

Thank you note from WCC-APR President and Secretariat to the host of Kokand Festival

Dear All,

We all would like to thank our Uzbekistani hosts and organizers of the First International Handicrafts Festival, September 11-15, 2019, namely: the **Uzbekistan Hunarmand Association (UHA)**, chaired by Mr.Ulugbek Abdullaev, a National Entity Member of the World Crafts Council – Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR), in collaboration with the Administrative body of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chaired by Prof. Dr.Adkham Ikramov, and with Mr. Maruf Azamovich Osmonov, Mayor of the Municipality of Kokand and the Governor of Fergana, Mr.Shukhrat Ganiev.

We do appreciate all their efforts to make this festival a great success through the diversified rich programme comprising: a joyful [Inaugural Parade](#), the [Launching of the Encyclopedia of Crafts in Asia Pacific Region](#) at the Press Center (Encyclopedia Link: <https://encyclocraftsapr.com/>), and the [International Conference](#) at the Kokand State Theater Building, as well as arranging the venue for the [WCC-Asia Pacific Region 6th Board Meeting](#).

The spectacular [Opening Ceremony](#) was the climax of the event, which was honoured by the presence of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the President of World Craft Council International, dignitaries from several countries, as well as, all the participating craftspeople and guests. The [Closing Ceremony](#), was attended by all, and included speeches of thanks, and handing out the Awards of the Festival Competition to the winners.

Not to mention, the joyful, happy moment of Kokand citizens and guests during the celebration of [handing in the Certificate of Kokand](#), as WCC-World Craft City by Dr.Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi, President of WCC-Asia Pacific Region, to the Mayor of Kokand City.

The [International Exhibition and Workshops](#) were the main pillars of the Handicrafts Festival. Craftspeople were given the opportunity to display their skills and the beauty of their artisanal handicrafts. They displayed their beautiful products, got exposed to a multifarious spectrum of traditional handicrafts from all over the globe, and built friendships with international participants. Most significant is the kindness and friendliness of the Uzbekistani people, especially, the Kokand citizens, who embraced everyone of us with care and kindness, all through our stay, in many different ways. We would like also to express our thanks to the young assistants who facilitated our stay in Kokand.

It was thrilling to meet in Kokand a good number of participants from 78 countries from Asia Pacific Region, Europe, Latin America, North America, as well as hundreds of craftspeople and visitors from Provinces of Uzbekistan.

In my name and yours, we would like to place on record our special thanks to the Government of Uzbekistan and, specifically, to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr.Shavkat Mirziyoyev, for initiating this bi-annual International Handicrafts Festival prompted by his foresightedness and his belief in the importance of the human cultural heritage as a whole. We all pray to Allah the Almighty, to bless him, and his countrymen, and grant them all continued success and peace.

Last but not least, we should not forget to mention the [Farewell](#) lunch, where all of us were greeted and welcomed by the Mayor of Kokand, Mr.Maruf Azamovich Osmonov, who distributed gifts to all present participants and bade us all farewell at the railway station.

We missed our WCC-Asia Pacific Region colleagues and friends who could not make it to attend the First International Handicrafts Festival in Kokand (11-15, Sept. 2019), hoping they will be able to participate in the next 2nd biennale in 2021.

With all our hearts, we thank all Uzbekistani people, and wish them progress, prosperity and happiness.

Best regards,

Dr.Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi
President, WCC-Asia Pacific Region (2013-2020)

PHOTOS:

- WCC-APR Website: http://wccapr.org/event_gallery/54/85
- WCC-APR Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/wccapr/>

VIDEOS:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ok1ExCJDEk&feature=youtu.be>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Hmo-00_gjw&fbclid=IwAR1catDxyl-fe1DTpeL-FAPxZMBEZRKryDGfVu60fvU2d9ZrO7I9xy8jF0
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBtLpUweFR8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HucivgFzslI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPmZQ09qyqA&app=desktop>

VIDEOS:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtI_vROVdN4&feature=youtu.be
- <https://video.fkwi10-1.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t42.9040-2>