

Bio of Jury Panel

CAREC University Startup Generator 2023 Pitching Day



Ms. Haidy Seang Ear-Dupuy
Unit Head, NGO and Civil Society Center, ADB

Ms. Haidy coordinates and contributes to ADB's internal and external engagement on labor-related issues. Before joining ADB, she worked with World Vision Cambodia as Director of Advocacy and Communications on child protection, child labor, anti-human trafficking, food security, governance, and social justice. She holds two masters in both Economics and Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin.



Ms. Sabina Ahmad
IT Program Manager, ADB

Sabina has more than 20 years of experience working at state government, telecommunications industry, and robotics engineering company as a software engineer, systems programmer and IT program manager. Sabina is currently leading IT projects for ADB's Digital Agenda 2030 which strives to provide ADB's digital transformation using secure and modern information technology systems. She holds Master's degree in Business Management from Harvard University Extension School.



Mr. Ravshan Kurbanov
CEO of 55 Group

Mr. Ravshan Kurbanov is the current CEO of the "55 Group," one of Tajikistan's major business conglomerates that comprise 25 companies. Ravshan is also the Founder of the Tajikistan Venture Capital program. Mr. Ravshan contributed significantly to the growth of Tajikistan's entrepreneurial capacity by facilitating businesses' access to capital, networks, talent, and international partners.



Mr. Abay Absamet
Managing Director at Astana Hub

Mr. Abay Absamet focuses on the growth and development of the startup ecosystem and venture market in Kazakhstan and Central Eurasia, in partnership with Google For Startups, Draper Ecosystem, and Plug & Play.



Dr. Khimji Vaghjiani
Professor of Innovation, Startups and Entrepreneurship

Dr. Khimji Vaghjiani has over 30 years of experience in innovation and entrepreneurship, across banking, telecommunications, defence, manufacturing, research and development, energy, government and academia, as well as numerous start-ups. He is the author for "Spiritual Journey of An Entrepreneur" and a regular lecturer on Innovation and Entrepreneurship at most of the Sydney Universities.



Dr. Le Zhou
Founder of Women Philosophy Association;
Lecturer of Entrepreneurship

Dr. Le Zhou has 19 years of experience in entrepreneurship and innovation education. She is the founder of Women Philosophy Association. She has supported more than 500 small and medium-sized businesses and over 1,000 female entrepreneurs. Dr. Le Zhou received a Ph.D. from the Paris University of Arts and Sciences and Postdoctoral Fellowship from Zhejiang University. She is also a visiting lecturer at multiple universities in China and France.