



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN JAPAN



INFORMATION BULLETIN

PRESIDENT INSTRUCTS TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF CARS AND IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY

On July 8, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting on development of automotive industry.

Over the past twenty-three years, the automotive industry of Uzbekistan has consistently developed and taken its position in the domestic and foreign markets. From October 1 this year, the benefits introduced for the industry will be canceled, and it will fully switch to the principles of a market economy. This, in turn, will require the introduction of modern management mechanisms, increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of products

manufactured by the automotive industry.



In six months of this year, the volume of production in the automotive industry grew by 154 percent compared to the same period of the last year. Products worth almost 73 million USD were exported, the share of

domestically produced cars in the domestic market reached 97 percent.

These figures indicate positive developments. However, with regard to the localization level, the numbers are disappointing. This figure in production of cars amounts to 45 percent, trucks and buses – only 24 percent.

Issues of increasing the level of localization, as well as increasing exports by reducing the cost of production were discussed at the meeting.

JSC Uzavtosanoat has been tasked to increase the total production volume from the current 250 thousand to 350 thousand units of cars by 2023, as well as to increase the export volume to at least 100 thousand units per

year.

It was noted that for this, first of all, it is necessary to introduce an advanced industry management system, optimize production costs with involvement of specialists from foreign consulting companies.

It was indicated that the cost of logistics for exporting a single car is 8-10 percent of its value, and therefore the tasks were defined for supporting the industry, including in the form of a partial reimbursement by the state of transportation costs for export. Recommendations were given on revising the structure of export costs and entering foreign markets in cooperation with foreign distributors.

Currently, the production of 5 types of cars is carried out on the basis of 5 different platforms, which increases the consumption of resources and time, significantly affects the price of products. In this regard, instructions were given for establishing production of several car brands on the basis of a single platform.

Issues of implementing a project on organizing production of commercial vehicles together with foreign companies, attracting direct investments from Chinese and Japanese partners to development of enterprises MAN Auto and SamAuto, were also considered.

The Ministry of Economy and Industry has been instructed to take measures on increasing the level of localization, in particular, mastering production in the country of 22 types of imported base components.

Instructions were given on introduction of mechanisms for non-tariff import regulation and international standards for the impact of transport on the environment.

The Head of the state noted the importance of strengthening the market positions of domestic products through improving the quality of cars, while maintaining price stability, as well as through production of new budget models and expanding localization.

NAVOI “FEZ” STRIVES TO BECOME THE CENTER FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The government of Uzbekistan is aiming to transform Navoi city located close to historic Karmana into the trade hub of the country – the center for investments and economic development. For the last two years both the city and the free economic zone (FEZ) have gone through major changes.

On June 5, 2018 the territory of FEZ was extended to more than 80 hectares following the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and on May 15, 2019 the whole Navoi region was included to the free economic zone.

“Navoi” FEZ is the industrial platform that unites 44 members. 15 of

them are joint ventures, like Hayat Power Cable Systems that is producing high-voltage power line with XLPE insulation.

Hayat Power Cable Systems as the only venture in Uzbekistan that produces 400 kv power lines unlocks new opportunities to export its product to Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Russia and other countries.

“Navoi FEZ lived through big changes for the last two years, says Habib Abdullaev, the director. “Not only the land, but also the building on the territory of the zone is free for investors. They are also freed from several taxes from 3 to 10 years depending on the investment amount. Those include land tax, income tax, corporate property tax, single tax payment for micro firms and small enterprises, mandatory deduction to the Republican Road Fund and others. Besides, we offer visa privileges.”

The zone doesn't set strict boundaries on project types, yet its preferences include construction, chemical industry, metallurgy, IT-sector and mechanical engineering.

Navoi International Airport is only 2 kilometers away from FEZ. Temur Babaev, the director of airport says that it is equipped to maintain 11 flights simultaneously, 50



flights per day. There is also a railroad and truck parking lot for 500 units. Airport is upgrading its fuel and lubricant stock and planning to increase the fuel capacity to 50 thousand tons. It barely snows in Navoi region, therefore the airport doesn't depend on weather conditions. Sustainable flights are ensured.

The representative of BENKAM joint venture Shakhrizod Khosilov states that the FEZ's location is convenient for international shipping.

Navoi Free Economic Zone gets a second breath. The volume of investment for 2017-2018 has exceeded the total amount of investment since its inception.

Since Navoi region has been declared the free economic zone, a number of investors knocked on directory's doors. As Abdullaev states, three days following the decree, directory received around 20 requests. That means they have a lot of work to do.

When asked why investors should bring their money to Navoi region, deputy khokim Uktam Islamov says it is the region with abundant natural resources. “Nearly all elements of periodic table are present here. Navoi

region works in line with all international standards. We have a great capacity potential and planning to set up branches of leading universities of Uzbekistan and the world in here”, concluded Islamov.

Navoi FEZ is the undiscovered platform. It is growing exponentially and stands ready to collaborate with local and international investors.

UZBEKISTAN DELEGATION ATTENDED GLOBAL CONFERENCE FOR MEDIA FREEDOM

On July 10-11, 2019, Uzbekistan delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulaziz Kamilov attended the Global Conference for Media Freedom, in London.

The forum was attended by delegations from more than 100 countries, including heads of foreign ministries and information ministries of 60 countries, journalists, representatives of media industry and civil society.

UK's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jeremy Hunt and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Chrystia Freeland, who initiated the convening of the forum, at the opening ceremony noted that this conference is part of the international campaign aimed at determining the state of media freedom around the world, increasing responsibility of those who are trying to restrict it.



In his speech at the conference, Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov noted that Uzbekistan considers the invitation to the forum as recognition by the international community of unprecedented and irreversible reforms carried out in Uzbekistan under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

As it was noted at the event, liberalization and democratization of information sphere led to rapid growth of national media market, in which there were only twenty state-owned media in the early 90s. To date, the number of mass media is almost 2 thousand, the vast majority of which are private.

Representatives of leading foreign media, including correspondents of Reuters, France Press, BBC, The Economist, Xinhua, Voice of America, Fergana.Ru, Eurasianet and others are freely working in Uzbekistan.

As it was noted, Uzbekistan is determined to continue activities on adoption of media freedom, openness of the state bodies, ensuring rights and interests of journalists, as well as will continue to actively cooperate with foreign partners in improvement of legislation on mass media, strengthening their independence through implementation of joint projects.

GREAT AMIR TEMUR



Amir Temur was born (1336-1405) in the village of Khodja-Ilgar, near Shakhrisabz. He was the son of Amir Taragay, who was from Barlos tribes.

From his youth he appeared on the political scene as an active politician and military figure. Having become the ruler of Samarkand he built a great army and carried on many annexationist campaigns. Thus he expanded his empire that stretched from the Volga River and the Caucasian ridges in the west to India in the Southwest. But the center of the empire was in Central Asia. Temur wanted to designate his hometown, Shakhrisabz, as his capital, but certain political considerations forced him to leave with Samarkand the loving moniker of "Shining Star of the Orient".

Amir Temur made an outstanding contribution to the national state system, education and culture, and general development of his state. He promoted the construction of monumental historic buildings, especially in Samarkand. Some of them can be seen today. The inscription on the portal of Timur's Palace Ak-Sarai in Shakhrisabz, reads "If you doubt our might, look at our buildings". The impressiveness of the architecture was aimed at the demonstration of the greatness of the empire. All possible means and every effort were exerted to construct these magnificent buildings. A vast range of building materials from neighboring regions, famous architects, suppliers, and a great number of workers were brought to work. Different specialists were taken from occupied lands.

During the entire 14th century there were many experienced architects and artists gathered in Central Asia, most of them particularly in Samarkand. Skilled craftsmen from Iran, Azerbaijan, Khorezm, and India were invited without hesitation. Both foreign and local masters realized the great importance of the projects. They represented different arts and crafts which were mastered by others. They adopted each others' styles, which combined into a completely original type of design.

Amir Temur's political status required him to have friendly relations with the leaders of many religions.

Such relations were established by constructing mosques, madrassahs,

and especially mausoleums. Many of them, for example the Juma Mosque, Gur-Emir Mausoleum and Shahi-Zinda Architectural Ensemble, all in Samarkand, and the Dorus-Siadat Mausoleum in Shakhrisabz, Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum in Bukhara, and Hadji-Ahmad Jassaviy Mausoleum in Turkestan, have stood the test of time and can be seen today.