

THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND SOUTH KOREA: MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF LABOR MIGRATION

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ABSTRACT: After the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea, the two countries have established extensive cooperation and mutually beneficial relations in the field of labor migration. Labor migrants are important for the Uzbek economy and for maintaining the balance between supply and demand in the Korean labor market. South Korea was one of the first countries to sign an agreement with Uzbekistan on organized labor migration, which has been growing rapidly in recent years.

KEYWORDS: South Korea, cooperation, labor migration, agency, foreign labor migration agency, living abroad.

INTRODUCTION

After the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the countries of the world began to recognize the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In particular, on December 30, 1991, the Republic of Korea became the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to recognize the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan. After the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea in January 1992, a wide range of political, economic and cultural cooperation was established[1]. Cooperation between Uzbekistan and Korea has reached the level of Strategic Partnership since 2006. Since 2007, the two countries have been cooperating in the field of labor migration. As part of this cooperation, more than 31.5 thousand citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan were sent to South Korea under the Employment Permit System. The South Korean government allocates a quota for Uzbekistan of about 3 to 3.2 thousand people annually. Between 2007 and 2016, 27,000 Uzbeks obtained the right to work legally in South Korea. Labor migrants are important for the Uzbek economy and for maintaining the balance between supply and demand in the Korean labor market. Korea was one of the first countries to sign an agreement with Uzbekistan on organized labor migration,

which has been growing rapidly in recent years. By the 21st century, the scale of migration is growing and expanding [2].

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Korea “On temporary employment of citizens of one state in the territory of another state” signed on August 23, 2011 and entered into force on March 1, 2012 [3], such documents include the Memorandum of Understanding signed on December 13, 2012 between the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea on sending workers to the Republic of Korea under the employment permit system. It should be noted that on July 1, 2013, in order to further develop cooperation with the Republic of Korea in the field of labor migration, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution “On measures to further expand cooperation with the Republic of Korea in the field of labor migration”[4]. “On measures to further expand cooperation between the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea in the field of labor migration” dated 01.07.2013 №PQ-1993 established the Agency for External Labor Migration under the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan as the competent authority for sending citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Korea [5].

On measures to establish a vocational training center in Samarkand with a grant from the Government of the Republic of Korea and KOICA ” [6] Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 15.05.2015 on migration It serves to eliminate the existing shortcomings and raise them to the level of world standards. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev's state visit to the Republic of Korea on November 22-25, 2017 raised relations to a qualitatively new level. This historic visit laid a solid foundation for the development of multifaceted ties. During the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Agency for External Labor Migration under the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Korean Institute for Human Resource Development, and a program to support training and employment was approved [7]. On May 28, 2018, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution PQ-3743 “On the opening of offices of the Agency for External Labor Migration in the structure of employment and labor relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad” [8]. In order to ensure the

implementation of the decision, on May 28, 2018 and September 10-14 this year, a delegation of the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan visited Gwangju, Korea and agreed to open a branch of the agency. On October 25, 2018, President Sh. Mirziyoyev adopted Resolution No. PP-3982 “On measures to further improve the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of cooperation with compatriots living abroad” [9]. On the basis of this document, the Concept of State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of cooperation with compatriots living abroad and the program of priority measures for the development of cooperation with them were approved. The main goal is to protect the rights and freedoms of our citizens, to encourage them by the state, to use their potential to support large-scale reforms in our country, to further strengthen the international prestige of our country. In 2019, the process of employment of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Korea continued. To fully cover these quota jobs, the current number of available candidates for Korean employers is 4,980, of which 4,800 are in manufacturing and 180 in services[10]. On March 25, 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. 244 “On approval of the Regulation on the procedure for attracting and using foreign labor in the Republic of Uzbekistan”[11]. A preferential procedure for issuing certificates to citizens has been introduced, the amount of payment for certification has been reduced. On this basis, the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan issues certificates confirming the right of citizens to work in the territory of the country. The procedure for inviting members to Uzbekistan, issuing multiple-entry visas and their temporary registration by the migration and citizenship departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to the data, in 2020, 6,489 Korean citizens visited Uzbekistan (in 2019 - 35,524, in 2018 - 27,269). In this regard, the parties will seek to further develop and strengthen bilateral relations in the near and long term. According to the Agency for External Labor Migration, today the number of Uzbek citizens abroad is more than 2.5 million (in the Russian Federation 1, More than 5 million, more than 100,000 in the United States, more than 140,000 in Kazakhstan, more than 13,000 in Kyrgyzstan, more than 5,000 in Tajikistan, 50,000 in European countries, and about 4,000 in Japan). At the same time, about 10,000 Uzbek students are studying in South Korea. It should be noted that after the majority of our citizens go abroad, it is clear that the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan are not on the consular list and that personal data in foreign countries are protected by law (non-disclosure without the consent of the person). In this

regard, as I mentioned above, many of our compatriots abroad are seeking direct participation in the development of our country. They are returning to Uzbekistan and making their contribution[12]. Representation of the Agency for External Labor Migration in the Republic of Korea and the Center for Support of Foreign Workers in the city of Cheonan in the smooth implementation of cultural, educational and counseling projects for citizens of Uzbekistan temporarily working in Korea An agreement on mutual assistance was signed [13]. In accordance with this agreement, the parties will cooperate in the following areas:

- Establishment of a system for organizing Korean language and other training courses for citizens of Uzbekistan;
- Carrying out cultural events and solving the necessary tasks in cooperation;
- Providing advice and practical assistance to citizens of Uzbekistan;
- other issues necessary for cooperation between the parties.

A delegation from the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations visited the Republic of Korea on June 21-25, 2021 to discuss the current state and prospects of cooperation in the field of labor migration. During the visit, the sides will review the issues of long-term and seasonal sending of Uzbek labor migrants to South Korea on a contractual basis, the conditions created for workers working in the country on a contract basis, problems with the pandemic of Ye-8 and Ye-9 visas. Negotiations were held on [14]. He will also visit Kwangju to get acquainted with the activities of the Foreign Labor Migration Agency's office in the city and the Association of Uzbeks in South Korea[15]. Currently, the external labor migration agency is not limited to South Korea and Russia. It has more than 30 agreements with developed European countries, including Germany, Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands, Lithuania and Latvia. Arab countries also have cooperation agreements with Kuwait and Oman[16]. The number of migrant workers temporarily working abroad at the end of 2021 amounted to an average of 1.5 million people, of which 27% were women and 33.7% were young people. There are 1,036,305 citizens in the Russian Federation, 246,170 in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 39,848 in the Republic of South Korea, 67,030 in Turkey, 8,010 in the UAE, and 143,575 in other countries[17]. Uzbek migrants, especially labor migrants, travel mainly to five destinations: Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, South Korea, and the United States[18].

CONCLUSION

Today, fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea continues to develop successfully. The relationship between the two countries, which is rooted in friendship, partnership and oriental values, in the field of legal and safe, orderly labor migration, will continue to develop rapidly.

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