

French President's Historic Visit to Mongolia



President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron paid a State Visit to Mongolia on May 21-22 at the invitation of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.

Though short, the first visit of the Head of State of France to Mongolia since the establishment of diplomatic

relations in 1965 considered particularly significant for the relations between the two countries.

The two Presidents held official talks at the State Palace, where they discussed advancement of the longstanding

friendly relations between the two countries, with the overarching objective of attaining a strategic partnership, and opportunities to increase investment and joint implementation of major development projects.

Concluding the official talks

and discussions fruitful and of high significance in developing and expanding the bilateral relations and cooperation, the Heads of State noted at a press briefing that they had exchanged in-depth views on bilateral relations and cooperation between Mongolia

and France.

H.E. President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa emphasized that under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Mongolia and the European Union, expanding economic cooperation with and increasing investment from France are the two of the main strategic goals of the foreign policy of Mongolia. France is the sixth Western country, which established diplomatic relations with Mongolia, and the second Western country that opened its Embassy in Ulaanbaatar.

"Mongolia considers France as our third neighbor and a close and trusted partner in Europe. Our two countries established diplomatic relations in 1965, but the historical relationship between Mongolia and France dates back to the 13th century. In 1253, Rubruk, a messenger who was appointed by the order of King Louis IX of France, came to Kharkhorum, the capitals of the Mongol Empire to meet the great Khaan. His notes on the travels through the Mongol Empire are famous worldwide. A silver tree made by French artist Wilhelm Bouchied in the royal palace of Kharkhorum city was mentioned in the notes, which proves that the relationship between our two countries has a long history."

"During the meeting and talks, the Heads of State affirmed to jointly implement mutually

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XXIII Asian Physics Olympiad: 29 Teams from 27 Countries

Under the auspices of the President of Mongolia, the 23rd Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO) commenced on May 22 in Ulaanbaatar as a significant event held under the framework of the "Years to Visit Mongolia" initiative.

The inception of the APhO dates back to 2000 when it was initially organized in Indonesia. Following a successful organization in 2008, Mongolia is proud to undertake this responsibility for the second time after 15 years.

During the opening ceremony of the Olympiad, His Excellency President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa expressed the nation's profound respect for science and scholars. He emphasized the Asian Physics Olympiad as a platform for brilliant students to compete, connect, and exchange knowledge and experiences.

President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa



highlighted the significance of an Olympiad as fostering friendships among outstanding students, inspiring individuals, generating

interest in science among young people, and nurturing future leaders.

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Bloomberg commodity price 2023/05/26		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	1,980.80
COPPER	USD/lb.	359.15
SILVER	USD/t oz.	23.24
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	77.28
WHEAT	USD/bu	603.25

French President's Historic Visit to Mongolia

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beneficial and strategic projects, which symbolize the relations between the two countries, and further expand the relations in agriculture, energy, environment, health, disaster management, culture, education, communication and science sectors.

Within the framework of fulfilling

agricultural products. Additionally, concerted efforts will be made to prepare professionals in the domains of intensive animal husbandry, food, and biotechnology and to introduce a new technologies and know-how," said H.E. Mr. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.

The Heads of State agreed to jointly implement mutually beneficial and

were able to fearlessly surmount obstacles, display bravery, and confront every challenge and ordeal with ceaseless effort. I hope we can overcome the common challenges that we are facing now with such a spirit they had in the past," noted French President Emmanuel Macron.

"During the official talks with the President of Mongolia, we discussed a number of important issues, with a particular focus on climate change, which is negatively affecting Mongolia. Our two countries will further collaborate in several areas. We will help Mongolia reduce coal consumption step by step, alleviate the agricultural sector's vulnerability to climate change, achieve food independence, and forge close cooperation with international organizations.

France is ready to assist Mongolia in improving its energy governance. France can support Mongolia in strengthening its energy resources by supply of critical metals from your country through projects that have substantial impact on the development of Mongolia while pursuing the highest environmental standards. It would be inadequate to end my speech without introducing our aspiration to promote people-to-people exchanges between the two countries," H.E. Emmanuel Macron highlighted.

The sides also will broaden the cooperation in the field of space studies for peaceful purposes, including communication satellite. The two countries agreed to actively collaborate in launching Mongolian communication satellite.

The French side affirmed its support to organize the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Ulaanbaatar in 2026.

The two Presidents also discussed

for making a valuable contribution to international peace and security."

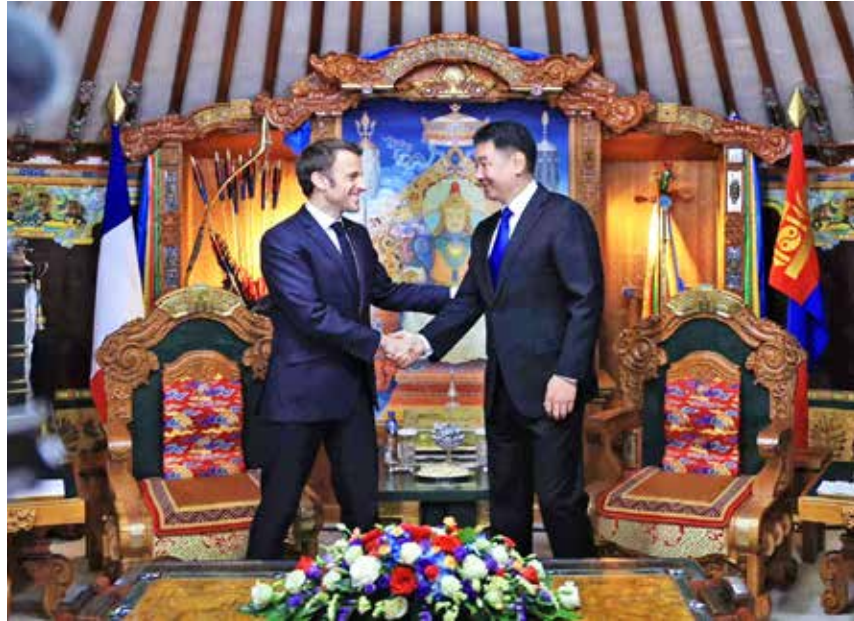
During the visit, the parties issued a Joint Declaration which the Presidents underscored as of historic significance to bring the relations between the two countries to a new level.

Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene paid a courtesy call on President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron.

At the outset of the meeting, Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene expressed his delight in meeting Mr. President again in home country after their meeting in Tokyo and London. Mongolia sees France as an important Third Neighbour, while France considers Mongolia a Privileged Partner. In this context, the parties discussed the relations and cooperation between the two countries, and exchanged views on upgrading the relations to a new level by expanding it based on the common values of democracy, human rights, and freedom, increasing investment and maintaining mutually beneficial cooperation.

Briefly presenting the medium and long-term development goals and "New Revival Policy" adopted by the Government of Mongolia, the Prime Minister proposed that it is possible to jointly implement economically beneficial projects and programs by combining Mongolian rich resources of raw materials with French know-how, advanced technology, and investment.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the leaders attended the G7 Summit for having exchanged views on numerous crucial issues including peaceful coexistence in pursuit of the Charter of the United Nations, reinforcing democracy, and accelerating economic recovery. PM L.Oyun-Erdene asked the French President to put forward a proposal to specifically



the commitment under Paris Agreement to combat climate change the two sides agreed to cooperate in renewable energy and nuclear energy fields. We also agreed on the joint realization of Mongolia's national satellite program in conjunction with France.

We have reached an agreement to cooperate by synergizing the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, which was initiated by the President of Mongolia, with the aim of addressing climate change and mitigating the adverse effects of greenhouse gas emissions and French initiatives put forth by the President of France during the One Forest Summit.

In accordance with the overarching goal of "Food Supply and Security," a mutual agreement has been reached to provide substantial backing to foster export oriented production of food and

strategic projects, which symbolize the relations between the two countries, and further expand the relations in agriculture, green energy, environment, health, disaster management, culture, education, and science sector. Within the framework of fulfilling the commitment under Paris Agreement to combat climate change the two sides agreed to cooperate in renewable energy and nuclear energy fields.

"I would like to express my profound gratitude to President of Mongolia Ukhnaa Khurelsukh for warmly welcoming us and hosting this historic visit. Despite the vast expanse separating our two countries, we are connected by nearly 800 years of history since Saint Louis of France sent his emissaries to the successors of Chinggis Khaan. To establish the first relationship between France and Mongolia, those people, fueled by an insatiable curiosity,



issues on international relations. "We earnestly conveyed our firm commitment to diligently collaborate in fostering global peace and security" underscored President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa saying, "During our discussions on international relations and multilateral cooperation, a wide range of topics were addressed, including the prosperity founded on human rights and democratic principles, the promotion of feminist foreign policy, making contribution to UN peacekeeping operations to foster sustainable development, and expanding the cooperation of the two countries to achieve common national and global objectives, such as prevention of weapons of mass destruction proliferation, and the fight against terrorism."

President Emmanuel Macron said "I expressed my determination to stand in support of the country that has been under aggression and my utmost goal to restore peace in Europe in accordance with international laws and regulations.

Our two nations, which actively engage in peacekeeping endeavors and uphold the principles of a democratic system governed by the rule of law, have abolished the death penalty. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mongolia

consider the development of landlocked developing countries at the G7 Summit, as power supply, export, and investment issues of those countries are different from other countries.

For his side, President Emmanuel Macron expressed his confidence that the Visit, which is marking the first-ever Presidential visit of France to Mongolia since the establishment of diplomatic relations, will advance the level of the bilateral relations between Mongolia and France. Moreover, the President reaffirmed his commitment to the successful implementation of projects, which became symbols of the relations between the two countries.

The Distinguished Guest concluded the State Visit by getting acquainted with the Chinggis Khaan Museum.

An exhibition titled "How Chinggis Khan Changed the World" will be presented at the National History Museum of France in October of this year. During the talks, gratitude was expressed to the French Government for its support and collaboration in making this event possible.



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Tel: 266904, 99291632, 99890918

WEATHER

Sunrise: 05:03 Sunset: 20:35

- Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between 0 C and +9 C. Day time temps between +13 C and +22 C
- Eastern Aimags: Night temps between +4 C and +9 C. Day time temps between +18 C and +25 C
- Western Aimags: Night temps between +4 C and +8 C. Day time temps between +15 C and +20 C
- Gobi Aimags: Night temps between +5 C and +10 C. Day time temps between +17 C and +23 C

Meeting of Ambassadors from EU Countries Held



A meeting of the resident and non-resident ambassadors from the European Union member states to Mongolia was held on May 16-17.

This meeting is significant in facilitating the exchange of views on cooperation between Mongolia and the European Union and clarifying further cooperation directions.

The meeting has been organized since 2009, however, due to the pandemic, it has been interrupted for the last four years. Attendees of the meeting included resident ambassadors in Mongolia, as well as ambassadors

with residences in Beijing and Seoul of the EU member states.

On May 16, ambassadors met Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan, Vice Minister of Justice and Home Affairs B. Solongoo, Vice Minister of Environment and Tourism M. Ganbaatar, and Vice Minister of Road and Transport Development L. Khaltar.

During the meeting, ambassadors and line ministers discussed the current situation of the relations between Mongolia and the European Union and its member states in the fields of education, environment, legal, and

transport logistics and exchanged views on further expanding the cooperation under the goals set in the Government's long and mid-term development policy.

As part of the meeting, Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar received ambassadors and exchanged views on the cooperation fostered between the legislative bodies of Mongolia and the European Union and its member states on the following day, May 17.

Highlighting the fact that the European Union and its member states are our third neighbors with shared values of human rights, freedom, and democracy, the Chair of the State Great Khural pledged to pay close attention to creating favorable legal environment to expand multilateral cooperation in business and trade sectors based on regional characteristics and internal capabilities.

Next year will mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the European Union.

Vice Chairwoman of the State Great Khural Receives the U.S. Ambassador

On May 22, Vice Chairwoman of the State Great Khural S. Odontuya received U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia Richard Buangan and exchanged views on bilateral relations and trade and economic cooperation.

At the outset of the meeting, Vice Chairwoman of the State Great Khural S. Odontuya expressed the intention to expand economic cooperation in new areas under the strategic partnership between the two countries with common values of human rights, freedom, and democracy.

They discussed opportunities to cooperate in increasing the export of woolen, cashmere, and knitted products, and creating favorable legal environment. In this regard, the policy focus is to support the increase of jobs in this sector, with a special focus on supporting women's employment,



based on domestic resources and previous experiences, the Vice Chairwoman clarified.

Pledging his support to expand economic relations and increase the trade turnover between the two countries, Ambassador Richard Buangan expressed his confidence that the two countries can overcome the challenges to democracy, which

are imposed by the geopolitical tensions, in a collaborative way. Moreover, the Ambassador extended his gratitude to the Vice Chairwoman for her leadership in protecting human rights and adopting gender-sensitive laws, highlighting the Mongolian potential to be an example of democracy in this region.

Bilateral Meetings Held

pressed satisfaction with the active cooperation maintained with the ESCAP in the environment, statistics, disaster risk reduction, transit transport, trade facilitation, and protecting rights of the landlocked developing countries. Noting the Government of Mongolia's "Port Revival Policy," the State Secretary further expressed gratitude to the ESCAP for their support in developing a dry port in Mongolia.

For her side, Executive Secretary of the ESCAP Armida Alisjahbana affirmed the readi-

ness to deepen the cooperation with Mongolia.

Moreover, State Secretary N. Ankhbayer held a bilateral meeting with Vijavat Isarabhakdi, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand on May 16.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the bilateral relations, preparatory work for the 2nd meeting of the Cooperation Council between the two countries, and commemorating events for the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, which will mark in 2024.



On the sideline of the 79th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs N. Ankhbayer, who is serving as the Vice Chair of the Session, met Armida Alisjahbana, the Executive Secretary of the ESCAP, and ex-

Ambassador S. Baatarjav Presents His Letter of Credence to the Serbian President

Ambassador of Mongolia to the Republic of Serbia S. Baatarjav, with residence in Hungary, presented his Letter of Credence to President of the Republic of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić on May 22, 2023.

Ambassador S. Baatarjav conveyed warm greetings of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh

Uknaa to President Aleksandar Vučić and the Serbian people and talked about expanding the cooperation between the two countries.

In response, President Aleksandar Vučić expressed his confidence in the potential of the two countries to foster and extend relations and cooperation.



CABINET SESSION



At its session on May 24, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

During the Cabinet Session, Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene mandated that all information about the Government's Special Funds be made open to the public.

Construction of the "Emeelt Light Industry Park" Commenced

Minister of Construction and Urban Development Ts. Davaasuren, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry Kh. Bolorchuluun, and Governor of the capital city, and the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar D. Sumiyabazar were tasked to take the required measures to get the feasibility studies and partial planning approved and start laying down the basic infrastructure within Q4 2023.

Preparatory works, including research, working drawings, partial planning of the park, and other infrastructure works, such as dam, engineering utilities, power supply, drinking water supply, and temporary power supply for a construction site, have already been completed.

Leather factories are planned to be relocated to the park, which will allow to re-plan and rehabilitate the area where they are currently operating.

The park is planned with a processing capacity of 4.6 million skins and hides, in it four million sheep and goat skins, 400 thousand bovine hides, 200 thousand equine hides, and 15 thousand camel hides. Moreover, it is capable of processing 3.6 thousand tons of wool and 1.2 thousand tons of cashmere.

Starting from July 1, MIAT to Conduct Scheduled Flights to Nine Domestic Destinations

In connection with the Government's declaration of 2023-2025 as the "Years to Visit Mongolia", MIAT Mongolian Airlines will start conducting scheduled flights to 9 domestic destinations in line with the

Government's goal to support tourism, revive domestic flights and reduce ticket prices. The scheduled flights will be conducted to Choibalsan, Dalanzadgad, Murun, Uliastai, Bayankhongor, Altai, Khovd, Ulaangom, and Ulgii, with 40-68 percent reduced prices.

This decision has been made to enhance the availability of domestic flights for local citizens, supporting the development of the tourism sector, and increasing the flow of tourists. It will allow not only local citizens but also tourists to travel comfortably, the Minister of Road and Transport Development highlighted in his presentation.

Development Projects Set in the "New Revival Policy" to be Accelerated

The implementation process of the development projects set in the "New Revival Policy" was presented at the Session. Ministry of Economy and Development has taken numerous measures to ensure the smooth implementation and intensify the process of those projects.

Of the 20 development projects launched, 16 are in an active phase of execution and 10 are expected to be completed in 2023.

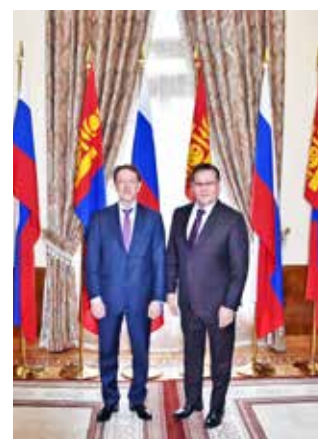
Brief News:

- A consultation meeting on the implementation process and milestones of the "Vision-2050" long-term development policy of Mongolia will be held on June 9.
- Variable cost per student of the vocational training centers and its methodologies were approved.
- Guidelines for the Mongolian delegation to participate in the Second Mongolia-Tailand Intergovernmental Consultation Meeting on Cooperation, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on June 2 were discussed and approved.
- A consular section will be established in the Embassy of Mongolia in France.
- The list of explosives, tools for blasting, and their raw materials which are permitted in the territory of Mongolia was renewed and approved.

Ambassador to Russia U. Enkhuvshin Meets Deputy Chairman of State Duma A.V. Gordeev

On May 22, Ambassador of Mongolia to the Russian Federation U. Enkhuvshin met Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation A.V. Gordeev and discussed some issues of relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Russia, and exchanged opinions on reciprocal visits and events to be implemented this year, especially within the framework of inter-parliamentary cooperation.

During the meeting, A.V. Gordeev confirmed his support for active cooperation between the parliaments of Russia and Mongolia, establishing a joint inter-parliamentary commission for this purpose, and bringing trade and economic cooperation between Russia and Mongolia to a new level.



The parties exchanged views on other issues of mutual interest and agreed to closely work together to further enrich the relations between the two countries.



The 32nd Annual Meeting and Business Forum of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on May 16-18 under the theme

Panel Meeting on Mongolia Held at EBRD Annual Meeting

"Invest in Resilience."

The delegation from Mongolia represented by Bank of Mongolia, Khan Bank, Golomt Bank, "Mobicom" Corporation, "Mandal" Financial Group, and "Digital Concept" and led by Deputy Minister of Finance S. Mungunchimeg and Deputy Minister of Economic Development G. Tuvdendorj took part in the event.

This year's meeting was organized under the topic "Ensuring economic stability during the crisis." Specifically, it was held on a wide range of issues such

as support for sustainable economic growth, energy security, transition to renewable energy, and financing to support the digital transition of fast-growing markets.

During the forum, a panel meeting "The next frontier: Investing in Mongolia's promising future" was held to promote Mongolia's investment climate, and potential investors in mining, agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy were invited and informed about Mongolia's economic situation and investment environment.

Agreements between EBRD and Mongolian banks and a company were signed, namely:

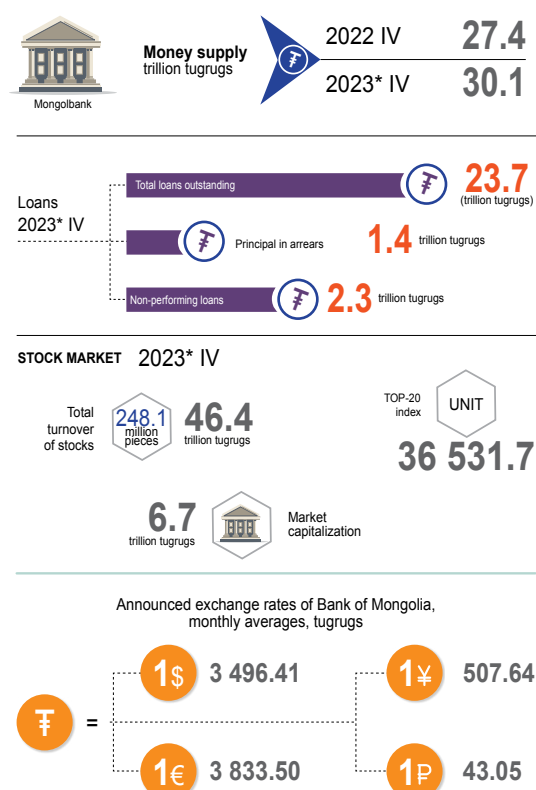
- USD 20 million long-term financing agreement within the framework of the "Program to Support Women Entrepreneurs" with Khan Bank,

- USD 25 million financing package within the "Green Economy Financing" regional program with XacBank,

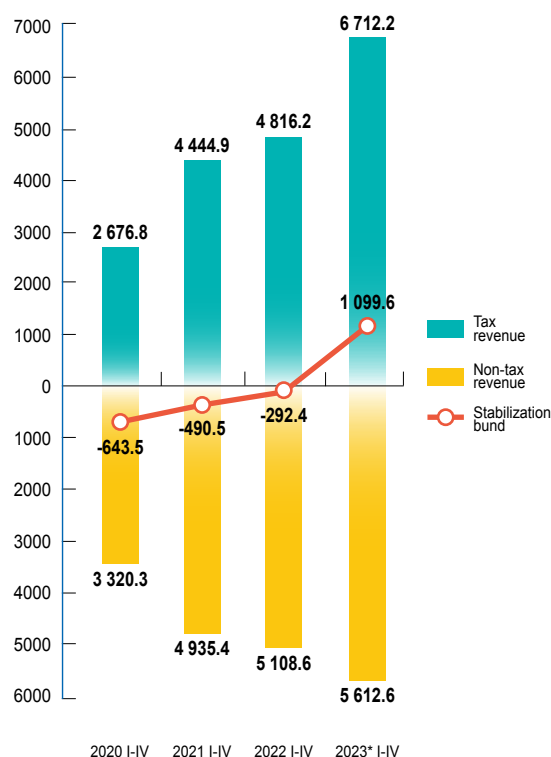
- USD 18 million contract for supporting retail business and financing the expansion of GS25 chain stores with "Digital Concept" Ltd.

Social and Economic Situation of Mongolia (in the first four months of 2023)

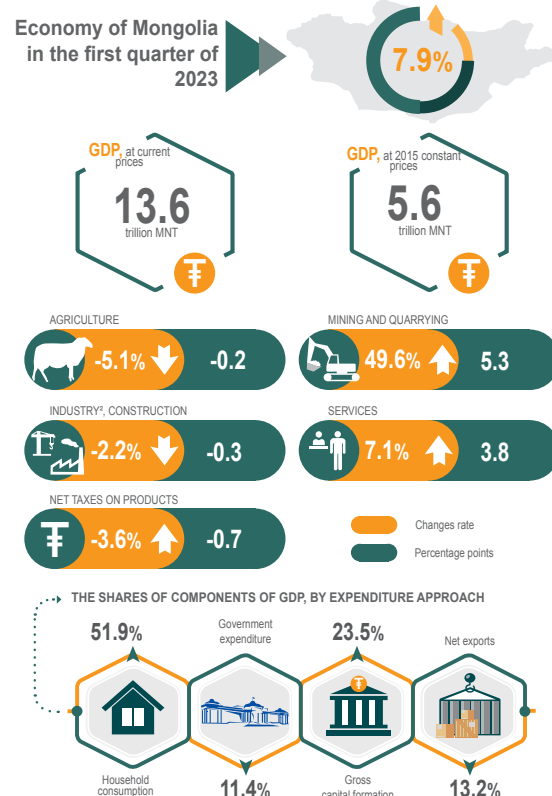
MONEY, LOANS AND STOCK MARKET,
at the end of April 2023



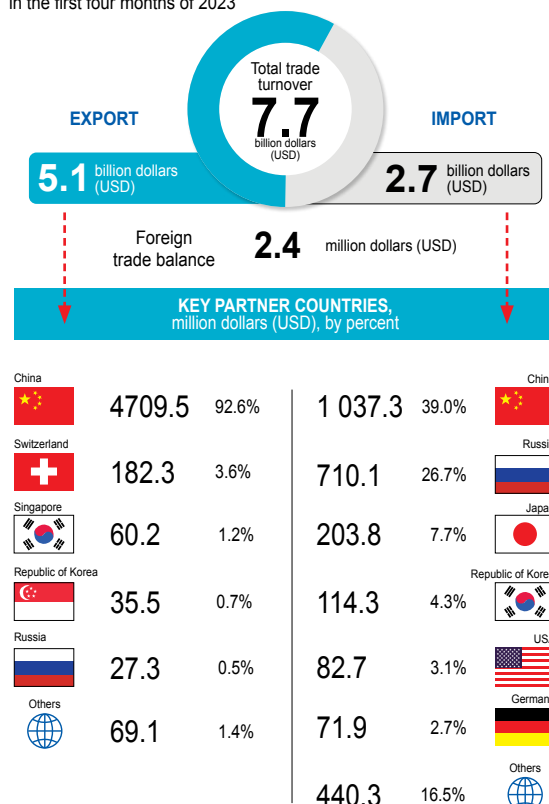
INDICATORS OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET,
in the first four months of selected years, billion tugrugs



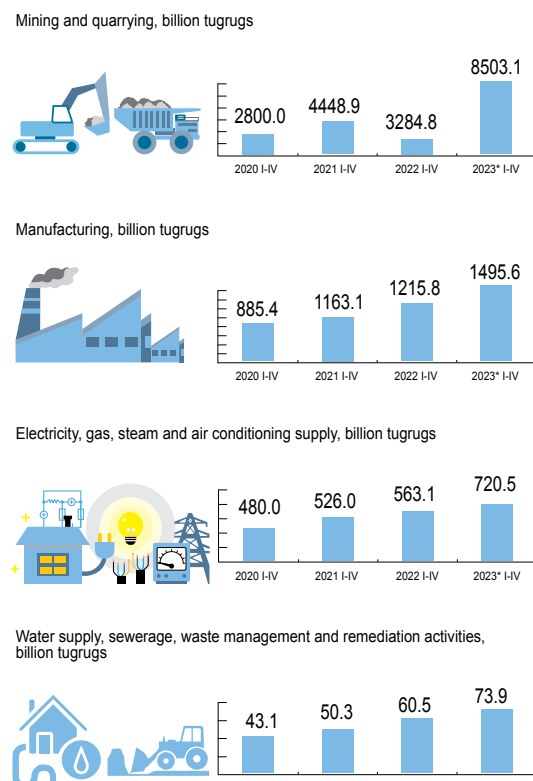
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)



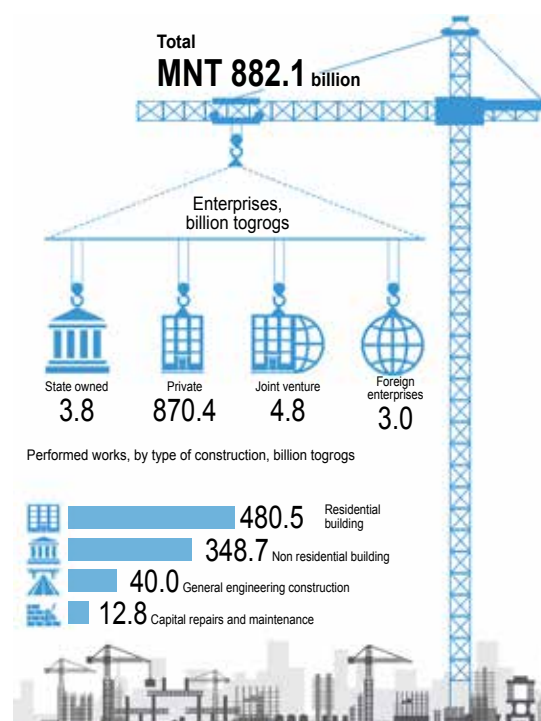
FOREIGN TRADE,
in the first four months of 2023



GROSS INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT,
in the first four months of selected years*



CONSTRUCTION, CAPITAL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE,
in the first quarter of 2023*



Mongolia Hosting XXIII Asian Physics Olympiad

■ Mongolia is organizing XXIII Asian Physics Olympiad in Ulaanbaatar on May 21-29 under the auspices of the President of Mongolia. In relation to this significant event, MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency engaged in an interview with Academician J. Davaasambuu, the President of the Mongolian Physics Society. Our conversation centered on the meticulous planning and organization required for the successful implementation of the Olympiad.

-The Asian Physics Olympiad is taking place in Mongolia for the second time. Could you elaborate on the preparation work?

-It is important to acknowledge that the primary objectives of the Olympiad are to assess the quality of physics education in Asian nations, provide support to students with a keen interest in physics, and showcase the cultural heritage of the hosting country. Thus, the successful organization of this event entails the collaboration of numerous individuals beyond the realm of physicists. In preparation for the Olympiad, physics educators from the Mongolian State University, the Mongolian University of Education, the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, as well as researchers from the Institute of Physics and Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences, collectively conducted comprehensive physics training programs in schools across all aimags and districts throughout the year. A dedicated team of 10-15 experts organized a knowledge day, featuring experimental demonstrations, with the aim of addressing any deficiencies in physics education, empowering teachers, and fostering a deeper understanding of physics.

It is a tremendous privilege for us that Mongolia has been selected as the host country for the

Olympiad. Mongolia previously had the distinction of organizing the Asian Physics Olympiad in 2008. This Olympiad is the second of its kind, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Science, the General Department of Education, as well as the dedicated involvement of over 100 esteemed scientists from the Institute of Physics and Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences, and the Department of Physics at the National University of Science and Technology of Mongolia, alongside the collective contributions of all physicists in the country.

Within this framework, our commitment to the field of physics extends throughout the whole year, immersing ourselves in its principles and practices. As an illustrative example, our team has developed an online physics course tailored for secondary school students. Through collaborative efforts, the most accomplished teachers have diligently prepared 200 lectures and accompanying assignments. These resources will be made accessible to teachers, students, and individuals with an interest in physics, serving as a valuable reference guide for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of this captivating field of study.

-I have been informed that the problems for XXIII Asian Physics Olympiad were formu-



lated by a team of Mongolian scientists. Generally speaking, is there a dedicated team responsible for creating the problems for the Olympiad?

-The host country of the Asian Physics Olympiad is entrusted with the task of developing its own problems. Due to its confidential nature, five individuals, under the supervision of one coordinator, were appointed to create the five problems. To ensure accountability, all team members signed a liability agreement. The organization of a fair and esteemed competition is of utmost importance. Besides theoretical and test problems, 600 laboratory experiments were prepared. Additionally, 150 specialized equipment pieces were procured internationally to facilitate the necessary measurements. Unlike sporting events where athletes are invited to participate, the Olym-

piad involves a comprehensive approach where the host country is responsible for the development and creation of problems and the organization of the Olympiad. Over the course of 23 iterations, 12 countries have taken turns hosting the Asian Physics Olympiad. Our country's physicists have garnered significant recognition in Asia, which is why Mongolia has been selected to organize this edition. The problems of the Olympiad must be innovative, unprecedented and require a high degree of creativity.

-May I inquire about the number of countries whose scientists are participating in the Olympiad? Is there a Nobel Prize laureate who has been invited to deliver a lecture?

-The Asian Physics Olympiad attracts talented physicists from various nations, with a notable presence from Romania,

Pacific countries, and Australia. Approximately 200 students, accompanied by over 100 teachers and professors, representing 28 countries are taking part in this Olympiad. Distinguished attendees include the Chairman of the Asian Physics Olympiad Committee, esteemed professors from Taiwan University, as well as a substantial delegation from Vietnam. Additionally, around 40 individuals are attending the Olympiad as observers, enriching the academic atmosphere with their insights and observations.

On May 27, we are honored to announce that Konstantin Sergeevich Novoselov, the distinguished recipient of the 2010 Nobel Prize, will deliver a keynote speech entitled "Materials of the Future."

This remarkable opportunity serves as an enlightening experience for the Olympiad participants. Each team participating in the Olympiad consists of eight students and two teachers. As the host country, we have the privilege of fielding two teams. Among the team members, two students have been selected from the capital city, while the remaining six have been chosen from rural areas. Historically, only students from the city have participated in the Asian Physics Olympiad. However, this year, in an endeavor to support local students and broaden the Olympiad's impact, a dedicated training program was organized. As a result, six students who achieved exceptional performances and secured top positions in the State Physics Olympiad were selected for participation. The teaching staff from the National University of Mongolia formed and prepared the team for the Olympiad.

XXIII Asian Physics Olympiad: 29 Teams from 27 Countries

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ders. He wished every participant resounding success in the Asian Physics Olympiad.

During the opening ceremony, Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan expressed the host country's objectives for the Olympiad. These include assessing the quality of physics education, nurturing young talents in physics, facilitating professional advancement opportunities, fostering cultural understanding, and promoting Mongolian heritage.

The Minister emphasized that the Olympiad serves as a platform to enhance Mongolia's international presence and reputation. Additionally, he announced that physics lab equipment created by Mongolian scientists specifically for the Asian Physics Olympiad will later be utilized in over 300 secondary schools. Furthermore, he underscored that physics equipment will be provided to more than 600 secondary schools.

President of the Asian Physics Olympiad, Leong Chuan Kwek, said, "I am grateful and glad that Mongolia has decided, this time round, to organize this year's



Olympiad face-to-face. APHo is less about getting top honors and more about friendship. I am therefore hoping that you will take this rare opportunity to establish new connections and introduce your own culture. At the end of the day, we are all mere Earthlings."

The Asian Physics Olympiad is more prestigious and competitive than the International Physics Olympiad because of the high ranking of the competitors. A total of 29 teams from 27 countries, including two teams from Mongolia, are participating in this Olympiad. The Republic of Bulgaria and Malaysia are participating as observers.



TOGETHER TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia announces successful IPO, orders exceed the initial target of MNT 83.5 billion

Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia LLC (MSE: TDB) announced the closing of its initial public offering (IPO). The company offered 2,530,047 new shares or 5% of its total issued shares (post IPO) at a price of MNT 33,000 per share (or US\$9.55 equivalent) and sought to raise total of MNT83.5 billion (or US\$24.2 million equivalent), wherein 85% of which was offered to strategic investors and 15% was offered to the public.

The IPO of TDB was fully subscribed within hours of primary market book building, driven by strong demand from the investors. TDB's new shares have been subscribed by 2418 investors and received total order of MNT 105.5 billion or 126.4% oversubscribed.

The net proceeds from the offering are expected to be utilized for expanding green and sustainable lending operations of TDB in accordance with its medium-term strategy of becoming a "Green Bank", with a split of 50%, 30%, 20% for corporate, retail and small-and-medium business (SMB) loans,

respectively.

Mirae Asset Securities Mongolia LLC worked as the main underwriter of the IPO, while TDB Securities LLC worked as the co-underwriter. The newly issued common shares of TDB will begin trading on the Mongolian Stock Exchange within the next few days under the ticker symbol "TDB". Current shareholders who own 3% or more of the total issued shares and investors who participated in the IPO as strategic investors will not be able to sell their shares within six months from the start of the secondary market trading of the securities.

Moving forward, TDB will double down on its medium-term business strategies of becoming a "Green Bank" driven by a strong growth in its sustainable and green loan portfolio, and rapidly expanding its market share in retail and SMB customer segments by putting a strong emphasis on further improvements of its customer service, digital infrastructure and corporate responsibility.

National Book Festival on May 26-28 at Sukhbaatar Square

The 33rd National Book Festival is taking place on May 26-28 at Sukhbaatar Square.

In accordance with the Decree No. 158 of the President of Mongolia of 2012 on the Celebration of Book Holidays and the Law on Publicly Celebrated Holidays and Memorial Days, "National Script, Culture and Book Days" are celebrated throughout the country on Saturdays and Sundays of the third

week of May and September of each year.

In this context, the Secretariat of the Parliament, the Ministry of Culture, the Office of the Capital Governor and the "Nomiin Soyolt Yertonts" NGO are jointly organizing the "National Script, Culture and Book Days-2023" under the auspices of Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar with the theme of "Let's read more" in rural areas of the country on May 19-21. On

May 26-28, a variety of cultural and artistic activities will be organized for readers of all ages, such as photo exhibitions, meetings of writers and readers, literature readings, listening book hours, and poetry day. In addition, there will be other activities with aims of spreading the culture of reading, enlightening children and youth through books, glorifying authors and publishers, and presenting rare and classic works.



"Ulaanbaatar" International Poetry Forum for Fostering Global Recognition



The "Ulaanbaatar" International Poetry Forum was meticulously organized on May 19-22 with the purpose of fostering global recognition of Mongolian literature, enhancing the nation's image through its rich literary heritage, enlightening the society, reinforcing national values, and

fostering broader collaborations.

A total of 11 esteemed poets and publishers hailing from nine different countries, alongside over 200 Mongolian poets, writers, translators, researchers, and rural representatives, actively participated in the forum. The event encompassed "Literature

and the Modern Day" poetry conversations, "Literary Cooperation" seminar, and "Harmony of Languages" literature reading, fostering a profound exchange of experiences and insights among the attendees.

During the International Poetry Forum, 38 poems by Mongolian and other countries' poets were translated, and new books including "Embracing the Fog" by Israeli poet, professor, and famous architect Haim Dotan, and "The Road Stretched to the Sky" by Bangladeshi poet, translator, and publisher Aminur Rahman were launched.

For your interest, Israeli poet Haim Dotan is also an architect and one of his major works is the glass bridge from the film "Avatar," which is one of the 11 most majestic bridges in the world. He teaches at the School

of Fine Arts of Shanghai Fudong University, and his poetry books such as "After the Rain" and "The Echo in The Desert" have been published in several languages.

During the forum, a Memorandum of Understanding on publishing an anthology of Mongolian and Spanish poetry in 2024

in Madrid, Spain was signed. In order to translate Mongolian literature to foreign languages and introduce new world classics to Mongolians, there is a need for professional literary translators and professional researchers, noted the scholars and writers during the event.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ULAANBAATAR

Theatre Technician

Starting on August 9, 2023

NATURE OF WORK

The Theatre Technician shall take responsibility for all technical areas within the school's theatre performances and IT activities. It provides appropriate proactive and creative technical production support for the school's performances and IT activities. The scope of this work will be in Theatre and IT.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's and/or related degree in Theatre Studies and/or IT field
- Good level of English language skills – both written and oral
- Ability to effectively interact, verbally and in writing, with people from different backgrounds and nationalities
- Ability to take part in school service activities and events
- Ability to play musical instruments is desirable
- Willing to learn how to operate the lighting, sound, and led screen

APPLICATION

If you would like to take up this challenge and be part of the ISU team and please submit the following in English:

- A formal letter of application
 - A formal curriculum vitae (CV) / resume detailing: Your employment history; your education background; and your contact information (including both e-mail and phone number)
 - The names and contact details of at least three direct supervisory references
- All applications should be addressed to:
Deputy Director
International School of Ulaanbaatar
Four Seasons Garden, Khan-Uul District, Khoroo 18
Phone: 70160010
Email: depdirector@isumongolia.edu.mn

TIMELINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

Submit applications by 02 June, 2023
Shortlisted applicants will be contacted and interviewed 05-16 June
Final appointment will be made after the 16 June.

Educational Assistant

NATURE OF WORK

The role of the Educational Assistant is essentially to assist the Teacher in the delivery of the IB program within the classroom. Supporting the activities within and outside the classroom to ensure students are safe, happy learning in a positive and nurturing environment. The scope of this work will be in a primary homeroom class.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Teaching Diploma degree as well as teaching permit
- At least 1 year of experience in working with children
- Teaching experience
- Fluency in English and in Mongolian
- Able to use computer programs
- Able to work in multi-cultural environment

APPLICATION

If you would like to take up this challenge and be part of the ISU team and please submit the following in English:

Performing Arts Educational Assistant

NATURE OF WORK

The role of the Performing Arts EA is essentially to assist the Teacher in the delivery of the IB program within the classroom. Supporting the activities within and outside the classroom to ensure students are safe, happy learning in a positive and nurturing environment. The scope of this work will be in primary performing arts (music, drama and dance). Therefore, a background in performing arts is preferable, but not essential.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Teaching diploma degree as well as teaching permit
- At least 1 year of experience in working with children
- Teaching experience and teaching music is desirable
- Fluency in English and in Mongolian
- Able to use computer programs
- Able to work in multi-cultural environment

APPLICATION

If you would like to take up this challenge and be part

Starting on August 9, 2023

- A formal letter of application
 - A formal curriculum vitae (CV) / resume detailing: Your employment history; your education background; and your contact information (including both e-mail and phone number)
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Eastern Aimags Devastated by Snowstorm and Strong Gales: Government Mobilizes Aid Efforts

A snowstorm and strong gales struck the eastern aimags on May 19, with wind speeds ranging from 18-20 m/s. In particular, Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags witnessed even stronger winds, reaching peaks of approximately 28-30 m/s. This severe weather phenomena led to a natural disaster in the affected areas.

In response to the situation, an emergency meeting was convened, chaired by the Deputy Premier of Mongolia and the Head of the State Emergency Commission. Representatives from key governmental bodies,

including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Energy, the National Emergency Management Agency, and the National Agency of Meteorology and Environment Monitoring, were in attendance to deliberate on the necessary actions.

As a result of the discussions, specific measures were determined. The State Reserve will play a vital role by providing essential resources such as fuel, protective clothing, and food packages to support the affected individuals residing in Khentii and Dornod aimags. Additionally, as an aid to those in Sukhbaatar aimag who



have lost their homes in the powerful gales, gers will be donated. According to the decision, the National Emergency Mana-

gement Agency has informed that the organization of delivering goods and materials from the State Reserve is currently underway.



United States Launches New Grant Program to Advance Clean Energy in Mongolia



On May 17, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Mongolia Energy Research and Innovation (MERI) Fund, a small grants program to bolster Mongolia's economic growth by facilitating the transition to clean energy.

The grant program is part of USAID's five-year, USD 12 million Mongolia Energy Governance Project, which is assisting Mongolia in developing a more resilient and sustainable energy sector. Through the project, USAID is working with key government

and private sector partners to develop a more competitive and financially sustainable energy sector that will increase economic competitiveness, create more stable and secure domestic energy supply, and develop more renewable energy projects.

"The U.S. Government is pleased to provide these funding opportunities that will help build a robust energy sector ecosystem, strengthen the institutional and human capacity of Mongolian organizations, and develop the necessary tools to facilitate the energy sector transition," USAID Deputy Development Advisor Steve Winkates said at the launch event.

Through the grant program, USAID will provide grants to

eligible think tanks, consulting firms, non-governmental organizations, private companies, research institutions, and other relevant organizations to implement interventions to support energy sector transition.

USAID has a long history of working with Mongolia's energy sector. USAID's first program in the early 1990s provided emergency assistance to repair one of Ulaanbaatar's key power plants to avoid the possibility of a catastrophic shut-down during winter months. USAID also helped develop energy laws that enabled further development of the market and assisted in the establishment of the Energy Regulatory Authority (now the Energy Regulatory Commission).

International Day for Biological Diversity

The International Day for Biological Diversity has been celebrated throughout the world since the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity on May 22, 1992. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Mongolia's ratification of the Convention. The International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated in Mongolia, under the theme "From Agreement to Action: Let's Strengthen the Protection of Biological Diversity."

In anticipation of the Day, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism held a series of meetings on "Biodiversity and Flora," "Biodiversity and Fauna," "Biodiversity, Genetic Resources and Biosecurity," and "Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation and Financing Mechanism for the Biodiversity" on May 16-22.

During the meetings, scientists and researchers presented

and discussed their research and findings. As an outcome of each meeting, recommendations and guidelines on financing biodiversity initiatives, genetic resources, and biosecurity were issued. Minister of Environment and Tourism B. Bat-Erdene said, "It is the pivotal time when it depends on us whether the various types of plants, animals, water, and natural resources of Mongolia, famous for its vast land, mountains, pristine lakes, and natural beauty, will remain the same for future generations."

Climate change has been adversely affecting not only the natural ecosystem, and biodiversity but also the agriculture sector, especially animal husbandry, leading to increased frequencies of weather-related natural disasters, such as drought, zud, snow and dust storms, and floods. So, we need to take immediate action on climate change."



Expenditure on environmental protection of our country is financed from both the state budget and foreign aid, each accounting for 44.4 percent and 55.6 percent. From 2008-2018, expenditure on activities for protecting biological diversity stood for 0.35-0.79 percent of the state budget or 0.15-0.25 percent of the GDP, which was a considerably low rate. Moreover, according to the law, at least 15-85 percent of the revenue from natural resource royalties should be spent on the protection and restoration of the resource, but it is not totally

grounded in reality. Unless immediate decisive action is taken, Mongolia may face biodiversity loss, the Minister continues.

Between 2019 and 2020, 168 weather and climate extreme events were registered, of which 32 were weather-related natural disasters, which caused an economic loss of MNT 22.7 billion. The updated "Atlas of Desertification in Mongolia" shows that 76 percent of the country's total territory has been affected by desertification to a certain degree.

The lawyer's advice



In cooperation with Hanns Seidel Foundation

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

-How state organizations can use private information of a person?

-State organization shall use the private information of a person in the following cases:

1. on permission of the owner of information;

2. on the grounds specified in the law;

3. to prevent from causing damage to the life, body, rights, liberty, property, to protect rights and lawful interests;

4. to prevent from causing damage to rights and lawful interests of others;

5. private information of the person shall be used to make impossible to identify a person, to create historical, scientific, artistic and literary works, and to prepare statistical data.

-What does "making impossible to identify a person" refer to?

-According to the Law on Protection of private information of a person, "making impossible to identify a person" means that the person cannot be recognized by given information.

-What does "making impossible to identify a person" refer to?

-According to the Law on Protection of private information of a person, "making impossible to identify a person" means that the person cannot be recognized by given information.

-How is information collected and used for journalistic and other purposes?

-According to the Law on Protection of private information of a person of 2021, information may be collected, processed and used for the purpose of journalistic, or protection of public interests. It is prohibited to collect, process and use information regarding health, communication, genetic and biometric information, sex orientation and expression and sexual relationship for journalistic and other purposes without permission of the respective person. In collecting, processing and using information for journalistic purpose, it is prohibited to violate rights and lawful interests of the of information owner and others.

Regardless of purpose of collecting of information it may be processed and used in order to create historical, research, artistic, literature works and preparing statistical data. In these cases, it will be processed and used in such a way that the person cannot be identified unless the owner of the information has given written permission. In creating historical, research, artistic, literature works and preparing statistical data, it is prohibited to violate rights and lawful interests of the of information owner and others, and information security measures shall be taken and duly implemented.

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



Montage - Boundaries between Virtuality and Reality

constant influence and infiltration in our offline lives. People's original cognition is gradually blurred and plunged into a dilemma resulting in a state of strong "co-dependency" relationship between human beings and technological development.

Therefore, the festival proposes "montage" as the overall concept, through various contemporary phenomena such as nationality, faith, spirituality, daily life, geography, and landscape

and the images composed of them, in order to reflect various scenes in daily life and construct a cross-cultural imagination of our lives.

The program also includes a lecture on "Incarnation" by Prof. Yao Jui-Chung and two workshops on new media and contemporary art.



The Ulaanbaatar International Media Art Festival is taking place in Ulaanbaatar, organized by the Arts Council of Mongolia (ACM) on May 23-30, 2023. A media art exhibit featuring 23 Mongolian and international artists is on display at the Fine Arts Zana-bazar Museum and Red Ger Gallery.

The festival aims to broaden international cooperation in the

field of visual arts, encourage cultural diversity, introduce technological advancements, and deliver media work with innovative techniques and styles to Mongolian audiences.

The 8th edition of the festival has the theme "Montage." With the rapid development of current technology, media has become the source of endless information, but it has also created many disconnections, and a patchwork of different information from various sources has become a

Resounding Success of Tenger Ayalguu on International Stage



The Osaka International Chamber Music Competition and Festa 2023 took place on May 12-18, and 89 ensembles hailing from 30 countries, including the USA, France, Germany, Austria, England, Switzerland,

Japan, Russia, Moldova, and the Netherlands, vied for the top honors.

The Mongolian folk ensemble "Tenger Ayalguu" achieved a remarkable triumph at the competition. Their mesmerizing per-

formance captivated the jury, earning them not only the prestigious Menuhin Gold Prize / equivalent to First Prize/, but also the Folkloric Special Prize and Online Audience award. Dressed in stunning red and black traditional costumes, the five musicians showcased their exceptional talent on eight Mongolian traditional musical instruments. They garnered an impressive 107 votes, surpassing the combined total of votes received by the other two finalists.

Tenger Ayalguu has not only earned accolades but also an exciting opportunity. Their appealing achievement grants them eligibility to embark on a concert tour in Japan in 2025.

In addition, the ensemble is the Best Asian Folkloric Ensemble of 2006.

Mongolian Language and Traditional Culture Day in Switzerland

The Mongolian Language and Traditional Culture Day was organized on May 20 by the Embassy of Mongolia in Switzerland in collaboration with the Mongolian community in Switzerland, the Mongolian community in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, the Mongolian Children's Society in Geneva, and the GM-Star Club.

The primary objective of this event was to promote Mongolian traditional customs and the native language among children residing in Switzerland. Approximately 50 children participated in the event. Various activities were conducted, including writing contests along with "My Homeland-Mongolia" drawing contest. Those who were



actively involved were rewarded with gifts.

Moreover, the event featured performances by the folk music group "TEZO" and the dance group "Donj." They showcased their artistic works and provided insights into traditional Mongolian Music and Mongolian Bii Biyelgee to enlighten the attending children.

The First "Day of Mongolia" Event at the Cannes Film Festival

Cannes, the most glamorous film festival on the calendar, returns once again for its 76th edition. During the festival, the "Day of Mongolia" event took place successfully for the first time, attracting renowned filmmakers and artists around the globe.

Mongolian tradition and vibrant culture were present to the audience. One of the highlights of the event was an informative session to introduce unique natural places in Mongolia that are perfectly suited for filming.

Furthermore, a nature photography exhibition by photographer G. Gan-Ulzii was featured, and Mongolians living in France showed traditional arts, such as performances of horse-head fiddle, khoomei, folk dance,



and contortion.

At the event, organizers made an exciting announcement that "If Only I Could Hibernate" had become the first Mongolian

film nominated for the "Uncertain Regard" selection of the Cannes Film Festival. The film premiered in Théâtre Claude Debussy on May 21.



One Billion Trees

MNT 1.3 Billion for Financing 34 Green Projects

The Mongolian Billion Tree Fund, established by the Mongolian Bankers Association in collaboration with Mongolian commercial banks and the Bank of Mongolia, will finance 34 projects with MNT 1.3 billion this year.

Through these projects, over 105 thousand trees will be planted in an area of 37 hectares, and 20 thousand square meters of green space will be established. Furthermore, the projects will create 70 green jobs and introduce three types of new technologies and innovations, and more than 800 citizens will be educated in tree care.

The ad hoc committee, consisting of professionals representing 24 fields, including Forest Protection, Horticulture, Agroforestry, Education and Training, and Financing, has selected the 34

projects among over 200 projects. The projects were submitted to the open bid in three directions: Green Spaces of Public Schools and Kindergartens in Ulaanbaatar, Community-based Afforestation, Rehabilitation and Tree Planting, and Public Education on Ecology and Sustainable Development.

The Mongolian Billion Tree Fund aims to provide funding for top-notch green projects, create soft loans in collaboration with commercial banks, and increase domestic and foreign investment in the forest sector.

The Mongolian Bankers Association pledged to donate a minimum of MNT 2 billion to the Fund each year. Moreover, the Association will plant 88 million trees and grant a loan of MNT 5.2 trillion, increasing the green loan portfolio to ten percent in the banking sector by 2030.