

CAMCA FELLOWSHIP REPORT



FALL 2024

The Fall 2024 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 1 to November 7, 2024.

In Washington, D.C., Fellows met with representatives of the U.S. government, business community, think tanks, consulting firms, media, academia and NGOs to learn about policy-making, entrepreneurship and innovation. For insights into economic development and accountable governance beyond the U.S. capital, the group also spent a week traveling across Philadelphia, Albany and New York City.

Culminating their Fellowship experience, the group delivered their cohort presentation, "CAMCA Platform for Empowering Leadership, Regional Dialogue, and Policy Advocacy," suggesting the development of an online platform for accurate information sharing to inform and shape better collective regional policies and initiatives.

FALL 2024 FELLOWS

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

Below are the 11 representatives who comprised the Fall 2024 cohort:

- **Dr. Fayazuddin Ghiasi (Afghanistan)** – Post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute of Economics and Demography at the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and a senior researcher at the Centre for Afghanistan and Regional Studies
- **Mr. Zalbey Aghadashov (Azerbaijan)** – Founder and Managing Partner of Turan Legal and Tax Services LLC, a legal and consulting firm
- **Dr. Giorgi Danelia (Georgia)** – Director of BOG Asset Management, a member of the Bank of Georgia Group
- **Ms. Tamar Loseliani (Georgia)** – Chairperson of the Supervisory Board of Anaklia Sea Port LLC
- **Mr. Gani Khamzin (Kazakhstan)** – CEO of StroyKom-Samuryk LLP, a construction and architectural design firm
- **Ms. Aigerim Turgunbaeva (Kyrgyz Republic)** – Freelance journalist covering Central Asia for international outlets
- **Mr. Enkhtur Lkhagvajav (Mongolia)** – Director of Energy, Renewables & Projects at MCS Group, a Mongolian diversified conglomerate
- **Mr. Komron Rakhmatullaev (Tajikistan)** – Country Director for the regional USAID Trade Central Asia Activity
- **Ms. Umeda Sattorzoda (Tajikistan)** – Head of the Financial Market Department at the National Bank of Tajikistan
- **Mr. Ahmetyar Kulov (Turkmenistan)** – National Project Coordinator at Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit's (GIZ) regional project on trade facilitation in Central Asia
- **Ms. Nodira Saidkarimova (Uzbekistan)** – Chief of Party for USAID's "Safe Migration in Central Asia" Project

MEETINGS

Fall 2024 Fellows met with top leaders including:

Stephen Biegun, Senior Vice President of Global Public Policy at Boeing and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State
Victoria Clarke, Executive Vice President & Chief Public Affairs Officer at 3M and Rumsfeld Foundation Board President
Dr. John Hamre, President and CEO of CSIS
Amb. John Herbst, Director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council and former Amb. to Uzbekistan & Ukraine
H.E. Khazar Ibrahim, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the U.S.
Donald Lu, U.S. Assistant Sec. of State for South & Central Asia
Thom Shanker, Director, Project for Media & National Security at GWU School of Media & Public Affairs
Dr. Brianne Todd, Director for Central Asian Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council
Amb. Kurt Volker, President, Alliance Strategic Advisors, LLC, Distinguished Fellow at CEPA, and former U.S. Amb. to NATO
Damon Wilson, CEO of the National Endowment for Democracy
Dr. Dov Zakheim, Senior Fellow, CNA Corporation and former U.S. Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)
Soofian Zuberi, Global Head of Equities at Bank of America, Chairman & CEO of Bank of America Securities, Inc.

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

American Foreign Policy Council
 Atlantic Council
 Blue Star Strategies
 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
 Center for International Private Enterprise
 Cerberus Capital Management
 Council on Foreign Relations
 Columbia University
 The Diplomat
 Eurasia Group
 Exiger
 Foreign Policy Research Institute
 Gunster Strategies
 Hudson Institute
 McLarty Associates
 Middle East Institute
 Office of the Secretary of Defense
 Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 Stimson Center
 United Nations
 U.S. Agency for International Development
 U.S. International Development Finance Corporation
 U.S. Institute of Peace
 U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations



TESTIMONIALS

“Clearly, you have selected a very eclectic mix of very smart people who are literally helping build their countries.”

“Over six extraordinary weeks, the Fellowship immerses participants in the heart of Washington, D.C., offering a rare opportunity to explore U.S. policymaking from the inside while also deepening understanding of the CAMCA region’s culture and challenges through an amazing journey with your cohort. Beyond the transformative experience, the program unlocks access to a remarkable new network of CAMCA Fellows, empowering participants to grow together, lead with purpose, and harness the unlimited potential of united regional strength.” - Zalbey, Azerbaijan

“The Fellowship is crafted for those who wish to shape reality, not merely react to it. To lead, one must be armed with knowledge. In just six weeks of this program, you emerge equipped to the teeth, ready to command the tides of change.” - Gani, Kazakhstan

“These six weeks of the program were a breathtaking odyssey of transformation – a bold fusion of brilliance and vision that transcended borders and sparked daring ideas. Immersed in the pulsating heart of Washington, D.C., we delved into the epicenter of power, diplomacy, and policy, with each moment serving as a masterclass in global leadership. More than just a learning experience, it was an awakening – a vivid tapestry of moments destined to leave a lasting legacy.” - Tamar, Georgia

“The Fellowship is truly a one-of-a-kind experience! Over the course of just over a month, I had the rare opportunity to meet an incredible variety of opinion leaders – from top experts at influential think tanks to executives of some of the largest U.S. corporations. It completely changed the way I view and understand complex geopolitical issues, offering perspectives I hadn’t considered before.” - Giorgi, Georgia

“For me, it was an incredible experience which broadened my understanding of U.S. policies toward the region and the world.” - Fayaz, Afghanistan

“The CAMCA Fellowship Program was both transformative and enlightening for me. It feels as though new pathways in my mind were activated as a result of this incredible experience. Connecting with such a diverse group of highly accomplished professionals has changed the way I think, feel, and operate.” - Umeda, Tajikistan

“This program opened doors for me to the CAMCA region and its strategic centers – handing over the keys to new knowledge, specialists, experts and professors. I know that many more new opportunities will be unlocked with these keys.” - Aigerim, Kyrgyz Republic





ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE DONALD LU

“For me, the CAMCA Fellowship provided an unparalleled deep dive into international affairs through the U.S. perspective. However, its true essence lies in fostering meaningful relationships and friendships among Fellows across the region who share a vision of an economically vibrant, integrated, and prosperous CAMCA region.” - Komron, Tajikistan

“The insightful meetings we had significantly broadened my viewpoint and provided valuable opportunities to observe firsthand how different institutions operate, contrast and explore diverse opinions.” - Enkhtur, Mongolia

“Participating in the program was a groundbreaking and transformative experience for me that fundamentally reshaped my understanding of the U.S. government, its decision-making processes, and foreign policy strategies. Our many discussions underscored the vital importance of fostering regional collaboration to address shared challenges effectively.” - Nodira, Uzbekistan

“This Fellowship is a Michelin-star culinary journey in diplomacy, curated by a brigade of skilled hands and visionary minds. Together, they crafted each course with precision, blending the rich flavors and spices of CAMCA Fellows and high-profile experts into a seamless tasting menu of unparalleled global insights with every bite layered with perspective and purpose. An unforgettable six-week feast for the mind and heart.” - Ahmetyar, Turkmenistan

“Thank you for inviting me to meet with this year’s CAMCA Fellows. I thought it was the strongest cadre yet.”



BANK OF AMERICA HQ



WITH SEC. RUMSFELD'S PORTRAIT IN THE PENTAGON'S EXECUTIVE CORRIDOR

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 now hosted 299 rising leaders from the region through 29 Fellowship sessions.