

**22<sup>nd</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE  
ONLINE|7-9 OCTOBER  
BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS**

**OPENING SESSION**

**Jürgen Heissel**



Director, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Jürgen Heissel has two decades of experience in the Austrian Foreign Service, covering human rights and security policy issues. He has been working in multilateral settings with organizations including the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. His posting prior to RFoM was with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, where in 2017 he was the co-ordinator of the Human Dimension during the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship. Heissel holds a degree in Law from the University of Salzburg and is a graduate of the Vienna School of International Studies (Diplomatische Akademie) and the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation.

**Inid Milo**



Head, OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

Inid Milo is a career diplomat from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, currently Head of the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship 2020 Task Force since April 2019. After finishing her Master degree (Mag.phil) at the University of Vienna in October 2002, Ms.Inid Milo joined first the administration of the Council of Ministers of Albania, the Department on Information Policy and Politics for about 14 months until February 2004. Since Milo joined the diplomatic service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania in May 2004 she has been serving in several positions, including Second Secretary to the Albanian Embassy in Berlin, First Secretary at the Albanian Permanent Mission in UN, First Secretary at the Albanian Permanent Delegation to NATO.

**Elena Cherniavska**



Senior Adviser, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Elena Cherniavska joined the Office in 2015, previously co-founded and chaired the Institute for Democracy, Media and Cultural Exchange (Germany), and served as head of department at the European Institute for the Media (Germany).

## **Naranjargal Khashkhuu**



President, Globe International Center NGO, Mongolia

Naranjargal Khashkhuu is a former broadcast journalist and Honorary Professor at the University of Arts and Culture of Mongolia. Since 1995, she has been working to promote and sustain democracy and human rights, particularly freedom of expression and support for independent media in Mongolia. She is a former Executive Committee member of the International Federation of Journalists and Vice-Chair of the UNESCO IPDC Bureau. She has been working as a trainer and consultant for local and international projects with IFJ, the WB, ADB and MCC, implementing surveys and research on the media situation in the Central Asia, author of dozens of articles and handbooks on free expression. She has been teaching Television Journalism at the Mongolian National University, University of Humanities and a Journalism Diploma Course at the Mongolian Press Institute. She is also the author of the textbook "Television journalism: Key concepts and tips".

## **SESSION I**

### **Lorena Jaume-Palasi**

Founder and Executive Director, Ethical Tech Society NGO, Germany



Lorena Jaume-Palasi is the founder of The Ethical Tech Society, a fact- and theory based non-profit initiative focused on automation and digitization processes with regards to their social relevance. Lorena's work centres on ethics and legal philosophy. In 2017, she was appointed by the Spanish government to the High-Level Expert Council on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data, and re-appointed in 2020. She is a former member of the EU High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence. In 2018, she was awarded the Theodor Heuss Medal "for her contribution to a differentiated view of algorithms and their mechanisms of action" with the Algorithm Watch initiative. Lorena is on the Advisory Board of the Goethe Institute as well as of the German Cyber-Valley initiative and is the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Open University of Catalonia.

### **Marat Torobekov**

Lawyer, Civil Initiative on Internet Policy NGO, Kyrgyzstan



Marat Torobekov is an independent security consultant. He has extensive experience in law enforcement, law, politics and public administration. From 2015 to 2018, he worked in the Secretariat of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, where he was engaged in legal and political issues in the field of law enforcement, countering violent extremism, illegal migration, information and telecommunication technologies, including E-government, information and cybersecurity, privacy, internet regulation and

telecommunication, internet freedom, digital rights and anti-corruption.



### **Hannah Storm**

Director and CEO, Ethical Journalism Network NGO, United Kingdom

Hannah Storm is a media consultant specializing in mental health, safety, gender-based violence and gender-sensitive reporting, and was the former director of the International News Safety Institute (INSI). She has been a journalist for more than two decades and has worked in dozens of countries, across print, broadcast and online.

## **SESSION II**



### **Inga Sikorskaia**

Director, School of Peacemaking and Media Technology in Central Asia NGO, Kyrgyzstan

Inga Sikorskaia is a professional journalist, media expert and trainer. Her areas of expertise include freedom of expression, countering hate speech, encouraging diversity and conflict-sensitive journalism. Having established the School of Peacemaking & Media Technology in 2010, she found herself in the centre of ethnic violence in southern Kyrgyzstan and made numerous media reports and photos from the conflict zone. She has initiated regular media monitoring of hate speech adopting a research methodology, which was new for Central Asia. Sikorskaia has developed several handbooks/training courses for Central Asian journalists on how to cover ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity in time of peace and conflict. Sikorskaia is the author of more than 150 analytical reports for the British Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), where she spent seven years as a senior editor for Uzbekistan. She has worked in Kyrgyz TV and radio.

## **Marc Fumagalli**

Senior Adviser, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities



Marc Fumagalli (Italy and Luxembourg) has worked as a Senior Adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities since January 2016. He holds an MPhil in European Politics and Society. He worked for several years in Central Asia, initially as the Political Officer for the EU Delegations to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. He also served as Political Analyst for the Office for Democratic institutions and Human Rights election observation mission to the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan in October 2010. He then headed International Alert's field office in Tajikistan, co-ordinating programmes promoting dialogue, civic education and tolerance. He was then posted to southeast Ukraine as an OSCE SMM Monitoring Officer.

## **Nouneh Sarkissian**

Managing Director, Media Initiatives Center NGO, Armenia



Working in media development, Nouneh Sarkissian has over 25 years of experience as a broadcast journalist, producer and scriptwriter. In her current job, Sarkissian has designed and implemented numerous media development and communication projects, which include various journalism training programmes; TV, radio, documentary and multimedia production; media literacy initiatives; media in conflict transformation; and awareness raising on different political and social problems and media research projects. Sarkissian graduated from the Yerevan State University, Department of Philology, has a certificate of "Effective manager" from UK Open University, and studied conflict prevention and transformation in PRDU, University of York, UK, as a Chevening Fellow.

## **Nadira Masiumova**

Co-ordinator, Coalition for Equality NGO, Kyrgyzstan



Nadira Masiumova is an LGBT+ activist and feminist working in advocacy and media areas. She co-ordinates the Coalition for Equality, which aims to bring civil society together to promote equality and non-discrimination. In 2019, Masiumova was a member of the analytical group and the editorial board of "Discrimination and Intolerance in the Public Discourse of Kyrgyzstan" study, which aimed to identify those groups that are most vulnerable to hate speech. The study included monitoring media coverage on ethnic groups.

## SESSION III

### **Tamara Kaleyeva**



President, Adil Soz International Foundation for Protection of Freedom of Speech, Kazakhstan

Tamara Kaleyeva is from South Kazakhstan. In 1973, she graduated from the faculty of journalism of the Kazakh State University with honours. She worked as a journalist of the young edition of Kazakh radio, in newspapers “Argumenty i Fakty” and “Kazakhstanskaya Pravda”. She was twice charged with abasement of human honour and dignity and won the cases. In 1999, she established and has since led the Adil Soz” International Foundation for Protection of Freedom of Speech, which is a non-governmental organization protecting the rights for freedom of expression and the free flow of information. The “Adil Soz” foundation actively participates in reforming Kazakhstan’s media legislation and in international and national campaigns on protection of journalists.

### **Kemelbek Oishibaev**



Deputy Minister of Information and Social Development, Kazakhstan

Kemelbek Oishibaev was appointed as a Deputy Minister of Information and Social Development in June 2020. Oishibaev has an extensive experience in media and communications industry. Having started his career in 2000 as a journalist with the news agency Interfax-Kazakhstan, he served as a Chairman of the Board of “Teleradio Corporation “Kazakhstan (2016 – 2017), and CEO of the State company “Central Communications Service” (2016). Kemelbek Oishibaev has journalism and law degrees from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and State KazGUU University respectively and holds an MBA from the Geneva Business School

### **Azat Seyitmuhammedov**



Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Arzuw NEWS agency, Turkmenistan

Azat Seyitmuhammedov is the founder of Arzuw NEWS, a private independent media agency focusing on politics, economy, business and civil society in Turkmenistan. Recently, Seyitmuhammedov has begun doing full-length interviews – video recordings of his interviews with some foreign diplomats in Turkmenistan are published on the Arzuw NEWS YouTube channel. In addition to the media sphere, Seyitmuhammedov is the founder and owner of one of the largest online B2C marketplaces in Turkmenistan – Wabrum.com. He is also active in the field of e-commerce business.

## **Gunjidmaa Gongor**

CEO, Media Council, Mongolia



Gunjidmaa Gongor was appointed as the first Executive Director of MCM in the beginning of 2018. Before joining the MCM, between 2001-2018, she was the Acting director and the Head of the Research and Information Department of Press Institute of Mongolia. She is an experienced expert in the Mongolian media development and independence, media self-regulation, journalism ethics and has successfully implemented over 150 media and journalism training courses, media research projects during the past 20 years. Between 2014-2015, she led an initiative to establish the first ever media self-regulatory body (MCM) in Mongolia. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and graduated with a Master's of Business Administration (MBA). She is also one of the PhD candidates in Social Science at the National University of Mongolia.

## **Shahlo Akobirova**

Executive Director of Media, Khoma NGO, Tajikistan



In 2017-2019, Shahlo Akobirova was the Chairperson of the Tajik Media Council. In 1998-2005, she was a training co-ordinator with the international organization "Internews Network" and the Producer of the Central Asian TV project "Open Asia" in Tajikistan. In 1996-1998, she was the Director of the information-analytics TV program "Tojikiston". In 1992, she was the Senior editor of the News Department of the Tajik state television. Akobirova is a graduate of the Tajik National State University, Journalism Faculty. In 2000, she studied at the school of journalism by Vladimir Pozner in Moscow. Akobirova is a media trainer and media expert on TV journalism. In 2013, she conducted the first Television Market Study survey in Tajikistan. She is an author and anchor of the "Tavozun", a TV show which focuses on economic issues. Akobirova is the winner of the competition in a nomination "The best journalistic investigation" (2006) and winner of the state award for contribution to the media development in Tajikistan (2012).

## **Rakhmonali Sheraliev**

Head, Department of Publishing, Polygraphy and Printing, Ministry of Culture, Tajikistan



Prior to joining the civil service, Rakhmonali Sheraliev spent many years working in journalism. From 1997 to 2000, he worked as an editor and then as an Editor-in-Chief at the "Poytakht" TV. From 2000 to 2001, he worked as a correspondent for the radio "Sadoi Dushanbe". From 2001 to 2006, he worked as Editor-in-Chief for the editorial board of cultural and spiritual programs and for the editorial board of information programmes of Tajik Television. From 2006 to 2012, he led the creative association at Studio MK LLC. From 2012 to 2019, he worked as the chief editor of the "Tojiksodirotbank" newspaper. From 2019 to 2020, he worked as deputy director of the "Adib" publishing house.



### **Sergey Naumov**

Journalist, Uzbekistan

Works in the media sector since 1982. In independent journalism since 2004 - freelancer for information media Ferghana.ru (Россия) and IWPR (UK). Since 2005 - cooperation with international human rights organizations, volunteer at the School of Peacemaking and Media Technologies of Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan). Author of presentations on the freedom of speech in Uzbekistan on regional media platforms (2010-2016) and report to the UN (UN Human Rights Council session, UPR mechanism, December 2008). Since 2019 conducts monitoring of the attacks against journalists and bloggers/media activists in Uzbekistan together with the "Justice for journalists" Foundation (UK).

### **Komil Allamjonov**



Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Public Fund for Support and Development of National Mass Media, Uzbekistan

Komil Allamjonov, born in 1984, is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Public Fund for Support and Development of the National Mass Media, Uzbekistan, since January 2020. Prior to assuming his current position Mr. Allamjonov worked as a Head of the Agency of Information and Mass Communications under the Presidential Administration; and Press Secretary to the President of Uzbekistan. He has also served as the Press Secretary of the State Tax Committee of Uzbekistan. He graduated from the Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture in 2006 and graduated from the Tashkent State University of Economics in 2010.



### **Dilya Yusupova**

Journalist, Kyrgyzstan

Dilya Yusupova has been in journalism for 14 years. Since 2013, she has been working in Kaktus.media, one of the leading online media of Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to that, she worked in television journalism for six years. In 2006, she graduated from the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University in Linguistics and Intercultural Communication.