



“Mongolian people ... have always sought to find a collective solution to difficult issues. Mongolia wants to assist and facilitate a peaceful solution to the confrontation on the Korean peninsula. Mongolia is willing to open up new gateways for the issues [currently] at standstill. We invite the stakeholders to hold meetings and dialogues in Ulaanbaatar.”

**President Tsakhiagiin
Elbegdorj**

Speech at the Opening
Session of the Seventh Ministerial
Conference of the Community
of Democracies, Ulaanbaatar,
Mongolia, April 29, 2013

***“There is no wrong if
all together discuss the
issue.”***

A Mongolian Proverb



BACKGROUND

Despite often being labeled as one of the most complex places in the world, our region holds a great deal of potential. As Asia becomes the engine of the world economic development, Northeast Asia has huge potential for shared prosperity.

However, we must also bear in mind that the situation in our home region remains delicate. Circumstances on the Korean peninsula disrupt regional integration efforts and negatively affect long-term stability. Additionally, there remains vexing historical and territorial disputes between nations.

These issues have a profound impact on Mongolia. As an integral part of Northeast Asia, Mongolia prioritizes these regional concerns. It remains one of our top foreign policy objectives to not only develop and strengthen ties with our neighbors, but also to constructively contribute our share to the common well-being and security of the region. Today, more than ever, it has become imperative to resolve the misunderstandings and disputes in our region through dialogue and discussion.





ULAANBAATAR DIALOGUE HISTORY

The Mongolian saying “A duck is calm when the lake is calm” sums up Mongolia’s broader foreign policy considerations in Northeast Asia - that is, Mongolia’s interests are best served when the regional security environment is stable.

Mongolia first proposed the idea of creating a regional security dialogue in Northeast Asia in the early 1980’s. At that time, Mongolia called for an all-Asian convention prohibiting the use of force to prevent conflicts. In 2000, Mongolia started studying the possibility of a new official dialogue which led to a conference under the theme “Security Perspectives of Central and Northeast Asia: Ulaanbaatar as a New Helsinki” organized by the Mongolian Institute for Strategic Studies in 2008.

Conceived by The President of Mongolia, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asia Security Initiative (UBD) was publicly announced during the VII Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracy in Ulaanbaatar on April 29, 2013.

WHY ULAANBAATAR?



- Mongolia enjoys friendly relations with all countries of Northeast Asia, namely, *the Russian Federation*, the People's Republic of *China*, *Japan*, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America.
- It has no territorial disputes with any of its neighboring countries.
- The country has played an active role in international multilateral mechanisms including the UN, the ASEM and the OSCE.

- Having accumulated experience in organizing multilateral events, Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, is an emerging international venue for conferences, and will host the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on September 15-18, 2015 and the 11th ASEM Summit in 2016.
- Mongolia is uniquely positioned in the region to facilitate the economic integration, development of common infrastructure, use of energy resources, protection of environment and cooperation in fighting transnational crime.
- Thus, Ulaanbaatar can serve as a neutral meeting ground, literally and metaphorically, as Northeast Asia's Geneva and can be a multilateral venue for regional security dialogue.



WHY DIALOGUE?



Dialogue is an exchange of ideas directed towards the exploration of a particular subject or the resolution of a problem with a view to reach an amicable agreement through series of discussions. It is considered to be the best way to tackle problems and build confidence between conflicting nations.

Demand for more active engagement and mutual trust in the region is constantly growing while the Six-party talks, the main dialogue mechanism in NEA, is yet to resume.

The importance of Ulaanbaatar Dialogue lies in the implementation of a dialogue mechanism in NEA. The initiative, however, has no intention to compete or substitute the SPT.

Why is a dialogue necessary for NEA security?

- It builds mutual understanding and trust between parties through open talks.
- It is an inclusive process which brings together the voices of Government officials, academics and civil society to address common challenges.

It can help prevent *conflicts* from arising and facilitate lasting comprehensive settlements for existing *conflicts*.



why dialogue

UBD OVERALL GOAL

Building confidence in NEA

As confidence-building measures are increasingly important aspects in the prevention and reduction of military tensions between nations, UBD aims to build resilient confidence and diminish deeply-rooted mistrust through open discussions in Northeast Asia.

Fostering mutual understanding and promoting regional cooperation

To achieve mutual trust, parties need to understand the perspective of others. In this regard, intercultural events such as NEA Mayors Forum and NEA Youth Symposium held as part of UBD encourage a wide range of cooperation in the region.

Setting up an institutional mechanism of dialogue

UBD aims to reach the long term goals of regional peace by setting up institutional mechanisms of dialogue in Northeast Asia.

UBD PRINCIPLES

We invite our regional partners to engage in the dialogue and to debate region-wide issues of common interest. Mongolia understands that the ties that bind us can serve in the cause of peace building and stability on the Peninsula as well as in the region.

To reach its goals, UBD prioritizes common interests, mutual respects, mutual trust, multilateral talks, and openness and transparency as our main principles.



UBD PARTIES

- Mongolia, *the Russian Federation*, the People's Republic of *China*, *Japan*, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America are the major partners of the initiative.
- Other parties from international organizations as well as non-regional countries are always welcome to participate in the process.

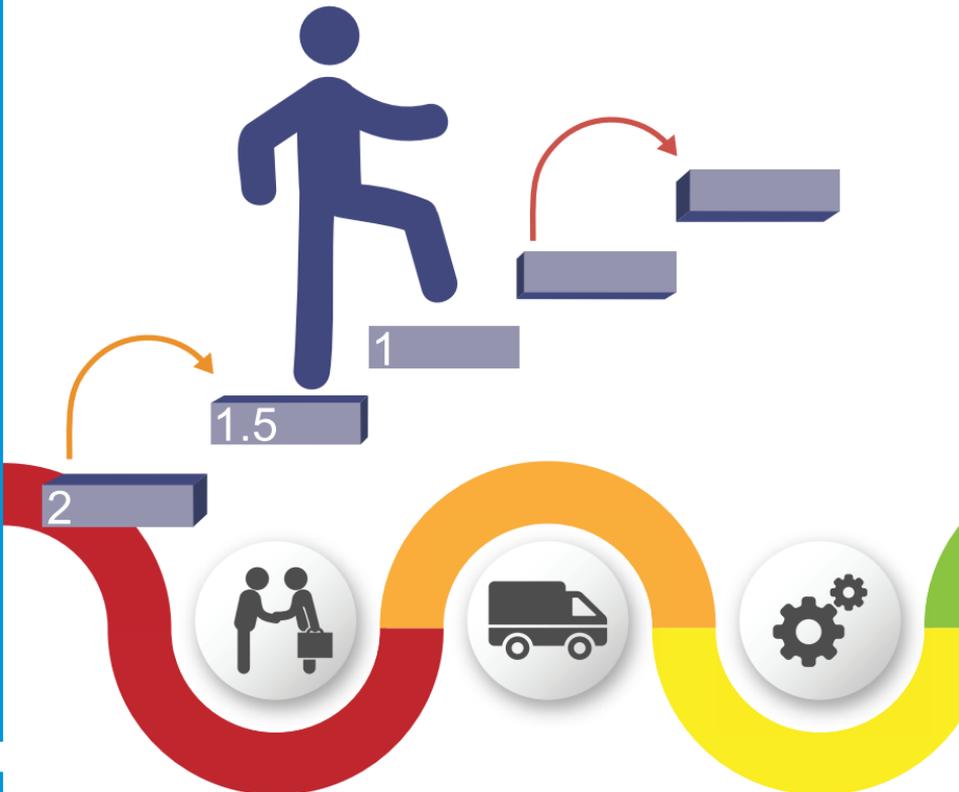


UBD FORMS

Recognizing that Track 1 discussions are official, wherein diplomats and government delegates usually express and justify their official positions, the UBD is designed to focus mainly on Track 1.5 and Track 2 efforts, since UBD intends to avoid overlapping or competing with other forms of dialogues.

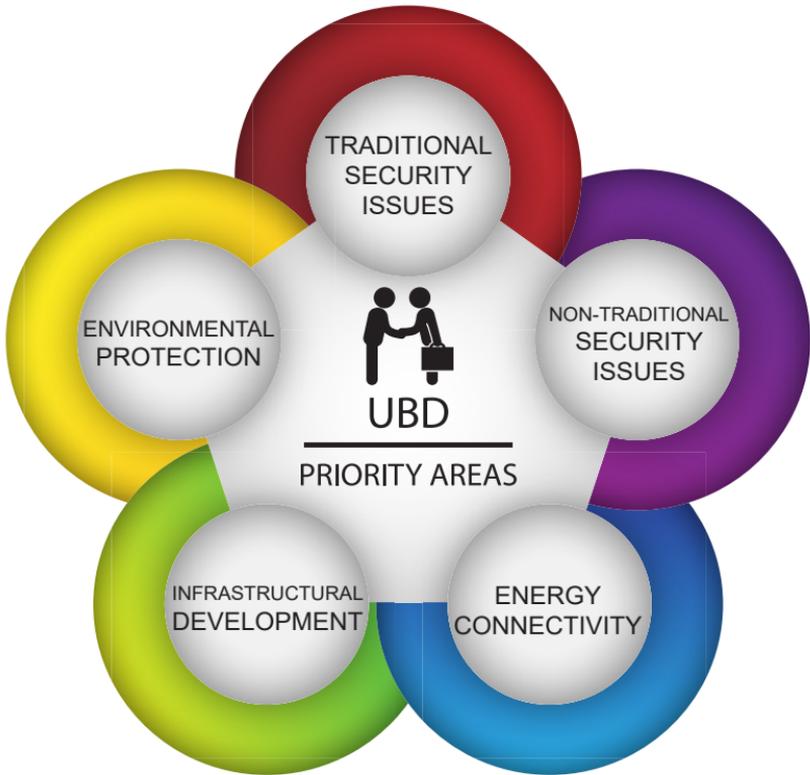
Track 1.5 and Track 2 channels are the most effective instruments for promoting mutual understanding. Officials and politicians get together with academics and talk about security issues under the Chatham House rule which contribute to mutual understanding and greater confidence.

The outcome of UBD should be formal and practical security cooperation and consultation.



UBD PRIORITY AREAS

Every region faces a myriad of distinct problems and those of Northeast Asia that the UB Dialogue is designed to resolve or mitigate are those that affect regional stability. To that end, this forum seeks to enhance security and cooperation in the following fields:

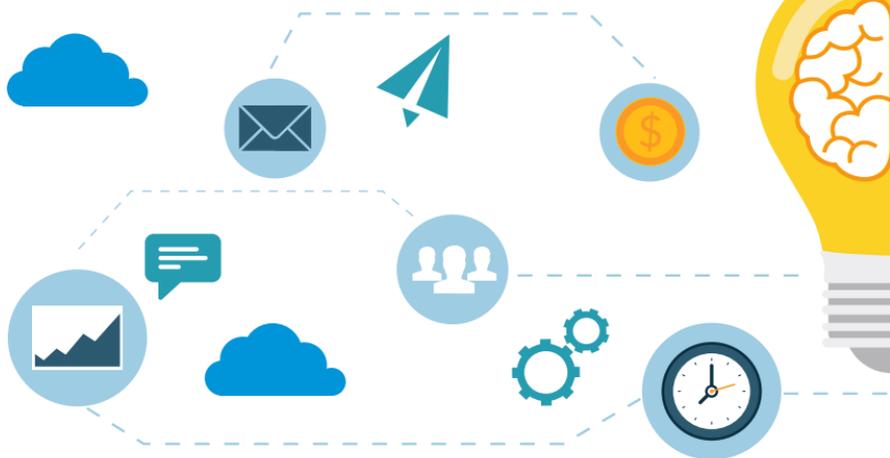


ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST

Under the auspices of the Dialogue, Mongolia has organized the following initiatives:

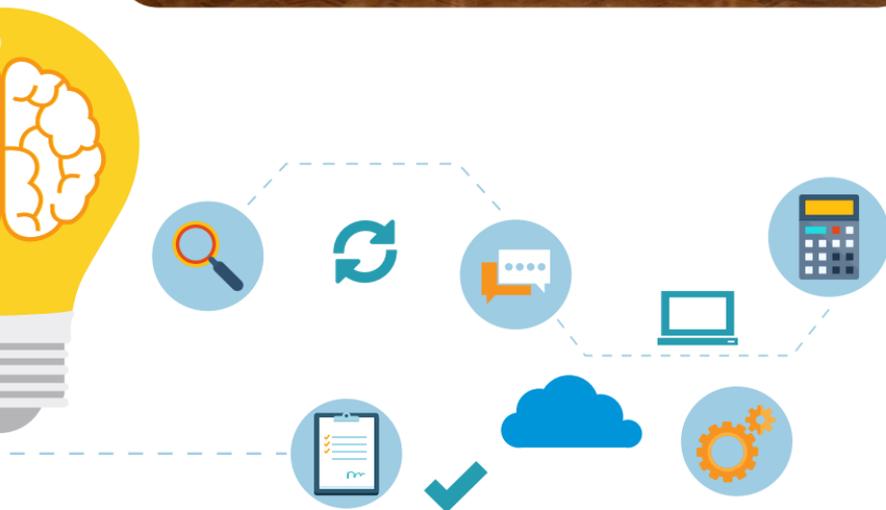
ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN PROMOTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EDUCATION - November 25, 2013

Female parliament members from Mongolia, Russia, China, DPRK and ROK participated in this meeting, representing their countries. The unique purpose of this meeting was to gather regional representatives and conduct discussions concerning peace and development of NEA. Furthermore, it was the first regional forum focused on the role of female parliamentarians.



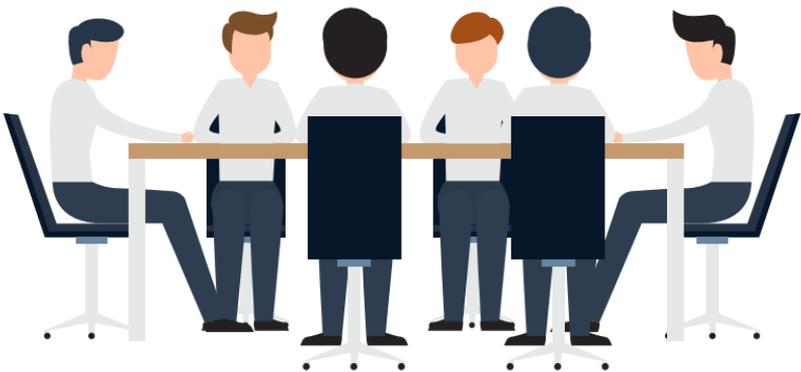
“ULAANBAATAR DIALOGUE ON NORTHEAST ASIAN SECURITY” INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE June 17-18, 2014

Mongolia hosted the “Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security” International Conference with the participation of more than 35 representatives from Mongolia, *Russia, China, Japan*, DPRK, ROK, the USA, Germany and the Netherlands.



“SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES” NORTHEAST ASIAN MAYORS FORUM August 18-19, 2014

About 120 delegates from cities across Northeast Asia participated in this regional conference. This initiative not only expanded the existing cooperation between the nations but also created new areas for cultural, industrial, economic and agricultural development.



“NORTHEAST ASIAN YOUTH SYMPOSIUM FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION” IN CONJUNCTION WITH MONGOLIAN YOUTH FEDERATION - May 20, 2015

Northeast Asian Youth Symposium: Ulaanbaatar Dialogue was organized by the Mongolian Youth Federation in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Institute for Strategic Studies. Delegates from Mongolia, Russia, China, Japan, ROK and the USA shared their respective views on the importance of UBD in building confidence in NEA and youth participation in the regional cooperation as they drafted the declaration of Northeast Asian Youth Symposium calling for NEA Governments engagement with youth in regional stability and cooperation.



VIEWS OF SCHOLARS ON ULAANBAATAR DIALOGUE

The UB Dialogue gives further evidence on the essential role of Mongolia as an honest broker and catalyst for peace and prosperity across Northeast Asia. It has contributed important scholarship fostering regional mechanisms for peace and security. The dialogue is enhanced by ongoing support for regional cultural, economic and humanitarian service and youth exchanges sponsored by Mongolia together with its neighbors and partners.

David L. Caprara Nonresident Fellow, Brookings Institution
International Vice-President,
Global Peace Foundation Washington, D.C.

The Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Affairs is a worthwhile exploration on the construction of multilateral mechanism in a region which is still lack of any formal forum or dialogue of the same kind. It contributes to the solution of security problems and economic integration in the region by means of talks and negotiations, in which Mongolia has been playing an increasingly proactive role.

Yang Wenjing, Associate research professor, Chief of American
Foreign Policy at the China Institute of Contemporary International
Relations

Mongolia is making every effort to promote peace and security in Northeast Asia, initiating the UBD, which is very similar with the Helsinki process of the CSCE/OSCE in the cold war era. The UBD will become splendid forum when all participating states express each hope of security architecture and cooperation on the other dimension.

Noboru Miyawaki, Ph.D.
Director of Region and Information Research Institute
Professor, Faculty of Policy Science, Ritsumeikan University

This new, understandable and useful Mongolian initiative is also directed to enhance its contribution to the common searches for the regional security issue solution, to promote and to strengthen Mongolia's position in the NEA and East Asia. It is well known that in the last years Mongolia has made successful actions as a host in some regional political issues (for example, in the negotiations between DPRK and Japan etc.). In this content, initiative should be appreciated and supported.

Grayvoronskiy Vladimir Viktorovich /Dr.Sc. Head of the Mongolian Studies Section, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Federation/

First of all, I would like to say that UB dialogue initiative represents the will and efforts of Mongolian government for achieving peace, security and cooperation in North East Asia. At the same time, I have to say that there should be good opportunity of materializing this initiative with its more detailed outline and contents.

Lee Yong Phil /Former Researcher, Institute for Peace and Disarmament, DPRK/

Building resilient confidence and fostering mutual understanding in Northeast Asia

