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KAZAKH-JAPANESE PARTNERSHIP IN THE FORMAT OF “CENTRAL ASIA PLUS JAPAN”

The purpose of the study is to examine the results of projects implemented within the framework of the Kazakh-Japanese partnership in the format of «Central Asia plus Japan». In 2005, in accordance with this concept of dialogue, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) also conducted a study of water resources and electricity, which is one of the main cores of this mechanism, in order to study the form of promoting intraregional cooperation.

In the course of research on this topic, comprehensive theoretical research methods methods of comparison, differentiation, generalization, systematization used. In the course of the study of strategic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Japan, the scientific works of famous domestic scientists were considered: T. Dadabaev, A. Duisikov, A. Bitabarova, G. Duisen, N. Kasenova. The research works of foreign researchers were also used: Yu. Takeshi, D. Kitade, T. Caparella, B. Dave.

The relevance of the study lies in the fact that 2 – At the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in 2006, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Aso, who was Chairman and other honorary participants: the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and the Ambassador on special assignments of Kazakhstan adopted an «action plan» defining specific directions and signed for 5 areas developed A framework for political dialogue, development of intraregional cooperation, promotion of business, intellectual dialogue, cultural ties and people exchange.

In this «action plan», «Water and energy issues» are recognized as one of the most important sectors that can make a special contribution to the work of providing assistance for intraregional cooperation. In order to carry out intraregional cooperation activities within the framework of the «action plan», the Central Asian countries must actively act and build trusting relationships.

Keywords: strategic cooperation, dialogue of Central Asia plus Japan, Kazakhstan, Japan, contract.

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«Орталық Азия плюс Жапония» форматындағы Қазақстан-Жапония серіктестігі

Зерттеудің мақсаты – «Орталық Азия плюс Жапония» форматындағы Қазақстан-Жапония серіктестігінің аясында іске асқан жобалардың нәтижесін сараптау. 2005 жылы осы диалог тұжырымдамасына сәйкес жапондық Халықаралық Ынтымақтастық банкі (JBIC) Орталық Азия елдері арасында өңірішілік ынтымақтастықты дамытуға жәрдемдесу нысанын зерделеу мақсатын да осы тетіктің негізгі өзектерінің бірі болып табылатын су ресурстары мен электр энергиясы бойынша зерттеу жүргізді.

Осы тақырып бойынша зерттеулер барысында зерттеудің кешенді теориялық әдістері-салыстыру, саралау, жалпылау, жүйелеу әдістері қолданылды. Қазақстан мен Жапония арасындағы стратегиялық ынтымақтастықты зерттеу барысында белгілі отандық ғалымдар: Т. Дадабаев, А. Дүйсеков, А. Битабарова, Г. Дүйсен, Н. Касенованың ғылыми еңбектері қарастырылды. Сонымен қатар шетел зерттеушілері: Ю. Такешидің, Д. Китаденің, Т. Капорелланың, Б. Дейвтың зерттеу еңбектері пайдаланылды.

Зерттеудің өзектілігі – 2006 жылы өткен Сыртқы істер министрлерінің 2-ші отырысында Жапонияның сол кездегі Сыртқы істер министрі Таро Асо мырза, онда төраға болған және басқа да құрметті қатысушылар: Қырғызстан, Тәжікстан және Өзбекстан Сыртқы істер министрлері және Қазақстанның арнайы тапсырмалары үшін елші нақты бағыттарды белгілейтін «іс-қимыл жоспарын» қабылдап, 5 сала үшін қол қойылды: саяси диалог, өңірішілік ынтымақтастықты дамыту, бизнесті көтермелеу, зияткерлік диалог, мәдени байланыстар және адамдар алмасуы, сондай-ақ өңірішілік ынтымақтастықты дамыту үшін негіздемелік схема әзірленді.

Осы «іс-қимыл жоспарында» «су және энергия мәселелері» өңірішілік ынтымақтастық үшін көмек көрсету жөніндегі жұмыстарға ерекше үлес қоса алатын маңызды салалардың бірі болып

танылды. «Іс-қимыл жоспары» шеңберінде өңірішілік ынтымақтастық жөніндегі қызметті жүзеге асыру үшін Орталық Азия елдері белсенді әрекет етіп, өзара сенімді қарым-қатынас орнатуы тиіс. Орталық Азия елдері әр елдің де, тұтастай алғанда өңірдің де әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамуы үшін түрлі кедергілерді еңсеруге, алға жылжуға және одан әрі ынтымақтастықты дамытуға өз шешімдерін білдірді. Сәйкесінше, соны әрекет етті.

2007 жылғы қаңтарда өткен «Орталық Азия плюс Жапония» тетігі шеңберіндегі 2-ші Зияткерлік диалогта «Орталық Азиядағы су ресурстары мен электр энергиясы бойынша өңірлік ынтымақтастықтың болашағы» мәселесі талқыланды.

Түйін сөздер: стратегиялық ынтымақтастық, «Орталық Азия плюс Жапония» диалогы, Қазақстан, Жапония, келісімшарт.

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Казахстанско-японское партнерство в формате «Центральная Азия плюс Япония»

Целью исследования является экспертиза результатов проектов, реализованных в рамках казахстанско-японского партнерства в формате «Центральная Азия плюс Япония». В 2005 году в соответствии с этой концепцией диалога японский банк международного сотрудничества (JBIC) также провел исследование водных ресурсов и электроэнергии, которое является одним из основных ядер этого механизма, с целью изучения формы содействия развитию внутрирегионального сотрудничества между странами Центральной Азии.

В ходе исследований по данной теме использовались комплексные теоретические методы исследования – методы сравнения, дифференциации, обобщения, систематизации. В ходе исследования стратегического сотрудничества между Казахстаном и Японией были рассмотрены научные труды известных отечественных ученых: Т. Дадабаева, А. Дуйсекова, А. Битабаров, Г. Дуйсена, Н. Касеновой. Также были использованы исследовательские работы зарубежных исследователей: Ю. Такеши, Д. Китадэ, т. Капореллы, Б. Дэйва.

Актуальность исследования заключается в том, что на 2-м заседании министров иностранных дел, состоявшемся в 2006 году, тогдашний министр иностранных дел Японии г-н Асо, который был председателем и другими почетными участниками: министрами иностранных дел Кыргызстана, Таджикистана и Узбекистана и послом по специальным поручениям Казахстана был принят «план действий», определяющий конкретные направления, и подписан для 5 сфер разработана рамочная схема для политического диалога, развития внутрирегионального сотрудничества, поощрения бизнеса, интеллектуального диалога, культурных связей и обмена людьми.

В данном «плане действий» «вопросы воды и энергии» признаны одной из важнейших отраслей, способной внести особый вклад в работу по оказанию помощи для внутрирегионального сотрудничества. Для осуществления деятельности по внутрирегиональному сотрудничеству в рамках «плана действий» страны Центральной Азии должны активно действовать и выстраивать доверительные взаимоотношения. Страны Центральной Азии выразили свои решения по преодолению различных барьеров для социально-экономического развития как каждой страны, так и региона в целом, развитию дальнейшего сотрудничества. Япония приветствовала активные действия стран Центральной Азии, а также выразила намерение изучить возможность оказания поддержки этим странам посредством технических консультаций.

Ключевые слова: стратегическое сотрудничество, диалог Центральной Азии плюс Япония, Казахстан, Япония, контракт.

Introduction

Collaboration is about working together for a common goal or benefit. Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Japan is developing in a strategic direction. In particular, Japan is interested in such natural resources of Kazakhstan as uranium and rare metals. And due to the processing of Natural Resources produced by Kazakhstan, the demand for new technologies that Japan can offer is grow-

ing. Thus, Kazakhstan can turn from an exporter of raw materials into a producer of recyclable natural resources. At the same time, Kazakhstan and Japan found a mutually beneficial way to achieve their interests and goals.

The main part

Strategic cooperation is the next stage in the evolution of strategic partnership. This process, in

turn, implies a deep and strong partnership. Unlike strategic cooperation, strategic partnership implies a more integrated approach, which includes economic, political, socio-cultural and other initiatives. In order to study the strategic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Japan, we should first consider the historical factors that formed the basis for the transition of Kazakh-Japanese relations to a new stage of strategic partnership – strategic cooperation.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Japan and Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations. However, until 2006, there was no significant progress in economic relations between the two countries for a long time. In the 1990s, there was practically no trade between Kazakhstan and Japan. In 2002, both countries sought to stimulate trade between them through various political and economic initiatives, aiming to develop oil and gas production in the Caspian Sea.

The period from the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries to 2006 is called the period of «strategic partnership» in relations between Kazakhstan and Japan. However, in 2006, a new stage of bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and Japan began. Instead of pushing for different initiatives, Kazakhstan and Japan began to focus their cooperation on the extraction of uranium and rare metals. This initiative, in turn, led to a significant increase in trade between Kazakhstan and Japan (Dissuykov A., 2019: 1-21).

The collapse of the Soviet Union led to the emergence of new independent states in the center of Eurasia, including a number of states of Central Asia. And, given that Kazakhstan is the largest country in Central Asia, it occupies the ninth place on the map in terms of land area. Given the geopolitical importance of Central Asia and in order to maintain regional stability, since 1992, various countries of the developed world have considered it important to provide WRC (official development assistance) in order to establish diplomatic relations with the countries of the former Soviet Union in the Central Asian region.

Japan has become one of the leading donors of WRC in Central Asian countries. By launching the «Central Asia plus Japan» initiative in 2004 and the «New Energy Program» in place of the ODA in 2006, Japan has expressed its greatest desire to develop a resource-oriented approach to Central Asia with a focus on Kazakhstan. Considering these events, it is necessary to consider in a timely manner the emerging form of Japan-Kazakhstan bilateral relations,

which we call» strategic cooperation « (Caporrella T., 2013).

Research materials and methods

In the course of research on this topic, comprehensive theoretical research methods methods of comparison, differentiation, generalization, systematization used. The following scientific publications have been studied in this article:

- Dissuykov A., «Central Asia plus Japan» Dialogue: From Idea to Implementation»;

- Caporrella T., «Dialogue, Stability and Security in the Central Asia Region: Comparative study on the EU and the Nato commitments in the Central Asia-region (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan)»;

- Bitabarova A. G., «Unpacking Sino-Central Asian engagement along the new silk road: a case study of Kazakhstan»;

- Duisen G., & Aitzhanova D., «Formation of unified area of Kazakhstan and Central Asia: Issues and opportunities»;

- Kassenova N., «The EU strategy for Central Asia: Imperatives and opportunities for change. A view from Kazakhstan»;

- Dave B., «The EU and Kazakhstan: Balancing economic cooperation and aiding democratic reforms in the central Asian region»;

- Kitade D., «Central Asia undergoing a remarkable transformation: Belt and road initiative and intra-regional cooperation».

The research work used the approaches of complex analysis and synthesis of documents from various government agencies and political parties. In addition, comparative historical and systematic methods, the method of content analysis were also applied in the work of the study. The research was based on the principles of unity of historical and logical, concrete analysis, the ratio of the subjective factor and objective conditions, and on a systematic analysis of the object of research, involving both subject-semantic and critical processing of factual material.

The analysis of the stated problems allowed the author to obtain new scientific results presented in the research article:

- for the first time, the Japanese experience of modernization was analyzed and its potential significance for democratic reforms in Kazakhstan was clarified;

- various forms of government were identified during the analysis of the forms of government of

the two countries ensuring the stability of social development;

- the formation of a strategy of dialogue between tradition and modernization based on the principle of «Va» similar to the tradition of dialogue in the Turkic world is proved;

- the experience of the Japanese civil service has been studied, based on the analysis of the formation of the Japanese model of civil service, it indicates the possibility of applying some of its aspects in the modern modernization process of Kazakhstan.

Research results and discussion

Views in the literature on the topic of cooperation between Japan and Kazakhstan can be divided into the following two opposing groups:

The views of experts who argue that Japan has no strategy for Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, and the views of experts who insist that Japan has a strategy for Central Asia. The first point of view is expressed by Professor Tomohiko Uyama, who says that Japan has no national interests in Central Asia or the need to maintain security there. In his opinion, the concept of «strategy» presupposes the presence of priority interests.

On July 24, 1997, Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto Ryutaro presented the concept of «Eurasian diplomacy» in a speech to the Association of corporate executives of Japan (Bitabarova A. G., 2018: 149-173). He stated that Japan is working to actively develop relations with China, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

To end the two-year hiatus and intensify bilateral relations, president of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev paid a visit to Japan on December 5-8, 1999. Following this visit, Nazarbayev and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi signed a «joint statement on friendship, partnership and cooperation» (Duisen G. & Aitzhanova D., 2018: 192-199).

In 2015, Prime Minister Abe visited Kazakhstan, concluding his visit with a visit to 5 Central Asian countries. In his speech at Nazarbayev University, the Prime Minister stated that the basis of Japan's future Central Asian policy towards China is to support the development of Central Asia as an open, stable and independent region, and announced that Japan would radically strengthen its relations with Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries. In his speech, Prime Minister Abe outlined the following policy directions, as support for the development of human resources for advanced industries in order to diversify industry, more active involvement in solv-

ing regional problems within the framework of the Central Asia + Japan dialogue, which is the basis for promoting regional cooperation, and deepening cooperation in the global arena. In 2016, President Nursultan Nazarbayev made his fourth official visit to Japan. During the visit, many significant events were held, including a meeting with His Majesty the Emperor, a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe, the first speech of the CIS leaders, meetings with representatives of Japanese business and business circles, as well as visits to universities.

The two leaders signed a joint statement on expanding strategic partnership in the age of prosperity in Asia, as well as many documents exchanged between ministries and companies. President Nazarbayev also visited Hiroshima and sent a strong call to the world to build a world free of nuclear weapons. The implementation of the mutual visit of the leaders within 1 year has become an important event in diplomatic relations between Japan and Kazakhstan, and the President's visit to Japan has become a great incentive for the mutual development of relations between the two countries. (Kassenova N., 2016: 1-8).

2017 is also an important year for Kazakhstan, the first non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in Central Asia, and Japan, which has been a member of the UN since last year, in terms of deepening cooperation at the UN.

The foreign policy of Japan and Kazakhstan is largely coordinated, and we will continue to work on global issues in the United Nations arena and cooperate for the sake of peace and development of the international community. The Astana International Expo 2017 international exhibition was held in Kazakhstan under the motto «Energy of the Future». The theme of the Japanese pavilion at Astana Expo is «A reasonable combination of technologies – the experience and challenges of the whole of Japan.» Japan has introduced initiatives and advanced technologies to use a variety of energy sources that are safe and environmentally friendly.

The international exhibition has created new business opportunities between Japan and Kazakhstan, and the visits of many Japanese have further deepened exchanges between people. Economic relations between Japan and Kazakhstan always complement each other. Kazakhstan has rich natural resources and excellent human resources, and Japan has advanced technology and know-how in the field of «production» that can meet the needs of Kazakhstan, such as industrial diversification and infrastructure development.

In 2017, many visitors attended cultural events such as master classes in ikebana, judo and kendo, as well as the Day of Culture of Almaty. Even in Kazakhstan, Japanese manga and anime, Japanese cuisine such as sushi and tempura, and Japanese martial arts are becoming increasingly popular. Kazakhstan's cultural and artistic ties with Japan have become even stronger thanks to the first performance of Astana Ballet in Japan and the Kazakh production of a play about the Japanese internee Tetsuro Ahiko in Kazakhstan. Academic exchanges are also actively carried out in a wide variety of fields, including history, archaeology, medicine, nuclear energy and space (Adiyet K. & Ayagan B., 2020: 803-814).

This foreign policy direction was further supported by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso, who in his June 2006 speech noted a regional unified approach to Central Asia, support for regionalism, and emphasized the promotion of democracy and market economies in the region (Kitade, D. 2019: 1-7).

The driving force behind these initiatives in 2002-2006 was the desire for a strategic partnership between Japan and Kazakhstan based on economic ties. Why, from 1999 to 2002, after several years of passivity, did Japan's foreign policy towards Central Asia become more active? After entering the new millennium, it seemed that Japan began to revise its foreign policy in the 1990s and expand its diplomatic relations with Kazakhstan towards a more intensive economic strategy (Dobrinskaya O. A., 2011: 45-50).

In the late 1990s, new and huge deposits of such important natural resources as oil and rare minerals were discovered in Kazakhstan, which attracted Japan. After the 1973 oil crisis, the Japanese, who wanted to reduce their dependence on oil in the Middle East, were constantly looking for new sources of energy supply. However, doubts about regional stability, poor infrastructure, transport problems and high investment risks in the Central Asian region seemed to prevent Japanese companies from investing heavily in Kazakhstan. However, this changed in 1999-2002, when Japan and Kazakhstan began a strategic partnership.

The two main reasons for Japan's decision to increase its participation in Kazakhstan in 1999-2002 were: the role of Kazakhstan in maintaining regional security and the initiative of Japan to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. In terms of regional security, Kazakhstan is one of the largest, most stable and economically developed countries in Central Asia, adjacent to Afghanistan. Stability in Central Asia has a direct

impact on the process of countering terrorism and regional stability in the Middle East. As for the second reason, Japan saw a historic opportunity to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council after the United Nations reform in 2004 and the 60th anniversary of the United Nations in 2005.

«Central Asia Plus Japan» Dialogue was founded in 2004, the main principles of this dialogue were «» respect for diversity», «» competition and coordination «» and «»open cooperation»».) Perhaps, of all the «5+1» formats operating in Central Asia, the dialogue with Japan is at the most worked out and active stage. Within the framework of the dialogue, several formats of cooperation are being developed: the biannual «Council of foreign ministers» (MFA), the «Council of senior officials» (SDL).

In 2014, during the fifth meeting at the level of foreign ministers within the framework of the dialogue, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida outlined the main direction of practical cooperation for the next 10 years of dialogue development – assistance in the development of the agricultural sector of the economies of Central Asian countries based on the use of Japanese technologies and experience in the field of Agriculture.

In addition, the fight against drug trafficking and control over the state borders of the region, in terms of sustainable development – prevention of natural disasters, as well as the situation of women were highlighted. As for agriculture, during the 5th anniversary MFA, a roadmap for regional cooperation in the field of Agriculture was adopted, which was recognized as a pilot area of regional cooperation within the framework of the dialogue. In matters of cooperation on border control, the foreign ministers of the five states thanked Japan for providing inspection equipment to the border authorities and implementing a project to create border interaction offices. At that time, the Japanese «JDS Human Resource Development Scholarship Program» (МЛН 1.97 million. US dollars.) and» project to improve the maintenance of roads in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Talas regions « (24 million 910 thousand US dollars. the) has been implemented. As can be seen from the above, Japan gives priority to specific areas of cooperation and applied projects aimed at solving the problems of the region.

Japan's 2004 «Central Asia plus Japan Dialogue», as a result of which in 2005 The «Division of the new Independent States» within the Ministry of foreign affairs of Japan was renamed the «division of Central Asia and the Caucasus».

In a June 2006 speech by Taro Aso with the Japanese Foreign Minister, the growing importance of Central Asia for the Japanese government was evident. During this period, Japan's policy towards Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, shifted from a focus on the ODA to a strategic partnership with the ODA. Through dialogue, exchange visits and other forms of cooperation, Japan's presence in Central Asia began to expand.

In addition, during this period, the level of trade between the two countries also began to grow. For 9 months of 2002, the total volume of trade between the two countries amounted to долларды 149.5 million, which is 45.5% higher than in 2001. In December 2002, after the visit of Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who became the Minister of foreign affairs of Kazakhstan, the Japanese government allocated 8 800 million to Kazakhstan as part of the ODA grant for oil exploration in the Caspian Sea. In turn, K. Tokayev noted that the main goal of the Government of Kazakhstan is to reduce the country's dependence on the export of raw materials. He hoped that the experience of introducing Kazakhstan to Japanese businessmen will lead to joint projects that will help achieve this goal for Kazakhstan.

However, this increase in trade between Japan and Kazakhstan did not lead to an increase in investment from Japan. Japanese entrepreneurs were very wary of making high-risk investments in Kazakhstan. Risks in Kazakhstan, in their opinion, may be caused by possible compliance issues and poor infrastructure in Kazakhstan. In addition, Russian and Chinese enterprises at that time managed to penetrate into oil production in the Caspian Sea. Japanese companies did not believe that the low level of profitability was worth the risk. Therefore, the level of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Japan to Kazakhstan has not increased.

To change the situation, on July 13, 2005, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Danial Akhmetov met with Japanese parliamentary secretary for Foreign Affairs Keishiro Fukushima to discuss further development of cooperation between the two countries in various sectors of the economy. For example, technical cooperation, attracting new Japanese investments in Kazakhstan and establishing cooperation in the field of Joint Kazakh-Japanese projects.

This visit became the basis of an important event in the history of Kazakh-Japanese bilateral relations-the visit of the Prime Minister of Japan in 2006. That is, Koizumi Dzunichiro arrived in Kazakhstan, which marked the transition of relations

between the countries to a new stage of strategic partnership – strategic cooperation.

In August 2006, Japan-Kazakhstan relations radically changed as a result of Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi Dzunichiro's visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the first visits of the Japanese prime minister to these two central Asian countries.

Here, the Ambassador of Japan to Kazakhstan, Toshio Tsunozaki, expressed a request to facilitate the visit of the new prime minister of Japan to Kazakhstan after his appointment to this post. Sociologists have an interesting phenomenon called «resource curses». Paradoxically, countries with an abundance of natural resources, such as oil and gas, perform worse in terms of economic development and effective management than countries with a shortage of Natural Resources. Profit from oil and gas production, if considered as a source of income, is highly volatile due to fluctuations in the rate and value of oil at the time of production.

To overcome this resource curse, Kazakhstan developed a plan called «industrial and innovative development strategy for 2003-2015», which was announced by President Nazarbayev in 2002. This strategy aims to achieve sustainable development of the country by diversifying the economy and moving from production to recycling. The necessary resources and sources of financing are direct investments, the costs of which for the implementation of the strategy will amount to about 1 1.2 billion per year.

The production of competitive and export-oriented products, works and services in the manufacturing industry and in the service sector is the main problem of the state's industrial and innovation policy. To implement this project, the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Japan actively worked to attract the Japanese business community through the Japan Foreign Trade Organization (JETRO) (Urazaeva F. P., 2016: 230-235).

As a result of Koizumi's visit to Kazakhstan in 2006, a memorandum of cooperation was signed on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the development of uranium mining. On April 30, 2007, Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Amari Akira paid a visit to Kazakhstan and signed a joint statement on strengthening strategic partnership in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy. In addition, Amari discussed the development of economic cooperation, including in the field of industrial technologies and nuclear energy. Such cooperation was to extend to the following areas: export of natural uranium, production of nuclear fuel,

exchange of technologies in the field of reactor construction, personnel training.

These trips opened the way not only for cooperation between countries in the field of uranium mining, but also for the supply of strategically important rare earth metals. Such diversification was key to achieving a broader «strategic partnership». From 2003 to April 2006, China, the dominant player and leader in the export of rare earth metals, began to restrict international sales of these metals. Then China gradually introduced a system of quotas for the export of rare earth metals, raised export tariffs for such metals, stopped issuing mining licenses, reduced the number of Chinese companies allowed to export rare earth metals, and took other measures.

All this led to a shortage of rare earth metals in the market. Japan, which depends on imports of natural resources to carry out high-tech exports, has sharply felt the problem of shortages in the supply of rare metals. Japan was forced to look for another source of supply outside of China. On June 20, 2008, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda signed a joint statement on cooperation in the field of nuclear energy. During his visit, Nazarbayev noted that Kazakhstan allocates 40% of rare earth metals exports to Japan. In addition, as a result of the visit, in October 2009, Kazatomprom, the National Atomic Energy Company of Kazakhstan and Sumitomo Corporation of Japan, led to the creation of a joint venture called «Summit Atomic rare earth Company» (SARECO) (Sadykova, R. O. 2009: 4-5).

Kazatomprom owns 51% of the shares, and Sumitomo Corporation owns 49% of the shares. SARECO is engaged in the export and sale of finished products. In addition, an agreement was signed on the creation of another joint venture, but an agreement was signed with Toshiba Corporation for the research, development, production and sale of rare earth metals and rare earth products. It is expected that in two years the joint venture with Toshiba will develop a feasibility study for the extraction and deep processing of rare earth metals, as well as the expected economic efficiency and feasibility of developing new high-tech and knowledge-intensive industries for rare earth metals in Kazakhstan. In addition, Kazatomprom has three plants (uranium, tantalum, beryllium) that specialize in the production of materials not only for nuclear power, but also for aerospace and electric power.

On March 12, 2009, Nazarbayev instructed the chairman of the National Space Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan Talgat Musabayev to develop a full-fledged space industry within the framework

of the state program for the development of the National Space service for 2010-2014. One of the most effective ways to lay the foundations for the development of high-tech industries is the development of space activities through the introduction of space technologies into industrial production.

Japan is one of the key players in such space activities and was able to help Kazakhstan implement its government program. Therefore, on January 27, 2010, Japan and Kazakhstan agreed on cooperation in the field of space research and implementation of space technologies for the benefit of the two countries.

In 2006, ahead of Koizumi's visit, the Japanese Ministry of trade and industry outlined «3 Es»—a new National Energy Strategy that planned to achieve simultaneous energy security, economic growth and Environmental Protection. In addition, Prime Minister Koizumi took into account several factors, including: Kazakhstan's position as the third largest uranium producer in the world, Japan's desire to increase its share of nuclear energy to 30-40% of its total energy consumption, and the growth of world uranium prices, which in 10 months in 2006 increased by 64% and amounted to долларды 60 per pound.

These factors played a key role in the transformation of Kazakh-Japanese relations from a broad but shallow strategic partnership to a deeper and more purposeful cooperation based on minerals. Among the indicators of such evolution were 24 uranium-based agreements signed by Kazakh and Japanese companies in 2007, which is the largest number of agreements concluded between representatives of these countries.

This not only represents Japan's national interest in sustainable energy supply, but also reflects the desire of Japanese companies to have government obligations to ensure access to energy resources. In the period from 2006 to 2012, 62 relations between Kazakhstan and Japan were based on the concept of «new partnership», which is ensured by large economic cooperation.

The trade turnover between the two countries between 2008 and 2012 amounted to долларды 7 billion, imports-долларды 3.4 billion, exports-долларды 3.5 billion. At the same time, Japan's direct investment over the past 19 years has reached долларға 4.4 billion. Over the years of economic cooperation, more than 70 joint ventures have been created.

In 2012, at the end of the fourth meeting of the Foreign Ministers» Central Asia plus Japan Dia-

logue», a joint declaration on the construction of a new partnership between Japan and Central Asia was signed. Representatives of the participating countries expressed a desire to raise the partnership between the two countries to a higher level and diversify cooperation. Within the framework of this declaration, the following five main tasks were identified that require joint decisions and actions:

- improving the trade and investment climate,
- environmental issues,
- Energy saving to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
- introduction and development of alternative energy sources,
- Stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan,
- cooperation in the field of natural disaster response.

This statement opens up new areas of cooperation between the two countries. During the visit of the minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Edano Yukio in 2012, the parties signed six memoranda related to the development of economic cooperation between the two countries, including in the field of innovation. The increase in the volume of Japanese investments in the form of new and innovative technologies is very important for Kazakhstan (Baizakova K. I., Saburov N., & Orazbay A., 2021: 31-39).

Kazakh-Japanese relations have great potential for implementation in other areas, especially in the development of the green economy. The most promising area of cooperation from a scientific and technical point of view is the resource economy. Given that Japan is almost 20 times ahead of Kazakhstan in terms of energy efficiency, such cooperation is of particular importance. The first results of the countries' cooperation in the field of energy can be seen in the practical application of energy-saving technologies and modernization of coal-fired power plants by Asuka Green Investment and Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. For example, as a result of such modernization at the Almaty-2 thermal power plant, CO₂ emissions decreased by 820 tons per year, and the efficiency of the plant increased by 19%.

In the near future, Japanese experts plan to expand cooperation with other energy companies in the field of advanced energy saving technologies. At the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission on economic cooperation of Japan, Kazakhstan and the private sector, held in Tokyo on February 18-20, 2013, nine different bilateral documents were signed.

Among them, the following memoranda of mutual understanding signed by the National Nuclear Center of the Republic of Kazakhstan: a memorandum of cooperation and mutual understanding with the Atomic Energy Agency of Japan (JAEA) in the field of research and development of the future of nuclear energy and the creation of new industries (creation of safe high-temperature cooled reactors), research and development of research reactors and radioisotope products for medical purposes, heavy Accident Research for light water reactors, etc.) and with the Nuclear Power Company of Japan (JAPC) and Marubeni Corporation (MUS, Ltd. the) Memorandum of understanding on cooperation).

Ensuring strategic planning and solving the long-term development of nuclear energy in Kazakhstan (joint participation in the development of feasibility studies, construction and commissioning of nuclear power plants, training of personnel for the nuclear industry and other issues).

As a result of the agreements at the highest level in 2007, Kazakhstan and Japan signed more than 20 contracts in the uranium region. Signed in 2010. The agreement between Japan and Kazakhstan on cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy has formalized the legislative framework for cooperation in the nuclear industry. Kazakhstan is counting on Japan's assistance in reprocessing uranium fuel and building a light-water reactor. In Uzbekistan, Japanese companies are involved in joint projects for the exploration of uranium deposits and the extraction of oil. The disaster-induced accident at the Fukushima-1 nuclear power plant temporarily reduced activity in this area, but Japan cannot abandon the development of nuclear energy. In addition to energy resources, Tokyo is also interested in other natural resources of the region. Japan is one of the largest importers of Central Asian gold. Also of considerable interest are the reserves of rare earth metals, in terms of imports of which this country ranks 1st in the world, producing more than 50% of the world's high-tech products based on such metals. Cooperation with the countries of the region would reduce dependence on the supply of these resources from China. Tokyo's participation in the development of deposits and production of rare rare earth metals is also beneficial for Central Asian countries, as it contributes to their innovative development and the creation of high-tech industries. The importance of Japan as one of the leaders in the field of advanced technologies determines the interest of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan in Japanese know-how and the

involvement of Japanese companies in the development of mineral resources in the region.

We can say that the mutually beneficial scheme «high technologies in exchange for natural resources» actually works. However, in general, Japan's economic relations with the countries of the region are still developing rather slowly, with the exception of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, in 2010 the trade turnover with them amounted to about 740 and 220 million dollars, respectively. More or less significant indicators of investment cooperation are observed in relation to Kazakhstan: from 1993 to 2008, Japanese investments amounted to about 5 billion US dollars. It can be expected that after the entry into force in 2009 The agreement on liberalization, promotion and protection of investments between Japan and Uzbekistan will increase the presence of Japanese capital in this country. But political risks, especially tax and tariff policies, corruption, and the specifics of doing business in Central Asian countries remain a deterrent for Japanese business circles.

For Kazakhstan, the advantages of its cooperation with Japan include an increase in the level of FDI and increased access to new technologies and markets. This, in turn, will allow Kazakhstan to transit to the most valuable production.

The results of such a new form of cooperation are already becoming noticeable. For example, in the period from 2010 to 2013, positive changes in the economy of Kazakhstan can be observed largely due to the implementation of the industrial and Innovative Development Program discussed earlier in this section. Priority investors were attracted to a number of leading projects implemented within the framework of this program.

For example, together with Toshiba Corporation and Sumitomo, a project for the production of pure and rare metals for the nuclear industry was launched in the East Kazakhstan region. In addition, together with Toyota Motors Corporation, a project for the assembly of motor vehicles was launched in Kazakhstan (Takeshi Y., 2017: 75-77).

As a result of these and similar joint projects, 13,000 new permanent jobs were created in Kazakhstan within the framework of the industrial and Innovative Development Program. In addition, in 2012, the export of industrial goods increased by 29% compared to 2011 to 4.2 billion, and since 1991, the export of industrial goods was at the highest level. Compared to the indicators of 2008, it increased by 14%. Currently, 111 finished products are shipped to foreign markets.

Kazakhstan's uranium production in 2006 took the third place in the world. After Koizumi's visit in 2006 and the influx of Japanese investments in the uranium industry of Kazakhstan after this visit, the level of uranium production in Kazakhstan began to grow every year. And by 2009, Kazakhstan became the world's leading uranium producer with a share of 28%. The share of global uranium production is ahead of Canada with a share of 24% and Australia with a share of 19%. The mineral-based strategic cooperation between Japan and Kazakhstan showed signs of mutual benefit for both countries (Dadabaev T., 2012: 441-448). In 2024, 36 documents were signed at the business forum within the framework of the Central Asia + Japan dialogue with the participation of Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov. The event, organized by JSC NC KAZAKH INVEST and the Japanese association ROTOBO, was an important step towards deepening partnership in various fields.

List of signed documents:

Kazakhstan and Japan:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan LLP and Challenge and Lead.
2. Agreement on financing joint projects between the Development Bank of Kazakhstan LLP and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.
3. Memorandum of Cooperation on the implementation of an investment project between KAZAKH INVEST LLP and Fitech.
4. Letter of Intent on the establishment of a Seismic Center between Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the University of Tsukuba.
5. Memorandum of Understanding between Gumilev Eurasian National University and Hitachi High-Tech Europe GmbH.
6. Memorandum of Understanding on Carbon Credits and Environmental Solutions between Central Asia Climate Foundation, Rakurs Tech LLC and Mitsubishi Corporation.
7. Memorandum of Understanding between Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Oncology and Radiology JSC and FUJIFILM Healthcare Corporation Turkey.
8. Memorandum of Understanding on research and development in the field of safe use of radiation technologies for peaceful, non-explosive purposes between the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Chiyo-da Technological Corporation.

9. Memorandum of Understanding on expanding cooperation in the mining business between Eurasian Resources Group and Mitsui & Co.

10. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on the development of solutions to achieve ESG objectives in the Kachar Quarry, in terms of reforming the operation of the Kachar Quarry between Eurasian Resources Group, Eurasian Machinery LLP and Hitachi Construction Machinery.

11. Memorandum of Cooperation between Kazakhmys Corporation LLP, Eurasian Machinery LLP and Hitachi Construction Machinery.

12. Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Trade Chamber of Kazakhstan and Minamin Ltd.

13. Memorandum of Understanding between KAZ Minerals Management, Komek Machinery Kazakhstan LLP, Komatsu Ltd. and Mitsui & Co.

14. Memorandum of Understanding between SAS-Tobe Cement and Komaihaltek Inc.

15. Memorandum of Understanding between Kazakhstan Municipal Systems LLP and Komayhaltek Inc.

16. Memorandum of Understanding on technical cooperation on the establishment of textile production and the improvement of occupational safety standards between Qaz Textile Industry LLP and Masui & Co.

17. Memorandum of Understanding between the Almaty Tourism Bureau and H.I.S. Co.

18. Memorandum of Understanding between Royal Kitchen and H.I.S.

19. Memorandum of Understanding between JSC «International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects» and JCAI (<https://invest.gov.kz/ru/media-center/press-releases/ortaly-aziya-elderi-men-zhaponiya-36-zhat-a-ol-oydy/>)

Conclusion

Twenty years have passed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Japan. During this time, the two countries con-

tinuously tried to find mutually beneficial entry points in their bilateral relations. Initially, relations between Japan and Kazakhstan were limited primarily by the fact that Japan provided ODA grants to Kazakhstan. However, Kazakhstan needed foreign investment to develop its industries.

In 2002-2006, the governments of the two countries tried to increase economic cooperation by attracting investments in the oil and gas industry of Kazakhstan. However, these efforts did not bring significant results. During this time, the level of foreign investment of Japan in Kazakhstan was low, since Japanese enterprises did not consider the low level of profitability worth the risk due to various factors, including the active positions of Russian and Chinese enterprises in Kazakhstan.

The turning point in the development of relations between the two countries was noted when companies re-focused on cooperation based on minerals (in particular, cooperation in the field of nuclear energy and the production of rare earth metals). Cooperation has helped turn Kazakhstan from a WRC recipient into an equal partner. Japan and Kazakhstan have found an excellent point of cooperation, according to which Japan will be able to offer its high technologies.

At the same time, Kazakhstan should turn from a simple supplier of raw materials into a producer of recycled raw materials, and Kazakhstan, rich in uranium and rare metals, will be able to supply Japan with the necessary level of these materials. Now Kazakhstan must take advantage of its position and become a producer of high-value goods.

Even the Fukushima disaster at nuclear power plants in March 2011 did not prevent the development of cooperation between the two countries; on the contrary, it led to the diversification of their relations. This once again shows that the ability of relations between Kazakhstan and Japan to overcome problems and deepen cooperation in mutually beneficial areas is based on strong partnership. This cooperation is a prime example of the success of Japan's foreign policy in Central Asia.

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