

STATUS AND CONDITIONS OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

Asatullo Norchayev

Abstract— The scientific article analyzes the conditions for the development of tourism in the country and the work being done. At the same time, it is stated that the improvement of tourism infrastructure and the development of quality services to tourists, reducing the gap between the tourist seasonality. In the context of the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic in the world, recommendations have been developed to bring our country out of the crisis and develop tourism.

Index Terms— tourist, tourism, infrastructure, economy, trend, development, tourist services, visa, COVID-19 pandemic.

1 INTRODUCTION

International tourism is the fastest growing and most profitable type of business in the world economy, accounting for 10% of world GDP, 1 in 10 jobs, 7% of world exports and 30% of services. [15] International tourism affects not only the country's foreign trade balance of payments, the national economy, but also their social and cultural environment. In this regard, much attention is paid to further enhancing the tourism potential of developed countries, developing new tourism services, creating popular tourism brands, increasing the competitiveness of tourism services, improving infrastructure, applying innovative technologies in tourism, increasing its share in GDP and making tourism a profitable industry. Taking into account such changes in world tourism and research aimed at radically reforming the tourism industry in the country, developing infrastructure, widespread introduction of innovative technologies, increasing its share in macroeconomic indicators, improving the use of tourism facilities to provide new jobs in the country the need is growing.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

There are many scientific papers devoted to the development, modernization and application of innovations in tourism, in which the development of tourism is interpreted and described differently. We emphasize the expediency of relying on these conclusions, analyze the views and opinions of individual authors in this regard, summarize their results and summarize our comments.

The authors did not pay attention to the processes of adequate formation of the infrastructure in the implementation of the considered factors.

Similarly, According to N.N.Safarova, one of the main directions in the methodology of forecasting the impact of tourism on the sustainable development of the national econ-

omy is the emphasis on income of the population and the facilitation of distances and visas between countries [4]. There is a one-sided approach in this regard, with no focus on the quality of services and the condition of the infrastructure.

The main directions of Z.I.Usmanova's research are the development of tourist and recreational services in Uzbekistan, where the lack of development of recreational and health tourism in Samarkand, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions is explained by the small number of institutions [5].

As a result of her research, D.Z.Norkulova has developed a number of recommendations for improving the organizational and economic mechanism for the development of social tourism services in Uzbekistan, with social protection as the main direction [6]. It does not dwell on the objects that serve social tourism and the conditions that create the interdependence between them.

Some local economists, as well as Khodiev B. Y. [5], Mustafakulov Sh. I., [6], Yuldashev N.[11] and others proposed evaluation methodology for integrated assessment of production capacity management, which is based on qualitative and effective indicators of production capacity management. Methodology for assessment the efficiency of production capacities management at textile enterprises were investigated by B. O. Tursunov in other works [7;8;10;12], but they have not investigated problems of influence of the Covid-19 pandemic coronavirus of the world economy.

It should be noted that in the current pandemic, there is no common understanding among many authors on the conditions of tourism development and what changes should be made in the field. In our opinion, the scope of research that still needs to be conducted in this area is wide, and we must take into account the well-established international experience in ensuring the balanced development of industries in the formation of infrastructure.

3 METHODOLOGY

The study uses a methodology to study the state and conditions of tourism development in the country in 2017-2019 and the expected changes in the coming years, and thus to study the development of tourism as an integrated infrastructure. and a method for determining the direction of development in a pandemic environment

• Ph.D, docent at "Tourism" department at Tashkent state university of economics, Republic of Uzbekistan

through methods such as expert assessment. Also, conclusions were made on the priorities of tourism development in the country and specific recommendations for improvement were developed.

4 ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

As a result of the ongoing reforms in the tourism of the Republic in 2017-2019, the number of tourist visits and exports of tourist services has a stable growth trend. Exports of tourist services more than doubled in 2017 compared to 2010 and amounted to 546.9 million in 2017, 1.041 million in 2018 and 1.313 million in 2019. USD (Table 1). [17] It is obvious that the export of tourist services has become a constant trend from year to year.

Table 1
Indicators of exports of tourists and tourist services to Uzbekistan

| Indicators | Years | | | Annual growth in% | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 18/17 | 19/18 |
| Visiting tourists (per thousand people) | 2,690 | 5,346 | 6,748 | 98,7 | 26,8 |
| Export of tourist services (in USD million) | 546,9 | 1,040 | 1,313 | 90,0 | 26,2 |

Source: www / uzbektourism.uz and Tourism in Uzbekistan 2019 based on statistical data.

The table shows that the number of tourists visiting our country in 2017 amounted to 2,690 thousand, in 2018 - 5,346 thousand, in 2019 - 6,748 thousand, an increase of 2.5 times in 2019 compared to 2017, 26.8% in 2019 compared to 2018.

Table 2
Tourists visiting from the CIS and neighboring countries (per thousand people) [17]

| Name of countries | Years | | Annual growth in% |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | |
| Kazakhstan | 2,253 | 2,261 | 0,4 |
| Tajikistan | 1,131 | 1,474 | 30,2 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1,034 | 1,455 | 40,7 |
| Turkmenistan | 178,4 | 574,8 | 322,2 |
| Russian Federation | 371,1 | 458,4 | 23,5 |
| Afghanistan | 44,2 | 62,5 | 41,4 |
| Ukraine | 12,0 | 14,0 | 16,6 |
| Azerbaijan | 10,3 | 12,3 | 19,4 |
| Belarus | 7,6 | 7,4 | -2,7 |
| Armenia | 1,4 | 1,7 | 21,4 |
| Overall | 5,043 | 6,321 | 25,3 |

Source: www.uzbektourism.uz and Tourism in Uzbekistan 2019 based on statistical data.

The analysis of tourist visits shows that it is expedient to study the foreign tourism market of the republic in two. We will be in the tourism market of the CIS (CIS and neighboring

countries) and far abroad countries. The fact that the main tourists visit our country from the CIS and neighboring countries testifies to the great potential of this market.

In 2018, 2,253 thousand from Kazakhstan, 1,131 thousand from Tajikistan, 1,034 thousand from Kyrgyzstan, 178.4 thousand from Turkmenistan, 371.1 thousand from the Russian Federation, 44.2 thousand from Afghanistan, 12.0 thousand from Ukraine, 10.3 thousand from Azerbaijan, 7 from Belarus. , 6 thousand, 1.4 thousand tourists from Armenia. In 2019, 2,261 thousand from Kazakhstan, 1,474 thousand from Tajikistan, 1,455 thousand from Kyrgyzstan, 574.8 thousand from Turkmenistan, 458.4 thousand from the Russian Federation, 62.5 thousand from Afghanistan, 14.0 thousand from Ukraine, 12.3 thousand from Azerbaijan, 7 from Belarus, respectively. , 4 thousand, 1.7 thousand tourists from Armenia. Tourist visits in 2019 increased by 25.3% compared to 2018 (Table 2). [17]

When we analyze the growth of tourist visits in 2019 compared to 2018 in the CIS and neighboring countries, it is 0.4% from Kazakhstan, 30.2% from Tajikistan, 40.7% from Kyrgyzstan, 322.2% from Turkmenistan and 23.5% from the Russian Federation. There was an increase of 19.4% from Azerbaijan, 16.6% from Ukraine, 21.4% from Armenia, 41.4% from Afghanistan, and a decrease of -2.7% from Belarus alone.

Table 3
Indicators of distant foreign countries visited by more tourists than Uzbekistan (per thousand people) [16]

| Name of countries | Years | | Annual growth in% |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | |
| Turkey | 41,2 | 63,5 | 54,1 |
| China | 32,4 | 54,2 | 67,2 |
| Republic of Korea | 27,2 | 35,5 | 30,5 |
| India | 21,0 | 27,8 | 32,3 |
| Germany | 18,0 | 27,6 | 53,3 |
| Japan | 17,0 | 24,9 | 46,4 |
| Italy | 13,8 | 20,3 | 47,1 |
| France | 13,5 | 20,3 | 50,3 |
| From other countries | 118,7 | 152,8 | 28,7 |
| Overall | 302,8 | 426,9 | 40,9 |

Source: www.uzbektourism.uz and Tourism in Uzbekistan 2019 based on statistical data.

Similarly, when we looked at the market trend in far-flung foreign countries, it was found that there are eight countries that are major suppliers of tourists. These countries provide an average of 60-70% of the flow in the tourism market.

The main part of foreign visitors to Uzbekistan in 2018 will be from Turkey, 41.2 thousand people, followed by China - 32.4 thousand, the Republic of Korea - 27.2 thousand, India - 21.0 thousand, Germany - 18.0 thousand. 17.0 thousand tourists came from Japan, 13.8 thousand from Italy, 13.5 thousand from France and 118.7 thousand from other countries. Accordingly, in 2019, 63.5 thousand from Turkey, 54.2 thousand from China, 35.5 thousand from the Republic of Korea, 27.8 thousand from India, 27.6 thousand from Germany, 24.9 thousand from Japan, 20.3 thousand from Italy,

20 from France. , 3 thousand, 152.8 thousand tourists from other countries (Table 3).

Analyzing the trend in the tourism market of far abroad countries, in 2019, compared to 2018, the tourist flow increased by 54.1% from Turkey, 67.2% from China, 30.5% from the Republic of Korea, 32.3% from India and 53 from Germany. , 3%, 46.4% from Japan, 47.1% from Italy, 50.3% from France, and 28.7% from other countries.

The main reasons for the positive changes in tourism in the country in recent years are:

- Development of an action plan for the development of tourism until 2025;
- revision of economic relations and integration processes with neighboring and distant foreign countries;
- creation of an active investment climate in tourism;
- changes in the visa system;
- increasing competition in the provision of tourist services;
- Acceleration of the process of infrastructure formation;
- Conditions created to support entrepreneurship, etc.

From January 1, 2020, visa-free travel from 86 countries will be introduced. In 2019, 58.0% of the total number of tourists visited were visa-free tourists. The visa-free regime is also set at 7 to 60 days.

Table 4
Indicators of foreign tourists visiting Uzbekistan by months of 2018-2019 (per thousand people) [15]

| Months / years | 2018 year | 2019 year | Annual growth in% |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| January | 269,2 | 437,2 | 62,4 |
| February | 261,2 | 393,5 | 50,6 |
| March | 448,3 | 549,4 | 22,5 |
| April | 434,9 | 544,4 | 25,1 |
| May | 441,5 | 496,7 | 12,5 |
| June | 472,9 | 613,5 | 29,7 |
| July | 506,1 | 597,7 | 18,0 |
| August | 584,4 | 692,3 | 18,4 |
| September | 503,3 | 613,8 | 21,9 |
| October | 504,3 | 658,3 | 38,2 |
| November | 476,1 | 633,9 | 33,1 |
| December | 450,2 | 517,6 | 14,9 |

Source: [www / uzbektourism.uz](http://www.uzbektourism.uz) and Tourism in Uzbekistan 2019 based on statistical data.

At the same time, tourists from 57 countries have the opportunity to use the electronic visa regime. In 2019, 60,000 tourists visited our country via e-visa. In addition, a transit visa-free regime has been introduced for citizens of 36 countries. As a result of this work, the number of tourists visiting our country has changed for the better over the seasons.

If we study the trend of tourists visiting our country in 2018-2019 by seasons and months, it shows the lowest number of tourist visits in January-February 2018. As a result of the work done in this regard and the measures developed in 2019, 437.2 thousand tourists visited in January, an increase of 62.4% over the previous year, 393.5 thousand tourists visited in February, compared to 50.6 last year. % increase was achieved (Table 4).

In other months of the year, annual growth was not observed at this level. One of the main reasons for this is the work done in recent years to develop winter tourism in a number of regions of the country (Tashkent, Namangan, Jizzakh regions).

Not only is one of the biggest problems in world tourism in Uzbekistan, but also the balance of the tourist season. Keeping the tourist season in balance is also a topical issue in France, Germany, Italy, Canada and China, where tourism is developed. The main tourist flows to our country are in August, September, October and November. One of the main reasons for this is that at this time the weather in our country allows for comfortable tourist travel. In the summer, too, we can see that tourist traffic in June 2019 increased significantly compared to previous years, with a growth rate of 29.7% compared to 2018 and 18.0% in July.

Table 5
Monthly indicators of tourists from CIS and far abroad countries (per person) [14]

| Months name | From CIS countries | | | From distant foreign countries | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| | 2018 year | 2019 year | Annual growth in% | 2018 year | 2019 year | Annual growth in % |
| | 254 426 | 419 202 | 64,8 | 11 768 | 18 063 | 53,5 |
| January | 251 493 | 372 955 | 48,3 | 13 439 | 20 538 | 52,8 |
| February | 413 539 | 518 666 | 25,4 | 27 595 | 30 788 | 11,6 |
| March | 403 100 | 493 173 | 22,3 | 31 862 | 51 213 | 60,7 |
| April | 408 743 | 452 032 | 10,6 | 32 757 | 44 719 | 36,5 |
| May | 447 386 | 569 191 | 27,2 | 25 521 | 44 284 | 73,5 |
| June | 476 456 | 555 760 | 16,6 | 29 649 | 41 905 | 41,3 |
| July | 546 004 | 636 822 | 16,6 | 38 430 | 55 449 | 44,3 |
| August | 457 454 | 547 861 | 19,8 | 45 851 | 65 923 | 43,8 |
| September | 464 595 | 601 929 | 29,6 | 39 795 | 56 437 | 41,8 |
| October | 451 508 | 600 623 | 33,0 | 24 623 | 33 363 | 35,5 |
| November | 429 652 | 491 896 | 14,5 | 20 569 | 25 718 | 25,0 |

Source: [www / uzbektourism.uz](http://www.uzbektourism.uz) and Tourism in Uzbekistan 2019 based on statistical data.

One of the most important reasons for ensuring tourist seasonality is to create conditions for the smooth operation of the infrastructure throughout the year. The widening gap between seasonality causes a number of problems, including the loss of skilled workers, hotel employment, disruptions in transportation services, the movement of foreign exchange earnings, and more.

In previous years, there were huge differences between the tourist seasonality in our country, but the scale of work done over the past three years allows to reduce this difference. Reducing the differences between the tourist seasons, we can determine what needs to be done by studying the movement of tourists visiting from the CIS and far abroad.

According to the analysis of the movement of tourists from the CIS and far abroad, the number of visitors from the CIS in 2019 compared to 2018 increased by 64.8% in January, 48.3% in February, 25.4% in March, 29.6% in October, 33.0% in November and December. 14.5%, long-term foreign countries 53.5% in January, 52.8% in February, 11.6% in March, 41.8% in October, 35.5% in November and 25.0% in December. this showed that the two tourist markets are close to each other (Table 5).

For the remaining months, the number of visitors from the CIS countries in 2019 compared to 2018 increased by 22.3% in April, 10.6% in May, 27.2% in June, 16.6% in July, 16.6% in August, 19.8% in September. The number of foreign tourists increased by 60.7% in April, 36.5% in May, 73.5% in June, 41.3% in July, 44.3% in August and 43.8% in September, respectively. According to the results of the analysis, if we look at the trend of tourists visiting from two tourist markets by months, we can see that the growth is accelerating in the markets of foreign countries.

At the same time, the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 plunged tourism into a deep crisis. Tourism was one of the first to begin to suffer greatly. According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), by the end of 2020, international travel will be reduced by 90%, jobs by 80 million, and the total losses in the industry will reach 1 trillion. It is expected to be USD.

It is known that from March 16, 2020, our country was closed for foreign and domestic tourists. As a result, more than 1,500 tour operators and 1,200 hotels ceased operations. These, including guides, national handicrafts, shrines and sanatoriums, public catering, transportation, etc., have had a significant impact on the incomes of more than 250,000 people.

In order to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, a number of concessions have been made to this area as well. In particular, 60 billion soums were allocated from 1750 entities for property, land and social taxes. UZS. However, these privileges and preferences are temporary. For sustainable development, it is necessary to learn to work in a pandemic.[15]

In the first quarter of 2020 (January-March), the number of foreigners visiting Uzbekistan for tourism amounted to 1.2 million people. This figure decreased by 12.0% compared to the corresponding period of 2019 [17]. According to the analysis, 87.9% of tourists visit relatives, 9.3% travel, 1.2% for treatment and rehabilitation, 0.7% on business, 0.6% on business trips. , Indicates that 0.3% came from reading.[14]

The number of visitors from the CIS countries is 1.16 million. people (95.6 percent), and those from distant foreign countries - 53.6 thousand people (4.4 percent).

The largest number of foreigners visiting our country came from the neighboring Republic of Kazakhstan, which numbered 397.6 thousand people. 332.7 thousand people came from the Republic of Tajikistan, 298.1 thousand people from Kyrgyzstan, 64.7 thousand people from Russia, 60.6 thousand people from Turkmenistan, 2.0 thousand people from Azerbaijan and 1.2

thousand people from Belarus.

The main part of the influx from far abroad was 13.5 thousand people from Turkey, 5.2 thousand from South Korea, 3.7 thousand from China, 3.6 thousand from India, 1.3 thousand from Japan and 0.9 thousand from France.

The main part of the visiting foreign citizens was 31-55 years old, their share in the total reached 53.1%. Also, 19.5% were aged 19-30, 19.4% were aged 56 and older, and 8% were aged 0-18.

The above data show that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the flow of the two main categories of foreign tourists visiting Uzbekistan has sharply decreased.

Until now, the majority of tourists visiting Uzbekistan were between the ages of 45 and 75, and they are more likely to be infected with the coronavirus. In addition, this category of tourists often travel to Uzbekistan not individually, but in groups. Due to the pandemic, it is not recommended for tourists to gather in groups in the near future. Judging by the observations, the best tourists are the elderly. Because they travel as a group and cost more than young people.

The second category of tourists visiting Uzbekistan is backpackers, ie young tourists. This category of tourists spends very little, calculating their expenses to the penny.[16]

After the pandemic, the cost of travel is expected to rise, with the result that visits by this category of tourists may not yield the expected results either.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

There are a number of options to support the sustainable development of tourism in Uzbekistan in the context of the pandemic, one of which is the widespread promotion of domestic tourism. At the same time, business travel is recovering quickly, as the economy of our republic attracts investments from many foreign developed countries.

It is necessary to pursue a policy of intensifying domestic tourism, taking advantage of the fact that foreign countries have closed their borders. With the mitigation of the pandemic, it is necessary to activate the services of domestic tourism for more than 34 million people in the country, thereby improving the domestic tourism infrastructure through the efficient use of time.

In this regard, the Tourism Committee should take on key responsibilities. It is necessary to find ways to create conditions for tourism companies, hotels, cafes, restaurants so that they do not close down, and tourism professionals do not move to other jobs, as much as possible by supporting domestic tourism.

For example, eco-tourism or rural tourism can be widely promoted to attract tourists to domestic tourism. After the pandemic, it is natural that most tourists will be very cautious. Tourists try to avoid crowded places. Tourists do not use public trips to historical and cultural monuments or pilgrimage tourism in our big cities for some time. In such a situation, taking advantage of ecotourism and rural tourism opportunities will help to get out of the situation. For tourists traveling in the bosom of nature, there is no need to maintain social distance. In rural areas, people are less likely than in cities. There is no congestion in hotels, restaurants, transport. There are many opportunities for domestic travel in Uzbekistan and natural landscapes worth

seeing on the beaches in the villages, but most of our compatriots do not know about it. Therefore, we believe that it is time to create domestic tourism infrastructure.

REFERENCES

- [1] Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the organization of the State Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan". December 2, 2016, No. PQ-2666.
- [2] Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further improve the activities of the State Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan." February 6, 2018, No. PQ-3510.
- [3] Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures for the accelerated development of tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan." January 5, 2019, No. PF-5611.
- [4] N.N. Safarova. Improving the methodology for forecasting the impact of tourism on the sustainable development of the national economy. Author's abstract of the dissertation of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics. Tashkent 2018. -19-21 p.
- [5] Z.I. Usmanova. Features and trends in the development of tourist and recreational services in Uzbekistan. Author's abstract of the dissertation of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics. Samarkand 2018 -17-19 b.
- [6] D.Z. Norqulova. Improving the organizational and economic mechanism for the development of social tourism services in Uzbekistan. Author's abstract of the dissertation of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics. Samarkand 2018 -21-23 p.
- [7] Umirova, D. S. (2019). Preconditions and dynamics of development of entrance tourism in Uzbekistan. *ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science*, 01 (69), 326-334. SoI: <http://s-o-i.org/1.1/TAS-01-69-46> Doi: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15863/TAS.2019.01.69.46>
- [8] Khodiev, B. Y. & Mustafakulov, Sh. I., Tursunov, B. O., Sigidov, Yu., Khavrova, K. S. (2019). Methods for control efficiency evaluation of the production capacities. *Astra Salvensis*, Supplement no. 1, 499-521. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3666484>
- [9] Mustafakulov, Sh. I., Zarova, E. V., Tikhomirova, A. N., & Tursunov, B. O. (2019). Research of efficiency of use of production capacity at the enterprises of textile industry on the basis of methods of multivariate statistical analysis: On the example of Namangan Region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. *Journal of Advanced Research in Dynamical and Control Systems*, 11(7), 886-899. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3756255>
- [10] Tursunov, B. O. (2019). Methodology for assessment the efficiency of production capacities management at textile enterprises. *Vlakna a Textil*, 26(2), 74-81. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3756262> The special role of exports in the growth of the economy. // *J. Economic Review*, No. 10, 2005.
- [11] Yldashev, N., Nabokov, V. I., Nekrasov, K. V., & Tursunov, B. O. (2019). Innovative development of Uzbekistan agroindustrial complex. In *Digital agriculture-development strategy* (pp. 334-337).
- [12] Tursunov, B. O. (2020). Aspect of Financial Security of Industrial Enterprises Under Influence of Global Crisis. *Asian Journal of Technology & Management Research* [ISSN: 2249-0892], 10(01).
- [13] Tursunov, B. O. (2017). Strategiya razvitiya legkoj promyshlennosti Respubliki Uzbekistan. *Vestnik Instituta jekonomiki RAN*.
- [14] www.unwto.org
- [15] Tourism in Uzbekistan 2019 statistics
- [16] www.uzbektourism.uz
- [17] www.stat.uz