



UZBEKISTAN-JAPAN SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS: JOINT PROJECTS AND PROSPECTS

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20531612>

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the formation, development stages, and main directions of scientific cooperation between Uzbekistan and Japan. It examines collaboration between scholars of the two countries in the fields of archaeology, history, Oriental studies, and cultural heritage research. Particular attention is given to the contribution of Professor Kyudzo Kato to the study of Uzbekistan's history and archaeology. The significance of the international conference dedicated to the 1000th anniversary of the Khorezm Mamun Academy, as well as other academic forums, is highlighted. The article also analyzes the outcomes of the international conference "Uzbekistan and Japan on the Great Silk Road." Furthermore, it examines the current state of cooperation between universities and research centers in both countries. The content and importance of scientific collaboration within the framework of the Sakura Science Program are revealed. The study substantiates the role of academic exchanges in knowledge sharing and human capital development. It evaluates the institutional foundations and future prospects of Uzbekistan–Japan scientific relations. The article demonstrates the growing importance of scientific diplomacy in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.*

Keywords. *Uzbekistan, Japan, scientific cooperation, science diplomacy, archaeology, Kyudzo Kato, cultural heritage, Khorezm Mamun Academy, Sakura Science Program, international conferences, education, academic exchange.*

Annotasiya. *Maqolada O'zbekiston va Yaponiya o'rtasidagi ilmiy hamkorlikning shakllanishi, rivojlanish bosqichlari va asosiy yo'nalishlari tahlil qilingan. Ikki mamlakat olimlari o'rtasidagi arxeologiya, tarix, sharqshunoslik va madaniy merosni o'rganish sohasidagi hamkorlik masalalari yoritilgan. Professor Kyudzo Katoning O'zbekiston arxeologiyasi va tarixini tadqiq etishdagi xizmatlari baholangan. Xorazm Ma'mun akademiasining 1000 yilligiga bag'ishlangan xalqaro konferensiya hamda boshqa ilmiy anjumanlarning ahamiyati ko'rsatib berilgan. Shuningdek, "O'zbekiston va Yaponiya Buyuk Ipak yo'lida" xalqaro forumi va uning natijalari tahlil qilingan. Ikki mamlakat oliy ta'lim muassasalari va ilmiy markazlari o'rtasidagi hamkorlikning zamonaviy holati*



o'rganilgan. "Sakura Science Program" doirasidagi hamkorlikning mazmun-mohiyati ochib berilgan. Ilmiy aloqalarning bilimlar almashinuvi va kadrlar tayyorlashdagi o'rni asoslangan. Tadqiqotda O'zbekiston–Yaponiya ilmiy munosabatlarining institutsional asoslari va istiqbollari baholangan. Maqola ikki davlat o'rtasidagi ilmiy diplomatiyaning rivojlanish xususiyatlarini yoritib beradi.

Kalit so'zlar. *O'zbekiston, Yaponiya, savdo-iqtisodiy hamkorlik, investitsiyalar, modernizatsiya, iqtisodiy islohotlar, tashqi savdo, iqtisodiy qo'mitalar, yapon kompaniyalari, bozor iqtisodiyoti, xalqaro hamkorlik, investitsiya muhiti.*

Аннотация. *В статье анализируются становление, основные этапы развития и направления научного сотрудничества между Узбекистаном и Японией. Рассматриваются вопросы взаимодействия ученых двух стран в области археологии, истории, востоковедения и изучения культурного наследия. Дана оценка научной деятельности профессора Кюдзо Като в исследовании истории и археологии Узбекистана. Показано значение международной конференции, посвященной 1000-летию Хорезмской академии Мамуна, а также других научных форумов. Особое внимание уделено международной конференции «Узбекистан и Япония на Великом шелковом пути» и ее результатам. Исследовано современное состояние сотрудничества между университетами и научными центрами двух стран. Раскрыто содержание научного взаимодействия в рамках программы «Sakura Science Program». Обоснована роль научных связей в обмене знаниями и подготовке высококвалифицированных кадров. Оценены институциональные основы и перспективы узбекско-японского научного сотрудничества. В статье освещаются особенности развития научной дипломатии между двумя государствами.*

Ключевые слова. *Узбекистан, Япония, научное сотрудничество, научная дипломатия, археология, Кюдзо Като, культурное наследие, Хорезмская академия Мамуна, программа Sakura Science Program, международные конференции, образование, академический обмен.*

In the context of contemporary globalization, cooperation between states is developing not only through political and economic relations but also through scientific, educational, and cultural exchanges. Within the modern system of international relations, scientific diplomacy has become one of the key instruments for strengthening mutual trust

among nations, promoting innovative development, and enhancing intellectual potential. From this perspective, scientific cooperation between Uzbekistan and Japan represents one of the most important and promising dimensions of bilateral relations. Following its independence, Uzbekistan placed particular emphasis on expanding



international scientific cooperation, strengthening ties with leading research centers around the world, and integrating national science into the global academic community. In this process, scientific and academic cooperation with Japan acquired special significance. Japan's advanced experience in science, innovation, technology, and human resource development has been of great importance for Uzbekistan, while cooperation between scholars of the two countries has steadily expanded in the fields of archaeology, history, Oriental studies, cultural heritage research, education, and modern technologies.

In particular, the studies conducted by Japanese scholars on the history and cultural heritage of Uzbekistan, joint archaeological expeditions, international scientific conferences, inter-university cooperation programs, and academic exchange initiatives for young researchers have contributed significantly to strengthening the institutional foundations of scientific relations between the two countries. Notably, the activities of Professor Kyudzo Kato, international conferences dedicated to the anniversary of the Khorezm Mamun Academy, the scientific forum "Uzbekistan and Japan on the Great Silk Road," and cooperative projects implemented within the framework of the Sakura Science Program have become practical manifestations of these productive relations.

Kyudzo Kato frequently visited our republic as a knowledgeable and

compassionate researcher who carefully studied the ancient culture of the Uzbek people. His research has made a significant contribution to promoting the spiritual heritage of the Uzbek nation. He is the author of dozens of books dedicated to the history of our region, including "Ancient Monuments of Southern Uzbekistan," "Travel Across Central Asia," "At the Crossroads of the Great Silk Road," and "Famous People of Central Asia" [1].

Despite his advanced age, the Japanese scholar Professor Kyudzo Kato actively participated in excavations carried out at Qoratepa in Old Termez. As a philanthropist, he used his own funds to build a large two-story house in Dalverzintepa, which included a museum as well as all necessary living and resting facilities for archaeologists. This house became known as "Kato's House," where all scholars visiting the excavations found comfort and support.

It should be noted that Kyudzo Kato, as a scholar and scientific leader of the Uzbekistan–Japan International Archaeological Expedition, gained wide recognition in academic circles in Uzbekistan. Taking these circumstances into account, for his active contribution to the development of scientific relations between archaeologists of the two countries, as well as for his productive work in expedition research in the southern regions of our country, Kyudzo Kato was awarded the title of Honorary Doctor of the Research Institute of Art



Studies of the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan □2□.

In addition, for his outstanding achievements in studying and promoting abroad the moral and ethical heritage of our people, their history, and architectural monuments, as well as for his significant contribution to the development of scientific relations between Uzbekistan and Japan, Kyudzo Kato was awarded the “Dostlik” (Friendship) Order by a special Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 3, 2002. □3□.

Another important event in the scientific cooperation between Uzbek and Japanese scholars was the international scientific conference held in Tokyo in September 2006, dedicated to the 1000th anniversary of the Khorezm Mamun Academy. The conference was organized by the Institute for Political and Cultural Studies of Chuo University, the Japan Association for Central Asian Studies, and the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Japan. It brought together leading Oriental studies scholars, historians, archaeologists, and representatives of the public from the country □4□.

It is worth noting that Chuo University, where the conference was held, is considered one of Japan’s leading research centers. Throughout its more than 120-year history, it has produced numerous distinguished scholars and statesmen who have made significant contributions to the development of the country. Due to its comprehensive research programs, the university is home to renowned Japanese scholars and

researchers studying the history of Uzbekistan.

The scholars who spoke at the conference particularly emphasized the significant contributions to science and culture made by great Eastern scholars such as Al-Biruni, Abu Ali ibn Sina (Avicenna), Ibn Iraq, and other eminent thinkers who worked at the Khorezm Academy. The documentary film about the current activities of the Mamun Academy, which conducts fundamental research in various fields, attracted special interest from the conference participants.

At the same time, representatives of the Japanese academic community highly appreciated the attention paid by the Government of Uzbekistan to the study of the rich historical and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people, a vivid example of which is the revival of the Khorezm Mamun Academy.

In his speech at the conference, Professor Toru Horikawa of Kyoto University stated: “The works of great Eastern scholars who laid the foundations of algebra, geometry, astronomy, philosophy, and medicine are well known in Japan. I am pleased with the growing cooperation between the academic circles of both countries. Dozens of joint scientific articles and books by Uzbek and Japanese authors have already been published. Since 2003, Kyoto University has been hosting conferences of Orientalists studying Central Asia and, in particular, the history of Uzbekistan.” □5□.



As can be seen, active and dynamic relations have been established and maintained between scholars and research centers of Uzbekistan and Japan in the field of science. These relations are primarily aimed at jointly achieving new scientific results in various disciplines, and more importantly, at the mutual enrichment of knowledge and the promotion of mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries, which in turn contributes to strengthening interstate relations.

Against the backdrop of comprehensive socio-economic reforms in Uzbekistan, new forms of close cooperation in the field of science have emerged. These include large-scale international scientific conferences on urgent contemporary issues and the establishment of links between research centers in both countries. A vivid example of this is the international scientific conference titled “Uzbekistan and Japan on the Great Silk Road,” held in Tokyo in December 2019. It was organized by the World Society for the Study, Preservation, and Promotion of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan, the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan, the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Japan, and the State Committee for Tourism Development [6].

Long-standing scientific relations between our countries, as well as the participation of Uzbek specialists in congresses, conferences, and creative

meetings organized by the Japanese side, can clearly be observed. The international scientific conference “Uzbekistan and Japan on the Great Silk Road” became the first large-scale event held by the Republic of Uzbekistan in Japan.

During the conference, the presentation of the international multimedia project “Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in World Collections” took place, which involved Japanese specialists studying Uzbek artifacts preserved in Japanese museums. The results of Japanese researchers’ work were reflected in the illustrated book-album titled “Art of Central Asia in Japanese Collections.” The significance of this book-album lies in the fact that it was published in four languages—Japanese, Uzbek, English, and Russian. In addition, a documentary film about the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan in Japanese collections was produced in cooperation with the Japanese side. All of these works were presented at the international scientific conference “Uzbekistan and Japan on the Great Silk Road.” [7].

Another important step toward strengthening and further developing scientific relations between Uzbekistan and Japan was the signing of an agreement on expanding scientific cooperation within the framework of the Sakura Science Program. This agreement was signed in October 2025 between the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Vice President of the



Japan Science and Technology Agency, Mr. Morimoto Shigeo. During the signing ceremony, the Uzbek side emphasized that Japanese technologies and experience are elevating bilateral cooperation to a new level. In particular, joint initiatives in the field of robotics were noted as significantly increasing the interest of Uzbek youth in this area. Furthermore, plans were highlighted to launch a joint program for training future engineers in cooperation with the National Institute of Technology of Japan (KOSEN) □ 8 □.

Thus, cooperation between the two countries covers a wide range of activities. They find a common approach in the fields of education, personnel training, and science, which is of great

importance for Uzbekistan. This facilitates the adoption of Japan's extensive experience, as well as targeted financial support for training highly qualified specialists and equipping educational institutions in Uzbekistan with necessary resources. At the same time, establishing close ties between leading universities and research centers of both countries contributes to the development of new, relevant programs and projects. Furthermore, the development of such cooperation undoubtedly makes a significant contribution to strengthening relations between Uzbekistan and Japan and expanding bilateral collaboration.

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