

## Welcome to Mongolia, Pope Francis

■ **Head of the Holy See Pope Francis is paying a State Visit to Mongolia from August 31 to September 4, 2023, at the invitation of the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa. It is the 43rd Apostolic Journey of Pope Francis.**

"It is a much-desired visit, which will be an opportunity to embrace a Church that is small in number, but vibrant in faith and great in charity," underscored Pope Francis, when he talked about his upcoming visit to Mongolia at the last Angelus on Sunday, 27 August. It is the first-ever visit of the Pope to Mongolia.

In conjunction with Pope Francis's visit to Mongolia, Matteo Bruni, the Director of the Holy See Press Office, held a press conference at the Vatican City on August 29. He introduced the program of the State Visit and answered journalists' questions.

Matteo Bruni, the Director of the Holy See Press Office, mentioned that the heart of the entire trip will be the meeting with the small Catholic community in Mongolia, which has around 1,500 faithful. He also pointed out that relations between the two countries date back to the 13th century, expanded into diplomatic relations in 1992, and have

been developing intensively for more than 30 years since the first Catholic missionaries were sent to Mongolia.

Mr. Matteo Bruni said that over a thousand faithful from various countries, including the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Thailand, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Azerbaijan, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, will join the faithful residing in Mongolia to attend the Holy Mass, a meeting with the Catholic community, in the Steppe Arena on September 3.

"Also on September 3, the Pope will preside over an ecumenical and interreligious event in the Hun Theatre, in which representatives of Shamanism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and other confessions will take part. The event offers a sign of the vocation for peaceful coexistence which has characterized the Mongolian people for decades," stressed Mr. Bruni. Government officials and



*The MONGOL MESSENGER wishes His Holiness Pope Francis a pleasant and memorable Visit to Mongolia.*

representatives of universities will be present at the meeting.

### Highlights of the Program:

**On September 2,** A Welcoming Ceremony of the Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis,

-The President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and the Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis will hold an official meeting,

-The Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis will hold a meeting with representatives of

the state, government, civil society and diplomatic missions,

-Speaker of the Parliament G. Zandanshatar will pay a courtesy call on Head of State Pope Francis,

-Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene to pay a courtesy call on the Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis,

-The Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis will meet bishops, priests, missionaries and consecrated persons as well as pastoral workers.

**On September 3,** the Pope

will participate in an Ecumenical and Interreligious Meeting in Ulaanbaatar's "Hun Theatre,"

-The Head of the Holy See will celebrate Holy Mass in the "Steppe Arena," Ulaanbaatar.

**On September 4,** the Pope will inaugurate a charity center – the House of Mercy – and meet staff and volunteers of the organization,

-Farewell Ceremony for the Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis will be held at the "Chinggis Khaan" airport.

## In Focus: NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



The newly approved Education Package Law should be correctly comprehended

and particular attention must be paid to its implementation at all level. Major platforms will be in-

troduced in secondary schools, and more attention will be paid to the rights of children and stu-

dents to learn and develop, and their protection. Improvements of dormitory and library services are reflected in the documents.

Registration for the expansion of "Medle" Online School, which opened last year with 10,000 children, has begun to organize selective courses for the 11th graders. The number of children of "Medle" Online School is expected to reach 30,000 this year. The school promotes independent learning of children in remote areas where they do not have a possibility to select subjects, assumes the Head of the Secondary Education Department of the Ministry of Education and Science T. Nyam-Ochir at a press conference co-organized by the Ministry of Education and Science, General Authority for Education and The Capital City Education Department in connection with the start of the new academic year.

Apart from legitimizing the start and the end of classes in pre-school facilities and secondary schools, the number of class days during the school year was set to be 170-185 days in conformity with international standards. Since the four-term structure was approved, the official letter on the training plan has been delivered to all aimags. The time schedule of the curriculum has not been

changed, and the regulations were made to enable the schools to decide on their own examination weeks, issues pertaining to public holidays, and spend more time for children's development and protection.

This school year, 302 thousand children are preliminarily registered in the pre-school facilities, i.e. kindergartens.

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Bloomberg commodity price 2023/08/31		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	1,971.50
COPPER	USD/lb.	380.50
SILVER	USD/t oz.	24.91
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	86.60
WHEAT	USD/bu	599.00



## Mongolia and the United States Discuss Trade and Investment



On August 29, 2023, the United States and Mongolia convened the seventh meeting of the US-Mongolia Trade and Investment Council, established under the US-Mongolia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), to discuss opportunities for deepening bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries. The meeting was co-chaired by Terry McCartin, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, and Sainbuyan Amarsaikhan, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia.

During the meeting, the United States and Mongolia welcomed the 36th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. They also referenced the Joint Statement on the Strategic Third Neighbor Partnership between Mongolia and the United States of America, which was issued earlier this month after Vice President Kamala Harris welcomed Prime

Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai to Washington, D.C., as well as the Economic Cooperation Roadmap for the Strategic Third Neighbor Partnership between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the United States of America.

Mongolia and the United States highlighted the positive role that the Trade and Investment Council discussions can play in supporting Mongolia's efforts to foster its economic development and a prosperous market-based economy. They also discussed a range of bilateral trade and investment issues, including transparency, good regulatory practices, the investment climate, intellectual property rights protection and enforcement, economic diversification, regional initiatives, and trade promotion.

The United States will host the next meeting of the Trade and Investment Council in Washington, D.C.

## Australia to Provide AUD 250 Thousand in Humanitarian Assistance to Mongolia



Australia will provide AUD 250 thousand in humanitarian assistance following the adverse humanitarian situation caused by severe flooding in Mongolia.

Australia will channel its assistance through the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Mongolia, which are supporting the response on the ground to provide relief for those affected.

"Our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods in the floods," said Ms. Katie Smith, Australian Ambassador to Mongolia. "Australian and Mongolian people have a

history of helping one another during difficult times. As a third neighbor and steadfast friend, Australia is committed to supporting Mongolia's response efforts."

MRCS will continue distributing food and non-food items to displaced families, supporting NEMA and other authorities with damage and impact assessments, and providing psychosocial support and referral services. UNFPA will provide dignity kits, which contain the most needed items to help women and girls maintain proper hygiene after being displaced and are a critical component of the UNFPA humanitarian response.

## UK Ambassador Presents Letter of Credence

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Mongolia Fiona Blyth presented her Letter of Credence to the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa on August 28, 2023. Mr. President congratulated the Ambassador on officially assuming her duty and wished success.



Noting that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the United Kingdom, President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa stressed the importance of strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries and facilitating high-level visits.

The newly appointed Ambassador Fiona Blyth expressed her readiness to actively work towards expanding relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Ms. Fiona Blyth has served as Principal Analyst in the UK Cabinet Office, Team Leader in the National Security Secretariat, Senior Policy Advisor in the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in New York, and Senior Political Affairs Officer in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia.

## German Ambassador Presents Letter of Credence



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Mongolia Helmut Rudolf Kulitz presented his Letter of Credence to the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa on August 28, 2023.

Mr. President noted the utmost importance of Mongolia's relations and cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany, the third neighbor of Mongolia. He

expressed his confidence that the German Ambassador would exert his every effort to deepen and strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The newly appointed Ambassador expressed his readiness to actively work towards celebrating the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Mongolia and Germany in 2024 with significance, facilitating high-level visits, expanding trade and economic cooperation, and deepening ties between citizens of the two countries.

Ambassador Helmut Rudolf Kulitz has been working in the Federal Foreign Office since 1992. He has served as the Ambassador of Germany to Chad and in diplomatic missions of Germany to Egypt, Bulgaria, Chad, the Republic of Austria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## Kyrgyz Ambassador Presents His Letter of Credence

On August 28, 2023, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to Mongolia Aibek Artykbaev presented his Letter of Credence to the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.



Mr. President congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment and wished him success in his future endeavors.

President Khurelsukh expressed confidence that the Ambassador would exert his every effort to deepen the traditional friendly relations and expand mutually beneficial cooperation between Mongolia and the Kyrgyz Republic, consolidate people-to-people ties and friendship, and translate into reality the agreements reached by the Heads of the States during the Kyrgyz President's visit to Mongolia. Furthermore, the President of Mongolia extended his willingness to develop cooperation within the framework of the

United Nations and other international organizations.

Ambassador Aibek Artykbaev expressed his commitment to actively work towards strengthening the traditional friendly relations, enriching economic cooperation with new content, expanding partnerships in tourism, mining, agriculture, and light industry, and restoring direct flights between the two countries in the near future.

## Preparing Mongolian Rescue Team for Earthquake Response

The Australian Government and the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) jointly organized the Asia Pacific Earthquake Response Exercise (APERE) in Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, on August 21-25, 2023.



The Mongolian rescue team, led by Brigadier General B. Uuganbayar, Deputy Director of the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia, participated in the biggest earthquake response exercise in the region, testing their preparedness to overcome a catastrophic earthquake.

The exercise created a mock scenario in which a severe earthquake caused significant loss of life and collapsed buildings. It involved over 300 emergency management personnel from more than 30

countries of the Asia Pacific region.

The rescue team, alongside their frontline partners from Australia and other countries, responded to the exercise as if it was the "real deal" and exchanged knowledge and best practices for dealing with natural disasters.

The Mongol Messenger is operated and printed by the National News Agency MONTSAME

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Layout/design: BAT-SUKH Nyamdash

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Web: montsame.mn/en E-mail: mongolmessenger@montsame.gov.mn ISSN 1684-1883

For enquiries regarding advertisement, subscription and sales of the Mongol Messenger newspaper, please contact the numbers below.  
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### WEATHER

Sunrise: 06:08 Sunset: 19:37

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimag: Night temps between +10 C and +14 C. Day time temps between +23 C and +28 C  
■ Eastern Aimag: Night temps between +12 C and +15 C. Day time temps between +24 C and +29 C  
■ Western Aimag: Night temps between +10 C and +12 C. Day time temps between +19 C and +25 C  
■ Gobi Aimag: Night temps between +15 C and +16 C. Day time temps between +28 C and +31 C



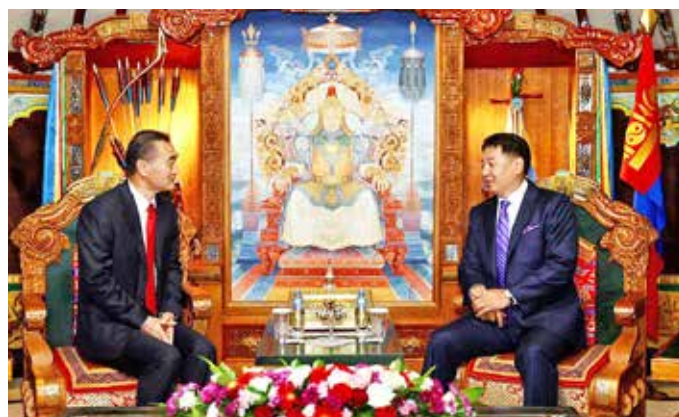


## President Khurelsukh Receives Ambassador of PRC upon Completion of Assignment

*The President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Mongolia Chai Wenrui on August 28, 2023, upon the completion of his assignment in Mongolia.*

The President expressed his high appreciation for Mr. Chai Wenrui's efforts to develop the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Mongolia and the People's Republic of China in all fields during his tenure as Ambassador.

The Ambassador Chai Wenrui was awarded the Order of the Polar Star for his contribution to



the development of all-embracing cooperation grounded on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

## PM Calls for Cross-Sectoral Collaboration on Land Management



*The first meeting of the National Committee for Urban and Rural Revival, Urban Planning, and Land Management was held on August 29, 2023 at the State Palace of Mongolia.*

In his opening remarks, the Prime Minister of Mongolia and the Chairman of the Committee Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai said, "We established the National Committee for Urban and Rural Revival, Urban Planning, and Land Management to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration based on the suggestions of scientists and architects. The Committee members should work diligently and responsibly to ensure the long-term sustainable development in urban and rural areas through implementing appropriate policies and strategies." Mr. Prime Minister also noted the

intention to make legal reform regarding cities and territorial units during the 2023 Autumn Session of the State Great Khural.

The implementation of the Policy on the Revival of Urban and Local Areas, future plans and the current situation of specially protected areas were presented at the Meeting. The members of the Committee discussed and exchanged views on the challenges and obstacles in land management, geodesy and cartography.

The Government of Mongolia has increased the budget of the capital city for the first time, with the aims of alleviating traffic congestion, reducing air pollution, and improving the durability and standards of roads.

"After presenting and discussing the problems, it is important to reach a common un-

derstanding at the level of government and parliament. As of today, the requirements, rules, and procedures for land use have been regulated in conformity with 12 laws. We must improve the legal environment, have an integrated plan, cooperate with international experts, and involve scholars of the sector and effectively use conclusions and recommendations of international organizations," highlighted the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai mandated line ministers and relevant officials to:**

-Introduce the concept of the Draft Law on Reducing Traffic Congestion and Its Negative Impacts and the final version of the Draft of the Revised Land Package Law at the next meeting of the National Committee;

-Study and resolve the land allocation of the plots included in the General Plan of Land Management.

Moreover, the Premier tasked D. Amarbayasgalan, the Chief Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia and Deputy Chairman of the Committee, to present the conclusions and recommendations of international organizations, as well as the suggestions of scholars and architects on urban planning of Ulaanbaatar.

The National Committee made a decision to establish a permanent Executive Office under the Committee.

## Mongolian Premier Meets Representatives of Condominium Association

*As part of his weekly series of meetings held every Monday morning, the Prime Minister of Mongolia met with representatives of Condominium Associations in Ulaanbaatar on August 21, 2023. Following the Prime Minister's introduction of the "New Revival Policy," the participants exchanged views on the challenges confronting the sector.*

The Head of the Condominium Association for the King Tower Apartment J. Otgonbayar said that no Condominium Association in Ulaanbaatar has residents who have fully paid their Condominium Association fees. He also noted the problem of inadequate human resources in Condominium Associations and expressed his satisfaction with the Prime Minister's receptiveness to



their concerns.

N. Jargal, the Head of the Khangarid Condominium Association, highlighted the absence of public schools and kindergartens in the Artsat area of Yarmag and mentioned that construction

of apartments in the area is taking place without proper planning. He stressed the importance of involving citizens' representatives in the external monitoring when the State Commission assesses the newly built apartments.

### CABINET SESSION



*At its session on August 31, the Cabinet made the following decisions:*

**The quality of the improved briquette fuel will be upgraded and gradually introduced into use**

The Minister of Energy B. Chojilsuren informed the members of the Government about the research, analysis and estimates of upgrading the quality of the improved briquette fuel and its technological innovation. The Minister was instructed to carry out the technological innovation of the improved briquette fuel plant, bring the quality of briquette fuel up to international standards, and organize the gradual introduction into use.

To enhance the quality of the improved briquette fuel, Tavan-tolgoi Tulsh LLC, and public and private laboratories carried out industrial tests for the production of briquette fuel from semi-coking coal, laboratory and practical firepot and igniting tests, laboratory analysis of produced fuel and igniters, and made related assessment and conclusions.

The comparison of technical parameters and the grade of toxic gas contained in the smoke of semi-coking fuel against middling fuel revealed 51.9% less volatility, 57.7% less sulfur, and 37.2% less ash respectively, and 72.6% decrease of the amount of dust particles, 85.5% decrease of sulfur gas, 10.8% decrease of carbonyl gas, and 23.5% decrease of nitrogen oxide in the smoke emission respectively.

Since 2010, air pollution indicators have been measured by automatic devices in 18 points around ger districts, highways, residential areas, and factories in six districts of Ulaanbaatar.

The use of semi-coke or processed products will reduce dust particles from 124mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 67.5mg/m<sup>3</sup> or 45.5%. According to the MNS 4585:2007 Standard "Air quality. General technical requirements", the amount of dust particles and sulfurous gas will reach the level of "51-100 normal".

Estimations for the supply of semi-coke briquettes with igniters to 26,825 households of Nisekh and Yarmag neighborhoods in Khan-Uul district, and Nalaikh district of Ulaanbaatar, and ger district of Darkhan-Uul aimag from December 15, 2023 have been done. To provide households in these three locations with semi-coke briquettes, a total MNT 32.0 billion funding will be required for the procurement of 24,500 tons of semi-coke and igniters.

**Pregnant women, children under 18, and citizens to undergo repeated control examinations will not be requested the Form 13A**

The Minister of Health S. Chinzorig informed the members of the Government about the system of transfer of clients (patients) between hospitals (Form 13A), the current state of digital transfer and the measures to undertake in the future. In connection with this introduction, the Minister of Health was ins-

tructed to further improve the system of transferring clients between hospitals.

Due to the digitalization of the client transfer system in hospitals, there were constraints such as requiring the Form 13A when a pregnant woman goes to a referral hospital, when she returns to her supervising doctor, and when she is examined at a referral hospital for a condition that does not require a 13A form, she is requested the Form 13A again when she needs to go to another department or hospital.

Therefore, regulations have been introduced, so that pregnant women, children under 18, and citizens who need to undergo repeated examinations at the medical institution, and other departments within the hospital, would not be required to provide Form 13A.

**"Teeth Brushing Time" in secondary schools and kindergartens**

The Minister of Health S. Chinzorig and the Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan were tasked to approve the "Healthy Teeth" Action Plan (2024-2027) within the third quarter of 2023 and ensure its implementation.

The Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan and governors of aimags and Ulaanbaatar were instructed to reflect in state and joint programs and projects, and local budgets works to gradually organize and practice the daily "Teeth Brushing Time" in pre-school institutions and secondary schools, and provide kindergarten children and secondary school pupils with a hygienic environment with teeth brushing points.

Within the scope of the "Healthy Teeth" initiative, the Minister of Health S. Chinzorig was instructed to take measures to include funds required for prevention, treatment and care of oral cavity in the budget of the Health Insurance Fund.

In his meeting with representatives of public and private organizations extending oral health service held on March 6, 2023, the Mongolian Premier L. Oyun-Erdene tasked to take significant measures to improve dental and oral health, and implement the "Teeth" Project in 2024.

Although the Government implemented the Oral Health Programs in 1999-2005, 2006-2015, and the National Program "Healthy Teeth-Healthy Children" in 2019-2021, dental caries remains one of the most pressing public health problems among people of all ages.

### Brief news

- The Minister of Health and the Minister of Education and Science were instructed to approve the Action Plan for Improving Civil Health Education (2024-2027) within the third quarter of 2023 and ensure its implementation.
- The Public Center for Combating Cyber Attacks and Violations was set up under the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications.
- The "Mongolia-China Expo" event will be held in Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia, People's Republic of China, on September 6-10, 2023.



## Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Meets Road Sector Representatives



As part of his weekly series of meetings held every Monday morning, the Prime Minister of Mongolia met with representatives of the road sector on August 28, 2023.

At the onset of the Meeting, the Prime Minister introduced the "New Revival Policy." Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of participants' input regarding the challenges within the road sector. He stated that the Monday morning meetings are designed to provide a platform for representatives from various sectors to share information and address their concerns.

The representatives from

the road industry conveyed their pressing concerns to the Prime Minister. These included the need for stable investments in the sector, salary increases for employees, a reduction in social insurance premiums during winter months due to seasonal work, allocation of a budget for significant road repairs, and the establishment of a research and academic institution.

S. Gankhuyag, Chief Engineer of NBCC Company, said, "As a Board Member of the Highways Council, I am closely involved in the governance of our newly established council, which consists of 11 members. In Mongolia, there is a network of 23 road funds that generate revenue from

eight different sources. Currently, only the earnings from tollbooth services are accessible for public scrutiny, while the remaining sources remain undisclosed. The annual requirement for road repairs and maintenance is 110 billion MNT. However, only half of this amount receives approval from the state budget. By introducing transparency to the revenue streams of the road fund, it becomes feasible to access the full 110 billion MNT.

The toll charges for using roads are the lowest in our country. The lack of funds is reflected in the maintenance quality. A significant road construction challenge we face is obtaining clearance for privately-owned land. With the intention of selling their land at higher prices, landowners demand inflated compensation rates. This impasse hinders reaching agreements with citizens and consequently delays our projects. Addressing the matter of land valuation requires standardization," highlighted Ch. Altanzaya, the Director of Khuvch Road Company.

S. Ochirbat, Director of ICT Sain Consulting Company, said that the issue of the road fund and road maintenance requires insulation from political influences. While politicians often emphasize the construction of roads, they frequently overlook the subsequent maintenance aspect. A viable solution to improve road maintenance lies in the targeted

allocation of taxes collected from fuel importers into the road fund. Although this provision was outlined in previous legislation, governmental amendments have modified this practice. It is crucial to acknowledge that the ongoing issues and disputes are likely to persist until a change is made in this system.

L. Bakthuu, an Engineer at Classic Road LLC, pointed out the labor shortage within the road sector. He emphasized that a considerable number of young individuals are opting to seek job opportunities in South Korea instead of accepting the monthly salary of 4 million MNT offered by road companies in Mongolia.

At the conclusion of the Meeting, Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene assigned the Minister of Road and Transport Development with the responsibility of presenting the matter concerning the autonomous functioning of the road fund to the Cabinet. He additionally remarked, "Upon devising a resolution, we will address the allocation of the budget for significant repairs during the upcoming year's budget deliberations." Furthermore, he stated, "Companies that display negligence after securing tenders will be placed on a blacklist, rendering them ineligible for any government procurement opportunities." The Prime Minister underlined that companies adhering to their responsibilities will distinguish themselves.

### ECONOMIC NEWS

#### Deposits in Tugrugs Increases by Three-Four Percent

As of the end of June of 2023, the bank savings reached MNT 14.4 trillion, increasing by MNT 435.5 billion (3.1 percent) from the previous month and by MNT 560.1 (4.1 percent) billion compared to the same period of the last year. MNT 12.6 trillion (87.7 percent) of the tugrug savings are the deposits of citizens, and MNT 1.8 trillion (12.3 percent) are the deposits of enterprises and organizations.

Foreign currency deposits reached MNT 5.2 trillion, decreasing by MNT 21.2 billion (0.4 percent) from the previous month, and increasing by MNT 669.5 billion (14.8 percent) from the same period of the last year, reports the National Statistics Office.

#### Winter Preparation of Heat Supply System at 90 Percent

Ulaanbaatar Heating Network state-owned JSC transmits heating from four power plants of the capital city to consumers through 370 km thermal lines. In the 2023-2024 heating season, the company will deliver 3,501 kcal of thermal energy to 13,400 buildings and facilities.

In accordance with the master and regular repair plans approved this year, comprehensive repair and maintenance are being conducted on 15 trunk and branch lines' equipment. In respect of the plan implementation, the repair of the central trunk line has been completed, the repair of electrical equipment of pump stations is at 95 percent, and consumer line equipment work is at 73 percent. In other words, the preparation of the heat supply system has been accomplished at 90 percent.

The landscaping related to the renovation of the heating network, which is financed by the World Bank, will be completed by September 4, said the Executive Director of Ulaanbaatar Heating Network JSC G. Bayarsaikhan.

#### Ulaanbaatar-Zamin-Uud-Erlian Passenger Trains to Resume Tomorrow

Ulaanbaatar-Zamin-Uud-Erlian passenger train service is to be restored.



The train service, which has been at a standstill for three years, started on August 31, 2023. The first train will depart from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia tomorrow and reached Erlian Railway Station, China on September 1.

The parties are working to restore passenger train services on Ulaanbaatar-Hohhot and Ulaanbaatar-Beijing routes in the near future.

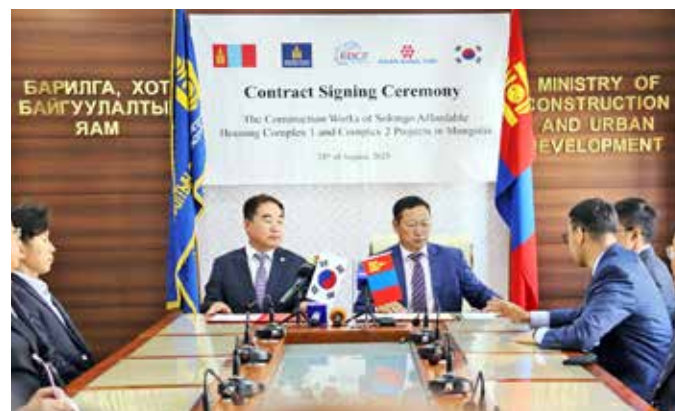
## Construction Works of Solongo Affordable Housing Projects Launched

The Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, and the Kolon Global Corporation LLC of the Republic of Korea signed a Contract on the Construction Works of Solongo Affordable Housing Complex 1 and Complex 2 Projects in Mongolia on August 29, 2023.

The Contract was signed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development G. Magnaisuren and the Vice-President of the Kolon Global Corporation LLC Jo Hyun Chul. The construction of 5,002

flats on an area of 17.5 hectares in the territory of the 21st District of Ulaanbaatar, east of the Buyant-Ukhaa Airport, will commence upon signing of the Contract with a soft loan from the Government of South Korea.

The construction of the housing complexes will be financed by a 40-year term soft loan of USD 266.9 million with an annual interest rate of 0.15 percent from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of South Korea's Eximbank and completed within 40 months.



## Zuunburen Soum Farmer Bolortuya Sets Record in Garlic Harvest



The harvesting is in full swing in Selenge aimag, the agrarian region and birthplace of arable farming in Mongolia. D. Bolortuya, a vegetable farmer from Zuunburen soum of Selenge aimag, is one of the 200 farmers in the province.

Bolortuya once met the criteria for The Best National Vegetable Farmer, as she planted three

tons of onion seeds of a new variety, harvested 113 tons of onions, and sold 108 tons to the market. Zuunburen soum, where she lives, leads not only the aimag but also the country with its onion and garlic planting. This year, Bolortuya planted 700 kg of garlic on a total area of 800 square meters, commencing the sowing on April 25.

"This year, the overall precipi-

itation was high. I expect to get a big harvest of garlic. We have not used any chemical substance," resumes Bolortuya.

Zuunburen soum is famous for its white garlic. Besides onions and garlic, Bolortuya also planted watermelons, carrots, and pumpkins. In previous years, she planted 100 kg of garlic but this year she has planted 700 kg, setting a historical record. Garlic requires a lot of water, so it grows very well if it is well watered, cared for and freed from weeds. Bolortuya will start harvesting garlic from September 15.

"My rough estimation suggests that one garlic bulb will produce 100 grams of garlic. I will start harvesting from mid-September and sell it to the market. The soum has estimated the crop yield preliminarily. From the time I started planting garlic, it grew very well, and this year we will reap a bountiful harvest".

The yield of coarse vegetables, as the farmers say,—onions,

carrots and potatoes—did not catch up with the harvest of the previous years. It is not the fault of the vegetable farmers, but up to natural factors. For example, since onions are hollow and light, there is a high risk of leaning due to wind. Whereas, garlic is not hollow inside, it is firm and solid, so it is less prone to wind and recovers faster. Garlic and watermelon are planted only by hand.

"Vegetables grow well if there is no weed. From the very start, I fertilize vegetables with animal manure. The more dung you put the sparser soil becomes. Manure has been hugely used in fertilizing", concludes Bolortuya.

The Best National Vegetable Farmer D. Bolortuya has devoted 14 years of her life to increase the yield of vegetable per hectare, introduce new varieties, and provide people with healthy, safe and up-to-quality food, strictly following relevant norms and standards.





Following the adoption of the Education Package Law, an Education New Revival Forum was held on August 25, 2023. The Official Representative of the Hungarian MOZAIK Digital Education and Learning Platform in Mongolia O. Chinguun explained the digital textbooks.

**-Would you, please, tell us about your plans to introduce a platform for digitizing secondary school textbooks in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science?**

-In our country, digital transition is proceeding rapidly. We have started cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science to introduce Hungary's

internationally recognized MOZAIK Digital Education and Learning Platform to students of the 6th-12th grades of Mongolian secondary schools. This platform is designed in line with international standards for the development of teachers and students.

**-What are the technical and personnel possibilities for introducing digital textbooks?**

-We are providing a solution for accessible and effective implementation of a good program that meets international standards at the lowest cost. First, all school textbooks will be translated into Mongolian. Then, we will train 36,217 teachers nationwide how to use the platform. Some of us will go to Hungary and learn

# School Textbooks to be Digitized

how to digitize textbooks; then we will train 15-20 trainers and spread further. It takes 60 hours to train one teacher to work with the platform. In cooperation with the General Department of Education, it is possible to implement it in stages, teach remotely and in classrooms, and conduct integrated training for further spread.

**-When do you plan to start introducing digital textbooks?**

-If we can reach an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science, it is possible to wholly introduce within six months. We can complete translation works of all textbooks into Mongolian by the third quarter of this academic year, or from February 1 of the next year, make 100% of them into the platform and introduce throughout the country. We plan to use digital textbooks remotely, more interactively, with clear and up-to-date solutions.

**-Is it possible to use the platform without Internet?**

-Yes. We are making the textbook so that it can be used on all smart devices, including mobile phones, tablets, and computers. Based on consultation with the Education Information Center, the extension can be used from all types of smart devices without data loss. To this end, you can

first download the textbook from the Internet and use it in offline mode. For example, the textbook for the 8th grade of chemistry, which generally contains pictures and texts, will be analyzed and digitized to make it easier to comprehend. By developing our teachers in cooperation with the "Medlee" School, which provides distance education to the children of 321 soums of Mongolia, distance education can be conducted more efficiently on a high quality level.

**-What are the advantages of digitizing textbooks?**

-The Platform has a huge content pool with explanations,

videos, various tools and audios. We can add Mongolian culture heritage, customs, songs, music, and paleontology to the platform, which meets international standards, and present to the children of the world. We live in a time when education is not unreachable. The aim is to deliver this to all Mongolian children around the world. For Mongolians living in foreign countries, there is a risk of falling behind in respect of native language. They will get an opportunity to learn Mongolian language and culture through distance learning. The results are visible after 3-4 years.



## Winter Flight Schedule Approved

Upon discussion of the flight requests submitted by foreign and domestic air transporters, the Civil Aviation Authority of Mongolia (CAAM) approved the Winter Flight Schedule for the period from October, 2023 to March 30, 2024.

In accordance with the international schedule of take-off and landing flights, flights of 14 domestic and foreign air carriers to 19 destinations are planned

for the winter season of 2023-2024. The total planned flights have increased by 35.5 percent compared to the pre-pandemic period of 2019 and by 61.5 percent compared to 2022. The number of flights of the MIAT state-owned JSC raised by 133.3 percent, and the number of flights of Aero Mongolia LLC increased by 13 percent compared to the previous year, reports the CAAM.

Compared to the last winter season, Krasavia and IrAero

Airlines of Russia, Jeju Air of the Republic of Korea, and VietJet Air, the Vietnamese private company, have been added to the flight schedule for the winter season of 2023-2024. It is also planned to launch new flights to Vietnam's Nha Trang, and China's Manchuria and Hailar.

MIAT JSC plans to fly to a total of ten destinations, including Hong Kong, Beijing, Phuket, and Moscow, and Hunnu Air LLC is planning to fly to three destinations, in it Hailar and Manchuria. As for the local destinations, the two air transporters will operate domestic flights. MIAT JSC is scheduled to fly to Dornod, Khovd, Gobi-Altai, Uvs, Zavkhan, Bayan-Ulgii, Khuvsgul, and Dalanzadgad in Umnugobi, and Aero Mongolia LLC is scheduled to fly in the directions of Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd and Khuvsgul.



## Teddy Bear Left in Mongol Gobi Returns to Its Owner in Canada

A few days ago, a Canadian family returned home from a trip to Mongolia. Unfortunately, they had left their daughter's beloved stuffed animal, a teddy bear, behind their bed at a tourist camp in Mongolia.



The family said that their daughter was truly heartbroken

over losing her beloved teddy bear, which still smelled like her father. They asked for help in finding it.

Luckily, the teddy bear was found by some employees of the camp. They put the teddy bear in a plastic bag to keep its scent and sent it by a person who was going to travel to Canada.

The teddy bear is the girl's favorite toy, replacing her father as her father presented it to his daughter. The little girl takes the teddy bear everywhere—to daycare, on playdates and vacations, and the pair sleep tucked in tight together each night.

The teddy bear will soon be reunited with its owner, and the little girl will be overjoyed. She will surely remember her trip to Mongolia for the rest of her life and thank the Mongolians for finding her dearest teddy bear.

Continued from page 1

## In Focus: NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

The second round of registration for the capital's kindergartens will be organized soon, but estimates suggest over 71,000 new children to be enrolled.

This year 781,000 children will study in secondary schools nationwide, making increase of 35,000 children from the last year.

About 40,000 teenagers will study in vocational education and 22,000 new teenagers will be enrolled. In higher educational institutions, 147,000 youth will study and 25,000 youth will enter institutes and universities. These preliminary figures will be finalized by October 15.

### "Pearson English" Program to be Introduced in Schools

The "Pearson English" comprehensive training program will be introduced in all state-owned secondary schools from this academic year. In this respect, the Ministry of Education and Science has organized training to prepare national trainers and extend methodological support for teachers.

The training covered 120 teachers of English from secondary schools in Ulaanbaatar, aimags and soums, and after its completion, they received the "Na-

tional Trainer" certificate. These trainers will deliver training to other teachers of English at their schools within this week. Thus, teachers will be trained to teach the program in V-VI grades by September 1.

The "Pearson English" program has been tested in 38 schools over the past six months. Around 700 schools, approximately 2000 teachers, and 150 thousand pupils will be involved in this program. This comprehensive English learning program incorporates a combination of digital platform and classroom learning. The secondary school teachers of English have studied guidelines to deliver lessons using "Pearson



English Connect" digital platform, monitor pupils' learning progress through the creation of on-line classes, and assign ap-

propriate tasks in addition to practical lessons aimed at developing and enhancing the trainers' teaching methodology.



■ Interview with D. Bayarsaikhan, Chair, Financial Regulatory Commission of Mongolia

# D. Bayarsaikhan: The Capital Market Plays a Crucial Role in the Economy

**-Let's begin our conversation with the condition and opportunities for attracting foreign investment in Mongolia's financial market.**

-I extend my warm wishes for a pleasant day. As we navigate through a multitude of challenges stemming from post-pandemic adversities and geopolitical complexities, it is evident that our nation's economic and financial sector has weathered a demanding phase, and is currently poised to embark on a path of recovery. The Financial Regulatory Commission (FRC) has proactively undertaken significant measures to re-assess system risks, in light of the prevailing circumstances. The focus has been on:

- establishing an optimal framework for the financial market,
- fostering its growth through a multi-pillared approach,
- creating favorable conditions to attract foreign investment,
- updating policy, regulations, and the legal framework.

Encouragingly, the initial stages of implementation have already begun yielding tangible results. For example, the FRC introduced the post-settlement procedure on 31 March, 2020. This procedure is considered one of the fundamental requirements for professional investment institutions operating in foreign countries with developed capital markets. As part of this introduction, the T+2 post-settlement procedure for securities, which operates on the principle of supply versus payment, was implemented. As a result, the introduction has brought the settlement of the securities market in line with international standards.

Another key issue for the development of the capital market, ensuring the stability of the industry, and increasing the interest of investors, is to increase corporate governance and transparency, create flexible regulations, and rationally set premiums and fees.

As part of the Interest Rate Reduction Strategy approved by Parliament, the commissions and fees for securities trading, settlement, and securities storage services (provided by capital market infrastructure organizations) have been gradually reduced by 25-75%. Additionally, the sole trading organization system, through which funds were previously attracted for many years, has been abolished. Furthermore:

- a non-exchange market regulatory environment has been established,
- the corporate governance code has been updated,
- the process of IPO and corporate bond issuance by enterprises has been streamlined, making it easier and faster.

We are aiming to increase the types of products that are attractive to investors, and bring the development of custodian banks into alignment with the requirements of foreign investors.

Previously, just two to three products were offered, but now more than 60 new ones, including:

- private and mutual funds,
- asset-backed securities,
- digital bonds,
- US dollar bonds.

Moreover, systemically important banks' IPOs have been issued since 2020, and professional investors' participation was increased.

Market capitalization was MNT 3,029.7 trillion in 2020. It increased 3.6-fold and reached MNT 11.2 trillion on 14 June 2023; within the policy and regulatory measures. It now comprises 19.6% of GDP of Mongolia; the highest in the past 30 years.

**-What is the impact of Mongolian commercial banks restructuring their forms as open public companies on the capital market?**

-Approval of the Law on the Amendments to the Banking Law had positive impacts on:

- proper governance,
- an open and transparent banking sector,
- sustainability of the financial sector,
- development of the capital market.

As of 14 June 2023, five systemically important banks and one non-systemically important bank issued IPOs successfully. MNT478.5 billion was raised from 72,365 investors (with some duplication of number), and market capitalization was increased by MNT5.6 trillion. Becoming a public company is significant for:

- activating the participation of foreign and domestic investors,
- ensuring equal access to the returns of society's wealth,
- attracting long-term funding for banks,

- increasing access to new environmentally friendly products and services based on digital technology,

- creating multi-pillar financial market.

**-What measures are being implemented to accelerate the transition to a green economy and increase green finance or investment?**

-The Financial Stability Council approved the Green Taxonomy in 2018. As a result, banks, financial institutions, investors, and policymakers now have the opportunity to use the categories, definitions, and indicators of environmentally-friendly activities in their business. Also, the document formed the beginning of an environmentally-friendly financial sector.

During 13-16 June 2023, the Green Finance-International Conference took place in Ulaanbaatar, it aimed to:

- enhance regional and international cooperation,
- foster mutual understanding,
- promote green financing,
- refine its framework,
- foster the exchange of best practices,
- promote the coordination of



policies and measures.

During the Conference, the Financial Stability Council approved revision of the Mongolian Green Taxonomy.

In the past year, the Financial Stability Council approved the National Sustainable Finance Roadmap. The Roadmap includes major goals such as:

- creating a favorable environment for the development of sustainable finance, budget, and financial activities focusing on green development,
- developing green banks and financial institutions,
- improving the ESG and climate risk management system,
- promoting transparent and open reporting.

The FRC planned to implement the roadmap action plan in stages over a period of 2-3 years. The FRC is committed to implementing policy measures to make 5% of the total loan portfolio issued by NBFIs into green loans, and create a database of green loan products.

The FRC adopted a sample manual for developing risk management regulations related to environmental and social factors. This was in order to diversify the green credit products issued by these organizations and create a legal environment for the introduction of sustainable financing. By the end of 2022, the NBFIs' green loan balance was 4.3% of the total loan balance.

The Regulation for Corporate Bonds was approved and this regulation covers the issue of green bonds. A USD30 million Mongolian first green bond was issued by Khan Bank, and has been registered. It provides an opportunity to finance environmentally-friendly activities, and to rapidly increase its green financing portfolio.

**-What is the purpose of the Law on Mining Products Exchange recently approved by the Parliament?**

-Parliament approved the Law on Mining Products Exchange in accordance with the market principle of the real price of mining products and transparent sales. The Law will be effective by 30 June 2023. As of today, trading on the mining products exchange is conducted under the regulation of coal online trading (approved by the Government of Mongolia) with the objectives of:

- organize fair, open and transparent trading,
- set real price,
- attract investors by providing

integrated export policies,

- release commercial, contract, and transaction information to the international market publicly,

- increase mining products competitiveness.

The FRC approved and enforces regulations related to monitoring online trading. On 1 May 2023, 1.2 million tons of coal (worth MNT 645.5 billion) was traded online, by means of the 29th coal trading auction. When the Law comes into force, there will be significant changes in the current trading. For instance, the parties will participate in the exchange trading of mining products through an exchange trading agent, or broker licensed by the FRC. Similarly, the stock exchange must register mining products warehouse, terminals, transport logistics, and testing laboratory; and issue credentials. In the future, the FRC will collaborate with the government and the private sector, to create a regulatory environment for new financial instruments, such as: forwards, futures, and options (all of which are included in the Law).

**-How is the regulation and supervision of the mining products trade going?**

-The Parliament approved the Law on Mining Products Exchange in accordance with the market principle of the real price of mining products and transparent sales. The law will be effective by 30 June 2023. As of today, trading of the mining products exchange is conducted under the regulation of coal online trading approved by the Government of Mongolia, to organize fair, open and transparent trading, set real price, attract investors by providing integrated export policies, release commercial, contract, and transaction information to the international market publicly, and increase mining products competitiveness.

The FRC approved and enforced regulations related to monitoring online trading. On 31 May 2023, 1.5 million tons of coal worth 768.6 billion MNT were traded online by the 35th coal trading (auctions).

When the law comes into force, there will be significant changes in the current trade. For instance, the parties will participate in the exchange trading of mining products through an exchange trading agent or broker licensed by the FRC. The stock exchange must register mining

products warehouse, terminals, transport logistics, and testing laboratory and issue credentials. In the future, FRC collaborating with the government and the private sector to create a regulatory environment for new financial instruments, such as forwards, futures, and options, which are included in the law.

**-Financial markets are evolving due to rapid technological changes. How is Mongolia's financial market work in the match to these changes?**

-The efficiency of technology and the financial combination provides diversification, new options and additional opportunities to the financial market of Mongolia, which is centered on the banking system. The number of fintech companies entering Mongolia's financial market is growing rapidly, and technological advancements have played an important role in the rapid growth of non-banking financial markets in recent years.

The entire financial relation of Mongolia is going digital transition. The use of cash on the market has decreased, the internet banking and financial services are being introduced to all territories of Mongolia. Herder families are receiving financial services from their homes without having to be on-site at the branches of banks and financial institutions. For instance, 94.2% of all customers and 76.0% of borrowers of NBFIs, which is FRC's regulatory sector receive fintech credit services.

Due to the rapid technological change, the financial market is changing and introducing new types of products and services that were not previously regulated. Therefore, the FRC created the Sandbox regulatory environment for the following purposes: -Optimal creation of regulations suitable for technological updates and changes, -Testing in a limited environment of new products and services, -to create a regulatory environment by tentatively identifying potential risks and viability in the market.

Diversification of the economy is one of the priorities of landlocked and sparsely populated for our country. Mongolia's long-term development policy is aiming to develop an internationally competitive and leading smart financial market in the region, supporting the development of fintech and the digital financial services sector, and trying to align with global development.



*The first-ever largest solar power plant in rural area of Mongolia is under construction to be completed in December. It is a 10MW Solar power plant in Murun soum of Khuvsgul aimag, the northern province of Mongolia.*

The Murun 10MW Solar Power Plant is a subproject of the Upscaling Renewable Energy Sector Project being implemented with a grant of USD 14.6 million from the Strategic Climate Fund, USD 6 million from Japan Fund for the Joint Crediting Mechanism and a loan of USD 40 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Project will develop 41.0 megawatts (MW) of solar, wind and shallow-ground renewable energy in remote areas of the Western and Altai Uliastai Energy Systems. The Sector Project selected western aimags as the remote western region, where 30 percent of the total population resides, has not been connected to the central grid system yet even though the energy need of the region increases by 10 percent every year and livelihood is considered lower than of central provinces, one of the causes of lacking investment.

Therefore, within the Upscaling Renewable Energy Sector Project, the following core sub-projects are planned to be implemented.

Wind subproject: A wind power plant in the western region of Mongolia. 2) Uliastai subproject: A 5 MW solar power plant in Aldarkhaan and Uliastai soums of Zavkhan aimag, and a 3.6 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) at the Uliastai substation. 3) Gobi Altai subproject: A 10 MW solar power plant in Yesonbulag soum. 4) Altai Soum subproject: An off-grid 0.5 MW hybrid solar and BESS facility in Altai soum. 5) Khovd subproject: A 135 kW shallow-ground heat pump (SGHP) at Kindergarten 1 in Khovd City.

In addition to these, shallow ground heat pump projects are under progress in 5 soums, namely Uliastai, Altai, Ulaangom, Ulziit and Jargalant soums of Zavkhan, Gobi-Altai, Uvs, Bayankhongor and Khovd aimags.

The Project is being implemented over two phases, with the first phase from 2019-2022 and the second from 2022-2024.

Newly appointed ADB Country Director for Mongolia Shannon Cowlin, accompanied by relevant officials of the projects, under implementation in Khuvsgul aimag and a press group, visited the sites in late August of this year to oversee the projects' implementation.

The construction of the 10 MW solar PV farm is in full swing at the site of the Murun 10MW Solar Power Plant Project, installing all the 23192 pieces of solar PVs, competing against time as cold days are coming to stop outside work. The solar panels, which have 21.8 percent efficiency are produced by LONGi, the world's leading supplier of solar PV solutions.

The subproject contract has been awarded to Xian Electric Engineering Co.,LTD and the contractor had worked on developing design drawings and installation of PVs is progressing with around 90 percent performance, working together with subcontractor Smart Plus company of



Mongolia. Smart Plus, an experienced company that also has installed PVs for a 10MW solar power plant in Myangad soum of Khovd aimag is using installing machines and a special screw machine for drilling rocky earth, shortening the time to install the required strings (52 PVs on 1 string).

The Murun solar power plant will be connected to the central power grid through the existing Murun substation, which is also planned to be extended within the subproject.

Advisor of the project Professor Enebish Namjil said "The PV installation and other works are progressing successfully ensuring the completion in time. Murun soum has not had a reliable energy source so far. This project will enable the soum to have an independent energy source that fully provides not only the whole energy needs of the soum but also supplies energy to the central grid system of Mongolia, decreasing the load by 68 to 75 percent. The project will be an example for others as a solar power plant is built in the area with extreme weather, one of the coldest provinces of Mongolia." Professor Enebish worked as administrator for the Darkhan Solar Plant Project (10MW) which commissioned its full operations on January 19, 2017.

Mongolia's total electricity consumption is roughly 1GW and it has been increasing year by year. Nearly 90 percent of this demand is met by the centralized

energy system which means 800-900 MW, though the renewable energy source is increasing in recent years.

While Mongolia can be ranked 5th in the world with its underground mineral resources, it can top the globe with its capacity to utilize renewable energy. The Mongolian Gobi is advantageous as it is studied more closely compared to other deserts such as the Sahara and Arizona. Starting in 1999, Mongolian scholars teamed up with international experts and studied the feasibilities of the Gobi for utilization of renewable energy and even came up with technological solutions to exploit the great resources.

The studies have proven that mega plants with 10-100 times larger capacities than the total energy consumption of Mongolia can be built in the Gobi, excluding other areas. "Mongolia has nothing to lose because such plants only require a minuscule part of the vast Gobi region. The land will not be dug or depraved in any way; it will only be used for its sunlight and wind. Mongolia will benefit from the high-tech and possibility of exporting the excess energy that's produced. Only the tax revenue of such amount of renewable energy exports will be enough to increase Mongolia's GDP several times," noted professor Enebish in his interview.

The Murun Solar Power Plant is unique in Mongolia not only with its capacity of 10MW,

the first largest solar plant in the remote areas, but also with its coverage of small areas (30 ha) compared with its capacity, saving water usage of 148 thousand tons, and using new simpler technique in the installation of PVs.

The Solar Power Plant, which is expected to last 25 years will produce electricity of 15500 thousand kW/h annually, providing 21600 households with permanent electricity.

The Upscaling Renewable Energy Sector Project is anticipated to support the distributed renewable energy systems in remote and less developed regions in Mongolia; and enhance the capacity of local public utilities in investment planning, project management, and grid control for sustainable renewable energy upscaling in the targeted region. Upon successful completion, the Project delivers, most importantly, clean electricity to 70,000 households while annually avoiding 82,789 tons of carbon dioxide emission. Performance indicators had been evaluated on the construction readiness and the effectiveness of environmental management for the proposed construction of the 10 MW solar PV farm. Moreover, Environmental Monitoring is conducted on every subprojects constantly.

The impact will be imported electricity reduced and energy security improved. The outcome also will be renewable energy supply in Mongolia increased.



#### 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 does the law provide with respect to the national archery competitions?

-According to the law on the National Festival Naadam (edited in 2022), an Archery competition of the National Festival Naadam is organized in a series of national archery (arrow) competitions. An archer of the national archery competition shall be a person reached 18 years of age. The archers who succeeded in the competition shall have the titles as follows: the fifth place winner – national 'tod' (bright) archer; the fourth place winner – national 'onch' (accurate) archer; the third place winner – national 'gots' (special) archer; the second place winner – national 'garamgai' (excellent) archer; and the first place winner – national 'mergen' (sagacious) archer. If the winner is the national 'mergen' (sagacious) archer, he shall have the title national 'dayan mergen' (mighty sagacious) archer. If the winner is the national 'dayan mergen' (mighty sagacious) archer, he shall have the title national 'dayar duursakh mergen' (the whole time sagacious) archer. If the latter wins the competition, he shall have the title national 'darkhan mergen' (master sagacious) archer.

Archers succeeded in national archery competitions in aimags shall be awarded with following titles: first place winner – aimag's mergen (sagacious) archer, the second place – aimag's garamgai archer, the third place – aimag's gots archer, the fourth place – aimag's onch archer, and the fifth place – aimag's tod archer. At soums' national archery competitions, the winners shall be awarded with the following titles: the third place – soum's gots archer, the second place – the soum's garamgai archer, and the first place – soum's mergen archer.

It is prohibited to refuse to register in the National Festival Naadam Archery competition or suspend the registration, exclude from the archery competition, confiscate the granted title except for the reasons specified in the law.

#### -What are duties of archers and ankle shooters participating in the competitions of archery and ankle shooting of the National Festival Naadam?

-Archers and ankle shooters (archers) have the following duties:

1. Adhere to the law, rules, procedures;
2. Use tools that meet standard requirements;
3. Complete the requirements of the judge;
4. Perform other duties specified in the rules of the national archery competition and rules of the national 'shagai' (ankle bone shooting) archery;
5. Follow rules of ethics, disciplines and responsibilities.

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*"Arts & Media Project Management & Consulting" NGO in cooperation with NordArt as an official partner organized the first "MongolianArt" International Sculpture Symposium by hosting internationally renowned artists and sculptors in the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park on August 21, 2023.*

The artworks created

during the Symposium is being displayed in the Khan Gallery and Khan Bank public space as the "Public Art – Urban Sculpture" exhibition open to the public on August 24 – September 30, 2023.

The "MongolianArt" International Sculpture Symposium is a curtain-raiser for the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Federal Republic of Germany and

## "MongolianArt" International Sculpture Symposium with NordArt Artists

10th anniversary of NordArt – Mongolia cooperation taking place in 2024. The event will be held every three years on a larger scale from now on.

This year nine artists from seven countries, including Mongolia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Estonia, and South Korea, are participating in the "MongolianArt" – International Sculpture Symposium. Six artists created their artwork from Mongolian natural materials like granite, stainless steel, and iron while the other three participated with their ready-made artworks.

The Symposium artworks are displayed in urban spaces with dynamic QR codes as an interactive communications tool providing knowledge and information about the artist, the art concept, the supporters, and other



relevant information accessible to the public and tourists.

NordArt international artists: Gankhuyag Lkhamsuren (Mongolia), Gheorghe Filin (Italy), Inga Aru (Estonia), Liliya Po-

bornikova (Bulgaria), Nando Alvarez (Spain), Ochirbold Ayurzana (Mongolia), Thomas Reifferscheid (Germany), Tuvshinjargal Jambal (Mongolia), Yongsun Jang (South Korea).



### AI-Powered Drones Planting Trees in Mongolia



*At the Yalbag River Valley of Selenge aimag, Mongolia, an experiment of utilizing drones equipped with machine learning for facilitating the planting of trees is currently in progress. The primary objective of this experiment is to reforest the Valley, which has been severely affected by human activities, such as artisanal and illegal gold mining.*



In November 2021, Oyu Tolgoi LLC committed to plant 100 million trees by 2030 under the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign initiated by the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa. As a part of this commitment, Oyu Tolgoi received its initial task to reforest the Yalbag River Valley, which spans an area of 334.7 hectares.

The experiment is being conducted with the support of the Rio Tinto Group and AirSeed Technologies, an Australian company.

Using a fleet of highly advanced "octocopters," AirSeed Technology fights deforestation by combining artificial intelligence with specially designed seed pods that can be fired into the earth from high in the sky.

*The Mongolian Organic Green Food Association organized the "Vegan Festival-2023" in Ulaanbaatar on August 26-27, 2023, under the theme "Vegan is the Solution." Mongolians celebrated their second annual vegan festival at the statue and memorial garden dedicated to Yavuukhulan Begz, a famous Mongolian poet.*

This Festival, coinciding with "World Day for the End of Speciesism," promotes veganism as a solution for a sustainable future.



The Festival featured a variety of activities, including food stalls, live music, and educational workshops. Visitors could sample vegan dishes from local restaurants, learn about the benefits of a plant-based diet, and meet with other vegans and vegetarians.

The "Vegan Festival-2023" raised awareness about the environmental and ethical impacts of animal agriculture. According to the United Nations, the effects of animal agriculture on the environment and climate are



### Vegan Festival 2023: Vegan is the Solution for Sustainable Future

vast: It is a leading cause of deforestation, it's responsible for significant biodiversity loss and pollution and emits large amounts of greenhouse gases, particularly methane.

"The Vegan Festival is a great opportunity for people to learn about the benefits of a plant-based diet and how they can make a difference for the planet," said G. Munkhbat, the Founder of the Mongolian Organic Green Food Association. He said, "We hope that this Festival will ins-

pire people to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle."

Here are some of the highlights of the Festival: Food stalls from local vegan restaurants; Live music and performances; Yoga for Public; Educational workshops on the benefits of a plant-based diet, the environmental impact of animal agriculture, and animal welfare; Information booths from vegan organizations. The Vegan Festival-2023 was open to the public and free to attend.

