

Hybrid panel discussion on Perceptions of China in Central Asia: problems and perspectives

Date: 30 June 2022, 15:00 – 17:30

Venue: OSCE Academy and [Zoom Webinar](#) (registration required)

Language: English/Russian (with simultaneous translation)

Organizers: OSCE Academy, Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)

Description

The OSCE Academy and IWPR invite researchers, policymakers, practitioners, journalists, and all interested parties to attend the “Perceptions of China in Central Asia: problems and perspectives” expert round table on June 30th, 2022. The event offers both in-person and online participation options for those who RSVP in advance.

As part of the expert discussion, our experts will discuss how debt trap affects cooperation between China and the countries of Central Asia, what China is doing to improve its image in the region and how effective its soft power is. We will talk about the range of problems of China's image in Central Asia, as well as the future of the image of China in Central Asia.

Agenda

15:00 - 15:10 *Opening remarks*

Dr. Alexander Wolters (in person)

Director, OSCE Academy in Bishkek

Nargiza Muratalieva (in person)

IWPR, CABAR.asia analytical reports editor, Kyrgyzstan

15:10 - 15:30 *Keynote speech:*

Raffaello Pantucci (online)

Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore, Senior Associate Fellow, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), United Kingdom

15:30 - 15:45 *Q&A Session*

15:45 - 16:45 Panel discussion: **“Perceptions of China in Central Asia: problems and perspectives”**

Moderator: Aibek Samakov

Discussants:

Temur Umarov (online)

Research Consultant, Carnegie Moscow Center, Russia

‘Effects of the war in Ukraine on China's presence in Central Asia’

Aizat Shailoobek (in person)

Senior Research Assistant, OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

‘Discussing Sinophobia in Kyrgyzstan’

Nargiza Muratalieva (in person)

IWPR, CABAR.asia analytical reports editor, Kyrgyzstan

‘China's soft power in Kyrgyzstan: issues and limitations’

Q&A Session

16:45 - 17:30 *Coffee break*

About Organizers & Speakers

Aizat Shailoobek is a freelancer with research interests in China affairs in Kyrgyzstan, Aizat received BA in American Studies from the International University of Kyrgyzstan, and an MA Degree in Central Asian Studies from the American University of Central Asia. Currently, she is working as a Research Assistant at the OSCE Academy.

Temur Umarov is a research consultant at the Carnegie Moscow Center. A native of Uzbekistan, he has degrees in China studies and international relations from the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). He is also an alumnus of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center's Young Ambassadors and the Carnegie Endowment's Central Asian Futures programs.

Raffaello Pantucci is a Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore and a Senior Associate Fellow at Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in the United Kingdom. He is an expert with over 10 years of experience studying Chinese affairs in Central Asia, and has travelled widely throughout the region. His book *Sinostan: China's Inadvertent Empire* documents China's growing influence in Central Asia and is due to be published in April 2022 by Oxford University Press.

OSCE Academy in Bishkek is a public foundation, established in 2002 between the Kyrgyz Government and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Academy promotes the principles and values of the OSCE through post-graduate education, professional training and intellectual exchange. Moreover, the Academy hosts Research Fellowships, as well as publishes articles, policy briefs, and research papers on questions relevant to the Academy's mission.

[Institute for War and Peace Reporting](#) empowers local voices to drive change in countries in conflict, crisis and transition. Where hate speech and propaganda proliferate, and journalists and civic activists are under attack, IWPR promotes reliable information and public debate that makes a difference. IWPR is governed by senior journalists, specialists and business professionals. Board committees focus expertise on finance, development and other areas.