



REPORT SUMMARY

Initiatives and agreements have been made to provide more economic opportunities and protect women's rights. Specifically, USAID launched a program to finance rural women entrepreneurs and a memorandum was signed to aid women in need of help in Turkey. The government raises issues in the school education system and proposes radical reforms to address the low educational standards and lack of adequate facilities in schools. In 2022, wages will be raised for qualified teachers, and Russian language teachers with internationally recognized certificates can already receive 50% bonuses. Regarding higher education, discussions were made with Turkish authorities to open an Uzbek-Turkish university in Uzbekistan.

Japan will financially assist in preserving the heritage of the Silk Road through digital archives, and the "Lazgi" film is showcasing the history of Lazgi dance at international film festivals.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

"In general, we will completely review the teaching methodology, textbooks, from the desk to the building. If we do not create conditions for education, for teachers, society will not change. School education reform councils will be established at the district, regional and national levels. I personally chair the Republican Council. The district and regional councils will be headed by governors... We have no right to delay reforms in this area. We need to lay a solid foundation in school education from today. We will mobilize all our attention and resources for this. We are choosing a difficult path, but this path will solve problems"

The President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev

"In the process of making this film, my goal was to preserve the endangered form of the Lazgi dance, show them to the whole world and thereby attract the attention of foreigners to our cultural heritage"

Director of the "Lazgi" film, Ikhtiyor Bakhtiyorov



IMPORTANT NEWS PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

USAID to Empower Rural Women Through Co-Financing Private Enterprises of Craftswomen

Rural women mostly occupy positions in smallholder farms, with no specialized education and financial resources to pursue entrepreneurial activities. USAID launched a "Gender Development Fund" to finance products and services that enable rural women to engage in more high-skilled labour and generate higher income. Specifically, USAID plans to co-invest in enterprises that employ women in managerial and technical positions.

Source: [UzDaily](#); [US Embassy](#)

Memorandum on Cooperation to Protect Rights of Uzbek Women Signed in Turkey

The Consulate General of Uzbekistan in Istanbul and the Association for the Rights of Uzbek Women agreed to cooperate in protecting the rights of women in Turkey. Shortly after the signing, the sides were provided targeted assistance to over 30 women, many of whom were victims of human trafficking.

Source: [Kun.uz](#)

EDUCATION

School Reform Councils Under the Presidential Leadership Are to Be Established

The President noted that 1,695 schools required major repairs, more than 3,000 lack training facilities, and 2,000 do not have gyms. Furthermore, he stressed the need to build additional 270 schools due to new housings, expansion of rural areas, and population growth. The need for radical reforms to address outdated curriculums and low educational standards was also emphasized. Regarding such issues, more state and local funds will be directed at increasing the teaching capacity of schools, expanding educational and recreational facilities, and developing programs in cooperation with international organizations.

Source: [Kun.uz](#)

Kids With Certain Disabilities are Exempted from Kinder Garden Fees

Fees are exempted for kids with speech disorders, hearing impairments, visual impairments, disorders of the musculoskeletal system, mental retardation, complex developmental disorders, and the first manifestation of tuberculosis.

Source: [UzDaily](#)

Turkey Plans to Open Universities in Uzbekistan

A delegation of the Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Turkey demonstrated interest and agreed to establish an Uzbek-Turkish university in Uzbekistan with the assistance of leading Turkish educational institutions. Branches of two Turkish universities in the fields of economics, technology, and medicine are currently available in Tashkent and Bukhara.

Source: [Market Screener](#)

Kindergartens Will Not Be Closed for Quarantine

Ministry of Preschool Education announced that preschool educational organizations will not be closed for quarantine, but strict safety measures will be applied in them.

Source: [Kun.uz](#)

Holidays Extended for Students in January

In December 2021, 35 state universities were granted financial, academic, and organizational independence. Therefore, training seminars were organized by the Ministry of Higher Education for rectors, vice-rectors, deans, financial and other specialists. Considering such reforms and training of university staff, students were granted longer holidays in January.

Source: [Gazeta.uz](#)

Rising Coronavirus Cases and Online Education

With the rising coronavirus cases, the Ministry of Public Education with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education announced that no plans were made to move to online education.

Source: [Kun.uz \(1\)](#), [Kun.uz \(2\)](#)

Russian Language Teachers Will Receive a 50% Bonus

In line with the Cabinet of Ministers' resolution "On Measures to Improve the Study of Foreign Languages", Russian language teachers with internationally recognized certificates will receive 50% bonuses on monthly basis.

Source: [Kun.uz](#)

Uzbekistan Plans to Raise Wages for Qualified Teachers

In line with the Presidential decree "On Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", the government intends to revise and improve qualification assessments for teachers by involving international experts and introducing fair and transparent assessment systems. In 2022, the wages will increase by at least 15% for teachers of the highest category, at least 10% for teachers of the first category, and at least 5% for teachers of the second category.

Source: Kun.uz

Artel Opens an Innovative Education Centre

Artel Electronics LLC opens an educational centre to offer courses on IT, languages, engineering, and design. The courses will be offered in three languages and students will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience at the company's factories, production lines, and Artel's R&D Centre.

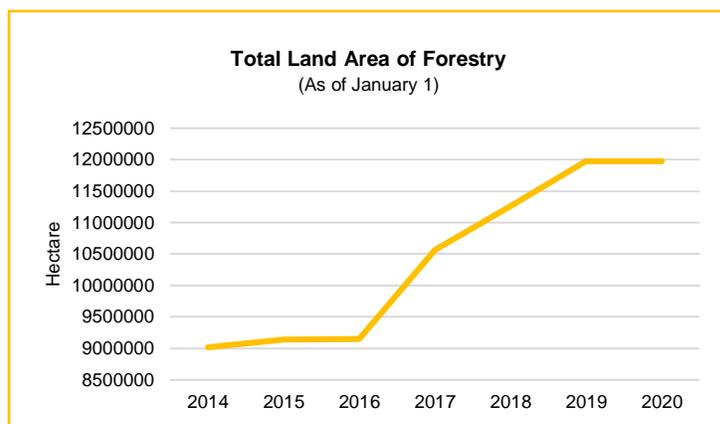
Source: EIN News

ENVIRONMENT

Forest Plantations are Being Created in Kashkadarya

Since 2018, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the government began implementing projects to promote the sustainable forest management in the Sirdarya, Pap, Kitab, and Dehkanabad forests. Within this framework, only in 2021, forest plantations were created on 1220 hectares of land and over 265 thousand seedlings were planted.

Source: UzDaily



Source: Stat.uz

CULTURE

Restaurant Featuring Cuisine from Uzbekistan Ranks in Top 10 of Yelp's U.S. Restaurant List

In Nashville, Osh Restaurant and Grill, featuring Uzbek cuisine and plov as its top sellers, ranks number 9 nationwide on Yelp's list.



Source: News Channel 5; Open Table

Japan Helps Uzbekistan to Preserve the Cultural Heritage of Silk Road

Uzbekistan to receive USD 490,000 from the Japan International Cooperation Agency to preserve the heritage of the Silk Road through digital archives. The agreement also celebrates the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the countries.

Source: Azer Tac

The Film "Lazgi" Won Several International Film Competitions

A film dedicated to the history of Lazgi dance, directed by Ikhtiyor Bakhtiyorov and supported by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, "Lazgi" won awards in international competitions, including "Art Stream", "Fifflondon", "Blackboard", "Lift-Off Season Awards" and "IFFF".

Source: UzDaily



EUROUZ or Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic Cooperation is a new platform of cooperation between Europe & Uzbekistan, which has been created to assist the European business community in establishing and strengthening business, investment, and trade cooperation ties with Uzbekistan.

All organizations of any legal form registered within the EU Customs Union and European Free Trade Association countries or those who registered in Uzbekistan are all eligible to become members of EUROUZ. A special mechanism for cooperation is also established with international organizations.

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