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-Short Commentary-

On the occasion of the Conference “Natural resource use in Central Asia: Institutional challenges and the contribution of capacity building” held at the Justus Liebig University Giessen on 1st October 2013

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The creation of the national educational system of Uzbekistan and establishment of bilateral educational relations with leading European countries

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan from the first days of independence «has taken in its hands» the task of reforming education and science system, defined as a fundamental element in achieving economic development and well-being of the society. The new Uzbek government has chosen a unique model of development, as now called «Uzbek model», based on a gradual transition to a socially oriented economy without «shock therapy», which was observed in neighboring countries of the region. Significantly affected to the further development of science in the country, the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan Mr. Islam Karimov on 8th July 1992, and the Resolution of Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan "On measures of state support for science and innovation", which was adopted in execution of the said Decree¹. As a result of strenuous work in the field of education and science, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1997 initiated the Law "On Education", which laid the legal basis for protection and further development of this area. On the basis of this Law was adopted an Enforcement Document - the National Training Program in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which implemented a new educational system, closer to the internationally recognized model of education.

The process of national program's practical implementation is carried out in three stages:

First stage (1997-2001 years) – personnel training system reform: while maintaining the existing potential, creating legal, human, scientific, methodological and financial and material conditions for its further development;

¹ <http://www.gov.uz/ru/helpinfo/science/245>

Second stage (2001-2005 years) - broad implementation of the National Program and its improvement based on obtained experience, labor market development trends and specific socio-economic conditions;

Third stage (2005 and beyond) – on the basis of analysis and generalization of obtained experience and further training system, development in line with the development prospects of the country.

As a result of the consistent implementation of the provisions of the National Program, a national training model is formed in the country, which includes following components: person - state and society - continuing education - science - production.

In order to perform certain tasks in the National Program, Uzbekistan began to vigorously support the integration of education and science with practice. The country is in gradual transition to use of scientific and technological capacity in the production of academic science. In this process, in 2006 the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a joint Resolution "On the integration of science and education."² This interagency regulatory act was the basis for a joint integration activity of the Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan that successfully launched in the 2006/2007 academic year. As a result, the leading scientists and practitioners of many academic institutions have been involved in teaching activity at the universities in order to conduct practical classes in special courses, management degree projects and dissertations.

Moreover has the introduction of "Bachelor" and "Master" systems to more than 64 institutions of higher education ensured compliance with international standards. Graduates of national educational institutions receive the opportunity to study at the leading universities of the world. Since the beginning of the 2013/2014 academic year, the scientific world of Uzbekistan joined sole step scientific system in «PhD» format. The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the framework of mentioned reforms began an active cooperation with foreign countries, leading in the field of Education and Research, such as Germany, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States. In order to create an appropriate legal framework for the long-term and mutually beneficial partnerships with states concerned necessary bilateral agreements on interstate, intergovernmental and interagency levels were concluded. Bilateral agreements between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Federal Republic of Germany can be considered an example. Recently 26 bilateral agreements in the field of culture, education, science and research between different parties have been concluded. These bilateral documents

² http://www.academy.uz/ru/activities/part_1.php

between individual academic institutions - universities and research institutes, such as Memorandum of Understanding between the National University of M.Ulugbek and Westphalia University of Muenster named after Vilgelm or Tashkent Architecture and Construction Institute and Berlin technical University, are of significant importance in detailed and specific development of the relations between our countries. The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan is taking confident measures for appropriate implementation of bilateral agreements achieved by streamlining their internal regulations in accordance with international treaties. In this context, in 2001 the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers № 202 "On the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany" may be cited. This document is directly focused on facilitating bilateral ties not only for researchers, but also for ordinary citizens of the two countries.

As President Islam Karimov quoted, in spite of all these taken measures to reform the system of education and science of Uzbekistan, there is much to do reach the level of decent support and encouraging selfless people who dedicate their work and talent to the further development of science, literature, culture and arts, education and training, and spirituality.

In my point of view, in relations with foreign partners in the field of education and science, there are a number of issues, regulation of which could improve and provide all possible support to the further development of present system in Uzbekistan. Firstly, there are no or insufficient set up mechanisms of ongoing monitoring of strict compliance with the provisions of the agreements between states. In this regard, of course, certain measures are being taken. For instance, the Uzbek-German Joint Commission on Cultural Cooperation created between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Federal Republic of Germany. However, the work of the commission does not meet the terms of the existing needs of the two countries. Secondly, owing to the changes in (commonly taking place as an outcome of the elections in the European countries) political orientations in certain countries that are partners in the field of education and science, simultaneously adjust the level of their so-called "interest" in this area. This in its turn negatively affects the in-progress projects with the Uzbek partners. Finally, ongoing endeavors of foreign partners, videlicet in some cases foreign partners on scientific cooperation with Uzbek partners try to promote the provisions that do not meet the requirements of the Uzbek legislation or are unsuitable. Such behavior of foreign partners only hardens the realization of planned projects and lead to the occurrence of barriers. Generally, by absorbing the traditions and studying the historical heritage deeply, Uzbek scientists became worth successors to the great deeds of their ancestors. Nowadays Uzbekistan appears to be Central Asia's largest scientific center, possessing a developed research material base, extensive scientific foundation, qualified scientific personnel, whose works have found recognition around the world. I am confident that an open and based on mutual trust long-term cooperation of the Republic of

Uzbekistan with foreign partners in the field of education and science contributes to the further development of this sector in our country.

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