

EXPANSION OF UZBEKISTAN'S ECONOMIC TIES WITH RUSSIA

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Abstract: Economic cooperation, mutual exchange, historical and cultural dialogues, mutual agreements and treaties between Uzbekistan and Russia were covered and analyzed based on sources. The article touched upon the mutual cooperation between Uzbekistan and Russia in the economic, social, and cultural spheres.

The Republic of Uzbekistan was recognized by the Russian Federation as an independent republic on March 20, 1992, and diplomatic relations between the two countries have been established since that day.

I. Karimov said at the first session of the second convocation of the Oliy Majlis: "Our historically established economic, cultural and friendly relations with Russia are of great importance for Uzbekistan. Further strengthening of cooperation and strategic partnership between the two countries, built on the basis of mutual equality and benefit, is in the interests of both Russia and Uzbekistan." [1]

Relations between the two countries are based on the following most important documents:

-Treaty on Allied Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan (November 14, 2005);

-Treaty on Strategic Partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan (June 16, 2004);

-Treaty on Deepening Economic Cooperation in 1998-2007. (signed on October 12, 1998);

From 1991 to 2004, 171 international treaties and more than 33 other documents were signed between the two countries.

Since 2004, bilateral relations have been developing rapidly. On April 15-16, 2004, during the working visit of the First President Islam Karimov to Russia, an open and sincere dialogue was held on bilateral relations and current international issues.

On June 16, 2004, during a bilateral meeting between I.A. Karimov and V.V. Putin within the framework of the Tashkent Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Strategic Partnership Agreement was signed.

High-level dialogue between Uzbekistan and Russia continued during the visit of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to Russia on July 2-3, 2004, the summits of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS in Astana on September 16, 2004, and the summits of the Organization of Central Asian States in Dushanbe on October 18, 2004, where the Russian delegation led by President V.V. Putin participated for the first time as a full member.

Recently, the process of strengthening cooperation in the field of agricultural processing has become noticeable. Currently, nine joint ventures with Baltimore, Cherkizovo and other well-known Russian companies are operating in this area. The Bim Bill Dan company signed an

agreement to purchase 77 percent of the shares of the Tashkent association and planned to invest \$ 20 million in the production of dairy products and fruit juices. [2]

The opening of the "Uzbekistan" Trading House in the Russian Federation was one of the important steps towards further strengthening trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. On December 19, 2005, the opening ceremony of the Russian Trading House was held in Tashkent.

Currently, Russian language classes are taught in 676 schools in Uzbekistan, where 250 thousand students are studying.

During the years of independence, the republic's libraries were enriched with new literature. Every year, 1.0-1.2 million copies of textbooks and manuals in 40-45 titles are published in Russian in the republic. 85 newspapers and 52 magazines are published in Russian.

On the initiative of scientists, cultural figures and public figures of the two countries, a presentation of the "Fund of Culture and Art of Uzbekistan" was held in Moscow in March 2004, which was established to promote the rich cultural and historical heritage of the Uzbek people.

Meetings of prominent figures of art and culture of the two countries, tours of national theaters, and exhibitions of artists are regularly held.[3]

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev paid a state visit to the Russian Federation on April 4-5, 2017, at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

The narrow meeting of the presidents discussed issues of further development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Russia, strengthening peace and security, regional and international issues of interest to the parties. The talks focused on issues of further development of cooperation in trade and economy, petrochemicals, transport communications, agriculture, culture, tourism, creating decent conditions for labor migrants, and other areas.[4]

Uzbekistan and Russia have been supporting each other in the international arena. Mutual consultations are being held consistently between the ministries of foreign policy, foreign trade, and defense of the two countries. Our countries also cooperate effectively within the framework of international structures such as the UN, the SCO, and the CIS.

There are 961 joint ventures established in cooperation with Russian businessmen in Uzbekistan.

64 Russian firms and companies have opened representative offices in our country. 569 business entities have been established with Uzbek partners on the territory of the Russian Federation, which are operating effectively. The volume of mutual trade is steadily increasing. In particular, in recent times, this indicator in agriculture has doubled. During the negotiations, which were held in an open and friendly spirit, views were exchanged on further developing mutual cooperation and raising it to a new level.

In 2017, Uzbekistan and Russia celebrated 25 years of diplomatic relations. Cooperation between the two countries has a solid legal basis.

Both countries have enormous potential in the fuel and energy sector. This plays an important role in the development of cooperation in this area. Russian companies Lukoil and Gazprom are actively involved in the exploration and development of hydrocarbon deposits in our country. Gazprom, one of the world's leading energy companies, is actively involved in the implementation of large-scale projects in Uzbekistan to conduct geological exploration and develop promising hydrocarbon deposits, as well as in the supply of natural gas for export. As a result of geological exploration studies conducted in Ustyurt, the Jel gas condensate field was discovered.

A monument to the great Uzbek poet and thinker Alisher Navoi was erected in Moscow. The square with the monument to A.S. Pushkin in Tashkent is one of the favorite places for residents and guests of our capital.

“Russia has been a reliable strategic partner and ally for us, who has passed the tests of life. We will never forget the commonality of our history, interests, and the unity of our spiritual and educational roots,” Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized.[5]

On October 19, 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin paid an official state visit to Uzbekistan. During the meeting, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin signed a Joint Statement.

As part of the visit, an economic cooperation program for 2019-2024, a cooperation program in the cultural and humanitarian spheres for 2019-2021, and a roadmap for the establishment of the Suffa International Radio Astronomical Observatory were developed. Mutual agreements were signed on the establishment of branches of leading Russian higher educational institutions in Uzbekistan and cooperation in the textile industry.

During the visit, 20 documents were signed aimed at developing cooperation in various fields.

Russian investments in our country's economy exceeded \$8.5 billion. New investment agreements and trade contracts worth a total of about \$25 billion were prepared with leading Russian companies and banks.

In order to provide quality education in Uzbekistan, a branch of the Moscow Institute of Steel and Alloys began operating in the city of Almalyk from the 2018 academic year. It is also planned to open branches of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, the Moscow Energy Institute, the MMFI National Research Nuclear University, the All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography, and the Russian University of Chemical Technology in our country. Cooperation in this area is continuing.[6]

The Uzbekistan-Russia Education Forum was held in Tashkent on October 18-19, 2018. Leading higher educational institutions of Uzbekistan and Russia participated in this event.

On October 18, 2018, the opening ceremony of the monument to Islam Karimov was held in the Russian capital, Moscow.

On June 23, 2020, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev paid a working visit to the Russian Federation.

Vladimir Putin, speaking about the participation of representatives of the Armed Forces of our country in the parade on Red Square on June 24 (2020), for the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan, confirmed that “this is a clear demonstration of our unique allied relations.”

The head of state, in turn, congratulated Vladimir Putin and the entire Russian people on the great holiday. “This is our common history, our common victory,” said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.[7] The volume of Russian investments in the economy of Uzbekistan has exceeded \$10 billion.

Another priority area of cooperation is active exchanges in the fields of science and education, over the past few years, 7 branches of leading Russian higher educational institutions have been established in our country. Their total number has reached 10. It is planned to open branches of 4 more Russian universities.

Relations between Uzbekistan and Russia are developing rapidly. Many agreements are being signed in science, education, economics, cultural and humanitarian, healthcare and many other areas.

The main documents are the Memorandum of Understanding, the Agreement on the Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investments, the Trade Agreement, the Joint Statement on Consultations, and the Joint Information on Consular Relations.

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