

First Law for Whistleblowing under Discussion

The first-ever law for protecting Whistleblowers was drafted by the Government and submitted to the State Great Khural in November 2021 and the draft Law is still under discussion. On April 04, the draft Law on the Legal Status of Whistleblowers was presented to representatives of the media and civil society at the State Palace.

"A survey result shows that social psychology has been already ready for whistleblowing. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure the legal status of whistleblowers," said Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar.

State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs P. Sainzorig presented the concept of the draft Law, the use of the term "whistleblower" in international standards, some cases of whistleblowing for public welfare in Mongolia and other countries, and regulations under this Law. In his presentation, he said, "The draft Law was submitted by the Government, and prior to that, laws supporting whistleblowing had been approved and implemented. For example, in 2018, the Package of Laws on Registration was approved, and various types of information were made public, which stimulated the detection of illegal activities. In this context, Mongolia issued medium and long-term policy documents. Most recently, the Government declared this year the "Year to Combat Corruption" and announced



ed five "W" Campaign.

In the world, 27 countries have adopted laws on the legal status of whistleblowers. There are countries that have implemented effective regulations to protect the rights of whistleblowers. For example, the Netherlands uses mechanisms such as providing accommodation and operating a website for whistleblowers. The pioneering whistleblower laws originated in the United States. In this way, each country adopts and implements its own laws and regulations.

The draft Law includes issues such as who is a whistleblower and how to give rewards. In drafting

the Law, in addition to fighting corruption and profiteering, they also took into consideration the public health, environmental issues, consumer interests, fair competition, and business ethics. For example, when school starts, Mongolian children's immunity deteriorates due to the use of low-quality materials for painting classrooms and desks in schools. Therefore, the concept of whistleblowing should not be considered only in terms of corruption and interests. In other words, it is necessary to include all the problems in the society.

Whistleblowing is the disclosure of primary information,

while disclosing information from a transparent account is not whistleblowing. Actions taken for the public goodness will be considered whistleblowing. Whistleblowers can submit their documents to the Independent Authority Against Corruption, National Commission of Human Rights, Authority for Fair Competition and Consumer Protection, police and customs authorities. Therefore, a shared database will be established among these institutions. It will be clear who, how, when used and where transferred the data. Reporting can be done through journalists. However, the journalist can

keep the source of information confidential.

In real life, the person who leaked the information would be fired, transferred to another job, and "cornered" by the media, as well as their salary reduced, and family pressured. Therefore, regulations for protecting whistleblowers have been reflected in the draft Law. As for monetary incentives, it ranges from MNT 100,000 to 1.5 billion. The money will not be given immediately. After investigating the whistle-blowing information and resolving it, the incentives will be given when the fine went to the state budget.

Mongolia's Growth to Rise in 2023 Before Accelerating in 2024



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched their flagship publication "Asian Development Outlook" on 4

April. During the launch, Mongolia country specific outlook was presented.

Economies in Asia and the

Pacific are projected to grow 4.8% this year and next year, improving on the 4.2% growth rate in 2022, according to the ADB. Excluding the PRC, developing Asia is expected to grow 4.6% this year and 5.1% in 2024. The region's inflation will decelerate to 4.2% in 2023 and 3.3% in 2024 after reaching 4.4% last year. In other words, the inflation rate is forecast to moderate gradually toward pre-pandemic levels, though there is considerable variation across economies.

The economy of Mongolia is transitioning to post-pandemic expansion, driven by the economic reopening in the People's Republic of China (PRC), robust demand for mineral commodities, and revival of domestic demand. This contrasts previous gloomy growth expectations, despite tightened financing conditions globally and

domestically, says a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released today.

In its latest flagship economic report, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2023, ADB projects Mongolia's economic growth to expand to 5.4% in 2023 compared to 4.8% growth in 2022, before climbing to 6.1% in 2024, supported by exports, recovery in mining, and its positive spillover to transport and other pursuits.

"After 3 years of economic difficulties induced by exogenous shocks, including COVID-19, border restrictions with the PRC and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the economy of Mongolia is now on a recovery path, supported by both external demand and domestic policy responses," said ADB's Country

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Website: montsame.mn/en
Twitter: @montsame_en

Bloomberg commodity price 2023/04/07		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,031.50
COPPER	USD/lb.	401.80
SILVER	USD/t oz.	25.03
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	84.53
WHEAT	USD/bu	676.75

"Steppe Metal Powder" to Cooperate with MUST and Kongju National University



On March 29, 2023, the Center for Advanced Materials and Parts of Powder (CAMP2) of Kongju National University of the Republic of Korea, Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST), and Steppe Metal Powder LLC signed a Memorandum of Understanding at Cheonan Campus of Kongju National University.

The MoU ceremony was attended by former Minister of Education and Science, Chairman of the Board of Steppe Metal Powder LLC, Tsagaan Puntsag, Dr. Soon-Jik Hong, Director of CAMP2, D. Tsolmonbaatar, Director of the Research and Technology Department of MUST, Dr. Moon Sohn, Manager of the "Cultural Heritage Preservation and Protection Project," and B. Askhar, Executive Director of Steppe Metal Powder LLC.

Within the scope of the MoU, the Parties will prioritize joint research, development, and production of advanced powder materials and spare parts.

Professor Soon-Jik Hong, Director of the CAMP2, said that he was looking forward to developing exchanges and supply chains between the Republic of Korea and Mongolia in the field of powder metallurgy, particularly in terms of advanced technology, equipment, human resources, and metals.

Chairman of the Board of Steppe Metal Powder LLC Tsagaan Puntsag said that Mongolian and Korean universities,

which represent the academic cornerstones of the two countries, were now starting to cooperate with the private sector, creating new opportunities in progressing the level of industrialization in Mongolia.

The research and analysis effort of the two universities will focus on improving the quality of the products processed by the metal powder plant established in Mongolia, which is a strong impetus for advancing the university-industry cooperation to a new level, said D. Tsolmonbaatar, Director of the Research and Technology Department of MUST.

Prime Minister of Mongolia L. Oyun-Erdene visited South Korea in February 2023 and held negotiations to enhance cooperation with economic content and increase trade and investment. Executive Director of Steppe Metal Powder LLC said, "In this sense, I feel that the South Korean businesses and institutions are interested in developing the cooperation with Mongolian side. I am happy to cooperate with the top materials science university in South Korea since our company is focusing on increasing our competitiveness in the overseas market."

The day after the signing of the MoU, Dr. Sung-Soo Won, President of Kongju National University, and Dean of the School of Engineering, Dr. Keum-chul Yang met the representatives of MUST and business delegates from Mongolia and pledged their support for cooperation between the Parties.

Health Ministry Oversees the Preventive and Early Detection Checkups

Mongolia's long-term development policy document – Vision 2050, states that every citizen should be involved in preventive medical checkups every two years. The Government's Action Plan for 2020-2024 also calls for improving the health education of every citizen and boosting access to regular medical checkups that are in line with international standards.

Therefore, a one-year Nationwide Preventive and Early Detection Checkups Campaign was launched in May 2022 with three key goals, namely contribution to the post-COVID-19 rehabilitation treatment, making regular preventive and early-detection checkups a habit for every citizen and reducing the incidence of five most common diseases in Mongolia.

To intensify the Campaign Health Ministry and National Center for Public Health are overseeing the progress

working in the hospitals and health centers where the medical checkups are being conducted.

Adults are being involved in 19 types of medical checkups, including the diagnosis of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and tuberculosis, assessment of mental and general physical health, blood and urine tests, glucose, pap smear, hepatitis B and C, rapid tests for syphilis and HIV, electrocardiogram, endoscopy, gastroscopy, and ultrasound tests for the chest and abdominal areas as well as thyroid. As for children up to the age of 18, they are being involved in six types of medical checkups, which are diagnosis of non-infectious diseases, mental health assessment, dental checkup, eye exam, and tuberculosis test.

A total of 932069 people have been involved in the checkups between May 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

Prime Minister Receives French Ambassador

On April 5, Prime Minister of Mongolia L. Oyun-Erdene received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Mongolia Sebastien Surun and exchanged views on bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction over the intensive talks and negotiations between the two countries since the meeting in January. During the meeting, the sides discussed joint projects in culture, education, agriculture, public



transportation, and space studies.

Mongolia and Sweden Discuss Issues of Enhanced Bilateral Relations



On March 28, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Sweden Mr.

Janabazar met with Mr. Jan Knutsson, the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and exchanged views on bilateral relations and cooperation.

During the meeting, the sides discussed celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year and expanding multilateral cooperation in such spheres as politics, culture, and education. Highlighting the fact that Mongolia has proven itself as a buoy of democracy in the region, Mr. Jan Knutsson pledged his support for relations between the two countries.

Mongolia-Austria Cooperation in Tourism to be Intensified

Minister of Environment and Tourism Mr. Bat-Erdene received Mr. Andreas Riecken, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to Mongolia, with residence in PRC. During the meeting, the Sides discussed cooperation opportunities in joint commitments to fight against climate change and reduce its adverse effects.

Other areas presenting potential opportunities for deeper cooperation include renewable energy and tourism. To that extent, the Sides expressed their willingness to translate these opportunities into reality.

On that day, Minister of Environment and Tourism Mr. Bat-Erdene received Ms. Helena Sångeland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden, with residence in



PRC, to Mongolia and exchanged views on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, combating climate change and protecting biological diversity under the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, led by the President of Mongolia. Moreover, the Sides agreed to exchange experiences on mine rehabilitation and enhancing environmental governance.

Mongolian Chamber of Commerce to the EU Opened



The Mongolian Chamber of Commerce to the EU was opened in Brussels, marking a new phase in business ties between Mongolia and Europe.

According to the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI), this Chamber of Commerce will act as a bridge between Mongolian and European businesses to boost investment from the EU to Mongolia and increase the volume and types of products exported from Mongolia to the EU.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Belgium L. Bold, representatives of the MNCCI, Executive Director of the Brussel-based Mongolian Chamber of Commerce P. Tumur-Ochir and other officials.

On the sideline of the inauguration, President of the MNCCI O. Amartuvshin met with Cindy Tereba, Director of International Affairs of Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce. During the meeting, Mongolian economic capacity and green development policy were presented and views were exchanged on further cooperation opportunities.

Then, the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

New Weather Sub-Stations to be Installed

Since 1992, the KfW Development Bank of Germany has been active in Mongolia as part of financial cooperation on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

As part of the KfW project which is being implemented with the non-refundable grant of Germany for Mongolia, four weather sub-stations, each will be installed in Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, Gobi-Altai, and Bayankhongor aimags, were handed over to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

The weather sub-stations, manufactured by VAISALA, Finland, measure the



most important weather parameters and can provide accurate and real-time weather information.

The Mongol Messenger is operated and printed by the Government news agency MONTSAME

Editor-in-Chief: Sambuunyam NASANJARGAL Luvsandorj BATBAYAR
Journalists: Batbaatar GANCHIMEG Munkhtulga SAMBUUNYAM
Surenjav ENKHBAT Batbayar OOLUUN

Layout/design: Nyamdash BAT-SUKH

The Mongol Messenger, C.P.O.Box 1514, Ulaanbaatar-15160, Mongolia. Tel: (976-51) 266740
Web: montsame.mn/en E-mail: mongolmessenger@montsame.gov.mn ISSN 1684-1883

For enquiries regarding advertisement, subscription and sales of the Mongol Messenger newspaper, please contact the numbers below.
Tel: 266904, 99291632, 99890918

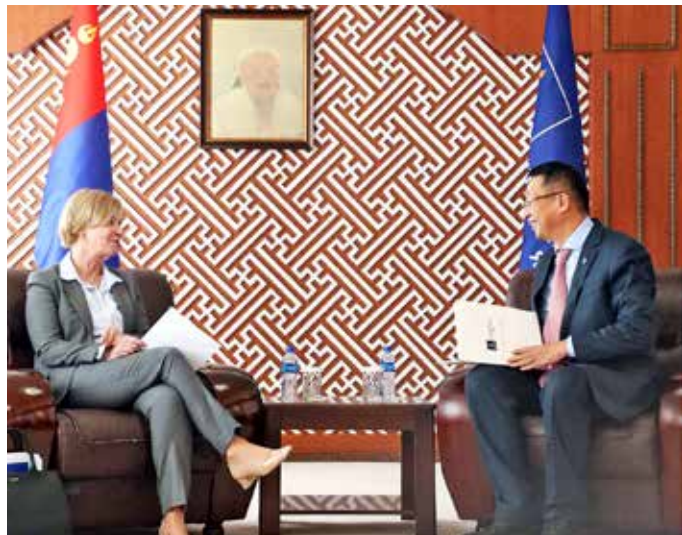
WEATHER

Sunrise: 06:19 Sunset: 19:29

- Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -13 C and -2 C. Day time temps between -3 C and +12 C
- Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -8 C and +2 C. Day time temps between 0 C and +16 C
- Western Aimags: Night temps between -7 C and -2 C. Day time temps between +7 C and +14 C
- Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -9 C and +4 C. Day time temps between +6 C and +16 C



Mongolia to Cooperate with Finland in Education Sector



Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan met with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Finland to Mongolia, with residence in PRC, Ms. Leena-Kaisa Mikkola on March 28.

At the onset of the mee-

ting, the Minister of Education and Science congratulated on the presentation of her Letter of Credence to the President of Mongolia and wished her success in her future endeavors.

In 2022, the Working Group of the Ministry of Education and Science to revise the package of

Law on Education visited the Republic of Finland two times in order to learn from their education system. During the visit, members of the Working Group visited some government organizations, universities and kindergartens.

The Ministry of Education and Science and "Eduten" company, a spin-off of University of Turku, Finland signed Memorandum of Understanding last year. As a result, Mongolian secondary school students have been able to use Eduten, digital math learning platform, in their native language.

Minister of Education and Science expressed intends to cooperate in short and long term capacity building training for university teachers, matching funds for students and "President's Scholar-2100" scholarship program of the President of Mongolia with Finland's universities. In response, Ambassador Ms. Leena-Kaisa Mikkola indicated her readiness to further expand the bilateral cooperation, especially in education sector.

Public Service Empowerment Project Launched

To effectively manage the public service and empower public employees, the Government of Mongolia in cooperation with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) launched the project "Strengthening Performance Management System of the Civil Service of Mongolia" on April 4.

Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government D. Amarbayasgalan, Deputy Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government D. Batbaatar, Head of the Government Control Implementation Department D. Baasandorj, KOICA Deputy Representative Lee Kansan, Project's General Manager Park Kyung Bae, and other officials took part in the project launching. The project will be implemented in four components: strengthening the human resource management capacity of the public service, improving the leadership and management skills of the managers, improving the performance management system of the public employees, and developing and using digital system for performance management.

The Republic of Korea ranks third in the world in human

resource management in the InCiSE Index, which represents the efficiency of the public service, and ranks first in the use of digital databases in human resource management. Therefore, Mongolia should learn from the experience of this country in increasing the efficiency of the public service and in the development of E-governance, emphasized the Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat.

Project's General Manager Park Kyung Bae noted that the main result of the project would be making the public service of

Mongolia capable to provide quality services to its citizens. The public service empowerment project will last until 2025. As part of the project training for employees, textbook delivery, consulting services, and study visit in South Korea are planned so far. It estimates that 69,181 public employees will directly benefit from this project. Officials expressed their belief that with the successful implementation of the project, the performance evaluation of public employees will get more realistic and work efficiency will improve.



Minister of Culture Receives the UK Ambassador

Minister of Culture Ch. Nomin received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) to Mongolia Mr. Philip Malone on March 30.

During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on Mongolian policy on cultural and creative industry and cooperation opportunities in line with the policy. For instance, the sides discussed establishing an intergovernmental agreement to jointly produce a movie as Mongolia has approved the Law on Promoting Film Industry.

Moreover, the Minister of Culture highlighted some cultural

projects that require close collaboration with the UK, a leader in the world's cultural and creative industry, under the Mongolian policy on the cultural and creative industry. One of them is an epic Mongolian drama "Throne without a Seal," which will be staged in the London Coliseum Theater under the name "The Mongol Khan" in November 2023. To that extent, the Minister of Culture asked for the Ambassador's support on this project, and to closely cooperate.

In addition, the Mongolian National Museum and the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit of the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge have signed the Memorandum of

Understanding, enabling bilateral cooperation in Mongolian studies and sciences, joint research and exchanges of researchers. Under the MoU, a special exhibition with the theme "Mongolian Shamanic Tradition" is going to be displayed in Ulaanbaatar in September 2023.

Besides the selected objects from the collection of the Mongolian National Museum, photographs, videos, archival materials, and other historical documents kept in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology of the University of Cambridge, such as collections of Mongolian historical photographs taken by Owen Latimore and Ethel Lindgren, will be displayed at the exhibition.

CABINET SESSION



At its session on April 5, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

Prime Minister's Order to Intensify the Anti-Corruption Operations Issued

The Government of Mongolia has declared 2023 the "Year to Combat Corruption" and started the five "W" Campaign. Minister of Digital Development and Communications N. Uchral presented on the process of "Wide-Open" Operation under the Campaign, aimed at ensuring citizens' rights to search and obtain information at the Cabinet Session. Following the presentation, the Prime Minister's Order to intensify the "Wide-Open" Operation was issued. In pursuit of the Order, the Cabinet members, governors of aimags and capital city, Head of the Government Agency for Policy Coordination on State Property and Regulation, and Director of Government's Special Fund were mandated to submit the following information to the Minister of Digital Development and Communications within June 1, 2023. These are:

- Certificates of land use issued in specially protected areas, environmental impact assessments of economic activities carried out by individuals and legal entities in this area, their agreements, and payment history of land fees;

- Certificates of Building Commission issued by the State Commission certifying that the building has been completed;

- Structures of the board of directors and supervisory boards of state or locally-owned legal entities, detailed information about their members, including full name, amount of salary and incentives, and contacts, requirements for management of this type of legal entities and their recruiting procedures, recruiting calendars and detailed information on applicants;

- Information on the expenditure of the Government's special fund and financed projects from the fund, along with related decisions.

Minister of Digital Development and Communications N. Uchral was tasked to oversee the implementation of the Order, consolidate information, and present the process at the Cabinet Session in June 2023.

Ch. Khurelbaatar: The resumption of border ports and increased exports facilitated the growth of foreign exchange (forex) reserves

Minister of Economy and Development Ch. Khurelbaatar briefed on the work accomplished since the adoption of the Government Resolution No. 362 on Measures to Increase the Foreign Exchange Reserves. According to the presentation, the forex reserves, which fell to USD 2.5 billion in September 2022, have reached USD 3.4

billion as of end of March 2023. The resumption of border ports and increased exports mainly impacted the forex reserves to increase. As of the first quarter of 2023, 14 million tons of coal have been exported, an increase of 10 million tons and 2.5 million tons compared to the same period of last year and 2019, respectively.

Science sector participation to be prioritized in the implementation of the mega projects

The Government Resolution on Measures to be taken in the Science and Technology sector in order to implement the targeted programs of the "New Revival Policy", based on public-private partnership and active participation of the science sector, was issued.

As specified in the Resolution, making a list of projects, which can be completed by domestic science organizations and scientists, such as developing new technologies to process and concentrate mining products, construction technology of natural gas pipelines, and new technologies for improving agricultural and food product supply chain, as well as conducting feasibility studies for the mega projects, was mandated to the line ministers.

Draft Law on Supporting Cultural and Creative Industry

A Draft Law on Supporting Cultural and Creative Industry was discussed and the members of the Cabinet agreed to submit it to the State Great Khural.

The Draft Law will regulate all issues related to developing the cultural and creative industry, improving the competitiveness of value-added and import substitution products and services, and enhancing the legal basis to promote and manage the cultural and creative industry. Upon the adoption of the Draft Law, a favorable environment, where the cultural and creative industry can thrive and be commercialized, will be created.

Brief News

- The Cabinet discussed a Draft Law on the Ratification of the General Financing Program between Mongolia and ADB (Loan Plan 2022-2023) and agreed to submit it to the State Great Khural.
- The World Export Development Forum will take place in Ulaanbaatar between June 26 and 29, 2023. Drafts of the Letter of Exchange and Memorandum of Understanding between the International Trade Centre and the Ministry of Economy and Development were discussed and decided to grant the signing right to Ch. Khurelbaatar, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Development.

MNT Starts Strengthening Against USD



The exchange rate is one of the most important determinants of a country's relative level of economic health. It fluctuates the most during economic and political crises. The reason behind the fluctuation in the exchange rate can be explained by the balance of

foreign trade, the balance of payment, and other economic indicators.

According to the Bank of Mongolia, our country's foreign exchange (forex) reserves have reached USD 3.4 billion, enough to cover the imports of goods for six months. For the last ten

days, Mongolian tugrug (MNT) has strengthened against USD by about 7 MNT and showed signs of stabilization.

At the end of the last year, foreign currency demands of the commercial banks were high during the forex auction of the BoM. Although, their demands decreased in March 2023. In particular, the BoM supplied the commercial banks with USD amounting to 68.3 million, while for the forex auction on March 30, no buy bids of USD were submitted from any commercial banks. On the contrary, the commercial banks submitted their USD sell bids amounting to USD 36 million to the BoM. This is the second time in recent years that the BoM has bought USD from commercial banks, the first one was in 2021.

Experts are explaining the reasons behind the MNT strengthening against USD concerning

the following three factors. Firstly, the Government of Mongolia has made successful deals on re-financing the debts due in upcoming years and attracted the required financing. It could be one of the factors that impacted the exchange rate stabilization. Secondly, Mongolia commenced the fourth-largest high-technology underground mine in the world last month, which was a significant event that restored investors' trust. Thirdly, border reopening and easing travel restrictions in China brought a real sense of optimism to the Mongolian economy. The reopening of ports linking China and Mongolia boosted the exchanges of major commodities including coal, iron ore, and machinery. As of the end of March, total coal export reached 8.7 million tons, increased by 3.6 times compared to the same period in 2022. Moreover, Mon-

golia has exported 0.9 million tons of iron ore, jumping 50 percent from a year ago.

Meanwhile, the exchange rate of the RNB reached a record high of MNT 519.75 in February 2023. It was mainly due to China's post-Covid reopening and increased capital inflow. But since then, the RNB has slightly fallen to MNT, averaging around 512.19 MNT.

In any case, the MNT rate has stabilized for the last ten days. But what will happen next?

Economists, university professors, and 27 researchers and analysts conducted USD/MNT exchange rate forecasting at the beginning of this year. According to their projections, the pair is forecasted to average at MNT 3537.3 and peak at MNT 3618.1 in the first quarter of this year. In general, a long-term weakening is expected for MNT against USD.

Mongolia's Growth to Rise in 2023 Before Accelerating in 2024

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Director for Mongolia Pavit Ramachandran. "Maintaining growth momentum while reducing the persistently high inflation is critical to ensure that this economic growth is more inclusive."

"Mongolia's near-term priority is to boost exports, reduce inflation, and support macroeco-

transportation service charges.

The outlook is based on the following key assumptions: No new exogenous shocks; The PRC's economy remains reopened and no worsening of the situation in the Russian invasion of Ukraine; Exports should be facilitated by a more efficient transport and logistics system and coal sales based on a competitive bidding process; Recovery in

presented their economic forecast for the East Asia and Pacific Region on March 30. As stated in their report, the Mongolian economy grew by 4.7 percent in 2022 driven by increases in exports (in particular, coal following the easing of border frictions with China) and robust consumption. The latter resulted from an improvement in labor market conditions (with the unemployment rate dropping to 5.3 percent by 2022Q4, but with the labor force participation rate still below pre-pandemic levels), sustained social assistance, discretionary raise in pensions, consumers drawing on savings built during the pandemic, and an increase in public consumption. From the production side, the increased number of livestock and meat production and to a lesser extent a rebound in trade and services, explain this robust growth performance. By contrast, mining sector output contracted, mainly because lower copper concentration levels of the ore mined at OT last year led to lower copper mining value added compared to 2021.

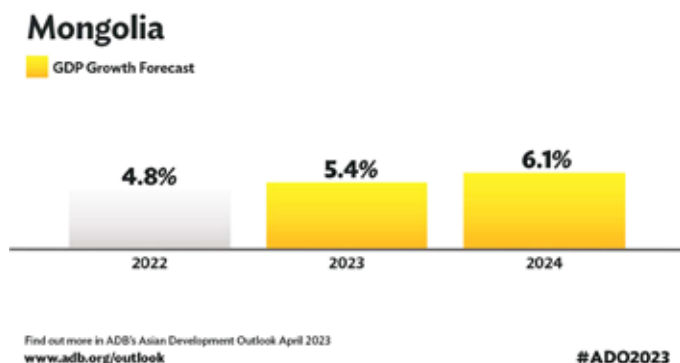
For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the fiscal balance turned positive (0.8 percent of GDP in 2022) mainly due to solid revenue collection associated with improved international trade (high commodity prices and a rebound in coal exports) and the domestic recovery. However, government expenditures remained large, with persistently high capital investments, pensions, and social assistance (including the CMP, which recently experienced only limited targeting of beneficiaries effective from January 2023), despite some recurrent spending cuts following the 2022 Austerity Law. Although debt levels remain significant, the recorded fiscal surplus, some debt repayments (notably the full payment of the Chinggis bond), and robust growth resulted in a reduction in the debt-to-GDP ratio (63.8 percent of GDP by end-2022). Rising food and energy prices, supply bottlenecks amid border closures, and a large exchange



rate depreciation resulted in a 15.2 percent inflation rate in 2022. Higher import prices also put pressure on production costs and, together with some demand-driven inflationary pressures (partly due to accommodative fiscal policy and quasi-fiscal activities) progressively started to raise prices of domestically produced goods and services. To respond to these price pressures and also the widening external imbalances, monetary policy tightened with the BOM's policy rate increasing from 6 percent in 2021 to 13 percent in December 2022. Inflation rates are currently on a downward trend, but food inflation remains high (16.2 percent y-o-y in February 2023), limiting progress in poverty reduction and welfare outcomes.

According to their projections, the economic growth of Mongolia is expected to accelerate to 5.2 percent in 2023 driven by a rapid recovery in mining production resulting from the removal of border frictions, some decline in coal inventories, and the commencement of the OT underground mining stage. Services (in particular tourism) would continue recovering from restrictions associated with the pandemic, while growth is expected to be weighed down by sluggish agricultural production due to the recent harsh winter. With the accelerated growth, poverty is projected to reach pre-pandemic levels of 6.3 percent by the end of 2023 under the lower

middle-income class poverty line (USD 3.65, 2017PPP). From the demand side, higher exports, sustained household consumption, and large public investment (through the budget and quasi-fiscal activities) are expected to support growth, while private investment would have a negative contribution with credit conditions tightening and the cost of production increasing. With the rapid recovery in domestic demand, inflation is likely to remain elevated throughout 2023 and could threaten expected progress in poverty reduction, despite some easing in external and supply-related pressures. The medium-term outlook remains favorable with a substantial increase in mining output from the underground mining phase of OT (particularly in 2025 when production is expected to more than double compared to current levels). However, the outlook is subject to downside risks, including further deterioration of the external and fiscal balances and additional inflationary pressures resulting from a prolonged war in Ukraine, a larger-than-expected tightening of monetary policy in advanced economies, risks related to the current sizable contingent liabilities (including from the large Development Bank of Mongolia's bonds payments), and uncertainties related to existing large (and confidential) offtake coal export agreements and China's economic recovery.



nomics stability, through fiscal, monetary, and macro prudential policies, additionally focusing on structural reforms in public sector management and in the financial sector to increase savings and strengthen economic resilience. Moreover, Mongolia can design and implement comprehensive investment climate reform to sustain growth over the medium term and create an enabling environment for private sector led growth," added Mr. Ramachandran.

Average inflation will moderate to 10.9% in 2023 and 8.7% in 2024 as supply shocks and trade disruption risks wane. However, it will still exceed the central bank target of 6%, mainly on pass-through of local currency depreciation and revived domestic demand. More aggressive fiscal consolidation will support macro-economic external balance and reduce crowding out impacts on the private sector. The current account deficit is projected to diminish, mainly as merchandise exports increase and the service deficit narrows with lessened trade disruption, lower risk premiums for shippers, and lower

mining, and positive spillover to transport and other pursuits; Completion of OT underground mine; Consumer spending will be dampened by high inflation, tightened monetary policy, and a resumption of home mortgage repayments; In 2024, monetary tightening gives way to gradual easing as inflation recedes, and that growth in consumer credit accelerates; Bank credit to businesses will grow only moderately as bank lending becomes more cautious in the run-up of expected IPOs by H1 2023; Fiscal expansion is to continue, and total expenditures increase by 14.3%; Net exports will contribute to growth as total import growth is outpaced by total exports.

Downside risks to the outlook stem from a worsening situation regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine, new COVID-19 variants or waves, a significant commodity price correction, domestic political risks, and the adverse implications of offtake barter agreements.

Reviving Growth

In addition, the World Bank

From Concept to Construction: Designing Mongolia's Steppe Arena

■ Only three years ago in Mongolia, children who were passionate about ice skating and playing ice hockey, and anyone with a strong interest in the winter sport, would eagerly await the arrival of the winter season, which typically lasts only three to four months.

Mongolian Ice Hockey has been developing for 60 years. However, the athletes trained most of the time in freezing cold winters in outdoor rinks or on the ice of the frozen rivers due to the lack of an ice arena. It was a challenge that was stopping the advancement of our hockey athletes. In 2021, the Steppe Arena was constructed in the vast land of Mongolia, fulfilling a century-long dream not only for hockey players, children, and youths but also for adults throughout the country.

On March 24, 2023, MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency conducted an interview with the two distinguished architects from Canada who served as advisors for the historic development of Steppe Arena in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

-Good afternoon, Mr. Mark Hentze and Mr. Kevin Klippenstein. Can you give us a brief introduction of yourself before we begin the interview?

-Mark: My name is Mark Hentze. I'm an architect. I have specialized in sports facilities my whole career, and this is my true passion. I've always loved that kind of work. It's a way for me to continue in sports architecture because I have a background as an athlete and was fortunate enough to play professional hockey. Being a sports architect allows me to continue pursuing my passion for sports. No one makes me go to work every day. It's just a joy to be there most of the time.

-Kevin: My name is Kevin Klippenstein. I am also an architect and have a specialty in sports architecture. It is a little bit different from Mark's experience, but there are a lot of similarities at the same time. Working with Mark is really fantastic. As we complement each other's weaknesses, we are able to fill in gaps where one of us may be less experienced in a particular area, thus allowing us to work together effectively. So, we end up being a well-rounded team. I have been working as an architect for a number of years now. My favorite aspect of sports architecture differs from Mark's perspective as an athlete. While he approaches it from an athletic standpoint, I come at it from a community point of view, aiming to give something special and unique back to the location it's in.

-Steppe Arena opened a new opportunity for Mongolia. For the first time in its history, Mongolia is hosting two world ice hockey championships after constructing Steppe Arena, Olympic standard arena. Specifically, the IIHF World Championship Division IV and the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Asia and Oceania Championship.



Mark Hentze (left) and Kevin Klippenstein (right)

What was your role in designing Steppe Arena?

-Mark: Most importantly, I think that we can say collaboratively together is that our role was we got to be part of a design team. We got to work with Tsagaan, Munkhbat, and Zolboo as a team to create the Arena that picks up some of the features typically found in the Canadian arena. Therefore, we collaborated extensively with our Mongolian colleagues and friends to ensure their valuable inputs were considered.

We were working as a team on a design project and came up with the initial concept together over the course of a week. Zolboo, Batmunkh, and Tsagaan had to do a lot of work to complete the project. But I think that was the role of trying to give a sensibility around creating a great Ice Arena experience.

-Kevin: That is an excellent way of putting it in. Our role was crucial as we were involved in the first indoor ice arena in Mongolia. A large part of our role was to show the Mongolian team what made a successful arena and what were some things to avoid. To bring the best design to Mongolia, we successfully showed what we had done in other places and the lessons we had learned.

-Mark: When the Mongolian team came to Canada with their initial concept, there were many great ideas in it. But there were also some things that we could help improve on. The original design of the ice arena has seating further back from the ice rink. What we're interested in is trying to create a really exciting atmosphere. For Steppe Arena, we pushed the seating right up against the edge of the hockey boards. The specter is almost on top of them, and the spectators feel like they're a part of the game.

The opening ceremony of the IIHF World Championship Division IV and the opening game with Mongolia and Kuwait were great. I hope people loved experiencing ice hockey at a high level for the first time in Mongolia. I have to say one thing that really impressed me about the Mongolian people. The Opening Ceremony started at 5 pm. We arrived at the Arena at 4 pm. The Arena was 2/3 full already. In Canada, people show up 10 minutes before the game starts.

"It was a very pleasant surprise to see how enthusiastic the Mongolian fans were," said Kevin.

-Yesterday, it was fantastic to see both of you dressed in hockey jerseys of the Mongolian Team.

-Kevin: Yes! We both bought jerseys last night. It was fabulous.

-Mark: Hopefully, everybody in Mongolia is really proud of Steppe Arena. Also, we're proud and privileged to be a part of it. So, when we walked over, we saw the jersey. We just looked at them and said we should support Mongolian because we really felt like a part of your team too.

-How did you feel about working with Mongolian architects?

-Mark: They are fabulously talented design architects.

-Kevin: As Mark was saying, they are extremely talented. It was a pleasure working with them. Also, it was a seamless experience as far as we were concerned.

-Mark: Zolboo and his team are very talented. When we started working together in Vancouver on the original concept designs, it was clear Zolboo was a very skilled architect at the world-class level. I think our collective skills created an arena with a very unique look.

-How many times have you visited Mongolia? What are your first impressions?

-Mark: This is our first trip. We had hoped that we were going to be a part of the delivery of the building during construction. But, of course, we weren't able to continue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We kept in touch with the group and stayed connected after following the Instagram account of Steppe Arena and its website.

-Kevin: Mongolian winter is much like Canada.

-Mark: Maybe this is a good reason for the partnership. If they chose different architects from another country, Mongolian winter might be a little bit cold for them. But in reality, we are Canadian, a land of winter, hockey, ice arenas, and figure skating. So, the weather is fine.

-You worked on many projects for Ice Arenas. So, which one was the hardest to accomplish the desired results?

-Mark: I was privileged enough to be a part of the architec-

tural team that designed Canada's National Hockey Training Center. It was really hard for me because the expectations were so high. You know, hockey in Canada is a religion. If you get a chance to design the National Hockey Training Center in Canada, there are many eyes on you. There are a lot of people that know a lot about ice arenas. So, this was the hardest one for me. If somebody from Ulaanbaatar went to the WinSport facility in Calgary, they would see some similarities between what Kevin, I, Zolboo, Batmunkh, Tsagaan, and the whole team came up with here at Steppe Arena. Yeah, I find this to be the most difficult challenge for me.

-What are the unique features of the Steppe Arena in your opinion?

-Kevin: I think unique features are the things that the Mongolian team brought to the project. There will be water fountains for the summer and an outdoor plaza that will be an outdoor skating. They will have skate rentals. It's kind of a tricky site because there's a big elevation difference. I think handling it largely through Zolboo and how he fitted it onto the site was magnificent. One of the unique things about this arena is not just about what's on inside but how it relates to the Plaza and the other things around it.

-Mark: I agree with that. I think there are a few other things that stick out to me. Last night, we observed the Opening Ceremony, which is the pregame show with all the lighting projecting onto the ice and stuff. Then, I told Batmunkh that this is as good as Canada and USA for NHL professional hockey. During our conversation, we noted how the seating is situated remarkably close to the ice surface and how the steep angle of the seats adds to the excitement of the experience. So, the sightlines are way better than in standard arenas. I think the other neat thing about the Steppe Arena is the curved roof design.

What we were trying to do together was to create an atmosphere that would feel as if you were in a crowd of way more people than you were in.

-On March 24, 2023, Honorary Gold Medals of the Mongolian Olympic Committee were conferred upon Mark Hanson and Kevin Klippenstein

for their valuable contribution to constructing Steppe Arena in Mongolia. We asked them for their impression of the medals, and they answered:

-Kevin: This morning, we received these medals for our contributions to the sport. Mark and I were very touched. We did not know that we were going to get these medals. It is a great honor for us and very humbling.

-Mark: Beyond all of its impressive features, what sets it apart is its ability to make a meaningful contribution to the community. But what's really exciting about it is that the Arena opened the opportunity to all boys and girls in Mongolia to become hockey players, figure skaters, and speed track skaters in their lives. As a result of it, Mongolian Olympic Committee recognized us for that. We are very humble and unexpected.

-Did you face any challenging situations while working on the project of Steppe Arena?

-Mark: No, this is exactly the point we are talking about. The Mongolian team visited Canada and toured various arenas across the country. Then, we worked altogether in my office. So, all of us were around the table together. I think this made it cohesive because we all understood together, such as the goals and objectives for Steppe Arena. Zolboo had to take two or three years to finish the design and construction. But as a concept, it came together very cohesively because of successful teamwork. I would work with these guys anytime and any place since they are fabulous. They listen very well and have really good key ideas.

-Mark also has a history as a hockey player, playing both for his universities in Calgary and British Columbia and professionally for HC Zweirbrücken in Germany from 1984 – 1986. During the interview, Mark said about Mongolian Hockey Team:

-Mark: While watching the game with my son, who is also a hockey player, we were impressed by the Mongolian team's exceptional skating skills and intuitive understanding of the game. We discussed the team's impressive performance throughout the game. Given that ice hockey is still an emerging sport in Mongolia, it is understandable that the Mongolian team aims to further improve their shooting and stick-handling skills. Mongolian ice hockey players have had to train on rivers and frozen lakes in bitterly cold winters. It was hard to get better at their skills. But they were impressive. We interviewed last night on TV, and the guy asked me at the end of the interview, he asked, "What do you think the score is going to end up like?" Then I said 7-0. But the moment the eighth goal was scored, I felt a rush of joy.

-From an architect's perspective, how do you see the Mongolian landscape, especially of the capital city Ulaanbaatar?

-Kevin: It is such a beautiful setting here. We really enjoyed touring around. We haven't been here very long yet. Despite it being the second half of the day, we keep commenting on

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Technology Empowers Readers with Visual Impairments



Ulaanbaatar Public Library (UPL) has a hall, equipped specially for people with visual impairments.

In 2004, the hall began offering a service to its readers to listen audio books that are recorded on CDs and cassettes. Since it takes much time to record the reading of large books, the audio recordings used to be divided into separate files that last 10 minutes. To improve the accessibility of its services the Library in collaboration with Mongolian National Federation of the Blind (MNFB) applied to the Global Public Libraries initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the grant in 2010.

The Library's project proposal was selected as one of the 12 qualified projects among more than 300 projects. The UPL pro-

ject was implemented for a year, from August of 2010 to August of 2011, installing a digital recording studio and starting to record books into DAISY format. The Library also distributed Digital Talking Books to the school #116 and some libraries in the countryside, where such service could be offered.

Digital Talking Books go far beyond the limits imposed on analog audio books because they can include not just the audio rendition of the work, but also the full textual content and images. It enables the reader, for example to jump from 23rd page to 55th page or search by titles. The technology gives visually impaired people the same feeling as reading a printed book.

There are many other solutions to receive information and improve knowledge including

speaking apps as well as technology to write in Brail letters in computer and mobile devices. The UPL has introduced such technologies and offers its readers various services. a UPL librarian Oyunbayar, said that students and readers bring the regular printed books, they want to read and get the books copied in Brail letters using special software and equipment. At present, this service is available only at UPL, a unique feature of the library. The special hall has 20 seats and computers with internet, CCTV screens that magnify letters for the visually impaired people, and braille book shelves. The hall stocks over 6000 braille and digital talking books in more than 300 categories of science and literature.

MNFB used to hold the one and only braille printing machine that's available in Mongolia. One page of a regular book is

equivalent to four of braille book which means high cost is expected to print in Braille.

The UPL hall has been transformed into a place where visually impaired people learn new technologies besides reading books. Mr M. Tsengel, DAISY Expert at the Library, said, "We provide trainings at the Library. Visually impaired people come to the accessible technology room to have a software installed on their phones. We give instructions and advices upon the requests of customers and carry out trainings based on the readers' needs, using six computers available here."

Mr. Tsengel is visually impaired. He graduated a special school and learned English and computer skills by himself. After his attendance in a computer and technology training for capacity building of people with visual impairments in Asia and

Pacific in Malaysia in 2007, he started working at MNFB as a computer teacher. He is a skilled professional, who also took part in the "Daisy" international standard training 2009 in Thailand.

Currently, there are two special equipment that transform books into braille and eight DAISY readers at the library, where people can read braille books and listen audio books. People with visual impairments are able to receive information by their senses of touching and hearing. The public library provides a comprehensive service for the visually impaired people and assisting them to receive information and get educated.

Across the country, there are more than 11 thousand people with visual impairment. 3000 of them live in Ulaanbaatar. The public library is here to serve them.



Real-Time Digital Simulator Starts Operating

Real-Time Digital Simulator (RTDS), designed for non-stop monitoring and analysis of all modes of the integrated power system has started operating as JICA has handed over the equipment to the National Dispatching Center, state-owned joint stock company.

Chief Representative of JICA Mongolia Office Mr. Tanaka Shinichi, and Executive director of the Center, G. Balzhinjam signed the handover document on April 3. The RTDS worth USD 500,000 is being applied to

model and simulate the energy system of Mongolia with real data and it is expected to make a significant impact on the step-by-step planning of actions to be implemented in the short, medium and long term to analyze energy system stability and define future tendency in detail. Used in more than 50 countries, the system electronically simulates data from real sources such as diesel generators, solar generators, and battery generators.

During the RTDS handover ceremony, Deputy Minister of Energy M. Bayarmagnai said,

"For 50 years since the establishment of friendly relations, Mongolia and Japan have been developing all-round cooperation in social, cultural and infrastructure sectors. In particular, in the energy sector of Mongolia. This system detects malfunction or failure in the energy system by overseeing the system online, monitors how the sources support each other, and provides possibilities for fewer accidents. Therefore, it will enable operational security and protection from possible financial risks."

From Concept to Construction: Designing Mongolia's Steppe Arena

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the breathtaking natural beauty surrounding us—the vast steppes stretching out before us and the majestic mountains rising up in the distance. We are thoroughly enjoying our time here, particularly enjoying the impressive architecture of some of the buildings. I am already looking forward to returning when the weather is warmer, eager to explore more of this stunning place.

-Mark: The landscape reminds me of where we live in British Columbia. It is just like the way that the hills jut up into the sky. The architecture has been interesting to see here. Yesterday, we had a chance to go to Chinggis Khaan Museum, which is a stunning building.

-In addition, do you have

something to say to Mongolians?

-Mark: Yes, now you have Steppe Arena in Mongolia. Try hockey, speed skating and figure skating because you will love them.

-Kevin: As the community becomes familiar with the new Arena, I have no doubt that they will come to appreciate and enjoy its fantastic facilities. From hockey and skating enthusiasts to families seeking fun and recreation, the Arena is something for everyone to enjoy.

As Mark said earlier, I was humbled and appreciated having had this opportunity. Our visit to the Arena was truly memorable, and a number of Mongolians shared with us their enthusiasm for this new addition to the Mongolian sports culture. The ice

arena is very rare in Mongolia. In Canada, hockey and arenas are ubiquitous, and it is true that building a new arena might not be the most remarkable event in Canada. However, in Mongolia, where winter sports are still emerging and developing, the construction of the Steppe Arena was a significant and exciting milestone. To be a part of it is very humbling, and we enjoyed it very much.

-Mark: Normally, when we finish a project, people are generally pretty happy, and the owners and the clients shake hands and say thank you, well done, and it is a great project. Yesterday's event at the Steppe Arena was truly special, as we saw three thousand people come together to cheer on Team Mongolia. The energy and excitement in the



Arena were palpable, and it was a real joy to see so many smiling faces there. As for the unexpected honors and recognition that we have received, it is certainly a surreal experience. While we are humbled and grateful for the recognition, we are also somewhat uncomfortable with the attention,

as we are not accustomed to being in the spotlight. But we are deeply touched by the warmth and generosity of the Mongolian people and will cherish these memories for years to come. That's been fantastic!

-Thank you!

Child Protection in the Digital Environment

On April 3, the Standing Committee on Social Policy of the State Great Khural of Mongolia organized a discussion on the topic "Protection of Children in the Digital Environment."

The discussion was moderated by Member of Parliament B. Jargalma, and Member of Parliament B. Bayarsaikhan, the initiator of the Law on Protection of Children's Rights in the Digital Environment, delivered the main presentation. In addition, M. Naranzul, Head of the non-governmental organization "Edit learning hub," made a speech on the topic "Digital environment and children's safety," and J. Erkhembaatar, the Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Communications, gave a speech on the topic "Child protection and legal environment in the digital environment."

Member of Parliament B. Bayarsaikhan pointed out that



we are benefiting from digital technology and digital communication, but in this environment, how to protect human rights, including the rights of children who are unable to defend themselves, is becoming one of the pressing problems facing all around the world. It was reported that countries had developed their policies for the protection of children's rights in the digital environment and have passed laws with detailed regulations. In 2016, when the Law on Child Protection was approved, the issue of protecting children's rights in the digital environment was

included as a chapter, but it was excluded during the discussion and could not be reflected in the law. She mentioned this in her report and said that international organizations and consultants recommended to immediately approve and implement the law on the protection of children's rights in the digital environment. She presented survey results of domestic and foreign research organizations and institutions on how children's rights are violated in the digital environment, and touched upon the fact that children are subjected to many forms of violence such as insults, exclusion, bullying, harassment, attempts of sexual exploitation in the digital environment.

According to her, 92 children committed suicide in 2012-2016 due to online discrimination and harassment. Also, according to the results of the national baseline survey, 82.5 percent of children under the age of 18 have been bullied by peers, and 37 percent have received lewd or threatening chats or messages from strangers online. In addition, according to the statistics of the CyberTips database on the study of cybersexual exploitation of children by the International Organization for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children, in 2019-2020, cybercrime increased by 28 percent globally, while it increased by 132 percent in Mongolia. "It's pressing issue that needs exigent attention," she said. She warned that these statistics indicate that the issue of children's safety in the digital environment has reached a serious level. She asked the panelists whether to pass an independent law on this matter, and presented the draft law that she had developed and uploaded to the Parliament's electronic system www.d.parliament.mn, which is receiving opinions from citizens and the public.

M. Naranzul, Head of "Edit learning hub" NGO, confirmed the situation she mentioned again in her speech "Digital environment and children's safety." She emphasized the danger posed by the digital environment to Mongolian children, especially little children. Little children develop attention deficit disorder by watching videos such as Comelon with hyperstimulating or overly stimulating content on

social networks, and very short (1-2 seconds), high rhythm, while psychoactive characters such as Momo, which appear in the middle of YouTube videos, scare children, make them restless and depressed. At the same time, it creates risky situations by encouraging self-harming and suicide by flying from a height, and convincing them that their parents hate them. Recently, the content of Haggy Waggy, which is popular among young children, not only uses offensive and vulgar language, but also involves the use of bloody murders, dangerous weapons and knives.



M. Naranzul mentioned that in the world, especially in developed countries, considerable budgets and funds are spent on measures to ensure the safety of children in the digital environment, including measures to protect the mental and psychological health of children. She pointed out that news websites report a lot of dark news about violence, murder, immorality and degradation, which has a negative effect on the psychology of children. Then, she gave an example of the fact that children suffer from psychological, spiritual and mental injuries from a young age.

J. Erkhembaatar, Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Communications, in his speech "Child Protection and Legal Environment in the Digital Environment," stated based on facts that the use of social networks by Mongolians has doubled from the "normal, safe and appropriate" level, in-

cluding the use of social media by children is 96 percent. He said that behind this number, which can be said to be 100 percent, there are social media tools that do not operate in Mongolia and are always connected from foreign countries, which is a problem.



He also said that children who use social networks spend too much time on the Internet, open two or more accounts, escape from the control of their parents, and use the Internet without the knowledge and skills to ensure their own safety, which is the root cause of the problem. He said that according to their obligations under child protection and other laws, Mongolian government agencies are doing certain things, but as of today, there are no significant results other than blocking the offending websites. In his speech, the Deputy Minister noted that the legal framework for the protection of children's rights in the digital environment is insufficient, and expressed his opinion that it is necessary to issue an independent law and implement detailed regulations.

Representatives of the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, Department of Family, Children and Youth Development, General Police Department, Telecommunications Regulatory Department, and activists of non-governmental organizations working in the field of child rights protection participated in the discussion.

G. Zandanshatar: D-Parliament Gives Opportunity to Increase Participation in Decision-Making

On April 4, Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar introduced the application, importance and development of the D-Parliament digital platform to the academics, staff and students of the University of Internal Affairs and exchanged opinions.

While highlighting the pleasure meeting with future law enforcement officers who have been recognized for their skills and ethics on the eve of the first anniversary of the introduction of the platform, the Chairman of the State Great Khural expressed his confidence that the staff of the university would make a valuable contribution to further spread the use of the D-Parliament digital

system, which aims to reflect the opinions of the public in the legislative process, to give their voice in making policies and decisions that are in the interests of the citizens, and to ensure the right of the people to govern.

At present, the D-Parliament platform hosts a total of 170 draft laws that have been submitted or are under discussion, and has been accessed from 81 countries. Speaker of the Parliament G. Zandanshatar emphasized that this electronic system gives an advanced opportunity to increase people's participation at the stage of discussion and decision-making in the Parliament by raising any social issue with the use of technology development.



The representatives of the University expressed their views on the draft Law on the Legal Status of Whistleblowers, the

draft Law on Regulating Public and Private Interests in Public Service and Preventing Conflicts of Interest.

The lawyer's advice



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

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

-How long is the term of office of the Governor?

-The term of office of the Governor is four years. This provision shall not apply during the term of office of the reappointed Governor.

-Who is responsible for rendering decisions on matters regarding modification of aimags, soums and districts?

-Matters related to modification of aimags, soums and districts shall be decided by in the State Ikh Khural (Parliament) upon submission thereof on the basis of proposal of citizens residing in the respective territory taking in account economic structure, capacity, population and geographic location and other related conditions. Matters of modifying of aimags, soums and districts shall be initiated by the Government.

In initiation of modifications to aimags, soums and districts, the principle not to weaken the previous service provided to citizens shall be adhered to. Matters on modification of administrative and territorial units shall not be decided within a year before annual election.

In making decisions regarding matters on modification of administrative and territorial units, proposals of citizens of the respective unit shall be received. The Meeting of Representative of the relevant citizens shall be in duty to organize the submission of their proposals, and the Parliament shall adopt the necessary procedure. If the majority of eligible citizens have participated in the vote, the results of such voting campaign shall be deemed valid.

-Who decides the matters of modification to khoros and bags, and what is the procedure?

-Matters of modification to bags shall be decided by the citizens' Representatives Meeting upon receipt of proposals from the Governors of aimags taking in account location of the population in the territory, number of households, traditions, economic entities engaged and specifics of road communication.

Matters of modification to khoros shall be decided by the citizens' Representatives Meeting of the capital city upon receipt of proposals from the Governor of the capital city taking in account location of the population in the territory and possibility to deliver citizens the service specified in the laws. In modification of bags and khoros, the proposals of the respective bags and khoros should be voted and the work related it shall be organized by the citizens' Representative Meetings of soums and districts.

Address: Sukhbaatar District, Khoroo 6, Sukhbaatar Street 11-1, Hanns Seidel Foundation Mongolia (inside the court of the Children's Art Center, in the right side)
Tel.: 321294
<https://mongolia.hss.de/mn/>
<https://www.facebook.com/HSFMongolia>
info@hssmongolia.mn

Mongolia Wins FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup 2023

The men's team of Mongolia emerged victorious in the FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup 2023, held from March 29 to April 2 at the Singapore Sports Hub OCBC Square.

In an epic final, Mongolia broke the three-time defending champion Australia's 24-game winning streak and secured a memorable 21-18 victory.

Initially, Mongolia had the advantage, but Australia made a comeback and tied the game at 18 points each. However, Mongolia's superstar player, Anand Ariunbold, made an extraordinary two-point shot and followed it up by sinking a free throw, which led to their victory.

It was Mongolia's second triumph after winning at home in 2017 and avenged losses to Australia in the finals in 2018 and

2019. Delgernyam Davaasambuu was awarded the Most Valuable Player (MVP) title after scoring impressive 31 points, the highest point in the tournament.

The men's team of Mongolia earned a ticket to the Olympic

Qualifying Tournaments for Paris 2024. Mongolia Women's National 3x3 Team finished the trip after a 10:17 loss against China, the Olympic Bronze Medalist, and the World and Asian Champion.



Mongolian Boxer Claims Silver Medal at World Championship



The 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships was held in New Delhi, India from March 15 until March 26, 2023.

Medal winners were awarded prize money, such as gold medalists earning USD 100 thousand, silver medalists USD 50 thousand, and bronze medalists USD 25 thousand. The overall prize fund was USD 2.4 million.

The IBA Women's World Boxing Championships gave a warm welcome to athletes from 65 nations from all five continents.

From Mongolia, Altantsetseg Lutsaikhan competed in the 48 kg category and claimed a silver medal. Altantsetseg's path to the final has been marked by dominant victories, defeating boxers from France, China, Uzbekistan, and Morocco with a perfect score of 5-0 in each bout. Her final rival was Nitu Ghanghas, a boxer from the host country and a Two-Time World Youth Champion in the light flyweight.

Enkhjargal Munguntsetseg (54 kg) earned a bronze medal after four wins and one loss in the Championship.

Ten Years Old Zayamandakh Becomes a Asian Champion

Team Mongolia skaters put in their best efforts at the annual SEA Open Short Track Trophy, which was organized by the Singapore Ice Skating Association on April 1 to 2. This championship drew over 120 skaters from Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

Our skaters competed successfully in the Junior and Women's categories to earn a spot in the World Championship, World Trophy, and Winter Youth Olympic Games 2024 in Gangwon, Korea.

Gereltuya, an International Master of Sport, won Gold Medals in all three Women's distances. Munkh-Erdene and Battulga were both competitors in the same category. Munkh-Erdene, a Candidate Master of Sport, won silver medals in the



Junior A 1500 m and 1000 m, with Battulga coming in third. Battulga won the silver medal in the 500m, while Munkh-Erdene took the bronze.

Gantigmaa, Suvd-Erdene, Gankhuvsgul, and Temuulen finished fourth as a team in the Relay Junior Mixed category. Munkh-Erdene and Battulga both won another silver and

bronze medals as a mixed team with skaters from different countries.

The youngest skater of Team Mongolia, Zayamandakh, who is 10 years old, won the gold medal in the Junior E category and became a champion of Asia. Zayamandakh has been training in skating since 7.

Mongolia Shines at the Judo's Sky



Antalya Grand Slam, Judo's prestigious competition, was once again hosted in Antalya, Türkiye.

In the -66 kg category, Mongolia continued its success, with Grand Slam's Gold Medalist Erkhembayar Battogtokh taking a well-deserved silver medal after a tense contest. In 2023, he grabbed his second silver medal in the Judo Grand Slam

tournaments.

Before the final battle, B. Erkhembayar beat several vigorous Judokas, such as World Championships Bronze Medalist Vieru Denis from the Republic of Moldova, World Championships Silver Medalist Kyrgyzbayev Gusman (Kazakhstan), and World Championships Medalist Flicker Tal.

Now he solidified his status to overcome in World Judo

Championships-Doha Individuals 2023.

In the -48 kg category, representing Mongolia, B. Baasan-khuu and G. Narantsetseg ran in the Tournament and both were awarded bronze medals.

On April 2, Tsogtbaatar Tsend-Ochir, a World Champion and Olympic Bronze Medalist, earned a silver medal in the -76 kg category.

One Billion Trees

Forest Resources in Darkhan-Uul Aimag



The total land area of Darkhan-Uul aimag is 327.5 hectares, of which 81.997 hectares (25 percent) are forests, and 19.720 hectares (6 percent) are urban green spaces.

Forest areas in each soum of Darkhan-Uul aimag are as follows: /From high to low/ Khongor-77.623 hectares (94.7 percent); Orkhon-3.271 hectares (4 percent); Shariin Gol-0.914 hectares (1.1 percent); Darkhan-0.189 hectares (0.2 percent).

The aimag's forest resources areas are 4,618,501 cubic meters, of which 3,239,861 cubic meters are Birch, 1,302,460 cubic meters are Pine, 62,440

cubic meters are European Aspen, and 13,740 cubic meters are Willow. If we categorize forest resources based on their life cycles, youth stands for two percent, maturity for 42.6 percent, and old age for 55.4 percent. In addition, the forest reserve of Darkhan-Uul aimag covers only 0.4 percent of the total forest reserves in Mongolia.

