

CHARACTERISTICS AND TRENDS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PILGRIMAGE TOURISM IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHANGES

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In the process of globalization of today's world economy, the international tourism industry is gaining importance as a source of high income. The impact of tourism on the socio-economic life of the country is manifested in foreign exchange earnings, creation of new jobs, development of small business and private entrepreneurship, mutual respect, tolerance, culture and values between peoples, nationalities and religions.

Today, worldwide tourism is an important component of the economy, making a significant contribution to increasing the social and economic well-being of the countries of the world. World Tourism Organization According to the statistics of UNWTO, "... tourism ranks third in terms of profitability and fourth in terms of export of goods and services, its share in the world gross domestic product (GDP) is on average 10.0 percent ..." ¹.

in the world , to provide new jobs to the population in the regions, there is a growing need for scientific researches that create a basis for improving the organizational and economic mechanisms for the effective use of pilgrimage tourism objects. During the years of independence in our country , the necessary organizational and legal mechanisms for the development of the tourism industry, especially pilgrimage tourism, were created and relevant regulatory documents were adopted.

Islam has a great importance in the development of pilgrimage tourism. Uzbekistan is a blessed land where many great scholars who made a great contribution to the development of Islam grew up and created. However, the presence of religious sites is not enough for the development of pilgrimage tourism. In this regard, it is necessary to improve organizational and economic mechanisms, develop infrastructures, and accelerate the activities of relevant scientific research centers in pilgrimage tourism.

In his address to the Oliy Majlis in 2020, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan emphasized the need for rapid development of pilgrimage tourism and stated that there are more than 8,200 cultural heritage sites in our country, and only 500 of them are included in the tourism routes ². In today's conditions of global economic and innovative changes, it is important to study the methodological, methodological and practical aspects of this issue from the point of view of elucidating the characteristics and trends of the development of pilgrimage tourism and improving the scientific research works and organizational-economic mechanism of its effective development.

¹ Data from the official website of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), UNWTO World Tourism Annual Report 2017.

²Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis. 24.01.2020.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Tourism, the Committee on Religious Affairs, the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan, the Center of Islamic Civilization, and the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, in order to develop pilgrimage tourism, took part in the development of pilgrimage tourism. As a result of research and promotion of manuscripts, religious educational heritage and values, the scope of international cooperation in the field is expanding day by day.

"The age-old traditions of the Uzbek people, including traditions in the field of education, are connected with the religion of our ancestors. Traditions such as saluting the elderly, respecting them, taking care of the young and weak, calling for learning and learning a profession, calling for halal cooking, and being polite to neighbors have been instilled in Uzbek families, regardless of their religious affiliation."³

This, in turn, shows our unique position and influence in international tourism markets. The fact that Uzbekistan rose by 10 places in the ranking of the "Global Muslim Tourist Index" and became one of the 10 "Most Attractive" and "Highest Security and Tolerance" countries attracting Muslim tourists among the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation means a positive result of the reforms being carried out in our country.

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