

ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT IN UZBEKISTAN: FORMATION STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS.

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Abstract: Due to the continuous development of IT for many decades, almost all developed and developing countries in the world are changing their traditional state structure to an e-government state structure. Similarly, Uzbekistan also has already started the necessary actions on this road. Of course, in this way, the government should have its strategy, and Uzbekistan also has its formation strategy. The main objective of this paper is to describe how can the government apply this strategy and priorities and to what extent it will develop in the coming years.

Keywords: *IT (Informational Technology), e-government, IT specialists, IT parks, IT academy, e-commerce, online store*

Introduction

First of all, what is E-government?

E-government (Electronic government) is the use of technological communication devices, such as computers and the Internet, to provide public services to citizens and other persons in a country or region. E-government offers new opportunities for more direct and convenient citizen access to government, and government provision of services directly to citizens.

Emerging of e-government in Uzbekistan

Today's developments in the field of IT show that Uzbekistan has its own long-term path based on concrete plans. The first task of the plan is to increase local IT specialists as soon as possible in the coming years. This mission is done by attracting the young generation to IT and applying innovative education for them. Secondly, IT should be applied to all government departments gradually and all services for citizens also should be digitalized. These tasks squeeze traditional government structure and all together form e-government in Uzbekistan.

In the past decade, there has been a revolution in applying Informational Technologies for government structure in order to make traditional government an e-government in Uzbekistan. Almost all government departments have been digitalized and they are conducting their works electronically. Furthermore, many services have been also digitalized such as in education, banking system, medicine, military, public transportation and etc. Interaction between government and citizens is also being digitalized. And of course, citizens in e-government should have knowledge and experience related to IT and it requires the development of education in IT.

However, there is still an obstacle in our formation strategy. This is a lack of labor forces in the IT field now, and it may cause slow progress. To tackle this problem, our government firstly focuses on preparing intellectual and strong IT specialists in a short period of time. As government involves local specialists, this will definitely drastically reduce the costs incurred by the government in the transition to e-government.

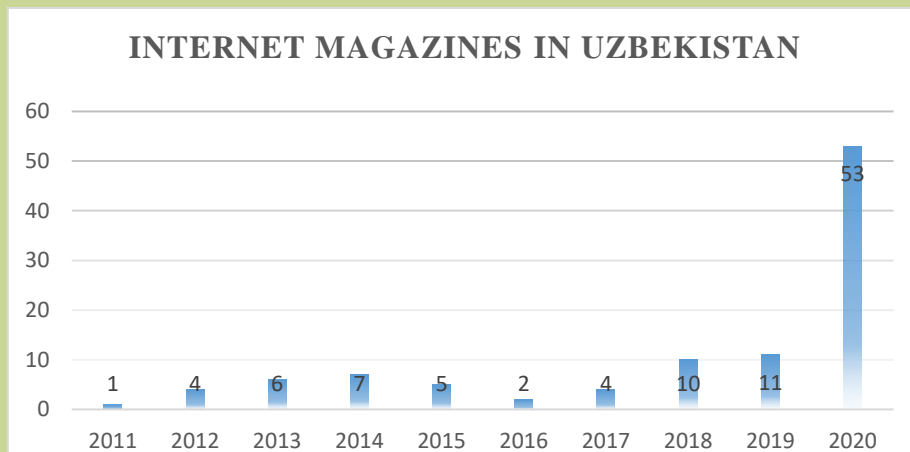
IT Formation Strategy in Uzbekistan

Increase in local IT specialist

The first strategy that should be done in Uzbekistan is to cultivate local strong cadres. For this, all necessary works have already begun, as proof, we can see that opening of IT parks across regions. On July 24, 2019, the first IT Park in the Republic of Uzbekistan opened its doors in Tashkent. And also, many big academies, such as 'Astrum', 'PDP' and 'BePro', including innovational and intensive education are appearing in the country. Furthermore, free online platforms are available for young Uzbek boys and girls such as "One million Uzbek Coders". This means that there will be a huge amount of work labors available in our country in the near years. This will certainly have a huge impact on the state's form transition, from traditional to e-government.

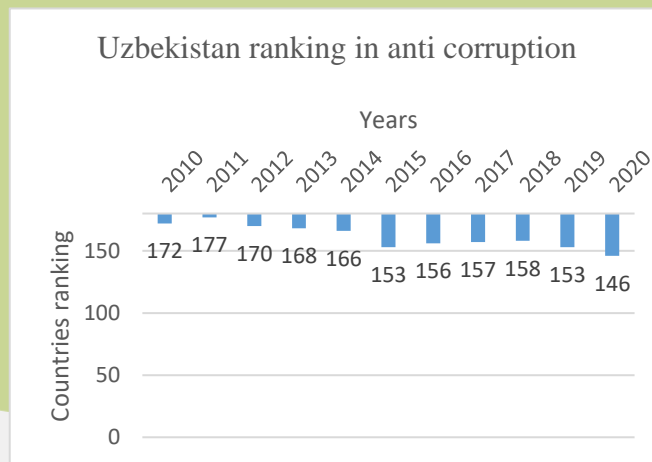
Digitalized government departments and services

Main government departments such as the Department of Public Health, Department of Education, Department of Commerce, Department of tax have been digitalized progressively. In the Department of Public Health, many digital technologies such as VR devices, artificial organs, 3-D printing, smart inhalers, digital diagnostics are being used. And also, many parts of service including IT such as listing patients, diagnosing. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Education is changed its form; Many platforms are created for students to study only. Department of Commerce also is being slowly digitalized. Many online magazines such as ‘olx.uz’, ‘Lebazar.uz’, ‘Olcha.uz’ etc. are created in Uzbekistan. The following bar chart also can show how the number of internet shops is increasing:



IT Development prospects in Uzbekistan

As IT has developed drastically, it brings many benefits such as elimination of corruption, improved transparency, enhanced public service quality, higher productivity of government employees, improved state budget, higher competitiveness. For example, the following charts show how Uzbekistan is improving its state to corruption:



From the charts, it is obvious that Uzbekistan is eliminating the root of corruption gradually and improving its ranking in the corruption perceptions index list. It is expected that the ranking of Uzbekistan in this list is in the top 10 free corruption countries by 2030.

Thus, next large prospect is exporting the software products that increase state budget. By 2023, Uzbekistan plans to bring software exports up to \$100 million, following from the draft presidential decree. Software export of Uzbekistan to foreign country accounted for \$8.4 mln in last year, while this statistics increasing up to \$26 mln in the first eight months of this year. This means exports in this section increases approximately 3 times (209% growth). All of this can be development prospects of IT in Uzbekistan.

Conclusions

All works in IT fields in Uzbekistan show that government structure is turning into an e-government form. Formation strategies and development prospects guarantee to accelerate this process. Many laws which is aimed to develop IT are passed by the government. As we said above, all these laws and decrees will show the result in the near future.

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