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## Kokand Free Economic Zone

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**Abstract:** This scientific article provides important, interesting economic and geographical information about the Kokand Free Economic Zone, one of the important industrial centers that makes a significant contribution to the economic and social well-being of Uzbekistan, and the international economic zones in the world.

**Keywords:** free economic zones, Kokand free economic zone, foreign investment, local manufacturing enterprises, local labor force, development of industrial products, vehicles and telecommunications, urbanization, ecology.

Free economic zones are certain areas where, in accordance with intergovernmental agreements or special laws, preferential tax, financial and legal conditions are introduced for economic and foreign economic activity. It is organized to attract foreign and local entrepreneurs and build the necessary production and office infrastructure.

There are different types of free economic zones: free warehouses, free customs zones, scientific and technical zones. They are called technoparks in the United States and technopolises in Japan. There are also special economic zones (mainly specializing in exports). One of the first Free Economic Zones was established in 1959 at Shannon Airport in Ireland. Such a zone later appeared at Dog Island Airport in the United Kingdom. Some free economic zones are established in larger areas. For example, Manaus in Brazil, Shenzhen Special Economic Zone in China and others are such zones. In world practice, free economic zones have been established in developed (UK, Germany, the Netherlands, USA, etc.), as well as in developing countries (Brazil, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, etc.). Attracting foreign capital to free economic zones has been widely used in Chinese policy. In the late twentieth century, free economic zones were established in the United Arab Emirates, Russia and Poland. The Blagoveshchensk-Heihe, Black Sea, and Yantar Free Economic Zones in the Kaliningrad region, established jointly by Russia and China, are also such places. There are now more than 600 Free Economic Zones in the world.

The idea of free economic zones in Uzbekistan has been positively assessed for the development of the national economy. Therefore, on April 25, 1996, the country's parliament adopted the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Free Economic Zones". This law created a regulatory framework for the creation of favorable conditions for foreign investment, the development of trade and industry, and the improvement of employment.

In order to establish and develop free economic zones, the first free economic zone in Uzbekistan was established in 2008 in Karmana district of Navoi region. Production enterprises have been launched to implement 19 investment projects in the free economic zone. In particular, the production of electrical engineering, electronics, high-voltage electrical cables began. For this purpose, Angren, Jizzakh, Urgut, Hazarasp and Kokand free economic zones have been established to develop industry and production in other regions of the country. More than 150 projects have been implemented in these free economic zones. One of them, the Kokand Free Economic Zone, was established in 2017 under No. PF-4931 approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

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709 hectares of land have been allocated for the Kokand Free Economic Zone, and many promising projects are planned to be implemented in the region. As a result of new investment projects, products worth 3.1 trillion soums will be produced and products worth \$ 139.1 million will be exported. The main thing is that about 6,000 jobs will be created here.

In the free economic zone 6 chemicals and oil, 14 building materials, 4 deep processing of agricultural products and food production, 12 light industry, 7 leather shoes, 3 electrical engineering, 4 pharmaceuticals, Modern production facilities are being established in 3 areas of machine building and automotive, 3 paper processing and furniture making.

Currently, 5 projects worth \$ 7.2 million - high-pressure methane gas cylinders at Shaffof Methane Industry LLC, flour and flour products at Admiral Group LLC, shoes and artificial products at Kamtar Begoim LLC. fur products, "Turon Beton" LLC began production of reinforced concrete products for industrial, residential and road construction.

It is planned to implement 21 projects worth \$ 32.2 million by the end of this year, and 40 projects worth \$ 125.1 million in 2019-2020.

The fact that insurance, customs, tax, logistics, banking and visa services are organized on the basis of the "single window" principle creates convenience for businesses. The Kokand Free Economic Zone will contribute to the more rapid development of entrepreneurial activity in the region and increase the welfare of the population.

To date, 145 projects have been submitted by entrepreneurs for implementation in the Kokand Free Economic Zone. Each project is studied according to the requirements set by experts. Currently, 61 projects have been identified as promising.

In the field of leather and footwear, Kokand Leather and Footwear LLC will launch the production of soles for shoes. It produces 3,000 tons of products a year. The project worth 30 billion soums will create more than 200 new jobs.

All this will increase the economic potential of the region, the development of new types of products and, most importantly, provide employment. Thanks to these projects, the infrastructure, architectural appearance and communication networks of the region will be improved.

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