

FINAL REPORT

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I have dreamed of being in England since I was young. First of all, I would like to thank the British Museum for making this dream come true. And since this was my first trip to a foreign country, working on a travel plan helped me a lot. Where we go and who we meet is highly organized. Thanks to the ITP organizers Claire, Anna and George for this.

I participated in the ITP as the head of the largest department in the Bukhara Museum - the Department of History. Bukhara museums have been formed using post-Soviet methods. I aim to introduce European methods to them in creating new permanent and temporary exhibitions.

For example, in Autumn, in 2022, the Bukhara Museum plans to open an exhibition "History of World Religions" under my leadership. I consulted over this exhibition in the UK with Janet Vitmayer, former Chief Executive, Horniman Museum and Gardens and Zeina Klink-Hoppe, Project Curator: Modern Middle East, British Museum. I told Janet Vitmayer that there were not enough financial resources to prepare this exhibition in a modern style. She told me about ways to attract travel companies from the UK working on the Silk Road programme, and I'm on the verge of starting that.

For me, the departmental days in the programme were the most useful, because at that time I saw with my own eyes, the objects related to the history of Central Asia and for the first time I published some in the Uzbek media.

After I talked about the miniature of the Bukhara khan, Zeina offered me the opportunity to study the miniatures made in Bukhara, because they have not been studied as widely as Indian and Iranian miniatures. I hope this will be a project that will connect my relationship with the British Museum in the future.

I also discovered via Zeina, a late 19th-century photographer's work housed in the British Museum. I offered to print negative photos taken by Ernst Cohn-Wiener and publish a catalogue of the places he took photos in a form that is suitable for his work. We are definitely working on this collection as well.

At the museum where I work, one employee has to do many tasks. For example, the department I lead has two researchers and 10 technicians. But I have to do a lot of work myself. On Janet Vitmayer's advice, I now want to direct a large number of employees who perform the same task through internal command to new tasks that didn't exist before, such as photographer, exhibitor, researcher, and working with children. I also consulted with the Director General of the Museum on this matter. We are currently considering setting up this system.

One of my biggest accomplishments was meeting Luk Yu-ping, Basil Gray Curator: Chinese Paintings, Prints and Central Asian Collection at the British Museum, who works with Zeina. Zeina, Yu Ping and I visited the Uzbek Embassy in the UK. It's one of the biggest things I've ever done. The Great Silk Road exhibition at the British Museum, which will last for 3 months from 2024 to 2025, aroused great interest in me. Because Bukhara is located in the centre of this road, and traders from Bukhara traded on this road. As a result of the demands of Covid and the British Museum, Yu Ping and other staff have not been able to visit foreign museums so far. I invited Yu Ping and Zeina to the Uzbek Embassy in the UK. The embassy's cultural affairs representative spoke to us and said he would help with further work. After that, we plan to visit the chairman of the Foundation for the Development of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan on May 17-20 this year. We are planning to co-organize an exhibition at the British Museum.

For the first time in the history of the Bukhara Museum, the experience of British museums was studied by me with the help of the ITP. I would like to thank the Thriplow Charitable Trust, my sponsor, for supporting my place on the ITP.

For my UK Partner museum placement, I visited Lincoln's The Collection: Art and Archaeology and Nottingham University Museum. The museum inside Lincoln Castle has the same theme as the museum in Bukhara, so I plan to have an

online meeting or conference with UK Partners Dawn Heywood and Andrea Martin in the future on “The formation of castles in the UK and Central Asia and the optimal ways to organize modern museum exhibitions in them”.

Dawn Heywood also sent me a list of restoration equipment that was very helpful to my museum and plans to organize grants. I will start using them next week. Because for me, archaeological excavations are starting.

In Nottingham, Clare Pickersgill took us to the Computer Sciences department. Here I learned how to apply new technologies to areas that are being created in my museum. Because these technologies come at a high cost, Institute staff also said the work could be done through sponsorship. My leadership and I are currently looking for ways to find sponsors in Uzbekistan.

Our next visit was to the Department of Classics and Archaeology. I also teach at Bukhara State University in Bukhara and this year, for the first time, Archaeology students from our faculty will receive their diplomas, and I invited them to pursue a master’s degree at the Anthropology Laboratory at the Department of Classics and Archaeology. In the future, with the help of Clare Pickersgill, we plan to organize a zoom meeting.

Also, in the Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections, I found “A Ride to Khiva”, which I needed for my research, and got the information I needed from it - I want to continue working with this library in the future.

One of the biggest experiences I learnt from the British Museum was getting to know the Photography and Imaging Department. The Bukhara Museum does not have photography staff, therefore scientists, custodians and organizers of exhibitions take pictures themselves. As a result, it is be difficult to collect high-quality photos of the exhibits. We have now agreed with our Ministry to hire an employee as a photographer with at least a temporary contract.

When I came back from the UK, I came to the conclusion that museums in Bukhara are far from society, based only on the old methods of showing history. From the suggestion of Janet Vitmayer, we also plan for a member of staff at the

museum to conduct a sociological analysis of the two museums. We have agreed with the management of the museum-reserve on this issue.

Our museum has been trying to create open storage for two years. But no one knew what it would be like. I learnt about this from the Victoria and Albert Museum as I visited the top floor where they have much of their ceramic collections stored densely in glass cases which act like visible storage. Now we can create an "open reserve" in our museum. Thanks to Zeina for organizing the trip.

Participating in the ITP was my first international training. I look forward to working directly with the ITP to participate in future international conferences and training programmes. I also plan to participate in grant awards and training announced by the ITP. For example, I will definitely apply to any of the ITP grants for research, travel, and publications.

On the occasion of Museum Day, I plan to give a lecture to museum staff on the "ITP experience in Bukhara." I would like to bring together representatives of all fields to share my experiences and invite them to participate in international training.

In the future, I will also work with a friend I met at the ITP from Turkey (I visited Turkey and studied Istanbul museums for 3 days on my way back from London and have already started exchanging scientific ideas with colleagues from there). I am planning my next scientific trip to Iran because my PhD is related to Iranian culture. This month, a friend I met at the ITP told me he would help. Overall, the ITP has had a huge impact on my work and research.

Халқ сўзи online

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Кидирув...

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СИЁСАТ ХУЖЖАТЛАР ИҚТИСОДИЁТ ЖАМИЯТ ДУНЁ СПОРТ МАДАНИЯТ ИЛМ-ФАН ВА ИННОВАЦИЯЛАР WELCOME TO UZBEKISTAN

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«Халқ сўзи» газетаси № 94 07.05.2022

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