

PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL SITES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: *This article analyzes the ongoing efforts to preserve cultural heritage sites in Uzbekistan and the opportunities for developing the tourism sector.*

Key words: *Shakhrisabz, Architecture and Urban Planning, World Heritage, Archaeological Heritage, Cultural Heritage, "Me'mor" Restoration Association, Uzbektourism, Tourism Sector, Reconstruction.*

INTRODUCTION

Since gaining independence, Uzbekistan has placed particular emphasis on preserving its rich cultural heritage and promoting it on a global scale. The goal is to contribute to economic development through the restoration and revitalization of historical monuments and their use in the tourism sector.

From the early years of independence, one of the priorities of the Uzbek government has been the preservation and restoration of historical cities and monuments. Large-scale restoration and reconstruction work has been carried out in connection with the anniversaries of great statesmen, public figures, and scholars. In this process, special attention was paid not only to restoring monuments to their original state but also to preserving them for future generations. The increasing global attention to the protection of cultural heritage sites has prompted Uzbekistan to strengthen its cooperation with UNESCO.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

On July 27, 1992, the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a decree "On the Establishment of the National Company "Uzbektourism"", and on October 20 of the same year, a program was adopted based on the Resolution No. 424 of the Cabinet of Ministers. This became the basis for the establishment of national tourism ⁸. In 1993, Uzbekistan became a member of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), which unites more than 120 countries ⁹.

⁸ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг ПФ-447-сонли “Ўзбектуризм” МКнинг ташкил этиш тўғрисида”ги фармони // Халқ сўзи, 1992 йил 27 июль.

⁹ Жаҳон Туризм Ташкилоти Бош Ассамблеясининг Бали шаҳрида (Индонезия) бўлиб ўтган мажлиси, 1993 йил. X сессия Манба: Основополагающие документы ЮНВТО. Том 1. Февраль, 2016. – С.19 – 21.

In 1992, the Main Department for the Preservation of Monuments under the Ministry of Culture Affairs developed the Law on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, and the Uzbek Scientific Research¹⁰ and Design Institute (O'zNIPI) and the "Me'mor" Restoration Association were entrusted with restoration and reconstruction works¹¹.

Historical and cultural monuments are legally protected by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Sites." Furthermore, a number of legal documents have been adopted that have contributed to the restoration and revitalization of these monuments¹².

Uzbekistan has paid special attention to studying and adopting international laws and conventions regarding historical and cultural heritage. Currently, four cultural and historical sites in Uzbekistan are included in UNESCO's "World Heritage List": Itchan Kala in Khiva (1991), the historic center of Bukhara (1993), the architectural monuments of Amir Timur and the Timurid era in Shakhrisabz (2000), and the historical monuments of Samarkand (2001)¹³. The city of Samarkand has been recognized by the online publication "The Huffington Post" as one of the 50 cities in the world that a person should visit at least once in their lifetime¹⁴.

In 1992, in accordance with a bilateral agreement between the governments of Uzbekistan and Turkey, a group of people from Turkey visited our republic with the aim of further strengthening cultural ties. Among them were Yahya Aksuybey, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Turkey, Ilhan Shamshekbey, Head of the Ministry's Main Directorate, and responsible officials of the Ministry, Dugan Chevekbey and Murdjella Kakhverk, who also visited the Kashkadarya region. Accompanied by the head of the regional culture department, Mamatkul Rajabov, they visited the regional musical drama theater, listened to the performances of some bakhshi (folk singers) who have made a significant contribution to the development of folk art, and got acquainted with examples of our applied art, historical and cultural monuments. In addition, representatives of the two countries agreed to establish cooperation in the field of restoration of historical monuments¹⁵.

The resolution adopted by UNESCO in 1972 and the "International Day for Monuments and Historic Sites," established by the UN in 1983, encouraged Uzbekistan to apply international standards for cultural heritage preservation. Uzbekistan has successfully included a number of its historical cities and monument complexes on UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage List. These include Itchan Kala in Khiva (1991), the historic center of Bukhara (1993), the architectural monuments of Amir Timur and the Timurid era in Shakhrisabz (2000), and the historical monuments of Samarkand

¹⁰ Ўз МА, М-7-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 61-иш, 162-варак

¹¹ Ўз МА, М-1-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 9-иш, 14-варак

¹² Жонимов Б. Халқимизнинг бебаҳо мулки // Қашқадарё, 2015 йил 18 апрель.

¹³ Савриев Ж. Навоий вилояти тарихий ёдгорликлари таъмирланишининг асосий йўналишлари (1991 – 2020 йиллар). Тарих фанлари бўйича фалсафа доктори (PhD) илмий даражасини олиш учун ёзилган диссертация. – Бухоро, 2020. – Б.21 – 22.

¹⁴ Манзунова Н. Ўзбекистоннинг сайёҳлик салоҳияти Японияда намойиш этилмоқда // Қашқадарё, 2015 йил 29 сентябрь.

¹⁵ Маданий меросга бой ўлка // Қашқадарё ҳақиқати, 1992 йил 13 октябрь.

(2001). Samarkand's inclusion on the "World Heritage" list has further increased its global significance and expanded its tourism potential. The recognition of Samarkand as one of the most beautiful cities in the world has further strengthened its position in the tourism sector.

Uzbekistan is striving to achieve economic development by utilizing cultural heritage sites in the tourism sector. The establishment of the national company "Uzbektourism" (1992) and membership in the World Tourism Organization (1993) were important steps for the development of the tourism sector. Restoration and reconstruction work on historical monuments is being carried out in conjunction with improvements to tourism infrastructure. The development of hotels, transportation, and other services aims to create favorable conditions for tourists.

In the first nine months of 1997, in preparation for the 2500th anniversary of the cities of Khiva and Bukhara, restoration and reconstruction work worth 259.1 million soums was carried out on historical and cultural monuments at the expense of the state budget. Of this amount, 74 million soums were spent on objects in Khiva, and 185.1 million soums were spent on objects in Bukhara ¹⁶.

In Uzbekistan, the legal foundations for the development of the sector were developed and implemented. In 1995, the Law on "Architecture and Urban Planning" was adopted. In accordance with this new law, taking into account history, cultural heritage, climate, and conditions specific to our territory, 148 national state "Building Standards and Regulations" were developed and implemented. Historical and cultural monuments are legally protected by the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Sites" and "On the Protection and Use of Archaeological Heritage Sites. ¹⁷»

In April 1996, Uzbekistan was admitted to the "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage."¹⁸ Taking into account the universal significance of the values of this convention, a list of 22 historical monuments of the republic was sent to the "World Heritage List" in June 1996 ¹⁹. As an equal member of UNESCO, the Republic of Uzbekistan included the Ichan-Kala reserve in Khiva (1990), the monuments located in the historical center of Bukhara (1993), the architectural monuments of Amir Timur and the Timurids in Shakhrisabz (2001), and the historical monuments in the center of Samarkand (2002) on the list of 13 famous monuments of the International World Cultural Heritage Committee ²⁰.

On March 14, 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted resolutions "On the Implementation of Measures for the Establishment of the State Museum of the History of

¹⁶ Савриев Ж. Навоий вилояти тарихий ёдгорликлари таъмирланишининг асосий йўналишлари (1991 – 2020 йиллар). Тарих фанлари бўйича фалсафа доктори (PhD) илмий даражасини олиш учун ёзилган диссертация. – Бухоро, 2020. – Б.23.

¹⁷ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Қонун ҳужжатлари миллий базаси маълумоти.

¹⁸ Ўз МА, М-7-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 369-иш, 81-варак.

¹⁹ Хошимов М. ЮНЕСКО фаолиятида диний бағрикенглик тамойиллари (Ўзбекистон Республикаси мисолида). Тарих фан. номз. дисс... автореф. – Тошкент: Тошкент ислом университети, 2009. – Б.11 – 13.

²⁰ Мансуров Р. Меъморий ёдгорликларни сақлаш ва таъмирлаш // Мозийдан садо, 2004 йил 3-сон. – Б.4 – 5.

the Timurids under the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in Tashkent" and "On Supporting the International Amir Temur Foundation." In April 1996, the 660th anniversary of the birth of Amir Temur was widely celebrated at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The most gratifying event was the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Establishment of the Order of Amir Temur" on April 26, 1996. According to the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 28, 1996, the cities of Samarkand and Shakhrisabz were awarded the Order of Amir Temur. On October 18, 1996, the State Museum of the History of the Timurids was opened in Tashkent. On the same day, the solemn opening ceremonies of the monuments to Amir Temur in Samarkand and Shakhrisabz were organized on an international scale among the general public ²¹.

The draft "Urban Planning Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was developed in accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 2, 2000, and it was approached with the need to legally consolidate the basic rules of urban planning requirements for raising the urban planning sector to the international level, as well as for planning and construction of settlements and planning of the territories of the republic.

On August 30, 2001, a new law "On the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Sites" was adopted. This positive change in the national legislative system created broad opportunities for rapid work in the field and for taking into account the cultural heritage sites existing in the republic, and for carrying out construction, repair, and improvement work by using all possibilities, based on their technical condition ²².

On July 29, 2002, the Resolution No. 269 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Further Improve the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Sites" was adopted ²³.

RESULTS

There are more than seven thousand monuments in the republic, of which 2,500 are architectural monuments, more than 2,700 are archaeological, and more than 1,000 are monumental art monuments that are under state protection. Based on this, it can be seen how important the work being done to establish a charitable foundation for the preservation and improvement of sacred sites is, based on the Resolution No. 938 signed by the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov on August 7, 2008 ²⁴.

From 1991 to 2009, 25 international events were held on various topics. These events were related to cities, historical figures, and directly or indirectly to historical and cultural monuments in the republic ²⁵.

²¹ Примова З. Йиллар ўтса-да унутилмайди // Кеш, 2014 йил 14 октябрь.

²² Абдиев Р. Мустақиллик йиллари Ўзбекистонда тарихий-меъморий обидаларни таъмирлаш ва қайта тиклаш тарихи (Зарфашон воҳаси мисолида). Тарих фанлари бўйича фалсафа доктори (PhD) диссертацияси автореферати. – Т., 2018. – Б.16.

²³ Ўзбекистон Республикаси қонун ҳужжатлари тўплами, 2002 й., 14-сон, 113-модда.

²⁴ Бағрикенглик – барқарорлик ва таракқиёт омили / Масъул муҳаррир А.Ачилдиев. – Т.: Тошкент ислом университети нашриёт-матбаа бирлашмаси, 2007. – Б. 11-32.

²⁵ Каримов И.А. "Тарихий хотира ва инсон омили – буюк келажакимизнинг гаровидир" рисоласини ўрганиш бўйича ўқув қўлланма. – Тошкент. 2012. – Б.89 – 90.

Although every region of Uzbekistan has participated in historical processes, today there are a total of 1321 tangible cultural heritage sites in the Kashkadarya region, of which 1043 are archaeological, 210 are architectural, 43 are monumental, and 35 are places of interest ²⁶.

It is known that 411 historical monuments in Uzbekistan are included in the UNESCO list. As a country rich in Islamic cultural heritage sites and historical monuments, Uzbekistan ranks 9th in the world ²⁷. Among the objects of cultural and historical significance, 545 are architectural, 575 are historical, 1457 are art, and more than 5,500 are archaeological objects ²⁸.

DISCUSSION

At the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) held in South Korea in October 2011, the Republic of Uzbekistan was elected a member of the Executive Council of the UN World Tourism Organization for the second time. Only a few countries in the world have achieved this status. Within the framework of our country's membership in this organization and in order to promote our historical and cultural heritage in the international arena, as well as to develop the tourism industry, at the 98th session of the Executive Council of the UN World Tourism Organization held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain in June 2014, the decision was made to hold the next 99th session of the Executive Council in Samarkand ²⁹. This is clear evidence of the growing prestige of Uzbekistan in the international arena and the high recognition of the great tourist potential of our country by the world community ³⁰.

CONCLUSION

International cooperation plays an important role in preserving Uzbekistan's cultural heritage and developing the tourism sector. Projects being implemented in cooperation with Turkey are helping to carry out the restoration and reconstruction of historical monuments to a high standard. Such cooperation includes not only financial assistance but also the exchange of technological experience. Through cultural exchange programs, opportunities to promote Uzbekistan's cultural heritage to the world are expanding. Future plans for the preservation of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage and the development of tourism can be implemented in the following areas:

- Further improving the preservation and restoration of monuments by applying modern technologies
- Developing tourism infrastructure and creating comfortable conditions for tourists

²⁶ Ўзбекистан Республикаси Президенти ҳамда Вазирлар Маҳкамаси томонидан тасдиқланган қарор ва фармонлар ижроси юзасидан Қашқадарё вилоятининг туризм соҳасида эришилган натижалар тўғрисида маълумот // Қашқадарё вилояти маданий мерос бошқармаси маълумоти, 2022 йил 14 март.

²⁷ Ruziyeva D.I. Ways of development and promoting of cultural tourism in Uzbekistan // Economics and management: theory and practice: Collection of scientific articles. Vol. 2. - VerlagSWGimexGmbH, Nürnberg, Deutschland, 2014. - Pp. 99-102.

²⁸ Джабаров О.З. Проблемы и перспективы развития историко-культурного туризма в Узбекистане (1991–2010 гг.). Автореф. дисс... канд. ист. наук. – Ташкент, 2011. – Б.4.

²⁹ ЎзА. Самарқандда жаҳон сайёҳлик форуми // Қашқадарё, 2014 йил 4 октябрь.

³⁰ Умарова И. Самарқанд нуфузли анжуман мезбони // Қашқадарё, 2014 йил 6 сентябрь.

- Developing modern types of tourism (ecotourism, agrotourism, etc.) at cultural heritage sites
- Strengthening international cooperation in promoting cultural heritage
- Actively using cultural heritage in educating patriotism and national pride among young people.

Preserving Uzbekistan's cultural heritage sites and developing tourism through them is of great importance for the country's economic and cultural development. The work being done by the state and international cooperation serves to preserve cultural heritage and pass it on to future generations. In the future, by further developing the tourism sector, it is possible to strengthen Uzbekistan's place in the world and diversify the country's economy.

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6. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No. 630 dated December 29, 1994 "On Celebrating the 660th Anniversary of the Birth of Amir Temur" // <https://lex.uz/docs/2329020>
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9. Resolution on organizing the activities of the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan and approving certain normative legal acts on the protection and use of tangible cultural heritage objects. <https://ex.uz/docs/4262171>
10. Bulletin of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1995, No. 12, Article 303.

11. Speech of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the first summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Science and Technology, September 10, 2017.

12. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-447 "On the Establishment of "UzbekTourism" MC" // Xalq so'zi. July 27, 1992.

13. Law of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic "On the Protection and Use of Historical and Cultural Monuments". Adopted at the fifth session of the ninth convocation of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR on December 21, 1977, put into effect on May 1, 1978. - Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 1978.