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Newsletter.



World Craft Council
Asia Pacific Region

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The ZAR II International
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A photograph of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a white shirt, and a maroon tie. His hands are clasped in front of him. A microphone is visible to his right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A large, semi-transparent purple triangle is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Address by

Shavkat Mirziyoyev

**President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
at the Third Tashkent International
Investment Forum**

Dear participants of the forum!

Ladies and gentlemen!

At the outset, let me sincerely welcome you at the third Tashkent International Investment Forum.

I would like to note with pleasure that within the framework of this format, which is becoming a great annual tradition, new and reliable partners from all continents of the world are gathering in our country.

Over the past three years, this Forum has provided a broad platform for enhancing collaboration, discussing pressing issues, and generating fruitful ideas and solutions to tackle the most urgent challenges.

The fact that more than two and a half thousand foreign guests from 93 countries are attending the event today clearly confirms the growing importance of the Forum. This is a sign of a huge interest in reforms that have become irreversible in our country, in establishing mutually beneficial cooperation.

Dear forum participants!

Our conference is taking place in period of increasing global geopolitical and economic problems, challenges and threats to the sustainable development. The world order is undergoing deep transformation.

Disruptions of supply chains of goods and services, decrease in international trade and investment flows, an exacerbation of climate disasters clearly demonstrate how unstable the situation is becoming.

The growth rates of the world economy have been declining for the past three years. The trends related to the foreign direct investments are not meeting expectations either. In 2023, the total volume of investments in developing countries decreased by 9%.

Of course, we understand perfectly well that today there is an unparalleled struggle for investors in the world. However, one immutable fact is becoming ever more clear: no country can solve such problems alone. The spirit of mutual trust and respect, and the principle of mutual support remain solid pillars of long-term cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen!

In our country, we have taken decisive steps to fundamentally improve the investment and business environment, and to eliminate obstacles step by step. In this regard, we are implementing comprehensive reforms to ensure that every entrepreneur feels free and confident.

You may well know that seven years ago we embarked on uneasy, but systemic reforms with big aims. We have identified the liberalization of the economy, the creation of a favorable investment climate, and the broadening of opportunities for entrepreneurs as our main objectives.

In recent years, our economy has nearly doubled. Last year alone, growth rates reached 6 percent, while inflation remained below 9 percent. The trade turnover is steadily increasing. The stability of the national currency and foreign exchange reserves are being maintained.



In the past few years, we have attracted over 60 billion dollars in foreign investments. More than 14 billion dollars from international financial institutions have been directed to social and infrastructure projects. The volume of foreign investments nearly doubled last year.

Notable increases are clear in the fields of energy with companies like "Acwa Power," "Masdar," "Total Eren," "Volitalia," "Calik," and "Aksa"; in the chemical industry with "Air Products," "Indorama," and "Kamse"; in construction and metallurgy with "Orano" and "Danieli"; in automotive and electrical engineering with "BYD," "KIA," and "Samsung"; and in construction with "Koch" and "Knauf" along with other leading global companies. Together, we have initiated over 300 investment and industrial projects, and created hundreds of thousands of new jobs, which I highlight with great gratitude.

Today, during this forum, we will launch new large-scale projects with world-renowned companies, such as "Linde," "Orascom," "DataVolt," "Bonafarm," "Pasha Holding" and others. I express my deep and sincere gratitude to foreign investors and all our partners who contribute to this work.

We have developed specific measures in other priority areas to support entrepreneurship and business. Foreign investors will be exempted from taxes on dividends received from shares for a period of three years.

We have adopted a law on privatization. A new program was adopted, which includes the sale of state shares in 250 major companies, the privatization of 1,000 real estates and listing via IPO the shares of 12 companies.

We have established a stability rating for entrepreneurs. High-rated entrepreneurial subjects will not undergo tax audits.

We have streamlined the implementation of public-private partnership projects in energy sector and plan to expand this experience to other social and infrastructure sectors as well.

Particularly, irrigation and road projects with the Chinese companies "CITIC" and "Camce," drinking water supply projects with French companies "Suez" and "Veolia," and the establishment of modern medical facilities with the Arab

companies "InterHealth" and "Pure Health" are in progress.

We attach great importance to the development of the infrastructure of industrial zones through budgetary allocations.

We have introduced modern transparent mechanisms for allocating land to entrepreneurs, namely through auctions.

In order to improve legislation and join the World Trade Organization, we have adopted more than 60 regulatory documents. An agency to combat corruption has been established, and the National Strategy for 2030 is being developed. Last year, we held in Tashkent international events on combating corruption.

The Tashkent International Arbitration Centre has been successfully operating with



rule of law.

By 2030, our goal is to double the people's income and join the ranks of the upper-middle income countries. We will continue with deep transformation processes in the economy, creating favorable investment and business environments, and increasing value-added production in industry.

In this regard, we are keen to pursue comprehensive cooperation in Strategic Directions to enhance mutual benefits.

Firstly, "Green" energy. Expanding the energy sector is crucial for the prosperity of our entire region. In this regard, work is underway on 28 projects in our country. By 2030, we aim to create renewable energy capacity exceeding 20 gigawatts and increase its share in the energy balance to 40 percent.

Last year alone, we launched large wind and solar power plants with a capacity of 1.4 gigawatts in partnership with our strategic partners "MASDAR", "GEZHOUBA", and "CHINA ENERGY". Additionally, we initiated a project to produce "green hydrogen" with "ACWA POWER."

The most notable aspect is that these significant projects are being implemented based on public-private partnership and directly through foreign investments.

Today, during the Forum, we are presenting joint projects to build hydroelectric power stations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for our investors. We invite the leading companies from all countries to open dialogue and practical cooperation in this direction.

Secondly, Banking sector. In recent years, numerous private banks have been established in our country. Leading European banks have entered our market. Several digital banks are now operational.

During this Forum the agreement was signed with the EBRD to privatize one of Uzbekistan's leading banks, "Asakabank". Similarly, the transformation and privatization processes of our leading banks continue in cooperation with the IMF, ADB and other major international financial institutions.

The approaches to the development of the capital market are being reviewed to meet the demand for financial resources.

Work is underway to modernize international financial instruments in Uzbekistan. We eagerly anticipate increased

the aim of fairly resolving disputes. It includes more than 90 reputable arbitrators from countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Sweden, China, and the United Arab Emirates.

Another important indicator for investors: over the past seven years the enrollment rate in higher education has increased from 9 percent to 42 percent, and the number of higher education institutions has reached 200.

A visa-free travel regime has been introduced for more than 90 countries.

Dear forum participants!

Our main goal is to make Uzbekistan a reliable and long-term partner for foreign investors.

Our country is committed to developing market economy, ensuring reliable protection of investors' rights, further improving the favorable investment and business environment, creating more comfortable conditions for fair competition, ensuring the protection of private property and the independence of the judicial system. We have firmly enshrined these initiatives in the new Constitution adopted by the referendum last year.

In order to strengthen the protection of investors' rights, I would like to present a number of specific proposals today.

Firstly, we will adopt the new Law "On Investments." This document has been developed in accordance with the regulations and standards of the World Trade Organization. I would like to express special gratitude to the EBRD, World Bank, IMF, and OECD for their close cooperation in this.

Secondly, the International Commercial

Court will start operating in the near future under the auspices of the Center for the Development of Digital Technologies. This court will have a special place in Uzbekistan's legal system. Therefore, we will adopt special legislation in the near future. We will also include standards for the execution of decisions of international commercial courts in procedural codes.

Thirdly, we will soon introduce significant changes in the system of industrial zones. More favorable conditions will be created for investors to implement high-tech projects.

The activities of operators in managing industrial zones, especially attracting highly

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qualified foreign companies, will be expanded. The restrictions for the operation of special economic zones will also be eliminated. The term for leasing the land to foreign investors will be doubled (from 25 to 49 years). The benefits and preferences guaranteed by law will fully remain. All of these issues will be discussed in detail at the upcoming meeting of the Foreign Investors Council.

Dear participants!

We have adopted "Uzbekistan-2030" strategy in order to continue systemic reforms, build strong and welfare state.

In this important document we have outlined 100 specific tasks to achieve sustainable economic growth, provide social protection, preserve health, improve education system, as well as to ensure the

foreign investments, improvement of corporate governance, and the entry of new financial institutions into the country.

Thirdly. Critical minerals. Uzbekistan is rich in mineral resources and critical raw materials. Our country has large reserves of gold, copper, tungsten, silver, and uranium.

We are particularly interested in paying attention to the reserves of rare and rare-earth metals, including lithium, magnesium, molybdenum, germanium, vanadium, and indium, among others.

Last month, strategic cooperation in critical minerals was established with the European Union. We are also actively working with the United States and the United Kingdom to sign documents in this area.

A new Law on Subsoil will be adopted. It will be based on modern international practice. We express our gratitude to the EBRD for its assistance in this matter.

We invite the leading companies to Uzbekistan to implement projects on deep processing of strategic raw materials and creating high value-added chains.

Fourthly. Digital transformation of the country. The export of IT services and software products has doubled within a year. We aim to increase this indicator to \$5 billion in the future. The number of IT park residents will increase tenfold, 100,000 new jobs will be created soon.

Moreover, on IT park basis the Center for the

Development of Digital Technologies is being created for foreign companies. In collaboration with Saudi Arabia's "Data Volt" we are working on establishing Data Centre that works on "green" energy. This will significantly contribute to the digitalization of our economy and the introduction of technologies based on artificial intelligence.

Fifthly. Development of transport infrastructure. We pay special attention to creating convenient and modern transport systems.

Substantial reforms are being made in the railway sector with opening wide opportunities for private investors. The joint projects are being developed to build toll roads and high-speed railways.

Efforts are being made to modernize Tashkent, Bukhara and Urgench international airports, and build new ones with the participation of qualified foreign investors.

We have started initial work on the construction of railways China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan and Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan with our foreign partners. These strategic projects will fundamentally change the geo-economy of the region and will transform Central Asia into the global transit center that connects North and South, East and West.

We invite investors and international organizations to participate in these major regional projects to revive the Great Silk

Road on modern foundations.

Dear friends!

The New Uzbekistan is a rapidly developing, just and secular country with vast opportunities. Our hardworking and talented people are the main source of inspiration for us to pursue every day our ideas and dreams.

It is important to emphasize that the investors gathered here today with their most innovative technologies and practices, new proposals and initiatives stimulate us to move forward.

Here what I want to stress: all members of our team will stand shoulder to shoulder to you to help the implementation of every your initiative, every your project. Would you support this?!

Investments are the engine of our country's transformation and the strongest driver of our economic development.

I am confident that today's International Investment Forum and its fruitful discussions will lead our practical cooperation to a completely new, even higher level, in terms of quality and content.

Once again, I express my sincere gratitude to all of you for participating in our conference.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.



A portrait of Tanzila Narbaeva, a woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a grey top. She is seated at a desk in an office setting, with a wooden desk, a potted plant, and a bookshelf visible in the background. The text 'Uzbekistan is a Country Where Women are Revered' is overlaid on the image.

Uzbekistan is a Country Where Women are Revered

Tanzila Narbaeva

Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis Uzbekistan and Chairman of the Republican Commission on issues of increasing the role of women in society, gender equality and family

In different historical periods, attitudes towards women were different, but Uzbek women never lost their national identity. They raised many great personalities and thinkers who made a huge contribution to human development. The names of the mothers of Ibn Sina - Sitorabonu, Imam Bukhari - Fatimabegim, Khoja Bahauddin Naqshband - Bibi Orifabegim - remained in history.

Such famous women as Tumaris, Saroimulkhonim, Gavharshodbegim, Nodirabegim, Uvaysi, Anbarotin had no equal in government, military affairs, education and upbringing, and literature. They carried out a tremendous amount of

work in the name of development.

Today we have the opportunity to receive more detailed information about the activities of women educators who stood shoulder to shoulder with the Jadids who showed selflessness in the name of freedom and progress of the nation. These are Khairiniso Majidkhonova, Maryam Sultonmurodova, Khadicha Aliyeva, Dilorom Yusupova and dozens of other women. They fought, putting their lives at risk.

Legal scholars Khadicha Suleymanova, Mamlakat Vosikova, Halima Mukhitdinova made a huge contribution to the development of the legal field, creating a school of law and a rich scientific heritage, which is still used today in training personnel in this area.

The works of Zulfiya and Halima Khudayberdieva, who glorified in their work the dreams and desires of the fairer sex, their love and devotion to the Motherland, still inspire girls to conquer high levels.

Currently, thanks to the care of the President, the country is creating ample opportunities for women aimed at increasing their authority in society, fully realizing their high intellectual potential, and educating a new generation capable of worthy continuing the work of hardworking, smart, courageous women.

Ensuring women's equality in solving political and socio-economic problems is one of the important factors for the stable development of countries, maintaining peace and tranquility on the planet. This issue is becoming increasingly important at a time when the global economic and environmental crisis continues, when conflicts between states, religions and nations have an impact on the standard of living of the population, from which women and children suffer.

In recent years, priority tasks in the national policy of Uzbekistan have been identified to ensure the legal rights and interests of women, who make up almost half of the

country's population, strengthening the family, increasing the role and status of compatriots in society, realizing their abilities and talents, achieving gender equality, which are being consistently implemented.

A legal and material base has been created aimed at supporting women in all areas. In particular, a number of international documents have been ratified, and the fundamentals of national legislation have been improved. More than 30 legal documents have been developed aimed at strengthening the protection of women's rights, improving living conditions, creating ample opportunities for education and unlocking potential. 4 laws, about 10 decrees and resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 14 resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers were adopted.

A feature of the state policy in the country is that the President has clearly defined the main directions of tasks carried out in this area, active work is underway based on the principle "Not a single woman in Uzbekistan will be left without the attention of the state and society." The results of adopted programs and projects and the identified tasks on this issue help ensure the honor and dignity of women and improve their well-being.

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further strengthen guarantees of labor rights and support women's entrepreneurial activities" dated March 7, 2019, a Commission on Gender Equality was created.

Its main objectives are the creation of equal opportunities in the field of rights and freedoms in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, monitoring work to ensure the interests of women, developing appropriate measures to eliminate existing problems and coordinating work on their implementation.

Over the past short time, as part of the implementation of these documents, a number of measures have been taken to ensure gender equality in the country and improve living conditions for women, comprehensive support and development of the family institution, the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women's rights, and the improvement of their legal

culture.

The Labor Code, adopted in the new edition, includes norms on such issues as equality of labor rights of women and men, prohibition of discrimination in the field of labor, guarantees of labor rights and fulfillment of labor duties, especially equal pay for men and women.

Attention is paid to increasing the activity of women in political life. Amendments have been made to the Electoral Code, which provide for an increase in the number of women from 30 to 40 percent of the total number of parliamentary candidates nominated by a political party.

In recent years, women's participation in decision-making has increased markedly. In the field of entrepreneurship this figure reached 37, in political parties - 46, in higher education - 48 percent. A procedure has been introduced under which in all government bodies and organizations, as



well as in organizations where the state share in the authorized capital is 50 percent or more, in organizations included in their composition, at least one deputy head must be appointed from among women.

Currently, more than two thousand women work in leadership positions. Only 241 women work in responsible positions at the republican and local levels. Of these, 2 are heads (minister, chairman of the committee), 9 are deputy heads (deputy ministers, chairman and director), 14 are deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, deputy khokims of regions and the city of Tashkent, 4 are khokims of districts (cities) and 212 - deputy khokims of districts (cities).

The World Bank recently published its annual report "Women, Business and the Law". It assesses global progress towards

gender equality in the legal sphere, the document contains an index assessing the situation of women in 190 countries. The compilers of the rating included Uzbekistan among the five countries that have achieved the greatest success. It was especially noted that since October 2022, the country has implemented four important legal reforms that have improved the situation of women.

Our educational ancestors said: "By educating mothers, we educate the nation." They sought to ensure that Uzbek women received an education. During a historically difficult period, a group of Uzbek girls were sent to Germany to study with the support of representatives of the intelligentsia.

Today the dreams of the Jadids are coming true. Work on radically reforming all stages of lifelong education, introducing the latest advanced technologies into the educational process and increasing the level of professionalism of teachers is aimed at training competitive personnel with modern knowledge, skills and abilities, as well as professions that are in great demand in the labor market.

In the process of these reforms, special attention is paid to women's education in order not only to solve existing issues to ensure their rights and interests, but also to prevent problems that may arise in the future.

Today, our life includes the criterion: "Giving knowledge to women means making society literate, enlightened

and virtuous." All conditions have been created for women and girls who want to acquire knowledge and a profession, and engage in science. They are allocated separate quotas, the contract is paid for at the expense of the State budget, and preferential loans are provided. Such care increased the girls' desire to gain knowledge and the desire to take a worthy place in society. Currently, among students of higher educational institutions there are 598 thousand girls and women (49.8 percent). Compared to 2017, this figure increased by 12 percent.

It is appropriate to note another positive trend - women are becoming more interested in applied and exact sciences. Among students studying in 2022-2024, an analysis of indicators in the areas of STEAM education was carried out. It turned out that the number of female students studying

physics is 64 percent. An increase in the number of representatives of the fair sex was also observed in such areas of education as mathematics (60 percent), services (34 percent), agriculture (36 percent), and manufacturing (32 percent).

In January of this year, our delegation, together with representatives of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, participated in the international forum "New Uzbekistan - new opportunities, social partnership for development". We agreed on important areas of cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan and signed a memorandum. The results achieved in the country will serve as an important factor in the further development of innovative and creative activities of our women in areas related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the transition to a green

thousand women were trained in 75 professions. If we consider that this figure in 2017 was only 4.2 thousand, then it is not difficult to understand how this process has accelerated and what a great need there was for it. Growth is manifested not only in numbers, but also in efficiency. Employment was provided for 71.9 thousand women who completed such courses. 3.8 thousand women with disabilities were trained in professions. They were paid 4.8 billion soums in incentive payments at the expense of the State Employment Promotion Fund during their studies. Over the past 7-8 years, employment has been provided to more than 1 million 339 thousand women, over 233 thousand have been issued loans in the amount of 4.7 trillion soums. The share of entrepreneurs increased from 21 percent in 2017 to 37 percent.

It has been established that starting from this academic year, girls who wish to obtain

Program and the International Telecommunication Union, the number of women actively using digital technologies was 87 percent.

This year, by decree of the President, another direction has been introduced for girls in the competition for the State Prize named after Zulfiya. Now gifted girls who have achieved special achievements in the field of information technology can become winners of this prestigious award.

The recently adopted State Program for the implementation of the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy in the "Year of Support for Youth and Business" sets the task of launching the "Girls Academy" platform to train young women and girls in such modern professions as entrepreneurship, marketing, graphic design, through which organize competitions, projects, training camps and internships for them. As a result of such



economy, and the environment. These issues are one of the main areas of cooperation with this international financial organization.

Another important area in the field of social support for women is training women and girls who do not have permanent jobs in professions through which they can be employed.

To this end, the Presidential Decree "On additional measures to improve the system of training women in professions and entrepreneurship", adopted in 2022, specifically defines all organizational and financial issues related to this process, including the employment of compatriots who have completed the courses.

In 2023, in the areas of employment and poverty reduction departments, 77.9

a specialty in the fields of services, construction, transport, utilities, and agriculture will study in colleges and technical schools in the relevant field on the basis of a state grant. In strengthening women's social activity and expanding their participation in all sectors, serious attention is paid to increasing knowledge in information and communication technologies. Among students studying ICT this year, girls and women make up 45 percent. In 205 training centers of the IT-Women.Uz project located in the regions, more than 4,500 local residents successfully completed courses in information technology.

It is gratifying that according to the results of the assessment in the rating indicator for eliminating the digital gender gap throughout Uzbekistan, conducted in 2022 jointly with the United Nations Development

attention and care, the number of areas where residents of Uzbekistan can carry out activities will further expand. Their employment opportunities will also improve markedly.

In the current difficult times, when competition on a global scale is intensifying, the President has identified an important task - modernization and renewal of the country based on the achievements of science and high technology. To this end, consistent reforms are being carried out. In particular, the system of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan has been restored and improved.

The head of state pays special attention to the issue of effectively using the potential of women in the development of science, emphasizing that he highly values women scientists and is ready to support them as

much as necessary. As practical confirmation of this, we can name a number of measures taken to increase the interest of educated, talented women in science and their preparation for postgraduate education.

Until recently, it was rare for female students to continue their studies at the master's level for objective and subjective reasons. Starting from 2022, the practice of paying for the contract of female students studying for a master's degree from the State Budget has been launched. 200 billion soums will be allocated annually for these purposes. In the 2022/2023 academic year, contracts for 14,110 female students in the amount of 152.9 billion soums were paid from the State Budget.

In the 2018/2019 academic year there were 4,488 master's students; in the 2022/2023 academic year their number reached 17,122. What does this mean? Firstly, they will enter the current labor market as mature, competitive specialists with some practical experience. Secondly, they will become scientific personnel with the potential to engage in research activities in the future.

Caring for women does not end here and will continue consistently. In particular, 48 percent, or 2,374 admission quotas allocated for postgraduate education, were allocated to women. Currently, 6,217 female applicants are conducting research work in higher educational institutions and scientific organizations.

The President said that we have set ourselves a great goal - to form the foundation of the third Renaissance in our country. The head of state emphasized that on this glorious path we rely primarily on the sacred values of family and the spirituality of mothers. From these words, we must deeply understand the purpose for which the above opportunities are created, the conditions, what results are expected and, most importantly, what responsibility they place on us.

In recent years, consistent reforms have been carried out to strengthen social protection of the population, expand the scope and types of social services that the state provides to citizens. The new version of the Constitution states that Uzbekistan is a social state. By the Presidential Decree "On a set of measures to provide high-quality social services and assistance to the population, as well as establishing a system for their effective control" dated June 1, 2023, the National Social Protection Agency under the President of the Republic of

Uzbekistan was created.

Through this social protection system, which covers 250 types of services, assistance is provided to disabled and lonely elderly people, persons with disabilities and other needy categories of the population. Fair, targeted and transparent organization of social assistance is facilitated by the establishment of a completely new and unique mechanism: "iron notebook", "women's notebook", "youth notebook".

In particular, the "iron notebook", launched with the aim of providing socio-legal, psychological assistance to women in difficult situations and their targeted support, serves as an important factor in helping needy families and women who cannot solve their problems on their own. As a result of this noble movement, many residents of all regions and the capital have received financial assistance to date.

Last year, 224,397 women who lost their breadwinner and were in need of support were provided with financial assistance in the amount of 225.1 billion soums. At the same time, 3,841 women had their housing renovated, 8,656 were paid rent in the amount of 11.7 billion soums, and 42.9 billion soums were spent to provide 1,481 women with affordable housing.

Last year alone, the problems of 993,386 compatriots included in the "iron notebook" were resolved, and more than 1.2 trillion soums were spent for these purposes from all sources.

Seeing the joy on the faces of women who received financial assistance, we are once again convinced how the results of the reforms carried out under the leadership of the President in the name of improving the lives of the people are reflected in practice.

"During a trip to the Andijan region, the head of state visited our enterprise," said Ismigul Yuldosheva, a seamstress at the Asaka Textile enterprise. "I was especially inspired by the President's words about exalting the honor and dignity of women. There is peace in the family, I am confident in the future. Is there any greater happiness for a woman?"

When it comes to ensuring the rights and legitimate interests of women in society, it should be emphasized that the pressing issue is counteracting oppression and violence against them. Until recently, this issue was not discussed, no systematic work was carried out to solve it, and as a result, problems accumulated over the years.

In recent years, along with issues of concern

to the population, this topic has also been put on the agenda. A legal framework has been created to eliminate all its manifestations, work is underway to create intransigence in society towards such cases, which is already producing results.

In 2021-2022, law enforcement agencies received more than 72 thousand complaints regarding cases of harassment and violence against women and girls. It's time to listen to the suffering and pain of a hopeless girl and woman who finds herself in such a difficult situation.

Until today, the legislation of Uzbekistan did not have a separate norm holding people accountable for cases of domestic violence. On April 11, 2023, the Law "On amendments and additions to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with further improvement of the system of reliable protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of women and children" was adopted. According to it, the concepts of "family (domestic) violence", "persecution", "sexual harassment" are introduced into the relevant legal acts, and administrative and criminal liability for such offenses is defined.

It has been established that persons who have committed sexual violence, including against minors, are not subject to mitigating measures provided for in the legislation, parole from punishment, replacement of punishment with a milder one, release from punishment in connection with reconciliation.

Courts have been given the power to extend the validity of a protective order, which provides state protection to the victim from persecution and violence, from 30 days to 1 year. The law has introduced a number of amendments and additions aimed at preventing persecution and violence against women and preventing humiliation of their honor and dignity.

Passing laws is good. Another important aspect of the issue is that they are implemented. For this purpose, a road map has been developed that covers all measures to ensure the implementation of this law. Working groups and groups are being formed in the republic, regions, and districts to clarify it. The necessary legal, psychological and practical assistance is organized.

The President, at a video conference meeting dedicated to the priority tasks of further expanding the coverage of social protection services, noted that in recent years the country has significantly

strengthened the system for protecting women from violence and persecution, but such cases still occur. Not all injured women and children are covered by rehabilitation. Therefore, a separate system will be created at the mahalla level. It has been determined that a register of women who find themselves in such a situation will be compiled. They will be provided with prompt comprehensive services in the mahalla. Also, 24-hour rooms will be opened in district hospitals to provide medical and psychological assistance to victims of violence. In this process, cooperation between representatives of the "makhalla seven" and residents is of great importance.

Protecting the rights and interests of women, ensuring their active participation in all spheres of life of the state and society are an urgent task not only in our country, but throughout the world.

The initiatives of the head of our state, calling on the women of the planet for solidarity in the name of peace and progress, aimed at finding a reasonable solution to problems of a global scale that concern everyone equally, find a warm response in the world community.

Within the framework of the meetings of the Dialogue of Women Leaders of Central Asian Countries, the summit of women leaders of parliaments of member states of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, at the meetings of the Women's Forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, we are identifying important measures for the participation of women in public administration, preventive diplomacy, environmental protection, entrepreneurship and business, culture, education, science, art, gender equality, in general in the field of sustainable development, we turn them into reality. Events with the participation of authoritative international organizations are held in our country at a high level. This is an example of the fact that the reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan to develop parliamentarism, ensure human rights and in the field of democratization of society, as well as their results, are receiving worthy assessment from the world community.

The extent to which gender equality is ensured in any country is also determined by the place women occupy at the top levels of government. The fact that they have sufficient representation in government bodies that make important decisions related to the fate of the country contributes to the fact that their interests are effectively promoted and reflected in relevant documents. According to the Inter-

Parliamentary Union, Uzbekistan ranks 45th among 180 member states in terms of these indicators. Our country's place in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law Index has improved. Uzbekistan is among 27 states that have implemented important reforms in the field of women's rights and gender equality.

Another important question. Today, more than ever, one of the important foundations of the strength of society and the stability of the state is relevant - this is increasing the potential of the family in the field of education and upbringing, preserving family values in society, and improving the spiritual and moral environment.

Competition is intensifying in the international arena, and contradictions between states seeking to maintain their influence in the world are becoming increasingly acute. Ideological and spiritual threats are also intensifying in the information field. In such a difficult situation, educating young people in the spirit of patriotism, caring for national values and

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traditions, introducing their essence into the consciousness of our children are important factors in ensuring the unity of the nation, people, as well as preserving national identity.

At an extended meeting of the Republican Council on Spirituality and Education, the head of our state once again called on all of us, especially representatives of the intelligentsia, to be vigilant:

"Are we ready in today's difficult conditions for competition in the ideological sphere? Does the education of the younger generation meet the complex conditions of the time? These are not easy questions. These are questions that make you think seriously, that make you worry. If we want to live in this world with the names "Uzbek", "Uzbekistani", "Uzbekistan", we must find answers to these questions today and begin practical actions to solve them today. Tomorrow it will be too late."

These words apply primarily to mothers, whose role in the family and whose influence on the upbringing of children is great, as famous thinkers of the East spoke about. They emphasized that the atmosphere in the family, the behavior of

children, their attitude towards parents and people around them are formed precisely under the influence of the mother's knowledge and spirituality. Thinkers emphasized: "A smart woman is the foundation of a family; she raises her children not only for her era, but also for the future."

In order to improve the spiritual situation in the family and educate in the spirit of national values, social structures consisting of women with rich life experience have been created. The activities of the Okila Ayollar movement have been established by a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers. This structure conducts local outreach and propaganda work to create a new spiritual space, strengthen families, ensure the participation of mothers in building an enlightened society, increase women's sense of ownership of the reforms carried out in the country, and explain the essence and significance of adopted legislative acts.

As the head of state emphasized, it is difficult to stop threats to our national identity, statehood and spirituality, which are organized from the outside and from time to time manifest themselves within the country. It is difficult to curb approaches that contradict our Constitution and our laws, especially in the current conditions of information openness. We are obliged to fight against them only with the help of education and our high spirituality. Everyone must deeply understand that the struggle for the independence of the Motherland, for the fate of the nation, is constant. And we must always be ready for it.

Public structures such as the Republican Commission on Increasing the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and Family, the Research Institute of Family and Gender, the Society of Women Scientists, the Okila Ayollar movement, the Dialogue of Women Leaders of Uzbekistan should join forces in this direction with the Republican Council for Spirituality and Education. It is necessary to effectively organize work through mutual coordination and organize spiritual and educational activities on a scientific basis. We must not forget the great status accorded to the mother - "the educator of generations." The sacred duty of mothers is to strengthen in the minds of our children the concept put forward by the President:

"Every citizen of Uzbekistan must consider it his life duty to ensure the unity of our people, the integrity of the country. Only united - we are a single people, only together - we are a strong country!"

Assessment of Child Poverty in the Republic of Uzbekistan

Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR), together with UNICEF, assessed the level of monetary child poverty in Uzbekistan. The study analyzed the impact of the social protection system on the poverty level. According to the calculations, in the absence of social payments, the child poverty rate in the country would have increased by 1.6 times.

April 1, 2024. The Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR), together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Uzbekistan, conducted an assessment of the level of poverty among the child population, as well as an analysis of the effectiveness of the social protection system.

The child poverty rate was calculated based on data from a Household Budget Survey data collected by the Statistics Agency in collaboration with the World Bank.

While 10,000 households were surveyed in 2021, more than 16,000 households were surveyed across the country in 2023.

Over the past three years, child poverty in Uzbekistan has decreased by 7.8 percentage points.

According to the results, the child poverty

rate decreased from 21.5% in 2021 to 13.7% in 2023.

Poverty reduction trends vary markedly between urban and rural areas. In particular, in rural areas, the child poverty rate decreased from 24.6% to 14.5%,

while in urban areas it decreased from 18% to 13%.

The study found that the regions with the lowest level of child poverty are Navoi region and Tashkent city, while a relatively high level of child poverty is observed in Syrdarya and Jizzakh regions.

According to the National Agency of Social Protection, the total coverage of social benefits in Uzbekistan in 2023 amounted to 10.8 million people.

The coverage of low-income families with child benefits and financial aid amounted to 9 million people from 2.1 million low-income families and 72.5 thousand beneficiary families, with a total amount of payments of 12.3 trillion sums.

In order to increase the efficiency of investments in the social protection system, as well as the effectiveness and reforms, the CERR analyzed the distribution of social benefits among various groups of households.

The effectiveness and targeting of the social protection system was assessed by analyzing the distribution, coverage, and adequacy of social benefits, as well as their impact on the poverty level.

Experts note that the existing social protection system directs most of its resources to the least affluent segments of the population. However, according to the calculations, almost 6% of those receiving social assistance belong to the 20% most affluent households, including 4% of households receiving child benefits.

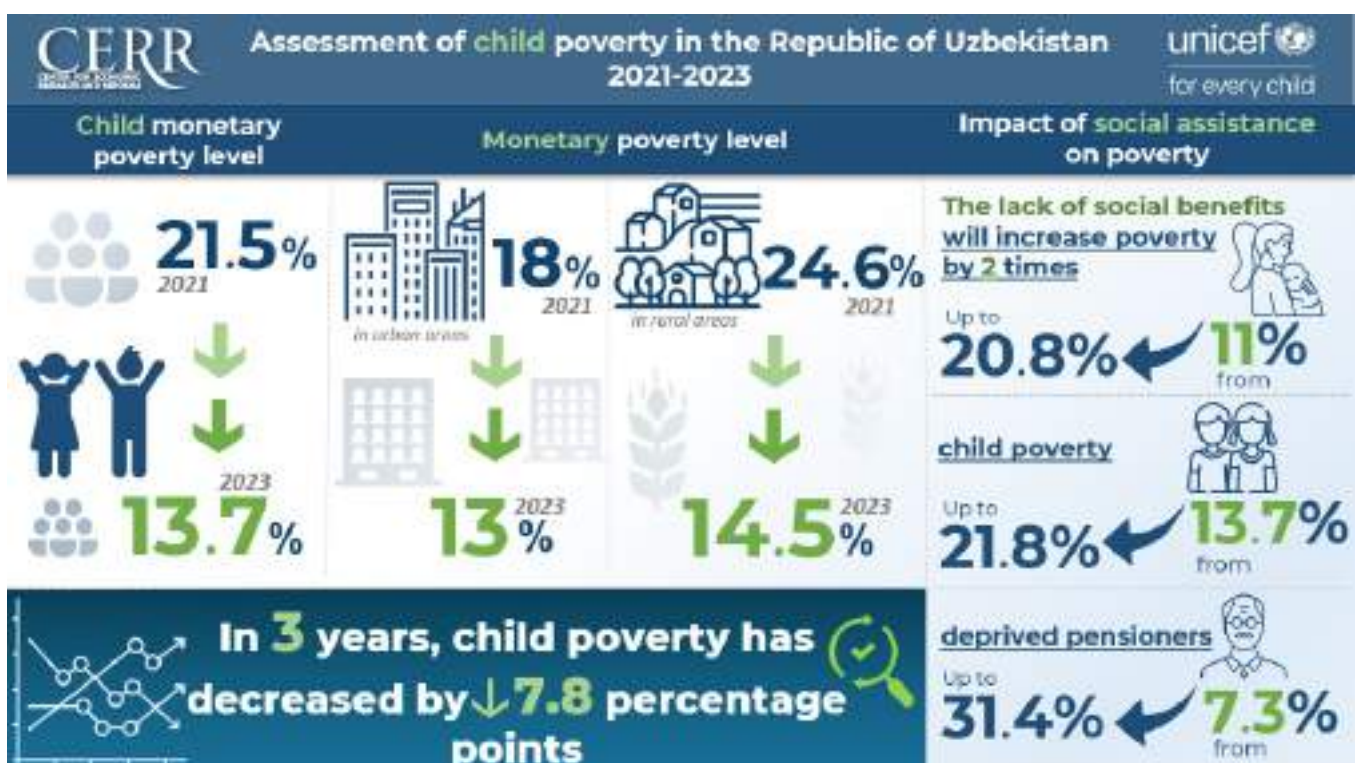
In contrast, old-age pensions are distributed relatively evenly among all population groups, reflecting a universal approach to ensuring the well-being of the elderly population.

Impact of social assistance on poverty level. The study analyzed the impact of the social protection system on the poverty level.

That way, in case of insufficient income, when incomes are below the poverty line, the absence of social payments would increase the poverty rate from 11% to 20.8%, child poverty from 13.7% to 21.8% and the share of deprived pensioners from 7.3% to 31.4%.

Overall, this analysis allows us to assess the effectiveness and targeting of the social protection system, identify its advantages and disadvantages, and propose measures for its improvement in order to ensure more equal access to social benefits and reduce the poverty level in society.

Hereby, Uzbekistan demonstrates its commitment to achieving the SDG 1 - to end poverty in all its forms by 2030. In this regard, measuring monetary child poverty is a significant step towards achieving this mission.





Hamid Mahmood

Nestled in the heart of Uzbekistan, the ancient city of Bukhara played host to the dazzling ZAR II International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewellery 2024. This grand celebration, held from May 20-24, showcased the rich heritage of gold embroidery and jewellery making, drawing artisans, connoisseurs, and tourists from around the globe.

As I stepped into the streets of Bukhara near historic Ark Fortress, the primary venue for the festival, the air was thick with anticipation and excitement. The festival's opening ceremony was nothing short of spectacular, with fireworks painting the night sky in brilliant hues, setting the stage for a week of cultural immersion and artistic brilliance.

The festival grounds were transformed into a vibrant marketplace, where over 200 master craftsmen displayed their exquisite creations. Intricately embroidered robes, gleaming with gold and silver threads, adorned the stalls. Each piece told a story of meticulous craftsmanship, passed down through generations. The jewellery section was equally mesmerizing, with an array of ornate necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, each piece reflecting the opulence and sophistication of Bukhara's golden age.

One of the highlights of the festival was the live demonstrations by the artisans. Visitors had the unique opportunity to witness the meticulous process of gold embroidery, a tradition that dates back centuries. The delicate handling of gold threads, the precision in stitching, and the passion of the artisans were awe-inspiring. Similarly, the jewellery-making demonstrations revealed the intricate techniques involved in crafting the elaborate designs that Bukhara is renowned for.

Workshops and seminars were held throughout the festival, offering insights into the history and evolution of these ancient crafts. Experts discussed the symbolism

behind traditional motifs, the influence of various cultures on Bukhara's artistry, and the challenges faced by modern artisans in preserving these age-old techniques.

Fashion shows added a contemporary twist to the festival, where models paraded down the runway adorned in traditional attire



infused with modern designs. The fusion of old and new was a testament to the timeless appeal of Bukhara's craftsmanship, captivating audiences and inspiring young designers to incorporate these elements into their work.

One evening, under a canopy of stars, I attended a cultural performance that celebrated the music and dance of Uzbekistan. The rhythmic beats of the doira and the soulful melodies of the dutar provided a perfect backdrop to the graceful movements of the dancers. Their costumes, rich with gold embroidery, shimmered in the spotlight, adding to the enchantment of the night.

The festival also emphasized sustainability and the importance of preserving traditional crafts in a rapidly changing world. Several discussions highlighted initiatives aimed at supporting local artisans, ensuring fair trade practices, and promoting eco-friendly materials. It was heartening to see a collective effort to sustain these invaluable crafts for future generations.

Throughout the festival, the sense of community and pride was palpable. The people of Bukhara opened their hearts and homes to visitors, sharing their rich cultural heritage with warmth and generosity. The local cuisine, with its delectable array of plov, samsa, and baklava, added to the sensory delights of the festival, making every meal a celebration in itself.

As the ZAR II International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewellery drew to a close, I found myself reflecting on the profound beauty and resilience of Bukhara's traditions. The festival was not just a showcase of artistic excellence but a powerful reminder of the importance of cultural preservation. In a world where modernity often overshadows tradition, Bukhara shone as a beacon of hope, proving that heritage and innovation can coexist harmoniously.

Leaving Bukhara, I carried with me not just memories of breathtaking artistry but a deep appreciation for the cultural treasures that festivals like ZAR II strive to protect and promote. The festival had indeed succeeded in weaving a golden thread that connected the past to the present, creating a legacy that will inspire generations to come.



Exploring the echoes of
history with the beauty of
the present: Two radiant
spirits amidst

Bukhara's timeless splendour.



Thanks to
Guzal Kambarova
Ezoza Bakhtiyorova

From pre medieval times, Bukhara has always been a vital point on the route of silk transit from China and Central Asia to the countries of the Middle East and the Mediterranean. Bukhara was the Dome of Islam, the Pillar of Religion, the power of the spirit and is the most intact historical city in the

ancient East. Bukhara was boasting for centuries with diverse madrasas (Islamic schools), attracting the finest minds of the East with its cultural and commercial spirit and well earned the title of Bukhara the Holy. Trade has always been the most popular occupation here and the people of Bukhara still dedicate themselves to this business with pleasure.

Bukhara is located 250 km west from the Samarkand at the downstream of Zarafshon river, in the Kyzylkum desert. Bukhara holds a population of about 270 000 people and has buildings and monuments that cover the history of thousands of years. Bukhara is one of the greatest places in Central Asia for a glimpse of pre-Soviet Central Asian ancient empires. Most of the remaining old structures in Bukhara are madrasas or minarets accompanied by an extensive royal fortress called the Ark of Bukhara and the remains of a once-vast market complex.

Officially there are about 10 mosques in the old Bukhara, several mausoleums and more than a dozen madrasas and each of their structure is a work of art. In addition to the ones mentioned, there are also many sights which do not commonly appear in the guidebooks, perhaps due to not yet restored appearances. It means that if one wants to see them intact before heavy restoration, the time to go is now as the Uzbek government is "improving" the looks of old areas rapidly throughout the country.

There is no precise information on where Bukhara got its name from. According to one version, it came from the word "vihara" which means a Buddhist monastery. According to another hypothesis, "Bukhara" comes from "Bukhar", which in the language of magicians means "the source of knowledge." Hence one of the epithets - "Scientific Bukhara". Since ancient times, Bukhara has been the center of many religions: Zoroastrians, idolaters, Christians, Manicheans and Buddhists.

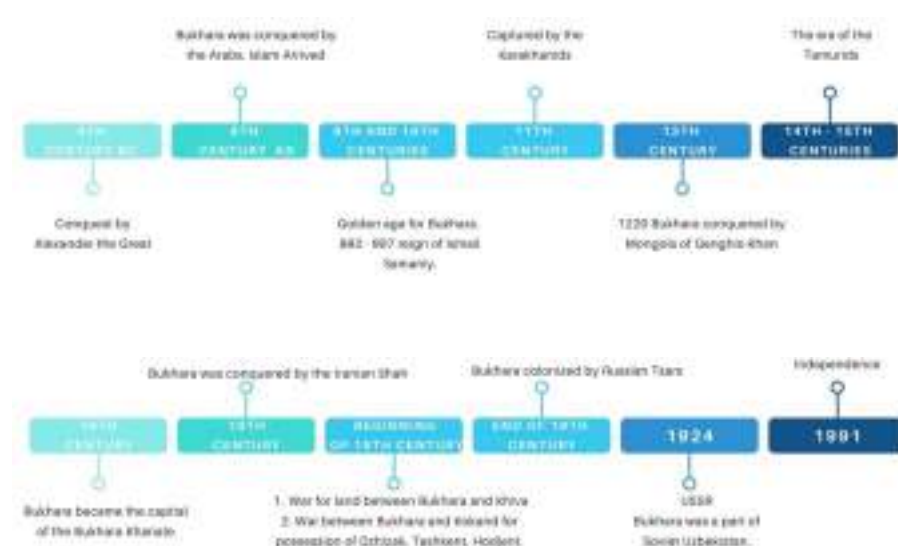
Already at the end of the 8 century AD, the Bukhara had turned into one of the major cultural and religious centers of the Muslim world and it was called the "dome of Islam". Many mosques, tombs, madrasas have survived from those times to this day. There are over 400 historical and architectural

monuments in Bukhara, which makes this city the largest open-air museum in Central Asia. Bukhara historical city center is also a Unesco world heritage site and the best preserved intact Central Asian old city.

History of Bukhara

Bukhara found 2,500 years ago by the Persian prince Siyavush, it started as a citadel the prince built after marrying the daughter of Afrasiab. The continued success of the city connected to its strategic position, on the crossroads leading to Merv, Kabul, Samarkand. The history of Bukhara is

made all the more unique by its special wealth of architectural monuments and its Islamic culture and heritage.



Bukhara is filled with sights and if one starts to feel that everything is already seen there is a lot more in the surrounding areas to be explored. The center of Bukhara is the old town "Shahristan", where the gracious Kalon Minaret, the pool, and square called Lyabi-Hauz, as well as the main beating

heart of the city with Ark of Bukhara are all located. The area is surrounded by impressive trading domes and to the west lies the Samani Park with several sights.

The majority of sights lie spread around the old town and are hence most comfortably reached on foot. Perhaps, you should start your tour through the Registan next to the Ark and proceed through the heart of the old bazaar quarter to the area around the Lyab-i Hauz square. If you wish to observe a large portion of all the sights in Bukhara, you should reserve at least three to four days.

Bukhara Squares & Unique Madrasas

The best way to start exploring Bukhara's old town is on foot. Chor Minor madrasa marks the most eastern point of the heart of Bukhara so it is best to leave that the last or go check it as the first one and to connect it with the photogenic Lyabi Hauz square and magnificent Ulug Beg & Abdul Aziz Madrasas. Walking more to the central area you will reach the heart of the old town where you can see the star of the Bukhara, the Poi Kalyan Complex with two large gateways to a madrasa and to a mosque standing opposite to each other together with the largest minaret in Bukhara. The best view to the complex is seen from the cafes that are located at the roofs north from the complex.

Pictures

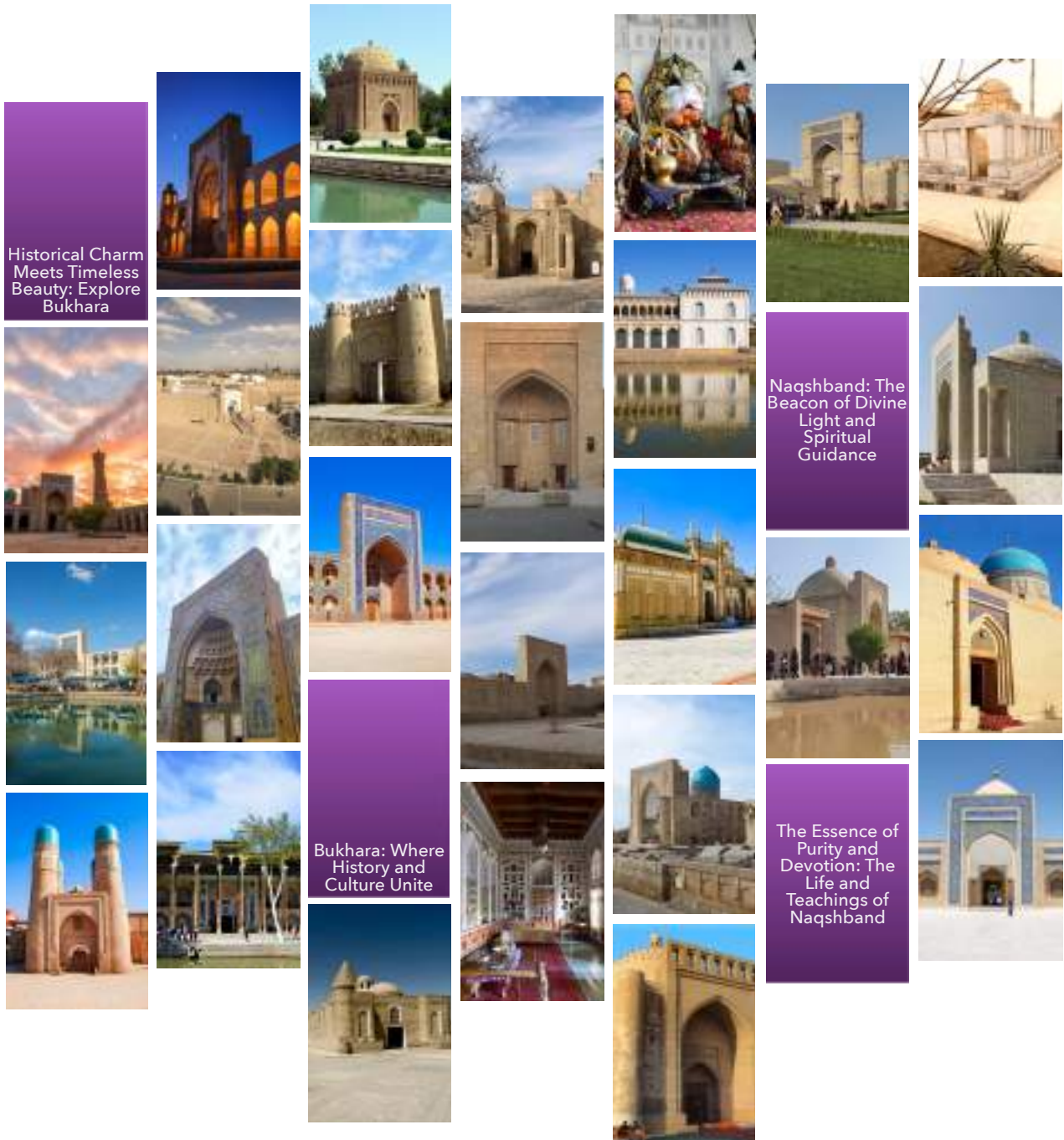
1. Poi Kalyan Complex
2. Lyabi Hauz Ensemble
3. Chor Minor Madrasa
4. Ulugbeg Madrasah
5. Abdulaziz Khan Madrasah
6. Ark of Bukhara
7. Bolo Hauz Complex
8. Samanids Mausoleum
9. Talipach Gate
10. Kosh-Madrassah Ensemble
11. Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum
12. Magoki Attor Mosque
13. Magok-i-Kurpa Mosque
14. Khoja Gaukushan Ensemble
15. Fayzulla Khujayev House Museum
16. Sitori-i Mokhi Khosa The Summer Palace of Bukharan Emirs
17. Emir's Palace in Kagan Train station
18. Chor Bakr Necropolis
19. Saif ed-din Bokharzi & Bayan-Quli Khan.

Naqshband

20. Khawaja Abdul Khaliq Gajduani
21. Khawaja Orif Revgariy
22. Khawaja Mahmud Anjir Fag'navig
23. Hazrat Khaqajha Ali Romitaniy
24. Khawaja Muhammad Boboyi Samosiy
25. Khawaja Sayyid Amir Kulol
26. Khawaja Bahouddin Nagshband Buxoriy

BUKHARA

The Pearl of Central Asia



Historical Charm
Meets Timeless
Beauty: Explore
Bukhara

Naqshband: The
Beacon of Divine
Light and
Spiritual
Guidance

Bukhara: Where
History and
Culture Unite

The Essence of
Purity and
Devotion: The
Life and
Teachings of
Naqshband





Bukhara

A cultural Heritage



On May 3-5, 2024, the II International Goldsmithing and Jewellery Festival is being held in Bukhara. This international conference is held based on the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on April 29, 2021 "On holding the International Goldsmithing and Jewellery Festival." The international event is aimed at developing goldsmithing and jewellery traditions of folk art, promoting their unique examples, strengthening friendship and cooperation between peoples through the exchange of experience in these areas, strengthening cultural-humanitarian ties, preserving professional traditions and craft schools that have been passed down from generation to generation and it established in order to restore and further increase the tourism potential of the region.

It is no coincidence that the international conference is held in Bukhara. Because Bukhara has been one of the cultural centres where handicrafts have been developed since ancient times. Different directions of crafts and folk arts, especially goldsmithing and jewellery, are highly revolutionised here.

Based on the master-apprentice tradition, family dynasties of artisans have been passing down its secrets from ancestors to generations. Even today, the traditions of handicrafts are consistently developing in the city of Bukhara. In particular, many types of crafts such as silk carpet making, pottery, carving, goldsmithing, jewellery, embroidery, wood carving, and paper making are flourishing.

In 2022, Bukhara city was awarded the status of World Craft City by the World Council of Craftsmen. 230 artisans from all regions of our Republic, including 105 jewellers, 35 goldsmiths, and 90 other artisans are participating in the festival. 120 foreign

participants from 48 countries are attending in the fest. In particular, 12 from 9 and 36 participants from 5 countries as distinguished guests, and foreign mass media are participating in the scientific-practical conference.

Within the framework of the festival, a scientific-practical conference on the topic "Traditional goldsmithing and jewelry, prospects for development of art" is also being conducted. 12 foreign and 12 local scientists from 9 countries. as well as more than 300 professors, teachers, graduate students, craftsmen are participating in it. At the scientific-practical conference, the book "Crafts that shape society: teaching crafts - world experience" by Australian scientist Lindy Joubert will be presented. At the conference 10 foreign and local scientists are participating with lectures. More than 100 representatives of local mass media, 2 foreign media journalists from Pakistan, New Zealand. and 6 from China, Turkey, and Russia accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and permanently operating in Uzbekistan attended the festival. media representatives are also covering it widely.

Within the framework of the festival, a number of events, ceremonial processions of festival participants, exhibition and trade of local and foreign artisans' products, scientific-practical conference on the topic of "Prospects for the development of traditional goldsmithing and jewellery art", for representatives of mass media on the conduct and results of the festival press conferences, "Bukhara Fashion Days" fashion show and concert program with the participation of local and foreign designers and craftsmen, folk dances, puppetry, performances of folklore groups, concert programs prepared by regional cultural departments, gastronomic competitions,

master classes of local and foreign craftsmen, in Bukhara Excursions are available to famous goldsmiths and jewellers workshops.

According to the regulations of the International Goldsmithing and Jewellery Festival, a competition between local and foreign artisans is being held within the framework of the festival. The skills of the craftsmen who are participants in the competition are being evaluated by an international jury consisting of seven people. The international panel includes highly qualified specialists. famous art and culture figures, scientists, researchers, practitioners, as well as representatives of relevant fields from the participating countries. Exhibition of products and master classes of participants of the international jury competition in 12 nominations - "Best jewellery organisation",

"Best jewellery organisation", "Best goldsmith", "Best

jeweller", "Master of the best goldsmith school" Master of the Best School of Jewellery", "The Successor of the Ancient Dynasty in Jewellery"

"The Successor of the Ancient Dynasty in Jewellery", "The Goldsmith Who Revived Ancient Traditions", "The Jeweler Who Revived Ancient Traditions", "The Youngest Skilled Goldsmith", "The Youngest Skilled Jeweler" nominations .

The winners will get special diploma and cash prizes, A solemn awarding ceremony and gala concert will be held in "Ark" fortress with the participation of the winners and prize-winners of the International Goldsmith and Jewellery Festival.

II International Gold and Jewellery festival press centre.



Botir Komilovich Zaripov

Hokim of bukhara Region

Photo credits
Tohir Istatov (UZA)

Today, many goldsmiths in Uzbekistan are continuing their creations in historical and modern styles, in harmony with Uzbek national traditions.

Among them, we would like to highlight such craftsmen as Alisher Haydarov and Takhir Muhammedov, well-known masters of the Bukhara school of jewelry art.

Also, famous goldsmiths such as the Dadamuhamedov dynasty led by master Fasikhiddin Dadamuhamedov from the schools of Tashkent, Margilon, Shahrisabz, Khorezm, Samarkand, Sukhrob Ahrorov, Sharif Raupov, Gulorom Yoldosheva are widely known worldwide.

Along with the art of jewelry, the world-famous art of goldsmithing also has its special place.

According to the archaeological findings and written sources found in the territory of our republic, goldsmithing has developed at the level of art in the territory of Uzbekistan, and the city of Bukhara was recognized as a major center of goldsmithing at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

Today, goldsmithing is one of the most widespread types of handicrafts, and the master-apprenticeship system has been restored and is developing throughout the country.

The works of goldsmiths such as Bakhshillo Jumaev, Shavkat Zohidov, Mahfuza Salimova, Munavvar Farmonova and other goldsmiths belonging to these schools are distinguished by their magnificence, elegance, mastery and quality.

A number of important documents have been adopted by the President of the Republic in order to further develop these two traditional craft directions and to provide comprehensive support to skilled craftsmen who are consistently continuing the historical traditions in this regard. Many benefits and favorable conditions have been created for the industry.

As a result, until 2018, a total of 765 jewelers and 112 goldsmiths were officially registered in the republic, and at the moment, 2358 masters and their 3448 apprentices, as well as 471 masters and 1068 apprentices, are working in the field of jewelry.



Well, first of all what does a craftsman need, Today the Craftsman needs to show its creation and then definitely to sell it. If he doesn't show, he won't sell, The festival provides such an opportunity.

Today, we have many festivals in Uzbekistan. As you mentioned, you were in Kokand, which is very nice. The Bukhara festival is one of these festivals.

Today, there was a gold processing demonstration, showcasing traditional craftsmanship. At one time, these schools of craftsmanship were almost lost. I'll tell you honestly, after independence, we began to restore them.

The Bukhara school has its own uniqueness and brand, the Bukhara brand, which involves processing gold and creating various items. This is the focus of Bukhara's activities. Additionally, for the locals, today's artisans exchange experiences, showcase their work, and learn from other countries.

They also strive for excellence through these festivals. The festival has a positive impact on the economy, not only in Bukhara but across the country, as it generates new ideas, plans, and product developments. Our main goal here is to learn from the experiences of other countries, particularly in gold product conversion.

As you know, Uzbeks frequently use gold products, especially for weddings and other events, where it is common to give gold as gifts. Currently, we import more gold products than we produce, despite having our own gold reserves.

Therefore, through the festival, we aim to attract investors. I believe there is an intention towards this, and today, many companies from different countries are present.

I think that after negotiations with them and addressing relevant issues, we will achieve new results. We have now opened exhibitions in the embassies to showcase Uzbek craftsmanship.

We are not just exhibiting; we are demonstrating what we do in Uzbekistan through our craftsmanship. This is present in all embassies, which is the first step. Secondly, we are always eager to participate in these festivals.

This initiative is now closely connected with the Arab world and Egypt. Today, we also intend to explore other directions and expand the festival's reach. We are always ready to go there, because without sharing experiences, I believe development will not be possible."

Interview with

Urakov Jamshed Rajabovich

**Chairman of the Hunarmand
Association of the Republic of
Uzbekistan**

Another successful event in the books! On to the next one

Q. As President of the World Craft Council for the Asia Pacific region, what factors do you believe will contribute to the impact of these festivals in this country?

A. First of all, when we speak about what facilities we need to give for the artisans, we always try to create platforms. For the realisation of their products, get collaboration with different other artists at the same time to have some more scientific touch to develop the artcrafts. And this kind of international festivals, first of all, give the opportunity for our artisans to sell their products, to find good contacts with other countries. And at the same time, to get educational impact for their crafts.

The second international Gold embroidery and jewelry festival is one of the examples. And during this festival, we are conducting the scientific conference when our experts from different parts of the world are sharing their experiences, their knowledge, on developing gold embroidery and jewelry in the modern and traditional ways. At the same time, during this festival, we have fashion show where they can demonstrate artistic works of the designers.

And the fair and contest, during the contest, the international juries will evaluate the products and the activities of the artisans in 12 different nominations. And these actually nominations are symbolic, but at the same time, give some kind of motivation and pride for each artisan to be recognised. And in the World Craft City, Bukhara, organizing this kind of events is very specific, because they have very ancient roots of developing crafts. And also, these are one of the oldest ancient cities on the Great Silk Road, where the crafts were impacted by different cultures of East and West.

Q. What impact do events like these festivals have on domestic craftspeople when they collaborate with international craftspeople?

A. Yes, for example, collaboration between artisan and designer, it can create a new collective design works where they can also find a new market. For example, I can bring the artisans from India and Central Asian designers, they're now working on a joint project where they're using Indian catchy,

AJRAK block printing, and also a designer from Kazakhstan.

So, we want by bringing this kind of new creative design and works to find new markets, because in the market, you always should be to bring something new. At

the same time, using your traditional skills. So, same when local artisans see what kind of gold embroidery is made in New Zealand or in Netherlands, they can also have kind of idea, or this is how the crafts in different parts of the world. And they should not only think that this is only developed in this place, but should also see the other places. They may not have an opportunity to travel these countries, but bringing these artisans to here, this gives to wider public to know about it.

Q. Do you think your idea by organising such of festivals will impact the traditional methods used by local jewelry makers?"

A. I don't think so, because every tradition, every skill, they have their own typical direction. When they see other products, they got inspiration. They come with different ideas, but using their traditional ways, they can create something new, because wherever it's created, it's created by the inspiration. It's not easy to get an inspiration and see, but it's not necessarily to have inspiration from other crafts, but always it's very knowledgeable and educationally proved that when you see other crafts, so you also do some kind of decisions, some kind of analysis. And it's not necessarily needs to be in fact influenced to your product, but you should have an idea that other artists are also working.

Q. What is your future plan for these kinds of festivals?

A. After the pandemic, it was not easy to revive, organize these kinds of events, but central almighty that from this year, 2024, it got very busy year,

and we have in every country, in every region of South Asia Pacific region, these kind of craft events and From September, we have in more South Eastern countries where there is more moderate. We have other craft events like Vietnam, in Philippines, in Thailand, and also we will do a celebration of 60s Jubilee of the World Craft Castle, which was established in 1964. And we will also have our General Assembly, and we are planning to organize it in Jaipur in India.

Q. Any message to the participants?

A. First of all, I really want to express my gratitude to all of them. They find the time to come and visit and also share their crafts to Uzbek people. And at the same time, I would like to express that the organizers, they brought a lot to organize this event in this higher level. And I also would like to wish them more inspiration and good luck to their work. And I really hope that these kinds of events will leave them a good memories about these areas. Thank you.

Thank you very much.



Interview with
Aziz Murtazaev
President WCC Asia Pacific Region

The renowned British photographer, Peter Sanders, visited Uzbekistan for the first time from May 1 to 7 this year. He is known as one of the 500 influencers of the Islamic world and is a permanent Ambassador of the charity MOSAIC which was established by HRH King Charles and prior to that was on the Board of Trustees of MOSAIC.

Originally from London, Sanders is among the world's most well-known photographers, having started his career by working with



international celebrities such as Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones, and Jimi Hendrix. He converted to Islam in the 1970s and began reflecting Islamic art and culture in his works, collaborating with figures such as Muhammad Ali, Sami Yusuf, and Cat Stevens, famous in the Islamic world. Sanders's work has been highly acknowledged by figures such as King Charles, the Dalai Lama, and Sheikh Mohammed Rashid Al Maktoum.

During his visit to Uzbekistan, Peter Sanders toured Tashkent, Bukhara, and Samarkand. The primary purpose of his trip was to showcase the rich cultural heritage of

Uzbekistan, discover the country's holy places significant in the Islamic world, and explore the unique Islamic art of the region.

"I had dreamt of coming to Uzbekistan for almost 50 years, and finally, I have been honored with this opportunity. Upon arriving here, I felt that Uzbekistan is a place where one stands with one foot in history and the other in the future, feeling happiness and inspiration in both realms. Throughout my life, I have visited many countries, experienced various cultures, but I can confidently say that I have never encountered such cultural and spiritual harmony, sincerity, and tolerance among people anywhere else," said the living legend.

Peter Sanders's visit commenced with a visit to the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan. *"The architecture of the center and its mission are astonishing. Undoubtedly, this will be a significant event for Islamic culture globally."* After visiting the Imam Bukhari International Research Center in Samarkand and the expansive Imam Bukhari Pilgrimage Complex under construction, Sanders expressed his belief that Uzbekistan will become one of the major cultural and pilgrimage centers in the coming years.

The photographer also participated as an VIP guest at the II International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewelry in Bukhara. This festival provided him with an insight into Uzbekistan's applied art and its deep philosophy. Sanders concluded, "I intend to showcase to the world the Islamic art of Uzbekistan, its harmony, diversity, and spiritual foundation, which brings a special peace to the hearts."

For information:

Peter's metaphorical journey of discovery started 50 years ago. Over that time, he has amassed a photographic archive of more than 500,000 images.

In the 1970s, his attention shifted, which led him to the traditional and spiritual universe of Islam. He converted to Islam in 1971. The same year, Sanders was given a unique opportunity to record the warmth of the world's largest worship gathering in Mecca during the Hajj season. These pictures have appeared in major UK and European magazines such as *The Sunday Times*, *The Observer* and *Paris Match*. Sanders travelled around the world to meet and capture the images of saints and sages of Islam which he has later published in a book titled 'Meetings with Mountains'.

Peter's physical journey ran in parallel with his spiritual exploration of faith. These journeys led him to document the Islamic world of peoples, architecture and geography. It also provided him the opportunity to meet with people around the world and photographed aspects of life and society.

It is the personal and spiritual insight that Peter gained that allows him to produce images that truly encapsulate the subject. More recently, Peter has been active in numerous ways to facilitate a greater understanding of the Islamic faith in the western world.

As a result of his activities Peter has been named as one of the 500 most influential Muslims in the world. He continues to act as a translator of Islam to those interested in acquiring a greater understanding and to encourage broader and deeper interactions between people of different races and faith.

He is a permanent Ambassador of the charity MOSAIC which was established by HRH Prince Charles and prior to that was on the Board of Trustees of MOSAIC for five years.

As an illustration of the breadth of influence, Peter received the 'Fashion and Islamic Art 2013 award from HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al Maktoum in Dubai.

Find out more about his works:

https://petersanders.com/#home_about

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Art_of_Seeing <https://www.artofseeing.org>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9xT8_JJg



Peter Sanders

Legendary photographer visited

Uzbekistan



"I had dreamt of coming to Uzbekistan for almost 50 years, and finally, I have been honored with this opportunity. Upon arriving here, I felt that Uzbekistan is a place where one stands with one foot in history and the other in the future, feeling happiness and inspiration in both realms. Throughout my life, I have visited many countries, experienced various cultures, but I can confidently say that I have never encountered such cultural and spiritual harmony, sincerity, and tolerance among people anywhere else," said the living legend."

Must See Place in Bukhara

USTOZ SHOGIRD

Center for Applied Arts

Mr. Davlat Toshev is a remarkable teacher who specializes in teaching the intricate arts of miniature painting and calligraphy to children who cannot speak or hear. His classroom is a sanctuary of creativity and expression, where the silence is filled with the vibrant colors and delicate strokes of his students' artwork. With patience and ingenuity, Mr. Toshev employs visual demonstrations and hands-on guidance to communicate complex techniques, fostering a deep connection with each child. His dedication transcends conventional teaching methods, creating an inclusive and inspiring environment where every student can explore their artistic potential and find their unique voice through the beauty of art. I had honour to meet him and know about his past and future.

This workshop, now home to over 50 young talents, is situated in a historic building with a rich heritage. Originally the first Russian bank in the 19th century, the building served various purposes during the Soviet Union, including being a hospital and a public house. Mr. Gabla Toshev, driven by a passion for preserving cultural heritage, sought and received government permission to repurpose the building. Though supported in his endeavor, Mr. Toshev personally financed and oversaw the restoration through earnings from his exhibitions, raising €280,000.

Today, more than 15 young talents, all with hearing and speech impairments, study here, revealing hidden artistic gifts their parents never knew they possessed. The school also supports over 10 students from socially vulnerable families, providing them with opportunities they could not otherwise afford. Mr. Toshev's dedication extends beyond teaching; he aims to preserve and transmit these traditional arts to future generations.

The school features an art gallery displaying works by both masters and students. The first room showcases a blend of both, while another room is dedicated solely to the students' creations. As for his future plans, Mr. Toshev dreams of expanding his impact, continuing to nurture young artists and ensure the survival and flourishing of this unique cultural heritage.





Davlat Toshev

**A Canvas for Every Voice
A Teacher's Creative Touch**

An open door To cultural richness

Bukhari
CREATIVE GROUP

FUSION OF ARTS AND
TRADITIONS

UNITING VALUE-DRIVEN
PEOPLE

BROADENING CULTURAL
ACCESSIBILITY

BRIDGING GENERATIONS



Contemporary Uzbekistan, encompassing five Central Asian countries, has always been at the forefront of human civilization. Located at the crossroads of the Silk Road, a network of routes used by traders for more than 1,500 years, it has enriched cultures, inspired dreamers, and empowered innovators, traders, and entrepreneurs to benefit from its economic importance.

Bukhari Creative Group draws its inspiration from the historic legacy that the Timurids contributed during the heyday of the Silk Road. Though its role diminished during the industrial revolution, its cultural, religious, and architectural heritage have only amplified interest throughout the centuries.

The collapse of the Soviets and winds of change gradually led us to question the importance of our self-identity, reminding ourselves and future generations about the life-changing contributions made by scholars born, raised, and who pushed the human race forward during the Islamic Renaissance. Some of these scholars include **Al-Zamakhshari, Ibn Sino, Al Beruniy, Al Farabi, Al-Khwarizmi, Al-Tirmidhi, Yūsuf Balasaguni, Al-Farghani, and, of course, Imam Al Bukhari.**

Though they are the children of Central Asia, their contributions serve the world, and therefore, they belong to the world.

The mission not to forget who we are and where we come from has always been our driving force and argument to unite researchers, scholars, craftsmen, cultural enthusiasts, and unbiased religious leaders under one umbrella. This ultimately led to the founding of Bukhari Creative Group in 2021.

Our ethos is to enlighten, educate, and inspire our audience to delve deeper into history and rediscover what the Islamic Renaissance and pioneers led, revolutionizing to serve humanity. In this endeavor, anyone—let us repeat one more time, anyone—could immerse themselves into the minds of our ancestors, feel heritage, and understand the importance of their work, commitment, and attitude, using the latest technological solutions that exist in the 21st century.

More about Bukhari Creative Group

Naming and branding draw

inspiration from one of the most prominent scholars and polymaths of the ancient Bukhara and Islamic world - Muhammad al-Bukhari. During his lifetime, Bukhari wrote one of the most important works for the Muslim world, the Sahih-al Bukhari, a collection of the authentic sayings and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, otherwise known as the Hadith. "Sahih al-Bukhari" became widely recognized and accepted across the Islamic world as a primary source of religious guidance. Its influence extended beyond the religious domain, as it served as a reference for legal, ethical, and social matters. This helped shape the moral fabric of societies in the Islamic world. Moreover, Imam al-Bukhari's methodology in evaluating the authenticity of hadith laid the foundation for the development of a comprehensive system of authentication and grading in Islamic scholarship. This approach later influenced the establishment of principles for evaluating historical narratives and other forms of knowledge. His approach to meticulous documentation and authentication set a standard for intellectual rigour and scholarship. This ethos of critical analysis and verification has carried over to various fields, encouraging a culture of academic precision. There are three major pillars The Bukhari Creative Group are built upon that incorporate al-Bukhari's heritage:

Intellectual heritage: aspiration to convey the same depth of knowledge and mastery as al-Bukhari did.

Authenticity: embedment of Al-Bukhari's scientific rigour expressed in verifying the authenticity of each hadith into the research.

Inspiration and values: mission to inspire a deeper appreciation and

understanding of the rich cultural and artistic traditions of Islam among a diverse global audience.

One of the most highly anticipated projects Bukhari Creative Group has undertaken to realise is an exhibition entitled "Bukhari:

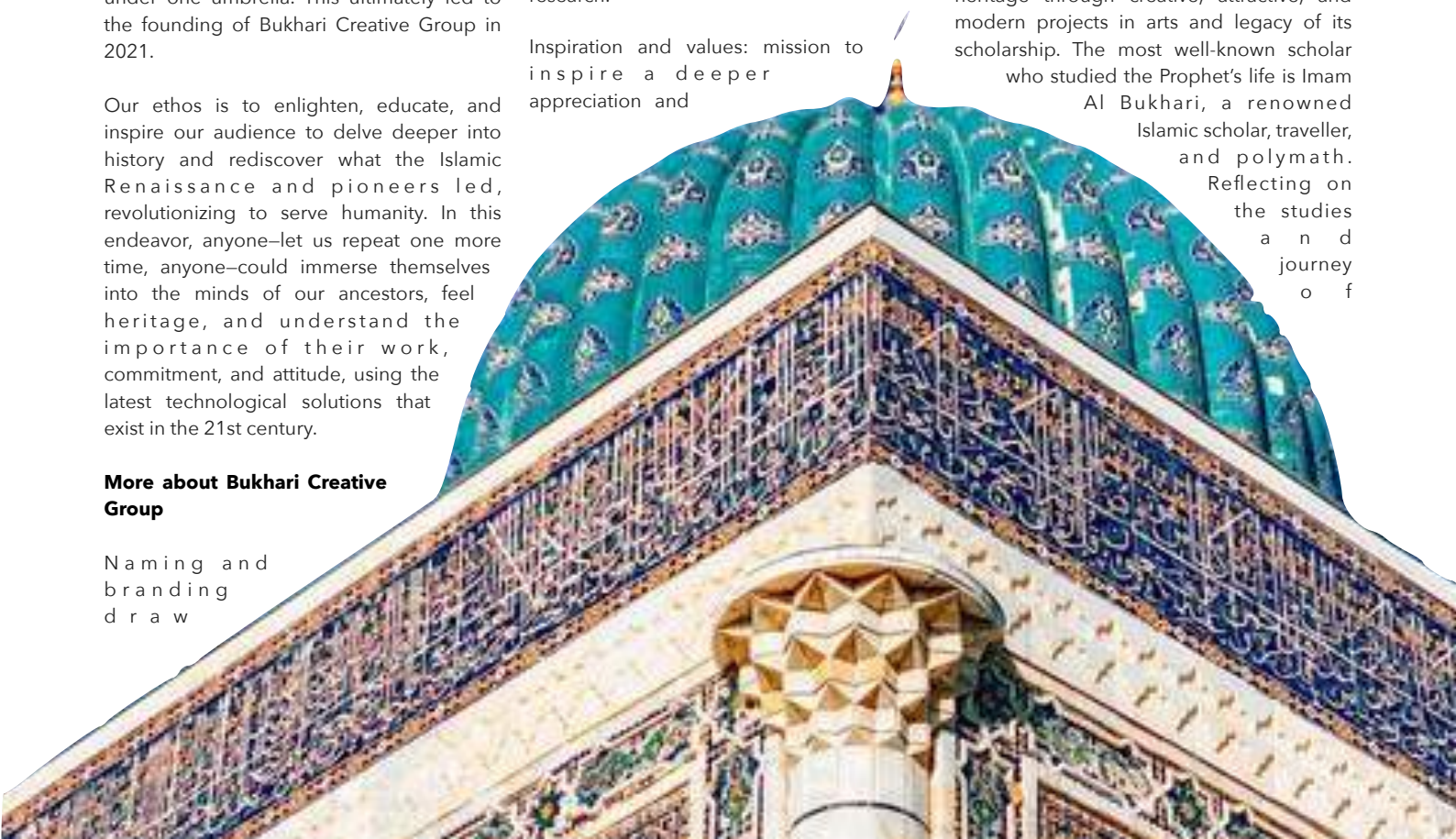


Islamic Art Exhibition".

Bukhari Exhibition: This is an innovative exhibition to promote the beauty of Islamic heritage through creative, attractive, and modern projects in arts and legacy of its scholarship. The most well-known scholar who studied the Prophet's life is Imam

Al Bukhari, a renowned Islamic scholar, traveller, and polymath.

Reflecting on the studies and journey of



Imam al Bukhari in collecting only sahih (authentic) hadiths, our exhibition aims to share the noble message of Islam as a peaceful, kind, and tolerant religion that is based upon universal values and scientific approach. The project will also introduce the world with the cultural background of the homeland of the scholar, represented by some of Uzbekistan's brightest and most internationally recognized artists, who are devoted professionally and spiritually to Islamic Art. Thus, the following artforms will be presented:

- **Miniature**
- **Calligraphy**
- **Book illumination**
- **Photography**
- **Graphic Art**
- **Music**
- **Modern art installations**

As with any artwork that has a story behind

it, a message to be translated, these artists are telling the story of every Muslim, based on the narratives of Prophet Muhammad, focusing on each of the selected topics: mind, spirit, body, soul, life, and God.

This exhibition is curated by Sevara

Ibrokhim, an Art Projects Producer with robust international experience. The event features experienced miniature artist Davlat Toshev, talented orientalist Kamoliddin Abdullaev, exceptional young artists Sheikha Abdullaeva, Yokub Beknazarov and photographer Mukhiddin A Lee. As part of the exhibition, the internationally renowned chamber orchestra of Uzbekistan's national instruments "Sogdiana" performs a new composition "Zikr."

The exhibition integrates innovative installations of artworks with the use of immersive modern technologies, to show the beauty of Islam and Central Asian heritage on an international level.

Bukhari Creative Group promotes and celebrates Islamic heritage and its

contribution to global culture, encouraging meaningful cross-cultural dialogues that highlight the interconnectedness of Islamic arts and sciences with other cultures and civilisations. Our approach is based on in-depth research, fostering greater understanding and appreciation via international creative projects.

OUR TEAM

The team consists of stake holders, advisory board members, third party service providers, strategic investors all of whom are aligned both strategically and philosophically.

The company's executives, Sevara Ibrokhim and Guzal Khamida-Kamol, have extensive experience in their respective fields and are passionate about welcoming the world to share the beauty, wisdom and joy of their heritage.



• **Sevara Ibrokhim:** Sevara Ibrokhim is a dynamic individual who has already made significant contributions in the fields of PR, international projects, and entrepreneurship. As the founder of both Bukhari Creative Group and Dacore IT UK, a software company specialized in AI, she has showcased her visionary leadership and expertise in these very different domains.



• **Guzal Khamida-Kamol:** Guzal Khamida-Kamol is a highly skilled individual with a diverse background in project management and research, particularly in the fields of local and international heritage and culture projects. With ten years of experience in cultural projects management, she has made significant contributions to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.



Voices of Experience: Interviews and Insights

Hamid Mahmood Pakistan

Attending The ZAR II International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewellery in Bukhara, 2024, was an extraordinary experience. The festival showcased the rich heritage and exquisite craftsmanship of Bukhara's artisans. The intricate designs and vibrant creativity displayed were truly mesmerizing. It was a privilege to witness the fusion of traditional artistry with contemporary flair, celebrating Bukhara's cultural legacy. This event not only highlighted the region's artistic excellence but also underscored the importance of preserving and promoting such unique cultural traditions on an international stage.

William Fitzgerald New Zealand

Iwould like to thank H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of Uzbekistan, the Hurnamand Association, and the World Craft Council Asia Pacific Region for inviting me to attend the ZAR II International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewelry 2024. Witnessing local and international artisans connect through their art is a wonderful experience and once again proves that Uzbekistan exemplifies cultural exchange, through artisans and handicrafts, promoting humanity, peace, and unity.

TESTIMONIALS



**Campbell
Federico Alan**

This is my first time here, and Uzbekistan was a country I couldn't recall ever mentioning before. So, for me, this experience has been beyond my expectations. The warmth of the people since I arrived in Bukhara—at the train station, at the hotel, and the volunteers who helped us—has been incredible.

The opening ceremony yesterday was wonderful. The people, the public, the clients, and the customers were all so welcoming and appreciative. They kept saying, "I've never seen this; this is amazing; thank you for being here." Their gratitude for the artisans' presence truly amazed me.

I really love the city. I've visited the old city and the surrounding areas, and the warmth of the people makes me feel so welcome here. The organizers have made me feel more than at home. I know I'm not at home, but being treated so well when you come from far away means a lot.

From the moment we took our flight from home to our arrival here, they have made everything easy for us. They treated us so well, and we felt this warm welcome from the start. I'm very thankful to them too.

I'm a jeweller. I feel very honoured to be here in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. I'm overwhelmed by the beauty of the ancient crafts, particularly the clothing and the jewellery. Last night at the opening, the songs, the dances, and the warmth of the people inviting us to dance were really powerful and overwhelming.

Local people find my work strange and interesting. I've met many friendly people who are intrigued by what I do. I feel very welcomed.

I am so grateful to have been invited to come. It's an experience I wouldn't have been able to afford myself. We've also brought some friends along.

So, yeah, I'm just really, really grateful.



Dr. Jessica Grimm

I love to be here. It is so nice to meet people from all over the world and to see colleagues work. Because I'm from a country where there's not many of us and we have all been trained by the same handful of people. So we all know exactly the same things and I learn new things here. Local people love my work, they really love it. They have never seen anything like this and they are over the moon. Organisers Please have me back in two years. No, seriously, I'm really glad with how they organize things and it's marvelous. I'm really having a good time in Bukhara.

Thanks to people of Bukhara



Sarah Elson

I am this artist from Korea. My art is for accessories for dress. About Festival It's exciting. First of all, thank you for inviting me to this festival. Local people, they were so good, and my thoughts about this festival is very good. And next time, if they are going to invite, I will come again. Uzbek people, they know our culture through our dramas and music as its very popular here.



Lee Hai Mi



Azis Bakhtiar

I am an artisan specializing in traditional Indonesian jewelry. It's very exciting to be here at this festival. This is my first time attending the second ZAR festival. Bukhara is an ancient city with so many stories, especially about the Silk Road. It's very interesting.

The response to my work by local people has been amazing. My jewelry is something new for them, especially outside Indonesia. In Bukhara, they are used pure gold and silver jewelry, but my products are made of copper with silver or gold plating. It's different from what they are accustomed to.

I think the festival is great for us. However, it would be helpful if we had more opportunities next time. Some products here are priced very high, and it might be challenging for some people.

To the organisers who host this events I want to Thank them. I hope there will be more opportunities like this, and I am very grateful to see not only Korean culture but also Asian culture from many countries all in one place.



**Salah Al Abbas
Federic
Hamed Hussain
Qassime**

I'm coming here for the festival and me and my friend, Dr. Hamid Kamal, we are from Expo teams from Kuwait and we work with the auxiliary and with gold, with the wiring, with the copper, with the brass, all hand made. This is the second festival we are here. It's a nice thing and we are very happy to be out of our country, to see everyone work in this country. All the people is friendly. Bukhara is a beautiful city with so much

history and nice architecture. Local people they are very happy and they come to see what we do. And they enjoy to see something handmade. We want to Thank the organisers for inviting to this beautiful festival.



**Fabiana
Barbosa**

I work with jewelry made with a vegetal fiber. It's a grass that becomes naturally gold once a year. In the spring of the year, during September. October. When it gets dried, it gets Gold. Naturally gold in the earth. it's a very big privilege to be invited and to be part of this festival. Uh, it's a very interesting. We exchange so many techniques between each other. We meet people. It's good for everything, for business, for networking. People they like my work. And it's also nice

because many of them remember me from last time. So they are happy to see me again. I thank all of the organisers to let me be part of the festival, and I'm very happy.



Lea Rose

I'm a contemporary artist that works in textiles, printmaking and painting. It's been amazing to be here in Bukhara because the textiles is of such a high standard, particularly for me, the embroidery because that's what I do. I use sewing machines and hand stitching. and I'm learning new stitching by working with the women. We're working on my quilt together, which will go into exhibition in Melbourne in August this year into a quite a famous gallery. And I'm making a film to go with it as highlighting the artist's

handwork. Just I'm so grateful to be here. And I really look forward to highlighting Uzbekistan. And I'm really wanting to bring back students from Melbourne University where I'm currently studying my PhD in cultural geography. And the handing down of knowledge.



**Sofia Tekela-Smith
New Zealand**

So amazing to be here in Bukhara. I brought my work with me, which is mostly mother of pearl, black pearl and wax thread. It's a theme that runs right through my practice as an artist back in New Zealand. I absolutely have to come back to this beautiful city of Bukhara. There's no two words about it. I want WCC to bring me back here next time, My eyes have already been opened to this part of the world. The looking after of guests here in Bukhara is something I haven't experienced before, except for in the Pacific. Local people like my art I think they're fascinated by the materials that I'm using. Everybody wants to know what the material is. There is, of course, the language barrier, which our hosts here have been able to navigate, and have done an amazing job. My work is completely different from what they probably have seen. So I get a lot of questions. The organizers. Thank you very much. Thank you for bringing me all the way here. It's an opportunity that, you know, till my old and old age I'll be talking about. It's been incredible. I've felt superbly looked after, and the safest I've ever been in anywhere I've been around the world.



Madlena Bozhilova

I do international dresses of Bulgaria. Bulgaria and I receive UNESCO Award for preserving the craft team extension, living human treasures. I win last year in the Kokond festival and this year in Bukhara, and I'm very satisfied with both festivals. Local people they like my art, they are very curious because my technique is not so much usual, it's not so much common. One is very difficult from the other techniques, and

it is a very ancient old technique of laying the zari. I would like to thank the organisers and want to say, we follow you and you go ahead, so in collaboration everything will be good. Thank you very much.



Mostafa Baratian

Our brand name in Iran is Amethyst Group. And we have also a company in Uzbekistan. The brand name is Persian Jewels. We collected rough gemstone, same precious stone, and precious stone from another country and import to Iran after cut and polished and used with jewellery. We export jewels from Iran to other country. The festival I have participated in in 2022 and this is my second time in this festival. Last festival was for 5 days and more people had a chance to see our products. This time its only for 3 days. The people who live in Uzbekistan and the other countries show deep interests in our products and some of them are amaze by our stones. Because in Iran, we have different kind of stones, we can produce all kind of jewels and you can mix with silver and gold and the other handmade handicrafts with stones. For example, we can mix leather with gemstone and one bag. We can provide every kind of products with stones and gemstones. The local people are loving it. I am thankful to the governor of Bukhara, and to the organisers for this beautiful event.

I was fortunate to recently travel to Bukhara



Mark Hamilton

Nodir Momunaiev

Uzbekistant to attend the Gold Embroidery and Jewellery Festival. As a first time visitor to Central Asia it was an experience that will stay with me for a very long time. The history of the Silk Road, the incredible Islamic architecture and the open hospitality of the locals left me with a strong desire to one day return and explore it further. To add the icing to the cake I also got to eat, making friends with incredible artisans from all parts of the world left me wondering was I the luckiest man alive ? I think I was.

Attending The ZAR

International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewellery in Bukhara, 2024, was an extraordinary experience. The intricate craftsmanship and rich cultural heritage on display were truly inspiring. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with talented artisans and fellow enthusiasts, and we look forward to incorporating these timeless traditions into our future endeavors.



Andrea Usai

I come from Italy, specifically from Sardinia, and I'm a gold jeweler. The festival showcases an explosion of craftsmanship quality. It's a privilege and a great honor for me to present my work among such high standards. They truly appreciate the quality of our craftsmanship, our unique designs, and the heritage behind them. What's more, master jewelers have approached me to commend the quality of the artwork from my family. The organizers have done an exceptional job. It's truly incredible to see the meticulous planning and the importance they place on making us feel valued. Thank you very much.

We are from India. Our work is 400 years old and we are working in this field for last 30 years. Its a delegated work. We make jewellery

and other stuff. We are here first time and its nice to see so many craftsmen from around the world and local artists from all over Uzbekistan. Local people hospitality and interest in our work is marvellous . They are giving us so much love and hospitality. We want to thank the organisers for inviting us to this beautiful festival. They really did a good job by bringing so many craftsmen from around the world and gave us a chance to see their work. We wish them good luck for the future.



Arroju Ashok Shahid Ansari Hussain



**Joseph Sheehan
Gemma Sheehan**

I think it's so unbelievably progressive, and, yeah, sharing your art with other artists from different parts of the world, and to share, not like a tourist, but at a level of creativity. It's really exceptional, you know. It's been amazing being here in Bukhara.

The master, I can't remember his name, an older guy from Kazakhstan. I bought one of his pieces, just a beautiful, like, rough and gestural, silver smithing. Really impressive. So many things that I see are just like blowing me away. For Organizers I just think keep doing it. Keep go bigger, even if you can, because it's from an artist's perspective.

It's an extraordinary thing. What I think would be amazing is if there was an opportunity, as a part of the festival, for artists to come here and work in exchange for maybe three or four weeks. That would be an incredible opportunity, like a residency. Yeah, I think that would be amazing. Thank you very much.

Thank you WCC



**Thank you
BUKHARA**



**Nurzat Zheenbek
Kyrgyzstan**

I am thrilled and honored to be part of The ZAR II International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewellery in Bukhara, 2024. This prestigious event celebrating craftsmanship and heritage is a true privilege for me as a fashion designer. I look forward to showcasing my latest creations inspired by the rich traditions of Bukhara's cultural tapestry.

Thank you for this incredible opportunity. I am excited to connect with fellow artisans and enthusiasts from around the world and to contribute to the beauty of this esteemed festival.



awarded the "Islamic Heritage Tourism Destination of the Year" prize.

At the 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly held in 2023 in Samarkand, the village of Sentob in Navoi region won the "Best Tourism Village 2023" award. Additionally, the international publishing company Lonely Planet awarded Uzbekistan a special certificate in the nomination "Best Travel Destination 2024."

Uzbekistan's inclusion in the list of the best countries to travel to in 2024, according to the World of Statistics announcement, will

contribute to an increase in the number of foreign tourists and the volume of export of tourist services. All this helps strengthen the country's international image.

Overall, the current state of Uzbekistan's tourism sector and its development trends show positive results. The analysis of measures taken for further tourism development and future prospects confirms the strategic importance of this sector. Additionally, the objectives set for tourism development in the "Uzbekistan - 2030" strategy contribute to increasing the income of the population, creating new jobs, and ensuring the welfare of the people.

Iskandar Urokboev,

**chief Specialist of the
Department for Monitoring
and Analysis**

**of Economic Reforms at the
"Development Strategy"
Center**

Uzbekistan, with its rich cultural heritage, historical sites, and stunning natural landscapes, is committed to advancing its tourism sector. The "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy aims to boost the number of tourists by creating favorable conditions for both international and domestic tourism.

Uzbekistan achieved 98% of its pre-pandemic foreign tourist numbers. In 2019, the country welcomed 6.748 million foreign tourists, and by 2023, this figure was 6.626 million, illustrating a swift recovery.

To attract more foreign tourists, Uzbekistan has implemented several practical measures such as simplifying the visa regime, developing new tourism routes, investing in relevant projects, and hosting significant events. For instance, in 2023, a total of 508 projects worth 9.5 trillion soums were executed, resulting in the creation of 9,492 new jobs. 183 new hotels and 232 hostels were launched, and the total number of accommodation facilities reached 5,526. Additionally, 452 family guest houses were established, bringing the total number to 3,458. As a result of opening 810 new tourist organizations and travel agencies, the total number of such entities has increased to 2,649.

From 2017 to 2023, the number of foreign tourists visiting Uzbekistan has significantly increased. Specifically, in 2017, the country was visited by 2.7 million people, whereas in 2023, this figure rose to 6.6 million, which is 2.5 times more than in 2017 and 1.3 times more than in 2022.

The number of tourists from Japan increased fivefold in 2023, while those from India and Italy increased by 3.5 times, and from the USA by two times. In 2023, 80.7% of foreign tourists came from neighboring countries, 11.5% from other CIS countries, and 7.8% from other countries. The average length of stay for tourists increased to 4-5 days, which is 1.5 times more than in 2022 (3 days). This indicates that all necessary conditions for a comfortable stay of tourists have been created in the country.

Domestic tourism is also developing rapidly. Within the framework of the "Travel around Uzbekistan!" program, 15 million people traveled around the country, making 21 million visits to various regions. As part of social support, 1 100 people with disabilities and 570,000 young people were sent on trips.

In 2023, the export of tourist services amounted to \$2.1435 billion, which is 1.3 times more than in 2022. Additionally, about 70,000 new jobs were created in the tourism and related sectors. This indicates that all necessary conditions for tourists have been created in the country, which contributes to economic growth and improved living standards.

The development of tourism also helps the country achieve high positions in international rankings. For example, in the Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI-2023), Uzbekistan ranked 13th among 140 countries in the international pilgrimage tourism rating. At the Halal In Travel Awards 2023 ceremony, the city of Khiva was

UZBEKISTAN

Tourist Information Centre Pakistan

Uzbekistan Tourist Information Center is official Representative office of Ministry of Tourism Uzbekistan in Pakistan. This office is being established to provide quality services to the travellers who wish to visit Uzbekistan.

We provide one window operation for all kind of tourism to Uzbekistan. Including **Ziyarat Tourism, Medical Tourism, Study Tourism, Business Tourism & Exhibitions and Youth Tourism**. We can organise business meetings/conferences with tours. We can provide state of the art services in Uzbekistan including **Visa, Accommodation, Transport domestic and International Air Tickets, Train and Buses Tickets within Uzbekistan, Guide, and Translation Services**,

We are closely working with Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad for the promotions of tourism to Uzbekistan. Businessmen who want to establish businesses or if you are

looking for local partners in Uzbekistan this office can be the best place to get all information. This office can arrange online meetings with Uzbek Businessmen and also can arrange B2B meetings in Uzbekistan.

Tourist who are interested to visit Ziyarats in Uzbekistan for them we can organise a complete comprehensive tour covering all Ziyarats in different cities. Starting from Tashkent, Termez, Kitab, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. We can also arrange tours according to your demand and price.

Having more than 20 years of experience working with Uzbekistan our office is highly recommended not only by Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad but also high officials in Uzbekistan.

We are having offices in different cities of Pakistan listed as under Uzbekistan Tourist Information Center

55 Silk Tower, Civic Center
Bahria Town Phase 4 Islamabad.
Tel +92 300 9745458 & +92 300 9745456
E-mail: tic.uzbek@gmail.com

36-1-C1, College Road
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Court, Merewether Road, Civil
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Abbasia Banglose opposite Zap

School Rahim Yaar Khan Tel: +92 314 6703390



We are working hard to serve you better and we are looking forward to see you in

Our office represents Uzbekistan Ministry of Tourism, Uzbekistan Ministry of Health, Uzbekistan Islamic civilisation centre and Uzbekistan Ministry of Religious affairs.

Uzbekistan. For any query or information plz call our office in your area. We will be happy to provide you all kind of help.

WELCOME TO UZBEKISTAN



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VLOGGER

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- ▶ Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islamabad.
- ▶ Ministry of Tourism Uzbekistan.
- ▶ World Craft Council
- ▶ Bukhari Creative Business
- ▶ Ministry of Tourism Bukhara
- ▶ William Fitzgerald New Zealand
- ▶ Mark Hamilton New Zealand
- ▶ Tohir Istatov Bukhara



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