VISIONS OF UZBEKISTAN
A Visual Exploration

January 8 – February 7, 2014

Opening event on Thursday, January 16 at 4:00 p.m.
Featuring Muzaffar Madrakhimov, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Uzbekistan
and Marlene Laruelle, Director of the Central Asia Program, IERES

Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/Uzbekistan.
Uzbek refreshments will be served.

Uzbekistan is located in the heart of Central Asia, neighboring world civilizations such as China,
Persia, and India, and connected to the Turkic world and to Europe via Russia. The territory of
modern Uzbekistan hosted the prestigious ancient civilizations of Bactria, Sogdiana, Parthia, and
Khorezm, and was traversed by caravans carrying precious silk, gold, porcelain, and spices along the
Great Silk Road. These ancient civilizations invented sophisticated irrigation techniques, inspired the
canons of Islamic culture in the 9th-10th centuries, and were at the center of a vast empire created by
Tamerlane in the 15th century. They made major contributions to science and literature through
geniuses such as Avicenna, Alisher Navoi, Ulugbek, Al-Khorezmi, Al-Beruni, Al-Farghon, Imam
Al-Bukhary, and others. Present-day Uzbekistan benefits from this past, offering the most
accomplished architectural heritage in Central Asia. Since the country’s independence in 1991,
Uzbek society aims to combine modernity with the rediscovery of its past and to integrate its
historical legacy into a larger, globalized framework. The photo exhibition Visions of Uzbekistan
reflects both the ancient culture and the modern life of the Uzbek people and introduces the culture
of Uzbekistan to the United States audience.

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