



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESERVING HISTORICAL SITES AND DEVELOPING THE TOURISM SECTOR IN OUR COUNTRY

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

Keywords: *Shakhrisabz, Architecture and Urban Planning, World Heritage, Archaeological Heritage, Cultural Heritage, "Me'mor" Restoration Association, O'zbekturizm, Tourism Sector, Reconstruction.*

INTRODUCTION. From the earliest years of independence, one of the priority directions of the Uzbek government has been the preservation and restoration of historical cities and monuments. Extensive restoration and reconstruction works were carried out in connection with the jubilees of great statesmen and public figures, and scholars. In this process, special attention was paid not only to restoring the monuments to their original state but also to preserving them for future generations. The increasing global attention to the protection of cultural heritage sites prompted Uzbekistan to strengthen cooperation with UNESCO.

On July 27, 1992, the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a decree "On the establishment of the national company 'O'zbekturizm'," and on



October 20 of the same year, a Program was adopted based on Resolution No. 424 of the Cabinet of Ministers. This laid the foundation for organizing national tourism [1]. In 1993, Uzbekistan became a member of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), which unites more than 120 countries.

In 1992, the Law on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage was developed by the Main Directorate for the Protection of Monuments under the Ministry of Culture [3], and the "O'zNIPI" Institute and the "Me'mor" Restoration Association were entrusted with restoration and reconstruction works.

LITERATURE REVIEW. Historical and cultural monuments are legally protected by the Republic of Uzbekistan's Law "On the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Objects." Furthermore, a number of legal documents are being adopted, which have contributed to the revival and beautification of these monuments.

Uzbekistan has paid special attention to studying and adopting international laws and conventions regarding historical and cultural heritage. Currently, four cultural and historical sites in Uzbekistan have been included in UNESCO's "World Historical and Cultural Heritage" list: Ichan-Qala in the city of Khiva in 1991, the historical center of Bukhara in 1993, architectural monuments of the Amir Temur and Timurids era in Shahrisabz in 2000, and historical monuments of Samarkand in 2001. The city of Samarkand has been recognized by "The Huffington Post" internet publication as one of the 50 cities in the world that a person must visit at least once in their lifetime.

In 1992, in accordance with an agreement between the governments of Uzbekistan and Turkey, a group of people from Turkey visited our republic with the aim of further strengthening cultural ties. Among them, Yahyo Oqsuybey, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Turkey, Ilkhon Shamshekbey, Head of the Ministry's Main Directorate, and responsible officials of the ministry, Dugon



Chevekbeý and Murdjella Kakhverk, also visited Qashqadaryo region. Accompanied by Mamatqul Rajabov, Head of the Regional Culture Department, they visited the regional musical drama theater, listened to performances by some bakhshis who have made significant contributions to the development of folk oral creativity, and became closely acquainted with samples of our applied art, historical, and cultural monuments. Furthermore, representatives of the two countries agreed to establish cooperation in the field of restoring historical monuments.

The resolution adopted by UNESCO in 1972 and the "International Day for Monuments and Sites" designated by the UN in 1983 spurred Uzbekistan to apply international standards for the preservation of cultural heritage. Uzbekistan succeeded in including a number of its historical cities and complexes of monuments in UNESCO's "World Cultural and Natural Heritage" list. Khiva's Ichan-Qala (1991), Bukhara's historical center (1993), architectural monuments of the Amir Temur and Temurids era in Shahrisabz (2000), and historical monuments of Samarkand (2001) are included in this list. The inclusion of Samarkand in the "World Heritage" list further increased its global importance and expanded its tourism potential. Samarkand's inclusion among the world's most beautiful cities further strengthened its position in the tourism sector.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY. Uzbekistan is striving to achieve economic development by utilizing cultural heritage sites in the tourism sector. The establishment of the "O‘zbekturizm" national company (1992) and membership in the World Tourism Organization (1993) were important steps for the development of the tourism sector. Restoration and reconstruction works of historical monuments are being carried out simultaneously with the improvement of tourism infrastructure. The development of hotels, transport, and other services is aimed at creating favorable conditions for tourists.



In the first nine months of 1997, in preparation for the 2500th anniversaries of the cities of Khiva and Bukhara, repair and restoration works totaling 259.1 million soums were carried out on historical and cultural monuments from the state budget. Of this amount, 74 million soums were spent on objects in Khiva, and 185.1 million soums on objects in Bukhara.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. The legal foundations for the development of the sector in Uzbekistan were developed and gradually implemented. In 1995, a law on "Architecture and Urban Planning" was adopted. In accordance with this new law, 148 national-state "Construction Norms and Regulations" were developed and implemented, taking into account history, cultural heritage, climate, and specific conditions of our region. Historical and cultural monuments are legally protected by the Republic of Uzbekistan's laws "On the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Objects" and "On the Protection and Use of Archaeological Heritage Objects."

In April 1996, Uzbekistan acceded to the "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage." Considering the universally significant treasures of this convention, a list of 22 historical monuments from the republic was submitted to the "World Heritage List" in June 1996. As a full member of UNESCO, the Republic of Uzbekistan had the Ichan Qala complex in Khiva (1990), monuments located in the historic center of Bukhara (1993), Amir Temur and Temurid architectural monuments in the city of Shahrissabz (2001), and historical monuments in the center of Samarkand (2002) registered by the International World Heritage Committee as 13 famous monuments.

On March 14, 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted resolutions "On Measures for the Establishment of the State Museum of the History of the Temurids under the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in Tashkent" and "On Supporting the International Amir Temur Foundation." In April 1996, the 660th anniversary of



Amir Temur's birth was widely celebrated at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Most gratifyingly, on April 26, 1996, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Establishment of the 'Amir Temur' Order" was adopted. Based on the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 28, 1996, the cities of Samarkand and Shahrissabz were awarded the Amir Temur Order. On October 18, 1996, the State Museum of the History of the Temurids was opened in Tashkent. On the same day, solemn unveiling ceremonies of Amir Temur's statues were organized in Samarkand and Shahrissabz, attracting wide international public attention.

The draft "Urban Planning Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was developed in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 2, 2000. It approached the matter with the necessity of elevating the urban planning sector to an international level, as well as legally solidifying the basic rules of urban planning requirements for the planning and construction of settlements and the planning of the republic's territories.

On August 30, 2001, a new law "On the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Objects" was adopted. This positive change in the national legislative system created wide opportunities for accelerating work in the field, inventorying existing cultural heritage objects in the republic, and undertaking construction, repair, and restoration works by utilizing all available resources based on their technical condition.

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

There are over seven thousand monuments in the republic, of which 2500 are architectural monuments, over 2700 are archaeological, and more than 1000 are monumental art monuments, all taken under state protection. Based on this, it can be seen how important the work being done regarding the establishment of a charitable



foundation for the preservation and improvement of sacred shrines is, according to Resolution No. 938 signed by the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I.A. Karimov, on August 7, 2008.

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

Although every region of Uzbekistan participated in historical processes, currently Qashqadaryo region has a total of 1321 tangible cultural heritage objects, including 1043 archaeological, 210 architectural, 43 monumental, and 35 notable sites.

It is known that 411 of the existing historical monuments in Uzbekistan are included in the UNESCO list. Uzbekistan ranks 9th as a country rich in historical monuments and dedicated to preserving Islamic cultural heritage. Of the objects with cultural and historical significance, 545 are architectural, 575 are historical, 1457 are art objects, and over 5500 are archaeological objects.

CONCLUSION. In October 2011, at the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) held in South Korea, the Republic of Uzbekistan was re-elected for the second time as a member of the UN World Tourism Organization Executive Council. Only a few countries in the world have been granted this status. Within the framework of our country's membership in this organization and with the aim of popularizing our historical and cultural heritage on the international stage, as well as developing the tourism industry, a decision was made at the 98th session of the UN World Tourism Organization Executive Council, held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, in June 2014, to hold the next 99th session of the Executive Council in Samarkand.



This is clear evidence of Uzbekistan's growing prestige on the international stage and the high recognition of our country's vast tourism potential by the global community [22]. International cooperation plays an important role in preserving Uzbekistan's cultural heritage and developing its tourism sector. Projects carried out in cooperation with Turkey help ensure high-quality repair and restoration works of historical monuments. Such cooperation includes not only financial assistance but also the exchange of technological expertise. Through cultural exchange programs, opportunities to promote Uzbekistan's cultural heritage to the world are expanding. Future plans for preserving Uzbekistan's cultural heritage and developing tourism can be implemented in the following directions:

- Further improving the preservation and restoration of monuments through the application of modern technologies.
- Developing tourism infrastructure and creating favorable conditions for tourists.
- Developing modern types of tourism (ecotourism, agrotourism, etc.) at cultural heritage sites.
- Strengthening international cooperation for the promotion of cultural heritage.
- Actively using cultural heritage to foster patriotism and national pride among youth.

The preservation of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage objects and the development of tourism through them are crucial for the country's economic and cultural development. The work carried out by the state and international cooperation serve to preserve cultural heritage and pass it on to future generations. By further developing the tourism sector in the future, Uzbekistan's position in the world can be strengthened, and the country's economy can be diversified.



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