

THE EFFECT OF THE ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE KARABAGH REGION DURING THE POST-OCCUPATION PERIOD ON THE PERSPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN AZERBAIJAN

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Introduction. For nearly 30 years, Azerbaijan's Karabakh region has been subjected to Armenian vandalism. However, the Homeland War, which started on September 27, 2020, resulted in the recapture of the occupied lands. Karabakh region is considered to have a great potential for tourism economy due to its geography, natural recreation resources and its geography. In Soviet times, thousands of people came to the region every year for rest and treatment. Increasing demand has made the region a real tourist destination. However, after the occupation, this region was devastated for a long time. Not only tourism potential but even normal livelihoods have been nearly destroyed. According to the presidential decree, reconstruction and restoration works started rapidly. It should be noted that the Karabakh region will soon become a larger tourist center. For this purpose, 2.2 billion manats were allocated from the state budget for the construction of new tourism, roads, energy and buildings in Karabakh this year [4].

Although our lands were liberated from the enemy, one of the most important problems facing the country from now on was clearing the area of mines buried in the ground for 30 years and unexploded ordnance during the war. For three decades it has been mined everywhere by the enemy along the line of contact and when they left our lands after the war. Cleaning up and securing the area was important to starting the rebuilding. At the same time, a site plan for the liberated lands was rapidly being prepared.

It takes a lot of money to revive our Karabakh, which has a rich nature and mysterious relief, to regain its former greatness and beauty. Because the Armenians burned and "poisoned" every inch of this place. It is estimated that the damage done by the Armenians to Karabakh is hundreds of millions. Although our country has a strong economy, it needed the help of domestic and foreign investors in order to start the works quickly and to carry out the reconstruction works, as well as its financial statements. Because the projects planned for Karabakh and the projects to be implemented will require large funds. Studies in this direction continue to be quite successful. Many investors and foreign companies from many friendly countries, including brotherly Turkey, have already come here and this continues to come. One of the main purposes of attracting foreigners as well as domestic companies and investors to Karabakh is the application of advanced technologies in foreign tourism, agriculture and construction and their learning and application in future projects at the expense of internal forces. For example, projects such as "Smart Village" and "Smart Agriculture" are the first projects implemented in our country. Many foreign companies now work in Karabakh, both in construction and agriculture.

It is very important economically for our country to restore Karabakh, which is rich in tourism potential, to its former power, to develop tourism and to attract both domestic and foreign tourists. Of course, this is not an easy and quick task. Because the first thing to do to develop tourism and attract tourists is to build buildings and bring people back here.

Review of recent research sources and publications. The main purpose of the research is to examine the studies and projects implemented and planned by the state in Karabakh after the Second Karabakh War.

The main focus of the study is the state support for the studies carried out so far and in the future, the role and interest of domestic and foreign companies and investors in the studies conducted here. In addition, the article evaluates the pre- and post-occupation potential of the region, the importance of future work for Karabakh and the state, and economic statistics.

Main material and results. The first project launched in Karabakh after the occupation was the "Victory Road" project, which symbolizes the victory and connects the cities of Fuzuli and Shusha, which have a special historical importance. Our army went on this road tirelessly for days to liberate Shusha from occupation. The biggest advantage of this project, which lasted about a year, was the ease of access to Shusha. The official opening of the project with a total length of 101.5 km, in which Turkish companies as well as domestic companies play an important role, was made by President Ilham Aliyev on November 7, 2021. 50 million manats were allocated from the budget for the construction of this road [2]. Another advantage of this road, which starts from Fuzuli, is that the tourists who will land at Fuzuli Airport by air will be able to visit Shusha easily. Using this road, a tourism campaign called "Our Way is Karabakh" was launched and trips were organized to local and foreign tourists in liberated and safe areas to promote historical monuments and Armenian atrocities.

Work has also begun to revive a culture that disappeared thirty years ago and to return displaced people to their countries. The project in this direction is the "Smart Village" project implemented in Ağali village of Zangilan district. The implementation of this innovative project in many countries of the world in the Karabakh region shows how much attention is paid to the future development and level of this region. The technology and systems used here are designed to be both environmentally friendly and human friendly. Experts from Turkey, China, Italy and Israel are involved in the implementation of this project, in which high innovations and smart technologies are used. One of the main goals of this project is to prevent the flow of people from rural areas to cities: "To create conditions for people in rural areas to access all the services they can get in the city".

The second purpose of the "Smart Village" project is to create opportunities for people to earn money in the village.

The third issue is that, like every citizen of the country, those living in rural areas should have access to public services. So, for example, the services provided by "ASAN Xidmət" should be in rural areas.

Innovative rural projects are used around the world to address all these issues. There are 3 main components. The first is smart structures and services, the second is smart economy and business, and the third is smart public management [5].

One of the projects implemented in the liberated lands is Fuzuli Airport, which was built in about eight months and gained international status. This project will have a significant impact on increasing the tourist flow to Karabakh in the future. Thus, tourists who want to travel to Karabakh by air will be able to go directly to Fuzuli and go to the region they want.

Tourism-oriented studies are also carried out in our cultural capital Shusha, which stands out with its natural relief and mysterious nature. During the Soviet period, Shusha was famous for its water resources such as Turshsu and Isabulagi. The Jidir plain in Shusha is particularly famous and is expected to receive a large number of tourists in the future. By using all resources and rehabilitating local structures, it will be possible to further increase the tourism potential. The building to be created in the region will be provided with gas, electricity, water and other communication lines as well as telephone. We observe that all these processes begin gradually. Agreements with Turkey, Iran and local construction companies are accelerating efforts to rebuild the region as soon as possible. The invitation of foreign guests, the special attention and care shown to the region will soon show its effect. In addition, the "Karabakh" hotel and the "Xari Bülbül" hotel were also rebuilt and put into service [9].

The Toganali-Kelbecer road is one of the projects involving foreign companies that will contribute significantly to the tourism potential of the future among the rapid development and construction works. This road will facilitate access to a difficult mountainous terrain and to Kelbecer, which has a high summer and winter tourism potential. Thus, it will have an impact on the increase in the number of tourists in the future [11].

In the tourism industry, there are two approaches that play an important role in its development. The first is the cluster approach. The essence of this approach is to work in areas where tourism potential and products are concentrated. Karabakh is also working on this approach. Thus, it is planned to build touristic hotels in Shusha and Kelbajar, where tourism opportunities are concentrated. It is planned to develop nature, culture, health and winter tourism products in Kelbecer, which is rich in both summer and winter tourism. In addition,

the main focus in Shusha is to promote historical and cultural monuments, resources, increase opportunities for historical festivals. Of course, considering the large number of future tourists, great work should be done in this direction. "Karabakh victory" hotel project is one of the projects planned in this direction.

The second approach is the corridor approach. In other words, to implement new tourism projects for the development of tourism in the areas where the corridors will be, to create building construction, routes and tourism products. Zengazur Corridor is a project that will directly connect the Turkish world, which is the most important and very important project planned in this direction. Later, the construction of buildings around this corridor and the revival of the culture there will have a great impact on the development of tourism. This corridor will be of great importance not only for tourism but also for the economy [7].

The "Smart Village" project, which will cover 5 villages in the Dovletyarlı village of Fuzuli, is one of the most important steps taken to revive the culture and bring people back there. In the first phase of this project, it is planned to construct 450 residences equipped with new technology and management systems, and in the second phase, 300 residences are planned to be built and put into service by the end of the year [7]. The next planned and important tourism projects in Fuzuli, where the city plan has been prepared, are the "Victory" Museum and the "Occupation" Museum, the foundations of which will be laid in the near future [10].

After bringing back the culture and people there, important work is being done to improve their living conditions and to develop agriculture, and many foreign companies have been involved in this work. The technology of leading companies in Italy, Israel and other agricultural industries has been studied and applied and work is underway to involve these companies. It is planned to introduce the "Smart Agro" industrial system in the 4th revolution format in order to use the lands efficiently and achieve high yields. This industrial format will be applied not only in agriculture but also in cattle breeding and horticulture.

Urgent measures continue to be taken regarding the establishment of the energy structure in the liberated lands, the creation of new power centers, the energy supply network of special strategic facilities for electricity generation and transmission in these lands, the strategy developed within the scope of the "Karabakh Energy Project". According to the decree of President Ilham Aliyev of October 29, 2020, the company "Azərişiq" had to take urgent measures to eliminate electricity distribution networks in the liberated lands, especially in the city of Shusha, in Azerbaijan, to ensure energy security and electricity for structures.

In Shusha, an important strategic center for Karabakh, and in other liberated areas, necessary technical measures have been taken to provide electricity to newly established state organs, military units, border posts and various socio-economic facilities.

"Azerenerji" company has carried out many works on the "Karabakh Energy Project" so far. With the participation of the President of the country, the 8 MW capacity "Gulabird" HEPP, which was completely disabled by the enemy on February 14, 2021, in the village of Gulabird in the Lachin region, was put into operation after the restoration.

In the town of Terterin Sugovushan, which was dispersed by the enemy, "Sugovushan" HEPPs with a total capacity of 7.8 MW ("HES-1" "HES-1" with 4.8 MW capacity and "HES-2 with 3.0 MW capacity") 3 October 2021 The rebuilding work has been completed.

The 4.4 MW Kelbecer-1 HEPP, which was destroyed and burned by the invaders on the Lev river passing through the Kelbecer region, was restored and put into operation. In addition, the construction and repair works of 2 units of 40 MVA at 110/35/10 kV "Kelbecer" s/s in the region were completed on 16 August 2021 and the station was put into operation.

On May 12, 2021, a new 110/35/10 kV "Shusha" substation with a capacity of 2x25 MVA was built and put into operation for stable and uninterrupted electricity supply for the city of Shusha.

In order to supply electricity to the Fuzuli region, 2 110/35/10 kV "Fuzuli" transformer centers with a capacity of 40 MVA were built and put into operation on 14 June 2021.

A 27 km long 35 kV two-circuit overhead line was installed from 110/35/10 kV "Şükürbeyli" s/s to "Hadrut" s/s in Fuzuli region for the purpose of supplying electricity to Hadrut area.

In addition, 110/35/10 kV "Gabriel" s/s was put into operation in the Gabriel region, whose work was completed on October 4, 2021.

110/35/10 kV "Zangilan" s/h work in Zangilan region was completed on October 20, 2021 and the station was put into operation.

The construction of 110/35/10 kV "Gubadlı" s/h with a capacity of 2x25 MVA in the Gubadlı region was completed and put into operation on October 25, 2021. In order to connect the S/s to the country power sys-

tem, a 45 km long 110 kV two-circuit power transmission line ("Gabriel SS-Gubadlı SS") was laid from the "Gabriel" s/s and the laying of the optical cable on the line was completed.

In Aghdam region, the construction of 110/35/10 kV "Aghdam-1" s/s with 2x40 MVA capacity and 110/35/10 kV s/s "Aghdam-2" with 2x40 MVA capacity has been completed. For connecting 110 kV two-circuit ("India S/S-Aghdam-1 S/S") and 110 kV (10 km long 110 kV (Aghdam-1 YS-Aghdam-1 YS)) S/s to the grid system) energy transmission lines were laid, optical cable laying on the line was completed. Projects for the construction of 110/35/10 kV s/s and 2x25 MVA capacity connection lines were prepared in the Koşasu village land of Laçın region, and the area was selected. Karabakh Regional Electricity Control Center construction continues in Aghdam region.

In the city of Shusha, where life is now partially lived, 7 boiler rooms have been built for heating and are put into use by the population living there and the police and military personnel guarding the city.

Working group "Azeriqaz" is conducting on-site investigations to take inventory of the existing gas supply network in the liberated areas. The inventory of the existing natural gas lines of the former military unit located in the city of Shusha, the town of Hadrut, Tug, Büyük Taglar, Zoğalbulak, Azykh, Edilli, Ahullu, Ağbulak, city villages of Khojavend district, Gajar village of Fuzuli province has been completed. electronic maps and technical information about the network were prepared. In the near future, work is underway to resolve the gas supply problem in Khankendi, and the city's gas supply will be restored by repairing the damaged pipelines.

Karabakh will be a "green energy" region and an alternative energy source. It is planned to create a "Green energy zone" here. In order to carry out the studies in this direction, the "Green Energy Zone in the Occupied Territories" Concept Document was prepared and presented to the government, upon the instruction of President Ilham Aliyev, with the participation of the Japanese company TEPCO. In the first half of this year, a site plan document will be prepared that includes a comprehensive analysis and recommendations for the scenario determined under the concept.

Within the scope of the task of creating a "green energy zone", to examine the solar, wind, biomass, thermal, geothermal and other renewable energy potential in the liberated areas, to determine the coordinates of the areas and also to create a "green energy zone" to use. Research is also being carried out to ensure energy supply through wind and solar power plants and the construction of hydroelectric power plants in reservoirs, lakes and small rivers. Thus, "green" energy projects are preferred for the construction works to be carried out on the liberated lands. According to preliminary estimates, the solar energy potential of the region is estimated as 7200 MW and the wind energy potential as 2000 MW [8].

Efforts should be made to increase the investment attractiveness of Shusha in the post-occupation period. Shusha will be one of the main sources of income for the tourism industry in the coming years. Calculations and estimates prove this once again. According to the projected number of tourists, it is planned to build 10-22 large and small hotels by 2035. It is also estimated that the income of tourists visiting Shusha in 2025 will be over 80 million. The factors mentioned above will have a positive impact on increasing the investment attractiveness of Shusha.

In 2025, there will be a sharp increase in tourist travel dynamics. The reasons for the corresponding increases are grouped as follows:

- Opening of the Khudaferin customs checkpoint;
- Opening of the Kars-Nakhchivan-Zangilan railway line;
- Opening of the Nakhchivan-Mehri-Karabakh highway;
- Commissioning of the Barda-Aghdam-Hankendi railway;
- Completion of 30-50 percent demining.

Bringing the number of tourist trips to Shusha to the level of the country's main tourist destinations in 2025 was considered a normalization period, and the dynamics of the next 10 years were calculated based on the average tourist growth rate in the country (8.3% of foreign tourists, 5.6 percent of domestic tourists). Thus, only 266,000 tourists are expected to visit Shusha in 2030 and 376,000 in 2035. Given that foreign tourists usually travel only once, it can be assumed that the number of inbound tourism trips is the same. However, the annual average number of domestic tourists in 2019 was 5.3. Taking into account the relevant issue, 557,000 tourist visits to Shusha in 2025, 928,000 in 2030 and 1,363,000 in 2035 are foreseen [1].

For the rapid recovery of the Karabakh region, which needs hundreds of billions of dollars to rebuild, it is necessary to better promote the region on a global scale and attract investors who want to invest in large sums. For this purpose, efforts are underway to introduce the tourism potential of Karabakh to both foreign and domes-

tic audiences. Many promotions were made in Istanbul and Gulf countries. One of the most important problems facing the country is to spread such campaigns, attract big investors and revive Karabakh as soon as possible.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the conducted and planned studies show that the Karabakh region will become one of the most popular cultural, social and ecotourism centers in the world in the next 5-10 years.

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Elshad Masim Yusifov, PhD, Associate Professor, Azerbaijan University of Construction and Architecture.
The effect of the advanced construction projects implemented in the Karabagh region during the post-occupation period on the perspective development of tourism in Azerbaijan.

After the end of the 30-year period of occupation, the restoration and rebuilding of the liberated lands has become one of the most important and urgent problems facing the country. In the post-occupation period, that is, in the last two years, important steps have been taken by the Azerbaijani state in the development of Karabakh. Great work has been done in the direction of ensuring security, infrastructure construction, agriculture and tourism. The projects implemented, in progress and planned to be implemented in the future in the liberated lands will have a significant impact on the development of tourism in the Karabakh region. It should be noted that the correct assessment of the potential of these areas, their future development and, most importantly, the development of tourism will make a significant contribution to the restructuring and development of Karabakh, as well as to the development of the Azerbaijani economy towards the non-oil sector. Karabakh region is a region with rich tourism potential. Here there are opportunities for the establishment and development of various types of tourism. Simply, the destruction of these lands by Armenians and the destruction of infrastructure during the occupation are rapidly slowing down the development of tourism in Karabakh. The total reconstruction value of the liberated Karabakh region is measured in billions. It is not possible to carry out these works and to revive Karabakh and to carry out these works quickly at the expense of the country's economy. It should be noted that last year, 4,4 billion manats were allocated from the state budget for the implementation of the work in Karabakh. However, the estimated appropriation for the complete restructuring of Karabakh is more than 50 billion manats. Therefore, ensuring and increasing the investment flow to this region is one of the other urgent issues. In Karabakh, which has the opportunity to develop at the world level in the next 10-15 years with its own tourism potential, it is very important to research and apply the world tourism

management in terms of methodology in order to benefit from these opportunities of the tourism sector. If the experiences of many developed countries in this field are applied correctly and in a planned manner in Karabakh, the region will become one of the leading regions of the world tourism sector.

Key words: Karabakh Region, Post-Occupation Period, Progressive Projects, Tourism, Development, Perspective.

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Юсіфов Ельшад Масим, доктор філософії з економіки, доцент, Азербайджанський університет будівництва та архітектури. **Вплив перспективних будівельних проєктів, реалізованих в Карабахському регіоні в післяокупаційний період, на перспективу розвитку туризму в Азербайджані.**

Після завершення 30-річної окупації відновлення та відбудова звільнених земель стало однією з найважливіших і актуальних проблем, що постали перед країною. У післяокупаційний період, тобто за останні два роки, Азербайджанська держава зробила важливі кроки в розвитку Карабаху. Проведено велику роботу в напрямку забезпечення безпеки, будівництва інфраструктури, сільського господарства та туризму. Проєкти, що реалізуються, виконуються і плануються до реалізації в майбутньому на звільнених землях, матимуть значний вплив на розвиток туризму в Карабахському регіоні. Слід зазначити, що правильна оцінка потенціалу цих територій, їх подальший розвиток і, головне, розвиток туризму зробить значний внесок у реструктуризацію та розвиток Карабаху, а також у розвиток економіки Азербайджану. на нафтовий сектор. Карабах – регіон з багатим туристичним потенціалом. Тут є можливості для становлення та розвитку різних видів туризму. Просто знищення вірменами цих земель і руйнування інфраструктури під час окупації стрімко гальмують розвиток туризму в Карабасі. Загальна вартість відновлення звільненого Карабахського регіону вимірюється мільярдами. Провести ці роботи і відродити Карабах і швидко провести ці роботи неможливо за рахунок економіки країни. Відзначимо, що в минулому році на виконання робіт в Карабахі з держбюджету було виділено 4,4 мільярда манатів. Однак орієнтовні асигнування на повну реструктуризацію Карабаху становлять понад 50 мільярдів манатів. Тому одним із актуальних питань є забезпечення та збільшення інвестиційного потоку в цей регіон. У Карабахі, який має можливість розвиватися на світовому рівні в найближчі 10-15 років з власним туристичним потенціалом, дуже важливо досліджувати та застосовувати світовий менеджмент туризму з точки зору методології, щоб скористатися цими можливостями туристичний сектор. Якщо досвід багатьох розвинутих країн у цій галузі правильно і планомірно застосувати в Карабахі, то регіон стане одним з провідних регіонів світового туристичного сектора.

Ключові слова: Карабахський регіон, післяокупаційний період, прогресивні проєкти, туризм, розвиток, перспектива.