



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN JAPAN



INFORMATION BULLETIN

More than \$100 million of credit resources to be allocated for service sector projects

On June 16, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a videoconference on development of services and domestic tourism.



The service sector is one of the main sources of employment both in cities and in rural areas. Its share in the gross domestic product of Uzbekistan is 35 percent. According to the International Labour Organization, an increase in the service industry by 1 percent will reduce the number of poor by 1.5 percent.

At the meeting, it was noted that the possibilities of the service sector in Uzbekistan are not fully used. It is indicated that local services such as repair of household appliances, dry cleaning, computer design, accounting, advertising, paid medical care are not sufficiently developed.

This indicates the huge potential in the service sector. According to estimates, **at least 160 thousand jobs can be created** in this sector of the economy.

21 young freelance programmers are working in the city of Tashkent, Bukhara, Navoi and the capital regions. These specialists export services for \$50 thousand per year and are in the top 3 percent of the Top Talent rating.

The Head of the state noted the importance of supporting such talented youth, creating conditions for training the population in providing modern services.

The President of Uzbekistan signed a resolution **providing for the allocation from the Fund for Reconstruction and Development of more than \$100 million or more than 1 trillion UZS of credit resources for projects in the service sector**. These funds will be allocated both through state and private banks with a rate of no more than 15 percent.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev paid special attention to the issues of training and employment of graduates.

This year, more than 451 thousand graduated from schools, 188 thousand boys and girls graduated from colleges. Even taking into account the increase in admission quotas this year, 103 thousand will be able to enter higher education institutions, and 90 thousand of them will



go to technical colleges. Therefore, it is necessary to take care of the employment of the rest of the youth. In addition, this year 71 thousand students are graduating from higher education institutions.

The Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations has been instructed to create “Ishga Markhamat” monocenters in Karakalpakstan and in all areas, to open training centers by professions and in business fundamentals for young people, as well as training courses in makhallas.

The Central Bank was instructed to **allocate 300 billion UZS of credit resources for self-employed persons** within the framework of family entrepreneurship programs, and the Ministry of Finance – to introduce a system of subsidies for unemployed citizens starting a business to cover their costs associated with renting buildings for 3 months.

Issues of developing domestic tourism were also discussed at the meeting.

Calculations showed the possibility of providing employment for more than 200 thousand people in this sphere. It is planned to create many jobs in related industries, such as catering, transportation, retail.

The State Committee for Tourism Development was instructed, together with ministries, agencies and khokimiyats, to open new routes for domestic tourism, increase the number of tourism centers of light construction, develop medical and health tourism. Khokims and sector leaders were instructed to ensure strict observance of quarantine rules at all tourist sites, in hotels and restaurants.

Abdulaziz Kamilov attends a videoconference on international cooperation

On June 18, 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov attended a videoconference “International cooperation within the framework of Belt and Road Initiative: Solidarity in the fight against COVID-19”.

The event was attended by Foreign Ministers of 26 countries of Asia, Africa, Europe and South America, as well as Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Administrator of the UNDP Achim Steiner.

Issues of joining international efforts against the spread of coronavirus, preventing its consequences, cooperation in restoring trade-economic relations, joint implementation of projects in the current conditions and other promising areas of multilateral relations were discussed at the videoconference.



Participants were informed about measures taken under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to ensure epidemiological safety of the population, as well as support for social sphere, private sector and economic sectors.

Special attention was paid to ensuring food security in the context of a global pandemic and resumption of mutual trade in agricultural products.

Development of digital economy, especially digital medicine, education and e-commerce was highlighted as priority areas of cooperation within the framework of Belt and Road Initiative.

Following the event, Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister expressed hope for full restoration of the level of multifaceted cooperation in the very near future, as well as implementation of new promising projects.

Japan allocates \$ 4.5 million to create mobile clinics in Uzbekistan



The Public Relations Department of the Health Ministry has reported that on 17 June, the Ministry of Health held the signing ceremony of documents for the high-tech medical equipment project under the assistance program of the Japanese government.

The document was signed by the Minister of Health, Alisher Shadmanov, and the Ambassador of Japan to Uzbekistan, Fujiyama Yoshinori.

The total amount of the grant is 500 million yen (approximately \$4.5 million). The funds will be used to purchase an innovative mobile diagnostic container, which uses modern technologies in its work. In particular, ultrasound, digital X-ray installation, CT scanner, mammography, which allows to clearly diagnose hundreds of diseases, will be purchased," the statement says.

Uzbekistan resumes international flights

Starting June 15, by the decision of the Special Republican Commission on the preparation of a program of measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, Uzbekistan resumes international flights.



Flights are resumed only with those countries where there is an improvement in the sanitary-epidemiological situation. At the same time, diplomats, consuls and their families, specialists of foreign companies working in Uzbekistan in investment projects, people crossing the country by transit, foreign citizens registered in Uzbekistan and citizens of Uzbekistan registered abroad can use the

services of air transportation.

People are also allowed to fly in and fly away for treatment, visiting seriously ill families and relatives, and in order to continue studies or work abroad.

The Commission has identified requirements for flights from different countries. In particular, flights to Uzbekistan from Japan, South Korea and China are considered “green” – those who arrive from there and stayed in these countries at least 14 days before the flight are exempted from quarantine measures. Flights from the European Union countries, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore are considered “yellow” – those who arrived from these countries and stayed there at least 14 days before the flight must undergo 14-day home quarantine. All passengers traveling from the UAE, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia and other countries must be quarantined for 14 days.

Compliance with all sanitary rules and regulations is mandatory for all flights.

Open Skies regime to be introduced in all regional airports of Uzbekistan from August 1

Transport Minister of Uzbekistan signed an Order on the introduction of Open Skies regime at the airports of the country, the ministerial press service informs.

This Order was developed in order to increase the effectiveness of the reforms being carried out in the areas of civil aviation and tourism.

The Open Skies regime will be introduced from August 1, 2020, for a period of two years until the end of the IATA season “Winter 2022/2023” (with the possibility of further prolongation or changing conditions) at the airports of Karshi, Nukus, Termez, Bukhara, Navoi, Urgench, Andijan, Fergana, Namangan and Samarkand, applying the fifth freedom of the air.

The Open Skies regime will be introduced at the airports of Karshi, Nukus, Termez, Bukhara, Navoi and Urgench without any restrictions, and at the airports of Andijan, Fergana, Namangan and Samarkand providing all foreign airlines of

the international civil aviation organization member countries with the right to perform passenger flights on routes that are not operated by designated carriers of Uzbekistan without frequency restrictions, considering the technical capabilities of airports, including the fifth freedom of the air.

Foreign airlines interested in opening new routes or planning to increase the number of flights must submit the necessary documents to the Aviation Agency under the Ministry of Transport and the Department of Air Transport Development.

Uzbekistan doubles export of sweet cherries

As of June 1, **Uzbekistan exported 23.5 thousand tons of sweet cherries to 11 countries** for a total of \$48 million, the State Statistics Committee said.

TOP-3 countries in terms of imports were Kazakhstan (12.4 thousand tons), Russia (6.7 thousand tons), and the Kyrgyz Republic (4.1 thousand tons).

It is noteworthy that in recent years, **Uzbek cherries were also exported to the Republic of Korea and Thailand**. As of June 1 of this year, 51.8 tons of products worth \$206.8 thousand were sold in the Republic of Korea.

The State Statistics Committee notes that the export of cherries doubled compared to the same period last year.



Patients with asymptomatic and mild forms of coronavirus infection to be treated at home

Patients with asymptomatic or mild forms of coronavirus will be treated at home. This was announced by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev during a videoconference on June 16.

Treatment will be carried out taking into account foreign experience. Such patients will be under constant medical supervision. The treatment protocol will be changed taking into account international recommendations, as well as the experience of such countries as the United Kingdom and Russia.

Earlier it was reported that Uzbekistan had abolished the practice of sending people recovered from the coronavirus infection to rehabilitation centers for a period of 14 days for further medical checks.