

ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA

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Abstract:

This article shows the current state and prospects of the economic cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as the efforts made to develop bilateral trade and activate mutual cooperation. At the same time, several areas of economic cooperation, such as investments in the economy, major projects, transfer of goods and services, cooperation in the field of transport and logistics, business in the banking sector, etc., tax issues, intellectual property and other indicators are presented.

Keywords: economic cooperation, Central Asia, UN, WTO, capital, SCO, transboundary rivers, trade, enterprise, international trade and economic relations, citizen, currency, contractual and legal documents.

Introduction

As we all know, Central Asia consists of five Muslim republics: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. These countries now have the status of a republic and have become politically independent states. In particular, in 2020, 23 high-ranking state agencies for foreign political and economic activities in order to bring the relations with the countries of the Central Asian region to a new level in terms of quality and content in the spirit of mutual friendship, good neighborliness and strategic partnership in all fields. level and 12 higher level visits and various activities were carried out.

If we take two of the countries of Central Asia, namely Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the relations between these two countries are developing consistently. First of all, it would be appropriate to look at the past of these countries. It is known from history that all the countries of Central Asia gained independence in 1991, including the Republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, from that time they began to pursue an independent policy. In fact, in the last three to four years, Uzbekistan has opened up to the world and has become the center of political, economic, and social reforms. Signed investment contracts and agreements worth billions of dollars with far and near countries. The government of Uzbekistan is quickly finding solutions to the social problems of citizens. In the field of taxation, big reliefs are given, especially for the rural population. Science and education are actively supported. The state language has a worthy place. The country has no public debt. It is especially noteworthy that Uzbekistan openly expresses its attitude to the processes

taking place in the world, to the issues discussed in the UN General Assembly. Now, if we stop at the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan is also developing rapidly. For the past twenty years, the path of consistent development based on the principle of "Economy first, then politics" has been determined. In 2000, the National Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan was established. The country's gold and currency reserves are also growing. The Council of Foreign Investors was established under the President. In general, during the years of independence, the President was able to build an economically strong Kazakhstan. Today, it cooperates with almost all countries of the world. Today, Kazakhstan, like Uzbekistan, is among the most rapidly developing countries not only in Central Asia, but also in the territory of the former union. The first presidents of these two neighboring countries, Islam Karimov and Nursultan Nazarbayev, met several times, agreed on important issues related to the development of the country, and signed several documents. Since 1991, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov has made 25 visits to Kazakhstan, and the President of Kazakhstan visited Uzbekistan 7 times.

On November 22 last year, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade S. Umurzakov had an extended meeting with the delegation led by the Minister of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan B. Sultanov. The heads of the main ministries and departments of the two countries took part in it. The importance of accelerating work on increasing the number of joint projects in the field of industrial cooperation was noted. The parties discussed a number of projects currently being considered in the agro-industrial complex, machine-building, textile, food, metallurgy and pharmaceutical sectors, and came to study the existing potential and untapped opportunities in various fields in order to develop new project proposals. Emphasis was placed on the activation of interregional cooperation. In order to develop new investment agreements and trade agreements in the near future, it was agreed to organize mutual visits of delegations consisting of heads of ministries, departments, industry associations and regional administrations of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. In addition, an inter-regional cooperation forum between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan was discussed, as well as an extended meeting of the Uzbekistan-Kazakh Business Council and a business forum with the participation of representatives of the business circles of the two countries by the end of this year. Special attention was paid to the development of bilateral trade. After reviewing a number of issues in this field, the parties agreed to organize the next meetings of joint working groups on the development of trade and economic cooperation this month. This will enable to activate mutual cooperation of relevant ministries and agencies of the two countries. Also, during the meeting, a number of issues related to the implementation of joint infrastructural projects in the field of transport, as well as the priority tasks of simplifying customs procedures and increasing the transit potential of the two countries were discussed. The press service of the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade informs that the next activities for joint activities were determined within the framework of the discussed areas of cooperation at the end of the meeting.[1]

Besides, A. Mamin and A. Oripov met at the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan interregional cooperation forum, which was established to strengthen relations between the neighboring countries. Relevant ministers of the two countries, representatives of state institutions and many businessmen participated in the forum, which was held for the third time this year, on the topic "Cross-border cooperation as new growth points". At the forum, the prospects of cooperation in the fields of investment, agriculture, transport, water resources, energy, industry and tourism were discussed, in particular, the current state of trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, A. Mamin, and the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, A. Oripov, noted that almost 70 percent of all regional trade in Central Asia belongs to the two countries, and announced that they agreed to increase the volume of mutual trade from 5 billion dollars to 10 billion dollars in the future. In addition, the parties emphasized the importance of the implementation of the Central Asian International Trade and Economic Cooperation Center, which is being built on the border of the two countries. Also, the Kazakh side offered to join efforts to plant saplings in the dry areas of the Aral Sea.[2]

Economic cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan is an example of economic cooperation regulated by the agreement (Protocol) signed in 1995. The main goal of this cooperation is to develop the economy, increase investments and innovations, develop economic relations and trade relations, and expand mutual use. The agreement defines issues such as development of cooperation in the field of investments, management of investment projects, organization and management of investment objects, financing and management of investment projects. Issues such as development of cooperation in the field of transfer of goods and services, management of import and export operations, development of foreign trade relations, organization and management of foreign trade centers are also specified in the agreement. It includes cooperation in the field of transport and logistics, use of vehicles, development of transport infrastructure, organization and management of cooperation in the field of transport. It includes business development in the banking sector, etc., business development, organization and management of cooperation of financial institutions, implementation of financial operations, etc., and development of cooperation in the field of lending. The agreement also defines tax issues, tax transfers, tax fight, tax system management, tax legal issues and tax system development. Issues related to cooperation in the field of intellectual property and other indicators, protection of intellectual property, production of intellectual property, licensing of intellectual property, trade of intellectual property and other indicators are specified in the agreement. Based on the procedure established in the agreement, the economic cooperation commission was established. This commission examines all areas of economic cooperation, negotiates issues and problems, and strives to resolve them. Economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, development of economy, expansion of trade relations, increase of investments and innovations, development of transport and logistics sector, management of tax issues, protection of intellectual property and other indicators will help in solving issues. As a result of this cooperation, economic

relations will develop mutually and mutual use of the economy of the two countries will expand. The presidents noted that transboundary rivers and water resources in Central Asia are the common wealth of the region, and the well-being of the Uzbek-Kazakh people largely depends on their rational and effective use. In the matter of building hydro-power facilities on transboundary rivers, it was noted that it is necessary to strictly observe the generally recognized norms of international law, which are strengthened in UN conventions and other international documents. As noted, the International Fund for Saving the Island serves as an important platform for the implementation of projects and programs aimed at improving the ecological situation along the island and solving socio-economic issues. Uzbekistan exports fruits and vegetables, vehicles, mineral fertilizers, construction materials and other products, various services to Kazakhstan. Black and non-ferrous metals, oil products are brought from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan.

The volume of trade between the countries is growing steadily. According to the end of 2015, this figure was more than 3 billion dollars. 151 enterprises established with the participation of Uzbek businessmen are operating in Kazakhstan. 206 enterprises, including 171 joint ventures, were opened in Uzbekistan with the participation of Kazakh capital. The intergovernmental commission on cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan serves to consistently develop mutual relations. The 15th meeting of this commission was held in Astana on March 10-11 this year.[3]

About the meeting of the former President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov with the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, the press service of the White Horde noted in its report that during the meeting, the leaders of the two countries discussed the trade-economic, water-energy, transport-logistics and cultural-social spheres. discussed the main directions of cooperation and the SCO summit scheduled to be held in Tashkent on June 23-24. During the meeting, the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarboev drew attention to the historical relations between the two countries and said that the Kazakh and Uzbek people are proud of their friendship. In his turn, Islam Karimov noted that relations between the two countries are developing based on the principles of sincere friendship, mutual trust, respect for interests, and mutual support in the international arena. Islam Karimov: "Now we are living in a difficult time, and therefore these aspects are the most important. Nursultan Nazarboev's visit was necessary to exchange ideas in order to find the right solutions to the current situation. The crisis in the world economy continues. "No country is free from problems. We want to go on the right path," he said.

Another important visit took place on December 6, 2021. On this day, an official welcoming ceremony of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was held in Okorda. An honor guard lined up in honor of the high-ranking guest. The national anthems of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan were played. Presidents Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Qasim-Jomart Tokayev passed the honor guard and introduced the members of the official delegations to each other. "After that, a narrow range of negotiations between the heads of state took place. At the meeting held in the spirit of sincerity and trust, the leaders discussed a wide range of issues related to the multifaceted Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan partnership, including cooperation in the

political, trade-economic, cultural-humanitarian spheres, and exchanged views on the international and regional agenda. The President of Kazakhstan welcomed the leader of our country with his visit, once again congratulated him on his convincing victory in the presidential election and wished him success in his future activities, noting the importance of this meeting. We are very pleased that you came to Kazakhstan on a state visit. This event is very important in taking the cooperation to a new level. The documents to be signed today will give additional momentum to our partnership. We tasked the governments of our countries to accelerate efforts to achieve the set goals. We think that relations between our countries serve as an important factor in ensuring stability and security in the entire Central Asian region, - said Kasim-Jomart Toqayev. The President expressed his gratitude for the invitation, noted that this meeting is taking place on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the independence of Kazakhstan, and on behalf of the people of Uzbekistan, he sincerely congratulated the brotherly Kazakh people on this auspicious day, wished for peace, prosperity and new victories."[4]

The development of trade relations between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan is of great importance in the expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries and the interconnection of trade agreements. Various products and services are exchanged in these trade relations. These are just a few examples, and trade deals between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan can be extensive and varied. The development of trade relations will strengthen economic cooperation and increase mutual use of the economies of the two countries. Meetings are regularly organized within the framework of the Intergovernmental Joint Commission, which has become an effective mechanism for the further development of multifaceted Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan cooperation. Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that they are determined to actively develop the centuries-old friendship and good neighborliness, as well as strategic partnership relations for the benefit of the brotherly peoples of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Currently, the Republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are actively cooperating within the UN, CIS, SCO, OCT, Organization of Turkic-speaking countries and other structures.

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