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Tajikistan and Cultural Diplomacy in Central Asia and Eurasia

Tajik National University
16-17 September 2019

GCRF COMPASS in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Public Council under the President of Tajikistan.

COMPASS: Comprehensive Capacity-Building in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia: research integration, impact governance & sustainable communities (GCRF UKRI ES/P010849/1)



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UNIVERSITY



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Goals and objectives: The *National Development Strategy* (NDS) of the Republic of Tajikistan up to the period of 2030 is based on three pillars for future *development*: (1) prevention diplomacy in reducing vulnerability, (2) industrialisation (effective use of national resources) and (3) innovativeness in activity.

On-going critical discussions and debates, raised by the NDS, are widening national space due to international projects, such as GCRF COMPASS. Identifying a huge natural resource and the demography of Tajikistan along with its historically formed cultural diplomacy, however, discussants highlighted a number of problems. One of them is a gap between academic-educational research integration between Tajikistan and EU/UK as a consequence of the civil war of 1992-1997 and the 'brain drain', followed by the lack of investments into science and cultures. Though from 2010 the legacy of Tajikistan-EU, led by the President of the country Emomali Rahmon, is developing steadily, Tajikistan receives the smallest part from the EU/UK Research and Innovation Funding. Obviously enough, many aspects of the solution of that problem depends on activity of cultural diplomacy and the right representing of the human capital of Tajikistan in the region and beyond, expressed in the research and communication.

What is the role of Cultural Diplomacy in all diversity of its forms in the country and beyond? Where are the cognitive points of meeting of that diversification? If political hierarchy of the past as the rigid order of subordination, namely, that of "developing" states dominated by the "developed", is gradually facing the past, what is the role of Cultural Diplomacy in creation of the new balance in the region and wider, in Eurasia? What is the ethics of Cultural Diplomacy of the New Silk Road with its 'one economy, one belt', as a new statement?

Cultural Diplomacy in Tajikistan, in Central Asia and the Caucasus as well as Eurasia, will be discussed at this conference, organised by the Tajik National University, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan; the Ministry of Education and Science; the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies; and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. The conference will be led by Kent University (UK) in principal partnership with University of Cambridge (UK), ADA University (Azerbaijan), Belarusian

State University (Belarus) and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Uzbekistan).

We are looking forward to two days of discussions and debates about how to encourage our young generation of researchers and actors of national/international cultures to be more active within the globalising world, opening a new stage in research integration, impact of the governance and sustainable development in the country, in Central Asia, as a holistic region in all its diversity and in Eurasia, as a supercontinent. Undoubtedly, the doors of the conference are open for those who want to participate in this international gathering of minds from Eurasia and beyond.

Dr Munira Shahidi

National team leader of GCRF COMPASS, Tajik National University

The GCRF COMPASS project (ES/P010849/1, 2017-21) is an ambitious UK government capacity-building funding initiative, aiming to extend UK research globally, to address the challenges of growth and sustainability in the developing countries. Notably, the COMPASS project at the University of Kent, together with Cambridge University as research partner, seeks to establish '**the hubs of excellence**' at the top-level HEIs in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to enable them to become the centres for knowledge sharing and transfer for **research integration, impact governance, and sustainable communities**.

We wish to record our special gratitude to Tajik Ambassador, HE Masud Khalifazoda, the Tajik Embassy in London, and HE Mathew Lawson and the UK Embassy in Dushanbe. We furthermore want to thank the Tajik National University team under the leadership of Professor Munira Shahidi, as well as Kh. Samiev, F. Salimov. Our special thanks to Dr Siddharth Saxena and the COMPASS Postdoctoral Researchers – Dr Diana T. Kudaibergenova, Dr Eske van Gils, and Dr Irina Petrova, – for their assistance in the organisation of this event.

PROGRAMME

Tajikistan and Cultural Diplomacy in Central Asia

16-17 September 2019

Tajik National University
Dushanbe city, Rudaki avenue, 17

DAY 1 MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2019

08.30-09.00 Registration and coffee

09.00-10.00 Welcome Remarks

Professor Munira Shahidi, GCRF COMPASS National Team Leader

Rahmonzoda Abdujabbor, Assistant of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

Huseynzoda Muzaffar Mahmurod, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Shamsiddin Orumbekzoda Minister of Culture, Republic of Tajikistan

Nuriddin Said, Minister of Education and Science, Republic of Tajikistan

Rahimi Farhod, President of the Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tajikistan

Zarobiddin Faizullozoda, Minister of Industry and New Technologies, Republic of Tajikistan

Usmonali Usmonzoda, Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Republic of Tajikistan

Akademician Imomozoda Muhammadyusuf Saidali, Rector of the Tajik National University, Republic of Tajikistan

Professor Elena Korosteleva (University of Kent), Principal Investigator GCRF COMPASS project

Dr Siddharth Saxena (University of Cambridge), Co-investigator, GCRF COMPASS project

10.00-11.45 Plenary I

Moderator: Professor Munira Shahidi (GCRF COMPASS National Team Lead)

Shamsiddin Orumbekzoda (Minister of Culture, Republic of Tajikistan) - *“National Strategy of Independent Tajikistan and Ethics of Cultural Diplomacy”*

Zarobiddin Faizullozoda (Minister of Industry and New Technologies, Republic of Tajikistan) - *“The New Period of Industrialisation in Tajikistan. Challenges New Research Integration via Cultural Diplomacy”*

Khikmat Muminov (Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tajikistan)

11.45-12.00 Coffee break

12.00-13.45 Panel I: Tajikistan at the crossroads of Cultural Diplomacy: from historical to Modernity and Post-modernism: Old and New Silk Roads

Moderator: Dr Siddharth Saxena (University of Cambridge)

Professor Elena Korosteleva (University of Kent) – “Reimagining “the local” and “the person”, and why it matters for the new era of diplomacy?”

Professor Munira Shahidi (Tajik National University) – “*Tajikistan Model for Cultural Diplomacy: Original and Practical Measures*”

Dr Sevara Pulatova (University of World Economy and Diplomacy) – “*The Integration of the Republic of Uzbekistan Into the International Cultural Space and Formation of Cultural Diplomacy*”

Dr Diana T. Kudaibergenova (University of Cambridge) – “*The Cultural Diplomacy along the Silk Road*”

Dr Artsiom Nazaranka (Belarusian State University) – “*Information Cooperation as a Tool of Cultural Diplomacy: New Challenges*”

Sabina Taghiyeva (ADA University) – “*The Role of Cultural Diplomacy in Nation Branding: the case of Azerbaijan*”

13.45 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 - 17.00 Panel II: Tajikistan and resilience-building: prevention and vulnerability reduction

Moderator: Dr Nargis Nurulla-Khojaeva (Tajik National University)

Majlisi Oli (Parliament) of the Republic of Tajikistan Representative – “*Reforming construction and communication in Independent Tajikistan*”

Shambezoda Khusrav (Tajik-Russian (Slavic) University) - “*Experience in Dealing with Erasmus Plus Projects in Tajikistan*”

Professor Kholahmad Samiev (Tajik National University) - “*Internationalising of the National System of TNU: problems and perspectives*”

Farrukh Salimov (Tajik National University) - “*Social reality vs cultural communication*”

Muzaffar Olimov (Tajik National University) – “*Raising interests of young generation of researchers to intercultural communications*”

Dr Umarkhon Madvaliev (President of the Association of Renewable Energy of Tajikistan/General Director of “Systemavtomatika” OJSC) and

Jamshed Vazirov (Vice-president of the Association of Renewable Energy of Tajikistan/ PhD candidate at the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan) “*Cultural Diplomacy in the context of Development of Renewable Energy in Tajikistan*”

17.00 - 18.30 Keynote address by the EU Special Representative, Ambassador Peter Burian (European External Action Service) on the EU Strategy towards Central Asia and Tajikistan, followed by Q&A

19.00 Reception at the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Tajikistan

DAY 2 TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2019

09.00-10.45 Panel III: Tajikistan, development and industrialization strategies

Moderator: Professor Elena Korosteleva (University of Kent)

Khikmat Muminov F.Shokir (Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tajikistan) – “*Tajikistan-Chinese new joint academic research*”

Peter Fernandes Cardy (Department for International Development (DFID, UK) – “*The role of academics and researchers in the national development and industrialisation strategies*”

Dr Siddharth Saxena (University of Cambridge) – “*Science & Technology Policy for Sustainable Development in Central Asia Region*”

Dr Troy Sternberg (University of Oxford) – “*Role of the environment in Tajik development strategies*”

10.45-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 Panel IV: Tajikistan and innovation in action: Younger generation (I)

Moderator: Farrukh Salimov (Tajik National University)

Dr Karolina Kluczevska (Tomsk State University/Tajik National University) - “*International Development and Cultural Diplomacy in Tajikistan*”

Akmal Khudoyberdiev (Tajik National University) - “*Toward Tajik-Uzbek-Korean intercultural Communication: From first experiences to cognitive development*”

Fayzulloev Komron ((Tajik National University) – “*Energy Factor in Tajik Foreign Policy*”

Adham Khudaykulov (University of Cambridge) - “*Factors of Economic Development: Implications for the Emerging Economies*”

Jakub Csabay (University of Cambridge) - “*State-Minority Relations in the Broader post-Soviet space*”

Malika Zekhni (University of Cambridge) - “*Tsarist Russia, Central Asia, and Urban Space in the Second-Half of the Nineteenth Century*”

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30 Plenary II

Moderator: Professor Munira Shahidi (GCRF COMPASS National Team Lead)

His Excellency Ambassador Peter Burian, (EU Special Representative to Central Asia)

Her Excellency Marilyn Josefson (Head of EU Delegation to Tajikistan)

Her Majesty’s Ambassador Matthew Lawson (British Embassy)

Honourable Lord Sheikh of Cornhill (House of Lords)

Academician Imomozoda Muhammadyusuf Saidali (TNU)

Professor Elena Korosteleva (Kent, GCRF COMPASS)

Dr Siddharth Saxena (Cambridge, GCRF COMPASS)

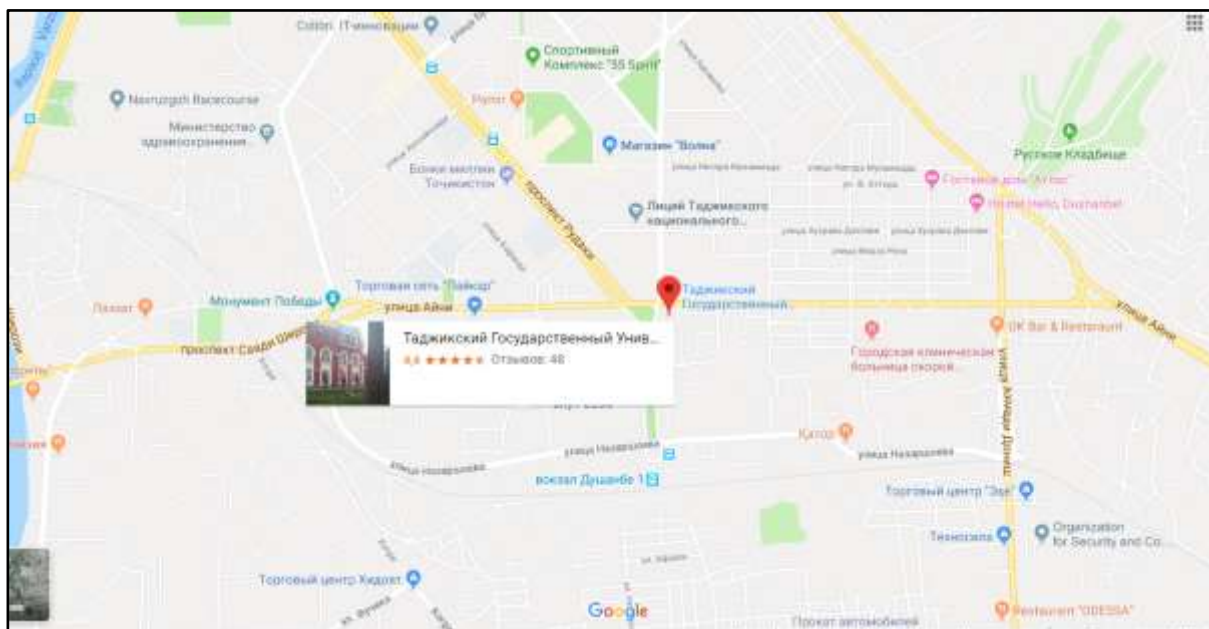
Manuchehr Sharif-zoda (S. Ayni Opera House) - “*Gaining global space via Tajik opera: problems of transition period*”

15.45 – 18.00 Guided tour of Dushanbe

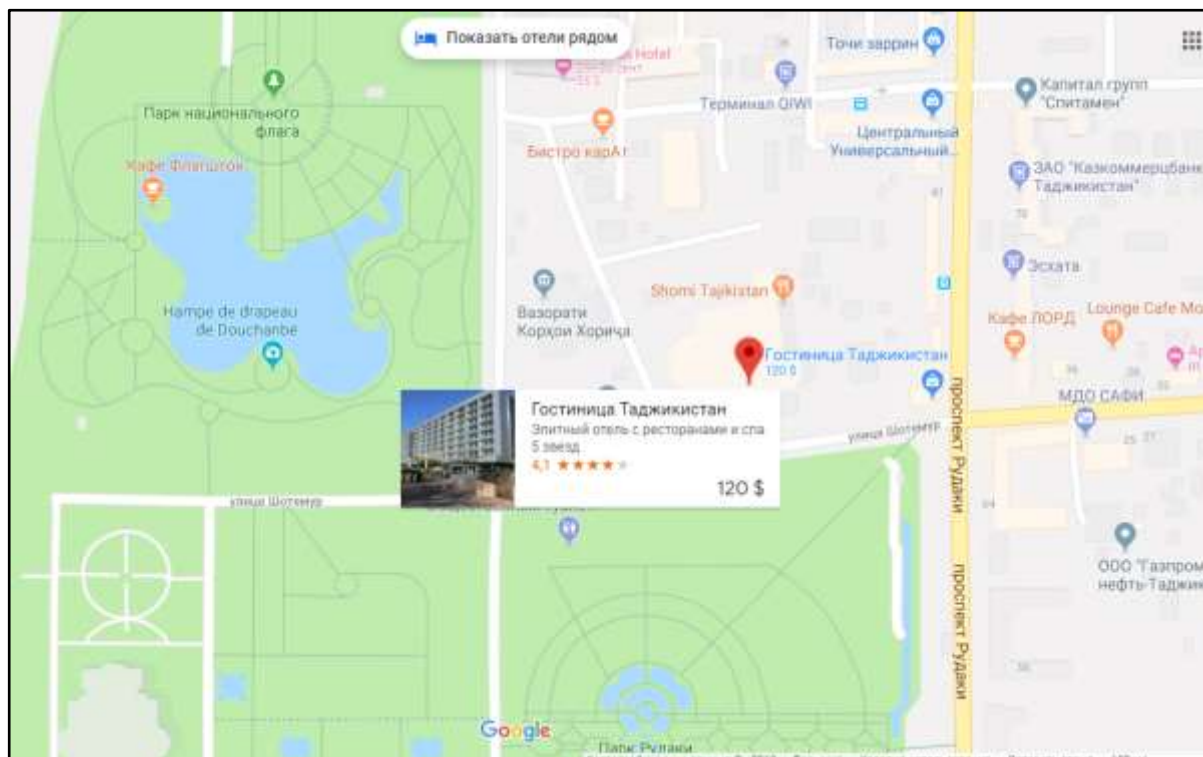
19.00 Farewell dinner

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

The Conference will take place at the **Tajik National University**, Dushanbe city, Rudaki avenue, 17. All panels will be held at this location.



Participants of the conference are recommended to stay at **Hotel Tojikiston**. The hotel's address is: Shotemur 22, Dushanbe City Center, Tajikistan, 734001. Check-in times are between 14.00 and 00.00. Check-out is until 12.30.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance)



Rahmonzoda Abdujabbor, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

Graduated Tajik National University in 1978. For a few years he served as an interpreter in Afghanistan. He defended his first Ph.D on the theme of the 'Concept of time in the Tajik prose of the 70th-80th' and has done his second doctorate in 1999.

In 2000 Rahmonzoda has been appointed as a member of the department of translation of the Presidential Administration. From 2005 to 2012 he was Minister of Education. From January 2012 to 2014 Rector of Pedagogical University. From 15 December up to now he is Assistant of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on social affairs and communication with community.



Huseynzoda Muzaffar Mahmurod, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Graduated from Tajik National University in 1997 and Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in 1999. From 1999 to 2000 served as the Deputy Director on Agency for support and development of small business under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. From 2000 to 2002 served as the Third Secretary, the Second Secretary of Personnel Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Tajikistan. From 2002 to 2005 served as the second secretary of Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Kingdom of Belgium. From 2005 to 2008 was the Head of Division of Regional organizations, International Organizations' Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Tajikistan; and from 2008 to 2011 served as the Head of International Organizations' Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Tajikistan. In 2011 was appointed as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Republic of Uzbekistan where he served till 2016. From 2014 to 2016 was also the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to Malaysia with residence in Tashkent. Appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan since 29 March, 2016.



Shamsiddin Orumbekzoda, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan

Graduated Tajik National University in 1977 specializing in philology. From 1978 to 1980 he worked as the editor of the committee for the TV-radio in the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region. From 1980 to 1995 worked as the deputy of the head of the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region Union of Peoples' deputies. From 1995 to 1997 was the head of the culture and information administration of the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region and from 1997 to 2000 was the head of the TV and radio administration of the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region. From 2000 to 2011 worked as the head of the apparatus of the Chairman of the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region. From November 2011 to November 2013 worked as the Advisor to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. Under the decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan from November 21, 2013 was appointed the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan.



Nuriddin Said, Minister of Education and Science, Republic of Tajikistan

Graduated from Tajik State Pedagogical University named after S. Aini in 1983 specializing in History. From 1978 to 1988 was assigned to work in the field of education as a teacher of the Chair of Pedagogy and Psychology at the branch of the Kurgan-Tyube State Pedagogical Institute. In 1991 graduated the postgraduate course of the Tajik State University. He defended his thesis on "Problems of abilities in the history of philosophy". From 1991 to 1992 worked as the Senior Lecturer of the department of philosophy and social sciences and was the deputy dean of the pedagogical faculty of the Kurgan-Tubin State Pedagogical Institute named after Nosir Khusrava. From 1992 to 2006 worked Assistant, and then an associate professor of the philosophy department of the Tajik State National University and in 1999 gained Doctorate from the department of philosophy of the Tajik State National University. From 2006 to 2008 worked as the Head department of the higher professional and postgraduate education of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan. From January to November 2008 was the Rector of the Tajik State Pedagogical University named after Sadriddin Aini and from 2008 to 2012 - Rector of the Tajik National University. Prof. Nuriddin Said is an active member of the Academy of Pedagogical and Social Sciences of the Russian Federation. In 2010 he was elected a member of the Majlisi Milli Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan. He was awarded with a badge "Excellent worker of public education of the Republic of Tajikistan". From 10th January 2012 was appointed as the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan



Usmonali Usmonzoda, Minister of Energy and Water Resources

In 1982 graduated the Energy Department of the Tajik Polytechnic Institute, after which worked as Engineer of the Department of Automation and Computer Engineering of the same institute till 1984. From 1985 Graduate student of the Moscow Energy Engineering Institute in Moscow where in 1988 is awarded degree of Candidate of Technical Sciences.
1989 -1991 Assistant, Senior Lecturer, Department of Electric Drives and Automated Control Systems, Tajik Polytechnic Institute.
1991 - 1996 Associate Professor and Deputy Dean of the Energy Department of the Tajik Polytechnic Institute.
1997 - 1999 Director of the State Energy Inspectorate (Tajikgosenergonadzor) for the Districts of Republican Subordination.
1999 - 2001 Deputy General Director of Tajikgosenergonadzor
2001 - 2003 Head of the Department for Energy Policy, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Tajikistan
2003 - 2009 Deputy Director of the State Institution "Center for Project Management of the Electric Power Sector" of the Republic of Tajikistan
2009 - 2013 Director of the State Institution "Center for Project Management of the Electric Power Sector" of the Republic of Tajikistan.
From 2013 to present Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan



Zarobiddin Faizullozoda, Minister of Industry and New Technologies, Republic of Tajikistan

From 2006 to 2013 worked as Deputy Minister of Energy and Industry of the Republic. In 2013-2014, he was Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources; in 2014-2015, he was the First Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies. In 2015-2017, worked as deputy chairman of the Sughd region. In August 2017 he headed Glavgeology before being appointed Minister of Industry and New Technologies in January 2019.



Rahimi Farhod, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In 1992 he graduated from the Tajik State National University with a degree in physics. In 1992-2005, he was a senior laboratory assistant, graduate student, senior lecturer at the Department of General Physics, doctoral candidate at the Tajik State National University and the Institute of Nuclear Research, senior lecturer at the Department of Theoretical Physics, head of the coordination and forecasting department of Tajik State National University. F. Rahimi is the author of 4 scientific monographs, 9 educational books, 5 methodological manuals and more than 115 scientific articles that have been published in the Republic of Tajikistan, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Iran, Kazakhstan, Germany and other countries. In 2012, according to the results of scientific research and their contribution to the development of world science, he became an international ECO laureate in the field of "Science and Technology".

In 2005-2006 he worked as Deputy Minister of Education. From December 2006 to 2013, he served as First Deputy Minister of Education. By decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, Farhod Rahimi dated December 6, 2013, was appointed president of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan.



Akademician Imomzoda Muhammadyusuf Saidali, Rector of the Tajik National University, Republic of Tajikistan

Akademician Imomzoda graduated the Faculty of Tajik philology of the Tajik National University in 1981 specializing in Tajik language and literature. He started working as the Senior Assistant at the Institute of Tajik language and literature named after Rudaki within the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan in 1981 to 1984 and then was a researcher at the Institute of World Literature named after Maxim Gorky at the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1984 and 1985. From 1985 to 1991 Akademician Imomzoda worked at the Institute of Tajik language and literature named after Rudaki within the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and in 1990 successfully defended his dissertation. From 1991 to 2004 Akademician Imomzoda lectured at the faculty of theory and contemporary Persian-Tajik literature and then was elected as the docent, appointed as deputy dean of philological faculty, and in 1999 – as the dean of the philological faculty of the Tajik National University. During these years he continued to study the Aini oeuvre. In 2004 the government of the Republic of Tajikistan appointed Akademician Imomzoda as the Rector of the Russian-Tajik (Slavic) University. Since 2012 Akademician Imomzoda was appointed as the rector of the Tajik National University.



Khikmat Muminov, Vice-President of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan

Professor Muminov graduated from the Tajik National University in 1988 with the specialization in Physics. He obtained his PhD in 1992 from the Lab of Inboramation Technology at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research where he also obtained his PostDoc from 1993 to 1996 and served as a Senior Researcher at the N.N. Bogolubov Laboratory of Theoretical Physics in Russian Federation. He was appointed the Professor in the Theoretical Physics Department, Department of Computer Science at the Tajik National University in May 1999 and became the Director of the Physical-Technical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan in 2006 where he is also currently the Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. Professor Muminov was a visiting professor at MIT in 2005.

Contact: muminov.khikmat@mail.ru



Honourable Lord Sheikh of Cornhill, British Parliamentarian

Mohamed has been the President of the Insurance Institute of Croydon and a member of the National Council of the Chartered Insurance Institute. He was Regional Chairman of the British Insurance Brokers Association on two separate occasions and was a Director of the main board of the Association for four years. He has also held senior positions in other financial and insurance organizations. For a period of 12 years, Mohamed was a visiting lecturer at various colleges and polytechnics and in addition to lecturing he has also written educational material. He is an advisor to a university in England. He belongs to a Livery company and is, in fact, a Freeman of the City of London.

He has written extensively on insurance subjects in various publications and he speaks at numerous meetings and conferences on business as well as leadership matters. Mohamed is now actively involved in promoting Islamic Finance in the United Kingdom and globally.



His Excellency Matthew Lawson, British Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan

Matthew Lawson was appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan in June 2019. Previously he was Deputy Head of the Embassy in Sarajevo. Prior to that he also served as the Head of Global Issues Group in Ottawa (2013-2015), Joint Head of Policy Unit in FCO (2011-2013), Head of the Pakistan Team, FCO, South Asia Group (2009-2011).



His Excellency Ambassador Peter Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia.

Ambassador Peter Burian was appointed as the EU Special Representative for Central Asia on 15 April 2015. His responsibilities include promoting good and close relations between the Union and the countries of Central Asia. He earned his degree in Oriental Studies at St. Petersburg State University. He continued his diplomatic and international studies at the University of Cairo, Comenius University in Bratislava and the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow. Ambassador Burian held the post of Head of Slovakia's Mission to NATO in Brussels from 1999 to 2003. He was the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations in New York from 2004 to 2008 during which time Slovakia held one of the non-permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council. From 2008 to 2012 he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Slovakia to the United States, in Washington D.C. Prior to this appointment Ambassador Burian served from 2012 as First Deputy Minister and was responsible for areas of security policy, economic diplomacy, development assistance, international organizations and the territories of the EU Eastern Partnership, Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Americas.

Contact: hanna.vuokko@ext.eeas.europa.eu



Her Excellency Ambassador Marilyn Josefson, Head of EU Delegation to Tajikistan

Her Excellency Marilyn Josefson is the Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Tajikistan, the role she assumed since September 2018. Prior to that, she worked as the Deputy PSC-Ambassador/Nicolaidis Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016 to 2018), and Head of Office-Political Advisor to Secretary General/Deputy Secretary general for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service Ms. Helga Maria Schmid (2014-2016).

Contact: Marilyn.JOSEFSON@eeas.europa.eu



Professor Elena Korosteleva, University of Kent, Principal Investigator GCRF COMPASS project

Elena Korosteleva is Professor of International Politics and Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics, at the School of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent. Elena is an LSE IDEAS Visiting Professor; executive member of the GLOBSEC IAB and co-founder/ co-director of the Global Europe Centre at Kent. She is the Principal Investigator of the GCRF RCUK COMPASS project (2017-21), a Co-I for the H2020 UPTAKE project (2016-19) and coordinator for the ERASMUS+ mobility project with BSU (2017-18; 2018-19). Elena's research presently focuses on the concepts of adaptive governance; resilience; 'good life' and identity; capacity-development and peoplehood.

Contact: e.korosteleva@kent.ac.uk

Dr Siddharth Saxena, University of Cambridge, Co-investigator, GCRF COMPASS project



Siddharth Shanker Saxena is Director of the Cambridge Central Asia Programme. He trained as an anthropologist, historian and a physicist and holds PhD degrees both in Experimental Physics and Social Anthropology. His research interests are in the areas of religion and identity, knowledge systems, social and political development and institutional history in Central Asia and the Middle East.

Dr Saxena has been involved in field based research in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia and China. His work focus is, on the one side, in creation of scientific and industrial technology platforms, while on the other in studying social and economic development in Bukhara, Ferghana Valley, Almaty and Azerbaijan.

He was awarded a medal for service to education in Kazakhstan and Presidential Medals by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and was made Honorary Professor by a number of institutions in Eurasia. He serves on science review committees of many European, American and Asian bodies and has created a number of technology start-ups.

Contact: sss21@cam.ac.uk



Professor Munira Shahidi, GCRF COMPASS National Team Lead for Tajikistan

Professor Munira Shahidi was trained in comparative literary studies of East and West. Her PhD has been made at the Institute of Oriental Studies of Academy of Sciences of the USSR. As a member of the Public Council near the President of RT she is involved into the most important discussions and discourses on the developing and changing policies of the country, of the region and inter-regional communications. She is a fellow of the Swedish Institute, Maison Des Sciences de L'Homme (Paris) and she is an associate member of Cambridge University. Prof Shahidi has published widely in national and international outlets and initiated the publication of the journal 'Fonus', dedicated to international, intercultural study for peace and development, financed by different organisations (including the Swiss office for cooperation in Tajikistan, UNDP, UNESCO and OSCE). Prof Shahidi's project, actualised in 2016 is 'Music of the Silk Road: from peace-building perspectives of Central Asia, dedicated to centenary of the composer Z. Shahidi'. The project is funded by UNESCO and had a feedback of the number of the countries of the New Silk Road.

Contact: munira@shahidifoundation.com



Dr Sevara Pulatova, University of World Economy and Diplomacy

Sevara Pulatova is an Associate Professor at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Uzbekistan). She defended her PhD "Development of international cultural ties of Uzbekistan as a factor of stability" in 1994. Sevara is an author of a number of monographs, textbooks and over 30 articles devoted to culture and inter-cultural dialogue.

Previously she was a head of the International sociopolitical history department, department of monitoring and internal controls UMED, as well as the department of Social Sciences of the Higher Attestation Commission under the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She was also a senior research fellow of the research department at the Academy of public policy under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Contact: sevaraakmalovna@mail.ru



Dr Artsiom Nazaranka, Belarusian State University

Artsiom Nazaranka is Senior Lecturer in History, GCRF COMPASS National Team Leader and Chairman of Young Scientists Council at the BSU Faculty of History. MA in History. Finished PhD course at the Dep. of Constitutional Law of BSU, Intensive program in human rights in RWI, Lund University. Co-author of 6 educational standards, about 15 courses, experienced in developing and evaluation of curricula, ECTS. Author /co-author of 5 textbooks for different levels. He took part in implementation of several international projects, including Jean Monnet Module "Ethnic Minorities in the European Union" (EMEU). Artsiom is CI for ERASMUS+ mobility projects with University of Kent and University of Malta. Participated in number of policy-debate activities on sustainable development. His research focuses on History and Law, ICT Law, EU studies, Public Administration, Records Management & Archives, Higher Education.

Contact: nazaranka@bsu.by



Dr Diana T. Kudaibergenova, University of Cambridge

Dr Diana T. Kudaibergenova is the COMPASS PDRA responsible for Sustainable Communities Pillar of the project. She is a cultural and political sociologist with main research interest in social theory of power and authority. Dr Kudaibergenova studies different intersections of power relations through realms of political sociology dealing with concepts of state, nationalising regimes and ideologies. Diana received her PhD in 2015 from the Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge. Her first book, *Rewriting the Nation in Modern Kazakh literature. Elites and Narratives* (Lexington Books, 2017) deals with the study of nationalism, modernisation and cultural development in modern Kazakhstan. Her second book, *Toward Nationalizing Regimes. Conceptualizing Power and Identity in the Post-Soviet Realm* focuses on the rise of nationalising regimes in post-Soviet space after 1991 with prime focus on power struggles among the political and cultural elites in democratic and non-democratic states (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020). Dr Kudaibergenova also widely published in such journals as *Nationalities Papers*, *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, and others.

Contact: dk406@cam.ac.uk



Sabina Taghiyeva, ADA University

Ms Sabina Taghiyeva is an instructor at ADA University, School of Public and International Affairs. She teaches “Sociology,” “Race, Gender, Ethnicity and Minority Relations” courses. Sabina also works on consultancy projects for international institutions, including GIZ and UNDP, with a focus on sustainable development. Her research field is focused on inclusive society: sustainable development goals, intersectionality in policy development and analysis, identity and nation-building. Ms. Taghiyeva holds a master’s degree in international Relations (ADA University), and a bachelor degree in Political Science (Baku State University). She speaks Azerbaijani, English, Russian and French.

Contact: staghiyeva@ada.edu.az



Dr Nargis Nurulla-Khojaeva, Tajik National University

Nargis Nurulla–Khodzhaeva is Professor of International Studies at the School of International Affairs, Tajikistan State University (Dushanbe, Tajikistan). Nargis is senior researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow (Russia), and a Visiting Professor of MGIMO (Moscow State University of international Affairs) (Russia).

Nargis’ research presently focuses on the concepts of community, recognition of the institute as being organically implanted in the millennia of traditions of the peoples of Central Asia. In a Modern time, communities are still powerful intermediaries and intermediary structures. Monographs: *Community in the Central Asian region* (Dialectics of traditions and modernization at the beg. of XXI cent.) (2012); *Gender stereotypes in Central Asia* (2006).

Contact: nargis.nurulla@gmail.com



Professor Kolahmad Samiev, Tajik National University

Professor Samiev is Dean of International Relations and Head of the Department of International Affairs at Tajik National University. Prof Samiev's interests cover the broad scope of relationship of the countries of Asia and Europe from the eve of the last century toward our own times. Tajikistan's place in these relations is highlighted due to the deep knowledge of Professor Samiev of his native culture in its clash and interpenetration with 'others'. How does the new and developing policy of the President of the country and the National Leader Emomali Rahmon provides unity in the growing diversity of cultures of the society? What are the main lines of development of the policy of Tajikistan with the neighbouring countries with the relatively close cultures, such as Iran and Afghanistan? These and many other problems along with findings of their solutions are in the field of the interests of Kholahmad Samiev.

Contact: samiev.kholkhamad@mail.ru



Farrukh Salimov, Tajik National University

Farrukh Nasimovich Salimov - Head of the Department of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy of the Tajik National University, member of the Eurasian Association for International Studies (EAMI) Public Foundation (Kazakhstan) (2017) and member of the Journalists Union of Tajikistan (2018), Director of the Center for Expert and Analytical Studies of TNU (2019) . Currently, as part of the educational and methodological activities of the new department, he is developing textbooks in such areas as "military diplomacy", "cultural diplomacy", "economic diplomacy", "methods and technologies of international negotiations" and "analysis and forecasting in international relations ". Farrukh's research focuses on areas such as the geopolitical and geo-economic situation in Central Asia, stability in Central Asia, regional security issues, politics and interests (political, economic and geopolitical) of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China in Central Asia. The author of the monograph "Regional Stability in the Context of the Central Asian Strategy of Russia and China", "Cultural Diplomacy" (2019), "Fundamentals of Military Diplomacy" (2019), etc. Contact: farrukh.n.salimov@gmail.com



Professor Muzaffar Olimov, Tajik National University

Dr, professor, director of the Tajik National University Center for Regional and Comparative Studies. Musaffar Olimov is a known author of a number of publications. Among them a report for the UN Development Program on "Tajikistan and Independence," and a book published in 1996 analyzing civil society in India. Leading the Sharq Center he also operates a civic education resource center and publishes a news bulletin, "Democracy and Elections." Among his publications are: The Islamic Renaissance Party, - ACCORD. Political of compromise. The Tajikistan peace process. Conciliation Resources, (London 2001);

Contact: olimov@tajik.net



Dr Umarkhon Madvaliev, President of the Association of Renewable Energy of Tajikistan/General Director of “Systemavtomatika” OJSC

Doctor of physical and mathematical sciences. Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, Chief Researcher of the Physicotechnical Institute named after S.U. Umarov of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. General Director of “Systemavtomatika” OJSC. President of the Association of Renewable Energy of Tajikistan. Specialist on experimental physics, including solar energy. He has published over 80 articles in scientific journals and is the author of 5 invention certificates. He has led the implementation of a number of projects on renewable energy financed by UNDP, USAID, JICA and the Asian Development Bank.



Jamshed Vazirov, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan

Jamshed Vazirov is a PhD Candidate at the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan doing a degree in International Relations. His research topic is “Energy security as a stability factor in Central Asian countries” which looks into the problem of growing energy demand of the Central Asian states and the level of diplomacy applied in complex negotiations between the states to avoid conflict escalation and pave the way for peaceful and mutually beneficial co-existence. He holds his Master’s Degree from Nottingham University, UK majoring in International Relations. He has over 18 years of professional experience in the development sector specializing in conflict prevention, rural development and promotion the use of renewable energy. He has over 8 years of projects management experience in UNDP Tajikistan. Currently, Jamshed is working to promote the use of renewable energy sources in remote and isolated areas of Tajikistan.

Contact: Vazirov.jamshed@gmail.com



Peter Fernandes Cardy, Department for International Development (DFID), UK

Peter is a UK National. In a career spanning over 20 years, Peter has provided strategic leadership in advisory and managerial positions taking forward work to end extreme poverty in regions including Africa, Eastern Europe, Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia. He has worked with governments, bilateral, multilateral, private sector and civil society organisations on projects, programmes and policies with particular focus on providing solutions to regional integration and delivery in fragile and conflict states.

Peter is currently Head of DFID Central Asia, and is responsible DFID’s assistance and country teams in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as contributions to the UK’s work in Central Asia. Peter is a Chartered Member of the UK Institution of Civil Engineers and holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees from the University of Southampton, UK.

Contact: p-fernandescardy@dfid.gov.uk



Dr Troy Sternberg, University of Oxford

Extensive travel led to Troy's interest in desert regions, environments and people and led to his DPhil on pastoral environments in the Gobi Desert (Oxford, 2009). Research focused on extreme climate hazards (drought, dzud), environments (water, steppe vegetation, desertification) and social dynamics (pastoralists, social-environmental interaction, mining and communities). Since 2005 Troy has continued to research in Mongolia; in 2010 northern China and in 2015 Central Asia became additional study sites. In 2016 Troy was part of a key investigation in to how infrastructure affects environmental and social viability in the Gobi Desert. Driven by the \$12 billion Oyu Tolgoi mega-mine (copper, gold) and Chinese development, the research highlighted the forces of change, contradictions between modernisation and tradition and how community perception and physical landscapes evolve over time. This led to his current work on the ESRC-GCRF Inclusive Societies 'Gobi Framework: Mediation model for sustainable infrastructure development'

Contact: Troy.Sternberg@geog.ox.ac.uk



Manuchehr Sharif-zoda, Sadrinnin Ayni Opera House

Manuchehr Sharif-zoda is the director of the Sadriddin Ayni Opera House. The Tajik Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet in the name of Sadriddin Ayni is the most famous musical theatre in Tajikistan. Opened in 1940, the Theatre is located on Dushanbe's main street, Rudaki Avenue, near the wonderful Park of Opera and Ballet. The Theatre's success was achieved through the work of: L. Kaufman, D. Dalgat, P. Bolenko.A.; the directors: R. Koroha, S. Saidmuradov, V. Rheinbach, A. Makarov; the choreographers: K. Y. Goleizovsky, A. Procenko; and such artists as: E. Chemodurov, V. Fufygina, V. Suslov. Since 1950th on compositions of Tajik composers are gradually taking place in the repertoires of Bolshoi Theatre, as well as symphony orchestras at Moscow, Sank-Petersburg and London halls.



Dr Umarkhon Madvaliev, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan

Doctor of physical and mathematical sciences. Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, Chief Researcher of the Physicotechnical Institute named after S.U. Umarov of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. General Director of "Systemavtomatika" OJSC. President of the Association of Renewable Energy of Tajikistan. Specialist on experimental physics, including solar energy. He has published over 80 articles in scientific journals and is the author of 5 invention certificates. He has led the implementation of a number of projects on renewable energy financed by UNDP, USAID, JICA and the Asian Development Bank.

Contact: umarkhonm@gmail.com



Dr Sodiqzoda Parviz, Tajik National University

Sodiqzoda Parviz is senior lecturer of the department World Economy and International Economic Relations of TNU. PhD in Economics. His scientific work is devoted to foreign economic interests of the Republic of Tajikistan in World Economy. He has some science articles about economic integration in Middle Asia, foreign economic and security of the Republic of Tajikistan, economic sanctions etc. Currently he is a member of the working group under the Customs Committee under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. He is writing scientific commentary for the Customs Code of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Contact: parvizis91@mail.ru



Mahmadullo Tabar, 'Jumhuriyat'

Mahmadullo Tabar is leading the department of the state newspaper 'Jumhuriyat'. He is a known expert in national theatre. His studies in the history and theory of the art of theatre, such as folklore traditions in modern arts, national dramatically on the theatre scene etc. He is an author of the number of monographs, such as 'Personality, history, scene' (Er-Graf, 2004), 'Events and spectacles' (Technografika, 2005), 'Theatre and Independence' (Maorif va Farhang', 2010), focusing on the contemporary tendencies in theater arts.



Dr Karolina Kluczevska, Tomsk State University/Tajik National University

Dr Kluczevska defended her PhD at the at the School of International Relations, University of St Andrews where she was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow. Previously she has worked as a project manager in the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Tajikistan. She has also worked for a local NGO and conducted small pieces of research in Tajikistan. She holds a Master's degree in Middle East and Central Asian Security Studies from the University of St Andrews (UK) and a Bachelor's degree in Cultural and Linguistic Mediation from the University of Milan (Italy). After her PhD at St. Andrews she was a postdoctoral fellow at the GLOBALCONTEST project hosted by the CERAL research center, Faculty of Law, Political and Social Sciences, University of Paris 13 (France).

Contact: karolinainwork@gmail.com



Akmal Khudoyberdiev, Tajik National University

Khudoiberdiev an assistant/ researcher of the faculty of International Relations. Khudoiberdiev's interests cover the broad scope of the relationship between Tajikistan and South Korea from the eve of the last century toward our own times. What is Tajikistan's place in these relations? Which role plays the Republic of Korea in the Central Asian region? How can Central Asian countries develop cultural, economic, and political relations with South Korea? What are the main lines of development of the policy of Tajikistan with South Korea? These and many other problems as well as the ways of their solutions are the field of the interests of Khudoiberdiev Akmal.

Contact: khakmaljon@gmail.com



Fayzullov Komron, Tajik National University

Komron is a master student at the Faculty of International Relations at the Tajik National University and his research deals with Energy Diplomacy of Tajikistan.

Contact: Kamran_0101@mail.ru



Adham Khudaykulov, University of Cambridge

Adham Khudaykulov is a PhD Candidate at the Centre of Development Studies. Adham is working on the nexus of regulatory regimes and its impact on the economic development in transition economies, with a particular emphasis on Central Asian countries. He worked at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and Ministry of Higher Education in Uzbekistan before coming to Cambridge. He studied in Nottingham, UK and Tokyo, Japan for his Masters degrees. He is also a member of the GCRF COMPASS Student Forum.

Contact: ayk24@cam.ac.uk



Jakub Csabay, University of Cambridge

Jakub Csabay is a PhD Candidate at the Centre of Development Studies. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Central and East European Studies/Politics from the University of Glasgow, during which he completed an exchange programme at ADA University in Azerbaijan, as well as MPhil degree in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge. He contributed to various research and policy projects of non-governmental and international organisations in Slovakia and Azerbaijan, including Slovak Governance Institute, Strategic Policy Institute (Slovakia) and UNFPA (Azerbaijan). His PhD will involve research in Slovakia, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan. He is also a member of the GCRF COMPASS Student Forum.

Contact: jc2043@cam.ac.uk



Malika Zekhni, University of Cambridge

Malika Zehni is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge, and a recipient of the Cambridge Trust Scholarship. Her current research focuses on the transformation of urban spaces and intellectual migration in Central Asia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Contact: mz419@cam.ac.uk

