

Uzbekistan Independence Day Special

Forging ahead toward a ‘New Uzbekistan’

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On Aug. 31, 1991, Uzbekistan gained its state independence after centuries of patiently looking toward the future with hope and confidence. Since then, important work has been done to build a

new state and society.

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence, which is widely celebrated under the theme “For a New Life, For a New Uzbekistan.”

Since independence, the Uzbeks have achieved major milestones. In particular, the large-scale reforms carried out in the country over the past seven years under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev are the basis for renewal and fundamental changes in all aspects of social life.

In particular, economic sectors are rapidly developing, creating new jobs and reducing poverty. The country provides international standard medical services and quality education, while infrastructure in cities and villages is improving, raising Uzbekistan's reputation at the international level. Positive reforms are felt by all citizens in their daily life.

The Constitution of Uzbekistan, updated on April 30, declared the country a sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular state based on five constitutional symbols. It obliges the state to further promote human dignity and provide social protection to the population based on the principle of “Human, Society, State.”

On July 9, Uzbekistan held presidential elections that were conducted in accordance with international norms, democratic principles and transparency. Shavkat Mirziyoyev won with 87.05% of the votes, reflecting the support of the Uzbek people for his democratic reforms.

The name “New Uzbekistan” is gaining worldwide recognition due to significant achievements in human rights protection, the eradication of forced labor, media freedom and civil society development over the past seven years.

New Uzbekistan is open to the world, interested in establishing equal and friendly relations with all.

In particular, Uzbekistan and Japan established diplomatic relations on Jan. 26, 1992, and have steadily expanded bilateral relations over the past 32 years based on mutual interests and respect. Japan recognized Uzbekistan's independence on Dec. 28, 1991.

Our president visited Japan from Dec. 17 to Dec. 20, 2019, strengthening a relationship that has seen steady progress in recent years.

In addition, on June 9, 2022, the leader of

Uzbekistan had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

During the conversation, they discussed the expansion of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Japan, as well as current international and regional issues.

Bilateral agreements have solidified the relationship between Uzbekistan and Japan, with over 180 documents being signed throughout their years of cooperation.

One of the main priorities in Uzbek-Japanese relations is economic cooperation. A favorable procedure for mutual trade has been implemented, with both countries utilizing their export potential in industries such as mechanical engineering, metallurgy and services. In 2022, mutual trade turnover reached \$250 million.

There are operating committees on economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Japan, and 16 meetings have taken place to date.

Currently, there are about 60 joint ventures in Uzbekistan with Japanese investment. Out of those, 30 were established with 100% Japanese capital, while 15 Japanese companies have opened representative offices in the country. These ventures and offices specialize in various industries, such as oil and gas, petrochemicals and chemicals, energy equipment and machinery production, transport and logistics services, trade operations and tourism.

In addition, there has been meaning-

ful interparliamentary dialogue between members of the the Oliy Majlis, our parliament, and Japan's Diet through the Japan-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Friendship League. Regular events of the Interparliamentary Uzbekistan-Japan Forum are also held.

The Central Asia plus Japan dialogue, established in 2004 at the initiative of Japan, serves to deepen cooperation between Japan and members of the region in the fields of trade, investment, transport and logistics, agriculture, tourism and education.

Cooperation in cultural and humanitarian spheres is crucial because Japan's cultural and educational identity aligns with Uzbekistan's historical and modern life.

Since its opening in 2001, Tashkent's Japanese garden has become a beloved spot for Uzbeks to unwind and host events.

The Caravan Palace of Culture in our capital was founded in 2002 in collaboration with Japanese artist Ikuo Hirayama. It functions as a modern cultural center that hosts art and photography exhibitions, as well as other engaging events.

Many young people in Uzbekistan are interested in studying in Japan and learning the Japanese language. Some higher educational institutions in our republic have included the study of the Japanese language in their educational programs, and centers for learning the language have been opened in several universities with



Revelers with flags enjoy a fireworks-filled sky during Independence Day celebrations in Tashkent.

Below: Independence Monument stands illuminated in Tashkent.

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the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Over the past few years, Uzbekistan and Japan have developed relations based on mutual respect, trust and beneficial partnership. I believe that strong ties of friendship between the Uzbek and Japanese peoples are of great importance in raising the strategic partnership between the countries to a new level.



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This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Uzbekistan
on the Occasion of the Anniversary
of Their Independence

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