

CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION BETWEEN  
UZBEKISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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O‘ZBEKISTON VA KOREYA RESPUBLIKASI O‘RTASIDAGI MADANIY-  
GUMANITAR HAMKORLIK

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КУЛЬТУРНО-ГУМАНИТАРНОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО МЕЖДУ  
УЗБЕКИСТАНОМ И РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ КОРЕЯ

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***Abstract:*** *Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea have been fostering a deep and fruitful cultural and humanitarian cooperation, characterized by strong bilateral relations and a mutual commitment to collaboration. Through the exchange of knowledge, arts, and social initiatives, the two countries have enhanced their cultural understanding and nurtured a spirit of harmony and friendship. This article explores the various aspects of this cooperation.*

***Keywords:*** *culture, diversity, relationship, international agreements, investments, organizations*

***Аннотация:*** *Узбекистан и Республика Корея развивают глубокое и плодотворное культурно-гуманитарное сотрудничество, характеризующееся прочными двусторонними отношениями и взаимной*

*приверженностью сотрудничеству. Благодаря обмену знаниями, искусству и социальным инициативам две страны улучшили свое культурное взаимопонимание и воспитали дух гармонии и дружбы. В данной статье рассматриваются различные аспекты этого сотрудничества.*

**Ключевые слова:** *культура, разнообразие, отношения, международные соглашения, инвестиции, организации.*

**Annotatsiya:** *O'zbekiston va Koreya Respublikasi o'rtasida chuqur va samarali madaniy-gumanitar hamkorlik izchil rivojlanib bormoqda, u ikki tomonlama mustahkam munosabatlar va hamkorlikka o'zaro sadoqat bilan ajralib turadi. Bilim, san'at va ijtimoiy tashabbuslar almashinuvi orqali ikki davlat o'zaro madaniy tushunishni oshirib, hamjihatlik va do'stlik ruhini tarbiyaladi. Ushbu maqola ushbu hamkorlikning turli jihatlarini o'rganadi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *madaniyat, xilma-xillik, munosabatlar, xalqaro shartnomalar, investitsiyalar, tashkilotlar*

**Introduction:** Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea have forged a strong partnership grounded in cultural and humanitarian cooperation. This collaboration has sparked a rich tapestry of mutual understanding, respect, and growth. Through a shared commitment to cultural exchange, the two nations have cultivated a vibrant relationship that continues to flourish.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev is making a state visit to this country on November 22-25 this year at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in.

Successful cooperation between the countries in the humanitarian sphere has a long history. Everyone knows that Koreans, who have been living in Uzbekistan for many years, have become an integral and important part of social life.

Since 1992<sup>1</sup>, the Korean educational center has been operating in Tashkent. The center is engaged in language learning in the Republic of Korea on a competitive basis and organization of professional development courses for university teachers and students.

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<sup>1</sup> Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Korea (Ilyas Ismailovich Okbo'Tayev). ISSN: 2181-1385

Today, Korean language and culture centers are operating in the leading higher educational institutions of Uzbekistan, including the State University of World Languages of Uzbekistan, the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.

Korean language is taught as a subject in 12 universities and 28 schools and lyceums across the country.

Uzbek-Korean educational centers were established in Tashkent in 2012 and in Samarkand in 2016 based on the grant of the International Cooperation Agency of the Republic of Korea (KOIKA).

An electronic library of oriental studies was created at the Tashkent State Pedagogical University, the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, and the International Cooperation Agency of the Republic of Korea on the basis of the free aid program of the government of the Republic of Korea.

On September 1, 2014, a branch of Korea's Inha University, specializing in computer and software engineering, logistics, was opened in Tashkent.

Also, on September 1, 2014, Seoul Park was opened in the territory of "Babur" Park of Tashkent. Today, construction work is underway to build the Korean House of Culture and Art.

Every year, in cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan, "Korean Culture Week" is held in the country. During the week, Korean film night, master classes of Korean traditional artists, art and photo exhibitions, Korean song and speech contest, Korean fashion shows will be held.

The Republic of Korea will help equip the Taekwondo Association of Uzbekistan with sports equipment and organize training sessions for athletes from both countries.

For their contribution to the development of Uzbekistan-Korea relations, 10 representatives of the South Korean government have been awarded the "Dostlik" order.

## Embracing Diversity and Tradition

Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea have embraced each other's cultural diversity and traditions, fostering a deep appreciation for the unique heritage of both nations. This open-minded approach has paved the way for meaningful cultural exchanges, allowing the people of Uzbekistan and Korea to connect on a profound level.

## Humanitarian Initiatives: Fostering Compassion and Empathy

The humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea has been instrumental in fostering compassion and empathy. Both nations have collaborated on various initiatives aimed at uplifting communities and promoting sustainable development. This concerted effort has not only brought tangible benefits to those in need but has also strengthened the bond between the two countries.

## Education and Knowledge Sharing

Education and knowledge sharing have been pivotal in nurturing the relationship between Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea. Through academic exchanges, research collaborations, and scholarships, both nations have enriched each other's intellectual landscape. This commitment to learning has expanded horizons and created a fertile ground for the exchange of ideas and innovation.

## Building Bridges Through Art and Entertainment

The arts and entertainment industry has served as a powerful bridge between Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea. From captivating performances to thought-provoking exhibitions, the creative exchange has ignited a cultural renaissance, allowing the people of both nations to revel in the beauty of each other's artistic expressions.

## A Shared Vision for the Future

As Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea continue to deepen their cultural and humanitarian cooperation, they are laying the foundation for a brighter and more interconnected future. By cultivating understanding, compassion, and mutual

respect, these two nations are not only enriching their own societies but also setting an inspiring example for the world.

In today's complex situation, world peace, security and stability depend on mutual trust, solidarity and friendly relations between countries and nations. Only the positive development of socio-political, cultural and economic relations can bring humanity out of today's difficult situation.

Our country, which entered the world stage as an independent country in 1991, is boldly and determinedly moving forward under the leadership of President Islam Karimov. Until now, it has been stated many times that our country is in favor of solving any conflicts, conflicts and crises by peaceful means, on the basis of universal criteria and international laws, and this position is being steadfastly defended.

South Korea<sup>2</sup> is another country of peace, goodness and harmony that is progressing along the same path. It should be noted that Uzbek and Korean nationalities have many similarities and commonalities. We are linguistically united by the Altai language family, and territorially we are united by one continent, one region - Eurasia and the East. Historically and culturally, many harmonies can be seen.

Like the Uzbeks, the brave Korean people were forced to live under the oppression of invaders many times in the past, and to wage a blood and life struggle against them. It is probably because of such difficulties that even in the current peaceful and prosperous environment, Koreans are distinguished by their hard work and perseverance.

After the independence of our country, on December 30, 1991, South Korea was the first among the countries of the Asia-Pacific region to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan. Diplomatic relations were established between the two countries on January 29, 1992. Since that day, the relations between Uzbekistan and South Korea have been developing successfully in every sphere in a positive spirit.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/18793665221123598?icid=int.sj-full-text.similar-articles.2>

On June 19, 1992, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov paid a state visit to the Republic of Korea. This visit laid the foundation for economic, trade, cultural and technical relations between the two countries and nations. It was during this trip that the declaration "On Interstate Relations and Cooperation between Uzbekistan and South Korea" was signed.

A number of agreements were signed on trade and economic exchange, guarantees to South Korean businessmen who invest in the development of Uzbekistan's economy. Long-term plans for cooperation in the fields of culture, education, mass information, travel, and sports were determined. It was agreed with the leaders of DEU Corporation in South Korea to build a car factory in Asaka, Andijan region.

In 1992-1996, the construction and design of the Uzbekistan-South Korea joint venture "UzDEUavto" was carried out. On March 25, 1996, the first product of the plant was produced.

The scope of cooperation between our countries is trade, investment, export-import, fuel and energy, chemistry, transport and logistics, automotive industry, mining industry, light industry, food, agriculture, information technology and telecommunications, covering many fields such as medicine, tourism, science and education and culture.

Currently, 412 enterprises established in cooperation with South Korean investors, representative offices of 81 companies in this country are working in Uzbekistan. The volume of investments in Uzbekistan exceeded 6 billion dollars. The Republic of Korea is one of the main foreign trade partners of Uzbekistan. 7.8 percent of our country's foreign trade belongs to South Korea, and in 2014, the volume of mutual trade exceeded 2 billion dollars.

When it comes to the relations between the two countries, it is worth mentioning the cooperation in the field of culture and education. The Korean educational center has been operating in Tashkent since 1992. Several universities and institutes have opened Korean language and culture centers. Korean language

is taught in 13 higher education institutions, 28 schools and lyceums. Universities of Uzbekistan have been cooperating with more than thirty higher educational institutions and scientific production organizations in South Korea.

To date, 14 rounds of political consultations have been held between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries (the last one was held on November 5, 2020 in the form of a video conference). On April 17-18, 2018, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Kang Gyeong-hwa, paid an official visit to Uzbekistan.

Since November 2007, the annual cooperation forum "Republic of Korea - Central Asia" has been operating. In November 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Kamilov participated in the 13th meeting of the Forum.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has supported all the initiatives of the Republic of Korea in cooperation within international organizations

### ***Conclusion***

Cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea has been instrumental in fostering strong ties and promoting mutual understanding. Through a variety of cultural exchange programs and humanitarian initiatives, both countries have successfully bridged the gap and built lasting relationships. It is imperative to continue nurturing these connections for the betterment of both nations and to pave the way for a brighter future of cooperation.

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