

## Revised Draft Law on Political Parties under Discussion



**On April 20, the State Great Khural has started a discussion of the revised Draft Law on Political Parties which was submitted by the President of Mongolia.**

The Draft Law on Political Parties, composed of seven chapters and 46 articles aims to make political parties accountable, transparent about their financing by submitting financial statement and having it audited, and ensure equal political participation of men and women and social groups.

The Draft Law regulates party financing, including public funding, membership fees and donations. It is noted that party financing schemes, in particular, public funding, should aim to

ensure that all parties, including opposition parties, small parties and newly established parties, can compete in elections in accordance with the principle of equal opportunities, thereby strengthening political pluralism and helping to safeguard the proper functioning of democratic institutions. Guaranteeing a minimum amount of funding for political parties is considered a means of avoiding corruption in their financing and maintain the autonomy of party organisation, also in the use of their funds. At the meetings held during the process of drafting the Law, many participants noted that one

key challenge for the operation of political parties is the limited financial resources and the difficulties for small or newly established political parties to cover operating costs, especially those associated with the renting of offices, as opposed to political parties formed quite some time ago, which were provided with offices and do not have to cover related costs.

Pursuant to the Draft Law, political parties that have received votes of more than two percent of total voters shall receive public funding. The Draft Law drastically lowered the donation limits to parties, which means

donations received from one legal entity per year shall not exceed some MNT 27 million while it is MNT 6 million from one individual.

The Draft Law has articles which deal with the grounds and procedure for considering a party inactive, and with deregistration, reorganization, termination and dissolution of political parties respectively. According to Head of the Office of the President of Mongolia Ya. Sodbaatar, the General Elections Committee shall consider a party inactive in the following situations: if a party has not contested the State Great Khural Election for two

consecutive terms (corresponding to eight years); if a party has failed to submit its financial statements to the GEC for two consecutive years; or if a party has failed to convene meetings of its highest governing body or central representative body for five years. As a consequence, public funding for the party shall be terminated and the inactive party cannot have candidates in elections and those candidates can only run independently and if the inactivity lasts for two years, this constitutes a ground for dissolution.

Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar met with representatives of lawyers and scholars on April 18 to discuss the revised Draft Law on Political Parties and amendments to the Draft Law on Elections of the State Great Khural of Mongolia and.

At the beginning of the meeting, Speaker of the Parliament G. Zandanshatar emphasized the importance of the amendments to the Law on Elections of the State Great Khural and the Law on Political Parties to animate the 2019 amendments to the Constitution of Mongolia and implement legal reforms. Working groups designated to prepare draft laws for parliamentary discussion will be set up this week and persons concerned are invited to take part.

Legislative reform is expected to be made by changing the "Money" election, strengthening the internal democracy of parties, and making the financing of political parties transparent. In his speech, the Speaker stressed that the Law on Elections of the State Great Khural and the Law on Political Parties were inseparably linked and it was necessary to listen to the opinions of academics and lawyers in order to reflect all processes in

**Continued on page 3**

## Ulaanbaatar Prepares for East Asian Youth Games

"Ulaanbaatar 2023" East Asian Youth Games will be organized from August 16 to August 23. Currently, out of the nine countries in East Asia, Mongolia, South Korea, Japan, Macao, and Taiwan have stated their commitment to participate in the Youth Games. Over one thousand athletes and 430 guests are expected to visit Mongolia.

At the Capital City Governor's Council Meeting, Z. Tumurtumuu, the Deputy Governor in charge of social issues, green development, and air and environmental pollution, presented the preparatory works for the upcoming Games. The organizing committee has signed



cooperation agreements with eight out of the nine facilities to host the tournaments.

For the safety of all athletes, each competition will be staffed by a medical team to provide first aid. Community doctors will be also on hand to provide medical care to spectators, and an emergency medical team will be stationed outside each facility to be ready for any medical emergency.

In compliance with the Anti-Doping Rule, 200-250 athletes' samples will be collected, with 106 observers monitoring the process. The selection process is underway from 2650 domestic volunteers and 157 foreign volunteers who have submitted their candidature. The organizing committee emphasized that the East Asian Youth Games is a widely recognized continental

multi-sport event, and since the participants are all under 18 years of age, ensuring their safety is of utmost importance and requires special attention.

The Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar D. Sumiyabazar stressed the importance of paying exigent attention to organizing the Games successfully as the Games would present the entire country and serve as a strong impetus to attract tourists to our country, promoting Mongolia abroad.

The Opening Ceremony of the East Asian Youth Games will be held at the National Sports Stadium, while the Closing Ceremony will take place at Sukhbaatar Square, Ulaanbaatar,

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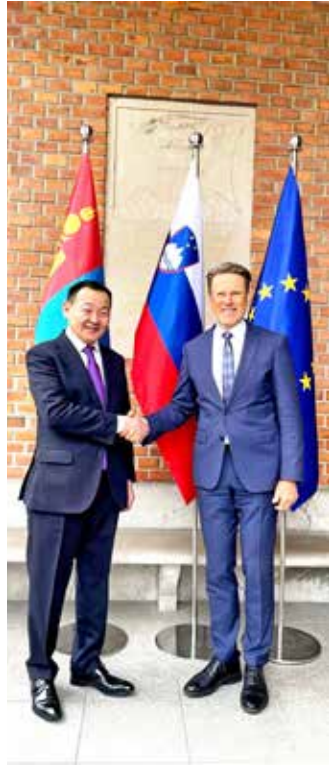
Bloomberg commodity price 2023/04/20		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,012.90
COPPER	USD/lb.	403.20
SILVER	USD/t oz.	25.74
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	81.77
WHEAT	USD/bu	683.75



# Political Consultative Meetings Held with Four Countries

## Political Consultative Meeting with Slovenia

The first Political Consultative Meeting between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia was held on April 14 in Ljubljana.



State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia N. Ankhbayer and State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia Samuel Zbogar co-chaired the political consultation meeting and signed a "Memorandum on Establishing a Political Consultative Mechanism between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs."

At the Consultative Meeting, the parties emphasized that Mongolian-Slovenian relations have developed grounding on common values of democracy, human rights, and freedom, and discussed the present state of cooperation between the two countries, and issues of cooperation in politics, economy, trade, forest management, tourism, education, as well as aspects of international and regional relations.

Secretary of State N. Ankhbayer asked State Secretary S. Zbogar to pass over the invitation to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia Tanja Fajon to participate in the "Women Foreign Ministers' Meeting" to be held in Ulaanbaatar this June. The parties also exchanged views on establishing an "Air Services Agreement" between the Governments, regula-

rizing "Business Meetings" between respective private sectors, and cooperating in the implementation of the "Years to Visit Mongolia" and "One Billion Trees" National Campaigns.

Mongolia established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Slovenia on February 18, 1993, and this year marks the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

## Political Consultative Meeting with Uruguay

The first Political Consultative Meeting between the Foreign Ministries of Mongolia and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay was held on April 14, 2023 online. The meeting was co-chaired by Vice Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Mongolia G. Amartuvshin on the Mongolian side, and Vice Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Uruguay Nicolas Albertoni on the Uruguayan side.



While highlighting the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which was marked in 2022, the sides expressed their delights that the relations and cooperation between the two countries have been active in recent years.

Moreover, the sides reciprocated commitments to expand and develop cooperation in all possible areas, such as trade, economy, tourism, education, sport, and culture. Specifically, the Mongolian side noted its intention to develop relations with Uruguay in animal husbandry as a priority sector and learn their experience on the animal registration system.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been established between the capital cities of the

two countries, unveiling many opportunities for the cities, which are social, economic, and cultural centers of both countries, to cooperate.

Dundgobi aimag is striving to create its own tourism brands, identifying the aimag's strongest and most competitively appealing features.

## Political Consultative Meeting with Croatia

The Political Consultative Meeting between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia was held on April 17 in Zagreb.

The meeting was co-chaired by State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia N. Ankhbayer on the Mongolian side, and Frano Matušić, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, and



Fuchs and exchanged views on relations and cooperation of the two countries in the science and education sector. On the sideline of the meeting, the sides signed a "Memorandum of Understanding to Cooperate in the Education sector." The MoU will enable Mongolian students to study in Croatia with scholarships. Currently, five Mongolian students are studying in Croatia.

Then, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia N. Ankhbayer met with Luka Burilović, the President of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, and talked about economic cooperation, boosting the existing ties between businesses of the two countries and organizing a joint business meeting. The next meeting was held with officials of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport, and Infrastructure of Croatia and the Mongolian side put forth a request to sign an "Intergovernmental Agreement on the International Transport of Passengers and Goods by Road" in near future.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Republic of Croatia.



## Political Consultative Meeting with Mexico

The First Political Consultative Meeting of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United States of Mexico was held online on April 19.

Director of the Department of Americas, Middle East and Pacific A. Anand from the Mongolian side and Director of the Department of Asia and Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico Fernando Gonzales from the Mexican side led respective representatives. The sides reciprocally notified their determination to develop Mongolian-Mexican cooperation in all spheres of mutual interest, expand trade, economic, investment, tourism, education, culture, sport relations, and increase the ties between citizens.

They emphasized that cooperation between the supreme legislative bodies of the two countries are of importance in developing Mongolian-Mexican relations, and expressed their readiness to organize the first meeting of members of the friendship group.

## Ambassador D. Ganbold Presents His Letter of Credence to the Druk Gyalpo of Bhutan

*Non-resident Ambassador of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Bhutan presented his Letter of Credence to the Druk Gyalpo of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck on April 14, 2023.*

The Ambassador conveyed the warm greetings of President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh while expressing his commitment to strengthening friendly relations between the two countries and

further developing cooperation in the tourism and agriculture sector.

While underscoring the significance of further expanding the relations and cooperation between the two countries, the Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck congratulated Ambassador D. Ganbold on his assignment and pledged his all-around support for his future endeavors.

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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  
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## WEATHER

Sunrise: 05:52 Sunset: 19:50

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -8 C and -3 C. Day time temps between +2 C and +10 C  
■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -10 C and -3 C. Day time temps between +5 C and +9 C  
■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -7 C and +5 C. Day time temps between +8 C and +16 C  
■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -5 C and +3 C. Day time temps between +12 C and +15 C



## President of Poland to Visit Mongolia



President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Sebastian Duda and his spouse Agata Kornhauser-Duda will pay a state visit to Mongolia at the invitation of President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh and his spouse Luvsandorjiin Bolortsetseg on April 24-26.

In the course of the visit, Mongolian President U. Khurelsukh and Polish President A. Duda will hold official talks and discuss broad issues related to traditional friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, as well as some issues of international affairs. During the talks, cooperation possibilities with Poland in the implementation of Mongolia's long-term development policy "Vision 2050" and mid-term "New Revival Policy," and the Programs "Food Supply and Safety" and "President's Scholar-2100" and National Movement "Billion Trees" will be discussed.

In addition, the parties will exchange views on expanding and developing relations in the fields of agriculture, light industry, infrastructure, education, and culture.

It is planned to sign an Inter-governmental Agreement on International Road Transport Relations, as well as cooperation documents in the fields of trade, investment, science, archives, geology, and veterinary service.

A. Duda was elected as the President of the Republic of Poland in 2015 and re-elected in 2020. The latest presidential visit from the Republic of Poland to Mongolia since 1990 was the visit of President Bronislaw Komorowski in 2013.

## Deputy Prime Minister Ch. Khurelbaatar Participates in the Financing for Development Forum



*The Economic and Social Council of the UN held its annual Financing for Development Forum with a high-level meeting of top global finance officials intent on working collaboratively to help debt-burdened developing countries overcome poverty, climate risks, and other challenges to their sustainable development between April 17 and 20 in New York City.*

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and

Development of Mongolia Ch. Khurelbaatar took part in the Forum and delivered a speech during the General Discussion on April 17.

Highlighting the significance of the Forum's focus on Financing for Development at this very time when all countries are targeting their commitments to the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Economy and Development presented some measures that

have been taken to ensure its implementation at the national level. One of these measures is the "New Revival Policy" which is aimed to support economic recovery and tackle issues hindering the development process. Moreover, drawing on national examples and experiences in developing the public-private partnership, he said, "Working toward developing Integrated National Financing Frameworks will accelerate the process to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and national development priority goals."

The Deputy Prime Minister mentioned that development financing is a complex process that requires multilateral partnership and cooperation from all sides, including the government, private sector, international organizations, and civil society, and expressed his confidence that this Forum would contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as developing and strengthening the sustainable economy that is resilient and ensures participation of all parties.

## Revised Draft Law on Political Parties under Discussion

Continued from page 1

detail to avoid making the laws declarative.

On January 6, 2022, President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh appointed a working group to develop a revised Draft Law on Political Parties, consisting of representatives of parliamentary parties and other parties, academics, and government organizations, paying attention to the legal reform of political parties. The working group held 14 discussions, meetings, and interviews with representatives of parliamentary parties and other parties, academics, and government organizations during the process of drafting the law, and received opinions from 35 political parties registered in the Supreme Court. The draft reflected the main five regulations:

- Improving the responsibility of political parties,
- Development of a political party as a policy institution,
- Ensuring the transparency of party financing and improving

control,

- Ensuring equal participation of party members,
- Development of internal democracy of political parties.

The participants of the meeting expressed their position regarding the concept of the draft law. For example, Member of the People's Great Khural, Honored Economist of Mongolia T. Ochirkhuu, and Constitutional Researcher D. Lamjav said: "It is correct to regulate the strict membership of political parties. The General Election Commission should have an independent structure to review any political disputes."

Honored Scientist of Mongolia, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Jurisprudence, Professor N. Lundendorj, pointed out that major reforms were to be made within the law on political parties, and said that to prevent it from becoming a declaratory law, detailed regulations of the processes should be included. Lawyer B. Gunbileg noted that if the draft law did not clearly reflect the issues that may or may

not be specified in the rules of political parties, there may be a risk of violation of the state power granted by the Constitution.

Academician S. Narangerel expressed his opinion on the need to make certain arrangements for capacity building of human resources and strengthening internal democracy, as the main goal of political parties is to have candidates capable of representing the people. Honored Lawyer of Mongolia, Doctor of Law, Professor N. Jantsan, and Honored Cultural Figure of Mongolia, Diplomat T. Gombosuren expressed their support for the draft law and said, "It should become a law to eliminate the instability of political parties. The main focus should be put on ensuring the transparency of financing of political parties and improving control."

After the approval of 1990 Constitution the Law on Political Parties was adopted, legalizing multiparty system and the Law was revised in 2005. The Draft Law states that the Law will enter into force in 2024.

### CABINET SESSION



*At its session on April 19, the Cabinet made the following decisions:*

**Members of the Government and Governors at all levels were tasked to fulfill the requirements and recommendations issued by the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia**

Minister of Mongolia and Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia D. Amarbayasgalan gave a presentation to the members of the Government on the meeting of the Prime Minister of Mongolia with representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights. In this respect, the following decision was made:

In line with the vision to comprehensively develop a humane and civil democratic society as stipulated in the Constitution of Mongolia, Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia D. Amarbayasgalan, Minister of Justice and Home Affairs Kh. Nyambaatar, and Minister of Labor and Social Security Kh. Bulgantuya were assigned to develop the draft concept of the partnership between the state and the civil society and submit it to the Cabinet Session.

Chief Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission J. Khunan was tasked to take measures to approve "II National Program for Ensuring Human Rights in Mongolia" and the members of the Government were assigned to support his activities.

The Government members and Governors at all levels were instructed to fulfill the requirements and recommendations issued by the Commission.

#### Brief news

- The Government nominated

Jambaldorj Tana to be appointed as a member of the Mongolian side of the Board of Directors of Oyu Tolgoi LLC.

- 77.7 hectares of land were taken for the "Mongolian Steel Complex" project to be implemented on the territories of Darkhan and Khongor soums of Darkhan-Uul aimag for the implementation of nationwide large-scale construction and infrastructure projects and programs for the state's special needs, and border crossing point coordinates were approved.

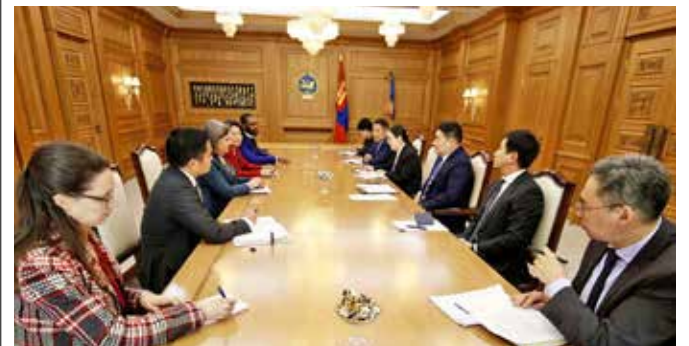
- The Minister of Environment and Tourism was assigned to approve and ensure the implementation of the "Agreement between the Government of Mongolia and the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Mitigating Climate Change" signed in Seoul, South Korea on February 15, 2023.

- The organizational structure of the Border Port Administration and the upper limit of the number of employees were newly approved. The upper limit of the number of employees has been set at 52.

- Outcomes of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Commission of Mongolia and Austria on Economic Cooperation held in Vienna on March 21, 2023, were discussed upon and praised. Minister of Digital Development and Communications, Head of the Mongolian Section of the Commission N. Uchral was assigned to approve the plan of works to implement, in line with the Session decisions, and supervise implementation.

- The 75th anniversary of the end of the armed conflict on the western border of Mongolia in 1948 will be held on June 8 of this year in Bulgan Soum of Khovd aimag to commemorate the merits of the veterans and promote the role played by the aimags and soums in ending the conflict.

## Prime Minister Meets US Under Secretary of State



*On April 19, Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene received Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States of America Victoria Nuland.*

Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene stressed that the Government of Mongolia attaches high significance to its relations with the USA as an important third neighbor, and expressed Mongolia's interest to consolidate the Strategic Partnership further based on common democratic values, to expand and develop mutually beneficial cooperation, particularly, to increase trade

and investment, and cooperate in the fields of creative cultural production and digital transformation.

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland spoke that the USA is proud of being an important third neighbor of Mongolia, and the US prioritized consolidating the partnership relations grounded on democratic values, which cherish human rights and freedoms, and further expand cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, investment, and anti-corruption.



## British Trade Envoy Visits Steppe Metal Powder



Mr. Philip Malone, Ambassador of the United Kingdom

of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Mongolia, Mr. Daniel Kawczynski, UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy and MP, and Mr. Elbegsaikhan Ayush, Head of Mining and Infrastructure at the UK Embassy visited Steppe Metal Powder on April 10, 2023.

During the meeting, the guests and the company executives discussed how British and Mongolian companies worked together to complete the plant project and exchanged views on further collaboration opportunities.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Daniel Kawczynski and Ambassador Philip Malone wished success to the plant team.

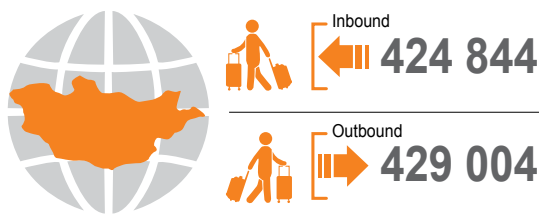
Steppe Metal Powder is an export-oriented production plant, which has a wide network of suppliers, customers, and partners in Europe and Asia. Having introduced the most advanced British and German technologies and equipment, the plant has a production capacity of up to 3000 metric tons of metal powder per year.



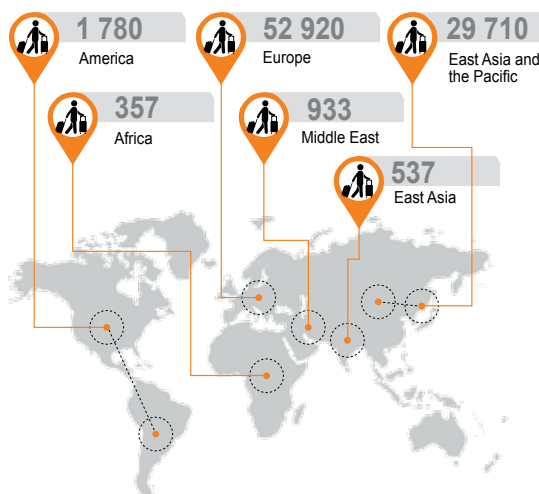
# Social and Economic Situation of Mongolia (as of the first quarter of 2023)

### TOURISM, in the first quarter of 2023

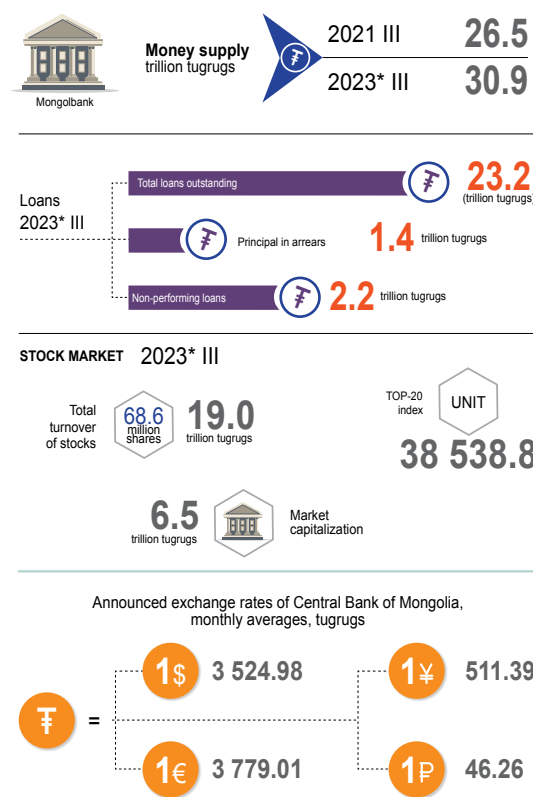
#### INBOUND AND OUTBOUND PASSENGERS\*



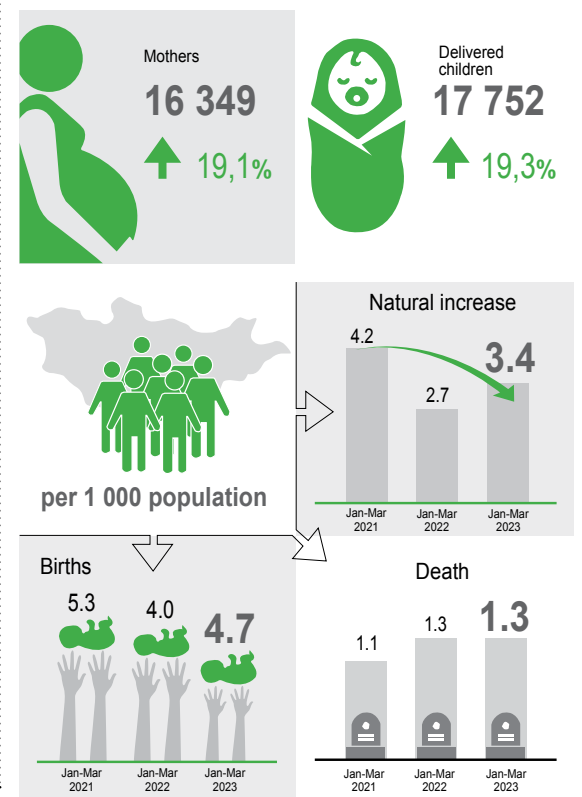
#### Number of inbound foreign passengers, by region



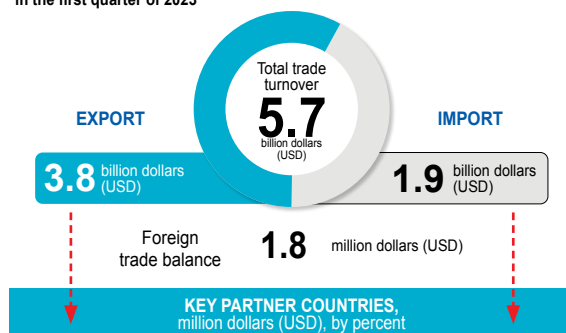
### MONEY, LOANS AND STOCK MARKET, at the end of March 2023



### POPULATION, in the first quarter of 2023



### FOREIGN TRADE, in the first quarter of 2023



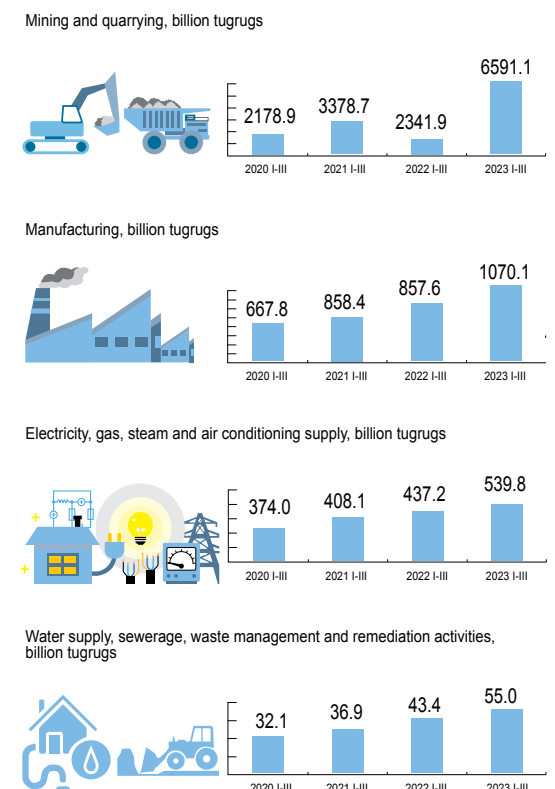
China	3 481.8	92.5%	746.3	38.5%	China
Switzerland	131.6	3.5%	517.5	26.7%	Russia
Singapore	54.0	1.4%	151.3	7.8%	Japan
Republic of Korea	34.3	0.9%	89.0	4.6%	Republic of Korea
Russia	21.9	0.6%	61.7	3.2%	USA
Others	40.4	1.1%	45.8	2.4%	Germany
			328.0	16.9%	Others

### TRANSPORT, in the first quarter of selected year

Air transport		Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023*
Passengers, thousand persons (double counting)		130.5	318.4
Carried freight, tonnes		2 720.3	2 201.3
Transport revenue, billion tugrugs		56 868.4	207 786.9
Railway transport		Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023*
Passengers, thousand persons (double counting)		344.0	490.8
Carried freight, tons		6 258.7	8 123.2
Revenue, billion tugrugs		145 052.0	248 073.0
Auto road		Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023*
Passengers, thousand persons (double counting)		39 645.6	30 510.1
Carried freight, tons		3 416.8	13 895.8
Revenue, billion tugrugs		99 860.0	249 444.3

@\*Preliminary results

### GROSS INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT, in the first quarter of 2023\*





# President Visits National Factories



*Under the "Food Revolution" National Program, President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh has made several visits to national factories to check how the planned financial inducements and goals set around the National Program have been translated into reality.*

With the "Food Revolution," we are aiming to fully meet our domestic needs of 19 staple food products, enabling domestic producers in the next five years, create an animal disease-free zone and further become a food exporting country. To that extent, specific financial inducements have been proposed. For example, long-term concessional loans up to MNT 1 trillion with an interest rate of 3-5 percent for national producers, 90 percent of income tax reduction for enterprises with annual sales of less than MNT 1.5 billion, and 100 percent customs duty exemption for new equipment for

processing food and agricultural raw materials until 2027. The customs duty-exempted equipment includes all types of equipment for processing skin and hide, wool and cashmere, milk, and meat, and producing beverages, flour, baked goods, packages, and packaging supplies, furniture, and woodenwares.

On April 13 and 14, the President visited "Eden" LLC, "Cheese Republic Mongolia" LLC, "Mon Label" LLC, and "Khanbogd Cashmere" LLC as his next visits.

"Eden" LLC produces about 20 types of fruit juice and jam. The company has the capacity to produce 20,000-25,000 pcs of products a day, and has over 300 suppliers in Uvs, Zavkhan, Khuvsgul, Bulgan, Selenge, Tuv, Khentii, and Khovd aimags and 80 employees. In the future, the company is planning to expand the production capacity by introducing a new product line, and building deep-freeze storage and

finished goods warehouse with an area of 648 m<sup>2</sup> and 837 m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. Moreover, as a contribution to the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, they are working to establish a fruit farm in Mongolia. Ts. Khurelbaatar, the Executive Director of "Eden" LLC, said, "We are enjoying the state's support in means of long-term and low-interest loans, and tax incentives under the Food Revolution, which enable us to run business for long-term, and further expand the business."

The President met with cheese producers during his visit to "Cheese Republic Mongolia" LLC. According to the statistics, Mongolia produces 150-160 tons of cheese domestically, while importing 3000 tons per year. The cheese producers are determined to achieve their goals to improve production technology and product quality to meet international standards and their competitive advantages by leveraging on the above-mentioned financial

inducements. Therefore, they have high hopes for not only fully meeting the domestic needs of cheese but also exporting Mongolian specialty cheese with all-round support from the Government in near future.

Established in 2004, the "Mon Label" LLC manufactures tags, labels, and packaging supplies designed for food, beverage, cosmetics, and other household products. The company received the "International Quality Crown Award," the first ever in Mongolia, in 2011 and introduced ISO 9001:2015 International Quality Standard in 2019. N. Batmunkh, the Director of Mon Label LLC said, "With the concessional loan under the Food Revolution, we

are planning to build raw material processing plant."

"Khanbogd Cashmere" LLC, which is one of the national leading cashmere exporters, has over 500 employees and a 7000 square meter factory with a capacity to process over 1500 tons of cashmere and produce 200,000 pcs of knitted and 150,000 pcs of braided cashmere products per year. The company became the first company to receive a de-haired cashmere traceability certificate from the Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA). Next, they are planning to build two more factories, projecting the chances to create almost 4000 jobs and earn USD 600 million.



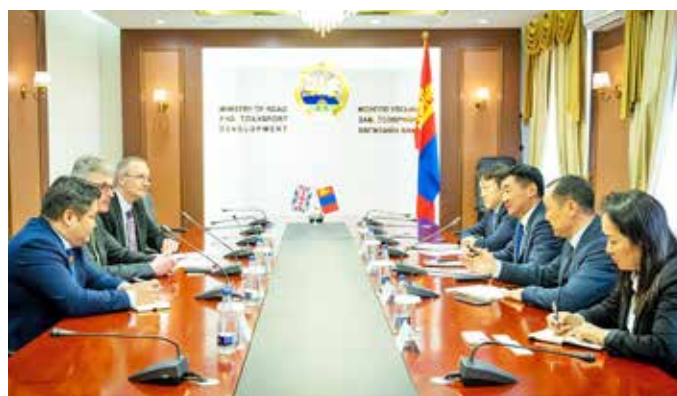
## Direct Flights to UK Discussed

*As part of the liberalization of air transport, the Government has been working toward launching direct flights to the main air transport regions of the world in 2023-2024 and plans to conclude air service agreements with ten countries.*

Minister of Road and Transport Development S. Byambatsogt met with the British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Mongolia Daniel Kawczynski and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Mongolia Philip Malone on April 13 and exchanged views on development in the fields of air transport, railways and roads, and expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

Minister S. Byambatsogt expressed his gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for paying special attention to its economic cooperation with Mongolia and sending the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to increase trade turnover between the countries and voiced his desire to expand the cooperation in the future.

The Minister said, "The trans-



port sector plays an important role in Mongolia's relations with third countries. Therefore, we plan to establish more air service agreements to increase the number of direct flights. We envision it possible to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement on Air Services between our two countries during the International Transport Forum in Leipzig, Germany, on May 24-26" and he asked to convey the proposal and support it.

In view of the traffic congestion in the capital city, the Government plans to implement the "Tuul Highway" project, reflecting it in the "New Revival Policy." The road and road faci-

lities along the banks of the Tuul River, as well as the road facilities to connect this road to the Ulaanbaatar-Khushig Valley Airport Expressway, will be built under this plan. Briefing about the "Tuul Highway" project and the "New Kharkhorum" project, which started by decree of President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh with a goal to rebuild the capital city of the Mongolian Empire Minister Byambatsogt expressed Mongolia's interest to cooperate with Germany in developing the feasibility study and designing of a high-speed railway connecting Kharkhorum city with the capital city.

The Ministry of Road and

Transport Development informed that the British side had agreed to expand cooperation in trade, economy, and transport sectors and to cooperate in major infrastructure projects.

Mongolia has experience in introducing British advanced technology and know-how in the railway sector. Specifically, products of "Pandrol," a manufacturer of rail fastenings of reinforced concrete sleepers, and "RM&S," a manufacturer of concrete sleepers, were used in a newly built railway in Mongolia. The fastening technology is suitable for the extreme climate of Mongolia and meets the quality requirements. Given that concrete sleepers and fastenings will be required for the projects to construct western and eastern vertical railways and to renovate existing railways, the Mongolian side put forward cooperation proposals.

The Government of Mongolia and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have been working to expand air transport links since 1997.

1. Aeronautical Authorities of the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 1997. In the Memorandum the two parties agreed that the airlines designated by the Mongolian side may operate up to two flights per week in each direction and to grant Mongolia

the fifth freedom traffic right on Moscow and Berlin route as well as to designate MIAT, Mongolian National Flag Carrier to operate on Ulaanbaatar-London route. However, MIAT has not operated flights to London due to the shortage of flight fleets and lack of passenger traffic to the European Market.

2. The Government of Mongolia and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed an Agreement on Air Services in 2000, agreeing to allow the designated airlines of the two countries to operate flights between Ulaanbaatar and London.

3. During the Air Consultation Meeting between Aeronautical Authorities held in Ulaanbaatar in 2009, both parties agreed to specify Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich as destination points in Germany and granted fifth freedom traffic right to a designated airline of Mongolia to/from London, Paris, Prague and intermediate points of Moscow, Prague.

4. Aeronautical Authorities of the two countries met in London in 2012 and the UK delegation confirmed that the designated airlines of Mongolia may operate Ulaanbaatar-Moscow/Berlin-London with fifth freedom traffic right and agreed on a code-sharing arrangement at the 2013 Air Consultation Meeting.



# "Erdenesiin Khuree" Mongolian Calligraphy Art Center



calligraphy and other art forms, such as painting, ceramics, and felting.

The center successfully orga-

nized calligraphy training as art therapy for disabled people and children from orphanages in Kharkhorin City in 2021. The

first session of the "Art Therapy" was attended by disabled people and children from the "Solongo" children protection center and an exhibition of the works during the art therapy was displayed for the public. The Art Therapy-Calligraphy training takes place twice a year: in the fall and spring.

"Erdenesiin Khuree" Center also implements an "Art Residency" program, inviting international artists to Mongolia and providing opportunities to artists of different artistic disciplines to learn, experience, and exchange ideas. Within the program, they have organized joint exhibitions with Fuchs Karahovich, a Czech artist and calligraphist, and Agnes Dubart, a French engraver.



Master calligraphist P. Samandbadraa Purev, whose art name is Tamir, founded the "Erdenesiin Khuree" Center in 2018 with aims to preserve and promote Mongolian calligraphy, registered by UNESCO in 2023 on the List of Intangible World Heritage.

A few days ago, the CNN highlighted the "Erdenesiin Khuree" center in their "Why 2023 is the year to visit Mongolia" article. In this article, it says "Speaking of giving life to Mongolia's most ancient traditions, the resurrection of Mongol bichig or the traditional Mon-

golian script written from top to bottom and read from left to right, has also seen a major resurgence in recent years."

The Center was founded with the support of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the French Embassy in Mongolia, and the French Alliance in Ulaanbaatar.

Located 600 metre south of Erdene Zuu Monastery in Kharkhorin, the former capital of the Mongol Empire, the Center offers various activities and training for everyone who enjoys

## "Enjoy Daurian Rhododendron" Event



Khuvsugul aimag declared this year the "Year to Visit Khuvsugul." The aimag, which is famous for its beautiful wild nature and crystal clear Khuvsugul Lake, has planned numerous tourism events throughout the

year. One of them is the "Enjoy Daurian Rhododendron" event, which is scheduled for the beginning of May in Erdenebulgan soum, Khuvsugul aimag.

Daurian Rhododendron is an evergreen shrub common

in Asia and Altai Mountains and burst forth with beautiful blooms in the early spring, especially in April and May. The shrub is not only beautiful but also has healing powers. The medicinal properties of rhododendron have been known for a long time. It is deemed to have healing properties to treat heat-related headaches as well as sore throats and nausea. In the nervous system, rhododendron's detoxifying properties support relaxation and centering.

Sitting among the beautiful Daurians and enjoying their emotionally grounding and settling effects will boost your immune system and help you relax. It is also known to quiet mental activity, which is a valuable tool in meditation practice.

## "Celestial Eunoia" Stargazing Event to be Held in June

*The Government of Mongolia declared 2023 and 2024 the "Years to Visit Mongolia" to promote the tourism sector. Under this National Campaign, all aimags have been hosting their special local tourism events since the beginning of this year.*

most-awaited events in the great Gobi is the "CELESTIAL EUNOIA" Cultural Stargazing Event in Dornogobi. This exclusive ecotourism event aims at delivering visitors authentic cultural experiences, ranging from stargazing, to capturing the



Dundgobi aimag is striving to create its own tourism brands, identifying the aimag's strongest and most competitively appealing features in the eyes of its prospective tourists. Thus, the aimag organized Tourism Forum last year and determined their policy and goals to support the tourism sector. To that extent, they have established a Tourist Information Center to provide tourists with information on the aimag's attractions, lodgings, maps, and other items relevant to tourism and a "Made in Dundgobi" shop where visitors can buy local products. In addition, a mobile application for visitors is under development.

Here, we are featuring two major events scheduled for this Summer and Autumn in Dundgobi aimag.

One of the high-rated and

essence of the sunrises on the White Stupa cliff and visiting the museums and galleries of historical and cultural artifacts. Last year, visitors had a chance to witness the rare alignment of five planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. The "Celestial EUNOIA-2023" is scheduled on June 24-25 in Gobi Caravan-serai Lodge this year.

"The Sun over the Placid World" music festival has been organized in Dundgobi aimag since 2019. Around 3000 horse-head fiddle players and long song singers, and over ten thousand visitors gathered and appreciated the pristine wilderness and iconic natural formations of the great Gobi Desert and different forms of arts during the festival in 2019. This year, the festival is scheduled between August 10 and 11.

## International Day for Monuments and Sites

The International Day for Monuments and Sites is observed on April 18 all around the world every year. The goal is to raise awareness of cultural heritage diversity, the vulnerability of sites and monuments, and the measures needed to maintain and conserve them.

Every year, the International Council of Monuments and Sites sets a theme for initiatives organized by its members, national and international committees, and anyone else interested in commemorating this day. This year's theme was HERITAGE CHANGES.

There are 9537 sites and 86157 cultural and historical monuments which belong to different period of history registered in Mongolia. Monuments in Ulaanbaatar fairly accurately characterize one or another era in the history of Mongolia. According to the last census, there are around 170 monuments in Ulaanbaatar.





# Mongolian Teachers Taking Part in APTE

*Asia-Pacific Teacher Exchange for Global Education (APTE) is a bilateral teacher exchange program between the Republic of Korea and Asia-Pacific partner countries, hosted by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea and implemented by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education. The Program is held under the auspices of UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministries of Education of the Participating Countries as local partners.*

In 2023, six teachers from Mongolia and four teachers from South Korea are taking part in APTE.

Initiated in 2012 with two partners, Mongolia and the Philippines, this Program has expanded in the past decade, being implemented in seven Asia Pacific countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Thailand. During the Program, the teachers are dispatched to local schools in the partner country for three to four months,



giving classes and participating in various educational activities.

The objectives of these exchanges and local activities are to stimulate global educational competencies for not only the exchange teachers but also the fellow teachers and students at the host schools, to enhance understanding and cooperation

between the countries, to share educational experiences, and to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

APTE pursues three main goals. Specifically, 1) to promote multicultural understanding and global communication skills through education exchange, 2) to support teachers' competencies

by providing exchange teachers a variety of opportunities such as training, workshop, education activities in local schools and communities, mutual exchanges, and implementation of projects to enhance their teaching competencies, 3) to build a model of international cooperation with expertise in education.



## Mongolian Students Win "Best New Team" Award at International Law Competition

The team of the National University of Mongolia (NUM) competed in the prestigious Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, which was held in Washington DC, USA on April 9-15, 2023. This competition is renowned for the oldest and largest international moot competition, drawing participants from over 700 law schools in more than 90 countries.

The team Mongolia won the "Best New Team" Award in re-

cognition of their outstanding performance and commendable efforts.

The team was composed of five students, all majoring in International Law, namely B. Ariunzaya, O. Namuunbayar, S. Bilegt-Ochir, G. Margad, and B. Lkhagvajargal. They were guided and coached by M. Uyanga, Ph.D., Associate Professor, and Scientific Secretary of the School of Law of the NUM.

## Mongolian Students to Study in Czech with Scholarship

*Under the "President's Scholar-2100" Scholarship Program initiated by President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, every year up to 60 students will study at universities of the Czech Republic in the fields of technology, agriculture, biotechnology, and cyber security.*

On April 17, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic has

been signed by Deputy Ministers G. Ganbayar and Jaroslav Miller, who is on a visit to Mongolia.

"Signing the Memorandum of Understanding is of momentous significance to successfully implement the "President's Scholar-2100" and increase the number of students in Europe. The cooperation plays an important role not only in educating students but also fostering traditional relations between the two countries," emphasized Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia E. Odbayar.

In addition, as part of the



Scholarship Program, scholarship cooperation with universities of the Federal Republic of Germany,

the Republic of France, the Republic of Austria, and Australia have been developing.

## On-Site Kindergarten Makes Employees' Time More Efficient



For the 2022-2023 school year, there are a total of 1,413 kindergartens operating across the country, and 86.5 percent of children aged from two to five are currently receiving preschool education services.

One approach to improve the accessibility of kindergartens is to set up on-site kindergartens for the children of companies' employees. Setting up on-site kindergartens, allows organizations to ensure employee retention, boost productivity, and undertake their social responsibility. Moreover, on-site kindergartens can improve work-life balance, increase job satisfaction and loyalty, and reduce absenteeism, making employees' time more efficient.

The Ministry of Education and Science has reported that in this academic year, 28 organizations and enterprises established kindergartens, and approximately 2,500 children enrolled in these kindergartens.

For instance, the Gobi Corporation has set up the "Gobi Kids" kindergarten with a capacity of 120 children. The Mongolia-Japan Teaching Hospital also operates a kindergarten that accommodates 160 children. Intermed Hospital has established the "Enkhriikhen Urs" kindergarten, which serves 80 children. Additionally, the "Allergy Med" Hospital has a kindergarten, which is accommodating 25 children now.

### The lawyer's advice



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

The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) is a political foundation 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.

**-Who determines border lines of aimags, soums, the capital city and territorial boundaries of bags and districts?**

-State Ikh Khural shall adopt borders of aimags, soums, the capital city and districts based on the proposal of Governors. Territorial boundaries of bags and districts shall be determined by the citizens' Representative Meeting based on the proposal of Governors of aimags and the capital city.

Assigned names of bags shall be defined by the aimags' Representative Meetings based on permission received from the Government. The law provides that assigned names of the administrative units and geographical names, names of streets, roads and squares of Mongolia shall be named in the state official language.

**-How do governors communicate with citizens, enterprises and organizations?**

-Governors himself or through authorized bodies oblige economic entities and organizations in the respective territory to comply with laws and regulations, and may check the implementation thereof. Governors may conclude public law contracts with economic entities and organizations in order to enforce laws.

**-How are decisions citizens' Representative Meetings and Governors implemented?**

-Decisions of citizens' Representative Meetings and Governors rendered within their competence are in force in the respective territory, and the relevant organizations, economic entities, officials and citizens shall implement them. Law provides that damage caused due to failure to implement the decisions of Meeting and governors rendered within their competence shall be recovered by the faulty person in full.

**-What do "digital signature" and "electronic signature" refer to?**

-Law on Electronic signature has been adopted in 2021 and has been in force since May 1, 2022. This Law determines a use of an electronic signature in an electronic environment and requirements for citizens and organizations. According to the law the "electronic signature" refers to an electronic data attached or included to information which purpose is to determine a person signed in an electronic data/information and used an electronic seal/stamp, and "digital signature" refers to an electronic signature that meets law requirements.

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





# Enchanting World of Japanese Dolls in Mongolia



*On April 19, the Fine Arts Zana-bazar Museum opened a captivating exhibition, providing visitors with an exceptional opportunity to explore the exquisite world of Japanese dolls.*

This magnificent Exhibition is being displayed under the theme of "Ningyō: Art and Beauty of Japanese Dolls" and is being co-organized by the Japan Foundation and the Embassy of Japan in Mongolia.

Since August 2020, this Exhibition



has been touring through 28 countries, showcasing the rich culture of Japan and the charm of its dolls, which are crafted from humble materials and made of various elegant shapes.

The Exhibition presents a comprehensive introduction to Japanese doll culture, from the Katashiro and Amagatsu dolls, which are considered the archetypes of dolls in Japan, to local dolls that reflect the climate and anecdotes across Japan, as well as dress-up dolls that are beloved in



Japan today as doll toys.

Under the title Ningyō, which means "human shape" in Japanese, the doll culture that has been cultivated over the long history of Japan is presented through a total of the best 67 dolls, dividing into four sections: "Ningyō to pray for children's growth," "Ningyō as fine art," "Ningyō as folk art," and "Spread of Ningyō culture."

The Exhibition is open from 9 am to 6 pm every day until May 9, 2023.



## Mongolia Rounds off Asian Wrestling Championships with Impressive Medal Haul

*The 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on April 9 to April 14, 2023.*

Mongolia finished the Championship with an impressive medal haul, including one gold, three silver, and five bronze medals. Thanks to one gold, one silver, and three bronze medals, Mongolia's Men's Freestyle Team secured fourth place with a score of 120. Meanwhile, Mongolia's Women's Team earned sixth place

with a score of 117.

On the penultimate day of the Championships, Tulga Tumurochir (Mongolia) clinched a silver medal in the men's 65 kg category. He qualified for the final bout defeating wrestlers from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. T. Tulga dominated the first quarter of the final bout against Rahman Amouzad Khalili (Iran), earning a one-point lead through a penalty, but Rahman's strong defense in the second quarter allowed him to fend off T. Tulga's

attacks and secure a narrow victory. Rahman has won his second consecutive gold medal in the Asian Championships.

Mongolia's Medal Winners-Gold: Lkhagvagerel Munkhtur – 125 kg; Silver: Tulga Tumurochir – 65 kg; Orkhon Purewdorj – 62 kg; Otgontuya Chinbol – 55 kg; Bronze: Gankhuyag Ganbaatar – 92kg; Suldkhuu Olonbayar – 74 kg; Davaanasan Enkh-Amar – 72 kg; Tuwshintulga Tumenbileg – 61 kg; Bolortuya Bat-Ochir – 53 kg



Under the "One Billion Tree" National Campaign initiated by President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khureslkh, 42.9 million trees will be planted throughout

the country in 2023.

"Since 2021, Mongolia has planted over 17 million trees," noted B. Bat-Erdene, Minister of Environment and Tourism, during



the briefing on the process of the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign.

In Mongolia, there are 336 tree nurseries, covering an area of 1,750 hectares, with an average area of five hectares per nursery. By the end of 2022, 51.3 million seedlings and saplings had been planted in these nurseries.

Within the scope of the National Campaign, 1,017 teachers were trained in tree planting and care. A "Forestry" program has also been launched by National University of Mongolia, and 52 students have enrolled in the program for the 2022-2023 academic year. Mongolian University of Life Science, in collaboration with the Ministry of

## Over 42 Million Trees to be Planted in 2023

Defense, has organized a comprehensive 40-hour training program, which involved 23,600 citizens on tree planting methods and techniques. Additionally, 120 citizens have received specialized training to become certified tree-planting trainers.

The capital city of Ulaanbaatar has a total land area of 470,444 hectares, of which 116,258 hectares or 24.7 percent are forest resources area. Of this forest resources area, 95,233 hectares or 84.4 percent are forest area, while 17,543 hectares or 15.6 percent are not covered with forest. Out of the Area not covered with the forest, 17,098 hectares need to be afforested. "One Billion Tree" National Campaign aims to in-

crease the forest areas of the capital city from 20.2 percent to 22.9 percent by 2030.

As part of the Strategic and Action Plans for implementing the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign in 2022-2030, a total of 120 million trees will be planted in Ulaanbaatar. The Plan involves planting 20.7 million trees in an area of 12,948 hectares for afforestation and forest restoration, 34.3 million trees in windbreaks areas (3500 hectares), and 65 million trees in urban green spaces (3750 hectares). As a result, green space per person is expected to increase from 5.1 square meters in 2021 to 25 square meters by 2030.