



FROM THE HISTORY OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA.

Ruzmetov Sherzod

History teacher at the Jaloliddin Manguberdi
Military Academic Lyceum (Urgench, Khorezm,
Uzbekistan)

Abstract: *Tourism is one of the leading and most dynamic sectors of the world economy. Due to its rapid growth, it was recognized as the economic phenomenon of the century. Tourism is one of the few rapidly growing local businesses. This article analyzes issues of cooperation between Central Asian countries in the field of tourism.*

Keywords: *Tourism, Central Asia, National Company "Uzbektourism," World Tourism Organization, International Tourism Fair.*

The tourism industry in Uzbekistan began its development in 1992 with the establishment of the National Company "Uzbektourism." In 1993, the National Company "Uzbektourism" was admitted as a full member of the World Tourism Organization. This created ample opportunities for establishing close ties with travel companies from many countries around the world, raising their mutual cooperation to a qualitatively new level. At the same time, Uzbekistan, like many other countries of the world, became a permanent participant in the International Tourism Fair (ITF), annually held by the World Tourism Organization[1].

Thus, the creation of the necessary tourism infrastructure in our country became the beginning of the implementation and development of a wide network of cooperation with travel agencies and firms of foreign

countries. At the same time, close cooperation of the tourism industry of Uzbekistan with the countries of Central Asia, in particular, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, is no exception.

It is noteworthy that the Central Asian region is distinguished by its geographical location, contrasting natural and climatic features, flora and fauna, as well as unique historical and cultural monuments of antiquity and modern achievements of the economic and cultural-spiritual life of peoples. In this regard, during the years of independence, active contacts in the field of tourism between the republics of Central Asia have been established at a qualitatively new level, which allows for the preservation and further development of mutual cooperation between their peoples. This form of mutual cooperation and cultural and spiritual enrichment of the peoples of Central Asia is most vividly manifested among the republics of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

The leadership of Uzbekistan attached great importance to the development of tourism ties between the republics of Central Asia and initiated the need to form its legislative framework. This initiative was mutually supported by the governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. As a result of the commonality of approaches and views on the development and strengthening of ties in the field of tourism, an Agreement was signed in January 1994 between representatives of the governments of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan. It provides for the deepening of large-scale cultural and spiritual cooperation between the peoples of the two countries, including in the fields of culture, healthcare, science, education, tourism, and sports. A similar document was signed in January 1994 between the governments of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic [2].

Based on the high interest of the parties in developing mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of tourism, in December 1997, an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism was signed in Tashkent between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan [3].

According to UNWTO, international tourism continues to grow steadily and continuously, outpacing the global economy, and due to global tourism, which is expected to grow by 3.3% from 2010 to 2030, there are no signs of a significant decline and will reach 1.8 billion by 2030. Between 2010 and 2030, tourist inflows to developing countries (+4.4% per year) are expected to double compared to the economies of developed countries (+2.2% per year).

The total number of international tourist visits to the CAREC region in 2018, excluding Afghanistan, China's Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and Turkmenistan, is estimated by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) to be almost 20 million, with a projection of growth in ten years. This is an indicator equivalent to almost 5% by 2028. Nevertheless, when considered in a global context, the total share of CAREC countries (excluding the People's Republic of China) is less than 2% of world tourism[4].

The Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan of January 16, 1996, the Treaty on the Promotion of Friendship, Strengthening Trust and Cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan of November 19, 2004, the Treaty on Further Strengthening Friendly Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between the Republic of

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan of October 18, 2007, created the legal basis for cooperation between states and the strengthening of friendly relations between the peoples of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan[5].

In order to further deepen and expand cooperation in the field of tourism, as well as the introduction of additional services in this area, the next Agreement was signed on June 8, 2000, in Astana. Attention was paid to cooperation between the governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the development of sanatorium-resort, health improvement, and tourist institutions and organizations for a period of 5 years [6]. A distinctive feature of this Agreement is that it marked the beginning of the expansion of cooperation in the development of sanatorium-resort, health and tourist institutions and organizations in order to create the most favorable conditions for strengthening the health of citizens of their states.

In the context of independence, the mutual interest of Uzbekistan and the states of Central Asia in ancient cultural and historical monuments, modern attractions, and the achievements of socio-economic transformations has not weakened and is growing. This serves to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of our republics. It should be noted that this form of cultural and spiritual cooperation between peoples serves as one of the most stable forms of public diplomacy in strengthening interstate cooperation.

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