

Boosting Non-Mining Exports to Diversify Mongolia's Economy

The mining sector stands for 93 percent of Mongolia's total exports, while the remaining seven percent comes from non-mining products. To boost non-mining exports, Prime Minister L.Oyun-Erdene held his regular "Morning Meeting" on April 10 with representatives from industries such as food, dairy, meat, wool, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, information technology, non-banking, research, and marketing.

The annual revenue from non-mining product exports amounts to USD 0.5 billion. There are 704 enterprises in the non-mining export sector, exporting 233 types of goods in 62 groups to 55 countries. The export products include uncombed and combed cashmere, wool, nuts, canned meat products, horse meat, and knitwear.

The Prime Minister emphasized that although the share of non-mining exports in the total exports is small, its contribution to the economy is significant, with promising potential for growth. Increased non-mining exports can have positive effects on the balance of payments, the country's foreign exchange reserves, and its solvency. As of today, the country's foreign trade balance is in surplus of USD 1 billion, which is 7.3 times higher compared to the same period of the last year. The Prime Minister emphasized that this achievement can progress further through collaboration.

The Government is striving to streamline foreign trade and create new opportunities for the sector. According to Ch. Khurelbaatar, Minister of Economy and Development, currently, it takes



302 hours for document preparation and border operations for the export of goods, and the Ministry is working to reduce the time by 16 times. Additionally, the foreign trade policy focuses on the development of service exports, including tourism, diversifying exports, increasing investment, and reducing import dependence.

The representatives of the non-mining export sector appreciated the Government's policy on many points. L. Enkhbat, the Director of "Astra Root" LLC, said, "We grow and export three

types of medicinal plants: astragalus, dandelion, and licorice. The export of medicinal plants is expected to exceed the export of cashmere in the next 5-10 years. However, medicinal plants are subject to stamp duty as they are cultivated products. Medicinal plants should be exempted from VAT, just like health and agricultural products."

Ts. Erdenebileg, Executive Director of APU JSC, "We are not ready for export. Brand development should be supported by state policy. Brand developers need support in participating in

major international expos. Also, re-exports should be encouraged with tax policy. Russia and Japan are big markets for the export of liquid food. As we are competing in the world, we also need relief from customs duty."

D. Altantsetseg, Executive Director of the Mongolian Wool Cashmere Association: "Mongolia's cashmere exports have been increasing in recent years. The world's major brands used to buy cashmere from China, but due to COVID, they started buying it from Mongolia. Recently, two major Italian brands have expres-

sed their interest in investing in Mongolia's cashmere industry. To satisfy the demand and maintain interest, we need stable policies and improved loan terms and availability."

Calling for collaboration, Prime Minister L.Oyun-Erdene stated that it is necessary to develop a medium-term program to identify priority products and services for non-mining exports, as well as to improve the legal framework for non-mining exports before the approval of the 2024 State Budget.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty of France Pays Visit

At the invitation of the Minister of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry Kh. Bolorchuluun, a delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty of the French Republic, headed by Minister Marc Fesneau, paid an official visit to Mongolia on April 7-9, 2023.

Private companies and investments play a significant role in the agricultural and food relationship between the two countries.

The two ministers have been working towards boosting cooperation in the following three directions:

- Bilateral cooperation between the ministries – livestock identification, genetics, quality marking, and geographical indications (access to EU markets,



increased farmer income, better information for consumers), coordination and establishment of cooperation between professional institutions (livestock, crop production, forestry), improving the value chain of agricultural products, as well as increasing capacity building of experts, exchanging expertise, techniques, technology, and know-how.

- Bilateral cooperation in the field of Veterinary Services – livestock and animal health, vaccination, exchange of experts and expertise, and participation in international events and training courses.

- Business-to-business collaboration – cooperation in both directions: Mongolia – import of high-breed livestock, agricultural and food products from France; France – import of cashmere

for the luxury industry, organic and natural food products (geographically indicated) from Mongolia. French Cooperatives as a model for agricultural production and exports, as well as supporting start-up businesses and SMEs.

Significantly, trade between Mongolia and France in the agricultural sector increased by 50 percent in 2022.

Regarding the National Program on One Billion Trees to combat desertification and climate change, Minister Marc Fesneau mentioned that a French expert would start working with Mongolia's national forest agency from April 2023 to support this program and Mongolia's plans in the forestry sector.

Within the framework of

Continued on page 2

Inside

Two Ministers Appointedp3

"E-Business" Platform – The Key to Eliminate Red Tape and Corruptionp4

Through the Eyes of the Youth: Mongolia's Competitive Advantage in the 21st Centuryp5

New Zero-Waste Factory Opensp6

Website: montsame.mn/en
Twitter: @montsame_en

Bloomberg commodity price 2023/04/14		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,041.20
COPPER	USD/lb.	409.90
SILVER	USD/t oz.	25.70
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	87.29
WHEAT	USD/bu	684.0

Foreign Minister Received Hungarian Ambassador



Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg received Ambassador of Hungary to Mongolia Obrusánszky Borbála at her request and exchanged views on the possibilities of expanding bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Parties emphasized that political, economic, educational, cultural and archaeological cooperation between Mon-

golia and Hungary has been active in recent years.

They agreed to seek opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in the scope of the long-term development policy "Vision 2050" implemented by the Government of Mongolia and the medium-term "New Revival Policy," and exchanged views on the implementation of projects and programs in the fields of mutual interest, and training of personnel.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty of France Pays Visit



Continued from page 1

food security and supply, the parties discussed ongoing cooperation and new projects, particularly in the field of training workshops, animal health, and its interaction with human health ("One Health" Program).

The ministers discussed the diversification of the strategy of the Mongolian economy and the reorganization of the agro-industrial branch, aiming to give priority to quality breeding and products such as textiles with high added value, like cashmere garments.

As part of the program of the official visit, Minister Marc Fesneau visited a model business – a semi-intensive farm of high-breed dairy cows imported from France, located in the Central aimag, and "Carrefour," a French Network of Supermarkets established in partnership

with a Mongolian company in Ulaanbaatar importing more than 3,000 types of quality assured food products from France.

The French Minister had thorough discussions with representatives of the livestock, agriculture, and agri-food sectors.

A substantial dialogue between Mongolia and France enables better facing of international challenges and increases the resilience of the agricultural and rural sectors. Although France and Mongolia are geographically far apart, they face the same global challenges: food sovereignty, climate change, the need to increase farmers' income, and product transparency for consumers. Mongolia attaches high value and importance to the visit of His Excellency Mr. Marc Fesneau, French Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, and his delegation.

Telephone Conversation with First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia

Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg held a telephone conversation with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic on April 11.

The parties discussed the relations between the two countries and some issues of international affairs, and exchanged views on possibilities of expanding trade and economic relations, noting that they were satisfied with the active cooperation between the two countries in recent years.



Women Parliamentarians Meet with UNDP Representatives

Some representatives of the Women Parliamentarians' Group received representatives of the UNDP, led by the UNDP Resident Representative in Mongolia Elaine M. Conkievich on April 10.

out the importance of not only the political party leadership and legislative reform for gender-equality in politics, but also the public awareness of gender equality, especially in decision-making. At the meeting,



UNDP is implementing the "Promoting Gender Equality in Public Decision-Making and Women's Empowerment in Mongolia" project, with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA.). Under the Project, the international Forum with the theme of "Pledge for Equal Representation in Decision-Making," was organized in Ulaanbaatar between April 10 and 11.

During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the significance of the Forum and experiences on gender equality and ensuring women's participation and equal representation in decision-making.

Mentioning the fact that some progress has been made in ensuring gender equality in our country as a result of the UNDP's project, the Head of the Women Parliamentarians' Group D. Sarangerel highlighted the significance of this meeting with such professional experts at this pivotal moment when amendments of the Law on the State Great Khural are about to be discussed. The amendments are covering such issues as transitioning to a mixed electoral system and improving the representativeness and inclusiveness of the electoral system. It is expected to be a big leap forward for every endeavor to achieve gender equality in politics.

The UNDP Resident Representative in Mongolia Elaine M. Conkievich pointed

a member of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina Irena Hadziabdic shared their experiences on ensuring gender equality. As for the candidate quotas, it was legislated that women candidates would account for 30% of the list on the Law in 1998. Yet, according to their amendment in 2013, the quota has been raised, requiring at least 40% of the candidates on the electoral lists to be women. Then, a former parliament member of the Republic of Latvia Lolita Chigane suggested that the gender quota for women should be set as high as possible to increase the representativeness of women in parliament based on her country's past experiences.

The meeting was attended by a Member of the Women Parliamentarians' Group and Deputy Chairman, Member of the State Great Hural S. Odontuya, Members of the State Great Khural A. Adiyasuren, B. Bayarsaikhan, Kh. Bulgantuya, B. Jargalmaa, Ts. Munkhtsetseg, D. Unurbolor, Ch. Undram, a Regional Electoral Policy Specialist of the UNDP Najia Hashemee, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh and Sociology Program Director for the National Science Foundation Melanie Hughes, a Program Officer of the International IDEA Khushbu Agrawal and an Associate Professor Nottingham University Fernando Casal Bértoa.

Ulaanbaatar to Host FIBA 3X3 Olympic Qualifying Tournament

On April 10, the Governor's Office of the Capital City and the Mongolian 3x3 Basketball Association signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation. Under the Memorandum Ulaanbaatar will host international 3x3 basketball tournaments, training sessions, and other events.

Specifically, Mongolia will annually host the World Grand Prix of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) under the name of FIBA 3X3 Ulaanbaatar Mayor Challenger. In this regard, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar D. Sumiyabazar received President of Mongolian 3x3 Basketball Association L. Myagmarjav and Mongolia Men's National 3x3 Team.

Scheduled for June 16-17, 2023 at Sukhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar, the World Grand Prix, an Olympic Qualifying Tournament, will feature top teams from 11 countries. FIBA 3X3 Ulaanbaatar Mayor Challenger will be broadcast live in over 150 countries.

3x3 basketball is considered the world's number one urban team sport and a main event for tourism, as it is often organized in historical and central points



of cities and creates a festive atmosphere with continuous music and entertainment events for spectators.

Since the beginning of the year, Olympic Qualifying Tournaments have started, and the Mongolia Men's and Women's National 3x3 Team have been tirelessly preparing to compete in the Tournaments with full strength.

The Governor's Office of the Capital City plans to build 118 3x3 basketball courts throughout the capital city for the purpose of creating a healthy environment for children and youths to spend their free time properly. 34 of them will be operational soon, while 40 courts will be built within this year.

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: 06:06 Sunset: 19:39

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -10 C and +3 C. Day time temps between 33 C and +11 C
■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -4 C and +5 C. Day time temps between +10 C and +22 C
■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -5 C and +7 C. Day time temps between +10 C and +20 C
■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -9 C and +4 C. Day time temps between +8 C and +18 C

President Receives Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Mr. Zhang Ming paid a courtesy call on President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh on April 12.

President U. Khurelsukh stated that Mongolia pursues a peace-oriented, open, multi-pillar and independent foreign policy and strives to participate actively and productively in the multifaceted trade and economic processes, taking place in the region.

In this context, the President affirmed that Mongolia will continue to actively cooperate with SCO members, observers, and dialogue partner countries as an observer country.

Secretary General Mr. Zhang Ming expressed his high appreciation for Mongolia's participation in the SCO and gratitude for its activities since becoming an observer.

The parties exchanged views on relations between Mongolia and the SCO, and cooperation in trade, economy, investment, agri-



culture, energy, transport logistics, tourism, environment and humanitarian sectors.

Speaker Meets UNDP Resident Representative



On Monday, April 10, 2023 Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar received the representatives of the United Nations Development Program in Mongolia led by Resident Representative Ms. Elaine M. Conkievich.

G. Zandanshatar expressed his gratitude to the United Nations Development Program for cooperating with Mongolia for many years and providing support and assistance in strengthening the capacity of the Parliament and increasing political participation and leadership of women.

Ms. Elaine M. Conkievich gave a brief presentation on the International Forum "Pledge for Equal Representation in Decision-Making." The United Nations Development Program

and the International Cooperation Organization of the Republic of Korea KOICA jointly organized the Forum in Ulaanbaatar. Six international experts arrived to participate in the Forum. Ms. Elaine M. Conkievich noted that the Forum would last for two days under the theme "Political Party Leadership for Gender-Equality" and "Legal Reforms to Ensure Gender Equality at the Decision-Making Level."

Speaker of the Parliament G. Zandanshatar said, "Since 2019, we have been working to revise the Law on Political Parties within the framework of amendments to the Constitution of Mongolia."

When drafting the revised Law on Political Parties, we intended to meet the main and com-

mon requirements set for democratic countries. It includes regulations such as transparency of government support and funding for political parties, formation of political parties, and balanced representation of gender and social groups. Support and suggestions of organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Venice Commission, the International Institute for Democracy and Election Support, and the United Nations Development Program are of great significance in strengthening Mongolia's democracy and reforming the system of political parties of Mongolia, emphasized Speaker of the Parliament.

During the meeting, Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar invited Ms. Elaine M. Conkievich to participate in the international conference "Trans-Altay Stability Dialogue" to be jointly organized by the "Ban Ki-Moon Foundation for the Future" and the Stanford University of the United States on June 13-14 in Ulaanbaatar. The meeting was attended by Member of Parliament Ts. Munkhtsetseg, Advisor to the Speaker of Parliament O. Nominchimeg, Associate Professor of Nottingham University, Dr. Fernando Casal Bertoa and other officials.

Two Ministers Appointed



On April 7, Member of Parliament Kh. Bulgantuya was appointed as a Cabinet Member and Minister of Labor and Social Protection, and B. Tulga as a Cabinet Member and Chair of the National Commission of Border Port Recovery.

Former Labor and Social Welfare T. Ayursaikan was released from his post at his request as having alleged for a corruption

case. MP Kh. Bulgantuya was working as Minister of Border Port Recovery since January of this year.

During his presentation on the appointment proposal to the State Great Khural Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene noted that it is proper to replace Kh. Bulgantuya considering to use her working experience as a Member of Cabinet and Finance Deputy Minister in development of package

Laws on Social Security, the Unified Savings Fund, and the Wealth Fund at the Parliament; bringing the National Tripartite Agreement on Labor and Social Consensus to a new level in line with international standards; and making comprehensive reform to eliminate the gap in salaries and pensions of public employees. The Prime Minister also emphasized that it is progressive to have a female politician in charge of labor and social protection issues.

As for Mongolian People's Party Secretary B. Tulga, his working experience in the Government as the Deputy Minister of Environment and Green Development and the Deputy Minister of Education and Science was taken into account. In addition, he took part in advancing the economic corridor dialogue between Mongolia, Russia, and China.

Director of UN International Organization for Migration in Mongolia

Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg received the Director of the United Nations International Organization for Migration Giuseppe Crocetti, and the program manager of the organization's Mongolia branch Daniel Kweku Sam on April 11.

During the meeting, they

exchanged opinions on the cooperation between Mongolia and the IOM, and the projects and programs to be implemented by the organization in Mongolia.

Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg expressed gratitude to the IOM for implementing many important projects and

programs, such as improving internal migration management in Mongolia, strengthening the capacity of border management and border control institutions, combating human trafficking, protecting victims, and supporting citizens who want to return to their home country.

CABINET SESSION



At its session on April 12, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

The Draft Resolution to Extend the Special Regime on "Erdenes Tavantolgoi" for Another Six Months to be Submitted to the Parliament

The financial situation has improved and the inflow of foreign currency has increased during the period of special regime imposed on "Erdenes Tavantolgoi" JSC. In order to stabilize the process of selling coal through the exchange under border conditions, and to increase the inflow and forex reserves, it was considered appropriate to extend the special regime for another six months.

-During the special regime, 10.2 million tons of coal were mined, 13.0 million tons of coal were sold, MNT 4.3 trillion was earned, and MNT 1.5 trillion was paid in taxes to the budget.

-13.0 million tons of coal with a value of USD 1,260.6 million were sold during the period of this special regime.

-Open electronic trading of coal is being organized by the Mongolian Stock Exchange. Currently, 416.0 thousand tons of coal for MNT 53.9 million have been sold during the seven trades, and the income has increased by USD 20.9 million.

-As a result of the electronic trading of coal, the price and sale of coal has increased.

The Tavantolgoi Thermal Power Plant Project to be Divided into Two Phases

The Tavantolgoi thermal power plant project based on the Tavantolgoi coal deposit will be divided into two phases: 300MW + 150MW, and will be put into operation with a capacity of 300MW in the first phase. The Minister of Energy was tasked to conduct negotiations and supervise the implementation process of the project in form of EPC+F, by applying all types of financial mechanisms for financing the project, cooperating with banking and financial institutions, and ensuring the open selection of financial proposals that do not limit the option of financing of the bidder.

Funding of MNT 187 Billion is Urgently Needed for the Construction of Roads and Road Facilities to Reduce Congestion

Minister of Finance B. Javhlan was mandated to study the possibility of solving MNT 187 billion funding for the construction of roads and road structures in Ulaanbaatar through the Government bonds and other sources.

Construction of 16.45 km of main and secondary streets and 963.7 m of bridges is planned to be constructed in 11 locations to reduce traffic congestion. A total of 4.36 km of highways and road structures have been completed in four locations, and 454 units of land required for development work have been released. Another 963.7 m long bridges in the seven locations

are planned as well. In total, MNT 187 billion is needed to complete above mentioned construction works.

The project "Selbe Revival Project" is still in the stage of research, and according to preliminary plan, there will be 21.6 km of new roads along the Selbe and Dund rivers, 18 auxiliary bridges, four bridge structures, nine underpasses, 43.2 km of pedestrian and bicycle paths, and a special public road with 64 stops for public transport. As a result, the mobility of 63 intersections and exits, inactive areas of the highway, will be improved and main road load will be shared.

Form 13A for Sending Citizens to Hospitals Digitized

Minister of Health S. Chinzorig and Minister of Digital Development and Communications N. Uchral were tasked to digitize AM-13A, AM-13B, and AM-13B forms for sending citizens to the hospital, and to provide the health sector professionals with required training based on unified methodology and organization.

The joint Working Group has integrated 19 services of the health sector into the "E-Mongolia" system. According to health statistics, in 2022, the number of people, who used the forms, was 317,736 nationwide.

Based on the health insurance system "health.gov.mn", additional development for digital registration and exchange of information on Form 13A between the four types of information systems used in health sector has been completed, and a total of 864 hospitals, including 530 primary hospitals, 334 referral hospitals, can now receive and send the forms online.

The introduction of digital forms in health care services will not increase the workload of doctors, but reduce waiting time for patients.

The Revised Draft of the Law on Political Parties to be Submitted to the President of Mongolia

The Cabinet discussed the proposals and conclusions on the revised draft of the Law on Political Parties, initiated by the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, and decided to submit it to the President.

The revised draft has specified the issues related to the registration of political parties in more details, for example, how to register and confirm the amount of the party's capital and its changes, what information to include in the state registration certificate, the documents to be created for registration and changes and movements, and on what basis, by whom and by what procedures it would be registered in the state registration.

Brief news

•G. Unurbayar was released from the position of State Secretary of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security at his request.

•O. Khulan was appointed as the Consul General of Mongolia in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China.

"E-Business" Platform – The Key to Eliminate Red Tape and Corruption



The Government of Mongolia is committed to encouraging com-

petitiveness in a free market by cracking down on corruption and

reducing excessive government control and bureaucracy. As part of this effort, the Government has launched an online platform called "E-Business" to support entrepreneurs.

"Launching of the "E-Business" platform is a significant step towards reducing bureaucracy as it enables entrepreneurs to obtain special licenses and register their businesses without visiting registration and taxation offices. This is just a beginning" stressed Prime Minister of Mongolia L. Oyun-Erdene at the opening ceremony of the "E-Business" Platform.

The "E-Business" platform now offers 658 services, including 417 special licenses for

legal entities, 42 inquiries and references, and 226 government services.

During the Ceremony, the Premier presented the process of the long-term development policy "Vision 2050" and the medium-term "New Revival Policy" implemented by the Government of Mongolia and the Government's efforts towards creating a conducive business environment. When starting a new business, everything from registering the legal entity to obtaining a certificate is now digitized, making the process faster and more efficient. Also, entrepreneurs can avoid unnecessary complications and expenses resulting from red tape in public

organizations and conflict of interests caused by regulations and civil servants.

Noting the fact that the key to achieving a digital Mongolia without corruption and bureaucracy lies in citizens obtaining digital signatures, the Prime Minister pointed out that if the 1.5 million users of "E-Mongolia" obtain digital signatures by the end of this year, it could pave the path of a large-scale digital revolution in Mongolia.

Starting from August 12, 2022, the issuance of digital signature certificates through the mobile app has begun, and as of today, 603 thousand citizens have already been granted their digital signatures.

Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Mongolia, China, and Russia to hold Economic Forum

The Russian Federation is working to resolve the customs tax relief for Mongolian products including leather, wool, cashmere, meat and meat products that meet the standards. Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in Mongolia Maksim Vasiliev spoke about it during a meeting with the officials of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The parties exchanged their opinions on the participation of representatives of both sides in the forthcoming XVI Joint Eco-

nomnic Forum of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Mongolia, China, and Russia to be held in Ulaanbaatar on June 8-10 of this year.

Relevant officials and enterprises of the Russian Federation have expressed their participation in the "SME Products, Services and Technologies-2023" International Trade Fair, which will be organized during the Economic Conference. Besides, they discussed about involving young engineers from Mongolia in the International Technical and Scientific Exhibition of Young Engineers to be held in

Krasnodar in April, and the participation of major Mongolian companies and enterprises in the International Industrial Exhibition "INNOPROM-2023" to be held in Ekaterinburg on July 10-13.

President of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry O. Amartuvshin emphasized the high expectation of stakeholders as the Joint Forum would be convened after the pandemic. He said that the Forum would discuss transport logistics, free zone and trade facilitation issues. At a business meeting to be held during the Forum, the



Mongolian side intends to present its projects to attract investment in the energy and infrastructure sectors. The President said that in the course of the Forum, he would

submit a proposal to establish a Business Council of Mongolia, the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation.

Vaccines Provided for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreaks



For prevention of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in Mongolia, Livestock Commercialization project (LCP) handed over 6.5 million doses of vaccines to the General Authority for Veterinary Services on April 12.

The project funded by the World Bank and implemented by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations supports the control of food-and-mouth disease through the adoption of a risk-based 'cattle-and-yak-only' vaccination strategy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) and the General Authority for

Veterinary Services.

Initial vaccination was carried out in April 2022 and three months later, LCP supported the assessment of immunity through a nationwide serological study. The results indicated that cattle and yaks in more than 96 percent of all soums were protected against foot-and-mouth disease. However, foot-and-mouth disease vaccines protect for only six months. Therefore, a second round of vaccination took place in November 2022 and is now due again.

The vaccination is intended to support the implementation of the national foot-and-mouth disease control strategy for 2022-2028.

Dairy Asia to Support Export Oriented and Value-Added Dairy Industry

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia, and Dairy Asia, Intergovernmental Organization, established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure the long-term sustainable development of Mongolia's food and agriculture sector, to implement the strategic goals of the country's dairy industry (export oriented and value added) and to strengthen the Dairy Asia partnership based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. On April 12, the Ministry's State Secretary Mr. Jambaltseren Tumor-Uya and CEO & Coordinator of the Dairy Asia Mr. Batbaatar Bayarmagnai signed the Memorandum.

Parties will cooperate in the following activities:

1. To improve the competitiveness of Mongolia's dairy industry, through increasing the involvement and participation of stakeholders of the country's dairy sector to the Dairy Asia's event series with knowledge sharing and information exchanging.

2. To promote the effective development and cooperation between the public, private sector, industrial associations, and international partner organizations in the country's dairy sector.

3. To increase the utilization of Mongolia's milk resources, to support the dairy farmers and herders in remote areas for import substitution, export oriented and value-added dairy sector and to promote the Mongolia's dairy industry internationally.

4. Jointly establish a unified



e-platform (database) of research and studies in the country's dairy industry, develop research-based policies, and work together to study the possibilities of introducing technological research into practice.

5. Jointly implement activities to accession the target countries (with a good cooperation of Mongolia) in the North-East Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, and the Middle East to Dairy Asia.

6. Support the establishment of the "World Yak Association" and "International Bactrian Camel Association" in Mongolia and the creation of "World Yak Day" as part of the Dairy Asia's initiative.

7. In the framework of the strategy to increase the milk consumption and support the milk production, jointly celebrate "World Milk Day" (1st June) and "World School Milk Day" (the last Wednesday of September) in an effective way, to increase the involvement and participation of milk producers and consumers to the celebration events.

8. Support the initiative of the

Dairy Asia Secretariat to celebrate the last seven days of May every year as the "Asian Milk Week" in anticipation of the "World Milk Day" and to increase the public awareness of the sustainable milk production and consumption.

9. Jointly implement projects and programs in the direction of cooperation in the dairy sector within the framework of the Asian Development Bank's Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation /CAREC/ initiative and other donor countries and international organizations.

10. Jointly study the possibilities "School Milk Program" to Mongolia and develop proposals.

Dairy Asia, founded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2014 is a multi-stakeholder partnership committed to building a socially and environmentally responsible Asian dairy sector that enhances rural livelihoods, improves nutrition, and contributes to economic prosperity in the region. The Dairy Asia Secretariat Office was established in Ulaanbaatar in 2020.

Through the Eyes of the Youth: Mongolia's Competitive Advantage in the 21st Century



From left E. Sondor, Kh. Ivel, Sh. Birjan and B. Tumenbayar

■ **MONTSAME** Mongolian National News Agency organized “MONTSAME ENGLISH CONTEST” with the aim to increase the capacity of MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency to promote Mongolia abroad, while also encouraging young people to improve their English language skills and expanding the ranks of MONTSAME staff.

On April 8, the winners of the Contest were selected and honored at the Press Center of the MONTSAME. The Contest's most prestigious award—An invitation to work as a translator-journalist in MONTSAME's “The Mongol Messenger” newspaper editorial office was granted to E. Sondor, an alumnus of the Ohio State University, USA. Kh. Ivel, a student from the National University of Mongolia (NUM), was awarded second place, followed by B. Tumenbayar and Sh. Birjan, students from the Khovd Branch School of NUM.

Mongolia's Competitive Advantage in the 21st Century: Where are we now?

Mongolia, a landlocked country in East Asia, possesses a unique set of competitive advantages that set it apart from other nations. Despite its small population and relative isolation, Mongolia's vast reserves of natural resources, strategic geographic location, and cultural heritage provide the country with numerous opportunities for growth and development. In this essay, we will explore Mongolia's competitive advantages and where the country stands in the modern world.

Before getting into the essay, I would like to define what is competitive advantage. Competitive advantage of a country refers to the unique set of characteristics, resources, and capabilities that enable it to produce goods and services more effectively and efficiently than other countries. A country's competitive advantage can be based on various factors, such as natural resources, skilled labor, infrastructure, technology, and government policies. The theory that is best known to support the idea behind competitive advantage is the theory of comparative advantage, which was first proposed by economist David Ricardo in the early 19th century. According to this theory, a country should specialize in producing goods and services that it can

produce most efficiently and trade with other countries to obtain goods and services that it cannot produce efficiently. By doing so, all countries can benefit from trade, even if some countries are more efficient than others in producing all goods and services. The theory of comparative advantage suggests that countries should focus on their strengths and specialize in the production of goods and services in which they have a comparative advantage, rather than trying to produce everything themselves. This allows countries to benefit from trade and creates a more efficient allocation of resources on a global scale.

First of all, one of Mongolia's key competitive advantages is its abundant mineral resources. The country is home to large reserves of copper, gold, coal, and other minerals, which have been a significant source of economic growth and foreign investment. The country's mining industry has attracted significant foreign investment and has been a significant contributor to the country's GDP. Some of the biggest foreign investors in Mongolia's mining industry include: Rio Tinto is a multinational mining company based in the United Kingdom and Australia. It has a controlling stake in the Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold mine in Mongolia, which is one of the largest mining projects in the world. Another major investor: China Investment Corporation is a sovereign wealth fund of the Chinese government. It has invested in a number of mining projects in Mongolia, including the Tavan Tolgoi coal mine. These are some of the biggest foreign investors in Mongolia's mining industry, but there are also many other companies from around the world that have invested in the sector.

In addition, the country's strategic location between China and Russia provides it with a unique position in global trade and transportation routes. The geographic location of Mon-

golia has a significant impact on its economy and geopolitical markets. Mongolia is a landlocked country located in Central Asia, bordered by China to the south and Russia to the north. Some of the key ways in which its location affects its economy and geopolitical markets include limited access to sea ports, dependence on neighboring countries and its vulnerability to climate change. Mongolia's landlocked location means that it has limited access to sea ports, which can increase the cost of imports and exports. This can impact its trade relations and limit its economic growth. Mongolia is heavily dependent on its neighboring countries, particularly China and Russia, for trade and investment. This dependence can make it vulnerable to changes in their economic and political policies. One evidence that supports this view can be seen from the post pandemic economic regression. Mongolia's geography also makes it vulnerable to climate change, with its landlocked location and harsh climate contributing to desertification, soil erosion, and other environmental challenges.

Overall, Mongolia's geographic location has both advantages and disadvantages for its economy and geopolitical markets. While its access to natural resources and strategic location can provide opportunities for growth, its landlocked status and dependence on neighboring countries can also create vulnerabilities and challenges.

Thirdly, Mongolia's culture and heritage also serve as a competitive advantage. The country is known for its nomadic way of life and rich history, including the rule of Genghis Khan, which has made Mongolia a popular tourist destination. The country's cultural heritage has also led to the development of niche industries such as traditional crafts, music, and festivals. These industries have the potential to attract tourism and promote cultural exchange, which can further boost the country's economy. Tourism is an important and growing industry in Mongolia, although it is still relatively underdeveloped compared to other countries in the region. Mongolia is known for its vast and pristine natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and unique nomadic way of life,

all of which make it an attractive destination for travelers seeking adventure, cultural experiences, and off-the-beaten-path destinations.

According to the Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the number of international visitors to Mongolia has been steadily increasing in recent years, with a record high of over 620,000 visitors in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has also set a goal of increasing the number of annual visitors to 1 million by 2024. Tourism in Mongolia is largely focused on adventure travel, eco-tourism, and cultural experiences. Some of the most popular tourist attractions include the Gobi Desert, Lake Khuvsgul, the Altai Mountains, and the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, which serves as a gateway to many of the country's natural and cultural wonders. Visitors can enjoy a range of activities such as trekking, horseback riding, camel riding, and cultural tours to visit nomadic families and experience traditional Mongolian customs and rituals.

However, despite its potential for tourism, Mongolia faces a number of challenges in developing the industry, including a lack of infrastructure, limited transportation options, and a shortage of trained tourism professionals. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the industry, as international travel restrictions and border closures have severely reduced the number of visitors to the country.

Overall, while tourism is still relatively underdeveloped in Mongolia, the government and private sector are actively working to promote and expand the industry, with a focus on sustainable development and preserving the country's unique natural and cultural heritage.

Despite these advantages, Mongolia faces several challenges in the modern world. One of the most significant challenges is its infrastructure. The country's vast size and rugged terrain make transportation and communication difficult, hindering the growth of the economy. Additionally, Mongolia has struggled to diversify its economy, making it heavily reliant on the mining industry. This over-reliance on a single sector makes the country vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices. The country's infrastructure remains underdeveloped, particularly in rural areas, which can limit access to markets and hinder economic growth. Additionally, political instability and corruption have hindered the country's progress, with some foreign investors expressing concerns about the unpredictability of government policies.

However, Mongolia has made progress in recent years. The country has worked to improve its business environment, with the World Bank ranking it 74th in its 2020 Ease of Doing Business report. Mongolia's economy showed signs of recovery in 2021, with the country's GDP growing by 6.8% in the first three quarters of the year, according to the National Statistical Office.

This growth was largely driven by a strong performance in the mining sector, particularly coal and copper, which account for a significant portion of the country's exports. Additionally, the government launched several initiatives aimed at boosting economic growth, including tax cuts and subsidies for small and medium-sized enterprises. However, the country still faces significant challenges, including a high level of public debt and ongoing concerns about political instability and corruption.

To improve its competitive advantage, Mongolia can focus on several key areas, including infrastructure, human capital development, and innovation. By investing in these areas, Mongolia can enhance its economic competitiveness and attract more foreign investment.

Firstly, investing in infrastructure is essential for improving Mongolia's competitive advantage. The country's transportation infrastructure, such as roads and railways, needs to be modernized and expanded to facilitate the transportation of goods and people. Additionally, improving the country's energy infrastructure, such as electricity and heating, will help to reduce energy costs for businesses and households. These improvements will make Mongolia a more attractive location for investment, as companies will have easier access to resources and markets.

Secondly, developing human capital is critical for Mongolia to enhance its competitive advantage. The government can invest in education and training programs to improve the skills and knowledge of the workforce, which will increase the productivity of businesses and enhance the country's innovation capacity. Additionally, increasing access to healthcare and social protection will improve the well-being of the population, leading to higher quality of life and a more stable social environment. This will make Mongolia a more attractive destination for investors and businesses, who will benefit from a skilled and healthy workforce.

Finally, fostering innovation is crucial for Mongolia to improve its competitive advantage. The country can invest in research and development, promote entrepreneurship and start-ups, and encourage the adoption of new technologies. By doing so, Mongolia can enhance its productivity and efficiency, and create new opportunities for businesses to thrive. Additionally, promoting innovation will help to diversify the economy, reducing dependence on the mining sector and creating new industries that will contribute to long-term growth.

In conclusion, Mongolia possesses several competitive advantages in the modern-day world. Its mineral resources, strategic location, and cultural heritage have positioned it well for economic growth and development. However, the country still faces challenges in terms of infrastructure and economic diversification. Improving Mongolia's competitive advantage requires a holistic approach that addresses infrastructure, human capital development, and innovation. By addressing these challenges and building on its strengths, Mongolia has the potential to become a significant player in the global economy.

New Zero-Waste Factory Opens

Mongolia has started producing polyethylene (PE) stretch and shrink film domestically, using recycled raw materials.

Of the 50 factories in Mongolia that produce PE bottles, and stretch and shrink films, 30 are currently operational. While for the new factory "Multipack," which was opened on April 10, is the first factory that produces finished goods using domestically recycled raw materials.

"I would like to highlight the sustainable features of our factory. First of all, our factory filters its greywater eight times and reuses it. Secondly, 30 percent of raw materials that we use in our production are recycled, and thirdly, we consume four times less energy than other factories," Executive Director of "Multipack" LLC E. Tod-Od, said. Our company



was established in 2010 and in the past, we used to import raw materials from China, but now, with the commencement of this new factory, we are processing raw materials domestically, he continued.

Processing raw materials for polyethylene film production from domestic wastes will reduce not only waste but also imported polyethylene products.

The "Multipack" factory consists of two sections, which are recycling and production and offers two types of products—stretch film and shrink film—to

the market. They produce their products according to German technology, ensuring high quality.

"Multipack" purchases their wastes from customers, and then, recycles and reuses them in their further production. In other words, it is a zero-waste factory.

Some of their customers and partners took part in the New Factory Opening Ceremony and shared their impressions about their products and newly opened factory with us. One of them, a



General Manager of "General Sky Mongolia" LLC P. Bolor-Erdene said, "We have been cooperating



with the "Multipack" LLC for almost ten years. We use their shrink films a lot. I think, one of the advantages they offer for their customers is the re-collection of their waste. For example, we collect shrink film rolls and sell

them back to the factory. It gives us not only monetary benefits but also an opportunity to reassure our eco-friendly decisions. We would like to congratulate them on opening a zero-waste and eco-friendly factory."



The "Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development" (FORUM-ASIA) conducted fact-finding research in October 2022 and held its report launch on "From Dreams to Dust: Examining the Impact of Mining on Herder Communities in Mongolia" on April 10, 2023.

The research team collected testimonies and data from a wide range of stakeholders in Dalan-

gargalan, Ulaanbadrakh, and Khatanbulag soums of Dornogobi aimag. They shed light on the harmful and sometimes fatal impact of mining operations on the communities' rights, including their health, livelihoods, and environment.

The "Forum-Asia" Recommends to Establish More Detailed Criteria for Licenses on Mining

Based on the findings of the research, the "Forum-Asia" has developed recommendations for each stakeholder at the local, national, and international levels, including government, mining companies, human rights defenders, media, etc. At a national level, one of the recommendations was to establish more detailed and well-rounded criteria for granting and renewing

licenses on exploration and extraction, with clear guidelines for respecting and protecting the community's right to a healthy, safe, and clean environment.

Head of the Centre for Human Rights and Development, which participated in this research as a partner, G. Urantsooj encouraged the mining companies to fully comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and all relevant national laws and regulations on mining, human rights, and environmental protection at the report launch. Moreover, she said that the companies must rehabilitate and restore the land once operations are completed, ensu-

ring minimal long-term impact on the environment and surrounding communities.

The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) is a network of 85 member organizations across 23 countries, mainly in Asia. Founded in 1991, FORUM-ASIA works to strengthen movements for human rights and sustainable development through research, advocacy, capacity development, and solidarity actions in Asia and beyond. It has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and a consultative relationship with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

UK Ambassador Visits Khovd Aimag

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Mongolia Mr. Philip Malone, and the UK PM's Trade Envoy, Mr. Daniel Kawczynski MP paid a Working Visit in Khovd aimag and met with the Governor of the aimag E. Bolormaa on April 12.

They discussed future collaborations in various fields in Khovd aimag.

During the meeting, Governor E. Bolormaa put forward a cooperation proposal on 1) Promoting renewable energy by adopting eco-friendly heating technology in meeting the ever-growing demand of Khovd city; 2) Attracting investment in the agriculture sector to support businesses in animal husbandry and crop farming with new technology; 3) Constructing housing apartments which are affordable

for citizens in the remote region; 4) Developing sustainable tourism in the aimag; and, 5) Training skilled personnel.

In response, Mr. Daniel Kawczynski presented the outcomes of the cooperation between the Governments of the two countries and testified the willingness to cooperate with Khovd aimag on above mentioned fields.

South Korean Journalists Cover Climate Change in Mongolia

Within the scope of the cooperation between the Confederation of Mongolian Journalists and the Journalists Association of Korea, the "Mongolia-South Korea Media Forum" will be held under the theme of "Global Warming and Climate Change" on May 14-19 in South Korea.

The Forum will provide a platform for journalists to voice their opinions on environmental issues and exchange information and experiences. On Mongolian side, 25 journalists are planning to participate in this Forum.

As part of this Forum, South Korean journalists have visited Mongolia and covered climate change in Mongolia and its efforts against climate change.



Journalists from JTBS TV and Nongmin Newspaper, specializing in environment and agriculture, have worked in Mongolia and interviewed the Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, covering

such issues as the process of the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, the current situation of desertification in Mongolia, and measures and actions, that have been taken to combat desertification.

Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Plant to be Completed in 2024



A new Construction and Demolition Waste (CDW) Recycling Plant and waste landfill are under construction in Ulaanbaatar. The project, which is being implemented to improve the waste management and recycling practices of Ulaanbaatar city, is financed by the sovereign loan of EBRD.

According to the statistics, Ulaanbaatar city generates about 1.4 million waste per year, of which 20-30 percent is construction and demolition waste. The new plant will comprise of landfill facility with a capacity to recycle 150 thousand solid waste a month, an area for crushing and sorting construction and demolition waste, a garage, and an office building. Currently, the construction process is 40%.

J. Sandagsuren, the 1st Deputy Mayor of Ulaanbaatar city, in charge of economy and infrastructure, said, "The Ulaanchuluut landfill is full. So, it will be closed in 2024. As for the new waste landfill, it is expected to facilitate waste collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal services, and improve operational efficiency, and environment and hygiene standards. In addition, the CDW Recycling Plant will be the first of its kind in Mongolia. The plant will recycle the construction solid waste and turn them into gravel and macadam."

This new waste infrastructure will bring about significant benefits in environmental protection and public health and will contribute to offering local citizens a better quality of life for the years to come.

Strategic Plan for Promoting Mongolia Abroad Approved

On April 7, at the regular session of the State Great Khural, Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg presented the policy and strategy to promote Mongolia abroad and measures to intensify foreign cooperation.

The Foreign Minister's presentation focused on the following five directions.

Firstly, the Government approved the Strategic Plan for Promoting Mongolia Abroad and established the National Advertising and Information Committee on March 22. Adopting such a unified Strategic Plan will unfold opportunities to publicize Mongolia's domestic and foreign policy, democratic reform process and the Government's policy, increase cooperation, attract foreign investment, and expand the economy.

The Strategic Plan for Promoting Mongolia Internationally has been developed within the scope of the main four goals: investment, tourism, human rights, and democracy-good governance-development.

As part of the Strategic Plan, positive information about Mongolia to attract the attention of foreign tourists and investors has been already started broadcasting by the international media channels. For instance, in the first quarter of 2023, 16 interviews of the Prime Minister of Mongolia and members of the Government were published by international media outlets.

Secondly, the country image and nation branding of Mongolia is determined. The Government declared 2023-2025 the "Years to Visit Mongolia" and announced to the world a calendar of 22 international events to be held in 2023. Welcome to Mongolia was chosen as the key words to imply Mongolia's openness and hospitality, and the unified design of the nation branding was approved by the Government meeting on November 16, 2022.

Thirdly, we are working with international think tanks and major media organizations to intensify our foreign advertising.

In this context, talks on cooperation with international media channels such as CNN, Bloomberg, BBC, Financial Times, The Economist, National Geographic, Vanderlust have been finalized, and currently an 18-month contract with CNN to distribute video advertisements and write articles about Mongolia is under implementation. Growing international reputation of Mongolia and the optimization of advertising



tising resulted in increased engagement from 4,000 in 2021 to 7,200 by the end of 2022, and the positive image of our country went up from 12 percent in 2021 to 28 percent by the end of 2022.

The international news channels have touched upon topics, such as the positive economic indicators of Mongolia, the record number of visits, the commencement of Oyutolgoi underground mine, and the sale of mining products via e-auction. In addition, the Cambridge King's Organization has conducted a large-scale study on the achievements of human rights and democracy in our country and the International Think Tank Organization "OSS Development Institute" has conducted another study on the "New Revival Policy."

The UNESCO World Heritage Magazine has featured the world heritage sites in Mongolia and policies, strategies and protection management adopted for these sites by our country. "My District" magazine of Berlin, Germany, "Diplomatic World" of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and "Petit Fute" French magazine have published special articles about Mongolia in English, German, and French, and distributed them during events as major international fairs and cultural days.

Fourthly, achievements in the fields of traditional and modern art, culture and sports have been promoted. Thanks to the Government Resolution No. 73 of 2022, Mongolian artists successfully participated in the

59th Venice Biennale of Fine Arts and the 75th Cannes Film Festival. During these events, more than 30 news and interviews about Mongolia were published on the international press, and intergovernmental programs were launched to develop cultural relations with some countries.

The "Morin Khuur Ensemble" performed in Japan's famous "NHK Hall", and the artists of the Mongolian Grand Theatre of National Art performed on the main stage of UNESCO. Several festivals were organized, such as the first "Morin Khuur" Festival in Germany, and the "Nomadic Mongolian" Festival in Mongolia. In cooperation with the Swiss Development Agency, the documentary film "Secret History of Mongol Costumes" was produced in English and presented in European countries.

In the frame of the "Years to visit Mongolia" National Campaign, Mongolian representatives participated in the "International Tourism Exhibition" in Sofia, Bulgaria, "CMT Stuttgart" in Stuttgart, Germany, and the "45th Travel Exhibition in Budapest," Hungary. Besides, in accordance with the agreement between the Governments of Mongolia and China on the mutual set up of Cultural Centers, a "Mongolian Culture and Information Center" has been established in Beijing, under the Mongolian Embassy in the country.

Fifthly, international academic conferences have been organized with aim to develop Mongolian studies and activate

operations of centers for Mongolian studies.

As of 2022, there were 22 centers for Mongolian studies and more than 600 researchers working in these centers in 20 countries around the world, of which about 200 were young researchers. In order to support and re-train them, a summer training was organized and scientists from 17 universities and research centers of ten foreign countries were involved. This year, a special department for Mongolian studies is planned to be established at the Oriental Studies Center of the Institute of Cultural Studies of the University of Tartu, Republic of Estonia.

In her briefing, Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg mentioned that efforts are required to activate foreign relations and cooperation, especially at this difficult time caused by the complicated situation of international relations and the pandemic, and noted that there is a need to focus on increasing the efficiency of foreign advertising.

Performances expected in 2023 include the "Morin Khuur Ensemble" at the Sydney Opera House in Australia, the play "The Throne Without a Seal" at the Coliseum Theater in London, England, and the "Bayanmongol" Ensemble at the "World Jazz Festival" in Germany. In addition, an exhibition on "How Chinggis Khaan-Mongols Shaped the World" is planned to be held at the History Museum of Nantes, France.

Citizens of 61 Countries Are Visa Free

Visit Mongolia," announced by the Government, citizens of 61 countries have been exempted from the visa requirements. Previously, citizens of 30 countries were exempted from visa requirements. Now with the addition of 31 countries, citizens of the above number of countries can travel to our country without a visa. In other words, the fees charged for citizens of the EU countries have been cancelled. On the other hand, citizens of our country pay 60 euros to travel to Europe.

Currently, citizens of 99 coun-

tries have an opportunity to obtain electronic visa. The Minister noted that they were working to make all countries, considered possible, visa-free in the future. As for the two neighbours, citizens of the Russian Federation are not required to get visa, while citizens of the People's Republic of China must get visa. However, as part of the development of border tourism, group travelers coming from China have been exempted from visas for a certain period. Besides, Mongolian e-visa is available for Chinese citizens.

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.

-What are functions of the Administration office of the Governor?

-Office of the governor of the aimag or soum, the capital city, district is the administration, and it shall exercise the following functions:

1. Work out strategy plans, programs and projects for and social development of the respective territory;
2. Provide the activity of the governor with professional, methodological, technical and organizational assistance as well as work conditions;
3. Provide the Meeting, governor and local administrative organizations with necessary information;
4. Deliver legal enactments, decisions of the Government, Meeting and governor to the relevant organizations and officials, organize the enforcement, control over the implementation and assess the outcomes;
5. Maintain recording of office documents, arrange decision making process of applications, proposals and complaints submitted by organizations and citizens;
6. Maintain training, retraining and qualification of public administration employees organize their work conditions and social security within the scopes of laws;
7. Ensure the normal functioning of the services of the meeting of the respective level;
8. In connection with the exercise of the prescribed functions, submit the required information to the tax office.

The structure and the number of posts is set individually or in a uniform manner by the Government, and the administration of aimag, soum, the capital city and district shall have departments and divisions. The head of the administration office shall be selected in accordance with the Law on Public Service, appointed and dismissed by the Governor for a period of six years. The head of the administration office of aimag, soum, the capital city and district shall determine the human resources of the office, salary fund and appoint or discharge employees within the limits set by the Government.

The head of the administration office of aimag, soum, the capital city and district, chairman of division, department and office under the governor shall render orders within the framework of their competence and use seals, stamps and printed sheets made in accordance with the established procedure.

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



In her speech delivered at the regular session of the State Great Khural on April 7, Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg

presented the countries that have been exempted from Mongolian visa.

As part of the "Years to



■ "Seventh September," a Mongolian Indie Rock Band known for their emotive music that captures the essence of autumn, released a unique EP "Oh! 979" on April 14, 2023. This was clarified by D. Munkhbayasgalan, the group's Lead Guitarist.

-When was "Seventh September" formed, and why did team members choose this one-of-a-kind name for the Band?

-After forming our Band on September 7, 2019, we decided to name it "Seventh September" as a tribute to the special day that marked the beginning of our

musical journey together. Our band consists of four members: Sukhbat Dorjpalam (Bandleader) as the Vocalist and Guitarist, Bat-Undral Bat-Ulzii on Bass Guitar, Munkhbayasgalan Damdinsuren on Lead Guitar, and Erdenebayar Khishigbayar on Drums.

-How many singles has "Se-

Seventh September Releases "Oh! 979" EP on April 14

venth September" released for its listeners before "Oh! 979"?

-“Seventh September” has released three singles before: the first one is “Bodliin Shuvuu,” followed by “Nisdeg Mori,” and the most recent single is “Tengert.”

-In your opinion, what sets Seventh September apart from other bands in its genre?

-At the heart of our band is a commitment to musical diversity and emotional honesty. Rather than confining ourselves to a single genre, we draw upon a range of influences to craft songs that are a reflection of our minds and emotions. Our band's creative process involves collaborative music-making, where the Band-leader provides the lyrics while we all together create the music and bring the songs to life.

Last year, I graduated from university, and our Vocalist D. Sukhbat graduated with a degree in music composition from the Mongolian State University of Arts and Culture (MSUAC). Our Bassist B. Bat-Undral went to study in South Korea in March 2023. Three of the band members, except for myself, graduated from Badmarag High School of MSUAC.

-Could you please tell us about the new album "Oh! 979"?

-We will release "Oh! 979" EP on April 14. EP means Extended



Play, longer than a single but shorter than an album. Our EP album is a diverse collection of three unique and compelling songs, with each track exploring its distinct genre and musical style.

In 2021, a small competition to support young artists was held at the "Wake Up" music festival organized by the "Growl of Clown" band. Among the ten bands that participated in the competition, we garnered the highest number of votes from the audience, granting us the privilege to make an EP album. We recorded our songs at "The Library" studio in February last year.

-What message or theme is the Band trying to convey through its new album "Oh! 979"?

-Through our songs, we aim to inspire self-discovery, enlight-

enment, and a commitment to doing good in the world, particularly among teenagers. Our album includes three distinct songs that cater to diverse musical preferences. The first track, "Uragakh Nar," encompasses the essence of traditional Mongolian music, while the second track, "Ungiin Budag," is an upbeat synth-pop tune. The third and final track is a pop-rock number. Our songs can evoke emotions in our listeners, from pain and heartbreak to joy and happiness and everything in between.

-Will your Band take part in the "Play Time Music Festival" this year?

As our bassist has gone to South Korea, we are currently debating whether to take part in the festival with another bassist or to take a break from the festival this year.

MongolZ Secures Spot in BLAST Paris Major 2023



Mongolia hosted the CS:GO (Counter-Strike: Global Offensive) Regional Major Ranking (RMR) tournament from April 6 to April 9. After four fierce battles, The MongolZ /formerly IHC Esports/, a professional esports team from Mongolia, secured a spot in the BLAST.tv Paris Major 2023.

The BLAST.tv Paris Major 2023 is the biggest CS:GO Tournament to date, bringing together

the world's top CS:GO teams. To be organized by BLAST, the Tournament will take place in Paris, France from May 8 to 21, 2023, with a prize pool of USD 1.25 million.

Only two spots of the Paris Major 2023 were allocated to Asia-Pacific RMR and The MongolZ and Grayhound (Australia) have successfully qualified for the Tournament. In the battle for the first spot, Grayhound bested MongolZ with a score of 1-2. MongolZ triumphed over Rare Atom (China) with a score of 2-0 (Inferno 16-11, Mirage 16-11) in the battle for the second spot. Additionally, MongolZ will be participating in IEM Rio 2023 and ESL Challenger Melbourne this month.

Russia's Figure Skating Masters to Showcase at Mongolian Ice Arena



The Government of Mongolia has declared 2023-2025 as the "Years to Visit Mongolia." As part of the National Campaign, figure skating masters from Russia will be showcasing their breathtaking talents at the Steppes Arena in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. "The first-ever full-scale figure skating show in Mongolia will be presented on May 6, 2023," reported the Mongolian State Committee of Physical Culture and Sports.

Who will show off their talents?

Kamila Valeryevna Valieva

-She is the 2022 European Champion, 2021 Rostelecom Cup Champion, 2021 Skate Canada International Champion, and 2021 and 2023 Russian National Silver Medalist.

Elizaveta Sergeyevna Tuktamysheva

-She is the 2015 World Champion, the 2021 World Silver Medalist, the 2015 European Champion, the 2014-15 Grand Prix Final Champion, a 14-time Medalist on the Grand Prix series, and the 2013 Russian National Champion.

Adeliia Tigranovna Petrosian

-The 2023 Russian Grand Prix Final Champion, the 2021 JGP Slovenia Champion, the 2021 Russian Junior Silver Medalist, and the 2022 Russian National Bronze Medalist.

Mark Valeryevich Kondratiuk

-A 2022 Olympic Champion in the team event, 2022 European Champion, a Two-time Challenger Series Medalist, and the 2022 Russian National Champion.

Petr Olegovich Gumennik

-The 2020 Rostelecom Cup Bronze Medalist and 2019 CS Warsaw Cup Silver Medalist. He is also the 2020 World Junior Bronze Medalist and 2018 Junior Grand Prix Final Silver Medalist.

Moreover, Sofia Dmitrievna Akateva, Evgeni Stanislavovich Semenenko, Dmitri Sergeyevich Aliev, Anastasia Mishina and Aleksandr Galliamov, Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov, Aleksandra Boikova and Dmitrii Kozlovskii and Victoria Sinitsina and Nikita Katsalapov will shine in the Steppes Arena.



Bulgan Aimag to Plant 1.9 Million Trees in 2023

The Governor of the Bulgan aimag has approved an action plan to plant 1.9 million trees throughout the aimag in 2023 within "One Billion Trees" National Campaign.

In compliance with the National Campaign, a number of tasks were mandated to the Governors of each soum, Intersoum Forest Units, and line organizations. The tasks include planting trees, establishing tree nurseries and preparing necessary sites, and providing seedlings to support tree-planting efforts of citizens, enterprises, and organizations.

According to the Governor's plan, an afforestation initiative will take place throughout the aimag to plant 957.5 thousand trees across 430 hectares of land. Also, the initiative aims to increase urban green spaces and involve graduates of the 9th and 12th grades of secondary schools, who are expected to plant 1.6 thousand trees. Furthermore, 560.5 thousand trees will be planted to establish a windbreak in Bulgan aimag. Mines, spring sanatoriums, and recreation centers will be planting 230.0 thousand trees at their own expense.