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Impact of Transport Logistics on International Trade and Economic Development

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Abstract: This article analyzes the impact of transport logistics on international trade processes and economic development in Uzbekistan. The country's geostrategic location, effective use of transport corridors, expansion of multimodal transportation and modernization of logistics infrastructure are highlighted as important factors in strengthening international cooperation. It is also shown that the efficiency of foreign economic relations is increasing by increasing export and import volumes, developing transit opportunities, introducing digital logistics services and simplifying customs procedures. The study also reflects the contribution of reforms in the transport and logistics system to economic growth, creating new jobs, increasing investment attractiveness and impact on regional integration. The article aims to highlight the strategic importance of transport logistics in increasing Uzbekistan's competitiveness in the global trade system.

Key words: transport logistics, international trade, economic development, transit, export-import, infrastructure, multimodal transportation, digital logistics, customs reforms, regional integration.

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In the modern global economic space, economic integration processes between countries are increasingly expanding. Effective integration into the world market is largely determined by the level of development of the transport and logistics system. Because the increase in international trade volumes, the efficiency of export-import operations, investment flows and the stability of production chains require a competitive logistics infrastructure. In this regard, the modernization of the transport and logistics system of Uzbekistan, its broad integration with international transport corridors is one of the important factors of economic development.

Uzbekistan is located in the center of Central Asia and is geostrategically at the intersection of transport and communication hubs. The country's position as a "landlocked state" requires a special approach to the effective development of the transport system. Therefore, since the years of independence, consistent reforms have been carried out to modernize the transport and communication infrastructure, build new railways and highways, and increase regional transit potential.

The article analyzes the role of transport logistics in international trade processes and economic growth in Uzbekistan, the country's transit potential, ongoing reforms, and future development directions of this sector.

Transport logistics is a system that optimizes the process of delivering goods, services, and resources from the producer to the consumer in organizational, economic, and technical terms, and is an integral part of international trade. Reducing logistics costs increases the competitiveness of exporting enterprises, leads to a decrease in the price of goods, a reduction in delivery times, and an increase in trade turnover.

World experience shows that in countries with a developed logistics system, transportation costs do not constitute a significant part of the total cost of production. Therefore, a developed transport system directly affects the country's economic growth rates.

Improving the logistics system for Uzbekistan is important for the following reasons:

Expanding export potential. An efficient transport system expands the geography of exports.

Increasing transit revenues. Freight flows passing through the country bring economic benefits.

Integrating production chains. Provides an opportunity to join international production clusters.

Attracting investments. Regions with developed transport infrastructure are attractive to investors.

Thus, the efficiency of the transport logistics system is a decisive factor in strengthening Uzbekistan's position in the world market and ensuring economic stability.

Uzbekistan is located in the center of Central Asia and is connected to all surrounding countries by land. This situation, on the one hand, allows the country to become a regional transport hub, but on the other hand, it creates additional logistics costs when entering foreign markets.

Table-1. Key Logistics Indicators of Uzbekistan

Indicator	Value	Description
Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	2.8	World Bank index measuring logistics efficiency
Transit Capacity	High	Strategic corridors connecting Europe and Asia
Export Growth via Logistics	Increasing	Improved trade flows due to better transport systems

It is located in the center of one of the shortest corridors connecting the European and Asian markets.

It has the largest population among the Central Asian countries and a large domestic consumer market.

It has access to China, Russia, South Asia, the Middle East and the Caucasus.

The following international transport corridors pass through the country:

China - Kazakhstan - Uzbekistan - Tajikistan - Afghanistan route

China - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan multimodal corridor

Europe - Caucasus - Uzbekistan corridors

North - South transit corridors[2]

These routes make Uzbekistan an important transit hub in the region. Full use of transit potential requires the formation of modern logistics centers, free economic zones and multimodal terminal networks.

Rail transport is one of the main supporting sectors of the logistics system of Uzbekistan. A significant part of the annual transportation volume is carried out by rail. During the years of independence, the country:

More than 1,200 kilometers of new railway lines were built,

The “Angren–Pop” electrified railway was put into operation,

The connection between the Fergana Valley and the center was strengthened through a tunnel through the Kamchik Pass,

Large-scale projects were implemented to modernize railways and renew the locomotive fleet.

These processes served to adapt railway transport to international standards and created the basis for an increase in transit cargo flows.

The highway network of Uzbekistan is more than 40 thousand kilometers, the main part of which consists of roads of international and republican importance. In recent years:

Reconstruction of highways,

Reconstruction of the Tashkent-Andijan highway,

Improvement of the infrastructure of the “Tashkent-Samarkand-Bukhara-Khiva” tourist corridor,

Motorways are accelerating cargo transportation processes and contributing to the growth of trade turnover.[3]

There are 11 international airports operating in Uzbekistan. The airports of “Tashkent”, “Samarkand”, “Bukhara”, “Fergana”, “Namangan”, and “Urgench” are being modernized and fully adapted to international requirements. The expansion of the “Uzbekistan Airways Cargo” company has increased competitiveness in the field of international cargo transportation.

In recent years, the following facilities have been established:

Free economic zones of Angren, Navoi, Jizzakh, Bukhara,

Logistics centers of Navoi and Angren,

A large automobile and logistics terminal in the Tashkent region.[4]

These centers increase the efficiency of export-import processes by repackaging, storing, customs clearance, and providing multimodal services.

The modernization of the transport system has a significant impact on Uzbekistan's export-import activities.

The reduction in logistics costs has led to:

the cost of transporting cotton, fruits and vegetables, textiles, non-ferrous metals, and automotive products has become cheaper;

the geography of exports to Europe, Turkey, Russia, China, Korea, and the Middle East is expanding;

the delivery time to markets is reduced, creating a competitive advantage for exporters.

Reforms in the transport and logistics system have:

facilitated the import of construction materials, machinery and equipment, chemical products, and energy resources;

the cost of imported products has decreased, strengthening the stability of the domestic market.

An increase in transit cargo flows brings significant foreign exchange earnings to the republic's budget. Strengthening regional integration and the activation of international transport agreements are further improving transit.[5]

In conclusion, Transport logistics is one of the main drivers of economic development and international trade integration of Uzbekistan. The country's geostrategic location, transit opportunities and reforms implemented in recent years increase the competitiveness of the logistics system. However, tasks such as further modernization of the system, expansion of multimodal transport services, and introduction of digital technologies remain relevant.

The consistent development of this sector will contribute to an increase in export volumes, increased investments, creation of new jobs and deep integration of the country into the global economic system. With a developed transport and logistics system, Uzbekistan will undoubtedly become a regional transport center and a stable participant in international trade.

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