

## OPENINGS

**Ambar Narayan, Practice Manager, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank**



Topics that Mr. Narayan works on include inequality of opportunity, economic mobility, policy evaluation, economic transformation, country diagnostics, and impacts of economic shocks on households. Currently, Mr. Narayan provides leadership to teams engaged in country programs in Africa Western and Central region, and global work on the distributional analysis of markets & institutions and the inequality implications of COVID-19. Ambar has been a lead author for several large World Bank studies, including a global report on intergenerational mobility and regional reports on inequality of opportunity. Mr. Narayan has authored a number of scholarly publications and working papers, which reflect the eclectic mix of topics he has worked on over the years. He holds a PhD in Economics from Brown University in the United States.

**Ozan Sevimli, Country Manager, World Bank Country Office in the Republic of Tajikistan**



Mr. Sevimli, a German national, holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas and a master's degree in Labor Economics from the University of Applied Sciences of Mannheim. Mr. Sevimli started his work in the Central Asia region as the World Bank Country Manager in the Republic of Tajikistan, and is based in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. Previously- in 2019- Mr. Sevimli served as World Bank Resident Representative for Jamaica and the Republic of Guyana (Caribbean).

Previously he has served as the Program Coordinator for the South Caucasus unit of the World Bank (2016-2019), based in Tbilisi, Georgia. He has also served as Senior Strategy and Operations Officer in the Vice President's office for the Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank. He supported senior management in the development and implementation of the Bank's regional strategy and corporate priorities. Between 2005 and 2012 he worked in the World Bank's Operations Policy and Country Services department and the Africa Regional department as a labor economist. Prior to joining the World Bank, he was a labor market specialist at the German Employment Agency.

**Tim Jones, Ambassador, British Embassy to the Republic of Tajikistan**



Ambassador Jones took up his appointment in November 2021. He joined the FCO (now FCDO) in 1984 and has previously served as Ambassador to Armenia and as Consul General in Lille (France).

Ambassador Jones was also posted to Vienna, the Hague and as Deputy Head of Mission in Tehran. Outside the FCDO he was Press & Liaison Officer for the WEU Police Mission in Mostar (Bosnia) and Senior Adviser to the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator in Brussels. While a student he worked for the Royal Greenwich Observatory in the UK and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Sydney (Australia)

**Manuel Micaller, Jr. , Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Tajikistan**



Ambassador Micaller, a career member of the Senior U.S. Foreign Service, rank of Minister Counselor, was nominated to serve as the Ambassador of the United States to Tajikistan on June 22, 2022, and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 13, 2022. He arrived in Tajikistan on February 23, 2023. Ambassador Micaller served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu, Nepal from 2019 to 2022. He was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 2016 to 2019. Previously, he was Deputy Director of the Office of India Affairs in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA); Political-Economic Section Chief, then Acting Deputy Chief of Mission in Dushanbe, Tajikistan; Senior Economic Officer in the SCA Office of Regional Affairs, and Deputy Chief of the Economic Section in Rabat, Morocco. He has served in the Department of State's Operations Center and Executive Secretariat Staff; Moscow, Russia; and Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. He also worked for Tyco International as an Executive Council on Diplomacy Lawrence S. Eagleburger Fellow.

Ambassador Micaller has a B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University, an MBA from George Washington University, and is a Distinguished Graduate of the National War College, with an MS in National Security Strategy. He speaks Tajiki and Russian.

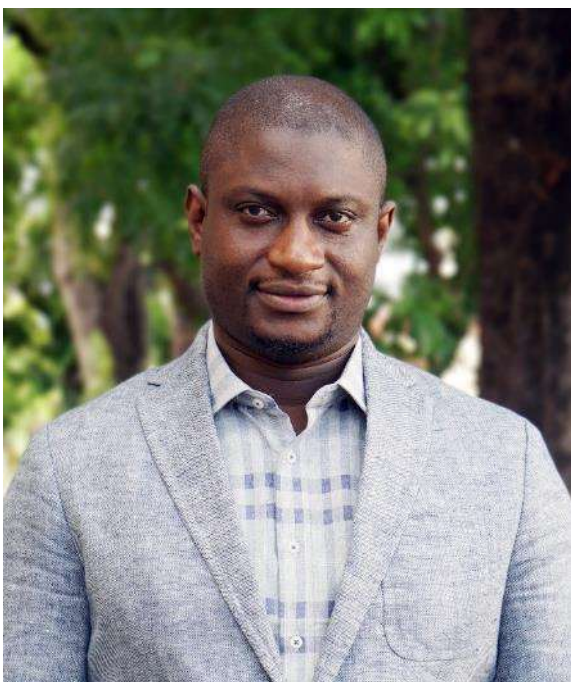
**Niu Chiyu, Economist, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank**



Mr. Niu is an Economist and the Team Lead of E-GATE (Elevate Global Access Through E-commerce) program in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. His team conducted the first sub-national level e-commerce readiness index in Central Asia and is rolling out the biggest B2B e-commerce program for SMEs in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Niu has a PhD degree in Economics from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign and dedicates his research to finding effective ways to alleviate poverty through income generation and market-oriented strategies. Besides E-GATE, he led the World Bank flagship reports such as the Uzbekistan Poverty Assessment, the Systematic Country Diagnostic of Tajikistan, Poverty Assessment of Mozambique, Forty Years of Poverty Reduction in China, and the Middle-Class Assessment of the Philippines. He also published in top peer-reviewed journals such as the American Economic Review.

## High-Level Session: International Experience for E-commerce Success in Tajikistan

**Obert Pimhidzai, Lead Economist, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank**



Mr. Pimhidzai, PhD is the Lead Economist for the World Bank Poverty and Equity Global Practice in Europe and Central Asia and Co-Lead of the Global Solutions Group on Markets and Institutions. He has extensive experience

in leading the World Bank's country level analytical and technical assistance programs on poverty and equity related issues, ranging from household survey design, poverty measurement and targeting, jobs, social inclusion, social protection, rural development, gender equity and distributional impacts of fiscal policy and macroeconomic policy distortions. He has led pioneering project financing in statistical capacity building such as statistical modernization in Vietnam and large multi-country statistics projects such the Eastern Africa Regional Statistics Project – the first ever Regional PforR and contributed to design of anti-poverty programs in low- and middle-income countries in East Asia and Africa. He has more than 15 years of accumulated experience working in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, Vietnam, Zimbabwe and more recently in Central Asia countries that have pioneered the Listening to Citizens surveys.

**Tim Song, Head of Global Strategic Partnerships, Alibaba**



As part of the Alibaba group global team, Mr. Song works across more than 30 countries' supplier business and supporting governments & agencies world widely to promote the local companies to sell globally with a focus on helping them to accelerate the digital transformation in B2B ecommerce.

Mr. Song started his career in 2010 at United Technologies Corporation, an American multinational conglomerate and previously he is in charge of channel & marketing operation in HikVision Asia team, a world's leading video surveillance products supplier established in 2001. Tim served in various roles in Asia market and holds an MBA from Zhejiang University.

**Cristina Doros, Regional Manager, Central Asia and Azerbaijan, VISA**



Ms. Doros is Regional Manager for Central Asia and Azerbaijan at Visa. In her current role, Cristina is managing overall Visa business in these markets focusing on strategy development and implementation, business development, technology, and innovations. Before moving to Central Asia, Cristina was managing Caucasus cluster at Visa.

Ms. Doros has more than 25 years of experience in retail banking, information technology, innovations, cards, and mobile payments. Ms. Doros joined Visa in 2016 to lead regional Core Products team overseeing Core products (Debit, Credit and Premium), loyalty platform development, digital solutions, and push payments.

Ms. Doros holds a Master's Degree with Honors in Economics from IEDC-Bled School of Business, Slovenia.

**Abdeslam Benzitouni, Group Head of Communication & Public Relations, Jumia**



Mr. Benzitouni joined Jumia Group in 2014 to set up the Public Relations and Communication department for the travel and Food delivery section.

In 2018, he transitioned to oversee all the Group activities to prepare the communication strategy for the IPO on the New York Stock Exchange. He has been the VP head of Communication of Jumia, also leading, financial reports, institutional Affairs and ESG topics. Before joining Jumia, Abdeslam spent more than 12 years as a journalist, chief editor in Paris (France), reporting on African developments for prominent media outlets covering emerging markets and Africa. His passion for Africa led him to travel across more than 35 countries across the continent, writing travel books and articles that showcased the continent, diversity and dynamism. Abdeslam recently relocated to Dakar, Senegal, with his family after spending five years in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Nikolay Seleznev, Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer, Uzum Group**



Mr. Seleznev worked for Global Markets (Raiffeisenbank, Alfa-Bank, JP Morgan) and developed strategies for optimizing product portfolios and entering new markets (Arthur D. Little). He also led special projects and M&A transactions (Eurasian Resources Group).

**Andrei Kutukov, Vice President and General Manager, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Lenovo ISG**



Mr. Kutukov is a senior executive with over 25 years of experience in the IT industry including infrastructure and software businesses with deep expertise in cloud transformation, AI and enterprise IT. As the VP and General Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia for Lenovo ISG Andrei is responsible for growing Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions footprint in the market. Mr. Kutukov is a member of the senior leadership team of Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions Group in EMEA.

Prior to Lenovo Mr. Kutukov served as VP and Managing Director in Russia and CIS in Micro Focus software company after successful transformation during spin/merge project of HPE Software and Micro Focus. Before that Andrei had a long and successful career in HP/HPE, being through number of transformations and management positions, ending up managing the end-to-end software business as VP & GM for HPE Software in Russia and CIS.

Mr. Kutukov has significant expertise in strategic projects with enterprise and public sector, GTM transformation, sales and account management, executive customer relationship, business development and market share growth.

Mr. Kutukov is an IT person by education. He holds a master's degree of the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute, ITIL Management Degree from EXIN, Netherlands and EMBA degree from University of Antwerp Management School.

**Sergey Dukelskiy, Coordinator Sustainability and Financial Services, International Bureau, Universal Postal Union**



Mr. Dukelskiy supports postal operators in incorporating sustainable development into their activities, in development and digitalization of postal payment services and inclusive financial services. He provides Posts with technical assistance and regulatory advice to improve and expand their financial services capabilities. Previously to this role, Mr. Dukelskiy was a member of the PostEurop Management Board. Mr. Dukelskiy graduated from Moscow Technical University of Telecommunications and Informatics.

## Demo Session 1

**Nasibakhon Aminova, Executive Director, National Association of Small and Medium Business Tajikistan**



Over the ten years of managing the association, Ms. Aminova became an active and recognized influencer in the public-private dialogue and a member of Inter-governmental working groups, promoting the development of the business eco-system in Tajikistan and the protection of entrepreneurs.

Being a lawyer and human rights activist, Ms. Aminova promotes the women's rights agenda. Promoting the interests of women in business and addressing gender equality issues has become part of her professional growth. She became Ambassador of the Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED) in Tajikistan in 2018.

Ms. Aminova has 20 years of experience in project management. For the last four years, she has overseen projects on CSR and e-commerce development. Ms. Aminova is a fellow of the Leadership Academy for Development in Central Asia 2023 (LAD in CA). LAD is a project of the Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, part of Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and jointly organized by the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE).

Ms. Aminova is a founder of the social TajikMama.tj project, which unites more than 42 thousand subscribers in the Facebook group. Nasibakhon is an initiator and partner of charity and social events in Dushanbe.

**Firuz Zainidini, Head of E-commerce department, Babilon-Mobile**



Mr. Zainidini is an expert in e-commerce and marketing. Has more than 17 years of experience in the development of large brands and local companies. Currently, he is the head of the e-commerce department of CJSC Babilon M. Together with the team, Mr. Zainidini launched the country's largest superapp, MyBabilon. Actively develops e-commerce in the country.

**Salikhov Siyovush, Product Manager of Internet banking, Alif Bank**



Mr. Siyovush is a Head of the department for work with corporate clients of Alif Bank OJSC. Product manager of Internet banking Alif Business. He has 12 years of management experience, including five years in the Alif team. Responsible for the bank's interaction with merchants, partners and corporate clients.

## Session I/Logistics for E-commerce

**Aizhan Beiseyeva, Transport corridors development Advisor, USAID's Trade Central Asia Activity**



Ms. Beiseyeva is an Advisor for the development of transport corridors in the USAID Trade Central Asia Program in Central Asia, a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CIMILT), and Deputy Chair of WiLAT (Women in Logistics and Transport) in Central Asia. Currently, Ms. Beiseyeva is working on the USAID Trade Central Asia Activity project and has extensive experience in the development of logistics-specific trade, cross-border procedural simplification, and the efficiency of economic corridors. Aizhan also serves as the Deputy Chair of WiLAT Central Asia, contributing to the advancement of women's professional development, changing the role of women in logistics, promoting inclusive leadership, and fostering gender diversity in the logistics industry in Central Asia.



**Maria Kadantseva, CEO of MD-Insight LLC, official partner Alibaba.com in the CIS countries**



In 2002, Ms. Kadantseva graduated from Krasnoyarsk State University with a degree in linguistics and intercultural communication. From 2002 to 2008, she lived and worked at Heilongjiang University, Harbin, China. Since 2015, she has worked as a consultant for working with Chinese companies and in 2017 she opened her own company. MD-Insight currently operates in Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Uzbekistan.

**Fredrick Omamo, Ecommerce and Market Development Programme Manager at the Universal Postal Union**



Mr. Omamo is presently the Ecommerce and Market Development Programme Manager at the Universal Postal Union. His role is to formulate strategy guidelines and proposals as well as develop, implement and manage projects that position the posts as key enablers and facilitators of trade and ecommerce.

Between 2016 and 2021, Mr. Omamo was the Project Manager of UPU's Ecom@Africa project, an initiative that aimed at establishing an integrated e-commerce ecosystem provided by postal operators through online platforms using the postal service and network for cross border logistics, deliveries, returns and payments.

Mr. Omamo holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Free State, South Africa, and another one in Procurement, Logistics and Supply Chain Management (MSc), from the University of Salford, United Kingdom. His work experience spans over 27 years, in the public and private sectors, and at national and international levels.

## Yasmine Abdel Karim, Co-founder of Yalla Fel Sekka.com



YFS is building a critical backbone infrastructure for next generation logistics services in the largest and fastest growing economy in the MENA region by leveraging its proprietary, data-driven technology platform and experienced Ops team to meet customers' expectations across different sectors, groceries, food, e-commerce consolidators and pharma. Ms. Abdel Karim is an Egyptian and French national who, after 17 years of residing in Europe & US, returned to Egypt in 2019 to launch YFS. Yasmine has over 15 years of international experience across the energy sector, particularly in the oil and gas industry. She has developed skills relating to improving productivity- whether for processes or people. This inspired her to launch a startup in logistics services in Egypt. Before the startup (Yalla Fel Sekka) Yasmine held many leadership roles with Schlumberger from Human resources to business development, undertaking assignments in Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Ms. Abdel Karim holds master's in public policy/ Mason Fellows degree at Harvard Kennedy School, an MSC in Human Resources from Robert Gordon University in the UK, and a B.S. in Economics from Cairo University in Egypt. She is trilingual in English, French and Arabic. At age 14, she joined the Egyptian National Handball Team, winning numerous distinctions during her tenure.

## Nasibakhon Aminova, Executive Director, National Association of Small and Medium Business Tajikistan



Over the ten years of managing the association, Ms. Aminova became an active and recognized influencer in the public-private dialogue and a member of Inter-governmental working groups, promoting the development of the business eco-system in Tajikistan and the protection of entrepreneurs. Being a lawyer and human rights activist, Ms. Aminova promotes the women's rights agenda. Promoting the interests of women in business and addressing gender equality issues has become part of her professional growth. She became Ambassador of the Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED) in Tajikistan in 2018. Ms. Aminova has 20 years of experience in project

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## Demo Session 2

**Muhammadi Ibodulloev, Director, Public Fund Civil Internet Policy Initiative**



For more than 20 years Mr. Ibodulloev has been actively involved in the implementation of ICT both in practice and at the policy level at the national and regional levels. He is an expert in the field of digital technologies, e-government and e-citizen participation in public administration. He led and participated in the development of more than 15 analytical reports and research in the field of ICT applications in various industries.

**Kamoliddin Ulmasov, CEO, OBBO**



Mr. Ulmasov is a CEO of OBBO - the first marketplace in Tajikistan. Has more than 10 years of experience in finance and management. He began his career while still a 2nd year student and managed a team of 200 people.

**Nasima Bahramova, Founder and General Director of «Mavsim and K» LLC**



Ms. Bahramova is a Founder and General Director of «Mavsim and K» LLC. Nasima is the first deputy of the National Association of Women's Entrepreneurship "Kadbonu". Ambassador of the Public Association "Happy People". Certified management consultant according to the ICMCI Standard. Winner of the TOP 100 successful women of Tajikistan 2021 award. The face of the Women's Euroforum 2021 in Odessa on the cover of the international magazine WOMAN.

## Session II/Digital Skills for E-commerce

**Pulod Amirbekov, Country Director, Public Fund "Accelerate Prosperity"**



Mr. Amirbekov is an experienced professional with over 20 years of work experience in the development and business sectors in the Central Eurasian region. Mr. Amirbekov is currently the Country Director for Public Fund "Accelerate Prosperity" (AP), which was established in 2016 in Tajikistan and has become a leading accelerator in the country. AP has also expanded its activities to Pakistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Afghanistan. In 7 years, AP has provided incubation and acceleration programs to 4,500 startups and entrepreneurs in the region and has invested \$11 million in 500 businesses. These businesses have been able to leverage more than \$32 million in external funds. Before joining AP, Mr. Amirbekov worked with the Aga Khan Foundation as the Senior Coordinator of the Coalition of Employers (80+ members) in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The main goal of the Coalition was to increase the demand for young personnel in the private sector and the youth internship program created by Pulod helped more than 1,000 youth complete internships in the private sector with subsequent employment. Prior to that, Pulod was the Director of "Promotion" LLC for around 14 years, where his company provided marketing, branding, and IT services to more than 50 local and regional businesses. Mr. Amirbekov holds degrees in International Economic Relations and Commercial Law and has attended Central Eurasian Leadership programs in Turkey, as well as the Venture Capital Executive Program at the Haas Business School, University of California in Berkeley, USA. Mr. Amirbekov is an active member of the Central Eurasian Leadership Alliance and the American Chambers of Commerce in Tajikistan.

**Tazeen Fasih, Lead Economist and Program Leader, the World Bank**



Tazeen Fasih is a Lead Human Development Economist of the World Bank. Her recent policy-oriented research focuses on improved efficiency of education expenditure in decentralized settings and on skills and labor market outcomes. Other areas of her work include education finance and school autonomy. She has worked in countries in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa and has experience working in academia as well as think tanks. She has authored and co-authored a number of papers in the World Bank on economics of education including the book 'Decentralized Decision Making in Schools and Linking Education Policy to Labor Market Outcomes.' Tazeen holds a PhD in Economics from the University of London.

**Eklavya Bhavé, Head of Asia, Coursera**



Mr. Bhavé is an experienced business and technology executive. He currently serves as Head of Asia in Coursera. He leads a team that is committed to providing equal access to the world's best education. His responsibilities include driving Sales and GTM strategy for Coursera's enterprise business in the APAC region. This includes working closely with enterprises & universities in the region.

Mr. Bhavé has close to two decades of experience in Sales and Business Development in the technology space. He has held leadership positions in companies such as Citrix, Oracle, Microsoft etc. Prior to Coursera, Eklavya was the Head of Channels and Alliances for South Asia for Citrix. In this role he was responsible for building and executing business strategy for the region by leading cross functional teams. Eklavya is an Engineering graduate with a masters in Management.

**Ekaterina Rashidova, Co-founder, Association of Sellers, Uzbekistan**



Analyst of niches and products for sale on UZUM. Co-founder of the Sellers Association of Uzbekistan.

**Aziza Shuzheyeva, Chairman of the Board, TechnoWomen  
Head of the Digital Transformation Foundation**



Member of the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**Lucy Haine, Global Digital Commerce and Marketplace Partnerships Lead at the Department for Business and Trade, the UK Government**



Ms. Haine manages current DBT marketplace partnerships across EECAN, Europe Africa and APAC alongside developing new digital commerce and FDI opportunities for the UK government. Prior to joining DBT as global digital commerce and marketplace lead, Lucy worked in senior leadership teams for UK High Street

Retail brands including Debenhams, M&S. Monsoon, Accessorize and River Island focused on international expansion across all channels.

**Sitora Sattorova, Project Manager of the E-Commerce Department, Babylon-Mobile**



Project Manager of the E-Commerce Department of CJSC Babylon-Mobile. More than 4 years in E-commerce, leading trainer at Babilon Academy. Expert in developing online businesses and tracking.

## Session III/Payments and FinTech International Experience for E-commerce

**Nargis Podchoeva, Operational Officer with Country Advisory and Economics, IFC**



Ms. Podchoeva has over 15 years of experience with banking and micro-finance organizations in various countries, including Haiti, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and the USA. In her current position, leads the work on financial sector digital innovation development in Central Asia and Africa. She also leads sector mobilization and supports the private sector with new product development, aiming at fostering the financial inclusion of the population into the formal financial systems. Nargis, of Tajik nationality, is an alumna of the Center of Executive Education in Technology Policy from Carnegie Mellon University.

**Amira Karim, Public Policy and FinTech Lead, Amazon**



Amira is the Public Policy Lead in Payments and Financial Services for Amazon, and has close to two decades of experience in digital policy engagement across public and private sectors. Previously, she has held senior roles at Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and she has also acted as the World Bank's Private Sector Development Specialist. Prior to joining Amazon, she worked as Head of Public Policy in Asia Pacific at Stripe, where she was responsible for building a government relations and advocacy strategy to accelerate Stripe's global expansion.

**Mayara Yan, Senior advisor at the Competition and Financial Market Structure Department, Central Bank of Brazil**



Ms. Yan is acting as a high-level technical specialist on the team responsible for managing and operating Pix. She has a degree in computer science and administration, specialization in finance, and certification in project and program management. She has been working in the Central Bank's payment system area for 7 years. Before joining the Central Bank, she worked in consulting companies and as project manager of ERP implementation, and was also a merchant in the food industry, having multiple knowledge about payments industry. She participated actively in the conception and launch of Pix and currently integrates the team responsible for its maintenance and continuous development.



## Otabek Nasirov, Deputy General Director, Fintech Association of Uzbekistan



Mr. Nasirov is the Deputy General Director and member of the expert council of the Fintech Association of Uzbekistan, Cyber Park, as well as working groups of the Council of Foreign Investors under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Nasirov actively participates in the development of the fintech community of Uzbekistan, regulatory sandboxes and local legislation of the fintech industry, including education on blockchain technology, convergence technologies such as AI, digital assets and others.

Mr. Nasirov is also involved in creating an ecosystem of business angels and the country's venture capital market. Represents and lobbies the interests of the fintech community in government agencies of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Nasirov member of the UMay Angels Club, ICLUB by Venture Found TA Ventures and cooperates with the Uzbekistan Venture Capital Association (UzVCA), the National Venture Capital Fund (UzVK), National Agency of Perspective Projects (NAPP), Central Bank, Ministry of Digital Technologies and international financial institutions.

His knowledge and experience are the result of working in international and global companies such as Coca-Cola, Carlsberg Group, General Motors, Ernst & Young and SIT Learning within the Swiss International Research Institute Schaffhausen Institute of Technology and others.

Graduate of the Tashkent State Law Institute and the Moscow School of Management "Skolkovo."

Mr. Nasirov is an ambassador for Chapter Zero Uzbekistan (Climate Governance Initiative | CGI), EMBRAS (Employer Brand Award and Summit), Mysterious Uzbekistan (Adventure Community) and Ezgu Amal (Charity Foundation).

**Cristina Doros, Regional Manager, Central Asia and Azerbaijan, VISA**



Ms. Doros is Regional Manager for Central Asia and Azerbaijan at Visa. In her current role, Cristina is managing overall Visa business in these markets focusing on strategy development and implementation, business development, technology, and innovations. Before moving to Central Asia, Cristina was managing Caucasus cluster at Visa.

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**Abdeslam Benzitouni, Group Head of Communication & Public Relations, Jumia**



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## Session IV/Bridging Digital Divides for E-commerce

Zuhra Halimova, International Expert, Strategic Advisor at the Women in Digital Transformation (WinDt LLC)



Ms. Halimova is an executive with diversified experience in the field of international development and inclusive growth with over twenty-five years of professional experience in the Eurasian Region and beyond. She was an Executive Director of the Open Society Foundation in Tajikistan for 20 years, managed national reform projects, promoting human rights and the rule of law, transparency and accountability, digital transformation, business development and reforms of public services -engaging government and development agencies, SCOs, media, and think tanks using a participatory, to engage in inclusive social, economic and governance reforms. She has been awarded with the Certificate of Appreciation from the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Center for Information and Communication Technologies for Development/ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNAPCICT/ESCAP) in recognition of her contribution towards supporting the ICT human capacity development in Central Asia.

Ms. Halimova is currently a Strategic Advisor at the Women in Digital Transformation (WinDt LLC) and Senior Advisor of the CAPS Unlock, as well as serving as a Member of the Transition Assistance Group of the Institute for Integrated Transition (IFIT), advising countries on reforms regarding policy, institutional, and regulatory conditions that govern the digital transformation and investment climate in the region. She is a member of the C5+1 expert group. She also worked as a consultant with USAID Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment, WB Digital CASA, Internews Greater Internet Freedom Project/Ranking Digital Rights, as well as EU, GIZ and Demos Helsinki.

**Jakhongir Shukurov, Head of the Strategic Development Department, Ministry of Digital Technologies of Uzbekistan**



Mr. Shukurov is a dedicated professional with a wealth of experience in the field of digital technologies. He currently holds the position of Head of the Strategic Development Department at the Ministry of Digital Technologies, where he actively contributes to shaping the strategic direction and development of digital initiatives. Prior to assuming this role, Jakhongir served as the Head of the E-Government Development Department within the same ministry, where he played a pivotal role in advancing digital governance and public service delivery.

Mr. Shukurov's passion for digital technologies and its potential to transform societies led him to pursue his higher education at the prestigious Tashkent State University of Economy. Throughout his career, Jakhongir has been actively involved in driving digital transformation and leveraging technology for the betterment of society. His strong background in digital economy, coupled with his strategic vision and leadership, positions him as a valuable asset within the Ministry of Digital Technologies. Jakhongir is committed to pushing boundaries and advancing digital initiatives, with a steadfast dedication to fostering innovation and progress within the realm of digital technologies.

**Ozodkhon Davlatshoev, CEO, TCELL Tajikistan**



Mr. Davlatshoev has over 20 years of experience in leading and managing various organizations and initiatives in Central Asia, Chief Executive Officer at Tcell Tajikistan, the largest telecom operator in the country. As a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program, I have a strong

foundation in business administration and management, as well as a leadership certificate from Cambridge Judge Business School.

Mr. Davlatshoev leverages expertise in strategic risk management, business development, and stakeholder engagement to create value for my customers, partners, and teams. I am also passionate about digital and innovation, social impact, and cultural diversity. I serve as the President of the Cycling Federation of Tajikistan, the Global Executive Director of Accelerate Prosperity, a social enterprise incubator and accelerator, and the Honorary Consul of Sweden to Tajikistan. My mission is to foster sustainable and inclusive growth, prosperity, and peace in the region and beyond.

**Vahan Hovsepyan, External Relations Officer (Caucasus and Central Asia), RIPE NCC**



Mr. Hovsepyan is an External Relations Officer (Caucasus and Central Asia) at the RIPE NCC. Vahan is in charge of developing cooperation and engaging stakeholders from these regions, including RIPE NCC members, governmental agencies, academic institutions and industry development organisations. Vahan graduated from the Armenian-Russian (Slavic) State University and completed courses at the Maastricht School of Management and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Vahan has extensive experience working in and with industry development organisations, IXPs and international organisations.

**Muzaffar Agzamov, Chairman, E-commerce Association of Uzbekistan**



2010-2015- co-founder of Independent Inspection Services, [www.iis.uz](http://www.iis.uz), services for pre-shipment inspection of the quantity, quality and prices of exported and imported goods. The first company in Central Asia and the second in the CIS to become a full member of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies. In 2015, he established an online store of Uzbek textiles [www.mato.uz](http://www.mato.uz), which aims to develop cross-border trade in textile

goods produced in Uzbekistan. Starting from January 2018 Mr. Azamov is a Chairman of the E-commerce Association of Uzbekistan.

**Prasanna Lal Das, Digital/data policy and innovation consultant**



Mr. Lal Das is a Washington DC based digital/data policy and innovation consultant with over 30 years of experience working with governments and private sector groups in Europe, Asia, and Africa. His focus areas include sustainable digital development, inclusive data policy/regulations, digital harms and risks, social protection, and technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), internet of things (IoT), open data, and blockchain. For reference, see his recent publications on algorithmic bias and multilingual AI. Mr. Lal Das worked for almost 20 years at the World Bank where he led digital economy-related projects in different countries. He also created and led flagship digital programs including Open Finances (recognized among the most innovative open data mobile applications in the world), TCdata360 (global source of trade and competitiveness related data and visualization tools), and Innovation Policy Platform (a partnership initiative with OECD). His publications at the World Bank covered policy and institutional issues in several emerging fields such as harnessing data for development, the role of Internet of Things in governance, policy frameworks for digital platforms, trust and social license through data, and the use of non-traditional data for research. Prior to joining the World Bank, Prasanna worked for several years in the private sector helping establish initiatives such as one of the world's earliest MOOC platforms, and digital strategy for many global firms.

## Closing

**Ozan Sevimli, Country Manager, World Bank Country Office in the Republic of Tajikistan**



Mr. Sevimli, a German national, holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas and a master's degree in Labor Economics from the University of Applied Sciences of Mannheim. Mr. Sevimli started his work in the Central Asia region as the World Bank Country Manager in the Republic of Tajikistan, and

is based in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. Previously- in 2019- Mr. Sevimli served as World Bank Resident Representative for Jamaica and the Republic of Guyana (Caribbean).

Previously he has served as the Program Coordinator for the South Caucasus unit of the World Bank (2016-2019), based in Tbilisi, Georgia. He has also served as Senior Strategy and Operations Officer in the Vice President's office for the Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank. He supported senior management in the development and implementation of the Bank's regional strategy and corporate priorities. Between 2005 and 2012 he worked in the World Bank's Operations Policy and Country Services department and the Africa Regional department as a labor economist. Prior to joining the World Bank, he was a labor market specialist at the German Employment Agency.

**David Knight, Lead Country Economist and Program Leader for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions in Central Asia, World Bank**



Mr. Knight is the Lead Country Economist and Program Leader for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions covering Central Asia, based in Tashkent. Prior to that David was a Lead Economist and Program Leader for the Russian Federation, and previously held positions with the World Bank in Turkey, Timor-Leste and Sydney, Australia. David has led research on a range of topics related to macroeconomics, poverty reduction, fiscal management and trade and has publications in a range of areas such as public financial management, aid effectiveness, balance of payments issues, and global value chains. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Knight was a graduate economist and economic advisor in the UK government, holding portfolios in HM Revenue and Customs on international taxation, property tax, environmental taxation and Computable General Equilibrium modelling and in HM Treasury, where he was part of the Performance and Reform Unit (formerly known as the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit). He also worked in the Sierra Leonean Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as an economist and Overseas Development Institute fellow. Mr. Knight holds an undergraduate degree in economics from LSE and a master's degree in economics from the University of Melbourne. He is a British-Australian dual national.

**Yaroslav Eferin,  
Consultant, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank**



Yaroslav Eferin is an international consultant on digital themes having 12 years of experience researching and consulting in the development and economics field. Backed by an education specialized in economics and governance in science, technology and innovation Yaroslav worked with the World Bank, USAID, European Commission, UNCTAD on topics related to digital economy, e-commerce, data policy, digital platforms, digital strategies, digital ethics. Yaroslav has been working with Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan; MENA region, including Jordan, Morocco; Sub-Sahara Africa covering Ghana and Zambia. Yaroslav has been leading projects on e-commerce development, digital skills, AI, ethics, etc. Yaroslav also worked for the Centre for Social Innovation in Vienna where he analyzed science, technology and innovation policies in developed and emerging countries. He worked for the Higher School of Economics as a research analyst on a broad-spectrum regional development themes and economic policies. He holds a postgraduate degree in Economics, and Masters in Governance of Science, Technology, Innovation, and has published extensively in the field of AI and Digital Economy in peer reviewed journals, as well as co-authored several World Bank and USAID reports.