



e-CAMCA Forum Speaker Bios

Thursday, June 24 – Panel Session

Moderator:



Zabihullah Ziarmal, Director General, Afghanistan National Standard Authority (ANSA) and Chairman of the World Trade Centre Kabul Afghanistan; CAMCA Network Member, Afghanistan

Mr. Zabihullah Ziarmal is a Director General of the Afghanistan National Standard Authority (ANSA). He is also the Chairman of the World Trade Centre Kabul Afghanistan and a Founding Member and the First Vice Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan. In 2018 he was elected as an Executive Board Member of the International Chamber of Commerce World Council, the largest business organization in the world that was founded in 1919 and is headquartered in Paris.

Previously Mr. Ziarmal was the CEO of CEFÉ Group International, which he founded in 2005 as a small-scale consultancy firm and under his leadership has grown to become an international trading and investment company with global operations in multiple development sectors in Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Middle East and the United States. Prior to entering the private sector, Mr. Ziarmal worked as the Director of the Leadership Development Department at the Afghan Civil Service Institute under the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission of Afghanistan. Mr. Ziarmal hold a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Washington, Seattle (2010) and a BSc in Civil Engineering from Kabul Polytechnic University (2006).

Panelists:



Valeri Chekheria, Founder and CEO of Hospitality Projects, Adviser to the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Mr. Valeri Chekheria has gained 22 years of managerial experience at various local and International organizations including Parliament of Georgia, Ministry of Finance of Georgia, Ministry of Economy of Georgia, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations, Human Rights Watch, and Adjara Group Hospitality. He graduated from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University with a master's degree in law (2000-2004) and Columbia University in the City of New York with a master's degree in Public Administration (2007-2009).

During 2004-2005, Mr. Chekheria served as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Economy of Georgia, before being appointed as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance of Georgia in 2006. During 2009-2010, Mr. Chekheria advised the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations, while also working as a Research Assistant of Human Rights Watch at Columbia University. In 2020 Mr. Chekheria became Chairman of the Board of Directors at Adjara Group Holding.

In 2021 Mr. Chekheria left the group and founded Hospitality and Agricultural consultancy group, Hospitality Projects. Also, in 2021 Co-founded Apolitical Academy Caucasus. 2021 Advisor to the Minister, at Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. Mr. Chekheria was elected as a Chairman of the UN Global Compact (Georgian Network) during 2016-2018. Since, 2017 he is as a Member of the Board of Directors at McLain Association for Children as well as Advisory Committee member at Europe Foundation. From 2018 Young Global leader, from World Economic Forum.



**Abdullo Kurbanov, Co-founder and CEO of Alif Bank;
CAMCA Network Member, Tajikistan**

Mr. Abdullo Kurbanov is Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of Alif Capital, a microcredit organization based in Tajikistan. Previously, he served as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Orienbank, one of the largest commercial banks in Tajikistan. Prior to joining Orienbank in July 2012, Mr. Kurbanov was Vice-President for Mining Investments at Origo Partners PLC, a private equity company with investments primarily in Mongolia and China. He was based in Ulaanbaatar and was in charge of Mongolia investments, managing the portfolio of existing assets (copper, coal, moly projects) and developing new deals. Earlier, Mr. Kurbanov was based in London working as an analyst in the Metals & Mining team of UBS Investment Bank, a Swiss global investment bank. He also worked for Oliver Wyman (Financial Consulting) out of London and Moscow. Mr.

Kurbanov holds an MS in Finance from the London School of Economics, UK (2009) and a BA in Management from Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey (2008).



**Khulan Davaadorj, Founder, Director and Chief Technologist of
Natural Essentials LLC; CAMCA Network Member, Mongolia**

Ms. Khulan Davaadorj a social-entrepreneur, Founder, Director and Chief Technologist of LHAMOUR LLC. In 2014 Ms. Davaadorj started Mongolia's first organic skincare brand, LHAMOUR, with the vision to make a positive social change. She aims to pave the way for others in Mongolia to try and overturn conventions and to contribute to positive social change and economic growth. Ms. Davaadorj is also the Founder of the "Finding Your Passion" program that provides teenagers with the skills and mindset to find their inner passion and get prepared for the international world. In 2016 she received the Best Young Entrepreneur of Asia-Pacific award and in 2018 she was selected as the International Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization's World Ambassador for Mongolia.

Ms. Davaadorj holds an MPA in International Energy Management and Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (2012) and an MSc in Public Policy from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany (2011).



**Aziz Soltobaev, Founder of KG Labs Public Foundation;
CAMCA Network Member, Kyrgyzstan**

Mr. Aziz Soltobaev is a serial entrepreneur and Founder of KG Labs Public Foundation, which seeks to boost the startup ecosystem in Kyrgyzstan through policy making and event activities and Co-Founder of the Kyrgyz Chapter of the Internet Society, which aims to improve connectivity of the country with global networks.

Previously he was a Co-Founder and Chairman of Svetofor Group in Bishkek, a group of several online companies operating in the trading, e-commerce, IT and system integration areas in Central Asia and China. As an expert in information technologies, digitalization, private equity and venture capital, Mr. Soltobaev actively promotes entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan and

the region by giving guest lectures in leadership and entrepreneurship and providing trainings.

He also advises policy makers on economic and social reforms and has served as Policy Adviser to the Office of the President, Office of the Prime Minister, Vice PM, Minister of Education, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and the Office of the Mayor. Mr. Soltobaev holds a BA in Economics from the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek (1999).



Abdulahad Badghisi, General Manager at Samarkand Bukhara Silk Carpet JV

Mr. Abdulahad Badghisi is a citizen of Kazakhstan and was born in Afghanistan in 1968, where he graduated from the Kabul Medical Institute Abo Ali Sino in 1992.

After graduating from medical school, Mr. Badghisi served as a doctor in many different places. He has lived in Samarkand, Uzbekistan and moved to Almaty, Kazakhstan in 1998. He is currently General Manager at Samarkand Silk Carpets that specializes in hand-made silk carpets with natural dyes.

Additionally, he has served as member of the Board of Tashkent international School since 2012.