



THE MONGOL MESSENGER

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Mongolia to Boost Tourism under Brand Name "GoMongolia" in 2024



The Mongolian National Brand "GoMongolia" was launched on December 30, 2023.

In his speech, Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai said, "In the passing year of 2023, under the policy to foster tourism, Mongolia successfully implemented liberalization in the air transport sector, establishing 155 flight destinations in 42 countries, receiving 650,000 foreign tourists, generating USD 1.2 billion in revenue exclusively from the tourism sector."

Mongolian Premier L. Oyun-Erdene expressed his appreciation for the tourism industry, highlighting that Mongolia's international reputation and standing increased, and for the first time, Mongolia topped the list of the best countries to travel to. In 2023, the world's leading content creators released 40 content about Mongolia on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube, reaching approximately 155 million people. Mongolia launched collaborations with major international media organizations such as CNN and National Geographic. As a result, the positive

perception of Mongolia increased by 38 percent.

The Prime Minister noted main economic indicators, including 6.8 percent growth in the Mongolian economy in 2023. The total export revenue saw a twofold increase compared to the pre-pandemic period. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) surged to MNT 63.3 trillion, and the GDP per capita achieved a milestone of reaching USD 5,220 for the first time. Notably, Mongolia's state budget and balance of payments recorded a surplus, a noteworthy accomplishment for the first time in its history.

"Thanks to those achievements, Mongolia has entirely paid off its 'Samurai' bond (JPY 30 billion, approximately USD 200 million) and the USD 500 million 'Euro' bond of the Development Bank, both solely from its own sources," stressed Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene.

"Also, we witnessed multiple events significant in the spiritual world of Mongolians, such as after 266 years, a Mongolian boy was reincarnated as the 10th Bogd Khaan, and 777 years after Khaan Guyug sent a reply letter, the Head of the Holy See Pope Francis visited Mongolia

for the first time. Mongolia has started a new 30 years of progress towards leapfrog development by carrying out system reforms. In that respect, 2023 commenced with the slogan "Welcome to Mongolia," becoming a year that will be etched in history as a period of reform," Mr. Oyun-Erdene continued.

In 2023, Mongolia made an international declaration of its national brand, "Welcome to Mongolia." The country introduced a policy to foster investment and tourism, created a legal framework for public-private partnership, streamlined marketing, and embarked on a grand initiative for collaboration internationally. In 2024, Mongolia will launch the "MonGOLia, Always Moving" brand to the world, embodying its unified national values and boosting tourism. We believe it will indicate the country's development state, reinforce shared national values, and become an internationally recognized symbol, resulting in increased tourism and investment.

The keyword "MonGOLia" includes the word "GO" which expresses the comprehensive meaning of "Aspiring Mongolia." Experts believe that "GoMongolia" can express a variety of meanings. It may convey Mongolia's historical significance as the Great Empire and its status as the homeland of Nomads and a country with an energetic young population. Furthermore, it represents Mongolia as a country constantly advancing and embracing parliamentary governance, standing as an oasis of democracy in the region. "GoMongolia" can also encapsulate the idea of visiting Mongolia to immerse oneself in new and unique experiences.

Date of Elections for the State Great Khural Set

The elections of the State Great Khural of Mongolia will be held on Friday, June 28, 2024.

The State Great Khural of Mongolia approved a draft Resolution on Setting the Date for the Parliamentary Elections in 2024 at its plenary session on December 28, 2023.

The Democratic Party Group in the parliament took a break during the discussion of the draft as MPs had different positions on the proposed date to ensure sufficient turnout in the elections and when the voting took place the draft resolution was approved with 56,5 percent support. Under the Law on Elections of the State Great Khural, the polling day is a public holiday.

The forthcoming Parliamentary Elections' features include a mixed electoral system, an increased number of MPs to be elected, and participation of voters abroad.

The number of Members of the State Great Khural, the uni-

cameral Parliament of Mongolia was increased to 126, as the State Great Khural approved the Law on Amendments to the Constitution of Mongolia on May 31, 2023. As the amendments to the Constitution come into effect from January 1, 2024, the elections also will be held under a mixed electoral system of majoritarian and proportional. Specifically, 78 members out of the total 126 members, which is currently 76 will be elected by a majoritarian system or directly by voters in constituencies while 48 members by proportional system or from a political party list.

According to the Parliamentary Resolution on "Establishing 2024 Electoral Constituencies of the State Great Khural of Mongolia and Determining the Number of Seats in a Constituency, Territory, and Center of Constituencies", there will be a total of 13 electoral constituencies with the distribution of 7 constituencies in aimags, and 6 in the capital city Ulaanbaatar, while it



was 76 electoral constituencies in previous elections.

New Image Cast voting machines will be used for voting, vote counting, and reporting results in the regular parliamentary elections.

In the latest parliamentary elections on 24 June 2020, 606 candidates were officially registered by the General Election Commission of Mongolia running for the election, of whom 121 are

independents and 485 candidates from 13 political parties and 4 coalitions. The result was a victory for the ruling Mongolian People's Party, which won 62 of the 76 seats, a slight decrease from the 65 won in the 2016 elections. The Democratic Party won 11 seats, the Our Coalition and the Right Person Electorate Coalition won one seat each, and only one independent candidate won.

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Bloomberg commodity price 2024/01/04		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2.054.80
COPPER	USD/lb.	385.10
SILVER	USD/t oz.	23.20
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	78.85
WHEAT	USD/bu	596.25

Ulaanbaatar Governor Takes Charge of Metro Construction in the Capital City

At Cabinet meeting on December 27, 2023, Government Resolution No. 411 on the Construction of a High-Capacity Public Transport System (Metro) in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar was revised.

According to the Resolution, the Minister of Mongolia B. Delgersaikhan, Chair of the National Committee on the Reduction of Traffic Congestion in Ulaanbaatar, and Kh. Nyambaatar, the Governor of the Capital City, and the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City were granted the right to organize the work to announce an international bidding for contractors and management consulting services for the construction of the metro in Ulaanbaatar in 2024-2028, ensuring compliance with all relevant laws and regulations. Furthermore, Governor of Ulaanbaatar Kh. Nyambaatar was tasked with developing the necessary calculations and studies



related to funding in 2024 for the metro construction, presenting for discussion at the Ulaanbaatar Citizens' Representative Khural, and reflecting funding sources and capital costs in the Capital City Budget.

The Government of Mongolia has established a joint working group tasked with developing and approving the terms of reference for consulting services for the Metro feasibility study and design. The working

group completed the analysis of the two previous feasibility studies: one conducted in 2011 by South Korea's Soosung Engineering Co., Ltd., and the other conducted in 2013 by JICA. In these feasibility studies, preliminary conclusions regarding soil structure and groundwater conditions in Ulaanbaatar were drawn based on data from a soil drilling survey conducted in 1983 at five locations along the route. However, recognizing the change in condition over 40 years, the Working Group emphasized the need to update the study.

The 2013 study conducted by JICA predicted a population of 976,000 people in Ulaanbaatar by 2030, with 976,000 daily metro users. However, due to the rapid population growth, with an average of 40,000 new citizens immigrating annually, and a population of 1.6 million living in Ulaanbaatar as of 2023, there is a need to update the survey.

Government to Provide Long-Term Support to Private Sector

Most of the projects included in the Government's "New Revival Policy" are planned to be implemented through public-private partnerships. In this context, the Law on Public-Private Partnership was developed by the Government and approved by the Parliament.

The law will come into force from January 1, 2024. Procedures and regulations to be followed in the implementation of the law, including issuing government guarantees, establishing partnership agreements, and giving permission were discussed and

approved at the Cabinet meeting.

The main goal of the Law on Public-Private Partnership is that the government will not compete with the private sector, but will provide long-term support and implement infrastructure projects. The involvement of the private sector in public service will result in many gains, such as the promotion of competition, the full implementation of asset management, the introduction of financial instruments to meet growing needs, the reduction of the budget burden in the long term, and boosting private sector-based economic growth.

The law includes regulations

for ensuring the common interests of the partners equally, long-term mutually beneficial cooperation, project risk sharing, and clarifying government support in the partnership. With the law, a legal framework is to be formed in line with international standards that targeted to attracting private sector investment so that large-scale infrastructure and development projects are financed not only through public investment and foreign loans and using the capabilities of the private sector to make public services accessible to the public at low cost.

2024 to be the Year to Support Regional Development

At its regular session, the Government approved the Resolution on Declaring 2024 as the Year to Support Regional Development. Twenty-two years have passed since the adoption of the Resolution No. 57 of 2001 the "Regional Development Concept of Mongolia."

At present, 46 percent of Mongolia's population resides in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, 75.8 percent of enterprises and 84 percent of trade and services are focused in the capital city and 63 percent of GDP is produced solely in Ulaanbaatar. Meanwhile, 53.2 percent of the total population lives in rural areas, 24.2 percent of enterprises and 16 percent of trade and services operate there and 37 percent of GDP is produced in

the countryside.

The gap between urban and rural development is a major cause of labour shortage and lack of economic diversification in rural areas in contrast to an excessive concentration of population in Ulaanbaatar, increasing congestion, smog, air and soil pollution, and a decrease in access to social services.

Under the Year to Support Regional Development and based on the Regional Development Concept of Mongolia", Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Development of Mongolia Ch. Khurelbaatar was tasked to develop and monitor the implementation of Mongolia's Medium-Term Development Policy or Regional Development Program considering proposals from cabinet members and rele-

vant organizations of aimags and the capital.

Within the framework of the general financing agreement, Minister of Finance B. Javkhlan is to sign the Financial Agreement between Mongolia and the European Investment Bank on the Implementation of Phase I of Aimags and Soums Green Regional Development Investment Program (ASDIP), which was established between Mongolia and the Asian Development Bank on February 28, 2023.

Under the ASDIP, a total of USD 735 million in loans and grants will be spent for building engineering infrastructure, construction of transport and logistics centers, and green financing to support agricultural production in 52 soums of 17 aimags.

C A B I N E T S E S S I O N



During its regular session on January 3, 2024, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

Prime Minister of Mongolia Orders to Achieve Tangible Results in the Implementation of Projects and Measures that Need to be Intensified

The Minister of Mongolia and Head of the Cabinet Secretariat D. Amarbayasgalan presented to the Cabinet some projects and measures that their implementation needs to be intensified in the first half of 2024.

The implementation of the 75 projects and measures reflected in Mongolia's long-term development policy, "Vision-2050," the Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia for 2020-2024, the "New Revival Policy," and the 2023 National Development Plan, as well as tasks assigned by the Prime Minister of Mongolia, is currently subpar, with some of them not yet started. Urgent actions are required to commence and intensify these projects and measures promptly. Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene ordered to accelerate the implementation of the development projects and measures that are anticipated to have a positive impact on the country's society and economy, focusing on achieving tangible results within the first half of 2024.

According to this, it was decided to issue the Prime Minister's official directive to members of the Government and Governors of aimags and Ulaanbaatar City.

At the last session of 2023, the Government approved the Resolution on Declaring 2024 as the Year to Support Regional Development. Minister of Economy and Development of Mongolia Ch. Khurelbaatar, and Minister of Mongolia, and Head of the Cabinet Secretariat D. Amarbayasgalan were tasked with developing a plan for implementing the Resolution in the first 100 days of 2024.

Prime Minister to Head the National Committee for National Housing

The Government approved draft resolutions on some government measures to provide citizens with housing and on the formation of the National Committee for National Housing. In this context, the Cabinet decided to establish a National Housing Finance Corporation.

Since the beginning of the Program on Subsidized Housing Loans for Citizens by the first half of 2023, soft loans of MNT 7.2 trillion have been given to 115.1 thousand citizens from the sources of the Government, the Bank of Mongolia, and commercial banks. About 60 percent of loan receivers are citizens whose income is above MNT 2 million or above average salary. This means that the main goal of supporting low- and middle-income citizens has not been achieved.

Thus, the Government has to consider:

-diversification of housing

The Draft Resolution on Regional Relocation of Public Organizations to be Submitted to the State Great Khural of Mongolia

The Cabinet supported and decided to submit to the State Great Khural of Mongolia the draft Resolution of the Parliament on Measures for Phased Regional Relocation of Public Organizations from the Capital, considering the public organizations' functions, scope, and services. The draft Resolution aims to address urban-rural and inter-regional disparities by fostering balanced development across Mongolia's aimags, in line with the national regional development concept.

Proposal for the Appointment of Ambassadors to be Submitted to the President of Mongolia

The Cabinet discussed the proposal of appointing the following officials as ambassadors and decided to submit it to President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.

Specifically,

-Sukhbold Sukhee as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Korea,

-Baigalmaa Gunaajav as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Poland,

-Munkh-Ulzii Tserendorj as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Sweden,

-Ankhubayr Nyamdorj as a Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations.

News in brief

Uyanga Bold was appointed as the Deputy Minister of Mining and Heavy Industry of Mongolia, Battur Purevsuren as the Deputy Minister of Culture of Mongolia, and Batbayar Munkhuu as the Head of Administration of Khushig Valley Development.

finance to meet the needs of households and families,

-creating a favourable tax environment for enterprises implementing energy-efficient housing projects under the regional development plan,

-supporting projects and programs implemented in the reconstruction of the ger districts under the policy of reducing air and environmental pollution and decentralization of Ulaanbaatar,

-increasing the number of public housing facilities for temporary and permanent resettlement of citizens who sold their land plots within the framework of the project,

-identifying sources of funding for a rental housing program suitable for the very poor, low-income, and other target groups.

As stated in the Resolution, the National Committee for National Housing will be established and headed by the Prime Minister of Mongolia.

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 08:42 Sunset: 17:12

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -23 C and -34 C. Day time temps between -10 C and -20 C

■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -19 C and -30 C. Day time temps between -8 C and -16 C

■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -17 C and -21 C. Day time temps between -8 C and -12 C

■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -12 C and -17 C. Day time temps between -1 C and -8 C

President Khurelsukh Extends New Year Greetings

On the New Year's Eve, H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, President of Mongolia, extended greetings to the citizens of Mongolia in a televised message.

My dear countrymen Mongolians,

My fellow Mongol brothers and sisters,

I extend to you my heartfelt greetings for the coming New Year.

New Year's Day is a universal holiday where we embrace the new year with joy and excitement, surrounded by our dearest and beloved ones, and a moment for every household and nation to reflect on the past year's work, wishing for the coming year to be filled with energy, passion, happiness, and success.

Although the passing year of 2023 was a year of trying times for humankind in geopolitics, geostrategy, environment, and climate change, for us, the Mongolians, this was a year full of historical events. Mongolia's foreign relations and cooperation have expanded, the economy has recovered, food production and green development have been fostered, and our rich history, culture, and heritage have been promoted to the world.



This year, the economy of our country grew by 6.9 percent, official foreign exchange reserves reached USD 4.5 billion, inflation decreased to 8.6 percent from 16.5 percent, the government revenue increased, and the state budget of Mongolia recorded surplus for the first time since the onset of the pandemic.

Also, Mongolia's foreign policy and relations have expanded and strengthened significantly. We successfully hosted and reciprocated a number of historic visits. We promoted our rich history, admirable culture, and glory

and vigor of the Mongols worldwide. In that respect, 2023 was a historical year that signifies the flourishing and prosperity of Mongolia's foreign relations.

This year, Mongolia has fully accomplished its goal of establishing diplomatic relations with all 192 member states of the United Nations. Thus, our country now has friendly relations and cooperation with all countries in the world.

At the same time, an International Criminal Court Judge was elected from Mongolia for the first time. The number of

countries that Mongolian citizens can travel to without a visa has increased, and the number of direct flights connecting our country with other countries has also increased.

This is the real result and achievement of our country's peaceful, open, multi-pillar, and independent foreign policy.

At this very moment of the turn of a New Year, I am pleased to underscore that Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations, who visited our country, praised that "Mongolia is a symbol of peace", while Pope Francis, the Head of State of the Holy See, highlighted Mongolia as "a country that symbolizes spiritual freedom".

This is a manifestation of the world's respect and acceptance of Mongolian state, history, culture, values, and deeds that have been carried forward from ancient times.

Therefore, we Mongolians, the guardians of the hearth of Great Mongol, should be deeply aware that we are one Mongolia, one nation, and one family, and that we should love, protect and support each other, strengthen our solidarity, and always make our best endeavor for our country, united in action and spirit.

Assurance of Mongolia's independence, national security, development, and prosperity is the energy, hope, and unity of our nation.

Dear citizens of Mongolia, Looking forward to the coming new year with your family and loved ones, you are all excited about the auspicious moment of the turn of the New Year. I extend to you my heartfelt greetings for the coming New Year. May the coming new year be filled with love, success, and positivity.

On behalf of the Mongolian people, I congratulate and express my profound gratitude to the courageous soldiers guarding at borders, and peacekeepers who work on behalf of our country for world peace, doctors, nurses, and medical staff in charge of health of the people, civil servants, soldiers and police officers, and emergency services workers who are working to ensure the safety of our country and people.

May the vigor of Mongolia rise in the coming year of 2024. May there be peace on earth and may humankind live in harmony.

May Mongolia prosper and flourish under the Eternal Blue Sky!

A Happy New Year!

Chairman of the State Great Khural Visits Aimags with High Risk of Zud

Mongolia is experiencing an extremely harsh winter this year and 40 soums in 11 aimags and remote districts of the capital city are suffering from white zud. Over 81 percent of the country's territory is covered with snow and approximately 70 percent of the total territory is at high risk of zud. Chairman of the Great Khural of Mongolia Zandanshatar Gombojav visited aimags and soums to oversee winter conditions and the measures being taken.

A total of 69.1 million head of livestock is estimated to overwinter in 190.1 thousand herder households. In preparation for winter, 7.8 million livestock of 18.8 thousand herder households have been assessed to winter in

migration seeking for good pastures, however, due to heavy snowfalls, the migration is increasing.

According to the zud risk mapping, over 95 percent of the total territory of Bayankhongor aimag is at high risk of zud – 8.4 percent at very high risk, 42.9 percent at high risk, 43.8 percent at moderate risk and 4.5 percent at low risk. The herders stated that the entire territory of Bayankhongor aimag is covered with snow and 30 cm of snow fell on the northern plains. Thus, about 7.6 thousand head of livestock of 16 households are forced to overwinter in neighbouring Uvurkhangai aimag's territory.

Due to the worsening winter conditions, the State Emergency Commission is organizing and

distributing 4,015 tons of bran and 1,274 tons of fodder at a 50 percent discount from state reserves to the herders and households with livestock in 21 aimags and remote districts of the capital.

Herders of Bayankhongor aimag stated many problems as a consequence of excessive livestock and overgrazing. In this regard, they stated about urgency of detailed regulation for herders' cooperatives to work together in fodder preparation and increase yields from livestock.

Chairman Zandanshatar stated that at his initiative Association of Herder Households aimed at solving the problems faced by nomadic herders was established in Khentii and Bayankhongor aimags. Further, he noted that such an Association is to be establi-



shed in 21 aimags and relevant draft law is being developed. The Chairman highlighted that the vision of the Associations of

Herder Households is to make herder households producers-distributors-creators of value-added-self-profiting households.

Tribute Paid to the National Flag of the Bogd Khanate of Mongolia



December 29, 2023, marked the 112th anniversary of the restoration of national freedom and independence of Mongolia.

On December 29, 1911, by ending the Manchu rule the Mongolian state was restored, the 8th Bogd Jabzandamba was crowned as the sovereign king

of an independent country, and Mongolia officially declared its independence to the world.

On the occasion of the 112th anniversary of the restoration of national freedom and independence, a ceremony to honor the national flag of the Bogd Khanate of Mongolia took place in the

Western Shankh Monastery in Kharkhorin soum, Uvurkhangai aimag. The ceremony was attended by G. Zandanshatar, Chairman of the Great Khural of Mongolia, Ts. Tserenpuntsag, a member of the State Great Khural, N. Baasandorj, the Head Monk of Western Shankh Monastery and authorities of aimag and soums and citizen representatives to

perform a mandala offering, a symbolic offering for the prosperity of the whole universe. Also, monks of the Monastery worshiped the deity Ochirvaani (Vajrapani), greatly revered by the Mongolians, chanted the "Janlavtsogzol" sutra in Mongolian, and performed the national anthems in three generations- "Ertnei Saikhan", "Zuun Langiin

Joroo Luus" and National Anthem of Mongolia.

The original Yellow Flag or the national flag of the Bogd Khanate of Mongolia is kept in the Western Shankh Monastery and on the initiative of the local administration and the Monastery, a flag-raising ceremony has been organized since 2014. Following the tradition of worshipping the Great Black Banner of Chinggis Khaan at the Baruu Khuree Monastery, the new national flag of the Bogd Khanate of Mongolia was left in the Western Shankh Monastery after Mongolia gained independence in 1911.

After the National Liberation Revolution in 1911, the Bogd Khanate of Mongolia was established, and the Yellow Flag was designed following a decree issued to reestablish state rituals and ceremonies and use state symbols that reflect the national traditional culture.



Five Percent of GDP of Mongolia to be Spent in Education Sector

The Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia is set to finance 442 educational and science projects worth MNT 744.8 billion in 2024. This year, the overall budget allocated to the education sector is MNT 4.2 trillion, five percent of the gross domestic product.

Major financing in the education sector in 2024 will be as follows:

Expanding education facilities: To construct 142 schools, 149 kindergartens, and 40 dormitories.

Investment in education initiatives: To allocate MNT 330.5 billion to launch 173 projects.

Support for teacher education: To provide MNT 14.5 billion for teacher education scholarships and MNT 6.9 billion to cover tuition fees for children of teachers and employees with at least 15 years of service, who will study in leading professions.

Boosting rural education: To grant a six-month bonus to rural teachers for every five years of service (awarded every three years in the future), totaling MNT 105.3 billion.



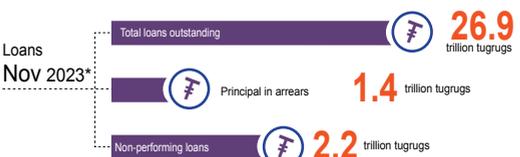
Funding for vocational education: To allocate MNT 196.8 billion to finance variable costs of

vocational institutions. Enhancing student well-being: To implement the "Lunch" program for

secondary school students with MNT 87.4 billion.

Social and Economic Performance of Mongolia in the first 11 months of 2023

MONEY, LOANS AND STOCK MARKET, at the end of November 2023



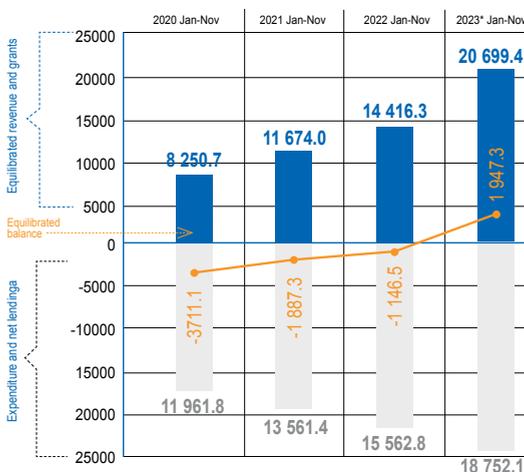
STOCK MARKET Aug 2023*



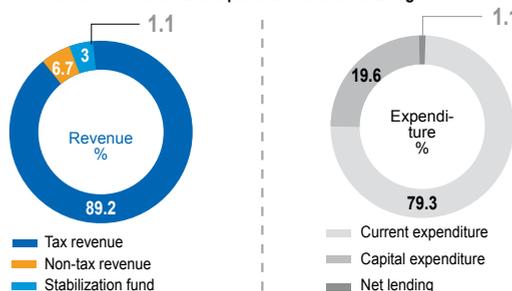
Announced exchange rates of Bank of Mongolia, monthly averages, tugrugs



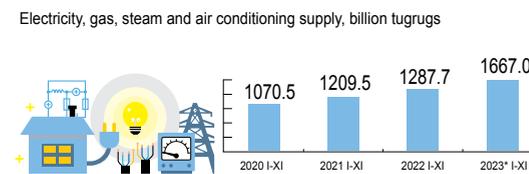
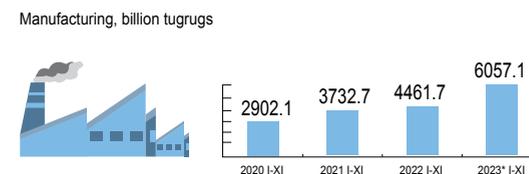
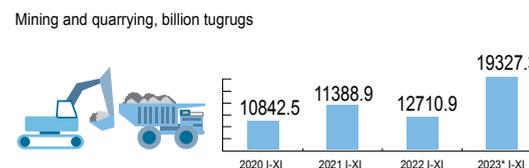
INDICATORS OF THE STATE BUDGET, in the first 11 months of the selected years, billion tugrugs



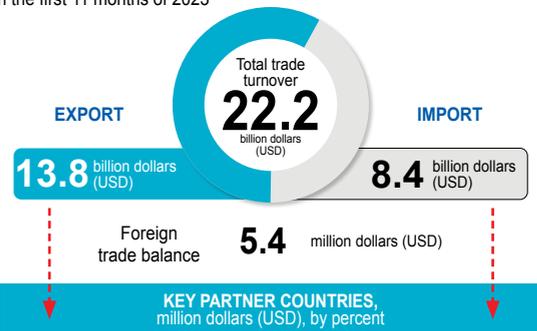
Structure of revenue and expenditure of General Budget



GROSS INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT, in the first 11 months of 2023

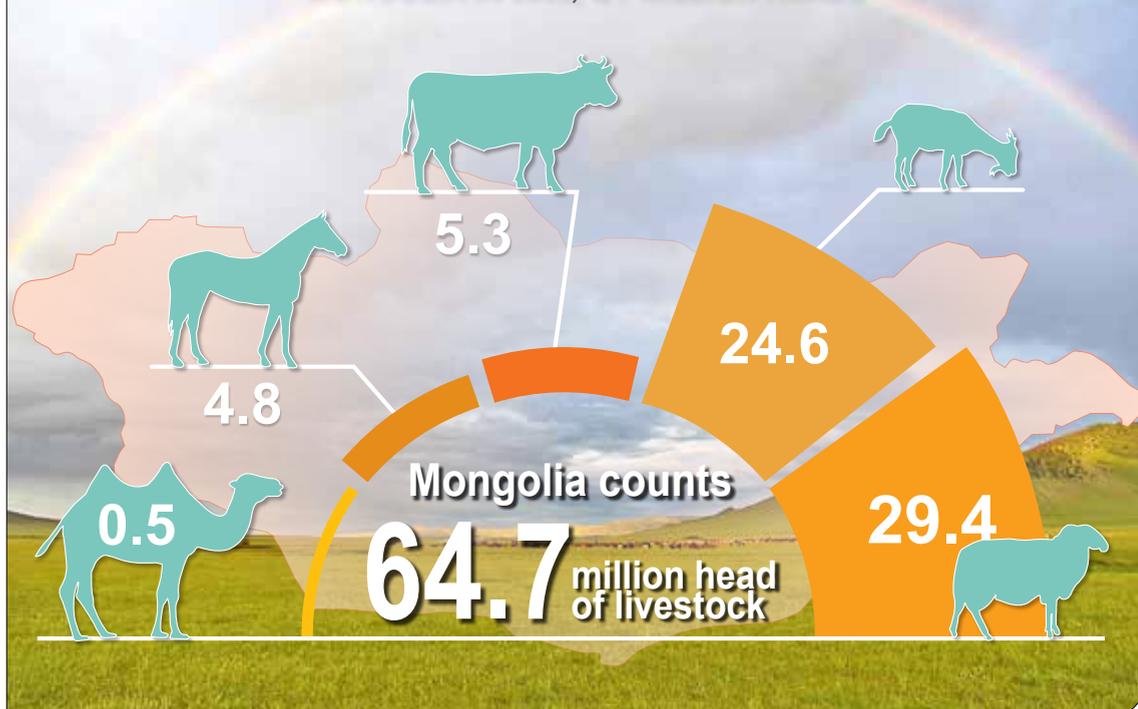


FOREIGN TRADE, in the first 11 months of 2023



China		China	
12 634.1	91.5%	3 396.7	40.6%
592.6	4.3%	2 155.7	25.7%
146.7	1.1%	650.7	7.8%
99.8	0.7%	378.1	4.5%
87.0	0.6%	261.4	3.1%
251.2	1.8%	192.0	2.3%
		1 340.8	16.0%

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK IN MONGOLIA IN 2023, BY MILLION HEADS



Multi-Volume Book "Heritage of Mongols Spread Around the World" Released



On the occasion of 112th anniversary of the Restoration of National Independence and Freedom, the first 11 volumes of the book "Heritages of Mongols Spread Around the World" was released on December 29, 2023.

A total of 20 volumes of the book will be published as part of a project initiated and implemented by the Chinggis Khaan National Museum and the International Association for Mongol Studies with the support of the Ministry of Culture. The Minister of Culture

Nomin Chinbat emphasized at the Book Release Ceremony that comprehensive activities are under implementation, including registration of heritage and cultural monuments related to Mongolia that are preserved in countries around the world, joint research and creation of books.

The series of the book present artifacts related to Mongols which are preserved in the Hermitage Museum of Russia, libraries and museums of Hungary and Japan, archives of the National Palace Museum in Taiwan, the Museum of Cultural History in Norway,

as well as the Irkutsk Regional Museum of Local History in Russia, and a Palace Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The first 11 volumes of the book "Heritage of Mongols Spread Around the World" contain about 5,400 items that never published before, noted Academician S. Chuluun, the Director of the "Chinggis Khaan" National Museum. Currently, the heritages housed in the USA, Great Britain, the Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, France, Czechia, and Poland are being prepared for printing.

Emergency Service Units Save Lives of 8260 Citizens in 2023

On December 26, 2023, the Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) held a yearly reporting meeting that outlines the operations of the NEMA and emergency service units.

Major General G. Ariunbuyan, Chief of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) stated: "In 2023, we have worked to achieve three goals: improving the legal environment in the tackling

of natural disasters, strengthening emergency management capability, and improving communication and information in using digital technologies. Since January a total of 4,223 disasters, hazardous events, and accidents were registered throughout Mongolia, and the lives of 8,260 citizens were rescued, and the property of the state, enterprises, organizations, and citizens worth MNT 372.2 billion were protected. For example, during a flood in the capital, a total of over 14 thousand emp-



loyees from the NEMA, disaster protection organizations and ser-

vices, special operations forces, and more than 2,000 pieces of equipment were mobilized on the sites to save 3,974 citizens and protect property worth of MNT 260.9 billion, which belong to the state, enterprises, and citizens."

In addition, by decision of the Government of Mongolia, a search and rescue team of 35 people, led by Brigadier General B. Uuganbayar, Deputy Director of the NEMA, went to the epicenter of the earthquake in Türkiye where they worked side by side with more than 11 thou-

sand rescuers from 70 countries, demonstrating high levels of professionalism.

"In 2023 thanks to the allocation of MNT 7.8 billion for uniforms and special clothing and MNT 2.6 billion for special purpose heavy-duty machinery and equipment from the state budget, the supply of vehicles increased by 11.7 percent and supply of machinery and equipment by 24.8 percent compared to the previous year" said Major General G. Ariunbuyan, Chief of the NEMA.

Over 5000 Individuals Take Part in Sunrise Tour

The tradition of organizing New Year's sunrise tours began two decades ago, initiated by the Ulaanbaatar railway team with just two wagons.

The 20th edition of January 1st sunrise tour featured an expansion to 21 wagons.

Over the years, the New Year's sunrise tour has seen a gro-

wing number of both local and international participants, establishing itself as a significant event contributing to the advancement of winter tourism.

This year alone, Mongolia welcomed around 80 tourists specifically for the purpose of witnessing the first sunrise of the new year.

Bagakhangai district saw

the gathering of about 5,000 domestic citizens and 1,000 cars for this occasion.

Since its inception in 2013, the sunrise tour in the district has followed a specialized program, ensuring smooth traffic flow by clearing snow from both directions of the sunrise viewing area in 2024, traffic was not obstructed, and direction signs



were placed at three locations. Citizens commended the

well-coordinated execution of this year's sunrise tour.

E-Visa Issuance Increased Four Times in 2023



In 2023, a total of 44,831 visa permissions and 40,734 Mongolian visas of appropriate types were issued by the Immigration Agency of Mongolia

(IAM). Out of them 31,242 were electronic visas (E-visa). Compared to the same period of the previous year, visa issuance increased three times, and the number of e-visas increased four times.

Also, the Agency issued 23,555 residence permits in Mongolia, and extended 19,488 residence permits, while deregistering 12,658 foreigners. The residence permit issuance increased by 2.5 times compared to 2022.

Since April 1, 2023, the Mongolian Immigration Agency has been independently printing and

issuing residence permit cards to foreigners and it has printed 34,992 new residence permit cards and extended 4,664 residence permits' validity.

As a result of digitalizing the visa application process since 2021, 12 types of visa and permit services are available online. This made visa-obtaining processes easier, reducing the necessity to come to IAM in person two times.

In 2023, IAM received and processed a total of 115,211 applications and requests through the electronic service system.

Major General Erdenebat Appointed as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

On January 2, 2024 Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres appointed Major General Erdenebat Batsuuri as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

Major General Erdenebat has had a distinguished career in the Mongolian Armed Forces, serving most recently as the Chief of Staff at the Mongolian Air Force Command (2020-2023). He was previously Senior Officer in the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces



(2017-2018) as well as Chief of the Peace Support Operation Division within the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces

(2014-2017). He has been deployed in eight United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization peacekeeping and peace support operations including in Iraq, Sierra Leone, Sudan and South Sudan.

In 2010-2011 he served as a Contingent Commander in United Nations Mission in Liberia, and in 2013-2014 as a Battalion Commander in UN Mission in South Sudan. He also held the positions of Chief of Staff in UNMISS Sector South in 2018-2019 and Juba Sector Commander in 2021-2022.

Visa-Free Travel of Citizens of Mongolia and the UAE Comes into Force

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Mutual exemption of holders of diplomatic, official/special service, and regular passports from visa requirements

was signed in Abu Dhabi on November 28, 2023. The MOU entered into force on December 28, 2023.

Therefore, citizens of Mongolia and the UAE now can travel without a visa for up to 30 days.

Chinggis Khaan National Museum Opens its Research Library



Chinggis Khaan National Museum opened its Research Library on Independence and Freedom Day, December 29, 2023.

The Library contains over 6000 academic research, peer-reviewed works, books, and journals on topics of Mongolian and world history, archeology, Mongol studies, linguistics, cultural, and museum studies. Besides having an online catalog,

the research library is connected to Monkoha, the international standard search system. More than 5,200 research and academic papers are added to the search system, noted Director of The Chinggis Khaan National Museum Academician S. Chuluun.

The Research Library is also provided with modern equipment and shelves to store up to 15 thousand books and journals.

Ganzorig Vanchig: We Aim at Having the UN and UNESCO Eliminate the Terms "Mongolism" and "Mongoloid"



■ Interview with Ganzorig Vanchig, the Founder of the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia

-Thank you for accepting our invitation for an interview. At the onset, please introduce the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia to us?

-At the beginning of 2000, the parents founded the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia (DSAM) NGO together. About 20 years ago, there were very few people, special schools, and psychologists who were aware of Down syndrome in Mongolia. This was the main reason for forming the association. Until the beginning of this year, I worked as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of DSAM and currently, I am working as a consultant in charge of foreign relations of the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia.

We set a goal to make every person with Down syndrome a taxpayer of Mongolia. Paying taxes means having a job, having your own income, and living independently. To have a job, you should have a certain level of education and profession. The most important thing is to be healthy for doing household or service work and studying. Health, education, and employment are the three cornerstones of our association.

The parents who founded the NGO were foreign language-speaking persons. Since there was no manual on Down syndrome in Mongolia, they translated the manual from English and Russian and obtained the copyright. We went around family clinics and gave information and advice about Down syndrome. In reply to an inquiry among the Association members "Who was the person who hurt you the most?" the answer with the highest percentage was "Doctors". Due to the lack of knowledge and information about Down syndrome at that time, when a child with Down syndrome was born the physicians said "Keep calm. Your baby will not survive long." Today, the children of that time have become adults and some of them even have become champions of the Special Olympics. We worked hard to eliminate the misunderstanding

in Mongolian society. I can say that we have achieved certain results.

-Is there any survey on how many citizens have Down syndrome in Mongolia? How many citizens belong to the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia?

-Unfortunately, there is no such survey in our country. DSAM has more than 600 registered members. The number of members is increasing every year. However, there are many unregistered persons with Down syndrome.

The most recent Census of Population and Housing included the question "Is there anyone in your family with a disability" but it did not categorize it. Our country has not yet been able to count the number of people with Down syndrome. According to the statistics of the last 5-10 years, 70-80 thousand children are born in Mongolia every year, so it is possible that at least 400-500 children with Down syndrome are born every year, based on the estimation that one child with Down syndrome is born in every 700 births. Children with Down syndrome are often seen on the streets abroad. But in Mongolia, it is the opposite. I have met an adult with Down syndrome twice in my life. There seem to be many reasons for this. First, they have a low life expectancy because there are no accessible health and education services. Most children with Down syndrome are likely to be born with comorbidities. Secondly, parents do not accept their children and keep them at home because they are ashamed of them. Therefore, many people are under house arrest, although they are not visible on the streets. Not accepting your child means you are stifling your child's development. If you accept your child and determine the level of the syndrome, there are many opportunities. In our country, chromosomes are counted in public and private hospitals, and the level of Down syndrome is determined. Appropriate training and health services are provided for him or her. A child with Down

develops when it is nurtured from an early age. This year's Oscar was won by a young Irishman with Down Syndrome for the first time. There are also many stars with Down syndrome in art and sports. Boys and girls with Down syndrome played in the Hollywood film "Champions". In addition, a woman avatar with Down syndrome was created using artificial intelligence, taking pictures of disabled women from different countries. The avatar named Kami is now a superstar on social networks.

-Down syndrome was historically referred to as "Mongolism" or "Mongoloid," terms that were used in English-speaking countries in offensive and insensitive ways. In the 1960s, the Government of Mongolia officially requested the World Health Organization (WHO) to discontinue these terms. In response, the WHO recommended the adoption of the term "Down syndrome" and decided to stop using these words to refer to Down syndrome. I heard that you are thoroughly researching this...

-In the past 3 or 4 years, I have searched for resolutions issued by the UN and WHO to stop using those terms. I checked the Central State Archives, the General Authority for Archives of Mongolia, the United Nations Archives, the WHO Archives Geneva, and the New York State Archives. Unfortunately, I could not find any documents. However, I discovered two interesting documents. "During the General Discussion of the 18th World Health Assembly held in Geneva in 1965, G. Tuvaan, Minister of Health of the Republic of Mongolia, raised concerns about the improper use of the terms "Mongolism" and "Mongoloid." He emphasized the incorrect meanings associated with these words and urged participants not to use them in this way in the future. Mr. Tuvaan's words were recorded in the WHO Assembly's protocol, but no resolution or recommendation was issued at the time. I think people seem to understand that protocol is an official decision.

The second document is that in the 1960s, a significant change occurred in the understanding of Down syndrome when it was reclassified as a chromosomal disorder rather than a form of intellectual disability. This change was supported by a group of scientists from 19 countries who signed a document advocating for the use of the term "Down syndrome" instead of outdated and insensitive terms like "idiot." In my opinion, these documents are essential. Cultured and educated people generally avoid using the terms "Mongolism" and "Mongoloid." However, these expressions persist informally in English and French-speaking countries. In Spain, there exists a magazine called "Mongolism" that publishes content ridiculing and criticizing people, like the old Mongolian magazine "Tonshuul" [Woodpecker]. People say they have never heard these terms before. However, numerous examples of their usage continue

to surface.

Specifically, a famous French rapper included the concept of "Mongolism" in one of his songs during a concert. Also, before the pandemic, a Dutch Formula 1 driver made a mistake while racing and uttered a curse involving the term "Mongol." L. Purevsuren, the then Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, addressed the issue by sending a letter, demanding accountability for their actions. In addition, there is a lot more evidence. For example, an Australian author used the word "Mongolism" in his book. After facing criticism from the public, the author decided to withdraw all of his books from the market.

As for me, firstly, a citizen of Mongolia, I don't want to be called by those offensive words. Secondly, as the Founder of the Down Association of Mongolia and a father of a child with Down syndrome, I strongly oppose the use of abusive terms to describe people with Down syndrome. Through our work as citizens living in civil society, we are actively advocating for the issuance of appeals and resolutions to stop the misuse of these horrendous terms. We are also calling on all member states of the United Nations and UNESCO to adopt policies and guidelines that promote the use of respectful and inclusive language for people with disabilities.

-Through the film "Trio", we learned that children with Down syndrome also have hearts and minds, and the goal is to give a proper understanding of equal rights not only in Mongolia but throughout the world, which generates remarkable results. There is information that the film will soon be demonstrated at the headquarters of UNESCO and the UN...

"Trio" is translated from English as "three". The role of the protagonist in childhood was played by T. Telmun, a member of the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia, and in his adulthood was played by actor D. Battumor. This film shows the life of a family with a disabled child living in a rural area. He also tried to raise the issue behind the scenes by saying that there is no place in our country to care for people with disabilities other than Batsumber Nursing Home and Shar Khad Hospital.

Besides the reference to human rights and disability, the film "Trio" is the manifestation of the "essence" of the Mongolian character. It is associated with Chinggis Khaan and Buddhism. The film shows a Buddhist ritual. One of the goals of the film is that religious institutions are not only a tool for the unity of the country, the world, and interpersonal relationships, but also have a positive impact on society by protecting human rights, loving and respecting each other without discrimination, and protecting nature. Thanks to this content, the film has achieved international success and has now won 19 awards from international film festivals in 15 countries on 5

continents. Last March the film was demonstrated at the United Nations Hall in Geneva. Then, we were advised that if this event is organized in the largest UN office in New York, it will be a stimulus to make a resolution not to use the terms "Mongolism" and "Mongoloid" adopted, as key officials come to understand and support it.

-Could you tell me more about the discussion you participated in at UNESCO in Paris?

-Our main work began following my 2022 discussion with Boldsaikhan Sambuu, Secretary-General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO. We discussed launching a joint initiative aimed at eliminating the misuse of the terms "Mongolian," "Mongoloid," and "Mongolism" in negative and derogatory contexts, particularly their association with Down syndrome in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Another major event that gave impetus to our work is the Working Visit of UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay to Mongolia in July 2022 at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia B. Battsetseg on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Mongolia's accession to UNESCO. During the Visit, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Mongolia and UNESCO to cooperate in 2022-2029. The Memorandum includes the content of cooperating to eliminate abusive usage of the terms "Mongol," "Mongolism," and "Mongoloid" in an incorrect sense that insults the nation, associates it with Down syndrome, and insults people as idiots and retards through all UNESCO programmes. In a year and 4 months after the establishment of the Memorandum, we completed our first concrete work. During the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, on November 17, 2023, we held a discussion on "Protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and building an inclusive society through social, humanitarian, and scientific organizations," followed by a screening of the film "TRIO." If I am not mistaken, this event marks Mongolia's inaugural side event or special occasion organized at the UNESCO headquarters. The Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO Gabriela Ramos, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of France and Permanent Representative to UNESCO U. Nyamkhuu made opening remarks at the discussion. Ms. Gabriela Ramos commended the discussion as a crucial dialogue on human rights and urged member states to take substantial steps in this field at the international level.

I moderated the discussion. Mariagrazia Squicciarini, Chief of Executive Office, Social and Human Sciences Sector at

Continued on page 7

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UNESCO, Uuganaa Ramsay, Director of Mongol Identity NGO, human rights activist and writer, Paul Zanon, Advisor of the Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation, And T. Ariunbold, Head of the Tarvalin Monastery, participated as panelists. We discussed how the government, the private sector, international organizations, civil society, and religious institutions around the world can work together to protect human rights through culture, art, and science, and to strengthen a humane civil society.

-How do you see the outcomes of the discussion in Paris?

-Member state representatives at the 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference, along with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organizations of human rights and scientists, were invited to participate in the discussion and shared their perspectives. Specifically, it was an honor for me that Marie Favereau, a Scholar

eliminate their misuse, educate the public on the proper use of the language, and introduce the successful practices of countries such as Sweden, Canada, and Scotland.

-In December 2023, you held a discussion at the UN headquarters and demonstrated the film "Trio". Holding three major series of discussions in one year at the United Nations and UNESCO in Geneva, New York, and Paris is a huge achievement...

-Our next destination was the United Nations Headquarters in New York. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated on December 3. During my preparations for that day's activities, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Tapan Mishra, the UN Resident Representative in Mongolia, at the United Nations Headquarters. We engaged in a productive discussion, where I sought his valuable insights and advice regarding our work. We concluded our conversation by agreeing to cooperate more

the United Nations, said, "As the world celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we are proud to host this crucial discussion on ensuring inclusive education for all persons with disabilities. Through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, member states of the United Nations are collaborating to build a more equitable and just world, leaving no one behind." He emphasized that people with disabilities, including those with Down syndrome, can participate and contribute to society with equal access and opportunities. Representatives of UN member states researchers, organizations, and individuals working on the protection of human rights and the rights of people with disabilities participated in the discussion, asking questions and expressing their diverse viewpoints. Among participants, the ambassadors and permanent representatives of the Vatican City and Kazakhstan to the United Nations, along with American artists and actors, ex-

tations, and fundraising. Our NGO is endorsed by many parties politically, technically, and financially. In addition to international organizations, many organizations, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia and affiliated agencies, the General Agency for Development of Persons with Disabilities (PWD), Resident Representative Offices to the United Nations and UNESCO in New York and Paris, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, Mongol Identity NGO, the "Trio" team and close friends are cooperating with us.

It is a big responsibility to organize a discussion and demonstrate the film in the international arena. If it's about drugs or child abuse, it won't be released. The Mongolian art industry should be proud that the film "Trio" meets all the criteria of the UN and UNESCO and is the first Mongolian film to appear on the world stage. It is a big responsibility that the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia held a series of major events throughout the year in three cities around the world. I am proud of the reputation of our Association. The Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia is a member of the Down Syndrome Association and is included in the Board of Directors of the Asia-Pacific Down Syndrome Federation.

-Could you briefly introduce the issues raised from the stage of the UN and UNESCO during the one year?

-First, we aim at having international organizations make a decision to ban the informal use of the terms "Mongolism" and "Mongoloid" in a negative and incorrect sense. Such a decision will enable Mongolians to file an official complaint and be held accountable if any citizen uses these words incorrectly.

Second, there are many types of intellectual disabilities, such as autism, Down syndrome, and paralysis. Down syndrome is characterized by low IQ. Citizens with other physical, visual, hearing, and supporting disabilities can fight for their rights because they have a healthy mind. However, a person with Down syndrome cannot express himself 100 percent. Therefore, there is a legitimate need for people with intellectual disabilities. Activities at these three meetings are targeted to make this known to the world. It is vital to convey the message that it is necessary to create an accessible infrastructure, feeling their pains and challenges. Thirdly, through cinematographic art, we are working to raise awareness among people about what Down syndrome is, what to pay attention to, and how to protect human rights. As mentioned above, the film "Trio" has received 19 awards from 15 countries. It was also selected as the opening film of the International Film Festival on Disabilities to be held in Lyon, France in February 2024.

Also, as a citizen, I think that our country's name Mongolia should be changed to Mongol. When traveling abroad, the word Mongolia is often confused with Angola. Turkey changed its name from Türkiye before COVID-19. Like Türkiye, we can change our country's name.



at the Institute for Advanced Study, a Research Associate at Oxford University for the Nomadic Empires project, and an Associate Professor of History at Paris Nanterre University, Author of the book "The Horde: How the Mongols Changed the World," participated in the discussion, expressing her opinion. We discussed potential areas for collaboration in this field, focusing on the joint utilization of university resources, and agreed to develop a work plan. During the discussion, concerns were raised regarding the underrepresentation of human and cultural rights in some developed nations. UN member states were urged to prioritize and address these concerns, actively working towards eliminating ongoing human rights violations. Additionally, it was further highlighted that misappropriation of the term "Mongol" persists online, often within platforms that promote hatred, violence, and discrimination. This inappropriate usage must be addressed and eradicated promptly.

The discussion was primarily aimed at addressing the negative impact of the historical term "Mongolism" on individuals with disabilities and Mongolian ethnic groups. Also, the discussion underscored the need for strengthened support for United Nations agencies, national human rights organizations, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders in their efforts to combat the misuse of these words that fuels hatred, violence, and discrimination, and to promote inclusion and equality. Proposals have been made calling on UNESCO member states to review the use of terms such as "Mongol", "Mongolism", and "Mongoloid" in all contexts,

closely in the future. At this moment, I would like to thank the UN office in Mongolia, which attaches great importance to our event and works and supports us at all levels, directly connecting us with the World Health Organization and the Children's Fund.

On December 3, 2023, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Mongolian Down Syndrome Association and Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations jointly organized a discussion and displayed the feature film "Trio", winner of more than 20 awards from international film festivals. During the discussion on protecting the rights and promoting the inclusion of people with intellectual differences, participants highlighted the harmful association of the term "Mongol" with people with Down syndrome and exchanged views on the elimination of the inappropriate usage of these words, which insult the Mongol nation. I moderated the discussion. Werner Obermeyer, the Director of the World Health Organization office at UN Headquarters in New York, Facundo Chávez Penillas, the Human Rights and Disability Advisor of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Brianna Harrison, Human Rights Advisor UN Development Coordination Office, Paul Zanon, Advisor of the Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation, Ts. Uuganbayar, Director of Mongol Identity NGO, and B. Zolzaya, Head of the Mongolia, Canadian Association participated in the discussion and made recommendations.

In his opening remarks, Enkhbold Vorshilov, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to

pressed their opinions and pledged their support for our activities. After the discussion, the participants highly appreciated the internationally famous film "Trio" created by Mongolian artists and enjoyed the interesting discovery of the problems and opportunities faced by people with disabilities through philosophy and traditional religion tightly embraced by Mongolian culture and nature.

Following the discussion, I held a one-on-one meeting with the Director of the World Health Organization's New York office Werner Obermeyer. This meeting resulted in several positive outcomes. Notably, we reached an agreement to formally include the issue of word misuse on the agenda of the upcoming 154th World Health Organization Executive Board meeting, scheduled for January 2024. Additionally, we committed to continue our ongoing advocacy efforts surrounding World Down Day on March 21, 2024, and to raise the issue for consideration by the World Health Assembly at its 77th session, scheduled for May 27 to June 1, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland. We aim to collaborate with the WHO to adopt an official resolution addressing this issue.

The future tasks ahead are substantial and carry more responsibilities. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the numerous organizations and individuals who have supported and collaborated with us in accomplishing this significant work.

It is a huge task for NGOs to organize events in Geneva and New York in one year. It implies years of hard work, nego-

The lawyer's advice



Hanns Seidel Foundation

In cooperation with Hanns Seidel Foundation

The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) as a political foundation is active in 60 countries worldwide under the motto of Democracy, Peace and Development". In Mongolia, HSF is active since 1993 and supports the transformation and establishment of the rule of law.

-How the Standing and Sub-committee of the Great Khural do monitor the enforcement of the legislation?

-The Standing Committee shall individually and jointly establish a working group with duties to inspect and research certain issues within the framework of matters in charge of, or to conduct monitoring and inspections on the enforcement of legislation, to make relevant opinion and conclusions, and to develop the drafts of decisions.

The Standing Committee shall approve the operational guidelines of the working group to be conducted the monitoring and inspection by its resolution, and the working group shall make opinion and conclusions and introduce to the Standing Committee within the period specified in the respective resolution. The opinion and conclusions of the working group shall be introduced to the Standing Committee and, if necessary, to the plenary session by the Head of the working group.

Within the scope of their competence, the Standing Committee shall provide direction to the Government and other related bodies only in the form of the resolution. Based on the results of the monitoring and inspection, the Standing Committee shall submit relevant opinion and conclusions and introduce them to the plenary session. If it is considered necessary, a draft resolution shall be developed and submitted to the plenary session on the issues. The sub-committee shall have a right to conduct monitoring and inspections and research on the issues under its competence, to obtain necessary information, to receive explanation from relevant officials, citizens, and organizations, to develop drafts of other decisions of the Great Khural, and to be discussed them at the session of the relevant Standing Committee.

-What form is used to ask the "questions"?

-The "question" shall mean to address in written form by the member of Great Khural to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet members on the certain policy matters, their financing, and on the matters whether the state finance, state public property, human rights and freedoms are being satisfied or not, as well as to the head of the organization of which members and management are elected and appointed from the Great Khural in order to obtain information in connection with the implementation of the functions established by law of the respective organization. The relevant official shall submit the answer in written form to the member within 14 days after the delivery of the question.

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Union of Mongolian Artists Selects Best Works of 2023

The Union of Mongolian Artists displayed the exhibition "Best Works of 2023" at the exhibition hall of the Union between December 20, 2023, and January 3, 2024.

During the Exhibition, members of the Union of Mongolian Artists T. Odon and T. Davaasambuu were conferred the Award named after the Union of Mongolian Artists and Khovd aimag branch of the Union and was recognized as the Best Branch of 2023.

The painting "Khanan Khets" by Artist Ch. Bolor, a Member of the Union of Mongolian Artists, was selected as the Best Painting of 2023.

The "Mongol Polo" by Artist A. Ochirbold, a Member of the Union of Mongolian Artists, won the Best Sculpture of 2023.

The painting "My lord, do you know me? I am your horse!" by Artist J. Munkhjargal, a Member

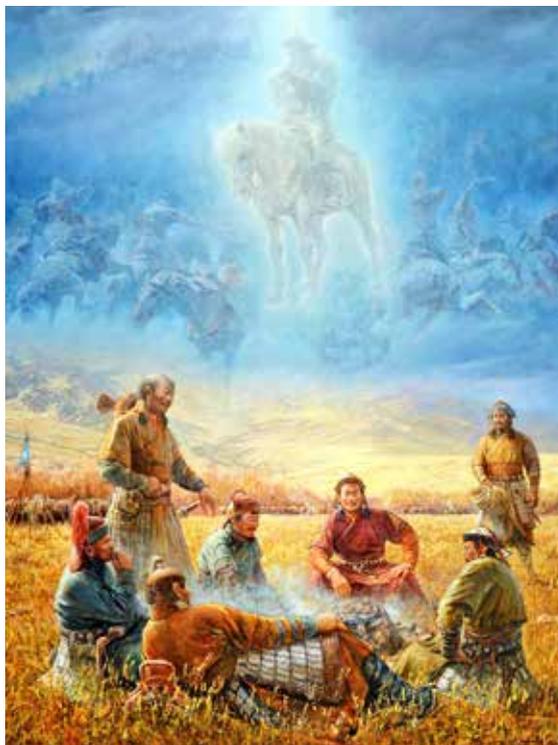


of the Union of Mongolian Artists, was selected as the Best Mongol Zurag Painting of 2023.

The contemporary painting "In Memory of Time" by Member of the Union of Mongolian Artists B. Orkhontuul was selected as

the Best Contemporary Work of 2023.

We present you some of the curated selection of artworks at the Exhibition. Step into a wondrous world of Mongolian artists.



Nomads' Cups on Display at the National Museum of Mongolia

"The Nomads' Cups" a special exhibition is on display at the National Museum of Mongolia. A cup is one part of the rich heritage and customs of the Mongols. In addition to the customs related to cups and utensils inherited from the ancient nomads passing thousands of years, the exhibits offer minimalistic designs as well as superior craftsmanship.

Since the beginning of mankind, while creating food and drink utensils to meet their needs, they have perfected their craftsmanship and absorbed the sym-

bolic and aesthetic content of the culture, which further highlights the historical and cultural characteristics of that nation.

The Exhibition consists of selected historical and cultural items from collections of the National Museum of Mongolia and some local museums and artifacts kept by private collectors.

Some feature exhibits of the Nomads' Cups Exhibition are a stone bowl that dates back to the Early Bronze Age, wooden and porcelain bowls of the Mongolian Empire, and bowls of local craftsmen, which were famous among Mongolians from the 17th



to the 20th centuries.

In addition, the selection of over 60 cups and bowls made of a variety of materials is related to

different periods of history. For example, a silver bowl presented to Marshal Choibalsan Khorloo was made in 1946 by blacksmith

Gund, and a bowl with Manchu script. The Exhibition will be open till February 20, 2024.

