

The bios of speakers





Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda is Chairman of the State committee on investments and state property management of the Republic of Tajikistan. His career advanced rapidly after his appointment as a Chair of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) in 2005-2008. Since that time, Mr. Rahimzoda held positions in the Executive office of the President and the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources. Since March 2020, he is the Head of the EC IFAS.

Sulton Rahimzoda is one of the most progressive young counterparts of the World Bank. He is part of all the national and regional level discussions on transboundary waters and was engaged in Roghun Riparian Consultations and negotiations on CASA-1000 from the Government's side. He was a member of the International Steering Committee of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in 2007 in Beppu, Japan and Co-Chaired of the International Steering Committees of the High-Level International Conference on Water Cooperation, held on 20-21 August 2013 in Dushanbe and the High-Level International Conference on Implementation of the International Decade for Action „Water for Life“, 2005-2015 held on 9-11 June. Mr. Rahimzoda is also a champion of the Water Sector Reform in the country and is well respected for his commitment to reforms and ability to establish partnerships.



Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha is the Global Director for the World Bank Group's Water Global Practice (GP). In his current assignment, Mr. Jha leads the Global Practice senior management team, which drives the policy direction of the Practice, oversees a portfolio of \$27 billion in water-related investments, analytical work, multi-donor trust funds and global partnerships. Mr. Jha believes that solving the water crisis is central to the future of humanity on a livable planet, and this needs global, collective action to establish water security as a key pillar in national climate and development plans. Under Mr. Jha's leadership, Water Practice is accelerating global and county level water action agenda for green, resilient, and inclusive growth, creating good jobs, and to tackle the water-climate-conflict nexus in shared river basins around the world.

Before this appointment, Mr. Jha was World Bank's Regional Director of the Middle East Department based in Beirut(Lebanon), Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Global Practice at the World Bank Group, the World Bank's Regional Director for Central Asia based in Almaty. In addition, Mr. Jha served as the Bank's Global Manager for the Disaster Risk Management Practice and as Head of the

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| | <p>Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), which he founded in 2006.</p> <p>Mr. Jha, an Indian national, joined the World Bank in 2005 as a Senior Infrastructure Specialist in the Sustainable Development Network, after working for the Government of India (1990-2005) in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), and United Nations agencies (1999-2004) as a senior executive in the field of public sector management, infrastructure financing, natural resources management, natural disaster prevention, and environmental sustainability.</p> |
|  | <p>Mr. Sameh Wahba, Regional Director, Sustainable Development, Europe and Central Asia, The World Bank</p> <p>Sameh Wahba is the Regional Director for Sustainable Development at the World Bank’s Europe and Central Asia region. In this capacity, he oversees all World Bank lending, technical assistance, partnerships, and policy advisory work in sustainable development the region, including agriculture and food, climate change, environment, natural resources and the blue economy, social inclusion and sustainability, water, urban, disaster risk management, resilience, and land. He oversees a portfolio of \$10bn in lending commitments and a team of 200 professionals based in DC and 23 regional offices. Previously, he worked as Global Director for Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice. He holds a Ph.D. in urban planning from Harvard University and has 25 years’ experience in urban development, land, housing, disaster risk management, infrastructure, and sustainable development. His publications on cities, housing, land, infrastructure, and finance include books, chapters in edited volumes and articles in peer-reviewed journals. He is a member of the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Cities Council and is part of the advisory boards for Resilient Cities Network, the WRI Ross Center for Cities, Cities Alliance, and the Penn Institute for Urban Research</p> |
|  | <p>Mr. Mark Muller. Mark is Vice-President of the AquaFed (the global federation of private water operators) and is Development Manager for Aqualia. Mark specializes in helping to develop the water sector through PPPs in countries that have transitioned from centralized economies (Balkan region, Eastern Europe, Northern Africa).</p> |

Moderators:



Mr. Neil Dhot

Neil is Executive Director at AquaFed (the global federation of private water operators). His focus is on promoting PPPs and promoting the technical expertise of AquaFed's members.



Mr. Ozan Sevimli, Country Manager for Tajikistan, World Bank

Ozan 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.

Presenters:



Mr. Charlie Morris is currently FCDO's new Economic Development Counsellor for Central Asia. He is based in Bishkek, but working across Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Mr. Morris has a broad experience in international trade, including as a head of the Trade Continuity for Europe and Central Region in the UK Government Department for International Trade, Head of Southern Africa Trade Agreements and Head of Trade Policy for Southern Africa Region in the FCDO. Mr. Morris is a graduate of Cornell University. He holds a Master's Degree in Labor Economics.



Mr. Winston Yu is Water Practice Manager for the Europe and Central Region at the World Bank. He joined the Bank in 2005 and has carried out projects and studies in the South and East Asia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa regions. His special interests include river basin management, hydrologic modeling, flood forecasting and management, transboundary issues, irrigation modernization, water institutions, and adaptation to climate change. Prior to joining the Bank, he was a Senior Researcher at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) working on water and climate change modeling studies and also served as a Science Officer at the U.S. Department of State where he worked on water issues in the Middle East. He is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University where he teaches courses on international water issues. He holds a Ph.D. in environmental science and engineering from Harvard University.



Ms. Rochi Khemka. Rochi currently drives global partnerships and programs for the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG), World Bank, supporting coalition building and alliances with key stakeholders for sustainability leadership. In the past, she has led the development of public-private engagement models and innovative financing mechanisms, resulting in many first-of-its-kind programs and projects. Prior to the World Bank, she worked with International Finance Corporation (IFC), championing strategies and investments for private sector stewardship with leading corporates, and with McKinsey and Company, advising capital markets and investment banking clients. Rochi holds a Master's in Financial Economics (with distinction) from University of Oxford.

Prominent Panelists:







Mr. Daler Jum'á is the Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Under Minister Jum'á's leadership, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan has been advancing cutting-edge clean energy technologies, further expanding the country's clean energy resources and exports, and working toward the vision of the President of Tajikistan to build an equitable clean energy future for Tajikistan and the region of Central Asia. Minister Jum'á is leading the ongoing financial restructuring in order to recover the energy sector of Tajikistan, introducing Project Management Contract in the national electricity utility.

As the Director General of Pamir Energy Company for 13 years, Minister Jum'á led the growth of the company to become a sustainable and successful PPP model enterprise, providing clean, reliable and affordable electricity to more than 98% of the population of VMKB (GBAO) province of Tajikistan and to over 50,000 people in northeastern Afghanistan.

Minister Jum'á has received his executive education from Harvard Business School and Professional Development Studies degree from the Kenan-Flagler Business School of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also holds a diploma in Engineering from the Tajik

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| | <p>Technical University in Dushanbe and a diploma in Economics from Khorog State University, Tajikistan.</p> |
|  | <p>Mr. Bakhtiyor Faiziev, Associate Director, Senior Banker, Sustainable Infrastructure Group, EBRD.</p> <p>As the Lead Banker, Bakhtiyor coordinates the team's efforts in the development of Municipal & Environmental Infrastructure and Transport sectors investments in the region of Central Asia with the major focus on Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. One of the key responsibilities is the development of active partnership with IFIs, Bilateral Donors and governmental and regional authorities on the sector development, investment climate and policy dialogue matters, enabling progressive advancement of various financing instruments of the EBRD – starting from sovereign guarantees and public sector investments to more sophisticated private and project finance mechanisms.</p> <p>Bakhtiyor started his career in 1996 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan working for international humanitarian organizations and in 2001 joined the Swiss Cooperation Office as National Programme Office for Infrastructure covering water and energy projects across Central Asia. He joined the EBRD Resident Office in Dushanbe in 2006 and moved to Almaty in 2010.</p> |
|  | <p>Mr. Pierre Casabonnet based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is currently a Senior Operations Officer at IFC - International Finance Corporation, bringing experience from previous roles at Veolia and Veolia Environnement. Pierre Casabonnet holds a 1999 - 2003 MEng @ CPE Lyon School of Chemistry and Electronics, Lyon, France. Experienced Business Development and Executive Manager with 20 years of experience in the Circular Economy, Environmental Services & Utilities industry both in Public and Private sectors. Highly skilled in business development, profitability growth management and operational excellence. Extensive experience in innovation management and technical development. With a robust skill set that includes Energy, Waste, Renewable Energy, Biomass, Sustainable</p> |

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| | <p>Development and more, Pierre Casabonnet contributes valuable insights to the industry.</p> |
|  | <p>Mr. Dominique Gatel as the new co-leader of the Vision Leadership Team ‘The Value of Water’. Dominique Gatel is Director for institutional relationships/water at Veolia Headquarters.</p> <p>He was for 10 years deputy technical director, and previously for 11 years head of the R&D Department for water supply. Prior to this, he has worked in the food industry (Unilever, Danone). He graduated from the National School of Agronomy in France, with a MD in food science.</p> |
|  | <p>Alain Carbone is currently Chief Operating Officer of the region Caucasus and Central Asia in SUEZ, based in Tashkent since 2021.</p> <p>Alain holds a master’s in urban services from the Engineering School: Ecole Centrale de Paris (France).</p> <p>Alain began his career with the French SUEZ group in 1986. He has more than 38 years of experience in management of environmental services worldwide. He has managed water, wastewater and environmental projects all over the world: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, France, South Caucasus, South Pacific and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>From 2010 to 2014, he was General Manager of water companies belonging to SUEZ in New Caledonia.</p> <p>From 2014 to 2020, he was appointed as Country Manager for Azerbaijan, based in Baku.</p> <p>In 2020, Alain has been appointed Chief Operating Officer Director for SUEZ for South Caucasus and Central Asia, based in Tashkent.</p> <p>Since 2015, Alain has been Counsellor for Foreign French Trade.</p> <p>In total, he has been working in the region Central Asia and Caucasus for nearly 10 years and has an excellent knowledge of the environmental services (water, sanitation, and waste) and of possible solutions that the private sector can bring to improve these services.</p> |



Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi is a chartered civil engineer (UK) and has a postgraduate Degree in Irrigation Engineering (UK). She has over 25 years of experience in natural resources management, including climate and disaster risk resilience, integrated water resources management, knowledge solutions and leading teams at Asian Development Bank (ADB). She is currently the operational director for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources in the Central and West and South Asia Department of ADB. She aspires for a climate resilient future in which women and other marginalized groups take a leading role.



Dr. Zacharias Ziegelhöfer is a Senior Investment Specialist – Water & Urban at AIIB. Zacharias has shaped AIIB's engagement in Uzbekistan by leading project teams in the preparation and supervision of water and urban sector projects, including some of AIIB's first operations in the country. Zacharias has been working as a development professional for more than 15 years. Prior to joining AIIB, he worked at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, the United Nations Subregional Office for West Africa, and the KfW Development Bank. He holds a PhD in Development Economics from the Graduate Institute, Geneva, and degrees in International Economics, Political Science and Public Administration from the Graduate Institute, Geneva, and the University of Konstanz.