



L'Ouzbékistan aujourd'hui Uzbekistan today

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Actions Strategy Approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev



The Presidential Decree signed 7 February 2017 approved the Strategy for Actions for the Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan along Five Priority Areas in 2017-2021, worked out on the basis of a comprehensive study of pressing issues of the population.

Drafts of this document as well as the state program for its realization were placed on different information platforms for broad public discussion, which received numerous proposals. Citizens expressed interest and involvement in the reforms, demonstrated high political activity.

In particular, according to the results of public discussion of the drafts, the portal «Impact assessment system of legislative acts» received 1,310 recommendations and feedbacks on the basis of which 41 paragraphs of the state program were revised.

The Strategy for Actions outlined the issues of socio-political, socio-economic, cultural and humanitarian development of the country announced by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev during his electoral campaigning, numerous meetings with the electorate, business community and government bodies.

The aim of the Actions Strategy is cardinal advancement in the effectiveness of reforms, creation of conditions for securing comprehensive and rapid development of the state and society, modernization of the country and liberalization of all walks of life.

Five priority areas were identified for the country's development, each of which containing specific sections on the enhancement of reforms and transformation.

The Strategy for Actions envisages implementation of it in five stages, each having a separate annual state program to be approved¹ every year in accordance with the declared slogan of that year.

The realization of the **first track of the state program, «Improving the state and society building»**, provides for the consolidation of the role of the Oliy Majlis in the system of government, a radical perfection of the quality of legislative activity, cementing the role of political parties in public life.

It is planned to introduce measures to improve public administration, especially reform the civil service, reduce state regulation in the economy, develop modern forms of mutually beneficial cooperation between the public and private sector and the e-government system.

Securing effective dialogue with the people is one of the critical and pressing tasks of the state program, in connection with which it was expected to raise public control, further the advancement of NGOs, the media, and step up the role of mahalla in society.

The second track of the national program provides for measures on securing the rule of law and genuine independence of the judiciary. It envisages the establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council designed to ensure the independence of judicial decision-making, the formation of a professional judiciary, realization of measures to protect the rights and legitimate interests of judges.

It contemplates for the further specialization of courts and strengthen their apparatus by setting up administrative courts, regional appellate courts in the system of economic courts,

and improve the procedural legislation in order to avoid bureaucracy and unjustified delaying of cases, the expansion of the powers of superior courts on self elimination of the weaknesses of lower courts and making the final decision.

Within this framework of this direction it was provided the realization of measures on establishing a direct dialogue with the people by the heads of all law enforcement and regulatory bodies, state and economic administration, government authorities in places, securing their accessibility to the public, timely receipt of complaints about violations of rights and freedoms of individuals and business entities. It also contains reforming of the system of notary and registry offices.

The realization of the measures mentioned in the **third direction, «The development and liberalization of the economy»** provides ensuring the stability of the national currency and prices, the gradual introduction of modern market mechanisms of currency regulation, expanding the revenue base of local budgets, developing foreign economic relations, introduction of modern technologies for the production of export-oriented products and materials, the evolvement of transport and logistics infrastructure, improvement of investment attractiveness for the development of business and foreign investors, betterment of tax administration, introduction of modern principles and mechanisms of regulation of banking activities, the advancement of diversified farms, as well as accelerated development of the tourism industry.

In 2017-2021, it is planned to realize sector-based programs providing for a total of 649 investment projects worth \$40 billion. As a result, over the next five years, the production of industrial goods will increase 1.5 times, its share in GDP is to grow from 33.6% to 36%, the share of processing industry - from 80% to 85%.



The fourth track, «Development of the social sphere» provides for the introduction of measures to bolster employment, improve the system of social and citizens' health protection, the advancement and modernization of road transport, engineering, communications and social infrastructure, improving the provision of electricity, gas, and quality of social care for vulnerable segments of the population, enhancing the status of women in public and political life, reforming the healthcare system, securing the availability of pre-school educational institutions, improving the quality and development of general secondary education, specialized secondary and higher education.

In particular, it provided the execution of employment programs through the creation of 256.4 thousand jobs by the realization of about 25 thousand investment projects for integrated advancement of the territories. In the regions with the highest unemployment rate it is projected to create 46.8 thousand jobs and to allocate loans for 10 thousand graduates of educational institutions to start a business.

There were also included measures on the support of the older generation, improvement of the issuance order of social benefits, reforming the healthcare sector. Thus, it is planned reconstruction of 78 regional medical associations, 7 urban and 2 regional diversified medical centers, provision of emergency medical services with 1,200 units of special vehicles.

In rural areas it is scheduled to build 15 thousand affordable houses, 415 km of water supply ways, 316 km of gas supply ways, 291 km of internal roads. In order to improve the quality of transport services to the public it is planned to introduce 86 new bus lines and to buy 537 modern buses.



The fifth track, «Ensuring the security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, balanced, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy» provides for the realization of measures on the protection of the constitutional order, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the republic, bettering the system of information and legal base in the field of cyber security, organization and development of the public warning system for emergencies, mitigation of the Aral Sea disaster, as well as development of the concept for priority policy directions in the field of interethnic relations and the concept of public policy in religious sphere.

There will be allocated 37.7 trillion soums (*currency rates of CB RU from 10.02.2017, 1\$= 3294.74 soums*) and 8.3 billion US dollars for the realization of aforementioned measures of the state program.

Introduction of the Strategy for Actions will come to be a potent impetus for reforming and modernization of the country, building a democratic state ruled by law, with a developed market economy a robust civil society.

(«Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)

Uzbekistan's President receives Russian Deputy Prime Minister



On 15 February President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Kozak, who has arrived in our country to take part at the regular session of the Uzbekistan-Russia intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation.

The Head of our state, welcoming the guest, has underlined the dynamic development and steady reinforcement of strategic partnership relations between Uzbekistan and Russia in many areas, including in commercial and economic spheres.

The parties have emphasised the active and productive implementation of the agreements, reached during the meeting of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in Samarkand on 6 September 2016.

Today Russia is one of the key economic partners of Uzbekistan. In 2016 the bilateral trade volume exceeded 4,2 bln. US dollars. A package of bilateral agreements on organizing delivery of fruits and vegetable products from Uzbekistan to Russian customers through "a green corridor" has been signed in order to further increase the trade turnover. In 2017 over 1 million tons of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as wide assortment of processed products are planned to be shipped.

● The contacts on all areas of the cooperation, including among the regions of the two countries have significantly intensified.



The investment cooperation is also improving. Currently in excess of 960 enterprises with the Russian capital operate in Uzbekistan, representative offices of 64 leading Russian companies have been accredited.

Development and implementation of new investment projects are underway, which along with an oil and gas sector, encompass such spheres as machine building, metallurgy, textile industry, pharmaceuticals and production of modern medical equipment, deep processing of agricultural products. New programs and agreements in education and healthcare spheres are being developed.

The issues of further diversifying the areas of a mutually beneficial cooperation in various spheres of the economy have been discussed at the meeting.

The parties stressed the important role of the intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation in establishing long-term business contacts between companies of the two countries, as well as in pushing forward new joint programs and projects.

Dmitry Kozak has expressed a sincere gratitude to the President of our country for a warm welcome and reaffirmed the willingness of the Russian Federation to develop a full-scale trade-economic partnership with the Republic of Uzbekistan.

(Source: UZA)

Le 25ème anniversaire de l'établissement des relations diplomatiques entre l'Ouzbékistan et la France



Les relations qu'entretien actuellement l'Ouzbékistan et la France se développent de manière positive dans tous les domaines. Il convient de souligné à cet égard les racines très profondes dans lesquelles leurs liens trouvent leur ancrage. La correspondance entre Amir Temur et le roi français Charles VI au début du XVe siècle en est la meilleure preuve.

La République Française a reconnu l'indépendance de la République d'Ouzbékistan le 3 janvier 1992. Les relations diplomatiques entre les deux pays ont été établies le 1 mars 1992.

L'Ambassade de France est ouverte à Tachkent depuis juin 1992. L'Ambassade de l'Ouzbékistan est ouverte à Paris depuis mars 1995.

L'Ambassadeur Plénipotentiaire et Extraordinaire de la République d'Ouzbékistan en France Monsieur Ravshan USMANOV a présenté ses lettres de créance à S.Exc. Monsieur François HOLLANDE, Président de la République Française, le 26 octobre 2012.

Dans le domaine politique

La France est l'un des plus importants partenaires européens de l'Ouzbékistan.

Le dialogue politique entre les chefs de deux Etats a été entamé lors de la visite d'Etat de S.Exc.Monsieur Islam Karimov, premier Président de la République d'Ouzbékistan, en France en octobre 1993.

Le Président de la France S.Exc. Monsieur François Mitterand a visité l'Ouzbékistan en 1994.

S.Exc.Monsieur Islam Karimov, premier Président de la République d'Ouzbékistan, a visité la France au mois d'avril 1996.

Les rencontres de S.Exc. M.Islam Karimov, premier Président de la République d'Ouzbékistan avec S.Exc. M.Jacques Chirac du président de La République Française, en juin de 1996 au sommet des chefs d'Etat de l'UE à Florence, et en novembre de 2002 au sommet des pays membres de l'OTAN / CPEA Sommet de Prague, ont beaucoup contribué au développement et à l'élargissement de la coopération bilatérale dans toutes les domaines.

S.Exc.M.François Hollande, Président de la République Française dans son message de félicitations, adressé à S.Exc.M.Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Président de la République d'Ouzbékistan, à l'occasion de sa victoire aux élections présidentielles le 4 décembre 2016, il a souhaité le succès dans la réalisation de nouvelles réformes dans le pays et a exprimé l'espoir que les relations entre l'Ouzbékistan et la France deviendrons plus dynamique dans tous les domaines de la coopération bilatérale. M.François Holland a réitéré le soutien de l'Ouzbékistan dans la mise en œuvre de l'initiative visant à maintenir la stabilité dans la région, ainsi que pour la poursuite du développement économique, social et humain.

L'Ouzbékistan et la France entretient un dialogue régulier par le biais de leurs Ministères des Affaire Etrangères respectifs. La délégation de la République d'Ouzbékistan, dirigée par E.Exc M.Abdulaziz Kamilov, Ministre des Affaires étrangères, a effectué du 15 au 16 octobre 2012 une visite officielle. Les consultations ont été organisées dans le



cadre de cette visite.

La délégation française, dirigée par M. Laurent Fabius, Ministre des Affaires étrangères s'est rendu à Tachkent le 2 Mars 2013. C'était l'événement important qui a renforcé les relations bilatérales, la coopération politique et le dialogue sur les questions internationales et régionales. Lors de cette visite M. Fabius s'est entretenu avec S. Exc. M. Islam Karimov, Président de la République, et avec le Ministre des Affaires étrangères de la République d'Ouzbékistan M. Kamilov. Les consultations politiques et le Forum d'affaires avec la participation de grandes sociétés françaises ont été organisés lors de cette visite.

La délégation de l'Ouzbékistan, conduite par M. Kamilov, Ministre des Affaires étrangères d'Ouzbékistan, a visité Paris le 5 et 8 novembre 2014. Dans le cadre de cette visite le neuvième round des consultations politiques au niveau des ministres ont été organisés. Cette visite a marqué une nouvelle étape pour le renforcement de la coopération bilatérale, la promotion de la coopération en matière de politique étrangère portant sur les questions régionales et internationales d'intérêt commun.

Afin de favoriser le dialogue politique le 8 décembre 2016 les deux ministres des Affaires étrangères M. Abdulaziz Kamilov et M. Jean-Marc Ayrault se sont rencontrés lors de la réunion du Conseil ministériel de l'OSCE à Hambourg. Ils ont discuté de l'ensemble des relations bilatérales et ont

échangé des vues sur les questions internationales et régionales et se sont convenus de maintenir le haut niveau de la coopération entre les ministères des Affaires étrangères de deux pays.

Le résultat important de cette rencontre est la signature de l'Accord intergouvernemental relatif à l'établissement et aux activités de l'Agence française de développement et de Proparco en Ouzbékistan. Ce document contribuera sans doute à l'élargissement de notre coopération dans les domaines d'investissement, financière et technique, ainsi qu'à l'efficacité de la mise en œuvre de projets communs.

Les liens interparlementaires se développent progressivement.

Mars 2008, le Sénat de l'Oliy Majlis de l'Ouzbékistan a créé le groupe interparlementaire de la coopération avec le Sénat français. Depuis juin 2010, le groupe d'amitié « Ouzbékistan-France » fonctionne à la Chambre législative du Parlement ouzbek.

Au Sénat de la France a mis en place un groupe inter-parlementaire « France-Asie Centrale » et le groupe d'amitié « France-Ouzbékistan », à l'Assemblée Nationale fonctionne un groupe d'amitié « France-Ouzbékistan ».

Les visites des parlementaires de deux pays sont organisées régulièrement. De côté ouzbek: la visite en France de M. Sobirov, président de Sénat d'Ouzbékistan, en novembre 2006, les délégations ouzbèkes conduites par Mme Rajabova, vice-président du Sénat (mars,

2010.), par M.Muhammadiev, vice-président de la Chambre législative d'Oliy Majlis (mai 2014), par M.Teshabaev, président de la commission de l'agriculture et de gestion de l'eau (juin 2014) et par M.Djuraev, président du Comité de la défense et de la sécurité de la Chambre législative (septembre 2014).

Du côté français, quelques visites des membres du parlement français ont été organisées en Ouzbékistan: de la délégation du Sénat français, dirigé par M.André DULAIT, Président du Groupe sénatorial France-Asie Centrale (mai 2011, Septembre 2013), de Mme Françoise CARTRON, Sénatrice, Vice-présidente du Sénat, Membre de la Commission de la culture, de l'Éducation et de la Communication (février 2012), de Roland Blum, Président du groupe d'amitié « France-Ouzbékistan » à l'Assemblée Nationale (Février 2012), de MM.Lionnel LUCA et Jean GLAVANY, députés (juin 2011), de Mme Nathalie GOULET, sénatrice et membre du Groupe d'amitié «France-Asie Centrale» (novembre 2012, mai 2013), de M.Thierry Mariani, député, vice-président du groupe d'amitié « France-Ouzbékistan» à l'Assemblée Nationale (mai, 2014), de Mme Joëlle Garriaud-Maylam sénatrice, membre du groupe d'amitié «France-Asie Centrale» au Sénat (juin, 2015) et de M. Philippe Meunier, président du groupe d'amitié «France-Ouzbékistan» à l'Assemblée Nationale (19-23 Octobre, 2015).

En juin 2008 l'Ouzbékistan et la France ont signé l'Accord de coopération entre l'Ombudsman d'Ouzbékistan et le Défenseur des droits de la France.

Coopération dans le domaine commercial et économique

La coopération économique et commerciale bilatérale est régie par l'Accord de partenariat et de coopération entre l'Ouzbékistan et l'UE.

Au cours de la visite d'Etat de M.Islam Karimov, premier Président de la République d'Ouzbékistan, en France en octobre 1993 Les deux pays ont signé:

- l'Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République d'Ouzbékistan et le Gouvernement de la République Française sur l'encouragement et la protection réciproques des investissements (Paris, le 27 Octobre 1993.);

- l'Accord de coopération culturelle, scientifique et technique entre le Gouvernement de la République française et le Gouvernement de la République d'Ouzbékistan (Paris, le 27 Octobre 1993.).

La visite officielle de S.Exc. M.Islam Karimov, premier Président de l'Ouzbékistan en avril 1996. A cette occasion les pays ont signé la Convention entre le Gouvernement de la République d'Ouzbékistan et le Gouvernement de la République Française en vue d'éviter les doubles impositions et de prévenir l'évasion et la fraude fiscales en matière d'impôts sur le revenu et sur la fortune (Paris, le 22 avril 1996).

La France est l'un des partenaires commerciaux les plus importants de l'Ouzbékistan en Europe. Selon les résultats de 10 mois de 2016 le volume du commerce bilatéral est de 214,7 millions dollar des États-Unis.

La Commission intergouvernementale ouzbèko-française du commerce et de la coopération économique contribue significativement au développement du commerce bilatéral et des relations économiques. La tenue des sessions de cette commission mixte est un outil efficace pour l'analyse de l'état actuel de la coopération bilatérale et pour élaborer des propositions spécifiques pour l'approfondissement de la coopération commerciale, économique et de l'investissement avec l'examen des projets. La 6^{ème} session de cette Commission s'est tenue en juillet 2016 à Tachkent. Actuellement 15 entreprises, créées avec le capital français, dont 4 entreprises avec 100% de capital français, mènent leur activités en Ouzbékistan. 11 représentants des sociétés françaises sont accrédités.

Dans le domaine humanitaire

Le témoignage éloquent de l'interaction des cultures et des traditions de l'Ouzbékistan et de la France, du développement fructueux des relations amicales entre nos deux pays est le partenariat et le jumelage établis entre les villes de Boukhara et de Rueil Malmaison, de Samarkand et de Lyon, de Khiva et de Versailles.

En France fonctionnent l'Association pour l'étude de l'art et l'histoire de Timurids époque, créée en 1988, l'Association «Avicenn-France », créée en 2004. En avril 1998 la société d'amitié «Ouzbékistan-France» à Tashkent.

Les artistes français participent régulièrement aux événements culturels internationaux, organisés en Ouzbékistan.

Les groupes de musique français ont participé à tous les dix festivals international de musique «Sharq Taronalari» à Samarkand, organisés depuis 1997.

Plusieurs université ouzbèkes ont déjà signé des accords de coopération avec des établissements d'enseignement supérieur français, à savoir: Université « Paris-Sud », Université Paris I «Panthéon-Sorbonne», Université «Paris Panthéon-Assas II, Université Paris IV «Paris-Sorbonne », Université de Grenoble, Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis, Université de « Bretagne-Sud », Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Toulouse, Université de Toulouse, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO), Ecole Nationale supérieure d'architecture de Versailles (ENSAV).

La signature au cours de deux dernières années du protocole de coopération entre l'Académie d'administration publique auprès du Président de la République d'Ouzbékistan et de l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration de la France (2012), du protocole de coopération entre l'Institut de Tachkent des études orientales et INALCO (2012), du protocole d'intention sur la coopération dans le domaine de la

formation entre L'École nationale de la magistrature (ENM) de France et des Cours d'enseignement supérieur du Bureau du Procureur général de l'Ouzbékistan (2012), du protocole de la coopération entre l'Université Toulouse 1 – Capitole et l'Université nationale juridique de Tachkent Tashkent (2013) contribuent au renforcement de la coopération dans le domaine de l'éducation.

Au cours de ces dernières années, la France reste le leader mondial pour le nombre de visiteurs voyageant en Ouzbékistan. Jusqu'à 10-15 milles de touristes français visitent chaque année l'Ouzbékistan.

Les représentants du Comité d'Etat pour le développement du tourisme de l'Ouzbékistan, de la compagnie aérienne nationale «Uzbekistan Airways» et des agences de voyage ouzbeks paticipent activement au Salon professionnel du tourisme «TOP RESA».



Ministry of economy of Uzbekistan: cotton fiber processing goes up 40%



According to the Ministry of economy of Uzbekistan, cotton fiber processing volume reached 40% in 2016, while in 1991 it was 7% only.

Today, the industry exports textile products to more than 50 countries. In recent years, the export has been expanded to Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Nigeria and other countries.

The Presidential Decree dated 21 December 2016 "On measures for further development of the textile, garment and knitwear industry in 2017-2019" has opened even more possibilities for improvement of the sector.

According to the document, by 2020 all available capacities of the cotton fiber are to be processed within the Republic.

The analysis shows that today, the yarn constitutes nearly 50% of exports. Priority is to increase exports of products with high added value due to the gradual reduction of yarn export. Currently, the share of finished products in the total volume of production amounts to 47%, in the future it is planned to increase this figure to 65.5%, as well as to increase the share of finished products in the export from 41 to 70%.

Some \$2.2b. of investments (nearly half foreign) are to be involved into the industry in 2017-2020. Special textile complexes shall operate on the basis of a four-phase system that includes all processes, starting from processing ending with the production of finished products. More than 27 thousand new jobs will be created. It is also planned to organize 120 new and upgrade more than 10 enterprises.

The allocation of credits for projects will be implemented based on a completely new mechanism. Commercial banks will co-finance the projects and to open a credit line for the purchase of modern spinning, weaving and painting equipment. In projects implemented at the expense of attracted funds of commercial banks, the banks or investment companies can participate with a share up to 100 percent in the share capital of the company. Banks have the right to engage in loans capitalization of interest accrued in the investment period, and not to apply restrictions on equity participation in the authorized capitals of the enterprises.

One of the key features of the program is the development and implementation of new industry standards for design and construction of textile enterprises on the basis of foreign experience. These standards will ensure lower costs of construction and installation works and pre-emptive use of local building materials. The terms for tax and customs incentives provided to encourage the processing of raw cotton, have been extended until January 1, 2020.

(Source: UzReport.uz)



In Uzbekistan, the estimated effect of import substitution reached \$2.1 billion in 2016



"Last year, national enterprises mastered the manufacturing of more than 80 new types of industrial products. They produced localized goods to a total of 6.14 trillion soums (currency rates of CB RU from 13.02.2017, 1\$= 3294.74 soums) in 2016, with 1.5 times increase YOY," the Ministry of Economy reported.

Industrial production across diverse sectors, with gradual enhancement of the level of processing of local raw materials and expanded range of finished consumer products showed the highest rates.

They are, primarily, textile, clothes and leather goods (11.7% growth rate), foods, beverages and tobacco products (10.8%), pharmaceutical goods (23.9%), chemical products, rubber and plastic products (29.7%), other non-metallic mineral products (13.8%).

The implementation of projects on modernization, technical and technological upgrade of industry, as well as 'Program of measures on cutting energy intensity, introduction of energy saving technologies in economy and social sector for 2015-2019' have had an effect on the decrease in energy intensity of the republic's GDP by 7.4%, and reduction of the cost of products manufactured by large enterprises by an average of 10.6% YOY.

(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)



French Development Agency is developing waste management project in Samarkand



It was defined well before that: the country will gradually abandon burning and long-term storage of waste at landfills, introducing modern and environmentally friendly technologies of its separate collection and recycling.

Huge amounts of waste that keeps accumulating in landfills, poisoning the life of surroundings, rank among the main challenges of modern society. Most of the states in the world lose in this combat, simply avoiding the worsening of the situation. They prefer using the old, proven, but extremely ineffective mechanisms of waste disposal by expanding landfills, delaying a solution on the back burner, or, even worse, cause enormous damage to the environment, partly burning garbage.

It is no secret that Uzbekistan could not avoid this problem, because huge amounts of industrial waste were accumulated in the country in the years of extensive development in Soviet times, which were thoughtlessly dumped into huge pits and then buried. It was not fashionable to care about the environment or population; the ball was ruled by industrial mega giants and economic projects.

Independence changed the situation; however, the game was still 'one-sided'. Despite the purchase of new equipment, creation of a network of modern garbage collection points throughout the country, the amount of waste continued to rise, threatening to entail even bigger quandaries. The solution was eventually found. Expert community and the government developed a uniform and

phased treatment strategy for production and consumption waste for the whole country with the main focus on the introduction of innovative technologies and attraction of investments, including foreign funds.

It is based on the creation of a network of standard design ultramodern waste sorting and recycling plants. According to expert estimates, even one year of operation of such a plant in every region of the country would significantly change the situation. They would not just address operational problems, but allow being proactive, moving toward complete resolution of the problem.

The initiative was built on the concept of expansion of the scope of application of municipal solid waste while minimizing their negative impact on the environment. Today, millions of tons of garbage are stored in landfills throughout the country and remain unused, while in the European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, they have long been in demand as a feedstock for the production of a wide range of goods, bringing billions of dollars in revenue.

The first conceptually new and ultra-modern waste sorting and recycling plant will be built in Urgench district of Khorezm region through loan resources of the National Bank of Uzbekistan. The industrial complex will be equipped by the Chinese Beston Group Machinery Co LTD.

The industrial facility, which is scheduled for commissioning by the end of the current year, will consist of two process steps - a specialized waste sorting station, and a complex for processing various types of waste. Annually, the facility will process almost 900 tons of municipal solid waste, and produce six types of finished products.

For example, fuel for boilers will be produced of rubber, tires, cellophane and plastic, and briquettes for heating will be obtained from pruning waste. Plastic bottles of soft drinks will go for the production of padding polyester for textile and construction industry.

It is planned to establish the production of walling blocks out of construction waste. A separate line will process waste paper into packaging material for industrial enterprises. Fruit and vegetable waste and spoiled food will go for the production of biogas and plant fertilizers.

A question arises: what will be the effect of one, or even 15 plants? This initiative should be assessed from a different angle. Plants just imply modern technologies, while triggering as much important system of separated waste collection nationwide, which is now regarded by all international experts without exception as one of the main mechanisms to address waste disposal problems. In this context, Uzbekistan will pioneer the introduction of a full-scale system of separate waste collection and recycling not only in Central Asia and the CIS, but among the most advanced nations of the world.

The scheme is simple: people will carry trash to specialized collection points equipped with modern containers, each of which is intended for a specific type of waste - glass, paper, plastic and so on. Specially procured vehicles of domestic production will deliver waste to factories for processing, which then will supply ready products to the market. The introduction of this system was supposed to start in the country long ago with Tashkent as a pilot project. However, the lack of a network of processing plants and full funding impeded the project. Now it is time for a full-scale launch.

Uzbekistan relies on the European experience. For example, a project on the modernization of solid waste management in Samarkand is partnered by the French Development Agency, which invests €23.5 million, and the EU that allocates €8 million from a special fund.

The project provides for the construction and repair of 200 garbage collection points, purchase of 70 specialized vehicles, construction of a municipal solid waste sorting center and a

waste disposal center, as well as the installation of a bioreactor for recycling biogas in landfills.

It is unique for the fact that the waste technical dumping center will be used as a bioreactor to maximize the extraction of biogas as a basis for obtaining fuel for refueling containment machines. The complex will be the first of its kind in Uzbekistan and the entire Central Asia.

This all suggests that with the right approach, Uzbekistan is likely to turn into one of the cleanest countries in the region in a couple of years, earning on seemingly useless waste. The project has been launched, and the results are anticipated.

(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)



Portugal and Uzbekistan are becoming closer



A delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan headed by H.E. Ravshan Usmanov, Ambassador to Portugal, paid a visit to the city of Porto to participate in the Uzbek-Portuguese joint business forum.

Porto is considered as the most industrialized Portuguese city. The leading sectors of the economy in this region are food, textile, leather, chemical industries, machine and ship building, wine production and fish-canning. Porto has also enormous tourist potential. In particular, the city has a rich history, architectural, cultural monuments and gastronomic features.

The city of Porto was voted as the top destination in the European Best Destinations 2017 competition.

During the visit, the Uzbek delegation held talks with the Mayor of Porto, Mr. Rui Moreira. Both sides reaffirmed their interest in boosting bilateral trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian cooperation. R. Moreira noted that Portugal attaches great importance to the development of multifaceted cooperation with Uzbek partners, and Uzbekistan is considered in Portugal as a key country in Central Asia.

The sides discussed prospects for increasing bilateral trade and joint investment. The sides reached an agreement on the organization of systematic work in this direction, including encouraging the participation of representatives of business circles in specialized exhibitions and fairs of the two countries, exchange of business

delegations, joint workshops and forums.

The Uzbek delegation was interested to learn about Portuguese experience in the development of tourism, including the practice of creating tourist areas, attracting of investments in these areas. The possibility of setting up joint ventures, as well as training and advanced training for Uzbek specialists in the relevant institutes and institutions of Portugal were studied.

In order to deepen the bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Portugal it was proposed to explore the possibility of establishing partnership relations between the cities of Porto and Samarkand. It was noted that in future Samarkand could become the first city in the CIS, which has established partnership with one of Portugal's most important cities.

During the visit, the Uzbek delegation, together with the Portuguese Entrepreneurial Association (Associação Empresarial de Portugal - AEP) and the representative office of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Portugal held an Uzbek-Portuguese business forum, dedicated to the prospects of expanding bilateral trade and economic, investment, financial and technical cooperation and exchanges in the field of tourism. The forum was attended by the representatives of more than 50 Portuguese companies, specializing in a variety of industries ranging from automotive to agriculture.



The Portuguese side received a detailed information about the favorable business and investment climate, created in Uzbekistan, the pace of socio-economic development, the results of large-scale work on the further liberalization of economy, guarantees and preferences for foreign investors. The Portuguese companies were also presented by concrete investment projects for joint implementation in Uzbekistan and commercial proposals for export of Uzbek domestic products to Portugal.

Mrs. Monica Machado Moreira, Head of international department of the Portuguese Entrepreneurial Association (AEP) noted that the achievements of Uzbekistan in the field of reform and modernization of the economy, high and sustainable rates of growth are commendable.

Monica Machado Moreira: "Uzbekistan today is the largest and fastest growing market in Central Asia, has the most diversified industrial base in the region, as well as the developed road transport infrastructure. Prospects of cooperation between the two countries in the field of expansion of mutual trade and joint investment projects are very attractive. At the same time as the most important areas of cooperation could be identified such areas as textile, leather and footwear, pharmaceuticals, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering industry, production of construction materials, as well as the tourism industry. We are ready to assist in the practical implementation of joint projects between enterprises of two countries.

Mr. Rodrigo Passos, AEP administrator said, that the Uzbek-Portuguese joint business forum at such high representative level was organized in Porto for the first time. He stressed that this event demonstrated that Portuguese companies have keen interest to establish mutually beneficial relations with Uzbek enterprises, as well as the importance of

maintaining close cooperation between business circles of the two countries in order to achieve concrete results.

The bilateral meetings with representatives of a number of Portuguese companies were held within the framework of the business forum. Based on their results, it was agreed to organize a visit by representatives of the Portuguese business community to Uzbekistan.

The Uzbek delegation also visited the factories of Portuguese companies Têxteis Penedo (textile industry), KYAIA Fortunato (footwear), Savana - Calçados (production of children's shoes), Fábrica de Calçado SOZE (footwear), and discussed the specific areas of practical cooperation with enterprises of Uzbekistan.

Representatives of the city of Porto were interviewed by the Uzbek media on prospects for business and cultural cooperation with Uzbekistan.

Rui Moreira, Mayor of the city of Porto:



- I am honored to receive the delegation of Uzbekistan in the Porto City Hall. Portuguese entrepreneurs are now showing great interest in business cooperation with Uzbekistan. Today, during the meeting, we also managed to discuss the possibility of the establishment of twin-sister relations between the legendary cities of Samarkand and Porto.

- We hope that the Uzbek-Portuguese business forum and meetings with the leadership of a number of industrial enterprises of the region will become a platform for the expansion of our bilateral trade and economic, investment, financial and technical cooperation, tourism exchanges.

Rodrigo Passos, AEP administrator:

- The Uzbek-Portuguese business forum was extremely informative and, I hope, productive. The Association of Portuguese Entrepreneurs, with its headquarter in Porto, is pleased to hold this event, which will serve the interests of our countries which are interested in deepening mutually beneficial business relationships. Our association brings together thousands of Portuguese companies and is engaged in the creation of favorable conditions for the establishment of new contacts and relationships.

- **Antonio Lima, managing partner of «Veedmee» company:**



- On behalf of the Portuguese companies, I want to express my gratitude to the organizers of the Uzbek-Portuguese business forum for the opportunity to get acquainted with the economic, investment and tourism potential of Uzbekistan, which is one of the fastest developing countries in the Asian continent.

- I think that the next step should be the exchange of visits by representatives of business circles of the two countries in order to establish partnerships and mutually beneficial business cooperation.

- Despite the fact that Uzbekistan and Portugal are located far from each other, the culture and traditions of our nations have many similarities. Even outwardly we are somewhat similar to each other. I am sure that our trade and economic relations will develop successfully for the benefit of the peoples of our friendly countries and peoples.

Agostinho Afonso, general manager of Têxteis Penedo company:



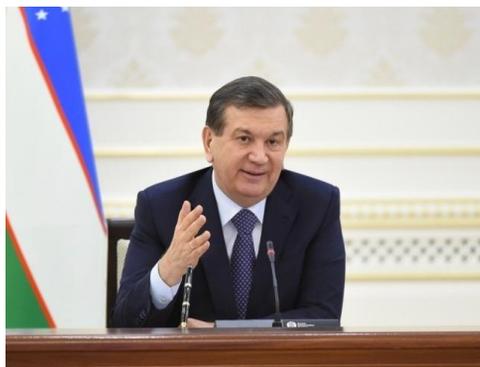
- Our company was founded in 1975. We export our products to many parts of the world, including Australia, South Korea, USA, Japan, Europe and Africa. The visit by Uzbekistan's representatives to Porto became a great event, thanks to which we obtained useful information for us about the development of the textile and clothing industry in the country, and also considered the possibility of cooperation with the Uzbek partners.

Vasco Sampaio, CEO of Fábrica de Calçado SOZE factory:

- The history of our company has more than 40 years. Prior to the 2000s, we have been producing shoes commissioned by well-known European brands, and then began to invest more in our own brand, called Dkode. Our brand products are currently exported to 25 countries worldwide, including Europe, USA and Canada. In general, shoes, produced in Portugal, are becoming increasingly popular across the world. We are extremely pleased to receive today the delegation of Uzbekistan in our enterprise. In our development strategy, we always try to open up new markets. For us, the Uzbek market is very attractive in terms of expanding our business.



Protection of human rights and freedoms, peaceful and prosperous life is necessary ensure the human interests



On 9 February a meeting through videoconferencing was held under the chairmanship of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, devoted to the activity of the internal affairs bodies, existing problems and shortcomings as well as tasks for the future.

It was attended by the leadership of the Ministry of internal affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, corresponding ministries and agencies, chairman of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, khokims of regions, Tashkent city, towns and districts.

The President of our country particularly highlighted that from the first days of independence a priority significance has been attached to ensuring security and stability in the country, protection of public order. This is demonstrated by adopted measures on reorganization of preventive, operational search, investigative, road and fire safety, security, patrol, mobile special services, as well as gradual strengthening of material-technical base of internal affairs bodies.

In order to reinforce mutual trust and ensure transparency in the relations of internal affairs staff with the public, new institutions such as prevention inspectors, local police stations, community (mahalla) guards have been established, which serves to maintain the atmosphere of peace and tranquility in our country. The Head of state underlined that in recent times the works on prevention and fight against crime, protection of public order and the rights and interests of people, further strengthening relations with the public have been elevated to a new level.

The legislation on the activity of internal affairs bodies has been improved. In the last five years the Laws "On operational-search activity", "On crime prevention" have been adopted, amendments to the Law "On citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan" have been made.

The adoption of the Law "On internal affairs bodies" in 2016 especially reinforced the legislative base of this sphere.

Increasing the effectiveness of the bodies of internal affairs, further improving their interaction with local khokimiyats, citizens' self-governing bodies remains a crucial task.

The President of our country drew attention to what degree the internal affairs bodies are meeting the contemporary requirements. At present, when the issues of protecting human interests require urgent solutions, there are still cases of old-fashioned thinking, organizing work on outmoded methods or based on the principles of personal interest, not on principles of serving the public.

The internal affairs bodies should organize their work in a manner so that the people are content with the state. However, in some places their work causes dissatisfaction of people. Particularly, such negative phenomena as criminal encroachment to property are not fully eliminated. The instances of intentional bodily harm, fraud, traffic accidents have not reduced.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev also paid attention to existing shortcomings in crime detection. In particular, every fifth crime, related to theft and fraud, has not been disclosed.

Serious weaknesses are observed in the criminal investigation activity, in some places, law enforcement cooperation does not meet the standard requirements. The fact that majority of criminals under the "wanted" list is undetained, allows them to continue their criminal acts, and this is a very worrying fact.

This, along with all spheres, also directly applies to medicine, the President of our country said. Therefore, professionals in the field have to learn the most advanced, modern achievements of world medicine, methods of treatments. Complacency is a serious obstacle to further development.

Announcement of 2017 as the Year of Dialogue with the people and human interests has a deep meaning. After all, human interests include health issues, the availability of full access to modern health services.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev at his campaign meetings had emphasized the need to engage in direct dialogue with the people, to learn about the issues of concern to citizens, to listen to their opinions and suggestions. The population has many actual problems in this area, which is also confirmed by the fact that more than 7000 requests and applications to the virtual reception of the Prime Minister are related to healthcare and medicine. People's applications, their views and suggestions necessitate further improvements in this sphere.

Our President elaborated on the forthcoming work in this area, the problems, waiting for their solution. The issues relating to the activities of rural medical stations have been highlighted. Currently, rural medical centres are adequately equipped with means of laboratory testing, diagnostic aids for primary medical examination. However, we cannot deny the shortage of trained professionals, who know how to use this modern medical equipment, and residents of some remote areas need to go to the district or regional centre in order to just take a blood test.

In some places, health check-ups are carried out formally, the President of our country continued. The shortage of qualified professionals in remote areas suggests that much remains to be done to address the staffing issue.

Rural health units have to work around the clock. To this end, it is necessary to build an adjacent house for a doctor, working at the rural health unit.

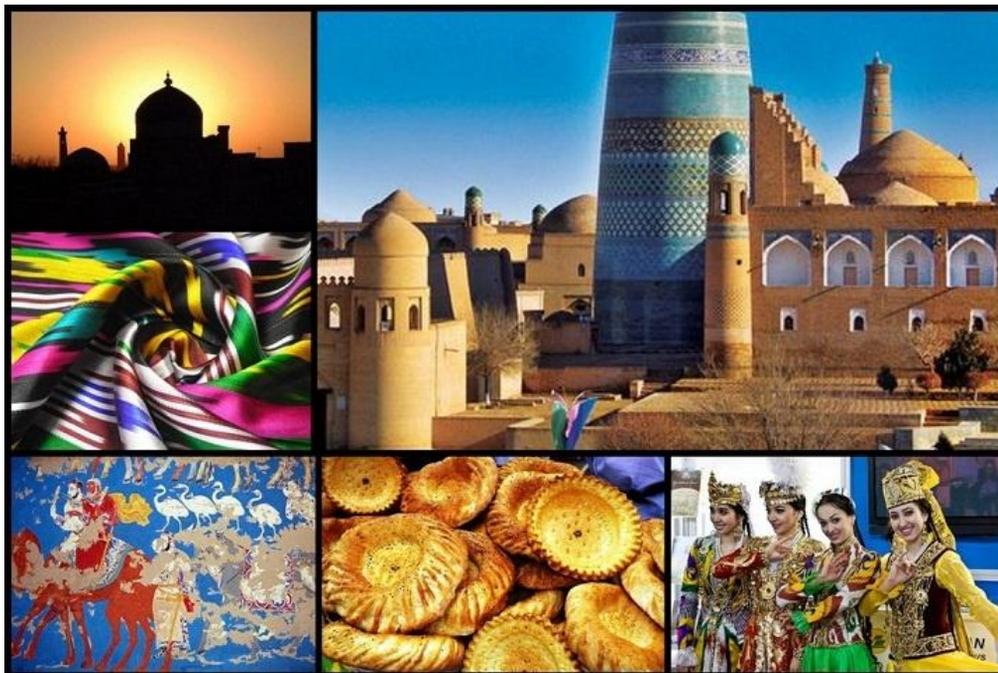
A number of measures, aimed at improving the provision of emergency medical assistance to the population, have been adopted. But we cannot say that today our people are satisfied with the quality of these services. A fundamental change of the system is the imperative of our time. The meeting critically considered the work on execution of the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further improve the provision of population with medications and medical products" from October 31, 2016.

It is necessary to organize separate clinics for girls and women, the Head of our state said. The birth of a healthy generation, future owners of our day, depends largely on the health of women. When it comes to health, we have to remember one truth: medical professionals are guardians of our health. People must trust them, and they have to win the trust of the people, Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized.

A lot of problems, waiting for their solution, concern specialized medical centres. All existing centres are located in Tashkent. This creates disadvantages for the rural population. Professionals from specialized medical centres should visit the regions and provide medical services to people on the ground, carry out surgeries, said the President of our country.

At the meeting, the responsible officials were given specific instructions concerning the further development of healthcare, improving the level and quality of medical services in accordance with international standards, widespread introduction of advanced educational technologies in the training of young professionals, further expanding cooperation with leading medical centres and educational institutions of the world, well-known scientists and experts,

Uzbekistan on the second line in the tourism rating of Financial Times



The British newspaper "Financial Times" has published an article about the most attractive tourist destinations in 2017. This ranking contained nine states, including Uzbekistan which took second place.

The rankings are based on a survey of business executives, leaders of the tourism industry, such as "Wild Frontiers", "KE Adventure Travel", "Discover the World", "Ampersand Travel", "Oetker Collection", "Red Savannah", "Cazenove and Loyd".

According to the founder of travel company "Wild Frontiers" Johnny Bilby, tourists prefer to visit unique places. The most attractive destination countries are on the Silk Road now.

The authors have recommended that if the tourists do not have time to travel around the Great Silk Road, a visit in Uzbekistan is worth to this. This country with its ancient cities as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Shakhrisabz, Tashkent, unique architectural monuments, deserts and blossoming valleys, tours on horses and camels creates a feeling that the person has visited all the countries in the region.

The article specifically mentions the Decree of the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev "On measures to ensure the accelerated development of the tourism industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated December 2, 2016. Tasks, new opportunities and convenience provided by the document have been highly appreciated in the publication.

"Financial Times" is one of the most respected publications in the field of business. Almost 2.3 million people read it daily. The main readers of the newspaper are the heads of large companies and organizations, including the world's leading travel companies.



Uzbek judokas win medals at tournament "PARIS Grand Slam"



The first in this year's "Grand Slam" tournament on judo, which saw 409 strongest athletes from 61 countries was held in Paris.

At the prestigious international competition, the team of Uzbekistan was represented by 9 judokas.

The most successful performance of our athletes showed Sharafiddin Lutfullaev in the weight category up to 60 kg. On the way to the final he broke the resistance of competitors from Slovenia, Russia, Brazil and the Republic of Korea. And only in the final battle Sh.Lutfullaev lost to Olympic bronze medalist in Rio de Janeiro Naohisa Takato from Japan and won the "silver" of the Paris tournament.

In the overall medal standings Uzbekistan national team took seventh place. Currently, our judokas are preparing for the next tournament in the series "Grand Slam", which will be held in Baku, Yekaterinburg, Abu Dhabi and Tokyo.

(Source: "Jahon" Information Agency)

(Photos: Emmanuel Charlot, L'Esprit du Judo)





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