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CLUSTERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY - INTEGRATION, INNOVATION AND CRITERIA FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH (ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN)

Abstract: *The more industrialized the construction industry, the higher the economic and export potential of the state and the higher the well-being of the people. This article discusses the creation of infrastructure based on advanced technologies, the introduction of a cluster approach in the construction industry, as well as the analysis of regulatory documents in the field of construction in the Republic of Uzbekistan.*

Key words: *construction, industry, economics, technology, cluster, innovation, construction economics, investment, building materials, manufacturing, clusters, innovation, regional development.*

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Introduction

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In our country, measures are being taken for the rapid development of the construction sector. In the process, special attention is paid to increasing the volume of production of new types of competitive building materials, aimed at export, and meeting the domestic need for these products. This creates broad opportunities to support local and foreign entrepreneurs.

The draft decree of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the strategy of modernization, rapid and innovative development of the construction sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2025 year” [1] has been developed. In this project, the main directions of modernization, rapid and innovative

development of the construction sector of our country were defined as:

- digitalization of the construction industry by creating additional subsystems and databases;
- modernization of the regulatory framework in the field of urban planning and adaptation of foreign normative documents;
- improvement of the system of development of residential areas;
- to improve the position of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the international index of “Doing business” on the indicator of “Obtaining building permits” by simplifying certain procedures of granting permits in the field of construction;
- develop the mortgage loan market and the construction of apartment houses by attracting a wide range of population funds for the construction of

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houses on the basis of the inclusion of shares in the construction of residential real estate;

- implementation of innovative technologies in the development of building materials and construction of objects;

- step-by-step transition between participants of investment projects to the indicators that are summarized in mutual calculations;

- improvement of the system of examination work by abolishing state examination in the estimate section of the project;

- improving the quality control system of construction by directing state, author and technical control to the non-governmental sector;

- establishment of modern project institutions with participation of advanced foreign companies by realization of shares package to advanced foreign investors;

- improvement of the system of Organization of training, retraining and professional development of personnel in the field of construction, considering the application of modern and innovative methods of teaching;

- formation and consolidation of the Institute of non-governmental customers, considering the liberalization of public segments, in the implementation of projects from the account of public sources of financing and equated resources to them;

- development of scientific potential in the field of construction and architecture by increasing the efficiency of fundamental, Intermediate and applied scientific research and developments;

- to meet the requirements for labor protection and safety techniques in the performance of construction and installation works in construction sites;

- development of human capital, improvement of material and technical supply of the activities of construction agencies and institutions, creation of new ways of social and material stimulation of workers.

Main part

According to the State Statistics Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan, today Tashkent has a significant share in the formation of the investment and construction complex of Uzbekistan and plays a special role [2].

The number of registered enterprises in the country amounted to 419.5 thousand for January 1, 2020, of which 38.1 thousand correspond to the construction sector. In addition, the total number of operating enterprises accounted for 398.1 thousand, 9.1 percent of them are in the construction sector [3].

In order to further deepen the reforms in the field of construction, reduce bureaucratic obstacles, broad introduction of innovative ideas, developments and advanced information and communication technologies, as well as to ensure transparency at all stages of construction, the president of the Republic of

Uzbekistan signed the decree № PD-5963 on March 13, 2020 “On additional measures to deepen reform in the field of construction of the Republic of Uzbekistan” [4].

In this decree, the following main tasks were identified:

- the existence of project-estimate documents agreed before the withdrawal of funds for the construction of houses on the basis of the inclusion of a share, limiting the purposeless use of the funds of those who added a share, which is concentrated in the bank accounts of the building organization;

- maintaining a single register of construction organizations attracting funds for participation in construction on the basis of compulsory state registration of contracts for participation in construction on the basis of share inclusion and share inclusion;

- organization of short-term training courses on training and retraining of construction workers, ensuring the issuance of professional certificates by the Ministry of higher and secondary special education;

- creation of electronic rating of project and construction-contract organizations.

Thanks to innovative technologies, most of the production facilities produce new building materials for the construction enterprises of the cluster. Speaking about the advantages of the cluster in construction from other production structures, this single technological chain, which is a set of combined enterprises and links, which at the same time determine a new stage in the transition to an innovative economy in this area. This is of great importance in the deepening of the integration of science, education and production, and the rapid introduction of new innovative technologies into practice [5].

It is worth mentioning that during his visit to the Chilanzar district of Tashkent in 2017, the head of our state got acquainted with the project of the Orient Ceramic enterprise and gave instructions for the implementation of the construction process in a batch mode in order to complete it on time and efficiently. After that, the company was allocated 3.6 hectares from the territory of Chilanzar district. Over the past time, the building of the modern enterprise has been modernized and installed equipment for the production of ceramic products and tiles [6].

The total cost of the enterprise, which started operations in July 2020, is about \$ 14 million, and the production capacity is 3.6 million square meters of ceramic products per year. At the moment, there are 270 workers and specialists working here [7].

It is important to note that almost 100 percent of the company's products are made from local materials. Currently, 30 percent of the company's products are exported to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and

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Afghanistan. In recent months, construction materials worth \$500 thousand have been sold abroad [8,9].

Therefore, the creation of a cluster requires the integration of scientists and specialists of the construction industry to increase the project potential and best practices in a single whole. Therefore, when developing a new project, proposals were made to create a scientific and technical council, a scientific center and a Training Council with the participation of leading scientists, specialists of research centers, as well as entrepreneurs not only from Uzbekistan, but also from abroad [10].

Simply put, a construction innovation cluster is a production method that unites contractors in the implementation of a construction project into a team within the project. In this process, the interests of all participants are coordinated. That is, the supplier of raw materials and all other project participants will be equally responsible for the quality of the product. This can not only increase the duration of the activities of construction organizations, but also give their activities an expansion of opportunities.

Conclusion

The fact that the state chooses the path to the development of the digital economy opens up new

directions in the field of Information Technology and, in general, the turnover of electronic documents. And the use of the cluster in the construction network is driving the economy of the country.

In our country, measures are being taken for the deep processing of local products. In this process, special attention is paid to increasing the production of new types of competitive building materials aimed at export and meeting domestic needs. This creates a wide range of opportunities to support local and foreign entrepreneurs such as:

- coordination of national regulatory documents based on the study and analysis of international norms, rules and standards in the field of construction;

- development of measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, structures and their individual elements, as well as measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and structures;

- creation and maintenance of a scientific and technical library and an electronic database of normative, including foreign documents;

- by cooperating with foreign and international organizations, specialists and involving them in improving the base of national regulatory documents, we can say that we can contribute to a slight increase in the economic indicators of our country.

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