This article covers the formation, development and prospects of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Central Asian countries. Factors influencing the cultural and humanitarian cooperation of Uzbekistan with the countries of the region are analyzed. The role and place of the cultural and humanitarian sphere in strengthening cooperation between the countries of Central Asia is gradually shown. The legal basis of interstate cultural and humanitarian cooperation and the activities of cultural events are studied. The common history and spiritual values of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are illustrated by examples. It has been revealed that the ancient fraternal ties between the peoples of the region today serve to strengthen interstate cultural and humanitarian cooperation. Conclusions were reached on the development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and Central Asian countries, and a number of proposals were made to strengthen cultural cooperation.

**Key words**: Republic of Uzbekistan, Central Asia, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, foreign policy, Action strategy, good neighbourly environment, "prosperity belt", "people's diplomacy", common history, fraternal ties, great figures, culture days, friendship festivals, cultural centers, universal values.

**INTRODUCTION**

Further development of relations between the states, implementation of joint projects in the economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres is one of the most urgent tasks in ensuring peace and stability in Central Asia. In his Address to the Oliy Majlis, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev will continue the large-scale work on intensification of Uzbekistan's foreign policy, open, pragmatic and well-thought-out foreign policy that meets national interests. It was noted that cooperation with all countries, far and near, long-term and multifaceted partnership should be further strengthened, and the first priority in this regard is to bring the relations with the countries of Central Asia to a new level in terms of friendship, good neighbourliness and strategic partnership.¹ We need to bring it out. ” The cultural cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the countries of Central Asia has been studied in the framework of the Days of Culture, friendship festivals, music festivals "Sharq Taronalari".

**MAIN PART**

The adoption of the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 30, 2017 "On the organization of the Public Council on the recent history of Uzbekistan under the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan" demonstrates the importance of detailed study of domestic and foreign policy. According to the resolution, the recent history of Uzbekistan requires a systematic study of its integral connection with global and regional processes, based on the principles of historicity and objectivity.

Another important factor in the strategy of action is the formation of a harmonious neighbourhood environment in Uzbekistan, i.e. the "belt of prosperity", the expansion of cultural and humanitarian cooperation with

neighbours, facilitation of people-to-people contacts. In order to implement this principle, cultural trips in the form of "people's diplomacy" were organized not only with neighbouring countries, but also with the participation of the public of their neighbouring regions. Because of its geopolitical location, Uzbekistan has a number of close aspects that require strong cooperation with neighbouring countries in the Central Asian region. It is because the countries of the region namely Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are bound by a common history and integral spiritual values. The peoples of the region have a long history of kinship, neighbourliness and mutual respect, which serve as a solid basis for relations between these countries.

For example, the Uzbek and Kazakh peoples have always lived side by side, they were related. At the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, the wide range of contacts between the regions of the two countries has further strengthened our cooperation. Delegations of various levels visited Uzbekistan from Kazakhstan to Kazakhstan. In 2017, the delegation of Tashkent region visited Kazakhstan, the delegations of Kyrgyz region of Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan and South Kazakhstan regions visited Uzbekistan. Such visits marked a new stage in the lives of not only the people living in the border areas, but also the representatives of the whole region. As stated in the joint declaration on further deepening the strategic partnership and strengthening good neighbourliness between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan, the parties will continue to strengthen cultural and humanitarian cooperation for Uzbek and Kazakh ethnic groups living in the two countries undertook to create favourable conditions for the preservation and development of traditions and customs. Historically, the achievement of national independence by the Central Asian countries has given a new meaning to the economic, socio-political and cultural life of these countries. The efforts of the countries of the region to form develop and strengthen cultural and humanitarian cooperation, the re-discovery of national identity, ethnic values and a sense of belonging to the cultural heritage directly laid the foundation for the establishment of national cultural centers of each nation. Therefore, in order to ensure the diversity of national cultures, it is necessary to pay close attention to the activities of national cultural centers and public associations based on national identity, which are indicators of the process of ethnic integration in the region.

In particular, in March 1992, the First Congress of Kazakhs was held in Uzbekistan, and the Kazakh National-Cultural Center of Uzbekistan was established. The main goal of its activities is to establish cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the peoples of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. At the meetings of the two friendly heads of state in Tashkent and Almaty, the main directions in all spheres, including culture, were identified. This implies the need to maintain and further develop long-standing cultural ties.

This cultural center, in turn, includes Kazakh centers in Karakalpakstan, Jizzakh, Navoi, Syrdarya, Tashkent and Khorezm regions, as well as in Tashkent and Chirchik. Today, the function of these centers is much broader and more diverse. Their main directions are the study of the Kazakh language cooperation with higher and secondary special educational institutions to help young people to develop higher and vocational education in this language, meet the cultural needs of the Kazakh population, support young talents.

National-ethnographic, folklore, youth and variety ensembles work at the Kazakh cultural centers. Among them are the instrumental ensemble "Dumbira", the ensemble "Darín" and other groups of songs and dances. The activity of the ethnographic museum "Shahsham" in Bostanlyk district is also commendable.

The Kazakh National-Cultural Center of Uzbekistan has established close relations with the Committee on International Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The anniversaries of Abay, Jambul Mukhtor Avezov, Sobit Mukanov, Gabit Musreppov and other

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3 Public’s speech. April 27, 2017.
8 Uzbekistan is our common home. - T.: "O'zbekiston", 2004. - p. 42-60
prominent figures of Kazakh culture, literature and art were celebrated with great solemnity in the republic. Every year, international competitions of akyns "Aytis", national holidays "Altibakan", "Tusaukeser" are held. Cultural and humanitarian cooperation is also of special importance in the relations between the two strategic partners. Hundreds of thousands of Kazakhs living in the territory of Uzbekistan play an important role in the continuation of friendly relations between our peoples. In order to develop their values and traditions and identity, Kazakh cultural centers, theaters, folklore and variety groups operate. More than 50 books by writers and publicists of this nation have been published under the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan. It should be noted that the Kazakh-language newspaper "Nurli Jol" is published in our country.

Kazakh is taught in 386 schools in Uzbekistan, 164 of which are taught in Kazakh. At the same time, departments of the Kazakh language and literature have been established at Karakalpak State University and a number of other universities in Uzbekistan, where education is conducted in this language.

The first visit of the delegation of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan in February 2017 was a clear confirmation of the deepening of bilateral cultural and humanitarian ties. During the visit, meetings were held with the Republican International Cultural Center, Uzbek scientific and academic circles, as well as with the Kazakh population living in Tashkent, which testifies to the promising state of cultural cooperation.

The visits of representatives of Bukhara and Khorezm regions to Lebap and Dashoguz regions of Turkmenistan on February 4-5, 2017 were also rich in talks with the participation of heads of administrations of relevant regions, representatives of business and public circles. The participants of the visit noted that the high level of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the fraternal countries and peoples, based on mutual trust and respect allowed to identify promising plans for mutual cooperation.

It was also noted that it is important to develop direct and close inter-regional partnerships, especially in trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres a joint declaration was signed on further deepening the partnership and strengthening good neighbourliness. It was noted that in the framework of cultural and humanitarian cooperation, the parties undertook to create favourable conditions for the preservation and development of the native language, national culture, traditions and customs for the Uzbek and Turkmen ethnic groups (peoples) living in the two countries. It should be noted that today about 200,000 people of Turkmen descent live in different regions of Uzbekistan. Children of this nation study in 47 schools where the Turkmen language is taught. Similar visits were made to other neighbouring countries. The opening of the Ashgabat Park in Tashkent in April 2018 and the Uzbek-Turkmen friendship game in Khorezm region is an important factor in determining the development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the two countries.

The long-standing ties between Uzbeks and Tajiks have been strengthened by the efforts of the leaders of the two countries, which have led to the establishment of mutual closeness, kinship, friendship and cultural and humanitarian cooperation not only in the pages of history but also in modern life.

In 1990, the Tajik National Cultural Center "Oriyono" was established in Uzbekistan. Tajiks and Uzbeks have a lot in common: national culture, customs, folk, art - the roots of the bar are sometimes inseparable. The ancient and ancient, in many respects, medieval history of these peoples is very close. The center regularly holds various cultural and educational events in order to fulfill the tasks set in its charter - to preserve and develop national culture, traditions and customs, to strengthen friendship between peoples and pays special attention to the development of education and spirituality on a charitable basis.

The center will hold radio seminars, art and enlightenment evenings about the life and work of Abu Abdullah Rudaki, Hafiz Sherozi, Sipandi Samarkand and other scholars of the Tajik people. Oriyono's creative teams regularly take part in celebrations of Navruz, Remembrance and Honour, Independence Day, Uzbek-Tajik friendship evenings and events organized by other national and cultural centers. Along with Oriyono, there are

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12 Public’s speech. April 27, 2017.
Tajik cultural centers in Jizzakh and Surkhandarya regions, as well as in Chirchik, Tashkent region. Currently, the Tajik-Persian center "Oftobi Sogdiyon" operates in Bukhara region.\(^{15}\)

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that: “The Uzbek and Tajik peoples are united by centuries-old common history, cultural and spiritual commonalities. Our customs, traditions and values, our religion, our daily life are so close and harmonious that it is almost impossible to separate them from each other”.\(^{16}\) It should be noted that the cultural and humanitarian sphere plays a special role in the cooperation between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The fact is that the two peoples have lived side by side for thousands of years play an important role in the development of the cultural sphere.

Analyzing the chronology of cultural cooperation between the two countries, we can see that cooperation in this area has not been the same.

During the Days of Tajik Culture in Uzbekistan from June 29 to July 5, 1998, the Tajik delegation of prominent scientists, writers, artists, politicians and members of the public visited Samarkand, Bukhara, Kashkadarya and Khorezm regions on four routes. These days, the exhibition of works of Tajik art and creativity has become popular.\(^{17}\) In particular, an exhibition of works by Tajik artists in the exhibition hall of the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan, an exhibition of Tajik books and photographs at the Turkiston Palace, a screening of several Tajik films at the House of Cinematographers made a great impression on the audience. However, in recent years, weak political and economic cooperation between the two countries has also been reflected in the cultural sphere.

The coming to power of Shavkat Mirziyoyev in 2016 marked the beginning of a new era in Uzbekistan's comprehensive cooperation with the countries of the region. The successful holding of the Days of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tajikistan in 2017 and the Days of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Republic of Uzbekistan is a vivid example of the current state of cultural cooperation.\(^{18}\)

Of course, there are many examples of the current state of cultural cooperation between the countries with all the countries of the region. In 2017, by the decree of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, the park "50 years of youth” in the capital was renamed "Nizomiddin Alisher Navoi”. In turn, a monument to the great representatives of the two peoples – Alisher Navoi and Abdurahmon Jami was erected in Samarkand. In addition, one of the stations under construction in the Tashkent metro was named after the famous Tajik poet, Hero of Tajikistan Mirzo Tursunzade.\(^{19}\)

According to Munim Olamov, Secretary General of the Media Alliance of Tajikistan, Director General of Imruz News, at the present stage, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, he is active in domestic and foreign policy. Significant positive changes have taken place in the relations between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Many serious issues, including state borders, reciprocal travel of citizens and other important issues, have been reconciled, which, in turn, will facilitate the development of bilateral cooperation and serve to regain lost opportunities for more than two decades. ... ”\(^{20}\) It is obvious that this analytical definition shows that the Tajik side is also interested in the highly developed cultural cooperation of Uzbekistan.

On February 17, 2020, the public association "Ala-Too aymdary (" Atalov ladies") environmental movement of Kyrgyzstan" declared the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev "Man of the Year 2019". In a letter to the head of state, Jipargul Bargibaeva, the chairwoman of the association, wrote about the reasons for the decision: At the same time, the Kyrgyz public figure wrote in his letter that the President of Uzbekistan "as a major international politician in resolving the issue of the state border between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in the interests of the two brotherly peoples, as well as to immortalize the name of the great writer Chingiz Aitmatov" also noted that one of the streets was named after him. At an event held in Bishkek on February 18, 2020, the leadership of Ala-Too Aymdary raised the quality of Uzbek-Kyrgyz relations in the selection of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev as a candidate for such honorary recognition. It was

\(^{15}\) Uzbekistan is our common home. - T.: “O'zbekiston”, 2004. - p. 42-60


\(^{17}\) MDA M - 7 - fund, 1 - list, 724 - work, 90 - sheet

\(^{18}\) Public's Speech. March 10, 2018

\(^{19}\) Public's Speech. March 10, 2018

stressed that the open policy pursued to create an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust in Central Asia has served as an important criterion.

According to the participants, Uzbekistan is a key security country in Central Asia. Thanks to the strong political will and wisdom of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, today Tashkent effectively implements a multi-vector foreign policy and maintains a balanced dialogue with major centers of the world, while maintaining its sovereignty. Uzbekistan plays a leading role in the implementation of consistent integration processes in Central Asia, and as a leading state in the region, attention is paid to the ability of all neighbouring countries to unite without the intervention of external forces.\(^{21}\)

Uzbekistan is also a homeland for Kyrgyz. Kyrgyz living here are developing their culture. The inter-regional Kyrgyz center, which opened in Jizzakh in 1992, was the swallow of Kyrgyz national and cultural centers. Later, similar centers were established in other regions. In May 1995, the Kyrgyz National-Cultural Center of Uzbekistan was established. The center now connects the most populated Kyrgyz regions of Uzbekistan - Jizzakh, Syrdarya, Andijan, Fergana, Namangan and Tashkent.\(^{22}\)

Thanks to the national and cultural centers of the Kyrgyz people, they had the opportunity to study the Kyrgyz folklore and, first of all, its epic "Manas", which is a priceless treasure of world culture. Thanks to the Kyrgyz National Center and its branches, the ancient traditions of the people - "cradle wedding", "fall" (celebration of the baby's first steps) and others are being revived.\(^{23}\)

In the process of globalization, the role of the biennial "Sharq Taronalari" International Music Festival in strengthening cultural cooperation between the countries of the region is invaluable, and artists from Central Asian countries are actively participating in it.

The "Sharq Taronalari" International Music Festival, which has been held in Samarkand since 1997, aims to unite nations and peoples of different languages, religions and traditions through music, strengthen cultural and humanitarian cooperation, promote unique national music and singing traditions of the peoples of the East serve to preserve and develop, to cultivate in the hearts of the younger generation a sense of love for art.

Singer Hasani Kamol from Tajikistan took part in the second “Sharq Taronalari” International Music Festival in Samarkand on August 26-31, 1999 with a group of six people.\(^{24}\)

For example, the next winners of the XII International Music Festival "SharqTaronalari", which took place on August 31, 2019, have been identified. According to him, among the winners of the world, the team "Badakhshan" (Tajikistan) and the team "Ayarkhan" (Russia) were awarded a diploma of the third degree and valuable gifts.

The second place was taken by Archabil from Turkmenistan and Khatan from Mongolia. The first place went to the Kyrgyz duo "Komuzchilar" and Parviz Gasimov from Azerbaijan.\(^{25}\)

We see that the cultural cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan has been held since the early years of independence on the basis of relevant documents in this area, as cultural events such as days of culture, friendship festivals. On January 16, 1994, the Agreement on "Cooperation between the Republics of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of culture, health, science, education, tourism and sports" was signed.\(^{26}\) The holding of the Days of Kyrgyz Culture in Uzbekistan on the basis of this document testifies to the well-established cultural spheres of the two countries.\(^{27}\)

An analysis of the materials on cooperation between the two countries shows that economic and cultural cooperation was poorly developed in 2000-2015, which can be explained by the fact that these countries are limited to socio-economic issues in their development and frequent changes of government in Kyrgyzstan. Deepening bilateral ties in the fields of culture, education, science, art and tourism, which are part of cultural and humanitarian ties, have been identified as high-level goals of the heads of state, and based on this task,

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\(^{21}\) New Uzbekistan. - February 19, 2020. №18 (18).


\(^{24}\) MDA M - 7 - fund, 1 - list, 724 - work, 90 - sheet.


\(^{26}\) MDA UzR, M-7 - fund, 1 - list, 331 - work, 26 - sheet.

\(^{27}\) MDA UzR, M-7 - fund, 1 - list, 331 - work, 38-40 - sheets.
relations in this area are being developed.

For example, the visit of the delegation of Batken region to Fergana region in May 2016, and the visit of Osh city administration to Andijan region on August 10 and the business forum of business circles are another important factor in increasing mutual trust between our peoples was confirmed. During the visit of 130 guests from Osh, Batken, Jalal-Abad regions of Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan and Andijan region in October 2016, the two countries agreed to further deepen and develop economic and spiritual cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the border regions of Kyrgyzstan a memorandum of understanding was signed.  

On October 26, 2016 at the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border checkpoint "Dustlik" a 140-member delegation consisting of leaders of Fergana, Namangan and Andijan regions, members of the public was warmly welcomed by the Kyrgyz brothers. This friendly meeting took on a special meaning in the relationship. Dozens of tents were set up in the center of Osh, and representatives of the Assembly of Peoples of Kyrgyzstan - Uzbek, Russian, Uighur, Turkey and German cultural centers - traditionally prepared a table and welcomed the guests. The culmination of cultural ties between the Uzbek and Kyrgyz peoples was the singing of the Kyrgyz people's epic "Manas" by the bakhshis and the singing of songs praising peace and friendship by children of different nationalities.

Another important document on cultural and humanitarian relations during this visit is the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation between Andijan State University and Osh State University, which will allow the universities to cooperate in research, training and future student exchange.

Indeed, raising cooperation between Uzbekistan and Central Asia to new heights in the new era will serve to ensure geopolitical balance and stability, peace and security in the region.

CONCLUSION

Cooperation, brotherhood and friendship of the Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik and Turkmen peoples have historical roots. The living conditions, traditions and way of life of these peoples are closely intertwined the ancient heritage of historical cooperation and ties of the peoples of the region, the development and strengthening of cultural and humanitarian cooperation based on today's fraternal and friendly relations. Uzbekistan's great attention to the development of relations between the Central Asian states in a harmonious, friendly and mutually beneficial manner contributes to the new content of regional integration.

At the same time, the following proposals can be made to further strengthen the current state of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and the countries of Central Asia, to develop the regional community:

- A number of bilateral and multilateral legal normative documents on cultural and humanitarian cooperation of Uzbekistan with the countries of Central Asia have been signed, monitoring and ensuring their regular implementation;
- Formation of an analytical and information group that regularly deals with and resolves internal and external factors that hinder the further strengthening, expansion and deepening of cultural and humanitarian cooperation in Central Asia in the new era, the processes of national-ethnic, friendship and brotherhood;
- Establishment of cultural centers in the border areas, maintaining cooperation on transboundary rivers and enclaves, which will contribute to the development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the countries of the region;

In short, the consistent development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and Central Asian countries, the creation of favourable conditions for crossing the state border to increase cultural exchanges in the region, increase trade, develop trade and tourism ties plays an important role in the development of the condition. Uzbekistan's relations with neighbouring countries are based on the principles of friendship, good neighbourliness, recognition of mutual interests and readiness to engage in dialogue to resolve any issue. This approach will serve to further strengthen stability in the region by creating a "belt of prosperity"

around our country, creating decent living conditions for our peoples and the sustainable development of countries.

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17. MDA M - 7 - fund, 1 - list, 724 - work, 90 - sheet.
18. MDA UzR, M-7 - fund, 1 - list, 331 - work, 26 - sheet.
19. MDA UzR, M-7 - fund, 1 - list, 331 - work, 38-41 - sheet.