

The Importance of Free Economic Zones in Central Asia.

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Annotation. The process of globalization, erasing the boundaries in the promotion of goods and services, also erases the boundaries of competition between countries. If earlier countries competed within their region or continent, then in the context of accelerating globalization, commodity producers in any country have to compete with producers from almost the rest of the world. As a result, developing countries are heavily influenced by competition from more developed countries. The global financial and economic crisis has further intensified competition at the global level. Cases of dumping have become more frequent, many countries have begun to pursue a more aggressive competitive policy in the struggle to attract foreign capital. The following article is devoted to the study of few economic zones in Central Asia.

Key words: free economic zone, industry, export, trade, investment, investor, raw material.

One of the main conditions for ensuring stable economic growth of individual territories is to increase investment activity based on the widespread involvement of domestic and foreign investors. The experience of both developed and developing countries shows that the creation of free economic zones (FEZs) is one of the effective forms of stimulating investment activity. The provision of tax and other benefits, the relative cheapness of labor, the simplified procedure for the import and export of raw materials and manufactured products attract a large number of foreign firms to such zones. This entails accelerated modernization and technical re-equipment of existing industries, advanced training of the workforce and management personnel, their adaptation to the conditions of globalization and international competition.

An important specificity of SEZs is their impact on accelerating the development and expanding the country's export opportunities, which in turn affects the increase in foreign exchange earnings to the budget, contributes to the transfer of technologies and modern managerial know-how, and an increase in the volume of attracted foreign investment. Ultimately, such an intensification of economic, and in particular foreign economic activity, will lead to an increase in the competitiveness of the national economy. Today, in almost all regions of Uzbekistan, the main tasks included in the list of priorities for the socio-economic development of the region are such as modernization, technical and technological re-equipment of production, activation of investment processes, expansion of export potential.

Economic theory, as well as the experience of developed and rapidly developing countries, show that it is free economic zones that can become an effective mechanism for modernizing the economy, attracting foreign investment and increasing the country's export potential. At the same time, the solution of these key tasks for the national economy mainly occurs through the accelerated development of individual industries, which increases the industrial potential of the region.

In this regard, the issue of a more thorough study of the category of "free economic zones" as a very effective tool for the development of individual industries, increasing the competitiveness of individual regions is of particular relevance.

Special Economic Zones

In recent years, in some Asian countries, there has been a tendency to transform the EPZ into special economic zones, i.e., their transfer to a higher level. For example, in India until 2001 there were seven EPZs. However, many of them were ineffective, did not contribute to an increase in the inflow of foreign capital, the growth of foreign trade turnover and a change in the structure of Indian exports towards an increase in the share of high technology products.

On November 1, 2002, the Government of India issued an order to transform the existing FTZs in Kandpe and Surat (Gujarat), Santa Cruz (Maharashtra) and Cochin (Kerala) into special economic zones. It also approved the creation of nine new SEZs in seven states of the country.

Enterprises registered in Indian FEZs can conduct production (material processing using manual and mechanical labor, chemical and biochemical processes; creating a new product by changing its size, composition, quality, grade, assembly of components and parts), commercial activities (trade, sorting of goods; packaging, labeling of goods directly related to the activities of companies in the EPZ or the creation of production facilities in the EPZ), as well as providing export services (including consulting, information, brokerage, repair work, etc.).

Techno-innovative zones

The development of science-intensive industries also affects the functional purpose of the SEZ - there are zones specializing in the development and production of science-intensive products, they are called technoparks.

There are more than ten technology parks in the new industrial countries of the continent. Their prototypes were the American technopark "Silicon Valley" and the Japanese city of science Tsukuba.

The largest science park in NIS is located in Taiwan in the city of Hsinchu. It employs about 60 thousand scientists and qualified specialists. The technopark in Hsinchu has actually turned into a testing ground for the development, testing and implementation of new technologies and the creation of new types of high-tech products. The export volume of the technopark in the total export of the country exceeds 7%. Offshore centers Export-production zones and technology parks, which have become widespread in Asian countries, are complemented by the creation and development of offshore centers. This business plays an important role in the movement of both loan and entrepreneurial investments, in servicing the foreign economic relations of the continent, although in terms of the scale of operations and the number of companies it is significantly inferior to the countries of the Caribbean and Western Europe.

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