



Healthy Forest for Healthy People

On the occasion of International Forests Day, the 6th National Conference on "Policy, Science, and Technology of Mongolian Forest Sector" took place on March 20.

In his opening remarks, Minister of Environment and Tourism Mr. Bat-Erdene said "By losing forests we lose soil, without soil, there is no permafrost, and no permafrost means no groundwater. Unfortunately, we have been washing cars, clothes, and streets with clean water at this time of the global water crisis. We need to find

immediate solutions. The average temperature in Mongolia has risen 2.25 degrees Celsius over the past 80 years, almost tripling the rise of average global temperatures. Meanwhile, the world is barreling down a path to heat up by 4-4.5 degrees. Thus, we should accept every day as a tree plantation day. "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, ini-

tiated by President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, is aimed at not only planting trees but also raising public awareness of climate change."

President of Mongolia's signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Forest Partnership with the European Union, and the initiation of the "One Billion Tree" National Campaign has brought further impetus for moving forward the Mongolian commitment to protect the environment, fight against climate change, and reduce its adverse effect on forests.

Our country has been cooperating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), GIZ, and European Union on forest partnership, Korea on the "Green Wall" project, and other partners on establishing the tree breeding centers, laying down their infrastructures, supplying equipment and upskilling workforces.

Regarding the forest partnership, the EU Ambassador to Mongolia Ms. Axelle Nicaise said "Our cooperation plan will be ready in June. We have for-

med policy and technical working groups. The MoC is about not only protecting forests but also promoting proper forest management and commercialization of forest products. We are planning to cooperate in this sector until 2027, by investing USD 10-12 million."

According to B. Chuluunkhuu, the founder of "Ololt" NGO, forests have the unique ability to absorb 40% of greenhouse gas emissions and produce oxygen in return. Developing countries have pledged to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030, underpinned by USD 19 billion in public and private funds to invest in protecting and restoring forests.

B. Oyunsanaa, Director-General of Forestry Research and Development Agency of Mongolia

We estimated that 2 million cubic meters of trees can be used for logging per year based



on a forest census conducted in 2014-2015 with funding from the International Organization of Germany. Today, we use over 800,000 cubic meters of trees per year, which is less than half of the estimated amount. It is not enough to simply log; it must be done properly, with the proper technology according to the professional planning.

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Experts Concern about High Reliance on Groundwater Resources

On March 22, Mongolia marked World Water Day under the theme "Accelerating Change".

A national forum 'Blue Gold', initiated by the President of Mongolia takes place on March 24 with sub-sessions ahead of it.

Despite the fact that groundwater resources account for only two percent of the total water resources in Mongolia, the country has a high reliance on groundwater resources, which makes up 71 percent of the total consumption. The situation causes many problems and leads to more severe water shortage in the country, warned the experts and scholars who participated in the sub-sessions. They suggest to intensify research on groundwater resources, increase fun-

ding for it and introduce artificial groundwater recharge technology. Research on groundwater resources has been done covering only 15 percent of the territory, as the experts noted.

An annual water consumption of Mongolia for drinking, industrial and other purposes is 600 million cubic meter, while most of it is used for the animal husbandry and mining.

"Our country uses just 3 percent of the entire water resources. Even though groundwater makes up 2 percent of the whole water resources, 71 percent of the water, we use is from groundwater. The situation which causes many problems demonstrates the need for proper management and regulation in the sector. Waste water should be considered as wealth. According to a water monitoring



census, one soum (the smallest administrative unit) creates 50 tonnes of waste water a year. Negative impacts of climate change can be lowered through using waste water in greening and establishing artificial lake and fonts." said Executive Director

of Water Partnership NGO Dr. Davaagiin.Basandorj.

About 76 percent of Mongolian territory has been desertified and degraded, and a total of 362 water resources including rivers, streams and lakes have dried up as of 2022.

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Website: montsame.mn/en
Twitter: @montsame_en

Bloomberg commodity price 2023/03/24		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	1.995.20
COPPER	USD/lb.	407.05
SILVER	USD/t oz.	23.00
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	76.32
WHEAT	USD/bu	668.75

Championing Sustainability Despite Adversities in Asia and the Pacific

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SDG PROGRESS REPORT Championing sustainability despite adversities 2023

By Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana,
Under-Secretary-General of the UN and
Executive Secretary of the Economic
and Social Commission for Asia and the
Pacific (ESCAP)

As we reach the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the Asia-Pacific region's progress and accelerate efforts to achieve our goals.

This year's Asia-Pacific SDG Progress Report published by ESCAP features pace-leaders of the region who have successfully implemented evidence-based policies to accelerate progress. For instance, Pakistan has made great strides in increasing the number of skilled birth attendants. India has taken concrete steps to reduce child marriages. Timor-Leste has implemented a national remittance mobilization strategy to leverage remittances as an innovative financial diversification tool, and Cambodia is implementing an evidence-informed clean air plan.

These national achievements across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are grounded in evidence-based approaches and provide hope and valuable lessons for other countries in the region to follow. By learning from one another's successes and building on them, the region can collectively accelerate its progress towards achieving the SDGs.

However, the report presents a sobering reminder of how much work remains. While a few nations have made remarkable strides in achieving some of the targets, none of the countries in Asia and the Pacific are on course. The region has achieved less than 15 per cent of the necessary progress, which puts us several decades away from accomplishing our SDG ambitions. In the absence of increased efforts, the region will miss 90 per cent of the 118 measurable SDG targets.

It is unsettling to observe that progress towards climate action (Goal 13) is slipping away. The region is both a victim of the effects of climate change and a perpetrator of climate change. Countries are not on track to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, and more

countries must report emission levels for all sectors to properly monitor their contribution towards global climate agendas.

Goals 5 (Gender equality) and 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) also require urgent attention from all countries to fill the persistent data gaps. Unfortunately, the report shows that since 2017 there has been almost no progress in the region in the availability of data for these two goals with the most significant data gaps.

Investment in data systems is crucial to closing this gap, but more is needed. A data-driven approach to implementing the SDGs is critical to measure progress accurately. To progress towards SDG 5, collecting gender-disaggregated data and investing in education, promoting participation in decision-making, and ensuring access to essential services is crucial. To achieve SDG 16, countries need to strengthen the rule of law, promote human rights and good governance, and foster civic participation.

As we face a multitude of challenges, including climate change, human-made disasters, military conflicts, and economic difficulties, progress towards the SDGs becomes increasingly critical. Governments must act quickly, invest wisely, enhance partnerships and prioritize populations in the most vulnerable situation. We must renew our commitment to producing high-quality data and use every means available to ensure sustainability across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. National plans must align with the 2030 Agenda to guide development at the national level.

Despite significant challenges, we must not give up the ambition to achieve the SDGs. There are many inspiring examples of national achievements in carrying out data-informed actions in the region. These successes give hope for Asia and the Pacific, and there is a need to leverage them more effectively for change. Our collective commitment to the SDGs will serve as a compass towards achieving a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future for all.

Turkish President Expresses Gratitude for Humanitarian Aid

President of the Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sent a Letter of Gratitude to the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan expressed his appreciation for sending the humanitarian aid and rescue team, stressing that Türkiye will never forget the Mongolians' helping hand.

On March 22, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Mr. Ankhbayar received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the

Republic of Türkiye to Mongolia Zafer Ates. At the meeting, the Ambassador handed over the Certificate of Gratitude to the Ministry of Mongolian Foreign Affairs for providing the Republic of Türkiye with immediate humanitarian aid in the difficult time of the devastating earthquakes that hit Southern Türkiye.

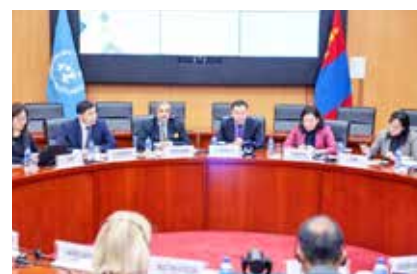
The Ambassador also expressed his commitment to strengthening the comprehensive partnership relations between the two countries.

Mongolia-UN Hold the First Meeting of Joint Steering Committee

In connection with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2023-2027 entering into full swing in Mongolia, the Government of Mongolia and the United Nations in Mongolia held the first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on March 17, 2023.

The JSC is tasked to provide strategic oversight and direction to the implementation of "UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework-2023 (UNSDCF)", approved in May 2022, and ensure its alignment to evolving country contexts, national, regional, and international development process, mechanism, and goals. It is co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Development, and the United Nations in Mongolia and is composed of relevant Government bodies and representatives of the UN system organizations.

Within the framework of ensuring the implementation of the UNSDCF in the next



five years, result groups will be formed and work in the directions of 1) Human development and well-being, 2) Green, inclusive, and sustainable development and 3) Human-centered governance and human rights.

The JSC meeting also reviewed the results of the previous Cooperation Framework, known as the UN Development Assistance Framework, implemented from 2017 to 2022. The next meeting of the JSC is scheduled for October 2023.

State Secretary Mr. Ankhbayar Meets with the UNFPA Country Director



State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Mr. Ankhbayar met with Dr. Justine Coulson, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative to China and Country Director for UNFPA in Mongolia on March 15, 2023.

State Secretary Mr. Ankhbayar expressed his gratitude to the UNFPA for its significant contribution made in assisting Mongolia with its development policy, including population growth and health,

the reproductive health of girls and women, empowerment of children and youth and the gender equality in Mongolia.

Both sides affirmed their commitment to successful implementation of the new 7th Country Programme Document (CPD) 2023-2027, which was approved last year and exchanged views on specific areas of projects and activities to be implemented for the next 5 years.

The 7th CPD 2023-2027 was successfully adopted funding worth USD 20.7 million, with key focus areas in (1) stopping preventable maternal deaths, (2) stopping the unmet need for family planning, (3) ending gender-based violence, (4) adolescent and youth development.

Mongolia has been developing cooperation with UNFPA since 1976, the UNFPA opened its sub-regional branch in charge of projects and programme in 1992, and established its Resident Office in 1999, which under the new management restructuring has been operating as the Office of UNFPA Mongolia starting from 2019.

MPs Visit to the Development Center for Children with Disabilities

Under the Law on Health and Medical Care and Services, a working group to draw up recommendations and conclusions on improving the quality and availability of medical care and services for mothers and infants was formed on May 10, 2022. The Head of the working group Ms. Anujin, and members Ms. Jargalmaa and Mr. Tuvaan visited the Development Center for Disabled Children on March 22.

The Head of the working group Ms. Anujin said "We are working on developing a comprehensive curriculum for disabled children and it will be presented soon. The curriculum will allow disabled children to study in normal schools and socialize. Lack of inclusive policy leads disabled children to live in shadow. This is a crucial issue that should be considered as important as the National security issue. The Package Law on Social Insurance will be discussed at the State Great Khural's spring session. So, any recommendations related to allowances for parents who take care their disabled children at home are welcomed."



The Development Center for Children with Disabilities, built with a grant from China, operates with the main mission of providing evidence based health, education, and social rehabilitation services to disabled children aged 0-18 in nine districts of the capital city and 21 aimags. The rehabilitation services include movement therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, water therapy, food therapy, medical therapy and nursery care. The center is equipped with over 120 types of modern physical therapy tools and equipment.

This Year Marks 42nd Anniversary of Mongolia's First Space Flight

This year marks the 42nd anniversary of the first space flight by a Mongolian.

On March 22 in 1981, Hero of the Mongolian People's Republic, Hero of the USSR Jugderdemidiin Gurragechaa along with twice Hero of USSR, Hero of Mongolian People's Republic, Soviet cosmonaut V.A.Dzhanibekov flew into space on the Soyuz 39 spacecraft, landing back on Earth at 7.42 pm on March 30.

With this event, Mongolia became the 10th country in the world to send off a cosmonaut into space, and Mongolian Cosmonaut J. Gurragechaa became the 2nd person in Asia, and the 101st person in the world

to fly into space.

While in orbit, 36 experiments and research were carried out in the fields of medical care and biology, physics and technology, and remote sensing, which laid out the foundations for the development of space science in Mongolia.

As a side note, a MONTSAME team of seven, comprised of columnists, reporters, and photographers covered the events related to the flights between 1978 and 1981 and took over 60 percent of all photographs of the space flights in Mongolia, especially those in the archives.

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 06:48 Sunset: 19:09

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -20 C and -4 C. Day time temps between -6 C and +9 C

■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -16 C and -6 C. Day time temps between -3 C and +12 C

■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -12 C and -2 C. Day time temps between +5 C and +13 C

■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -19 C and -5 C. Day time temps between -2 C and +14 C



State Decorations Awarded to Rescue Team Members



On March 17, President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh awarded the state decorations to the team members who participated in humanitarian relief and search and rescue operations in Türkiye.

State Decorations - the Medal

of Military Honor, the Medal for Selfless Service, *Shudarga Juram*, and Medals for Peace were conferred upon 35 members of the rescue team who demonstrated courage and high skill and fulfilled their duties and responsibilities with honor during relief operations after the devastating

natural disaster in Türkiye.

President of Mongolia and Commander-in-Chief of the Mongolian Armed Forces Mr. Khurelsukh expressed his profound gratitude to the military members who rescued many lives amid severe weather condition and the devastating natural disaster.

This operation has been marked in the history of Mongolia as the first large-scale, rapid and professional international search and rescue, medical and humanitarian operation.

The rescue team pulled eight people alive from under the rubble of buildings and took them to healthcare facilities, and the bodies of 19 people were handed over to the relevant authorities. The medical group, based on the local hospital, provided medical care to 649 people. In addition, five tons of meat, one ton of candles, 1000 blankets, and 20 Mongol Gers were sent to Turkey as humanitarian aid.

Parliament Accepts President's Veto



On March 17, the State Great Khural discussed and resolved to approve the President's veto over the Law on Protecting Human Rights on Social Media and the accompanying four laws, namely amendments to the Law on Communications, Law on Cyber Security, Law on Protecting Personal Information, and Law on Tax.

On January 20, 2023, the parliament approved the Law on Protecting Human Rights on Social Media and the President issued the veto on January 27, having considered that the law violates some articles of the Constitution of Mongolia as it had not ensured public participation and reflected suggestions of

persons or entities whose legal interests are affected by the law.

Some MPs expressed their position that the President's veto should be accepted as Mongolia is a democratic country that respects and protects human rights and freedom and 89.1 percent of the members in attendance voted in favor of the veto.

146th Assembly of the IPU Held in Manama



The 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its meetings were held in Manama, Bahrain, between March 11-15, 2023.

Mongolia joined the IPU in 1962 as a member country. The

establishment of the permanent functioning parliament of Mongolia in 1992 has brought the cooperation between the Mongolian State Great Khural (the Parliament) and the IPU to the next level.

During the Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the State Great Khural Mr. Munkhbaatar met with President of the IPU Mr. Duarte Pacheco, and Secretary General Mr. Martin Chungong and exchanged views on further expanding the cooperation between the State Great Khural of Mongolia and the IPU.

The General Debate of the Assembly focused on the overall theme of Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Inclusive Society. In addition, the Assembly adopted resolutions on Cyberattacks and Cybercrimes: The New Risks to Global Security and Parliamentary Efforts in Achieving Negative Carbon Balances of Forests. At the end of the Assembly, the Manama Statement was adopted as an outcome document, and the Republic of Angola was selected as the host country for the 147th Assembly of the IPU.

CABINET SESSION



At its session on March 22, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

Accounts Linked to Escapers to be Frozen

The Government of Mongolia has declared 2023 the "Year to Combat Corruption" and started the five "W" operations, "Whistleblowing", "Wiping-out", "Wasp", "Wealth", and "Wide-open", to combat corruption. In this regard, the Prime Minister mandated to intensify the anti-corruption activities and bring overseas escapers back to the court according to international agreements and Mongolian laws, and hold them accountable, ensuring the streamlined process of investigation. Moreover, according to the Minister of Justice and Home affairs, accounts linked to the escapers will be frozen.

Annual Inflation Rate is 12.2 Percent Nationwide and 12.1 Percent in Ulaanbaatar City as of February 2023

At the session, Minister of Economy and Development Mr. Khurelbaatar presented on the current state of the economy and the increase in the price of goods and services.

According to the National Statistics Office, annual inflation rate has reached 12.2 percent nationwide and 12.1 percent in Ulaanbaatar city as of February 2023. The inflation rate reached a record-high 16.1% in June 2022 and has been on a downward trend since then. Deceleration of inflation is mainly attributable to the decreased pressure of MNT devaluation due to the increase in foreign currency reserve and stability in the currency market as well as the decrease in prices of goods and services on foreign markets.

Even though the inflation rate has been decreasing, it remains two times higher than the central bank's target rate. Other reasons that can explain the stubborn inflation rate include the increase in prices of refined fuel and diesel fuel. Especially, the diesel fuel price has increased by 28% compared to the same period of the previous year. Prices of food products, including flour, flour products, milk, dairy products, and some types of vegetables, have increased by 30-50%.

The Bank of Mongolia raised the benchmark rate five times, by a cumulative 7% point in 2022. During its scheduled meeting in March 2023, the Monetary Policy Committee decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 13 percent. The Government is advised not to take any measures that may

hinder economic activities, but to focus on increasing the foreign currency reserve in the future.

Projects "Bus Rapid Transit" and "Revival of Selbe River" to be Launched in 2023

Minister of Mongolia and Head of National Commission to Reduce Traffic Congestion of Ulaanbaatar city J. Sukhbaatar presented on process and results of projects which are being implemented with capital city budget funds and foreign loans and assistance at the Cabinet session.

Within the framework of the goal of improving the quality and availability of public transport services in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, which is included in the "New Revival Policy" document, the Cabinet members discussed and supported the "Bus Rapid Transit" (BRT) project to be implemented by the Asian Development Bank's set of loans worth USD 655 million. Minister of Mongolia and Head of National Commission to Reduce Traffic Congestion of Ulaanbaatar city J. Sukhbaatar and Governor of Ulaanbaatar city D. Sumiyabazar were tasked to launch the project within 2023.

According to Ulaanbaatar City's Public Transportation Policy, the BRT is a medium-term project and a part of the set of measures, which will be taken aligning with the further larger projects. Upon completion of the project, the city buses will be scheduled with a waiting time of 4-12 minutes and an average speed of 18-25 km/h.

In addition, the Cabinet members discussed and supported the concept of the "Revival of Selbe River" project, in consideration of the goal to create multimodal public transportation in Ulaanbaatar, included in the Ulaanbaatar city's 2040 General Development Plan. The project will be implemented under the public-private partnership within 2023.

Within the framework of the "Revival of Selbe River", a 21.6 km long flood dam and other landscaping works, including the construction of special roads for buses and bicycles, and pedestrians, are planned along the Selbe river to increase the flow and improve the ecological condition of Selbe river, create a healthy and safe environment for people and reduce traffic congestion of the city.

The Cabinet mandated Minister of Finance B. Javkhlan and Governor of Ulaanbaatar city D. Sumiyabazar to settle the required financing for the projects to be implemented in 2023 to reduce the traffic congestion of Ulaanbaatar city.

Mongolia-China Business Forum in Ulaanbaatar



Sustainable Investment Forum 2023 or Mongolia-China Business Forum, which brought together representatives from the banking, finance, agriculture, mining, and construction sectors, was held between March 16-18, in Ulaanbaatar.

Mongolian Youth Federation and Mongolia-China Trade and Economic Cooperation Association co-

organized the forum, which was attended by over 200 Chinese investors who are interested in investing in the abovementioned sectors, and more than 200 enterprises and 250 entrepreneurs on the Mongolian side. This is the largest business event organized in the past ten years, since the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council of China in 2010.

In his opening remarks, noting the fact that the cooperation

between youth organizations of the two countries has been expanding, besides the growing cooperation in other fields, such as politics, society, economy, and humanity, President of the Mongolian Youth Federation B. Sergelenbaatar said, "This forum will provide a platform for representatives of Mongolian and Chinese business communities to introduce and discuss their projects and investment possibilities. Investment is a mechanism to boost the development of a country. The economic development, increased production, and improved trade turnover will result in new jobs, competitive salaries, and solutions to many challenges that youths have faced."

A member of the Mongolia-China Trade and Economic Cooperation Association Wei Shan Dong said "I hope this forum will unfold many opportunities for businesses. China and Mongolia, connected by mountains and rivers, share weal and woe. It is an inevitable choice for both sides to maintain and develop bilateral relations, especially in economy, trade, and investment spheres."

During the forum, while highlighting the significance of this forum in expanding the trade ties between the two countries, and increasing the investment in Mongolia, Minister of Justice and Home Affairs Kh. Nyambaatar gave a speech on "Current Situation and Legal Framework of the Foreign Investment". Then, the presentations were made by Governor of the capital city, Mayor of Ulaanbaatar D. Sumiyabazar on "Investment Policy and Plan of Ulaanbaatar City", and by Deputy Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry M. Gankhulug on "Policies and Cooperation Opportunities in Agriculture".

Moreover, Capitrone bank of Mongolia announced their plan to provide businesses with loans under favorable conditions with USD 100 million in financing from China. Representing the China-France Agricultural Science and Technology Park, Wanshi Jie said "I believe that Mongolia and China can support each other and maintain mutually beneficial cooperation in all sectors. For our side, we are more interested in projects, related to the mining, railway, transportation, urban

development, energy, education, and medical sector. In 2022, our company made investments worth RMB 12 billion."

China is the leading investor of our country and has invested over USD 5 billion so far. Trade turnover between the two countries was USD 41.2 million in 1990 and reached USD 11 billion last year. During the State Visit of the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh to China, the sides agreed to set a goal of attaining USD 20 billion worth of trade turnover.

According to the study, foreign investment stands for 10 percent of GDP and 30-50 percent of the total investment of our country. Enterprises with foreign investments pay income taxes, on average, MNT 200 billion to the state budget annually.

There are 14 thousand enterprises with foreign investment registered in Mongolia, of which 50 percent are companies with Chinese investments.

On the first day of the Mongolia-China business forum, 17 Mongolian companies successfully agreed with Chinese investors on investments worth USD 258 million.

Policy Rate Remains Unchanged

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Mongolia (MPC) held its scheduled meetings on March 14th and 15th, 2023.

With consideration of the current state of the economy and financial markets as well as the outlook and risks to the domestic and foreign economic environment, the MPC decided to, 1) Keep the policy rate un-

changed at 13 percent, 2) Narrow the policy rate corridor to be set at 1 percentage point above and below the policy rate, and 3) Exclude certain liabilities of banks with maturities of 360 days or less that are newly funded on international markets in the form of bonds or loans from the reservable liabilities.

Annual inflation rate reached 12.2 percent nationwide and 12.1

percent in Ulaanbaatar city as of February 2023. Inflation has been gradually decelerating in recent months consistent with previous projections of the BOM. A decline in inflation is mainly attributable to the decrease in transportation costs of imported goods. The inflation forecast has been revised downwards compared to the previous projection, mainly reflecting the updated forecast of pet-

roleum prices in the domestic market and decreasing influence of the supply-driven factors on inflation.

Economic activity was stronger than anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2022, owing to the easing of "Zero-Covid" policy in China and growth in all economic sectors, except energy and trade sectors.

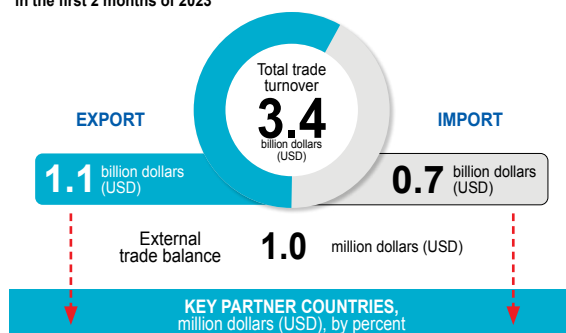
As easing border restrictions and intensifying activities in the mining sector, the economic growth outlook has been improved compared to

the previous projections. Despite such improvements in the external and domestic economic condition, supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions remain the major concerns for global economy.

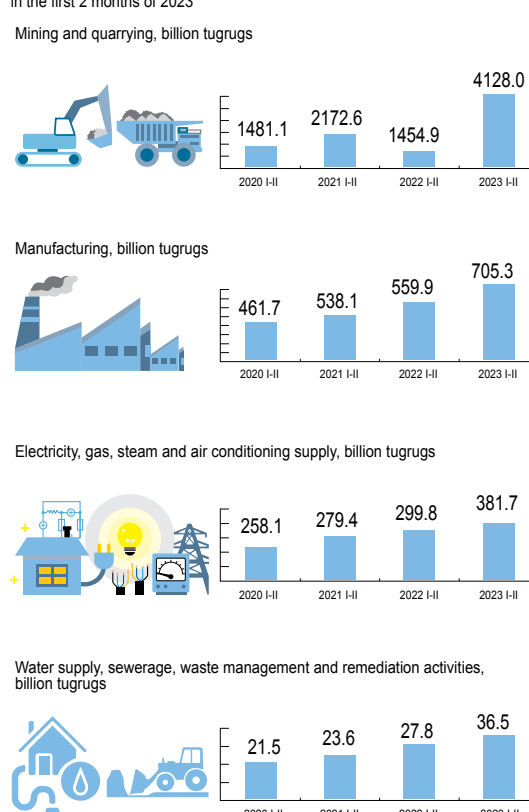
These policy measures are aiming to reduce inflation to its target level at a faster pace and ensure both internal and external economic balances, through increasing domestic currency yield and encouraging banks to raise their foreign currency funding.

Social and Economic Situation of Mongolia (as of February 2023)

EXTERNAL TRADE, in the first 2 months of 2023



GROSS INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT, in the first 2 months of 2023*



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (in February 2023)





Within the framework of the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, initiated by President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, the "Erdenet Mining Corporation" SOE established the "Erdenet" Forest Genetic Resources Center (FGRC) in 2022. On the occasion of International Forests Day, we have covered the activities of this center.

The main activities of the Erdenet FGRC, which has a warehouse with a capacity of 1000t seeds, include creating a seed bank of rare and useful trees and woody plants, preserving and protecting genetic resources of forests, conducting research, and commercializing cultivated trees.

The Erdenet FGRC consists of seed, biotechnology, and quarantine laboratories, a warehouse to preserve seedlings, samplings, and branches, a reservation sec-

"Erdenet" Forest Genetic Resources Center



tion, a deep freezing section, and training rooms. Currently, 15 professionals are working in this center. It is open to the public and organizes a series of training on planting trees and woody plants.

Another two centers are plan-

ned under this Erdenet FGRC project, one is a soil biotechnological center with an annual capacity of producing 500m³ fertile soil with beneficial bacteria, and the other is a tree breeding complex, which is equipped with cutting-edge

technologies and has an annual capacity of growing 10 million seedlings.

According to Ya. Ariunzul, the Head of the "Green Development" unit of Erdenet Mining Cooperation SOE, having this forest genetic resources center, we can save the costs of planting trees. In other words, we are able to plant trees with fresh and tested seeds, ensuring the survival rate of seedlings.

D. Munkhbat, the Chair of the Orkhon aimag's Citizens' Representative Khural, said "Un-

der the "One Billion Tree" National Campaign, Orkhon aimag will plant 20 million trees in the six-thousand-hectare area up to 2030. Last year, we planted 1.2 million trees in 12 locations. It stands for 6.2% of our target. For this year, we are planning to plant 4.8 million trees, of which one million will be planted in six locations during this spring sowing."

The Erdenet Mining Corporation SOE has planted 2.1 million trees in 34.6 ha so far.



Healthy Forest for Healthy People

Continued from page 1

**B. Biligt, Doctor (Ph.D.),
Forest Research and Training
Institute of MUST**

To give you an example, we estimated that the snag trees in Tsagaan-Uur soum, Khuvsgul aimag, could be replaced with



coal and supplied for 43 years. This number was estimated by measuring the number of heat calories needed by one person living in Tsagaan-Uur soum and the number of calories the snag tree produces. According to research, the Mungunmorit soum of Tuv aimag has the most snag trees in Mongolia and can use them for up to 50 years. However, it is important to understand that replacing coal does not mean burning trees.

The lecturers of Mongolian University of Life Sciences' School of Agroecology conducted research titled "A study of climate warming affecting coniferous forests in Central Asia." This research has shown that in the summer, one hectare of coniferous forest absorbs 202-275 kg of CO₂ per day. A mature tree emits 180 L of oxygen per day. So 2-5 trees can provide a daily supply of oxygen for one person, assuming that a person consumes 360 L of oxygen on average and 700-900 L of oxygen during high activity.

**M. Khishigjargal, Doctor (Ph.D.),
School of Agroecology, Mongolian
University of Life Sciences**

The coniferous forests of Mongolia and Central Asia have distinct characteristics due to

the constant exposure to climate change and environmental factors. According to our findings, Mongolia's coniferous forest appears healthy from the outside,



but growth has been steadily decreasing for the past ten years. The growth rate of the spruce is faster while the Larch's is low and decreasing. Moreover, the growth rate of Cedar is indeterminate.

According to the FAO, the continuous shrinkage of forests threatens the world's biodiversity. Amidst the alarming rates of deforestation and degradation, urgent action is needed to safeguard the biodiversity of the world's forests. Protecting forests is critical because they contain the majority of the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity. The report of the FAO shows that forests contain 60,000 different tree species, and 80 percent of amphibian species, 75 percent of bird species, and 68 percent of the Earth's mammal species depend on trees. Forests provide more than 86 million green jobs. Of those living in extreme poverty, over 90 percent are dependent on forests for wild food, firewood, or part of their livelihoods. This number includes eight million extremely poor, forest-dependent people in Latin America alone. Therefore, the forest is a crucial part of the planet, and humanity needs to take urgent actions to safeguard forests.

The conference, which was aimed at determining future activities and strengthening long-term cooperation in the forest sector, brought together over 200 representatives of government and non-government organizations, professional organizations, universities, scientists, teachers, students, international projects,

and individuals and enterprises who engage in business in this sector. During the conference, general discussions revolved around the topics such as forest sector reform, forest vulnerability to climate change, environmental pollution-greenery-health, the biomass of cultivated trees, soil carbon accumulation, and analysis of value-added forest products.

The International Day of Forests

March 21 is the International Day of Forests and our country celebrated this day under the theme of "Healthy Forest for Healthy People".

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21st the International Day of Forests in 2012 to protect forest reserves and maintain ecological balance. Since 2015, our country has been paying concerted attention to raising awareness of the importance of all types of forests and protecting them.

In order to reduce desertification and climate change, every year, the second Saturdays of May and October are celebrated



as national tree planting days in Mongolia. President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh has launched the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, as a part of Mongolia's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Under this National Campaign, people and enterprises are encouraged to plant 130 million trees annually and Mongolia is aiming to achieve this target by 2030.

Mongolia has about 18.5 million ha of forest land, which is home to different types of animals and a source of livelihood for

nomads, occupying about 10% of the country's total land area.

The forests are mainly located in the north-central part of Mongolia, forming a transition zone between the Great Siberian Taiga and the central Asian steppe desert. Due to the geographic location and extreme weather, Mongolian forests are deemed fragile ecosystems. In this regard, they are endangered by fire, pests, droughts, and other threats. According to the study, 1.1 billion trees are at risk of being destroyed by insects and pests in Mongolia.



Producers Appreciate Government Policy to Support National Food Industry



Within the framework of the 'Food Supply and Safety' National Campaign President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh today visited Central Express CVS JSC food processing plant, "Shine Gantig" LLC, packaging company and "Trust Trade" LLC, meat processing company.

As part of the 'Food Supply and Security' National Campaign, some MNT223 billion has been reflected in this year's budget, which is the largest financial support to the food and agriculture sector in the last 30

years. Concessional loans of MNT 17 billion will be granted to the livestock sector, while MNT52 billion to the agricultural sector.

The national producers expressed their gratitude for the long-awaited concessional loans, totaling one trillion MNT with an interest rate of 3-5 percent with a maturity of 3-5 years. They also underlined that the government support, including a 90 percent tax reduction to enterprises with annual sales of less than MNT 1.5 billion, VAT exemption for some food products, will provide a stimulus to their stable operation and expansion, and job creation

and further leads to fully meet domestic needs with 19 main types of food products in the next five years. Income tax was reduced by 90 percent for enterprises with an annual sales income of less than 1.5 billion MNT, and certain types of food products were exempted from VAT. To protect the domestic market and support enterprises, it is planned to gradually increase import tax on certain types of food products. The management of the company said that the support will be a strong impetus for keeping and expanding their operations and creating jobs.

Development of Emeelt Light Industry Park is Underway

First Deputy Governor of the Capital City in charge of Economic and Infrastructure Issues J. Sandagsuren visited the leather processing plant "Buligaar LLC" on March 17. Mr. Sandagsuren exchanged views with people working in the leather industry on issues in this sector.

The meeting was attended by members of the Mongolian Association of Leather Industry (MALI) and representatives from Emeelt Light Industry Park, the Departments of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Environment of the capital city, and the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority.

First Deputy Governor of the Capital City in charge of Economic and Infrastructure Issues J. Sandagsuren:

"Today, we met with representatives of the Mongolian Association of Leather Industry (MALI) and discussed the pressing issues of enterprises and manufacturers operating in this sector, such as sewage facility and water supply. Developing leather



factories in a cluster could be a solution for solving the problems, increasing productivity, and creating new jobs. Therefore, we are focusing on relocating leather factories to Emeelt Light Industry Park and rehabilitating the area where they are currently operating. First of all, the support of the Government and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry is needed to advance the project Emeelt Light Industry Park. Moreover, intersectoral

collaboration is significant."

The leather, wool, and cashmere processing factories, operating in the 20th khoroo of Khan-Uul district, an industrial area of the capital city, are polluting the Tuul River basin and citizens complain about it, urging to relocate the factories. Also, the officials who participated in the meeting pointed out that the soil and water pollution in the area has exceeded the standard level, requiring urgent actions.

Executive Director of the Mongolian Association of Leather Industry T. Bayarsaikhan:

"The MALI has over 30 member enterprises that process leather and about 100 enterprises which produce finished products, such as gloves, leather clothes, bags, and small accessories. There are also more than 700 raw materials suppliers, registered with our association. According to our estimates, over four thousand people work in this sector. This number can reach 20 thousand in the future. The most pressing issue of the sector is relocating the factories in the 20th khoroo of the Khan-Uul district. In other words, by having one wastewater treatment plant among the factories, costs will decrease, and productivity will improve.

Most importantly, it will allow to prevent from soil and water pollution. We are ready to move once the Emeelt Light Industry Park project starts."

Director of the Emeelt Light Industry Park B. Myagmar

"To decentralize the city of Ulaanbaatar and develop the

economy, we need to develop industry, increase jobs, and improve competitiveness. Governor's Office of the Capital City Ulaanbaatar has fully ensured the preparation for the construction of the Emeelt Light Industry Park.

To develop the industrial zone, the park territory has been confirmed, and the feasibility study of the park has been conducted. In addition, as part of the preparatory work for the construction of the park, funding source for the construction of the park's safety protection zone and business incubator center has been reflected in the 2023 budget. Now we need support from the Government of Mongolia and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry to accelerate the progress of the project, and solve the problems, the factories facing.

Over the course of the meeting, mentioning the fact that Mongolia is a country that relies on traditional animal husbandry, representatives of leather factories highlighted the possibilities for developing production based on livestock raw materials and becoming a country that produces value-added products.

EU to Continue Its Project to Support SMEs

The European Union has decided to continue its project to support SMEs in Mongolia with the financing of another EUR 11 million. The EU Ambassador to Mongolia Ms. Axelle Nicaise informed about this at the Steering Committee Meeting of the "Building Crisis-Resilient SMEs in Mongolia" program, held on March 15 in Tuushin Hotel.

Ms. Axelle Nicaise, the EU Ambassador to Mongolia:

Based on past experiences, we have decided to continue our project in order to facilitate the recovery of the Mongolian economy after the pandemic. When we travelled to Khuvsgul and Bayan-Ulgii aimags, we saw many people engage in business at home, such as sewing clothes and carpentry, and opportunities for businesses. So, we are moving to the next phase of the project.

According to Ms. Axelle Nicaise, this time, the main target of the project will be the micro business owners. Within the framework of this 5-year project, SMEs and micro businesses will be able to receive technical assistance, financing, and business training through their local organizations and

commercial banks.

"I have just come from the opening of the Spring Session of the State Great Khural. In his opening speech, the Chairman of the State Great Khural stressed that the spring session would focus on legal reform against corruption. I completely agree with it, as corruption hinders the growth and development of SMEs and entrepreneurship. If the policy makers want to support SMEs, they have to create a fair and healthy environment for them. On the other hand, I think Mongolian authorities are taking very rational actions, announcing to improve transparency and protect whistleblowers," she continued.

Mr. Holger Wiefel, the Associate Director, Regional Head, Central Asia and Mongolia, SME Finance & Development Group of EBRD: SMEs play important roles in the economy of any country. Thus, we are always pleased to implement projects of the European Union, especially, nowadays when enabling SMEs to become green and digital has become even more crucial. Within EBRD's Central Asian regional program supporting Women in Business, we have

successfully implemented the project, engaging over 100 women entrepreneurs.

We will continue our cooperation with the Implementing Agency of the Government, SMEs Agency, Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other partner organizations in further supporting SMEs.

Mr. Erdenesaikhan, the Chair of the Steering Committee of the "Building Crisis-Resilient SMEs in Mongolia" program and Head of the SMEs Agency: Within the framework of the "Support for Mongolian Economic

Diversification through SME Access to Finance" Program, jointly implemented with the EBRD, our agency has been providing financial and non-financial assistance for SMEs to improve their performances. This time, we want the project would focus on improving the exports of SMEs. Our country is striving toward a goal to become a food exporter by optimizing our methods and practices of climate-resilient animal husbandry and farming, creating value, and intensifying our activities toward foreign markets. Moreover, our joint commitments, support, and

participation of investors and partners are important to improve food supply and availability, reduce poverty and implement sustainable development goals.

During the Steering Com-

mittee meeting, the parties exchanged view on other issues, such as identifying the further possibilities of financing and ensuring the smooth process of the project.

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is hereby notified that due to a technical malfunction in the "Electronic Procurement System" /www.tender.gov.mn/, the deadline for receipt of materials for the following tenders of "Tavantolgoi Railway" LLC has been postponed.

1. The deadline for receipt of tender documents for the consulting service "Conducting Feasibility study (FS) and full detailed engineering design of Gashuun Sukhait-Gants mod port cross-border railway" is extended to 30 March 2023 at 11:00.

2. The deadline for receipt of tender documents for the consultancy service "International Audit Services" is 30 March 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Team Mongolia Wins Third Place in the Championship



The 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia and Oceania Championship was solemnly held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and ended on March 17, 2023. The winners of the championship were honored at the closing ceremony in Steppe Arena.

Specifically, after many fierce battles between six countries, namely, Mongolia, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Uzbekistan,



the team Uzbekistan lifted the championship trophy with five wins whereas the team Mongolia (host country) sealed 3rd place in the tournament. The team Turkmenistan captured second place with four wins and one loss.

The awards were conferred at the closing ceremony of the tournament by the Vice President of IIHF Aivaz Omorkanov and Minister of Finance and President of the Mongolian Ice Hockey Federation B. Javkhlan.

The International Ice Hockey Federation has 83 member national associations. From Asia, China ranks at 16th with points of 2890 in the world ranking-IIHF, following South Korea at 21st with points of 2705 while Mongolia placed 59th.

In addition, the IIHF World Championship Division IV is taking place in Mongolia on March 23-26 with participants from Indonesia, Kuwait, Mongolia, Philippines.



"Chinggis Master Cross-2023"

The Mongolian Automasters Federation organized the

"Chinggis Master Cross-2023" on March 18 in Darkhan city,



Mongolia. This year would have been the 25th anniversary of the competition, but due to COVID-19, it has been canceled for the past two years.

After a long break, the 23rd Chinggis Master Cross was hard-fought and had fierce battles among over 60 pilots. State Honored Athlete of Mongolia and undefeated D. Boldbaatar was knocked out of the race in the middle due to engine trouble, which increased other pilots' chances to win.

The winner of "Chinggis Master Cross-2023," one of the toughest races in Mongolia, is Master of Sports L. Ariunbold

(36), the pilot of ABDM ARIVIJIKH LLC, Lexus Service Speed Automoto, and New Construction LLC. The 31st victory of his personal success is the third victory in the Chinggis Master Cross racing competition.

International Master of Sports B. Gan-Od (38) finished as the runner-up, following Master of Sports Sh. Gombodorj. Honorable mentions were conferred upon A. Purevbayar (58), and J. Serikjan (133).

The competition is named after M. Chimedtseren, a former Member of Parliament, and has been held annually since 1998.

Mongolian Women Squad to Compete for Olympic Qualifying Tournament



The Paris 2024 Summer Olympics is approaching, and the Olympic Qualification Tournaments have commenced. Mongolia women's national football team will compete in the 2024 AFC Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Thailand in April 2023.

First, they will face off against the Singapore team on April 4, following Thailand (host

country) on April 7. If Mongolia women's national football team leads the group, they will play against the best Asian squads, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, North Korea, and China in the second round.

The top two teams of the tournament will qualify for the 2024 Summer Olympics women's football tournament in France as the AFC representatives.

Mongolian Film "Khukhoo" Screened in Irkutsk Oblast

Within the framework of the "Value of the Mongolian Nation" program and the "Mongolians of the World-2" project, the film "Khukhoo" was screened between March 14-16 in the "Dom Kino" cinema, Irkutsk History Museum and in the cinemas in Osinsky District, Buryatia.

The feature film was created

by Mongolian director J. Jamiansuren, based on the novel "Last Breath" by V. Rasputin, an Irkutsk native and well-known Russian writer. The film illustrates one's humanity and soul, sensitive family issues, family values, mother-child bond in a Mongolian household. It was well received by the public in Irkutsk Oblast, more than 250 people were present in the audience.

Film "Trio" Displayed in UN Office at Geneva

On World Down Syndrome Day and within the framework of the 52nd regular session of the UN Human Rights Council, Mongolian film "Trio", directed by Mr. Battumur Dorj, was displayed at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland on March 20.

The event is jointly organized by the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia (DSAM).

The internationally acclaimed and award-winning film "TRIO", is to raise awareness on Down syndrome to leave no one behind. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with the producer of the movie and experts to address the negative impact of the historical terminology 'mongolism' on human rights of people with Down syndrome. "DSAM is



working for issuance of a UN resolution to forbid the unofficial terminology use of 'Mongolism' said DSAM Chairman Mr. Ganzorig. Moreover, the NGO is planning to organize events at UN Headquarters in New York on December 3, the International Day of Disabled Persons and during a UNESCO meeting in November in Paris, France.



The lawyer's advice

Hanns Seidel Foundation

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

-Who participates in the Citizens' Common Meetings of bags and khoros?

-Citizens' Common Meeting is a citizens' self-governing organization that undertakes its activities based on the principle of direct democracy and implements its lawful powers on the principle of joint governance. The Meeting's main organizational form of its activities is a meeting.

All eligible citizens residing in the respective bag or khoroo has the right to participate in the Citizens' Common Meeting. A citizen who attends in person in the meeting of the Citizens' Common Meeting becomes its participant. Participants of the meeting have the following rights and duties:

1. Initiate a question for discussion;
2. Participate with the right to suspend the decision-making process;
3. Explain the decision of the meeting;
4. Vote for and be elected to the chairman of the meeting;
5. Maintain the order of the meeting.

-What is the process of the Citizens' Common Meeting?

-To comply with the principle to ensure the representation of citizens and each unit of the khoros of the respective territory in the Citizens' Common Meeting, if one eligible citizen from every three eligible households, one eligible citizen from every five households within a unit of more than 400 households presents in the citizens' Common Meeting of the bag and not less one eligible person presents from every 20 households within a unit of khoros, then the meeting shall be considered valid. The residents of the respective bags and khoros shall be informed of the date of the meeting not less five work days in prior, and the information must contain details of the location and time of the meeting.

The meeting of the Citizens' Common Meeting of bag and khoroo shall be presided by the chairman elected from respective meeting. The chairman of the Citizens' Common Meeting of bag and khoroo may be chosen again for the consequent period.

-What are powers of the Citizens' Common Meeting of bags and khoros?

-The Meeting has the following common powers:

- Discuss questions related to the respective bag and khoroo and render decisions;
- Discuss and render decision regarding the meeting order and organization and other relevant questions;
- Choose the presiding chairman of the meeting;
- Make proposals on candidates to Governor of the bag and khoroo;
- Maintain discussion on report of the Governor related to the implementation of the decisions of the respective Meeting, and elaborate conclusion and estimation of the performance;
- Make proposals on suspension of the Governor on grounds specified in the law;
- Approve and enforce the act of administrative norms.

The Council of the citizens' Common Meeting shall organize the measures to enforce decisions of citizens' Common Meeting of bags and khoros, and this Council shall include not only representatives of the citizens, but also governors of bags and khoros, chairmen of the meetings and unit leaders of khoros.

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DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Looking back at the Year of the Tiger 2022: 30th Anniversary of ZfA and DAAD Lectureships in Mongolia



Monika Egger, Advisor of the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA),

Eylem Inanici (Lecturer and DAAD Lecturer, NUM), Christian Kellner (Lecturer and DAAD Lecturer, MSUE) and Jan Trostmann (Lecturer and subject-specialized Lecturer for English & German, GMIT)

With the support of the Mongolian Ministry of Education and Science and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mongolia, the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) celebrated together with numerous guests the big anniversary "30 years of ZfA and DAAD Lectureships in Mongolia" on December 2, 2022.

The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Mongolia, Jörn Rosenberg, and, on behalf of the Minister of Education and Science, Director of the General Agency of Education, T. Nyam-Ochir, expressed their congratulations and emphasized the high importance of education and German-Mongolian cooperation in their speeches in the packed Art Hall of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology.

It was a particular pleasure for the ZfA Advisor and DAAD Lecturers to be able to congratulate the German language teachers and lecturers who received certificates from the Ministry of Education and Science for their outstanding achievements. In addition, many students from the Language Diploma Schools were pleased to receive awards for special achievements from Ambassador Rosenberg. Finally, the lucky winners of the photo competition "My Piece of Germany in Mongolia" were presented with prizes donated by the General Agency of Education.

The cultural program at the festive event was also cosmopolitan. The guests were very well entertained by the diverse and artistically demanding contributions. The Goethe School's orchestra and choir under the direction of Ms. Baasansuren impressed the audience with their excellent performance of "Bayariin Uyanga" by Sharav and Beethoven's "Ode to Joy", which solemnly framed the festive program.

The excellent performance of

the award-winning ballet dancer G. Khulan from the German School was also well received and applauded. The young German learners from School No. 1 delighted the audience with a traditional German dance in sophisticated choreography and

countries, the main aim of the DAAD is to strengthen German studies abroad. The DAAD was founded in 1925 and has so far supported more than 2.5 million academics in Germany and abroad.

As part of its numerous funding programmes, the DAAD sends around 400 lecturers abroad, who are then employed by their respective universities in their host countries. Although the range of tasks of the lecturers differs from location to location, the focus of their work is on classical German studies, the teaching of German as a foreign language as well as advisory and information events about the German university and research landscape.

DAAD lecturers in Mongolia

With over 1,513 DAAD alumni between 1965 and 2022,



specially made traditional costumes. In addition to these, the audience was treated to music and dance pieces by students of the National University of Mongolia (NUM) and Mongolian State University of Education (MSUE). The presenters Ariana from the German School and Bodimaa from the National University of Mongolia guided the audience confidently through the event in German and Mongolian.

DAAD

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world's largest funding organization whose goal is to facilitate the international exchange of students and scientists. In addition to the scholarship programs, some of which are offered for individual

Mongolia can look back on a solid and sustainable tradition of learning German, which has ultimately laid the foundation for the DAAD lectureships.

The history of the 30th anniversary of the DAAD lectureships began in 1991 with the first lecturer, Dr. Michael Linke at NUM. Seven other lecturers were to follow him. In 2009 a DAAD-lectureship was finally added at MSUE and along with a subject-specialized lecturer at German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology (GMIT) there are currently three lectureships in Ulaanbaatar.

In addition to their cultural and political tasks, scholarship advice and advice on general information on Germany as a study and research location, the main task is teaching at the host

universities. Every lectureship is equivalent, even if the focus at the universities of course varies.

General German studies with a focus on translation studies are the main feature of the lectureship at NUM. In addition, German teachers are trained at MSUE and the lecturer at GMIT is also responsible for teaching English as well as German.

Furthermore, within the framework of DAAD funding, DAAD lecturers are supporting the so-called "DAAD-Lektorats-handapparate", small individual libraries at the host universities with up-to-date literature for learning German, both from a didactic-methodological and academic perspective. This also enables local teachers to design their teaching according to the latest standards and thus enrich their courses.

The DAAD lecturers in Mongolia see themselves as mediators and ambassadors of the German language and culture in direct exchange with Mongolian students and lecturers at their respective German departments.

But what would the work of the DAAD lecturer be without highly qualified colleagues at the German departments at the local universities, who inspire students every day anew to learn more about the German language and culture?

"Deutsche Sprache, schwere Sprache"

German is a language that cannot be mastered alone.

The celebration of the 30th anniversary of the DAAD-lectureships was first and foremost a celebration and tribute to all those who teach the German language here in Mongolia and also for those who wish to learn it.

In particular, during the pandemic, local lecturers have managed to maintain classes under the most difficult conditions, so that there is now even an improvement in the language level of the students.

"Change by Exchange" – this is not only the motto of the DAAD, but also the bi- or multilateral mission of the DAAD, which – in the best case – can change the world. The DAAD lecturers in Mongolia would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere thanks to the Mongolian Ministry of Education, to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mongolia and to "their" DAAD. The DAAD lecturers would like to thank all of them for their extremely competent and continuous support within the whole framework of the DAAD lectureship work in Ulaanbaatar.

ZfA: Decades of cooperation in partnership

Since 1992, the ZfA has been promoting the German language in Mongolia and supporting the Mongolian Language Diploma Schools pedagogically, finan-

cially, with teaching materials and scholarships. In addition, the ZfA places teachers and young volunteers from Germany who work together with the Mongolian teachers to support the education of the students learning German. The German teachers also benefit from the encounters with the Mongolian partners and learn a lot about Mongolian culture.

At the Language Diploma Schools, 2900 Mongolian students are currently learning German with the help of 40 teachers. In her speech, ZfA advisor Monika Egger thanked the school principals and teachers of School No. 38, the Goethe School, School No. 1, School No. 14 of



Orkhon Aimag, the Construction and Polytechnic College, and the German School Ulan Bator for their successful cooperation.

Kheltei bol khultei - Language as a door opener

The German Language Diploma is the official school-based program of the Federal Republic of Germany for Germany as a foreign language. Its high quality is ensured by a set curriculum, regular teacher training, and central examination standards. The language examination developed by the ZfA is also a recognized prerequisite for studying or training in Germany.

The ZfA advisor emphasized that in Mongolian as well as in German, language learning is proverbially regarded as a "door opener to the world". As early as 1923, the first Mongolian school graduates went to Germany. Today, the German and Mongolian education partners jointly promote the alumni network of German language graduates.

Other anniversaries this year

In 2023, there will be further anniversary celebrations: 50 years of the German Language Diploma and 15 years of the PASCH initiative "Schools: Partners for the Future". This program was launched in 2008 by the former Federal Foreign Minister and current German President, Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The ZfA and the Goethe-Institut in Ulan Bator support a total of twelve PASCH schools in Mongolia.