



MAIN DIRECTIONS AND WAYS TO CREATE SEZ IN UZBEKISTAN

Shonazarova Dilrabo Alisher qizi

Article history:	Abstract:
Received: August 7 th 2022 Accepted: September 7 th 2022 Published: October 11 th 2022	The article discusses the role of free economic zones in the development of an innovative economy, the conditions created in Uzbekistan to improve the activities of the free economic zones. It also clarified the priority directions of the created zones, the benefits granted and the conditions for doing business in them. Problems and tasks still remaining and requiring solution are given.
Keywords: Strategy, tourism, light industry, innovation economy, innovation policy, investment, technology park, tax incentives, export, import, high technology.	

Free economic zones are one of the main levers for the development of innovation activity in the country. That is why a lot of attention is paid to their improvement, many conditions are created for an unhindered existence.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has a high research potential, introduces experimental developments of leading scientific organizations into production. It is possible that in the future these developments will be transformed into innovative competitive products. But for this, today it is necessary to create appropriate conditions, form an innovative infrastructure that will become the basis of an integral innovation system of Uzbekistan.

It does not go unnoticed that in recent years Uzbekistan has shown an increased interest in the field of innovative development, modernization and technological renewal of production, the production of high-tech products with high added value, in the future, oriented to export. This is evidenced by the many documents developed and adopted for execution in recent years at the state level, including the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan On Approval of the Strategy for Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019-2021. The document provides for Uzbekistan's entry by 2030 into the 50 leading countries of the world according to the Global Innovation Index, improving the quality and coverage of education at all levels, developing the system of continuous education, ensuring the flexibility of the training system, based on the needs of the economy. Also in Uzbekistan, the Law "On Special Economic Zones" was adopted on February 17, 2020. According to the Law, the SEZ is a territory with certain borders and a special legal regime, specially allocated in order to attract foreign and domestic investments, high technologies and management experience for accelerated social-economic development of the respective region.

The legislation provides for 5 types of SEZ:

- free economic zones;
- special scientific and technological zones;

- tourist and recreational zones;
- free trade zones;
- special industrial zones.

Today, there are 22 free economic zones in the republic, of which 11 are industrial zones, 8 pharmaceutical zones, 2 agro-industrial zones and 1 tourist zone.

The main goals of creating a free economic zone in our republic are to boost the economy of both the country as a whole and the regions separately, solve the problems of developing industry and agriculture, trade and tourism, developing entrepreneurship and improving the standard of living of the country's population.

To date, the following problems can be identified in the FEZ of Uzbekistan:

- negative balance of foreign economic turnover;
- insignificant share of products of FEZ enterprises in the country's GDP (less than 1%);
- low export volumes;
- low competitiveness of manufactured products;
- orientation of exports mainly to the CIS countries;
- low diversification of production and, accordingly, exports.

Benefits for FEZ participants are provided depending on the type of zone and are divided into the following types:

- A special legal regime, which establishes a special customs, tax regime, as well as a regime for the entry, exit and stay of citizens, conditions for labor relations, financial and credit activities and another regime aimed at attracting investments, stimulating the development of entrepreneurship and the socio-economic development of a special economic zone.
- Special customs regime, which provides for temporary exemption or reduction of rates of customs payments; abolition, mitigation of non-tariff restrictions on exports or imports.
- Privileges for customs payments.

There are certain conditions for opening a free economic zone. A special economic zone in Uzbekistan is created by decision of the President for a period of up



to thirty years. Extension of the term of operation, change of borders and liquidation of the special economic zone are carried out by decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Government bodies, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, khokimiyats of regions and the city of Tashkent can submit proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the creation, extension of the term of operation, change of boundaries or early liquidation of a special economic zone.

The path of innovative development requires a long-term program, large financial costs, the release of highly qualified specialists and the creation of the necessary infrastructure, and the creation of free economic zones and the expansion of their activities will certainly contribute to solving this problem. To increase the efficiency of the SEZs, increase their export opportunities, it is necessary to use the practice of foreign countries.

LIST OF USED LITERATURE

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