

**Cultural and educational aspects of bilateral relations between
Kyrgyzstan and Japan**

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Abstract: *The article deals with the issues of educational and cultural programs in Japan and Kyrgyzstan. Scholarship programs, student exchange program, cultural events, visits of delegations to strengthen relations between the two countries.*

Keywords: *education, Japanese culture, academic mobility, JICA, volunteers, training of leading specialists*

1. INTRODUCTION

Diplomatic relations between Kyrgyzstan and Japan were established on January 26, 1992, and this year is already 28 years old. Before independence, the relations between the two countries developed at a positive pace [6]. The main areas of Japanese cooperation were focused on the development of education, culture, economy and transport. Japanese delegations often visited the city of Frunze, the creative team of Kyrgyzstan introduced them to the culture, Kyrgyz national traditions, games and historical places of our country. We can say that Japan opened the Central Asian region through Kyrgyzstan. Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors of Japan have paid official visits to our capital in the CA region. However, this happened when Kyrgyzstan was part of the USSR, after gaining independence, in 1992 Japan officially recognized Kyrgyzstan as a sovereign state. And in January 2003, by mutual agreement, the Embassy of Japan was opened in the city of Bishkek, and the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Japan in the city of Tokyo in April 2004 [2]. Cultural relationships. Cultural and humanitarian cooperation is of great importance. It enriches

nations with knowledge, promotes the exchange of education and culture, the improvement of friendly relations and the maintenance of interests. During the scientific and practical conference at KSU named after I. Arabaev, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Kyrgyz Japanese studies, almost all the participants from the Kyrgyz side were unanimous in their statements that Ito-san is the basis of the teaching of the Japanese language in Kyrgyzstan. Ito-san is the first Japanese who came to Kyrgyzstan, and in 1991 he founded the Department of Japanese Studies at the University of KSU. Ito-san has done constructive work to promote Japanese studies, to strengthen friendship between the two peoples. A significant part of his labor activity is invested in the training of young personnel, teachers of the Japanese language, strengthening Japanese-Kyrgyz ties in the field of science, culture and mainly in the field of education - through the conclusion of cultural and educational programs for the exchange of students and professional teaching staff of some universities in our country and Japan [10]. From 12 to 13 September 2019, the Days of Japan were held in the city of Karakol in honor of the 150th anniversary of the city and the 80th anniversary of the Issyk-Kul region. During the event in the Issyk-Kul Regional Music and Drama Theater named after K. Dzhanoshev on September 12, a group of drummers "OOEDODAIKO" and the duet "Sushi" performed with a concert [4]. Also, partners and guests of the event took part in master classes, in cultural corners on origami, calligraphy, playing the Japanese taiko drums, putting on a yukata [traditional Japanese clothing] and traditional children's games. On November 2, 2017, the delegation of the Japan Foundation for Cultural Interaction with Central Asian Countries organized seminars and open lectures at universities in Kyrgyzstan. This event was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. An autumn festival of Japanese culture was held in Bishkek from September 28 to October 1, 2018. The event was hosted by the Japanese Embassy in Kyrgyzstan with the support of the Mayor's Office and the Kyrgyz-Japanese Center for Human Development and the Japan Foundation.

2. MAIN PART

Various cultural events were organized at the autumn festival of Japanese culture: master classes on Japanese culture “The World of Calligraphy by Mrs. Michiko Hamasaki” and “Bon Dance Festival”. In November 2010, in 2011 and 2012, weeks of Japanese culture were held in Kyrgyzstan with various interesting headings: anime cosplay, karaoke competition, Japanese cuisine, jazz sessions, photo exhibitions, a fair of Japanese books, film festivals, demonstration of national Japanese costumes and much more. There was also a presentation about Japan at Issyk-Kul State University, educational programs from the Japanese government specifically for high school students and university students, and also demonstrated master classes in Japanese martial arts such as sumo, aikido and judo [3]. Cooperation in the field of education. Japan is very actively involved in the educational process. Every year volunteers come to Osh State University to share their knowledge and teach students new teaching methods, helping them to learn the Japanese language more easily. Every year, our students leave for Japan on academic mobility, where they acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, deeper knowledge of the culture, history, life of this beautiful and at the same time unusual people. In addition to them, our teachers also participate in academic mobility, gaining invaluable experience going to the land of the rising sun.

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With regard to joint programs from the Japanese government, there are several educational scholarship programs. The development of human resources is the main goal of one of the programs, which is aimed at civil servants. Civil servants are sent to Japanese universities for a master's degree, as a result of which they acquire a master's degree. Trained in Japan, there are currently more than 155 civil servants. Among the graduates of this program were those who began to occupy high positions - minister, deputy ministers, applying in practice the knowledge they learned in Kyrgyzstan [2]. In addition, there are scholarship programs for undergraduate students. They are selected based on exam results. Their study period in Japan lasts from 1 to 5 years. One of the international scholarship programs for international students is MEXT. The program allows students from different countries, including Kyrgyzstan, to study at universities in Japan. The winners of the competition are selected at the Japanese embassies and consulates in each country, and scholarships from the Japanese government are awarded to those who successfully pass. Typically, the length of time is 5 years. Students who have an adequate level of knowledge of Japanese can skip 1 year of the preparatory course. In this case, the training will last 4 years [8]. School teachers from Kyrgyzstan will be able to study free of charge in Japan Teachers of primary and secondary schools in Kyrgyzstan can take part in the annual educational program of the Japanese government, which is called the "Program for young teachers". Applicants are admitted who are not older than 35 years old, where the main conditions are that candidates must have at least 5 years of experience in teaching [5]. In addition, there are courses, research internships and scholarship programs organized by JICA, the Japan Foundation or the Asian Development Bank, through which students have the opportunity to travel to study in Japan. There is the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which provides assistance not only in socio-economic terms, in technical implementation, but also in the field of education.

JICA activities. JICA volunteers have started coming to Kyrgyzstan since 2000. They mainly work in areas that are located at great distances and are difficult to access. They teach schoolchildren, participate and offer assistance to regional communities in the framework of the One Village - One Product project. JICA volunteers are really worthy of respect, they are sometimes called modern "samurai". They make efforts not only at work, they try to learn the game on national instruments and communicate with local people in the Kyrgyz language. Over the past 28 years, 1000 of our Kyrgyz specialists have been trained in Japanese universities and in JICA training centers. Since 1995, the Japanese Center has been successfully operating in Bishkek, in 2000 it was renamed the Kyrgyz-Japanese Center for Human Development. In this center, in addition to teaching the Japanese language, they organize training courses, as well as various cognitive trainings. Since 2007, young civil servants have been improving their qualifications in Japanese universities [2].

And they are already contributing to the growth and development of our state, occupying high positions in our civil service system. Along with this, meetings are arranged with the representative of the Fukaya International Language Academy, Mr. Fujimura, as a result of which an agreement was signed on quotas for training for citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic with further employment in the city's institutions. For 20 years, the task of KRJC has invariably been to train professional personnel to support business development in the country, disseminate and assist in the study of the Japanese language, improve mutual understanding and strengthen friendly relations between the Kyrgyz

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Republic and Japan. Kyrgyzstan continues to develop further integration into world higher education, actively developing new educational technologies, solving organizational issues of accessibility and structuring of higher education, as well as the convertibility of national higher education diplomas.

At the present stage, the Kyrgyz Republic has established relations in the field of education with more than 60 countries of the near and far abroad. The legal framework of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of education is described by more than 75 agreements, within the framework of which Kyrgyz citizens have the opportunity to study in such countries, whose educational institutions have established themselves within the international community as prestigious and in demand. These are educational institutions of the Russian Federation, Japan (through JICA and the Japanese Embassy), the Republic of Turkey, the People's Republic of China, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, the Arab Republic of Egypt and others. Official visit with the Ambassador of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic. In 2015, on November 23, a working meeting was held with the Minister of Education and Science Elvira Sarieva and the Ambassador of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic Takayuki Koike. Issues related to joint cooperation and its further development were discussed. At present, the Japanese side is taking into account the provision of assistance in the training of the most important specialists in the industry and technical sciences. It is these areas that are of the highest priority for Japan and serve as the reason for the expansion and build-up of bilateral cooperation in the field of education [1]. During the conversation, plans for the further development of cooperation were revised through the introduction of Japanese methods of training high-level industrialists in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. As well as tasks related to the implementation of projects to support universities. Subsequently, Minister of Education and Science Elvira Sarieva and Ambassador Takayuki Koike noted the promise of joint programs and the need to develop training in Japan for high-level industrialists using Japanese polytechnic education. Therefore, the Japanese side received an invitation to pay a visit to Japan in order to get to know more closely the Japanese education system in the field of mechanical engineering and electrical engineering [1].

Let us emphasize that within the framework of the scholarship program over the past 5 years, support has been provided to 11 different projects in Kyrgyzstan, which include projects in the field of education. Let us add that Japan has been helping Kyrgyzstan throughout the entire period since independence. Where the total financial assistance is more than 1 billion dollars, where half of the allocated amount falls on the provision of grants [7].

3. CONCLUSION

Conclusion. I would like to say that cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Japan is developing favorably for both sides. Japan has no enmity or hostility towards Kyrgyzstan, which could interfere with socio-economic, educational and cultural relations [9]. Both countries have a positive attitude towards each other, and to some extent they are even outwardly similar, the same structure of the grammar of the Japanese and Kyrgyz languages, similar facial features, the love of the Kyrgyz for the Japanese language, all this contributes to the rapprochement of the two countries and further cooperation. It is necessary to maintain friendly relations with Japan at the highest level at the same

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rate, since Japan is a strong country, which is predisposed to democratic convictions. And for this, in order to be worthy partners with other countries, we need to work even more deeply on:

- the creation of coordinated proposals aimed at promoting the formation of a common educational space;
- preparation of proposals for improving the quality of vocational education and academic mobility of students, as well as scientific and pedagogical personnel;
- development and implementation of international projects and programs in the field of education.

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