

February 26th, 2024

KAZAKHSTAN CANADA BUSINESS COUNCIL **ҚАЗАҚСТАН КАНАДА ІСКЕРЛІК КЕҢЕСІ**

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP
VIRTUAL

CO-CHAIRS: ORGANIZERS:

REGISTRATION | KCBC Plenary Session Registration code required | RSVP to toronto@canadaeurasia.com for accreditation

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Gilles Breton, Chair of the CECC National Board of Directors



Gilles Breton is Chairman of the National Board of the Canada- Eurasia-Russia Business Association (CERBA). He retired from government work in 2012 after a 36-year career with the Department now called Global Affairs Canada. During his career in the Canadian Foreign Service, Gilles Breton had three assignments at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. His first posting there began during the Soviet period, in 1983. His last was from 2008 to 2012 as Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission. He also served as Deputy Director responsible for Canada’s relations with Russia from 2000 to 2008. As an international civil servant, he was Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw from 1994 to 1997.

Margaret Skok, Senior Fellow, Carleton University (The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs), Ambassador (retired) - Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic & Republic of Tajikistan



Margaret Skok is a Senior Fellow at Carleton University/NPSIA (Norman Paterson School of International Affairs). Over her 40 years with the Government of Canada in several resources sector departments, her focus has been on trade policy, employment development, security and international business. In addition to M. Skok’s work in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto – she has served with the Embassy of Canada in Moscow where she managed Canada’s agriculture trade relations and debt servicing. Margaret also served as Canada’s Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, with concurrent accreditation to the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan.

Since retirement from Canada’s public service, Margaret has worked with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, participated as an accredited Canadian observer with OSCE/ODIHR to elections in Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. She has worked as a consultant to Agriculture and Agri-Food

Canada, the Canadian Border Services Agency, HH Aga Khan's Aga Khan's University of Central Asia, Carleton University, and Global Affairs Canada.

Margaret Skok is a member of the Ottawa chapter of the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT), and the Canada Eurasia Chamber of Commerce (CECC). She is a recipient of a Deputy Minister's Award for exceptional and distinguished contribution to the Canadian public service, and a Senate Award for Women in International Business.

Janay Sagin, Professor, Geomatics Engineering, School of Information Technology and Engineering (SITE), Kazakh-British Technical University (KBTU)



Janay Sagin, Kazakh-British Technical University (KBTU), Professor, Geomatics Engineering, School of Information Technology and Engineering; Ph.D. in Geosciences from W. Michigan University. Dr. Sagin works on setting up the sustainable practical School-College-Industry-University (SCIU) interconnected Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs within the APEC college,- KBTU. The current effort is to expand cooperation with Canada in natural "white" hydrogen exploration TVET and use programs, this new world "gold rush" activities will be reasonable to adapt for Kazakhstan.. The connected effort is to set up cooperation with Canadian colleges in TVET hydrogen technician preparation programs for Kazakhstan.

Aibolat Abitbekov, Director for International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Aibolat Abitbekov, Director of the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Kazakhstan, oversees the Bolashak scholarship program and the establishment of foreign university branches. With extensive experience in diplomacy and education, he previously served as Deputy Director of International Cooperation and Chief Consultant at the Senate of Kazakhstan. Abitbekov's expertise spans inter-parliamentary relations and strategic analysis. A graduate of Cornell University with a Master's in Public Administration, he has received numerous honors for his contributions, reflecting his dedication to advancing education and fostering international collaboration.

Zhetessova Gulnara, Director for Strategic Development, Abylkas Saginov Karaganda Technical University (Kazakhstan)



Zhetessova Gulnara is the Director for Strategic Development at Abylkas Saginov Karaganda Technical University in Kazakhstan. She also holds the position of Professor in the department of "Technological Equipment, Engineering, and Standardization", specializing in "Mining Machines" (05.05.06). With a distinguished academic background, Zhetessova is a two-time Doctor of Technical Sciences, specializing in "Standardization and Quality Management" (05.02.23). Her contributions to academia and research have earned her recognition, including the prestigious Al-Farabi State Prize in Science and Technology.

Aliya Ospanova, Chair of the Board of Center for International Programs "Bolashak"



Aliya Ospanova is the head of the Centre for International Programs which administers the Bolashak program. She is a graduate of the Kazakh-British Technical University, Imperial College Business School and Quantic School of Business. As Chairwoman of JSC "Center for Support of Civil Initiatives," Apr-Aug 2023, Astana, Gulnara spearheaded the implementation of nearly 500 state grants, totaling 10 billion tenge. Focused on fostering civic initiatives, the center supports strategic projects lasting 1-3 years. Previously, she served as Advisor to the Minister of Information and Social Development, Sep 2022-Apr 2023, Nur-Sultan.

Richard Paisley (M,Sc, LLM) Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC



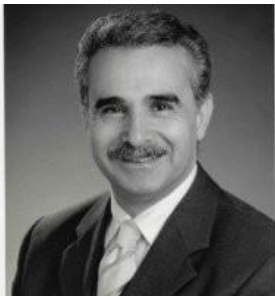
RICHARD KYLE PAISLEY is a senior advisor for transboundary shared international waters governance and related issues. He is currently the Executive Director of the Global Transboundary Shared International Waters Governance Research Initiative, and an Honorary Research Associate, at the Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Richard's academic background includes degrees from the University of British Columbia (B.Sc.), University of Washington Institute for Marine Studies (M.Sc.); Pepperdine University School of Law (Juris Doctor) and London School of Economics & Political Science (LL.M.). He has worked widely throughout Africa, Asia and the Americas and published extensively in the scholarly academic literature all while integrating science, international law and mediation through such positions as special counsel to a wide range of governments, NGO's, indigenous groups and international organizations including continuing roles with the Mediation Support Unit at the United Nations Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs and UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Richard is an avid downhill / XC / backcountry skier, cyclist, backpacker and aspiring surfer.

Professor Chandra Madramootoo Department of Bioresource Engineering, McGill University, MacDonald Campus, Montreal, Quebec



Dr. Chandra Madramootoo is a Distinguished James McGill Professor in the Department of Bioresource Engineering at McGill University, and Director of the McGill Water Innovation Lab. He has worked extensively in regions such as Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia Latin America and the Caribbean on the management of water resources, water and food security, climate change, and drought mitigation. He has developed new technologies to conserve limited freshwater supplies and increase crop water productivity. Innovative technologies to predict crop water requirements in water stressed regions are being studied. The impacts of various water management practices on greenhouse gas emissions are also being investigated.

Dr. Karim Qayumi, President, Cyberpatient; Professor of Surgery at the University of British Columbia (UBC)



KARIM QAYUMI, MD, PhD, FRCSC, is a Professor of Surgery at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Founder of the UBC Centre of Excellence for Simulation Education and Innovation (CESEI). His extensive teaching career has earned him 11 awards in medicine, and he is consistently invited to speak at global conferences. Karim has authored over 115 peer-reviewed papers (and counting), and his published book, "Basic Surgical Techniques" has been translated into multiple languages. He is also a Chair of the Technology Enabled Learning for Vancouver Coastal Health and former Regional Director of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

As the CEO and Founder of CyberPatient, Karim is dedicated to technology-related research and innovation to advance healthcare education globally. With his registered Canadian non-profit charity, CanHealth International, he aims to equalize health education between developed and developing countries.

Angela Wojcichowsky, Director of International Partnerships and Projects, Saskatchewan Polytechnic



Ms. Wojcichowsky is the Director of International Partnerships and Projects at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. In this role, Ms. Wojcichowsky is responsible for overseeing international projects and partnership activities at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. She has primary responsibility for marketing consulting services to global clients, enhancing relationships with international organizations, obtaining and managing international contracts and overseeing international mobility. Ms. Wojcichowsky is instrumental in leading and administering relationships with international institutional and corporate clients to help ensure that Saskatchewan Polytechnic identifies and addresses their needs. Ms. Wojcichowsky assists in developing the vision, strategic leadership and coordination of programs designed to promote the internationalization of Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Ms. Wojcichowsky has extensive international experience as a project director and manager in trade/export, agriculture, and post-secondary education, working in China, Vietnam, Jordan, Ukraine, Jordan, Philippines, Colombia, Mongolia, Switzerland, Ghana, Zambia, Kazakhstan, and Kenya.

Tatiana Domilovskaya, Regional Director, CERBA-Vancouver Chapter



Raised in Ekaterinburg (Russia) Tatiana has been working since 1995 in international relations, developing industrial cooperation between Europe, Americas and CIS countries first as the Director of the EU aided Management consultancy project within Technical Assistance CIS Program, later as a Deputy Director of the East Russia Representatives Office of Dresdner Bank AG. From 2000 to 2004 Tatiana served as a Senior Adviser on Trade and Investment at the Commercial Section of the British Consulate General. Tatiana moved to Vancouver in 2004 and after 3 years of design work in a privately owned company she returned to her international business development activity in 2009 as the Regional Director of CERBA. Tatiana graduated from the Urals State Technical University (Ekaterinburg, Russia), she earned an MSc Degree in Metallurgical Engineering and had her scientific career at the Institute of Machine Engineering at the Urals Branch of the Russian Academy of Science and at the Metallurgical Faculty of the Urals State Federal University.