



Ramin Asgard Mr. Asgard currently serves as the CEO of AISTRA, an artificial intelligence powered strategic consultancy serving global public and private sector clients. Previously, Mr. Asgard was a veteran U.S. Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State, with extensive field and headquarters experience in the diplomatic, political, economic, public diplomacy, commercial/trade advocacy, and research and analysis areas.

While with the Department of State, he served as Director of the Iran Regional Presence Office (IRPO) in Dubai, Political Advisor at U.S. Central Command; and as Director of Voice of America Persian, VOA's largest language service. He has also served at the National Security Council, as Deputy Political Counselor in Saudi Arabia, Economic/Commercial Officer in Afghanistan, Political/Economic Officer in the UAE, and as a Consular Officer in Turkey. Mr. Asgard has also served as an International Affairs Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and as Desk Officer for Iraq, Iran, and Turkey. Prior to joining State, Mr. Asgard was an attorney in private practice with a concentration in Immigration Law.

While in Afghanistan, Mr. Asgard helped found Arzu Rugs, a non-profit organization which empowered Afghan women by providing resources for carpet weaving and other handicrafts for distribution and sale in the US and Europe. Arzu's private sector driven entrepreneurial process has been a rare success story within an otherwise troubled aid landscape, and continues successful operations to this day. <https://arzustudiohope.org/>. Art of Hope's social entrepreneurship private sector driven model is a creative extension of this proven approach, and Mr. Asgard is proud to support its vital work.

Mr. Asgard is a member of *Phi Beta Kappa*, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Atlantic Council Iran Task Force, and is a recipient of the State Department's Ambassador Charles E. Cobb Award for Initiative and Success in Trade Development and the Secretary of State's Award for Public Outreach.

Mr. Asgard has served as a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council and as an adjunct staff member at RAND. He has published, presented and moderated widely, including at the Atlantic Council, the Stimson Center, the Council on Foreign Relations, Brookings, Wilton Park, the Gulf Research Center, University of Southern California, George Washington University, Georgetown University, University of Toronto, UCLA, and on media outlets including CNN, NBC, Al Jazeera, and The National Interest. Mr. Asgard holds a JD from Tulane University, a Master's in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA *summa cum laude* from Temple University.