

Statistics and government policies on Uzbek diaspora in foreign countries

Otanazarova Yulduz
Sunmoon University
Student of Master's degree
yulduz.otanazarova@gmail.com

Annotation: It is obvious that in today's global village relations across the boundaries have been strengthened which results in immigration and emigration of Uzbek citizens for employment, educational and other purposes. Uzbek diaspora plays a critical role in the welfare of Uzbek citizens living in foreign countries. Lots of importance have been placed on the issue to establish a close network of compatriots and support them practically. The following article is devoted to the practices of Uzbek diaspora worldwide.

Key words: Diaspora, ethnicity, labor migrant, bilateral relations, negotiation.

The word diaspora is derived from Greek word "diaspora" meaning "scattering" and was originally referred to a set of Jews scattered outside Palestine (from the Babylonian captivity, 6th century BC). At the beginning of the AD, 60 million people living in the Roman Empire. 10% of the population was Jewish. In Roman government, diaspora had certain rights: Jewish communities could be dissolved only by imperial decree, exempted from military service and from participating in religious ceremonies in Rome.

In our modern days, however, the meaning of the word has been completely altered to what refers to ethnic groups living outside their homeland.

The Uzbek diaspora abroad plays an important role in protecting the rights and interests of Uzbek citizens abroad. In this regard, cooperation agreements have been signed with the Foreign Labor Migration Agency and 38 members of the Uzbek diaspora abroad. Of these national communities, 28 are in Russia, 6 are in Kazakhstan, and the remaining four are in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Japan, and Portugal, respectively.

"The Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction reported how many Uzbeks work abroad. According to statistics, as of January 1 of 2021, 1,678,400 people are abroad. For comparison, at the beginning of 2020 their number was 2,460,800 people.

Of the 1.67 million migrants, 59.2% are men (993.7 thousand) and 28.7% are women (481.1 thousand). The main part of labor migrants conduct their activities in the following countries:

Russia - 1,192,800 people, which is equal to 71% of the total number of Uzbeks abroad

Kazakhstan - 209,300 people (12%)

South Korea - 62,300 people (4%)

Turkey - 43,200 people (3%)

UAE - 5200 people (0.3%)

Other countries - 165,600, which is 9.8% of the total number of migrants.

As for the areas of work, the majority of labor migrants are employed in construction - 822.4 thousand people (49%), in industry - 184.6 thousand people (11%), in trade and services - 174.5 thousand (10.4%), the agricultural sector - 130.9 thousand (7.8%) and 350.8 thousand (20.9%) in other areas."

In the past period of 2021, negotiations were held with 15 diaspora organizations based on the list of diasporas provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Nine of them are in Russia, and the remaining six are in Denmark, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and France, respectively. The list of organizations can be found below:

Uzbekistan Public Organization, Rostov-on-Don, Russia;

Mestnaya uzbekskaya natsionalno-kulturnaya avtonomiya gorodskogo okruga Samara in Samara (Russia);

Vatan Center for Social and Legal Assistance in Orenburg (Russia);

Natsionalno-kulturnaya avtonomiya uzbekov Orenburgskoy oblasti organization operating in Orenburg (Russia) region;

Autonomous Diaspora of Sakhalin Oblast, Sakhalin Oblast, Sakhalin Oblast, Russia;

Uzbek National Cultural Center "Dostlik" in Krasnoyarsk (Russia);

Uzbek National Cultural Center "Eurasia" in Ufa (Bashkortostan, Russia);

Uzbek National Cultural Center "Bobur" in Chelyabinsk (Russia);

Uzbek National Cultural Center "Zvezda Vostoka" in Khanty-Mansiysk (Russia);

Association of Uzbek Initiatives in Aarhus (Denmark);

O'zbekim Cultural and Tourism Center in Prague (Czech Republic);

Society for Cultural and Social Assistance to Turkestans in Istanbul (Turkey);

Sharq Uzbek-Tajik ethnocultural community center in Kostanay (Kazakhstan) region;

Design and Construction Company "Navruz" in Kharkiv (Ukraine);

Heritage Association in France.

As a result of the talks, agreements were signed with organizations in Samara, Orenburg, Rostov-on-Don, Ufa and Kharkiv. According to the list of public organizations and cultural centers recommended by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for cooperation in the European Union, it was agreed to sign a cooperation agreement with the Association of Uzbek Compatriots "Vatandosh" (B. Sodikov) in Portugal. A draft agreement was sent to the French Heritage Association (F. Yuldashev) for consideration.

In addition, A.Abduvahidov, a blogger living in South Korea, contacted R.Kamilov, an Uzbek student studying in California, USA, to sign a cooperation agreement on the exchange of information on Uzbek migrants in the United States. agreed to exchange information on labor migrants and sign an agreement. He also contacted M. Matismanov, who lives in Thailand, and exchanged information and agreed to cooperate in the future.

The Agency's Infrastructure Development Department met with Rashidkhon Khojayeov, head of the Uzbek National Center in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. During the meeting, the sides discussed the status of Uzbek citizens temporarily working in Kyrgyzstan, the procedure for registration, the areas in which they work, problems and solutions, and exchanged views.

On August 30, under the leadership of the Minister of Employment and Labor Relations Nozim Husanov, "Let's live freely and prosperously in the new Uzbekistan!" The event was attended by representatives of the Uzbek diaspora abroad, Russia, Kazakhstan, Japan and Portugal.

Under the reign of president Shavkat Mirziyoyev, measures are being taken to promote Uzbek diaspora abroad. In 2017, for example, the Education Center for Afghan Citizens was established in Termez, Uzbekistan. There are 18 undergraduate and 19 secondary (vocational) programs provided for youth from Afghanistan, most of whom are ethnic Uzbeks. Almost a hundred students received their degrees in Uzbek Language and Literature. But it does not mean the center was founded only for ethnic Uzbeks, but rather to further the bilateral relations with Afghanistan.

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