SCIENCE AND INNOVATION – THE KEY TO NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: *The contribution of technological advances and science to Uzbekistan's development, current scientific investigations in the nation, government assistance programs, and the effects of cutting-edge technologies on the economy and social life are all covered in this article. Statistical data and credible sources are used to analyse the contribution of science to the advancement of society, strategic initiatives meant to promote innovation, and their outcomes. It also talks about Uzbekistan's place in the world's innovation rankings and its possibilities for the future.*

Keywords: *Global Innovation Index, economic development, innovation, research, startups, artificial intelligence, and government support*

INTRODUCTION

These days, creativity and research are major forces behind world development. Scientific research and technical developments are essential to the stable economic and social growth of every nation. Uzbekistan is making great strides in promoting scientific investigation and incorporating innovations into a variety of industries by aggressively enacting important changes in this area. In order to boost the economy through new technologies, improve public welfare, and increase the nation's competitiveness in the global market, a number of governmental programs have been created to encourage science and innovation.

Scientific Development – The Future of the Nation

Scientific progress plays a crucial role in the socio-economic development of any society. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has stated, “The future of the nation and the well-being of the people are directly linked to scientific progress” (Mirziyoyev, 2021). Therefore, in recent years, the country has placed great emphasis on advancing science. Statistics show that Uzbekistan has increased its funding for scientific research since 2017 (Statistical Agency, 2023). More specifically, 1.2 trillion soums were set aside for experimental and research advancements in 2023. This is a big step forward for science.

Furthermore, Uzbekistan has taken steps to expand its scientific partnerships and research centres with international universities. In partnership with organisations from China, South Korea, and Germany, new research facilities and scientific labs have been built. These collaborations give Uzbek scientists access to cutting-edge technology and international knowledge.

Innovation: The Power Behind Progress

Innovation is essential to raising the economy of a country and industries' level of competitiveness. In the area of creative growth, Uzbekistan has advanced significantly. Specifically, integrating contemporary technologies and creating a startup environment are the main objectives of the "Innovation Development Strategy – 2030." In comparison to prior years, Uzbekistan's ranking of 82nd in the 2022 Global Innovation Index represents a notable improvement (World Intellectual Property Organisation [WIPO], 2022). Strong support for young scientists and entrepreneurs was also shown in 2021 when the Ministry of Innovative Development awarded funds to more than 100 startup ventures. The adoption of smart agriculture technologies is one of Uzbekistan's noteworthy innovations. Precision farming methods, satellite monitoring, and artificial intelligence have all greatly increased agricultural productivity. These developments support effective resource management and food security, both of which are critical for a population that is expanding quickly.

Results of Science and Innovation in Practice

In Uzbekistan, the real-world implementation of scientific findings is still another crucial concern. Over 200 scientific projects were created by the Uzbek Academy of Sciences in 2022, the majority of which were put into production (Academy of Sciences, 2022). Additionally, the nation has prioritised agricultural technology, biopharmaceuticals, atmosphere, and artificial intelligence. Notably, the Ministry of Innovative Development, IT Park, and Tashkent's Inha University have collaborated to create specialised artificial intelligence programs that are anticipated to set the groundwork for upcoming technological advancements.

A significant accomplishment is the creation of renewable energy sources. With a number of sizable solar farms currently up and running, Uzbekistan has made investments in wind and solar energy projects. These initiatives are in line with the nation's pledge to lessen reliance on fossil fuels and promote sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

Uzbekistan's success is mostly dependent on science and innovation. The nation's economic and social development is greatly aided by government funding for scientific research and cutting-edge technologies. Future high international rankings could be attained by Uzbekistan through the advancement of science and innovation. Maintaining a culture of innovation, working with international organisations, and making consistent investments in research will guarantee long-term development and financial viability.

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