

CAMCA FELLOWSHIP REPORT



FALL 2023

The Fall 2023 group of CAMCA Fellows from Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan completed a six-week program of high-level meetings and research from October 3 to November 9, 2023.

In Washington, D.C., Fellows met with representatives of the U.S. government, business community, think tanks, academia and NGOs to learn about American policy-making, entrepreneurship and innovation. Fellows also traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah; Los Angeles, California; and Dallas, Texas for meetings with local businesses and officials, gaining insights into American life beyond the nation's capital.

Culminating their Fellowship experience, the group delivered their cohort presentation, "United We Thrive, Divided We Fall," at a Central Asia-Caucasus Institute Forum for local professionals interested in the CAMCA region.

FALL 2023 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 12 representatives who comprised the Fall 2023 cohort:

- **Ms. Farida Asgarzade (Azerbaijan)** - Founder and Managing Director of PEACHY, a mobile beauty and wellness tech service company
- **Ms. Sophie Berishvili (Georgia)** - Political Secretary (Internal Policy) in the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) at the British Embassy in Tbilisi
- **Mr. Altan-Ulzii Chuluun (Mongolia)** - Information and Data Analysis Division Director of The New Recovery Policy Accelerator Centre in the Office of the Prime Minister of Mongolia
- **Ms. Nargis Dustmatova (Uzbekistan)** - Managing Director of Finextra, a banking and financial services system integrator
- **Mr. Lkhagva Erdene (Mongolia)** - General Manager of External Affairs & Communication at Oyu Tolgoi LLC
- **Ms. Ainur Kapparova (Kazakhstan)** - Co-Founder and Partner at KT Capital Group, an investment and consulting company
- **Mr. Mujib Mehrdad (Afghanistan)** - Poet, playwright, translator and journalist
- **Mr. Nurmuhammet Melayev (Turkmenistan)** - Portfolio Banker at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Ashgabat Resident Office
- **Ms. Nailya Menlasheva (Tajikistan)** - Economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tajikistan Office
- **Mr. Dastan Omuraliyev (Kyrgyz Republic)** - Co-Founder of the Agroindustrial Development Association
- **Ms. Ainura Sagyn (Kyrgyz Republic)** - Co-Founder and Director of TAZAR, a green tech waste management company
- **Ms. Lena Zakaryan (Armenia)** - Director of Policy and Governance at AxelMondrian & Partners, a reputation management company

MEETINGS

Fall 2023 Fellows met with top leaders including:

President George W. Bush and Laura Bush, former U.S. President and First Lady
Amb. John Bolton, former U.S. National Security Advisor
Doug Conant, former CEO of Campbell Soup Company
Eric Green, former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia and Central Asia, U.S. National Security Council
Kari Hatcher, Manager, International Affairs, General Motors
Amb. John Herbst, former U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan and Ukraine
David Kramer, Executive Director of the George W. Bush Institute
Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia at the U.S. Department of State
Gen. Richard Myers (ret.), former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Danica Starks, Advisor to the U.S. Executive Director and Senior U.S. Commercial Liaison to the World Bank
Amb. Kurt Volker, former U.S. Ambassador to NATO
Amb. Temuri Yakobashvili, former Amb. of Georgia to the U.S.
Bob Zoellick, former President of the World Bank

Fellows also met with representatives from the following organizations and more:

American Foreign Policy Council
 America Georgia Business Council
 Atlantic Council
 Bain & Company
 Bank of America
 Blue Star Strategies
 Caspian Policy Center
 Javelin
 JPMorgan Chase & Co.
 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
 Center for International Private Enterprise
 Georgetown University
 The Heritage Foundation
 Hudson Institute
 International Republican Institute
 Middle East Institute
 White & Case LLP
 United States Institute of Peace
 U.S. International Development Finance Corporation
 U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
 USAID



TESTIMONIALS

“Unleashing brilliance and fostering strategic networks within the region, the CAMCA Fellowship Program ignites intellectual synergy, creating a dynamic arena where visionaries and leaders converge to shape the future of the CAMCA region.

More than a traditional fellowship, it encapsulates an expedition to the forefront of pioneering thought and impactful endeavors.”

- Ulzii, Mongolia

“Throughout six weeks, I met with incredible leaders and experts in security, business and foreign policy. It feels like I got a full master’s degree. The speakers in those 40+ meetings are all committed to excellence, had the topmost level of expertise and have been catalysts in their fields. On top of that, I built lifelong friendships with talented Fellows from the entire CAMCA region.” - Ainura, Kyrgyz Republic

“It is a privilege to be among the rising leaders who have had the opportunity to meet with individuals, corporate leaders, U.S. Government representatives and the leadership of international organizations that are shaping the political, business, financial, banking, IT, military, environmental and more agendas in the U.S. and globally. This thrilling journey will undoubtedly leave a permanent impact on the trajectory of my career.” - Lena, Armenia

“This Fellowship is a unique experience that you won’t get anywhere else. You dive into the capital of world policy making, business and global thinking. You also get to make new and like-minded friends. It is definitely a great investment if you make the most out of it.” - Dastan, Kyrgyz Republic

“The CAMCA Fellowship exceeded my expectations and helped me create lifelong friendships with exceptional young leaders from CAMCA countries, including my own. It also gave me extensive knowledge of U.S. foreign policy and the CAMCA region which inspired me to change my mid-term and long-term career goals. I think the program does more than what it has set out to achieve by connecting the CAMCA region with the U.S. public and private sectors.” - Lkhagva, Mongolia

“This program was a big flash, enlightening my life. It is well thought out in all aspects – logistics, meeting structure and flow with bold, outstanding speakers – building solid ground for greater cooperation between the U.S. and the region. The staff’s care and support helped bond our group together and makes it feel like family, and like home.” - Nailya, Tajikistan

“I feel like I have won the lottery by winning a spot in the CAMCA Fellowship Program. I had high expectations coming in, but the program by far exceeded them.” - Ainur, Kazakhstan





“The CAMCA Fellowship is a unique opportunity that places you in the heart of U.S. political decision making, gives you the possibility to engage with influential and interesting minds that broaden your perspective, deepens your understanding of leadership and provides you with an immense network. I now have insights into the whole region and believe that a lot can be achieved if we, the Fellows, work together and build on our relationships formed during the Fellowship. United we will thrive, divided we will fall!” - Sophie, Georgia

“This program equipped me with a nuanced understanding crucial for navigating today's complex global landscape. As a leader, the insights gained are invaluable, providing a strategic edge in addressing contemporary challenges and fostering effective international collaboration.”
- Nargis, Uzbekistan

“This six-week fellowship is a game-changer and networking goldmine, unlocking fresh opportunities in today's dynamic professional landscape. Fueling intellectual expertise and fostering strategic connections, it stands as the ultimate catalyst for professionals aiming high in our interconnected world.” - Nury, Turkmenistan

“America is the most powerful country in the world politically, economically and militarily. Undoubtedly, it is interesting for everyone to know the secrets of its power and the operational mechanisms of this massive apparatus. The CAMCA Fellowship is exactly the opportunity to begin to understand it. It serves as an intensive master's program for a generation of young people who seek to find ways of collective success and to discover an understanding of the achievements of the world's most important superpower.” - Mujib, Afghanistan



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 program has hosted 277 rising leaders from the region through 27 Fellowship sessions.