

*Assalomu alaykum, dear guests!*

*Dear participants of the festival!*

*Ladies and gentlemen!*

Above all, allow me to sincerely welcome you on the ancient and beautiful land of Uzbekistan, in the sublime city of Samarkand.

I congratulate all of you from the bottom of my heart on the solemn opening of «Sharq Taronalari» International Music Festival.

We are especially pleased that such high-ranking guests as the Deputy Secretary-General of the

United Nations,  
Secretary-General of the  
World Tourism  
Organization Taleb Rifai,  
President of the OSCE  
Parliamentary Assembly  
Christine Muttonen,  
Director-General of the  
Islamic Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural  
Organization of the  
Organization of Islamic

Conference - ISESCO  
Abdulaziz Othman  
Altwaijri are participating  
at today's ceremony.

I am also happy to  
welcome the Director-  
General of the  
Research Center For

Islamic History, Art  
and Culture - IRCICA  
Halit Eren, Regional  
Executive Secretary  
for East Asia of the  
International  
Organization of Folk  
Art Moon Hyung Suk,  
Chairman of the  
Executive Committee

of the Commonwealth  
of Independent States  
Sergey Nikolayevich  
Lebedev, Special  
Representative of the  
President of the  
Russian Federation  
for the Development  
of Cultural Ties  
Mikhail Efimovich

Shydkey, President of  
the Bukharian Jewish  
Congress of the USA  
and Canada Boris  
Kandov and other  
distinguished guests  
and representatives of  
the diplomatic corps  
who by showing  
respect to our people

regularly participate in  
such forums.

Taking this  
opportunity, allow  
me to express my  
profound respect  
and esteem to all



participants of the  
festival by saying  
«Welcome to  
Samarkand!  
Welcome to our  
dear Uzbekistan!»»

*Dear friends!*

In today's  
extremely  
complex time,  
when

confrontation  
and conflicts are  
aggravating, the  
role and  
influence of  
music art, which  
is capable of  
turning millions

of people of  
different  
languages and  
religions into  
friends without  
any interpreter  
and  
strengthening

cooperation and  
accord among  
them is ever  
growing.

In this regard,  
this year's  
festival is of  
special  
essence and  
significance  
and it is being

held in the  
historical  
period of the  
twentieth  
anniversary  
since its  
establishment.

On this  
joyous  
occasion, with  
profound



gratitude we  
acknowledge  
the people  
who have laid  
the festival's  
foundation,

enormously  
contributed to  
its prestige on  
the global  
level and their  
unforgettable

services.

Speaking  
about this,

above all, we  
pay homage  
to the bright  
memory of  
the  
prominent

political and  
state figure,  
the First  
President of  
the Republic  
of

Uzbekistan

Islam

Abduganievi  
ch Karimov.

Islam

Abduganievi

ch dearly  
loved and  
valued  
«Sharq  
Taronalari»  
as much as

his native  
city of  
Samarkand  
and its heart  
- the  
Registan



# Square.

In a short  
period of

time the  
festival  
gained  
profound  
authority for

its unique  
spirit and  
look, such  
noble goals  
and

aspirations  
as  
strengtheni  
ng the  
bonds of

friendship  
among  
nations,  
preserving  
the

# traditions of music art and developing cultural

# dialogue.

# In this

regard, we  
know well  
and highly  
value the  
commendation



ble  
contribution  
of such  
devoted  
organizers

and  
participants  
as you, my  
dears.

We can  
speak a lot  
about a

big path  
traversed  
by «Sharq  
Taronalari  
» festival

since  
1997, the  
history of  
its unique  
formation

and  
developm  
ent.

However,  
in this  
context I  
would like  
to draw

your  
attention  
to the  
following  
figure. If



56  
performin  
g artists  
from 31  
countries

participated  
in the  
festival in  
1997, this  
year 241

skilled  
singers  
and  
musicians  
from 58

**countries  
are  
attending  
the event.**

The fact  
that

today

«Sharq

Taronalar

i»» music

festival is  
recognized  
as a  
large

# international forum of the music



world and  
this name  
resounds  
across

the world,  
testifies  
about the  
growing

prestige  
and  
significan  
ce of the

# festival.

*Dear  
participants  
of the  
festival!*

Standing  
on this

beautiful  
and  
unique  
Registan

Square,  
we are  
witnessi  
ng that



Samark  
and,  
which  
during

its 2750  
year-long  
g history  
saw the

whole  
variety  
of  
events,

is

becommin

g yet

more

beautiful  
these  
days  
and is

turning  
into the  
center of  
the

world

music

art and

the real

heart of  
Earth.



It is  
well-known  
from  
historical

I  
sources  
that  
even six

hundred  
years  
ago in  
the time

of Amir

Temur

the

skillful

musicia  
ns and  
singgers  
from

across

the

globe

gatherere

d and

held

beautiful

forums

on the  
land of  
Samark  
and.



And

now

years

and

centurie  
s later,  
the

world's  
outstan  
ding

musicia  
ns are  
gatherin

g in

Samark

and

again  
and  
calling

on the  
world to  
the



unique  
celebrat  
ion of

art.

We  
welcome  
you,

our  
dear  
guests,

as

ambas

sadors

of

peace

and

friends

hip,

who

expres  
s the  
spiritual



world  
of  
various

nations  
through  
music

and  
convey  
their

greetin  
gs and  
kind

wishes.

We

highly

value

the

noble

effort of  
thousa  
nds of

people

of art

on the



way of  
counter  
ing

ignorance with  
enlightenment

enment

,

preserv

ing and  
strenght  
hening

high

human

ideals.

In the

# course of the festival

, my  
dears,  
you will



be able

to

showc

ase the

musica

|

heritage  
of  
your

Mother

land

and

visit

our

cities

and  
village  
s, have

sincere  
conversations

with

our

compat



riots,  
make a  
close

acquai  
ntance  
with

# the life of Uzbek

people,  
their  
dream

s and  
aspirati  
ons, as

well as  
hospita  
lity.

I am

confid

ent

that it



will

widen

your

impressions  
about

our  
countr  
y and

people

and be

a good

source  
of  
inspiration

tion for  
you.

*Dear*

*partici*

*pants*

*of the*



*festiva*

*!!*

l once

again

congr

atulat

e you  
on  
today'

S

festiva

l of art

and

grace.

I wish

you a  
sound  
health

,

happi

ness,



best

of luck

and

succe  
ss to  
the

forum.

Dear  
friends,  
s,

today  
standing  
on

the

bles

ed

and  
gener  
ous

land

of

Sama



rkand,  
where  
noble

dream

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come

true,

all of

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Let  
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the  
world!



Let all  
peopl

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this

world

always

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in

harm

only

and

accor



d!



Let  
always

s

peac

e and  
tranq

utility

be on

# Earth

# !

Tha

nk



you

for

your

attent

■  
ion. ■