

# Uzbekistan Independence Day Special

## 30 years on, reforms enhancing outreach, partnerships

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AMBASSADOR OF UZBEKISTAN



On Sept. 1, the people of Uzbekistan will celebrate Independence Day. The acquisition of sovereignty and statehood radically changed the lives and consciousness of citizens and became a fundamental

factor on the country's path to independent development and progress. Today, the country has entered a new stage of political, economic and social reforms initiated and inspired by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The head of state defined the highest goal of the development of Uzbek society as improving the well-being of every citizen of the country, ensuring security and social justice, creating conditions for educating a harmoniously developed and socially responsible person based on the spiritual and moral values of the people of Uzbekistan, and preserving the nation's historical and cultural traditions.

To achieve the set goals, the country adopted the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, the priority of which is to deepen fundamental reforms with consolidation of the successes achieved, and to highlight the rights and interests of individual honor and dignity. The implementation of this task will further unite the multinational people of Uzbekistan on the path to high frontiers, contribute to the preservation of peace and stability in the country as well as its territorial integrity and inviolability of state borders, and strengthen interethnic friendship, harmony and interfaith tolerance in society. Therefore, the facts of the adoption of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, and the initiation of the process

of amending the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the ensuing nationwide discussion, look logical.

It should be noted that in recent years, in difficult conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the economic crisis, various confrontations and conflicts are taking place in the world. Thanks to the selfless work of the courageous and persistent Uzbek people, the country is achieving important results in building a new Uzbekistan. Such achievements tend to receive recognition from the international community, and most importantly impact the thinking and worldview of citizens who feel the results of reform in their daily lives.

Recently, the political role and status of the state in the international arena have increased significantly. Uzbekistan has noticeably enhanced its role and participation in key regional structures, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), with a number of major initiatives. New prospects and areas of international relations have been opened. In particular, Uzbekistan became an observer in the Eur-

asian Economic Union, a member of the Organization of Turkic States, and is negotiating its accession to the World Trade Organization, as well as expanding partnership and cooperation with the EU.

Uzbekistan cooperates with multilateral institutions, both at the regional and global levels. In this context, the activities of Uzbekistan within the framework of the SCO are of particular importance. This year, Uzbekistan chairs this organization and intends to play an increasingly decisive role in it. As the chair of the SCO since September 2021, Uzbekistan, on Mirziyoyev's initiative, is promoting an active policy in addressing emerging challenges in the current turbulent period.

The main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is Central Asia, where the country seeks to strengthen peace and stability, and create the most favorable conditions for realizing the economic, transport, transit, investment and tourism potential of Uzbekistan through joint regional efforts. The indisputable merit of Mirziyoyev is his initiation of the format for the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central

Asia, which has allowed for a sharp increase in the level of consolidation in the region.

In this field, Japan is a long-standing and time-tested strategic partner for Uzbekistan. Mirziyoyev's visit to Japan in December 2019 opened a new era in the development of Uzbek-Japanese cooperation, and a telephone conversation between the leaders of Uzbekistan and Japan in June this year contributed to the strengthening of the political dialogue between Tashkent and Tokyo.

It is gratifying to note that within the framework of celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Japan, numerous events are being organized, aimed at further strengthening Uzbek-Japanese cooperation.

Agreements reached between our leaders have acquired a stable and long-term character and are gaining momentum every year. Relations between us are also built and developed on the invariable principles of mutual respect, equality, support and consideration for each other's interests.

Significant progress is also being observed in the investment sphere: At the moment, 46

enterprises with Japanese investment operate in Uzbekistan, of which 30 are financed with 100% Japanese capital. Representative offices of 15 large Japanese companies are accredited, with their main areas of activity in the oil and gas, petrochemical, machine-building and chemical industries, plus equipment manufacturing for energy, transport and logistics services, trade operations, education and tourism.

Japanese investment for business and social programs in Uzbekistan has increased significantly. Thus, in Tashkent, in line with "digital knowledge" enterprise, a "digital university" has been created. In addition, projects are underway to build a medical center for neurology and strokes in Tashkent, to equip medical clinics in the cities of Samarkand and Andijan, and to develop the energy sector and other areas.

It is noteworthy that at the moment, 22 projects worth \$4.3 billion in the automotive, chemical and hotel industries are being implemented together with Japanese partners after being signed per the results of our president's visit to Japan in 2019.

The particular dynamics are also being



**President Shavkat Mirziyoyev**  
EMBASSY OF UZBEKISTAN

tracked in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which supports the implementation of new projects for the development of horticulture, animal husbandry and the introduction of water-saving technologies in remote and rural areas.

We are confident that the foundation of historical and cultural ties between our countries, along with the huge potential for economic and political cooperation, will continue to serve to further strengthen and deepen the Uzbek-Japanese strategic partnership.

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

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

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