

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
commend

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

Samarkand,
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

gathered

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
welcom
e 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

su
cce
ss to
the

forum.

Dear
friend
s,

today
standing
on

the

bles

ed

and
generous

land

of

Sama

rkand,
where
noble

dream

s

come

true,

all of

us

wish

for

one

goal:

Let
enliven
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melod

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resou

nd in

all

countr

ies of
the
world!

Let all
peopl

e in

this

world

always

s live

in

harm

only

and

accor

d!

Let
always

S

peac

e and
tranq

utility

be on

Earth

!

Tha

nk

you

for

your

attent

ion.