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FEATURES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION IN 1991-2016

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Abstract

This article analyzes the development features of bilateral and regional cooperation relations in the fields of science and education of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991–2016. The article highlights the special attention paid to the formation of the national education system in the early years of independence, the establishment of scientific and educational relations with foreign countries and international organizations, the training of specialists, the improvement of the qualifications of professors and teachers, and the adoption of modern scientific experience. The report also examines Uzbekistan's regional cooperation with Central Asian countries, its relations within the CIS, its cooperation with international organizations, and the main areas of its bilateral relations with developed countries.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, independence, education, science, international cooperation, bilateral cooperation, regional cooperation, higher education, scientific research, Central Asia.

Introduction

After gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan faced the need to implement radical reforms in all spheres of the country's life. In this process, the science and education system acquired particular strategic importance. Because the political,



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economic, and social development of an independent state was closely linked to the training of specialists with modern knowledge and skills and the development of national scientific potential[1].

In the early years of independence, Uzbekistan faced the task of, on the one hand, reviewing the education system inherited from the Soviet era, and on the other hand, integrating into the global education and science space. Therefore, during the period 1991–2016, the development of cooperation with foreign countries, international organizations, higher education institutions, and scientific centers became one of the important areas of state policy[2]. During this period, cooperation developed in two main forms — bilateral and regional cooperation. Bilateral cooperation covered direct relations of Uzbekistan with individual countries in the field of education and science, while regional cooperation included multilateral relations within the framework of Central Asia, the CIS, and other international structures [3].

Cooperation in science and education in the early years of independence. 1991–1995 was the period for Uzbekistan to create the legal and organizational foundations of the national education system. Great attention was paid to reforming the content of education in the country based on national interests and modern requirements. In addition to reforming the education system, studying foreign experience and establishing international cooperation have become important tasks[4]. The adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1992 guaranteed the right of citizens to education. In subsequent years, legal documents were adopted aimed at radically reforming the education system. In particular, the Law on Education adopted in 1997 and the National Personnel Training Program marked a new stage in the country's educational policy[5]. The National Personnel Training Program has set tasks such as taking into account world experience, ensuring the conformity of education to



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international standards, and studying the best practices of developed countries. On this basis, cooperation with foreign universities, research institutions, and international organizations has intensified[6].

In the 1990s, international cooperation in the fields of science and education in Uzbekistan, primarily with international organizations, played an important role. In particular, within the framework of cooperation with organizations of the UN system, UNESCO, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other international institutions, projects have been implemented aimed at developing education, improving curricula, and training and improving the skills of teaching staff[6]. Development of bilateral cooperation. In 1991–2016, Uzbekistan's bilateral cooperation in science and education expanded geographically. While it was initially important to maintain existing scientific and educational ties with Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and other former Union republics, later cooperation with the United States, Germany, Great Britain, France, Japan, South Korea, China, India and other countries reached a new level[7].

Cooperation with Central Asian countries in the field of education and science has also been of particular importance. Scientific conferences with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have been held, and exchanges of students and teachers have been developed, as well as cooperation in the study of common history, language, culture, and regional issues. Within the framework of cooperation with South Korea, the focus was on training specialists in Information Technology, Engineering, Economics and other areas. The establishment of Inha University in Tashkent was one of the important results of educational cooperation between Uzbekistan and South Korea[8].

In cooperation with the United States and European countries, teaching English, introducing modern pedagogical technologies, improving the quality of higher education, and expanding international ties for scientific research have become



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important areas. The main features of regional cooperation. Uzbekistan's regional cooperation in the fields of science and education was primarily manifested in relations with the Central Asian states. The main feature of this cooperation is determined by a common history, culture, language, geographical proximity, and the existence of mutual scientific traditions[9].

Cooperation within the CIS has also been important for Uzbekistan. In this space, contacts were continued on the recognition of higher education diplomas, academic degrees and titles, training of scientific personnel, and the exchange of scientific and technical information[10].

Another important area of regional cooperation was the development of academic mobility of students and professors. Through various international programs, students have the opportunity to receive short-term education in foreign countries, participate in scientific seminars and conferences[11].

In conclusion, the years 1991–2016 were a significant period in which Uzbekistan's international cooperation in science and education was established and consistently developed. Since the early years of independence, the creation of a national education system in the country, the training of specialists with modern knowledge and skills, and the use of world experience have been identified as one of the priority tasks. During this period, Uzbekistan expanded bilateral scientific and educational ties with foreign countries, while also developing regional cooperation within Central Asia, the CIS, and international organizations. The strengthening of ties with foreign higher education institutions, the exchange of students and professors, and the organization of scientific conferences and joint research have contributed to the Uzbek education and science system entering the international arena.



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