

## Continuous Effort of Preserving Falconry—The Eagle Festival

*In 2010, UNESCO inscribed the practice of eagle hunting, also known as Falconry, to its Representative List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Mongolia is one of the few remaining countries that keep the 6000-year-old tradition of eagle hunting. The annual Eagle Festival in our country demonstrates the efforts of Mongolians to preserve this tradition perpetually.*

During the Eagle Festival, organized near the capital city on March 4-5, the Head of the Department of Culture and Arts of Bayan-Ulgii aimag K. Bekjan, one of the organizers of the Eagle Festival, reaffirmed this continuous effort.

He pointed out that the "Eagle Festival," first organized in Bayan-Ulgii aimag, has now become the main winter tourism activity, attracting tourists to Mongolia.

The Ulaanbaatar City Tourism Department, the Mongolian Eagle Falconers' Association, and the "Chinggis Khaan Palace" tourist camp jointly organized the Eagle Festival at "Chinggis Khaan Palace" tourist camp located in Bogd Khan Mountain, Ulaanbaatar.

"Our country is aiming to develop winter tourism within the framework of the "Years to Visit

Mongolia" national campaign. In this context, the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar supports the "Eagle Festival" by organizing two additional main events, which are the Eagle Festival in Ulaanbaatar and the Winter of Ulaanbaatar," D. Batsukh, the Head of Ulaanbaatar City Tourism Department, emphasized in his opening remarks.

According to Mr. Batsukh, the number of participants in the "Eagle Festival" has been increasing annually, attracting the interest of more and more foreign and domestic tourists and citizens of the capital city. Moreover, the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises and heritage carriers has been increasing, to that extent the scope of the festival has been expanding each year.

The festival is organized twice a year, first in Ulaanbaatar

in spring and then, in Bugat soum, Bayan-Ulgii aimag in fall, with aims to revive eagle hunting tradition and customs of Kazakh people, pass the culture to the younger generation and promote it to the world.

Within the framework of tourism, the capital city is planning to organize the "Ulaanbaatar Travel" international tourism exhibition in May, the "Steppe Wind" moto festival in June, as well as other events such as the "International Horse Archery Festival," "Falcon Day" and "Food Festival."

Foreign tourists at the Eagle Festival have shared their impressions with us.

"I am delighted to come on time for the Eagle Festival, and really impressed with it. My trip has just begun. I will go to Gobi tomorrow to see Camel Festival. I wanted to participate in Ice Festival in Khuvsgul, but I could not make it. The

traditional holidays take place at the same time. Yet, I will go to Khuvsgul aimag after I return to Ulaanbaatar from Gobi. I want to ride a horse-drawn sleigh, visit a tsaatan (Mongolian reindeer people) family, and feel the Mongolian winter. I found the information about Mongolia, the "Eagle Festival" happening right now, and Kazakh traditions on the Internet," Katya Katherine, a British tourist, said.

"It is our second visit to Mongolia. This time, we have come during winter to see the "Eagle Festival," which is an ancient traditional holiday of the Kazakh nation for the first time. I once visited Bayan-Ulgii aimag, the land of eagles," Ernie Hasball and Horst Hofmann, Swiss tourists, said.

"I received information about Mongolia and the Eagle Festival from our embassy. This time, I am traveling with my daughter and enjoying the winter in Mongolia.

It is similar to our Siberia, Irkutsk region, and Baikal Lake," S. Vladimir, a tourist from Russia, said.

About 20 eagle hunters from Bayan-Ulgii, Tuv, and Selenge aimags participated in the "Eagle Festival-2023". They showed off their skills by catching shirga (artificial bait) and grabbing kokpar or tulam (leather bag). Most activities were organized as competitions which are the inherited traditions of the "Eagle Festival."

The ambassadors of India, Turkey, Canada, Poland, and the Czech Republic and the staff of Russian Embassy attended the festival's opening ceremony. The "Eagle Festival" was supported by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Kazakhstan Falconry Association, the local council of Bayan-Olgii aimag, the Department of Culture and Arts of the aimag, the Mongolian Falconry Association, and the Eagle Protection Service.

## International Women of Courage Award Conferred upon Brigadier General G. Bolor



Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, along with the First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden, hosted the annual International Women of Courage (IWOC) Awards in an award ceremony at the White House on March 08 and pre-

sented awards to each of the eleven 2023 IWOC awardees, recognizing their exceptional courage, strength, and leadership.

Brigadier General Bolor Ganbold was honored for her nearly 30 years of courageous service to Mongolia and the series of firsts

she has achieved, which have broken barriers and opened the door for other women to follow. On March 18, 2022, Brigadier General Bolor earned yet another first, becoming the first woman general in the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Her experiences as a member of both the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad in 2010 and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in 2013, as well as serving as a Peacekeeping Affairs Officer within the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, have guided her efforts in seeking to reduce the various barriers that prevent women from fully developing their potential as peacekeepers. Brigadier General Bolor utilizes her current position as the Chief of the Education and Training Directorate of the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces to advance gender equality in all facets of the Mongolian Armed Forces' organizational structure, activities, and operations.

Courageous women inspire a better world. Now in its 17th year, the Secretary of State's IWOC Award recognizes women from around the globe who have demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equity and equality, and women's empowerment – often at great personal risk and sacrifice. Since March 2007, the Department of State has recog-

nized more than 180 awardees from over 80 countries.

Following the IWOC ceremony, Brigadier General Bolor will continue to participate in a two-week International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) exchange and connect with American counterparts throughout the United States.

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Bloomberg commodity price 2023/03/10		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	1.821
COPPER	USD/lb.	412.45
SILVER	USD/t oz.	20.15
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	82.59
WHEAT	USD/bu	689.75



## ANTI - CORRUPTION OPERATION

## Encouraging News of the Year of Tiger

*Many events happened in the year of the Water Tiger, however, this article solely focuses on Anti-Corruption.*

The government has announced the establishment of an Anti-Corruption task force in the summer of 2021. This policy became a reality and continued throughout the year. There has never been a government that has acted so seriously before. As a result, the Year of the Rabbit, next to the Year of the Tiger, was announced as the "Year of Combating Corruption" and the "Five Stage" Anti-Corruption reform program was proposed. Over the past 15 years, Mongolians have learned well that the Independent Authority Against Corruption alone is not sufficient enough to fight against corruption.

In order to improve the legal environment and reform the system, we understand the need for real participation and joint support of decision-makers at the government level. International researchers have repeatedly stated that the fight against corruption is a major manifestation of political will. Demanding the IAAC to fight corruption despite the lack of legal tools is a biased concept like saying to sweep the garbage without giving a broom. It means the tale of the toothless lion. However, this government is starting to consider the fight against corruption at the level of its core system. This is very commendable. Expressing one's political will is self-celebrating. Since corruption is the only obstacle to the progress of the country, and the main loophole to get out of it is to fight corruption, because if we want to get rid of corruption, we have to reform the entire social system, and for that, we need to perfect the legal framework, so politicians must have the will like a flying flag to fight corruption.

In this article, I would like to highlight that the IAAC is working successfully and effectively in the current legal environment, even though the legal framework is incomplete. This time, let's mention several statistical figures of the investigation. This is definitely one of the many encouraging news of the Year of the Tiger.

From the Year of the Pig in 2019, the investigation work of the IAAC intensified, in the Year of the Mouse in 2020, the results were better than before, in the Year of the Ox in 2021, it increased further, and in the Year of the Tiger in 2022, it increased by leaps and bounds.

Considering the above-mentioned four years as a whole, as a result of the investigation of the IAAC, approximately USD 700 million in damages caused by corruption were compensated to the state. This is only the amount recovered during the investigation.

Furthermore, the number of assets to be seized should also be discussed. Seized assets include secured and frozen assets connected to corruption crime, and are an assurance of compensation for damages by court decision. In the last four years, approximately USD 470

million worth of assets and cash have been seized and protected by the IAAC. How many of these were paid back to the state is open to the reader to see from the court decision database.

Another statistic that represents the results of corruption investigations is the damage amount. The damage amount is increasing every year. On the one hand, this shows that the crime of corruption is still growing, but on the other hand, it is a sign that the detection of committed corruption crime is getting better. In other words, it means that the IAAC could detect a large number of corruption crimes.

In 2019-2022, a total of approximately USD 8.6 billion in losses were caused to society due to corruption, which means, the detectives of the IAAC have discovered a corruption crime with damages estimated at USD 8.6 billion.

In general, it is easy to mention the statistics that have increased year by year in this way. The above-mentioned figures in the billions include the confiscation of money brought from offshore areas abroad and bribes. The amount of hard work, financial investigations, cross-border negotiations, detective tactics, skills, and high performance behind the statistics cannot be written here.

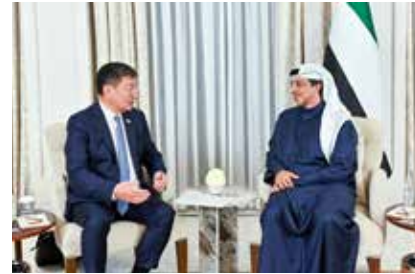
It should be noted that while detection is good, the resolution is also on the rise. IAAC investigated and resolved 5458 crimes in the last four years. This means that about 1,400 corruption cases are regularly investigated in one year.

In addition, the number of complaints and information related to corruption is increasing every year. It increased from 894 in 2019 to 1841 in 2022. In the last four years, a total of 5351 criminal complaints have been addressed to the IAAC. The increase in the number of complaints and information is an indication of the strong public confidence that the IAAC can resolve all corruption crimes.

Thus, on the threshold of the Year of the Rabbit, I reflected on the past year and introduced several statistics to you, the reader. As one of the encouraging news of the year of the tiger, some figures of the investigation work of the IAAC were highlighted. As a result of the "Five Stage" strategy put forward by the government, the Whistleblower Protection Law is to be adopted, government employees who spent more than their income were identified, people who fled to foreign countries were brought back, assets hidden in offshore areas were returned to the state, and the governance of state-owned companies was opened up. Public participation of government, law enforcement agencies, and citizens is essential.

Corruption is a real threat facing the country as a whole, so it needs everyone's participation and support to fight it. Let's work together to ensure more results in the Year of the Rabbit by spreading the encouraging news of the Year of the Tiger.

## Researches to be Conducted on Mutually Beneficial Projects



The Head of the Office of President Mr. Sodbaatar paid a working visit to the United Arab Emirates on March 1-3. During his visit, Mr. Sodbaatar held a meeting with His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and exchanged views on bilateral relations and cooperation.

The two sides discussed the possibilities of developing mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of trade, economics, investment, infrastructure, agriculture, natural environment, climate change, green development, renewable energy, modern technologies, and travel and tourism based on our friendly relations.

Noting the importance of developing cooperation in economics, investment, and trade based on scientific research, both sides reached an agreement to organize an official visit of the working group led by a member of Parliament of the United Arab Emirates to Mongolia with purpose of getting acquainted with the investment

climate of Mongolia and conduct research on mutually beneficial projects and programs. The two sides reassured that the high and highest level visits are of high significance to advance cordial relations and cooperation between Mongolia and the UAE.

The Head of the Office of the President Mr. Sodbaatar invited His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan to visit Mongolia at his convenience.

Then, the Head of the Office of President Mr. Sodbaatar held official talks with management teams of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Abu Dhabi Fund for Development as part of his working visit.

The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, which was founded in 1976 is one of the three largest sovereign wealth funds in the world, following Norway and China and invests in government securities, private securities, real estates and other markets. For the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, it was founded in 1971 and provides development aid to developing countries in the form of concessionary loans and grants on behalf of the Abu Dhabi government.

For the last 40 years, the fund has made investments worth USD 10 billion in 325 projects of 59 countries.

Over the course of the meeting, various cooperation possibilities in the fields of investment, trade, economy, infrastructure, environment, climate change, green sustainable development and renewable energy were discussed

## "Snow and Reindeer" Festival

Khuvsgul aimag declared this year as the "Year to Visit Khuvsgul" in order to develop sustainable tourism based on natural, historical, and cultural heritage. In the framework of this initiative, 11 special events are going to be held to increase the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visit the aimag.

The Snow and Reindeer festival to develop winter tourism, and promote the culture and heritage of Darhad and Tsaatan people used to be organized by the locals in Renchinkhumbé soum, but since 2018, the scope of the festival has been expanded. Thus, this year the "Snow and Reindeer-2023" festival was held between March 5-6 in Tsagaannuur soum, Khuvsgul aimag.

In dedication to this festival, snow



sculpting team, which was awarded the third place in the annual snow and ice festival in Harbin with their work "Queen of the Sun," designed and carved the charming snow sculptures.

During the festival, visitors experienced how darkhad and tsaatan people adapt and live in taiga and enjoyed the traditional winter sports, such as the reindeer race and "Khaag" ski racing, and other exciting events.

## Minister of Foreign Affairs Receives Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP



Representatives headed by the Executive Secretary of United Nations ESCAP Ms. Armida Alisjahbana paid a working visit to Mongolia from February 28 to March 3. The representatives participated in the High-Level Forum on Clean Air which was jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism

of Mongolia and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 2-3 March 2023 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

On March 1, the Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg received Ms. Armida Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of United Nations ESCAP, and exchanged views on relations between Mongolia and the UN, in particular outcomes of our cooperation maintained with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In recent years, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has been actively working with relative ministries of Mongolia in the direction of infrastructure, road, transportation, and facilitating trade.

## Free Admission Days of Museums

According to the Order of the Minister of Culture Nomin Chinbat to implement the "Free Museum Days" event, all museums in the country served free of charge with regular working hours from March 1 to 5.

The event aimed to promote Mongolian culture, tradition, heritage based on tangible cultural heritage to the succeeding generation, and nurture patriotism, and raise the contribution of museums to social development.

A total of 174,512 citizens visited the



35 museums that offered free admissions for five days and participated in educational programs and events to promote national history, culture, and heritage.

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## WEATHER

Sunrise: 07:18 Sunset: 18:47

- Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -14 C and -7 C. Day time temps between -4 C and +6 C
- Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -13 C and -3 C. Day time temps between -5 C and +7 C
- Western Aimags: Night temps between -13 C and -3 C. Day time temps between -7 C and +11 C
- Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -9 C and -2 C. Day time temps between +1 C and +12 C



# Chairman of the State Great Khural Pays Official Visit to Japan



*The Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia (Speaker of the Parliament of Mongolia) Mr. Zandanshatar paid an Official Visit to Japan at the invitation of the President of the House of Councilors of the National Diet of Japan Mr. Otsuji Hidehisa between March 1-5, 2023.*

Over the course of his visit, the Speaker Mr. Zandanshatar held official talks with the President of the House of Councilors of the National Diet of Japan Mr. Otsuji Hidehisa on March 2.

The Chairman of the State Great Khural expressed his gratitude to the people and Government of Japan for their generous assistance and support for consolidating democracy, constituting a market economy, and ensuring the economic and social development in Mongolia and invited Mr. Otsuji Hidehisa, the President of the House of Councilors of the National Diet of Japan, to visit Mongolia at his convenience.

In addition, the Chairman reiterated his intention to proceed with the Two-Step-Loan Project for Small and Medium-Scaled Enterprises Development and Environmental Protection, successfully implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Mongolia, and asked Mr. Otsuji Hidehisa's support on the decision to launch the third phase.

## Chairman of the State Great Khural Pays Courtesy Call on the Emperor of Japan Naruhito

The Chairman of State Great Khural (Speaker of the Parliament) Mr. Zandanshatar paid a Courtesy Call on the Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako of Japan on March 3 at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

Expressing his pleasure to meet with the Emperor Naruhito, Mr. Zandanshatar conveyed warm greetings of the people of Mongolia to the Emperor Naruhito and the people of Japan. Furthermore, the Speaker expressed that the visit is of high significance to solidify the "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity" and to strengthen the economic cooperation between our two countries on the basis of mutual

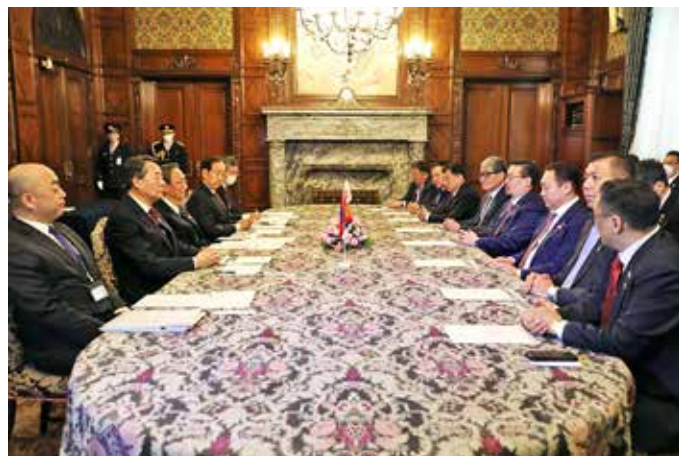
benefit and reciprocity. With respect to the announcement of 2023-2025 as the "Years to Visit Mongolia," Mr. Zandanshatar conveyed the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh's invitation to the Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako to visit Mongolia at their convenience.

For his side, while noting the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

inter-parliamentary relations along with the revival of people-to-people relations between our two countries, which were interrupted due to the impact of the spread of the coronavirus infection (COVID-19).

On the same day, the Speaker Mr. Zandanshatar met with the Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Fumio Kishida, and discussed the achievements in relations between our two countries. For his side, Prime Minister Mr. Fumio Kishida expressed his gratitude to the Speaker for meeting him personally and reiterated the significance that the Government of Japan is attaching to deepening relations between Mongolia and Japan, reinforcing the friendship between people of our two countries, identifying the prospective of our relations for upcoming 50 years.

Underscoring the fact that developing and deepening the relations with Japan, which is our third neighbor, is one of the priority directions of our foreign relations policy, the Speaker Mr. Zandanshatar expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for their generous support and assistance during the transition period to a market economy in Mongolia and asked



relations between our two countries marked in 2022 and the growing friendly relations between the peoples of our two countries, the Emperor Naruhito wished success to Mr. Zandanshatar's visit to Japan.

## Willingness Expressed to Strengthen Inter-Parliamentary Relations

On March 3, over the course of his visit to Japan, the Chairman of the State Great Khural Mr. Zandanshatar met and held official talks with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda, and the Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Fumio Kishida.

During the meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda, the Speaker Mr. Zandanshatar reaffirmed the significance that Mongolia is attaching to the relations and cooperation with Japan, our third neighbor, and his commitment to further strengthen this "human-centered" relations and cooperation in all sectors.

In response, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda said that he is extremely happy that this official visit is taking place to strengthen

for Mr. Fumio Kishida's, the Prime Minister of Japan, support on expanding the traditionally friendly relations between our two countries.

## Cooperation with JICA Discussed

On March 2, the Speaker of the Parliament Mr. Zandanshatar received the President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Tanaka Akihiko. Highlighting the successful implementation of the past projects, the sides recognized the outcomes of the Two-Step-Loan Project for Small and Medium-Scaled Enterprises Development and Environmental Protection in terms of creating hundreds of jobs and becoming the backbone of the small and medium enterprises of Mongolia.

On the same day, during the bilateral meetings with management team of the Japan-Mongolia Parliamentary Friendship Group and other officials, the Speaker Mr. Zandanshatar emphasized the importance of the direct investments of Japan and the cooperation between private sectors and educational institutions of our two countries.

## CABINET SESSION



*At its session on March 7, the Cabinet made the following decisions:*

### The Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets Discussed

The Government Resolution on Health Care Services was approved. Accordingly, the Cabinet made a decision to spend the seized and confiscated assets associated with corruption on improving the medical services for mothers and children, cancer and organ transplant procedures through investing in required medical equipment and building and expanding hospitals. Moreover, the Minister of Health was tasked to evaluate the buildings and structures confiscated due to the corruption, study the possibility of using them for medical purposes and present the result at the Cabinet meeting.

### Health Promotion Centers to be Provided with Flexible Endoscopes

Minister of Health Mr. Chin-zorig, Minister of Finance Mr. Javkhlan and Governors of the aimags were tasked to intensify the process of the preventive and early-detection checkups, a nationwide campaign and provide the health promotion centers with flexible endoscopes. According to the decision made at the Cabinet session, Minister of Education and Science Mr. Enkh-Amgalan will be responsible for increasing the health insurance coverages of students and creating favorable conditions to enable students to get an early health screening. Ensuring the smooth operation of the online system of health care organizations and the continuous service readiness of the hardware will be the responsibility of the Minister of Digital Development and Communications Mr. Uchral. In addition, Minister of Health was tasked to develop a plan for "Tooth" event and conduct feasibility study to establish National Dentistry Center.

### Minister of Justice and Home Affairs Nyambaatar: We will

**bring overseas fugitives back to the jury and hold them responsible**

The Government of Mongolia has declared 2023 as the "Year to Combat Corruption" and launched the five "W" operations to combat corruption. Within the framework of the "Wasp" operation, one of the five "W" operations, overseas fugitives will be brought back to the jury pursuant to the international agreements and Mongolian laws, ensuring the streamlined process of investigation. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Development Mr. Khurelbaatar presented on the implementation of the Government Resolution No. 362 on Measures to be Taken to Increase the Foreign Exchange Reserves, dated October 5, 2022.

As of the end of February 2023, total exports of coal, iron ore, and oil have reached 8.7 million tons, 0.9 million tons, and 0.8 million barrels, increasing by 3.6 times, 50 percent, and 100 percent compared to the same period last year, respectively. The Foreign exchange reserves reached at USD 3.4 billion, an increase of 21% compared to the end of September 2022. Erdenes Tavan-tolgoi JSC, Erdenet Mining cooperation SOE, Mongolrosts-vetmet SOE and Darkhan Metallurgical Plant JSC have contributed USD 443.1 million to the state budget since the beginning of this year.

According to the "Procedures on Open E-Trade of Coal for Export", the first e-auction of the coal for export was successfully organized on February 9. Since then, 204.8 thousand tons of coal have been traded, amounting to USD 37.3 million through five online auctions.

### Mongolia received 42 thousand tourists in the first two months of this year

The Government of Mongolia has announced 2023-2025 as the "Years to visit Mongolia" to promote the tourism sector. In this regard, Minister of Environment and Tourism Mr. Bat-Erdene presented the process of preparatory work. According to the Minister's presentation, our country has received 43,311 tourists from Russia, Korea and China.

## WHO Representative in Mongolia Presents Letter of Credence

*On March 7, the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Mongolia Ms. Socorro Escalante presented her Letter of Credence to Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms. Battsetseg.*

While congratulating Ms. Socorro Escalante on her new assignment, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms. Battsetseg expressed her gratitude to the WHO for their continued support to Mongolia, particularly their valuable contribution to implementing the policy and programs aimed at protecting the health of the population of our country.

In response, Ms. Socorro Escalante, the WHO Representative in Mongolia,



reassured the Minister that the WHO is aware of the specific needs of the country in health and pledged the support of the WHO in assisting Mongolia to achieve health-related goals.



# "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality" Ceremony Organized at the MSE



*The Mongolian Stock Exchange (MSE) organized the "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality" ceremony for the seventh year on March 7. The ceremony is organized globally by the stock exchanges to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality in businesses and sustainable development on the occasion of International Women's Day.*

Ms. Elaine M. Conkievich, Resident Representative of UNDP Mongolia, and Ms. Baigalmaa, EBRD Principal Manager, SME Finance and Development in Mongolia, participated and rang the bell for gender equality to

open the 6918th trading day of MSE.

The CEO of the Mongolian Stock Exchange Mr. Altai opened the ceremony and stated:

"The ceremony is being organized globally by 118 stock exchanges this year to raise awareness on the importance of gender equality in businesses and sustainable development. MSE has been hosting this event for the seventh year. MSE implemented policy incentives for issuances aligned with sustainable development goals and introduced the ESG reporting standards to the market last year. Further, MSE will aim to promote gender equality in the

capital markets by integrating the principle of using a gender lens to the market practices and continue to promote investments towards sustainable development by introducing gender responsive issuances such as gender bonds."

It has been proved by international research and practices that gender equality ensures not only human rights and freedom but also enables businesses and organizations to reach their full potential and maximize their performances. Therefore, MSE invites and encourages all securities market participants, listed companies, and member firms to collaborate in advancing gender equality.

## Czechs to Sponsor Mongolian Leather Industry

*The Embassy of the Czech Republic is pleased to announce the new signing of a contract between the Czech Development Cooperation and the Mongolian Association of Leather Industry.*

On March 9, 2023, Mr. Jan Vytopil, the Czech Ambassador, signed the contract with the Mongolian Association of Leather Industry in Ulaanbaatar. Within the framework of the contract, the company will receive financing valued at MNT 77 million or the Czech technology for cleaning wastewater from the wool processing industry.

A new wastewater treatment station will enable the Mongolian Association of Leather Industry to improve its environmental protection efforts and increase the efficiency of its wool processing operations. It represents a significant step forward

in Czechia's commitment to sustainable development and international cooperation.

The Czech contribution to Mongolia's leather processing industry dates back to the days of Czechoslovakia when a chevron factory was built and handed over to Mongolia between 1958 and 1960. A leather factory was established in 1975-1980, and a shoe factory with 3,500 employees was put into operation in 1979-1981. Within the framework of development cooperation, in 2007-2010, the leather factory modernization project of MLTJ LLC was implemented, and as part of the same cooperation, environmental pollution research at the Khargia treatment plant was conducted in 2010-2012, and recommendations were provided for further measures.

## Singapore-Mongolia Business Meeting Takes Place Virtually

*"Propelling Business through Green Initiatives" themed Singapore-Mongolia Business Matching Webinar took place online on March 09.*

According to the event organizers, business owners from both sides discussed digitization, innovation, and green business, an important portal to the next level of cooperation and development between Mongolia and Singapore at this business meeting of the two countries.

The Singapore Business Federation, the Embassy of the Mongolia in Singapore, and the Mongolian National Chamber of

Commerce and Industry jointly organized this online meeting to create new products, unfold new business opportunities, and exchange experiences on innovation, sustainable green development, and green business strategies.

Representatives of trade, industry, hospitality, and infrastructure development companies attended the meeting to learn from experienced speakers about the relevant business sectors. Both sides discussed strengthening potential partnerships in the markets of both countries and creating new business values.

## New Railway Line Tavantolgoi-Zuunbayan to be Open

*O. Amarsanaa, the Station-master of Tsogtsetsii train station said, "The Memorandum of Cooperation between Mongolian Railway and Mongolian Professional Committee of Petroleum Import was signed and we have been cooperating actively since then."*

As a result of this MOC, companies and entities working in the strategy fields are able to be supplied by lower-price gasoline and the overloaded truck traffic will be reduced, increasing the lifespan of roads.

On February 1, 2023, "Mon-

golian Railway" SOSC, "Tavan Tolgoi Railway" LLC, and "Mongolian Trans Line" LLC jointly launched a trial transportation between Tavantolgoi-Tsagaantsav.

The Tavantolgoi-Gashuunsukhait railway covers Tsogtsetsii, Bayn-Ovoo, and Khanbogd soums of Umnugovi aimag. It is 240 kilometers long mainline from Tavantolgoi mining to port Gashuunsukhait, with a total of 321.6 kilometers, two stations, and six crossings.

As of today, 21000 tons of coals have been transported successfully.

## Joint Statement on Advancing the U.S.-Mongolia Economic Partnership

*The text of the following statement was released by the Governments of the United States of America and Mongolia on the occasion of the 4th U.S.-Mongolia Economic Policy Dialogue.*

To strengthen further the U.S.-Mongolia Strategic Partnership and economic relationship, representatives of Mongolia and the United States held the 4th bilateral Economic Policy Dialogue on February 2, 2023, in Washington, D.C. During the meeting, the two nations discussed joint responses to economic challenges, explored opportunities to deepen bilateral trade and investment, and decided to pursue cooperation in key areas, including critical minerals, clean energy, and the digital economy.

U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Whitney Baird and State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Ankhbayar Nyamdorj co-chaired the dialogue. U.S. participants included representatives from the Department of State, National Security Council, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Millennium Challenge Corporation, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Treasury, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, Export-Import Bank, Transportation Security Administration, and Federal Aviation Administration. Mongolian participants included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Ministry of Economy and Development, Ministry of Energy, and Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry.

The United States and Mongolia reiterated that countries around the world should partner to hasten global economic recovery, including by working to overcome supply chain disruptions, and affirmed the international community should unite in efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The two nations reaffirmed their strong desire to build on the overall U.S.-Mongolia Strategic Partnership, deepen the economic relationship in areas of mutual interest, and pursue opportunities for cooperation through existing and new mechanisms, including



capacity building and trade promotion. They further reiterated the importance of strengthening Mongolia's business climate, including through full implementation of the United States-Mongolia Agreement on Transparency in Matters Related to International Trade and Investment. Both sides noted with satisfaction the signing of a Memorandum of Consultations (MOC) marking the successful negotiation of an Air Transport Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of Mongolia on January 24, 2023, an important step toward establishing scheduled, nonstop passenger flights between Mongolia and the United States, thus further expanding economic and people-to-people ties.

The two nations discussed potential collaboration on projects to advance Mongolia's economic development, diversification, and independence, with a focus on renewable energy and energy security, critical minerals, transportation, food security, intellectual property rights, and the digital economy. The two sides also reviewed joint development programs, including the up to USD 462 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Water Compact, which entered into force in March 2021 and will expand Ulaanbaatar's water supply by more than 80 percent. They noted the USAID Mongolia Energy Governance program, which will promote the development of a modern energy sector and facilitate sustainable and inclu-

sive economic growth.

Mongolia commended the financial assistance from the United States to improve herders' preparedness to overcome severe winter climate conditions.

The two nations highlighted the bilateral relationship is grounded in shared democratic values. They discussed expanded efforts to strengthen the rule of law and governance, fight corruption, and uphold fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression online, noting that a strong democracy and a strong economy go hand in hand.

The United States provided information on its initiatives in the Indo-Pacific in support of a free and open region that is connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient through potential partnerships in areas including infrastructure, critical minerals, environmental protection, and technology. The two sides intend to further explore possibilities to implement joint projects and work with like-minded partners in and out of the region.

The United States and Mongolia reviewed their 2018 Roadmap for an Expanded Economic Partnership and expressed mutual intent to update it to reflect the broadening scope of bilateral cooperation by including new areas and opportunities for partnership.

The United States and Mongolia decided to maintain the exchange of high-level visits, including holding the next Annual Bilateral Consultations and strategic dialogue in 2023 in Washington, D.C.



# Kh. Bulgantuya: We will Cooperate with Talented and Passionate Women in All Fields, Regardless of Party Affiliation



■ Interview with Kh. Bulgantuya, a Member of Parliament, a Member of the Cabinet, and the President of the Social Democracy-Mongolian Women's Association (SDMWA), Mongolia:

**-We are conducting this interview a day before International Women's Day. First of all, let me congratulate you on your appointment as the President of the Social Democracy-Mongolian Women's Association.**

-Thank you and Happy International Women's Day to all the girls and women.

**-Under the Mongolian People's Party, the organization changed its name to the Social Democracy-Mongolian Women's Association in January during the congress. Shall we start our interview by discussing this change in detail?**

-The Mongolian People's Party amended its constitution and adopted a social democratic notion at the 30th Congress. Social democracy generally refers to people-centered development policies. As for our party, we still have a center-left ideology. We have many rights. And also many responsibilities. The idea of "One for all and all for one" fits with Mongolian ideals and customs well. Non-governmental groups affiliated with the Mongolian People's Party have changed their names to underline this idea.

By including a representative from every sector, our association can develop policies that will benefit not only women but every citizen.

**-The structure of the non-governmental organization was changed to cooperate in the management of this organization, which unites more than ten thousand women under one cause and ideology. Could you please introduce the new members of your association? What criteria were they chosen on?**

-The Mongolian People's Party organizations revised their rules in a coordinated fashion within the context of revisions to MPP rules, including improvements to increase ethics and responsibility. The number of members increased. It may be argued that the conference and Board of Directors of the association have enlarged as a result of the merger of MPP

and The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, as well as the connected non-governmental organizations. Here are some details regarding the board of directors. Our SDMWA has a total of 71 members aged between 25-60 and 60 percent are between the ages of 35 and 45. Our Board of Directors' youngest member is a 29-year-old businesswoman. Our association has representatives from many sectors, five members of our association are in the healthcare sector, ten members work in education, five members are in the law and legal sector, and so on. Regarding education, 25 percent of our members have a bachelor's degree or a dual bachelor's degree, 35% have a master's degree, and the remaining 40% have a doctoral degree. First and foremost, we made an effort to assure generational representation. Second, it was meant to include people from crucial sectors for women, such as academia, business ownership, health, and education, in addition to members of the Parliament, members of the Cabinet, and members of the People's Assembly. The Board of Directors of our association includes members from non-governmental organizations that support people with disabilities. By assembling a Board of Directors from members of each sector, our association can develop policies that will help not only women but every citizen.

**-Representatives from numerous sectors can be found in the Social Democratic Mongolian Women's Association of the Mongolian People's Party. A few days ago, you convened your first meeting and created an agenda for the work ahead. Which directions will you prioritize in the coming years?**

-Firstly, the MPP's agenda for the 2020 parliamentary elections included many policies geared toward women and children. In accordance with these policies, some bills have been submitted to the Parliament. The SDMWA needs to actively work to promote discussion, approval, and application of the laws among women. In other words, we will

work to fulfill our promises first.

Secondly, we will motivate and support the association's members and supporters. Public events have been limited in the past three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If the SDMWA is active and well organized, it is possible to propose, approve and put into effect policies that are beneficial to women and children. It is crucial for the association's members to work hard so that women can assume leadership roles in all areas of business, politics, and society and contribute to the development of our country. Therefore, it will be one of our major tasks for 2023. Along with this, it is also planned to organize work for the empowerment of members and supporters of the association, where women can share their experiences and learn from one another as well as from male leaders.

We will intensify our cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, international organizations, private businesses, and academic institutions that have similar goals to ours. The extent of our collaboration with women's organizations of other parties will also be expanded. Creating women- and child-friendly society is not a matter of politicization. It is not an easy problem to solve. For this reason, it's critical to encourage cross-party cooperation. If this is successful, more parties' perspectives and support for their participation will be reflected in the MPP's platform for the general election in 2024.

**-What specific activities are you planning to organize to support women in rural areas?**

-Our association has branches in 21 provinces and 330 districts. According to the constitution of the association, each branch and council has the right to act independently. According to the 2023 plan approved by our Board of Directors, we will cooperate with non-governmental organizations that work in rural areas and undertake regional consultations and training. The members of the Board of Directors and the Vice Presidents are responsible for nine districts of the capital and 21 provinces. The needs of women in each province and district are different. As a result, each district will have a separate work plan.

A lot of work is planned to support women's health and well-being.

**-Under the motto "Health-National Wealth," the Social Democratic Mongolian Women's Association has planned to promote the well-being of women and girls. What tasks will be carried out under this framework?**

-The Mongolian government organized preventative health check-ups for citizens under the motto "Health-National Wealth". We all share the weakness of delaying seeking medical attention until a problem becomes serious. Everyone should establish the practice of frequent preventative health checkups at least once a year for the benefit

of themselves and their families. Our association intends to work hard to promote the health and well-being of women.

**-The Mongolian People's Party works to uphold human rights and gender equality. What activities do you plan to undertake in this context?**

We have access to enough knowledge about gender equality and human rights today. Issues appear to be discussed more than they were in the past, yet there is a pressing need to improve the representation of women in positions of decision-making. The women of our party have been paying special attention to this issue and working on relevant laws. In 2011, Ms. Oyunkhorol created a women's lobby group to pass the law on gender equality. We will continue to implement the policies of successive leaders of our association. Although quotas will increase women's participation, this is still not enough. Women's participation will rise with quotas, but this is still not enough. Political parties implementing specific policies voluntarily in addition to what is required by law would advance the cause. In order to ensure gender equality, the Mongolian People's Party is developing a policy document.

The women's association within the party shouldn't merely discuss politics and the party.

**-In actuality, some of the activities carried out by women's organizations under the party are somewhat constrained. What is your strategy for resolving this problem?**

-It is true. Women's organizations have been supporting

party committees and senior organizations. The women's association within the party shouldn't merely discuss politics and the party. We should collaborate with talented and passionate women from every sector, regardless of their political affiliation, if we want to see tangible achievements. Additionally, we should pay attention to the development, implementation, and monitoring of government policies with their participation. 60% of the members of our party are women, our association is a national-level women's organization under the party with about 128,000 members and supporters from 21 provinces, and 9 districts of Mongolia.

**-I will leave you with the final comments.**

-Our country has a population of 3.4 million. Half of them are women. We want them to have great confidence in their ability to contribute to the prosperity of our country and aspire to think "There is no discrimination because I was born as a woman. I can achieve anything if I want to". Male and female labor force participation rates varied by 4% in Mongolia. Now, women's employment has decreased and that difference has grown to about 10%. Women fall into poverty when something happens in their lives. Being a leader does not mean being an authority. We are talking about empowering women to lead active lives and contribute to the prosperity of our country. As our association is an organization with networks all over the country, we would like to see more female members assume leadership positions.

## "Women of the City-2023"



*The "Women of the City-2023" annual ceremony was held for the 4th year on the occasion of the International Women's Day on March 8 and attended by representatives of women working in the public and private sectors.*

In his remarks, the Governor of the capital city and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar Mr. Sumiyabazar highlighted the women's valuable contribution to the development of the capital city and prosperity of Mother Land Mongolia, as well as the upbringing and education of our succeeding generations.

During "Women of the City-2023" annual ceremony, Mr. Sumiyabazar paid respect to the women and honored the nine distinguished women who have demonstrated leadership and

showed notable achievements in their respective fields.

The women were awarded according to the following nominations: Peacekeeper; Honored Mother; The Best of the Humanitarian Sector; The Best of the Business Sector; The Best of the Sports Industry; The Best of the Education Sector; The Best of the Medical Sector; The Best of the Media Industry; The Best of Art and Culture Sector.

"The female labor force participation rate is 48 percent, compared to 52 percent for men in Ulaanbaatar city. This number indicates that the participation of women in the development of the capital city is equal to that of men," the Governor of the capital city and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar Mr. Sumiyabazar, said.



# "An Upcycling Crafts – Trash Collection 2023" Event

*The textile and garment sector accounts for a significant proportion of global carbon emissions, with estimates ranging between six and eight percent of total global carbon emissions, or some 1.7 billion tons in carbon emissions per year.*

Moreover, textile production is estimated to be responsible for about 20% of global clean water pollution from dyeing and finishing products. Generally, the global average water footprint for 1 kg of cotton is 20 thousand liters, to make the average cotton t-shirt takes 2,700 liters of water and that's enough drinking water for one person for 900 days.

Therefore, people can upcycle their clothes and other sewn and knitted products without throwing them away. If we upcycle and redesign our old clothes, we can reduce the fashion industry's greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent.

This simple action that we can accomplish in our daily life has a positive impact on nature and is considered to be environmentally friendly.

On March 6, "An Upcycling Crafts – Trash Collection 2023" event was opened in Khaan Bank (Seoul Office) under the slogan "Let's reuse your clothes and items to make Mother Nature happy," promoting the importance of upcycling and spreading possibilities of how we can turn old clothes and rugs into a new and something useful. This event, initiated by the Mongolian Quilting Center, was organized in cooperation with the Hub Innovation Center until March 8.

Opening event was attended by the Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Mongolia Axelle Nicaise, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Mongolia Sebastien Surun.

"I would like to express

my profound gratitude to "The Mongolian Quilting Center," and their operations that spread ecological activity in Mongolia and have a positive impact on the environment. I also want to emphasize that this event, which is encouraging people to reuse their clothes without turning them into waste, would positively affect society by teaching children and youths to sew, providing jobs for the elders and unemployed citizens, and expounding simple methods to save a Mother Nature," Sebastien Surun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Mongolia, said during the event.

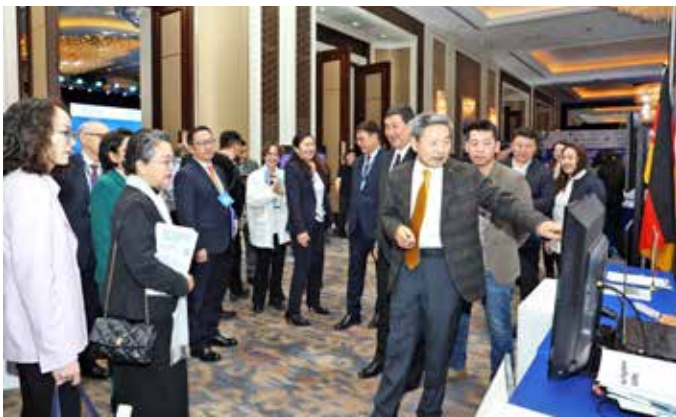
"Today, our goal to reduce the negative impact of waste clothes on the environment and cooperation with designers have been realized through this exhibition where re-designed clothes and upcycled crafts are displayed. Our event will be held for four days. As for today's exhibition,



we presented works created with re-designed old clothes in anticipation of International Women's Day. I would like to tell you that old clothes can be disassembled, repaired, and re-

sewed to make them new as much as you want and can be reused" Ts. Selenge, Head of Mongolian Quilting Center and Shine Zamnal NGO, said.

## Air Pollution Can be Reduced through Collective Efforts



As one of the activities in preparation for the 17th conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Desertification (COP 17), which will be held in Mongolia in 2026, the High Level Forum on Clean air was successfully organized in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, which the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that one of the five most polluted cities in terms of air pollution last week. Besides air pollution, Mongolia

is struggling with other environmental challenges such as dust, dirt, soil and water pollution. Air pollution and its attributable health concerns have been worsening year by year in Mongolia.

Air pollution has a large impact on human health and ecosystems and is the most important global environmental cause of premature deaths. The latest update of the WHO Air Quality Guidelines (2021) states that

seven million people worldwide annually die prematurely of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases that are attributable to ambient and household air pollution. The greatest number (two-thirds) of these premature deaths occurred in the South-East Asian and Western Pacific regions (as defined by the WHO), which can be attributed to the rapid economical and industrial, and urban growth in these areas.

To overcome some of these barriers, member States of ESCAP have adopted, at the 7th session of the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Program on Air Pollution (RAPAP), which covers improving air quality management, facilitating air quality monitoring, sharing open data, exchanging best practice, supporting capacity building and mobilizing multilateral cooperation.

Responding to the urgency for solutions to this growing environmental challenge common to many countries and cities ac-

ross the region, this high level forum brought together over 250 representatives from 20 countries, which are members of the UNESCAP.

On the sideline of the forum, the Field Visit was organized for the foreign representatives. During the field visit, Ms. Dechin Tsering, Regional Director of UNEP/ROAP highlighted the urgency to launch collaboration at the regional and international level in order to combat air pollution, especially air particulate matter pollution mainly generated from the stoves or the raw coal burning.

For the host country, Mongolia spent MNT 81 billion in 2019-2020, MNT 76 billion in 2020-2021, and MNT 43 billion in 2021-2022 on anti-pollution initiatives. While for 2022-2023, MNT 27 billion has been budgeted for the same goal. The coverage of the initiatives is not only limited to air pollution but also includes soil and water pollution, according to the Minister of Tourism and Environment. During the forum, the attendees shared

and offered their experiences and suggestions on Mongolian situations in light of the Mongolian goal to reduce air pollution in the capital city by up to 80 percent by 2050, and supply up to 30 percent of energy needs with renewable energy by 2030. The suggestions from the foreign representatives highlighted the importance of prioritizing human health when developing standards in terms of solid fuels. Moreover, international organizations have expressed their interest to cooperate with Mongolia on increasing the decentralized (renewable) energy sources of Mongolia and heat supply technologies for ger districts.

At the end of the forum, attendees agreed on the urgency to catalyze action along several dimensions, such as promotion of science-based policy, establishment of open regional platforms, promote domestic actions and regional cooperation, identify technical and financial resources, and foster dialogue and cooperation.



The "Blue Pearl" Ice Festival was successfully organized on March 1-4. This year, about 300 foreign tourists and representatives from ten countries, such as Japan, South Korea, Germany,

and the USA, and over 20 thousand domestic tourists came to Khuvsgul to participate in the festival.

Specifically, U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, Richard L.

## "Blue Pearl" Ice Festival

Buangan, the Deputy Head of the Japanese Embassy in Mongolia Kikuma Shigeru, guests and representatives from the Taejon City of South Korea, and a corresponding team of KCBN TV of RoK participated.

The Governor of the Khuvsgul aimag Sh. Iderbayasgalan opened the ice festival, and in his remarks, he said, "In respect to the announcement of 2023-2025 as the "Years to Visit Mongolia" initiated by the Government of Mongolia, our aimag is aiming to increase the income of the tourism industry up to 30 percent."

Weather condition was favorable for the visitors to comfortably travel through the ice town and visit reindeer herders' tents which show the features of Khuvsgul aimag.

In addition, traditional costume show, ice driving, ice volleyball, sumo wrestling, photo exhibition, horse sledge race and other interesting events were organized.

In alignment with the Government's goal, Khuvsgul aimag announced 2023 as the "Year to Visit Khuvsgul." The number of domestic and foreign tourists

visiting the pristine nature of specially protected areas such as the Khordol Sardag Mountains, Khuvsgul Lake, Ulaan Taiga, and Dayan Caves of Northern regions is growing each year. The aimag has the capacity to receive 7,000 tourists at a time in 94 tourist camps, 132 guest houses, eight hotels, and 15 inns.





# "Food Revolution" Gaining Momentum

Public and private organizations, international organizations, and food producers have been joining and actively supporting the "Food Supply and Safety" national campaign, initiated by the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh. The food and agriculture sector representatives, joined the national campaign, which is abbreviated as the "Food Revolution," assembled at the Government Palace last week to discuss the issues they have faced.

The pandemic and geopolitical tensions have resulted in food crises worldwide. At this trying time, ensuring food safety has become the immediate goal for countries around the world.

Within the framework of the "Food Revolution," we, Mongolians, have set the goal of fully meeting our domestic needs of 19 major food products in the next five years, becoming a food exporting country, and creating a healthy region free of animal diseases.

In his remarks at the opening of the consultation meeting, President Mr. Khurelsukh said, "In order to successfully implement the "Food Revolution" national campaign, public and private sectors should pay special attention to following six areas. These are, 1) Implementing the "Food Revolution" in close coordination with the regional development policy, creating and developing clusters, planning the raw material supply chain and transport logistics network in an optimal way; 2) Improving the legal environment aimed at protecting and developing wealth creators who produce food; 3) Solving the problems of vaccination and production of biopreparations to create a healthy zone free of animal diseases; 4) Leveraging the loan, tax, and insurance incentives, improve the incentive sys-



tem, and encourage private sector investment; 5) Developing awareness among citizens to support their national producers; 6) The results of "Food Revolution" should be reported to the public every six months"

This year alone, it has been decided to allocate about MNT 223 billion in funding to the food and agriculture sector, which is the largest support given to the sector in the past 30 years.

Any production project pays off in five to ten years, so there is no way to finance a national-scale project like "Food Revolution" with high-interest, short-term bank loans. Mongolian commercial banks have expressed their support for the "Food Supply and Safety" national campaign and have decided to grant long-term concessional loans of up to MNT 1 trillion to enterprises in 2023 with an interest rate of three to five percent. For this purpose, the Government has planned to spend MNT 135.5 billion for loan

interest support.

In addition to the discounted loans, the Government has decided to support food producers and wealth creators by providing certain tax incentives. Specifically, new equipment for the processing of food and agricultural raw materials will be exempted from customs duties on imported goods by 100 percent until 2027. Also, until 2025, imported and domestically sold agricultural machinery, equipment, fertilizers, and plant protection substances will be exempted from VAT. Domestically grown grains, potatoes, vegetables, seedlings, fruits and flour produced by domestic farmers; industrially processed and domestically sold fat and cut meat, unprocessed internal organs and by-products; milk and dairy products processed with domestic raw materials and sold domestically are exempted from VAT, respectively. In addition, enterprises with annual sales of

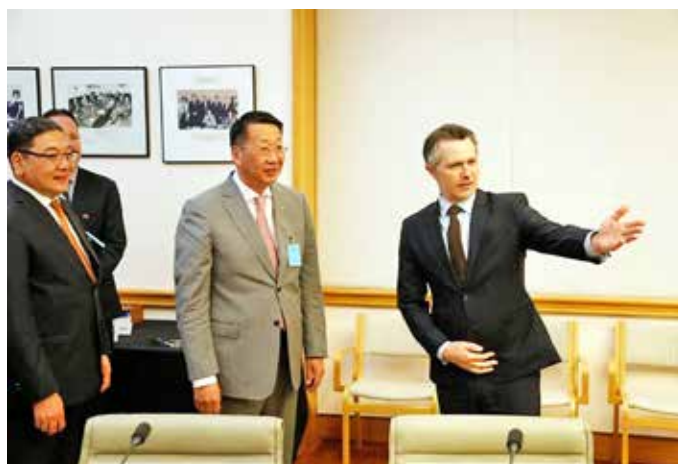
less than MNT 1.5 billion will enjoy 90 percent of tax reduction. Also, 50 percent tax reduction will be given to enterprises that produce and cultivate grains, potatoes, vegetables, milk, fruits, vegetables, fodder, fodder plants, meat and meat products.

Moreover, a permanent resident who produces and cultivates grain, potatoes, vegetables and their seeds; fruits, berries, their seeds and seedlings; fodder plants and tree saplings will receive a 50 percent discount on the tax on the income from that production.

These decisions will be a big boost for the "Food Revolution" to gain momentum. As a result, thousands of new jobs will be created through domestic production, helping people out of unemployment and poverty.

At the end of his remarks, the President emphasized that in the future, in addition to food, we should be able to fully meet our domestic needs for strategic products such as electricity and fuel.

## The Minister of Education and Science Pays Official Visit to Australia



The Minister of Education and Science Mr. Enkh-Amgalan and other official representatives paid Official Visit to the Commonwealth of Australia between March 6-10. On the first day of the visit, the representatives met with the Minister for Skills and Training of Australia Mr. Brendan O'Connor.

During the meeting, both sides presented on their countries'

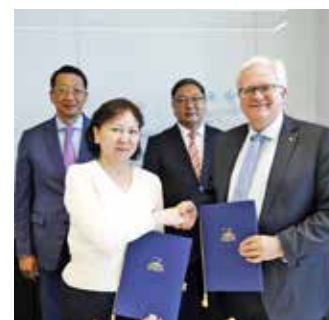
policies on the professional education sector and agreed to support the cooperation and exchange of experiences between the vocational education training centers of our two countries. Moreover, the Mongolian side expressed interest in cooperating with the Australian side in engaging officers and rescuers of NEMA of Mongolia in vocational and further education training in Australia.

Then, the Minister Mr. Enkh-

Amgalan held official talks with the Minister of Education of Australia Mr. Jason Clare. While expressing his gratitude for the valuable contribution of the Australia Awards Scholarships to improving the education of Mongolian youths, the Minister of Education and Science Mr. Enkh-Amgalan asked for Mr. Jason Clare's support in expanding the cooperation in the education sector between our two countries.

For his side, the Minister of Education of Australia Mr. Jason Clare reaffirmed his intention to expand the cooperation between Mongolia and Australia in the education sector and said that he would pay particular attention to training young Mongolian personnel in Australia, improving the skills of English language teachers, and expanding cooperation between universities.

On March 7, the Minister of Education and Science Mr. Enkh-Amgalan held a bilateral meeting with the Deputy Secretary in charge of the Indo-Pacific Group, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ms. Rebecca Grindley,



and the Director at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr. Rhona McPhee and exchanged views on relations and cooperation in education sector between Mongolia and Australia. Highlighting the valuable contribution of the Australia Awards Scholarships to the economic and social development of Mongolia, the parties reached a certain agreement on increasing the scholarship quota for Mongolians from ten to 50.

On the sideline of the visit, the National University of Mongolia signed the "Memorandum of Cooperation" with the Australian National University.

### The lawyer's advice



Hanns  
Seidel  
Foundation

In cooperation with Hanns-Seidel-Foundation Project Mongolia and its "Legal Education" Academy

**-For what legitimate purpose the use of psychoactive substances is permitted in Mongolia?**

-According to the Law on Control over the Circulation of narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances of 2002, "narcotics and psychoactive substances" refer to "medicine, natural and synthesized substances" (specified in UN Convention on Narcotic medicine, 1961; listed in UN Convention on Psychoactive substances, 1971) that have effects of addiction and strong or other affect to psychics. These medicine and substances are to be under control pursuant to laws of Mongolia.

The organizations specified in the Law of Mongolia on Control over the Circulation of narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances may use the below mentioned substances for the following purposes:

·Medical and research organizations for the medical treatment and research purposes;

·Organization in duty to do control over the Circulation of narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances for the purpose to do laboratory analysis and maintain training;

·Organizations authorized to conduct enforcement work for the purpose to maintain comparative study, prevent from, cease and detect crimes and violation;

·In case of planting medicinal plants, organizations and economic entities licensed to produce and export psychoactive substances and their raw material.

List of narcotic and psychoactive substances for the research purposes and list of authorized organizations, procedures to use shall be approved by the government.

**-What does "local self-governance" refer to?**

-Local self-governance refers to the right and authentic capacity of citizens to solve independently local /territorial economic and social problems within the law frames directly in conformity with the common interest or through own legitimate representative body and by the executive delegated authority reporting to it.

The edited Law of Mongolia on Administrative and territorial units and local governance has been in force since 1 January 2022, and this law determines functions and economic sources of administrative and territorial units as well as local self-governing body and competence and functional organization of governors of all levels.

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# 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia and Oceania Championship in Mongolia



According to the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia and Oceania Championship and the IIHF World Championship Division IV will be held in the Steppe Arena of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on March 11-26 (confirmed date).

"Mongolia has submitted its candidature many times to host the high-level ice hockey championships in our country. The IIHF requires countries to meet certain conditions for hosting hockey world championships. For this time, we have passed these thresholds after construc-

ting Steppe Arena in Ulaanbaatar," B. Javkhlan, the President of the Mongolian Ice Hockey Federation, a Member of Parliament, and Minister of Finance, highlighted during the press conference in the Steppe Arena.

More than MNT 1.7 billion has been budgeted for organizing the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia and Oceania Championship and the IIHF World Championship Division IV. The cost will be shared equally by the host country and the IIHF.

Considering the compositions of the teams that will face off in the championships, the Philippines and Indonesia teams

include professional athletes from other countries, which is expected to increase the chance of fierce battles that captivate interests of fans.

For Mongolia, over 50 players of the Mongolian National Ice Hockey Team and Mongolian National Ice Hockey Junior Team are in training at the Steppe Arena, A. Mergen, Head Coach, said.

Over 450 players from six teams (including Mongolia) of the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia and Oceania Championship and ten teams (including Mongolia) of the IIHF World Championship Division IV will arrive in Mongolia. Moreover, fans and officials will also gather together.

**The 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia and Oceania Championship** – March 11-17

**Participants:** Iran, Mongolia, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

**The IIHF World Championship Division IV** – March 23-26

**Participants:** Indonesia, Kuwait, Mongolia, Philippines

In addition, teams from Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Thailand already landed in Mongolia to go in for the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia and Oceania Championship.



## Mongolian Filmmakers Unites to Make a Content for Netflix

Mongolian filmmakers are jointly working on new Netflix content about Chinggis Khaan. This project aims to promote the Great Khaan's pearls of wisdom to the world.

The film is based on the novel "The Secret History of Chinggis Khaan" by S. Jargalsaikhan. Filmmakers said, "It's time to make Mongolian content that meets with Netflix standard."

Crew members for film

production include: Director-M. Batbold, Director of the National Academic Drama Theatre and the Orfey Theater; Exclusive Producers-J. Bilguun, President of the "Sorogdogiin Jargalsaikhan Foundation;" T. Ariunchimeg, Executive director of the Orfey Theater; Screenwriter-Ya. Bayaraa.

The project is open to everyone who wants to promote the Great Khaan's legacy and Mongolian heritage to the world.

## Mongolian Ju-Jitsu Team Delivers Marvelous News

*Ju-Jitsu Competitors of Mongolia delivered stunning news to the homeland from the Land of Smiles, punching one silver and two bronze medals after successful runs in the 7th edition of the Asian Jiu-Jitsu Championship held between February 22-28.*

The competitor of "Jump MGL" Ju-Jitsu club, MNUE G. Gantulga grabbed the silver medal off the back of his 94-kilo weight class's fights that had us on the edge of our seats. Furthermore, the athlete of "BB JiuJitsu Academy" N. Buyanjargal (45 kg), and athlete of "Ralph Grecie Mongolia" J. Dagvasuren (77 kg) both captured bronze medals while executing missions successfully in their respective weight class.

Another marvelous moment for Mongolians was the "Dedication Award" of the Ju-Jitsu Asian Union that was conferred upon G. Gantulga.

Athletes from Mongolia continued to hold joint training in Bangkok, Thailand, and went

in for "AJP Thailand National Pro" on March 4.

In the AJP Thailand National Pro, 500 Ju-Jitsu athletes from 42 countries faced off, and the Mongolian team sealed second place with the success of 12 gold and ten silver medals.



## The First Mongolian Team to the Summit of Mount Everest

*Mount Everest is every mountaineer's dream to summit. The first Mongolian mountaineer who conquered Mount Everest was G. Usukhbayar in 2005. Since his success, nine Mongolian mountaineers have conquered this summit and opened up new chapter in the history. For this time, the Mongolian mountaineers have teamed up to summit Everest.*

The team is composed of nine mountaineers (five males, four females) and two coaches (International Master of Sport B. Ganbaatar, and his wife, International Master of Sports Ts. Tsogzolmaa) and a Manager. Mountaineering is about

Team preparation, Teamwork, and the right Mindset.

Members have experience in climbing mountains, which are over 5000-7000 meter above sea

level. In addition, the team has climbed Mountain Satai /4090 m/ and Mountain Jargalant /3796 m/ as part of their training.



### One Billion Trees

## Park Named After President of Mongolia

According to the statement of a Senior Specialist at the Department of Green Area of the Mayor's Office of Ulaanbaatar City B.Sukhbat, 120 million trees will be planted in the capital city Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia within the framework of the "One Billion Trees" national campaign.

In an area of urban green space, 55 million trees of which will be planted as windbreak and afforestation, and 65 million trees will be planted as horticulture in an area of 3750 hectares.

The President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh has directed to build of a park named after the President in Ulaanbaatar in accordance with the national campaign. In this regard, a working group has been established.

According to order No. 701

of the Governor of the capital city and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar Mr. Sumiyabazar, the core planning to build a "Unity Park" named after the President in an area of 20480 hectares, close to the Bayanzurkh mountain has been developed.

As the first stage of this plan, tree seedlings have been planted in an area of six hectares, which will be expanded to 32 hectares this year. The infrastructure of the park, including greenhouses, staff housings, irrigation systems, and power supply has been already laid down.

