TIIAME Uzbek national clothes
Uzbek national clothes are very bright, beautiful and cosy. Uzbek clothes are a part of rich cultural traditions and life style of Uzbek people. In urban places it is uncommon to meet people in traditional Uzbek clothes, now it is mostly worn on traditional festivities and holidays. In rural places it is a part of everyday and holiday garments.

Uzbek men’s clothing:

The basis of national men’s suit is a chapan, the quilted robe, tied with a kerchief. Traditional men’s cap is tubeteika. Kuylak is the men’s straight cut undershirt. Ishton is men’s wide trousers, narrowed at ankles. Traditional footwear is high-boots, made of thin leather. Shirts were worn everywhere, but men from the Fergana Valley and Tashkent region wear a yakhtak, a wrap shirt. Both of these types were sewn from homespun cotton cloth and feature a moderate aesthetics in a form of a decorated miniature braiding- jiyak, stitched along the collar.

Belts for gala dresses were normally very smart, made of velvet or embroidered, with silver figured metal plates and buckles. Everyday shirts are tied with long sashes.

Traditional Uzbek male dress consisted of warm quilted robe - chapan, tied up with a shawl or shawls, national hat - tyubiteika, and high boots made of thin leather. The male worn shirts with long sleeves of straight cut, underwear robe and out robe. There were summer - light robes and winter - warm quilted robes, both had cuts on the sides to make it more comfortable while sitting or walking.
Uzbek women’s clothing
Uzbek women’s clothing

Traditional Uzbek women’s suit consists of plain khan-atlas tunic-dress and wide trousers. Holiday garments were made of satin fabric richly embroidered with golden thread. Women’s headdress consists of three elements: a skull-cap, kerchief and turban. An essential part of traditional holiday garments of Uzbek women are gold and silver jewellery: earrings, bracelets, necklaces. Surkhandarya women most of all prefer the colors of red nuance as a symbol of well-being. The embroidery pattern was chosen not by chance, it always had magic or practical function. One could judge about the owner’s social status by the patterns, though sometimes they bear other meanings. For instance, repeating geometrical pattern on the braiding was a something like an amulet. Clothing of black or dark blue colors was not popular in any region of Uzbekistan due to a superstition. Sogdian patterns have preserved the traces of Zoroastrian influence. The colors in this region were chosen on the basis of the position in society. For example, prevailing blue and violet nuances in a woman’s dress showed her husband’s pride of place, while greenish motifs were frequently used by peasants and craftsmen.

The footwear consisted of baskhi (ichigi – nice heelless step-in boots with a soft sole), and high boots made of rough leather or rubber. It was very handy and warm footwear which is quite popular even today.
Woman’s national clothing
Men’s national clothing

Headdress is one of the main elements in the traditional Uzbek clothing. The national headwear in many countries of Central Asia, including Uzbekistan is a tubeteika (skull-cap). Tubeteika is derived from the Turkic word “tubé”, which means “top, peak”. Tubeteika is worn by everybody: men, women, and children. Only elder women do not wear tubeteikas.

Today it is uncommon to meet a man in the tubeteika in large cities, mainly it is an important element of holiday garments at family parties and religious celebrations. The common form of the Uzbek tubeteika is tetrahedral and slightly conical. Traditional men’s tubeteika is black and embroidered with an inwrought white pattern in a form of four “paprikas” and 16 miniature arches. An everyday tubeteika, “kalampir”, is one of the simplest and widely used cap, it’s importance must not be underestimated. This tubeteika is an essential attribute for some events even in the environment of a country-wide influence of the European culture. There are smart tubeteikas enriched with bright and colorful embroideries and patterns for special festival occasions.

Everyday male clothing used to be traditional shirt "kuylak" which firstly covering the knees but was later shortened to the hip level. Supposedly, the simplest part of the male costume had been the trousers "ishton". Closed, without any pockets, buttons, wide at the upper level they used to narrow down at the foot level. Another type of national wear is "kaba" which used to be worn above the inside shirt and by design was similar to a dress - gown, with long sleeves. Kaba could have an axis cut in the front part with cape-shaped cut on chest with buttons. The gown was usually underpinned with a string at waste.

Beginning from the second half of the 17th century a small turban was commonly accepted among the aristocratic part of the population. However, modern male costume is complemented with a kulokh or the skullcap - duppi. Islam had affected the national tradition for males to wear a skullcap as it was not allowed to come outside without the head being covered.
Men’s national clothing
Head dress (tyubeteika)

Tyubeteika has always been one of the most popular and widespread types of applied art of Uzbekistan. Tyubeteika is a hard or soft cap on the lining. Tyubeteika became an integral part of the Uzbek national costume, came into the life and traditions of Uzbek people. Tyubeteika (from the Turkic "Tube" - top) is not only the national head-dress among the Uzbeks, but also among other Central Asian nations. Tyubeteikas are classified by types: men, women, children, for old people. Old women do not wear it. Child's tyubeteikas (kulohcha, kalpakcha, duppi, kulupush) are colorful fabrics, fluffiness of tassels and beads, embroidery, spangles and lots of charms. The most common forms of Uzbek tyubeteikas are- square, slightly conical.
Men's caftans (chapan) can be winter and summer. Winter chapans was sewed with slight cotton back. Neck, laps and arms’ hemlines were bound with wicker inkle. Men tied the chapan with belt. They wore cotton white shirt- kuilak under the chapan.

Female robe was slightly fitted and had loose arms. In the second half of XIX century, women’s clothes were completed by jacket and sleeveless jacket – nimcha. Women put on quite spacious dress made of cotton, silk or semi silk textile under the robe. Women wore bloomers (sharovars) narrowing in lower part. The bottom of bloomers was bound by inkle – djiyak.

Since middle of XIX century, purdah became traditional women’s dress. It consisted of robe which covered a head and chachvan. Chachvan is a square reticulate canvas which disguised face. All women was obligated to wear puradah when they outside. In 20th of XX century soviet administration prohibited puradah.
The most important part of Uzbek men's costume was the loose-fitting cotton coat, called the khalat. The khalat was long-sleeved, knee length or longer, and made from fabric with a variety of colorful stripes. The bottom of the sleeves, center edges, hem, and neckline of the coat were sewn round with a decorative braid, which was believed to protect a person from evil powers. The side seams were slit for ease when walking, riding a horse, or sitting down. Wearing two or more coats at the same time was common in both winter and summer, and gave a man a certain prestige while showing the prosperity of the family.
Thank you for your attention.