

NIC **Uzbekistan** Conference 2025



Healthcare, Geopolitics, and the Disruptors

3 - 5 SEPTEMBER

Programme Booklet

NIC **Uzbekistan**

Conference 2025



Healthcare, Geopolitics, and the Disruptors

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Conference Programme

Conference venue: InterContinental Tashkent
Conference room: Amudarya Hall
Address: Shakhrisabz Street 2, 100000, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Dress code: Smart Casual

Wednesday, 3 September 2025

Time	Welcome Dinner
5:00pm – 6:30pm	Registration and Reception
	Guests to be seated 6:20pm: Welcome Remarks by Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i>
6:30pm – 7:30pm	A Conversation with Professor John J MEARSHEIMER (Hybrid Participation) <i>R Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, United States of America</i> Professor John J Mearsheimer and Professor Kishore Mahbubani will discuss some of the most pressing issues in international politics today, including: the ongoing war in Ukraine, the state of US-Russia relations, the Gaza genocide, the likelihood of another war between Iran and Israel, where BRICS is headed, and the future of the China-US competition in East Asia. Moderator: Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC)</i>
7:30pm – 8:30pm	Dinner



Thursday, 4 September 2025

Time	Conference Agenda
8:30am – 9:00am	Registration
9:00am – 9:05am	Opening Remarks by Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i>
9:05am – 9:55am	Keynote Discussion on “From Silk Road to Global Stage: Bridging East and West in a Multipolar Era” Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President Armen SARKISSIAN, <i>Fourth President, Republic of Armenia</i>• His Excellency Sodyq SAFOEV, <i>First Deputy Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan</i> <p>Eurasia’s role as a meeting point is gaining new importance in today’s multipolar era. President Armen Sarkissian will reflect on the shifting global balance of power, while His Excellency Sodyq Safoev offers perspectives from Uzbekistan’s foreign policy and legislative diplomacy. Moderated by Professor David Lewis OBE—an international relations specialist with deep experience in Eurasia—the discussion will explore how Central Asia can strengthen institutions, forge partnerships, and bridge East and West to advance stability, innovation, and cooperation.</p> <p>Moderator: Professor David LEWIS, OBE <i>Associate Director, Senior Political Counsellor at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</i></p>
9:55am – 10:25am	Tea break



Time	Conference Agenda
10:25am – 11:15am	<p data-bbox="378 292 988 352">Uzbekistan’s Next Chapter: Human Capital, Investment, and Diplomacy</p> <p data-bbox="378 384 1011 619">As Central Asia undergoes rapid transformation amid regional challenges, Uzbekistan is redefining its role through investment, diplomacy, and inclusive growth. Ms Nozimakhon Davletova will discuss human capital and female leadership while Ambassador Alisher Shaykhov will highlight trade and economic priorities. Together, they will explore how historical legacies inspire modern strategies for integration with Asia, Europe, and beyond.</p> <p data-bbox="378 655 510 683">Discussants:</p> <ul data-bbox="378 687 1022 967" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="378 687 1022 802">• Ms Nozimakhon DAVLETOVA, <i>Consultant to the Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Head of the Project Office for Human Capital Development</i> <li data-bbox="378 823 1022 967">• Ambassador Alisher SHAYKHOV, <i>Former Minister of External Economic Relations, Investment, and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Chairman of the Uzbekistan Managers Association; and Senior Adviser of the Chamber Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan</i> <p data-bbox="378 1003 902 1058">Moderator: Dr Maleena SUPPIAH <i>Chief, Learning & Culture, Tsao Foundation, Singapore</i></p>
11:15am – 12:05pm	<p data-bbox="378 1082 969 1142">The Global Disorder and its Implications for Emerging Societies</p> <p data-bbox="378 1147 639 1174">by Mr Kapil KOMIREDDI</p> <p data-bbox="378 1179 1003 1233"><i>Essayist, Journalist, and Author of “Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India”, India and United Kingdom</i></p> <p data-bbox="378 1270 1011 1437">Examining the unravelling of the India–US relationship and its far-reaching implications for India and the wider region. Drawing on his deep reporting and analysis, Mr Komireddi will explore how shifting alliances, domestic politics, and global instability shape the prospects for emerging societies in a fragmented world order.</p>



Time	Conference Agenda
12:05pm – 2:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm – 3:00pm	<p>Can Our World Handle an Explosion of Geopolitics? by Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i></p> <p>Significant structural and personality changes have disrupted global geopolitics significantly. New patterns are emerging. The aim of this talk is to highlight the significant developments and explain the long-term consequences.</p>
3:00pm – 3:50pm	<p>Uzbekistan and Central Asia at the Crossroads: Business, Reform, and Regional Futures – Businessmen's Perspectives</p> <p>This session explores Uzbekistan's business climate, regional integration, and global trends. Drawing on entrepreneurial experience, it examines how reform, innovation, and strategic foresight can unlock sustainable growth and position Central Asia as a vital player in the evolving global economy.</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Zafar KHASHIMOV, <i>Founder and Chairman of Korzinka</i> • Mr Aram PETROSYAN, <i>Chief Financial Officer, Revery</i> • Mr Shukhrat ERGASHEV, <i>Chairman, Pepsi Uzbekistan</i> <p>Moderator: Mr Aram GRIGORIAN <i>Entrepreneur, Montebianco, Switzerland</i></p>
3:50pm – 4:20pm	Tea break



Time	Conference Agenda
4:20pm – 5:10pm	<p>The Future of US-Asia Relations in an Era of Strategic Rivalry by Ambassador Frank LAVIN (Ret'd) <i>Parikh Family Fellow, University of Southern California, Dornsife Center for the Political Future</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Kapil KOMIREDDI <i>Author of "Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India", India and United Kingdom</i></p>
5:10pm – 6:00pm	<p>Frontiers in Medicine: From Genomics to Next-Generation Therapies</p> <p>This panel examines the scientific breakthroughs reshaping modern medicine. Professor Roger Foo will explore advances in genomics and epigenetics transforming our understanding of cardiovascular disease. Dr Shakhlokhon Turdikulova will share on perspectives on the promising field of cell therapy and plans to establish the largest cell and gene bank in the region. Associate Professor Glenn Kunnath Bonney will moderate the discussion as well as talk about emerging trends, clinical applications, and the ethical considerations driving the next era of healthcare and share on translational sciences in cancer, personalised vaccines in cancer, and liver pancreatic cancers and liver metastasis surgery.</p>



Time	Conference Agenda
5:10pm – 6:00pm	<p>Frontiers in Medicine: From Genomics to Next-Generation Therapies (continued)</p> <p>Panel Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gene Editing by Professor Roger FOO, <i>Vice-Dean (Research), Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Professor of Medicine, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Singapore</i> • Cell Therapy by Dr Shakhlokhon TURDIKULOVA, <i>Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan</i> <p>Moderator: Associate Professor Glenn Kunnath BONNEY, <i>Director of Research, Department of Surgery, National University Hospital and the Director & Principal Investigator of SurgiCAL ProEomics Laboratory (SCALPEL), iHealthtech, National University of Singapore.</i></p>
6:00pm – 6:30pm	Travel to dinner venue, Otto Restaurant
6:30pm – 9:00pm	<p>Reception and Dinner at Otto Restaurant</p> <p>Venue: Shakhrisabz Street 30A, 100000, Tashkent, Uzbekistan</p>
9:00pm	<p>End of Conference</p> <p>Travel from dinner venue to Conference Hotel</p>



Friday, 5 September 2025

Conference venue: Hilton Samarkand Regency
Address: Konigil Massif, 140319, Samarqand, Samarqand viloyati, Uzbekistan
Dress code: Casual

Time	Agenda
6:03am – 12:00pm	<p>OPTIONAL PROGRAMME: Travel from Tashkent to Samarkand</p> <p>Local travel at delegates' self-arrangement</p> <p>Transfer from own hotel to Tashkent Train Station</p> <p>Travel from Tashkent Train Station to Samarkand Train Station via the following suggested trains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No. 778Φ, 6:03am• No. 764Φ, 6:30am• No. 768Φ, 7:21am <p>Transfer from Samarkand Train Station to own hotel for check-in and then transfer from own hotel to Conference Hotel (if not the same)</p>
11:30am – 12:00pm	<p>Registration</p>
12:00pm – 2:00pm	<p>Interactive Lunch with Dr Akmaljon ODILOV, PhD <i>Head of Department, Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage; and Assistant Professor, Silk Road, Uzbekistan</i></p> <p>Venue: The Seasons Restaurant, Level 1, Hilton Samarkand Regency</p> <p>Address: Konigil Massif, 140319, Samarqand, Samarqand viloyati, Uzbekistan</p>

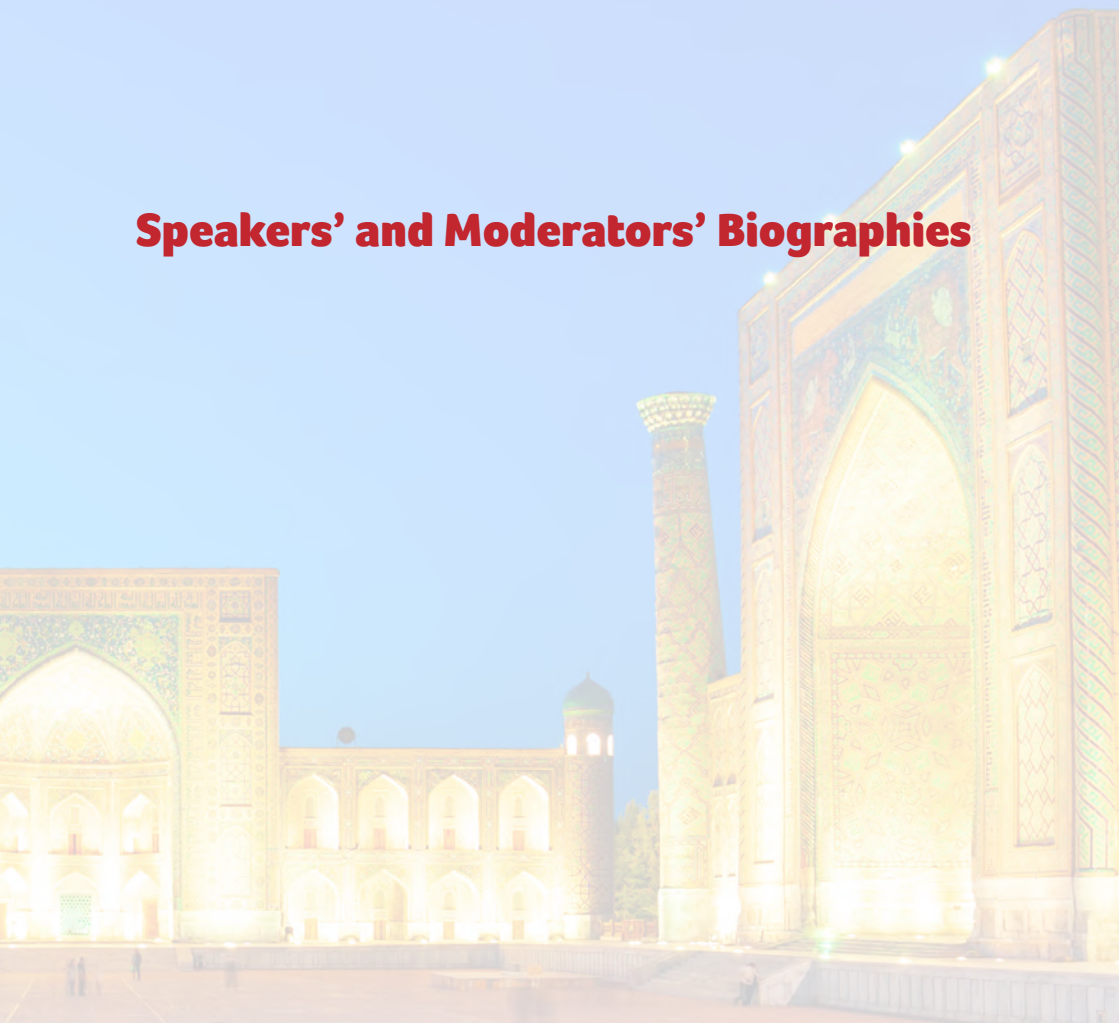


Time	Agenda
2:00pm – 5:00pm	<p>Samarkand excursion (half-day city tour) visiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guri Emir Masoleum • Registan Square • Bibihanym Mosque • Siyob Bazaar • Shahi Zinda Necropolis • Ulugbek Observatory <p>Transfer to Conference Hotel after excursion</p>
5:00pm	End of Conference





Speakers' and Moderators' Biographies



Professor Kishore MAHBUBANI

Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore



Professor Kishore Mahbubani has dedicated five decades of his life to public service, for which he was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Gold) by the Singapore Government in 1998. In his 33 years as a Singapore diplomat, Professor Mahbubani took on many challenging assignments, serving for example in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 1973-1974 during the Cambodian Civil War. He also served two stints as Singapore's Ambassador to the United Nations (1984-1989 and 1998-2004) and held the position of

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1998.

Professor Mahbubani had an equally illustrious career in academia. He was appointed the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in August 2004. Despite his heavy administrative duties, Professor Mahbubani proved to be a prolific author and has published ten books. His ninth book, *The Asian 21st Century*, is an open access volume which has been downloaded over 3.5 million times. His latest book, a memoir titled *Living the Asian Century*, was published in August 2024.

Professor Mahbubani has been listed among the world's top 100 public intellectuals by Foreign Policy and Prospect magazines and among the Top 50 individuals who would shape the debate on the future of capitalism by the *Financial Times*. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in October 2019. More information can be found on <http://www.mahbubani.net>.



Professor John J MEARSHEIMER

R Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, United States



Professor John J Mearsheimer is the R Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 1982. He graduated from West Point (1970), has a PhD in political science from Cornell University (1981), and has written extensively about security issues and international politics. Among his seven books, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2001, 2014) won the Joseph Lepgold Book Prize and has been translated into nine languages;

The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy (with Stephen M Walt, 2007), made the *New York Times* bestseller list and has been translated into twenty-five languages; and *The Great Delusion: Liberal Ideals and International Realities* (2018), won the 2019 Best Book of the Year Award from the Valdai Discussion Conference, Moscow and has been translated into nine languages. His latest book is *How States Think: The Rationality of Foreign Policy* (with Sebastian Rosato, 2023). He has also written numerous articles and op-eds that have appeared in *International Security*, *The Economist*, *The London Review of Books*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Financial Times*, and *The New York Times*. In 2003, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2020, he won the James Madison Award, which is given once every three years by the American Political Science Association to “an American political scientist who has made a distinguished scholarly contribution to political science.”

He has also written many articles that have appeared in academic journals like *International Security*, and popular magazines like *Foreign Affairs*, *The Economist*, and *The London Review of Books*. Furthermore, he has written op-ed pieces for newspapers like *The New York Times* and *The Financial Times* dealing with topics like Bosnia, nuclear proliferation, US policy towards India, the failure of Arab-Israeli peace efforts, the folly of invading Iraq, the causes of the Ukrainian crisis, and the likelihood of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons.



Finally, Professor Mearsheimer has received several awards and honours. He received the Clark Award for Distinguished Teaching when he was a graduate student at Cornell in 1977, and he won the Quantrell Award for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Chicago in 1985. He was selected as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar for the 1993-1994 academic year. In that capacity, he gave a series of talks at eight colleges and universities. He received honorary doctorates from universities in China, Greece, and Romania; and in 2003, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2020, he won the James Madison Award, which is given once every three years by the American Political Science Association to “an American political scientist who has made a distinguished scholarly contribution to political science.”



The Honourable Armen SARKISSIAN

Fourth President of the Republic of Armenia



The Honourable Armen Sarkissian was President of the Republic of Armenia from 2018 to 2022. From 1996 to 1997, he served as Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. In 1992, he was appointed as Ambassador of Armenia to the United Kingdom and served as Senior Ambassador to Europe, Ambassador to the European Union (EU), Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Vatican, and the Head of Mission to NATO.

From 2000 to 2013, Dr Sarkissian served as Special Advisor of the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); Chairman of the Global Council on Energy Security-WEF; Chairman and Founder of the EURASIA Centre at Cambridge University; Board member, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and others.

He also worked as a Senior Advisor to the Chairmen, Chief Executive Officers of BP, Alcatel Lucent, Telefonica, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, and other multinational corporations.

Dr Sarkissian is a well-known philanthropist and influential leader, with vast business and civic networks in major capitals around the world and leadership positions in international organisations, such as the East West Institute, Euro-Atlantic Security Initiative, Global Leadership Foundation, the World Economic Forum, and others.

Dr Sarkissian, together with his son Vartan Sarkissian, has recently founded ATOM (Advanced Tomorrow), a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing health, well-being, and longevity. The inaugural conference, held in Singapore in 2023, was a great success. Their most recent conference, *Revolutionising Healthcare and Longevity*, was held in London and was equally successful. It brought together influential figures from diverse sectors, including politics, business, academia and arts, to explore transformative ideas in healthcare and longevity.

Dr Sarkissian has over 25 years of experience in science and technology, global diplomacy, and international business. He is co-creator of the Tetris Gold-Wordtris video game (world N1 in early 1990's). Author of Quantum Politics and a bestselling book, *Small States Club*, 2023. He is actively promoting necessity of S20 organisation.



His Excellency Sodyq SAFOEV

First Deputy Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan; Rector of the University of World Economy And Diplomacy (UWED)



His Excellency Sodyq Safoev was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 3 February 1954.

He graduated with Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Tashkent State University in 1976, where he had also received PhD in Economics on problems of labour productivity in industry in 1984.

He has the diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

- 1976 - 1987 – Postgraduate researcher and lecturer at the Tashkent State University
- 1987 - 1990 – Civil servant at various public organisations
- 1990 - 1990 – Consultant at the Office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 1990 - 1991 – Visiting scholar at the Harvard University Institute for International Development (Cambridge, MA, USA)
- 1991 - 1992 – Deputy Chief, Chief of the Foreign Economic Relations Department at the Office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 1992 - 1993 – First Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 1993 - 1993 – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 1993 - 1996 – Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Germany, Austria and the Netherlands, as well as the Representative of Uzbekistan to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)



- 1996 - 1996 – State Counselor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 1996 - 2001 – Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United States of America and Canada
- 2001 - 2003 – First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Afghanistan
- 2003 - 2005 – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 2005 - 2005 – Rector of the University of the World Economy and Diplomacy
- 2005 - 2016 – Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 2016 - present – First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 2021 - present – Rector of the University of the World Economy and Diplomacy

He is married and has five children.



Professor David LEWIS, OBE

Associate Director, Senior Political Counsellor at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development



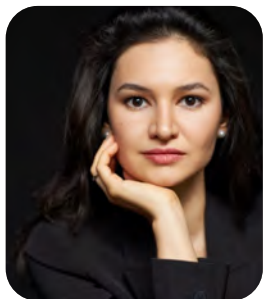
Professor David Lewis, OBE, is a specialist on international relations, with a regional focus on Russia and Eurasia. He is currently Associate Director, Senior Political Counsellor at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), covering the countries of Central Asia and Mongolia. Prior to his appointment at the EBRD, David was Professor of Global Politics at the University of Exeter, UK. He has published widely on international affairs, peace and conflict studies and political and international relations in Eurasia. During 2019-22 he was an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Knowledge Exchange Fellow, on secondment at the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). He also holds the posts of Senior Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London and Emeritus Professor of International Relations at the University of Exeter.

His recent books include *Russia's New Authoritarianism: Putin and the Politics of Order* (Edinburgh University Press, 2020) and *Occupation: Russian Rule in South-Eastern Ukraine* (Hurst, 2025). Before joining the Politics Department at Exeter, he also worked in the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford and for the International Crisis Group in Central Asia and in Sri Lanka.



Ms Nozimakhon DAVLETOVA

Consultant to the Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Head of the Project Office for Human Capital Development



Ms Nozimakhon Davletova is the Consultant to the Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Head of the Project Office for Human Capital Development. As part of Saida Mirziyoyeva's team, she advances national initiatives focussed on women's health, women's entrepreneurship, and education for children in rural areas.

Previously, she served as Head of the Division for Information and Analytical Support of Foreign Policy and Expansion of Foreign Economic Cooperation within the Presidential Administration. In this capacity, she contributed to shaping Uzbekistan's foreign relations agenda, strengthening international partnerships across multiple sectors, and continues to play an active role in the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Her earlier leadership experience includes serving as Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of the Public Foundation for Support and Development of National Mass Media, where she was a key member of the working group that shaped and advocated for the adoption of laws criminalising domestic violence and strengthening protections for women and children — a pioneering achievement in Central Asia.

Beyond government service, Ms Davletova is a member of the Supervisory Board of Hamroh, Uzbekistan's first and only platform dedicated to supporting women entrepreneurs through mentorship, legal and financial consultations, and business development resources. In 2025, she was appointed Chair of the Council of Women Entrepreneurs under the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ensuring women entrepreneurs' voices and priorities are represented at the highest levels of policymaking. She also serves as Chair of the Supervisory Board of Teach for Uzbekistan, part of the global Teach For All network, which works to expand access to quality education in rural areas.



She holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Uzbekistan), a Master's degree from Tsukuba University (Japan), was a Fellow of the Central Asia and Azerbaijan Program at George Washington University (USA), and completed the Executive Diploma in Organisational Leadership at Oxford Saïd Business School (UK).

Ms Davletova speaks Uzbek, Russian, English, and Italian.



Ambassador Alisher SHAYKHOV

Former Minister of External Economic Relations, Investment, and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Chairman of the Uzbekistan Managers Association; and Senior Adviser of the Chamber Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan

Professional Experience

- Senior Adviser, the Chamber Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan (since Aug 2025)
- Chairman of the Uzbekistan Managers Association (since 2024)
- Adviser to the Rector of the Diplomat University (Tashkent) (since May 2022)
- Partner, New Links Global (since 2021)
- Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Senior Adviser, UzVC National Venture Capital Fund (2021 - 2024)
- Senior Adviser, Delphos International (2021 - 2022)
- Strategic Planning Consultant, UNDP - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan project on Economic and Digital Diplomacy (2021)
- Adviser to the Rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2020)
- Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UK and North Ireland (2017 - 2019)
- Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2004 - 2005, 2006 - 2017)
- Minister of External Economic Relations, Investment, and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2005 - 2006)
- Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Benelux countries, Head of the Missions of Uzbekistan to the EU and NATO (2001 - 2004)
- Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Japan (1998 - 2001)
- Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Germany and Austria, Head of the Mission of Uzbekistan to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (1996 - 1998)
- Head of the Department for the Coordination of External Economic Activities, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1995 - 1996)
- First Deputy Minister of External Economic Relations of the Republic of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1994 - 1995)
- Head of the Division for the Coordination of External Economic Activities, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1993 - 1994)



Professional Experience (Continued)

- Head of the Directorate-General of External Economic Outlook Analysis, Ministry of External Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1992 - 1993)
- Deputy Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Science of Uzbekistan (1988 - 1992)
- Visiting scholar to Columbia University in the City of New York (1990)
- Visiting scholar to the University of Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt (1987 - 1988)
- Researcher, Senior Researcher, of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Science of Uzbekistan (1979, 1983 - 1988)

Education And Degrees

- Academic title “Senior Researcher” awarded by the Higher Attestation Commission under the Cabinet of Ministers of USSR (July 1991)
- PhD in Economics from the Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of USSR, Moscow (February 1984)
- Post-graduate student, Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of USSR, Moscow (1979 - 1983)
- Undergraduate student, Oriental Studies Faculty, Tashkent State University (1974-79)

Dr Alisher Shaykhov by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2001 was awarded the lifetime diplomatic rank of Extraordinary and Protoplanetary Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Dr Maleena SUPPIAH

Chief, Learning and Culture, Tsao Foundation, Singapore



Dr Maleena Suppiah serves in the philanthropy and social services sector with the Tsao Foundation. She is Chief, Learning and Culture, building capacity, ensuring sustainability, and promoting impactful change in the areas of Productive & Meaningful Longevity and Healthy Ageing. Until January 2024, Dr Suppiah worked in healthcare with the National University Health System (NUHS). For more than a decade she held several roles: Chief Wellbeing Officer; administrative director for medical education; faculty, and President of Women in Science and Healthcare. She continues academic work as an adjunct assistant professor at the NUS School of Medicine

Dr Suppiah's extensive work experience spans over 37 years across six countries, encompassing diverse roles in Food Security and Food Science, Higher Education, and aviation. In her pursuit of promoting preventive health and longevity, she is a founding member and Board member of the Singapore Society of Lifestyle Medicine. She was a Board Director of Rotary Club Queenstown and of a non-profit organisation that supports and protects unsupported mothers and their children.

In 1987, Dr Suppiah graduated in Food Science (BSc) from King's College London and went on to complete an international MBA at ESSEC Business School in Paris. Her Doctorate in Education research focussed on Empathy and optimising its practice in medicine. She is an alumna of Raffles Institution, Singapore.



Mr Kapil KOMIREDDI

Columnist, Essayist, and Author of “Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India”, India and United Kingdom



Mr Kapil Komireddi, an essayist, author, and journalist. His first book, *Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India*, a compressed polemical history of India from Nehru to Narendra Modi, was published to critical and commercial acclaim in the United Kingdom (*Hurst*), India (*Westland*), and the United States (*Oxford University Press*) in 2020. It was selected among the best books of the season by the *Financial Times* and the *Times Literary Supplement*, and named a Book of the Year by *India Today* and *Business Standard*.

The Spectator praised Mr Komireddi as the “VS Naipaul (an Indian Nobel Prize winning writer) of his generation”.

Mr Komireddi has written from numerous conflict zones—including Syria, Palestine, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan — and interviewed and profiled various world leaders. His commentary, criticism, and journalism — from South Asia, Europe, and the Middle East — appear, among other leading publications, in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Economist*, the *Indian Express*, the *Guardian*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Daily Mail*, *TIME*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Spectator*, and the *Jewish Chronicle*. He also writes speeches for and advises politicians, non-governmental organisations, and enterprises in Europe and Asia.

Mr Komireddi is the international editor of *Modern Review*, a forthcoming global monthly magazine headquartered in London; an international affairs panellist on Monocle24 radio; and he appears on international media, including *ABC*, *CBC*, *BBC* and *CNN*, to discuss international affairs.



Mr Zafar KHASHIMOV

Founder and Chairman of the Board, Korzinka



Mr Zafar Khashimov is a successful, well-established businessman, philanthropist, and innovator in the field of logistics, particularly focused on the Uzbekistan market. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors and the founder of the Korzinka grocery retail chain. The business started with one store in 1997, and has grown to become a household name, boasting more than 150 stores, comprised of full-service grocery stores carrying a range of almost 10,000 unique items and Korzinka Mahalla proximity stores. In 2005, Korzinka became the first online grocery business in

Uzbekistan. The group has also branched out into fast-fashion and footwear retail, operating franchises for Red Tag, a value apparel retailer company based in Dubai and FLO, the largest footwear retailer in Turkey, for whom the group has sole franchise rights for Uzbekistan.

The other line of his business is Balton Trading Asia, FMCG (Fast-moving Consumer Goods) distributor in Uzbekistan and neighbouring Kirgizstan. For last 30 years, Balton Trading Asia has established itself as the largest and most experienced wholesale distributor in the market, and holds the sole distribution rights for wide range of food and household products, manufactured by multi-nationals such as Nestlé, Bunge, Colgate-Palmolive, Imperial Tea and a number of other well established international companies.

Mr Khashimov is also the founder and sole owner of Heritage Trade Services Pte Ltd, Singapore registered international business company since 2013. Company specialises on providing trade related services for importing consumer and food products to Uzbekistan.



Mr Khashimov is the founder and ultimate beneficial owner of Marnell Holding Pte. Ltd. registered in Singapore in 2019 and the majority shareholder of Anglesey Investments Pte. Ltd. (Singapore), which he co-owns together with EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development). These companies are holding companies for the assets of the group in Uzbekistan.

Other business and social engagements:

- Shareholder in Newmax Technologies Uzbekistan
- Co-founder of TEAM University — the first entrepreneurial university in Uzbekistan
- Honorary Professor at Westminster International University in Tashkent
- Chairman of the Board Teach For Uzbekistan
- Board of trustees Ezgu Amal (Charity Foundation)

Hobbies:

Sailing, hiking, skiing and golf.

Mr Khashimov is married with five children and four grandchildren.



Mr Aram PETROSYAN

Chief Financial Officer, Revery, Switzerland



Mr Aram Petrosyan has over 20 years of experience in private equity, finance, investment, and management consulting. At Revery, Mr Petrosyan is responsible all financing and Merger & Acquisitions (M&A) transactions and oversees the finance function of the operating companies.

Mr Petrosyan started his professional career in Ernst & Young in 2000 and received two double promotions becoming the youngest manager in Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries in 2004.

Having spent six years as a consultant in Ernst & Young and AT Kearney after, Mr Petrosyan was appointed to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Rixos Hotels chain, fast growing hotel chain operating in Turkey, Central Asia, and Middle East.

Mr Petrosyan also served as CFO and Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of private equity real estate investment fund and was primarily responsible for financing and M&A transactions, as a result of which the total assets of the funds reached \$1.2 billion.

Mr Petrosyan is a graduate of Moscow State University of International Relations (MGIMO) and holds a Master's degree in Leadership and Strategy from London Business School. Mr Petrosyan was also certified as a Certified Public Accountant in 2002 by State of Maine Accountancy Board with the highest exam score in Ernst & Young in 2002.



Mr Shukhrat ERGASHEV

Chairman, Pepsi Uzbekistan; Founder, International Beverages Tashkent



Mr Shukhrat Ergashev is the Chairman of Pepsi Uzbekistan and Founder of International Beverages Tashkent (IBT), the official bottler of PepsiCo in Uzbekistan. He also represents Samarkand Gardens Plast.

Under his leadership, IBT has grown into one of the largest and most successful PepsiCo bottlers in Central Asia. The company was named PepsiCo European Bottler of the Year 2020, recognised among

53 European countries for its excellence in sales, distribution, operational efficiency, and overall business performance.

Mr Ergashev co-founded Pepsi Uzbekistan in 2012. By 2017, IBT had become one of the most successful PepsiCo bottlers in the region, achieving market parity with Coca-Cola. Today, IBT produces and distributes leading global brands including Pepsi, 7UP, Mirinda, Mountain Dew, Adrenaline Rush, and Lipton, from its headquarters in Tashkent.

Beyond business growth, IBT plays a significant role in Uzbekistan's economy by creating jobs, driving innovation, and supporting ESG initiatives. The company consistently ranks among the country's top 10 private-sector taxpayers. In 2024 alone, IBT paid 342.8 billion soums in taxes—ranking 9th nationwide—with an annual turnover of 3.24 trillion soums.

Through his entrepreneurial vision, Mr Ergashev has helped establish IBT not only as a market leader but also as a driver of economic and social progress in Uzbekistan.



Mr Aram GRIGORIAN

Entrepreneur, Montebianco, Switzerland



Mr Aram Grigorian is an internationally experienced entrepreneur, investment banker, executive and investor.

Among his notable transactions, in 2010 – 2014 he led the merger of the leading Russian independent investment bank, Troika Dialog, with Sberbank, the country's largest financial institution, and the follow-on integration across all business lines.

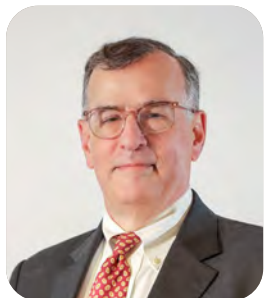
In addition, in 2007 – 2013 he had also run a \$1.5 billion real estate private equity fund. He also led various proprietary cross-border projects and transactions (a notable one being the 2012 – 2014 takeover by Renault-Nissan of AvtoVAZ, the largest car manufacturer in Russia).

Mr Grigorian began his investment banking career in the mid-1990s with Salomon Brothers, then continued at Goldman Sachs. He has worked in London, Frankfurt and Moscow. Currently he is based in Switzerland. Mr Grigorian holds a mechanical/electrical engineering degree from Armenia and business/economics degrees from Germany and the UK. He had internships at Allianz Insurance in Munich, Germany and General Motors in Rüsselsheim, Germany.



Ambassador Frank LAVIN (Ret'd)

Parikh Family Fellow, University of Southern California, Dornsife Center for the Political Future



Ambassador Frank Lavin is a Parikh Family Fellow at the University of Southern California, Dornsife Center for the Political Future. He writes a monthly column for *Forbes Magazine*.

Ambassador Lavin was Chairman of the NUS Medicine International Council (NIC) from 2016 – 2021 and is now an Honorary Member of the NIC.

Ambassador Lavin served as Under Secretary for International Trade at the United States (US) Department of Commerce in the Bush (43) Administration. In that capacity, Ambassador Lavin served as lead trade negotiator for both China and India and was responsible for commercial policy, export promotion, and trade negotiations across the globe. Ambassador Lavin was previously US Ambassador to Singapore, where he helped negotiate the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.

In the private sector, Ambassador Lavin served in senior finance and management positions in Hong Kong and Singapore with Edelman, Bank of America, and Citibank.

Ambassador Lavin also served in the Bush (41) and Reagan Administrations, working in the Department of Commerce, Department of State, National Security Council, and White House.

Ambassador Lavin earned a Bachelor of Science from the School of Foreign Service and a Master of Science in Chinese Language and History (both Georgetown); a Master of Arts in International Relations and International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies (Johns Hopkins); and a Master in Business Administration in Finance from Wharton (Pennsylvania).



He has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and elsewhere.

Ambassador Lavin is the author of *The Smart Business Guide to China E-Commerce* (Penguin), co-author of *Export Now* (Wiley) on market entry strategies, and author of *Home Front to Battlefield* (Ohio University Press), a World War II history book.

Ambassador Lavin serves as a Trustee of The Asia Foundation and as a Director of the Asia Society of Northern California. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Advanced MedTech Holdings, a medical technologies company. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and on the Advisory Board of the European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE), a Brussels think-tank. Ambassador Lavin served as a Lieutenant Commander in the US Naval Reserves.



Professor Roger Foo

Vice-Dean (Research), Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Professor of Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore



Professor Roger Foo is the inaugural chair holder of the Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Professorship of Medicine at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Director of the National University Health System (NUHS) Cardiovascular Disease Translational Research Programme, Senior Consultant at the National University Heart Centre Singapore (NUHCS) where he is Clinical Lead for the Cardiac Genetics Service, Deputy Director at the Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI), and Senior Group Leader at the A*STAR Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS). He is now also Assistant Dean (Research) at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Upon graduation at NUS, Professor Foo undertook his post-graduate clinical training at King College Hospital London and Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge. For his research training, he worked in the labs of the late Professor David de Bono (British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiology, Leicester), Professor Morris Brown (past president British Hypertension Society, and Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, Cambridge), Professor Martin Bennett (BHF Chair of Cardiovascular Sciences, Cambridge) and Professor Rick Kitsis (The Dr Gerald and Myra Dorros Chair in Cardiovascular Disease, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NYC), where he was continuously funded by both The Wellcome Trust and the British Heart Foundation with fellowships and project grants.

Altogether, Professor Foo trained and worked in Cambridge, United Kingdom, for over 20 years at the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine (University of Cambridge) and also at the Addenbrooke's Hospital NHS Trust before moving his lab to Singapore in 2013. Here, he has come to establish Singapore's first Cardiac Genetics clinical service, and has since been leading in the Cardiovascular Epigenomics and Molecular Epigenetics Themes for many of the largest Cardiovascular grant awards in the country. His clinical practice is based at the NUHS National University Heart Centre, and his labs are at the NUS MD6 Centre for Translational Medicine, and A*STAR Genome Institute.



Research in the lab makes use of genomic technology to study the cardiac epigenome and hunt for novel Heart Failure mechanisms. Professor Foo enjoys reading scientific, historical and current affairs literature. He keeps as much as possible to a daily swimming regime, and uses WhatsApp and Instagram to keep up with the dizzy lives of his grown-up children who live abroad.



Dr Shakhlokhon TURDIKULOVA

Vice-President of the Academy of Science of Uzbekistan



Dr Shakhlokhon Turdikulova is a leading scientist in biotechnology, biochemistry, and human genetics. She holds a PhD in biotechnology (2001) and a Doctor of Sciences degree in biochemistry and cell biology (2008). She conducted postdoctoral research at UCLA (2002–2005) and earned a postgraduate diploma in organisational leadership from the University of Oxford, in 2025. A pioneer of human genetics research in Uzbekistan, she identified 1,450 genetic markers linked to 670 disease-susceptibility genes and established a national DNA bank with 24,000 samples. She led the development of Uzbekistan's first Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test and co-led clinical trials of the ZF-UZVAC-2001 COVID-19 vaccine. She served as deputy minister of innovation and higher education (2021–2024) and currently directs the Center for Advanced Technologies. Since 2024, she has been vice-president of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, leading national biotech and innovation programs. She is a recipient of the Order Dustlik for her service to science and society.



Associate Professor Glenn Kunnath BONNEY

Director of Research, Department of Surgery, National University Hospital and the Director & Principal Investigator of SurgiCAL ProtEomics Laboratory (SCALPEL), iHealthtech, National University of Singapore



"The field of liver/pancreas surgery and transplantation is highly complex with diseases that often require delicate and technical surgery. With the increase of other complimentary treatment options such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and ablative therapies, I feel privileged to be able to offer and guide my patients with the best evidence-based treatment in the field while maintaining open communication with them on their choices."

With over 20 years of practise, Associate Professor Glenn Kunnath Bonney still finds great joy in every individual patient encounter. For him, the trust that patients have in their surgeon is a great privilege and he takes on every procedure and interaction aware of this responsibility and duty of care. He says: "I find it a great privilege to first understand the patient and their families, then to apply best medical practise to planning their clinical course, often we are then able to understand the disease process and its treatment at a molecular level and finally to be able to perform highly technical surgery to cure"

Following basic surgical training, Associate Professor Bonney developed a particular interest in liver and pancreas cancer and transplantation; diseases that often present late and have a poor prognosis. He realised cutting edge surgery in combination with clinical sciences could result in huge improvements in quality and length of life.

To this end, he undertook and was awarded a postgraduate research degree to identify markers in bile for malignancy of the liver and published this work in internationally reputed journals.



He subsequently undertook Higher Surgical Training, doing his specialist training at one of the largest liver transplant, liver and pancreas surgery units in Europe. After successful completion of this training he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of London.

Improving the outcomes of liver and pancreas surgery

Having trained and worked in two of the world's leading liver/pancreas surgery and transplant centres alongside some of the pioneers of surgery in this field, Associate Professor Bonney continues to deliver quality patient-centred care at NUH.

His primary interest is in minimally invasive surgery (laparoscopic and robotic) for primary and secondary malignancies of the liver, pancreas and gallbladder, donor/recipient matching for liver transplantation and extending donor criteria.

Recently his interest in liver transplantation as well as surgical oncology culminated in him leading a team of world leaders in writing the first consensus for liver transplantation for Stage 4 colorectal cancer. Subsequently he proceeded to perform the first such transplant in Asia.

His clinical research has resulted in him receiving many international awards, accolades and societal board membership, with the most significant of these being Presidential Award of the International Hepatopancreaticobiliary Association (Seoul 2014).

Sharing best practices and knowledge

Associate Professor Bonney is an internationally renowned expert in the field of liver transplantation, hepatocellular carcinoma, colorectal liver metastasis and pancreas cancer.

He is a prolific academic surgery and written and presented numerous publications, books and lectures to share his experiences and best practices.

He is also the recipient of several national and international grants that enable him to perform cutting edge research in hepatocellular carcinoma, pancreatic cancer and colorectal liver metastasis in his laboratories at iHealthtech, NUS. The most significant of these is an National Medical Research Council (NMRC) award that funds cutting-edge research in pancreatic cancer.



Dinner Host





Founded in 1996, Korzinka is Uzbekistan's leading supermarket chain and a pioneer in the country's modern grocery retail sector. The Korzinka brand has become synonymous with quality, reliability, and convenience for millions of Uzbeks.

Korzinka operates a multi-format, omnichannel model, catering to diverse customer needs. This includes full-range supermarkets, smaller-format proximity stores, and an expanding e-commerce platform, called Korzinka Go.

With over 10,000 employees, Korzinka is committed to investing in its workforce, offering professional training, career development opportunities, and a supportive working environment.

In 2020, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) became a minority investor in Korzinka - their first equity investment in Uzbekistan in a decade. This investment helped to strengthen the company's infrastructure, governance, and expansion.

In 2025, Abu Dhabi Uzbek Investment (ADUI) and UzOman Investment Company also became minority shareholders by private equity investing in Korzinka. This investment will drive accelerated growth across Korzinka's multi-channel retail model, with a particular focus on strengthening its established leadership in the supermarket format; rapidly scaling its network of smaller-format Korzinka Mahalla proximity stores; and growing Korzinka Go, the company's market-leading e-commerce proposition.

The Company's Founder, Mr Zafar Khashimov, is the majority shareholder. Korzinka is committed to leading standards of Corporate Governance and has assembled a Supervisory Board including Independent Non-Executive Directors each with a breadth of relevant experience. You can read more about the Supervisory Board here: <https://korzinka.uz/en/about>

For further information visit: <https://korzinka.uz/en>



Acknowledgements

The NUS Medicine International Council (NIC) wishes to thank all speakers, moderators, and discussants for taking part in the NIC Uzbekistan Conference 2025. The Council is also grateful to the many individuals who assisted in the planning and implementation of the conference.



General Information

DISCLAIMERS

House Rule: NUS Medicine International Council (NIC) events take place under the Chatham House Rule. However, photographs, images, and videos may be taken during the event and may be used on our social media, marketing and communications platforms under the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the National University of Singapore (NUS) umbrella. You shall be deemed to have consented to our collection, use, and disclosure of the photographs, images and videos to third parties. You accept the abovementioned conditions by attending the event.

Insurance and Liability: The organising committee cannot accept liability for personal injury, loss or damage to the belongings of meeting participants, either during or as a result of the meeting.

All information provided in the programme is accurate at the time of printing and is subject to changes. The NIC will not be responsible for any changes in the programme due to external unforeseen circumstances and reserves the right to cancel, postpone, relocate or change any of the sessions.

Local Transportation: Yandex Go is a popular ride-hailing service in Uzbekistan, functioning similarly to Uber. Passengers can choose between cashless payment (via credit/debit card or mobile wallet through the app) or paying in cash (Uzbekistan Som) directly to the driver.

Weather: From September to early November, the daytime temperature usually falls between 21°C (70°F) and 30°C (86°F).

Languages spoken: Uzbek is the official language of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Russian and English are widely spoken.



Useful Contacts

Emergency

Fire:
101

Police:
102

Ambulance:
103

Medical Facilities **Tashkent**

Tashkent International Medical Clinic

38 Sarikul Street, Tashkent

T: +998 712910142 / +998 781201120

E: tjc@tashclinic.org

15-18 minutes' drive from InterContinental Tashkent

NIC Contact

Ms NG Hwee Koon

WhatsApp:
+65 9018 7398

Ms Jenny KOH

WhatsApp:
+65 9666 1227

Ms HO Jia Hui

WhatsApp:
+65 9112 4528



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International Council
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