



Nomadic
Life
ON THE
HOLLYWOOD SCREEN
» 34-35



MONGOLIAN
SNOW LEOPARD
» 40-41

MONGOLIA TODAY

Since 1956

December 2020 №05 (Special edition)

MONGOLIA'S DEVELOPMENT MODEL

VISION **20** / **50**



COMMON
NATIONAL VALUE



HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT



QUALITY OF LIFE
AND MIDDLE CLASS



THE
ECONOMY



GOOD
GOVERNANCE



GREEN
DEVELOPMENT



PEACE AND
SECURITY OF THE
SOCIETY



REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



ULAANBAATAR AND
SATELLITE CITIES

VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE SECTOR IN MONGOLIA

Developed by “Sustainable textile production and ecolabeling – STeP EcoLab” project implemented by AVSF Mongolia and funded by the European Union

16 Mongolian wool and cashmere industries have committed and joined Voluntary code of practice for

sustainable responsible transparent and trustable textile production

by complying with

- Social
- Environmental
- Animal welfare criteria

VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

1 a strong sustainability profile of the Mongolian wool and cashmere sector

2 the first step of the Mongolian textile sector towards an international sustainability standards

3 increased sales that stands out against ordinary textiles

4 a better recognition in the global wool and cashmere market



Signatory industries commit to:



Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact



“Five Freedoms” of the OIE’s Terrestrial Animal Health Code

VCP sources and standard criteria comply with:





A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Dear Readers,

We present you the special edition of 'Mongolia Today' magazine for 2020.

By 2050, Mongolia has set a goal to reach a level where it is fully capable of competing in the region of Asia and the Pacific, with a GDP per capita of USD 38 thousand. This is just one of the main objectives stated in 'Vision-2050' long term development policy of Mongolia. This special issue highlights 'Vision-2050' as it is the country's core policy document that defines the next 30 years of development.

Some 1,500 researchers of government and non-governmental organizations, professional research institutes, and universities were involved and over 500 development policies were used in developing this policy document, which is considered truly a 'Mongol development model' bringing together the history of the Mongol Empire, nomadic culture, and unique national characteristics with the modern development ideology being followed internationally.

From the articles and interviews, we hope you will find answers to why the country needs this policy document, what Mongolia wants to achieve in the next 30 years, what the priority areas will be for the economic development, and how it plans to achieve the goals.

This issue also covers stories on Mongolians who are making a success in international film and music industries and sports. Moreover, this special issue includes the articles on snow leopards in Mongolia, one of very rear animals in the world and the Toson-Khulstai Nature Reserve of Mongolia, which recently was designated as a UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve.

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MONGOLIAN NEWS AGENCY
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MONGOLIA TODAY
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MONGOLIA TO BE COMPETITIVE WITH ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION BY 2050

Minister of Mongolia, Head of the Cabinet Secretariat Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai is one of the leading young politicians of Mongolia. Elected as a Member of the State Great Khural (Mongolian parliament) since 2016, and appointed as Minister of Mongolia, Head of the Cabinet Secretariat since early 2019, he was the one to lead the working group to develop the ‘Vision-2050’ long term development policy of Mongolia. We held an interview with him to discuss ‘Vision-2050’ policy document, which laid out the country’s development plans for the next 30 years. Born in 1980, L.Oyun-Erdene majored in journalism, political science, and law. He also has a Master’s degree in Public Administration, of which studies he completed at the Harvard University of the United States in 2015.

-It has been 30 years since Mongolia transitioned into democracy. The past 30 years is regarded to have been years of major changes and reform in the country.

-Yes. Mongolia’s GDP has increased from USD 768.4 million in 1993 to USD 13.8 billion today, having grown by 17.9 times compared to then. From just the numbers, this is a considerable achievement. However, 28.4 percent of the total population—one in every three people continues to have lower than average quality of life. Thus, the Government of Mongolia is faced with the challenge to give special attention to our citizens’ quality of life in the coming years. To do this, we came to the conclusion that we had to look back on the past 30 years as a whole, and develop a long-term development policy that envisions the entirety of the next 30 years. With the approval of the ‘Vision-2050’ policy document, additional amendments were also made to the Constitution according to the document. To put it simply, the year of 2021 will be the start of a new set of 30 years for the citizens

of Mongolia.

-Could you elaborate on the constitutional amendments? How does the development policy correlate with the Constitution?

-In short, the average “life expectancy” for the Government of Mongolia was 1.7 years in the past 30 years. Although there are many factors that resulted in this, it was found that the issue was mainly caused by a structural issue rooted in the Constitution. Due to unstable governance, development policies were not properly implemented and did not have correlation in between, which affected the core indicators of development.

So, it could be said that with the amendments to the Constitution, the legal foundation to ensure governance stability has been put. Furthermore, the Constitution now reflects that development policies are to be stable and have correlation. It has also become possible for the Prime Minister to bring together the members of his Cabinet independently.

-What is the main feature of ‘Vision-2050’ policy document?

- ‘Vision-2050’ is a ‘Mongolia’s development model’ that brings together the history of the Mongol Empire, nomadic culture, and unique national characteristics with the modern development ideology being followed internationally. Prior to 1990, our development model was mostly replicated from those of the USSR, then began to follow the lead of western countries from 1992. Directly “copying” them without adapting them to our characteristics and condition was perhaps a mistake in the past 30 years.

This was corrected in the ‘Vision-2050’ policy document. That’s why it is being referred to as the Mongol development model. Some 1,500 experts from all sectors came together to work on the development policy for the course of over a year. For the coming 30 years, you could say that our objective is to make big changes in our economic structure by reducing the overdependence on mining, and transition from a consumer economy into a manufacturing and export economy. Consisting of 9 goals and 47 objectives, it will be implemented in



‘Vision-2050’ is a ‘Mongolia’s development model’ that brings together the history of the Mongol Empire, nomadic culture, and unique national characteristics with the modern development ideology being followed internationally.

Some 1,500 experts from all sectors came together to work on the development policy for the course of over a year.



3 phases, each for 10 years. We also have a vision to increase our current GDP per person of USD 4,000 to USD 12,054 by 2030, and over USD 38,359 by 2050.

-What will be the priority areas for the economic development of Mongolia in the next 30 years? Anything of interest for foreign investors?

-First things first, we will

make investments in establishing factories and refineries for mining products—especially products such as copper concentrate, coking coal, iron ore as well as gold and silver. Large-scale infrastructure projects to connect these refineries will also begin to be implemented. In aims of developing all the other sectors aside from mining, projects

with considerable investment are planned to be implemented in the sectors of agriculture, energy, tourism, transport and logistics, science, and IT as well as the creative industry. We are currently working to create highly favorable conditions for foreign investment in regards to taxation and legal framework. Moreover, most of these large-scale projects will be implemented through the partnership of the public and private sectors.

-Could you give us more specific details about what is being referred to as the creative industry?

-Mongolia is a country with a long, ancient history and a unique nomadic culture. International content producers are making some intriguing works that show our country's history, tradition and heritage, and way of life in recent years. To mention

a few that you may have heard of, the 'Marco Polo' series by Netflix, 'Waiting for the Barbarians', and 'Burn Your Maps'. On top of all this, our own content producers are also starting to compete on the international level. The spotlight being given to the songs made by 'The HU' band reflects the distinctness of the nomadic heritage. We are planning to organize a large-scale festival for nomads from all around the world once every 6 years.

Furthermore, the government will always be ready to support and cooperate with international artists and producers, who wish to create films, content, and works in the untouched exquisite nature of Mongolia and promoting the Mongol culture to the world. Many opportunities are available. For instance, it was concluded that the Mongolian Gobi is quite similar to the land



Interview

montsaine

on Mars. We also happen to have a project on establishing an international space research center and an educational institution, initiated by our youth.

-Foreign cooperation and investment would certainly be needed in successfully implementing the abovementioned joint projects. Could you elaborate on how cooperation will be carried out with other countries?

-Yes, as one would expect, the Government will not be carrying out all the projects on its own. We perceive that these projects will be implemented through the partnership of public and private sectors, foreign investment, and in cooperation with foreign large-scale projects and programs. It could be considered that the 'Vision-2050' policy document is based on the long-term plans and policies of countries that are able to cooperate with Mongolia in regards to economy, such as our neighbours, the US, India, Japan, South Korea, Canada, and Germany. To take some examples, projects are currently successfully being implemented or in its preparation phase with China in mining export and trade, with Russia in mining and railway construction, with Canada in the underground mine of Oyu Tolgoi, and with India in the oil refinery and coal export. In addition, we are actively cooperating with Estonia in e-governance, with Singapore in housing and a Central Provident Fund system, and with South Korea in building the capacity of state servants.

We are open to cooperate with all those who can be involved—which is why we wish for people of many countries to learn about the new development policy of Mongolia, to actively carry out cooperation, and to jointly develop.

-What about the information technology sector?

Information technology one of the leading sectors of Mongolia which already created a number of advantages for the country. We have many IT experts who

are working and bringing values with their skills to many international technology companies. Now, we already have a number of companies who are competing in the international markets. I can name a few. For instance, And Global LLC who recently started its fintech business in Asia, just signed a partnership agreement with Marubeni Corporation on providing innovative information technology across the globe. Erxes LLC, which was evaluated at USD 18 million has been providing its open source program B2B service to over 100 countries. Also, Call Pro LLC has been providing its communication service to Central Asian countries and the users increased dramatically since the pandemic started. World Plus Digital LLC created an application which provides read-see-listen services to the world as it includes all the popular magazines, newspapers and journals around the world.

We also have Shopyy.mn, an e-commerce platform or we can say it is Mongolia's "Amazon" which has been providing its service during the recent lockdown.

-There has been news that a significant amount of controversial issue has been created relating to the Oyu Tolgoi mining project?

-As for the Oyu Tolgoi project, a Government working group has been established, and talks are underway with the investors. There are issues that are inevitable to be negotiated, such as the feasibility study for the project, power plant, and tax matters. In connection with the changes in the investor's management composition, currently, several works are in anticipation. I am confident that the controversial issues will be resolved positively by mutual consent.

-Mongolia has a vast territory and low population density. How do you define the country's regional development in the development policy document for the next 30 years?

-Mongolia is linking its concept of regional development to the economic prospect. We



WE ARE OPEN TO COOPERATE WITH ALL THOSE WHO CAN BE INVOLVED—WHICH IS WHY WE WISH FOR PEOPLE OF MANY COUNTRIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEW DEVELOPMENT POLICY OF MONGOLIA, TO ACTIVELY CARRY OUT COOPERATION, AND TO JOINTLY DEVELOP.

are making preparations to announce the Gobi region, where major mining and industrial projects are being implemented, as a mining and heavy industry zone, Selenge and Darkhan-Uul aimags that have fertile soils as an agricultural and farming zone, and the western region, where energy projects are being realized, as an energy zone, as well as the historical and cultural areas and lands with beautiful natural formations as a natural and historical tourism zone.

We have a lot of potential for food exports. Mongolian livestock still has the advantage of being nomadic. Organic food products without any chemicals or fertilizers can be supplied from Mongolia. In recent years, we have been paying much attention to the quality requirements on food preparations in accordance with international standards. I think it is true that some Japanese researchers say that the strength of Mongolian wrestlers in sumo is related to their healthy food. Mongolia's statehood traditions from the time of the ancient Xiongnu to that of established by Chinggis Khaan in the 13th century and

Mongolia has big market not only for mining but also cashmere products, energy, transportation logistics and tourism. There are full of possibilities and opportunities to cooperate in these fields.

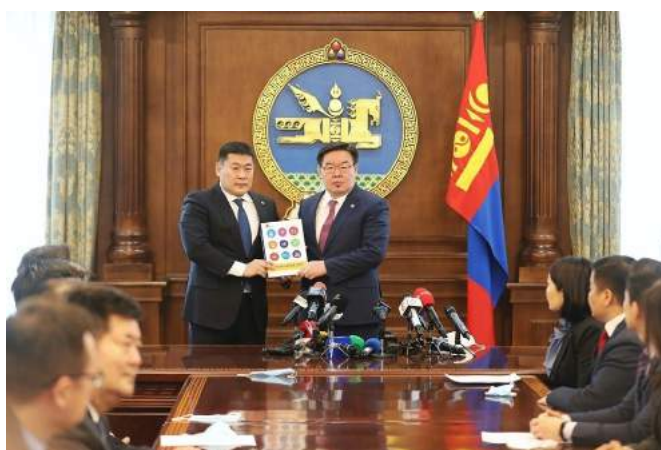


the pristine nature have been remained unchanged, which attract tourists' interest much.

Mongolia can be said the first nomadic country in the world and is still preserving its nomadic lifestyle. Mongolia is the only place where visitors can get acquainted with real nomadic life and travel to pristine nature by enjoying the big sunrise in the Gobi and visiting the untouched natural places that were mentioned in the historical sources. We have long-term plan to attract tourists through the Asia-Pacific region.

-How many tourists does Mongolia receive annually now?

- Mongolia receives approximately 600 thousand foreign tourists a year. This is very unsatisfactory. The countries, which receive the most tourists in the world, are located around Mongolia. In short, there is a lot of tourist potential. The annual number of tourists to our two neighbors, South Korea and Japan alone, is 239.6 million. The major policy changes, included in the 'Vision 2050', will be made in the tourism sector. There will be many major changes in the coming years, such as the



liberalization of air transport, digitalization of visa services, enforcement of international tourism standards as well as great focus on security.

-You have said above that in the implementation of significant projects that are pillars for future development, Mongolia will actively collaborate at the international level through attracting foreign investment. So, could you tell me about the present state and environment for foreign investment in Mongolia? How do you plan to improve the legal environment for investment in the future?

- Mongolia is a democratic country with a parliamentary system, situated between two big neighbours. That's why the country considers it important to have active international cooperation and open international investment, and has been pursuing an open policy to be connected with other countries through large-scale projects. Of course, there are issues that foreign investors face when they

communicate with us directly. For example, most Mongolian laws, government documents, and websites of ministries and government agencies are only in Mongolian language. People interested in cooperation and investment have limited access to information without the help of interpreters or intermediaries. Therefore, we are focusing on translating laws and websites into English. Second, foreign investors sometimes do not know where to apply. Therefore, we will strengthen and ensure sustainable operation of the state administrative body for foreign investment.

Mongolia is to have a one-window policy for foreign affairs. In other words, Mongolia aims to become Digital Mongolia; thus it is implementing a major project named "E-Mongolia" that meets international standards, allowing both Mongolians and foreigners to set up companies, invest, obtain services, and get visa facilitation without having a face-to-face meeting with government officials. This project is being implemented in two phases. The first phase, shifting all public services of Mongolia into electronic form, is progressing well. The second phase is the "E-Citizen" menu for investors. If you want to invest in our country, or maybe want to rent an apartment, it is the phase that enables to conduct social and economic relations, sitting at your computer without coming to Mongolia. By doing so, it will create a favorable environment for investment in Mongolia. Mongolia has big market not only for mining but also cashmere products, energy, transportation logistics and tourism. There are full of possibilities and opportunities to cooperate in these fields.

-International promotional activities or advertising of Mongolia do not seem sufficient even though it has a great role in cooperation expansion and investment attraction. So, the government would certainly put emphasis on the country's promotion abroad. What policy will you be using? What activities are underway and what are planned?

-I agree. The international promotional activities have been



MONGOLIA IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE VISITORS CAN GET ACQUAINTED WITH REAL NOMADIC LIFE AND TRAVEL TO PRISTINE NATURE BY ENJOYING THE BIG SUNRISE IN THE GOBI AND VISITING THE UNTOUCHED NATURAL PLACES THAT WERE MENTIONED IN THE HISTORICAL SOURCES.



THROUGH IMPROVEMENT OF THE MONGOLIA-RUSSIA-CHINA TRILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR ESTABLISHMENT, WE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO ENHANCE TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CROSS-BORDER TRADE, AND TOURISM.

inactive. In light of that, we are starting to take certain steps. We will put more emphasis on the matter in the future. In particular, the country is actively working to promote its policy, stance, and activities in collaboration with major world news outlets and agencies. In short, we will be promoting the country's opportunities, investment climate, foreign cooperation, culture, and history more in the future.

-Countries are focusing more on regional development and solving challenges together as the world globalizes. There is a special goal for regional cooperation reflected in the "Vision 2050" policy document. What measures are planned as part of the goal to enhance trade and economic cooperation with the regional countries?

- It will be our policy to diversify the economy by developing the sectors that are competitive in the long-term and expanding export possibilities and markets through joining the regional trade and economic integration and facilitating trade. Through improvement of the Mongolia-Russia-China trilateral

agreement on the economic corridor establishment, we plan to implement infrastructure development projects to enhance transport, logistics, urban development, cross-border trade, and tourism. The matter of building a natural gas pipeline connecting Russia, Mongolia, and China is being solved through trilateral talks. This major regional development work is not only a project of great significance for the country's economy, but also it will open a new page for economic cooperation with our two eternal neighbors and has an important role in joining the cooperation integration. The

country can develop an integrated transport and logistics network to connect domestic and international markets and improve its transit transport agreements for efficient use of transport infrastructure, thereby developing transport and logistics as a key economic sector.

-The last question is about the COVID-19 that has been shaking the world. The World Health Organization has reiterated that Mongolia is one of the countries with the best management fighting against COVID-19. It is the fact that Mongolia achieved 10 months with no local transmissions of

the disease when the coronavirus spread in our two neighbors and across the globe. What is the secret behind it?

-There is no such thing as a secret. Most importantly, the country's small population and low population density have been advantageous to us. Moreover, local transmissions were prevented for 10 months as Mongolia promptly shifted to movement restriction regime as soon as the pandemic started to spread across the world. The Government is still actively working to curb the spread of the disease. We have the hope that the problem will not get out of control. The reason for the hope is that the country has family health centers. In other words, we will be able to vaccinate the population with promptitude when the vaccine becomes available.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere wish that 2021 will be the year in which the mankind successfully overcomes the COVID-19 and my hope that the global economy and "normal life" that plunged due to the coronavirus will accordingly show sharp recovery and growth.

‘Vision-2050’ long term development policy and National Investment Program

Section 1.7 of Article 25 of the Constitution of Mongolia states that development policy and planning must be stable. Amendments were made to the Law on Development Policy, Planning, and Administration as according to the constitutional amendments.

With this change, long term development policies came to be developed and implemented for 30 years, development subprograms for 10 years, and the main direction for the development of Mongolia as well as the national investment program for 5 years.



Per Resolution No. 23 of the State Great Khural (Mongolian parliament) on August 28, 2020, the plan for the first 5 years of Phase I (2021-2030) of ‘Vision-2050’ long term development policy document of Mongolia – the Basic Guidelines for the Development of Mongolia for 5 years in 2021-2025 as well as the Investment Program for 2021-2025 has been approved and begun to be implemented.

Based on the suggestions received from government organizations, research institutions, universities and colleges, NGOs, professional associations, and private entities, the goals and objectives for the policy to be implemented in 2021-2025, its results, monitoring and studies on implementation, assessment criteria, and base and target level was determined in the framework of ‘Vision-2050’, which consists of 9 goals and 47 objectives including common national value, human development, quality of life and middle class, the economy, good governance, green development, peace and security of the society, regional development, and Ulaanbaatar and satellite cities.

The appendix document about the required investment for the implementation of the Basic Guidelines for the Development of Mongolia for 5 years, calculations, and detailed plans developed in correlation with its resource – the draft for the ‘National Investment Program for 2021-2025’ was developed, and approved as the appendix of the main document.

The financial resources for the ‘National Investment Program for 2021-2025’ approved

the 150 fully and partially resolved projects and measures alongside 88 projects that are required to have its financing resources resolved, and 98 projects that are required to have feasibility study and blueprints developed. By implementing the projects, conditions are properly created for implementing the core objectives and measures for the mid-term development of Mongolia, making it possible for the long-term development policy to be implemented.



Invest in Mongolia



MONGOLIA WAS RANKED 10TH IN EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC ACCORDING TO WORLD BANK IN TERMS OF EASE OF DOING BUSINESS.

Why Mongolia?

MONGOLIA: FAVORABLE INVESTMENT CLIMATE



SHAUKAT TAPIA

“Mongolia is a rapidly developing country that offers dynamic experience and unlimited opportunities. PwC Mongolia helps people discover and identify a wide range of collaborations, interactions and skills. The main goal of PwC is to help our clients succeed in this dynamic and changing region and build trust in community.”

MONGOLIA IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO LARGEST ECONOMIES

GDP forecast

5.1%

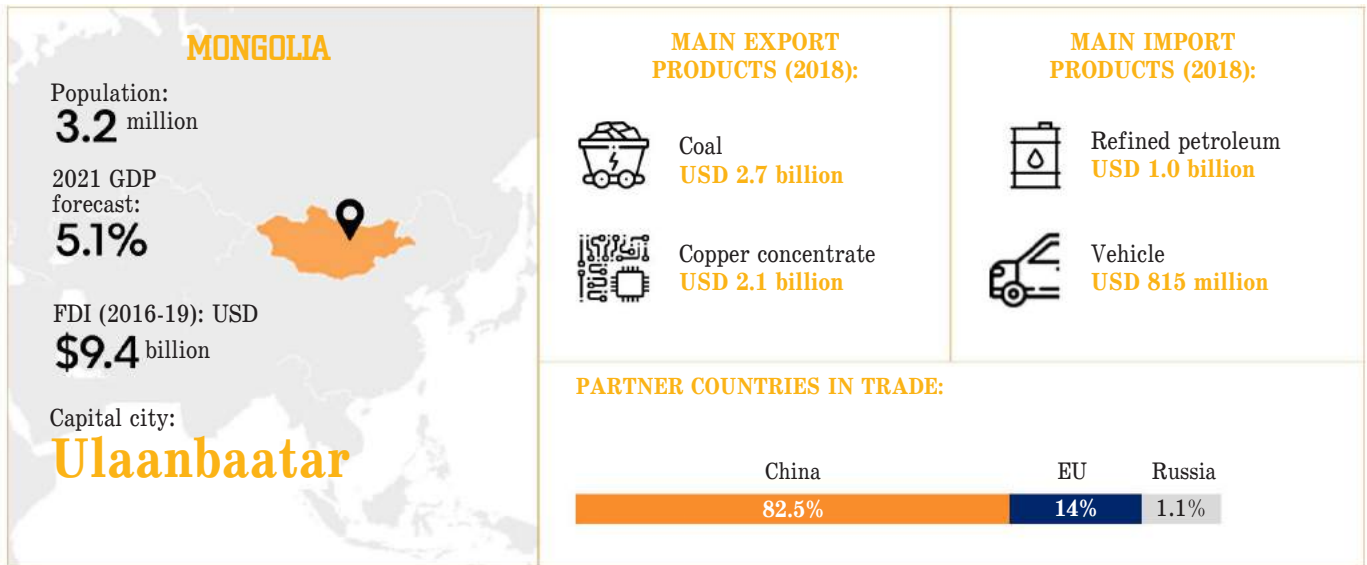


Mongolia is the closest market to major industrial centers and world's leading economies - China and Russia, and has the potential to become a major resource to the countries in the Asia, Pacific region, such as Japan, South Korea, India, etc.

Mongolia also has a great opportunity to become a major supplier of resources to its neighboring countries - China and Russia. For example, it exports more than 14 types of minerals and is the largest exporter of coking coal to China.

Provided with this favorable economic condition and its geographical location, Mongolia have the advantage of connecting the two largest economic and trade regions and developing economy in line with the need and supply for not just the economies of its 3 million people, but also economies of the nearest biggest cities, at least.

According to UNFPA-supported study, a period of time when the proportion of population of working age group is prominent or so-called "demographic window" is occurring in Mongolia



*source: National Statistics Office of Mongolia, Asian Development Bank

GROWING YOUNG HUMAN RESOURCES

literacy

98.6

According to a 2012 UNFPA-supported study - "Impact of Mongolia's Demographic Change on Social, Economic, Development, and Social Policy", a period of time when the proportion of population of working age group is prominent or so-called "demographic window" is occurring in Mongolia.

As of the end of 2019, the total population of Mongolia has reached 3.2 million, of which workers aged 25-54 make up about 45% of the total population. In addition, the literacy rate in Mongolia is 98.6%.

As of the reference period, 64 thousand people are employed in the mining and quarrying industry, 93.2 thousand people in the education sector, 37.8 thousand people in the human health and social security sector, 34.7 thousand people in the hospitality and catering sector, 61.6 thousand people in transportation and warehousing, 59.1 thousand people in the construction sector, while 1.6 thousand people with higher education are employed in international organizations and permanent missions.

Education is an important goal for Mongolia, and its expenditures are relatively high compared to other Asian countries. 4.65% of GDP is spent on education.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL SECTOR FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES

Mongolia is the largest exporter of cashmere

Mongolia's agricultural sector which makes up about 20% of GDP is the mainstay of the population's food supply and raw materials for national industries, and accounts for more than 10% of total export earnings.

In the first 10 months of 2020, the agricultural sector produced MNT 2.4 trillion worth of products. About 35% or 153.1 thousand households (335 thousand people) of the total number of employees/ employed in Mongolia work in the sector and earn their living from the sales of agricultural products.

In terms of foreign direct investment in the agricultural sector, as of June 2020, the investment in the processing of livestock raw materials accounted for 0.35% of total investment, with 170 companies investing about USD 89 million; the investment in agricultural and livestock sector accounted for 0.15%, with 172 companies investing about USD 37 and 1.03% or 210 companies' investment of USD 261 million went to light industry sector.

MONGOLIA HAS THE RICHEST MINING RESOURCES

The world's copper reserves

4

There are 1,170 mineral deposits of 80 types and more than 8,000 explorations registered in Mongolia, which includes proven reserves of 1619 tons of gold, 227 thousand tons of silver, 36.3 million tons of copper, 660 million tons of iron ore, 5.9 million tons of zinc and 250 million tons of oil. Moreover, it has an estimated oil reserve of 175 billion tons and 9.8 billion of them have been proven.

Deposits with large reserves include Erdenet, Oyu Tolgoi, Tsagaan Suvarga, Gatsuurt, Tavit, Asgat, Mungun Undur, Bayangol, Tumurtei, Tumurtei ovoo and Bargilt deposits. Minerals account for 94% of Mongolia's total exports.

Mining sector is Mongolia's leading sector, accounting for 20.0% of GDP and 71.0% of total industrial output.

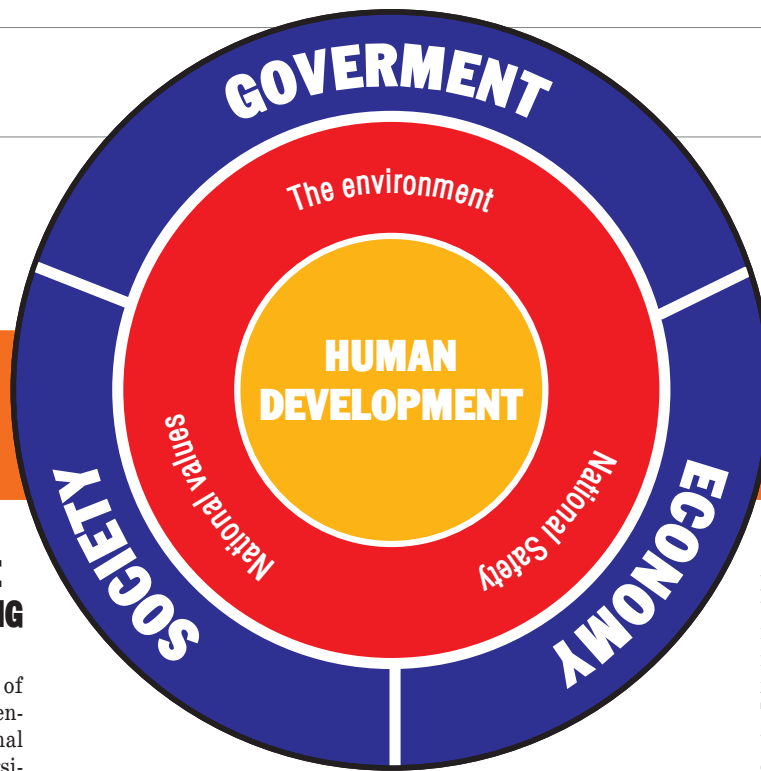


MONGOLIA'S DEVELOPMENT MODEL



The population of Mongolia will reach 4 million by 2030, 4.6 million by 2040, and 5.4 million by 2050. By then, the country will also transition from a consumer country into a manufacturing, exporter country. It is planned to boost GDP per capita to USD 12 thousand by 2030, and over USD 38 thousand by 2050.

These are just one part of the main objectives stated in 'Vision-2050' long term development policy of Mongolia, which was approved by the Mongolian parliament on May 13, 2020.



NECESSITY TO ENVISION THE FUTURE AND THE PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Some 1,500 researchers of government and non-governmental organizations, professional research institutes, and universities were involved in developing this policy document defining the next 30 years of development for Mongolia. From the eight 5-year-plans developed by 'Mongolor' joint venture in 1914, by Wealth Enrichment Department in 1924, and the State Planning Commission in 1945 to various sectoral development policies, over 500 development policies were used to develop the document over the course of eight months. In this sense, 'Vision-2050' is truly a 'Mongolia's development model' bringing together the history of the Mongol Empire, nomadic culture, and unique national characteristics with the modern development ideology being followed internationally.

Countries of the world are developing and approving their development plans up till the year of 2050. Mongolia developing its long-term development policy per this standard happened to be the same year as the 30th anniversary of the country's transition into democracy. Rights and freedom, pluralism, free press, free, democratic election, multiparty governance—the democratic revolution brought many positive changes. During this period, the population of Mongolia grew from 2.2 million to 3.3 million, with average life expectancy increasing from 62.8 to 70.4. While the Mongolian GDP was USD 768.4 million in 1993, today it has reached USD 13.8 billion, growing by 17.5 times. However, the country stands 92nd out of 177 countries for its human development index,

99th out of 140 countries for its competitiveness, 74th out of 190 countries for its ease of doing business index, and 93rd for its corruption index. Officials usually explain the core reason for all this as due to being a landlocked country, having poor infrastructure, contrast of development between urban and rural areas, harsh weather conditions, and an unstable economy due to overdependence on mining. Despite all this, it should also be acknowledged that there has also been another large factor, which is the abnormal situation making it difficult for state servants to have stable employment due to the 4-year cycles caused by elections. Perhaps this single issue was the main reason for the Government of Mongolia to look back on the past 30 years as a whole and envision the future development of the country.

IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH THE DESTINATION WITHOUT FORESEEING IT

Common national value, human development, quality of life and middle class, the economy, good governance, green development, peace and security of the society, regional development, and Ulaanbaatar and satellite cities—consisting of 9 goals and 47 objectives, 'Vision-2050' is divided into three phases: 2021-2030, 2031-2040, 2041-2050, with the implementing methods and expected results carefully calculated by the Government.

Work is currently being done to reflect 'Vision-2050' long term development policy in development policies and documents on the national, sectoral, cross-sectoral as well as regional, aimag, and capital city level, and implement them in phases by allocating the required funds from state and local budgets alongside other financial resources. In its framework, the implementation of the development policy is to be reported to the Mongolian parliament every 5 years.

Without knowing our destination, we will never reach it. Without a vision, the people will have no order. Thus, to introduce where Mongolia will be by 2050 and how it is reflected in 'Vision-2050', the current GDP per capita of USD 4,000 will be increased to USD 12 thousand by 2030, and USD 38 thousand by 2050. Furthermore, the country will reach a level where it is fully capable of competing in the region of Asia and the Pacific in 2050. It should be again noted that this is the calculation done by researchers specialized in various fields.

THE CORE OF DEVELOPMENT – THE PEOPLE OF MONGOLIA

The driving force in any society is the people of the middle class. Developed countries of the world are mainly focusing on increasing the percentage of the middle class in their total

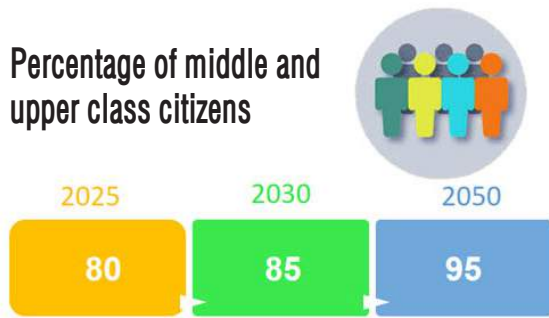
populations. As for Mongolia, the amount of people in the middle class is relatively small, resulting in a worrisome trend in creating societal division. The trend has also continued to negatively affect the values of a democratic society that the people have chosen themselves 30 years ago. This can be clearly seen from ranking 92nd out of 177 countries for its human development index. For this reason, 'Vision-2050' highlights that the core of Mongolia's development policy will be the people, with good education and health.

A certain conclusion has to be made from how Mongolia ranks 49th for ability to utilize intellectual capacity, 59th for home-grown talent, and 111th for its know-how despite Mongolian children ranking 7th in the world for their intellectual capacity. In this framework, the policy document creates universal access to quality education, considering education as the base for individual development, guarantee for a happy family life, and the development of the country. Furthermore, all policies on enhancing the quality and accessibility of healthcare services, such as developing an effective system with citizens being involved in regular check-ups every 2 years, and utilizing air transport in emergency care have been comprehensively reflected in the document.

According to 'Vision-2050', Mongolia is estimated to have a population of 4 million by 2030, 4.6 million by 2040, and 5.4 million by 2050.

Through improving the quality of healthcare and education sectors, apartments, level of income, environment, jobs, quality of life, level of satisfaction, and social security, the objectives have been set to bring the cur-

Percentage of middle and upper class citizens



Gross domestic product per capita



rent baseline human development index of 0.74 to 0.8 by 2030, 0.85 by 2040, and 0.9 by 2050.

Furthermore, it is reflected in the policy to focus on developing a civil society by bringing public services online and independent from people and bureaucracy. On the other hand, correlation has been created for the goals and objectives of the 'Sustainable Development Goals-2030' approved by the UN, and the planned measures and expected results for Phase 1 (2030) of 'Vision-2050' long term development policy of Mongolia.

FROM CONSUMER NATION TO PRODUCER, FROM IMPORTER TO EXPORTER

Mongolia has had a mining-based economy in the past, which is still the case nowadays. The rise and fall of world commodity prices impact directly on our economy. Therefore, the policy to be pursued over the course of next 30 years determined the priority sectors of the economy which will be specifically supported by government policies. The priority sectors are:

1. Value-added mining and related infrastructure mega-projects to address economic structure deficiencies and unsus-

tainable growth;

2. Processing industry, which includes the agricultural sector in three categories: heavy, light and food;

3. Energy sector;

4. Transport and logistics;

5. Specialized tourism and related services, small and medium enterprises;

6. Knowledgeable and productive sectors.

It contains the goal of becoming a producer country from consumer and an exporter from importer.

For instance, a policy of developing responsible mining, increasing the level of processing and exporting value-added products will be pursued. The construction of the Tavan Tolgoi-Gashuunsukhait and Tavan Tolgoi-Zuunbayan railways will be completed, and major mining projects will be connected to infrastructure and processing plants will be established. Measures will be taken to build new Tavan Tolgoi and Erdeneburen hydropower plants and increase the capacity of energy sources. A project to build an oil refining complex and secure the country's fuel needs domestically is also planned.

It is planned to accumulate a certain percentage of mining revenues in the National Wealth Fund, support priority sectors of

the economy, finance strategically important mega projects, and create a system for equal distribution of natural resources to all citizens. The policy is also aimed to change the fact that thirty percent of the country's employed work in the livestock sector, but incomes are low due to low productivity, to the development of intensive animal husbandry and agriculture. It also focuses on the production of value-added products and aims to move from an importer to an exporter. In this context, the policy will support agriculture and domestic processing industry.

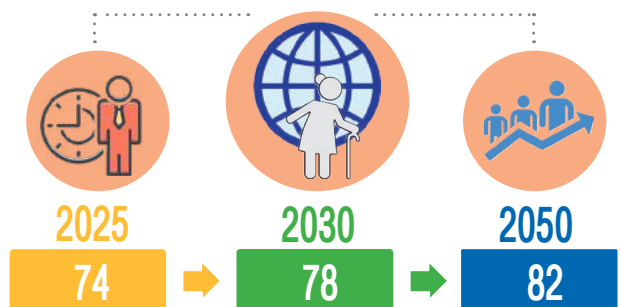
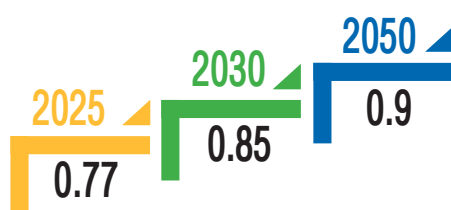
The development of energy and heating infrastructure will create opportunities for other sectors to develop, so there is an opportunity to connect the sector to the Northeast Asian energy network and export it to international markets.

Moreover, the different types of tourism, as well as SMEs and national products will be developed in accordance with the regional and local features and based on natural, historical and cultural heritage. In addition, it will also be aimed at improving the tourism products, services, quality and standards, increasing competitiveness, and supporting the production of national innovations, and branded products tailored to the nomadic culture of Mongolia.

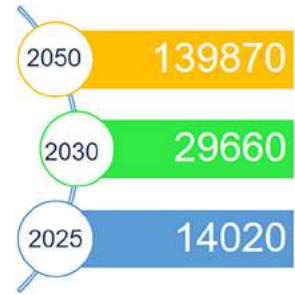
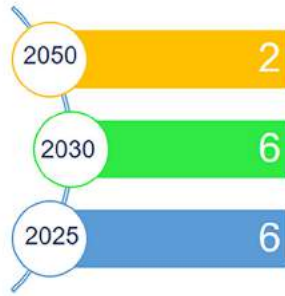
INVESTMENT AND OPEN FOREIGN POLICY

There are many examples where the objectives and measures set out in the Mongolia Development Guidelines were too general, the indicators could not be measured, and there were no financial and economic estimates. However, in the "Vision-2050", the issue of financial investment has been clearly resolved. The sources of funding for 150 projects with a total budget of MNT 49.7 trillion to be implemented under the program have been resolved, while there are 88 projects with a budget of MNT 18.6 trillion required to be resolved, as well as 98 projects that needs feasibility studies and blueprint. According to the sources of investment required for the implementation of these projects, 30 percent will be financed by the Development Bank, 7.5 percent by the state budget, and 20.3 percent by concessions and public-private partnerships. Subsequently, 36.6 percent will be covered by the state budget, mixed sources with foreign loans and aid or foreign loans alone, while the rest will be partially resolved.

There are a number of challenges in attracting foreign investment. 69.93 percent of the total investment is in geology,



35% of the total land, 75% of the rivers and 60% of the forests are planned to be taken under state protection in order to fulfil the responsibilities to protect, use and rehabilitate the environment for the future generations



mining exploration, mining and petroleum, 17.37 percent in trade and catering, and 12.7 percent in other sectors. In addition, most Mongolian laws, government documents, and websites of ministries and government agencies are in Mongolian. Therefore, the government is focusing on translating laws and websites into English. E-Mongolia is also working to ensure that anyone interested in cooperation and investment can get the services they want from anywhere in the world. Moreover, it will ensure the sustainable operation of the foreign investment administration. Investors can visit the organization in person or by phone. This work is planned to be completed by 2024 to clarify the legal environment for foreign investment.

OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION BY 80 PERCENT

Mongolians believe that it is possible to move to a green civilization based on traditional nomadic civilizations and modern efficient technologies. Therefore, in the “Vision-2050” long-term development policy, 35 percent of the total land, 75 percent of the rivers and 60 percent of the forests are planned to be taken under state protection in order to fulfil the responsibilities to protect, use and rehabilitate the environment not only for the present but also for the future well-being of the next generations.

There are plans to establish a national park for endangered species of animals and plants and a central laboratory for environmental analysis, to increase the size of forests to 9 percent and to triple the number of watershed protection.

The OECD estimates that global air pollution causes damage worth USD 500 per person per year. The Government of Mongolia has banned the burning of raw coal in six districts of the capital city since May 2019, and the introduction of Tavan Tolgoi Fuel’s improved briquettes has reduced air pollution in Ulaanbaatar by 50 percent in 2019-2020. Recently, another briquette plant was put into operation, which will provide households in all districts of the capital city with the fuel and reduce air pollution by up to 80 percent.

THE NINE FUNDAMENTAL GOALS OF 'VISION-2050'

ONE. COMMON NATIONAL VALUE

To create shared national values that can support the establishment of a nation deeply cognizant of the concept of national identity/distinctiveness by ingraining “One Language, one history and one culture” rooted in scientific evidence provided by precise modern scientific methodology in people.

TWO. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

To create equal access to a quality education which is the basis of the country’s development, a guarantee of quality life, a socially protected and life-friendly environment for socially active and healthy Mongolian.

THREE. QUALITY OF LIFE AND MIDDLE CLASS

To create middle class that is able to lead a self-sufficient life by running competitive micro, small and medium sized businesses in favorable investment climate by supporting employment, increasing household income, backing up an active and productive family and providing affordable housing.

FOUR. THE ECONOMY

To create a self-sufficient and export-oriented economy that have investment and savings capacity while maintaining sustainable economic growth, expanding middle class, reducing poverty and creating fundamentals of the economic development policy.

FIVE. GOOD GOVERNANCE

To establish smart and sustainable governance that ensures the develop-

ment of Mongolians, mature civil service with well-organized administrative structure, shift to citizen-centered public services based on electronic technology, expand public-private-civil society cooperation in all fields, fully respect human rights and strengthen a system of justice that is mature and free of corruption.

SIX. GREEN DEVELOPMENT

To promote environmentally friendly green development, maintain ecosystem balance, ensure environmental sustainability, create conditions for present and future generations to benefit, and improve the quality of human life.

SEVEN. PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE SOCIETY

To strengthen the national defense capacity and ensure human and social security by ensuring human rights, freedom, social order, security of citizens’ living environment, and disaster risk reduction.

EIGHT. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To develop competitive and balanced in-country regions that respects the national culture, has a sustainable structure of human settlement system, preserves the natural environment and ecosystem balance and is joined regional economic integration and develop green production with economic diversification, specialization and cooperation.

NINE. ULAANBAATAR AND SATELLITE CITIES

To develop into a livable, environmentally friendly and human-centered smart city.

e mongolia

Mongolia's long-term development policy "Vision-2050" and the Government's Action Program for 2020-2024 outlined works to digitize government services at phases. In the framework of it, the Communications and Information Technology Authority (CITA) officially presented "E-Mongolia" unified digital service system to public on October 1, 2020. Currently, the system is offering 181 services of 23 government organizations.

MONGOLIANS TO DIG

BECOMING A DIGITAL NATION

During the launch of E-Mongolia project, Prime Minister U.Khurelsukh emphasized that the Government is working to digitize government services and develop good governance that does not allow bribery and bureaucracy within a goal to create "Good governance", "Smart governance" and "Digital governance" that reflected in the Government's Action Program for 2020-2024.

With the use of technologi-

cal achievement in governance, information exchange between government organizations will be accelerated alongside rapid decision-making process. As a result, citizens will be provided with transparent, fast and accessible services without any bureaucracy.

World countries started digitizing their government services. Mongolia has advantages of infrastructure. What is more, all aims of Mongolia are connected to fiber optic cable networking and the country leads in the world with the number of smart phones and internet users per

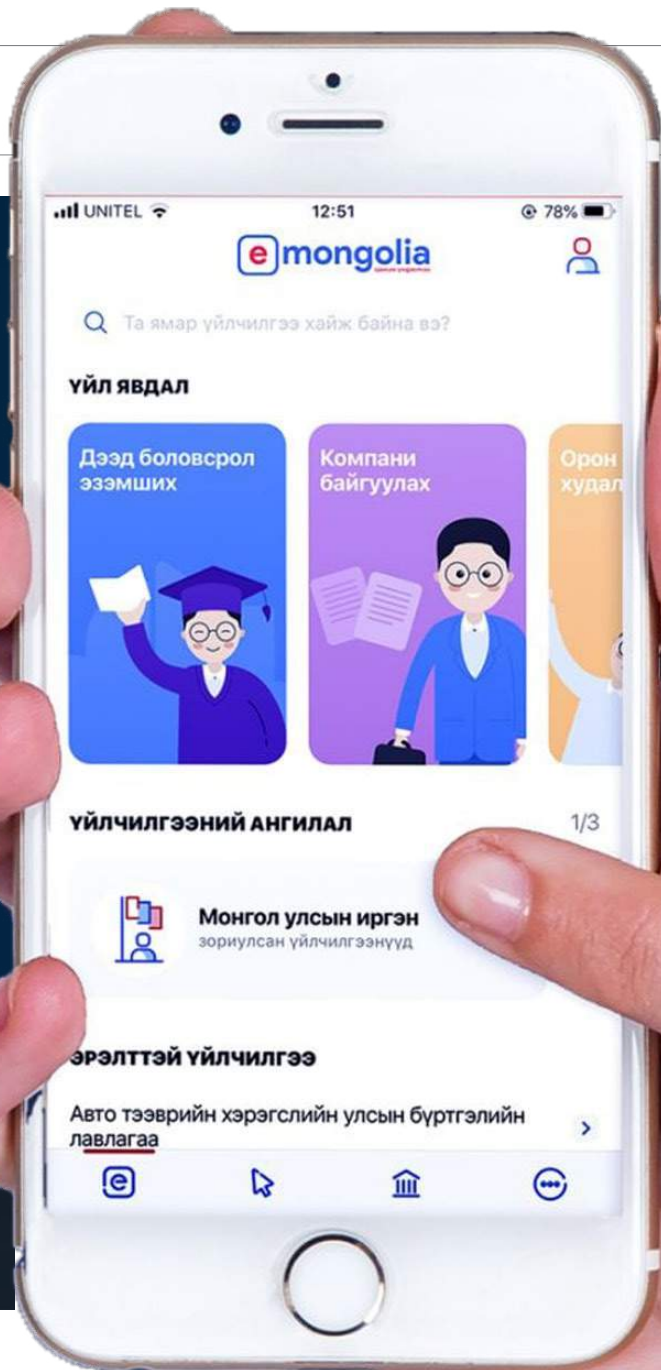
capita. Therefore, Mongolians can become a digital nation in the first place.

www.e-mongolia.mn web portal and "E-Mongolia" mobile application are allowing citizens to get necessary government services any time from their home or workplace, not coming to any government organization.

With a view to increase usage of the system, in collaboration with mobile service providers, a coordination has been made so that mobile data is provided free of charge. Furthermore, works to provide citizens with high speed WIFI network when they use "E-

Mongolia" electronic platform are underway with cooperation with Kewiko, wireless internet services provider.

Further, another 492 services offered by 50 public organizations will be available on the system within 2021.



DIGITAL TRANSITION

DIGITAL CONSUMPTION AND MONGOLIANS

According to the history, the Mongols founded the first com-

munications network by establishing horse-based postal relay in the 13th century. The horse-based postal relay, developed in full swing in the time of Ugudei Khaan, had become foundation of

information delivery across the world for many centuries until invention of the first telegraph device and telephone.

The advent of worldwide internet network enabled information exchange in the blink of an eye, enormously advancing the humankind development.

Internet and mobile phone empower us to obtain all kinds of information and share them with others without depending on time and location. The terms such as digital transition and the fourth industrial revolution are commonly used in the 21st century or digital technological era. So, are we, Mongolians ready for the revolution? Yes, ready. The following facts prove it.

WE LEAD THE WORLD WITH OUR USE OF SMART PHONE AND INTERNET

According to a survey conducted by the Communications and Information Technology Authority, there were 3,800,000 mobile communication users (duplicated counting) in Mongolia as of 2019, and 2,439,000 of them were smart phone users.

While, there were 2,910,000 internet users. Interestingly, Mongolia has 2.2 million Facebook users and 2.1 million of them are connected to Facebook through mobile phone. Considering the Mongolia's total population of 3.3 million, the survey figure demonstrates the very high use. Moreover, the average time spent on Facebook per day is 53 minutes globally while it is 77 minutes in Mongolia.

Another study shows that 1.7 million people use "E-barimt", VAT promotion system introduced in 2016 with permanent access of 500,000 users a day. In other words, it means around 85 percent of 2.1 million adult citizens of Mongolia use digital tax system. It indicates that Mongolians are already ready to receive government services through electronic platform.

COVID-19: LOCKDOWN LEADS CITIZENS TO USE E-MONGOLIA SYSTEM

Up until now, citizens have been obtaining government services actively through online system. In particular, about 250,000 users received government services online within two months since the launch of the service or as of December 7, 2020.

Single day statistic shows that 4,957 people are served by E-Mongolia system. Over one-month period when local transmission cases of COVID-19 recorded and the country shifted to strict-lockdown, citizens visited "E-Mongolia" system and received their ordered documents such as identification card, foreign passport and driving license at home through postal delivery.

The statistic shows that 1,500 citizens on average got government services from E-Mongolia system per day in November 2020. The number has increased to 4500 per day on average in the first days of December in connection with the shift to strict lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.

DIGITAL SERVICE SAVES TIME AND MONEY

Receiving state service online has many direct and indirect positive impacts on citizens. In specific, it takes only five minutes now to get digital service while citizens spend 2 hours and 30 minutes on average to obtain government services in a traditional form, taking into account the time to be spent on traffic congestion and service queues.

Some citizens get government services twice to three times a month while some of them get only once in a year.

So, in case one citizen receives six types of services in a year, it means he/she spends 15 hours or 2 work days a year to get state services. Whereas, in case 7,580 citizens get government services in a day, they are spending a total of 18,950 hours in a year. In monetary terms, it means a citizen loses MNT 6,800 per an hour calculating that average salary of Mongolian citizens is MNT 1.2 million. Therefore, E-Mongolia system provides opportunity to save MNT 128 million (by multiplying MNT 6,800 by 18,950 hours), Head of the CITA B.Bolor-Erdene highlights. The sum reaches MNT 46 billion per year. So, thanks to the system, government services will

come close to citizens and become people-centered.

Moreover, the system is expected to reduce bureaucracy in state service, remove duplication of job positions as well as to reduce paper consumption and social stress. As a result of these, MNT 24 billion is estimated to be saved yearly from state budget. More specifically, MNT 492 million could be cut on annual expenses related to paper-based document filings, MNT 2 billion and 463 million on postal service expense, MNT 612 million on fuel expense and MNT 20 billion and 632 million on payment of wages for employees.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Chairwoman of the Communications and Information Technology Authority of Mongolia B.Bolor-Erdene says that, besides increasing the number of services, the plan is to have public services 'find' citizens using the advances in artificial intelligence rather than having the citizens seek them. For example, 1 to 6 months before the expiry date of their passport, identity card, or driver's license, a citizen would receive notifica-

tions asking whether they would like to have it extended. There are plans to further develop the platform to allow people to have their documents extended with the click of the 'yes' button.

The AI-based 'CHIMEGE' speech recognition system has been introduced as well to allow people to search services by voice. This makes the platform accessible for persons with disabilities. Moreover, Chatbot system has been introduced for customer service improvement, allowing citizens to get support at any time. In other words, people working and living abroad can get information about public services whatever their time zone with the help of the Chatbot.


6 MAJOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digital transformation did not suddenly begin in Mongolia. The previous governments made efforts for digitalization and infrastructure improvement. Specifically, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted the 'Vision for Mongolian ICT Development up to 2010' in 2000 and the government implemented the 'Mid-term Strategy for ICT Development in Mongolia' between 2002 and 2006 and 'E-Mongolia' National Program between 2006 and 2012. Moreover, National Program on Registration and Information System was implemented in 2008-2012, National Program on Information Security in 2010-2015, and National Program on High Speed Broadband in 2011-2015 and National Program on E-Government in 2012-2016.

Government Policy for ICT Development is being implemented in 2017-2025 and Three Pillar Development Policy and National Program on E-Governance in 2018-2020. As part of the above-mentioned policy documents and programs, the following major projects on the development of e-governance were implemented.

NATIONAL DATA CENTER PROJECT

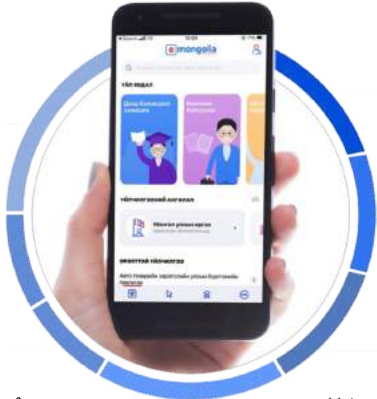
National Data Center responsible for ensuring stability, security, and reliability of Mongolian



UNIFIED DIGITAL SERVICE SYSTEM

181 government services are available through www.e-mongolia.mn web portal and "E-Mongolia" mobile application

48 types of services for taxes and payments



26 types of services for government registration

4 types of services for social insurance

16 types of services for family

5 types of services for social welfare

11 types of services for driving license and transportation

71 types for other purposes

A complete transformation requires 7 years. However, the plan is to achieve 85 percent completion within the next 4 years.



national electronic data system has been established and put into service. The National Data Center integrated databases of 37 government organizations by the first half of 2018 and offers 211 services. It has become technologically feasible to further increase the number of services to 2,000.

SMART IDENTITY CARD PROJECT

The key significance of the project is that it has ensured secure authentication by storing the citizens' digital signature on a microchip installed in the card. It opened up opportunities for online accessibility of public and other services and e-communications with government and business organizations.

PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of the measures for the implementation of the Law on Electronic Signature, the Public Key Infrastructure project aimed at introducing digital signature, ensuring secure authentication, and creating a reliable and safe environment for the development of online public and private services was implemented in 2014. By the end of 2019, a total of 15,000 digital signatures were issued to companies to be used in tax, social insurance, and public procurement services.

TUTS PUBLIC SERVICE KIOSK

The project played an important role in reducing bureaucracy by allowing citizens to quickly and easily obtain some documents necessary for applying for public services from the nearest TUTS

public service kiosk.

KHUR ELECTRONIC DATA EXCHANGE PLATFORM

The introduction of Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) based information exchange system ceased the practice where government organizations used to establish agreements for information exchange.

DAN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF AUTHENTICATION

DAN system was introduced to give citizens unified access to online public services, allowing them to get an array of online public services and look up their information in government databases. The system works alongside the KHUR digital service system and Public Key Infrastructure system and is one of the systems that have key roles in increasing the accessibility and efficiency of public services, and the productivity of government organizations.

IMPORTANT STEP: PACKAGE OF LAWS ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Researchers note that nomadic Mongolians have lived in severe weather for centuries and are adaptable to any circumstances. The country of Mongolia with vast expanses and a small population has every opportunity to become a digital nation in a short period of time.

The inconsistency of public and private sectors and operator companies has become

a major problem in the digital transformation. E-Mongolia is the first step in resolving this problem. We will switch to the Gov-Tech (Government Technology) platform integrating public, private and technology partnership in the future. A complete transformation requires 7 years. However, the plan is to achieve 85 percent completion within the next 4 years.

The integration will be made in this manner and it will be necessary to install security servers and create legal frameworks for personal information privacy and e-governance interactions among the government, citizens, and businesses.

Therefore, the Parliament of Mongolia has amended the Parliament Law and established Innovation and Digital Policy Standing Committee responsible for the acceleration of ICT development and improvement of the sector legal environment. "Now, the Parliament as well as the new Standing Committee have to adopt necessary laws and regulations urgently, particularly, the package laws reflecting new regulations on information security, privacy protection, data maintenance and e-communications among public organizations, private entities and citizens," said Member of the Parliament and Head of the Standing Committee N.Uchral. He also expressed the willingness and readiness of Parliament and the Standing Committee to cooperate with those concerned in order to solve those vital issues and bring Mongolia to the next level of the development.

WHO SAYS WHAT ABOUT E-MONGOLIA PROJECT?



Prime Minister of Mongolia U.KHURELSUKH:

E-Mongolia Project paves the way for Mongolia to become a digital nation. We need to further develop the IT industry and leverage the opportunity to improve competitiveness of our IT products and services on the world market. The Government of Mongolia will further take step-by-step measures for the digitization of public services.



Member of the Parliament H.AMARTUVSHIN

As a citizen, I deem the major project, implemented by the Government, is of great significance. We sure spend a lot of our time and go through bureaucracy to get public services. I see E-Mongolia as the key solution to the problem.



Vice President of MCS Group D.ENKHTUVSHIN

To me, digitizing public services appears to be a clever approach. I am glad that the Government is working alongside the private sector and came up with the initiative ahead of it.

Mega projects



PROJECT IMPLEMENTER

A project unit was established in 2016



Location: Shijigt Gorge of Khovd River, 25 km away from Erdeneburen soum's center, Khovd aimag



The project duration:
2018-2024
Installed capacity:
90MW



Gross investment: USD300 million
Source of funding: Chinese soft loan
-MNT819,123,6 million
State budget- MNT34,560,0 million



90MW ERDENEUREN HYDROPOWER PLANT PROJECT

OBJECTIVE



An objective of the project is to construct and put into operation a 90MW hydropower plant that will have multiple significance: to satisfy the growing needs of the western re-

gion with reliable domestic source, replace expensive imported electricity with cheap electricity and act as a mode adjustment of the power system in the western region.

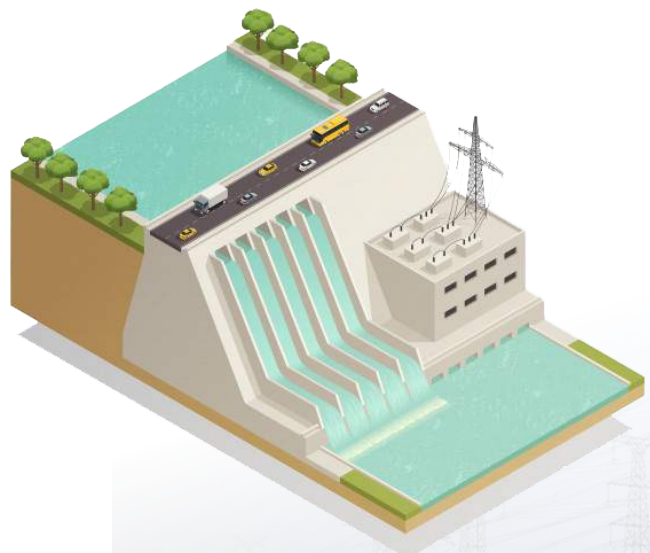
DESCRIPTION



There are 264,000 residents in the three western aimags and 390,000 residents in the five western aimags. The western region imports 78 percent of its energy from Russia and China. The imported energy costs 5-6 times higher than the domestically produced /Durgun HPP/.

Every year, the government pays MNT 6-8 billion of subsidies for energy of the western region. The total consumption growth of the western region's central grid was around 8-11 percent in 2008-2014. The western region has abundant inbound water resources.

It is home to large mining deposits such as the Asgat silver deposit, Khushuut coking coal deposit, oil reserves in the Great Lakes Depression, and Khalzan Burgedtei rare metals deposit, which are planned to be invested and exploited in the coming years. Moreover, it is planned to establish cement, steel, oil, meat and leather processing plants in the western region.



90 MW hydropower plant will have multiple significance: to satisfy the growing needs of the western region with reliable domestic source, replace expensive imported electricity with cheap electricity and act as a mode adjustment of the power system in the western region.



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE



■ The western region’s energy system, and further the Uliastai-Altai energy system, will be provided with cheap domestic sources.

■ It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, it will reduce about 1.3 million tons of carbon emissions per year, which equals the burning of approximately 756.6 thousand tons of coal.

■ During the HPP construction, 800-1000 people will be provided with temporary jobs, and after the commissioning, 70-100 people will be employed permanently.

■ Development zones of tourism, recreation and fishery will be established on areas in the vicinity of the hydropower reservoir.

■ Excessive water accumulation in the reservoir will increase the ambient humidity and positively influence the local climate and pastures.

Jobs during construction
800-100 persons



New permanent jobs
70-100 persons

POLICY AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT



■ It has been reflected in the “Vision-2050” long-term development policy of Mongolia, Mongolia Investment Program for 2021-2025 and Government’s Action Plan for 2020-2024.

THE PROJECT PROGRESS



■ The project unit has been formed. Formulation of feasibility study and planning is underway.

■ On March 15, 2019, Minister of Energy Ts.Davaasuren and the Chinese state-owned company “BIDR” signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation, which meets basic requirements of the Investor’s soft loan and the evaluation conditions, without any repayment terms.





Khan Bogd

Sustainable Mongolian Cashmere
Since 1998





MANUFACTURING PROCESS

⊗ Spinning



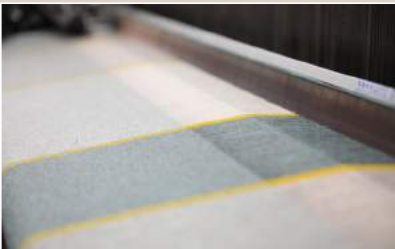
⊗ Braiding STOLL



⊗ Braiding SWG-X



⊗ Knitting



⊗ Linking



⊗ Finishing



FASHION OUTLETS OF CHICAGO

USA. Address: 5220 Fashion Outlets of Chicago , Way Rosemont IL 60018, Khanbogd Cashmere Store

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/khanbogdcashmereusa>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/khanbogdcashmereusa/>

Email: cashmere@khanbogd.mn

Website: www.khanbogdcashmere.com

Mega projects

montsame



МОНГОЛ ГАЗРЫН ТОС БОЛОВСРУУЛАХ
ҮЙЛДВЭР ТӨХХК

Project implementer
MONGOL REFINERY STATE-OWNED COMPANY



Location: in Sainshand city of
Dornogobi Aimag



The project duration:
2016-2023
Project capacity:
1.5 million tons of oil per year



Gross investment:
MNT 3,771,780.0 million
Source of funding: soft loan
from India's EXIM Bank- MNT
3,521,780.1
Development Bank of Mongolia-
MNT250,000 million



OIL REFINERY PROJECT

OBJECTIVE



The project aims to build an oil refinery to be relied on local resources, supply Mongolia with oil products, and to lay the

foundations for a petrochemical industry that is a significant component of the oil and industrial complex.

DESCRIPTION



There will be a totally new sector in the country's economy, laying the foundations for the petrochemical industry, a vital element of the complex industrial development. The establishment of an oil refinery that relied on domestic resources will ensure the country to put an end to import dependence.

The refinery will have an annual capacity to process 1.5 million tons of crude oil and produce 560 thousand tons of gasoline, 670 thousand tons of diesel fuel, and 107 thousand tons of liquefied gas, which meet the Euro 4 and Euro 5 standards.

Approximately USD150 million will be accumulated annually to the state and local budgets as taxes and fees.



The refinery will have an annual capacity to process 1.5 million tons of crude oil and produce 560 thousand tons of gasoline, 670 thousand tons of diesel fuel, and 107 thousand tons of liquefied gas, which meet the Euro 4 and Euro 5 standards.



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE



■ The oil refinery is critically important for the country to reduce the outflow of foreign exchange, stabilize market prices, reduce inflation, promote domestic manufacture of value-added products, and set up a new industrial center in the Gobi region.

■ A pipeline for supplying crude oil from the Tamsag and Toson Uul oil fields to the refinery will be constructed.

■ It will be possible to meet about 60 percent of domestic oil need.

■ Along with the refinery, about 30 types of factories will be established, creating more than 1,000 jobs directly and indirectly.

POLICY AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT



■ It has been reflected in the “Vision-2050” long-term development policy of Mongolia, Mongolia Investment Program for 2021-2025, and Government’s Action Plan for 2020-2024.

■ The “Preliminary Feasibility Study for the Oil Refinery to be built in the Gobi Region” was formulated according to Government Resolution No. 113, dated 2015, on “Measures to be taken on the oil refinery”.

■ Government Resolution No. 21, dated 2018, on “Measures to be taken for infrastructure development of oil refinery project.”

THE PROJECT PROGRESS



■ The Government of Mongolia began the work to develop a Detailed Feasibility Study for the Oil Refinery Project, and Engineers India Limited (EIL) of India was selected as the project management consultant. Thus, conditions have been set for the start of industrial engineering and planning works.

■ As of January 2020, some of the railway works have been completed. Now preparations are underway to commence construction of the refinery, determining the pipeline route, and begin the pipeline construction works.

Mega projects

montsame



Project implementer

General contractor: "Mongolian Railway" state-owned company

General executor for railway base infrastructure: the Armed Forces of Mongolia

Railway superstructure work executor: "Ulaanbaatar Railway" joint venture

Project supervisor: "Tavantolgoi Railway" LLC



Location: from Tavan Tolgoi in Umnugobi aimag to Zuunbayan in Dornogobi aimag



The project duration: 2019-2023



Gross investment: MNT3,008,276.6 million
Source of funding: Direct investment /Erdenes Tavantolgoi JSC/



414.6 KM TAVAN TOLGOI-ZUUNBAYAN RAILWAY PROJECT

OBJECTIVE



The construction of the 414 km-long Tavan Tolgoi-Zuunbayan rail line aims to export coking coal from the Tavan Tolgoi mine, increase transpor-

tation and export of mining and industrial products, and boost the social and economic development of the region.

DESCRIPTION



The Tavan Tolgoi-Zuunbayan railway will be built from the Tavan Tolgoi coal deposit in Tsogttsetsii soum, Umnugobi aimag to Zuunbayan in Dornogovi aimag. The total length is 414.6 km, with one station and six crossings, the railroad will have a carrying capacity of 25 tons and a gauge of 1520 mm.

On the 30 km areas in the vicinity of the Tavan Tolgoi - Zuunbayan railway route, there are a total of 37 licensed mineral deposits. They include large copper, coal, gold, gypsum, zeolite, and uranium deposits such as Tavan Tolgoi coal deposit, Tsagaan Suvarga copper mine, Kharmagtai copper-gold deposit, as well as Manlai coal deposit, which all together has reserves of about 6 billion tons.



Government Resolution No. 135, dated April 10th of 2019, on “Measures to be taken for the 414.6km Tavan Tolgoi-Zuunbayan railway project.”



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE



■ As the railway is commissioned, it will give significant influence to the development of the Mongolian mining sector, increasing the price of mining products, reducing transportation costs, and reaching overseas markets through China and Russia.

■ It will be possible to double the export of Tavan Tolgoi’s coking coal.

■ 15 million tons of freight will be shipped per year.

■ Along with the development of railway infrastructure, pasture degradation, dust, noise, soil and air pollution problems will be considerably reduced.

■ The construction of the railway will have a significant impact not only on the mining sector but also on other sectors and their logistics.

POLICY AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT



■ It has been reflected in the “Vision-2050” long-term development policy of Mongolia, Mongolia Investment Program for 2021-2025, and Government’s Action Plan for 2020-2024.

■ Government Resolution No. 135, dated April 10th of 2019, on “Measures to be taken for the 414.6km Tavan Tolgoi-Zuunbayan railway project.”

THE PROJECT PROGRESS



■ Currently, dam construction is running with 91.87 percent performance. Moreover, construction of bridges is running at 44.16%, pipelines -- 90%, stations and crossings -- 47%, power lines -- 18.02%, concrete railway sleepers -- 38%, wells -- 100% and others.

■ The railway superstructure has been built for 47 km from Zuunbayan. A total of 87 companies and 6,153 people with 2,871 machinery and vehicles are working for the infrastructure earthworks.

Mega projects

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Project implementer
NALAIKH CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY PARK



Location: 3rd khoroo, Nalaikh district, Ulaanbaatar city

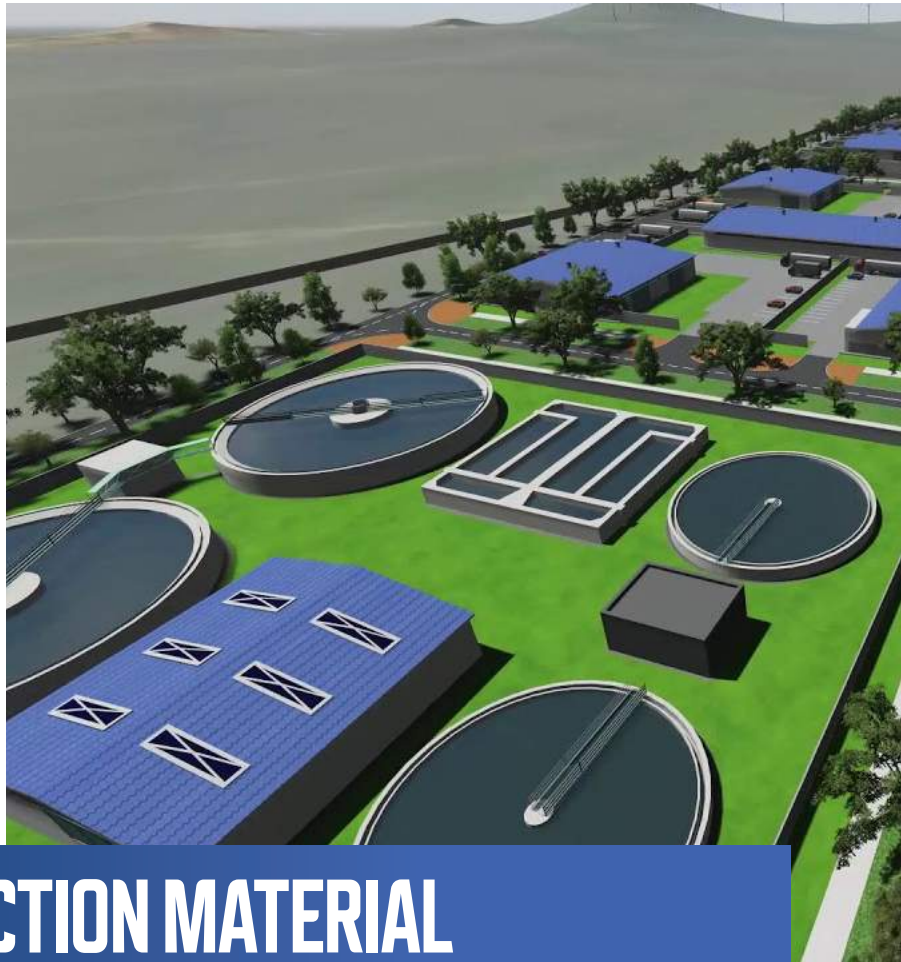


The project duration:
2017-2027



Gross investment:
MNT152,310.70 million
Source of funding: Unresolved source of funding -MNT133,635.6 million,

MNT18,675.1 million – State and municipal budgets



NALAIKH CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY PARK PROJECT

OBJECTIVE



The project goal is to introduce scientific achievements and advanced technologies in the construction materials sector, promote the production of import-substituting products,

and develop a complex of production, technology, trade, and services that have a modern industrial infrastructure and a favorable business environment.

DESCRIPTION

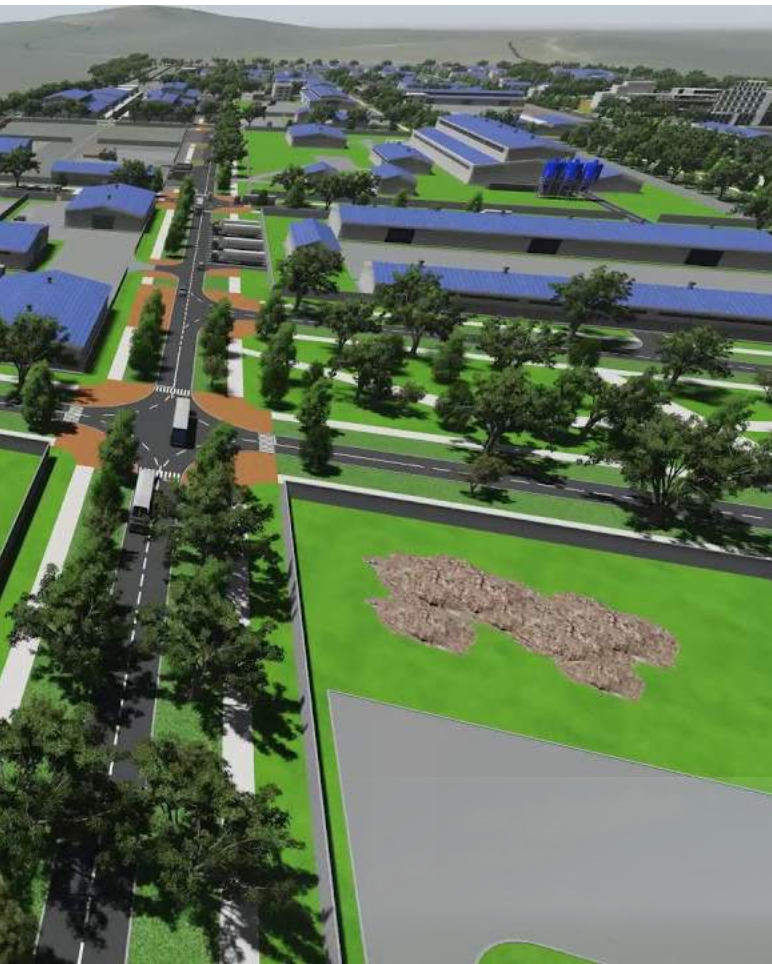


■ Almost half of Mongolia's population live in the capital city, where most industries and factories also have concentrated. Therefore, it is important to develop production of construction materials required to construct various buildings designed to provide comfortable working and living conditions for citizens in new residential areas out of the capital city.

■ Park construction: Railway 12km, water supply 8.96 l/sec, road 29 km, sub-station 2x16 kV 2.69 km, thermal power plant 26 MW, greenery-- 30% of the total area, 18.6 km network line, waste treatment plant, gray water treatment plant



*Domestic production of construction materials is projected to increase 1.7 times.
The production volume in the Nalaikh district will grow by 32 times.*



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE



■ The project will create 1,500 new jobs. As it develops in conjunction with other projects, it will create more than 10,000 jobs.

■ Domestic production of construction materials is projected to increase 1.7 times. The production volume in the Nalaikh district will grow by 32 times.

■ The cost of construction materials will drop, which will further influence the reduction in the cost of buildings

■ It will affect the decentralization of the city.

POLICY AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT



■ It has been reflected in the “Vision-2050” long-term development policy of Mongolia, Mongolia Investment Program for 2021-2025, Government Action Plan for 2020-2024, and Ulaanbaatar City Development Master Plan 2030.

THE PROJECT PROGRESS



A total of MNT18.7 billion was spent on the construction of the Park, with the performance of the following works.

■ In accordance with the “Regulation on supporting and monitoring the operation of the industrial and technology park,” a contract has been signed with 21 companies, which have introduced high technology and are environmentally friendly, and construction of six factories have commenced.

■ The Park’s feasibility study, general and partial plans, infrastructure work drawings, Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and hydrogeological survey have been completed.

■ A 660 m2 office and service building that temporarily accommodates factories of the Park, has been operating since 2016.

■ Groundwater resources were identified, four functional boreholes were drilled, and two deep wells were put into operation. In 2018, the construction of a flood protection facility was completed.

■ The first 630 kVA substation was commissioned, which fully resolved the electricity required for the construction of the factories. A contractor has been selected to build the first 110 kV substation and control building for the Park’s main power supply.

■ An improved unpaved road to the Park was built in 2016 and is currently being paved. The construction of paved roads and sidewalks is now 80 percent complete.



The birthplace of Great Emperor Chinggis Khaan – Man of the Millennium, is a place called “Deluun Boldog” in Dadal soum of Khentii aimag. Therefore, the center of Khentii aimag was named Chinggis city. It is situated in a region of outstanding natural beauty, yet only a day's (331 km) drive from Ulaanbaatar. The aimag is renowned for its many historical places related to the life of Chinggis Khaan – it is the place where he was born, grew up, came to power, was enthroned, and, according to tradition, the place where he was also buried. The travel route for these places is being provided as follows.

Traveling through Chinggis Khaan's HISTORIC PLACES



1. TSONJIN BOLDOG

According to historical sources, Chinggis Khaan found a whip on a hill named “Tsonjin Boldog” on his way back to Burkhan Haldun Mountain after visiting Khereid Van Tooril.

The world's largest equestrian statue of Chinggis Khaan, a 131-foot (40 m) tall statue of Chinggis Khaan on horseback, was created on the hill “Tsonjin Boldog” in Erdene soum of Tuv aimag, along the road from Ulaanbaatar to Khentii aimag. The statue is symbolically pointed east towards his birthplace.

55km from Ulaanbaatar



2.KHAR ZURKHII KHUKH NUUR

Khar Zurkhii Khukh Nuur, translated as ‘Blue Lake of Black Heart,’ is located in Tsenkhermandal soum of Khentii aimag. It is a place of natural beauty and historical significance. The Khar Zurkh is the sharp topped mountain on the north side of the lake, which is a very important place in Mongolian history, especially of Chinggis Khaan. Here Temuujin (Chinggis Khaan’s childhood name) was enthroned in 1189 as the ruler of the united tribes of Mongolia and given the title “Chinggis Khaan,” which means Oceanic Great Ruler. The surrounding area of Khukh Nuur is quiet, peaceful and wonderful for hiking and relaxation.

The surroundings of Khar Zurkh Mountain’s Khukh Nuur Lake are a combination of forest and taiga region where larch, birch, poplar forest, willows, bushes grow together.

Lake Khukh and Mount Khar Zurkh are one of the key places mentioned in the Secret History of the Mongols. On the bank of the lake, there is a monument dedicated to the 840 anniversary of Chinggis Khaan’s birth and wood carvings of the 36 royal or golden lineage rulers placed in a crescent-shaped area with a diameter of 108 meters surrounding the monument. Wood carvings of Chinggis Khaan, his father Yesukhei, his mother Oulen, and his queen Borte Ujin are displayed on the central part of the site. This memorial complex consists of 50 wood carvings, including the nine marshals of Chinggis Khaan, at both sides of the main gate.

170 km from “Tsonjin Boldog”





3. BURKHAN KHALDUN MOUNTAIN

Burkhan Khaldun is a state worshipped mountain, located in Umnudelger soum of Khentii aimag, and a Strictly Protected Area, and was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2015 under the title "Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its surrounding sacred landscape."

According to the "Secret History of the Mongols," Chinggis Khaan, in his childhood, fled from his enemies and survived in the Burkhan Khaldun Mountain.

279km from Ulaanbaatar city



4. UGLUGCHIIN KHEREM/UGLUGCH WALL

Uglugchiin Kherem is situated 45km southwest of Batshireet soum in eastern Mongolia. It is supposed to have been built as the fortress of archers in the 12-14th century, but it still exists in an excellent order. Literally meaning the 'Almsgivers Wall,' also known as Chinggis Khaan's Castle, the structure has a length of 3km, is 3 feet wide and 8-10 feet high. It is made completely of stones without the use of any mortar. At its highest, it stands 3.1 meters. It was once thought to have been a defensive work or a game preserve. Today, however, archeologists consider that the wall may have been part of a burial complex for great Mongolian figures; archaeological digs have identified at least 60 ancient graves within the walls, indicating that it may have been a royal cemetery.

The cliff in the middle of the wall that is clearly visible from a far distance is called "Chinggis's horse harness".

458 km from Ulaanbaatar city

5. KHAJUUBULAG SPRING

Khajuu Bulag, the mineral water spring, is located in about 2km from Deluun Boldog, in Dadal soum of Khentii aimag. The historical sources say that it is a place where Temujin, the future Chinggis Khaan, was washed after he was born.

174km from "Uglugchiin Kherem"



Kherlen's Khuduu Aral, located in Delgerkhaan soum of Khentii aimag, is a historical place that was heart of the Great Mongol Empire because the Great Khuraldai convened and Chinggis Khaan, Ogedei, Guyug and Munkh khaans were enthroned there.

6. DELUUN BOLDOG

Deluun Boldog is a large hill above the junction of the Onon and Balj Rivers, which extends from the right bank of the Onon River to the northeast. It has a horse spleen-like shape and is located near Gurvan Nuuriin Rashaan sanatorium in Dadal soum. Here Chinggis Khaan was born in 1162 as the oldest child of Yesukhei Baatar and Oulen. The spleen like shape is more visual from a distance.

14km from Khajuu Bulag, 580km from Ulaanbaatar

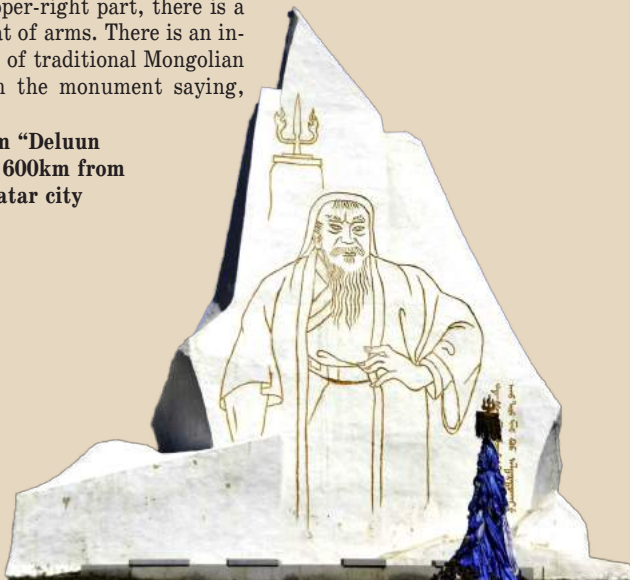


7. THE MONUMENT OF GREAT CHINGGIS KHAAN

A monument was erected next to Gurvan Nuur spring in Dadal soum in 1962 to commemorate the 800th birth anniversary of Chinggis Khaan. In front of the monument, shaped like a mountain peak, a figure of Chinggis Khaan was carved on a white stone, and in the upper-right part, there is a white coat of arms. There is an inscription of traditional Mongolian script on the monument saying,

“Chinggis Khaan myself don't matter if only my state is in peace and in order”. On the back of the monument, another inscription is written, saying, “Dedicated to the 800th birth anniversary of Chinggis Khaan, a founder of the Great Mongol Empire”.

8km from “Deluun boldog”, 600km from Ulaanbaatar city



8. KHERLEN'S KHUDUU ARAL, MONUMENT FOR THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE MONGOLS

Kherlen's Khuduu Aral, located in Delgerkhaan soum of Khentii aimag, is a historical place that was heart of the Great Mongol Empire because the Great Khuraldai convened and Chinggis Khaan, Ogedei, Guyug and Munkh khaans were enthroned there.

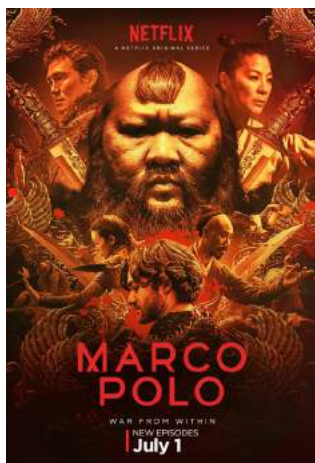
A steppe covering 600 square km and surrounded by three rivers; hence its name - the Kherlen's Khuduu Aral, translated as Kherlen's island, is the place where the 'Secret History of the Mongols,' the oldest surviving literary work in the Mongolian language, was written in the beginning of the 13th century.

In 1990 or on the 750th anniversary of the Secret History of the Mongols, a 4-meter-high monument was erected, with a vertical portrait of Chinggis Khaan on the front and the last words of the “Secret History of the Mongols” engraved on the right side.

250km from Ulaanbaatar



LIFE ON THE HOLLYWOOD SCREEN



MARCO POLO AND AMARSAIKHAN

(MARCO POLO)

The first Mongolian actor to create a role in a Hollywood series is Foremost Cultural Worker, actor B.Amarsaikhan. He created the role of Ariq Boke, the younger brother of Kublai Khan in a famous Netflix series, 'Marco Polo'. Ariq Boke—the son of the youngest son of Chinggis Khaan, Tului and his queen Sorghaghtani Beki, was enthroned as the Khan of the Great Mongol Empire in Karakorum in 1260, but he faced defeat against his brother Kublai.

With the producer of the Marco Polo series from the Mongolian side as M.Orgil and cultural advisor as A.Byambadorj, Mongolian traditional folk music band 'Khusugtun' was the one behind the traditional melody of morin khuur and flute paired with sing-

ing in the film. The cast also included Foremost Cultural Worker, actor A.Tsegmid, Ts.Tserenbold, and professional archers as well as actress A.Bayartsetseg, coming to a total of some 30 Mongolian actors and performers.

Marco Polo is one of the greatest explorers that is well-known throughout the world from the Middle Ages. The notes he wrote about the people's way of life, their religion and beliefs, and the land they lived in during his journeys to many empires and states as a messenger and representative for Kublai Khan of the Yuan Dynasty of the Great Mongol Empire for 17 years was his book - the 'Book of the Marvels of the World', which was the first work to introduce Mongolia to the world. The film was also created based on the book.

Actor B.Amarsaikhan proved how skillful of an actor he is through his improvised moments as well as the determined look and

actions of his role. On the other hand, the most famous travel notes of Marco Polo are inseparable from the history of Mongolia. Thus, there is no doubt about the importance of Mongolian actors in the making of the film.

THE PATH TO REACH THEIR DREAM

(BURN YOUR MAPS)

The film 'Burn Your Maps' by famous Hollywood director Jordan Roberts that was released last year is about a boy named Wes who dreams of becoming a Mongolian herder. The role was created by a young actor named Jacob Tremblay. Famous Hollywood actors such as Vera Farmiga who became well-known for her roles in 'The Conjuring' and 'Bates Motel', Marton Csokas for his role in 'Aeonflux', and Suraj Sharma for his role in 'Life of Pi' were also

parts of the cast in the film. As for Mongolian actors, some 30 actors were involved as extras aside from Ts.Tserenbold creating the role of a shaman.

The story starts with bumpy relations in the family. However, the boy Wes believes that he is a long-lost Mongolian nomad born far away from where he was supposed to be. Soon they come across an aspiring filmmaker, with whom they go on a journey to Mongolia. The boy finally arrives where he has wanted to be, and filmmaker Ismail gets started on his documentary. And that is where it all begins.

Tourism in the country, religious ceremonies, nomadic way of life, the relations between humans, animals, and nature, the kind hearted nature of people, the beautiful wide open lands, traditions, and the national festival—many events are shown on the screen through the character of the boy





who loves Mongolia.

Aside from giving an opportunity to see a nation's culture and civilization through a child's innocent point of view, some critics have considered *Burn Your Maps* to be a work that puts hope in the hearts of many children all around the world who could not turn their dreams into reality. And of course, it is also unique that the main protagonist's dream destination was Mongolia, the homeland of nomads with exquisite untouched nature.

THE BIGGEST STEP (WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS)



The film that had built up high expectations this year was the film, 'Waiting for the Barbarians'. Adapted from the Noble award-winning novel written by South

African-born author John Maxwell Coetzee, the film was directed by two-time Cannes Festival award-winning director *Ciro Guerra*. Oscar-winner *Mark Rylance*, *John Depp*, and *Robert Pattinson* who became well known through his roles in *Twilight* and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* played the film's main characters.

The female lead character was created by *B.Ganchimeg* (Gana Bayarsaikhan), and she was cast by the man himself - the author of the novel, 'Waiting for the Barbarians', *J.M.Coetzee*. Alongside the actress, State Honored Actor *P.Tserendagva*, *D.Gursed*, and up-and-coming actor *G.Dulguun-Erdene* also created supporting roles. In the film, a total of 14 Mongolian actors and performers were involved in the entire cast of the film including main and supporting characters as well as extras. 'Black Stallion' production worked on the film from the Mongolian side. In addition, the language of the natives in the film was also decided to be Mongolian.

Film producer *Michael Fitzgerald* has said in a video on the production's Facebook page, "Without the help of the production and all the Mongolian actors, we wouldn't have our film." This statement alone explicitly tells us about the importance of Mongolian actors participating in the film.



WORLD HERITAGE

THE “TOSON-KHULSTAI” BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The Toson-Khulstai Nature Reserve of Mongolia was designated as a UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve by the International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) meeting, which was held online from 27 to 28 October 2020.

The Biosphere Reserve “Toson-Khulstai” is located in North-Eastern Mongolia, in a transition area between forest steppe and grassland ecosystems. The area is part of the largest intact temperate grassland on Earth. The aim of the Biosphere Reserve is to protect the low mountains, rolling hills, and dry steppe ecosystems that are the habitat of Mongolian gazelle and other wildlife such as the globally endangered White naped crane, the upland buzzard, the steppe eagle and the Siberian marmot. Furthermore, the Biosphere reserve aims to protect the following 8 target species and ecosystems. These include Mongolian gazelles, gray wolves, Mongolian marmots, medium sized carnivores, lakes, rocky outcrops, stipa grassland ecosystems and springs.

About 200 herder families with approximately 91,000 head of cattle live within the territory of the core area of the Biosphere Reserve and the livelihood of these families strongly depend on ecosystem services provided by the area including seasonal grazing and freshwater for livestock and people.

The Tsengeleg lake in the Buffer Zone of the Biosphere Reserve was identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) site recognized by Birdlife International. The

Biosphere Reserve will contribute to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves through implementation of the related strategies and action plans and cooperate with the member countries of the related international, regional and sub-regional networks to jointly implement and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Temperate grassland

The Mongolian Steppe is one of the last remaining intact temperate grasslands in the world. Globally, the Temperate Grasslands biome is the most converted and least protected (Hoekstra 2005). However, in Mongolia these temperate grasslands are still relatively unconverted and continue to support most of the region's historic wildlife and plant communities, as well as a traditional pastoral society. The main ecosystem types are dry steppe and moderate dry steppe.

Cultural properties

The remains of the city of Kherlen Bars is located in Tsagaan Ovoo county area, which is 600 m from the south border of the core area. This city was part of the historic Khitan Empire (Liao dynasty) during the 10th and 11th centuries. There is a tower about 7 meters high and researchers believe that this was a watchtower back then.

Topography

Average elevation is 900-1000 m above sea level. The highest point is 1240.5m (Norovlin ovoo) and the lowest point is 767.4 m (North of Hoton lake).

Climate

Average air temperature is -20.3°C in January and +20.8°C in July. The annual precipitation is 199.2-284.8 mm.

Fauna

The Toson Khulstai Biosphere Reserve is habitat for as many as 208 species of plants, 33 species of mammals, 139 birds, 3 species of reptiles, and 2 species of amphibians.

Common species of the Biosphere Reserve are the Tolai hare, the Siberian marmot, the Brandt's vole, the Corsac fox, the Red fox, and the Pallas's cat. In addition, Daurian hedgehogs, Daurian ground squirrels, Siberian jerboas, and Campbell's hamsters have been registered. There are 139 bird species registered, including the Upland buzzard, Saker falcon, Lesser kestrel, Steppe eagle, Ruddy shelduck,

Common shelduck, Common golden-eye, Swan goose, Whooper swan, Demoiselle crane, White-naped crane, and Grey heron.

Most importantly, the area is an important habitat of the Mongolian gazelle and

Globally endangered White-naped crane. The Mongolian gazelle is regarded as an herbivore and ecosystem-engineering species as it affects plant composition and diversity through migration across the vast Stipagrassland steppe (Tsagan, 1980; Zahler et al., 2003). It is also considered an indicator species for ecosystem health of the eastern Stipa steppe region. Due to high pressure of over-hunting during recent years, its population has



been greatly reduced. According to the IUCN Regional Red List assessment (Clark et al., 2006) the species has been listed as nearly threatened.

Flora

There are 208 plant species registered and the most common species include *Caragana microphylla*, *Stipa krylovii*, *Stipa sibirica*, *Stipa capillata*, *Poa attenuata*, *Koeleria macrantha*, *Cleistogenes squarrosa*, *Leymus chinensis*, *Artemisia frigida*, *Astragalus mongholicus*, *Allium condensatum*, and *Carex duriucula*.

Plant species that are found around salt marsh lakes and ponds include *Puccinellia tenuiflora*, *P. hauptiana*, and *Suaeda corniculata*. Medicinal and rare plants species include *Rosa acicularis*, *Thermopsis lanceolata*, *Plantago major*, *Lilium pumilum*, *Cleistogenes squarrosa*, *Festuca lenensis*, *Stipa baicalensis*, *Filifolium sibiricum*, and *Iris dichotoma*.

THE HU

LEGEND AWAKENING HUNNU ROCK

The HU band from Mongolia has covered Metallica's 'Sad But True' in hunnu rock. So rock fans are now enjoying a unique version of the classic that has over 142 million streams on Spotify.

The world recognizes that The HU that pioneered hunnu rock has garnered tens of millions of streams on Spotify and 137 million views on YouTube since its inception in 2016. Rockers around the world know that the band pioneered hunnu rock by pairing Mongolian traditional folk music instrumentation and metal music with throat singing.

The cover of the rock legend's song has attracted much attention. The way that the cover was sung in Mongolian with the accompaniment of traditional music

and throat singing without disregarding the original version gives listeners a new experience.

The HU earned No. 3 on Billboard's World Digital Song Sales chart of the week of December 19, 2020, with their version of 'Sad But True'.

'Sad But True' by the legendary Metallica that was released in 1993 has 142 million streams on Spotify and 52 million views on YouTube. "Like millions of people around the world, Metallica has been a huge influence and inspiration for us as music fans and musicians. We admire their 40 years of relentless touring and the timeless, unique music they have created. It is a great honor to show them our respect and gratitude by recording a

version of 'Sad But True' in our language and in the style of The HU," band member Galbadrakh said in a statement.

The HU's rendition is in the 'The Best of Better Noise Music: 15 Years of Rock' compilation series by 'Better Noise Music' label the band works with. The series will run throughout 2021.

Hunnu Rock

Let's look back on the past achievements of the band that mixes Eastern and Western culture.

'Yuve Yuve Yu' and 'Wolf Totem' are proof that they have reached their goal to conquer the world like Chinggis Khaan with hunnu rock. Specifically, the two



songs released in the fall of 2018 went viral, garnering 25 million views on YouTube in a month. The music videos now have 45 to 65 million views on YouTube.

In April 2019, 'Wolf Totem' became the first Mongolian song to reach No. 1 on Billboard's Hard Rock Digital Song Sales. Also, 'Yuve Yuve Yu' ranked 7th on the same chart while 'Wolf Totem' debuted at No. 22 on Billboard's Hot Rock Songs chart. Their first album 'Gereg' that debuted last year on September 13 hit No. 1 on the World Albums chart by Billboard.

Last year, the band made its first tour with performances at 23 music festivals in 13 European cities between June and July. Also, last year, from September to December, they successfully played over 60 shows in cities across the United States. The band currently has no tour plans due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The band's fan base has expanded further following their collaborations with Danny Case of From Ashes to New on 'Yuve Yuve Yu' and Jacoby Shaddix of Papa Roach on 'Wolf Totem'. The new version of 'Wolf Totem' will be featured in the upcoming horror film 'The Retaliators'. The band also made the theme song for 'Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order' video game.

President of Mongolia Kh.Battulga awarded the band the highest state decoration of Mongolia - the Chinggis Khaan Order - for creating a new musical genre that is 'the hunnu rock' by blending the immeasurable heritage of traditional Mongolian culture and folk arts reflecting the glory and proud history of the Great Mongol Empire and the forefathers with the rhythm and melody of modern music; promoting its music in Mongolian lyrics around the world, and propagating a good image of the country and its people.

During its COVID-19 Relief Effort Fundraising Concert aired on June 28 on YouTube, the band announced that it plans to release its second album in 2021.



Б.АЛТАНБҮГДЭГ
Б.БАТЧӨМӨГ

montsaine



Animals in Red Book

MONGOLIAN SNOW LEOPARD

An exhibition entitled “Ghost of the Mountains” by photographer B.Myatav truly caught my interest. The exhibition features around 70 photos, of which over 30 were photographs of birds, rabbit, ground-squirrel and remaining over 40 were photos of snow leopard, which is considered as endangered species in Mongolia.

Hearing that snow leopards are inhabiting Gurvansaikhan Mountain of Umnugobi aimag, photographer B.Myatav headed there three years ago. By dint of waiting the moment patiently from sunrise to sunset when leopard comes out of den, he could capture only one photo from the distance of 400 meter. Alongside making him happy, this gave hope to the photographer to re-capture photos of snow leopard. Since that he decided to take photos of snow leopard and spent a whole year starting from August 2019. In doing so, he found out that four snow leopards are living in the mountain's cave.

This creature called “Snow leopard” is a symbol of high mountains not only in Mongolia but also Central Asia. Body length of matured individual is 103-130 cm, tail length is 92-105 cm. Although the creature belongs to “Big cat species”, it is least studied than other species. Snow leopards can survive and adapt to harsh climate where oxygen is less or live at an altitude above 3000 meters.

According to a survey report published on the latest issue of “The Journal Heredity”, 4.000-6.000 head of snow leopards left in wild on our planet. The number has increased to around 7.000-8.000 by the survey conducted last year, but it is small for the leopard population. Poaching, climate change and infrastructure issues are the main causes of low growth of leopard population and the issues have not been resolved completely.

Snow leopards can be found in Central Asian 12 countries. Mongolia is home to 800-1000 snow leopards, the second largest population in the world. In other words, 20 percent of the estimated snow

leopard population in the world inhabit in the country.

Unfortunately, poachers hunt snow leopard for its beautiful fur as well as its bones and body parts as they are used for traditional medicine. On the other hand, in the last over decade, the heads of livestock have been significantly increased and overgrazing occurs in mountainous areas. As a result, the Ibex and Argali, prey species of snow leopard, have been pushed away from their suitable habitats. Due to lack of wild preys, the snow leopard attacks at domestic livestock. To protect their herds, herders sometimes kill snow leopards in retribution.

CONSERVATION

The World Wildlife Foundation has been taking and realizing various measures. Since 2008, 23 individual snow leopards have been equipped with GPS collars in Toson Bumba Mountain of Gurvantes soum of Umnugobi aimag and specific outcomes have been made as thoroughly studied some ecological issues of the snow leopard including habitat areas, surviving ability of a cub, migration and mating season. A study on the creature started from 1998.

Conservation works have also begun and the snow leopard was included in the list of very rare species by the Law on Hunting of 1995 aside from being listed as extremely rare animal outlined in Mongolia's Law on Fauna in 2000 and listed as very rare species in the second edition of Mongolian Red Book.

In Mongolia, total area of snow leopard habitat is about 103.000 sq.km. Density of leopard population is higher in Mongol Altai and Gobi-Altai Mountains. Also very

few tracks have been discovered in the Khuvsgul and Khangai Mountain ranges.

It is necessary to tighten customs control so that illegal trade of snow leopard's body parts, bones and fur can be eliminated. Further, scientists conclude that providing monetary assistance and support by the Government and law enforcement organizations on adding units and patrol teams for combating illegal hunting in the snow leopard's habitat areas is the priority action to take. Also creating and developing mechanism for defining current condition of snow leopard population inhabiting mountainous areas of Khangai and Khuvsgul and resolving issue on livestock pasture on its habitat area would bring crucial impact to the snow leopard conservation.

Snow leopard gives birth during the summer months and cubs open their eyes at around seven days old. Summer is the most responsible month for the snow leopard to breed its offspring and also cubs learn to hunt. They can survive in harsh rugged conditions at minus 35 to minus 40 Celsius degree in winter and can endure cold above minus 40 Celsius degree. Snow leopard's wide, fur-covered feet act as natural snowshoes and protect from the cold.

If the snow leopard becomes extinct, other rare species of endangered animals inhabiting Mongolia will face a high risk of extinction aside from bringing adverse impacts to the natural eco system. Therefore, there is no limit for deeds of people including photographer B.Myatav for making people aware of significance of snow leopard, and focusing attention on its population growth.



Sports

BASKETBALL 3X3 WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS A STREET SPORT IS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING AROUND THE WORLD AND EVEN RECENTLY HAVE OFFICIALLY BECOME A SUMMER OLYMPIC SPORT.

Basketball 3x3 which has originally been known as a street sport is rapidly developing around the world and even recently have officially become a Summer Olympic sport.

Mongolians got familiar with the sport back in the '70s and the new generations of athletes have been achieving remarkable success in the world scene. One of the evidences that Mongolia is a rising powerhouse is that the country ranked 12th in the latest ranking announced by FIBA 3x3.

The Mongolian team - "Ulaanbaatar MMC Energy have been invited, for the first time, to participate in the "FIBA World tour Masters final" which brought together the world's top 12 teams who successfully participated FIBA 3x3 Grand Slam tourna-



MONGOLIAN 3X3 BASKETBALL TEAM NAMED ONE OF WORLD'S TOP 12 TEAMS

STANDINGS

FIBA 3x3 WORLD TOUR 2020

1. LIMAN (SRB)
2. RIGA (LAT)
3. NOVI SAD (SRB)
4. NY HARLEM (USA)
5. PIRAN (SLO)
6. SAKTAI GULBELE (LTU)
7. LAUSANNE (SUI)
8. UB (SRB)
9. UTENA UNICLUB (LTU)
10. JEDDAH (KSA)
11. ULAANBAATAR MMC ENERGY (MGL)
12. AMSTERDAM (NED)

AFTER 3 MASTERS

ments. As for this tournament, the team placed 10th, proving the fact that they are unarguably one of top-10 teams in the world. This event certainly should be highlighted as the best sports achievement acquired by Mongolian athletes in 2020.

Moreover, FIBA announced the updated world rankings of Basketball 3x3 players on January 7 which included four players of the Mongolian men's team, particularly D.Delgernyam ranked 44th /1st in Asia/, E.Dulguun ranked 53rd /2nd in Asia/, E.Tserenbaatar ranked 69th /4th in Asia/ and A.Anand ranked 77th /6th in Asia/ in the world top-100 ranking.

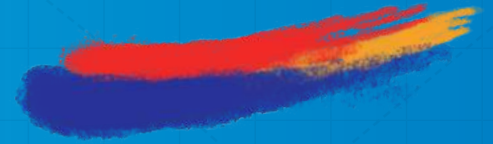
In May 2021, Austria will host FIBA 3x3 Olympic Qualifying tournament and it will be the first Olympic Qualifying tournament since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

In this tournament, Mongolian team has been seeded in the Pool-A alongside Polish, Brazilian, Turkish and Czech teams.

Moreover, it is noteworthy that Mongolian women's 3x3 basketball team became the first in the history of Mongolian team sports to be qualified to participate in the Tokyo-2020 Summer Olympic Games.



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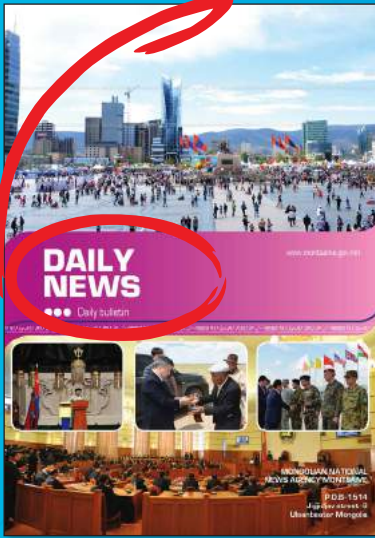
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