

Uzbekistan: A Study of the Role of Transport Infrastructure in Development of an Emerging Economy

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Abstract

An attempt has been made in this paper to study the role of physical infrastructure development and in particular transport infrastructure viz. roads, railways and air connectivity in fostering the economic growth of an emerging economy like Uzbekistan. This country was a part of USSR and got its independence in 1991. It inherited the transport sector which had been created by the Soviet Union to promote its business interests. The country transitioned from closely held communist style governance to democracy. It opened its economy in a phased manner. Uzbek government put the much required focus on its transport infrastructure in the last 10 years and accelerated its efforts to promote its potential as an attractive investment destination and generate funds for its roads, railways and air network growth. It formed a well rounded transport policy to lay down the guidelines for its strategy towards this sector and regulate the implementation of private-public partnership projects. There are lessons for Indian government, which can be extracted from this study. The transport infrastructure development is a bigger need for India right now and its quest to become a global superpower cannot be achieved without improving the physical travel and trade connectivity at the ground level.

Key Words: Uzbekistan, Emerging Economy, Transport Infrastructure, Economic Development, Lessons for India

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