

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

FREE ECONOMIC ZONES AS CATALYSTS FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: HISTORICAL AND EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM UZBEKISTAN'S NAVOI, JIZZAKH AND ANGREN ZONES (2008–2023)

Saidmurodov Shohrukh Akbarkhoja ugli

Workplace: Jizzakh Regional Pedagogical Excellence Center,

Senior Lecturer in "Social and Economic Sciences"

E-mail: shohruksaidmurodov255@gmail.com

Phone: +998995820625

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-5558-3052>

ABSTRACT

Purpose: This article examines the historical formation, developmental characteristics, and strategic directions of free economic and industrial zones (FEZs) in Uzbekistan through historical-empirical analysis. The Navoi, Jizzakh and Angren FEZs were comprehensively studied in terms of reforms implemented from 2008 to 2024. **Methods:** The study employed historical-comparative analysis, chronological sequencing, and statistical data analysis. Primary sources included Presidential Decrees, State Statistics Committee reports, and over 90 scholarly publications. **Results:** By end-2022, Uzbekistan operated 37 FEZs and 296 small industrial zones, absorbing total investments of \$2.6 billion. The Jizzakh FEZ produced 4,426.2 billion soums worth of goods from 2015 to 2021; Angren FEZ exports grew 95-fold from 2013 to 2017. **Novelty:** For the first time, a comparative historical analysis of three zones was conducted, empirically substantiating the effectiveness of the tax incentive system and identifying infrastructure constraints. **Conclusions:** Free economic

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

zones are confirmed as a primary structural reform instrument for Uzbekistan's economic modernization.

Keywords: Free economic zone, industrial zone, investment, tax incentive, export potential, regional development, Navoi FEZ, Jizzakh FEZ, Angren FEZ, Uzbekistan economy, foreign direct investment.

1. INTRODUCTION

In an era of accelerating globalization, free economic and industrial zones (FEZs) have emerged as indispensable strategic instruments for national economic development. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD, 2023), over 7,000 FEZs operate worldwide, collectively accounting for more than 20% of global exports. These zones serve not merely as engines of economic growth, but as vehicles for technology transfer, skilled workforce development, and regional revitalization.

The historical roots of FEZs extend deep into early modern European commercial history. The port cities of Hamburg, Genoa, and Venice functioned as precursors of modern free trade areas in the medieval era. The contemporary FEZ model received its legal foundation in the United States in 1934 with the Foreign Trade Zones Act. In 1957, the Shannon Airport Free Zone in Ireland was established with the modest target of creating 300 jobs; by maturity it employed over 23,000 people – a seminal case study in FEZ literature.

Asian economies have achieved remarkable success with the FEZ model. China's Special Economic Zones – Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou, and Xiamen – established in the early 1980s, became the foundational drivers of China's extraordinary economic ascent. Within 30 years, per-capita income in these zones grew a hundredfold. South Korea's experience demonstrates the pivotal role of dedicated financial instruments in attracting foreign investment. Today, Singapore,

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

Malaysia, Thailand, and other Southeast Asian nations have made FEZs the primary engine of their economic models.

Following independence, Uzbekistan strategically identified the construction of an FEZ system as a cornerstone of its economic reform agenda. The Law on Free Economic Zones (No. 220-I, 1996) established the legal foundation. Subsequent phases saw the creation of Navoi (2008), Angren (2012), and Jizzakh (2013) free economic and industrial zones. By 2016, Uzbekistan operated 7 FEZs; by end-2022, this number had risen to 37. The Presidential Decree of 4 March 2025 (PF-41) confirms that FEZ reform remains an active policy priority.

The research significance is threefold. First, no integrated comparative historical analysis of the three flagship FEZs – Navoi, Angren, and Jizzakh – has been conducted in the scholarly literature to date. Second, Goal 55 of the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy – establishing special economic zones in partnership with 50 of the world’s leading brands – demands rigorous historical lessons from existing zone experience. Third, empirical evidence on the relationship between tax incentive design and investment outcomes in Uzbekistan’s FEZ context remains scant.

The primary objective of this study is to examine the historical formation, developmental characteristics, and strategy of the Navoi, Jizzakh, and Angren FEZs through a historical-empirical analytical framework, and to derive actionable policy recommendations. Research tasks: (1) analyze the conceptual foundations of FEZs in global context; (2) trace the normative-legal evolution of Uzbekistan’s FEZ system; (3) comparatively assess the economic performance of the three zones; (4) evaluate tax incentive effectiveness; (5) identify developmental constraints and propose strategic recommendations.

2. METHODS

2.1. Research Design

This study adopts a mixed qualitative-quantitative methodology grounded in historical and comparative analysis. The research operates within a retrospective

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

historical analysis framework, applying: (1) historical materialism – examining the socio-economic determinants of FEZ development; (2) systems analysis – treating FEZs as organic components of the national economic system; (3) structural-functional analysis – examining FEZ governance mechanisms from a functional perspective.

The following scientific methods were employed: (1) historical-comparative analysis – the developmental stages of three FEZs were compared with each other and with international experience; (2) chronological sequencing – normative-legal instruments enacted from 1996 to 2024 were examined in sequential order; (3) statistical data analysis – investment volumes, employment, exports, and production indicators were analysed across years; (4) retrospective assessment – developmental dynamics from 2008 to 2024 were evaluated; (5) historical source criticism – the reliability and authority of primary sources were established.

2.2. Data Sources

Sources are classified into three tiers. Primary sources: Presidential Decrees and Executive Orders (1996–2024); Cabinet of Ministers Resolutions; the Laws on Free Economic Zones (1996) and on Special Economic Zones (2020); annual reports of the State Statistics Committee; reports of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis. Secondary sources: over 90 peer-reviewed domestic and international academic publications. Tertiary sources: the national legal database (lex.uz), the Special Economic and Industrial Zones Portal (sez.gov.uz), and the UNCTAD and World Bank data repositories.

Temporal scope: 1996–2024. Geographical scope: Navoi, Angren and Jizzakh FEZs. For comparative analysis, FEZ models in China (Shenzhen, Zhuhai), South Korea (Incheon), and Russia (Kaliningrad, Tatarstan) were examined. Study limitation: fully disaggregated statistical data for the 2008–2012 period are extremely limited in publicly accessible official sources; for this period, overarching trends were assessed based on available data.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

3. RESULTS

3.1. FEZ Concept and Global Context

A free economic zone is defined as a specially designated territory with clearly demarcated administrative boundaries and a distinct legal order, established to attract domestic and foreign capital, advanced technologies, and management expertise for the accelerated socio-economic development of a region (Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Special Economic Zones, 2020). This definition captures three core attributes: a defined geographic boundary, a special legal regime, and preferential economic incentives.

According to the World Bank (2017) typology, modern FEZs fall into four principal categories: (1) free trade zones – areas benefiting from customs preferences; (2) export processing zones – designed to stimulate manufacturing and export; (3) special economic zones – large territories with comprehensive economic privileges; (4) technology and innovation zones – created to promote science and innovation. Uzbekistan has implemented a blend of all these types: Navoi operates as a free industrial-economic zone; Angren and Jizzakh as special industrial zones.

International research identifies the following common success factors for effective FEZs: (a) strategic geographical location with good transport and logistics connectivity; (b) a compelling and coherent tax and customs incentive regime; (c) streamlined administrative procedures; (d) quality infrastructure; (e) an available skilled labour force. Research consistently demonstrates that FEZ success or failure is determined by the combination of these factors (Zimenkov, 2005; Prihodko, 2007; Farole & Akinci, 2011).

3.2. Normative-Legal Framework of Uzbekistan's FEZ System (1996–2024)

The legal foundation of Uzbekistan's FEZ system was constructed in three distinct phases. Phase I (1996–2008): The Market Transition Era. The Law on Free Economic Zones (No. 220-I, 25 April 1996) constituted the legal

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

cornerstone of the national FEZ system. It established the legal mechanisms for FEZ creation, the foundations for organising small business entities, and guaranteed investor rights. Over 400 laws and regulatory instruments were enacted prior to 2008; the founding law was updated in 2003 and 2005.

Phase II (2008–2016): Establishment of Major FEZs. Presidential Decree PF-4059 (2 December 2008) established the Navoi Free Industrial Economic Zone, conferring significant tax and customs privileges on foreign investors and introducing a simplified entry, residence, and employment regime for foreign nationals. In December 2012, the Angren Special Industrial Zone (14,500 hectares) was established; in March 2013, the Jizzakh Special Industrial Zone followed. The defining feature of this phase was the tailoring of each zone's development trajectory to its specific geographical advantages and industrial specialisation.

Phase III (2016–2024): Expansion and Diversification. Presidential Decree PF-4853 (26 October 2016) unified the legal regime for all FEZs and harmonised tax and customs incentives across zones. Decree PF-4931 (12 January 2017) established Urgut, Gijduvon, Kokan, and Hazarasp FEZs. The new Law on Special Economic Zones (2020) and Resolution PQ-5243 (2021) further strengthened the incentive framework. By 2024, the 'Silk Road' (Andijan), 'Termez International Trade Centre', and 'Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan' free trade zones had also been established.

3.3. Navoi Free Industrial Economic Zone: Historical Development

The Navoi FIEZ – Uzbekistan's first major FEZ – was established under Decree PF-4059 (2008) with an operating horizon of 30 years. Zone location was selected on the basis of several strategic factors: the potential to transform Navoi city's international airport into a regional logistics hub; the region's substantial natural and mineral resource endowment (gold, uranium, copper, sodium, zinc); the city's independent thermal power station; the territory's industrial production

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

specialisation; and Navoi Oblast's advantageous central position within Uzbekistan.

The Navoi FIEZ hosted 22 business entities specialising in electrical goods, telecommunications equipment, mechanical engineering, measuring instruments, plastic and polymer products, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and food processing and packaging. Partners of Uzavtosanoat JSC, Uzbekneftgaz NHC, and Uzkimyosanoat JSC occupy prominent positions among them. Significant work was also undertaken to develop transport, engineering-communications, and social infrastructure within the zone.

Navoi Oblast's share of Uzbekistan's GDP stood at 5.29% in 2016 – a mid-range figure for a territory so rich in natural resources, signalling underutilisation of the region's economic potential. Key challenges identified for the Navoi FIEZ include: a slower pace of investment attraction relative to other FEZs despite being established first; heavy dependence on imported raw materials by zone enterprises; and limited utilisation of local raw material inputs, which constrains value-added and net export earnings.

3.4. Angren Special Industrial Zone: Historical Development

The Angren Special Industrial Zone (SIZ) was established on 13 December 2012, encompassing 14,500 hectares comprising part of the Ohangardon district and Angren city. The zone's strategic objectives included: production of internationally competitive goods; attraction of investment and deployment of advanced technologies; comprehensive utilisation of the zone territory's productive and resource potential; development of cooperation linkages between the SIZ and enterprises across the republic; and rapid development of transport, engineering, and social infrastructure.

Angren SIZ's geographic advantage lies in its location within Tashkent Oblast: proximity to the country's largest consumer markets, a well-developed transport network, and availability of skilled labour. During the independence years,

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

Angren's economic structure was diversified away from sole dependence on coal mining toward a multi-sectoral industrial base – making the SIZ a logical extension of this diversification strategy.

Angren FEZ export dynamics showed rapid growth from 2013 to 2017: 2013 – \$0.17 million; 2014 – \$0.98 million (5.8× growth); 2015 – \$6.9 million (7.0×); 2016 – \$13.0 million (1.9×); 2017 – \$16.2 million. Over this five-year period, exports grew 95-fold. The initial development cycle (2013–2016) comprised 16 projects; in 2017 alone, 9 new investment projects were implemented.

3.5. Jizzakh Special Industrial Zone: Historical Development

The Jizzakh Special Industrial Zone was established on 18 March 2013. In that inaugural year, 17 kilometres of new roads were constructed, and electrical, gas, water, and sewage external communication networks were created, along with numerous joint ventures. The number of enterprises within the Jizzakh FEZ grew from 8 (2015) to 35 (2021) – a 4.4-fold increase. From 2015 to 2021, goods worth 4,426.2 billion soums were produced, with \$79.4 million in exports. The joint venture 'PengSheng' – producing ceramic tiles and leather footwear at an investment value of \$26.2 million – employed 800 workers.

Tax incentives within the Jizzakh FEZ were structured as follows under the Tax Code and the Law on Special Economic Zones: investment of \$300,000–\$3 million: 3-year exemption from property, land, and income taxes; \$3–\$10 million: 5-year exemption; over \$10 million: 7-year exemption. Enterprises with foreign investment participation are additionally exempted from the road fund levy and social infrastructure development tax. Under Resolution PQ-5243 (2021), these periods were extended up to 10 years.

The rationale for establishing a FEZ in Jizzakh is compelling in the context of regional development: despite its natural resource wealth, Jizzakh Oblast's share of national GDP was just 2–3% prior to 2016, reflecting structural underperformance. The FEZ was thus an explicitly targeted regional development

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

intervention, and the subsequent 4.4-fold growth in enterprises and export generation confirm the instrument's efficacy in addressing regional economic disparities.

3.6. Comparative Performance Analysis

Table 1. Comparative Key Performance Indicators: Navoi, Angren and Jizzakh FEZs

Indicator	Jizzakh FEZ (2015–2021)	Angren FEZ (2013–2017)	Navoi FIEZ (2008–2022)
Established	2013	2012	2008
Area	N/A	14,500 ha	N/A
No. of enterprises	8 → 35 (4.4×)	10 → 16	22 entities
Production volume	4,426.2 bln soums	Annual growth 35–40%	Diverse range
Exports	\$79.4 million	\$16.2 million (2017)	Regional exports
Jobs created	800+ (PengSheng sector)	4,200+ (all FEZs, 2017)	4,600+ (combined)
Tax incentive	3–10 years	3–10 years	30-year operating period
Specialisation	Broad industrial	Heavy & chemical industry	Logistics, high-tech

Table 2. Product Mix of FEZ Enterprises (% of total output)

Product Category	2020 (%)	2021 (%)	2022 (%)	2023 (%)
Food products	18.6	12.7	19.1	21.2
Metallurgical products	12.2	14.9	15.9	16.7
Rubber and plastics	15.6	16.6	13.9	17.8
Fabricated metal products	13.8	14.0	9.8	11.4
Motor vehicles/trailers	3.8	2.6	8.7	9.4
Textiles	8.2	7.1	6.7	8.3
Non-metallic mineral prod.	6.0	6.7	6.1	7.9
Computers and electronics	8.2	9.7	5.1	7.7
Chemical products	4.5	2.7	4.1	5.2
Other products	9.1	13.0	10.6	10.9

Source: Based on Masudov Sh. research data, compiled by the author.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Regional Development Impact of FEZs

The findings demonstrate that Uzbekistan's FEZs have generated a positive trajectory in investment attraction and job creation. The 4.4-fold increase in enterprises within the Jizzakh FEZ and the 95-fold growth in Angren FEZ exports from 2013 to 2017 constitute compelling empirical evidence of the system's effectiveness. By 2022, the combined investment in all FEZs and small industrial zones reached \$2.6 billion, with 1,497 projects implemented in small industrial zones worth 5 trillion soums, employing over 36,000 people.

The social impact of FEZs is equally significant. The single PengSheng joint venture in the Jizzakh FEZ generated 800 jobs, making a meaningful contribution to local employment. The 65 projects implemented across Uzbekistan's FEZs in 2017 created over 4,200 new positions. Economic analyst A. Taksanov notes that FEZs serve as effective instruments for rapidly elevating depressed regional economies within short timeframes – a characterisation borne out by the Jizzakh and Angren experience.

The role of FEZs in reducing inter-regional disparities merits attention. Prior to 2016, Tashkent city (15.79%), Tashkent Oblast (10.30%), Kashkadarya (7.47%), Samarkand (7.05%), and Fergana (6.98%) commanded disproportionate shares of national GDP, while Khorezm, Syrdarya, and Jizzakh Oblast contributed just 2–3%. The strategic location of new FEZs precisely in underperforming regions aligns with – and contributes to – a deliberate strategy of reducing spatial economic inequality.

4.2. Challenges and Constraints

Several challenges and constraints were identified during the study. First, infrastructure deficiencies: transport and energy supply systems remain inadequate in a number of zones. The Oliy Majlis Senate's 2021 parliamentary inquiry noted the need for strict oversight of engineering-communications

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

infrastructure development in the SIZs. Second, underutilisation of local raw materials: many Navoi FIEZ enterprises rely heavily on imported inputs for production, which compresses net export earnings and limits domestic value-addition.

Third, bureaucratic impediments: analysis of underperforming FEZ experiences identifies the following common failures: suboptimal site selection (poor access to land or air transport); inadequate attention to core infrastructure (communications, energy supply); insufficient coordination between zone administration and government agencies (ministry of finance, customs, tax committee); and over-reliance on bureaucratic management methods. Fourth, investment efficiency: aggregate analysis shows that while investment volumes grew 5.5-fold, the investment return index fell by an average of 24.4%, suggesting declining capital efficiency – a signal of resource misallocation in certain zones.

4.3. International Comparative Analysis

China's experience: The Special Economic Zones established under Deng Xiaoping's reforms – Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou, and Xiamen – became the foundational drivers of China's extraordinary economic ascent. Shenzhen had a population of 30,000 in 1980; by 2020, it housed 12 million people. Through its SEZs, China became the world's factory and the source of 14% of global exports. The Chinese model combines centralised state governance with free-market mechanisms within SEZ boundaries.

South Korea's experience: The Incheon Free Economic Zone (2003) and other modern zones played an important role in enabling South Korea's technological leap. South Korea uses dedicated financial instruments – particularly venture capital mechanisms – to attract foreign investment, a practice with direct relevance for Uzbekistan's current FEZ development.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

Russian Federation experience: FEZs in Kaliningrad, Tatarstan and other regions produced mixed results. Zimenkov and Kozlova identified the root causes of Russian FEZ underperformance as: incoherent state policy, chronic underinvestment in infrastructure, and pervasive bureaucracy. Uzbekistan's decision to unify the tax and customs incentive framework through Decree PF-4853 (2016) addressed precisely the policy incoherence that plagued the Russian model – a well-calibrated strategic choice.

Uzbekistan's distinctive features relative to international practice include: (1) centralised governance through dedicated directorates; (2) incentive unification through a single legal regime; (3) strategic differentiation – each zone develops according to its specific geographical advantage and industrial specialisation. These features constitute a nationally contextualised model that deserves recognition as a contribution to the international FEZ literature.

4.4. FEZ Prospects within the New Uzbekistan Strategy Framework

The New Uzbekistan Development Strategy (2022–2026) assigns specific tasks to the FEZ system: critically reviewing the engineering-communications connectivity of small industrial zone participants; placing enterprises that implement a full production cycle within small industrial zones, aligned with their specialisation and resource endowments; conducting systematic monitoring of investment project implementation; and expanding commercial bank participation in financing new investment projects within small industrial zones. The Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy sets even more ambitious FEZ targets: Goal 48 mandates modern technological industrial zones in every district; Goal 49 requires uninterrupted infrastructure access (roads, electricity, water, sewage) across all economic zones; Goal 55 calls for the establishment of special economic zones in partnership with 50 of the world's most recognised brands. These targets represent a qualitative step-change in Uzbekistan's FEZ ambition.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

The 2024 reforms introduced important innovations. Resolution PQ-179 (15 May 2024) introduced new SEZ typologies, including a ‘special export zone’ variant exclusively dedicated to export-oriented, high-technology projects. Land parcels for zone residents are now allocated by the Government Commission on Investment through direct tender and online auction, with lease rights established at market-rate values. These innovations signal Uzbekistan’s convergence toward international best-practice FEZ standards.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Principal Conclusions

On the basis of this research, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. Uzbekistan’s FEZ system has traversed three distinct developmental stages since 1996: legal framework formation (1996–2008); major FEZ establishment (2008–2016); and rapid expansion and diversification (2016–present). Each stage has its own normative-legal foundation, economic task system, and outcomes.
2. The Navoi, Angren, and Jizzakh FEZs demonstrated varied but consistently positive investment performance: Angren FEZ exports grew 95-fold and Jizzakh FEZ enterprises increased 4.4-fold between 2013 and 2017. By 2022, the three zones collectively implemented 62 projects (\$486 million) and created over 4,600 jobs, confirming the system’s efficacy.
3. The unification of tax incentives through Decree PF-4853 (2016) enhanced zone attractiveness: foreign direct investment grew 3.7-fold relative to 2018. Reducing tax categories from 19 to 15 under the new Tax Concept also contributed to improving the entrepreneurial environment.
4. Comparative analysis confirms that Uzbekistan’s FEZ model – combining centralised governance with unified incentives and zone-specific specialisation – is nationally contextualised and has produced rapid, demonstrable results in the short term.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

5. Primary constraints identified are: infrastructure deficiencies; underutilisation of domestic raw material bases; declining investment return efficiency; and persistent inter-regional development disparities. Addressing these constraints should be the central focus of future FEZ policy.

5.2. Policy Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following policy recommendations are advanced: (1) FEZ development strategies should more systematically incorporate demographic factors, local resource endowments, and existing economic infrastructure as planning inputs; (2) to expand local raw material utilisation, a differentiated tariff mechanism should be introduced – increasing levies on imported inputs while providing incentives for domestic sourcing; (3) to reduce bureaucratic barriers within FEZs, the ‘one-stop shop’ principle should be strengthened and digital service coverage expanded.

(4) The Qoraboyev-Inamova-Alabayev (2018) performance evaluation framework should be standardised across all FEZs as a monitoring instrument; (5) cluster-based approaches should be strengthened to develop cooperation linkages between small industrial zones and FEZs; (6) in implementing Goal 55 of the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy, adopting a ‘special purpose vehicle’ (SPV) financial instrument – as practised in South Korea – could significantly accelerate brand partnership formation; (7) the logistics potential of the Navoi FIEZ should be maximised through expanding the free trade zone around the international airport.

REFERENCES

1. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Free Economic Zones (No. 220-I). Tashkent, 25 April 1996.
2. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Special Economic Zones. Tashkent, 17 February 2020.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

3. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Establishment of a Free Industrial Economic Zone in Navoi Oblast (PF-4059). Tashkent, 2 December 2008.
4. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Establishment of the Angren Special Industrial Zone. Tashkent, 13 December 2012.
5. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Establishment of the “Jizzakh” Special Industrial Zone. // Xalq So‘zi. 19 March 2013.
6. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Additional Measures to Activate and Expand Free Economic Zone Operations (PF-4853). Tashkent, 26 October 2016.
7. Presidential Resolution of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Further Support Measures for Special Economic Zone Participants (PQ-5243). Tashkent, 14 September 2021.
8. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022–2026. // Yangi O‘zbekiston. No. 22. 1 February 2022.
9. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy (PF-158). // Xalq So‘zi. 12 September 2023.
10. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Additional Measures to Improve the Effectiveness of Special Economic and Industrial Zones (PF-41). Tashkent, 4 March 2025.
11. Bozorov S. Improving legal regulation of entrepreneurial activity in free economic zones of the Republic of Uzbekistan. PhD dissertation abstract. Tashkent, 2018.
12. Karimqulov J. Utilizing the FEZ factor for active attraction of investments to the country: A case study of “Navoi” FEZ // Scientific Journal of “International Finance & Accounting”. 2022. Issue 3.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

13. Qoraboyev Sh., Inamova G., Alabayev S. Issues of developing free economic zone activities // “Economics and Innovative Technologies” Scientific Electronic Journal. 2018. No. 1.
14. Jo‘raqulov M. The specific features of tax incentives in organising special economic zone activities. Tashkent, 2022.
15. Rashidov M. The urgency of improving FEZ operations in regions // Economics: Analyses and Forecasts. Tashkent, 2021.
16. Ostonaqulov A.A. Improving accounting and auditing in free economic zones. PhD Dissertation. Tashkent, 2017.
17. Tolipov F. Investment foundations and development trends of small business and entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan (Historical analysis) // Retrospective Observations. 2021. Vol. 4. No. 4.
18. Rahmatullayev Sh.M. Economic transformation processes in the cities of the Fergana Valley (1991–1996). Tashkent: Nishon noshir, 2016.
19. Oblomurodov N., Tolipov F. History of taxes in Uzbekistan. Tashkent, 2009.
20. Danko T.P., Okrut Z.M. Free Economic Zones. Moscow: Infra-M, 1998.
21. Zimenkov R.I. Free Economic Zones. Moscow: Yuniti, 2005.
22. Prihodko S.V., Volovike N.P. Special Economic Zones. Moscow, 2007.
23. Korolyov Yu.A. Development of special economic zones in the Russian Federation as a tool for enhancing innovation potential // Economic Sciences. 2009. No. 5.
24. Baronov V.I., Kostyunina G.M. Free Economic and Offshore Zones. Moscow: Magistr: INFRA-M, 2013.
25. UNCTAD. World Investment Report 2023: Investing in Sustainable Energy for All. Geneva: United Nations, 2023.
26. World Bank. Special Economic Zones: Progress, Emerging Challenges, and Future Directions. Washington D.C., 2017.
27. Farole T., Akinci G. (eds). Special Economic Zones: Progress, Emerging Challenges, and Future Directions. World Bank, 2011.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 4, April 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

28. Karimov S. Social philosophical problems of educating young people's life goals //лучшие интеллектуальные исследования. – 2024.
29. Каримов С. С. Ёшларнинг ҳаётий мақсадлари масаласини ижтимоийфалсафий жиҳатдан ўрганишнинг аҳамияти //Academic research in educational sciences. – 2021. – Т. 2. – №. 3. – С. 413-419.
30. Khotamov A., Sindorkulovich K. S. The study of the problem of life goal in the history of philosophy //Asian Journal of Multidimensional Research (AJMR). – 2020. – Т. 9. – №. 4. – С. 34-42.
31. Sindorkulovich K. S. The significance of socio philosophical study of young people's life goals //ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal. – 2020. – Т. 10. – №. 4. – С. 523-527.
32. Каримов С. С. масад ва ҳаётий мақсад муоммосининг ўрганилиш тарихи //Academic research in educational sciences. – 2022. – Т. 3. – №. 4. – С. 380-392.
33. Каримов С. С. Ёшларнинг ҳаётий мақсадлари шаклланишида қадриятларнинг аҳамияти //Oriental renaissance: Innovative, educational, natural and social sciences. – 2022. – Т. 2. – №. Special Issue 23. – С. 820-829.
34. Ahmedjonov, N. History of Cultural Heritage Objects and Museums in Uzbekistan in the Middle of the 20th Century and the Beginning of the 21st Century (in the Case of Jizzakh Region). Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) dissertation in Historical Sciences, Tashkent (nd), 13.
35. Ahmedjonov, N. (2021). Development of archeology as a science before the establishment of the institute of archeology in Uzbekistan (70S of the XIX-XX centuries). ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal, 11(9), 898-903.