

# Tourism is an Important Driver of the National Economy of the Uzbekistan

Zarrina Makhmudova<sup>1</sup>, Erkaeva Shahzoda<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Teacher of “Silk Road“, International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Uzbekistan

<sup>2</sup>Student of Sam SIFL, Uzbekistan

## ABSTRACT

This paper makes analyses of the tourism market in the Republic of Uzbekistan, Moreover, as tourism is an important driver of the national economy of the most Central Asian countries research has pinpointed on highlights of from both methodological and theoretical points of view. In conclusion, it has proposed both outcomes and shortcomings of the tourism as driver sector of the economy.

**KEYWORDS:** *Tourism, research, analyses, Central Asia, Uzbekistan*

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## INTRODUCTION

Today, the tourism industry is defined as the fastest growing global export network in the world, according to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Modern tourism is closely linked with the development of the regions and covers an increasing number of new directions, which is a key driver of socio-economic development in a number of countries.

If we look at the concept of growth driver and its importance for the economy, the drivers of economic development will be based on innovation, change of economic policy of the state, science, education, support of human capital, increase of labor productivity, wages, business and production, investment. The drivers of development are the catalysts for economic growth, which create the basis for economic stability in all areas through multi-sectoral ties and cooperation.

It is known from the theory and practice of tourism that tourism is the most important driver of socio-

economic development of countries, regions and cities. Developing as a tourism and entrepreneurship sector in the regions of the world, it serves to intensify employment and self-employment, improve the urban environment, improve the quality of life and tax revenues of the local community.

Today, tourism is the driver of the economy of many modern countries: in addition to budget revenues, it stimulates the development of transport and communications, construction and agriculture, industry, which in turn leads to the creation of additional jobs. Tourism has a significant share in the national economy, serving as a powerful catalyst for socio-economic development in countries with great recreational opportunities. For example, in 2019, the share of tourism in the country's GDP: Malta - 26.7%, Cyprus - 21.4%, Egypt - 18.6%, Spain - 14.2%, Italy - 11.1%, Portugal - 16.6%. %, In Turkey - 12.5%, and in the CIS - 5% in Russia, 6.2% in Kazakhstan and 3.9% in Kyrgyzstan.

The Hague Declaration, adopted by the World Tourism Organization and the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Tourism on April 14, 1989, for the first time outlined the need to take measures as part of a comprehensive development plan for the country, including tourism, agriculture, industry, education and social security. -tourism, such as economic activity, was officially recognized as a sector and was noted to be considered by the state.

Not only was tourism officially recognized as a sector in the Hague Declaration adopted at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Tourism by the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan in 2016, but the status of tourism as a strategic sector in Uzbekistan established it as a driver of the country's economy and brought it to a new level. .

In the current context, the importance of this sector and its impact on international relations, including intergovernmental and interpersonal relations, is constantly growing. When tourism is viewed primarily in terms of relations between countries and continents, the more regular international tourism ties become, the more predictable the world economy will be, and the more stable the world situation will be.

### **Main part**

Today, the strategic sector of the national economy, as a driver, creates favorable economic and organizational conditions for the rapid development of tourism, more effective use of the huge tourism potential of the regions, cluster development of adjacent sectors of the economy, the creation of a national tourism brand. It is required to show a positive image of Uzbekistan through propaganda.

Having all the necessary resources to turn the tourism industry of Uzbekistan into a driver of the national economy, our country, located on the Great Silk Road, is recognized by the world community for its favorable natural and climatic conditions, rich historical and cultural heritage and high potential for domestic and international tourism. being done.

As a result of the identification of tourism as one of the strategic sectors of the economy in Uzbekistan, a number of decrees and resolutions adopted by the government are making significant changes in this area. In particular, the number of countries that do not require visas for foreign citizens has been increased from 9 to 86, and an "electronic visa" system has been introduced for 53 countries. In this difficult year for tourism, the entities in the sector are fully supported and provided with subsidies and loans. In 2021, 318 projects worth 1 trillion 84 billion soums were implemented in the field of tourism and sports.

One of the global problems that is currently having a very strong negative impact on the tourism industry, the economy of all countries, is the pandemic of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Between January and May 2020 alone, the global tourism industry lost \$ 320 billion in revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to a report by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), this figure is three times higher than the losses suffered by the industry as a result of the global financial and economic crisis in 2009.

The COVID-19 pandemic is also having a significant impact on tourism in our country. As a result of the global crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, tourism in our country has become one of the areas severely affected. In 2020, a total of 1 million 504 thousand tourists visited and tourism services worth \$ 261 million were provided.

In order to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and restore the flow of tourists, the state has provided a number of benefits and privileges to businesses, large and small enterprises to support tourism and further develop and restore domestic and foreign tourism. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 3, 2020 "On additional measures to support the population, sectors of the economy and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic." were exempted from paying taxes, for which the social tax rate was reduced from 12 per cent to 1 per cent.

Also, in accordance with the Presidential Decree No. PF-6002 of May 28, 2020, Resolution No. PQ-4755 and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 433 of August 10, 2020, 12 types of benefits, grants, subsidies and loans are allocated.

Despite the period of the pandemic, 104 new hotels No. 2064 were opened in the tourism sector of Uzbekistan in 2020 (the total number of hotels was 1,292, No. 28,751). 478 family hotels were established, bringing the total number to 1,364. Since 2019, the world-class ski resort "AMIRSOY" has been operating. In 2020, the Government decided to carry out construction work worth a total of 75 million euros. Currently, the construction of Amirsoy Resort is being expanded.

At the initiative of the President of our country, the construction of tourist facilities is underway in all regions, the Samarkand city tourist zone is being built in Samarkand, and a sports and recreation and tourist-recreation complex is being built in Samarkand district.

The construction of the Samarkand City tourist zone, as well as the construction of a Congress Hall, hotels and other service facilities for the next Shanghai Commonwealth Summit in 2022 in Samarkand is underway.

The Karakalpakstan region has laid the foundation for the development of tourism in Moynak. In particular, the establishment of a shopping and tourism complex "Moynak City Center" in the center of the district and the project "Hotel", "World of Books", "Gift Kiosk", "Fitness Center", "Beauty Salon", "Optics", Internet cafe was established.

Taking into account the history and current importance of Muynak district and the Aral Sea in the world, a number of measures are being taken to make Muynak one of the tourist centers of Uzbekistan with the help of grants and donor funds from UNESCO and other international organizations.

As a result of ongoing reforms in the field of tourism, the General Assembly of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which took place on December 3, 2021 in Madrid, Spain, will be held in 2023 in Samarkand. According to the voting process, Uzbekistan has overtaken Portugal.

The UNWTO General Assembly is the most important biennial tourism forum, and this is the first time that such a high-level event, the UN General Assembly, has been held in Uzbekistan. In other words, in 2023, Samarkand will become the World Tourism Capital.

It should be noted that the development of tourism as a driver of the economy is determined by the multiplier effect of more than 40 related sectors of the economy. In this regard, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports was established by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on April 6, 2021 on the basis of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports and the State Committee for Tourism Development to improve the tourism management system and make tourism a driver of the national economy. directions are defined:

effective management of tourism facilities on the basis of public-private partnership and the introduction of modern information technologies in this area;

formation and implementation of an integrated concept of tourism development aimed at radically increasing the country's tourism potential, pursuing a unified state policy in the field of tourism;

coordinating the development of national and regional programs for the integrated development of domestic, inbound and outbound tourism, attracting investment

in the development of tourism infrastructure in accordance with international standards, as well as loans and grants from international financial institutions and other organizations;

diversification of types of tourism, first of all, the implementation of comprehensive measures for the development of pilgrimage tourism, ecotourism, ethnotourism, business tourism, sports, gastronomic, medical, educational and scientific tourism and their infrastructure;

organization of planning and design work in potential areas for the placement of tourism facilities, the creation of favorable conditions for attracting investors;

organization of high-level training, retraining and advanced training of personnel in the field of tourism, assistance in the development of sectoral tourism sciences, etc.

Along with these tasks, the following institutional changes are needed to make the tourism sector a strong driver of the Uzbek economy:

- In the new Uzbekistan, a real task is set on the basis of real numbers, as a result of which it is time to calculate the real income of tourism, investment forecasts and infrastructure development. This will allow to accurately take into account the number of foreign tourists and domestic tourists visiting the country in the future, to determine their costs in the regions of the country and to calculate the real contribution of tourism to GDP by multiplicative effect;
- To create a single database of key tourism resources and services provided by related industries, to identify opportunities for the use of digital technologies in tourism and to conduct research on tourism marketing based on information systems to make tourism a strong driver of the Uzbek economy;
- creation of the institutional base of the state tourist and recreational cluster and formation of the institute of public-private partnership in the Republic of Uzbekistan, development of strategic plans for the development of post-pandemic tourism in order to innovatively develop the national tourism services market;
- Development of the regulatory framework for the application of the concept of regional tourism cluster;

## Conclusion

In short, the tourism industry is a well-known driver of socio-economic and socio-cultural development of

the new Uzbekistan, as its successful operation is due to many positive factors (job creation; infrastructure development; replenishment of the budget system; maintenance of cultural heritage; recovery of physical strength, etc.).

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