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RUMSFELD FOUNDATION

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Ruslan Akchurin, Co-founder and General Manager, AZCHEMCO LLC
Iskander Akylbayev, Director for Central Asia, Oxford Policy Advisory Group*
Gen. Haibatullah Alizai, Former Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Army
Hadeia Amiry, Former Special Adviser to the National Security Adviser to the President of Afghanistan*
Arevik Anapiosyan, Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser, UN Resident Coordinator Office in Armenia*
Kenneth Angell, Managing Director of Project Finance, U.S. International Development Corporation
Dr. Kaush Arha, Non-resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council
Aibek Artykbaev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
Mirbek Asangariyev, Founder and CEO of Hotel “Bridges” *
Ali Aslan, TV presenter and journalist
Dr. Cagri Bagcioglu, Head, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, Cintana Education
Nazira Beishenalieva, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of CJSC Bank of Asia*
Amb. John Bolton, Former Assistant to the U.S. President for National Security Affairs
Eric Brown, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute
Amb. Matthew Bryza, Former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan
Mukhtar Bubeyev, Member of the Board of Directors, Astana Financial Services
Cody Carbone, Director of Policy, Chamber of Digital Commerce
Zarina Chekirbaeva, Founder and CEO, BGLobal Ltd*
Victoria Clarke, Board President, Rumsfeld Foundation
Luke Coffey, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute
Dr. Svante Cornell, Director, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program
Khulan Davaadorj, Founder, LHAMOUR*
Tuvshinzaya Gantulga, Visiting Fellow, Project 2049 Institute*

Dinara Ghaplan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, “Bolashak” Corporate Foundation*
Sec. Carlos Gutierrez, Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce
Ekaterina Gvelesiani, Owner of hotel “Palani”**
Zafar Hashemi, Special Adviser, SIGAR*
Sarkhan Hashimov, Advisor to the Chief of State Tax Service of Azerbaijan*
Fidan Huseynli, Marketing Communication, Huangpu Europe*
Farrukh Ilnazarov, Co-founder and Country Director, Central Asian Development Institute of Tashkent*
Frauke Jungbluth, Practice Manager for the Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank
Parwiz Kawa, Central Asia News Editor and Head of Office, Afghanistan International TV*
Tamuna Kekenadze, Chairperson, Free Democrats Political Party*
David Kirvalidze, Former Minister of Agriculture of Georgia
Jenny Jenish kyzy, Head of Experimentation of the Acceleration Lab, UNDP Kyrgyzstan*
Shuhrat Mirzoev, Managing Partner and Founder, IRSHAD Consulting LLC*
Dr. Khatuna Mshvidobadze, Professorial Lecturer of cybersecurity, The George Washington University*
Amb. Mamuka Murjikneli, CEO and General Manager, Wondernet Express Investment Group
Sardor Mukhamedaliev, Founder, Biz Network*
Lotfullah Najafizada, CEO, Eye Media Group*
Gaukhar Nurgalieva, Senior Advisor, FMA*
Rakhim Oshakbayev, Director, Center of Applied Research “TALAP”**
Sally Painter, Co-Founder and COO, Blue Star Strategies, LLC
Tengiz Pkhaladze, Senior Fellow, ECIPE*
Shoaib Rahim, Visiting Scholar, The New School in New York*

Zuhursho Rahmatulloev, Co-Founder, Alif Bank*
Daniel Runde, Senior Vice President, CSIS
Dr. Theresa Sabonis-Helf, Professor of Practice, Georgetown School of Foreign Service
Dr. Omar Sadr, Research Scholar, Center for Governance and Markets, University of Pittsburgh*
Dr. Nilofar Sakhi, Non-residential Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council
Jeffrey Schott, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics
Omaid Sharifi, Co-Founder and President, ArtLords*
Dr. Omar Sharifi, Director, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies*
Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute
Hilola Suleymanova, Managing Partner and Founder, DaVinci Management Consulting*
Amb. Kip Tom, Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture
Sarah Tonucci, Executive Director, Rumsfeld Foundation
Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli, Senior Fellow, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute
Keith Urbahn, President and founding partner, Javelin
Abdul Wahid Wafa, Professional Specialist, Humanities Council, Journalism Program of Princeton University*
Scott Worden, Director, Afghanistan and Central Asia Programs, U.S. Institute of Peace
Asset Yereli, Founder and Chairman of the Board, Aktau Marine North Terminal*
Kristen Young, Partner, White & Case
Assad Zamir, Founder and Managing Director, Zamir Foundation*

*CAMCA Network Member

MEDIA MENTIONS & COVERAGE



“WE WERE PLEASED TO HOST YESTERDAY @KAZAKHEMBASSY @CAMCAFORUM’S 100+ TALENTED PROFESSIONALS FOCUSED ON TAPPING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT #CAMCA REGION.” - EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN IN THE UNITED STATES



“THE FORUM ITSELF HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPRESSIVE HOST TO A RANGE OF ISSUES REGARDING THE REGION AND THE WIDER WORLD OF GEOPOLITICS, TRADE, AND SECURITY - BUT THIS YEAR, WITH ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED IN AFGHANISTAN, IN UKRAINE, SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA, JUST TO NAME A FEW, THE DISCUSSIONS TOOK ON A MUCH MORE ENTICING, INTRIGUING, AND UNSETTLING TWIST. THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE NEW FOCUS ON U.S - CHINA GEO-TECH RIVALRY AND GEOPOLITICS OF CRYPTOCURRENCY ISSUES.”
- CAMCA NETWORK MEMBER, MONGOLIA



“YOU GO THERE TO GET INSPIRED, OR TO INSPIRE OTHERS! YOU GO THERE TO LEARN AND SHARE! YOU GO THERE TO MEET NEW FRIENDS AND RE-CONNECT WITH OLD ONES! YOU GO THERE TO CATCH UP ON WORLD GEOPOLITICS AND ECONOMY AND DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HAVE IMPACT ON IT IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY - AT THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL!” - CAMCA NETWORK MEMBER, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MISSED THE FORUM?

Video session coverage will be made available on the Forum [YouTube Channel](#).

The Forum was covered by D.C.-based regional media including *Voice of America Dari*, *Report AZ*, *Rustavi2* and *Afghanistan International*.

All media mentions can be [found here](#).

Review [#CAMCA2022DC](#) conversations on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#).

View [photo coverage](#) on [Flickr](#).

MEDIA CONTACTS

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To learn more about the 2023 Forum contact: info@camcaforum.org.

FORUM EXPO

Representatives of 10 regionally-focused companies and organizations participated in our annual Forum Expo, showcasing some of their unique products and initiatives across the CAMCA region.





2022 SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The Forum organizers are grateful to our 2022 Sponsors and Partners for their part in making the Forum a success!

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



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FORUM ORGANIZERS

The Forum organizers believe that expanded communication and collaboration among talented professionals from a range of fields can significantly contribute to economic, political and social development on both a national and regional basis.



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