

November 2023

Newsletter.



Making Memories



International Festival of
Handicraft Kokand 2023

The emergence of crafts was an important historic step towards civilisation

H.E Shavkat Mirziyoyev





On September 14, the city of Kokand played host to the inaugural ceremony of the first International Festival of Folk Applied Arts.

In his opening remarks, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev cordially congratulated the participants and expressed gratitude to foreign guests for their attention and respect for our country, for the festival.

"An integral part of the universal human culture, folk applied arts occupy a special place in the life of every nation, in the formation of its mindset and values. Indeed, the emergence of crafts was an important historic step towards civilisation," the head of state noted.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev quoted our great ancestor – the saint and artisan Bahouddin Naqshband. The President noted that the work of masters of applied arts is highly appreciated in Uzbekistan, there are great opportunities for young people to master the handicrafts, and this festival will ultimately prove instrumental in the further development of this artistic industry.

"I believe this international festival is an outstanding celebration not only for the multiethnic people of Uzbekistan, but also for artisans and craftspeople around the world. This is a forum of genuine friendship and cooperation, a medium that harmoniously combines the distant past and present, traditions and values of a great diversity of nations, that unites hearts close in spirit," Shavkat Mirziyoyev pointed out.

The festival is organised in accordance with a presidential resolution signed November 1, 2018. In anticipation of this holiday of applied arts, an important event took place in the life of Kokand – the World Crafts Council (WCC International) awarded it the high status of the World City of Artisans.

Rosy Greenlees, OBE, President of WCC International, also delivered a speech at the ceremony.

The square where the festival takes place is decorated accordingly. Exhibitions of artisans from Karakalpakstan and all regions of Uzbekistan are organised here.

After the opening ceremony, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev walked through with these expositions, talked with artisans.

The International Festival of Folk Applied Arts will be held every two years. The event is attended by over 370 craftspeople, art historians and journalists from 78 countries.

On October 16, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in the opening ceremony of the 25th session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the events of which will proceed in Samarkand until 20 October.

the country.

In recent years, a visa-free regime for nationals of around 100 countries was introduced. A simplified procedure for issuing an electronic visa for nationals of another 55 countries was established.

arriving in Uzbekistan doubled. Revenues from the export of services increased 4 times. It is estimated that nearly 7 million tourists will visit our country this year. It is planned to increase this figure to 15 million by 2030 and the flow of domestic tourists – up to 25 million people.

Our large-scale work is being recognised by the international community. In particular, Uzbekistan ranks high in international ratings as the safest and rapidly developing tourism sector.

The Head of Uzbekistan stated that the development of modern tourism and transport infrastructure will be prioritised within the 2030 Strategy on Comprehensive Tourism Development. New high-speed roads and railways will be built, the fleet will be doubled, and the number of flights will be quadrupled. In big cities and places often visited by tourists, 30 large tourist clusters will be established.

According to the National program “Pearls of Ancient History”, the number of tourist attractions will be increased from 800 to 2.5 thousand, 745 cultural heritage sites will be restored, and “open-air museums” will be created in 20 architectural monuments.

As part of the pilgrimage tourism program, the number of tourists will increase more than threefold compared to today's figure.

The focus will be on creating joint tourist routes with the Central Asian states.

In general, as a result of the ongoing work on tourism development, at least 1 million new jobs planned to be created in the future.



In his address at the main forum of the top organisation in tourism sector, with the representatives of over 140 countries participating, the Head of our state put forward a number of important initiatives to further develop the sector.

The Uzbek Leader noted that today, tourism is one of the dynamically developing and promising sectors of the world economy. Uzbekistan attaches great priority to the tourism development within large-scale and irreversible reforms on the modernisation of

Favourable conditions for conducting all types of tourism business are created, tax and customs benefits are provided, as well as credit and financial support are strengthened. Despite the restrictions of the pandemic, over 800 infrastructure projects have been implemented in two years.

The number of hotel beds increased to 140 thousand, 70 new tourist routes opened, and 6 private airlines started operating.

As a result, the number of foreign tourists





At the same time, the Leader of Uzbekistan noted that “today, the pressing problem of global tourism is ensuring a guaranteed safety system for tourists”. The Head of our state proposed to develop a Global Safe Tourism Code within the UN in order to strengthen the legal framework in international tourism.

In the context of the growing climate change problems, the topicality of the adoption of the International Actions Program on Green Tourism Development was underscored. As practical steps, it was proposed to establish the nomination “The Best City Promoting Green Tourism” within the UNWTO, as well as to create a Global Green Tourism Startups’ Laboratory based on the Central Asian Green University and the “Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Samarkand.

In order to further improve the conditions for travellers with disabilities and develop the inclusive tourism infrastructure, the President of Uzbekistan proposed to declare 2025 as the World Inclusive Tourism Year and adopt a special declaration.

The expediency of creating a Council of Historical Cities for Tourism within the UNWTO, a platform for sharing advanced

experience in the preservation of historical monuments, was noted. Readiness to hold the first meeting of the Council in the city of Bukhara was expressed.

The President announced allocating special grants to train specialists in the newly established International Tourism Academy in Samarkand, which is a unique UNWTO educational institution for the training and advanced training of personnel in the tourism sector.

The President also proposed to hold the next Global Youth Tourism Summit in Tashkent, which will become an important platform for youth to generate new ideas and projects for the development of the sector.

The initiative to establish a special UNWTO international award for contribution to the promotion of the “Silk Road” brand was put forward. The Thematic Office “The Silk Road” established in Samarkand will be actively engaged in the implementation of this plan.

Attention was drawn to the importance of establishing the Global Media Campus and holding its forums every two years as part of the General Assembly sessions. Readiness to host the first media campus in Uzbekistan was expressed.

As part of the program of the 25th session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) held in the city of Samarkand, in the presence of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Declaration on awarding Samarkand the status of “the World Cultural Tourism Capital” and the Agreement on the establishment of the International Tourism Academy were adopted.

The Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan Aziz Abdukhakimov and the Secretary-General of UNWTO Zurab Pololikashvili signed the documents.

The Head of our state encouraged delegates to support the initiative of announcing Samarkand as the World Cultural Tourism Capital and adopt a declaration.

Concluding his speech, the President wished a successful holding of the General Assembly and achievement of new breakthrough results.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's speech at the opening ceremony of the first International Festival of Folk Applied Arts

DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS OF THE FESTIVAL!

DEAR GUESTS!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

I am sincerely glad to welcome you in the picturesque and hospitable Ferghana Valley, in the ancient and beautiful city of Kokand.

With all my heart I congratulate all of you on the inauguration of the first International Festival of Folk Applied Arts held under UNESCO auspices.

Let me take this opportunity to express deep gratitude to the President of the World Crafts Council, Ms. Rosy Greenlees, for her participation in today's event.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Vladimir Medinsky, Minister of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan Aktoty Raimkulova, Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan Atageldi Shamuradov, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan Shamsiddin Orumbekzoda, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic Azamat Jamankulov, the First Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Belarus Natalia Karchevskaya, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia Narine Khachatryan.

Meanwhile, for a product to turn into a work of art, a true master, whether a potter or chaser, weaver, carver or jeweller, must have the basics of knowledge in chemistry,

biology, medicine, physics, geometry, astronomy, history, philosophy and other sciences, and be able to put them into practice.

Let me cite one example.

The astounding mysterious ornaments, truly divine patterns, and the unique colours of one type of our national embroidery, "suzane", that enjoys worldwide fame, embody cosmogonic imaginations of distant ancestors.

Our people have always revered skilful artisans, genuine masters of their craft, deferentially calling them usta (master) and ustazoda (descendants of masters).



In this regard, I think it will be apt to recall the wise maxim of the outstanding thinker Bahouddin Naqshband, whose 700th anniversary we will celebrate next year. "Craft is like a fabulous ambler, on whose wings one can reach the highest levels - recognition and respect of the people".

Naqshband was not just a great Sufi and philosopher, but also a wonderful craftsman, spiritual mentor of artisans. And today, following his covenant that said "Let your heart be with Allah and your hands - at work", thousands of folk masters in our country, with their hard and honest labor and the best human qualities, serve as an example for many, especially the young people.

In the meantime, in this age of globalisation and high technology, we, unfortunately, often encounter lack of serious attitude to this unique art, stating allegedly that it is only a relic of the distant past. If we do not support the folk arts widely, at the public level, tomorrow may be too late - handicrafts could end up unable to withstand fierce competition from serial production.

In this regard, such international forums as this one are important for the careful preservation, revival and advancement of folk crafts throughout the world, for the transfer of the traditions of artisans on to future generations, for the unification of our efforts and opportunities along this path.

In Uzbekistan, we have been fashioning essential legal foundations for the effective creative work of artisans and deserved appraisal of their job; they are granted a great deal of benefits and preferences. The Hunarmand Association, for instance, unites thousands of craftspeople and is designed to protect their rights and interests.

As a bright confirmation of the considerable significance attached to the services and merits of representatives of this sphere, the celebrated Bukhara-based master of gold embroidery Muyassar Temirova, the brilliant restorer Mirumar Asadov from Samarkand, as well as the famed woodcarver Abdugani Abdullayev from Ferghana have been rewarded with a high title of Hero of Uzbekistan.

We are creating extensive opportunities for fostering a younger generation as harmoniously advanced personalities, for them to master modern knowledge and professions as well as folk crafts. Dozens of festivals and fairs, exhibitions, contests, and handicraft schools for youth are there in the capital and provinces. Crucially, people of this industry have been making remarkable contribution to creating new jobs, attracting young people to socially significant work, and developing tourism.

Surely, we will continue to pay attention to handicrafts that reflect our history and national identity, ancient and rich traditions. Therefore, views, proposals and recommendations to be expressed during the current international festival are



important to us.

Dear friends!

It is no accident that Kokand was chosen as the venue for the International Festival of Folk Applied Arts. This ancient city, distinct with its unique flavour, is considered the pearl of the Ferghana Valley, which is called the Golden Valley that it deserves to the full.

Hukandi Latif, meaning the gentle, pleasant Kokand, wields a 2000-year glorious history and has seen plentiful great events. It is one of the brightest symbols of our national statehood, a place where science, arts and literature thrived along with a great diversity of handicrafts.

We are proud that the fertile land of Ferghana has nurtured dozens of prominent thinkers, poets and artists who have made a great input into the development of world science and culture.

They include Ahmad Fergani, Burkhonuddin Marghinani, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, Boborahim Mashrab, Amiri and Nodirabegim, Jahon Otin Uvaisi, Mavlono Mukimi, Zokirjon Furkat, renowned craftsmen like Kodirjon Khaidarov.

Ferghana region has long been notable for many crafts that have become national brands. I think there's no need to talk about the world-famous Marghilan atlas and adras, shimmering with all the colors of the rainbow, as well as the unique pottery of

Rishtan, along with Kokand schools of woodcarving and ganch.

Today, the image of the Ferghana region, as much as that of the entire nation, is changing, along with Kokand that has been turning into one of the comfortable places to live in Uzbekistan, major economic and cultural centres of the country.

As you may know well, another important event took place in the life of the city just ahead of this festival. The World Crafts Council has decided to list Kokand as one of the World Craft Cities. Thus we can say that Kokand has earned a solid spot on the international map of folk arts.

This wonderful town is the first in the Commonwealth of Independent States to be awarded such a status. We consider this a high international recognition of our efforts to promote decorative and applied arts in the country.

President of the World Crafts Council for the Asia Pacific, Ms. Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi, recently presented a corresponding certificate to the city of Kokand.

With all my heart I congratulate the esteemed residents of Kokand as well as all the craftspeople of Uzbekistan with this high acknowledgment.

Let me express, on my own behalf and that of all our people, gratefulness to the World Crafts Council and its President,

distinguished Ms. Rosy Greenlees.

Dear compatriots!

Esteemed guests!

I believe this international festival is a great celebration for the multiethnic people of Uzbekistan as much as for artisans around the world.

This is a forum of true friendship and cooperation, which tunelessly combines the distant past and present, traditions and values of diverse nations, and unites hearts close in spirit.

I feel convinced that this festival, designed to strengthen peace and harmony, to bring good and beauty to people, will certainly take its rightful place in the international cultural space.

Once again, with all my heart I welcome you all on the hospitable and gracious Uzbek land.

I convey my profound gratitude to all our compatriots, the hardworking and generous Ferghana people, residents of Kokand who have done everything necessary to make sure this culture forum is held at the highest organisational level.

I wish every participant of the festival, our esteemed guests, a sound health, happiness and new creative achievements!

Thank you for attention.



Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Celebrates 32nd Independence Day



Welcome Speech by Ambassodar H.E. Oybek orif Usmanov

Dear Dr. Gohar Ijaz, Hon Federal Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for commerce & industries and productions,

Dear Dean of diplomatic corps in Islamabad Ambassador Otajan Mavlamov,

Dear Generals, Hon Senators, MPAs, former federal Ministers and Secretaries,

My dear colleagues, ambassadors and High commissioners, heads of international organizations,

Dear prominent experts, journalists, ladies and gentleman,

Assalom aleykum wa rahmatulla wa barakatohy.

Many thanks indeed to all of you for great respect for being in today's celebration on Independence day of Uzbekistan in Islamabad.

What a honor and exceptional privilege for me to be posted for the third time in this great country Pakistan and to be a humble servant of the re-connectivity between our two regions and nations.

I'm extremely grateful to the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Hon Dr. Arif Alvi, the Government of Pakistan, Pakistan army Navy and Air force for great achievements we gained in our connectivity.

In last years our brotherly cooperation has been elevated to a level of the strategical partnership due to confidant political dialogue, strengthening the trade and industrial, technological projects as well as the active military cooperation between our armed forces.

My best respects and wishes go to Hon Dr. Gohar Ijaz (HI) Hon. Federal Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for commerce & industries and productions, Hon Secretary Mr. Muhammad Sualeh Ahmad Faruqi and all your team who are working with Uzbek colleagues 24\7 to provide the dynamically growing bilateral trade.

Only in last 2 years we together have increased nearly half billion of bilateral trade via brotherly Afghanistan based on Transit and Preferential trade agreements. No doubt that our teams along with our colleagues will reach very soon the goals of recently signed 1 bln Trade and Industrial cooperation Road Map, Inshallah.

Many special gratitude to Dr. Gohar Ijaz for gracing this occasion as official Chief Guest! Let me tell to this audience the secret as there are no businessmen or bureaucrats from Pakistan like Dr.Gohar Ijaz who so frequently have visited so many Uzbek regions (Ferghana, Andijan, Samarqand, Bukhara, Tashkent, Termez and Jizaaq ets.).

During his fruitful meetings with my President, Prime Minister and uzbek entrepreneurs Dr. Gohar Ijaz has in detail devised the longtime and mutually beneficial Strategy for further increasing the trade investment and industrial cooperation between our countries and businesses.

My heartfelt thanks of course go to all professional teams of the Prime Minister Office, Ministries of foreign affairs, commerce and industries, Railways and aviation, Finance, Economic and Security Divisions Ministry of Food security and many other respective ministries and entities. Only this year after successful high-level summits of my President and Hon Prime Minister of Pakistan we had conducted the 8th Joint ministerial commission in Tashkent. And nowadays we are implementing new connectivity projects with the help of Chambers of Commerce's and industrial associations in Islamabad and all provinces of Pakistan.

With your valuable and tireless efforts we been able to arrange in last 2 years more than a dozen high-level meetings more than hundred ministerial summits. In Tashkent and Islamabad Samarqand and Lahore, Bukhara and Karachi Peshawar and Termiz we gained most remarkable results - as the people to people contacts, business to business forums while strengthening region to region institutional connectivity. Alhamdillilah.

Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen!

The New Constitution adopted this year in Uzbekistan reflects the changes and reforms implemented by Uzbek Government the check and balances between Public-State-Parliament.

New structure of the government with effective, compact and public administration - 1) will be serving the people under the new disposition Human-Society-State; 2) will provide the political stability, strengthen the economic development, further strengthening of social protection of the nation; 3) will implement the cooperation with foreign partners, increase the internal and external integrity and region to region connectivities.

Uzbekistan is very grateful to Pakistani



politicians military leaders, experts and journalists who visited my country as observers during the Referendum (April 30 2023) and then on early Presidential Elections day (July 9, 2023).

Many thanks for your valuable input as you all have witnessed the large turnout of the voters supporting the renewed Constitution.

The Hon President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his address on the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan has stressed that



large-scale work carried out in recent years and the results achieved serve as a solid foundation for strengthening. A clear confirmation is that over the past six years,

nation, only together – a strong country!”, Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

We all diplomats here in Islamabad are witnessing that same wise approach and long-term Development Strategy is now been implemented in Pakistan under the leadership of Caretaker Prime-Minister Hon Anwaar ul-Haq Kakar and all ministries and military institutions of Pakistan.

Dear friends!



the gross domestic product in the country has grown by more than 1.5 times, and the number of business entities – by 2 times, industrial growth has exceeded 40%.

“We must never forget that natural resources are wealth that belongs to future generations. Only united – we are a one

Our Leaders underscored the importance of further strengthening of bilateral relations and accelerating regional connectivity in the fields of Pharmaceutical production, energy, agriculture, IT, textiles and logistics, Inshallah.

Particular attention of our nations and

brotherly neighbour nation is the construction project of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway. Last month in Tashkent new project office was established and in Islamabad trilateral recent meeting of the project office (Uzb-Pak-Afg) hosted by the Government of Pakistan (Ministry of Railways) three countries have signed the Protocol upon the feasibility studies, financing and construction of this Game changer project.

Let me express my believe that every next year meetings will be resulted with new significant inputs for the further cementing of brotherly relations and re-connectivity between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

In conclusion, I’m honoured to convey best wishes to new Caretaker Government and Pak Army all brotherly Pakistani nation for significant successes and further dynamic development in all new endeavors. Inshallah.

Pak-Uzbek Dosti Zinda Bad! Pak-Uzbek connectivity Paida Bad!



Kokand
City of artisans

Kokand is located in Eastern Uzbekistan at the southwestern edge of the Fergana Valley, about 230 km southeast of Tashkent and close to the border with Tajikistan and is perhaps the most attractive city for a tourist in the Uzbek Fergana Valley. Kokand is the valley's first important town on the road from Tashkent being a gateway to the region and a stopping spot for many pilgrims. Kokand is one of the most popular cities in Uzbekistan, once the capital of the powerful Kokand Khanate that dominated the whole Fergana and other even larger regions during its hey day.

A traveler on his way to Ferghana from other parts of Uzbekistan, first arrives in Kokand as the Soviet past has cut the most natural way to the mouth of Fergana valley which is part of Tajikistan. Kokand has preserved much of its wealthy history, from the large and magnificent palace of Khudayar Khan to the Juma Mosque and a large collection of madrassas and other old structures that with a bit of imagination will bring the visitor back at least couple of hundreds of years.

HISTORY

According to the numerous pilgrims' descriptions notes, the city of Kokand has been populated at least since the 10th century when the town was known as Khavakend and located on a caravan route between India and China but it was not a major player in the region that time. Kokand village was only fortified by the Shaybanid ruler Shahrukh in the early 18th century. As the influence of his khanate grew, so did the scale of the city.

Defined as the town of the boar' or the more mysterious 'city of winds, Kokand lent its name to the powerful 18th-19th century khanate stretching from the Ferghana Valley to Tashkent and all the way to the Southern Kazakh steppes.

Though young compared to other Ferghana valley cities, Kokand quickly bloomed into a flourishing trading and religious center, competing of the spoils of Central Asia with the khanates of Bukhara and Khiva. During its peak, Kokand Khanate and its capital were Central Asia's leading powers and a religious center of Central Asia, with its at least 35 madrasas and hundreds of mosques. It also became a wealthy supporter of popular poets, writers, scholars, art and culture. The power of

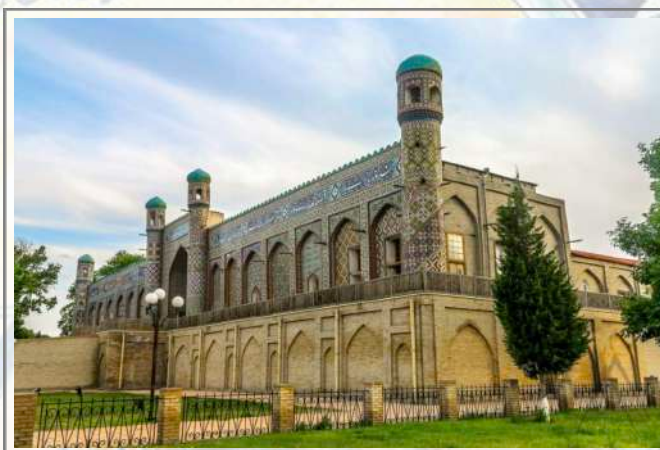
Kokand faded when the Russian empire finally reached Fergana valley in the end of 19th century.

SIGHTS

Kokand old town center is fairly compact and it is best seen by walking. Most of the sights are located along two main roads or a little walk away in the narrow winding allies of the old town which are also an experience. Between the sightseeing one can always sit down to a restaurant, catch some local delicacies and plan for the next sights to see.

The majority of restaurants and shops are just next in a 1 km extent of Istiklol street, running east-west between Mugimi Park and Abdulla Nabiev maydoni square. The mosque-sprinkled old town alleys squeezed between Khamza, Akbar Islamov and Furqat streets constrain for good wandering and it is easy to lose one's bearings while walking.

KHUDAYAR KHAN PALACE



Khudayar Khan Palace is Kokand's most remarkable sight and one of the most glittering royal residences in central Asia's history. This majestic and notable building serves as a reminder of the last ruler of the Kokand Khanate and is located in the central park called Mugimi. Originally it had as much as 119 rooms and almost half of them were dedicated to the harems of the Khan. Khudayar Khan palace deserves its own page.

DAHMAN-SHAKHON COMPLEX

Dahman-Shakhon (sometimes Dakhha i Shokhon) complex contains the Narbutabey Mosque, Mir Medressa, Modari-Khan mausoleum and Dakhma-i-Shakhon tomb. It is situated in the

old part of Kokand. The Dahman Shakhon complex is located next to a large cemetery straight east from the Khudayar palace, further east from Furqat street making it the perfect sight to find by walking through the



old town alleys.

STONE TABLET OF NODIRA

Nodira was the famed poet, wife of Omar Khan's widow. She was originally buried in the Modari-Khan mausoleum until she was adopted in the mid-20th century by the Soviets as a model Uzbek woman and moved to this prominent place under a white stone tablet, behind Dakhma-i-Shakhon.

NARBUTABEY MOSQUE

The Narbutabey mosque was built in 1799 in the western part of the central graveyard on Chorsu square of Kokand. Norbutabey was a religious person and during his reign, 120 mosques were built in Kokand. Being one of the last mosques, today it's the biggest and most central in Kokand city.

The area of the mosque and accompanying madrassa is 52m x 72m. After the independence of Uzbekistan, the madrassa opened again as a mosque with 85 students, the number of which has grown to 100



today.

DAKHMA-I-SHAKHON TOMB



Dakhma-i-Shakhon is a tomb of the Kokand rulers, which sits in the graveyard. It was built during Umar's reign for the Khans and their family members and is surrounded by a fence. There is also a place for prayer Ziarathona, where Umar is buried.

The entrance doors are carved with an original Arabic inscription from the Quran and some of Umar-Khan's poetry. The monument was restored in 1971 by local artisans.



MODARI KHAN MAUSOLEUM

Modari-Khan is in the central graveyard. It was built in 1825 for Umar-Khan's mother, on the orders of his wife, Nodira-Begim. Its area is 7.5 × 8.5m and it is one of the most interesting examples of Muslim architecture.

KOKAND JUMA MOSQUE



AND MINARET

Perhaps the Kokand's most fascinating architectural structure is the Juma mosque

(Friday mosque). The most striking feature of the mosque are the long rows of wooden pillars supporting the colourfully decorated roofs. The mosque is established south of Mukimi Park along Turkestan (ex-Lenin) Street, where the road forks beside the Ghuldasta teahouse to cross the Kokand canal bridge that once divided old and new Kokand.

The mosque is centred around a 22 m tall minaret and includes a colourful 100 m long aivan (portico) supported by 98 red-wood columns brought from India and decorated in the diverse colour and carving of traditional Ferghana architecture.

Built by Omar Khan between 1809 and 1812 as a magnified version of the rural Ferghana design, it was shut in Soviet times and reopened after restoration in 1989.

The entire Kokand Friday mosque complex has returned to its former Soviet guise as a museum, with one room housing a collection of suzani and ceramics from the region.

Next to the mosque sits the Amin Beg Madrassah, built for one of Madali's sons in 1830, although often named after Khornol Khozi, the 1913 restorer responsible for the ornamental facade of coloured tiles. The madrassah reopened after Uzbekistan's independence, only to be closed again and reopen as a museum/shop.



KOKAND ZINBARDOR MOSQUE

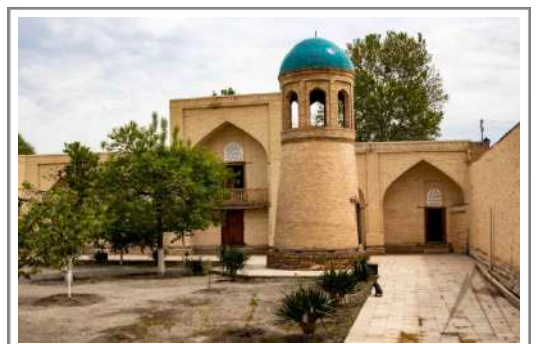
Zinbardor mosque is a good example of the hidden mosques around the old town of Kokand. There are dozens of others also to be found just by wandering around the streets. Zinbardor mosque does not look like much from the outside but houses some original wooden parts from the 18th century.

KHAMZA HOUSE MUSEUM

Khamza house museum was opened in

1989 on the 100th anniversary of Khakim Khakimzade Niyazi's birth. This museum presents the life story of Kokand's first Soviet hero, the first national poet of Uzbekistan and the founder of Uzbek Soviet literature Khakim Khakimzade Niyazi. The museum is a three-story structure located at 2 Akbar Islam St, north of Khamza's statue in Furkat Park and the striking Khamza Musical Comedy and Drama Theatre.

Born in the doctor's family, Khamza attended an Uzbek school and madrassah before a mixed Russian school expanded his horizons. Early works in the Uzbek classical style dealt with the social themes of a Turkestan slowly waking to progressive ideas. He opened schools in a lifelong push for public enlightenment and soon became an active Bolshevik propagandist. Throwing himself into theatre, he organised a drama



company in Ferghana in 1918, performing plays like "The Bey (landlord) and the Farmhand" in which, against a backdrop of social injustice meeting bold revolution, the Uzbek character Gafur welcomes his Russian comrades with good proletarian internationalism.

For the next decade, Khamza was a young republic, teaching and composing. He was an enthusiastic fighter for a new life and unappeasable enemy of obscurantism". A new play called "The Mysteries of the Paranja" which exposed female freedom touched the sensitive topics after which Khamza's torture and assassination in 1929.

MEDRESE SOKHIBZODA KHAZRAT

This madrasah was built by the major religious and public figure Sohimbzade Hazrat (1827-1860) who was a significant religious and public figure.

Hazrat moved to Kokand from Peshawar (Pakistan) in 1825 by the invitation of the Kokand Khan. Later in this madrassah housed poets like

Muhammad Aminhuja Mukimi and Muhyu

The madrassah structure consists of three courtyards including 24 rooms and tiny minaret. Two of the yards are in the straight line from the west to east and the third courtyard is linked to these yards by a corridor from the north. The main facade of the madrasah is situated on the west part of the northern courtyard and the entrance to the madrasah is through a dome named "darvozahona".

Elegantly carved gate of the madrasah was produced by the master Iskanda Hodia. The structure is split into the three-parts that are suitable madrasahs requirements. Each yard matches a certain direction of education such as adno-primary, avsat-secondary, alo-higher education.

The madrasah is built from brick and the walls of the rooms are covered with ganch (plaster). A house-museum of Muhammad Aminhuja Mukimi is located close to the entrance. There is also an exhibition of the belongings of the poet, some household things as well as his work.

With Thanks



**CENTRAL ASIA
GUIDE**

<https://central-asia.guide/>

The Second International Festival of Handicrafts at Kokand

A Celebration of Artistry and Culture

78 +

Countries

570 +

Foreign participants

1200

Local participants

1 mln +

Visitors and tourists



Hamid Mahmood

First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to The **President of Uzbekistan H. E. Shavkat Mirzaev** and the esteemed **World Craft Council**, for the visionary initiative in organising this

festival. This remarkable event was a testament to the power of cultural exchange and the preservation of age-old craftsmanship.

The welcoming of guests at Kokand Railway Station was a warm and gracious affair. As Participants disembark from their train, they are greeted with open arms by locals and station staff who are eager to extend a hospitable welcome. Traditional Uzbek hospitality shines through with offerings of refreshments, friendly smiles, and assistance, creating a memorable introduction to the city of Kokand and its rich cultural heritage.

INTRODUCTION:

The Second International Festival of Handicraft held in the historic city of Kokand, Uzbekistan, was a spectacular celebration of art, culture, and craftsmanship. This grand event brought together artisans, craftsmen, and enthusiasts from around the world, showcasing the rich tapestry of traditional and contemporary handicrafts. From intricate textiles to exquisite pottery, the festival was a testament to the enduring spirit of creativity and the vibrant cultural heritage of the region.

KOKAND: A CULTURAL GEM:

Kokand, nestled in the picturesque Fergana Valley, served as the perfect backdrop for this remarkable festival. Steeped in history and renowned for its architectural marvels, the city offered a captivating glimpse into the heart of Central Asia. Its vibrant bazaars, ancient madrasas, and the majestic Khudayar Khan Palace provided a fitting setting for celebrating the timeless art of handicrafts.

THE GLOBAL TAPESTRY OF CRAFTSMANSHIP:

One of the most enchanting aspects of the festival was the diversity of craftsmanship on display. Artisans from various corners of the globe converged in Kokand to exhibit their

skills and share their cultural traditions. Visitors were treated to a mesmerising array of handwoven textiles, intricate jewellery, ornate ceramics, and exquisite woodwork.

THE NEW MUSEUM OF HANDICRAFT AT KOKAND.

The opening of the new Museum of Handicraft in Kokand during the Second International Festival of Handicraft was a momentous occasion that celebrated both tradition and innovation. This museum stands as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of Kokand and the artistry of its craftsmen. It's a place where visitors can immerse themselves in the world of exquisite craftsmanship, preserving and showcasing the timeless beauty of handmade creations. The museum's inauguration marked a significant step in preserving and promoting the cultural legacy of Kokand and was a highlight of the festival, emphasising the importance of honouring and cherishing our artistic traditions.

TEXTILES: A KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOURS:

The art of textiles took centre stage at the festival. Skilled weavers from Uzbekistan, India, Turkey, and beyond displayed their mastery in creating intricate patterns and vibrant colours. From traditional Uzbek suzanis to Indian saris adorned with intricate embroidery, every piece told a story of heritage and craftsmanship.

POTTERY: THE MAGIC OF CLAY:

Pottery enthusiasts were in for a treat as master potters demonstrated their craft, shaping clay into functional and artistic pieces. The delicate hand-painted ceramics from Iran, the rustic charm of Kyrgyz pottery, and the elegance of Chinese porcelain all found their place in the festival's tapestry.

WORKSHOPS AND INTERACTION:

The festival was not merely a passive exhibition but an interactive platform. Artisans conducted workshops, allowing visitors to try their hand at various crafts. This hands-on experience forged connections between cultures and generations, fostering a deeper appreciation for the artistry involved.

PRESERVING TRADITIONS, INSPIRING INNOVATION:

The festival's overarching message was clear: the world of handicrafts is a vibrant continuum where tradition and innovation coexist. While preserving age-old techniques, many artisans showcased modern adaptations, blending heritage with contemporary sensibilities. This fusion of old and new breathed fresh life into the world of handicrafts.

CONCLUSION:

The Second International Festival of Handicraft in Kokand was a resounding success, not just as an exhibition but as a celebration of human creativity and cultural diversity. It brought together artisans, patrons, and enthusiasts to appreciate the beauty of handmade crafts and to recognise their role in preserving cultural identities.

As the festival came to a close, the lingering memories of vivid textiles, exquisite pottery, and the warm camaraderie of like-minded individuals served as a reminder that the spirit of craftsmanship knows no boundaries. It is a universal language that transcends cultures, connecting us all in a shared appreciation of the beauty that can be created by the human hand.

In the heart of Kokand, the festival affirmed that the tradition of handicrafts is not a relic of the past but a living, breathing art form, ever evolving and enriching our lives with its timeless beauty. It left visitors inspired to cherish and support the artisans who keep this tradition alive, ensuring that it continues to thrive for generations to come.

Seeing off guests at Kokand Railway Station by the organisers of the Second International Festival of Handicraft Kokand was a heartwarming gesture that reflects the genuine warmth and hospitality of the event. As visitors depart, the organisers ensure that they leave with fond memories of their time in Kokand. This thoughtful send-off may include farewells, tokens of appreciation, and best wishes, creating a lasting impression and a desire to return to this remarkable city in the future. Here I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organisers for extending an invitation to this festival. It is an honour and a privilege to have received such an invitation, and I am truly delighted and appreciative. It was an incredible experience, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a vibrant celebration of artistry and culture.

TESTIMONIALS

ELENA BULDAKOVA ITALY



I am the representative of Italy and the chief editor of a website www.planet360.info that is available in three languages: English, Italian, and Russian. We also have a special section dedicated to

Uzbekistan because we are deeply in love with this country and cover all the events that take place here. As for my impression of the festival, it's simply grandiose. I can't even begin to express my emotions, speechless; they overwhelm me to the point that I couldn't sleep on the first night or the second.

To begin with, it starts with the warm and generous hospitality. How we were welcomed was truly something special. As soon as we set foot on the ancient land of Kokand, charming and beautiful young ladies approached us with bread and juicy



fruits in hand, leading us down a path where magnificent music played. Every detail was meticulously thought out to ensure that every guest from any country, representing any culture, felt comfortable and at home, surrounded by care, love, and attention. To be completely honest I must say, I have never encountered such hospitality in any country around the world,. Uzbekistan deserves credit for preserving and cherishing its traditions, and I know that the culture of treating guests has been passed down from generation to generation. The

this festival, first and foremost, is its sheer magnitude. Today, Kokand represents a small island of global culture, where the best traditions and craftsmen with golden hands from around the world are gathered, along with designers.

We had the pleasure of attending a spectacular fashion show. I noticed that Uzbek motifs and national ornaments are being used by designers in other countries as well. In the collections of designers from Indonesia and India, one could notice a blend of local traditions and Uzbek national ornaments. This speaks to the fact that Uzbekistan is sharing the very best and it has to be offer to the world.

As the Mayor mentioned in response to a question, the goal of this festival is not just to introduce Uzbekistan to the world or open the world to Uzbekistan, but to facilitate a highly skilled exchange of culture, the exchange of the very best that different countries in this world have to offer, an exchange of traditions, and also to boost Uzbekistan's exports.

Centuries ago, Kokand was a centre of the Silk Road and trade. Today, this former glory is being revived, and Kokand is once again becoming a centre of global trade, opening up all the beautiful aspects of life for designers who enhance people's lives, making them more flavourful and vibrant. Furthermore, as I observed today in my presentation, Italian designers are also actively incorporating Uzbek ornaments into their collections, including high-end brands like Max Mara and Luisa Spagnoli, as well as representatives of the mid-range sector such as H&M and Zara. Italian, European women happily purchase products made using fabrics from Uzbekistan with national ornaments, which is highly appreciated by all. Therefore, Uzbekistan is currently represented on the world stage in a very positive, broad, and beautiful manner.

guests are regarded as a family members, and when guests arrive on Uzbek soil, they are treated just as they would treat their closest kin.

What I love about

In addition, I would like to express my immense gratitude to the organisers for this wonderful idea that unites people, showing how amazing it is to live in harmony and friendship with one another. Today, countries that may have had some border issues are all gathered on one platform, engaging in friendly and beautiful interactions, exchanging ideas, and buying products they admire from each other. This idea is magnificent—it promotes peace and beauty. Many people face limitations when it comes to traveling, especially due to the pandemic. Ticket prices have soared, and some have lost hope of ever having the



opportunity to travel. However, here they have found a haven. They can see, experience, and interact face-to-face, gaining insight into the lives of people from other countries and the cultural events happening there. It's truly indescribable atmosphere, awesome.

I extend my gratitude and a heartfelt request to continue this beautiful endeavour for the future, and I hope that in two years, we will meet here again and exchange many joyful emotions and positive impressions. These two years will lead us to the next festival, the third festival





Marcus Rebane Estonia

I am from Estonia. I am here second time in this International Festival of Handicrafts at Kokand. First its like olympics for craftsmen, absolutely top of the world masters of different crafts together here enjoying this hospitality of the peoples of Uzbekistan. I came to this festival with one mission to teach my way to crafts the stones and I found four local young students who will be studying from me and this silk road feminine will continue. Thank you organisers and I love Uzbekistan.

Nurzat Zheenbek Kyrgyzstan

The trip to Cocoon was a special event for me. The city of Cocoon is ancient with an extraordinary fairy-tale history for the Turkic peoples. 10 years ago I found myself as a costume designer on a historical film project, I studied a lot and plunged into the past. Kokand is translated as Cocoon, the shell of the silk pupa of an insect in the transition of reincarnation

My brand is called "The Birth of a Moth" and the clothes and paintings that I create are sculptures felted from natural fibers and wool. In my work, I

have spoken many times about rebirth and the state of waiting in a cocoon; in some ways the process and technique of execution are similar.

Why am I saying this, this particular time and trip to Cocoon is a time of rebirth in my work. The state of joy and feeling cannot be conveyed in words, events, creators and creative personalities, talents from all over the world, they are like missionaries of goodness and peace, like ambassadors and missionaries. Everyone is family and so beautiful and sweet

Celebration of Success







SHOHREH FAKHRJANALI GHASEMABADY & HANIYEH HIMMET IRAN

First of all we would like to Thank the organisers for inviting us to this beautiful event. The Second International Festival of Handicrafts in Kokand is a wonderful initiative that celebrates the rich tradition of craftsmanship and cultural heritage. It provides a platform for artisans from different parts of the world to showcase their skills and unique creations. Festivals like this not only promote the preservation of traditional crafts but also foster cultural exchange and appreciation. They offer a glimpse into the artistic talents of people and the stories behind their creations, making it a truly enriching and enjoyable experience for visitors. Such festivals play a vital role in supporting local artisans and communities while also encouraging a deeper understanding of our global cultural diversity.

SABAH ALI & MUHAMMAD SHAH KUWAIT

I am member of Member of expo 965 team for heritage and craft Kuwait talent from state of Kuwait. First of all, I want to thank organisers for this beautiful atmosphere. I am participating in this festival for engraving and carving skills and my friend Muhammad Shah also participating from the same organisation expo 965 team. He is participating for pottery and stone carving. I want to thank Uzbekistan and specially to Kokand people for this beautiful event, because we meet different artists from around the world from different field of arts. People took deep interest in our craft and culture as it's a new handicraft for them. They liked it so much.



Participating in the Second International Festival of Handicrafts was a unique cultural journey that enriched our lives.

MUHAMMAD UL MOOD MALI

I am from Mali west of Africa. Its really amazing to be here in this International Festival of Handicrafts. All this art and world is connecting together. So that's is meaning of arts for me. Its hard to see all the artists are connecting with same mind at one place. Its beautiful and feeling great to be here. Kokand people are amazing because they are very much interested and love arts and crafts. They are very kind people. The warmly welcome us. My message to the organisers infect I pray for them that they live long and continue these kind of events because that's what we need as without such kind of events we can't continue. I really thanks so much to them.



DAVOOD MOLLIE IRAN

I am a woodturner in Tehran. First of I would like to mention here that Uzbek people are very friendly and welcomed us with open arms. About people response to my craft is good as they never seen this kind of product in this way. Its a new since for them. The festival is extremely good as people are singing dancing and enjoying the work done by the craftsmen from around the world and from Uzbekistan. I hope they will continue doing this beautiful event and I would love to visit again and again to this beautiful country. I want to thank the organisers for inviting us to this lovely festival every thing was so perfect and that we never thought for single minute that we not In our own country. Thank you Kokand.





International
Festival Of
Handicrafts

William Fitzgerald New Zealand

Nothing could prepare me for the beauty of Uzbekistan, the people are warm and friendly and the food and architecture are amazing. I was fortunate to witness the II International Festival of Handicrafts Kokand, 2023 as a media delegate for my home country New Zealand. As I write this short letter I smile from the friendships I made and experiences of Uzbekistan culture and it's loving peoples. I want to thank the organisers for my interpreter Mr. Ziyodsher Qodirov. Ziyodsher is an incredible young man with great English skills. He helped me during my time in Kokand and Rishtan. He educated me on Uzbekistan language, traditions and culture and I am forever grateful to have him as my guide.

Hamid Mahmood Pakistan

The Second International Festival of Handicraft Kokand was a captivating blend of art, culture, and tradition. It offered a vibrant tapestry of craftsmanship from around the world, fostering a sense of unity through creativity. The festival's rich displays and interactive workshops left an indelible mark, celebrating the enduring allure of handmade treasures and the spirit of cultural exchange. It was a truly enriching experience that celebrated the beauty of diversity. I would like to thank the organisers and Government of Uzbekistan for inviting me to this beautiful festival.

**SAMI ULLAH, MUHAMMAD SHOAIB, MUHAMMAD SHZAD, IFRAH , GUHAR.
PAKISTAN**

I am a craftsman representing Pakistan along with my Colleagues. We were invited by the organisers for this beautiful Festival. I do Lacquer work and its centuries old art which is in our family for six generations. My Father was awarded Pride of Performance in Pakistan two years before. We are thankful to the organisers for inviting us and gave us a chance to meet craftsmen from around the world. In this event not only we displayed our crafts but also had a chance to learn a lot from other friends. Visitors took deep interest in our products and our friends from different parts of the world also appreciated our Handicrafts. I want to thank the organiser for all their hospitality, they really took good care of us and the love to get from this city we will keep it our hearts for years to come.



**CAROL
ROBERTSON
LOPEZ
USA**



Honorary Consul of Uzbekistan to the USA. The Second International Festival of Handicraft Kokand was a mesmerising celebration of artistry and culture. It showcased the exquisite craftsmanship of artisans from around the world, providing a platform for

cultural exchange and appreciation. The festival's blend of tradition and innovation left a lasting impression, reaffirming the enduring beauty of handmade creations and the power of art to unite people from diverse backgrounds. It was a truly enriching experience that highlighted the importance of preserving and celebrating our cultural heritage. I would like to congratulate the organisers for this beautiful event.

**ABDUL JABBAR
INDIA**



This is our first time at Kokand Festival of Handicrafts. Here people appreciated our work and they showed a deep interest in it, but the products which we made are a little expensive as we made the best quality

products. Even people says that we never seen such a craft in their life. Its a good sign For us as we are introducing our products in a new market which have a lot of potential. Local people are very sweet and welcoming. People taking pictures with us and we feel like we also some kind of stars from Bollywood industry. We feel very happy to be here. People who organised this festival they did a remarkable job. Many countries craftsmen are participating in this festival and we had a chance to meet them. It is also good for future connection. Every thing was so perfect in this festival starting from opening ceremony and Fashion Show every thing was imaginably remarkable. We are honoured and privileged by the invitation from the organisation. I want to take a moment to thank the organisers, local people and Government of Uzbekistan for this beautiful event.

**HIBA YAHYA
LEBANON**

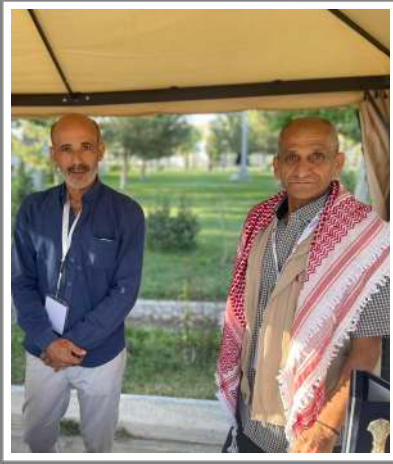


Thank you for the warm hospitality and incredible experiences at the Second International Festival of Handicrafts in Kokand. As a participant from Lebanon, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to share our craft and culture with the world. The festival was a beautiful celebration of diversity, creativity, and friendship. I would like to

thank the organisers for the invitation and specially to the people of beautiful city Kokand for their hospitality. Looking forward to more memorable moments in the future!"

Our time at the Second International Festival of Handicrafts was a kaleidoscope of culture, creativity, and connection.

**ABDUL RAZAQ
JORDAN**



I am a knife maker from Jordan. I am here in this festival and I like it very much the people of Kokand. They are very friendly, Smiley and a beautiful country. I hope we will back again to this beautiful city in future. The organisers are successful to bring craftsmen from around the world to one platform. You can see whole one in one street. I hope in future more craftsmen will come next time from other parts of the world. I am a knife maker and I saw different knife makers from around the world which gives us a chance to learn from each other. My friend is a wood crafter, he works on olive wood to make different crafts. We are thankful to the organisers for inviting us to this beautiful festival

**Kokand.
Connecting the world**



**DEKI PASSANG
BHUTAN**



I am representing Royal Textile Academy of Bhutan. This academy is under the supervision of of Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck. We are very proud and happy to represent RTA here at Kokand Festival. We were Privilege that we were selected first time. We are happy with the hospitality of kokand people and thankful for the organisers as every thing going very well. We are happy to be interacting, networking and connecting with participants. We had chance to let the people know how our crafts are been made as it takes to much time. Its a educational tour for us and we want to Thank the Uzbek Government, organisers and people of kokand for their love nd hospitality.

hospitality of local people is marvellous. I wish every participants of this festival best of luck and I hope they will enjoy their time in Uzbekistan. Local people are very hospitable I loved the way they treated us like as their own. I am already friend with the organisers and the way they organise this beautiful festival is remarkable and here local and International craftsmen learning from each other experiences. Its like world under one umbrella and credit goes to the organisers for such a lovely Festival. I would like to thank the Uzbek side for inviting me to this beautiful city and festival

**PARVANA
EYYUBOVA
AZERBAIJAN**

I am a master of applied arts and an artist. However, I'm involved in many other activities as well.. I am the founder of leather painting in Azerbaijan and a master of dolls. Among many other skills, I work as a designer, and was invited here from Uzbekistan for the first time.

I really enjoyed being here, especially the people, who are very warm and kind. There is a lot of interest from people in my products; everyone comes and asks about them while showing admiration. It seems like people also love us.



**SOFIA ESTSADASHVILI
GEORGIA**

I am from Georgia and brought here the mos t famous craft of my country. I am attending this festival second time. I am always happy to come to Uzbekistan as



**RUQIYA
PHILISTINE**

I am representing Philistine in this event and to start I would like to thank the people of Uzbekistan for the warm welcome to their beautiful country. I am very glad to see the love and respect from local people. The event is such a beautiful that I don't have words to describe it. The festival is like a garden where you can see and smell different flowers from around the world. This kind of festivals gives us opportunity to learn from each other and have a chance to see the beautiful crafts from around the world. Here I would like to thank the organisers for inviting me to this lovely festival. Every thing was so perfect that I don't have words to thank them enough.



To the wonderful people of Kokand

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your warm welcome and hospitality during the Second International Festival of Handicrafts. Your gracious hosting made the event a memorable and enriching experience for all of us. The festival was a testament to the beauty of cultural exchange and the importance of preserving and celebrating traditional crafts. Thank you for opening your hearts and your city to us. We look forward to many more shared moments of art, culture, and friendship in the future."

Picture by



Hirograph FX

Happiness Continue



**PREMRUEDEE KULLASU
THAILAND**

This is my first time to attend this exhibition. I am very happy to be here to be the part of festival. I have a great experience to meet different artists from around the world. Also, artists from Uzbekistan. I do natural dying cotton and local people had deep interest in my art. They asked different question how I get natural dying colour. They also asked about the tradition of my country. I would like to thank the organisers for their support and invitation. It's also good for Uzbekistan as I am going to let my people know about this beautiful country and asked them to visit here. Uzbek people are very friendly they always smile and greets you. Everyone in Kokand welcomes you to their city and food is great.



**CINDY LILEN
ARGENTINA**

I am from Patagonia a small town in Argentina. I came to Uzbekistan with my creation in different Sculptural Textile and Lighting art. I am very glad to be here. It has been a amazing experience to meet the people from all over the world and see the crafts from Uzbekistan which is super interesting. It been super interesting reaction from the local people about my craft as I have more modern crafts. They been very welcoming and very curious about where I am from and they are very very warm people and they been very nice to us. I am very thankful to organisers and I am very glad to be here.

**FABIANA BEZERRA
BRAZIL**

I work with Brazilian Gold curst. Its green around the year but in September and October its changes naturally in Gold colours When its dry it turns gold. With this fibre I do all of my work. I been here before at first festival of Handicrafts in 2019 and last year I also came here two. Times for some other festival. I enjoy been in Uzbekistan its like returning to old culture, the crafts, the architecture and also people are very kind. Local people likes crafts and they were amaze by my art as looking fibre look like gold was a amazing experience for them. I would like to thank very much for every thing to the organisers as for me it was a pleasure for to be invited and be the part of the festival.

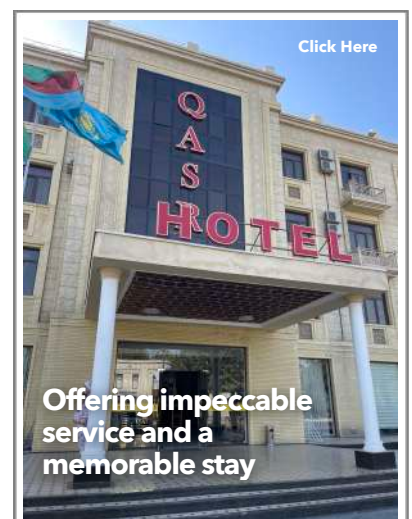


**ARTEM
RADIKOVICH
YARATOV
RUSSIA**



I represent the company State Unitary Enterprises BHP "Agidel" RB Which is located in the city of Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russian Federation. We have come here

as exhibitors, and it's not the first year that we've been attending this event since its inception. Our goal here is to promote our products, exchange experiences, and our designers and artists are present here as well. They gather inspiration and analyse the current trends whether they are modern or not. Our goal is to create a certain product in the future. We have a strong connection with this country; we have a lot in common. We order things here and bring some things, so we have deeper roots not only in craftsmanship but also in production. Wonderful people, great weather - it's already cold where we come from, but here it's hot and beautiful. People are very hospitable, the food is excellent, and we are very happy to been here.





VICKI MASON
AUSTRALIA

I am from Melbourne Australia. I am a Contemporary Jeweller. I work with text and metal. To Go to the Palace museum today was amazing for me to see the historical objects that have textile and metal together the jewellery has been an inspiration and I think I will draw on these artefacts for future work. I can not thank you enough for this amazing experience your city is absolutely divine. I have had all I am very grateful on behalf of Australia to been here. About my art I don't think local people seen any think like it and I think that's wonderful and I found them so warm and friendly. Its been wonderful experience. I been asked in to people homes I been given gifts. I

just think organiser just done a fantastic job, to manage so many people, to put on such a spectacular display, to feed us and to bring crafts from all around the world. Its been magical just magical Thank you so much.



ALINDA JOSLEYN
UGANDA

I am representing of National Arts and Crafts association Uganda. I am also member of Uganda women entrepreneur Association. I came into this art when I was a little bit younger in 2007. I came to work for some one and when I came into art shop I start loving every thing about art. So I am self thought artist. I do tailoring, I do beads work, I do cushion covers, Aprons, Oven Gloves. I also train women to do basketry, so basically that's all I do in Uganda. My experience in this festival was awesome and one of the best. I been in a numbers of trade shows and Fares I must say this has been amazing. It has a lot of network I came across the biggest networks of handicrafts from around the world. I love it so much. I love the culture of Uzbekistan which well preserved through their dressing , through their food, their dances I really amaze by the preservation of Uzbek culture. People took deep interested in my crafts they gave me positive response and they loved my art. My biggest message to the organisers I am very thrilled to be the part of this event, and I thank them for considering my application and I loving to be the part of this program. I can't stopping coming to Uzbekistan by giving any opportunity.



MARINA GUSHCHA,
REPUBLIC OF
BELARUS

We primarily use it to create geometric, voluminous, and spatial constructions that were traditionally hung from the ceiling and spun, much like dreamcatchers found in various countries. In our case, it's a pagan symbol that absorbs dark forces and, after a year, gets chewed. You know, I've wanted to come here for a very long time because I've heard that this country is rich in artisans and highly developed in this regard. Firstly, there's significant government support for artisans

here, which I've witnessed firsthand in how they respect and treat artisans and children. Here, they lead their children, showing them how they grow and fostering good relations with other countries. This is essential because when people are friendly towards other nationalities, they not only learn about their own culture but also about the cultures of other countries. This develops friendliness, love for their own, and understanding of other cultures.

I'd like to express my gratitude for making this festival happen and inviting people. A lot of effort went into organising it, and it's all done at the highest level. I've been to many events, but here, it's taken very seriously and with respect. There's always timely help and attention, and I'm very happy to have been here. This is a source of happiness for me, and I will remember it for a long time.

YOUNESS HORRI
MOROCCO

I am Moroccan designer and developer of arts crafts in Morocco. In this festival of Kokand for me it was a good one, because first of all for tourism. Uzbek people are very nice, very open and very simple. Second the organisation of this festival was very good. I think went well, the presentation, Exhibition, Fashion show and the conference every thing was prefect. Third was the weather Uzbekistan is having a beautiful weather and I am very happy to be here even it took me long way to come here. Its my first time in Uzbekistan. I would like send a big huge thanks to the organisers because I can see they did a huge job done very well.



Dream Team Behind the beautiful Festival.



Thank you Kokand





Handicraft products worth about 7 billion soums were sold at the festival.

A press conference dedicated to the results of the second International Crafts Festival and the International Pottery Forum in Rishton district was held in the press center of the International Craft Festival organized in Ko'kan.

Chairman of the republican "Hunarmand" association **Ulug'bek Abdullaev, deputy governor of Fergana region Khurshid Ahmedov** gave information about the events within the festival. More than 260 skilled craftsmen and masters from 70 countries of the world, well-known representatives of science, culture and art, media workers and representatives of prestigious international organisations, 700 craftsmen from 14 regions of our

country are participating in the festival. About 200 representatives of foreign, republican and local mass media are covering the event.

The opening ceremony of the newly established International Crafts Museum was held as part of the Second International Craft Festival. This museum plays an important role in preserving and developing the world's folk art, passing on this priceless wealth to future generations, combining our efforts and opportunities in this

arts and crafts" was held at the Kokan city musical drama theatre.



direction. The museum has more than 150 exhibits of products of foreign craftsmen who participated in the First International Crafts Festival held in 2019, including countries such as Malaysia, Iran, New Zealand, Australia, China, India, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. An international scientific-practical conference on the topic "World practice in the field of preservation and development of traditional

An exhibition and trade of international local craftsmen is held within the framework of the festival. More than 100,000 citizens visited the festival every day for two days. A total of 6 billion 592 million soums worth of handicraft products were sold over two days. Trading continues today. The International Pottery Forum organised in Rishton District is also being held in conjunction with the 2nd International Craft Festival in Kok. In general, each day leaves a great impression on the participants based on the colourful programs.

The festival will end today and the winners of the competition will be announced.

Kokand - Preserving ancient culture through millennia



By Munisa Kambaralieva - student of English faculty of Kokand State Pedagogical Institute

Participant of The project "Young reporter" of the Kokand city municipality press-service.

The first information about Kokand dates back to the second century BC and came to us in the notes of the Chinese traveler Zhan Jiang "On a trip to the state of Davan." Davan is the ancient name of the Fergana Valley.

In those ancient times, Kokand was part of a confederal state and was one of its developed centres. The data was confirmed by archaeological excavations, which were carried out on the remains of the ancient settlements of Muvi Mubarak and Tepakurgan.

In the result of the excavations, among other finds, high-quality handicraft products had discovered. Due to the quality of handicrafts it was concluded that there was an urban-type settlement at the excavation site in the second century AD.

In the Middle Ages, Kokand was destroyed by the troops of Genghis Khan and only in the seventeenth centuries the city received a "second wind" with the beginning of the history of the Kokand Khanate.

The Kokand Khanate, which in its heyday included the territories of modern Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, partly Kazakhstan, China and Afghanistan, is the most famous and studied period in the history of Kokand.

All modern architectural monuments date back to this period and the period of the

colonial conquest by Russia.

Kokand undoubtedly experienced a special flourishing and restoration of its former greatness during the reign of the current President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

According to his decree "On holding the International Festival of Folk Arts and Crafts in the city of Kokand," a huge amount of work was carried out in the city in 2019 to reconstruct architectural monuments, improve the tourism infrastructure and the appearance of the city as a whole.

I remember very well how, on the eve of the festival, Ghada Qaddumi, President of the Asian and Pacific region of the World Crafts Council (mother of Saad al Kaddumi), visited Kokand. Together with the Vice President of the Society of Australian Craftsmen, Kevin Murray, we studied handicrafts in Kokand. The guests were introduced to wood carving, knife making, weaving and other crafts in Kokand.

During a conversation in the workshop of one of the woodcarving artisans, Kevin



Murray suddenly asked the question: How many types of crafts are known in Kokand? More than 200 responded.

Kevin turned with a condescending smile to the author of the remark - Yahyo Dadaboev, an employee of the Kokand Reserve Museum, repeated, "maybe even more."

Kevin Murray turned on the voice recorder on his phone and said, "If you now say the names of at least 50 crafts, I will raise my hands." Yakhe Dadabaev began to list the crafts, simultaneously mentioning the regions (mahallas) of Kokand named after these crafts. At the 55th craft, Kevin Murray raised his hands and He said with a smile, "I give up."

Gadda Kaddumi urgently began to get ready for the hotel. The mayor of Kokand was surprised by such a rush. He asked the translator, "Maybe the lady didn't like something?" Kaddoumi replied, "I'm rushing to the hotel to urgently write a letter to Rosie Greenles about including Kokand in the list of World Crafts Cities.

The First International Festival of Handicrafts was attended by 570 participants from 78 countries and 1,200 artisans from various regions of Uzbekistan. Kokand was announced as one of the World Craft Cities.

The festival gave a huge impetus to the development and popularisation of handicrafts, especially among young people. In recent years, the number of members of the artisans society has tripled.

The tourism sector has also undergone enormous development; the volume of tourist flows has increased 10-fold in recent years. In particular, in 2022, 120,000 tourists from foreign countries visited Kokand.

The second international festival of Handicrafts, which took place on September 21-23 this year, also became a real international holiday of crafts.

As part of this festival, the International Ceramics Forum in Rishtan and dozens of various cultural events, such as scientific conferences, the opening of the International Museum of Crafts, a gala procession, a fashion show, tastings of national dishes, folk games and, of course, master classes by famous craftsmen from all over the world were also held.

According to preliminary data, more than a million people attended the festival events. It is expected that this festival will give a huge impetus to the development of crafts and tourism, and the popularisation of folk art.

To summarise, we can say in the words of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the opening ceremony of the First Festival of Folk Applied Arts "It is no coincidence that Kokand was chosen as the venue for the International Festival of Folk Applied Arts. This ancient city, distinguished by its unique flavour, is considered the pearl of the Fergana Valley, which is rightly called the "golden valley".

Khukandi latif, which means Beautiful Kokand, which has a 2000-year-old glorious history and has seen many great events, is one of the bright symbols of our national statehood, a place where science, art and literature, and various crafts flourished."



AND

Style



ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION IN RANKING UNIVERSITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS AND ADVANCED TRAINING



Ministry of Higher
Education, Science
and Innovation

Development Strategy
centre

In 2023, in the QS ranking (Quacquarelli Symonds), the National University of Uzbekistan and the National Research University "Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers" were among the "TOP 500" universities in 4 disciplines (Subject Rankings).

The Young University Rankings, compiled by Times Higher Education, another prestigious ranking organization in the UK, has announced the results of the ranking of the world's best universities under 50 years of age.

This year, 12 higher educational institutions of our republic were awarded "reporter" status. This figure is 3 times higher than last year, that is, from 4 last year to 12 this year.

Also on June 22, 2023, the results of the "Asia University Rankings - 2023" ("Rating of Asian Universities - 2023") by the Times Higher Education agency were announced as part of the Times Higher Education Asia Universities Summit. In this rating, 32 higher educational institutions of our republic were noted in the "reporter" status.

At the same time, according to the results of the "QS Stars Audit" rating, organised by QS this year, the Tashkent University of Information Technologies and the National Research University "Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanisation Engineers" received a 4-star QS rating standard.

REFORMS IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM OF UZBEKISTAN

As a result of the reforms carried out to develop the higher education system within the framework of the Strategy of Actions on Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 and its logical continuation - the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, the number of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the country increased from 77 in 2017 to 211 by

the end of 2023.

Moreover, foreign HEIs grew from 5 to 30, the number of students in HEIs increased from 314.5 thousand to 1 million 200 thousand, and the number of PhD thesis defences rose from 343 to 1765.

In addition, 41 leading state HEIs were given independence in their financial, scientific and organisational matters. The correspondence education form was introduced in 71 HEIs, the distance education form in 15 HEIs and the evening education form - in 18 HEIs.

Starting from the 2022-2023 academic year, admission to the master's degree programs of state HEIs is carried out based on the average score of the student's bachelor's degree mark sheet and the foreign language certificate (national or international) without any entrance exams on the speciality subject.

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DIGITALISATION IN THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER/SECONDARY SPECIAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OVER THE PAST 9 MONTHS

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation showed the highest results and took first place in the ranking of ministries for the digital transformation of government organisations based on the results of the first half of 2023.

Why was the first place awarded, what work has been done in this area? Below we will focus on the most important aspects made by the Ministry in the field of digitalisation.

Over the 9 months of this year, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation has developed and implemented information systems aimed at digitalising the activities of educational institutions and the activities of the ministry.

In particular:

- information system for placing students of state universities in student dormitories (<https://my.gov.uz/oz/service/870>);

- submitting an online application for receiving contracts for payment of contracts, downloading contracts and monitoring payment for services provided on the basis of contracts in universities (<https://billing.edu.uz/>, <https://kontrakt.edu.uz/>);

- a mobile application for the HEMIS information system was created (<https://hemis.uz/>).

Also, 7 government services were launched on the Unified interactive portal of public services. In particular, new services have been launched, such as applying for accommodation in a student dormitory, obtaining an academic certificate (transcript) for university students, editing information about obtaining higher/secondary specialised and vocational education.

6 information systems are being improved for online submission of documents for admission to higher, secondary special and vocational educational institutions, as well as transfer and restoration of education for students of state higher educational institutions, all relevant practical measures have been taken for their continuous operation in accordance with established requirements and procedures, tolerance parameters.

In total, more than 260,000 applications were received online through the system lytsey.edu.uz for academic lyceums, kasb.edu.uz for vocational schools, sukhbat.edu.uz for students who successfully graduated from technical schools for admission to higher educational institutions, and for a second specialization, magistr.edu.uz for obtaining a master's degree and transfer.edu.uz for transfer and renewal of studies.

SOURCE

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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

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

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

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We are working hard to serve you better and we are looking forward to see you in 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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Pak Uzbek Friendship Council Bridging Nations



PAK UZBEK FRIENDSHIP COUNCIL



CONGRATULATIONS

Mr Hamid Mahmood Ch

On your appointment as
Senior Joint Secretary

Pak Uzbek Friendship Council

Wish you best of luck to strengthen the Relationships between PAKISTAN and Uzbekistan.

The Pak Uzbek Friendship Council is a cornerstone of diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Established in 2018, this council exemplifies the shared commitment of both nations to strengthen their friendship and collaborative endeavours. PUFC under the wise leadership of Renowned Scholar, Dr Pir Tariq Sharifzada strongly believes that as both nations have the common Islamic background and love of great muslim icons, like Imam Bukhari, Imam Tirmazi, Data Ali Hujwari, Allama Iqbal, Alberuri can be a source of bring both nations closer.

Diplomacy and Mutual Understanding. At its core, the council aims to bolster diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. It facilitates dialogues on regional stability, security, and international cooperation, addressing issues of common concern. Through these diplomatic channels, the two nations foster mutual understanding and work collectively towards shared objectives.

Economic Partnership

The council actively

This collaboration has not only expanded business prospects but has also paved the way for socio-economic development in both nations.



Dr Pir Tariq Sharifzada
Founder President

encourages economic collaboration. It has played a pivotal role in nurturing trade and investment opportunities, elevating economic ties to new heights.

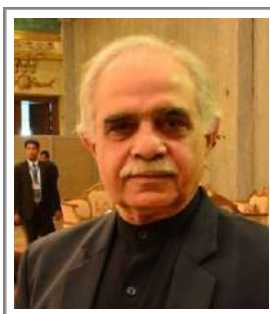
Cultural Exchange and People-to-People Connections

One of the council's remarkable achievements is in the realm of cultural exchange. Through festivals, art exhibitions, and educational exchanges, it

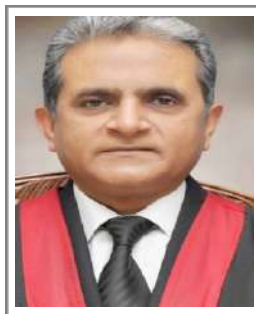
has enriched the cultural landscape of both nations. These interactions have created a strong people-to-people connection, enhancing the appreciation of each other's traditions and histories.

Promising Future. The future of the Pak Uzbek Friendship Council is promising. Economic collaborations are expected to grow, presenting new opportunities for businesses and fostering economic development. Additionally, cultural and educational exchanges will continue to promote a deeper understanding of each other's cultures.

In Conclusion. The Pak Uzbek Friendship Council is more than just a public institution; it is a testament to the enduring partnership between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Its unwavering dedication to diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties ensures the continued growth and prosperity of both nations. This council, as a bridge of friendship, plays an essential role in nurturing collaboration and mutual respect between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. To establish a Culture, Study & Resource Center in the leading Universities of both countries to facilitate the intellectual and students of both sides is also the project of PUFC in near future.



General (r) Ghulam Mustafa
Patron In Chief



Justice (r) Anwaar ul Haq
Chairman Central Executive Council



Mrs Sadia Sohail (Ex MPA)
Head Women Wing



Miss Duaa Mirza
Head Youth Wing



CONGRATULATIONS

Mr Hamid Mahmood Ch

On your Selection as **Convener of Tourism Committee of Attock Gymkhana**

Secretary Gymkhana

Aamir Majeed Sheikh



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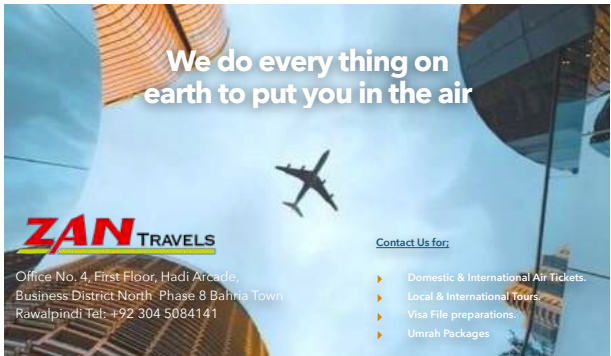


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