The Observatory on Central Asia and the Caspian (OACC)

The Observatory on Central Asia and the Caspian (OACC) is a newly-established research project, created under the aegis of the Association for the Study in Italy of Central Asia and the Caucasus (ASIAC), with the support of two Italian companies – Bonatti and Kios – operating in Kazakhstan, and in partnership with the Italy-Europe-Asia Export Consortium (IEA).

OACC main purpose and mission is to enhance academic cooperation, business opportunities and mutual understanding between Italy and the region. Indeed, by virtue of both domestic developments within the area’s state actors and the rapidly evolving trans-regional dynamics, the Central Asia and the Caspian area reaffirms its centrality in the heart of the Eurasian mass, as a cultural, economic, and political connector among the key clusters of the international system.

Building upon a wide working network in the region, OACC aims at becoming a reference point and an open forum for dialogue for Italian academic and entrepreneurial excellences at home and abroad.
Welcoming speeches
h. 10:15 – 11:15

Tiziana Lippiello
Vice Rector for International Relations,
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Aldo Ferrari
Professor and Director of ELEO Master,
Ca' Foscari University

Rustam Kayumov
Counselor, Embassy of Uzbekistan in Italy

Ruslan Rzayev
First Secretary, Embassy of Azerbaijan in Italy

Aigerim Raisssova
Chief of economic desk, Embassy of Kazakhstan in Italy

Stefano Ravagnan
Former Italian Ambassador to Kazakhstan,
Section General Commissioner for EXPO Astana 2017

Giovanni Scopa
Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
– Russia, Central Asia and Caucasus desk

Italian interests in and projection towards the area
h. 14:15 – 16:15

Chairs: Stefano Ravagnan
Keynote Speech: William Thompson
Head, OECD-OCSE Eurasia Division
Enhancing Connectivity in Central Asia:
The Role of Institutions and Policies

Paolo Ghirelli
President, Bonatti S.p.A
Italian companies in the construction sector in Kazakhstan

Stefano Bonaldo
Head of Office, President and Secretary General Staff,
North Adriatic Sea Port Authority
Waterways between the Caspian and the Adriatic Sea.
Opportunities and Challenges

Fabio Indeo
Researcher, ASIAC
and NATO Defense College Foundation
New trends in Central Asian connectivity

Riccardo Fuochi
Vice President, Easternational
“Transportation’s logistics of the “belt” of the Silk Way in Central Asia”

Tommaso Trevisani
Professor, University of Naples “L’Orientale”
Central Asian Agriculture: challenges and opportunities

Paolo Sorbello
Researcher, University of Glasgow
Italian business in Central Asia:
In and Around the Energy sector

Closing remarks

New trends in the Central Asia and Caspian area
h. 11:20 – 13:15

Chairs: Matteo Fumagalli
Senior Lecturer, University of St Andrews

Keynote Speech: Emil Dzhuraev
Teaching Fellow, OSCE Academy in Bishkek
On the Other Side of Major Power Agendas: Evolving “Multi-Vector” Pathways of Central Asian States

Sven-Olov Carlsson
Head, European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan
The new EU Strategy for Central Asia

Farkhod Tolipov
Director, ‘Bilim Karvoni’ Institute, Tashkent
Uzbekistan-2.0 and Central Asia-2.0

Fabio Indeo
Researcher, ASIAC
and NATO Defense College Foundation
New trends in Central Asian connectivity

Carlo Frappi
Researcher, Ca’ Foscari University
Trans-Caspian connectivity. A view from Azerbaijan