



# TRAINING ON TRANSFORMING THE CITIES BY DEVELOPING BUSINESS AND ENHANCING THE SERVICE SECTOR

*Training workshop organized by the Graduate School of Business and Entrepreneurship under the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan; supported by UNOSSC Cities Project, UNDP in Uzbekistan, and the China Association of Trade in Services*

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## The UNOSSC Cities Project December 2020



Image source: Canva

# Executive Summary

Between 3 and 6 November 2020, mayors and deputy mayors of 35 mid-sized cities in Uzbekistan completed an online training on transforming cities by developing business and enhancing the service sector, supported by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), under its Cities Project framework.

This one-week online training workshop was initiated by the Uzbekistan Republican Graduate School of Business and Management (GSBE), under the Ministry of the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to transform these cities to become service-oriented for all population by supporting entrepreneurship and enhancing their service sector, for the mayors and their deputies in mid-size Uzbek cities. The Cities Project team, upon the invitation of co-organizer the United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan (UNDP), facilitated this initiative by securing seven trainers from China and funding from the China Association for Trade in Services (CATIS).

The training focused on innovative solutions in the areas of digitalization, e-commerce, public-private partnership (PPP), and entrepreneurship. According to survey results, the training achieved expected results in delivering the expected knowledge on public service development and innovation and brokering city-to-city partnerships between cities in China and Uzbekistan, as well as other Southern countries. Moreover, it was identified that Uzbek cities have strong interest in South-South cooperation with Chinese cities for the cooperation in developing industrial park, tourism, science and technology.

## *DISCLAIMER:*

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# Introduction

## About UNOSSC and Cities Project

In 1974, the United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (hereafter as “UNOSSC”, named as “Special Unit for Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries” at that time) to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the United Nations system. Guided by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and under the direct leadership of Envoy of Secretary General on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC provides support to Member States, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies in the areas of policy advocacy and coordination, strategy research, knowledge sharing, technology exchange, capacity building, and innovative South-South Cooperation projects, to facilitate the partnership building and resource mobilization for the South-South and triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development. UNDP has been entrusted by the United Nations General Assembly to provide budgetary and operational support to the UNOSSC since its inception.

In 2017, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) initiated the SSTC among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development Project (Cities Project). The Cities Project aims to promote SSTC at the city level taking advantage of the strategic opportunities offered by the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI) in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Cities Project aligns its support with the engagement and ownership of local authorities and stakeholders. It is designed to provide streamlined services which include demand-driven needs assessment, capacity development, advisory and advocacy, knowledge and technology transfer, expertise and exchange, and implementation and co-financing. The overall objective is to support and incubate thematic and sectoral pilot projects.

## About the training

### Background

On July 8, 2020, in a video conference on developing entrepreneurship and ensuring mandatory budget flows, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev mandated the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the GSBE – an educational institution under the authority of the Ministry - to organize a short-term online training for mayors, also known as “hokims” and deputy mayors of medium-sized cities, as well as other government stakeholders, on how to create business-friendly environment in the cities. With that in mind, the GSBE scheduled to organize its custom-made online “Transforming the Cities by Developing Business and Enhancing the Ser-

vice Sector” training course between November 3-6 in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program in Uzbekistan, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, under its Cities Project framework, and the China Association of Trade in Services.

## Objectives

The main goal of this course was to strengthen the understanding of modern specifics of the service sector among city hokims, their deputies and representatives of other relevant organizations, outline the issues that needed to be resolved for the developing and enhancing entrepreneurship in the service sector, as well as develop skills among the participants that would be implemented by them in the future based on international expertise. Apart from building capacities, this initiative also aimed to facilitate the knowledge sharing and partnership brokering between cities in China and Uzbekistan.

## Contents

The program focused on topics such as public-private partnerships (global development, practices and outlook in China), support of the self-employed, the role of the economy in service sector, global trends, the role of the digital economy in creating infrastructure in the service sector, the development of domestic tourism and roadmap to urban transformation.

Lecturers were delivered by professors from the Southeast China University, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Lanzhou University of Finance and Economics and the Graduate School, in both Chinese and Uzbek.

## Partnerships

- **Graduate School of Business and Entrepreneurship (GSBE)** coordinated the organization of the training, including mobilizing partners and resources, internal and external communication, and monitoring and evaluation.
- **UNDP in Uzbekistan** supported the training under the framework of its joint project with the Public Services Agency under the Ministry of Justice and the European Union, «Improved Public Service Delivery and Enhanced Governance in Rural Uzbekistan». UNDP also facilitated identifying interpreters and provided IT support.
- **UNOSSC** supported this training under the framework of its “South-South and Triangular cooperation among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development” project, i.e. the **Cities Project**. Upon requests of UNDP and GSBE, the Cities Project team mobilized seven lecturers of the Chinese Academy of Social Science, Southeast University, etc., secured financial support from **China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS)**, and provided communication, advocacy, and M&E support.

# Opening Messages



*Ms. Doina Munteanu, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP in Uzbekistan.  
Source: UNOSSC*

“Nowadays in the world, the processes of urbanization are accelerating, which leads to an increase in the role of local governments for the welfare of the population...All this requires the accelerated growth of the urban economy, the development of their infrastructure, the introduction of innovative solutions in the management of the urban economy. City khokims are responsible for creating favorable conditions for the urban population and business. They need modern knowledge and approaches in the field of urban management, municipal economy, and urbanization.”

— **Ms. Doina Munteanu, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP in Uzbekistan**



*Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director of the UNOSSC.  
Source: UNOSSC*

“The spirit of cooperation is even more needed today. During the co-operation, we know countries are sharing knowledge, building good practices, and building a lot of solutions. And this is the solidarity that matters for building a better future. Knowledge comes from practices and our day-to-day reality facing development challenges. That day-to-day reality of the world today is about the cities and towns that you are from. In cities and towns, policymakers are consistently seeking solutions to enable better livelihood, better equality and opportunities, and sustainable growth pathways. That is why local authorities and stakeholders are very important to South-South and triangular cooperation.”

— **Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director of the UNOSSC**



*Mr. Rustam Khasanov, Director of Graduate School of Business and Entrepreneurship.  
Source UNOSSC*

“It is hoped that, through this training, Uzbek mayors will understand the development level of cities of other countries and the public services provided, obtain useful information and knowledge, and then strive to improve the development environment of their own cities, solve the problems and address challenges they face, create employment opportunities for the people, and improve infrastructure and public service.”

— **Mr. Rustam Khasanov, Director of Graduate School of Business and Entrepreneurship**

# Knowledge and Insights

## Lecture 1

### Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model: Global Development, Practice in China and Outlook

This lecture centers around the global trends of the PPP model, China's practices and outlook, with a detailed introduction of (1) the definition, classification, and evaluation of the PPP model in the global context, (2) how China has been utilizing PPP model, including operation mechanisms, case studies of its use for urban development, (3) and the opportunities and challenges faced by Uzbekistan in utilizing the PPP model for urban development. At last, it also introduces the status quo of the PPP model in Uzbekistan and recommended that Uzbekistan should apply the PPP model in three fields: information technology, sewage treatment, and the photovoltaic industry. More importantly, Uzbekistan should leverage regional South-South cooperation mechanisms such as the Belt and Road Initiative for improving the application of PPP models in Uzbekistan.

### About the Speaker Prof. Yingchen Li

Prof. Li currently works for the School of Architecture of the Southeast University. He holds a Doctorate from University College London and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prof. Li's research focus includes regional urban planning and urban and economic geography. He has chaired several key research projects at national and provincial levels and published more than 30 papers in China and the world's leading academic journals. He served as a member of the editorial board of the International Journal of Urban Sciences (the international SSCI) and was awarded the Best Global Reviewer of Journal of Economic Geography in 2019.

#### 3.4 PPP模式在中国实践的典型案例 case study of applying PPP in China

##### 3.4.3 安徽池州污水处理项目——经验与借鉴 Chizhou Sewage Treatment Project in Anhui

- 在污水处理厂、泵站、排水管网三者运营进行统一协调和管理
- The sewage treatment plant, pumping station, and drainage pipe network was managed in a coordinated manner
- 项目公司实行混合所有制，社会资本占80%，政府指定机构持股20%
- The project implements a mixed ownership system, with social capital accounting for 80% and government-designated institutions holding 20%
- 以项目公司作为融资主体，政府不提供还款的承诺或担保，有效控制了政府债务的增加
- With the project company as the financing entity, the government does not provide promises or guarantees for repayment, effectively controlling the increase in government debt.
- 公开招标，多个社会资本方参加竞标，充分竞争、市场化程度高。
- Open bidding, multiple social capital parties participate in bidding, full competition and high degree of marketization.



PPT slides on the case study of PPP in China.  
Source Prof. Yingchen Li

#### 4.3 乌兹别克斯坦应用PPP模式的思考

##### Recommendations on applying PPP in Uzbekistan

#### 4.3.3 可能应用的领域 potentials fields to apply PPP

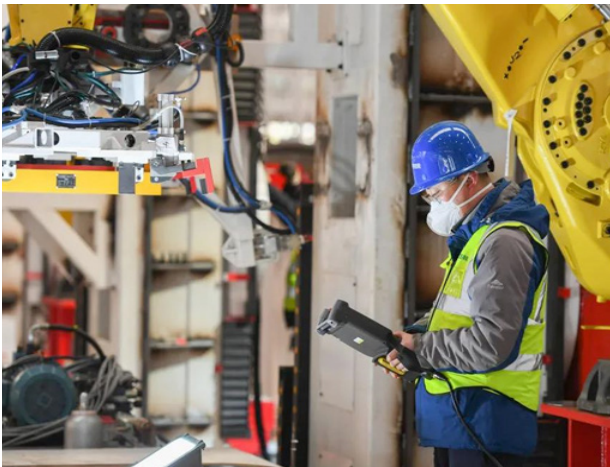
- 信息通信 Information and communication technology
- 给水排污 water supply and sewage treatment
- 光伏行业 photovoltaic industry

PPT slide on potential areas to apply PPP in Uzbekistan.  
Source Prof. Yingchen Li

## Lecture 2

### The Past, Present, and Future of Vocational Education in China

This lecture introduces the history and status quo of vocational education in China, highlighting the current unbalance of supply and demands in the job market as well as Chinese government's solutions which involve a triangular cooperation between the government, schools, and hiring companies. Further, it shares good practices of Hunan Province and Jiaxing City. In brief, the rapid development of information technology has accelerated the transformation and upgrading of China's industrial structure. The ensuing problem is that the talent cultivation model under the traditional vocational education system cannot meet market demands. To better serve the needs of industrial development and take into account the development goals of ensuring employment, the Chinese central government encourages all parts of the country to promote vocational education reform, by integrating education and industry development and enhancing the cooperation between educational institutions and hiring companies.



*Photo illustration of the case study of a vocational school in Hunan Province.  
Source: Prof. Jing Xiang*



*Photo illustration of the case study of a vocational school in Hunan Province.  
Source: Prof. Jing Xiang*

#### About the Speaker Dr. Jing Xiang

Dr. Xiang is currently an Associate Professor at the Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). Her research focuses on vocational education reform, migration and employment of rural migrant workers, and rural development. She obtained her doctoral degree in Management from the Nanjing Agricultural University and joined CASS as a post-doctoral research fellow in 2013. Dr. Xiang has published papers in both Chinese and English in academic journals (SSCI & CSSCI) and a book entitled *Study on the Impact of Population Change on China's Food Consumption*.

## Lecture 3

### The Development and Planning of China's Development Zones

Development zones are the important carrier of China's Reform and Opening Up and the promotion of industrialization, urbanization, and modernization. Development zones attract investment, promote economic development, create employment, and drive urban development with the advantages of preferential policies, efficient services and low cost for business. The construction of development zones is an important development strategy for China's governments at all levels. This lecture reviews the development, planning and construction history of China's development zones, summarizes the main achievements and experience, highlighting the positive role played by municipal governments, and introduces and analyzes the cases of Jiangsu Province and Suzhou Industrial Park in depth in Suzhou City. Based on China's experience, this lecture proposes strategies and recommendations for the development and construction of Uzbekistan's industrial parks.

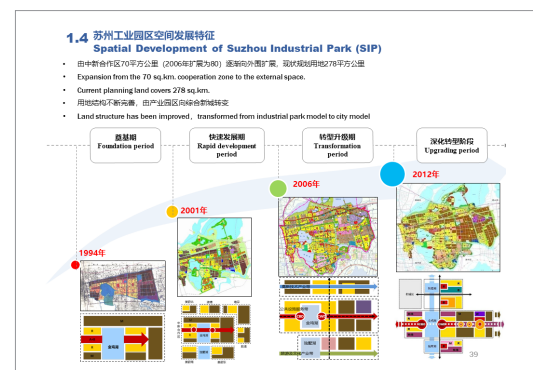
**2 Role of development zones in China's development**

- **开发区为城市创造了财政收入和就业**  
Increasing government revenue and job opportunities in cities
- **Special land system is the basic condition**
  - ✓ Land belongs to the state and the collective
  - ✓ City government monopoly of the land market
  - ✓ Land expropriation relatively simple
- **The positive role of city government**
  - ✓ 'Government Company'
  - ✓ Land finance
  - ✓ Political Performance



Office building of Management Committee of Development Zones

*PPT slide on role of development zones in China.  
Source Prof. Xingping Wang*



*PPT slide on the case study of Suzhou Industrial Park in China.  
Source Prof. Xingping Wang*

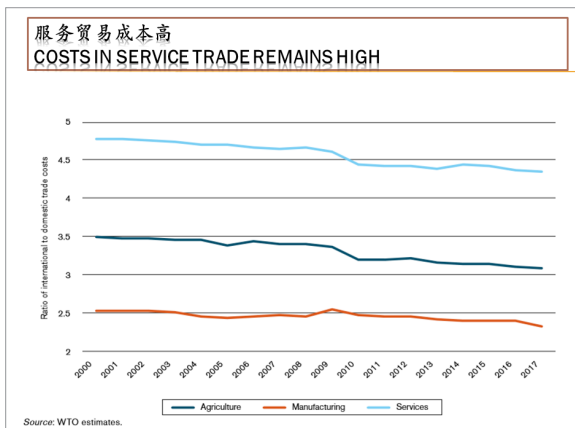
### About the Speaker Prof. Xingping Wang

Prof. Wang currently works for the Urban Planning Department of Architecture College of Southeast University. He is also a senior research scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a visiting scholar at the Queen's University of Canada, visiting professor at the Addis Ababa University of Ethiopia. Prof. Wang specializes in regional and territorial space planning, industrial space development and planning, new urbanization and new urban-rural space research, "Belt and Road" urbanization and space planning, etc. In the field of industrial space development and planning, he has completed more than 40 research projects, published eight monographs and nearly 100 academic papers.

## Lecture 4

### Trade in Services: Global Development and Chinese Experience

This lecture introduced the history of global trade in service scale and current status of service trade in different regions as well as the global trade structure. It concludes that the global service development faces challenges such as high transaction costs, inadequate trade rules, and unbalanced regional development. The future of service trade lies in service outsourcing and digitization of service trade should be the development direction, which enables diversified of good and services as well as development models, especially emerging economies. Despite the progress made, China still has to cope with challenges in trade deficit and an unreasonable trade structure. Beijing is leading China's service trade development and, thus, offers the most valuable experience and lessons learned for other developing countries.



PPT slide on the trend of trade costs globally.  
Source Prof. Jingyin Hu



PPT slide on the future of trade,  
Source Prof. Jingyin Hu

### About the Speaker Prof. Jingyin Hu

Prof. Hu is currently employed by the School of International Economics and Trade at Lanzhou University of Finance and Economics. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics and specializes in international trade theory and policy. Prof. Hu has published more than 20 papers in China's major academic journals, participated in 5 national-level research projects, 2 provincial and ministerial-level research projects, and contributed to the drafting of various development plans and research reports for the Wuwei and Datong City of Gansu Province.

## Lecture 5

### Empowering Self-Employed Groups: The Experience of China and USA

Self-employment economy is a driver of productivity, especially in developing countries and megacities like New York in the USA. Self-employers usually operate labor intensive small and medium business such as express delivery, housekeepers, babysitters, salespersons, etc. Self-employment economy has a long history and its significance increases today against the context of COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in increases employment rate. Governments should make enabling policies to empower the self-employers.

This lecture introduces policies and good practices of China and the USA and concludes that the self-employing economy is more likely to thrive given more economic incentives and more enabling business environment. Both China and the USA have introduced conducive economic and social policies in the self-employment sector. Among these policies, tax-free or low tax policy is the most critical. It is recommended that national and municipal policymakers should support self-employment economy to maximize the use of available human resources.

#### About the Speaker Prof. Xiaowu Hu

Prof. Hu is the Executive Deputy Dean of the Institute of Urban Science of Nanjing University. He is specialized in urban development strategy, urban policy innovation, urban culture, tourism development and marketing, urban issues and governance, etc.

Mr. Hu Xiaowu has published 9 academic monographs and more than 120 academic articles. He has also chaired 10 national and provincial research projects and more than 80 government consulting projects. In the past three years, he has provided 18 decision-making consulting reports for the national and provincial governments.



Photo illustration of street vendors in New York City.  
Source Prof. Xiaowu Hu



Photo illustration of small business owner in China.  
Source Nanfang Plus

## Lecture 6

### Urban and Rural Classification and City's Evolution

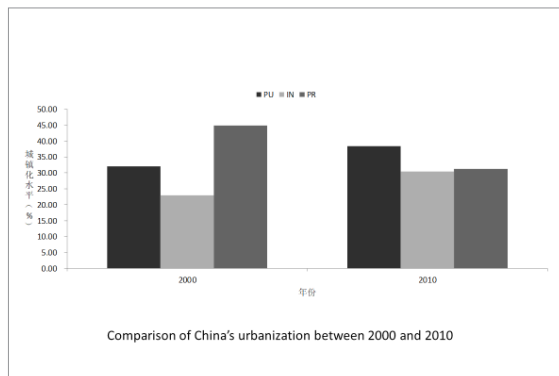
China's traditional index for urbanization often fails to the complex evolution of urbanization and metropolitan area and incompatible with international system due to different statistic calibers.

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Functional Urban Area (FUA) system is driven by population data. It captures the dynamic progress of urban development, monitors metropolitan evolution, and has been adapted by many OECD countries to be compared internationally. The core of FUA is its linkage with labor market, which measures the direction and flow of migration to reflect the close relationship between cities and regions. FUA enables easier confinement of metropolitan and urban agglomeration. It is recommended that in the future China should focus on implement citizenization in its urbanization process, so that migrants living in cities can work and live in cities stably and be integrated into the urban social security system.

- Table 1 Comparison between the urbanization of typical South American countries after adopting the OECD urban-rural division %

countries	Residential urbanization(%)			Traditional urbanization(%)
	PU	IN	PR	
Mexico	46.33	15.68	37.99	77
Brazil*	50.00	20.00	30.00	86
Chile	49.11	14.45	36.44	88

Source: The data of Brazil was estimated by JoséEli da Veiga according to the OECD urban-rural division system; the data source of caliber urbanization: OECD. Regions at a glance 2013



PPT slide on comparing the urbanization levels of Southern American countries. Source Prof. Zhiyong Wang

PPT slide on urbanization progress in China between 2000 and 2010. Source Prof. Zhiyong Wang

### About the speaker Prof. Zhiyong Wang

Prof. Wang holds a master's degree from the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences of Nankai University and a master's degree from the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is currently the Director of the Division of Population and Economic Research, Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Prof. Wang has published over 40 academic papers. His current research centers around regional economics and labor economics, with a focus on educational return, migration, and urbanization, regional difference, and GIS application in economic study.

## Lecture 7

### The Theory and Practice of All-in-one tourism in China

“All-in-one tourism” is a home-grown good practice that came into advent in the process of tourism development in China. It has demonstrated significant efficacy in improving the quality of tourism in China. The lecture introduces how this model was formed, highlighting its feasibility and operability, and the features of this model which include the integration multiple sectors along the tourism value chain and the engagement of local population. For example, a vineyard can serve not only as a production base but also a tourist destination that offers wine tasting and wine-related cultural experiences to visitors. This model was also applied in highway service areas and fruit farms. At last, it concludes that “all-in-one tourism” is a win-win solution as it helped local government improve their public service, enhanced visitors’ experience.

[Click here to access the PPT slides and recording.](#)



*Photo illustration of visitors in a vineyard,  
source Mr. Guofu Xuan*



*Desk officers of a public information center in a  
tourism attraction area in Shanghai.  
Source Mr. Guofu Xuan*

#### About the Speaker Mr. Guofu Xuan

Dr. Xuan holds a Ph.D. degree in Human Geography from Nanjing University. He is currently an Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of Tourism, Southeast University, as well as a visiting scholar of the Department of Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management, College of Health and Human Performance, University of Florida. Dr. Xuan has led four research projects at national and provincial levels, participated in more than ten research projects in tourism planning, urban (town) planning, and others, and published more than 30 papers. His current research focus includes tourism geography and tourism planning, urban recreation, and tourism research methods.

# Course evaluation and Needs Assessment

The evaluation and needs assessment was based on registration data, video interviews with participants and lecturers, and data collected from a post-training survey which was designed to seek participant's feedback on the training workshop, rapidly assess participating cities' needs and priorities and gauge their interest to engage in South-South cooperation with cities from other developing countries.

## 1. Key results of the training workshop

According to registration data, **the training benefited 76 government officials in Uzbekistan including mayors and deputy mayors from 35 cities, and officers from the Public Services Agency under the Ministry of Justice participated in the training.**

According to survey responses, **the workshop was able to develop participants' capacities in public service development and innovation with a focus on developing business and improving the service sector and facilitate brokering city-to-city SSTC partnerships for promoting urban development.**

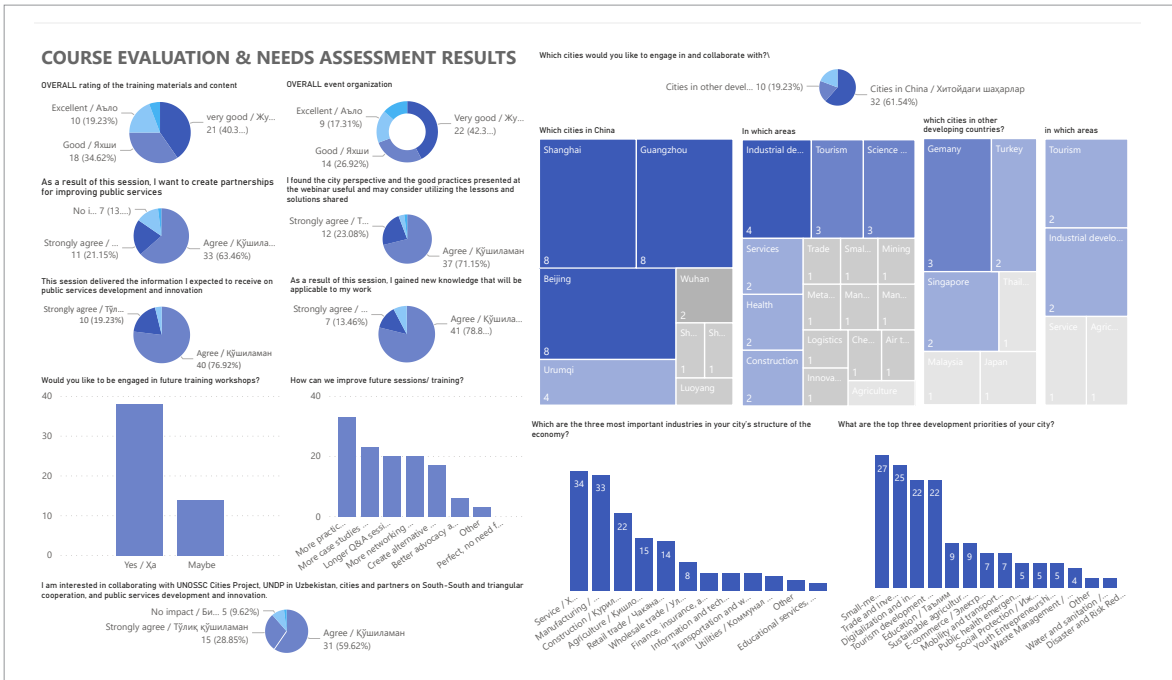
- 94% of survey respondents were satisfied with webinar materials and contents, with 19% of respondents rating them as "excellent" and 40% as "very good".
- 96% considered that the workshop delivered information that they expected.
- 92% gained new knowledge that will apply to their work.
- 85% interested in creating partnerships for improving public services.
- 95% found city perspective and the good practices presented at the webinar useful and may consider utilizing the lessons and solutions shared.
- 73% interested to participate in future training workshops.
- 88% interested in collaborating with UNOSSC Cities Project, UNDP in Uzbekistan, GSBE, cities, and partners on South-South and triangular cooperation, and public services development and innovation.

## 2. Key needs assessment findings

The average size of the population in cities where survey respondents were from is 790,000. Service (34), manufacturing (33), and construction (22) are the main industries in these cities. Survey respondents are relatively young, with 30% of them aged under 34 and 44 percent aged between 35 and 44.

It was identified that **Uzbek cities have strong demands in developing small-medium business, trade and investment, digitalization, and tourism; they are particularly interested in partnering with Chinese cities especially Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.**

- Small-medium business (27), trade and investment (25), digitalization and innovation (22), and tourism development (22) were prioritized by survey respondents as their current development priorities.
- 62% of participants were interested in collaborating with Chinese cities, especially Shanghai (8), Guangzhou (8), Beijing (8), and Urumqi (4), in areas including industrial development (4), tourism (3), science and technology (3).



Snapshot of survey results. Source UNOSSC

### 3. Voices

Following the training workshop, the Cities Project team conducted video interviews with participants and lecturers, with the support of UNDP in Uzbekistan and the GSBE, on a series of questions, particularly:

- 1) Which experience of China shared by the professors could be applied to your city's/region's transformation and development process?
- 2) What lessons or good practices can China learn from Uzbekistan in transforming cities to become client-oriented? In what areas can cities in these two complements each other?
- 3) What are the key points that you advise to focus on to ensure a successful city transformation process?



*Deputy khokim of Khovos city, Mallaev Khakimjon.  
Source UNOSSC*

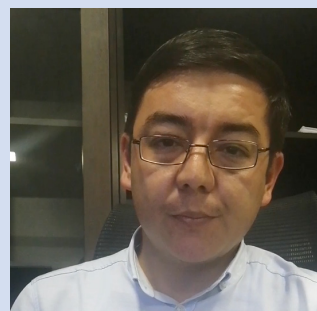
• **Deputy khokim of Khovos city, Mallaev Khakimjon**

The establishment of “Industrial and Trade Zones” in different cities of China in cooperation with Singapore, which was told during the training courses, can develop the export potential in our region and increase industrial and export potential.

• **Deputy khokim of Namangan city, Adhamov Muboshir**

Overall, from the course, we gained main information and knowledge on decreasing the negative impacts of Covid-19, especially, influence on businesses, entrepreneurial units of a country.

In Namangan city, we have close cooperation with China on trade and investment spheres. For example, in the city center of Chorsu, a construction project, worth 70 billion USD, of modern apartment units, a shopping mall, and four-star hotels is being implemented by Chinese partners. Besides, we are creating 10 small industrial zones. Particularly, 50% of the technical equipment and machines for these projects are imported from Chinese partners.



*Deputy khokim of Namangan city,  
Adhamov Muboshir.  
Source UNOSSC*



*Deputy Khokim of Bukhara city,  
Davronov Kamol.  
Source UNOSSC*

#### • Deputy Khokim of Bukhara city, Davronov Kamol

Bukhara cooperates with Luoyang city in China. There have been several bilateral official visits between the two cities, which have yielded good results. This cooperation covers economic, social, investment, cultural ties, and, of course, this cooperation will be further developed in the future through the introduction of new projects.

The work on tourism development in China is commendable and our cultural and architectural monuments and historical monuments are of great interest to Chinese partners. We can see the potential for further development of tourism and cultural heritage in many areas. Many cultural events held in Uzbekistan, especially in Bukhara, are important in developing tourism potential and attracting Chinese tourists.

Bukhara Medical Institute and Bukhara State University and the Sanya University of China are working together. The professors and teachers have arranged remote agreements in this regard.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Secretariat and the city of Kunming are working on a documentary about the activities of Sayyid Adjal Shamsiddin, the governor of the Greek province of Bukhara, who was originally from Bukhara, as a historical root of cooperation with China from 1211 to 1279.

#### • Southeast University, Professor, Xingping Wang

China's reform and opening up the construction of development zone, the promotion of organization and employment of rural labor force, the emphasis on education and human resources development, the construction of service-oriented government, new infrastructure as well as ecological civilization and green development can provide some references for Uzbekistan. The cooperation between China and Uzbekistan in the development of high-level international industrial parks can promote the formation of a community of mutual benefit and common destiny, and also make important contributions to the development of the global economy while driving their respective development.



*Prof. Xingping Wang,  
Southwest University of China  
Source UNOSSC*

**• Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Associate Professor, Dr. Jing Xiang**

Compared with the urbanization level in China at the same income level, Uzbekistan's urbanization level is relatively high. Compared with Uzbekistan, China now faces the challenge of getting old before getting rich. This is also an important reason for which the Chinese government needs to pay a lot of attention to the development of digital technologies and promote good practices in the application of intelligence in residents' life. In the future, I think China and Uzbekistan can strengthen their talent and intelligence cooperation in the field of internet plus, digital economy development, and the smart city establishment.

What Uzbekistan needs to pay attention to now is how to promote and strengthen the matching of labor market demand and supply in the process of reform. Uzbekistan is recommended to provide more vocational skill education and employment training policies, encourage all types of enterprises to participate in vocational skill training and re-employment, and provide young laborers with more internships and employment positions.



*Dr. Jing Xiang,  
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences  
Source UNOSSC*

# Concluding remarks

It was observed that capacity development in enhancing the service sector and developing business was high in demand by medium size Uzbek cities and the significance of South-South and triangular cooperation in sustainable urban development is growingly being recognized.

The collaboration between UNOSSC Cities Project, UNDP in Uzbekistan, GSBE, and CATIS were successful, by pooling together the competitive advantages of the four organizations in knowledge, expertise, financial resources, and networks of partners.

Strong interest from Uzbek cities to collaborate with cities in China, in small-medium business, trade and investment, digitalization, and tourism have been noted and will be followed up.

## Contact details:

Should you be interested in additional information, such as course materials, please contact [southsouth.cities@unOSSC.org](mailto:southsouth.cities@unOSSC.org)



**United Nations**  
Office for South-South Cooperation

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