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**THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPORT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**Abstract**

This thesis comprehensively covers the role and importance of the transport system in economic development. The author analyzed the impact of the efficiency of transport infrastructure on the sustainable growth of the national economy, foreign trade turnover, service sectors and the investment climate. At the same time, the best practices of transport sector development in Japan, China, India, the USA and European countries, regional cooperation processes in Central Asia and reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan were analyzed. The study pays special attention to the introduction of innovation and digital technologies, the concept of "green transport" and environmentally sustainable development. In conclusion, the development of the transport system is of decisive importance in achieving the strategic goals of the national economy, strengthening global integration processes and improving the quality of life of the population.

**Keywords:** Transport, economic development, infrastructure, transit potential, foreign trade, investment climate, innovation, logistics, "green transport", global integration.

**Introduction**

The sustainable development of any country's economy largely depends on the efficiency of its transport system. In the modern global economy, the free movement of goods, services and labor increases the volume of foreign trade turnover and ensures production efficiency. Therefore, the transport system is a decisive factor in strategic development.

For countries with a favorable geographical location such as Uzbekistan, the modernization of the transport sector and the effective use of international transit potential are of great importance in integrating the national economy into the world economic system.

In economic theories, transport is often considered a major part of "circulation costs". Classical economists A. Smith and D. Ricardo focused on the costs of delivering goods to the market. In modern economic theories, transport infrastructure is defined as the main pillar of economic development.

Since the second half of the 20th century, transport and logistics have been recognized as one of the strategic drivers of economic growth. This process is closely related to the international division of labor, regional cooperation and global integration, and the importance of transport services has increased even more.

The transport system is inextricably linked to the production, trade and service sectors. Transport vehicles are necessary for products to reach consumers, raw materials to industrial enterprises and agricultural products to enter the market.

The reforms implemented in Uzbekistan in the field of road transport, railway, air and river transport are giving a great impetus to economic development. Based on the presidential decrees and resolutions, the task of updating the infrastructure, establishing logistics centers and bringing transport services to a competitive level has been set.

The country's participation in international economic relations largely depends on transport capabilities. Export and import volumes, regional cooperation and the investment climate rely on modern transport infrastructure.

In conditions of insufficiently developed transport infrastructure, product competitiveness decreases, and obstacles arise in the trade and service sectors. Therefore, joining international transport corridors and becoming a transit center is a strategic task for Uzbekistan.

Japan is famous for its high-speed trains "Shinkansen", a safe and efficient logistics system. China is a leader in international integration through its high-speed train network and the "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

India is paying great attention to the modernization of its road and railway infrastructure due to its vast territory and population.

The USA and Europe - high-quality roads, logistics centers and the concept of "green transport" play a decisive role in economic growth.

For the countries of Central Asia, the transport sector is important not only for the domestic economy, but also for regional integration. Through the CAREC program, international corridors are being developed in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and new logistics centers are being built.

Uzbekistan's favorable geographical location allows the country to become an international transit center. For this, it is necessary to improve the infrastructure of modern roads, railways, airports and ports.

New technologies - artificial intelligence, the "Internet of Things" (IoT), big data analysis are increasing efficiency and safety in the transport sector. In European countries, electric buses, hybrid cars and bicycle lanes are widely used based on the concept of "green transport".

It is also important for Uzbekistan to establish an environmentally sustainable transport policy. This will serve not only economic efficiency, but also to improve the quality of life of the population and ensure environmental safety.

### **Conclusion**

The transport system is the material basis of economic development and an indicator of social well-being. It serves as an intermediary between production and consumption, ensures export-import processes, and increases the mobility of the population.

The development of the transport sector in Uzbekistan is of crucial importance in achieving the strategic goals of the national economy, strengthening global integration processes, and improving the quality of life of society.

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