

CAMCA FELLOWSHIP REPORT



SPRING 2022

The Spring 2022 group of CAMCA Fellows from Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan completed a six-week program of high-level meetings and research in Washington, D.C. from March 29th to May 7th, 2022.

The Fellows had an intensive schedule of group meetings with representatives of the U.S. government, business community, media, think tanks, academia and NGOs, as well as attended conferences and seminars at top institutions to better understand the workings of U.S. opinion-making and policy-making. Fellows also traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for meetings with local businesses and organizations, gaining insights on American democracy beyond the nation's capital.

In the final week of their program the Spring 2022 Fellows collaborated to present on the topic of "Confronting Global Challenges in the CAMCA Region" at a Central Asia-Caucasus Institute Forum for local professionals interested in the region.

SPRING 2022 FELLOWS

CAMCA Fellows represent some of the best and brightest rising leaders from the region. Fellows were selected for their demonstrated excellence and leadership within their professional fields and broader community, as well as for their commitment to promoting development, prosperity and cooperation in the CAMCA region.

Below are the 10 representatives who comprised the Spring 2022 cohort:

- **Lt. Col. Mohd Musadiq Yaftali** (Afghanistan) - Former Officer in the National Army of Afghanistan
- **Dr. Omar Sadr** (Afghanistan) - Research Scholar at the Center for Governance and Markets in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh
- **Konul Aliyeva** (Azerbaijan) - Serial entrepreneur and Partner and General Manager at Horeca Kiyv
- **Giorgi Cherkezishvili** (Georgia) - Head of the Secretariat of the Investors Council of Georgia
- **Nino Zambakhidze** (Georgia) - Chairwoman of the Georgian Farmers' Association
- **Zaure Tursunova** (Kazakhstan) - Founder and CEO of "The Steppe" media company
- **Ermekek Baisalov** (Kyrgyzstan) - Editor of the Central Asian Bureau for Analytical Reporting (CABAR.asia)
- **Irmuun Demberel** (Mongolia) - Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Mongolia
- **Sohib Ikramov** (Tajikistan) - Founder and CEO of translation and event management company, Simplex
- **Nodira Mukhammadkulova** (Uzbekistan) - Project Manager for the UNDP, UNODC, UNESCO Joint Program "Youth for Social Harmony in the Fergana Valley"

MEETINGS

Spring 2022 Fellows met with top leaders including:

Clark Adams, Director, Central Asia Office, U.S. Dept. of Defense
H.E. Bakyt Amanbaev, Amb. of the Kyrgyz Republic to the U.S.
Joshua Bolten, CEO of Business Roundtable
Amb. John Bolton, former U.S. National Security Advisor
Lisa Curtis, former Deputy Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director for South and Central Asia
Sec. Carlos Gutierrez, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce
H.E. Khazar Ibrahim, Amb. of Azerbaijan to the U.S.
Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, U.S. Dept. of State
Gen. Richard Myers, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
H.E. Javlon Vakhobov, Amb. of Uzbekistan to the U.S.
Amb. Kurt Volker, former U.S. Amb. to NATO
Damon Wilson, President and CEO, National Endowment for Democracy

Spring 2022 Fellows met with representatives from the following organizations and more:

American Enterprise Institute
 American Foreign Policy Council
 Atlantic Council
 BGR Group
 Blue Star Strategies
 Citizen Diplomacy International
 Columbia University
 Center for a New American Security
 Center for International Private Enterprise
 Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship
 Georgetown University
 Heritage Foundation
 Hudson Institute
 Lauder Institute of University of Pennsylvania
 McLarty Associates
 National Constitution Center
 Open World Leadership Center
 USAID
 U.S. Institute of Peace
 U.S. International Development Finance Corporation
 World Affairs Council of Philadelphia



TESTIMONIALS

"Of all of the programs that I have had the opportunity to participate in across the world, the CAMCA Fellowship Program definitely stands out as the most life-changing."

- Nino, Georgia

"I would like to express my gratitude to the CAMCA Fellowship Program organizers for giving me this unique opportunity to be a part of the CAMCA Network comprised of leaders and visionaries. The experiences I had during this six-week program were priceless.

The insights and lessons that I learned throughout my time in D.C. and travels to Philadelphia will pave the way for future successes in my personal life and professional career. I wish the CAMCA Fellowship prosperity and success in connecting the CAMCA region and the United States in the years to come."

- Sohib, Tajikistan

"I am certain that the CAMCA Fellowship Program provides some of the best opportunities that one can be offered as it enables participants to clearly understand the nature of U.S. decision-making processes in a short period of time. Discovering new people and making new friends who inspire you to work hard and showcase how each person can make the world a better place is another great benefit that the Fellowship offers." - Giorgi, Georgia

"The CAMCA Fellowship was an incredible opportunity to observe how a democratic society is organized, how democratic institutions function, and how policy, academic and intellectual communities think and shape policy in the U.S. This program also provides exposure to American political culture and the way political and social norms form American society. Above all, the Fellowship builds a strong community - the CAMCA community." - Omar, Afghanistan

"This long-anticipated program surpassed all my expectations. Thanks to a carefully organized six-week program, there were countless opportunities to meet interesting and influential Americans, and to broaden my horizons.

Another rewarding aspect of the Fellowship was meeting new contacts and friends from all over Central Asia and the Caucasus. It was one of the most impressive and memorable trips of my life!" - Ermek, Kyrgyz Republic





"Over time this program has become one of the most influential platforms for Central Asia and the broader region, and all the stakeholders that it has collected are some of the most talented, sophisticated leaders across every sphere. The program enables very powerful dialogues and produces tangible results toward a very bright future for the region." - Irmuun, Mongolia

"The CAMCA Fellowship Program was a unique opportunity to take a deep dive into the operations of various U.S. institutions and the pillars of democracy in America." - Nino, Georgia

"One of the truly unique aspects about the CAMCA Fellowship is that it brings together people from different backgrounds and countries and encourages them to think about one goal – the prosperity of our countries through collaboration and support."
- Konul, Azerbaijan

"The CAMCA Fellowship was an amazing experience for me. Not only was it a terrific chance to get to know American foreign policy experts and to meet politicians, but it was also an important opportunity to get to know some of the rising leaders from within the CAMCA region that participated alongside me." - Musadiq, Afghanistan

"Fellows are exposed to meetings with high caliber diplomats, think tanks, influencers and policy makers, which is undeniably the fastest and the most effective way of learning and building prospective partnerships. It has been a tremendous privilege for me to participate in the Fellowship."
- Konul, Azerbaijan



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

The CAMCA Fellowship aims to encourage intraregional cooperation among the program countries as well as to foster stronger relations between the U.S. and the CAMCA region, and serves as a starting point for continued collaboration among the innovative regional leaders that comprise its alumni network.

Since its establishment in 2008, the Fellowship Program has hosted over 240 rising leaders from the region.