

Foreign policy of Japan and Central Asia

Fault bipolar system of global confrontation and military-political blocs led to a serious revision of Japan's foreign policy strategy. On one hand, there are new criteria, principles, tenets; on the other hand, there is still major strategy survival of Japanese society. The development of political power relations in the Asia-Pacific region are increasingly changing the old strategic thinking aimed at extracting benefits for Japan to the contradictions and tensions between the poles.

Within a short time, Japan was able to make a huge breakthrough, and again become a global power with the second, after U.S. economic potential for non-military manner. Synthesis of the elements of democratic and market-oriented model of social organization with a sustainable traditional culture was the result of such a leap. Moreover, Japan has achieved high economic efficiency and competitiveness in the modern world while retaining the national identity of the fundamental issues. This is also the fact that «Japan is a nation with deep innate consciousness of its unique character and special status».

The strong position of Japan in the current global system of international relations remains in no small measure thanks to balance the economic and political components of foreign policy strategy. On one hand, foreign trade strategy creates a solid foundation of foreign policy design, on the other are external relations working as an effective tool for promoting foreign economic relations.

Japanese diplomacy is increasingly aimed at maintaining peace, while maintaining healthy economic competition among developed and developing countries. Prominent in the implementation of the national security, authorities of Japan created a peaceful image of their country. The Japanese system of national security was focused solely on defense in accordance with the principle of

minimum defensive sufficiency. The peace of foreign policy and the commitment of Japan to the three non-nuclear principles, directly derive from its experience during the period between the first and second «discoveries» country. Now, «Japan should try to achieve recognition in the eyes of the world as a major political power, remaining at the same time, average power in a military sense».

However, it is believed that all of the major achievements of Japanese foreign policy based on sound economic foundations. This is because during the postwar history of economic factors have played a key role in determining the national interests of Japan, shaping foreign policy objectives and priorities. Moreover, one of the pillars of contemporary international life is economic diplomacy, which is a «fusion politics and economics» and largely determines the dynamics of international relations. Paramountness of economic interests was due to prolonged isolation of Japan from interaction with the world's centers of power, a high level of security, their geographical situation. In addition, the post-war period, expanding foreign trade of Japan has «growing influence on Japanese diplomacy».

Foreign economic activities in Japan now focuses mainly on the maintenance of Japanese companies abroad and further liberalizing international trade. It must be stressed that in connection with the failure of successive rounds of WTO negotiations in 2000-2004, which has emerged in the APEC process of stagnation, Japan's traditional emphasis on trade liberalization within the WTO and APEC changes in the definition of free trade zones as «addition» or «Entry-level» global liberalization. In the WTO, Japan was in favor of further liberalization of industrial goods, development of international rules on anti-dumping measures and investment. In doing so, the Japanese are grouped with the EU's cautious approach to liberalization of agricultural trade, given the low competitiveness of domestic

agricultural producers and their significant impact on domestic policy.

On the foreign economic line of Japan, as well as the situation in the national economy is closely linked and that the scope of Japan's official development assistance (ODA). Assistance programs have helped to improve their image among the Asian neighbors, to expand consumer demand in the economy of recipient countries, which then became profitable markets and the place of large-scale investment for Japanese companies.

Recently, Japan with the help of ODA to address such key tasks as conflict prevention and resolution, ensuring the safety of sea lanes, the implementation of the commitments entered into at the Okinawa Summit (about \$ 18 billion), assistance to Afghanistan and its neighbors.

Recently, however, due to domestic economic problems, and also identified the inefficient use of Japanese funds has gradually decreased the amount of aid has changed the practice of it. Now ODA is directed to humanitarian and social services while before assistance are provided to the development of infrastructure (construction of roads, bridges, port facilities, etc.)

The unprecedented in postwar history, Japan's participation in peacekeeping operations inside Afghanistan had been a scrapping «set of non-military power», referring to the evolution of the geopolitical role of Japan in the new world order. The Japanese self-defense units were dispatched to Afghanistan to provide logistical support to coalition troops, the Japanese ships and transport aircraft were first used for the delivery of humanitarian supplies in Afghanistan.

Central Asia in the system of foreign political priorities of Japan

In the new context of globalization substantially increases the extent of international relations, expands the circle of its participants on behalf of individuals and entities, as well as, administrative and territorial entities of States». So, «The third opening» of Japan coincided with the «objective trend of expanding participants of international relations», which is «expanding its influence in the whole process of global development».

Consequently, the fault of bipolar system as a consequence of the cessation of «Cold War», self-Soviet threat and the emergence of newly independent states, as well as the need to respond to new non-traditional security threats have led to the transformation of Japan's foreign policy strategy, while maintaining the fundamental principles of strategic partnership with the United States.

In doing so, Tokyo today demonstrates independence and perseverance in determining the foreign policy priorities in different regions of the world, so that its status as the second powerful economy the world has adequate political credibility on a global scale.

Achieving this goal requires strengthened foreign political activity in the traditional regions of active Japanese diplomacy, improvement its mechanisms and principles, as well as, exploration of effective involvement in regions where the Japanese presence was insignificant or absent.

In the foreign political organization of Japan several features of the current international situation are emphasized:

First one of them is economic globalization and deepening interdependence within the international community. Increasing dependence on foreign trade and investment, the emergence of common or single market, as well as, the

development of information technology has reduced the importance of distance and landscape features, which previously hindered the cooperation of the states or transnational corporations.

In doing so, the goal of ensuring security and sustainable development require a deepening of the relationship between discrete participants of international and global economic relations. For example, the share of the foreign trade in the entire world gross domestic product is increasing sharply: in 1970 it was around 18% in 1980 - 32% in 1995 - about 40%.

Secondly, in order to ensure the national security, to conserve the markets of sales, as well as, to strengthen the democracy Tokyo is pursuing a policy of assistance, including technical and financial, to those countries that are moving on the path to democracy and market economy.

Thirdly, the concern of Tokyo about the «issues of global concern» is growing, as the impact of global issues affects everywhere in the world and their solution requires international cooperation beyond national borders. In particular, it is - global terrorism, the problem of nuclear proliferation, the problem of refugees, AIDS, drug trafficking and the deterioration of the gene pool, increased international crime, piracy, and others.

Thus, according to several analysts, contemporary Japanese foreign policy in XXI century is guided by two principles. First, the priority of Asia and those regions, that are adjacent to it. In this regard, it is necessary to stress once again that Central Asia has always been and will remain an integral part of Asian foreign relations. However, as you know, the region was «geopolitically closed» to the outside world and cut off from world economic relations with Southeast and South Asia, the Middle East.

Another main principle of Japanese foreign policy strategy, as we stated in the previous chapter, is the need for an adequate role in the global and regional policies based on Japan's national interests in the political, strategic and economic ties.

In addition, Japan is now extremely interested in diversifying sources of income of hydrocarbons. In this context, Japanese diplomacy is attractive to the Central Asian region which is rich in natural resources and significant geo-economic potential.

Today, it has become clear that, along with the countries of the Asia-Pacific and Latin America, the new region of strategic importance for the Japanese national interests becomes Central Asia with which Japan had little direct trade during the period of the bipolar system.

On the other hand, in the context of new political environment necessitates the development of alternative Middle East regions rich in hydro carbonic raw materials and resources necessary for the full functioning of the Japanese economy. It is known that the Japanese economy by 80% depends on the energy of this unstable region. Moreover, the increasing differences between the governments of individual countries in the region and Japan regarding the terms and timing of the development of oilfields forced Tokyo to implement a policy of maximum diversification of sources of import energy.

Following the formation of five independent states in Central Asia, Tokyo was one of the first acknowledged their new status, established diplomatic relations and began to develop a new Japanese diplomacy «Central Academy» foreign policy. For the Japanese national interests of the region was attractive because there are fairly large stocks of natural resources, including hydrocarbons and minerals, precious metals. Moreover, the availability of skilled in Asia and relatively cheap labor, greatly simplifies the process of development and production of raw

materials, which interested the Japanese business circles.

Japan began to show interest in the «political stability and development of all forms of cooperation» with the countries of Central Asia, the desire to strengthen and consolidate its presence in the region to ensure greater stability in the supply of energy for the needs of its economy.

Furthermore, very soon in the Japanese strategy in the region has been a tendency to engage Central Asia into a broad system of regional integration processes of Asia, to transfer the East Asian economic dynamism to the region. In this regard, Tokyo has declared a priority to achieve and strengthen political, economic and social stability of the region.

At the same time, the geographical remoteness of Central Asia, weak trans-communication with no outlet to the sea, surrounded by four or five nuclear powers and unstable or underdeveloped countries, the perception of the region through the prism of the exclusive interests of Moscow is seriously limited the ability of Japanese diplomacy in the region.

Closed geographical position, along with weak system of transport and communication lines in Central Eurasia is a serious obstacle to the transportation of energy resources and raw materials from the region to Japan. In addition, virtually all of the existing road transports of Central Asia are connected with Russia, which often leads to political problems. Moreover, high transport tariffs for transit of goods across China to the Pacific ports act as an additional barrier to Japanese business.

At the same time, foreign political program called «Eurasian diplomacy», first declared by the former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in July 1997, marked the beginning of a new foreign policy with regard to the Central Asian republics, to

a significant consolidation of ties with the countries of the region. According to «Eurasian diplomacy», Central Asian course of Japanese foreign policy consists of three main components:

- Political dialogue to deepen trust and understanding;
- Economic cooperation and cooperation in the development of natural resources;
- The achievement of peace in the region through the proliferation of nuclear weapons, democratization and stabilization.

In order to implement the new course with regard to Central Asian countries, the Japanese Government has adopted the Program of Action for diplomacy «Silk Road», which involves the development of broad political ties, comprehensive economic cooperation, and assistance in the transition to a market economy.

On the other hand, the policy of the Great Silk Road aims to contribute to bridging the geographic isolation of Central Asia and its economic integration into world economic relations. In addition, the concept of reviving the Great Silk Road is seen as a new draft of the countries concerned, «to ensure, in the XXI century, stable and close cooperation in economy, politics and culture of the States».

The last time evidence of these efforts has been the direction of «energy mission» to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan to determine the prospects of cooperation in the sphere of development and energy.

Prior solution of economic problems is the main principle of the concept. According to this principle, energy, transcontinental transport system and telecommunications are the three pillars of the program «Silk Road». This encourages the integration of the region in the global transportation and information communication.

Accordingly, the development of the region's natural resources, especially large oil and gas, is a project, «global storage, regional and local interests». It is expected that the use of raw capacity of Central Asia would give the necessary impetus to the local economy, and major energy importers, including Japan, to ensure stable supplies of raw materials. Leading Japanese companies took part in the reconstruction and construction of crude oil refineries of Bukhara, Fergana in Uzbekistan, Turkmenbashi in Turkmenistan and, some cities of Kazakhstan.

On the other hand, efforts to overcome geographic isolation, particularly access to emerging energy region include the development of transcontinental railway, road and pipeline transportation network. It should be noted that many ongoing development projects of transport networks in Central Asia, funded by Japan and the Asian Development Bank. The Japanese approach is based on a realistic understanding that the development of the transcontinental transport systems «intensifies the integration of Central Asia in global trade, as well as provides access to the development of commodity resources in the region».

In doing so, it should be emphasized that among the powers that are present in the region, Japan is the only power interested in the speedy release of Central Asia on any of the possible routes through China, Turkey, either through Iran or Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It is anticipated that the development of communication routes on all tracks, alternate routes, leading deep into the Eurasian continent, makes Japan much closer with Central Asia. In this regard, promising to all countries, including Uzbekistan, an Andijan-Osh road-Irkeshtam-Kashgar, will link the railways of China and unified network of railways of Central Asia and Iran. This path offers the possibility of transport links with Shanghai, the Korean port of Pusan, the Japanese

port of Osaka, as well as ports in Southeast Asia.

On the other hand, Tokyo has shown interest in projects aimed at modernization, renovation and more efficient use of Trans-Siberian Railway. Japan has made some efforts to build a railroad Japan-Sakhalin-continent, which must connect Japan with Europe via the continent.

Tokyo contributes to the reconstruction of the main airport in Tashkent, Bukhara, Urgench, Samarkand, Astana, Bishkek, crediting large funds, repayment of which is calculated for several years. In December 2003, between Uzbekistan and Japan were awarded, the first in the post-Soviet, intergovernmental agreement on air services.

In this context it should be noted that in the long run, Central Asia, namely, Tashkent, located in the central between Europe and Asia, North and South can become a main transit hub of aviation of Eurasian continent.

It should also be noted that, because of the geographical position, Central Asia occupies an important place in the project, and the Trans Asian and Trans European fiber-optic line of global importance. Undoubtedly, this is of interest to Japan, which is occupying one of the leading powers in the global telecommunications links.

Moreover, for Japanese foreign policy thoughts significant positive factor is the fact that the leading regional state - Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan - have been able to as rapidly as possible to set up their own military and border formation, and Moscow has maintained direct control only «over the border forces in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan», and also military presence in Tajikistan.

On the other hand, the existence of pockets of instability, as well as recruit camps to international terrorism in Afghanistan, which is an integral part of macro

Central Asia, updated the need for enhanced international efforts to eliminate terrorism in this part of the world.

Moreover, Tokyo clearly aware that the crisis situation in Afghanistan remains a serious barrier to early access of Central Asian States to the global communications, as well as access of Japan to Central Asian resources.

Considering the terrorist attacks in different parts of the world as a direct threat to national security and interests of the country, Tokyo supported the resolute actions of the international anti-terrorist campaign led by the United States.

Symptomatic is that, the stabilization of the Afghan conflict has become possible by means of the active intervention of the external world community, to restore peace and eliminate international terrorist bases in Afghanistan. At the Tokyo conference Japan, along with the U.S. and Afghanistan, has provided enormous financial resources.

In doing so, it must be stressed that Tokyo favors a systematic approach in the fight against international terrorism. The specifics of this approach is that in combating terrorism together with the adoption of enforcement measures necessary to pursue the complex socio-economic, humanitarian, political and other preventive measures at the international and regional level. The Japanese concept of counter-terrorism is that the elimination of this menace should be more than geopolitical considerations.

The Japanese approach is also based on the principle of indivisibility of security, which implies that the issues of global, regional and national security are closely linked and imbalance in any of them affects the other. It was said many times by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, who stressed that "security is a continuous state, it has no boundaries." This shows the

coincidence and the proximity of positions and views of Japan and Uzbekistan on combating international terrorism

Based on this, Tokyo is actively supporting the process of formation of Central Asian countries, promoting regional stability and development of a qualitatively new relationship with global and regional powers present in the region.

Thus, it should be noted that due to changes in the geopolitical picture of the world in Central Asia, transformation is taking place in one of the key regions in the geopolitical coordinates of the Eurasian space. The current situation in Central Asia and the relationship of the region among themselves, world powers and other countries going through a phase of active transformation. The region is entering a new phase in its development, associated with greater integration into world economic and political processes.

We can conclude that the new geopolitical role of the region for Japan, as well as for other powers that are present in the region, due to the presence of a number of factors of the new geopolitics:

First, the location of the CAR in the heart of the Eurasian continent, is of strategic importance in terms of its impact on the security and stability of large parts of the mainland.

Secondly, the focus of the development of the situation in each of the countries of Central Asia and the region as a whole, in many ways, can determine the prospect of balance of power over a wide area of the Eurasian continent.

The third focus is in the natural resources of world importance, especially hydrocarbons. Growing interest in their development is shown by Pakistan, Turkey, South Korea, China, Europe, USA and Japan. It is a strategy of world and regional

powers to pursue specific geopolitical objectives of control over energy resources and transportation routes, which gives an opportunity to influence the situation in the region.

In the fourth, the location at the crossroads of Euro-Asian transport corridors and the potential wider transport and communication networks. Countries in the region can have access to the Persian Gulf through Iran to the Indian Ocean via Afghanistan and Pakistan, and through the territory of China - in the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition, the objective strengthening and Japanese political and economic presence in the region is also linked to a central factor in geopolitics of Central Asia. The overall situation since 11 September 2001 clearly reflects reduced activity of Russia, while enhancing the role of the United States. This means among other things, that, firstly, Russia has ceased to be the dominant military-political sphere force in the region.

Secondly, the activation processes of action of the U.S. to develop ways of transporting hydrocarbons in conformity with the national interests of Japan. However, the extreme interest of the United States in the pipeline, bypassing Russia going to Tokyo does not diminish the importance of Trans-Siberian Railway. It is becoming clear that the policy of Japan, aims not to occupy positions of leadership in the Central Asian region, but also seeks to protect its domestic economy and maintain domestic producers through reinvestment projects aimed outside of their country. Moreover, in the new geopolitical context opportunities for independent foreign policy of Japan are widened.

The interest from Japan to develop the natural resources of the Central Asian republics, has always been a major factor in determining the interest of the State of

the Republic of the region. But the problems associated with underdeveloped production of minerals forced Tokyo to Japanese investment projects in this area, which is linked mainly to technical assistance, expressed in the supply of special equipment, machines, etc.

Cooperation of Japan to the region as a whole, and each of the states, individually, «beginning to take its rightful place» in its concept of «integrated national security». The strategy for implementing the Central Asian policy of Japan relies on its experience in assisting the developing countries in the world.

According to Japanese experts, the term «ensuring the prosperity» in the interpretation of Tokyo means promoting development and cooperation in the global economy. Moreover, the deepening interdependence of modern world puts Japan in a situation in which «its security and prosperity is directly linked to the stability and prosperity of all the other members» international community, society that demands from Japan closer multilateral and bilateral cooperation with other countries to achieve their own foreign policy goals. Thus, the assistance to developing countries to solve their internal problems «means support for the welfare of its own people». Therefore, Japan is of great importance to «get friends who understand and support the Japanese position».

For Japan assistance to developing countries associated with the acquisition and preservation of the economic impact in the developing world. Foreign experience in Japan has shown that foreign assistance to States, primarily benefit Japan because it opens up new opportunities for its own economy, including the marketing of industrial products.

The main attention is given to the official development assistance (ODA). In June 1992, the Japanese government has approved the following basic concept of

ODA: the humanitarian dimension; recognition of the principle of interdependence, environmental preservation, promotion of overcoming existing difficulties. At the same time, four basic principles of ODA were accepted:

, to promote economic development with mandatory requirements of environmental protection;

- Do not use ODA for military purposes or to foment international conflicts;

- Monitor the development and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and missile arms recipient countries, as well as export and import of arms in order to maintain and strengthen international peace and stability;

- To take full account of efforts to advance the processes of democratization and the introduction of market-oriented economy, as well as to monitor the observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the recipient countries.

There are four basic forms of ODA: grants and technical assistance (provided in bilateral relations), government loans and contributions to international organizations (international cooperation).

While giving the main priority to countries and regions, these deposits mainly refer to human development and meeting basic human needs such as health and medical care, drinking water for daily consumption and agriculture.

The government loans, also known as Yen loans, provide funds at low interest rates with long repayment period and flexible terms. This form of cooperation is aimed at supporting the efforts of those countries that have already reached a certain level of development and devote the necessary resources for the socio-economic infrastructure.

Cooperation from international organizations - politically neutral form of assistance can be easily obtained by those countries and is more effective in such

areas as assistance to refugees and victims of natural disasters, as well as solving the problems of the environment and drugs. In addition to providing assistance on a bilateral basis, Japan is making efforts to promote multilateral cooperation in response to growing its expectations of the international community so that it positively took the lead in the activities of international organizations.

In order to develop concrete ways to implement the aid and determine priority areas for investment of capital the government ministries and private companies of Japan visited the country. As a result of the work it has been recognized that as an important focus of Japanese economic aid programs should be cooperation in various fields of economy, development and the development of the rich mineral and raw materials, as well as the industrial production of consumer goods.

The Japanese government, using the official development assistance, facilitates the exploration of minerals in the region. According to experts, this assistance is to enable sustainable supply to Japan, gold, silver, copper, lead, tungsten and other precious and nonferrous metals, thereby solving the problem and its interests in Central Asia resulting from natural resources in the region.

Assistance is made through Japanese governmental organization for international cooperation. This is particularly the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF).

Through these organizations Japan continues to make massive investment in major infrastructure projects in the region. So, one of the pillars of the investment policy of Japan has been promoting republics in the improvement of social and industrial infrastructure, integrated development of the region. In particular, according to the calculations, to the economy of Uzbekistan, was invested more than \$ 1.6 billion of Japanese capital.

In addition, as noted by the former minister of foreign affairs of Japan Y. Kawaguchi, Japan is not limiting itself in the development of infrastructure in the region, in its policy of increasing importance given to the development of human resources. Japanese side is carried out with assistance in preparing a national cadre of Central Asian republics.

A large role in this is the Japan International Cooperation Agency. In 1993, the agency announced the opening of training Kurowo training from Central Asia, which could receive practical and theoretical knowledge necessary to implement market reforms.

Training courses and seminars in these countries are also organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finance, International Trade and Industry, National Bank, private financial institutions of Japan. Thus, in recent years to Japan, were invited 2600 researchers and specialists from Central Asia and sent about 1,100 Japanese experts and volunteers, funded by the Government of Japan to work in the region.

Active in developing relations with Central Asia, Japan has a bilateral basis. However, «the intensity and level with Japanese cooperation with each of the countries of Central Asia quite clearly differentiated».

Currently, because of the large economic and resource potential in the region, one of the most important partners of Japan in Central Asia is Kazakhstan. The starting point of bilateral relations was the official visit by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Tokyo in April 1994, which defined the momentum and the pace of bilateral cooperation.

Current state of Kazakh-Japanese relations is characterized by mutual interest in political and economic spheres. The share of Japan's trade republic is about

2.3% and tends to increase.

Japanese Double Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 1997 initiated the development of major projects for the development of mining and aviation, the development of deposits in the area Zhaman-Aybat and improvement of irrigation and water management in Kyzylorda area. As part of the international aid Aral region, the Government of Japan in the 1994-1995 fiscal years, allocated a grant of \$ 70-1000 million for the implementation of the work to build local irrigation and improve the quality of drinking water.

At the same time, investment activity, as well as direct investment of Japan to Kazakhstan, is accounted for mineral raw materials complex.

Moreover, Japan «quite cautiously reacts to the number of Kazakh initiatives, in particular, the proposal to convene a meeting on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia similar to the European OSCE, as well as the creation of a single continental market in Asia».

At the same time, according to analysts, to improve mutual understanding and «development of political interaction» regular consultations between foreign ministries, which should be systematic, are needed.

Trade and economic cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Japan are built on the basis of mutual understanding. Objectively, slight natural resources and export capabilities significantly reduce the Japanese economic presence in the country. Hence, the basic funding that Japan invests in Kyrgyzstan; go through official development assistance as a loan with favorable terms of repayment, grants and donations. From 1993 to April 1997 Kyrgyzstan, through these channels, were assisted with more than 24 billion yen.

At the same time, Tokyo is actively developing projects to improve the

payment system, establishment of the banking settlement system in real time (3.44 billion yen), the development of the master development plan for broadcasting, research fields of mineral resources Talas region (south-west of the country), as well as developing a master plan for industrial development of the Kyrgyz Republic.

However, the presence of Japanese private capital in Kyrgyzstan is insignificant. Currently, Japanese companies are involved only in projects funded by the Government of Japan. Accordingly, in order to attract Japanese capital of Kyrgyzstan should intensify efforts to effectively integrate the country's transport and communications projects and the implementation of infrastructural reforms, the real interest of the Japanese economy.

The existence of difficult political regime in Turkmenistan is a serious obstacle to the possible trade and economic cooperation between Ashgabat and Tokyo, despite the large reserves of hydrocarbons in the country. Moreover, the lack of reliable information on the status of the Turkmen economy has exacerbated the situation.

However, according to some reports, Tokyo has great hopes and substantial economic interest in the project construction of the Trans pipeline from Turkmenistan through China to Japan. Meanwhile, the project requires large investments, and affects the interests' of such major world powers like the U.S., Russia and China. Consequently, the economic realization of this ambitious project among other things impinges on the political aspects of the problem.

The situation in Tajikistan is seen by Japan in the context of civil war, which severely restricts the development of economic cooperation with Japan. Moreover, post-conflict situation was such that in developing relations with Tajikistan Tokyo

was based only on the provision of grants and subsidies to rebuild the economy, overcoming poverty and improve living conditions in the country. There are a few official sources of data the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan's exports to Japan stood at 78 million yen in 2001, imports from Japan - 690 million Japan has granted Tajikistan a loan amounting to 29 million yen, and through technical cooperation - 160 million yen.

There is a certain intensification of political dialogue with Japan, Tajikistan, in the context of the U.S. and its allies of the military operation in Afghanistan. As Japan under obligations to the international community takes an unarmed participate in this action, the presence in the state, directly bordering on the ground continues operations before → applicable particularly important. Evidence of this may be the intention of Japan to open embassy in Tajikistan.

Currently, the Japanese approach to the development of intra undergoing significant evolution.

In August this year the visit of Yoriko Kawaguchi to Central Asia - the first visit to the region by Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs over the past five years, which reflects the increasing importance of the region in world politics.

The visit was initiated by Japan summoned the first meeting of the dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers «Central Asia plus Japan», a new form of collective cooperation to become an effective mechanism and incentives to expand the partnership of the region and Japan. Likewise, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan suspect, at this meeting was attended by ministers from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Japanese Foreign Minister Y. Kawaguchi said that peace and stability in Central Asia are the guarantee of stability for the entire world community. In this regard,

the Japanese side expressed its firm intention to further support on a number of regional problems. These included such areas as combating terrorism and drug trafficking, cooperation in the field of transport. «Japan intends to continue to provide various kinds of assistance, - said Minister - supporting their efforts each Central Asian state».

According to experts, the new concept of dialogue between the Foreign Ministers of five Central Asian countries and Japan, first tested on Saturday in the Kazakh capital, is aimed at providing a greater influence of Japan in Central Asia by strengthening proyaponskih sentiment in this strategically important region. In particular, the actions of Japanese politicians in this direction could be a counterweight to the political influence of China and Russia in Eurasia. As the observers, in an effort to influence the situation in Central Asia does not want to cede Russia and Japan.

The Japanese side invited the countries of Central Asia and support, including financial, in many endeavors. For example, Kawaguchi said that Japan intends to help the region in the development of transport infrastructure, in particular to ensure access to seaports via Afghanistan. Already there are projects ready for realization of this idea: the railway from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan. Now Japan is assisting the Government of Uzbekistan in the construction of this road.

Talking about the issues of interregional cooperation between the countries of Central Asia, Kawaguchi stressed that security and prosperity can be achieved more quickly and evenly, through a joint effort than if each country attempts to achieve security and prosperity in isolation.

Dialogue and cooperation in Central Asia plus Japan, based on 3 three fundamental principles, namely, «respect for different points of view, competition

and co-ordination and open cooperation».

From the standpoint of Tokyo, free competition is the key to a market economy. Ensuring the freedom of economic activity in the whole region will lead to common development. As noted by Kawaguchi, the difference in the level of development could damage the stability. Consequently, «competition is forcing harmonization and cooperation» Central Asian countries.

New Japanese concept of regional cooperation based on the fact that «regional cooperation can move forward only when the country will refrain from mutually exclusive positions». However, Japan does not preclude joint efforts with third countries on deepening Central Asian regional cooperation.

The Foreign Minister assured that Japan «no harbors no selfish intentions towards the countries of Central Asia». Japan will not apply the armed forces and «as a country without political, territorial or other potential sources of conflict with the countries of Central Asia» is a natural partner for the region. In support of the geopolitical importance of Central Asia, Japan has an interest in ensuring stability and tranquility in the region as part of the Eurasian continent

Uzbek-Japanese cooperation and collaboration in the development of regional cooperation in Central Asia

The acquisition of Uzbek national independence coincided with a period of unprecedented growth of interdependence of the world, the emergence of innovative models for the world economy, the information revolution, integration processes in different regions of the world. There was the phenomenon of globalization of world economy, meaning that now essential role in the economic development of a growing number of countries have become not only national but international factor. It is believed that the development of peace in the future will not be settled via confrontations, but in a way to determine an order of each country's place and role in the global economy, which, in essence, is already actively erasing national boundaries.

In these circumstances, Japan deploys an intense foreign policy in all strategic directions. As an active participant and one of the leaders of globalization processes noted above, Japan is among the first ones recognized the new state the Republic of Uzbekistan. Already on 26 of January, 1992 there have been established diplomatic relations between the two countries.

It must be stressed that the opening of the Embassy of Japan in Tashkent in 1992 meant only «resumption» of long and deep through centuries of trade and economic, cultural and humanitarian relations that have taken place among countries and regions, located along the perimeter of the Great Silk Road. In the city of Nara, the historic capital of Japan, today could be found rarities, made in Samarkand and Tashkent in XIII century. It has been proved that Buddhism, which occupies an important role in the cultural and spiritual life in Japan, in the VI century, was moved to the Japanese islands from Central Asia through China and

Korea. According Ukeru Magasaki, Japan's continuing interest in the region is linked by the fact that «in a unique culture of Japan, to some extent, lies the culture of the peoples of Central Asia».

In the new geopolitical environment for strategic thinking of Japan it was important that occupying a geographically central position in the region, Uzbekistan can play a significant role in the process of geopolitical equilibrium and balance of interests in broad space of Eurasia. The geopolitical, geo-economic and geo-cultural processes in Central Asia, mostly concentrated around Uzbekistan.

The Republic of Uzbekistan for Japan was an attractive in factors of strategic advantage in many indicators of economic, demographic, cultural and other considerations. This factor largely determines the content of independent socio-economic strategy of its regional policies and direction of development of international contacts. Thus, foreign policy of Uzbekistan based on the principles of priority of national and state interests, international law, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, resolving all contentious issues peacefully and through negotiations. In its foreign economic relations and foreign policy Tashkent encourages partners to abide by the principles of equity and mutual interests.

A major factor in determining the specifics of national development and foreign policy priorities of Uzbekistan are his considerable natural resources. Today we found more than 2700 deposits and prospective resource of various minerals, including about 100 types of minerals, of which over 60 are already in use. Explored more than 900 fields, where proven reserves are estimated at 970 billion dollars. The overall mineral potential of Uzbekistan, according to foreign

experts, is estimated as of 3.3 trillion dollars. The complex nature of many types of minerals, good conditions of occurrence and high concentration area, the existence of a developed industrial and transport infrastructure and trained personnel create the conditions for their effective management, development of competitive mining industries in the world market.

Moreover, as stressed by the President Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan is «not only enormous natural and raw resources, but also is a market and the immense scope of capital application». The country has enormous intellectual, spiritual and cultural potential. All that «in combination with a unique geographical location can not be causing a huge geopolitical and geo-strategic interests, at a time when actively formed a new political and economic order in the world».

The favorable geopolitical situation in Uzbekistan, which borders with all Central Asian countries, vast natural wealth, a large number of young people with high education and training, the great cultural potential of the Republic led to increasing interest in Japan. Tokyo, which has historical experience of national well-being, effective foreign policy and economic strategy, unique culture and traditions, has estimated that «the fate of the region depends heavily on Uzbekistan», because objectively, there is the likelihood that neighboring countries «go on the road, on which goes Uzbekistan».

It is known that Japan does not have significant reserves of proved mineral resources, especially that of energy. The dependence on crude oil and petroleum products is 99.7%. Moreover, on the imports of 20 kinds of essential commodities (crude oil and refined products, gas, coal, iron ore and ore-ferrous metals, timber, cotton, grain, meat, fruits Id.) Japan ranks first in the world. In this regard, it should be emphasized that the geography of its foreign economic policy will

include all regions of the world, rich reserves of resources, including hydrocarbons.

Factor of own limits on energy and raw materials encourages Japan to take care of the stability of regions and countries with these resources, while diversifying energy and raw material imports. Therefore, the countries of Central Asia, including Uzbekistan, are interested in the presence of Japanese capital into their economies.

Considering Uzbekistan as a key state in Central Asia, Japan since the early days of independence has manifested desire to develop strategic cooperation with Uzbekistan in the sphere of regional security, politics, economics, culture, etc.

For its part, the Republic of Uzbekistan attaches particular importance to the further development of cooperation with Japan, the largest Biggest Economy in Asia, an influential member of the international community, can play a significant role in solving major regional and international issues.

Uzbek-Japanese relations are developing dynamically on a bilateral basis since the establishment of formal diplomatic ties between the two countries, covering every year new fields and directions. The whole complex of relations with Japan, in addition to political, are built through important aspects of their trade and economic and investment cooperation, development of technical assistance programs.

Japan, playing a prominent role in the global economy, sees Uzbekistan in the Central Asian region as the most important cooperation partner. Uzbek-Japanese relations are built, taking into account the mutual long-term pragmatic interests and, of particular importance in this context, is the consistent position of Tokyo on political and economic reforms in Uzbekistan.

According to some Japanese experts, economic reforms in Uzbekistan are carried out around the same manner as in postwar Japan. In postwar Japan, as in Uzbekistan today, all major economic reforms carried out under the leadership of the Government, great importance was attached to the issue of discipline and order in the country, maintained cultural identity and traditions in Japan. One of the priorities, the transition has been gradual, evolutionary path.

Some experts, Appreciating the economic reforms in Uzbekistan have expressed confidence that the similarity of the reforms can contribute to the development of relations between the parties and strengthen the interest of private Japanese companies and firms to develop a new market for them. According to JETRO, Mr. Noboru Hatakelma, as a result of the «gradual reforms» policy, Uzbekistan moved to «positive development of economy while maintaining sustainable growth».

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov since the early days of independence of our country headed the process of active attraction of the Japanese capital. State and official visits of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov to Japan had played crucial role on the economy in the development of bilateral relations.

During the visit, in May 1994, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov to Japan signed some Joint Statement on providing deep friendly relations between the two countries based on principles of equality and respect for sovereignty, mutual trust and understanding. It was also signed an Agreement on Cooperation between the National Bank of economic activity and Japanese banks - Bank of Tokyo and Sakura Bank. It also signed a cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and

companies «Mitsui Corporation LTD», «Mitsui Corporation», «Marubeni Corporation» and «Nisse-Ivoi Corporation».

During the same visit by President I. Karimov of Japan held the first meeting of Uzbek-Japanese and Japanese-Uzbek Committees on Economic Cooperation, on the basis of agreement from May 1994 to hold annual joint meetings of the committees. At the same meeting, was signed the Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the company «Sumitomo Corporation».

The Japanese side confirmed its interest in closer economic cooperation, looking forward to active cooperation in the energy sector in the development of regional infrastructure and promising regional markets. The visit gave new impetus to bilateral political dialogue between the two countries, including parliaments. So in the same year in Japan was established Parliamentary Friendship League «Japan-Uzbekistan» (Chairman - independent MP K. Watanabe).

Great roles in boosting trade and economic relations have played an Uzbek-Japanese and Japanese-Uzbek Committees on Economic Cooperation, formed in 1994. Annual meetings of the Committee, held alternately in Uzbekistan and Japan, contribute to the development of direct partnerships between industry, financial institutions and entrepreneurs of the two countries.

Especially were intensive the visits of officials, including missions of influential Japanese parliamentarians and political figures. Republic of Uzbekistan regularly is visited by the mission of representatives of major Japanese business and government officials. It is believed that, in fact, it is due to the results of the visit of the Japanese delegation, headed by Member of Parliament K. Obuchi in 1997 was formulated the doctrine of «Silk Road», a program of cooperation with

the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. By 1999, there was an exchange of visits by foreign ministers.

In January 1995 an agreement was signed between the company «Nisse-Ivoi corporation», a national company «Uzbekneftegaz» and the American company «M.U. Kellogg» on the joint development of oil and gas deposits at Kokdumalak, totaling \$ 163 million worth project.

It is relevant to mention that most of the territory of the republic promise regarding oil and gas production. Natural gas reserves are estimated at five trillion cubic meters, of which explored - about two trillion cubic meters. For natural gas Uzbekistan ranks third among CIS countries and includes the ten largest gas producing countries in the world. The Japanese company since the early days of independence, have an interest in the development of resources in large

oil and gas bearing areas Ustyurt, Bukhara, Khiva, South-West Gisar, Surhandarya and Fergana regions.

In May 1995 he signed a contract to construct a refinery in Bukhara between national company «Uzbekneftegaz», the company «Marubeni» and the French company «Technip» worth \$ 262 million.

In August 1995 between the Company «Tomen corporation», «Tokoroyon» and the Japan International Development Organization, with the Japanese side, and corporations «Bekabadsavdo», «Bekabadtsement», UMP and agro-industrial firm «Zafar», of the Uzbek side, signed memorandum of mutual understanding on the establishment of JV on cotton spinning capacity of 20 thousand spindles in Bekabad.

In September 1995, during a visit to Uzbekistan, chairman of the Board of Directors of «Bank of Tokyo» T. Gyoten, signed an agreement on preferential

service loan for the project development of telecommunications in the Republic of Uzbekistan between the bank and the National Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs.

15-21 December 1996 the visit of Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan U. Sultanov to Tokio, during which a series of seminars on the functioning of the financial system of the Republic of Uzbekistan and investment were held, as well as the presentation of oil and gas mineral raw materials base of the country. The Prime Minister of Uzbekistan met with the head of the Japanese Government R. Hashimoto and also met the President of the Foreign Economic Cooperation Fund A. Nishigaki, Minister of Transport M. Koga, Secretary of State for International Trade and Industry, Finance, Foreign Affairs, as well as a number of officials and representatives of non-governmental entities.

During the visit, loan agreements for reconstruction projects Fergana refinery (\$ 190 million) were signed, upgrading of airports in Samarkand, Bukhara and Urgench (about \$ 155 million 260 thousand) with the participation of «Marubeni Corporation», a leading Japanese financial and trading firms dealing with domestic export-import offshore and other large-scale transactions of global importance.

«Marubeni Corporation» also is establishing a development fund in Uzbekistan joint ventures. Thus was created JV «Silkroad with AO «Atlas», where the proportion of the Japanese capital is 51%.

At the same time, signed an agreement on the construction of gas and chemical complex for gas processing and ethylene production in Shurtan (\$ 222 million 164 thousand) and the Protocol on the organization of economic studies at the Academy of State and Social Construction and several other documents.

4-9 September 1997 representative delegation of Japanese association of corporate executives «Keizai Doyukai» headed by President K. Mikaguchi visited

Uzbekistan .

22-24 September 1997 the fourth joint meeting of committees on economic cooperation was held in Tashkent. In the course of his work there have been made a number of agreements to facilitate the inflow of direct investment by Japanese private companies in the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, providing for the further development of trade and economic cooperation free and effective promotion of goods and passengers in the Central Asian region.

The parties also agreed to establish direct air links between the two countries, expand tourism exchanges and development in building a highly efficient tourist infrastructure in Uzbekistan. It was also agreed to expand bilateral cooperation through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Foreign Economic Cooperation Fund (FECF) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

Having successfully developed institutional framework of cooperation, which is not limited by meetings of Uzbek and Japanese committee on economic cooperation. Hallmark of his long-term nature is the establishment of regional offices in Tashkent in 1999-2001, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), as well as Uzbek-Japanese Center to promote the project grant aid, the establishment of contacts between the business and social circles of both countries.

In August 2001, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a decree «On establishment Uzbekistan-Japan Center in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The initiative of the organization and the founders of the center were the Japanese International Cooperation Agency and the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations of our country. The main objective was the organization based on the Japanese experience, special training programs for economic training of Uzbek specialists in

Japan.

These offices will help to ensure government and business circles of Japan with a reliable and objective information on changes and investment environment in the Republic of Uzbekistan. This, in turn, should lead to an increase in the inflow of Japanese private investment in the economy and promote Uzbek products to the Japanese market.

The official Tokyo appreciates and supports the process of democratic and economic reforms in Uzbekistan and on an ongoing basis, provides financial assistance in implementing them. The most important direction of bilateral cooperation - funding from official development assistance (ODA) of major investment and social programs in the country.

Despite the reduction in the Japanese, Uzbekistan remains on the list of priority countries. Uzbekistan is provided with multimillion credits under the program of ODA.

These funds were directed to projects for the development of telecommunication networks, reconstruction train-car repairing plant in Tashkent, upgrading of airports in Samarkand, Bukhara and Urgench. These objectives have been identified soft and commercial loans totaling more than \$1.5 billion.

The Japanese side supports the National Program for training, as evidenced granted in January 2001, soft loans for the project equipping of professional colleges in the amount of \$ 60 million. JICA organizes internships for Uzbek specialists in Japan and attract Japanese experts to work on investment and other projects .

In addition to formal ties, the exchange of students, professors, scientists, specialists among universities is taking place every academic year. There are also

exchanges at the private level, as the Uzbek language lessons, studying history and culture of Uzbekistan are often organized on the basis of friendly relations between citizens of both countries.

Intensive exchanges of artists - painters, musicians and artists is expected to increase. In 2004, president of NHK television, Mr. Ebisava, who signed the document on cooperation of the Japanese broadcasting company with Uzbek one, undertook a visit to Tashkent. In the future it could become the basis for the exchange of journalists, various programs and series on Japan in Uzbekistan and vice versa.

The Government of Japan attaches great importance to finance projects in such areas as health education and social protection. Initially, the program of grant assistance of the Government of Japan for small scale projects (GAGSSP) in 1995, special attention was paid to support public health. Since 2000 projects were financed aimed at improving the welfare of the people: among them projects for vocational training of women and the creation of new work places.

Nevertheless, in 2001 and 2002. for the Government of Japan financing schools remained the primary target. Schools have received new furniture, sports equipment, computer and other equipment. Since 2000 the number of GAGSSP projects significantly increased and the total funding amounted to more than \$1 million. Thus, on the basis of 2002, total donations amounted to \$ 2.32 million and for 2003 is already \$ 8.59 million.

During the visit to Japan in July 2002, President IA Karimov signed a joint declaration on friendship, strategic partnership and cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Japan. The strategic partnership is a higher level of trade and economic cooperation, adaptation geopolitical interests, mutual support

for international positions, the intensity of financial and industrial, cultural, scientific and other contacts.

As a result, fourteen documents aimed at enhancing political and cultural exchanges and strengthening economic ties through increased Japanese investment in the private sector were signed.

Japan once again confirmed that Uzbekistan attaches a key role in the Central Asian region. Tokyo has consistently supported the initiative of the Organization of Central Asian cooperation as well as the creation in Central Asia free of nuclear weapons zone. One of the three principles of the Program for the Silk Road diplomacy is to achieve peace in the region through cooperation on nuclear non-proliferation, democracy and stability.

To enhance communication messages between the countries since 2001, began to run regular flights national airline of Uzbekistan (NAK) between Tashkent and Osaka, and since 2002. - Flights on a bilateral agreement to Uzbekistan allocated 6 air «frequencies» in the summer, flights on these routes are implemented NAC 4 times a week. In December 2003, between Uzbekistan and Japan was made the first in the post-Soviet region intergovernmental agreement on air services.

In 2002, at the initiative of influential MPs from the ruling LDP a league of friendship «LDP-Uzbekistan» (Chairman - Government Minister T. Aso).

In 2003, at the initiative of President Islam Karimov the Committee on Cooperation with Japan was established in Uzbekistan, and in May 2004 Japan created a similar socio-political structure (the honorary president of the Committee - former Prime Minister Y. Mori, chairman of T. Aso) with a view to developing comprehensive ties between the two countries. In July 2004, in Tokyo for the first

joint meeting of both committees.

The economic and political development of Uzbekistan is been seriously studied in Japan, its approaches to regional and global issues. In particular, the Japanese edition of IA Karimov works «Uzbekistan on the path of deepening economic reform» and «Uzbekistan on the threshold of XXI century» security threats, conditions and guarantees of progress»were published. In 2002, President IA Karimov has been awarded the titles «Honorary Doctor» of two Japanese universities - Waseda and Soka - for his contribution to the state administration, developing and strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

From May 2004, operates Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Osaka, headed by a Japanese citizen, a well-known businessman, chairman of the company «Chori» H. Nakamura.

In our country it has become a tradition for activities related to the history, culture and the arts. Annually the Days of Japanese Culture are held in Uzbekistan. Regular activities took place in autumn 2004 in Tashkent and Samarkand.

Archaeologists of two countries having successfully collaboration for many years. A great contribution to the opening of the monuments of early Buddhist culture in the south of Uzbekistan and its popularization introduced Japanese archaeologist K. Kato, awarded in May 2002, the Medal «Dustlik», a high state award of the country.

In 2002, with financial support from well-known artist J. Hirayama Uzbek-Japanese scientific and creative center «Karvan-house culture» was opened in Tashkent. According to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Uzbekistan Yuichi KUSUMOTO, «establishment in Tashkent of already well-known Japanese Center "Caravan-house of Silk Road cultures" by a

well-known art critic Ikuo Hiroyama generally has been the recognition of Uzbekistan as a center of cultures in this way».

In 2003, the president of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan A. Aripov visited Japan in order to establish cooperation between the literary Uzbekistan and Japan. In March 2004, held the opening ceremony of a monument to A. Navoi work of sculptor R.Mirtadzhiev on the territory of Soka University in Tokyo.

At the center of Tashkent on the territory of 10 hectares was built a Japanese sakura garden to the memory of the dead Japanese prisoners of war interned in Uzbekistan. In 2002-2003 the city in the sites of Japanese citizens and the territory «Uzexpocentre» installed memorial grave obelisks.

It should be noted that large Japanese trading companies are exploring business opportunities, with great interest to monitor all economic transformations taking place in the republic.

Tourism is one of the most profound potentials of Uzbekistan. Japanese have a deep interest in Uzbekistan. Therefore, many travel companies turn their gaze toward Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan. It has already established infrastructure - built top-class hotels, there are few direct flights to Japan.

Widely known is the fact, that Japanese are the most traveling people in the world. I am pleased to get acquainted with other cultures, learn something new for themselves. In Uzbekistan, especially Japanese tourists are attracted by Buddhist monuments found here.

It is relevant to mention that the veneration of their ancestors, attachment to their homes, respect for elders, honesty and politeness, hospitality, teachers, craftsmen and folk artists, hard work, thirst for knowledge are an integral part of the Japanese as well as the Uzbek mentality. Once again it shows the similarity of

traditions, customs, national character of the two peoples.

In this regard, as it should be noted the tendency of both peoples to stability, sustainability and peace. Radicalism is been avoided by both Japanese and Uzbeks. The principle of a gradual transition to a free market economy in the process of democratic and economic reforms in Uzbekistan is been treated with respect in Japan.

Uzbekistan is interested in intensifying political dialogue with Japan on topical issues of bilateral relations and international politics. Uzbekistan and Japan are actively cooperating within the UN and other international organizations. Our country has consistently supported Japan's desire to become a permanent member of UN Security Council. The official Tashkent appreciates the actions of Japan to strengthen security and stability in the world and Central Asia, approved by the atmosphere of openness and mutual confidence, a peaceful solution to political and military conflicts. Japan is providing full support to peace initiatives in Tashkent, while appreciating the significance of the efforts of Uzbekistan to transform Central Asia into a free of nuclear weapons zone.

Through such policy, based on mutual trust, Uzbekistan stands for the further intensification of negotiations with the country of the rising sun on topical issues of relations and international issues. In turn, Japan is interested in the independent development of Uzbekistan and all the countries of Central Asia, strengthening the social and political stability in the region. This is largely due to overlapping positions of both sides on key issues of regional security.

As part of the Eurasian strategy and diplomacy «Silk Road», Uzbekistan identified Japan as a key state in the region. This is linked to the presence of rich natural resources, especially precious metals, hydrocarbons, the largest domestic

market in the region, highly skilled labor and intellectual potential, development of agricultural and industrial potential, as well as the desire to develop multilateral relations with the world community, including Japan.

An important task on partnership provides further development of cooperation in energy, trade and economic relations as well as mutual protection and promotion of investment.

Between the foreign ministries of both countries at various levels are regularly held political consultations. In particular, the parties are continuing consultations on issues of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Tashkent appreciates the Tokyo conference, the position of Japan's post-war reconstruction of Afghanistan. Both countries support the actions, decisions and carried out in the international fight against terrorism.

For his part, Japanese society relates with great respect for the efforts of Uzbekistan to strengthen peace and stability in Central Asia and the world at large. Not coincidentally, in 2003, «Peace Bell», same Japanese public organization, symbolizing the contribution of Uzbekistan in strengthening peace and stability in the region of Central Asia was installed in the park of culture and rest named after Babur in Tashkent.

In 2002, the entrance of Asian Forum in Boao of China, former Prime Minister of Japan J.Koidzumi presented a speech For Central Asia as the continent's geo-strategic hub in the integration of the region in economic cooperation with countries in East Asia. It was a call to join the transcontinental efforts to attract capital and technology to create and enhance the effectiveness of infrastructure in the region, including construction of oil and gas pipelines from the region in the East and South-East Asia.

In August 2004, during his official visit to Uzbekistan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Y. Kawaguchi, who was met by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov. At a meeting at the residence Oksaroy an exchange of views on the Uzbek-Japanese relations, the development of integration processes in Central Asia, strengthening security and stability, as well as other international issues of interest to the parties were mentioned. The head of Uzbekistan congratulated the guests with the awarding her the title of Honorary Professor, University of World Economy and Diplomacy. In particular, the President noted that the addition of a number of honorary doctors of one of the most prestigious institutions of higher education in Uzbekistan head of the Foreign Service of the State of Japan, «is an honor for the school of diplomats».

Based on the experience of interaction with the EU and ASEAN and also mentioning the goals and objectives of «Silk Road diplomacy», the Japanese government has decided, along with the deepening of bilateral relations, to promote dialogue and cooperation with the region as a whole. Japan is interested in independent development and socio-political stability of Central Asia and to that end, initiated the last 28 Aug., 2004 the first meeting in the format of «Central Asia plus Japan».

The Japanese concept of inter-regional cooperation in Central Asia plus Japan, based on three fundamental principles, namely respect for different points of view, competition and coordination and open cooperation. From the standpoint of Japan, security and prosperity can be achieved faster and more evenly through the joint efforts. Minister Y. Kawaguchi expressed the hope that Uzbekistan will achieve greater development through the new inter-regional cooperation, exactly as before in history people «created a great civilization on the basis of harmony of

civilizations of Oasis and Steppes».

The cooperation of Uzbekistan and Japan is of strategic importance to both countries. For the national interests of Uzbekistan is a promising assistance in collaboration with Japan build closer trade, economic and investment interaction between Europe, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific region, using geo-strategic and other benefits. The expansion of strategic cooperation with Tokyo should be considered as a factor in building the capacity of economic cooperation with countries in the Asia Pacific region. Designed to work with government and business circles of the country rising sun can contribute to turning the republic into one of the links of multilateral cooperation in Eurasia.

Analysis of the dynamics of the Uzbek-Japanese relations over recent years shows that in the course of their development gaining positive trends, lay a favorable foundation for a fruitful and multifaceted cooperation. Japan is prepared to play a historic role in promoting the integration of Uzbekistan and Central Asia as a whole in the global world economy. The Republic of Uzbekistan intends to make Japan a bridge to Central Asia. Increased cooperation between Japan and Uzbekistan in all aspects and directions will be a major factor for sustainable development and strengthening stability in Central Asia.

CONCLUSION

Terms and conclusions contained in this work make the following conclusions.

1. Analysis of the foreign policies of Japan reveals its desire to create a single integrated international economic system which makes easy access to world markets and sources of raw materials. Tokyo intends to maximize the open international economic system and the involvement of more countries, access to world markets and sources of raw materials. In this context, the strategic direction of foreign policy strategy of Japan becomes the adoption of an adequate role in the global and regional policies, consistent with its own national interests.

The priorities of modern Japan's foreign policy are to prevent and timely regulate regional conflicts by enhancing regional cooperation. Along with the threat of terrorism, there are number of strategic instability that concern Tokyo.

On the other hand, the global volatility of energy markets has highlighted the need for an integrated supply of sustainable Japanese energy source needs. Japan's foreign strategy is inherent the tendency to diversify its oil exports as well as the supply of energy has its strategic importance. In this regard, Tokyo is drawn into the Eurasian continent. In particular, Japan has received rights to develop fields in Iran, is actively involved in the Sakhalin oil and gas projects are actively exploring the possibilities of development of energy resources in Central Asia. Bilateral consultations on energy security between Japan and Russia, China, India, Iran and Australia are regularly held.

The main mechanism for achieving foreign policy objectives of Japan's is Official Development Assistance (ODA). At the same time, fundamental problems of getting out of prolonged deep economic recession in Japan and tough

structural reforms, including severe restrictions in the financial area, brought to substantial reduction the possibility of Tokyo to use this mechanism to achieve strategic objectives.

2. Asia and the regions adjacent to it are beginning to be crucial in the foreign policy priorities of Japan. In this regard, it must be stressed that for Japanese diplomacy Central Asian region is attractive which is rich in natural resources and significant geo-economic potential.

Japan shows interest in the «political stability and development of all forms of cooperation» with the countries of Central Asia, the desire to strengthen and consolidate its presence in the region to ensure greater stability in the supply of energy for the needs of its economy. In this regard, Tokyo has declared a priority to achieve and strengthen political, economic and social stability of the region. Tokyo intends to promote the involvement of Central Asia in a broad system of regional integration processes in Asia, moving here the East Asian economic dynamism.

In order to implement the new course with regard to Central Asian countries, the Government of Japan has taken the program «Silk Road» which involves the development of broad democratic political ties, comprehensive economic cooperation, assisting in the transition to a market economy. Central Asian course of Japanese foreign policy consists of three main components: - a political dialogue to deepen trust and understanding - economic cooperation and cooperation on deployment of natural resources - the achievement of peace in the region through the non-proliferation of nuclear weapon, democratization and stabilization.

The policy of the Great Silk Road aims to contribute to bridging the geographic isolation of Central Asia and its economic integration into world

economic relations. Precedence of solving economic problems is the main principle of the concept. According to this principle, energetics, transcontinental transport system and Telecommunication are the three pillars of the program «Silk Road».

The Japanese approach is based on a realistic understanding that the development of the transcontinental transport system will intensify the integration of Central Asia in global trade, as well as provide access to the development of commodity resources in the region. It should be emphasized that among the powers that are present in the region, Japan is the only power interested in the speedy release of Central Asia on any of the possible routes through China, Turkey, either through Iran or Afghanistan and Pakistan.

On the other hand, the existence of pockets of instability, camp recruits to international terrorism in Afghanistan, updated the need for enhanced international efforts to eliminate terrorism in the region. Tokyo favors a systematic approach in the fight against international terrorism. The specifics of this approach is that in combating terrorism together with the adoption of enforcement measures necessary to pursue the complex socio-economic, humanitarian, political and other preventive measures at the international and regional level. The Japanese concept of counter-terrorism is that the elimination of this menace should be more than geopolitical considerations.

The Japanese approach is also based on the principle of indivisibility of security. This shows the coincidence and the proximity of positions and views of Japan and Uzbekistan on combating international terrorism. It has repeatedly said by President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, stressing that «security is a continuous state, it has no borders».

3. The Japanese government is making efforts to accelerate the provision of post-Soviet republics of Central Asia aid, «because of their geopolitical situation, it is essential to ensure stability in the Asian region». Besides, « need of obtaining access to sources of raw materials and markets» is one of the main components of Japan's national security.

Economic assistance to Central Asian countries is seen by Japanese expert circles as «effective contribution of Japan in the international arena». Such assistance would ensure the political, social and economic stability of the region. Japan is actively developing relations with Central Asia on bilateral basis. At the same intensity and level with Japan cooperation with each of the countries in the region differ.

Currently, the Japanese approach to the intraregional development is undergoing significant evolution. Japan initiated the dialogue «Central Asia plus Japan», a new form of collective cooperation, designed to provide an effective mechanism and incentives to expand the partnership of the region and Japan.

According to experts, the new concept of dialogue between the Foreign Ministers of five Central Asian countries and Japan is aimed to provide a greater influence of Japan in Central Asia by strengthening pro-Japanese sentiment in this strategically important region. In particular, the actions of Japanese politicians in this direction could be a counterweight to the political influence of China and Russia in Eurasia.

4. The favorable geopolitical situation in Uzbekistan, enormous natural wealth, a large number of young people with high education and training, the great cultural potential of the Republic led to increasing interest in Japan. Considering Uzbekistan as a key partner in Central Asia, Japan has demonstrated the desire to

develop strategic cooperation with Uzbekistan in the sphere of regional security, politics, economics and culture.

For its part, the Republic of Uzbekistan attaches particular importance to the further development of cooperation with Japan, the largest Power in Asia, which is an influential member of the international community, can play a significant role in solving major regional and international issues. President Islam Karimov stressed that Japan «occupies a special place not only in Asia but throughout the world with its huge economic, financial, scientific, technical and political capabilities, develop comprehensive cooperation with these nations is of our national interest».

Analysis of the dynamics of the Uzbek-Japanese relations over recent years shows that in the course of their development gaining positive trends lay a favorable foundation for a fruitful and multifaceted cooperation. Japan is ready to play a historic role in promoting the integration of Uzbekistan and Central Asia as a whole in the global world economy. Uzbekistan intends to make Japan a bridge to Central Asia. Increased cooperation between Japan and Uzbekistan in all aspects and directions will be a major factor for sustainable development and strengthening stability in Central Asia.

Japan, playing a prominent role in the global economy, sees in Uzbekistan in the Central Asian region as the most important cooperation partner. Uzbek-Japanese relations are built, taking into account the mutual long-term pragmatic interests and, of particular importance in this context, is the consistent position of Tokyo on political and economic reforms in Uzbekistan. Financing of several projects to develop the country's natural resources, especially oil, gas, gold, uranium, as well as projects for the development of telecommunications networks are stable and consistent.

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