

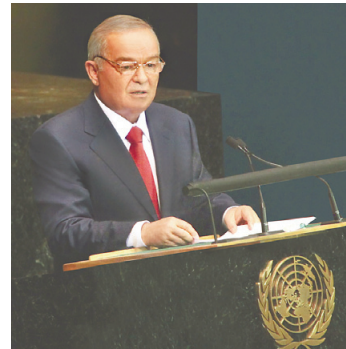
Uzbekistan President Obituary

Honoring the great son of Uzbek people

The Republic of Uzbekistan, all Uzbek people and the friendly people of Japan suffered a huge and irreplaceable loss when an outstanding statesman and politician, the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Abduganievich Karimov, passed away after a serious illness on Sept. 2.

Islam Karimov was born on Jan. 30, 1938, in Samarkand into a family of civil servants. He graduated from the Central Asian Polytechnic Institute and the Tashkent Institute of National Economy, receiving degrees as an engineer-mechanic and economist.

Heading the independent Uzbekistan for 25 years, President



President Karimov speaks at the U.N. General Assembly in New York in September 2010. EMBASSY OF UZBEKISTAN

Karimov achieved high recognition in the country and international community as an outstanding statesman who developed and implemented a deeply thought-out strategy of building a democratic constitutional state with a civil society and market economy.

In 1991 Uzbekistan was a backward agrarian country with a hypertrophied one-sided economy; a cotton monopoly destructively influencing it and an extremely low standard of living. The country did not produce many essential goods and did not provide for its own needs, primarily in grain and energy resources.

President Karimov was firmly convinced that political independence could not be achieved without achieving economic independence. Accordingly, he developed a program of fundamental reform and structural transformation of the economy of Uzbekistan, based on the well-known five principles, which has received worldwide recognition as the "Uzbek model" of development. The fundamental basis of this model was the practical implementation of the strategic priority, "The reforms are not for the sake of reforms, but for the sake of the people."

Under his initiative, mass-

scale structural reforms have been carried out in Uzbekistan and completely new highly technological spheres of industry, such as oil and gas, car manufacturing, railway machinery, pharmaceutical and electro-technical have been founded. Unique industrial plants on a world scale such as the Ustyurt and Shurtan gas chemical complexes, Bukhara oil refinery, Kungrad soda plant, Dehkanabad potash fertilizers plant, car manufacturing plants in the Andijan, Samarkand, Tashkent and Khorezm regions have been built.

A modern road-transport and communications infrastructure has been created in the country, in particular, the Angren-Pap — with a unique tunnel through Kamchik mountain pass — and Tashguzar-Boysun-Kumkurgan railway lines have been constructed, and the modern, high-speed "Afrasiab" rail connection from Tashkent to Samarkand, Bukhara and Karshi has been opened, international airports have been renovated and an international logistics center at the Navoi airport has been estab-

lished.

Uzbekistan's growth rank among the top-five developing economies of the world is a practical manifestation of the results of the reforms implemented by Karimov.

President Karimov organized deep transformations in agriculture and on his initiative a program of cardinal transformation of rural areas and the construction of rural houses, ensuring quality and standards of living for the rural population, is under implementation.

Uzbekistan's first president, as the supreme commander of the armed forces, has ensured radical reforms, improved combat power and the potential of the armed forces to be fully capable of protecting independence, the territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the inviolability of its borders and the peaceful life of our people.

He developed and implemented the concept of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the cornerstone of which is peacefulness, based on non-interference in the internal



Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov died Sept. 2 at age 78. EMBASSY OF UZBEKISTAN

affairs of other states and addressing emerging contradictions and conflicts only by peaceful, political means. The head of our state made a great contribution to the preservation of peace and stability in the region and around the world.

Completely abandoning the old dogmas and stereotypes, a large-scale national program for cadre training and a radical reform of the education system on the basis of the most modern international standards have been developed and practically imple-

mented on the initiative of Karimov. The late president directly supervised the work on developing and realizing a fundamentally new system of education for the younger generation, radically changing the thinking and outlook of our youth, who are becoming the decisive force of the country's present and future.

The leader of Uzbekistan raised having respectful relations to be spiritual values of our nation, while preserving and developing our sacred religion, traditions and national heritage to the level of state policy, and greatly contributed to the increase of the authority of Uzbekistan in the international arena. President Karimov initiated the formation of civil society institutions, in particular increasing the rights and authority of mahallas, or municipal organizations, in the state and public administration.

For his outstanding contribution to the formation of a sovereign and independent Uzbekistan, creation of a democratic constitutional state, maintenance of civil peace and national accord and for courage, President Karimov was awarded the "Hero of Uzbekistan," the "Mustaqillik" (Independence)

and "Amir Temur" medals and orders. He also received many awards from foreign states and international organizations.

He was a full member of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, and for his contributions to economics, science and education he was awarded honorary doctorates from a number of foreign universities.

President Karimov infinitely loved the people of Uzbekistan and all his life, until the last few days, was dedicated to the service of his country.

The bright memory of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the great son of the Uzbek people Islam Karimov will remain forever in the hearts of the people of Uzbekistan and Japan and the grateful memories of our compatriots.

Farrukh Tursunov, Uzbekistan ambassador to Japan, Kyoko Nakayama, Diet member and member of the Japan-Uzbekistan Parliamentary League of Friendship, and Nobuhiko Shima, president of the Japan-Uzbekistan Friendship Association and journalist, contributed to this message.

Our Heartfelt Condolences
on the Passing of
President Islam Abduganievich Karimov
of Republic of Uzbekistan

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