

The CAMCA Effect:

WHY GLOBAL INVESTORS ARE TURNING THEIR EYES TO THIS RISING REGION Q&A with Nazira Beishenalieva

In February 2025, the CAMCA Network joined Investopia's flagship event in Abu Dhabi, marking a significant step in bringing the Central Asia, Mongolia, Caucasus and Afghanistan (CAMCA) region to the forefront of global investment discussions. This collaboration opened new avenues for economic partnerships and highlighted the region's growing importance in global markets.

Newsweek: For those unfamiliar, what is the CAMCA Network, and what role does it play in the region?

Nazira Beishenalieva: The CAMCA Network is a pioneering platform that unites professionals, policymakers, entrepreneurs and business leaders from Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan. Our vision is to foster regional cooperation, enhance connectivity, and promote sustainable economic growth. Traditionally, the region has been viewed as a set of distinct markets, but we work to change that perception by highlighting our shared economic opportunities and interconnected development potential. Through initiatives like the CAMCA Regional Forum, collaborative research and strategic alliances—including our recent inaugural engagement with Investopia in 2025—we are actively positioning CAMCA as a vital and emerging economic hub.

As of 2024, the CAMCA region collectively represents a population of over **110 million people** and a combined GDP exceeding **\$1.2 trillion** (World Bank, 2024), with projected annual growth rates averaging **4-6 percent** (IMF, 2023). The region is also home to some of the fastest-growing economies, such as Uzbekistan and Georgia, which have seen **GDP growth of over 6 percent annually** in recent years (Asian Development Bank, 2024). With an expected **\$75 billion in annual FDI inflows by 2030**, CAMCA is no longer an emerging market—it is a rising force in global investment (UNCTAD, 2024).

Why was this partnership with Investopia 2025 significant for the CAMCA Network?

This collaboration is a game-changer for our region. Despite its rapid economic



Group photo: CAMCA fellows

is not just a connector between East and West but a core pillar of the new global economy.

What were the key discussions at the CAMCA Roundtable during Investopia?

The CAMCA Roundtable was one of the highlights of Investopia, serving as a dynamic platform for in-depth discussions on economic trends, investment prospects and regional synergies. Key topics included:

- **Regional Economic Integration:** Strengthening trade and investment corridors across CAMCA countries.
- **Strategic Investment Opportunities:** High-growth sectors such as energy, infrastructure, digital transformation and manufacturing.
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** The rise of the region's startup ecosystem and the role of technology in economic transformation.

A key takeaway was the growing interest from global investors in cross-border projects. In 2023 alone, CAMCA countries signed over **\$20 billion in cross-border investment agreements**, particularly in infrastructure and logistics, which are critical for increasing regional trade efficiency (Eurasian Development Bank, 2024). This interest signals that the region is set to play a pivotal role in global supply chains.

Abu Dhabi is emerging as a next-generation global investment hub. What role does it play in CAMCA's economic trajectory?

Abu Dhabi is a gateway to global capital, technology and innovation. The city has strategically positioned itself as a leading hub for sovereign wealth funds, venture capital and impact investing. By hosting Investopia, Abu Dhabi reinforced its role as a **catalyst for emerging market investment**, with a particular focus on regions like CAMCA.

Through this partnership, we are seeing greater alignment between Gulf investors and CAMCA entrepreneurs. In 2024 alone, **Middle Eastern investment in Central Asia grew by over 40 percent**, with a surge in green energy, logistics and technology deals (Gulf Business, 2024). Abu Dhabi's **\$20 billion investment in global clean energy projects** aligns with CAMCA's push for sustainable infrastructure, creating new avenues for cooperation (Masdar, 2024).

Women's leadership and empowerment are increasingly vital in emerging economies. How is CAMCA supporting female entrepreneurs and leaders?

Women's empowerment is a key driver of economic and social transformation in CAMCA. Across the region, women are leading businesses, startups and policy initiatives that are shaping the future. At Investopia 2025, we highlighted the growing role of women entrepreneurs in sectors such as technology, finance, and sustainability.

Recent studies show that **women-led businesses in CAMCA have grown by 35 percent over the past five years**, with many excelling in fintech, e-commerce and green energy projects (UN Women, 2024). Initiatives like the **CAMCA Women's Leadership Forum** provide mentorship, funding access and global networking opportunities for aspiring female entrepreneurs.

We are committed to fostering an ecosystem where women's contributions to economic growth are fully recognized and supported.

Any final thoughts on what this partnership means for the future?

Investopia 2025 was a milestone moment for the CAMCA Network. It demonstrated our region's growing economic relevance and its potential as a key player in global investment discussions. More importantly, it laid a strong foundation for ongoing collaboration between CAMCA and international investors, ensuring that our region remains at the center of global economic conversations.

This is just the beginning. With continuous engagement, strategic partnerships and investment-driven initiatives, the CAMCA region is on track to becoming one of the most dynamic and influential economic spaces of the future. **Abu Dhabi's rise as a financial powerhouse is a key factor in this transformation, and we see it as a long-term strategic partner in realizing CAMCA's full potential.**



Nazira Beishenalieva
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H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri,
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transformation, CAMCA has remained underrepresented in global investment discussions. Investopia provided an unprecedented opportunity to elevate our region's visibility on a premier investment platform, which attracts top policymakers, executives and investors worldwide. Through this engagement, we were able to:

- Introduce the vast economic potential of CAMCA to a global audience.
- Engage with high-profile investors and decision-makers.
- Advocate for increased cross-border collaboration and innovation-driven growth.

This event marked a turning point in how international stakeholders perceive CAMCA—not as a collection of fragmented markets but as a unified, strategic investment destination with immense potential. According to recent reports, **foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the CAMCA region grew by 30 percent in 2023**, surpassing **\$55 billion**, with sectors such as energy, fintech and infrastructure leading the way (World Bank, 2024). Investors are recognizing that the CAMCA region

