

Cultural Diplomacy of Uzbekistan and Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the Framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)



Dr. Durbek Sayfullayev

Doctor of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT: The article analyzes the formation and development of relations between Uzbekistan in the framework of mutually beneficial multilateral cultural diplomacy within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a major international organization that emerged at the beginning of the XXI century and is now a major authority in the world.

KEYWORDS: Shanghai Cooperation Organization, goals, objectives, priorities, Kazakhstan, China and Kyrgyzstan, Great Silk Road.

INTRODUCTION

If we look at cultural cooperation within the SCO member states, we will see that its organizational and legal framework has gone through several stages in the process of gradual development. Initially, cultural ties were established in the form of meetings and gatherings of the ministers of culture of the SCO member states on the basis of the SCO Charter. The first form of this relationship, the most important and with great potential, was launched in 2002 in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

A new stage of development in the modern history of Uzbekistan, which began in 2017, also had a positive impact on the development of cultural ties within the SCO and the rise of its organization. In particular, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the framework of the tasks aimed at implementing the objectives of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021. At the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State on June 9, 2017 in Nur-Sultan, the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted initiatives and proposals on the full use of people's diplomacy mechanisms of the SCO member states and established the Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Diplomacy Center in Uzbekistan. The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to support the establishment of the Center of Public Diplomacy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan" defines the tasks and directions of the Center's activities, including issues of cultural cooperation [1]:

"- Assistance in strengthening mutual trust and good neighborliness, inter-ethnic and inter-religious harmony, strengthening inter-civilizational dialogue between the SCO member states;

- Participation in the expansion of cultural and humanitarian ties with the SCO countries, the organization of mutual visits of delegations;

- Cooperation with the media to promote the development of information cooperation between the SCO member states, the formation of information resources and a broad explanation of the goals, objectives, priorities and basic principles of the SCO, preparation of information and analytical materials on the achievements of the SCO countries in the cultural sphere publish them regularly;

"Using the means of public diplomacy to bring the SCO countries and their peoples closer, to strengthen the spirit of mutual trust and good neighborliness" [1].

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The establishment of the Center, established on the basis of this historic document, was a logical continuation of the policy of the republic's leadership aimed at the comprehensive development of cultural diplomacy, including within the SCO. In addition, over 1,400 documents adopted and signed by member states over the past period have made a worthy contribution to the process of establishing cultural ties between partner countries, creating their organizational and legal framework and their continuous improvement, as well as comprehensive cultural cooperation within the Organization had a legal basis.

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Most importantly, all of these speeches and statements reflected the interest of all in the further development of relations, especially cultural ties. It was noted that the contribution of cultural ties, museums and theaters, representatives of the arts to the development of relations between states is enormous. At the same time, the effectiveness of cultural diplomacy was highlighted.

The member states paid special attention to the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the SCO area, including the study and preservation of cultural heritage on the Great Silk Road. The participants of the meeting discussed the study and preservation of cultural heritage within the SCO, the creation of a database and list of architectural monuments, protection of cultural heritage and restoration of works of art, training of specialists. They also noted the need to prevent the smuggling and export of cultural property, to further develop cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

Vladimir Norov, Secretary General of the Organization, said: “The organization is based on the principles of openness and non-discrimination. “Faithfulness, equality, mutual benefit and consultation, respect for cultural diversity, commitment to the” Shanghai spirit “based on the pursuit of joint development have increased the interest of neighboring and distant countries, international and regional organizations in cooperating with the SCO” [4].

The SCO’s commitment to the Shanghai spirit, based on the principles of good neighborliness, trust and respect, cooperation, solidarity and mutual interest and compromise, is a source of inspiration for the SCO at a time when many parts of the world are facing local conflicts and the global governance system is in crisis. that it has become a peculiar pattern. The fact that after the accession of the two largest states of South Asia to the SCO, it has become a more attractive organization, which will further enhance the prestige of the SCO, on the basis of which Uzbekistan has laid the foundation for further development of cultural diplomacy.

2018 marked another important event in the history of the SCO. At the next SCO Summit in Qingdao, it was agreed to add an element of “people’s diplomacy” to the list of events at various levels, along with the highest-level official events. At the end of the official events, for the first time in the history of the organization, a film festival and a forum on cooperation in the field of cinematography were held between the SCO member states [5].

Taking into account the experience gained in cultural and humanitarian cooperation, as well as the existing problems in this area, the SCO Development Strategy until 2025 has been developed. It set a number of tasks for the development of multifaceted cultural ties. For example, the development of relations between member states in the fields of science and technology, education, culture, health and tourism, the creation of favorable conditions for the development of relations between public associations and citizens, bilateral and multilateral educational, scientific and research institutions. These include the gradual expansion of contacts, acceleration of joint research programs and mutually beneficial projects.

Particular attention was paid to increasing the activity of non-governmental organizations, non-profit associations and citizens of the SCO member states in promoting cultural and humanitarian ties, as well as the establishment of good neighborliness, friendship and cooperation committees or other mechanisms in the SCO.

The multilateral public consultation and expert mechanism set up to encourage and support the SCO's activities, to develop cooperation between research and political science centers, SCO observers and dialogue partners, and to increase the practical impact of its activities.

In addition, in accordance with the Strategy, the following tasks have been set:

- “Study and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the SCO region, including the protection of the Great Silk Road and its historical relics, protection against theft or smuggling of cultural property in member countries;
- creation of a database and register of architectural monuments;
- training of specialists for the protection and restoration of cultural heritage sites;
- restoration of works of art;
- scientific, technical and art expertise;
- museum design;
- study of intangible cultural heritage, folklore, modern art and media culture, cinematography, theater;
- research in the fields of economics, sociology of art and cultural policy, etc [6].

CONCLUSION

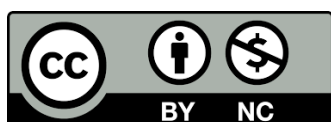
The implementation of these tasks in the near future, as well as other areas within the SCO, will create the necessary conditions for the development of cultural and humanitarian ties, raising them to a qualitatively new level, increasing its potential not only in geography but in all areas.

Thus, since the establishment of the SCO, the role and importance of each state in the development of multilateral cultural diplomacy is growing. Each of the member countries has made a significant contribution to the development of the industry, as well as to the organization of various cultural events, art festivals, film festivals, sports competitions and exhibitions.

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