



# Central Asia- Caucasus Institute Silk Road Studies Program

*A Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center*

## CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE SPRING 2011 FELLOWS



**Ms. Fidan Huseynli (Azerbaijan), 28**, is a Communication Specialist within the ENPI/FLEG “Improving Law Enforcement and Forest Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia” Program in Azerbaijan, which is funded by the EU and implemented by the IUCN/WWF/WB. Her professional career is inextricably linked to the human rights organizations where she participated as a volunteer and later worked in the area of conflict resolution/peace-building and European integration issues. Ms. Huseynli is a member of the Azerbaijani Helsinki Citizen’s Assembly, National Public Council on Resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, and Azerbaijani National Committee on European integration. Ms. Huseynli holds a BA (2003) and a MA (2006) in International Law and International Relations from the Baku State University and a MA in the EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies from the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium (2008). Her research interests lie in the area of security, conflict resolution and peace building, particularly with respect to the role of the civil society in the processes concerned. *Research project: Implications of the US Foreign Policy towards the Middle East in the South Caucasus: Case Study of Azerbaijan.*”



**Mr. Azis Abakirov (Kyrgyzstan), 31**, is a General Director of “Unique Technologies” Ltd. (UT), one of the most successful software development companies in Kyrgyzstan. As a General Director of UT Mr. Abakirov develops business strategy for the company and establishes business partnerships with the large Japanese, American, and European companies interested in custom built software solutions. In addition, Mr. Abakirov is the Chairman of Kyrgyz Software and Service Development Association (KSSDA) where he represents Kyrgyz IT companies’ interests and lobbies for more legislative support from the Kyrgyz government to foster Hi-Tech business development in Kyrgyzstan. In 2011 Mr. Abakirov was elected as the Chairman of the Bishkek Business Club (BBC) where he facilitates the communication and networking among business leaders of Kyrgyzstan. Prior to UT, he worked for the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as a manager of large IT projects launched under JICA programs such as “Electronic Governance”, “Electronic Trade Facilitation”, and facilitation of business-to-government communications. Mr. Abakirov holds a BA in Oriental Studies from the Kyrgyz National University in Bishkek (2002). He is fluent in Russian, Kyrgyz, Japanese, and English. *Research project: “A Role of Web 2.0 in Development of Transparent Governance.”*”



**Mr. Levan Dolidze (Georgia), 31**, is an Executive Director of the Levan Mikeladze Foundation. He leads the daily activities of the foundation and supervises the implementation of the projects in the fields of democracy and development. His experience is also associated with drafting and analyzing of legal acts and international agreements, effective implementation of international legal principles at the domestic level and their further application in practice by the national and international stakeholders. In 2006-2008 Mr. Dolidze served as a senior Georgian diplomat (Consul) in Switzerland. Mr. Dolidze holds a Degree in Law (LLM equivalent) from the Tbilisi State University (2002) and a MA in International and European Security from Geneva University/ Geneva Center for Security Policy (2009). *Research project: "Governmental Accountability through Public Dialogue and Civic Participation"*.



**Ms. Gaukhar Kassymzhanova (Kazakhstan), 32**, is an Advisor to the President of the Center for International Programs (administrator of the Bolashak International Scholarships) where she facilitates international cooperation with top universities around the world and the embassies of foreign countries in Kazakhstan. She is also responsible for the Center's public relations. Prior to joining the Center she worked in a team of experts on the EU-funded project on public administration reform in Kazakhstan. In the past Ms. Kassymzhanova worked for the Kazakh State Radio, the Senate Administration of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, National Analytical Center under the Government of Kazakhstan, and National Media Holding. In her journalist career she was honored as a Laureate of the Union of Journalists of Kazakhstan and a Laureate of the International Youth Information Forum "The Ring of Eurasia". Ms. Kassymzhanova holds a BA and a MA in International Relations from al-Farabi Kazakh National University (2000) and a MA in International Development Policy from Duke University (2007). Nowadays she is actively involved in the activities of Duke Alumni Club for Central Asia (DACCA). *Research project: "Enhancing Performance of the Civil Service in Kazakhstan."*



**Mr. Mashbat Otgonbayar (Mongolia), 36**, is a Vice Director of Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS) under the National Security Council (NSC) of Mongolia. In his current capacity Mr. Otgonbayar is responsible for all research programs and coordinates activities for the Centers of ISS, as well as provides advice and recommendations to the Executive Secretary of the NSC. Mr. Otgonbayar spent most of his career at ISS beginning from Staff Researcher to a Vice Director and a Head of ISS's Center for International Security Studies. Mr. Otgonbayar is also a Senior Lecturer at the School of Social Sciences of National University of Mongolia. Prior to joining ISS Mr. Otgonbayar served as an Assistant to the Chair of the Standing Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs of the Great State Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia. Mr. Otgonbayar holds LLM from Law School of the National University of Mongolia (1998) and a MA in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California (2007). *Research Project: "Organizing US-North Korea Meeting: Mongolian Policy of Engagement and its Limitations."*



**Mr. Kairat Karmanov (Kazakhstan), 27**, is a Managing Director of the National Export and Investment Agency (Kaznex Invest) under the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, where he works on the creation of a national system of foreign direct investment attraction to Kazakhstan. The scope of his work includes initiating legislation changes aimed at creating a favorable conditions for foreign investors, coordinating republican and local government entities in serving foreign investors, facilitating acting investor activities in the country, and promoting the country's investment image worldwide. Prior to joining Kaznex Invest Mr. Karmanov worked as a consultant at the Analytical Center for Economic Policy in Agricultural Complex under the Ministry of Agriculture, where he authored a long-term sugar industry development plan in Kazakhstan. He also served as a Head of Socio-Economic Analysis Department at Municipal Center for Sustainable Development under the Mayor of Astana, where he was in charge of the national capital's anti-crisis program. Mr. Karmanov holds a LLB from the Law School of Eurasian National University in Astana (summa cum laude, 2005) and a MA in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida Atlantic University (2008). He was a recipient of a prestigious President of Kazakhstan Bolashak Scholarship and the Excellence in Planning Stipend for the talented researchers from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Karmanov is fluent in Kazakh, Russian and English. *Research Project: "The US Approaches to a Rise of the New Unions in the Post-Soviet Space."*



**Mr. Makhbub Radzhabboev (Tajikistan), 28**, is a founder and the Director of Arvand Consulting Firm, which provides legal and financial advisory services to local and foreign businesses wishing to work within and outside of Tajikistan. Currently, he is engaged in the EBRD's Institutional Building Plan in one of the largest banks of Tajikistan, and also serves as a Private Sector Development Consultant for the World Bank Country Office in Dushanbe. Prior to establishing his own consulting firm Mr. Radzhabboev worked for the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT) where he dealt with the legal protection of the NBT's interests, designing the public policy and regulation of the financial sector, and strengthening Tajikistan's cooperation with international financial institutions and donors. In 2004 – 2005 he served as an attaché at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan responsible for coordination of the visits of official foreign delegations to Tajikistan and developing bilateral relations with Europe and the United States. Mr. Radzhabboev holds a BA in law from the Moscow Institute of National and Regional Relations (2004), a BA in linguistics from the Russian People's Friendship University (2006) and LL.M. in International Business Law from the University of Manchester (2009). He is fluent in Tajik, Russian, English and Turkish. *Research Project: "The US Think Tanks and their Role in the Public Policy, Business and Education."*



**Mr. Elyor Rakhmanov (Uzbekistan), 26**, is the Deputy Dean at the School of International Economics and Graduate Studies at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent. Mr. Rakhmanov holds a B. Sc. in International Economics from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (2007) and a M. Sc. in Engineering from the Seoul National University, South Korea (Technology Management, Economics and Policy Program, 2010). Mr. Rakhmanov is currently pursuing his Ph.D. degree in International Economics at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. His main research and academic interests include e-government initiatives, public administration and good governance issues. *Research project: "E-Government Adoption in Central Asia: Benefits, Challenges and Critical Issues"*.