

## MY UNIVERSITY IS 90 YEARS OLD

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### Abstract

"Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers" National Research University is one of the oldest and most prestigious higher educational institutions in Uzbekistan, ensuring the harmony of science and practice. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the university's establishment, stages of development, and future prospects. Additionally, important periods of special significance in the university's rich 90-year history are systematically analyzed, and the factors influencing its development process and the high results achieved today are thoroughly examined.

### Keywords

institute, agriculture and water management, irrigation, international rating, faculty, professor, engineer, TIIAME.

**Introduction:** The successful implementation of land and water reform in the Republics of Central Asia, as well as the collectivization of agriculture, irrigation, and mechanization, ensured the further development of local cotton growing. In this regard, on December 1, 1934, a decision was made to create a single powerful higher agricultural engineering educational institution - the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIIAME) based on the All-Union Committee for Higher Technical Education under the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, the Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIIAME), which made it possible to increase the number of engineering personnel necessary for the development of new lands, the development of irrigation, and the introduction of mechanization in the faculties of hydromelioration and agricultural mechanization. As a result, 90 years ago, the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers began its work in Tashkent, capable of training qualified engineering personnel for two closely related sectors - agriculture and water management. The establishment of this institution was an important step in the field of agriculture and water management, not only in Uzbekistan but also throughout Central Asia. The first

pages of the university's history were opened on November 11, 1934 [1]. On this very day, based on Order No. 5758 of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture of the Soviet Union, the institute was established. This institute was established when there was a growing need for training specialists in water resources management, agricultural machinery management, mechanization, and land reclamation. In particular, the first Faculty of Agricultural Mechanization (1923) and the Faculty of Hydromelioration (1923) at the institute serve as the main foundation for training engineering personnel in the field of agriculture and water management.

In the first years, classes at the institute were conducted in difficult conditions, with an insufficient material and technical base. Nevertheless, thanks to the interest of the first generation of students in science and the dedication of teachers, this institution quickly solidified its position. Engineers who graduated in the early years actively participated in the construction and modernization of water facilities in Central Asia.

### **The University's Growth Period (1971-1992)**

One of the most important stages in the history of the institute dates back to 1971. Because, by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of January 26, 1971, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR awarded the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers with the Order of the Red Banner of Labor for achievements in personnel training and the introduction of scientific research into production. In this regard, the institute was renamed the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers with the Order of the Red Banner of Labor [2]. This award was a recognition of the dedicated work of the institute's staff and their high achievements in scientific and practical activities. During this period, the institute reached a new level not only in terms of its name but also in terms of its activities. During the 1970s and 1980s, the institute's material and technical base was significantly strengthened. New educational buildings, laboratories, and student dormitories were built. This created the opportunity for students to receive education in modern conditions. In particular, modern laboratories have been created for the study and research of advanced technologies in the fields of water management and agricultural mechanization. Research work at the institute has also developed extensively. Professors, teachers, and students conducted important research in such areas as water resources management, land reclamation, and the construction of hydraulic structures. The scientific developments obtained as a result of these studies were implemented in practice and made a significant contribution to the development of the country's agriculture.

Also, during these years, great attention was paid to students' physical education and sports training, and the Department of "Physical Education" was improved. Every year, Olympiads and Spartakiads were held between the faculties, as well as competitions dedicated to the memory of the Hero of the Soviet Union, V. Malyasov. The Institute's athletes achieved high results in district, regional, and republican, USSR, and European competitions. They won prizes at the republican level in volleyball, basketball, handball, and other sports.

To develop a culture of reading, a library of the Central Asian Institute of Cotton Irrigation, the Central Asian Institute, and the Technical School of Agricultural Mechanization was organized based on its libraries. Its collections were constantly replenished with socio-political, general technical, and specialized literature.



**Figure 1. Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev**

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In 1981, the head of our state, Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, graduated from the Faculty of Agricultural Mechanization of the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers with a degree in mechanical engineering. (Fig. 1) After graduation, he worked at his institute.

From 1981 to 1992, he received an academic degree, first as a junior researcher, then as a Candidate of Technical Sciences, and was one of the youngest scientists at the institute. During his time at the institute, from 1988, he held the position of First Vice-Rector of the institute. Under his leadership, the educational process at the institute was raised to a new level based on state educational standards and the institute's charter, and a strategy for the development of the institute's educational activities was developed.

During these years, the institute also developed international relations. Cooperative ties have been established with higher educational institutions of various republics of the former Soviet Union, as well as foreign countries. In particular, 56 citizens from 12 countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America studied at the faculties. Since 1961, the institute has organized the defense of dissertations of candidates of sciences and doctors of sciences for citizens of foreign countries. As a result, students and postgraduate students are increasingly involved in scientific

work. This played an important role in the exchange of experience, conducting joint research, and training qualified specialists.

During these years, many highly qualified specialists have emerged from the institute. Among them are scientists, engineers, state and public figures who have achieved high results in the fields of water management and agriculture. Thanks to their efforts, the prestige of the institute has increased, and it has become an important higher educational institution in the agrarian sphere of our country. Graduates of the institute became leading specialists in the field of agriculture and water management. Many prominent scientists, statesmen, and public figures emerged from among them.

During these years, Professor S. P. Pulatov (1961-1978), Professor S. I. Iskandarov (1978-1986), and Academician A. U. Salimov (1986-1992) served as the institute's leaders, making significant contributions to its development. Under their leadership, scientific research was expanded, and international cooperation was strengthened.

### **Post-independence period and modern development (1992-2025)**

After Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, on January 2, 1992, the institute was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This set new tasks for the institute and made it possible to pursue an independent policy in the training of national personnel. Since this year, the institute has been included in the system of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During this period, TIAME updated its curricula by national educational standards, opened new faculties and departments. The Institute paid special attention to the training of modern personnel in the fields of agriculture and water management.



**Figure 2. "International House-Tashkent"**

In addition, in 1994, the "International House-Tashkent" AL was created at the TIAME (Fig. 2). Lyceum students will be trained by specialists of the TIAME, which will allow improving the knowledge of students entering higher educational institutions. In 1995, the first graduates of "International House-Tashkent" AL were 75 people, who successfully passed the exams and became students of higher

educational institutions of our country, 25 graduates continued their studies in Great Britain, the USA, and France [4].



For the first time in the history of the institute, based on the results of scientific research conducted on the basis of the Resolution of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Science and Technology No. 19 dated December 28, 1998, graduate student K.A.Shavazov became a laureate of the State Scholarship established by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for young scientists and graduate students.

The Institute's Master's Department was established in 2000, and highly qualified teachers, professors and Doctors of Science, Candidates of Science, highly qualified personnel, and industrial practitioners are involved in the educational process of students. From the 2020-2021 academic year, the training of master's in 31 specialties has begun.

#### **2004-2017: Structural changes and new opportunities**

On March 30, 2004, by a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the name of the institute was changed to "Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration" [2]. This change served to expand the institute's research and educational activities in the field of land reclamation. During this period, international cooperation was developed, and joint programs with foreign higher educational institutions were implemented.

In 2010, the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, signed a government decree on the establishment of the Bukhara branch of the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration.

#### **2017-2021: Restoration of the historical name and a new stage**

On May 24, 2017, by Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-3003 [6], the name "Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers" was returned to the institute. This decision was perceived as a tribute to the institute's historical roots and served to strengthen its leading position in agriculture and water management.



**Figure 3. Umurzakov Uktam Pardayevich** - Doctor of Economic Sciences, Professor.

Rector (2011-2013 and 2017-2021) [7]

In July 2021, in connection with the death of Professor Umurzakov Uktam Pardayevich, by Government Resolution No. 40 of January 24, 2022, Professor Mirzaev Bakhodir Suyunovich was appointed Rector of the "Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers" National Research University. Before his appointment to this position, Bakhodir Mirzayev worked as the first vice-rector of this university.

Professor U.P. Umurzakov, who left an indelible mark on the history of the institute and worked as the chairman of the Republican Council of Higher Education in the last years of his life, actively participated in the implementation of fundamental reforms in the higher education system of our country and worked diligently on the introduction of modern requirements and criteria, advanced foreign experience into the sphere. Due to his initiative and efforts, TIAME restored its name and status as one of the leading higher educational institutions of the country, and also declared itself internationally (Fig. 4).



**Figure 4. Mirzaev Bakhodir Suyunovich** -

Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor.

Rector (since 2022)

On September 7, 2018, in the institute's sports complex, modern football, volleyball, and badminton courts with artificial turf were officially handed over for use by students. This year, the UNESCO Department of "Water Diplomacy, Water

Resources Management, and Environmental Protection” was established at the TIAME (Fig. 5).

On May 20, 2020, at the Writers’ Alley, based on the President’s instruction [8], 24 outstanding poets, writers, and representatives of literature of our people were assigned to higher educational institutions, including the Hero of Uzbekistan, People’s Poet of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov. In 2020, the Abdulla Aripov Museum was opened at the university, the Museum of the People’s Poet of Uzbekistan, author of the national anthem, Hero of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov, and the Abdulla Aripov Youth Park on an area of 1500 sq.m. were created (Fig. 6).

In 2021, the Chinese company HUAWEI organized the first showroom of smart agriculture and water management in Uzbekistan within the framework of the “Smart Agriculture and Water Management” project at the Educational and Scientific Training Ground and its exhibition hall. (Fig. 7)

On October 12, 2021, the Joint Research Center “Geoinformatics” unique in Central Asia, was established at TIAME in cooperation with the University of Obuda, Hungary. The main task of this center is to analyze and monitor the state of agricultural and water management facilities and conduct research based on applied programs and innovative methods that help make decisions to address agricultural and water management and environmental problems through the use of geoinformatics in their management. (Fig. 8)



<b>Figure 5.</b>	<b>Figure 6.</b>	<b>Figure 7.</b>	<b>Figure 8.</b>
UNESCO "Department of Water Diplomacy, Water Resources Management"	Museum of the People's Poet of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov	Educational and scientific testing ground of the Chinese company HUAWEI	Cooperation with the University of Obuda, Hungary

### 2021-2025: National Research University status and international recognition

On December 10, 2021, by Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-42 [9] the institute was assigned the status of “National Research University.” This status has created wide opportunities for the institute to further develop its research activities, implement innovative projects, and gain international recognition. The University has been designated as a base higher educational institution for training personnel in the fields of hydropower,

irrigation, land reclamation, innovative equipment and technologies in agriculture, water-saving irrigation technologies, renewable energy sources, geodesy and geoinformatics, ecology and environmental protection.



**Figure 9.** The process of conducting scientific research at the Institute of Fundamental and Applied Research (2024)

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 10, 2021, No. PP-42, the Institute of Fundamental and Applied Research, was established at the university [9]. The Institute conducts medium- and long-term research on water use, land reclamation assessment, the creation of new methods for increasing soil fertility, the “green economy” renewable energy sources and resource-saving technologies, electronics

mechatronics, and robotics. This created the basis for the training of new scientific personnel.

The university’s information resource center was completely reconstructed in 2024, equipped with RFID systems related to the activities of the 400-seat library, as well as about 300 modern computers, printers, copiers, scanners, servers, tablets, video surveillance cameras, digitized and commissioned based on neural networks, and the most modern conditions were created.



**Figure 10.** Modern Information Resource Center (2024)





**Figure 11.** Establishment of the School of Waters (2024)

A school for irrigators was established at the university in 2024 [10]. More than 50 thousand water managers and farmers from 13 regions of the republic have been trained in water management. Five minibuses were allocated to the school. Through the School of Water Users, the transfer of foreign experience and knowledge on modern water-saving technologies has been established.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev solemnly opened a branch of the National Research University “Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers” in Almaty (2024).

According to the results of the World University Sustainability Ranking (QS WUR: Sustainability-2024) published by the prestigious international rating agency QS on December 5, 2023, the “TIAME” National Research University became the first among the universities of our country to be among the TOP universities of the world and ranked 701st among world universities, 190th in Asia, and 1st among universities of Uzbekistan. The university took special places in the following indicators: in environmental education - 100th place; in environmental impact - 312th place, in environmental sustainability - 299th place, in education management - 323rd place, in knowledge exchange - 890th place, and in general indicators - 701st place.

According to the results of the World University Ranking (QS WUR-2025) [11], published on June 5, 2024, by the prestigious international rating agency QS, the “TIAME” National Research University became the first among the universities of our country to be among the TOP universities of the world and ranked in TOP 547 with a score of 22.6. With this result, it was recognized among the 21 universities of the world that entered this ranking for the first time this year (new entrant). (Fig. 13)



**Figure 12.** THE (Times Higher Education) prestigious international ranking 2024



**Figure 13.** QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings-2025

According to the results of the World University Ranking, published on October 9, 2024, by the authoritative international rating agency THE (Times Higher Education) [12], the National Research University "TIAME" became the first among the universities of our country to be among the TOP universities of the world and ranked TOP 601 with 43.2 points, TOP-2 among the universities of Central Asia and Transcaucasia, and TOP-1 among the higher educational institutions of Uzbekistan. (Fig. 12)

According to the results of the World University Rankings by subject (THE WUR Rankings by subject-2025) published by the prestigious international rating agency THE (Times Higher Education) on January 22, 2025, the National Research University "TIAME" became the first among the TOP universities of our country and ranked 301-400 in the field of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics and 501-600 in the field of Engineering. [13]

### **2025: 90th Anniversary and Future Plans**

In April 2025, the "TIAME" National Research University will widely celebrate its 90th anniversary. In this regard, an international scientific conference on the topic "Development of specialized higher education and science in the context of globalization: problems and opportunities" is planned to be held on April 9-10. This event will serve to demonstrate the scientific potential of the institute and further develop international cooperation.

Today, the "TIAME" National Research University is one of the leading higher educational institutions not only in Uzbekistan but also in the region, with modern educational programs, a strong teaching staff, and a developed infrastructure. University graduates successfully work in the fields of agriculture and water management, science and production, making a worthy contribution to the development of the country.

**Conclusion.** Looking at the glorious history of the “Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers” National Research University, we are convinced that this institution has been making a significant contribution to the development of science, economics, and the agricultural sector of our country for many years. Each of its stages is full of successes, innovations, and promising initiatives.

It is known that behind any great achievement and progress, there is a clear goal and consistent actions. Today, one of the main strategic goals of our university is the expansion of international scientific cooperation, the training of knowledgeable, competent, and competitive personnel through advanced training of students and young scientists abroad, conducting scientific research, and introducing foreign experience into our country.

Every initiative, every step taken towards these goals serves the future of our country. From this point of view, we can recognize the “TIAME” National Research University as a leading scientific institution that makes a worthy contribution to the sustainable development, scientific potential, and intellectual progress of Uzbekistan.

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