

Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) published the Special Double Issue of
SAM Review

Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) published the Special Double Issue of its open access journal of *SAM Review*, titled “Interregional Cooperation in Eurasia: Transport and Logistics Projects as an Accelerator of Integration Within and Between the Black Sea Region, the South Caucasus and the Central Asia”.

The Review consists of three separate articles, each devoted to one of the represented regions:

“Central Asia and the New Trans-Eurasian Connectivity: The ‘Silk Roads’ Reborn”;

“Link in the Chain: South Caucasus as a Transport and Logistics Hub between Regions”;

“Transportation: a Competitive Advantage of the Black Sea Region”.

An article on Central Asia has been authored by Dr. Shirin Akiner, on the South Caucasus by Dr. Rovshan Ibrahimov, and on the Black Sea region by Ariz Huseynov. The journal can be downloaded here: <http://sam.gov.az/pdf/SAM%20Review%209-10.pdf> or <http://sam.az/media/pressreleases/1113.html>

In the volume authors investigate the importance of the transport and logistics capacities and realization of the projects to this end, as a driver of the national economic development, and regional and interregional cooperation and integration within and between the Central Asia, the South Caucasus and The Black Sea regions. The study explores and highlights the process of the development of the necessary transport infrastructure (oil and gas transport routes and pipelines, roads, railroads, maritime routes, port infrastructures, and multimodal transportation) that is more or less parallel across all three regions, as is the saturation and the diversification of transport infrastructure in the region to create a corridor connecting these regions with each other and with the rest of the Eurasian space.

The study maintains, as it was put in the Review “such a trend is not a fashion statement but a critical need in the development of bilateral and multilateral relations in all areas, with the goal of enhancing the welfare of the regional states and their citizens.”

The Review provides a useful source for the political scientists, specialists in this field, researchers, students, all those who might be interested in the subject and can also be used for further researches.

About Center for Strategic Studies (SAM)

The Center for Strategic Studies (www.sam.az) is Azerbaijan’s first government-funded, non-profit and academically independent think tank, known as SAM (Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi in Azerbaijani). The mission of SAM is to promote collaborative research and enhance the strategic debate as well as providing decision-makers with

high-quality analysis and innovative proposals for action. Through publications, brainstorming meetings, conferences and policy recommendations, SAM conducts rigorous research guided by a forward-looking policy orientation, thus bringing new perspectives to academic research in international level. SAM was ranked 124th in the top 150 global think tanks according to 2012 Global Go To Think Tanks Rankings and associated trends report by Pennsylvania University.

About the Authors

Dr. Shirin Akiner

Dr. Shirin Akiner has long firsthand experience of Central Asia and has authored seven monographs and over 75 scholarly articles on such topics as Islam, ethnicity, political change and security challenges in Central Asia. In 2006 she was awarded the Sir Percy Sykes Memorial Medal by the Royal Society for Asian Affairs for her contribution to Asian studies. In December 2008 she was awarded Honorary Fellowship of Ancien Association of NATO Defense College. Since 2010, she has been Special Advisor to UK Parliamentary Groups on Central Asian States. She has held research and teaching posts at the University of London, 1974-2008, and visiting professorships in a number of universities in different countries. Since 2008, she has been a Senior Fellow of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum, University of Cambridge, and Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She was Rapporteur to the major UNESCO project 'Integral Study of the Silk Roads' (1988-97) and has acted as consultant for several award-winning radio and television documentaries on Central Asia. She is a frequent contributor to international media networks.

Dr. Rovshan Ibrahimov

Dr. Rovshan Ibrahimov has been the head of the Foreign Policy Analysis Department at the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM) since 2011, and has been Founder and Associate Professor of the International Relations Department at Qafqaz University since 2003. Dr. Ibrahimov worked at Qafqaz University since 1999, where he served as Director of the Center for Energy Studies, Head of International Relations and Regional Studies Departments, and Vice-Rector on External Affairs. He was a Visiting Research Fellow at George Mason University (US), the University of Oxford (UK), and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Wroclaw (Poland), University of Siegen (Germany) and Suleyman Demirel University (Kazakhstan). He was also editor at USAK Energy Review, the International Strategic Research Organization's publication (2007-2009). He received his BA, MA, and PhD in Political Sciences at Ankara University (Turkey). His areas of expertise include energy politics and security, Azerbaijan's foreign policy, and the politics of South Caucasus. Dr. Ibrahimov is the author of and contributor to a number of edited books and author of more than 200 professional articles and commentaries.

Ariz Huseynov

Ariz Huseynov is a Leading Advisor in the Foreign Policy Analysis Department at the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM). His field of research includes the Wider Black Sea Area and Energy Politics. He also lectures at the International Relations Department at Qafqaz University on Political Science, Geopolitics and Energy. He is the author of the monograph *EU's External Energy Policy: A Liberal Intergovernmentalist assessment of the EU's external energy policy towards Russia and Caspian Region* (LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2012). He also writes columns on politics and energy issues in the Wider Black Sea Area. He holds an MA in International Relations from the University of Manchester, UK.