



Cultural Relationship between Uzbekistan and Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the Field of Tourism

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.47814/ijssrr.v5i5.363>

Abstract

This article discusses the cultural relationship between Uzbekistan and Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the field of tourism. At the same time, the growing prestige of mutually beneficial relations in the cultural sphere of interstate relations based on mutual trust and respect, equality, creates great opportunities for Uzbekistan in this regard.

Keywords: *Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO); Tourism; Culture Capital; Heritage; Traditions and Customs*

Introduction

The idea of developing the “SCO Development Concept” put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his speech at the nineteenth session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on June 13-14, 2019 has another historical significance for the development of cultural diplomacy within Uzbekistan was an initiative. At the same time, the main focus was on the expediency of identifying key areas of mutually beneficial cooperation within the SCO, based on five priority criteria.

The first criterion for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation within the SCO, proposed by President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, is the economy, the second - the environment, the third - the information sphere, the fourth - humanitarian cooperation and finally the fifth - security.

Of course, each of the proposals put forward by the President of Uzbekistan raises a very important issue. Some are indirectly relevant to the subject we are studying. In particular, the implementation of green technologies and agro-innovations within the environmental criteria can be interpreted as one of the main criteria for improving the environmental culture of member countries. However, based on the goals and objectives of the study, it is necessary to pay special attention to the fourth, that is, the humanitarian criterion.

The Main Findings and Results

It is known that tourism is an integral part of cultural life and industry in the world. Another important conceptual initiative put forward by the President of Uzbekistan was the issue of humanitarian cooperation within the SCO. These include the implementation of a wide range of programs in the field of tourism and culture, the wider use of “people’s diplomacy”.

The President of Uzbekistan proposed to establish another good tradition. This is an initiative to annually declare one of the cities in the country, which holds the chairmanship of the Organization, as the “SCO Tourism and Culture Capital”. In the words of the President, “it is important to promote the historical and cultural heritage of the cities and regions of the SCO and to fully demonstrate its tourism potential” [2].

Also, based on the initiatives put forward at the meeting of the Youth Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Bishkek, five projects of the program for cooperation between the youth of the SCO member states for 2019-2020, including “Startup Forum”, “PROlogue” and “For Friendship!” cycling marathon, SCO youth winter camp, the first amateur youth football championship and volleyball tournament, as well as the V International Film Festival will be held in Uzbekistan. It is planned to organize cultural events among the youth of the member countries in Tashkent and Samarkand [3].

These laid the foundation for the initiatives of the President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev on cultural cooperation to become one of the main directions of relations between the member states. This is due to the fact that the deepening of relations between peoples and nations with different cultures and arts in this vast region, especially in the field of tourism, creates the basis for the development of these countries.

It should be noted that the history of cultural ties between the SCO member states, which have an ancient history, unique cultural (tangible and intangible) heritage, traditions and customs, dates back several thousand years. The enrichment of modern complex processes in international relations with the cooperation in the cultural sphere on the basis of this historical experience, in turn, creates ample opportunities for the cultural rapprochement of peoples and nations, the further strengthening of mutual cooperation. Cultural closeness between states is the basis for the convergence of different views and positions.

Thus, in a historically short period of time, the organizational and legal framework for cultural cooperation between the SCO member states has been created. Based on them, cultural ties within the SCO have become a traditional and integral part of cooperation from episodic events.

The constant support of cultural cooperation, mutual trust and good neighborly relations by heads of state and government, and the acceleration of these processes from year to year, enrich cultural diplomacy with a new content, and this direction is constantly recognized by all officials. In this regard, it should be noted that the public cultural organizations of all member countries also contribute to the development of cultural ties, and the ongoing exchange of experience and ideas is bearing fruit.

The regular meetings held within the organization, the efforts to further develop and strengthen cultural and humanitarian ties between the officials of the two countries have laid the foundation for the further development of people’s diplomacy. In particular, the rapid development of cultural diplomacy, the strengthening and continuity of permanent relations between the arts and culture is also a very important basis for mutual understanding of all member states in multilateral relations. For example, the fact that Uzbekistan and China, China and Kazakhstan, China and Kyrgyzstan, China and Tajikistan, China and Russia, as well as other participants have regular cultural contacts, festivals, culture days, national days and their entry into new stages of interaction shows that power has power. It is also the

unification of peoples and nations in the field of cinema. The role of mutual understanding and decision-making between states is recognized by all member states, and it has always been emphasized that cinema is a very important field and an integral part of cultural diplomacy, and has become a very important institutional and spiritual part of cultural ties.

Annual meetings of not only the leaders of the member states, but also the ministers of culture can be cited as the main form of contacts as a solid basis for the development of cooperation. It has also become a tradition to organize these meetings as separate forums. Opinions, statements, and speeches of heads of state and government, official and diplomatic representatives of member states, parliamentarians on the historical significance of the SCO forums, meetings of ministers of culture, the rapid development of relations within the Organization can be cited.

By focusing on the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation signed between the governments of the SCO member states in 2007, the member states will study and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the SCO region, including theft and smuggling of cultural property along the Great Silk Road. cooperation in areas such as prevention; creation of databases and registers of architectural monuments; training of specialists in the field of protection of material and cultural heritage; restoration of works of art; scientific, technical and artistic expertise; museum design; study of intangible spiritual heritage; research in folklore, contemporary art and media culture, cinematography, theatrical art; agreed to conduct research in the field of economics and sociology of art and cultural policy.

Given the fact that member states are a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society, they expressed interest in ensuring an inter-ethnic and inter-religious world, strengthening centuries-old traditions of coexistence of different nations and religions, developing inter-civilizational dialogue with observer states and SCO partners.

Conclusion

The main task in the field of tourism is to promote the further growth of mutual tourist flows and improve the quality of services in this area. To this end, member states should exchange experience in implementing public policy in this area, expand contacts between specialized organizations and professional associations, organize tourism fairs and new tourist destinations, as well as regular exchange of information on tourism markets and sources, meeting of heads of national tourism administrations. It was noted that they need to develop cooperation and develop a document on cooperation in this area.

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