

POLITICAL ASPECTS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN

Adylbekova Bekzada Uzakbaevna

Osh State University Senior Lecturer at the Department of
Social and Humanitarian Disciplines

E-mail: beka_adylbekova@mail.ru Mobile: +996772224077

ORC ID: ORCID- 0009-0003-1235-3241

Abstract:

This article analyzes the political aspects of socio-economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The collaboration between the two countries is a critical aspect of their bilateral relationship. Both nations, sharing a common history and cultural roots, are actively developing mutually beneficial partnerships in various spheres. Today, socio-economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Uzbekistan demonstrates impressive momentum and great prospects for future growth. Following political negotiations in 2023, the mutual trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan approached one billion dollars, which is almost six times the figure from 2016. As a result, last year, Kyrgyzstan became one of Uzbekistan's top ten largest trading partners. Furthermore, there are solid grounds and, most importantly, firm intentions to double the trade volume in the coming years by diversifying and expanding its product range. Undoubtedly, such high momentum in economic interaction has been made possible by the new bilateral institutional mechanisms and forms of economic cooperation established in recent years.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, socio-economic development, cooperation, people's diplomacy, political negotiations, intergovernmental agreement, borders.

Introduction

In addition, following Shavkat Mirziyoyev's state visit to Kyrgyzstan in January 2023, the Agreement on the Development of Priority Industrial Sectors and the Comprehensive Program for Strategic Political and Trade-Economic Cooperation for 2023–2025 were adopted. A political factor contributing to the increase in mutual trade is interregional cooperation. For example, in January 2023, Comprehensive Programs for expanding cooperation were signed between the Andijan and Osh, Namangan and Jalal-Abad, and Fergana and Batken regions for 2023–2025. A similar “road map” was also signed between the Jizzakh and Issyk-Kul regions. The business forums held also make a significant contribution, as they are platforms where action plans focused on concrete, practical results are adopted. During the most recent business forum, held in Bishkek in January 2023, a substantial package of contracts worth \$1.6 billion was signed. Moreover, to finance promising projects, the Uzbek-Kyrgyz Development Fund

was established in 2021 with an authorized capital of \$50 million, with a subsequent increase to \$200 million. The fund has already utilized \$35 of the stated \$50 million in a short period, directing it toward the implementation of specific socially significant projects. These include the supply of equipment from the Uzbek automotive industry, including public utility vehicles for remote Kyrgyz villages, and the construction of small hydropower plants on Kyrgyz rivers. It should be noted that today, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are not only opening their markets to each other but are also taking practical steps to reduce import dependence.

By leveraging competitive advantages and the complementary nature of their economies, the parties are actively developing industrial cooperation and joint production of high value-added goods that are in demand both within the region and in the markets of third countries.

To date, the number of enterprises with Kyrgyz capital operating in Uzbekistan has increased more than fivefold since 2016, from 50 to 267. Furthermore, a Plan of Practical Measures to Expand and Deepen Cooperation in Industrial Cooperation is being implemented, which includes 60 projects worth over \$550 million. In other words, the established mechanisms of economic and investment interaction are proving their effectiveness, allowing for the expansion of horizons for mutually beneficial cooperation for the prosperity and sustainable development of the peoples of both countries.

Literature Review

The Uzbek and Kyrgyz peoples have coexisted and interacted with one another since ancient times. It's beneficial to examine the political and diplomatic history that has become the foundation for the strong integration of the two countries today. Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan both declared their state independence on the same day, just before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Following this, diplomatic relations between the two countries were re-established at the level of independent states (Qayumov et al., 2015, p. 33).

Since July 1992, the Embassy of Kyrgyzstan has been operating in Tashkent, and since October 1998, the Embassy of Uzbekistan has been operating in Bishkek. Official visits by the President of Uzbekistan to Bishkek and the President of Kyrgyzstan to Tashkent have become a regular practice. Overall, the number of bilateral meetings, official visits, and meetings at the level of international and regional organizations exceeds thirty.

On December 24, 1996, the two countries signed the Treaty "On Eternal Friendship," which serves as the legal basis for their relationship (URL: <https://yuz.uz/> (Accessed: 19.02.2021)1). Cooperation in the humanitarian sphere is carried out based on this treaty, as well as the intergovernmental agreement signed on January 16, 1994, "On Deepening Cooperation in Culture, Healthcare, Science, Education, Tourism, and Sports" (URL: <https://lex.uz/> (Accessed: 16.08.2025)).

Another key document is the Inter-institutional Agreement "On Cultural Cooperation," signed on December 24, 1996. By 2005, 181 documents of significance to the two countries had been signed. Currently, Kyrgyzstan's share in Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover is 1.4% (URL: <https://kun.uz/> (Accessed: 02.09.2025)).

The elevation of relations to the level of strategic partnership became possible due to the comprehensive measures to strengthen mutual trust proposed by Uzbekistan during its second government. The main documents that laid a solid foundation for relations between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are the aforementioned Treaty "On Eternal Friendship" signed on December 24, 1996 (Muhammadaminov, 2022, p. 818) and the Declaration "On Strategic Partnership, Friendship, Good-Neighborliness, and Strengthening Trust," signed on October 5, 2017. These documents define the key principles of bilateral cooperation: mutual respect for independence and state sovereignty, equality, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and, most importantly, the pursuit of economic ties based on mutually beneficial cooperation at both the state and business entity levels. This approach allows for the implementation of a large-scale cooperation program (Jo'rayev, 2013, p. 651).

Research Methodology

During the study, the methods of analysis, synthesis, generalization, and comparative analysis have been used.

Discussion

We should continue to build a close, coordinated interaction to develop economic cooperation and, in the future, remove trade restrictions and create a fully-fledged free trade area. The synergy of transportation and energy potential is an important priority in Uzbek-Kyrgyz relations. In recent years, the interaction between the two countries in implementing regional transportation and energy projects has become strategically significant. It's important to note that a historic agreement was reached in June to construct the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway, a project that had been waiting for a decision for over 25 years.

Consequently, if implemented, the railway will provide convenient access to the ports of the Persian Gulf and the Pacific Ocean, acting as a trigger for the development of various economic sectors, fostering the creation of new jobs, and improving the well-being of the population. In turn, the development of safe and shortest transportation corridors connecting China with our region will allow Central Asia to act as a kind of “gateway” and a land bridge linking several strategically important regions of Eurasia. It is noteworthy that the project has already received international recognition from authoritative institutions. In particular, the Eurasian Development Bank, in its 2024 report, highlighted the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway route as an important one capable of strengthening and expanding the Eurasian transport framework. In the same month, another equally important event took place: the signing of a trilateral agreement between Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan on the construction of the Kambarata HPP-1.

This is a multifaceted regional project aimed at the joint development of energy and water resources to ensure the sustainable development of Central Asia. Its practical implementation is expected to enhance regional energy resilience and demonstrate to the world the political will and ability of Central Asian countries to independently create large joint projects. Moreover, this kind of cooperation among the three countries will attract foreign investment

and allow for the production of goods with clean energy, with subsequent exports to the markets of third countries. Thus, the implementation of the above-mentioned infrastructure projects is intended to fundamentally change the energy and transport landscape of Central Asia, becoming a symbol of regional interconnectedness.

It is worth noting that “President Sadyr Japarov signed the Decree “On the National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2030”. It was approved to 'continue the course of large-scale reforms and ensure the sustainable development of the country in the face of new global and regional challenges,' the press service of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce reported. According to them, 'the program is a strategic document aimed at improving the well-being of citizens, achieving inclusive economic growth, and ensuring social justice.' It is based on an analysis of the results achieved and current challenges, as well as on the priorities of the long-term development of the Kyrgyz Republic, the department noted”.

The key targets of the program are:

GDP per capita - up to \$4,500.

GDP volume - at least \$30 billion. Ensuring an average annual real GDP growth rate of 8 percent.

Entering the top 30 countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Improving the Kyrgyz Republic's ranking in the Human Development Index by 10 positions.

Unemployment - not more than 5 percent. The volume of investments in fixed capital to GDP in 2030 - not less than 20 percent.

The size of the public external debt - at a level of up to 60 percent of GDP.

The program focuses on four strategic vectors of development:

Industrialization: Development of a modern industrial base, increasing the share of processing, introducing technologies, and a cluster approach.

Kyrgyzstan as a regional hub: Transforming the country into a logistics, trade, and transit center between China, the EAEU countries, and South Asia.

Agriculture and Tourism: Sustainable development of the agricultural sector with an emphasis on food security and export, as well as the creation of a competitive tourism industry.

Green Energy: Increasing the share of renewable energy sources, developing hydropower, and new energy solutions to achieve energy independence.

Additionally, the program provides for:

- Reform of public administration and strategic planning.
- Digitalization of the economy and services.
- Development of human capital.
- Support for small and medium-sized businesses.
- Ensuring macroeconomic stability.

Measures to adapt to climate change and increase the sustainability of ecosystems. (National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2030)

From this, one can conclude that Kyrgyzstan's path to economic development is ambitious, unique, and inclusive. It also reflects a point of contact for the two countries to achieve their stated goals. Today, the country's leadership has set a course for active development in all

spheres of life in the Kyrgyz Republic. Over recent years, Kyrgyzstan has achieved significant success in economic development. The republic's economy has grown at a significant pace, with an average growth rate of 6.9%. During this period, a lot of work has been done to create conditions for the development of various economic sectors. Although our country's level of integration into the global economy remains low, external challenges, such as the global geopolitical situation, have had a significant impact on the country's economy. An analysis of the development dynamics over the past 10-15 years shows that, despite the significant results of recent years, Kyrgyzstan's economy, on the whole, demonstrates moderate growth compared to other countries in the region.

National Interests in Political Negotiations

On June 6, 2024, an intergovernmental agreement was signed in Beijing for the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan (CKU) railway. The presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and China sent congratulatory video messages to the meeting participants. According to Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, the CKU railway is a key component of China's "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) and will symbolize cooperation under the comprehensive strategic partnership in a new era between the three countries. Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the railway would become the shortest land route connecting China with Central Asia, allowing it to pass through the promising Trans-Afghan Corridor to the large markets of South Asia and the Middle East (Azattyk 2024).

According to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the railway is a strategic project "demonstrating to the world the firm determination of the three countries to promote cooperation and strive for joint development" (Xinhua 2024). All presidents pointed to the economic benefits of the project, such as stimulating regional trade, industrial cooperation, and improving living standards.

The project was first proposed in the 1990s, and the three countries signed a memorandum of understanding on the railway in 1997. However, due to technical and political issues, railway construction was postponed several times (Xinhua 2024). Another significant obstacle has been project financing. Consequently, the final steps before the start of this infrastructure project raise a key question: what are the main factors that pushed the countries to begin construction of the railway? Thus, this analysis will distinguish the main reasons from each country's perspective.

China's Interests

With the new railway, China can **diversify its transit routes**, reduce its dependence on both Russia and Kazakhstan, and maintain stable rail trade with EU and Middle Eastern countries in the long term. It is worth noting that the CKU railway will be one of the shortest routes, saving seven to eight days in shipping time. Moreover, the new railway will promote economic growth and development in China's central and western regions, particularly Xinjiang, by boosting the manufacturing industry (Sharifli, Yunis, 2022).

In November 2023, China launched the Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ), the first in China's northwestern border areas, which includes districts in Ürümqi, Khorgos, and Kashgar and covers nearly 180 square kilometers. The FTZ is expected to make a significant contribution to Xinjiang's integration into domestic and international markets. It's important to note that the FTZ has greater autonomy in reform and will also cultivate and expand industries unique to Xinjiang where Xinjiang has advantages (State Council of the People's Republic of China, 2023).

Xinjiang's foreign trade shows promising results. In the first 10 months of 2023, trade turnover grew by 40% to a record \$409.2 billion, while shipments from January to October exceeded the total value of trade in 2022, despite sanctions imposed by Western governments in response to reports of forced labor. The largest share of deals was with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Thus, Chinese officials plan to turn Xinjiang into an export gateway to neighboring countries, and the government hopes that the zone will attract foreign investors from nearby BRI member countries and increase the use of the yuan in cross-border trade settlements (Nikkei Asia, 2023).

Considering to the opinions of Chinese experts, since the opening of the Kashgar sub-zone, a total of 86 companies have registered with investments of \$1.75 billion. China has improved its logistical efficiency, and goods checked at the Kashgar customs can pass directly through the Torugart port to avoid re-inspection. In addition, an industrial park has been established in China for Kyrgyz companies in Kashgar. As a result, Kashgar's foreign trade grew by 71.2% in 2023, accounting for 23.4% of regional foreign trade (China Daily, 2024).

According to Chinese experts, the CKU railway is a crucial part of the New Eurasian Land Bridge, which will change the transport structure in Xinjiang and form the southern part of the Second Eurasian Land Bridge. The CKU railway will further strengthen trade and economic relations between China and Central Asia. Rail transport is cheaper, operates stably, and is not subject to seasonal restrictions. Consequently, transport costs will be significantly reduced, and commodity prices will decrease accordingly, contributing to the rapid growth of mutual trade (Xinhua, 2024).

Thus, the CKU railway will diversify China's trade and transit routes, promote the growth of Xinjiang's economic potential, and, as a result, strengthen China's role in Central Asia.

Kyrgyzstan's Interests

"Kyrgyzstan is interested in developing its internal infrastructure. The length of Kyrgyzstan's railways is only 424 km. The country's rail infrastructure consists of unconnected northern and southern routes that provide access to the railway networks of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Consequently, the CKU railway is an opportunity for Kyrgyzstan to connect the north and south of the country, as it has not built any railways since gaining independence. The second goal the Kyrgyz government is trying to solve is to gain access to global markets and become part of global production chains" (Institute of Strategic Analysis and Forecast, 2024).

Meanwhile, according to Kyrgyz Prime Minister Akyzbek Japarov, "the China-Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan railway will become a 'road of life' that will transform Kyrgyzstan into a major

trade and industrial hub” (Kazinform, 2024). Recently, the Kyrgyz parliament, the Jogorku Kenesh, approved agreements between the governments of Kyrgyzstan, China, and Uzbekistan on cooperation in jointly promoting the transcontinental railway project. The countries are creating a trilateral project company that will be the main operator of the railway. The construction of the CKU railway requires \$4.7 billion, and China will provide over \$2.35 billion in credit. Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan must each invest \$700 million. The shares of the project participants will be distributed as follows: "China Railways" will have 51%, while "Kyrgyz Temir Zholu (Railways)" and "Uzbekistan Temir Yollari (Railways)" will each own 24.5%. Almost 312 km (out of a total of 486 km) of the railway will pass through Kyrgyzstan. Plans include building 18 railway stations, 81 bridges with a total length of 26.1 km, and drilling 41 tunnels with a length of more than 120 km. It is expected that Kyrgyzstan's budget will receive about \$200 million from transit fees alone (Kabar, 2024).

Thus, "Kyrgyzstan will benefit from the development of its domestic railway network, gain access to international markets, and earn from transit revenues. At the same time, the implementation of the CKU railway can positively impact the country's labor market by increasing employment and income" (Uzbekistan Temir Yollari, 2024).

Uzbekistan's Interests

"Uzbekistan's foreign policy under the President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is characterized by its openness to the country's inclusion in global and regional integration processes. Uzbekistan actively participates in and supports China's BRI, has observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union, and strengthens economic cooperation with South Asia. Uzbekistan's foreign economic policy is aimed at penetrating new markets, including China, Russia, and South Asia. It is worth noting that Uzbekistan will open 21 trade houses in more than 10 cities in China. This will be implemented as part of the April document, which was adopted by the President of Uzbekistan and is aimed at increasing agricultural exports to China" (Kursiv, 2024). Therefore, Uzbekistan is proposing new infrastructure projects, such as the Trans-Afghan railway, and is interested in implementing the CKU railway. The project can bring substantial benefits to Uzbekistan: in addition to penetrating Chinese and other new markets, the country is expected to be able to receive transit revenues of \$150-200 million annually (UzDaily, 2024).

"Uzbek entrepreneurs trading with China complain that it can take 45 to 70 days for goods to move by train from China through Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan. Consequently, the CKU railway can ease the financial burden on Uzbek entrepreneurs and significantly reduce transport time (Karimov and Kurbonmuratov, 2023). At the same time, the CKU will strengthen Uzbekistan's role as a transit hub" (People's Daily Online, 2024).

“On June 7, 2024, delegations from 'O'zbekiston Temir yo'llari' and the Xi'an municipal committee of China held a meeting aimed at further strengthening railway and logistics ties between China and Uzbekistan. According to the provincial delegation of Xi'an, in 2023, 5,351 trains were dispatched from the port of Xi'an, 675 of which went to Central Asia, with Uzbekistan accounting for more than 50%. By the end of 2024, it is planned to transport 20,000 TEU containers along the Xi'an-Jizzakh route. The Uzbek delegation expressed its readiness

to cooperate in increasing the volume of cargo transportation through the port of Xi'an to Uzbekistan and through Uzbekistan. It was also proposed to consider the possibility of transporting goods from Xi'an to Uzbekistan through Kyrgyzstan” (Kabar, 2024).

Thus, “China is strengthening its position as a key trade and investment partner for Uzbekistan. Cooperation is broad and ranges from agriculture to energy. China plays a key role in the electric vehicle market in Uzbekistan. In December 2023, the Chinese firm Henan Suda signed an agreement with the Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan to build over 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations throughout the country by 2033. It is expected that 2,500 charging stations will be built in 2024. The project will serve about 700,000 electric vehicles when fully developed. During the first 10 months of 2023, China exported more than 20,000 electric vehicles to Uzbekistan” (Eurasianet, 2023).

Therefore, the railway between the three states will serve Uzbekistan's intentions to penetrate new markets and will become a new source of revenue. Uzbek entrepreneurs will increase their competitiveness by reducing trade costs, which will positively affect the country's industrial policy and the well-being of the population.

Cultural and Humanitarian Dialogue: The Foundation of Brotherly Relations between the Uzbek and Kyrgyz Peoples

The strong foundation for developing Uzbek-Kyrgyz relations is the rich cultural and humanitarian ties, which are based on a shared history, spiritual values, and close centuries-old traditions. The communities living in both countries serve as a natural bridge between the Uzbek and Kyrgyz peoples. In Uzbekistan, there are over 300,000 Kyrgyz people, with six Kyrgyz cultural centers and more than 50 schools offering instruction in the Kyrgyz language. The "Kyrgyz Philology" faculty operates at Andijan Pedagogical University. In turn, Uzbeks make up 15% of the total population in Kyrgyzstan, and are the largest ethnic group in the republic after the titular nation.

It is encouraging that in recent years, Kyrgyzstan has paid great attention to the development of education and culture for citizens of Uzbek nationality. For example, in 2023, the Center for Uzbek Language and Culture was opened at Osh State University, and the restored building of the State Academic Uzbek Music and Drama Theater named after Babur in the city of Osh was inaugurated. A regular cultural exchange and mutual participation in events organized in both Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have become a good tradition.

Annual art and film festivals, national holidays, forums, inter-university conferences, scientific symposiums, and other events are held here. In December 2023, a presentation of the symbolic book “The Beloved Son of Two Peoples” took place in Tashkent, celebrating the 95th anniversary of the outstanding Kyrgyz writer and thinker Chinghiz Aitmatov. Cooperation in higher education has given a serious impetus to the further development of humanitarian contacts. In October 2023, the first international forum of university rectors was held in Osh, with the participation of 180 university rectors and representatives of other major educational organizations from the two states. In November of the same year, the Chinghiz Aitmatov Center for Kyrgyz Language and Culture was established at the Alisher Navoi Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature.

Tourism and Transportation

Moreover, thanks to the favorable conditions created, cooperation in the field of tourism has intensified. Since last September, citizens from both countries have been able to cross the border with a regular internal passport, and the time for people and cargo to pass has been reduced to an unprecedented 8 minutes. In addition, regular flights have been established on the "Tashkent-Bishkek" route, and air services connecting Tashkent with Tamchy and Fergana with Soch have been launched.

In 2023, 5 million citizens of Uzbekistan visited Kyrgyzstan, making our country the number one tourism partner for the Kyrgyz side. Our citizens prefer to visit the sights of Kyrgyzstan, primarily the "Kyrgyz pearl"—the large high-altitude lake Issyk-Kul. At the same time, 1.4 million tourists from Kyrgyzstan visited Uzbekistan. Kyrgyz travelers show great interest in the ancient cities of Bukhara, Khiva, Samarkand, and Tashkent. Overall, cooperation between the two countries in the cultural and humanitarian sphere has significantly intensified. This trend not only bears fruit but also opens up new prospects for further cooperation. However, there is still untapped potential for increasing mutual tourist exchanges, which can be utilized by creating joint tourist routes, products, and brands.

Thus, the positive dynamics observed in recent years in the development of the entire complex of Uzbek-Kyrgyz relations give reason to believe that the upcoming visit of President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov to Uzbekistan will give a powerful impetus to bilateral cooperation, contributing to the further deepening of the comprehensive strategic partnership.

Educational and Scientific Cooperation

Cultural ties between our countries are also at a high level. More than 300,000 Kyrgyz people live in Uzbekistan, while the Uzbek community in Kyrgyzstan numbers about 1 million. In both countries, cultural centers and schools with native language instruction are actively operating.

In 2017 and 2018, Cultural Days of Uzbekistan had been held in Kyrgyzstan, and Days of Culture and Arts of Kyrgyzstan were held in Uzbek cities. In 2022, the 30th anniversary of the Kyrgyz cultural centers was celebrated in Uzbekistan, and in April 2023, the reconstruction of the State Academic Uzbek Music and Drama Theater named after Babur in Osh was completed with the support of the government of Uzbekistan.

The parties are interested in expanding cooperation in the field of science and education. A five-year Agreement on Cooperation in Higher Education has been concluded between the governments of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Naturally, within the framework of this agreement, cooperation is developing in the training and professional development of teachers, and a mutual exchange of students and teachers is taking place.

Cooperation between the higher educational institutions of the border regions of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan is also developing very productively. Student exchanges are carried out as part of academic programs, and memorandums of cooperation have been concluded between the higher educational institutions of the Osh and Jalal-Abad regions of Kyrgyzstan and the Andijan, Fergana, and Namangan regions of Uzbekistan.

Under the implementation of the Agreement on the Development of Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan, productive ties have also been established. Representatives of science from the two countries exchange visits. The parties participate in scientific and practical conferences held in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Meanwhile, cooperation in the fields of education and science has great untapped potential for further development.

A New Era of Friendship and Trust

The head of the Presidential Administration of Uzbekistan, Saida Mirziyoyeva, as part of her visit to Kyrgyzstan, took part in the solemn ceremony dedicated to the end of the Zakovat Asian Cup II intellectual tournament and delivered a heartfelt speech.

In her address, she emphasized the friendship and solidarity between the neighboring peoples. According to Saida Mirziyoyeva, once-closed borders have been opened, and the barbed wire that divided villages where Uzbeks lived on one side and Kyrgyz on the other has been removed. As a result, separated families have been reunited, and children have returned to their parents' arms.

Saida Mirziyoyeva noted, "Today, when various contradictions, threats, and instability are intensifying in the world, an atmosphere of friendship and mutual respect prevails in Central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. This is highly appreciated not only by our peoples but also by the international community. Such results have become possible thanks to the firm political will of the two heads of state—Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Sadyr Japarov. 'The exemplary path shown by the leaders of the countries is a guarantee of peace for our peoples and the development of our states. After all, today not only the borders but also our hearts are open' (Mirziyoyeva, 2025).

Today, young people from the two countries are working side by side in the fields of science, culture, art, sports, entrepreneurship, and intellectual competitions, achieving great success.

Conclusion

To increase the effectiveness of their relationship, it is essential for Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to enhance contacts at all levels of government, including parliaments, ministries, and foreign policy departments. They must continue to support each other within international and regional platforms such as the UN, WTO, and the "Central Asia plus" formats.

A testament to their strong cultural bonds is the recent unveiling of a monument to the great writer and poet Alisher Navoi in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, in July 2025. This monument, located in a historic part of the city, will be a venue for cultural events promoting Navoi's work. Similar monuments stand in several countries, including Turkey, Kazakhstan, and China, highlighting his global legacy.

We believe that these friendly relations between the two countries strengthen political, cultural, and socio-economic ties, reinforcing what's known as "people's diplomacy." Both nations are committed to hosting new delegations to build on this friendship. The modern relationship between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan is evolving at an unprecedented pace, adapting to global

changes. By combining efforts, they can effectively confront the challenges and threats of globalization. The friendly relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic will contribute not only to the development of both countries but to the entire Central Asian region.

Reference

1. Утверждена Национальная программа развития Кыргызской Республики до 2030 года.
https://24.kg/vlast/332207_utverjdena_natsionalnaya_programma_razvitiya_kyirgyizsko_y_respubliki_do2030_goda/
2. Azattyk (2024). 312 kilometers will pass through Kyrgyzstan. The railway project received the blessing of three presidents. Retrieved from <https://rus.azattyk.org/a/32985298.html>. Accessed on 10.06.2024.
3. Xinhua (2024). Exclusive: Construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway will accelerate economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation between East and West – expert. Retrieved from <https://russian.news.cn/20240608/273c9d475fd645c48e366a3ada641094/c.html>. Accessed on 08.06.2024.
4. Xinhua (2024). Heads of state of China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan congratulate the signing of an intergovernmental agreement on the railway project. Retrieved from <https://english.news.cn/20240606/bbfe58594fd94831848f74c716fa543e/c.html>. Accessed on 06.06.2024.
5. Sharifli, Yunis (2022). China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway: Opportunities and challenges for China. Retrieved from <https://thediplomat.com/2022/07/china-kyrgyzstan-uzbekistan-railway-opportunities-and-challenges-for-china/>. Accessed on 06.06.2024.
6. State Council of the People’s Republic of China (2023). China’s Xinjiang inaugurates a pilot free trade zone. Retrieved from https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202311/02/content_WS6542d652c6d0868f4e8e0e0c.html. Accessed on 06.06.2024.
7. Nikkei Asia (2023). Xinjiang foreign trade hits record despite Western sanctions. Retrieved from <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Supply-Chain/Xinjiang-foreign-trade-hits-record-despite-Western-sanctions>. Accessed on 20.11.2023
8. China Daily (2024). Xinjiang trade zone to drive region’s growth. Retrieved from <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202401/31/WS65b98768a3104efcbdae8c47.html>. Accessed on 06.06.2024.
9. Xinhua (2024). Heads of state of China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan congratulate the signing of an intergovernmental agreement on the railway project. Retrieved from <https://english.news.cn/20240606/bbfe58594fd94831848f74c716fa543e/c.html>. Accessed on 06.06.2025.

10. Institute of Strategic Analysis and Forecast (2024). Construction of the China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan railway: significance and implementation problems. Retrieved from <https://www.isap.center/analytics/144>. Accessed on 12.06.2024.
11. Kabar (2024). Transition to a qualitatively new level. China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. Retrieved from <https://kabar.kg/news/perekhod-na-kachestvenno-novyi-uroven-zheleznaia-doroga-kitai-kyrgyzstan-uzbekistan/>. Accessed on 19.06.2024.
12. Uzbekistan Temir Yollari (2024). Uzbekistan – China: Issues of strengthening bilateral cooperation were discussed. Retrieved from https://railway.uz/ru/informatsionnaya_sluzhba/novosti/36108/. Accessed on 08.06.2024.
13. UzDaily (2024). China Railway International to design and build the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. Retrieved from <https://www.uzdaily.com/en/post/90193>. Accessed on 15.06.2024
14. People’s Daily Online (2024). China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway to bring tangible benefits to participants, the whole region, experts say. Retrieved from <http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0612/c90000-20180502.html>. Accessed on 18.06.2024.
15. Kabar (2024). Transition to a qualitatively new level. China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. Retrieved from <https://kabar.kg/news/perekhod-na-kachestvenno-novyi-uroven-zheleznaia-doroga-kitai-kyrgyzstan-uzbekistan/>. Accessed on 19.06.2024.
16. Eurasianet (2023). China building up electric auto infrastructure in Central Asia. Retrieved from <https://eurasianet.org/china-building-up-electric-auto-infrastructure-in-central-asia>. Accessed on 20.05.2024.
17. Саида Мирзиёева. Саида Мирзиёева выступила с речью на мероприятии в Бишкеке. // 22.08.2025. www.uza.uz
18. Qayumov A., Pardayev G., Islomov I. Markaziy Osiyo davlatlari iqtisodiy va ijtimoiy geografiyasi. Toshkent: Blokklas servis, 2015. B. 33.
19. Muhammadaminov Sh. Yangi O‘zbekiston – yangi qo‘shnichilik. Том 1 № 5 (2022): Новости образования: исследование в XXI веке. С. 818.
20. Jo‘rayev N. Mustaqil O‘zbekiston tarixi. Toshkent: G‘afur G‘ulom, 2013. B. 651.