

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



BAKU 16TH ANNUAL SUMMER ENERGY SCHOOL

JULY 16-30, 2022

#BSES2022

*Biographies of speakers are listed in the order of appearance



Amb. Hafiz Pashayev
Rector, ADA University

Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the founding Rector of ADA University. He was the first and longest serving Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States (1992-2006), also being accredited in the United Mexican States and Canada. Upon completion of his diplomatic tenure Mr. Pashayev returned to Baku to establish the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, which has grown under his leadership from the training center for diplomats into a full-fledged university with four schools, offering graduate and undergraduate degree programs. A scholar himself, Hafiz Pashayev received his bachelor's degree in physics from the Azerbaijan State University in 1963 and joined the Physics Institute of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences,

advancing from the position of the researcher to the head of the Metal Physics laboratory over the years. He got his PhD in Solid-State Physics in 1971 and full Doctorate in 1984. In 1975-1976, he became a visiting researcher scholar at the University of California, Irvine. Professor Pashayev has authored more than hundred scientific articles and two monographs in the field of Physics. He published two books- "Racing Up the Hill" (2006) and "Manifesto of an Ambassador" (2007) based on his memoirs of diplomatic service in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Fariz Ismailzade
Vice Rector for Government, External and Student Affairs, ADA University
Director of the Institute for Development and Diplomacy

Fariz Ismailzade is Vice Rector for Government, External and Student Affairs at ADA University, Director of the Institute for Development and Diplomacy, Board member of State Examination Center (since 2016) and visiting research fellow at Princeton University (2021). Mr. Ismailzade has Doctoral Degree at the Maastricht School of Management. He holds an Executive MBA from IE Business School (Spain), and a master's degree in Social and Economic Development from Washington University in St. Louis, and a BA in Political Science from Western University in Baku with one-year interim studies at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Mr.

Ismailzade has done research at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C and Embassy of Azerbaijan in the US. His research interests include political affairs in the Caucasus and Central Asia, energy security, and development. He has presented papers at the symposiums at Heritage Foundation, MGIMO, Columbia University, Stanford University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, UCLA, Vienna Diplomatic Academy as well as at international conferences such as Association for Study of Nationalities (ASN), Wilton Park Conferences, Middle East Studies Association (MESA), German Marshall Fund and NATO Advanced Research Workshop.



Ms. Aygun Hajiyeva

Advisor to Vice Rector for Government, External and Student Affairs, ADA University

Deputy Director of the Institute for Development and Diplomacy

Mrs. Aygun Hajiyeva is currently Advisor to Vice Rector for Government, External and Student Affairs at ADA University and Deputy Director of the Institute for Development and Diplomacy. She is a Trainer with 22 years' experience in education and professional development of civil servants and business managers in Azerbaijan. She has been responsible for designing of Executive Education Programs for professionals in government (since 2007) and mid and senior level managers in corporate sector (since 2012) at ADA University. Her training and teaching experience cover Advanced Leadership Skills, Running Effective Meetings, Communication and Presentation Skills,

Networking Skills, Public Diplomacy and History of Diplomacy. Prior to joining ADA, she spent 10 years in teaching International Relations at the Western University (WU) and Azerbaijan University of Languages (AUL). In 1999-2004 Ms. Hajiyeva was Dean of Master Programs and a Deputy Chair of Faculty of Political Science and International Relations at the Western University, Baku. Ms. Hajiyeva holds a master's degree in History of International Relations from Baku State University. She received Certificate on "Management Development Program" by Harvard Institutes for Higher Education (Graduate School of Education) in 2014. She received a numerous training certificate programs in the field of management and leadership development, diplomatic studies, public and university administration from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston; Qatar Debate Academy; Clingendael Institute, Netherlands; College of Europe, Belgium in 2008-2016.



Mr. Kenan Najafov

Vice President, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)

Kenan Najafov was born in 1975. He graduated from Baku State University with a bachelor's degree in international law and international relations in 1997, international business law at the American University Washington College of Law in 1999, business administration at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 2003. He began his career in 1996 as an operations specialist at the World Bank Office in Azerbaijan, and in 1999 worked in the Washington and Baku offices of the Baker Botts global law firm. He worked in bp PLC's London and Aberdeen offices for commercial analysis and business development in 2003-2008, an investment analyst at EXANE BNP PARIBAS and CITIGROUP, as well as vice president at CITIGROUP in 2008-2012, Chief Strategy Administrator and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of NOBEL OIL in 2012-2015. For the next five years, he was engaged in

private business and since 2020 he has served as Chairman of the Board of the Business Development Fund of the Ministry of Economy. On August 11, 2021, he was appointed Vice President of SOCAR by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



Mr. Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli

Vice president communications and advocacy, bp Caspian region

Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli has been with bp for 20 years and has held number of leadership roles across communications and external affairs, tax and customs, ethics, and compliance as well as business services. In addition to professional activities, Mr. Aslanbayli is also a visiting lecturer of Baku State University, ADA University and Baku Higher Oil School. He is the author of one book and more than 50 professional articles and commentaries. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in International Relations from Baku State University. In 2017, Bakhtiyar was awarded the 'Progress' medal by the President of Azerbaijan for his significant contribution to the development of the oil and gas industry in the country.



Mr. Akhmed Gumbatov

Head of Energy and Sustainable Development Program, Institute for Development and Diplomacy, ADA University

Akhmed Gumbatov is an international development professional with particular expertise in economic policy, energy, and trade. Currently, he is Head of Energy and Sustainable Development Program in IDD, ADA University. Mr. Gumbatov worked at the World Bank office in Singapore, UN Secretariat in New York, and British Embassy in Baku. He holds a BA degree in International Relations from St. Petersburg State University in Russia, MA degree in International Affairs from ADA University, and MPP degree from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) of the National University of Singapore and the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., United States.



Dr. Nazim Abdullayev

Senior Exploration Geoscientist, bp AGT Region and Prospect Analysis Advisor for Eastern Hemisphere

Dr. Nazim Abdullayev is a Senior Exploration Geoscientist, bp AGT Region and Prospect Analysis Advisor for Eastern Hemisphere. He has more than 20 years of work experience spent in UK, US, Egypt and Azerbaijan in variety of hydrocarbon provinces in technical, leadership and advisory roles. Mr. Abdullayev graduated with MSc Geophysics from Colorado School of Mines (1999) and PhD from Institute of Geology National Academy of Science (2015), currently working on post-doctorate in Geology of Caspian.



Mr. Elchin Baghirov

Deputy Chief Geologist, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)

Graduated from Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry with a degree in Petroleum Geology in 1983. In 1988 received PhD in mathematics from the Steklov Institute of Mathematics, Moscow. After that, he continued his academic career, first at the Institute of Geology of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, and then at the Department of Geological Sciences of the University of South Carolina (1994-1998). From 1998 until 2016, he worked in Houston (Texas) in the oil companies ConocoPhillips, BHP Billiton, bp in hydrocarbon exploration. Since 2016 he has been working in SOCAR.



Mr. Orkhan Ismayilov

Deputy Executive Director for Business Development and Corporate Relations, SOCAR Upstream

Orkhan Ismayilov is the Deputy Executive Director for Business Development and Corporate Relations at SOCAR Upstream, a SOCAR company representing interests of SOCAR in upstream projects operating within the framework of Production Sharing Agreements and Risk Service Agreements. Prior to his current position he worked as an advisor to SOCAR's Vice President for Field Developments, Deputy Director of Oil and Gas Operations Supervision Department at SOCAR Head Office and consultant at EY's Supply Chain & Operations division. O. Ismayilov holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Bilkent University and master's degree in Oil & Gas Enterprise Management from University of Aberdeen.



Mr. Namik Aliyev

Head of Operations Group, SOCAR Midstream Operations Ltd.

Namik Aliyev has over 25 years' experience in oil & gas industry, specifically in Midstream division, in project management, strategic planning, business development and operations. He is currently Head of Operations Dept. of SOCAR Midstream Operations Limited, the affiliate of SOCAR, primarily involved in operations of South Caucasus Pipeline (SCP). SOCAR Midstream is a Technical and Commercial Operator of SCP.



Mr. Nazim Aliyev

Counselor to the Vice-President on Investments and Marketing, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)

With over 10 years of experience in international project management, project financing, business development, and government relations, Nazim Aliyev is Counselor to the VP of SOCAR in the investment and trading fields. Leads the holding's energy transition and is responsible for joint ventures, overseas representations, and partnerships. Particular experience in crisis management and corporate strategy implementation. Holds a Ph.D. and MBA; special expertise in the German and Italian markets.

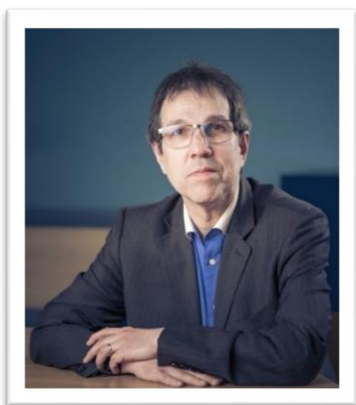


Mr. Asif Zeynalov

Chief Executive Officer, GL

Asif Zeynalov started as GL CEO in April 2019. With over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry in various technical and leadership roles, he is responsible for the overall success of GL and for creating, planning, implementing and integrating the strategic direction of the Company. Asif started his career at SOCAR oil Refinery as Mechanic in 1984, followed by his service in the army as Border Guard from 1985 to 1987. After graduating from university, Asif continued his professional career as Fire Prevention Officer at SOCAR oil Refinery from 1992 to 1995. Starting in 1995 Asif started his career with bp and held a number of roles through 2019 including General Manager of Shallow Water Absheron Peninsula PSA (SWAP), Regional Director of Logistics & Infrastructure, Head of Operations in Rumalia oilfield in Basra, Iraq,

Operations Manager in East Texas, USA and Sangachal Oil & Gas Processing Terminal Manager in Baku, Azerbaijan. In 2004 Asif Zeynalov holds a B.Sc. Degree in Transportation Engineering from the Technical University of Azerbaijan and B.Sc. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the State Oil Academy of Azerbaijan. He has graduated from the Operations Academy of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Sloan School of Management, USA and Leadership Development Program in UK in 2002. He is qualified in oil & gas management of major emergencies, managed a number of big scale emergencies off-shore and on-shore. Mr. Zeynalov has been awarded "Tərəqqi" Medal ("Progress Medal") by the President of the Azerbaijan Republic for his special contributions to the oil and gas sector of the country.



Mr. Jean Papias

Professor, TotalEnergies Professeurs Associés

Mr. Jean Papias is a professor at TotalEnergies Professeurs Associés, a not-for-profit association, which aims to build bridges between the oil industry and academic circles by delegating professors or experts who deliver technical or business-related presentations. Mr. Papias has previously worked as Head of the Industrial Agreements Department at Total Raffinage Marketing (2000-2004), held various positions as Head of Legal Departments in Total Raffinage Marketing (2004-2017). He is now the Legal Director of International Legal Affairs at TotalEnergies Marketing Services since 2017. Mr. Papias has got his degree in Private Law and Political Science, as well as Masters in Business

law and tax at University of Nice, France. He also holds a Masters of Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University, USA.



Dr. Sarvar Gurbanov

Assistant Professor, School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University

Dr. Sarvar Gurbanov is a researcher and educator residing in Baku, Azerbaijan. He has been research fellow at Troy University to conduct studies related to his PhD dissertation. Dr. Gurbanov`s scholarly studies mainly focus on Dutch disease, prudential management of oil revenues, energy economics & governance, economic growth, and CO2 emissions relationship. Dr. Gurbanov is author of two books. Also, He is a former Fulbright Visiting Scholar and conducted research at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. He is also former grantee of DAAD, Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus+ and British Council research and study funds. Dr. Gurbanov has been Senior Expert in

EU project entitled as “Strengthening Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) in Higher Education in Azerbaijan”. Currently, He is Assistant Professor of Economics at ADA University`s School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA). Dr. Sarvar Gurbanov has been speaker in various public events, including TEDx.



Mr. Israfil Mammadov

CEO, State Oil Fund of The Republic of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ)

Israfil Mammadov is the CEO of the State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ). During 2008 - 2013 he has worked as Chief Investment Officer at the State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Afterwards, during 2013-2019 as Deputy CEO of the State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On November 29, 2019, Israfil Mammadov was appointed as CEO of the State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Presidential Decree. Mr. Mammadov is also a Member of the Economic Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Member of the Supervisory Board of SOCAR and Member of the Commission on preparation of "Socio-economic Development Strategy in

2021-2025". He has graduated from the School of International Economic Relations of Moscow State Institute of International Relations with the degree in Economics. Moreover, Israfil Mammadov has graduated the Specialization program in Management from School of Business at Stanford University (2017), School of Management at Yale University (2017) and Harvard Business School (2018). He is fluent in English, Russian and Arabic.



Mr. Alibaba Aliyev

Manager for Communications & External Affairs, Equinor Azerbaijan

Ali Aliyev is the senior energy professional with over 20 years of international experience. Before joining Equinor he held multiple roles and leadership positions in external affairs in the oil and gas industry. His expertise is in strategic planning, communication, stakeholder engagement non-technical risk assessment, government and civil society relations and corporate governance. Mr. Aliyev has got his BA in International Law at Baku State University, MA in International Relations at University of Kent, and MBA from Vlerick Business School, Belgium.



Dr. Fatih Barış Altunyuva

Unit Manager, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office

Dr. Fatih Barış Altunyuva has been working with the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office as a Unit Manager. His main areas of expertise are energy security and energy investments. Prior to the Office, Mr. Altunyuva worked as a Project Expert at the Ministry of Interior Integrated Border Management Directorate. Before that, he held positions at bilateral projects between Turkey and US and between Turkey and Germany. Mr. Fatih Altunyuva was born in Köln/Germany in 1973 and graduated from Bilkent University with BA in Political Science and Public Administration. Mr. Altunyuva completed a master's degree in international security at the Turkish

National Police Academy's Institute of Security Science. He received a Ph.D. degree from Maltepe University in Communication Sciences. He wrote his Ph.D. thesis on Energy Security. Besides his native language of Turkish, he is fluent in German and English.



Mr. Chingiz Mammadov

Senior Program Advisor, UNDP

Mr. Chingiz Mammadov holds degree in engineering from Moscow Mining Technology University (1981) and in humanities from Moscow Literature University (1989). In 1997 got Master's degree in Public and Environmental Affairs from Indiana University. Managed social-economic and environmental projects for the World Bank, the TACIS Program, NDI, Mercy Corps, CHF, Counterpart, and other International and US organizations. In 2002-2004 chaired Azerbaijan Micro-finance Association. Taught Management courses at the Western and Khazar Universities in Baku. Conducted research at the Southern Connecticut State University, at the National Endowment for Democracy and at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the US. One of the authors of Azerbaijan's National Environmental Actions

Plan (NEAP). Made presentations about different aspects of development in Azerbaijan and abroad. His articles were published in Azerbaijan, Russia, Poland, and US. Currently is a Senior Programme Advisor managing environmental portfolio at the UNDP office in Azerbaijan.



Mr. Vugar Kerimov

Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Vugar Kerimov was born on April 2, 1973. In 1995, he graduated from Ganja State University with a major in Biology and Chemistry, and in 2014, he graduated from the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan with a major in State and Municipal Administration. In 1995-1998, he studied at the graduate school of the Institute of Botany of ANAS, and in 1998-2018, he worked as a scientific worker, leading scientific worker, senior scientific worker, laboratory and department head at the

Institute. From 2008 to 2010, he worked as the deputy head and head of the Greening Department of SOCAR's Ecology Department, and in 2010 he was appointed as the deputy head of the Ecology Department. From 2012 to 2018, he worked as the deputy executive director of "Azerikimya" Production Union of SOCAR. From June 11, 2018, he worked as the chief of staff of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and from April 14, 2020, he was appointed to the position of deputy minister. Mr. Kerimov is an author of 65 scientific works, including 3 books, and is one of the co-authors of the second edition of the Red Book of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He has been awarded "Tərəqqi" Medal ("Progress Medal") by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 19, 2016.



Mr. Barış Altıparmak

General Manager, Kolin Azerbaijan

Baris Altıparmak, Civil Engineer, M.Sc. is currently General Director of Kolin Azerbaijan. He received Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Istanbul Technical University, completed Executive Educations in London Business School at Strategy Development and ADA University, Energy Program. He is experienced in Corporate Relations and Government Affairs as well as Construction Projects for nearly twenty years in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and North Africa with specific involvements cover Strategic Planning with International Relations perspective, Project Management and Company Representation. Deeply involved in Energy, Oil and Gas, Superstructure and Infrastructure Development Projects in Caspian Region. He worked for ENR's

Top International Contractors and Internationally Recognized Projects which were selected in their categories as the Best Global Projects. Baris also managed Development and Coordination Processes of U.S. Financed Millennium Challenge Corporation Projects in Georgia. He is a member of The International Association for Contract & Commercial Management (IACCM) in U.S.A, International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) in U.S.A, Executive Board Member of Turkey – Azerbaijan Business Council of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) and Country Representative of World Turkish Business Council (DTIK) in Azerbaijan.



Ms. Ayla Azizova

Senior Finance Manager, bp AGT (Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey region)

Ayla Azizova is a Senior Finance Manager in bp AGT responsible for business development and commercial operations in Renewables and Exploration. Ayla has more than 15 years of experience in Oil and Gas Sector including experience in Business Development, JV management and Commercial Operations. Ayla holds a Master Degree in Legal Regulation of Economy from Azerbaijan State Economic University, Master's in Public Administration from Syracuse University and Master's in Business Administration from INSEAD.



Mr. Tabriz Ammayev

Deputy Director, Azerbaijan's State Agency for Renewable Energy Sources

Tabriz Ammayev has joined the State Agency for Renewable Energy Sources under the Ministry of Energy in September 2020 from SOCAR and was a Head of the Strategic Development Department. Mr. Ammayev is a deputy director of the Agency and a part of the team who engages with the implementation of various renewable energy projects in Azerbaijan, cooperation with international organization, development of Green Energy Zone Concept and green energy space as a part of National Priorities of the country till 2030.



Mr. Murad Sadikhov

Country Manager, Masdar Azerbaijan

Murad Sadikhov is the country manager of Masdar Azerbaijan. He has graduated from Baku State University in Atomic and Molecular Physics, as well as from Lomonosov Moscow State University in Economics. Moreover, he has graduated from Joint Vienna Institute in Applied Economics and has got his Masters degree in Business Administration from Koc University, Istanbul. Mr. Sadikov is a senior-level professional experienced as CEO and CxO in private companies for about 10 years. He has worked as First Deputy CEO in Nobel Oil LTD (2013 – 2016), Director General at Vita-A Ltd, Business Development Executive at Mineks and Allen FZC, Senior Partner and Business

Development Executive at BDM Solutions LLC and Business Development Manager at Aramco Overseas Company. Since May 2021, Murad Sadikhov has been holding the position of country manager at Masdar Azerbaijan.

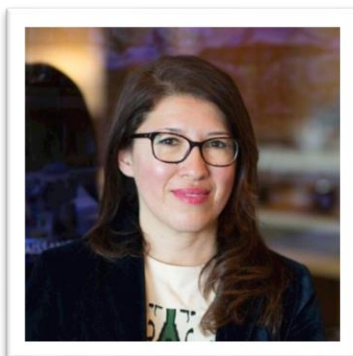


Dr. Samir Akhundov

Chairman of the Executive Board of the Azerbaijan Energy Regulatory Agency

Samir Ali Huseyn oglu Akhundov was born in Baku on October 8, 1971. In 1988-1993 he studied from the Mechanical Engineering faculty of the Azerbaijan Technical University with a degree in Engineering. In 2004 he defended his doctoral thesis at the Azerbaijan Scientific-Research, Planning and Surveying Institute of Energy on the subject "Electricity Systems and Electrical Networks, Energy Management". From 1998 to 2003, he worked as Head of Energy Production and Distribution Division at Siemens JSC

Representative office in Baku, Azerbaijan. In 2003 he was appointed Head of the Siemens JSC Representative office in Baku. From 2015 to 2018 he served as Chief Executive Officer of Siemens JSC in Azerbaijan. Besides his work at Siemens, he was the Chairman of the German-Azerbaijan Economic Assistance Union before working as the Chairman of the Board at the German-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce. By order of the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated January 30, 2018, Samir Akhundov was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Azerbaijan Energy Regulatory Agency. He speaks Russian and English.



Ms. Kamola Makhmudova

Head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Azerbaijan

A dual Uzbek and British national, Ms Makhmudova previously served as Associate Director, Senior Banker in the EBRD's award-winning Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP). Since 2009, Ms Makhmudova has had a global focus, leading the Bank's expansion into the Middle East, North Africa and Cyprus. She has played a key role in policy dialogue with the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund on the development of trade finance, compliance and the

digitalisation of correspondent banking. Ms Makhmudova began her career at ABN AMRO Bank, then moved to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, where she worked in Corporate Banking. Her extensive public- and private-sector experience of banking and infrastructure combines with an in-depth knowledge of complex policy work and major donor management. Her work on the digitalisation of the TFP led to the development of the highly successful, internationally accredited EBRD Trade Finance e-Learning Programme. With more than 9,000 students, it is the world's largest trade-finance training programme.



Mr. Elnur Soltanov

Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Elnur Soltanov is the Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Prior to his current position, he was involved in pedagogical activities at Texas Tech University, Slippery Rock University and Truman State University during the period 2004-2009. Also, he worked at ADA University as Senior Teacher, Director of the Caspian Energy and Environment Center, and Dean at the School of Public and International Relations during the period 2009-2018. By the order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of January 23, 2021, Mr. Soltanov was appointed a Member of the Supervisory Board of State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Mr. Soltanov holds bachelor and master's degrees in international Relations at the Middle East

Technical University in Turkey. He completed a PhD on Political Sciences at Texas Tech University, USA during the period 2003-2009.



Amb. Peter Michalko

Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Azerbaijan

Peter Michalko was born in Martin (Slovakia) on August 24, 1971. In 1994, he graduated from the Department of International Relations of Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). In 2001, he took a course of training at the George C. Marshal European Center for Security Studies. Peter Michalko has held various posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, in the country's diplomatic missions in foreign countries and in international organizations. He was Counselor of the Slovakia Embassies to Romania (1996-2000) and to Greece (2002-2006). In 2007-2008 we worked in the

European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). In 2008-2009 – Adviser to Kalman Mizsei, the European Union's former Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova. In those years Peter Michalko efficiently promoted the opening of a Slovakia Embassy in Chisinau. Since 2012, he was Slovakia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Greece. In May 2017, Peter Michalko was appointed head of the EU Delegation in Chisinau. Peter Michalko speaks English, French, Greek, Russian, Romanian, Ukrainian and Polish, and easily understands Serbian, Croatian and Albanian.



H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Jeyhun Bayramov was born in Baku in 1973. He received his degree in economics from the Azerbaijan State University of Economics and a degree in law from Azerbaijan University. He worked at various positions at the Ministry of Taxes in 1996-2000, as a lawyer in "Salans Hertzfeld & Heilbronn (Baku) Limited" company in 2000-2002, and was the Director of "OMNI" law firm in 2002-2013. He was annually on the list of the leading lawyers in taxation and civil rights in Azerbaijan in 2004-2012 by global law publications such as "Chambers Global", "IFLR1000" and "Legal500". He served as the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Education from 30 May to 12 August 2013. He was appointed as the Deputy of the Minister of Education by the Decree of the

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 12.08.2013. He was appointed as the Minister of Education by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 23.04.2018. He was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 16.07.2020.



Mr. Elshad Nassirov

Vice President for Investments and Marketing, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)

Elshad Nassirov is SOCAR's Vice-President for Investments & Marketing. He graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations. He worked in 1981-1982 in USSR embassy in Afghanistan, in 1982- 1985 in Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in 1985-1989 at different positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of USSR. He worked in 1989-1992 in Soviet Embassy in India. As Azerbaijan gained its state independence, in 1992-1995 Mr. Nassirov worked in the Permanent Representative Office of Azerbaijan in the UN, and in 1995-1997 he was promoted to the position of chief of division in the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. In 1997-2003, Mr. Nassirov worked as a chief of the Foreign Economic Operations Department, and in 2003-2005, as a chief of the Marketing and Operations Department of SOCAR. By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on December 28, 2005, he was appointed as vice-president of SOCAR on investments and marketing. Elshad Nassirov is also the vice-president of Azerbaijan's Football Federations' Association. In 2010, he was awarded the Glory order, under the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan. He is fluent in Russian, English, Persian, and Indian.