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## XII International Congress of Mongolists Commences at State Palace



**The XII International Congress of Mongolists is being held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on August 9-14, 2023. It is co-organized by the Office of the President of Mongolia, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the International Association for Mongol Studies. The Opening Ceremony was solemnly organized on August 10 at the State Palace in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**

In his opening remarks, the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa said, "The International Congress of Mongolists dates back 60 years since it was established following the "First Congress of Mongolian Language" that was held in Ulaanbaatar in 1959. We have successfully organized the congress during various social and political times, including the cold war, globalization, social transition, and pandemic and, today, we are hosting its 12th session. More than 500 scholars and researchers from 27 countries are participating in the 12th International Congress of Mongolists. The participants shall present and discuss in depth their

research findings in the fields of Mongolian history, anthropology, archeology, linguistics, literature, sociology, economy, law, foreign relations, and cultural heritage."

Furthermore, Mr. President noted, "Last year, an international conference on Chinggis Khaan studies was successfully organized under the auspices of the President of Mongolia on the occasion of the 860th anniversary of the birth of Great Chinggis Khaan, with the participation of scholars and researchers from around the world. The Chinggis Khaan Museum was also built and opened its door last year. The participants of the conference supported the initiative of the Head of State of Mongolia and

established the "International Association of Chinggis Khaan Studies", which was an important step for Mongol studies, in particular, the Chinggis Khaan studies."

The central theme of XII International Congress is "Pax Mongolica and Historical Experience." The Congress will have six sections: Prehistory and History of Mongolia and the Mongols; Current Situation and Historical Development of Mongolian Language and Literature; Mongolian Society, Economy, Politics, and Legislation; Mongolia's Relations with the Outside World; Mongolian Culture: Tradition and Innovation; Young Mongolists

Conference.

The organizers emphasized that the sections would examine the distinctive aspects of history, tradition, language, literature, society, economy, politics, relations with the outside world, and civilization of nomads.

Academician S. Chuluun, Secretary-General of the International Association for Mongol Studies, said that the International Congress of Mongolists is the major conference that has been held every five years since 1959. On average 400 scholars from 30 countries participate in the Congress. The Congress is well recognized in the world for its number of participants, the breadth of its research, and its regularity.

The Congress features presentations by Mongolists from over 20 countries, including the United States, the Republic of

Korea, Great Britain, Kazakhstan, Canada, the Russian Federation, Poland, Türkiye, Hungary, Germany, China, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, the Czech Republic, Australia, Switzerland, Taiwan, Norway, Italy, and Denmark. Mongolists with a Doctorate or higher degree are allowed to participate.

In addition to the main sections, the Congress will host activities to support the young generation of Mongolists. This includes a conference for doctoral researchers, where 59 young Mongolists will present their work.

Invitations to the Congress were sent to over 650 Mongolists from 36 countries between April 24 and May 15.

XII International Congress of Mongolists will continue until August 14.

## Prime Minister's Visit to the US to Expand Strategic Partnership



### Agreement Signed to Establish Direct Flights

Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai paid an Official Visit to the United States of America at the invitation of the Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris on August 1-6. This was the first official visit of Prime Minister of Mongolia to the United States since 2018. Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene met Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken on August 4. Secretary Blinken and Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene pledged to renew and modernize Mongolia - U.S. economic coopera-

tion via a new Economic Cooperation Roadmap. The Secretary expressed continued support for Mongolia's efforts to increase economic resilience, bolster energy and food security, promote the digital economy, develop critical mineral resources, and transition to clean energy. "The United States and Mongolia are very close third neighbors. We have a shared commitment to democracy. We have a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific and a shared commitment to deepen and strengthen even more the partnership between our countries."

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Bloomberg commodity price 2023/08/10		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	1,952.70
COPPER	USD/lb.	380.20
SILVER	USD/t oz.	22.84
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	87.49
WHEAT	USD/bu	664.75



# Joint Statement on the Strategic Third Neighbor Partnership between Mongolia and the US

*Vice President Kamala Harris welcomed Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai to Washington, D.C., on August 2nd to celebrate the strategic Third Neighbor partnership between Mongolia and the United States. The two sides acknowledged the advancement of Mongolia-U.S. relations since the 2019 declaration of the two countries' Strategic Partnership, which has provided a firm foundation to promote and strengthen bilateral relations. Ties between our two countries are at their strongest point yet and have developed on the basis of shared principles, respect for good governance, sovereignty, the rule of law, and human rights, as well as Mongolia's Third Neighbor policy.*

The United States applauded Mongolia's efforts to expand relations in the region and around the world, thus contributing to international stability. In this context, our two countries shared respective views on ensuring a prosperous, peaceful, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Together, Mongolia and the United States are expanding our strategic partnership with a focus on building economic resilience, promoting democratic principles and institutions, and strengthening our security cooperation. As strategic Third Neighbors, we will sustain our close partnership and forge ties between our citizens to ensure their continued prosperity and security.

## Deepening Economic Cooperation

Mongolia and the United States are partnering on joint responses to the 21st century's most difficult economic challenges, exploring opportunities to increase trade and investment through bilateral cooperation and regional trade mechanisms. Our countries share a desire to deepen the bilateral economic relationship in areas of mutual interest and to pursue opportunities for cooperation in the mineral resources sector, clean energy, food security, and the digital economy through existing and new mechanisms, including for capacity building and trade promotion.

Mongolia introduced the priorities of Mongolia's New Recovery policy and related project implementation through public-private partnerships and Mongolia's Vision-2050 long-term development policy. Both Governments welcomed the signing of an updated Economic Cooperation Roadmap that will serve as the foundation for increased commercial and economic ties between our countries in the coming years. They welcomed the visit of a Mongolian trade mission to the United States and a U.S. Certified Trade Mission to Mongolia in 2023.

The United States expressed continued support for the strengthening of Mongolia's democracy through diversifying its economy, bolstering energy security, enhancing food security, and supporting the transition to renewables. The two sides are launching new partnerships in the areas of minerals and energy. In particular, Mongolia and the United States recognize

the importance of critical minerals to the global supply chain and are deepening cooperation in this sector. We welcome the June 27 signing of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding concerning cooperation on mineral resource sector development and governance, as well as the June trilateral dialogue between Mongolia, the United States, and Republic of Korea in Ulaanbaatar to support the development of Mongolia's mining sector.

Mongolia and the United States are both committed to combating the climate crisis and to our respective 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. The United States is committed to working with Mongolia to improve capacity to develop and implement ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in sectors such as agriculture and clean energy by welcoming Mongolia's commitment to work on climate and conservation issues, including through Mongolia's endorsement of the Global Methane Pledge, hosting of the UN High-Level Forum on Clean Air, and President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa's "One Billion Trees" initiative. Mongolia noted its support for the sustainable use of Mongolian water resources via the joint U.S.-Mongolia Millennium Challenge Water Compact. Mongolia and the United States are also exploring additional areas of collaboration on renewable energy and energy security, including via discussions in the next bilateral Energy Security Dialogue.

Both Governments hailed the new Open Skies Agreement as a clear indicator of the strong Third Neighbor partnership between Mongolia and the United States. The Agreement will facilitate air services between Mongolia and the United States as well as expanding our strong economic and commercial partnership, promoting people-to-people ties, and creating new opportunities for trade and tourism. Both sides expressed their commitment to high standards of aviation safety and security. At the request of the Civil Aviation Authority of Mongolia, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration plans to provide technical assistance to the Civil Aviation Authority of Mongolia in support of civil aviation safety later this year.

The United States commended Mongolia's work to promote good governance, a favorable business environment, and private sector-driven economic growth and supported the development of Mongolia's legal and regulatory framework and institutional capacity based on international best practices. Mongolia and the United States highlighted the importance of strengthening Mongolia's business climate, including through continued implementation of Mongolia-U.S. Agreement on Transparency in Matters Related to International Trade and Investment which further recognizes that increasing the transparency and predictability of the business environment will catalyze private sector trade and investment, and they noted that the two sides plan to hold a meeting of Mongolia-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council in Mongolia later this year. They also support the development of transparent mar-

ket mechanisms for the trade of export commodities.

Mongolia and the United States support private-sector initiatives to develop the digital economy and information and communication technologies, and we see cooperation in this space as essential for promoting digital trade and cyber security. Both sides highlighted the importance of Mongolia-U.S. collaboration to harness the benefits of the digital transformation, e-trade, and e-commerce. Our combined efforts will facilitate improved payment solutions, skills development, access to financing, and prevention of digital and Internet crime. The two sides reiterated their willingness to explore cooperation in cyber technology and welcomed the announcement of private upskilling programs for information and communications technology teachers in high-demand tech skills ranging from cybersecurity to data analytics.

Mongolia and the United States also discussed ways to increase Mongolia-U.S. space and technology cooperation, including through the development of a bilateral space dialogue. Both countries are working towards advancing space situational awareness cooperation and ensuring a peaceful, safe, secure, and sustainable space environment.

Mongolia and the United States recognize that people-to-people ties between our two countries are an indispensable pillar of our partnership, manifested in their immense economic and commercial contributions to both the Mongolia and the United States. These ties have been nourished by English officially becoming the primary foreign language in secondary schools of Mongolia, and by English education and community development training programs provided by the United States. To this end, Mongolia and the United States are pleased to announce an intention to open a new American Space in Erdenet with programming that will expand access to English language education and increase knowledge of study and exchange opportunities in the United States. The United States is also working to expand its English Teaching Assistants program in Mongolia by adding fifty percent more positions. Mongolia and the United States reaffirmed their shared commitment to expand education cooperation, building on the more than \$2 million annually the United States already dedicates to education and exchange in Mongolia, especially increased opportunities for Mongolians to pursue higher level education in the United States by offering more government-funded scholarships, growing our longstanding Fulbright binational partnership, and helping train even more English language teachers. The leaders welcomed 32 years of efforts by the U.S. Peace Corps, as well as the efforts of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Defense Language Institute, and other institutions to expand English language training programs and deepen Mongolia's Third Neighbor connections with the United States.

## Promoting Democratic Principles

Mongolia and the United States underscore the importance of strong democratic institutions, rule of law, media freedom, and respect for human rights, including the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Mongolia and the United States are committed to fortifying our societies by empowering civil society organizations-particularly those focused on youth and gender equality-to ensure the continued effectiveness of our democratic institutions. Mongolia and the United States also promoted increased social accountability to reinforce government responsiveness and noted the

vital importance of increasing public participation in the democratic process and announced the signing of a new USAID-Ministry of Finance Development Objective Grant Agreement, valued at up to \$25 million, to strengthen democratic governance, promote clean energy, and advance a resilient, diversified, and inclusive economy. Working with Congress, USAID plans to invest an initial \$12 million into the agreement this year to support core lines of effort in partnership with Mongolia. USAID is also providing \$600,000 in additional support for disaster preparedness programs to build communities' resilience to dzuds and other hazards.

The United States commended Mongolia for its rigorous agenda to combat corruption through its five key measures. Mongolia expressed appreciation for U.S. assistance that has contributed to Mongolia's development of effective judicial and law enforcement practices. Both sides noted that since 2018, Mongolia and the United States have effectively cooperated through substantive technical assistances, such as equipment, training, and exchanges for Mongolian criminal justice agencies to improve transparency and combat corruption. Mongolia and the United States are also working to increase cooperation and information sharing between our respective law enforcement agencies to improve border security and address transnational crime, including the trafficking of drugs, humans, cultural property, and wildlife, as well as financial crimes such as money laundering.

Mongolia and the United States noted the importance of fair, equitable, and transparent policies that are representative of our respect for individual freedoms, and reaffirmed their commitment to the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and religion or belief. In line with these commitments, Mongolia and the United States are both members of the Freedom Online Coalition and are working together to globally advance a vision of a free and open Internet.

Maintaining free and open access to information is key to ensuring that democratic principles and institutions endure. As such, both sides welcomed the launch of USAID's Media and Civil Society Strengthening program, which will build on Mongolia's leadership as a democracy in the Indo-Pacific region. Mongolia and the United States are committed to enhancing social accountability mechanisms and improvements in public access to information. The United States emphasized that Mongolia's principles supporting the free flow of information promote the country's independence, sovereignty, and security.

Both sides also reviewed the success of the first-ever Strategic Dialogue between Mongolia and the United States in 2022, the continuation of Mongolia-U.S.-Japan trilateral talks in 2022, and the first-ever Mongolia-U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK) trilateral talks in 2023. These diplomatic engagements are an expression of shared values and our commitment to further strengthen our democratic institutions.

## Strengthening Security Cooperation

Mongolia and the United States had an open exchange of views on the regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest, and both committed to engage further in strategic security cooperation. Mongolia and the United States are strengthening their Third Neighbor defense cooperation, based on a shared desire for a stable and peaceful Indo-Pacific region, including by working to address non-traditional defense and security challenges. The United States is committed to working with Mongolia to develop and strengthen regional security partnerships and to enhance Mongolia's international interoperability, including through the annual, multinational Khaan Quest exercise hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF).

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## WEATHER

Sunrise: 05:41 Sunset: 20:14

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimag: Night temps between +13 C and +15 C. Day time temps between +23 C and +27 C  
■ Eastern Aimag: Night temps between +15 C and +17 C. Day time temps between +24 C and +28 C  
■ Western Aimag: Night temps between +10 C and +13 C. Day time temps between +21 C and +26 C  
■ Gobi Aimag: Night temps between +15 C and +22 C. Day time temps between +29 C and +34 C





# Prime Minister's Visit to the US to Expand Strategic Partnership

Continued from page 1

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken also noted that the Open Skies Agreement between the two countries will facilitate even more people-to-people exchanges, as well as the economic roadmap will strengthen the trade and investment relationship, including the clean energy transition and critical minerals.

The leaders discussed the importance of advancing democratic principles and upholding fundamental freedoms, as well as engaging constructively on regional and global security issues. The Secretary and the Prime Minister also welcomed the signing of an Open Skies Agreement between Mongolia and the United States, which will expand the economic and commercial partnership, promote people-to-people ties, and create new opportunities for airlines, travel companies, and customers.

Ahead of the meeting, the Economic Cooperation Roadmap of Governments of Mongolia and the US for the Strategic Third Neighbour Partnership was signed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Battsetseg and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken as well as Open Skies Agreement between the Governments of Mongolia and the US was signed by the Minister of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia S. Byambatsogt and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken.

## Opportunities on Cooperation in Critical Minerals

On August 4, Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene met U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo to advance the trade and investment relationship between the United States and Mongolia. They discussed over three decades of close ties between the countries and outlined opportunities for future cooperation, particularly in the critical minerals and agricultural sectors. They noted the importance of improving Mongolia's investment climate, particularly the transparency and predictability of the business environment, which would be instrumental in increasing trade and bringing more U.S. investment into the country.

On the same day, Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene visited the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and met with NASA Deputy Administrator, astronaut Pam Melroy and other officials to discuss space cooperation.

## Cooperation in Transportation and Defense Discussed

The US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai. They exchanged views on the possibilities of bringing cooperation of the two countries in the transportation sector to a new level.

Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene expressed his gratitude for establishing the Open Skies Agreement between the Governments of Mongolia and the US, which had been discussed for many years.

The parties emphasized that the conclusion of this agreement will give a strong impetus for establishing direct flights between Mongolia and the US, expanding bilateral economic cooperation, opening up new opportunities for mutual travel of citizens, trade, and tourism, and stimulating cooperation in the business sector.

During a meeting, the Memorandum between the Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia and the Department of Transportation of the United States on Cooperation on Issues of Mutual Interest in the Transport Sector was signed by the Minister of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia S. Byambatsogt and the US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg.

With the signing of the MOU, both parties will be in constant communication through their appointed representatives. The Memorandum stipulates that the parties will implement projects, programs, and measures that are in the interests of the two countries, conduct joint research and studies, and support relations, and partnership between government and private entities.

To develop a safe, reliable, productive, sustainable, and integrated transport system, the two parties agreed to strengthen transport partnerships and cooperate in prominent areas of mutual interest, using the capabilities and experiences of the public and private sectors.

The countries, for example, will cooperate in the fields of all types and modes of transportation, including highways, railways, inland waterways, transit transportation, civil air transportation, and transportation of dangerous goods.

## Exchanging Views on Cooperation with "MITRE" Corporation

On August 3, the Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene

Luvsannamsrai visited "MITRE" Corporation and got acquainted with the operations of the corporation, including Data Analysis, Simulation Studies, and Experiment Laboratories.

The PM and the Senior Vice President and General Manager of MITRE Public Sector Beth Meinert exchanged views on opportunities for cooperation after Ms. Beth Meinert provided comprehensive information on its various projects and programs, including addressing traffic congestion, advancing remote diagnostic technology, and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. The achievements of these projects and programs extend far beyond the borders of the United States, as they have made significant contributions to other countries.

MITRE, an American not-for-profit organization, was founded in Bedford, Massachusetts in 1958. MITRE's mission is to provide innovative solutions and technical expertise for U.S. Government Agencies, helping them tackle complex challenges in defense, intelligence, cybersecurity, healthcare, and more. Armed with over nine thousand employees and an annual budget of USD 3 billion, the corporation has more than 200 laboratories and manages six federally funded research and development centers.

## US Secretary of Defense Commends Mongolia's UN Peacekeeping Contributions



The United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III paid a courtesy call on Mongolian Premier L. Oyun-Erdene on August 3, 2023, and exchanged views on defense cooperation.

Mr. Oyun-Erdene expressed his gratitude to the US government for its cooperation in strengthening the capacity of the Mongolian Armed Forces and for support in enabling Mongolia to increase its participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

In turn, Secretary of Defense

Austin extended his high appreciation to Mongolia for its contribution to UN peacekeeping operations and the skills of the Mongolian Armed Forces. Furthermore, Mr. Lloyd J. Austin III expressed his profound gratitude for taking part in peacekeeping operations "shoulder-to-shoulder" with American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan over numerous years.

## Google to Support Mongolia, Training Ten Thousand Educators and One Thousand Students



During his Official Visit to the US, Premier of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai visited Google's offices in Washington, D.C., on August 4.

At the Meeting, Mr. Prime Minister noted that Mongolia's transformation blends modernization with its cherished nomadic culture and heritage. He expressed his gratitude to Google Inc. for starting its cooperation with the Government of Mongolia

As a result of the Meeting, the parties agreed to introduce the products and services, and programs of Google in Mongolia. Google announced its part in supporting "Vision-2050," a long-term development policy of the Government of Mongolia through its work in education.

The Government of Mongolia is dedicated to providing every child and educator with access to online learning devices. To realize this, Google and the Government of Mongolia will cooperate to provide local schools with an initial 20 thousand Chromebooks,

with a goal of eventually getting a Chromebook to every student and teacher. Along with deploying new devices, they will simultaneously extend the life of older Macs and PCs that are already in schools by installing ChromeOS Flex, a version of ChromeOS made to modernize existing devices at no additional cost. This will help refresh tens of thousands of devices, providing significant improvements to device performance and battery life, as well as helping reduce e-waste.

To help educators using the one million Google for Education Workspace accounts being deployed in the region, Google will provide 10 thousand Level 1 and Level 2 Educator Certifications. These will enable the first group of certified teachers to then train their colleagues in becoming proficient in technology use.

To help prepare students for the future, Google will provide one thousand scholarships for the Google Career Certificates, which equips people with job-ready skills for in-demand fields like Cybersecurity, IT Support, UX Design, Data Analytics, Project Management, and Digital Marketing with no degree or experience required.

"Through this initiative with Google, the life chances of Mongolia's youth will not only improve but also our thriving start-up ecosystems and growth in high innovation sectors will be further supported," said Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr. Oyun-Erdene.

# Joint Statement on the Strategic Third Neighbor Partnership between Mongolia and the US

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The United States supports Mongolia's long-standing commitment to international Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and safeguarding human rights and democracy around the world. The United States noted that the MAF has international recognition as a highly qualified, reliable security provider and thanked Mongolia for the MAF's contributions to coa-

lition security efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan that directly benefited the Afghan people, the United States, and U.S. partners and allies. Mongolia highlighted that the MAF manages a UN-certified, professionally run regional training center capable of conducting pre-deployment training, supporting key UN PKO courses, and executing a multinational peacekeeping exercise. Both sides welcomed enhanced MAF participation in U.S.

military education and training opportunities to facilitate MAF development and establish long-term rapport between our militaries' leaders. The United States also noted the 20 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles that Mongolia will be receiving from the United States in support of Mongolia's UN peacekeeping missions.

Both sides recognized the importance of engaging constructively on regional and global security issues of concern. They

noted with deep concern the humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine and support any effort to foster a restoration of a sustainable peace based on international law. Both sides also reiterated their commitment to diplomacy with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as the only viable means of achieving lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula and call on the DPRK to refrain from further violations of UN Security

Council Resolutions and return to negotiations.

*Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene and Vice President Harris share the highest level of confidence that the increasing ties between our two nations will grow even stronger as our people forge ever closer friendships. Together, we will show the world that our strategic Third Neighbor partnership will lead to our nations' continued prosperity, peace, and security.*



# Meat Export Rise: Mongolian Mutton Store in Dubai



The largest food shopping center in Dubai of the United Arab Emirates started selling Mongolian mutton on August 1.

As part of the implementation of the goal to "increase meat exports" specified in the Action Program of the Government of Mongolia, Mongolian meat producers begin supplying meat prepared by halal method in Mongolia in accordance with the standards of the buyer to the UAE market from April 2023. To bring Mongolian mutton closer to consumers of the Emirates, a Mongolian mutton store was opened.

Mongolia currently exports meat and meat products to 11 countries, including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Qatar and Vietnam and meat of horse, sheep and goat dominate in the export.

The Asian countries resumed the export of live livestock in

October 2022 and by the end of last year, Mongolia exported a total of 16,1 thousand tons of meat and meat products while the number reached to 24.2 thousand tons, as of this April since the beginning of 2023. Moreover, 28,503 heads of live livestock animal, mainly sheep were exported in 2022 and 24,540 heads of sheep, goat and horse since the beginning of this year, according to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI).

As of the end of 2022, Mongolia has 71.1 million head of livestock, according to the National Statistics Office.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) through its technical assistance within the WB-MOFALI Export Development Project is supporting Halal and Organic certification bodies to be accredited by the GCC-Gulf Accreditation Center for Halal

and International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) in cooperation with the Mongolian National Authority for Accreditation. This would help build competitiveness of the private sector towards value added agriculture product exports in line with the importing country requirements.

In 2018, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) launched a project titled "Integrating Landlocked Commodity Dependent Countries into Regional and Global Value Chains" with the goal to support integrated value chain development in four landlocked countries primarily through the agri-food sector. The project studied activities in Mongolia, which derived nearly 25 percent of its GDP from mining and quarrying activities in 2018. Considering that for a variety of reasons, increasing meat exports is a viable way for Mongolia to diversify away from mineral commodities and become a more integrated part of the regional and global economy UNCTAD conducted two studies.

The first report focuses on the domestic and export meat value chain in Mongolia, analysing the downstream value chain of meat in Mongolia. The second report complements the first study by identifying the top five potential export markets for Mongolian meat exporters.

As of 2019, Mongolia exported meat products to 18 countries throughout the world. The top five destination markets for Mongolian meat are China, Japan, the Russian Federation, Viet Nam, and Kazakhstan, according to the 2021 report of the Analysis of Key Destination Markets for Mongolian Meat Exporters.

"The Chinese market has the most potential for increased meat exports due to the large amount it currently imports from Mongolia as well as its massive population, which consumes an estimated 75 million tons of meat annually. The Russian market is promising for similar reasons. The Russian Federation is the largest country in Europe by population and is Mongolia's second-largest trading partner. Japan and Kazakhstan will also be examined as potential export markets because both countries significantly increased their imports from Mongolia in the last five years. Viet Nam also ranks highly as a meat export destination due to its large population and its significant increase in meat consumption. As the growth in domestic meat output does not keep up with the current consumption trends, the Vietnamese market offers good prospects for meat exporters, such as Mongolia," noted in the report.



## Currency Swap Agreement Renewed with the People's Bank of China

The Bank of Mongolia and the People's Bank of China have renewed the bilateral currency swap agreement of RMB 15 billion/MNT 7.25 trillion.

The effective period of the agreement is three years, until 2026, which can be extended when both parties agree.

The renewal of the bilateral

currency swap agreement will further deepen the monetary and financial cooperation between the two central banks, promote bilateral trade for

economic development and support the stability of financial markets, reports the Bank of Mongolia.

## First B787-9 Dreamliner for Operating Lease to Land Soon



In May 2023, MIAT State-owned JSC and AerCap company signed an agreement for a long-term operating lease of two Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners. According to the contract, the first 787-9 Dreamliner is scheduled to land at Chinggis Khaan International Airport this August, informed MIAT.

As for the second 787-9 Dreamliner, it will be received in the first quarter of 2024.

The B787-9 is a long-range, wide-body jet airliner with full passenger comfort, fuel efficiency, and the latest technological solutions. MIAT ordered the Dreamliner with 292 passenger seats (30 business, 36

premium economy, and 226 economy).

This is an important milestone for MIAT Mongolian Airlines aiming for an expansion after the Covid-19 lockdowns, during which the airline had downsized its fleet from 8 to 5 and is now in the process of expanding. MIAT is planning to operate the aircraft on its routes to Frankfurt, Istanbul and Incheon with an eventual operation to the USA, reports the national flag carrier of Mongolia.

AirCap (NYSE: AER) is the global leader in aviation leasing with a fleet in excess of 1,700 aircraft (as of June 30, 2023) and an order book of approximately 400 of the most in-demand new technology assets in the world.

### ECONOMIC NEWS

#### Companies Listed on Stock Exchange Presenting Reports

Joint-stock companies listed in categories I and II of the Mongolian Stock Exchange have begun to publicly present their activity reports for the first half of this year. This activity started on August 7 through the presentation of the report of the Mongolian Stock Exchange JSC.

As for the Mongolian Stock Exchange JSC, during the reporting period, it earned a total revenue of MNT 5 billion from operations (expenses of MNT 2.6 billion) and made a net pre-tax profit of MNT 2.4 billion. A total of MNT 429.3 million in taxes and fees were paid to the state budget.

During the one-month-long presentations of the report, citizens and the general public can receive valuable information on the main financial indicators of joint-stock companies, an overview of important events, and data that help predict the future trends of the stock market.

#### "Erdenes Tavantolgoi" JSC Sells 15 Million Tons of Coal

As of August 8, "Erdenes Tavantolgoi" JSC has sold 15 million tons of coal. The company reported that this figure is the highest sales in the company's history.

Last year, 11.5 million tons of coal were sold. Actually, the amount of coal that was sold during the whole year is fulfilled in half a year.

"Erdenes Tavantolgoi" JSC has paid MNT 1.5 trillion in taxes, payments, and fees to the state and local budgets in the first 8 months of this year.

#### "Mongolian Mining Week" to Take Place for the Second Time

The Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry, in collaboration with the Mongolian National Mining Association, will organize "Mongolian Mining Week-2023" on October 9-13, 2023. The event, to take place for the second year, aims to attract foreign investment.

"Mongolian Mining Week" is an event encompassing various activities, including forums, discussions, exhibitions, and face-to-face meetings. Representatives from mining and heavy industry gather to exchange knowledge, share insights, and collaborate towards sustainable and ethical mining practices in Mongolia. This year, the participants will discuss reforms and the environment of investment, being realized as part of the Long-term Development Policy of Mongolia "Vision-2050," and the "New Revival Policy" of the Government of Mongolia.

The first "Mongolian Mining Week" was jointly organized by the Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry and Oyu Tolgoi LLC in 2022 to commemorate the historic 100th anniversary of mining industry development in Mongolia.



# Mongolia Hosts International Conference of Asian Political Parties

*The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) took place on August 5 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.*

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve, Minister of Mongolia, Chief Cabinet Secretary, and Secretary General of Mongolian People's Party, and Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, made remarks.

Chief Cabinet Secretary D. Amarbayasgalan said, "The ICAPP has effectively fostered mutual understanding among our countries and people by convening leaders of political parties. This gathering, here in Mongolia, holds special significance as it addresses Asia's common opportunities and challenges in the post-pandemic world. The Mongolian People's Party has been actively participating in ICAPP activities since 2004 and has membership in the Standing Committee in 2013. Together, we can build a better world where our citizens thrive in equitable cities with equal opportunities, where human rights are diligently respected, and social justice is upheld and embraced."

Representatives of 28 political parties from 21 countries participated in the Meeting, which was postponed twice due to the pandemic. Besides representatives from Asian countries such as Russia, China, South



Korea, Turkiye, Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Malaysia, Iraq, Georgia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Bangladesh, political parties' representatives of Ghana from Africa, and Spain from Europe took part in the Meeting.

"It was four years ago when the Mongolian People's Party first proposed to have the two meetings of the Youth Wing and the Women's Wing of the ICAPP in Mongolia. But we had to postpone the meetings twice due to the unexpected and unprecedented challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Young politicians, with their contemporary experiences, formulated by the ever-globalizing world, are in a unique position to provide fresh insights about societal issues that sometimes pass unnoticed. Their capacity to become leaders to guide future generations makes them a vital asset to our efforts to solve the newly emerging challenges for a better world,"

said the Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee Chung Eui-yong.

The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing was held under the theme "Engaging Young People in Social and Political Dialogue for Post-Pandemic Socio-Economic Progress" while the theme of the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing was "Promoting Women's Leadership to Achieve a Gender-Responsive Post-Pandemic Recovery."

Furthermore, Honorary Chung Eui-yong noted that "Women are the backbone of the families and crucial to the growth and development of all communities. Their participation in politics is essential for the development of democratic societies. We all know that women should play an integral role in every society. Since its inception in 2000, the ICAPP has maintained sustained peace and shared prosperity as our central goal in all meetings, from the biennial General Assemblies to

meetings and activities of affiliated groups." At the end of the opening remarks, he extended warmest welcome and gratitude to all participants who have come to Ulaanbaatar to participate in today's conference, which will undoubtedly help the ICAPP community realize their founding vision of achieving sustainable peace and shared prosperity.

During the Meetings, N. Uchral, Minister of Digital Development and Communications and President of the Social Democratic Youth, was elec-

have joined the ICAPP. As political parties join the ICAPP regardless of their political and ideological backgrounds, the Mongolian People's Party (MPP), Democratic Party, and HUN Party are the members from Mongolia. The Mongolian People's Party has been actively participating in the ICAPP activities since 2004 and was elected and has been working as a member of the Standing Committee since 2013.

Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP visited Mon-



ted as the Chairperson of the ICAPP Youth Wing, whereas Ch. Nomin, Minister of Culture and Vice President of Social Democratic Woman, was elected as the Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing.

ICAPP was launched in Manila, Philippines in September 2000 to promote exchanges and cooperation among political parties with various ideologies in Asia and Oceania. As of 2018, more than 350 political parties from 52 countries in the region

golia in June 2019. During the visit, he met with MPP Secretary General D. Amarbayasgalan, where the MPP General Secretary made the initiative to organize the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar. The initiative was approved by the ICAPP Standing Committee at its 33rd meeting held in Malaysia on December 13, 2019.



## Four Dead over Flooding in Ulaanbaatar, Recovery Ongoing

*Four people died and hundreds of families were affected and suffered damages associated with the flooding in Ulaanbaatar from torrential rain on August 5.*

According to the Mongolian National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, 12 mm of rain fell in the areas of Jamsran Mountain, the territory of 21, 27, 29 khoros /the smallest administrative unit/ of Bayanzurkh District, causing heavy flash flooding.

The emergency response began with rescue and displacing operations, cutting off damaged roads and passages, recovering the electricity supply, and distributing relief items.

Governor of the capital city and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar Sumiyabazar Dolgorsuren informed that the city administration decided to provide apartments to the families of the deceased and furnished Mongol Gers to 16 families, who lost homes due to the flooding, financed from the Capital City Governor's Reserve

Fund.

Now flooding rescue and relief activities, including setting up relief centers, distribution of more relief items, disinfection of flooded areas, and restoring and strengthening damaged roads and bridges are underway. Over 1200 emergency officers and some 90 vehicles are working in the damaged areas.

A total of 250 cars have been affected by the three extreme events of flooding in Ulaanbaatar this summer times, as insurance companies reported.

## ADB Appoints Shannon Cowlin as Country Director in Mongolia

*The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Shannon Cowlin as its new Country Director for Mongolia. Ms. Cowlin will oversee ADB's operations in Mongolia, including the implementation of the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for 2021–2024 to help the country continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and lay resilient foundations for inclusive and sustainable growth.*

"ADB's operations in Mongolia focus on three strategic priorities: inclusive social development and economic opportunity; climate-resilient infrastructure; and sustainable, green, and climate-conscious development," said Ms. Cowlin. "I am looking forward to working with the government and other key partners in supporting these



priority areas."

Ms. Cowlin has over 24 years of professional experience, including more than 10 years in ADB. She has been leading energy and multidisciplinary climate change dialogue and projects. She has been based out of Mongolia Resident Mission since September 2021. A national of the United States (US), Ms. Cowlin holds a master's degree in environmental health sciences and a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering sciences

from the University of California, Berkeley in the United States. Prior to joining ADB, she was a manager at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in the United States where she led US-India and South Asia regional energy collaboration on behalf of various US government and multilateral agencies.

Mongolia has been a member of ADB since 1991. To date, ADB has committed 357 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance totaling \$3.7 billion to Mongolia. ADB's assistance is aligned with Mongolia's New Recovery Policy and Vision-2050. ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members-49 from the region.

## Brain Awareness Week in Mongolia

*Brain Awareness Week, a global campaign began in Mongolia with IBRO-APRC Ulaanbaatar Associate School on Behavioral and Translational Neuroscience.*



The six-day school, is designed to teach knowledge and techniques for conducting research on behavioral or translational neuroscience and is jointly organized by the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO): Asia/Pacific Regional Committee (APRC), National Center for Mental Health (NCMH), Brain and Mind Re-

search Institute, Mongolian Academy of Sciences (BMRI) Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences (MNUMS) Mongolian Neuroscience Society (MNS).

During the school, the selected participants are provided with theoretical knowledge and basic techniques of behavioral and translational neuroscience, particularly covering basic science research to public health applications of neuroscientific methods. Mongolian Neuroscience Society, which was founded in 2014 with the aim to develop neuroscience in Mongolia is making efforts to raise public awareness and recognition of the importance of brain research, organizing a series of trainings and public lecture events jointly with relevant organizations including MNUMS.



# Uyanga Unushikbayar: In the depths of my soul, a passionate dream awakens—to unveil Mongolian opera to the world

■ An interview with Opera Singer U. Uyanga, the Honored Artist of Mongolia.

**-You performed in Kyrgyz Opera and Ballet Theatre two times before. Tell us about your trip to Kyrgyzstan.**

-The cooperation agreement between the State Opera and Ballet Academic Theatre and the Kyrgyz Opera and Ballet Theatre in Bishkek has provided a valuable opportunity for cultural exchange between Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan. As part of this agreement, three Mongolian opera singers, including myself, visited Kyrgyzstan, and I performed in the Rigoletto opera by Giuseppe Verdi as Gilda. Previously, I visited Kyrgyzstan for the second time since I was offered an opportunity to play in another opera at the Kyrgyz Theatre. It is common for the artists to teach master classes and engage in artistic exchanges when performing in other countries.

On my last visit to Kyrgyzstan, I had the privilege of staging Mongol Romance and performing my recital with piano under the theme "Night of the Mongolian Opera" in the Malachite Room of the Winter Palace. The Malachite Room, adorned with its beloved gemstone, provided the perfect setting for this unforgettable musical experience. Of course, the Malachite Room stands as an optimal place for recitals.

**-What is the feature of the Mongolian opera?**

-Mongolian opera, with its vast array of themes and profound poetic verses, is a reflection of the spirit and nomadic heritage of the Mongolian people. I strongly believe it is crucial to translate Mongolian opera into different languages and share it globally.

I am honored to have been entrusted with the vital endeavor of B. Sharav himself to spread and promote Mongolian Opera in the future." I have sung operas composed by B. Sharav and worked extensively on his works more than performing arias for soprano. In 2013, I was awarded the Honored Artist of Mongolia. To commemorate this achievement, I organized a tribute concert at the State Opera and Ballet Academic Theatre, featuring exclusively the operas of Mr. Sharav.

In my perception, we are truly fortunate people, traversing this era alongside Sharav and Jantsannorov. Basking in the wisdom of those people and wielding the power of transmitting their artistic legacies is a remarkable chance, a profound and revered pursuit. Lately, I have been working closely with Jantsannorov, embracing the opportunity to learn from his immense talent. Together, we are resolute in our mission to resound his and Mongolian operas in Mongolia and worldwide.

**-At the onset of our interview, you said that you were invited to sing in other countries. From where were you invited?**

-As an opera singer, it is crucial to be in shape and always prepared. Therefore, I practice every day. I have signed contracts with neighboring countries to

Mongolia. First, I have planned to perform in Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca" at the Buryat State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre. Moreover, I have been invited to Inner Mongolia, where I will be organizing a recital to introduce Mongolian operas in several aimags. Preparatory works have already started since it is expected to be a long tour.

**Music tunes people's soul, to cry of both happiness and sadness, and laugh of both joy and bitterness.**

**-I think you have extensive experience, having sung opera for a long time. How many operas have you sung?**

-Nearly for two decades, I have worked for the SOBAT, an organization where I have flourished and grown as an artist. Throughout this remarkable journey, I have had the privilege of performing in over 20 operas, taking on both leading and supporting roles, mostly shouldering the coloratura soprano. Among the many operas I have embraced, "Tosca," which allows me to unveil the full breadth and forcefulness of my vocal range, has truly captivated my heart. The more I sing it, the more I love it. My colleagues at the theatre say to me, "The character of Violetta in La Traviata is, of course, yours, Uyanga." Recently, I embarked on a new chapter in my artistic journey by portraying the role of Nedda in Ruggero Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci" during its staging at the State Opera and Ballet Academic Theatre. Before this, I had the pleasure of performing Lucia in Gaetano Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor."

As a dramatic soprano, I have performed the roles of Tatyana in Eugene Onegin, Aida in the opera "Aida," and Floria Tosca in "Tosca." Furthermore, I have taken on roles as a coloratura soprano, including Rosina in "The Barber of Seville," The Queen of the Night, and Pamina in "The Magic Flute." In recent years, I have played the roles of Khorolmaa in "Uchirtai Gurwan Tolgoi" and Tserenlkham in "Lambugain Nulims" by Legendary D. Natsagdorj poet and composer Kh. Bilegiargal.

**-Who selects the artists for opera roles? Director or Conductor?**

-The Conductor is mainly responsible for casting decisions. It means the Conductor decides that this role suits Uyanga's voice. On the other hand, the Director works closely with the singers to shape their performances, guide their artistic acting, and ensure that the characters and story are effectively portrayed on stage. In the world of opera, the relationship between the Director and Conductor can be likened to a harmonious symphony. They work closely together as the soul of the opera.

Indeed, the art of opera has evolved and flourished over the centuries, with Composers such as Vincenzo Bellini, Gioachino Rossini, Wolfgang Amadeus

Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach, and George Frideric Handel contributing significantly to its development. One of the distinctive aspects of opera is how the Composer carefully considers the voice types and tailors the music to suit the specific abilities and strengths of the leading roles. Operas often draw inspiration from real people and historical events. The composer, with his mastery of melody, harmony, and orchestration, crafts music that allows the singer to convey the depth of emotion and the intricacies of the character. Nowadays, competitions are regularly organized among opera singers to assess and showcase their vocal abilities.

**-How much time is typically needed to prepare an opera, from its initial conception to the moment it is ready to captivate and enthrall the audience?**

-Building an opera usually takes at least six months or more. The first step is for the leading singer to learn the notes. Then, there are piano rehearsals with the singers. Once that is finished, it's time for the conductor to listen to it and provide feedback. Next, the opera is tried out with other singers, followed by rehearsals with the chorus and orchestra. After going through these processes, the opera, which typically lasts for 2-3 hours, is ready for staging. There are around 20 steps involved in completing one opera.

**-Character study is important. When crafting a character, what key elements do you prioritize?**

-Let's take an example on "La Traviata." This is a tragic story of a woman, who falls in love with a young nobleman, Alfredo. Their passionate relationship is plagued by societal expectations, illness, and betrayal, ultimately leading to Violetta's heartbreaking demise. It's a masterpiece that depicts Violetta's struggle as she faces the choice between remaining faithful to her love for Alfredo or succumbing to societal pressures through music. To accurately portray the main character and effectively convey their intentions, I engage in thorough research and analysis, such as examining the composer's every note and word, understanding the historical context in which the character was created, and considering their clothing, mannerisms, and actions. By incorporating all these elements, I strive to bring the character to life in my way. Singers should feel the music as it decides whether to shout, cry or even die. It is the essence of building a character.

**-The voice of the opera singer must be powerful. Is there any vocal training routine? How do you keep your voice healthy and strong?**

-I do not actually follow any strict rules, but I always prioritize exercise and personal organization. These are the most important things to me. Additionally, sleep is crucial. The better we sleep, the more powerful our voice becomes. If we take good care of ourselves and manage our energy well, a singer's voice can last long, sound perfect, and remain capable of



singing for extended periods of time. If our soul, mind, and heart are clear, our voice becomes golden, as the voice is an integral part of our body. I believe that the voice is like water. When it becomes agitated, it becomes difficult to see through. However, if we allow it to settle, the answer becomes clear.

Despite the importance of rest and sleep, I also have the responsibility of taking care of my family as a mother and a wife. Fortunately, my husband supports, understands, and helps me very well. We have three sons, with the oldest having already grown up. However, my middle son is a first-grader, while the youngest attends kindergarten. There are numerous tasks for me to manage, such as dropping off my sons at school and kindergarten, preparing their meals, and assisting them with their studies. At 10 a.m., I warm up my voice. Then, at noon, I engage in my daily exercise routine with the pianist. Singing is a part of my life that I cannot go a day without it.

**The voice is "born" by the pristineness of the nature.**

**-You were guided by good teacher. Do you have any interest in teaching?**

-I am always proud of my teacher, Mr. D. Bandi. He trained numerous students and helped them to find the right path to success. Unlike many other teachers who often focus on a single tone, whether it be bass or tenor, Mr. Bandi stands out because he can train students with various voice tones and timbre, perfecting each one.

Of course, I have a strong desire to share what I have learned from my teacher and what I have gained through my efforts. However, I will start teaching when the right time comes. In the meantime, I will be acquiring more experience and honing my skills.

Being a teacher entails a lot of responsibility. Teachers always need to be serious and committed as they play a crucial role in shaping the destiny of their students. When my singing journey comes to an end, I will consider pursuing a career as a teacher. I will sing for the next 5-6 years.

In opera, the soprano and tenor voices often take on the roles of love and lovers. They are frequently cast in the leading roles and perform together as partners in various romantic storylines.

**-I would like to conclude our conversation with your vision for the future of the State Opera and Ballet Academic Theatre of Mongolia.**

-I envision a flourishing future for our opera theater, a beacon that attracts world-renowned opera singers and conductors, enticing them to grace its stage with their performances. Every artist holds a deep-seated aspiration to push the boundaries of the opera theatre, expanding its artistic horizons even further. This dual vision encompasses the creation of new stages that boldly embrace innovation, while also cherishing the existing stages, preserving their artistic legacy for the enrichment by future generations.





# Collection of Dinosaur Fossils to Return to Mongolia

*The US is returning a collection of dinosaur fossils to Mongolia.*

*The repatriation ceremony of Mongolian dinosaur fossils was held at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC on August 3.*

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Battsetseg Batmunkh and Ambassador of Mongolia to the United States Batbayar Ulziidelger were present at the event, representing the Government of Mongolia.

The fossils were recovered through HSI investigations conducted by our offices in Arizona, New York, and Wyoming, and the collection was represented by a tyrannosaurus bataar skull, protoceratops fossil, alioramus skull, and saurolophus skull. The alioramus, which resembles a smaller version of a tyrannosaurus rex, is exclusively found in Mongolia – the source of many, extremely rare fossils. The specimen on display at the ceremony is considered one of the best-preserved fossils ever found of the dinosaur that lived approximately 70 million years ago, HIS reports.

"These fossils, once lost to time and distance, now find their way back to the land, where they were first discovered. The remarkable journey of these artifacts demonstrates the strength of collaborative diplomacy and a solid dedication to preserving our cultural heritage. I am delighted to acknowledge the valuable contributions of law enforcement officers and special agents, agencies, attorneys, judges... our collective efforts demonstrated the potential to effectively fight illegal smuggling, both bilaterally and multilaterally," said Foreign Minister Battsetseg.

"Federal criminal and civil laws provide HSI the unique au-

thority to take a leading role in investigating crimes involving the illicit importation, exportation, and distribution of cultural property, antiquities, and art – including fossils – which are part of a country's cultural heritage and history," said Executive Associate Director of HSI Katrina W. Berger. "Today's repatriation includes specimens from 12 different investigations. I commend the case agents, partners, and experts whose hard work and dedication helped make this repatriation possible. These cases can be quite complex and take many years, but the reward is being able to return these objects to their rightful owners the people of Mongolia."

day possible," said Ambassador Batbayar. "This ceremony is a testament to the strong partnership between the Government of Mongolia and the United States and we are fortunate to witness the first-ever public display of these Mongolian dinosaur fossils."

The first of the cases began in May 2012 when an HSI New York investigation revealed that an individual was selling a fossilized alioramus skull through a U.S. based auction house; that skull is part of the collection being returned. Later that same year, the HSI Casper, Wyoming office's investigations relating to the illegal importation and subsequent sale of dinosaur fossils originating from Mongolia, led to multiple seizures of a wide range of paleontological fossils illegally taken from Mongolia, including a rare juvenile tyrannosaurus bataar skull; a fossilized gallimimus skeleton; a tarbosaurus bataar skeleton; nests of dinosaur eggs; a saber-toothed cat skull; a complete psittacosaurus skeleton; and a protoceratops skull. Some of these dinosaurs lived more than 100 million years ago in the Gobi.

The first repatriation of dinosaur fossil was the skeleton of the Tarbosaurus-Bataar. The T-Bataar case was a unique one in many aspects. Most importantly, it has laid foundation of further cooperation between the two governments in the fight against illegal trade of cultural heritages including fossils. The skeleton of the T-Bataar was almost sold to wealthy bidders at the auction, fortunately it now resides in the central hall of the Central Museum of Mongolian Dinosaurs in Ulaanbaatar.

Since 2012, over 30 fossil dinosaur specimens that were



taken from Mongolia illegally have been repatriated with the help of the Institute for the Study of Mongolian Dinosaurs. Specially, the Institute Founder Bolortsetseg Minjin has worked to identify and repatriate illegally exported Mongolian fossils. Dinosaur fossils that were illegally exported out of Mongolia often turn up in the hands of private collectors who may not realize that their prizes were obtained outside the law. We encourage anyone who might be in possession of Mongolian fossils to confirm their legality and contact us to have the fossil returned to Mongolia, no questions asked, where it can serve as

a valuable source of information and inspiration to science and the public, reports the Institute.

The Mongolian dinosaur fossils that had returned home include: Alioramus skull, Bactrosaurus skeleton, Protoceratops baby skeleton pieces, Troodontid egg bed, Psittacosaurus skeleton and skull and Hadrosaurus skeleton pieces.

The Alioramus was a dinosaur that lived in the late Cretaceous period, approximately 65 to 70 million years ago. It is related to the Tyrannosaurus and Tarbosaurus. The Alioramus skull was seized by CBP after being shipped from France with false declarations which suggested that it was an inexpensive replica, not a genuine fossil. When the shipper

petitioned for the Alioramus skull's release, it conceded that it was a genuine Mongolian fossil but submitted forged Mongolian export documents. Mongolian patrimony laws prohibit the export and foreign ownership of dinosaur fossils.

The Alioramus is an extremely rare dinosaur; only two specimens have been reported in the scientific literature, and both are from Mongolia, says Dr. Bolortsetseg Minjin. The Alioramus fossil is the most complete skull discovered to date. Its relative completeness, color and overall state of preservation are typical of the Nemegt Formation, which is only exposed in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia.

At the Aimag Naadam wrestling, there participate up to 128 wrestlers reached 16 years old, and the wrestler successfully passed the 5th round is awarded with the title "Aimag Nachin" (Falcon of Aimag), the second place owner is awarded with the title "Aimag Zaan" (Elephant of Aimag), and the winner is awarded with the title "Aimag Arslan" (Lion of Aimag). Up to 64 wrestlers reached 16 years old participate in the Sum National wrestling, and the second place winner is awarded with the title "Nachin of Sum" (Falcon of Sum), the winner is awarded with the title "Sum Zaan" (Elephant of Sum).

It is prohibited to limit the right to participate in the wrestling of the National Festival Naadam on the basis of discrimination by nationality, place of birth, administrative unit of the residence and title. The ranking of wrestlers who win the second and first places at the National Festival Naadam shall be regulated by the rules of the wrestling association.

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## 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.

**-What are law provisions regulating the national wrestling competition?**

-According to the Law on National Festival Naadam (edited in 2022), 1024 wrestlers shall be participated in the competition at the simultaneous 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Great Mongolian State and the even anniversary of the People's Revolution, however, 512 wrestlers shall compete in the celebration of the other festivals. The wrestler participating in the wrestling competition of the National Festival Naadam shall be of 16 years old. The below stated titles shall be awarded to the wrestlers who demonstrated the following success at the wrestling competition of the National Festival Naadam:

1. title „the National Nachin“ (Falcon) for the wrestler successfully passed the 5th round;
2. title „the National Khartsaga“ (Hawk) for the wrestler successfully passed the 6th round;
3. title „the National Zaan“ (Elephant) for the wrestler successfully passed the 7th round;
4. if the wrestler successfully passes the 8th round, he has got the title „the National Garid“ (Garuda) ;
5. if the wrestler successfully passed the 9th round, he has got the title „the National Arslan“ (Lion);
6. if the wrestler with the title lower than „the National Arslan“ (Lion) successfully passes the 10th round, he is awarded with the title „the State's Champion“;
7. if the wrestler with the title „National Arslan“ (Lion), who successfully passed the 9th round and was awarded with the title „the National Champion“, has got the second place in the 10th round, he keeps the title of „the National Champion“;
8. in a case if the wrestler, who has got the title „the National Lion“ after successful 9th round, successfully passes 10th round, he wins the title „Dayan Avarga“ (Wide Champion);
9. if the wrestler with the title „the National Champion“ successfully passes the 9th round and wins the second place, he is awarded with the title „Dayan Avarga“ (Wide Champion);
10. if the wrestler with the title „Dayan Avarga“ (Wide Champion) successfully passes the 9th round and wins the second place, he is awarded with the title „Darkhan Avarga“ (Grand Champion);
11. if the wrestler with the title „the National Champion“ successfully passes the 10th round and wins the first place, he is awarded with the title „Darkhan Avarga“ (Grand Champion). This title is the highest title in the National Naadam Wrestling.

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# "Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam 2023"

*The "Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam 2023," a Religious and Cultural Festival of Mongolia, took place at the Khui Doloon Khudag, located on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar on August 5-6, 2023. The Festival was jointly organized by the Governor's Office and Tourism Department of the capital city and Gandantegchinlen Monastery.*

The "Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam 2023" commenced with the Cham Dance, followed by a variety of events, including the Danshig parade, race of Soyolon (5-year-old horse), wrestling tournament, display of traditional Mongol attire, and the grand finale, the

"City of Nomads" concert.

At the Cham Dance, as tradition, specially trained monks wearing enormous and glorious masks and heavy ornaments danced in roles of deities with different characters, such as Ochirvaani (Vajrapani), showing suppression of the enemies and subduing the evil spirits with fierce movements.

The Governor of the capital city and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar D. Sumiyabazar emphasized the utmost importance of promoting, preserving, and passing down the culture, traditions, and identity of the Mongol people. He said, "In today's globalized world, our invaluable history, tradition, and culture define our identity and differentiate us from other



nations. Therefore, Mongolians continue to celebrate "Danshig Naadam," a festival that has been observed since the time of Great Chinggis Khaan, and this celebration persists grandly even today. This year marks the 7th anniversary of the Festival."

The "Khuree Tsam and Mairdar" photo exhibition, contests of traditional archery, mounted archery, and ankle-bone shooting, as well as concerts of Mongols, and a scientific conference titled "City of Nomads" were held as part of the Festival.

Specifically, over 100 scientists and researchers of ethnology, historical studies, cultural anthropology of religion, and archeology from ten countries,

including Mongolia, Tuva, Kalmyks, Buryatia, Inner Mongolia, Upper Mongolia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea and the Federal Republic of Germany convened in the conference.

Having been graciously invited to participate in the Festival, more than 20 artists from Buryatia, Inner Mongolia, Tuva, and Upper Mongols (Deed Mongol) displayed their exceptional talents.

Hailing from nine districts of the capital city Ulaanbaatar, a team comprising of 30 cultural and art heritage bearers and folk artists gathered to show the wonders of Mongolia within the confines of a traditional Ger. Their splendid performances

captivated both domestic and foreign tourists, providing them with a unique and unforgettable experience.

The officials of "Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam" announced that various peculiar moments of the Festival, including its historical significance, cultural and heritage aspects, as well as religious observances of Mongolia, would be uploaded to Google Street View.

The first Danshig Naadam was held in 1639 to celebrate the enthronement of High Saint Zanabazar as the first Bogd Jebtsundamba Khutuktu and the spiritual leader of the Mongolian people. It is one of Mongolia's major religious and cultural

## Ariunbold Wins Silver, Baasankhuu Secures Bronze at the IJF Hungary Masters

*On August 4-6, Budapest, a city of dreams in Hungary, hosted a prestigious IJF Hungary Masters 2023. From Mongolia, 14 judokas – nine male and five female – tested their physical prowess and skills in the tournament.*



International Master of Sports B. Baasankhuu received the first Mongolian medal in the tournament after beating Martinez Abelenda (ESP) in

the –48 kg category for the bronze medal. With less than 30 seconds to go and with two penalties already against her name, Martinez Abelenda had no choice but to attack and this time her unsuccessful placement left Baasankhuu with an opportunity in transition, which she took gratefully, spinning on the arm and sinking into an inescapable juji-gatame.

The second Mongolian medal (silver) was awarded to the International Master of Sports E. Ariunbold (-60 kg), who competed against Nagayama Ryuju (JPN), the World Champion, a three-time Masters Champion, and a ten-time Grand Slam Champion.

The Master title became an entirely Asian affair as Ariunbold Enkhaivan (MGL) met Nagayama in the finals. Nagayama swiftly scored an early waza-ari with a te-waza action. Making easy work of it, Nagayama was just waiting for the right moment to score

a second waza-ari with a left seoi-nage. His performance was nothing short of impeccable, securing him the gold medal.



Since 2010, Mongolian judokas have consistently taken part in this tournament, claiming an impressive tally of 10 gold, 8 silver, and 12 bronze medals, totaling in 30 medals.

## Ulaanbaatar International Music Festival to be Held in August



*The UB Festival Orchestra, founded in 2020 by the initiative of Khuyag Tuvdendorj, Soloist of Kunming International Philharmonic, China, will organize its second international music festival in Ulaanbaatar on August 14-23, 2023.*

The Festival is excited to present a diverse lineup of performances, including the UB Festival Orchestra, guest musicians from China, the US, and Kazakhstan, and two concerts: a chamber orchestra and a symphony orchestra. In addition to the concerts, there will be masterclasses and lectures.

The UB Festival Orchestra aims to preserving Mongolian musical heritage. They will be recording the works of famous and contemporary Mongolian composers in audio and video formats, storing them in the repertoire of Mongolia. It will allow people all over the world to experience these beautiful works for years to come.

The Festival brings together Mongolian musicians with world professionals, providing a unique opportunity for collaboration and learning, and helps to promote Mongolian classical music to a broader audience, both in Mongolia and abroad.