

A public talk on “Uzbekistan: on the reform path”
(19th March 2019 at 3:00-5:00pm)

By Professor Komiljon Karimov

at Chu Hai College (Hong Kong)

Professor Komiljon Karimov has been Rector of Westminster International University in Tashkent from March 2015. He had worked at UN agencies such as UNESCO and UNICEF where he dealt with the development challenges in the area of education and healthcare. He has an extensive research interest and experience in the field of international education. Professor Karimov holds a PhD degree in Political Sciences and International Relations from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent. His recent publications include: “*Governance Youth Values and Life Styles in Central Asia*”, 1-4 volumes, General Editor, Tashkent, UNESCO Office; Ensuring Security in Asia-Pacific Region and the role of ASEAN, Journal “*Public Opinion-Human Rights*”, Tashkent; *Trends in Education System of Uzbekistan, Common Country Assessment*, Tashkent, United Nations Development Programme, (Co-author); Perspectives of Integration Process within APEC, Journal “*Iste’dod*”, Tashkent; and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) towards XXI century, Journal “*Market, Money and loans*”, Tashkent, among others.

The talk is a sequel to our seminar in January 2018, in which Dr. Norov, Director of the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan made a key note speech. Dr. Norov has become the new Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as from January this year.

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) is one of the top universities in Uzbekistan, focusing on business, management, and law. It was founded in January 2002 in partnership with the University of Westminster of UK and the UMID Foundation of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The University uses English as its teaching language and its degree programmes were validated by the University of Westminster. The university is located in the very centre of the capital city of Tashkent, Uzbekistan and has 3,000 students.

Uzbekistan is the largest populated country in the Central Asia, with a young population of 32 million almost double that of Kazakhstan. It has entered into economic reform and open door policy since late 2017. Its good neighbouring policy has bettered the relationship with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, paving the railway and highway from Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan and China and contributing to the peace settlement process in Afghanistan. The country has involved Asian Development Bank for its current economic transformation and is about to join the WTO. It has exports of oil and gas to China and other countries, besides having a strong agricultural sector. In 2018, real income growth of the country registered 12%.

According to the President's speech on 28 December 2018, Uzbekistan will continue the reforms for modernization and economic diversification with further liberalization of its currency and financial system. An indication of the change in the financial system is the plan in the first quarter of 2019 for the first issue of Uzbekistan's sovereign bonds to international financial markets. The President has vowed to move the country into the path of export oriented industrialization, probably following the example of China and other successful Asian nations. Leveraging on its strong Silk Road heritage, it will also develop tourism.

Uzbekistan is the country with political and social stability and endowed with large economic and human resources. Its prosperity ties with the resurgence of the Greater Central Asia of the Silk Road legacy. With the peace settlement of Afghanistan and the development of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the resurgence could be a reality in not too distant future and Uzbekistan would be transformed from a double landlocked country into the hub of Central Asia connecting South and West Asia, Russia and China.

Organizer One Belt One Road Research Institute, Chu Hai College, Hong Kong
Speaker **Professor Komiljon Karimov**, Rector, Westminster International University in
 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Date 19 March 2019 (Tuesday)
Time 3:00 - 5:00pm
Venue Hall 5, G/F, Chu Hai College, 80 Castle Peak Road, Castle Peak Bay, N.T, HK
Language English

REPLY FORM

Please fill in the reply form and return by email to beankalee@chuhai.edu.hk

Deadline: 15 March 2019

I / We shall be pleased to attend the public talk on 19 March 2019

Name: (English) _____ (Chinese) _____

Organization: _____ Title: _____

Contact Tel. No.: _____ Email: _____

Enquiry: Tel. 2972 7226 (Ms Lee) Email: beankalee@chuhai.edu.hk

Website : <https://www.chuhai.edu.hk/introduction>