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The Scale Activities Between Kazakhstan and India in the Field of Science and Education

Abstract. The article is dedicated to study of the scale activities between Kazakhstan and India in the field of science and education. The Indo-Kazakstani connections had arisen in the days of the Great Silk Way, which passed from China to the Western world through the part of Central Asia (then called Turkistan), bordering with today's Southern Kazakhstan, especially with Shymkent and Jambyl Regions.

The Silk Way was the direct medium for spread of Buddhism from India to Kazakstan. Salutary balm of Sufi ideas, and practices, stretching from Central Asia, subdued the high mountains dividing us, and found warm reception on the Indian ground. The Indo-Kazakstani connections take their beginning at this time and since then continue to exist, resulting in mutual penetration of cultures and enrichment of two civilizations and cultures.

Key words: cooperation, science, education, cultural relations, information technology, evolution of relations, bilateral documents.

Introduction

Kazakhstan and India are gradually developing bilateral cooperation in the fields of science, technology, education and culture. The Indian Embassy in Kazakhstan very actively organises and participates in many events in all possible fields of co-operation and social life. It serves as a vivid and reliable bridge between the two countries.

An Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) was opened under the Indian Embassy in Almaty. ICC serves as a window, through which people of Kazakhstan have an opportunity to study the Indian culture, to understand and appreciate it. From the very beginning of its activities in 1995, ICC tried to develop cultural relations and mutual understanding between peoples of our two countries. The centre organizes a great number of cultural actions, including visits of Indian scientists, symposiums, exhibitions, presentations of books and musical instruments for various public institutions. ICC also carries out the program of grants for the gifted Kazakhstani youth for training at Indian universities and other educational establishments [1].

Methods

Concrete historical method, generally accepted principles of public knowledge-Historicism and objectivity, as well as the method of system analysis, implying the study of historical processes and the relationship together.

In 1997, the two countries exchanged the Days of Culture. A collection of Abai's poems was published in Hindi. Books by prominent Indians have been published in Kazak language.

In 1998, with the support of the Indian Embassy, the branch of Hindi language was opened at the Oriental Studies Dept, Al-Farabi Kazak National University (KazNU). The Hindi Room is equipped with modern technical equipment; it has much literature in Hindi and English, brought from India. Graduates of top Soviet Orientalist Schools: A. Anvarov (Leningrad, now St. Petersburg, Russia) and Z. Iskakova (Tashkent, Uzbekistan) became the first teachers of Hindi in Kazakhstan [2].

Every year the Indian Embassy offers ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation) grants to those wishing to acquire various specialties in higher education institutions of India. ITEC was established in 1964 as the bilateral program of assistance of the Government of India. Under this program, interested

persons from other countries have been welcomed to share with India its experience acquired for over five decades of existence as a free nation.

Every year, about 60 students are sent from Kazakhstan to India under ITEC program to study various disciplines, such as diplomacy, banking, finance, trade, management, small business development, etc. Those arriving to India under ITEC program [3], not only spend days in lecture theatres of high schools, learning various disciplines, but also visit various cultural and tourist places in India, what forms a part of their curriculum. The number of candidates visiting India every year, shows popularity of ITEC program in Kazakhstan. Marking the high interest of the Kazakhstani party in the given program, the Government of India systematically expands the number of curriculums available for the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Another parameter of close mutual relations in the field of culture is appearance of the first professional symphonic orchestra in India. It became possible due to the efforts of an eminent musician, a violinist of world fame – our compatriot Marat Bisengaliev, who opened a professional symphonic orchestra in Mumbai [4].

In October 2001, upon an initiative of the Kazakhstani Ministry of Education and Science, a Techno Park was launched in Astana, in co-operation with Bilim International Educational Centre and the Indian firm IBFI. Its full title declared its purpose – «Centre for development and introduction of domestic and foreign information technology in the education system». The Techno Park was equipped with modern computer hardware, a lecture hall and display tools [5].

In 2004, Kazakhstan-Indian Centre for Information Technology (KICIT) was established at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. It became one of the first training centres within the framework of a joint project with NIIT (National Institute of Information Technologies).

An event was held in Almaty in June 2005, dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the official visit to Kazakhstan by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, organised at the initiative by Mr A.K. Mukerji, the then Indian Ambassador to Kazakhstan. The event included an international scientific seminar, a book and photo exhibition, and a documentary [5].

Holding Republic Day and India Week open to public has become traditional in Kazakhstan. Holi celebrations and Festive concerts of Indian classi-

cal and folk dances are quite popular among Kazak youths, especially girls and young women.

The Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty, led by Ms. Akmaral Kainazarova masterly perform Indian classical dance 'Bharatanatyam' throughout the country and abroad. Ms. Kainazarova, being from a prominent family, forsook a career of a journalist, as she fell in love with Indian classical dance. She studied in India as an ICCR scholar, and became a celebrated dancer. Supported by ICCR and Embassy of India, Astana; her centre is at the forefront of organisations engaged in strengthening cultural ties between Kazakhstan and India.¹

In March 2008, Centre of Kazak language and Studies was founded at Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi. It offers two programmes, one leading to Diploma in Kazak language, and another one leading to Certificate in Kazak language.

Obviously, the scale and level of joint activities between Kazakhstan and India in the field of science and education so far has not been up to their potential.

A growing number of events has been strengthening cultural cooperation between the two nations, including celebrations of 150th anniversaries of Abai and Zhambyl, and 100th anniversary of Mukhtar Auezov, held in India, as well as functions dedicated to the 125th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, held in Kazakhstan [6].

A growing Indian community of Kazakhstan and their Kazak friends celebrate the National Unity Day in Kazakhstan every year on 1 May.

On 2 October 2014, the Embassy of India in Astana celebrated the International Non-Violence Day (Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday) in collaboration with and at the premises of the National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Over a hundred guests included diplomats, local officials, members of the Indian community [7] and Kazak youths attended the event. The programme concluded with a short cultural programme by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre, Astana.

Lecture-demonstrations on Yoga have been held for various types of public, including school children and diplomats, in various cities of Kazakhstan.

Every year, Indian tourist companies participate in Annual Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair. In return, Kazakhstani tourist companies take part in similar events in India.

A launch of International Day of Yoga was held in various cities of Kazakhstan.

It seems to us, that for the sake of raising benefit

from developing mutual relations, it would be good to establish a Kazak-Indian University, where possibilities of widening and deepening co-operation in all spheres of mutual interest would be studied, among other things.

In September 2014, the Indian Embassy in Astana organised a business presentation «Make in India», attended by over 70 individual businessmen, representatives from manufacturing companies, government officials, media and diplomats. It was organised in collaboration with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs under the Ministry of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Conclusion

Currently, the cooperation between Kazakhstan and India in the field of high-tech and IT cannot be considered satisfactory, and the presence of Indian IT-companies in Kazakhstan is unobtrusive.

Indian partners are involved in construction of the Alatau Information Technology Park near Almaty city, training of Kazakhstani students, organising internships for few Kazakhstani specialists in India, especially through ICCR and ITEC programmes, whose Golden Jubilee was celebrated in Astana on

10 March 2015. Apart from these few activities, progress in this area is not very noticeable.

Since 16 February 2015, it also has been publishing a Newsletter twice a month, available online, which covers all important events and information concerning bilateral relations between the nations.

Scientific and academic contacts between analytical circles of Kazakhstan and India occur regularly. Kazak and Indian experts exchange visits and deliver guest lectures, actively participate in seminars, conferences and «round tables», both in India and Kazakhstan, where topical issues of Kazak-Indian cooperation are discussed.

India and Kazakhstan are connected by history and culture, common political values, deep and obliging tasks of maintenance of prosperity of our peoples. Thus, it is necessary to note, that there is a high level of complementarity of economies of India and Kazakhstan. India represents a huge market for power and other goods. India has technologies and experience in industrialization, market management, financial systems and information technologies. This complementarity between India and Kazakhstan can promote mutual maintenance of each other's growth, development and deepening of friendship.

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