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\*Our copper mines include Bingham Canyon (pictured) in Utah, US.

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# DIPLOMAT



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# UZBEKISTAN

## HEART OF THE SILK ROAD



- THE UZBEK MODEL HAS PROVED ITSELF • A FINE COUNTRY WITH A PROUD HERITAGE AND BRIGHT FUTURE
- NEW HORIZONS FOR BRITISH-UZBEK RELATIONS • TASHKENT HIGH TECH PARK • NAVOI FREE INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC ZONE
- TWO PLACES, ONE HEARTBEAT: CAMBRIDGE AND UZBEKISTAN

## GREETINGS FROM THE EMBASSY OF UZBEKISTAN IN LONDON



Registan Square in Samarkand

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME** you to this special issue of *Diplomat*, dedicated to 'Uzbekistan – Heart of the Silk Road'.

For many centuries, our land has been at the crossroads of Eastern and Western civilisations. It occupied a pivotal position on the Silk Road during its most prosperous period. Today, the world-famous cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, developed and beautified by generations of our ancestors, exemplify a harmonious combination of different cultures and traditions.

Europeans have long had a special interest in our region. For example, Marco Polo, the famous thirteenth-century Venetian merchant and traveller, in his book on his travels to Asia described Samarkand with admiration, calling it 'a great and noble city'. In the fifteenth century, Ruy Gonzales de Clavijo, envoy of Enrique III of Castile, in his Narrative of the Embassy to the Court of Temur, recorded not only the beauty of Amir Temur's palace but also the local folk customs. Amir Temur and King Henry IV of England also conducted diplomatic correspondence with each other.

We are glad that today's generation of Europeans also takes a keen interest in Uzbekistan, as evidenced by a steady increase of cultural, educational and academic exchanges, as well as by growing tourism and trade ties with the UK, France, Germany, Italy and other countries in Europe.

We are proud of our unique historical heritage, and equally, of our achievements during the years of Independence since 1991. These have transformed Uzbekistan into a modern, mature and self-sufficient state with a stable political system, dynamically developing economy and secular society. Our country has successfully completed the 'transition period'

and is open and ready for mutually beneficial cooperation with foreign partners.

Among Uzbekistan's current priorities we would emphasise the state programme '2010 - Year of a Harmoniously Developed Generation', which highlights a number of measures aimed at creating new opportunities for the young generation in such fields as education, research, healthcare, sports, leisure, culture and tourism.

As for external activities, Tashkent recently hosted the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (3 May) and the Summit Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (10-11 June). Another important goal is to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan by implementing social and humanitarian projects, and also by promoting the initiative on the '6+3 Contact Group' (ie a group comprising the six countries neighbouring Afghanistan, along with the US, Russia and NATO) as an effective instrument for dialogue and long-term settlement.

We invite you to read this special issue, which includes features such as key facts about Uzbekistan, views of the President HE Islam Karimov on the fundamental achievements of the Uzbek model of development, a message from HRH Prince Michael of Kent, as well as the opinions of our partners in the UK about Uzbekistan, its people, current developments in bilateral relations and new horizons for the future.

*The Embassy expresses its gratitude to Uzbekistan Airways, Uzbekinvest International Insurance Company, Jahon Information Agency, Worley Parsons, Rio Tinto, Oxus Gold and Tethys Petroleum for their kind support for this publication. [www.uzbekembassy.org](http://www.uzbekembassy.org)*



Ambassador of Uzbekistan HE Otabek Akbarov (in the centre) with First Deputy Rector of WIUT Alan France (left), Rector of WIUT Dr Abdujabar Abduvakhitov, Executive Director of Oxus Gold Richard Wilkins, Lord Ponsonby, Dr Hartley Booth and Viscount Waverley

## KEY FACTS ABOUT UZBEKISTAN

*These golden valleys-dear Uzbekistan,  
Manly spirit of ancestors is companion to you!  
When the great power of people became exuberant  
You are the country that amazes the world!*

FROM THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

**LOCATION:** Situated in the heart of Central Asia, this doubly landlocked country is found mainly between the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers, and it shares borders with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

**AREA:** 447,400 square km (roughly the size of Sweden).

**POPULATION:** 28 million people. Uzbeks are the main ethnic group (80%), among the 100 different nationalities living in the country, are Russians, Kazakhs, Kyrgyzs, Tajiks, Karakalpaks, Turkmens and Tatars.

**CAPITAL:** Tashkent (population 2.3 million).

**EMINENT HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL FIGURES:**

*The Caliph Usman's Qur'an* (651), which is considered to be one of the oldest in the world, is kept in the library of the Khazrati Imam Mosque in Tashkent.

*Imam Muhammad al-Bukhari* (810- 870) – a prominent Islamic scholar best known for having authored the Hadith collection named *Sahih Bukhari*, which Sunni Muslims regard as the most authentic of all hadith compilations and

the most authoritative book after the Qur'an.

*Abu Ali Ibn Sina* (known as Avicenna) (980 - 1037) – one of history's greatest thinkers and foremost scholars of medical sciences. His renowned work, *The Canon of Medicine*, was used as a text-book in the universities of Europe and beyond until the seventeenth century.

*Amir Temur* (1336-1405) – a great ruler and strategist who created a powerful state with its capital in Samarkand. He revived and improved the institutions of state, social and military administration. Trade, science and culture flourished under his leadership.

*Ulugbek* (1393 - 1449) – grandson of Amir Temur. Educated by Temur's senior wife, Saray Mulk Khanum. He was an outstanding ruler, astronomer and



mathematician. He built the first observatory and created the world's first celestial map.

*Gulbadan Begim* (1523 – 1603) – daughter of Emperor Babur, the founder of the Great Mughal dynasty. She is well known as the author of *Humayun Nama*, the chronicle of the life of her brother Humayun, the second Mughal emperor, and is the earliest example of such a work done by a woman.

*The Uzbek cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva were major caravanserais (roadside inns) along the Great Silk Road and contributed significantly to trade, the exchange of knowledge and cultural enrichment of people. Uzbek lands have witnessed the rise and fall of various great empires, including those of Bactria, Sogdiana, state of Alexander the Great and others.*



## THE UZBEK MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT HAS COMPLETELY PROVED ITSELF

Extracts from the address by President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

HE Mr Islam Karimov at the Opening Session of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank in Tashkent on 3 May 2010, translated by Mr Iqbol Soliev



HE Mr Islam Karimov,  
President of  
the Republic of  
Uzbekistan

“THE YEAR 2009 has proved to be a genuinely serious test of strength for the world economy, and there has hardly been any country who avoided the negative impact of the global financial and economic downturn.

And today, despite suggestions by respected international analysts and experts that the most acute and sensitive phase of the crisis is behind us, we nevertheless are yet to overcome the rather complex, quite painful and durable process of economic recovery.

While analysing the problems that emerge in the course of seeking a way out of the slowdown in the global economy, one's attention is caught, first and foremost, by the shaky and low growth rates, continuing high unemployment levels, a notable financial descent of the real sector of the economy, and falling real incomes of the population.

The huge, and in some countries threatening, scales of budget deficit and the growing public debt may lead to serious tensions in paying off the amounts overdue and even to defaults.

Low, and in some cases declining domestic demand is widespread, and in turn, hinders the reestablishment of stable and sustainable growth rates in manufacturing.

We believe that one should agree with a range of leading international experts that the excess liquidity and the extra financial resources pumped into the banking and finance sectors create an environment for a wild spree of speculative capital, inflation of so called bubble of stock and commodities markets, that in turn may well lead in the future to a new collapse in the financial and foreign exchange markets with all related consequences.

Not to mention that growing emissions and an increase of money supply will bring about a potentially dangerous situation of the inflation process.

We have had to stress time and again that a number of nations, especially developed ones, have boosted protectionist measures that have struck developing countries hard and hampered the recovery and development of the global economy in general.

I would hardly be incorrect to claim that the most pressing topic for experts and officials at both regional and global levels has been government regulation of the banking and finance sector, mechanisms and instruments to secure systemic control over banking capital, as well as the role of international financial institutions in this process.

In the course of discussions on this subject there have been some interesting proposals, including one on setting up an international financial institution that would oversee the activities of the finance and banking sector on a global scale. It is suggested to entrust this institution with control over speculative banking operations on the global market, including derivatives and other similar securities that can imbalance international trade and the international financial markets.

In this respect, the biggest interest and support deserve, in our opinion, the reforms proposed by US President Barack Obama in terms of establishing a special agency to control the operations of American financial institutions and limit the risky deals with derivatives at the expense of taxpayers.

It is believed that if the ongoing discussions and debates on this topic bring about a reasonable solution acceptable to all parties, it will undoubtedly prove to be one of the greatest accomplishments in addressing the crisis.

It is obvious that there is no need to prove that the degree and depth of susceptibility of each particular country to the impact of a global downturn depends first of all on the model of reforms being implemented, sustainability and reliability of financial-economic and banking systems, and to what extent the protective mechanisms are sturdy.

In this regard, I would like to briefly expound upon the Uzbek model of development and economic reform adopted in 1992. This model is built on five essential principles, as follows:

1. Ridding the political system of ideological bias and prioritise the economy over politics.
2. In transition from a planned and distributive system to market economy the government must assume the role of principal reformer.
3. Ensuring the rule of law, that is, everyone is equal before the law.
4. A step-by-step and gradual implementation of reforms. As Uzbeks say, 'Do not destroy your old house until you build a new one.'

5. A strong social policy during the transition period from one system to another.

Today we have every reason to argue that for the past period, especially in the wake of the extreme impact of economic crisis, the model has justified itself completely.

In mitigating the destructive blow of the slowdown, the sufficient resources and a reliable margin of safety of the financial and banking system created during the past period have proved utterly critical. So have sensible and balanced economic policy measures to protect the economy from the influence of speculative capital, of unmanageable turmoil and a lack of control on the global financial and stock markets, as well as the strict control over the macroeconomic balance.

The timeliness, adequacy and targeted nature of the Anti-Crisis Programme for 2009-2012 approved in Uzbekistan has played a colossal role in countering the crisis and neutralising its harmful impact.

In implementing the Anti-Crisis Programme the crucial priority has been attached, along with providing the banking sector with the necessary assistance, to maintaining the financial stability of the real economy, easing the tax burden and granting this sector - especially its export oriented enterprises - with essential privileges and preferences. Equally vital have been measures to reduce prime cost and raise profitability through modernisation, technological re-equipment and the diversification of production.

The exclusive emphasis placed in Uzbekistan on promoting its services sector, small businesses and private entrepreneurship has proved decisive in tackling the recession and securing sustainable economic development.

Central in meeting the goals set out in the Anti-Crisis Programme have been large-scale projects in the social, infrastructure, transport and communication spheres, which have helped us create new jobs and raise the personal incomes of the population.

I would like to stress that the measures in the framework of the Anti-Crisis Program are undertaken with an eye to policy goals that go far beyond merely countering the crisis and neutralising its consequences.

We do realise that in the post-crisis period, the countries that will emerge strongest are those which have already started laying the foundations for and launched long-term innovative projects aimed at deep structural reforms and the diversification of production.

In 2009, Uzbekistan approved a programme to implement critical projects in modernisation and technological re-equipment for 2009-2014. It envisages more than 300 priority investment projects worth over \$42.5 billion in total, to renew the leading basic branches of the economy, implement extensive projects in transport and communications, create modern production facilities and introduce resource-saving technologies.

We certainly understand that it will be pretty difficult to accomplish our objectives without attracting foreign investments and providing them with the necessary environment and preferences.

At the same time, in financing these investment programs we attach much importance to mobilising our internal resources. In 2009, the share of domestic sources in the total volume of capital investments in Uzbekistan's economy was 68 per cent, and in 2010 this indicator will be not less than 70 per cent.

In implementing the major long-term projects we assign

particular weight to further consolidating the potential and capacities of the Fund for Reconstruction and Development of Uzbekistan which was instituted in 2007. The key purpose of the Fund, the capital of which currently reaches US\$5 billion, is primarily to finance infrastructure projects and implement other promising ones, in cooperation with international partners, in modernising and reconstructing the facilities in the core branches of the economy.

For example, Fund resources were used in 2009 to launch the construction of a state-of-the-art combined-cycle unit worth \$470 million at a thermal power station in Navoi, the site of the Free Industrial and Economic Zone and international multimodal logistics centre at Navoi Airport.

I would like to say a few words about the enormous significance we attach in Uzbekistan to the reform of our education system and the training of qualified specialists.

As early as in 1997, a government programme was put into action that envisaged complete abolition of the old system and transition to a 12-year free education, consisting of a nine-year general school and a three-year professional colleges and lyceums.

During the last few years more than 1.5 million young people have already obtained secondary-technical and humanitarian education at more than 1,500 newly built colleges and lyceums. As a rule, the graduates have two-to-three majors and speak a foreign language, (English).

That said and given the fact that over the last few years expenditures for education have exceeded 37 per cent and, along with those for healthcare, they have made up more than 50 per cent of the national budget, it becomes clear what enormous potential Uzbekistan possesses in qualified cadres and human capital.

Summarising the aforesaid, I would like to note with pleasure that the implementation of Uzbekistan's development strategy and the Anti-Crisis Programme allowed it, among the few countries in the world, to secure an 8.1 per cent GDP growth in 2009 with that of industrial output at nine per cent. The increase of investments in the economy exceeded 26 per cent, while direct foreign investment grew 1.8 times.

More than 940,000 jobs were created in the past year.

Exports of goods enlarged by 2.4 per cent and this has ensured a considerable foreign trade surplus and steady growth of gold and currency reserves.

We have secured a sustainable national budget surplus and as of 1 January 2010, external debt did not exceed 10 per cent.

As leading rating agencies and international institutions forecast, the economic growth in the Republic of Uzbekistan is expected to be 8.5 per cent in 2010. ”

To read the full text, please visit:

[http://press-service.uz/en/content/sobyitiyal/en/news/show/vistupleniya/vyistuplenie\\_prezidenta\\_respubliki\\_uz\\_2/](http://press-service.uz/en/content/sobyitiyal/en/news/show/vistupleniya/vyistuplenie_prezidenta_respubliki_uz_2/)



## NEW HORIZONS FOR BRITISH-UZBEK RELATIONS

By the Chairman of the British-Uzbekistan

All-Party Parliamentary Group, **Lord Waverley**

**CENTRAL ASIA'S ECONOMIC**, civil and political well-being as an emergent region of strategic significance is an imperative. Uzbekistan plays a leadership role both internally within the region but also in the near-region, which includes notably its border with Afghanistan. As we in the West increasingly come to appreciate the ascendancy of the East, Uzbekistan plays a pivotal role as a land-bridge – a modern-day Silk Road and critical intermediary between powerful regions.

I am pleased that recent endeavours by both the UK and Uzbekistan have recognised and prioritised the need for renewed impetus to deepen our bilateral relationship. My recent visit as Chairman of the first British-Uzbekistan All-Party Parliamentary Group and longer-term engagement with Uzbekistan amply confirms this. While in the trade and economic sphere many opportunities have long been identified and are being successfully implemented, more needs to be done to maximise this essential relationship.

One missing link to the bilateral relationship has been the interaction of parliamentary discourse; this is now being remedied through better understanding of each other's perspectives and the ability to engage decision-making processes on the basis of first-hand knowledge. The subsequent launch of a formal high-level inter-parliamentary initiative



Lord Waverley (left) with HE Mr Ilgizar Sobirov, Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan

on Central Asia – involving each country of the region individually – is also strengthening the framework for dialogue and action.

Recent achievements and developments in Uzbekistan bode well: the abolition of the death penalty and the introduction of *habeas corpus* in 2008, a decade of positive legal reforms, the improved multi-party parliamentary elections of 2009 and a well-rounded ombudsman service, are all examples of the nation's achievements since independence.

I look forward to building on the bilateral dynamics through the parliamentary process, and expect a new era to result from the forthcoming British delegation to Uzbekistan this autumn, where guiding principles of dialogue will be discussed on the basis of commitment to Political, Economic and Social understanding; this recognising the desire on both sides to strengthen cooperation.

## 'A COUNTRY WITH GREAT POTENTIAL AND AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR ITS FUTURE'

says the President of the British-Uzbek Society, **Lord Ponsonby**

**ALTHOUGH UZBEKISTAN** has great mineral wealth and natural beauty, its true wealth lies in its people. The people of Uzbekistan are literate and keen to show off their immense cultural depth and achievements. Since becoming President of the British-Uzbek Society I have been pleased to see an increase in the cultural exchanges between the UK and Uzbekistan particularly in the academic field.

There has also been an increase in business activity, and a number of plans to upgrade the country's infrastructure have been announced which demonstrate that Uzbekistan plans to maintain its position at the heart of Central Asia. As

a parliamentarian, I am particularly pleased to see closer ties between the Oliy Majlis and the British parliament. All these activities – cultural, academic, business and parliamentary – are founded on the growth of trust and co-operation between our people. At its heart, therefore, the British-Uzbek Society seeks to build on that trust and develop a greater cooperation between our people. [www.britishuzbek.org](http://www.britishuzbek.org)



Lord Ponsonby

## SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION

By **Dr Shirin Akiner**, Fellow of the Cambridge

Central Asia Forum at the University of Cambridge

**THE SHANGHAI** Cooperation Organisation (SCO), founded in June 2001, is scarcely nine years old. Yet it has already established itself as a highly influential regional Organisation. Its strength lies in its broad institutional base as well as its territorial outreach. The Organisation comprises six full Member States – China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – also Observer States (Mongolia, Iran, India and Pakistan) and Dialogue Partners (Belarus and Sri Lanka). It has established working relations with ASEAN, the Commonwealth of Independent States and other regional structures.

A gauge of the growing international standing of SCO was the signing of the Joint Declaration on Cooperation between the UN and SCO Secretariats, which took place in Tashkent in April 2010 during UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon's visit to the region. In future, SCO is likely to pursue a policy of closer cooperation and coordination with international and regional organisations.

The primary goal of the SCO is to improve regional security and stability. It espouses a holistic approach to these issues, setting 'soft' spheres of interaction such as culture and education on a par with security and defence. It also seeks to strengthen good neighbourly relations through diplomacy, confidence-building and economic cooperation. One of its aims is to ensure 'the free flow of commodities, capital, technology and services in the region within 20 years.' Operational responses to specific security threats, such as drug trafficking, organised crime and terrorist attacks, are the remit of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), inaugurated in Tashkent in 2004.

The SCO ethos, popularly dubbed the 'Shanghai

Spirit', is rooted in a concept of harmonious, non-confrontational interaction, leading to mutual benefit and mutual prosperity. The Organisation does not aim for integration, but serves as an umbrella to facilitate cooperation between its members. Decisions are strictly based on consensus. Thus, all Member States, large or small, are able to play an active role in shaping the agenda. This creates a sense of joint ownership which in turn enhances regional solidarity. Key factors contributing to the success of SCO include the following:

- It addresses real and urgent regional problems;
- It stimulates trade and investment;
- It is flexible and pragmatic: it has established a number of multilateral institutions and initiatives, but it also encourages bilateral and trilateral cooperation – in other words, 'variable geometry' and
- It is firmly opposed to interference in the internal affairs of any state

During the year 2009-2010 Uzbekistan has held the Chairmanship of the SCO – a crucial period in the Organisation's development. Important tasks undertaken by Uzbekistan have included the review of internal structural procedures – an important step in consolidating the Organisation – and the facilitation of SCO efforts to stabilise the situation in Afghanistan through the provision of humanitarian and economic assistance, as well as infrastructural development. The process of widening the membership of the Organisation – long a thorny issue – was also revitalised. This resulted in the preparation and agreement of Rules Governing Procedural Issues and Regulations for the Admission of New Members to SCO. Both documents were signed at the SCO summit in Tashkent in June 2010.



Dr Shirin Akiner

## “NAVOI” FREE INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC ZONE – OASIS OF HIGH TECHNOLOGIES

IN ORDER TO FURTHER STIMULATE foreign investments into Uzbekistan and more effectively use its great economic potential, the “Navoi” Free Industrial Economic Zone (FIEZ) was established on 2 December 2008 in the Navoi province of the country.

The FIEZ is designed to promote a wide range of high-tech and internationally competitive production using modern high-efficiency equipment, technological lines and units, as well as the latest innovations. Its activity is coordinated and regulated by the Administrative Board and managed by the Directorate. The operation period of FIEZ is 30 years with the possibility that it can be extended.

Business entities registered in FIEZ enjoy exceptional customs, currency and tax regulations, simplified procedure for entry, stay and obtaining work permits for non-residents. For example, they are exempt from: land tax, property tax, profit tax of legal entities, social infrastructure development tax, unified tax payment for micro firms and small enterprises, compulsory contributions to the Republican Road Fund and off-budget Republican School Fund. The privileges are available depending on the volume of foreign direct investments:

- from €3 to €10 million - for 7 years;
- from €10 to €30 million - for 10 years, with reduction of profit and unified tax payment rates by 50 per cent in the next 5 years and
- more than €30 million - for 15 years, with reduction of profit and unified tax payment rates by 50 per cent in the next 10 years.

The Zone is located on 564 hectares next to the highway E-40 and the Navoi International Airport, connected to international railway routes towards countries of Europe (via Russia and Turkey), South East Asia (via China), Middle East and the Gulf (via Iran).

The use of air corridors with landing in Uzbekistan offers substantial economy in time and cost of transportation. Thus, the distance from South East Asia to Europe via Navoi is 1000km shorter than via Dubai. At the same time, the time saving during the flight is 1.5 hours, and fuel economy is 15 tons for each aircraft. A transcontinental intermodal hub on the base of the Navoi Airport which started functioning from January 2009 is managed by the world leader in cargo transportations, Korean Air. Today, regular flights are carried out to a number of Asian and European cities.

Automobile cargo transportation between China and Europe through Uzbekistan is shorter by about 1000km in comparison with the route via Russia. There are also main railway routes passing through the Navoi region with access to the South to the ports of Iran and Turkey, and on the West

and North to the ports of the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea. The shortest transit connection to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India appeared after the Guzar-Baysun-Kumkurgan railroad has been put into operation.

The FIEZ territory is provided with reliable electric, gas and water supplies, a favourable ecosystem, as well as access to a qualified local labour force. It also has all the necessary conditions to create industrial complexes with full production cycles from raw materials to ready products.

Priority areas include:

- electronics and electrotechnics;
- precision machinery production, equipment and component parts;
- pharmaceutical production and medical equipment;
- foodstuff processing and packing and
- plastic and polymer goods.

Navoi province is located in the centre of Uzbekistan, one of the largest industrial centres of the country. The province possesses rich minerals and raw materials resources, including the Muruntau gold-bearing field, silica sand fields (of more than 1.5 billion tons), deposits of granite (1.9 billion cubic metres), marble (420 million cubic metres), phosphorites (1.5 billion tons) and many others.

Navoi Mining and Metallurgy Combinat – the biggest enterprise of the province – is included in the top ten largest world producers of uranium and gold (9999 standard). Gold bars produced by the Combinat are awarded with the status of ‘optimal gold delivery’ by London Precious Metals Market and Tokyo Commodities Exchange. Along with mining, the province’s economy is based on the production of building materials, chemical, textile and food industries.

Forty foreign investment enterprises operate in the Navoi province. Most of them are established with participation of investors from USA, China, Republic of Korea, Russia, the UK and other European countries. The Uzbek-British joint venture Amantaytau Goldfields is also successfully working in the province.

For further information visit: [www.nfiez.uz/index.php](http://www.nfiez.uz/index.php)



## A SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING

President of the Asian Development Bank

HE Haruhiko Kuroda thanks the President of Uzbekistan

Monument to Amir Temur, in front of the Palace of International Forums Uzbekistan in the centre of Tashkent



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ON 3 TO 4 MAY 2010, Uzbekistan’s capital city Tashkent hosted the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). On returning home after the completion of this high-profile event (the first ever held in Central Asia and Caucasus), the President of the ADB Haruhiko Kuroda sent the following message of appreciation to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov:

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Asian Development Bank and all those who participated at the recently concluded 43rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank in Tashkent, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you, your Government and the people of Uzbekistan for the outstanding manner in which the meeting was held. Under your leadership and with the hard work of your officials, the meeting was one of the most successful ever held.

The impeccable organisation of the official events under the Uzbekistan Organising Committee; the exceptional hospitality of the Uzbek people; the rich history that your wonderful country offers, and the remarkable achievements with modern infrastructure were constantly commented upon by the many participants.

The success of the Annual Meeting clearly demonstrated that the decision to hold the Annual Meeting in Tashkent was right. It showcased the economic and social achievements of Uzbekistan, especially the effectiveness of the anti-crisis

measures, the soundness of the Uzbekistan model of development with gradual reforms and prudence in fiscal management, and the potential for future development.

Your welcome address at the Opening Ceremony, especially your strategic vision of post-crisis development of Uzbekistan and Asia in general, was insightful and visionary. It was appreciated by the many participants who attended. I would also like to thank Your Excellency for setting out in your speech the directions for future cooperation between Uzbekistan and ADB, truly an opportune moment for consideration.

This Annual Meeting also signified the partnership between ADB and Uzbekistan by signing agreements for financing arrangements exceeding \$1 billion and nearly doubling the portfolio size. I can assure Your Excellency that Uzbekistan will remain ADB’s strategic partner in Central Asia in the time to come. With Uzbekistan’s leading role in regional integration and cooperation, ADB will continue and further strengthen our utmost support to Uzbekistan.



HE Haruhiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development Bank

## TRADING IN UZBEKISTAN

By **Dr V E Hartley Booth OBE**, Co-Chairman

of the Uzbek-British Trade & Industry Council

**I FIRST VISITED UZBEKISTAN WHEN** I was in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1992. At that time I met President HE Islam Karimov who had become the first Head of the Republic of Uzbekistan which obtained full Independence from the USSR in 1991. Among the many things that impressed me were the attention paid to good order and that Uzbekistan inherited a tradition of avoiding debt.

Soon after leaving Parliament in 1997 I was appointed to be the UK's representative in Uzbekistan for trade as the joint Chairman of the Uzbek-British Trade & Industry Council (UBTIC). This Council was created by a Treaty arrangement between Britain and Uzbekistan and aimed to sponsor and promote bilateral trade. My Co-Chairman for most of the last 12 years has been Deputy Prime Minister HE Elyor Ganiev. He has typified the strong cooperation and enthusiasm of Uzbekistan to promote trade.

This Council has provided a bridge between British businesses and their Uzbek counterparts and to deal with issues as they arise. Although in the post-Soviet world Uzbekistan has significantly promoted privatisation, nevertheless the importance of having a direct link to the Uzbek Government for British trade has been invaluable.

The Council, currently 70 strong on the British side, meets annually in conference with an Uzbek delegation. Frequently it has been chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Ganiev and on occasion by the Prime Minister in Uzbekistan. Between a dozen and 20 Uzbek Ministers or senior officials represent the Republic. This provides excellent networking and better avenues for inward investment and trade.

In addition to the annual conferences of the Council

which are held alternately in London and Tashkent, there are a series of other meetings and access possibilities to create new opportunities for trade and investment. For example, in the last two years there have been events covering the environment, tourism, agriculture, general finance and specific company delegations.

Currently British trade includes more than 200 joint ventures with Uzbek companies and specific initiatives include possible investment of \$2-3billion into Uzbekistan. This ranges from a High Tech Business Park in Tashkent to oil, mining, chemical and fertiliser investments.

There are huge international opportunities for further trade and industry within Uzbekistan. The skill and education of the work force, the eagerness and new freedoms of the Uzbek side, the national resources and the strong and hospitable attitude of the people are all regarded as strong points by the trading community.

*Dr Hartley Booth was given an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this year for his work chairing the Uzbek-British Trade and Industry Council and the British-Uzbek Society and so promoting UK/Uzbek interests. This is considered the first honour to a British citizen for cooperation with Uzbekistan.*



Co-Chairmen of UBTIC, HE Elyor Ganiev (left) and Dr Hartley Booth

International Business Complex in Tashkent



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## THE TASHKENT HIGH TECH PARK

**Robert Mortimer** (CEO) and **Geliya Chukmarova** (Executive)

of Mortimer Properties, on a world-class facility to showcase

Uzbekistan's business and scientific innovation



**UZBEKISTAN HAS A LONG HISTORY** of excellence in science and mathematics. This excellence can be seen today in the high level of academic performance achieved at its many and varied universities and institutes. To capitalise on this excellence and in line with the government strategy for the expansion of the Uzbekistan economy, a project to build a High Tech Park in Tashkent has been initiated by Mortimer Properties Ltd of the UK, in cooperation with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Westminster International University in Tashkent and the Academy of Science of Uzbekistan.

The concept behind the Park is to provide a platform for turning new and existing ideas and products into commercial ventures. The High Tech Park will bring together entrepreneurs, established businesses and the research, development and commercialisation capabilities of the various contributing universities and parties.

The vision for the Park is to create a world-class facility where Uzbekistan business and scientific innovation is showcased to the world with the potential of becoming a regional centre for technology.

Currently, Mortimer Properties and its Uzbek partners are considering site options for the Park in central Tashkent. The Park will combine high quality commercial and residential buildings set in landscaped areas with water features, trees and gardens, to create

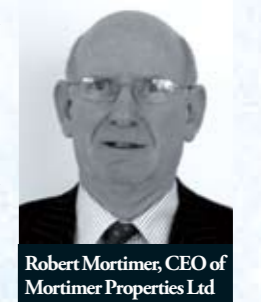
an environment that will establish it as the number one business address in Tashkent.

The following areas have been identified as the initial sectors for research and development at the High Tech Park:

- Pharmaceuticals - diversity of plants;
- Biotechnology - development of crops;
- Sustainable energy – solar;
- Nanotechnology - oil Industry and
- IT and software development.

The Tashkent High Tech Park aims at boosting the competitive power of both local and international businesses, developing modern technologies, expanding exports, capitalising on the wealth of knowledge in Uzbekistan as well as tapping into the highly-qualified human capital of the country. Some of the other benefits will be the growth of inward investment by international companies, the creation of new jobs and the development of local skills.

Mortimer Properties is proud to be working with the Uzbekistan Government as well as the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge on such an exciting and progressive project.



Robert Mortimer, CEO of Mortimer Properties Ltd

ILLUSTRATION: JASON FIELDS



## Investing in precious metals mining and exploration in Uzbekistan



**Oxus Gold plc is proud to be sponsoring  
the Amantaytau Goldfields/Oxus Gold Scholarship**

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Stock Exchange

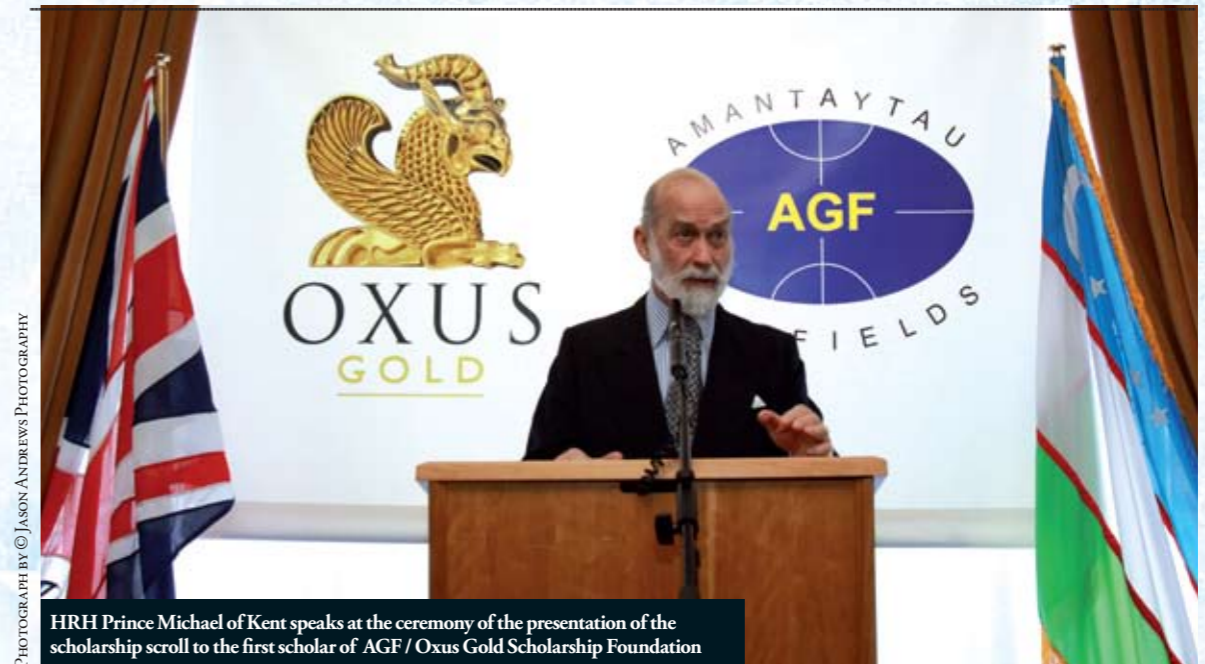


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## MESSAGE FROM HRH PRINCE MICHAEL OF KENT



PHOTOGRAPH BY © JASON ANDREWS PHOTOGRAPHY

HRH Prince Michael of Kent speaks at the ceremony of the presentation of the scholarship scroll to the first scholar of AGF / Oxus Gold Scholarship Foundation

**UZBEKISTAN IS A PROUD COUNTRY** with an ancient civilisation and a rich culture. It also has a relatively young population. Education plays an important role in every society and I know that the Government of Uzbekistan takes the education of its young people very seriously and contributes a generous proportion of its gross domestic product to the improvement of the education system.

Foreign investors are also playing their role. Oxus Gold has created and is sponsoring the Amantaytau Goldfields / Oxus Gold Scholarship Foundation in cooperation with Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT). WIUT is unique in the Central Asian region and its degrees are fully internationally accredited since the University is a validated institution of the University of Westminster in London.

The Foundation was inaugurated in 2008, a year which President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov proclaimed the 'Year of the Youth.' The Foundation supports undergraduate and postgraduate studies at WIUT for students from the Navoi Province of Uzbekistan, where Oxus Gold has its mining operations. It has also established a Regional Learning Centre, managed by WIUT, in Zarafshan, the local town, in order to teach English, maths and other subjects to local students and to improve the English language teaching skills of the local teachers.

As Patron of the Foundation I am delighted that I can play a small role within Uzbekistan's educational system and I wish Uzbekistan, and particularly its younger generation, every success as the country looks to the future.



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Students of modern Uzbekistan

## WORKING TOGETHER IN UZBEKISTAN

**Steve McNulty**, Director of the British Council in Uzbekistan,  
highlights the fruits of this flourishing partnership

AS THE UK'S OFFICIAL BODY for cultural relations, the British Council's aim is to build engagement and trust for the UK between people of different cultures through the exchange of knowledge and ideas. In our 110 offices around the world we seek to achieve this aim through our work in our three main programme areas: Intercultural Dialogue, the Creative and Knowledge Economy and Climate Change.

As Director of the British Council Uzbekistan, I was delighted to be asked to contribute to this edition of *Diplomat* and to write about the work we are doing in this country with the support and collaboration of a range of partners such as the Ministries of Public Education and of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education, the State Committee for the Protection of the Environment and the Fund Forum of Culture and Art of Uzbekistan.

I arrived in Uzbekistan in August 2009 and this was the first time that I had ever worked in Central Asia. It was a pleasure to discover what a great place Tashkent is to live and to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Uzbek people.

Early meeting with key contacts showed that education was a very high priority on the government's agenda at both secondary and tertiary level, and that the Fund Forum had a strong programme of activities aimed at creating opportunity and empowering young people. It was also interesting for me to see the importance that is given in Uzbekistan to preparing young people for the modern world, while at the same time teaching them a respect for national heritage, traditions and customs.

It was quickly clear to me that the staff in the Tashkent office were doing some marvellous work in collaboration with a range of local partners and I am delighted that British Council in Uzbekistan's diverse programme portfolio is contributing to national reforms in education and arts, raising awareness of climate change issues and strengthening partnerships between institutions and people in Uzbekistan and the UK.

Some examples of recent work which illustrate this are:

- The INSPIRE regional project launched in 2009 which aims at establishing strategic partnerships between higher education institutions in Uzbekistan and the UK. We have already established four very successful links and aim to raise the total number to 12 sustainable partnerships by 2012.
- The collaborative work being done by Uzbek and UK designers as part of our New Silk Road project which has been showcased at two international fashion events – the StyleUz Art Week in Tashkent in October 2009 and London Fashion Week in February 2010.
- The Climate Generation programme launched in November 2009 which aims to raise the awareness of a young population about climate change issues. This project was an exciting new development in our work which was made possible by the support of the State Committee

for the Protection of the Environment.

• The attendance of the rectors of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and University of World Languages at the British Council 'Going Global 4' international education conference in London in March 2010.

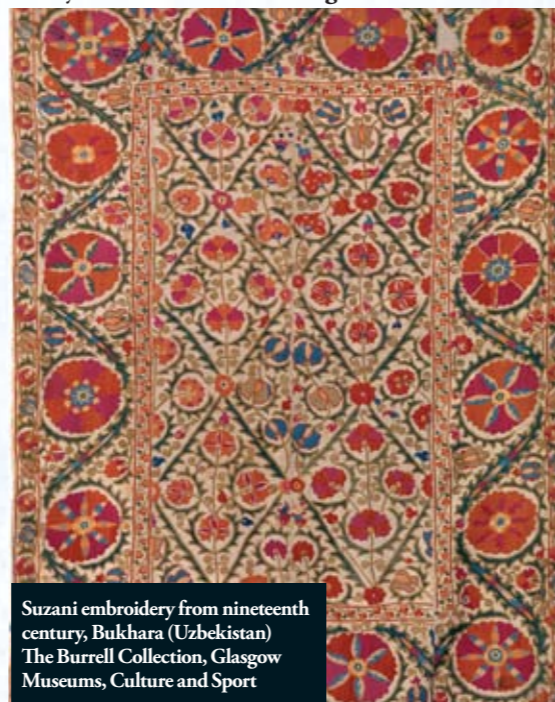
• Tashkent – 'The History of One City' photo exhibition which took place in Cambridge and London in March 2010 and was a good example of our partnership with the Fund Forum, Uzbek Embassy in London and the British-Uzbek Society. This wonderful exhibition consisted of around 80 photographs capturing Tashkent at the most important stages of its history from late-nineteenth century to the present day.

• Our work in English language teaching and learning where we are working closely with the Ministry of Public Education on the development of a teacher training programme for teachers of English and the promotion of our on-line learning and teaching resources. We also enjoy an excellent working relationship with UzTEA, the national English Language Teachers' Association in Uzbekistan.

I have enjoyed an extremely busy first eight months in my post and look forward to a long and fruitful future collaboration with our partners in Uzbekistan, and the opportunity to see and learn more about this fascinating country. [www.britishcouncil.org/uzbekistan.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/uzbekistan.htm)



Steve McNulty, Director, British Council in Uzbekistan



Suzani embroidery from nineteenth century, Bukhara (Uzbekistan)  
The Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums, Culture and Sport

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One of the famous azure domes of Uzbekistan



## TETHYS Petroleum

working in Uzbekistan  
on the  
North Urtabulak Oilfield



Tethys Petroleum Limited is an oil and gas exploration and production company listed on the main board of the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") in Canada and focused on the prolific sedimentary basins of Central Asia and the Caspian Region, with its current projects in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



info@tethyspetroleum.com

# TWO PLACES, ONE HEARTBEAT: CAMBRIDGE AND UZBEKISTAN

Professor Siddharth Saxena (Montu)

Chairperson of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum

THE NOTION OF PARALLEL universes has long-intrigued academic minds. If, in the medieval period, Cambridge colleagues had had an opportunity to gaze upon the spires of Madrassas in Bukhara they would have discovered, an almost identical parallel universe to their own, both in architectural magnificence and intellectual pre-eminence. Traditionally, Uzbekistan was the centrepiece of the Silk Road and an important symbol in the imagination of academics as a means of travel for scholars and people, enabling the exchange of ideas, increased knowledge of foreign places and proving to be the gateway for transmission of cultures across regions. Today, Cambridge students and scholars have rekindled an interest in Uzbekistan, and are moving swiftly along the Silk Road armed with projects on academic ideas, people-to-people contact, a passion for learning and the desire to increase access to knowledge that Uzbekistan has long represented.

Excited by this intellectual opportunity we launched a new initiative in the form of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum in 2001. Its efforts are concentrated on interacting with academics and students with research interests in the region, but also with those involved in other professions (government, business, media and non-governmental organisations) and collaborate with colleagues in Uzbekistan.

Cambridge now has the most wide-ranging programme on Uzbekistan, covering topics from science and technology, environmental and development projects to Islamic and Judaic studies and social and political analysis. In doing so we have found the academic and government bodies in Uzbekistan most forthcoming and exemplary in cooperation and collaboration. The Embassy of Uzbekistan in London is not only efficient and warm but possesses an amazing depth of knowledge. This has led to partnerships with civil society organisations and individual citizens in Uzbekistan as well as formal institutions.

Cambridge boasts well over 80 Nobel Prizes; however a large proportion of these wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the works of Uzbek born Al-Khwarizmi, the father of the Algorithm and the mathematics of Algebra. Equally important is Ibn Sina, popularly known as Avicenna, who authored the Qanun, or the Canon, a medical treatise from the eleventh century and used as a standard text till the 1800's across the world. These scientific giants found their peers in scholars of Islamic law and philosophy like Al-Bukhari who consolidated the Hadith, the second most important book of Islam. This confluence of science and religion probably led to the development of the first Islamic educational institutions, the Madrassas, in Bukhara, Samarkand,

Khiva and Tashkent. These institutions also produced and trained figures like Ulugh Beg the Astronomer King, a grand-son of the great Amir Temur, whose works were published in Oxford in the seventeenth century as the most accurate astronomical tables and the Persian poet and astronomer Omar Khayyam who had a sojourn in Samarkand and his poetry, Rubaiyat, was popularised by the Cambridge scholar Edward FitzGerald.

As a continuation of tradition and in the spirit of Scientific Academies created in the tenth century in Khiva, the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences was established in 1943. Today the Academy is a centre of academic research and excellence, as well as exceptional standards of technological innovation. And in recognition of this, Cambridge and Oxford have joined forces to establish a High Tech Park in Tashkent in collaboration with the Academy, Ministry of Foreign and Economic Relations and other partners put together by the Embassy in London. This project will introduce technology that will enhance the everyday lives of people and, in addition, provide new employment opportunities.

Ancient Uzbek lands are steeped in mysticism. One of the largest Sufi (Mystical Islam) orders in the world, the Naqshabandiya, was started by Baha ud-Din Naqshaband, a fourteenth century saint from Bukhara and its message of harmony and culture of plurality has been one of the most stabilising forces for communal harmony in places as far apart as India and Cyprus.

Due to the excellent research culture and intellectual wealth that Uzbekistan has to offer, we have developed strong partnerships. Together we have organised international conferences on Physics, Technology and Sustainability in Bukhara, Khiva and Tashkent, which each attracted well over 100 academics from more than 40 countries. We have a growing number of excellent students from Uzbekistan in Cambridge and recently the student-led Cambridge Uzbekistan Society was established. Also with Fund Forum of Culture and Art of Uzbekistan and the Embassy, we hosted a photographic exhibition of Tashkent. Musical retreats are common and if you were to pass by the Jesus college Chapel don't be too surprised to find some heart-warming Uzbek tunes emanating from its hallowed surrounding!

For information visit [www.cambridge-centralasia.org](http://www.cambridge-centralasia.org)



Professor Siddharth Saxena (Montu)

# WORLEYPARSONS

## UZBEKISTAN IS A NEW AND ATTRACTIVE MARKET FOR US

*David Herman, Director, Hydrocarbons, Europe and Africa*  
*Dr Elena Potayenko, Business Development Director, Central Asia*

WorleyParsons is a Global Services company. We are active in the oil and gas, petrochemicals, chemicals, power, minerals and metals, infrastructure and environmental sectors, and have been delivering engineering, procurement, construction management and project management services to the global industry for over 60 years.

WorleyParsons has been growing rapidly and is continuously looking for new markets and new opportunities.

However we are also selective and prefer to create long-term ties with countries that we operate in. Rather than coming in for one project we prefer to enter the market to stay. Our Local Business Model is our major differentiator. It encourages partnerships with local design companies in countries where we operate.

We are a people company, and with 137 offices in 40 countries and over 29,100 personnel, we place great value onto human resources. We employ and train local engineers and become a local engineering company delivering to international standards.

The Central Asian market is of great importance to our company and Uzbekistan specifically is of great interest. It is a beautiful country with abundant natural and human resources. It is an attractive market for us, offering opportunities in all major sectors that we specialise in.

London is a centre of excellence and is the hub for all of WorleyParsons operations in Europe, Africa and the Former Soviet Union Republics including Central Asia. We are active members of the Uzbek-British Trade and Industry Council and have found it to be the most effective and successful body among organisations of a similar nature.

It is impressive how the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan develops. The Uzbek Government is very strategic in its approach and ensures a solid foundation is laid for future growth.

Great emphasis is paid to education in Uzbekistan and local human resources are well qualified. Uzbek people are hard working and are keen to learn and excel. We believe that WorleyParsons has a lot to offer and also a lot to learn from Uzbekistan. We are happy to offer our extensive international expertise and global experience, and as we work with various investment companies across the globe, we are also able to attract significant investors into the areas of our expertise.

The Uzbek Government places strong emphasis into creating added value in the country versus exporting raw products. Petrochemical plants and gas processing complexes are just some of the areas where WorleyParsons, in cooperation with local design institutes can make a significant contribution. We have completed over 600 petrochemical projects in over 30 countries and have experience in over 65 types of petrochemicals and polymers.

WorleyParsons is the world leader in Gas Processing and Sulphur technology and we believe that this expertise is of great relevance to Uzbekistan, a country



David Herman, Director Hydrocarbons, Europe and Africa



Dr Elena Potayenko, Business Development Director, Central Asia

that is one of the largest gas producers in the region and where sulphur content is significant. With over 500 gas processing plants and sulphur treatment units in our company portfolio of projects and licensed sulphur removal technology, our technical experts are best suited to advise on the best technologies to create the product of the highest quality and also to make sure that the technological process is environmentally friendly and sustainable in the long term.

The environmental aspect is extremely important and at WorleyParsons we have a dedicated team of environmental engineers working side-by-side with our process engineers throughout the design to deliver the best solution that will maximise the quality and levels of production and also minimise any risks to the environment. We are industry leaders targeting Zero Harm to people and the environment.

## GAS PROCESSING AND SULPHUR RECOVERY

*Jon Lewis, Director, Process Technology, London, Global Sub Sector Leader, Gas Processing WorleyParsons. Hon Secretary, Gas Processors Association Europe*

Such is the worldwide need for hydrocarbons that all companies involved in the exploration, extraction and processing of oil and gas are faced with increasing technical challenges to satisfy this demand. Gas Processing is no exception, with increasing emphasis on sour gas processing in many parts of the world.

The requirement of a gas processing plant is to treat the raw gas to meet the export specification. This specification depends on the end use for the gas; for example, it might be used for local or regional power; or re-injected into the reservoir to provide pressure maintenance and so enhance oil recovery; or used as feedstock for a number of Gas to Product (GTP) technologies including Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Gas to Liquids (GTL). There will be by-products too, typically condensate, LPG (propane and butane, as fractionated products or as a mixed stream), and sometimes ethane. All

of these have their own specification that needs to be complied with by appropriate processing.

A Gas Processing plant typically contains several Process Units, as well as Utility and Offsite Units, which achieve the overall requirement.

The processes selected will be designed to combine robustness, flexibility, energy efficiency, and lifecycle cost efficiency. They will also need to allow for some degree of uncertainty during the design phase, for example, declining reservoir pressure, reservoir souring, compositional changes, new product markets, and any need to process new reservoir fluids.

One of the challenges of processing sour gas is what to do with the hydrogen sulphide once it has been removed. Invariably it passes to a sulphur recovery unit where typically 99.9 per cent of the sulphur is recovered as elemental sulphur. The remainder is released to the atmosphere after incineration to sulphur dioxide. The impact on emissions of the sulphur recovery specification is shown in the table below, given for a sulphur recovery unit of 1,000 TPD.

SULPHUR RECOVERY (%)	SULPHUR EMISSIONS (TPD)
90	100
95	50
99	10
99.9	1

Whilst 99 per cent recovery may appear to be good, the emissions are 10 times that of a plant specified for 99.9 per cent recovery. Increasingly WorleyParsons' clients are specifying 99.9 per cent recovery as a guarantee requirement so that this figure can now be considered as normal practice. [www.worleyparsons.com](http://www.worleyparsons.com)



Jon Lewis, Director, Process Technology, London, Global Sub Sector Leader, Gas Processing, Hon Secretary, Gas Processors Association Europe



## A CROSSROADS OF CULTURES

**Hugo van Kuffeler** visits the celebrated and multicultural architecture of Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara

**SET AT THE HEART OF THE** Silk Road, Uzbekistan is a country that wears its culture on its sleeve. The celebrated and multicultural architecture of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva exhibits the ancient and diverse nature of the country's historical heritage.

One is immediately struck by the well-preserved relics from the time when Central Asia was the cradle of education, trade and the heart of an empire. Cities such as Tashkent and Samarkand proudly display the turquoise domes of the mosques and ancient places of worship that have called their citizens to prayer for the past 500 years. The Silk Road was a means of spreading new principles, ideologies, the arts and technologies.

Where Tashkent has an inspiring mix of ancient Oriental mosques, markets and Russian architecture from the turn of the previous century, Samarkand has a wealth of architecture that was built by Timur (1370–1405, the founder of the Timurid Empire, and great great grandfather of Babur – the founder of the Mughal Dynasty), and his grandson Ulugbek (who was as well known for his scientific research, as well as his leadership).

These ancient cities of Uzbekistan were located on the ancient Silk Road (the route took its name from silk, the commodity traded during the Roman period), the trading route between China and the West. Samarkand is a breathtaking example of these ancient cultures, with well-preserved mosques such as the Registan Square which is a great example of the city-planning and construction skills between the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries. Close by is the Gur-Emir Mausoleum (XIV-XV) which was built as a burial place for the members of the Timur Dynasty.

Some of the earliest evidence of astronomy was found in the remarkable ruins of the Observatory of Ulugbek. Built in 1420, this structure (only the bottom half remains) is a huge quadrant, 40m across that was used to watch the stars and their movements. For three decades Ulugbek and other scholars charted the celestial movements, using the astronomical sights on brass rails, the most accurate and up-to-date equipment of its time. Ulugbek believed 'It is the duty of every Muslim man and woman to acquire knowledge'.

Samarkand and Bukhara offer a true glimpse into the past of Uzbekistan with opulent mosques and monuments. The markets are a world away from western supermarkets, displaying mountains of fresh spices, nuts and fruits artistically piled towards the ceiling in competition with their neighbouring stalls. Many wear the traditional Uzbek hats that are a colourful symbol of their heritage, among the furious bargaining for the right price.

The Capital Tashkent, despite its 2,200 years history, nowadays has a more contemporary feel, mainly because of its spectacular modern national buildings, monuments and parks. The entrance to Independence Square is an epic example of the symbolic style depicting crossing storks taking flight to show a city that is truly proud of its heritage.



Chor Minor  
Mausoleum in  
Bukhara



Nodir Devon  
Begi Madrasa in  
Bukhara



Ichan Kala in Khiva



The fortified,  
ancient city of Khiva  
in northwestern  
Uzbekistan



## Unlocking Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan contains some of the most promising investment opportunities in the world, and some of the most stable conditions in the CIS. However, as with all emerging markets, the key to successfully unlocking the upside is effectively to cover the downside.

No insurance company is better placed to offer you political risk insurance for investment in and trade with Uzbekistan than a U.K. registered company that specialises in political risk insurance - Uzbekinvest International Insurance Company Limited.

Uzbekinvest International Insurance Company has access to both unrivalled local knowledge and unparalleled international expertise. As such it is the vital key to unlocking successful investment in this remarkable market.



### Uzbekinvest International Insurance Company Limited

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## MOTORCYCLE DIARIES

### The Earl of Clanwilliam and Founding Partner of Gardant

Communications, finds a fine country with a proud heritage and promising future

**IN 2007 I TOOK** some friends on a touring adventure to Tbilisi in Georgia, riding R1200 GS Adventure (BMW) motorbikes.

In 2009 we repeated the journey, but felt the urge to travel further East crossing the Central Asian countries on a 9,000km adventure from London to Almaty in Kazakhstan.

We crossed the Caspian from Baku in Azerbaijan by boat, arriving in Turkmenbashi. With the Kopet Dag mountain range on our right we headed for the Uzbek border. Early one sunny morning, we passed over into Uzbekistan just east of Turkmenabat.

The speed, hospitality and ease with which we cleared customs and immigration were the first indications of

many of how pleasant our experience in Uzbekistan was shortly to be.

On our way East into Kyrgyzstan, our route took us across the width of the country from the most westerly to the most easterly points including Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent and Andijan in between.

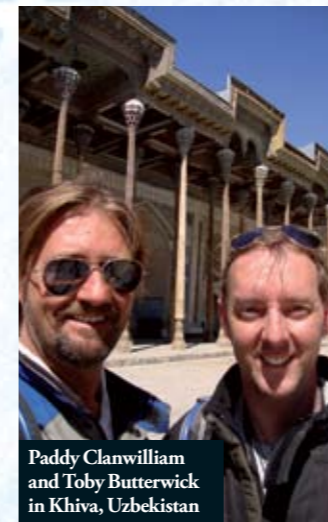
I am sure that there is an instinctive spirit

of adventure running through the veins of every young Uzbek schoolboy, for as we passed them in their smart uniforms on their way home from school, they would jump up with joy at the sight of us, dusty bikers, speeding through their countryside village or town! When travelling by bike, one picks up a more acute appreciation, sense of smell and feeling for a country.

Throughout our journey across Uzbekistan I was reminded not only of the magnificent beauty of the country but also the immense hospitality and kindness that was shown to us – without exception – by every person with whom we came into contact.

I have been more than a few times now to this fine country with its proud heritage and promising future. Each visit has been as enjoyable and productive as the last.

If you seek to open the mind, free the spirit and challenge your normal routine, then I cannot recommend enough the need for you to visit Uzbekistan and its charming people in the near future.



Paddy Clanwilliam and Toby Butterwick in Khiva, Uzbekistan

*Paddy Clanwilliam and seven other bikers raised over \$38,000 for three children's charities spread along the 9,000 km route from London to Almaty which they covered in a record breaking 20 day period in August 2009.*

*For more info on this year's charity 2010 Rally to Bahrain via Europe, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi contact Paddy at [cl@mwilliam.co.uk](mailto:cl@mwilliam.co.uk) or +44 7702 693621, or visit [www.london2tbilisi.com](http://www.london2tbilisi.com)*



Young participants of the Festival of traditional culture 'Echo of Centuries-2010' in Khiva

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