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**Strategeast**

# STATE & IT EURASIAN FORUM

**BISHKEK, 9-10 NOVEMBER 2021**



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# Partners



# Forum Highlights

- **The Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic declared IT industry development as one of the state's highest priorities**
- **Global tech leader EPAM Systems has started its operations in the Kyrgyz Republic**
- **The launch of a Silicon Valley venture fund for investment in startups from the region**
- **The World Bank report "Data for Better Lives" was launched regionally during the special event**
- **StrategEast opened its office for Central Asia in Bishkek**



## Opening remarks by Akylbek Japarov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic



The StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum is a well-timed event. Today, there are many digital transformation initiatives involving the fundamental role of the IT sector that are being implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic. A new export cluster is actively forming in the Kyrgyz Republic – digital IT leaders are the drivers of change in our country.

In the public sector, we also try to adapt to the challenges of the digital age by analyzing and following global trends. In 2021, we created the Ministry of Digital Development.

When I studied the agenda for this forum, I saw that it would be an excellent platform for exchanging both analytical and practical experiences. One essential function of this event is bolstering our country's IT image on the global market and among major international players. This support is key for our IT sector. We have a huge number of talented youth and experienced professionals. Many of them work for international companies and projects while remaining in the Kyrgyz Republic. In this regard, I have instructed the Ministry of Digital Development to organize several bilateral meetings at the Forum, where there will be an opportunity for the High Technology Park and other IT organizations to pitch their potential, achievements, and opportunities for collaboration to promising international partners.

Dear friends, we are open to all opportunities to strengthen our partnership and systemic, mutually beneficial interaction. We have high expectations for the practical solutions developed within this Forum, which we will soon be implementing in order to reap the benefits of digitalization in our country.

We clearly understand that competing in the global digital

field is difficult for each individual country, as is maintaining a niche and protecting one's competitive advantage. Therefore, we have already begun our work on a digital transformation at the regional level. Here, the Central Asian region has several advantages. Just two days ago, we held the first "Central Asia and the European Union" international conference. We are pleased to state that, as a result, many European countries and financial institutions are ready to double their financing of our country, including within the framework of the Central Asian region.

**I hope that the Central Asian region as a whole will see the benefits of joint approaches to digital transformation and tackling digital challenges. We see this approach as the most effective for the emerging international digital map.**

Where will we focus our discussions? Naturally, this forum is based on three pillars – the green economy, the creative economy, and digital technology development. I hope that the Central Asian region as a whole will see the benefits of joint approaches to digital transformation and tackling digital challenges. We see this approach as the most effective for the emerging international digital map.

Before wishing you all a successful and fruitful forum, I want to say that our current government has a clear understanding of the fact that we have begun a new era of nanotechnology based on solar and nuclear energies. The keys to this era are, first and foremost, digitalization, digital space, digital technologies, and providing our population with digital services. We hope to leverage this window of opportunity in order to join the ranks of developed countries. Our President certainly has the political will. Quite recently, at the Glasgow World Leaders Summit, he announced plans to increase our share of the green energy consumption to 40% in the coming years. I hope that many of you, as representatives of the creative economies, will help us achieve such ambitious goals.

## Opening remarks by Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast Center for a New Economy

We are proud that the StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum has become one of Eurasia's key regional platforms for facilitating the development of the new policies, building new collaborations, and exchanging best practices at the regional and global scale.

It is now traditional for the initiatives announced at the StrategEast Forum to bring about tangible results in the shortest possible time.

At our September 2020 Forum in Georgia, for the first time, the Georgian government declared developing the IT industry as the top priority for the local economy and announced a special tax regime for international IT companies operating for export from Georgia.

As a result of our collaboration with the Georgian government and private sector representatives over the last year, we have managed to significantly boost Georgia's export-oriented IT industry.

Thirty international IT companies have now opened their offices in Georgia. A total of 2,000 new jobs have been created, generating about \$25 million in new export earnings.

The president and founder of EPAM Systems, Arkadiy Dobkin, also made another important statement at our Forum in Tbilisi, when he announced that EPAM planned to launch operations in Georgia. Today, EPAM employs hundreds of people in Georgia and is one of that country's largest IT companies.

As we held our first Forum in Eastern Europe in Kyiv, and the second in the Caucasus, this year it was only natural for us to come to Bishkek in Central Asia. Moreover – StrategEast has identified assisting with the development of Central Asia's digital economy as a priority for the next year.

Notably, StrategEast has launched a program to increase Kazakhstan's IT exports and train a large group of Kazakh IT specialists. In Uzbekistan, we are collaborating with the venture capital association and our colleagues and partners from USMAC, to develop a system for accelerating Fintech startups. In Tajikistan, we are assisting the government to develop proper IT park legislation.

And in the Kyrgyz Republic, we are launching a program for the comprehensive development of the IT industry, to include creating new jobs, attracting global engineering



companies, launching a training program for high-level young professionals, accelerating local startups, and attracting investments.

This ambitious plan can only be implemented in collaboration with the government, as we saw in Ukraine and Georgia. I am pleased to see the same dynamic in the Kyrgyz Republic.

**I would also like to highlight the key role of international financial institutions and global development agencies in making this program a reality. Large-scale investments make it possible to lay a solid foundation for a knowledge-driven economy, which will subsequently drive the industry's organic growth.**

The Ministry of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic is a true partner of StrategEast, both within this forum and as we implement our IT sector development program in this country.

I would also like to highlight the key role of international financial institutions and global development agencies in making this program a reality. Large-scale investments make it possible to lay a solid foundation for a knowledge-driven economy, which will subsequently drive the industry's organic growth.

I am convinced that our discussions both within the panel discussions and on the sidelines of this event will have an immediate, positive impact, both on the national scale and on the entire region as a whole.

The main topic chosen for our Forum this year is "Development Through Collaboration". This topic was not selected by accident. It is our deep conviction that the countries of Eurasia can only benefit from leveraging their complementary competitive advantages, bringing a unique opportunity to the entire region to become one of the most successful global digital hubs.

# Key speakers



## **Sir Suma Chakrabarti**

Former President of the EBRD, Adviser to the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on economic development and effective governance, Chairman of ODI Global

“Both the present and future are becoming increasingly digital. It is still unclear which aspects of digitalization will prevail in the future and, therefore, how our personal and professional lives will look. But I am confident that the digital economy is part of the solution to a wide range of global issues that have accumulated around the world – from poor human capital development to inequality. Our top priority must be building an inclusive digital future that works for the benefit of society.”



## **Sonata Coulter**

Charge d’Affaires, Head of the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek

“The United States represents a major export market for Kyrgyz IT products and services. Each year, more American companies are discovering the value of working with IT companies both in this country and across Central Asia. I appreciate the opportunity to meet and learn from many stakeholders at this Forum – from the government officials who strengthen the economic environment through policy making, to the entrepreneurs whose relentless spirit is driving IT industry growth.”



## **Arkadiy Dobkin**

President, EPAM Systems

“20 years ago, it was difficult to imagine that certain parts of the world would be participating in the development of high technologies. Today, this trend is common, and expanding all the time. The last couple of years confirmed yet again that intellectual work could be done anywhere and that we can find talent anywhere on the globe.”



## **Louise Chamberlain**

Resident Representative in Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP

“Building an inclusive data ecosystem will help us build synergy among people, data, and technology, and create insights as well as social-economic value.”





**Dastan Dogoev**  
Minister of Digital Development, the Kyrgyz Republic

“Today, we are witnessing the formation of a new society. New digital ecosystems, meta universes, and three-dimensional digital spaces are fundamentally changing the prevailing paradigms. In order to succeed in these new realities, we must have a flexible worldview and be ready to create new meanings.”



**Ayten Rustamova**  
Regional Head of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

“Accelerating digital transition is one of the EBRD’s priority themes until 2025. The EBRD’s strategic objective is to leverage technology and digitalization as a key enabler for more competitive, greener, more resilient, and overall better-governed markets. Digitalization presents us with a unique opportunity to re-think and re-invent how products and services are delivered. Through its investments and technical assistance projects, the Bank supports clients and governments in the digitalization of services, assets, business processes, and value chains.”



**Jonathan Tower**  
General Partner, Catapult VC

“The idea that you have to be in Silicon Valley to build a great startup is not true anymore. We now have the tools and technologies to build great companies anywhere in the world. Since the pandemic has demonstrated that geography is not as important as it once was, the real competition now is for talent.”



**Kate Bunina**  
Managing Director, USMAC and Program Director,  
Prospera Women

“When you build any program for female entrepreneurs, you have to approach them from a different perspective. The number one problem is not learning the business skills or raising capital, but the change of a mindset. That is why we have included a special section on mental health in our Prospera Women startup program, during which female entrepreneurs not only improved their businesses, but also transformed themselves as the leaders.”



## Central Asia as a Digital Hub of Eurasia



**Vadil Galiulin**, Director of Account Management, Mastercard (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan)

“In order to create a functioning cashless economy, countries should support increased Internet access and provide the right market incentives.”

**Elena Krukovskaya**, Chief Operations Officer, Exadel

“There are several things we look at when deciding whether to open an office in the new location. First of all, we consider political and economic stability. Secondly, we

Panelists: **Eric K. Hontz**, Deputy Regional Director – Europe and Eurasia, Center for International Private Enterprise | **Dastan Dogoev**, Minister of Digital Development, the Kyrgyz Republic | **Vadil Galiulin**, Director of Account Management, Mastercard (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan) | **Elena Krukovskaya**, Chief Operations Officer, Exadel | **Elena V. Son**, Executive Director, the American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce, the US-Kyrgyzstan Business Council, the US-Tajikistan Business Council, the US-Afghanistan Business Initiative

look for talent, which means people’s skills and educational background, rather than simply quantity. Here, I would like to emphasize the importance of English language skills. The third thing we consider is collaboration between universities and IT education.”

**Elena V. Son**, Executive Director, the American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce, the US-Kyrgyzstan Business Council, the US-Tajikistan Business Council, the US-Afghanistan Business Initiative

“In our view, the digital hub relies not only on wires and cables and the presence of IT companies, but also on robust education and training, banking, transportation, logistics, and the legal sector, which serve as a springboard for developing digitalization processes. In other words, digitalization and the digital hub are the byproducts of a well-established and self-reliant, well-resourced infrastructure that is staffed and managed by highly qualified professionals.”

## Global IT Industry in Eurasia

**Avtandil Kasradze**, Chairman, Georgia’s Innovation and Technology Agency

“Developing the IT sector, along with the digital transformation of the whole economy are vital for the future development of countries like Georgia. We are a small country with a small economy and small population (just 3.7 million). The only way for us to be a part of the global ecosystem and the global value chain is through the IT sector.”

**Yevgeny Koren**, Country Manager, Microsoft, Belarus

“Currently, we can see three major trends in the post-Soviet countries: IT development, digitalization, and increasing competition between those countries to attract talent and capital. At Microsoft, we are also following these trends. We support startups, promote innovation, and help governments implement digital projects at various levels.”

**Dmytro Sholomko**, Business Development Director, Eastern Europe, Google

“My advice for growing junior IT ecosystems: make sure that in addition to trying to attract Western companies to bring their talent, you are also investing in educating people who want to start a career in IT and creating a local pool of talent that foreign companies can hire.”



Panelists: **Aktilek Tungatarov**, Acting Director, AmCham Kyrgyz Republic | **Arkadiy Dobkin**, President, EPAM Systems | **Avtandil Kasradze**, Chairman, Georgia’s Innovation and Technology Agency | **Yevgeny Koren**, Country Manager, Microsoft, Belarus | **Dmytro Sholomko**, Business Development Director, Eastern Europe, Google | **Jonathan Tower**, General Partner, Catapult VC | **Alexey Zakharov**, Technology Solutions Senior Manager (Russia, CIS, Central Asia), Oracle Corporation

**Alexey Zakharov**, Technology Solutions Senior Manager (Russia, CIS, Central Asia), Oracle Corporation

“We all compete for talent. In this regard, Oracle is looking in three directions: we are increasing our speed to keep up with global changes, we are building partnerships with local companies and customers, and also we are implementing approaches for continuous learning.”

## Development of IT Parks in Central Asia

**Ana Chirita**, Strategic Projects Director, ICT Association of Moldova, Project Director, Tekwill, Moldova

“Simply adopting special legislation is not enough to build an ecosystem. We also need to build synergy between the private sector, government, academia, and foreign donors. This is the only way to achieve tangible results.”

**Akshay Mathur**, Director, ORF Mumbai, India

“During the last decade, the government’s focus has shifted to providing populations with access to new technologies. This shows up in many ways; we may call it “technologies for sustainable development goals”, “data for development”, etc. The focus is now on creating digital public goods.”



Panelists: **Filip Stoyanovich**, Chief of Party, USAID’s Future Growth Initiative for Central Asia | **Pirov Abubakr**, Specialist, Department of New Technologies, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, Tajikistan | **Ana Chirita**, Strategic Projects Director, ICT Association of Moldova, Project Director, Tekwill, Moldova | **Akshay Mathur**, Director, ORF Mumbai, India | **Chubak Temirov**, Acting Director, the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic | **Tanat Uskembayev**, Director of International Relations, Investments and Export Office, Astana Hub

### Chubak Temirov, Acting Director, the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic

“We have to promote Central Asia’s image to the world. We must go further than simply organizing events to promote the Kyrgyz Republic, and also launch a joint effort, starting with promoting the region as a whole and later on seeing where each country excels.”



## IT Industry in the Kyrgyz Republic

**Tattu Mambetalieva**, Director, Civil Initiative on Internet Policy, Kyrgyz Republic

“Conservative legislation in the Kyrgyz Republic is the main obstacle to developing the IT industry in that country. Therefore, we are currently facing acute issues related to digital transformation itself, as well as adapting the laws that regulate IT.”



### Natalia Sitnikov, Economic Officer, the U.S. Embassy, Bishkek

“There is huge market opportunity for the Kyrgyz IT sector. Many Kyrgyz companies are export-oriented, and given the case of the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic, which has a special tax regime, these companies have incredible potential to enter the US market.”

### Dinara Ruslan, Founder and CEO, Codify LMS

“When you concentrate only on one thing, essential pieces fall through the cracks. Let’s build the whole ecosystem in collaboration with the government and our partners.”



Panelists: **Mitsuhiro Maeda**, Professor of Advanced Institute of Industrial Technology, Japan | **Medet Tairov**, Chairman of the Innovations, Information and Digital Technologies Committee, AmCham Kyrgyz Republic | **Tattu Mambetalieva**, Director, Civil Initiative on Internet Policy, Kyrgyz Republic | **Dinara Ruslan**, Founder and CEO, Codify LMS | **Natalia Sitnikov**, Economic Officer, the U.S. Embassy, Bishkek | **Aziz Soltobaev**, Executive Chairman, KG Labs Public Foundation



## New Taxes for the New Economy



Panelists: **Anatoly Motkin**, President, StrategEast | **Oleksandr Bornyakov**, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine | **Kubanychbek Isabekov**, Head of the Tax Policy Department, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic | **Marine Khurtsidze**, Head of Tax and Customs Policy Department, Ministry of Finance of Georgia | **Rakhim Oshakbayev**, Director, TALAP Center for Applied Research

### **Marine Khurtsidze**, Head of Tax and Customs Policy Department, Ministry of Finance of Georgia

“Last year, we introduced a special tax regime for IT companies – 5% taxation as opposed to the previous rate of 20% for the personal income tax and the previous rate of 15% for the corporate income tax. This resulted in 29 companies being registered in Georgia, and EPAM was the largest. This tax regime was assessed by the OECD, and was determined to be in line with OECD criteria.”

### **Kubanychbek Isabekov**, Head of the Tax Policy Department, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic

“Ten years ago, when the High Technology Park was created in the Kyrgyz Republic, IT companies were granted some preferential treatment, namely, they were completely exempted from income tax, sales tax, and VAT. Now, a draft of the new Tax Code has been developed, which would preserve all of these benefits, and, we expect, increase the number of IT Park residents.”

### **Oleksandr Bornyakov**, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

“We at the Ministry have set an ambitious goal of becoming Eastern Europe’s biggest IT hub. To achieve this, we have been working on building a favorable tax environment. Labor represents around 80% of any IT companies, and the traditional taxation system is quite expensive. In most countries, the labor force is taxed at a rate of 40-60%. As a result, we came up with Diia.City, a framework allowing entrepreneurs to start a company with relatively low tax rates – 9% corporate tax, 5% income tax, and around 2% social taxes. We believe such rates will drive the creation of unicorns in Ukraine, and increase IT’s share of our GDP to 10% – about 15-17 billion USD.”

## Smart Fintech Solutions

### **Natia Gvazava**, CLO, Identomat

“I do not think the banks will suddenly die out like the dinosaurs did. Rather, they will be more like mammoths: either they will die out or evolve into elephants. That is, the banks need to move into fintech and embrace it. Otherwise, they will face serious consequences, especially in the face of further decentralization of value-issuance.”

### **Bekzhan Mutanov**, Deputy CEO, AIFC Tech Hub

“The traditional banking system is showing several trends. In the near future, banks can continue to operate as financial institutions. On the other hand, telecom companies will also have a role to play, as they have very wide networks, and it is very easy for them to move into finance thanks to their huge coverage. Thirdly, the fintech era is already upon us, and fintech companies are trying to collaborate with banks. However, I can say that in Kazakhstan, so long as the banks attempt corporate innovation, they will stick around for a long time.”



Panelists: **Max Gurvits**, USAID’s FGI consultant for National VC Fund – UzVC, Managing Partner, Vitoshka Venture Partners | **Oguz Aslan**, Management Consultant, Mastercard Advisors | **Timur Shalekenov**, Head of Fintech, BTS Digital LLP, Kazakhstan | **Natia Gvazava**, CLO, Identomat | **Bekzhan Mutanov**, Deputy CEO, AIFC Tech Hub



## Startups Acceleration: Route to Silicon Valley



**Chris Burry**, Co-CEO, US Market Access Center

“One of the things that the pandemic had shown us is that for startups, it’s not about just coming to the US, it’s not just about coming to Silicon Valley. What matters is the ability to expand beyond your home and regional markets and address the global markets. Obviously, the US is one of the biggest markets in the world, but it’s not necessarily the next logical step for most of the startups located here in Central Asia.”

## New Education for the New Economy

**Viktoria Petrova**, Head of Exploration, UNDP Accelerator Labs

“We talk about technology, we talk about data and digitalization, but ultimately, the people that we work with are at the very heart of what we do. We always try to centralize things, including the educational system, but we may need to reinvent that approach and envision a more flexible and therefore more sustainable educational system, in which everyone can really benefit from different opportunities.”

**Professor Sohail H. Naqvi**, Rector, University of Central Asia

“Nothing is going to work without individuals, and if anything, the new environment is teaching us that people have become more important. This is the talent that companies are after.”

**Oleg Yakimchuk**, Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google Ukraine, Georgia, and Kyrgyz Republic

“Digital knowledge is the foundation of digital transformation, and education brings us the broadest space for future innovations. Technology becomes the language for government, society, and business to understand each other better.”

Panelists: **Chris Burry**, Co-CEO, US Market Access Center | **Edil Ajibaev**, Founder, PicVPic | **Shirin Mukanbetova**, Executive Manager, Kyrgyz Software and Services Developers Association | **Mansur Mamadjanov**, Co-founder and Business Development Manager, Redesign.uz | **Daniil Maykovskiy**, CMCPartner, New Business Director MCT Agency, Business Development Solutions, Turkmenistan | **Andre Tikhomirov**, Managing Partner, Kolos Ventures, Belarus

**Daniil Maykovskiy**, CMCPartner, New Business Director MCT Agency, Business Development Solutions, Turkmenistan

“The startup should first develop locally. If there is no developed infrastructure for startups available, it will be difficult to take the company global. For example, a startup would communicate with partners and investors at the regional level and globally without the ability to refer to local players who were supported earlier. On the other hand, if the founders are not experienced in working with accelerators, business angels, and other stakeholders, it will be more difficult for them to enter markets abroad.”

**Andre Tikhomirov**, Managing Partner, Kolos Ventures, Belarus

“Global connectedness is certainly important, but we shouldn’t lose sight of the fact that the neighboring markets are still there, and they are still big. China, South-East Asia, etc. are also hungry for services, and those products and services can be better catered to their needs by neighbors, because they have a better understanding of the culture.”



Panelists: **Viktoria Petrova**, Head of Exploration, UNDP Accelerator Labs | **Farhod Boboev**, Deputy Director, SUE “Smart City” under Executive State Authority of Dushanbe City | **Professor Sohail H. Naqvi**, Rector, University of Central Asia | **Oleg Yakimchuk**, Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy Google Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyz Republic | **Lilit Yezekyan**, Research Director, the Caucasus Research and Resource Center, Armenia Foundation | **Nurzhamal Yrysbekova**, Project Manager of Techaim and Project Lead, Khan Academy Kyrgyz Project | **Vadim Zelenkov**, Training and Development Director, EPAM Systems

**Research Director**, the Caucasus Research and Resource Center, Armenia Foundation

“Empathy is what sets us apart from robots. It is very important for our children to learn emotional intelligence. We need to be flexible in order to learn and re-learn.”

## Blockchain as a Good Governance Technology

**Silver Kelk**, Business Development Manager, Guardtime Estonia

“Integrating blockchain technology into our digital government system not only advanced technical processes, but also improved overall trust in our system.”

**Mariam Turashvili**, Head of Project Management and Sales Service, National Agency of Public Registry, Georgia

“Blockchain is more than just a distributed ledger or incorruptible database. It is something that brings governments to a higher level of accountability and adds a new dimension of democracy.”

**Vasyl' Zadvornyy**, CEO, Prozorro, Ukraine

“Trust is a key unifying force in society. In this regard, building trust within transparency is one of the major steps governments can take when it comes to implementing information technologies.”



Panelists: **Altynbek Ismailov**, Ex-Chairman, the State Committee of Information Technology and Communications of Kyrgyz Republic (2020-2021) | **Silver Kelk**, Business Development Manager, Guardtime Estonia | **Mariam Turashvili**, Head of Project Management and Sales Service, National Agency of Public Registry, Georgia | **Vasyl' Zadvornyy**, CEO, Prozorro, Ukraine

## Inclusive Development of Eurasian Tech



**Natia Kapanadze**, Gender and Youth Expert, the USAID Economic Security Program

“Inclusiveness in the ICT sector is important for two reasons. First, inclusiveness supports more resilient economies by allowing growth. Secondly, it promotes social wealth and justice by increasing opportunities to make goods and services accessible to low-income and other marginalized groups.”

According to global research, gender inequality causes an estimated 160.2 trillion USD in lost human capital. The European Institute for Gender Equality estimates that attracting women and girls to the ICT sector would lead to economic growth with up to 1.2 million more jobs by 2050.”

**Asel Kubanychbekova**, Regional Coordinator, the WAGE Project in Central Asia – CIPE Europe & Eurasia

“Women and girls often run into barriers when entering the tech field. Most of these barriers stem from the idea that women cannot handle technical work, which of course is nothing more than a prejudice.”



Panelists: **Nikolay Yarmov**, Senior AmCham Advisor USAID's FGI Project | **Kate Bunina**, Managing Director, USMAC and Program Director, Prospera Women | **Elena Chigibaeva**, Co-Founder and Project Manager, Public Foundation Techaim Kyrgyz Republic | **Natia Kapanadze**, Gender and Youth Expert, the USAID Economic Security Program | **Asel Kubanychbekova**, Regional Coordinator, the WAGE Project in Central Asia – CIPE Europe & Eurasia



## How Eurasia Can Reap the Data Dividends: Opportunities for Data-Driven Transformation



Panelists: **Louise Chamberlain**, Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP | **Oleg Petrov**, Senior Digital Development Specialist, World Bank | **Dastan Dogoev**, Minister of Digital Development, the Kyrgyz Republic | **Vivien Foster**, Chief Economist for Infrastructure, World Bank | **Jong-Sung Hwang**, Lead Researcher, National Information Society Agency, Korea | **Olga Tumuruc**, Head, the Electronic Governance Agency, Moldova | **Olexander Bornyakov**, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation, Ukraine | **Askar Zhambakin**, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Kazakhstan | **Tamerlan Taghiyev**, Acting Head, the Center for Analysis and Coordination of the Fourth Industrial Revolution under the Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan

**Louise Chamberlain**, Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP

“Building an inclusive data ecosystem will help us to create a synergy among people, data and technology and generate both value in valuable insights as well as social-economic value.”

**Oleg Petrov**, Senior Digital Development Specialist, World Bank

“Nowadays, data is taking on even more prominence in creating digital development strategies. Data is a game-changer; it is becoming a critical factor in improving lives, improving government services, improving trade, improving everything.”

**Dastan Dogoev**, Minister of Digital Development, the Kyrgyz Republic

“The speed of decision-making in the Kyrgyz Republic directly depends on the speed of the National Statistical Committee. The government makes decisions based on quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports, which often contain obsolete data. In order to improve the quality and efficiency of government decision-making, we are cooperating with the World Bank to implement an open data project.”

**Vivien Foster**, Chief Economist for Infrastructure, World Bank

“Government is no longer the only actor in the data system. The private sector in particular is now perhaps producing much larger volumes of data than any other actor, and this

is creating tremendous business opportunities in the digital economy. At the same time, civil society is increasingly active in the data space, both collecting and using data in order to promote greater accountability of both the public and private sectors.”

**Jong-Sung Hwang**, Lead Researcher, National Information Society Agency, Korea

“There is no doubt that that data is a key resource for digital transformation.”

**Olga Tumuruc**, Head, the Electronic Governance Agency, Moldova

“It is already very clear that we should design a data governance infrastructure that allows us to leverage synergy between public and private intent in order to achieve common goals.”

**Olexander Bornyakov**, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation, Ukraine

“Our general strategy is quite simple: to make everything available online. This is extremely important when you make a digital state. Open data increases transparency and accountability, and in many cases, even eliminates corruption.”

**Askar Zhambakin**, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Kazakhstan

“The example of major companies shows us that in order to be successful in digital transformation, we must learn how to work with data. We believe that the government should go this way, as well.”

**Tamerlan Taghiyev**, Acting Head, the Center for Analysis and Coordination of the Fourth Industrial Revolution under the Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan

“Governments that handle data thoroughly develop more effective long-term plans, and are more efficient in general. That is why it is extremely important to understand the essence of data”





# Participants

**Aziz Abakirov** KSSDA

**Sanzhar Abdygaziev** National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Pirov Abubakr** Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan

**Oman A. Abyshev** TimelySoft LLC

**Sergey Ageenko** EPAM Systems

**Kuban Aidaraliev** Presidential Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Edil Ajibaev** PicVPic

**Azamat Akeleev** Promotank consulting

**Malike Alenova** American Chamber of Commerce in Kyrgyzstan

**Malika Alimbaeva** High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Bakai Asanov**

**Oguz Aslan** Mastercard Advisors

**Elnura Arzybaeva** Khan Academy

**Nurbek Arzymbaev** National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Dildora Atadjanova** DALATECH SYSTEM LLC

**Alexey Axyonov** EPAM Systems

**Damira Azimbaeva** Ministry of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Nora Azygalieva** Namba One

**Yuliya Bakhmach** AFS-Research

**Aigul Bakesarieva** National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Nazira Beishenalieva** American Chamber of Commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic

**Andrew Beklemishev** IDC CIS

**Farhod Boboev** SUE "Smart City" under Executive State Authority of Dushanbe City

**Polina Boichuk** TRUMAN

**Oleksandr Bornyakov** Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

**Nurzat Bugubaeva** National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Kate Bunina** USMAC; Prospera Women

**Kadyrbek Burabayev** Agrosmart

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## StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum

The StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum is held annually in different countries of the Eurasian region.

The Annual StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum is a unique platform that brings together global and local representatives of the private sector, governments, and financial institutions. The Forum provides a unique opportunity to discuss what needs to be done in order to enhance the innovative economy across the region and assist the Eurasian countries with integration into the global economic and security system.


- **Over 70 high-level speakers**
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## About StrategEast

StrategEast Center for a New Economy has the mission to reinforce the values of the rule of law and private property protection in Eurasian countries through the transition from natural-resource-based to knowledge-driven economies.

Our work is focused on the 14 countries that proclaimed or restored their independence following the collapse of the USSR: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

StrategEast is a registered 501(c)3 organization based in the United States with regional offices in Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.



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