



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN JAPAN



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Prospects of economic cooperation with Japan and the Republic of Korea discussed

On February 24, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting to discuss the current state and prospects of development of bilateral investment, trade-economic cooperation with Japan and the Republic of Korea.

It should be noted that these two countries are considered advanced not only in Asia, but also in the world as a whole, especially in high technologies, and have wide investment opportunities.

Thanks to political will and regular dialogue at the highest level, relations between



Uzbekistan and these countries have been raised to the rank of a strategic partnership, and close contacts have been established in various areas of cooperation.

In 2019, fruitful visits were held, which opened a new page in the history of bilateral relations. Thus, on April 18-21, President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in visited Uzbekistan, and on December 17-20, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat

Mirziyoyev visited Japan. Following the meetings and negotiations, a solid package of intergovernmental and interdepartmental documents, agreements in trade-economic and investment spheres was signed.

It was noted that the indicators of mutual trade and investment with these countries are consistently growing. Last year, the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Japan exceeded 400 million USD. To date, there are about 30 enterprises in the country with participation of capital from the Land of the Rising Sun.

Special attention is paid to timely and high-quality implementation of agreements and development of new proposals for deepening investment cooperation.

It was noted that together with Japanese partners, 48 projects worth 6.6 billion USD are being implemented in such areas as geology, chemistry and petro chemistry, banking-financial sector, healthcare and education.

In particular, projects are being successfully implemented to build hotel complexes with the HIS Group of Companies, expand the production capacity of SamAuto joint venture with Isuzu and Itochu, build power units at Navoi TPP (Navoi-3) jointly with JICA and many others.

The need for intensifying cooperation between Uzbekistan and Japan by organizing various bilateral events, including mutual visits of business circles of the two countries and working on new joint projects was noted at the meeting.

Economic cooperation with the Republic of Korea is also showing significant development. Thus, last year, bilateral trade increased by 27 percent compared to 2018, including exports by 30.1 percent. Last year, 198 enterprises with Korean capital were created in Uzbekistan, and their total number exceeds 800.

It was noted that a project on building children's multidisciplinary medical center in Tashkent is being successfully implemented with Korean partners. Work has begun on creating an innovative research-production pharmaceutical cluster Tashkent Pharma Park in Kibray district. The implementation of this project, in particular, provides for organization of a Pharmaceutical Technical University with a research center, laboratory, vivarium, pharmacopoeia center, as well as an industrial zone for production of medicines, medical devices and medical equipment.



Such areas as agriculture, information-communication technologies, healthcare, chemical, light, electrical, pharmaceutical and jewelry industries, education and innovation are identified as promising areas of cooperation.

With the technical assistance of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), two grant projects in healthcare and standardization were completed in 2019 in the amount of 13 million USD, and 6 projects worth 29.6 million USD are under implementation. Another 10 projects worth 72.2 million USD are being developed for implementation in 2020-2022.

In cooperation with Export-Import Bank of Korea for financing and co-financing of priority investment projects in Uzbekistan, resources in the amount of 2 billion USD have been attracted and 14 strategic projects have been implemented. 6 projects worth 608 million USD have been launched.

In general, as a result of joint projects with Japan and South Korea, it is planned to create more than 40,000 new jobs, increase production by 4.1 billion USD and export by 1.14 billion USD.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted the need for full and high-quality implementation of measures for 2020 in accordance with roadmaps developed as a result of high-level visits.

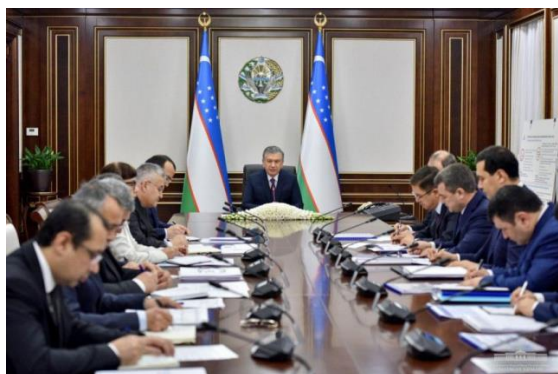
President outlines main tasks in chemical industry

On February 24, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting to discuss plans for reforming chemical industry and main tasks facing the industry this year.

In recent years, specific steps have been taken to modernize and improve the financial-economic recovery of the chemical industry, and to expand the range of products with high added value. In order to increase the profitability of enterprises in the industry, market mechanisms have been introduced and pricing procedure has been completely revised. As a result, the last year's profit in the industry is 2.3 times higher than in 2018.

Navoiazot has launched a Complex for production of polyvinyl chloride, caustic soda and methanol.

Plants are being built for production of liquid synthetic fuel based on Shurtan Gas Chemical Complex, nitric acid, ammonia and carbamide in Navoiyazot JSC.



The Head of the state, in his Address to the Parliament and at the joint session of the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis last month, focusing on development of chemical industry, set a number of tasks for its modernization, wide introduction of scientific achievements and innovations.

There are many challenges and opportunities in the field that have not yet been used. In particular, certain types of chemical products that do not have a complex composition and can be produced in Uzbekistan, are imported. The export structure is not diversified, and the share of mineral fertilizers is still high. 60 percent of used equipment is worn out, and energy consumption is 2-3 times higher than normal.

Tasks were identified at the meeting for reforming the sphere, improving the efficiency and potential of enterprises.

It was instructed to critically analyze the activities of each industry enterprise, improve product quality, and reduce its cost by reducing energy costs. The importance of introducing digital technologies and increasing the level of automation of harmful production was noted.

The need was noted for development of new areas of chemical industry and involvement of foreign investors in this process.

Special attention was paid to production of necessary raw materials for the textile, building materials automotive industries, consumer goods, food and pharmaceuticals.

Instructions were given on bringing to the designed capacity of Navoiyazot complex and its second stage construction as soon as possible.

Issues of selling the state share in Ferganaazot, Kungrad soda and Dehkanabad potash plants to investors were considered.

The **necessity of expanding the production of low-tonnage chemical products and organizing a small industrial zone** for this purpose on the basis of unused areas of Navoiyazot JSC was noted.

As is known, this year has been declared as the Year of Science, Enlightenment and Digital Economy Development in Uzbekistan, and the areas of knowledge that will be given priority attention have been identified. Among them is chemistry, the importance of which at the present stage of our development is difficult to overestimate.

In this regard, **exceptional importance of developing chemical education and science, and training modern personnel** was noted at the meeting. It was noted that it is necessary to strengthen the integration of science and production, ensure research consonance with the needs of industry enterprises.

Instructions were given for organization of research Institute together with South Korea, and improve the training system at Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology.

President of Uzbekistan receives the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

On February 25, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Askar Mamin, who arrived in Uzbekistan within the framework of the second Uzbekistan – Kazakhstan Forum of interregional cooperation.

Opening the meeting, the Head of the state noted with deep satisfaction the growing dynamics in development of multifaceted relations between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in recent years.

It was emphasized that regular contacts at the highest level contribute to strengthening friendship, good neighborliness and strategic partnership, filling bilateral cooperation with specific content.

Askar Mamin, expressing sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the warm welcome, conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev and President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.



During the conversation, the prospects for further expansion of practical cooperation, primarily in trade, economic, investment, transport and communication, energy, agricultural sectors, education, culture and other priority areas, were considered.

Special attention was paid to the issues of formation of favorable conditions for maintaining high growth rates of mutual trade, as well as promoting cooperation projects and infrastructure development with participation of leading companies of the two countries.

The importance of continuing active humanitarian and tourist exchanges based on joint programs was noted.

Following the meeting, an agreement was reached on preparation of a roadmap for formation of a new economic agenda for Uzbekistan – Kazakhstan full-scale partnership.

Uzbekistan becomes a party to the UNESCO Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

On February 15, 2020, the UNESCO Convention on Protection and Promotion of the

Diversity of Cultural Expressions entered into force for the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan MFA reports.

The Convention was signed on 20 October 2005 in Paris and entered into force on 18 March 2007. Uzbekistan ratified the Convention on 14 October 2019. To date, 148 countries have ratified the document.

Main purpose of the Convention is to protect and promote various forms of cultural expression, create conditions for free communication and development of different cultures by strengthening international cooperation in this field.

At present, Uzbekistan is taking appropriate measures to gradually implement main provisions of the Convention. Holding of Sharq Taronalari international music festival, international forum of Maqom Art, and international festival of Bakhshi Art is a vivid example of this.

