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The Honorable Bijan R. Kian

Senior Fellow

Global Public Policy Academic Group

Naval Postgraduate School

The Honorable Bijan R. Kian is chairman of the board of directors of iCelero, a Silicon Valley telecommunications firm and he also serves as a Senior Advisor to Gallup.

Prior to his return to private sector, he served two United States Presidents from both major parties and was confirmed twice by the Senate of The United States. He served as a member of the board of directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States from September 2006 to June 2011 and a member of the White House Business Council in 2011. In his role as a senior member of the administration, he voted on authorizing over \$70 billion in export credits supporting thousands of U.S jobs. The Honorable Bijan Kian also served as the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Export Import Bank of the United States. He is the former director of Foreign Investment for the State of California where he led California's attraction, retention and expansion of its \$92 billion portfolio of foreign investment and California's international trade and investment offices in Europe, Asia, The Americas and Africa.

He is recognized around the world as a senior commercial diplomat with a proven track record of success in the Middle East, Central Asia, The Caucasus and Russia.

With over three decades of experience in government, business, and academia, he has advised two presidents of the United States, members of Congress from both major parties and has worked closely with senior leaders in the Department of State, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce and the other government agencies and departments. In his role as a senior member of the administration, he represented the United States in meetings with heads of state and senior officials of foreign governments. He is known for his advocacy of effective strategies based on balanced strategies of security and prosperity aimed at sustainability. His advocacy for exporting U.S. goods and services to Iraq helped re-open U.S. government export finance programs for the Republic of Iraq. With the same focus on Afghanistan, he worked closely with the Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Treasury, USAID, the Department of Commerce and senior Afghan government officials to develop strategies based on an Afghan funded, foreign assisted modality of economic development for Afghanistan..

A 1979 graduate of University of Brighton in Sussex, England, he has continued his education in National and International Security Studies at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. A keen student of philosophy, he has also continued his studies in political philosophy and epistemology at Oxford University. He is a frequent speaker on the subjects of national and international security, economic development, trade and investment and commercial diplomacy around the world.

Honorable Kian formerly served as an adjunct professor of finance on the faculty of California State University, Fullerton and Executive Director of the California Center for Commercial Diplomacy at California State University Dominguez Hills. He currently serves as a member of the board of Governors and a Distinguished Fellow at New Westminster College in British Columbia. He has lectured on the subject of conflict and development and the interdependence of trade and security at the United States Navy Flag University.

The Honorable Bijan Kian was awarded The Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2009 for his dedication to promoting American ideals and his significant accomplishments and contributions as an immigrant to the United States. He was honored and admitted as a Fellow at the Royal Society of Arts in the United Kingdom in 2011. Royal Society of Arts is a 250 year old British institution whose roster of Fellows include Adam Smith, Benjamin Franklin, Charles Dickens, Karl Marx and Stephen Hawking.

Hon. Kian has the distinct honor of being the first Iranian born American appointed to a Senate confirmed position directly reporting to two consecutive presidents of the United States from both major political parties. Upon his second presidential, Senate confirmed appointment in 2007, he earned the distinction of being the highest ranking Iranian American in the history of the United States. In 2010, he co-founded The Nowruz Commission, a public diplomacy multi cultural entity that was born out of the alliance between nine cultures celebrating the ancient Persian tradition of honoring the first day of Spring at the exact moment of Vernal Equinox.