

2024 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

CENTRAL ASIA – MONGOLIA – CAUCASUS – AFGHANISTAN

FORUM REPORT

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC | JUNE 12-13, 2024



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Regional Forum



Jenny Jenish kyzy, CAMCA Network Board Chair, interviewing H.E. Nuria Kutnaeva, Kyrgyz Minister of Digital Development

The 10th annual CAMCA Regional Forum gathered over 300 participants from around the world in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

THEME: “CAMCA’s Way Forward: Advancing Through Innovation and Strengthened Intraregional Ties”

SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS: A diverse group of leaders and professionals from all sectors including Ministers and Deputy Ministers, CEOs, Ambassadors, Chairpersons, Executive Directors, entrepreneurs, investors, top executives, university presidents and more from the 10 CAMCA countries and across the globe

FOCUS AREAS: Regional cooperation amidst current geopolitics and geoeconomics, entrepreneurship, digital development, infrastructure projects, women empowerment, education, media, investment opportunities and more

2024 IN NUMBERS



300+ ATTENDEES



65+ SPEAKERS



16 SESSIONS



25 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

ABOUT THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

The Forum is a premier annual convening of key leaders and influencers 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 professionals across all sectors for region-wide discussions on means of advancing economic growth and social development in the CAMCA region.

- Established in 2014, there have been **10** CAMCA Regional Forums.
- Attendance for all Forums totals more than **1,700** participants.
- Attendees have represented **39** countries from around the world.
- Over **490** speakers have contributed to Forum conversations.
- The Forum location travels each year across the CAMCA region.

2024 FORUM SESSIONS

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES & INTERVIEWS:

- **H.E. Edil Baisalov**
Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Ambassador Terhi Hakala**
EU Special Representative to Central Asia
- **H.E. Nuria Kutnaeva**
Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic

FORUM SESSION TOPICS:

- Navigating the New Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Chessboard: Security Imperatives for the CAMCA Region
- Cyber Bridges: Connecting CAMCA Through Digital Innovation
- Innovators Unleashed: Fueling CAMCA's Future Through Entrepreneurship
- Assessing Central Asia's Relations with Afghanistan: Dos, Don'ts, and Future Perspectives
- The Future of the B5+1 Process
- Leading From the Future
- Beyond the Horizon: Navigating Transition in Global Energy Markets
- Rising Tides: Elevating Women in CAMCA
- Big Transcaspian Infrastructure Projects: Are They a Fantasy?
- Embracing Innovation in Regionalization and Internationalization in CAMCA's Education: Are We Making Enough Progress?
- New Media: Redefining and Amplifying Regional Voices in CAMCA's Digital Ecosystem
- Frontiers of Opportunity: Unlocking the Investment Potential of CAMCA

SIDELINE EVENTS:

June 11th - The CAMCA Academic Consortium hosted the second **CAMCA Education, Science & Technology Conference (ESTEC)** at the American University of Central Asia, an additional opportunity for Forum attendees interested in the region's multifaceted educational landscape.

June 13th - The **Investment Council under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic**, a 2024 Forum partner, signed memorandums of understanding with Capital Markets (Mongolia), Kanna Group Ltd (Azerbaijan) and the Asia Committee of Small Business of the ASEAN Secretariat, signaling exciting new advancements for both intraregional and international partnership and development.

"These partnerships mark a significant milestone in our commitment to fostering regional economic growth and collaboration... By joining these reputable organizations, we are paving the way for a more vibrant and resilient economic landscape. This collaboration will not only strengthen our regional ties but also create new opportunities for innovation, sustainable growth, and prosperity for all involved parties." – Investment Council

"The leaders of the CAMCA Network are united by the desire for progress, prosperity and people-to-people networking in the CAMCA region...I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all whom organized this Forum in Bishkek. Their efforts help to strengthen ties and develop cooperation in our region."

JAPAR USENOV

BOARD MEMBER, KG ANALYTICS INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATION

"Honored to speak at the CAMCA Forum in Bishkek sharing insights learned from the ASEAN perspective alongside esteemed panelists... I had the privilege to sign an MOU representing the Asia Small Business Federation Malaysia with the Head of the Secretariat of the Investment Council under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. This initiative aligns with Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's official visit to Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan last month, fostering positive economic cooperation and strengthening bilateral ties across various sectors. Looking forward to forging lasting friendships and exploring new horizons together."

ERIC KU

PRESIDENT, ASIA COMMITTEE FOR SMALL BUSINESS



"The Forum is a premier annual event bringing together top leaders and professionals from across the CAMCA region... Thanks to the event organizers for this fantastic opportunity to be connected with influential leaders and contribute to the dialogue on enhancing intraregional cooperation and collaboration in the region."

EUGENE SEAH

COO, BAKU INTERNATIONAL SEA TRADE PORT, AZERBAIJAN

"Many Mongolian companies are expanding into Central Asian countries. Our goal is to advise these companies on how to better position themselves in the region and help them find the right partners and investors. That's why I attended the CAMCA Regional Forum, and I am delighted to announce our partnership with the Investment Council of the Kyrgyz Republic."

ZOLBAYAR ENKHBAATAR

FOUNDER & CEO, CAPITAL MARKETS MONGOLIA

"The wider Eurasia region took another step towards cooperation and connectivity last week, as the 10th annual CAMCA Regional Forum was held in Bishkek. CAMCA – standing for Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan – is an initiative to accelerate dialogue between governments, private enterprises and media figures from these ten nations."

THE TIMES OF CENTRAL ASIA

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Alanoud Alhashmi, Futurist & Emirati Business Leader

Azim Azimov, CEO & Founder of Media Kitchen; Political & Strategic Communications Consultant*

H.E. Edil Baisalov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic

Nazira Beishenalieva, Chairperson, Board of Directors, CJSB Bank of Asia*

Amb. Gela Bezhuashvili, Board Member, Strategy International (SI) Ltd.

Sanzhar Bolotov, Deputy Minister of Economy & Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic

Amb. Matthew Bryza, Board Member, Jamestown Foundation

Valeria Budinich, Systems Entrepreneurship Advisor, Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Jonathan Campion, Senior Editor, "The Times of Central Asia"

Dr. James Carafano, Senior Counselor to the President & E.W. Richardson Fellow, The Heritage Foundation

Dr. Svante Cornell, Director, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, American Foreign Policy Council

Dr. Naureen Durrani, Professor of Education at the Graduate School of Education, Nazarbayev University; Director of the Central Asian Research Centre for Educational Innovation & Transformation

Nargis Dustmatova, Chairwoman, FinTech Association Uzbekistan & Finextra Group*

Zolbayar Enkhbaatar, Founder & CEO, Capital Markets Mongolia

Lkhagva Erdene, Editor-in-Chief, MongolTV*

Dr. Alisher Faizullaev, Leif J. Sverdrup Global Teaching Fellow & Visiting Professor, Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri

Tim Gould, Chief Energy Economist, International Energy Agency

Amb. Terhi Hakala, EU Special Representative to Central Asia

Zafar Hashemi, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State*

Shamil Ibragimov, Scholar in Residence, Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Saule Imanova, IFC Transaction Advisory, Asia*

Farrukh Irnazarov, Co-Founder and Country Director, Central Asian Development Institute of Tashkent*

Dr. Murom Ismailov, Associate Professor, University of Tsukuba; President, CAMCA Academic Consortium & CAMCA Academy*

Dr. Sharinee Jagtiani, Senior Officer, GMF Tech, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Ulziisuren Jamsran, UN Women Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic

Dr. Muktar Jumaliev, IBECA NBA Expert; Former Amb. Of the Kyrgyz Republic to the USA and Canada

Dr. Fuad Karimov, CEO, KANNA Capital Private Investment Fund and Asset Management; Professor, ADA University*

Jahn Karsybaev, Co-Founder and Partner, Big Sky Capital VC

Parwiz Kawa, Co-Founder and Executive Director of 8AM MEDIA*

Dr. Alim Khamitov, CEO MOST Ventures, Managing Partner and Co-founder MOST Holding

Rauan Kenzhekhan, Founder & CEO, Bilim Media Group; President, International Qazaq Language Society

Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast, Director, Women, Peace and Security, United States Institute of Peace

Eric Ku, President, Asia Committee for Small Business, Malaysia; Co-founder and Executive Director, iTrain Asia, Singapore

Sobir Kurbanov, Central Asia Program Director, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

H.E. Nuria Kutnaeva, Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic

Marina Kuznechetskaya, Vice President of Women in Logistics and Transport Global, General Director of Emirates and Flydubai representative office in Kazakhstan

Jenny Jenish kyzy, Chair of the Board of Directors, CAMCA Network; CAMCA Network National Coordinator for the Kyrgyz Republic*

Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia

Aisuluu Mamashova, Member of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic

José Diego Manzanera, Founder and CEO, Gulf Business Consulting, Dubai, U.A.E & Middle East

Dr. Davood Moradian, Director, Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies

Anatoly Motkin, President, StrategEast

Amb. Mamuka Murjikneli, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, Wondernet Express Investment Group

Yerzhan Nauruzbayev, Deputy CEO, KPMC Ltd (a joint venture company between PSA International and Kazakhstan Railways, KTZ)

Mikheil Nibladze, Managing Director, Cerberus Frontier

Mariam Nikuradze, Co-Founder and Executive Director, OC Media

Adil Nurgozhin, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Big Sky Capital VC

Dr. Timothy O'Connor, President, American University of Central Asia

Dastan Omuraliev, Founder and CEO, Tentech*

Natalia Pipia, Chief of Party, Active Communities, FHI360

Tariq Qureshi, Futurist, Global Speaker, CEO of Xponential and MAD Group

Catherine Putz, Managing Editor, "The Diplomat"

Farzana Rashid Rahimi, President & Founder, Erguvan Association for Integration of Migrants, Afghanistan

Mansur Rasulev, Deputy Head of the Secretariat, Foreign Investors Council under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Lira Samybaeva, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic

Eugene Seah, Chief Operating Officer, Baku International Sea Trade Port, Azerbaijan

Dr. Farid Shafiyev, Chairman, Center of Analysis of International Relations, Azerbaijan

Alisher Shernazarov, IBECA NBA Expert, Chairman, Board of Directors, Central Asian Stock Exchange, Tajikistan

Olga Skorokhodova, Government Affairs & Public Policy Manager, Emerging Markets, Google

Dr. Frederick Starr, Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, American Foreign Policy Council

Chubak Temirov, Deputy Director, High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic

Sarah Tonucci, Executive Director, Rumsfeld Foundation

Giorgi Tsikolia, Vice President for the EMEA region, Lineate

Ainura Usupbekova, Representative of the Gender Council under the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic; Founder of Civic Platform

Amb. Javlon Vakhobov, Managing Director, International Institute for Central Asia

Sanjar Valiev, Director, Information and Analytical Center for International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan

Aizhan Zhantayeva, Member of the Board of Directors, Binance, Kazakhstan*

*CAMCA Network Member

MEDIA MENTIONS & COVERAGE

X “GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE FLOOR EARLIER TODAY WITH SUCH A DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF PANELISTS AT THE CAMCA FORUM IN BISHKEK. IN MY OPENING REMARKS, I UNDERScoreD THAT THE UZBEKISTAN GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO FURTHERING REGIONAL COOPERATION AMONG ALL CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES. WE STAND READY TO ADVANCE THE INTEGRATION PROCESSES LAUNCHED BACK IN 2017.” - AMB. JAVLON VAKHABOV, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

X “JUST WRAPPED UP AN INSIGHTFUL PANEL AT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE #CAMCA2024BISHKEK, REPRESENTING MITLEGATUM. SPOKE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN CENTRAL ASIA & CAUCASUS AS AN EXISTENTIAL NECESSITY IN THE FACE OF #CLIMATECHANGE CHALLENGES AND HOW INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAN PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THIS.” - SHAMIL IBRAGIMOV, SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE, MIT’S LEGATUM CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

X “TCA’S SENIOR EDITOR @JONATHANCAMPION IS AT THE CAMCA FORUM IN BISHKEK THIS WEEK, AND TODAY SPOKE AT THE PANEL SESSION ON ‘NEW MEDIA: REDEFINING & AMPLIFYING REGIONAL VOICES IN CAMCA’S DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM.’ OUR SINCERE THANKS TO ALL AT CAMCA FOR ORGANIZING A WONDERFUL EVENT. IT IS CLEAR HOW MUCH OUR REGION NEEDS INITIATIVES LIKE #CAMCA2024BISHKEK.” - THE TIMES OF CENTRAL ASIA

X “PLEASURE TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMCA FORUM AND SHARE INSIGHTS ON REGIONAL DYNAMISM WITH @CACI_SILKROAD @SVANTECORNELL AND DIVERSE NETWORK OF ACADEMIA, SCHOLARS, BUSINESSES AND LEADERS! GOOD LUCK AT THE FORUM #CAMCA2024BISHKEK #CENTRALASIAMATTERS” - AMB. TEHRI HAKALA, EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

f “JUST RETURNED FROM AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE AT THE CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM IN KYRGYZSTAN! THE ORGANIZATION WAS TOP-NOTCH, AND THE SESSIONS WERE INCREDIBLY INSIGHTFUL... GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH SUCH A DIVERSE GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS AND LEADERS. LOOKING FORWARD TO FUTURE COLLABORATIONS AND BRINGING NEW IDEAS AND PARTNERSHIPS BACK TO GEORGIA” - MURAZ SAFOEV, NEWS EDITOR & PUBLICIST, CAUCASUS WATCH

o “#CAMCA2024BISHKEK SERVED AS A VITAL PLATFORM FOR THE LEADERS TO EXCHANGE THEIR VIEWS AND STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION.” - SHOLPAN PRIMBETOVA, DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER OF CENTRAL ASIA

o “THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF SUCH HIGH-LEVEL NETWORKING @CAMCA2024BISHKEK FORUM. MET AND GOT CONNECTED WITH LEADERS OF THE INDUSTRIES, INSPIRED BY THE WAY OF THINKING, COLLABORATION, INTERACTIONS AND SUPPORT. I BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A LOT OF REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS IMPLEMENTED IN PROJECTS, INITIATIVES AND JOINT VENTURES.” - ELENA CHIGIBAeva, CEO, WEINCRYPTO DAO

o “THRILLED TO BE IN BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN FOR THE FIRST TIME! ATTENDING #CAMCA2024BISHKEK CONFERENCE AND EXPLORING CENTRAL ASIA FROM A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE. MEETING INCREDIBLE THOUGHT AND BUSINESS LEADERS. LEARNING ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL COLLABORATIONS. GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY!... DELVING INTO THE NUANCES OF CENTRAL ASIA, CAMCA AND ITS CAPTIVATING COUNTRIES HAS SPARKED A NEWFOUND CURIOSITY AND CAMARADERIE AMONG ATTENDEES. HERE’S TO EMBRACING FRESH PERSPECTIVES AND FOSTERING COLLABORATION MOVING FORWARD.” - ALANOUD ALHASHIMI, CEO OF THE FUTURIST COMPANY, UAE



Regional Media Panelists



Expo Participant, MUGALIM

FORUM BUSINESS EXPO

Representatives of 16 regionally focused companies and organizations participated in the 2024 Forum Expo, showcasing some of their unique products and initiatives across the CAMCA region.

“WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CAMCA FORUM, WHERE WE SHOWCASED OUR PRODUCTS AT THE EXPO, WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL! THIS EVENT SERVED AS AN EXCELLENT PLATFORM FOR EXCHANGING IDEAS, ESTABLISHING NEW CONNECTIONS, AND PRESENTING OUR CUTTING-EDGE SOLUTIONS. WE EXPRESS OUR DEEP THANKS TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE CAMCA FORUM FOR THE EXCELLENTLY ORGANIZED EVENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF IT.”
— TENTECH COMPANY

Learn more about all [Expo participants here](#).



Interview with Uzbek Forum Attendee



Investment Council & Kanna Capital MOU

FOLLOW MORE #CAMCA2024BISHKEK CONVERSATIONS AND COMMENTARY ON [X](#), [FACEBOOK](#) AND [INSTAGRAM](#).



2024 SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The Forum organizers are grateful to our Sponsors and Partners for their part in making the Forum a success. Partnership is a key element of advancing the Forum's strategic goal of intraregional cooperation and we greatly appreciate the organizations and companies that believe in the importance of our mission. If you are interested in being a future Forum sponsor, reach out to info@camcaforum.org to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

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FORUM ORGANIZERS

The founding 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.



MEDIA CONTACTS

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FORUM COVERAGE

Session video coverage will be made available on our [YouTube Channel](#).

The Forum was covered by dozens of regional media outlets including: [The Times of Central Asia](#), [Radio Free Europe/Azattyk](#), [Daryo](#), [Kaktus Media](#), [AKIpress](#), [Georgia Today](#), and more [found here](#).

View more [photos on Flickr](#).

2025 CAMCA FORUM

The next Forum will be hosted in **June 2025** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

To learn more contact: info@camcaforum.org
Sign up for the Forum mailing list at www.camcaforum.org.

Dates to be released in fall 2024.

TO ALL FORUM PARTICIPANTS, THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING YOUR TIME, IDEAS AND KNOWLEDGE IN SUPPORT OF THE REGION'S ADVANCEMENT.

WELCOME TO THE CAMCA COMMUNITY!