

HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN (KHOREZM REGION)

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Abstract: This article analyzes the socio-economic reforms implemented in the Khorezm region during the years of independence, the launch of joint ventures established in the region, and the export potential.

Keywords: Khorezm region, export, joint venture, foreign trade, Darital, Yazeks (Turkey) corporation, Khorezm sugar plant, market reforms, investment.

INTRODUCTION

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. Mirziyoyev, noted that «life itself and the experience of the past years require the elimination of serious deficiencies in ensuring comprehensive development of regions and fundamental changes in infrastructure activity» [6]. That is why, during the years of independence, a true study of the changes in the socio-economic and cultural spheres of the Khorezm region, which is considered the northwestern region of Uzbekistan, is one of the urgent tasks.

The consistent development of our country during the years of independence opened the door to great changes in the Khorezm region. Large-scale creative works, promising investment projects were implemented in cities and districts [9].

In the early years of the Republic of Uzbekistan's independence, the Khorezm region's economy and its economic entities experienced a difficult situation, as in other regions. In such a period, the leadership of Khorezm region was given the task of creating a multi-disciplinary industry based on modern technology within a historically short period of time.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS

During the years of independence, the history of international socio-economic and cultural-humanitarian relations in the Khorezm region was not separately researched. Despite the fact that the issues of foreign cooperation in the Khorezm region were partially addressed in scientific monographs and dissertation defenses, it can be seen that only general indicators were shown without an in-depth analysis of the topic. Nevertheless, B. Bobojanov's 3-part monograph, researcher O. Vaisov's study touched on the region's foreign trade issues.

Also, during the years of independence, «Khorazm Haqiqati» (“Xorezmskaya Pravda”) and other newspapers published by Khorezm regional administration serve as an important sources for studying the topic. In addition, the adopted regulatory and legal documents of state authorities can be cited as important sources.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article used the principle of historicity, description, and comparative analysis methods.

RESEARCH RESULTS

As a result of the measures taken in the process of development of the farming movement in Khorezm region within the framework of changes in the agricultural sector of the country, 248 farms were established in 1991, 648 hectares of land, 2679 head of cattle, 1294 cows were given to them. [17]. The reforms implemented in agriculture served to increase the productivity of Khorezm region lands as well as increase the export potential in the sector.

By 1995, Khorezm region exported more than 70,000 tons of oasis fiber to Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, South Korea, Austria, Canada, and a number of other countries [10]. Also, according to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted on June 22, 1995 [2], «Gurlan-Yazeks» textile complex was launched in Gurlan district in cooperation with the Turkish state.

On October 18, 1994, on the basis of the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers [1], a sugar factory was established in Khorezm. The construction of this plant with the capacity to process 3,000 tons of sugar beet per day was scheduled for 26 months, and according to the signed contract, the total cost of construction was 83.25 million US dollars. This plant was built on the territory of the «Sharq Yulduzi» (“East Star”) collective farm in Khazorasp district based on the contract concluded with the Turkish company «Turk Sheker Yuksel Inshaat SP» on May 25, 1993. 44.7 million to the production shops of the enterprise. foreign equipment worth USD, as well as other types of equipment worth 273.3 million soums were installed.

The Urgench oil factory also played a role in the development of the regional industry. The combine, which was built and put into operation in 1977, was transformed into the open joint-stock company «Urganch Yog» (“Urgench Oil”) in 1994 after it was removed from state ownership [7, 118]. This industrial enterprise not only continuously supplies the population with cooking oil, household soap, and other consumer goods in the market of Uzbekistan, but also exports its products abroad. In particular, since 2008, the joint-stock company began to export household soap abroad. In 2012, 944.5805 tons of household soap worth 778,602.77 US dollars were exported to Afghanistan. In 2013, 995 tons of household soap worth 785,000 US dollars were exported [15].

With the adoption of the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-651 dated June 12, 2007 «On the program of modernization and technical re-equipment of oil industry enterprises in the period 2007-2011» [3], the production potential of the above enterprise was further improved. Also, the enterprise expanded the production of high-demand products and mastered the production of new types of competitive, export-oriented, and import-substituting products. As a result of the implementation of the State program put into practice by the decision, the workshops of the enterprise were provided with new modern machine tools imported from abroad, such as «B6-T MEM-400», «ETR-20,16», «SKET», «MT3-80», hydrogenation workshop.

«Khorezm-Nurtop» joint enterprise, which reprocesses regional cotton fibers for export, was established in 1994 on the basis of «Khorezm» joint stock company in cooperation with Turkish company «Nurtop» [20, 29]. 5 million US dollars were allocated by the European Development Bank for the construction of the joint venture

[14]. The joint venture exported \$1.4 million worth of yarn to foreign weavers in the first six months of 2006 alone.

Analyses show that the amount of foreign investment attracted to Uzbekistan in 1994-1996 was equal to 300,895,000 US dollars, while the share of Khorezm region was 2,129,400 US dollars [8].

According to the data from 1997, a total of 36 joint enterprises were registered in the region, but 26 of them were operating. 15 of these enterprises corresponded to the city of Urgench. The established joint ventures corresponded to the directions of production of consumer goods, production of yarn from cotton fiber, trade, and service of agricultural machinery [18].

The Uzbek-Italian joint venture «Darital LTD» established in the city of Urgench started producing men's model shoes in June 1999. Its project capacity is to produce 810,000 pairs of men's shoes per year; After the start of turn 2, it was planned to produce 810,000 pairs of women's model shoes per year. During that period, the joint venture produced 102,000 pairs of shoes in one year. 4.5 million allocated by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the establishment of the joint venture. The US dollar loan helped a lot [7, 66].

According to the analysis, 8 of the 26 joint ventures that operated in the region during this period were large and medium-sized enterprises, and in 2000, they exported products equal to 472.3 thousand US dollars, the share of imports was 96.9 thousand US dollars [7, 65]. Also, in the same year, Uzkhimvekt Uzbek-Russian joint venture was established on the basis of the joint-stock company «Urganch Yog» (“Urgench Oil”) in cooperation with the Russian research and production company «Uzkhimvekt». Production of «A» and «V» brands of oleic and palmitic acids, distilled fatty acids, which are widely used in the chemical industry, was launched at the enterprise. The enterprise had the capacity to process 21,000 tons of cottonseed oil waste per year [20, 29].

In 2000, the foreign trade turnover in the region was 93.4 million. was equal to US dollars. Including export of 68.98 million, and imports of 24.36 million. amounted to US dollars. Products produced in the region were exported to the USA, France, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and other far and near foreign countries, and imports were mainly made from these countries [7, 66].

In Khorezm region, in 2001, in cooperation with the Chinese company Blue Ocean International, «Aziya textile LTD» Uzbekistan-China joint venture was established. Machines for the production of knitted products made in China, worth 154 thousand US dollars, were installed in the joint venture. The enterprise was not limited to the local market, but also exported products abroad [20, 30].

In 2002, about 41 million US dollars in foreign investments were attracted, and 7 joint ventures were established. As a result, the production and provision of services at enterprises with foreign investments increased more than twice [19].

In 2003, new joint ventures were launched in the region. In particular, the Uzbek-German joint venture «Shavottekst» was established on the basis of «Shavot-Turon» limited liability company in cooperation with the German company «Schults

Export-Import GmbH». Production machines manufactured in Germany and Turkey were installed at the enterprise at the expense of 998,000 Euro credit under the credit line of the German KFW bank. 3 million per year. It has a production capacity of 360,000 T-shirts and shirts, and 98 people are employed. Manufactured products were exported to CIS countries and India [20, 28]. In addition, in cooperation with Turkey, the joint enterprise «Bogottextil» was put into use in Bogot district. German company «Hallesche Vitteldeutsche AG» enterprise installed modern types of equipment worth 6.7 million Euro. The joint enterprise has the capacity to produce 4350 tons of yarn and 1440 tons of knitted fabric per year, and the products produced by the enterprise are exported [20, 30].

The visits of foreign investors and businessmen to the Khorezm region created the basis for the inflow of foreign investments into the region's economy. For example, a delegation of Israeli businessmen who came to Uzbekistan on an official visit in June 2000 also visited Khorezm region and got to know the social and economic conditions of the region [11]. Also, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Uzbekistan Mr. Muhammad Akhtar Tufail visited Khorezm region in November 2003 [13]. In October 2003, a delegation led by V. Veretennikov, the first deputy governor of the Vladimir region of the Russian Federation, visited the Khorezm region. At the meeting, useful agreements were reached on establishing cooperation with the Urgench excavator plant, supplying engines for tractors, spare parts, and other areas [12].

Computer software programs were developed in the region and exports to foreign countries began. The private enterprise «INFORM ALGO» in the city of Urgench was registered in 2006, and the main activity was software development. This enterprise exported software services to the United States of America in the amount of 54 million US dollars in 2010 alone [7, 159].

In the region, in the first quarter of 2011, enterprises under territorial management exported 1.1 million US dollars, and the export forecast was fulfilled by 287%. It was 181 percent compared to the first quarter of 2010. In the first quarter of 2010, exports amounted to 601 thousand of US dollars. In the first quarter of 2011, local small business entities exported 1032.6 thousand US dollars, and their share in the volume of regional exports was 94.7 percent [7, 160].

A number of measures have been implemented in the region to ensure the implementation of the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 26, 2012 «On additional measures to strengthen incentives for exporting enterprises and expand the export supply of competitive products» [4]. In particular, the quality and volume of products produced in industrial enterprises under territorial management have increased and their activities have been improved in every way. 45.7 million in 2015 by enterprises in the region. dollars or almost 3.5 times more products and services compared to 2014, and the set forecast indicator was fulfilled by 105.6 percent.

This year, 11 new projects aimed at the production of exportable products were implemented within the framework of the regional socio-economic development program. According to him, 5 enterprises exported products worth 4 million dollars.

«Khorezm antikorr invest» enterprise in Gurlan district delivered bitumen products worth 83.8 thousand dollars based on contracts concluded with companies in Singapore and the Czech Republic.

In accordance with the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 13, 2015 No. 59 «On measures to organize and conduct the 2015 International Industrial Fair and Cooperation» [5], the National Exhibition «Uzbekspomarkaz» will be held in Tashkent from October 26 to November 5, 2015. in the hall of the 9th International Industrial Fair and Cooperation Exchange, regional enterprises of Khorezm region signed export contracts with foreign companies for a product export in 2016 with a total value of more than 13 million dollars [16].

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on February 7, 2017, a historic document was adopted, which provides for the approval of the «Strategy of Actions on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017 - 2021». On the basis of this document, large-scale creative works were carried out in Khorezm region as well as throughout our country. During this period, the total value of Khorezm region is 9.3 trillion. 685 investment projects worth 685 soums were implemented and 14,909 new jobs were created [21].

Textile, automotive, electrical and food industries, tourism, services and greenhouses are identified as the main «growth points» of Khorezm region. In particular, new enterprises, small business entities, multi-branch farms were established. Promising projects were implemented in tourism, textile industry, fisheries, poultry, irrigation and other sectors.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that in the years of independence, the socio-economic policy of the Khorezm region, interethnic tolerance, orientation towards market reforms, and overcoming the difficulties of this period, along with establishing contacts with near and far foreign countries in all aspects, based on the state programs adopted in the region Significant work has been done to establish international cooperation for the export of manufactured products to the world market.

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