

Mongolia and China Strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

At the invitation of the Government of Mongolia, Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng paid a visit to Mongolia on September 6-8, 2024.

Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai welcomed Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng at Sukhbaatar Square on September 7, 2024.

Upon a report of the Commander of the State Honor Guard of Mongolia, the National Anthems of the two countries were performed.

Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene and Vice President Han Zheng paid tribute to the State Ceremonial White Military Banner of Mongolia, and Vice President Han Zheng greeted the State Honor Guard.

Then, Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene and Vice President Han Zheng greeted the state and government officials of Mongolia and China and paid tribute to the statue of Great Emperor Chinggis Khaan.

Following the Welcoming Ceremony, Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai and Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng held official talks at the State Palace of Mongolia.

The two sides expressed mutual satisfaction with the successful development of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Mongolia and China and noted that Mongolia and China

have been closely cooperating in realizing decisions on cooperation agreed upon between the two countries, maintaining the frequency of high and highest level reciprocal visits, and coordinating goals reflected in the development policies of the two countries.

Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene highlighted that the long-term consistent development of good neighborly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with China is the priority of Mongolia's foreign policy. The Premier expressed satisfaction with the expansion and development of relations and cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The Prime Minister emphasized his focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly on connecting the ports of the two countries by rail and increasing their entry capacity, establishing a legal framework to facilitate the cross-border trade of agricultural products, oil, and explosives and hazardous chemicals, developing cooperation in renewable energy, industry, science, technology, and humanity, and accelerating the implementation of soft loan and grant aid projects under the Economic Policy, Regional Development Policy, and Human

Development Policy outlined in the action program of the Government of Mongolia.

The Heads of State of the two countries set a goal of increasing bilateral trade to USD 20 billion in 2022. As of last year, the volume of trade between the two countries reached USD 17.6 billion, a testament to the active cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister stressed that connecting the Gashuunsukhait-Gantsmod port by rail in the near future is a mutually beneficial strategic issue for the two countries. The Prime Minister also asked the Chinese side to collaborate on other key railway projects, including Shiveekhuren-Sekhee, Choibalsan-Bichigt, Bichigt-Zuunkhatavch, and Khangai-Mandal.

Premier Oyun-Erdene expressed eagerness to collaborate on infrastructure projects, including the construction of a subway and a ring road in Ulaanbaatar, jointly implementing renewable energy projects as part of Mongolia's energy sector reform, and finalizing a loan agreement for the Erdeneburen Hydropower Plant of Mongolia in the near future.

The two sides also affirmed mutual commitment to accelerating the development of the Economic Corridor between Mongolia, China, and Russia, agreeing to move forward without delays.

The Prime Minister proposed the establishment of a water



port at Buir Lake of Mongolia to promote cross-border water tourism. He noted that Mongolia is planning to construct an airport near Buir Lake, a project that could play a pivotal role in supporting the "Tea Road" program, which aimed at fostering cross-border tourism between Mongolia, China, and Russia.

Vice President of the PRC Han Zheng expressed pleasure at visiting Mongolia at the invita-

tion of the Government of Mongolia and conveyed greetings from Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang to Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai.

The Vice President acknowledged that Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene's official

Continued on page 2

Construction Project for the New Building of the National Museum of Natural Sciences Launched

Mongolia will have the National Museum of Natural Sciences, expanding the Natural History Museum. The construction of the new building of the National Museum of Natural Sciences is progressing in Ikh Tengeriin Am (pass of Bogd Khaan Mountain), with 30 percent completion.

The Natural History Museum of Mongolia was first established in 1924 and was later reconstructed in 1956. Currently, the Museum, which became independent from the State Central Museum in 1991, showcases around 12,000 nature-related exhibits and artifacts and conducts independent and collaborative scientific research in the field of natural science.

In 2019, the Government of



Mongolia issued a resolution on the establishment of the National Museum of Natural Sciences in the Ikh Tengeriin Am, changing

the purpose of the "Hotel and Conference Complex" project, which was under construction in the mountain pass but had been

halted for years. During the years of the pandemic, numerous works regarding the new museum building were carried out, including modifying the design, resolving payment issues, and selecting contractors.

The National Museum of Natural Sciences will cover a total of 6.6 hectares of area, while the Museum building covers approximately 45,000 square meters. In terms of covering area, it will rank seventh among the natural science museums in Asia. To put it in perspective, the new Museum will be 13 times larger than the building of the former Lenin Museum, the current temporary station of the National History Museum.

Continued on page 5

Inside

B. Battsetseg: We Aim to Make the Forum a Strong Platform to Deliver Women's Voices Across the Globep3

Loan Quality Improves in Mongolia.....p4

Mongolia Commemorates Victims of Political Repressionp5

Camel Milk Processing Plant to Be Put into Operation in Umnugobi Aimagp7

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Bloomberg commodity price 2024/09/12			
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,545.00	
COPPER	USD/lb.	422.10	
SILVER	USD/t oz.	29.13	
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	71.46	
WHEAT	USD/bu	586.50	

Mongolia and China Strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership



Continued from page 1

visit to China last year provided crucial impetus to develop concrete cooperation between the two countries.

Vice President Han Zheng reiterated China's readiness to work closely with Mongolia in strengthening mutual political trust, advancing concrete cooperation, and enhancing people-to-people exchanges. He also underscored the importance of intensifying the infrastructure and energy projects proposed by Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene.

On September 7, 2024, Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng paid a courtesy call on President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa expressed satisfaction with the active development of relations and cooperation between Mongolia and China.

President Khurelsukh highlighted that at the meeting with President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping during the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, held last year in Beijing, the two Presidents reached mutual understandings on numerous issues. President Khurelsukh asked Vice President Han Zheng to convey his greetings to President Xi Jinping.

President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa noted that the visit of Vice President of the PRC, Han Zheng, to Mongolia, at a time when the two countries are celebrating historic anniversaries, reflects the aspirations of the two eternal neighbors to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between our two countries.

The President of Mongolia underscored that relevant organizations of Mongolia and China

should actively work on realizing decisions on cooperation agreed upon between the two Heads of State of the two countries, particularly boosting the bilateral trade to USD 20 billion, improving the infrastructure connection between the two countries, intensifying the projects and programs that will be implemented under soft loans and grant aids, activating cooperation in renewable energy, and strengthening cooperation in culture, education, and tourism.

Vice President of the PRC Han Zheng expressed his gratitude to President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa for receiving him and conveyed the greetings from President Xi Jinping.

The Vice President highlighted that 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the People's Republic of China, the friendly neighbors connected with rivers and mountains, the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between Mongolia and China, and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Vice President of the PRC Han Zheng expressed China's readiness to steadily develop China-Mongolia relations, bolstering friendship and mutual trust with Mongolia and deepening mutually beneficial cooperation, based on crucial shared understandings agreed by the Heads of State of the two countries.

On September 7, 2024, Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve received Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng.

Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Amarbayasgalan expressed satisfaction with

the successful development of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation between Mongolia and China, as well as the frequent high-level reciprocal visits. The Chairman emphasized that the cooperation between the legislative bodies of the two countries has intensified, and bilateral meetings and events have become regularized.

Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng expressed pleasure at visiting Mongolia and conveyed the greetings of Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC Zhao Leji to Speaker of the Parliament of Mongolia Amarbayasgalan. The Vice President expressed the country's com-



mitment to elevating relations between the legislative bodies and political parties of the two countries, as well as cooperation between the two countries in all fields, to a new level.

The visit of Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng to Mongolia concluded on September 8, 2024.

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the People's Republic of China, the visit by the Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng to Mongolia gave an important impetus for strengthening the Mongolia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, improving mutual understanding and political trust, and intensifying trade and economic cooperation.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Battsetseg Batmunkh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Mongolia Shen Minjuan, and other officials saw Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng off at the Chinggis Khaan International Airport of Mongolia.

CABINET SESSION



The Government of Mongolia held its regular session on September 11, 2024

Prime Minister's Directive on Implementing 14 Mega Infrastructure and Development Projects Formalized

The Government of Mongolia held its regular session on September 11, 2024. In line with the approval of the 2024-2028 Action Program of the Government, Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai issued a directive to ensure the implementation of socially and economically significant projects and achieve results within 2024.

Under this directive, a total of 129 actions, with each government member responsible for 3 to 9 measures, the significance and expected results should be informed to the public and preparations should be made to present a Government's unified report on December 20, 2024. The Action Program highlights four key areas: social, economic, governance, and regional development policies, as outlined in the Joint Government's Agreement titled "Courage for Rapid Development". It also reflects the implementation of 14 mega infrastructure and development projects.

"Paperless Government" Measure to Be Implemented to Digitalize Government Activities

Minister of Mongolia and Head of the Cabinet Secretariat of Mongolia Uchral Nyam-Osor presented to the Cabinet Meeting the "Paperless Government" measure aimed at digitalizing government activities and increasing government productivity.

In this regard, Minister of Mongolia and Head of the Cabinet Secretariat of Mongolia Uchral Nyamosor, and Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs of Mongolia Altangerel Oyunsaikhan were instructed to create conditions for the electronic document exchange through the Official Document Management System for government members, governors at all levels, and state and local administrative organizations. Also, they were tasked with reducing unnecessary steps in government activities, improving the legal environment for electronic information exchange, developing drafts of laws, and discussing them at Cabinet meetings.

The Office of the State Productivity Committee conducted a survey on the stationery expenses incurred by the Mongolian ministries based on the 2023 budget performance, using numerical data obtained from <https://shilen.gov.mn/>. The average annual stationery expenditure of a single ministry was calculated to be MNT 44.1 million, with the total expen-

diture on stationery across 15 ministries amounting to MNT 662.3 million. Meanwhile, the total expenditure on postage, communication, and internet services for 14 ministries is MNT 574.2 million, with an average of MNT 41.0 million per ministry.

Additionally, according to the records management procedures of the ministries, it takes 1-3 days to review and formalize an official document, 1-2 days for delivery by post within Ulaanbaatar city, and 7 days for delivery to local areas.

In addition, citizens and legal entities can have their suggestions and requests resolved within 30 days, as mandated by law. However, public organizations often follow a multi-step process that can take 4-10 days before reaching the relevant official.

This delay frequently results in unresolved requests within the 30-day deadline, necessitating extensions or even rejection. This inefficient process contributes to increased paperwork at each stage.

"New Cooperative-Wealthy Herder" Program to Be Intensified

The Government of Mongolia has launched the "New Cooperative" Campaign to support the livelihoods of herder families through cooperatives. The campaign aims at stabilizing cash flow from animal and animal-derived raw materials and products. To achieve this, the Government approved a five-year plan for the "New Cooperative-Wealthy Herder" program. As part of this initiative, the Government also decided to provide investment loans to members of herder cooperatives.

Investment loans have been provided by commercial banks using their resources. The Government provided incentives for the interest rate variance, while the Credit Guarantee Fund of Mongolia provided 80-100 percent of the loan collateral.

As of today, soft loans totaling MNT 502.3 billion have been granted to 14,688 members of 4,466 cooperatives. Additionally, commercial banks are currently reviewing projects worth MNT 88.3 billion for 1,570 herders.

Based on the number of herders who are members of cooperatives eligible for soft loans and the loan amount requested for financing, the Cabinet decided to issue a total of MNT 1.0 trillion in soft loans in 2024. This decision follows amendments to the General Financing Agreement and its subsequent signing by the involved parties. Relevant members of the Cabinet and governors of aimags were instructed to intensify the "New Cooperative" Campaign at the national level.

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 06:26 Sunset: 19:11

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -1 C and +6 C. Day time temps between +12 C and +19 C

■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between +1 C and +6 C. Day time temps between +10 C and +21 C

■ Western Aimags: Night temps between +4 C and +10 C. Day time temps between +17 C and +21 C

■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between +5 C and +8 C. Day time temps between +17 C and +2 C

B. Battsetseg: We Aim to Make the Forum a Strong Platform to Deliver Women's Voices Across the Globe

■ *MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency interviewed Battsetseg Batmunkh, Member of the State Great Khural of Mongolia, Minister of the Cabinet, and Minister of Foreign Affairs about the World Women's Forum that was held in Ulaanbaatar on August 22-23, 2024.*

-Global woman leaders, politicians, businesspeople, and social activists gathered in Ulaanbaatar at the end of August. Why was it held in Mongolia, and how do you assess the importance of the Forum?

-Foreign relations of Mongolia have been very active in recent years. In line with the principles outlined in Mongolia's foreign policy concept, we are striving to expand and maintain balanced foreign relations, establishing friendly ties with all countries in the world, and successfully fulfilling this goal. Moreover, Mongolia has become increasingly recognized and draws attention not only in the region but also internationally, in terms of gender equality, and women's leadership. Therefore, we proposed to bring international women together in Mongolia to contribute to solving global issues and express what our country can do on these issues. The United Nations received our proposal with pleasure. Thus, under the auspices of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, and in collaboration with the UN, we hosted a highly ambitious and responsible forum, the World Women's Forum for the first time. We aimed to make it a crucial gathering that, while maintaining a feminine atmosphere, would strongly express women's voices worldwide. For this reason, under the Forum's theme, "Towards Green Future," we aspired to provide a crucial platform for ensuring women's participation and leadership and exchanging best practices in addressing pressing issues of humankind, such as climate change and Sustainable Development Goals.

-This Forum had six thematic sessions. Why is women's leadership important, and what best practices did Mongolia intend to share with women worldwide?

-Women make up 51 percent of the world's population. Global peace and the health of children depend on women. However, women's participation is still relatively low at management and decision-making levels. So, Mongolia's contribution, potential, offer, and initiatives for this issue could be of interest to other

countries. In my opinion as a woman, Mongolian women's participation in Mongolia's unique development, great history, and formation of nomadic culture, and the legacy of our ancestors who brought peace to the world, as well as women's leadership that has been inherited up to today, can be recognized and have an impact at the decision-making level.

When participating in international events, I observe that Mongolian women exhibit strong leadership. Moreover, Mongolia has long supported women's rights. In every government, women's voices have been powerful, which is a big success that many other countries want to achieve. This year marks the centennial of the Mongolian Women's Federation. So, the timing of this Forum was meaningful. To address interconnected challenges such as climate change, economic instability, and gender inequality, participants in the Forum took part in six thematic sessions that focused on environmental actions, the food system, and issues in the economic, education, sports, art, and culture sectors. The Forum concluded with the outcome document titled "Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Towards a Sustainable Future".

Mongolia ranks quite high in gender equality. Particularly, the female participation quota was set at 30 percent in the 2024 parliamentary elections by law. This reflects genuine political leadership. As a result, 32 out of the 126 members of Parliament are women.

-In recent years, Mongolia has been actively hosting international conferences and forums. Last year, the Female Foreign Ministers' Meeting was a success. Can this Meeting be regarded as a continuation of those efforts?

-Yes, Mongolia's foreign relations have become increasingly recognized, both domestically and internationally. Today, it is hard to find someone who is not familiar with Mongolia's peacekeepers, as the skills, reputation, and resilience of Mongolian soldiers are highly regarded. Over the past 20 years, Mongolia has deployed more than 20,000 troops in



peacekeeping operations, serving in hot worldwide. Hence, in 2022, under the initiative of the President of Mongolia, we hosted the first International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security. This conference will be organized every 4-5 years.

Additionally, at last year's Female Foreign Ministers' Meeting, we discussed how female ministers could contribute to solving the challenges faced by many countries during times of "global transition", such as wars and the COVID-19 pandemic, which have brought significant changes to international relations and disciplines. Today, about 40 of the 193 UN member countries have female foreign ministers, all of whom are influential politicians. Seven or eight years ago, when I was a Deputy Minister, this number was only over 20. We also plan to host another international conference in Mongolia in 2025. Preparations for hosting the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2026 have already begun.

At the opening of the Female Foreign Ministers' Meeting, you stated in your

speech that Mongolia is one of the first countries in Asia to legalize gender equality. The World Women's Forum was held under the theme "Towards Green Future". Does it reflect the characteristics of Mongolian culture?

-Every country has taken a number of obligations and commitments related to climate change, and under the Sustainability-2030 Goals. As for Mongolia, it is among the active countries that are fighting climate change effectively. Climate change brings many consequences, including unexpected diseases, food shortages, and economic crises.

Therefore, the six thematic sessions of the Forum were organized in a way that is quite pragmatic, inclusive, and covers numerous issues. Regarding the theme "Towards Green Future", we must love our mother earth and women have been making the biggest contribution to this.

The nomadic lifestyle of Mongolians is remarkable. Mongolians lived minimally, nomads protected their environment, did not create garbage, and were economical. I believe that this lifestyle and wisdom, which has been handed down since ancient

times, is compatible with the concept of "Green Development". It was probably one of the new, interesting, and must-experience aspects of Mongolian culture for foreign guests. It is definitely the reason why everyone who has come to Mongolia wants to come back again, and that makes Mongolia positively known internationally.

-There is a beautiful Mongolian tradition of welcoming guests from afar with respect. How many countries were represented at this World Women's Forum, which Mongolia hosted for the first time? Could you name some of the Guests of Honour?

-More than 100 foreign guests including Heads of State, Deputy Speakers of Parliament, Foreign Ministers, Ministers of Labor and Social Security, Heads of international women's and non-governmental organizations, as well as representatives of art, culture, sports, and business participated in the WWF. For example, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, President of Slovenia, First Lady of the Kyrgyz Republic, Vice President of Laos and the Deputy Speakers of Parliaments of Bulgaria and Kyrgyz Republic took part in the Forum.

-What precious qualities of Mongolian women do you cherish?

-After becoming the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I realized and more deeply felt that Mongolian women stand out with many precious qualities. Mongolian women are truly resolute, talented, and sane, too. Mongolian women are using all kinds of social platforms around the globe. Mongolia is becoming a digital nation. All these are crucial factors for the development of women.

-As the 40th Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, you were in the centre of attention of women globally. Please, share with us, what qualities do you favor in your work?

-I always try to see the good side of things and strive to be positive. When organizing any activity, we want to show the advantages of our nation as much as possible, guide as a model, and create such environment. I am pleased that the Forum was convened in such wonderful atmosphere and left lasting memories for our foreign guests. I believe that all the women who participated in this conference were fortunate to be part of this momentous event.



Ambassador of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Sweden Presents Letter of Credence to the King of Sweden

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Sweden Munkh-Ulzii Tserendorj presented his Letter of Credence to the King of Sweden His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf on September 4, 2024.

Ambassador Munkh-Ulzii Tserendorj conveyed

the greetings of President of Mongolia H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa to the King of Sweden His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf and noted that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Kingdom of Sweden. The Ambassador expressed commitment to actively developing relations and cooperation in numerous fields

including trade, investment, environment, renewable energy, arts, and culture.

King of Sweden His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf was interested in the ancient ties between Mongolia and Sweden, Mongolian nomadic culture, and the tourism sector and expressed confidence that the relations between the two countries would further develop and expand.

Construction of Battery Storage Power Station in Baganuur Begins

On September 6, 2024, Manduul Nyamandeleg, First Deputy Governor of Ulaanbaatar City, and Zhibin Chen, an Accredited Representative of "Envision Energy" LLC, signed an Agreement for the Construction of a Battery Storage Power Station in Baganuur district, Ulaanbaatar.

To prepare for the winter of 2024-2025, prevent electricity and heating shortages, and ensure uninterrupted power supply to consumers, an international open tender for the construction of a battery storage power station in Baganuur district, Ulaanbaatar, was announced on June 26, 2024. As a result, "Envision Energy" LLC was selected as a contractor.

During the Signing Ceremony, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar, Nyambaatar Khishgee remarked, "For the first time, Ulaanbaatar



city successfully issued bonds worth MNT 500 billion on the domestic capital market, with MNT 300 billion being invested in the Buuruluut Power Plant. The first block of the Buuruluut

Power Plant, with a capacity of 150 MW, will be operational next month. With today's Agreement with "Envision Energy" LLC, the Battery Storage Power Station, with a capacity of 50 MW, is

planned to be commissioned on November 30, 2024. The commissioning of the first block of the Buuruluut Power Plant and the Battery Storage Power Station will significantly mitigate

the current energy shortages of Ulaanbaatar."

The Battery Storage Power Station will be built on a 5-hectare area in the 1st subdistrict of Baganuur district, northwest of the Baganuur Substation. The Battery Storage Station will have a capacity of 50 MW, an energy storage capacity of 200 MWh, and an electrical frequency of 50 Hz with three phases and will be connected to the 220/110/35 kV Baganuur Substation.

Once operational, the Battery Storage Power Station will play a key role in regulating the frequency of the central region's energy system, alleviating peak winter load stress, and addressing capacity deficits. Additionally, the station will restore the system when the system needs it, while the Battery Storage Power Station reduces greenhouse gas emissions as the station relies on renewable energy sources.

Loan Quality Improves in Mongolia

Mongolia's banking sector grew by 30 percent in the first half of 2024. Amar Lkhagvasuren, Executive Director of the Mongolian Bankers Association, noted during the presentation of the Association's review on the sector for the first half of 2024 that the increasing credit growth, while GDP is at 5 percent and inflation is at 5.5 percent, could potentially raise inflation.

"Non-performing loans are now below 6 percent, a positive indicator not seen in the past 10 years, though this is partly due to the growth in overall lending.

There has been a decline in non-performing loans across all sectors. For example, in the mining sector, non-performing loans have decreased to 17 percent, down from one-third. Due to the decrease in inflation and the appreciation of the national currency, more citizens are choosing to deposit their money in MNT savings, resulting in real returns. However, budget expenditure has increased by 43 percent. Such budget expansion will not allow a macroeconomic environment conducive to lowering loan interest rates," Executive Director Amar Lkhagvasuren highlighted. Also, the Mongolian Ban-

kers Association analyzed the Mongolian Government's Action Program and made several proposals.

For example, while the election platform of the three parties stated that they would reduce loan interest rates, the Government's Action Program for 2024-2028 lacked any specific provisions for it. Therefore, the specific measures for reducing loan interest rates remain unclear. While the winning party's platform included promises to improve the business environment, such as eliminating taxes on dividends and limiting budget expenditure to 25 percent of GDP,



there is little evidence of these commitments being implemented in the budget amendments or proposed budget law. Therefore,

the Association emphasized the importance of fulfilling these promises.



An open tender for the first stage of construction work of the Selbe subcenter was announced on August 26, 2024. The

first stage work of the subcenter will take place on 13 hectares of land, a part of a larger initiative to redevelop 158 hectares of

World Bank to Collaborate on Accelerating "Selbe Subcenter" and "Ulaanbaatar Sustainable Urban Transport" Projects

area in the Chingeltei District, Ulaanbaatar.

The Selbe subcenter is a model project under the "20-Minute City" concept, designed to transform ger districts into well-planned residential areas. The project aims at improving infrastructure, alleviating traffic congestion, and providing better living conditions for residents in the capital's ger districts.

To date, 1380 households have been relocated, and with international financing secured, the project is expected to be completed within its planned timeline.

Regarding the Selbe subcenter project development, Manduul Nyamandeleg, First Deputy Governor of Ulaanbaatar City in charge of Economy and Infrastructure held a meeting with Thilasoni Benjamin Musuku,

Senior Financial Sector Specialist at the World Bank.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed to accelerate the implementation of both the "Selbe Subcenter" and "Ulaanbaatar Sustainable Urban Transport" projects. They also exchanged views on improving the housing supply in Ulaanbaatar, and the World Bank confirmed its support and cooperation for the project.

Tugrug's Exchange Rate to the U.S. Dollar Appreciated by 61.50 Tugrugs

The savings in Tugrug, the national currency of Mongolia reached MNT 20.1 trillion as of the end of July 2024, an increase of MNT 431.9 billion (2.2 percent). Compared to the same period of 2023, the total amount of Tugrug savings increased by MNT 5.6 trillion (38.8 percent).

Of the total Tugrug savings, MNT 17.3 trillion (86.1 percent) is made by individuals, and MNT 2.8 trillion (13.9 percent) by enterprises. Savings in foreign currency reached an equivalent of MNT 4.5 trillion, an increase of

MNT 64.8 billion (1.4 percent) compared to the previous month. However, savings in foreign currency decreased by an equivalent of MNT 392.9 billion, compared to the same period last year, according to the National Statistics Office of Mongolia.

The monthly average exchange rate of Mongolian Tugrug to U.S. Dollar announced by the Central Bank of Mongolia in July 2024 was MNT 3380.86 to USD 1, appreciated by MNT 61.50 compared to the same period of the previous year and by MNT 0.25 compared to June 2024.

The monthly average exchange rate of Mongolian Tugrug to Euro announced by the Central Bank of Mongolia in July 2024 was MNT 3663.85 to 1 EUR, appreciated by MNT 139.49 compared to the same period of the previous year while the rate was depreciated by MNT 23.84 from the previous month.

The monthly average exchange rate of Mongolian Tugrug to Russian Ruble in July 2024 was MNT 38.80 to 1 RUB, depreciated by MNT 0.84 compared to the same period of the previous year and by MNT 0.30 from the pre-



vious month.

Meanwhile, the monthly average exchange rate of Mongolian Tugrug to Chinese Yuan in July 2024 was MNT 465.55 to 1

CNY, appreciated by MNT 13.12 compared to the same period of the previous year and by MNT 0.50 from the previous month.

Batbaatar Sukhbaatar: Standards Are Development Accelerator

■ *MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency interviewed Chairman of the Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology Batbaatar Sukhbaatar.*



-To begin with, could you please explain what the Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology stands for, what its responsibilities are, and what activities it carries out at the policy level?

-B: The Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology (MASM) operates in all 21 aimags. Following the transfer of responsibilities from the General Agency for Specialized Inspection to the sector ministries, our agency now oversees food safety, conducting tests in 21 provincial laboratories. Additionally, we manage sector-specific laboratories in Ulaanbaatar's Baganuur and Nalaikh districts, as well as the National Reference Laboratory for Food Safety in Ulaanbaatar. In terms of our agency's responsibilities, we work on ensuring the goods and services in Mongolia meet international standards and provide policy support for boosting national production

and exports. Overall, we aim at ensuring a safe and healthy environment for Mongolian people, aligning our work with Mongolia's development orientation.

-What does the term "standard" mean? People often think they understand what a standard is and it seems like something familiar to them. However, when it comes to the implementation, it is often not applied. Could you please clarify this?

-Almost every journalist asks me about the state of standard implementation. The general perception is that Mongolia lacks proper standards and that standard enforcement is weak. People say that risks are present, or we face risk in every two steps we take. It means we do not adhere to the standards. The issues we face concerning the safe and healthy living conditions of Mongolians are directly related to the lack of standards being enforced. We have already

found the problem, but now we need to focus on the ways of implementing those standards, the ways to move forward, and the ways to overcome the situation. The sectoral inspection bodies under the relevant ministries must be responsible for standard enforcement. For instance, there are about 700 standards in the food sector, over 600 in construction, and around 700 in the health sector. In other words, we have numerous standards. But when you go to the sectoral inspection bodies and ask about the current implementation of these standards, they cannot provide answers. So, we have many urgent issues to solve. Therefore, we must find answers to these questions: what measures should be taken to implement standards in each sector, and what policy actions the government should take.

-You just mentioned that over 700 standards are in each sector. If we were to enforce just 10 out of 700, it could potentially solve many issues in that sector. In case the standards are not met, then those issues persist. So, while the MASM has already developed the necessary standards, should not it be the responsibility of the sectors for the standard enforcement?

-Previously, we had a General Agency for Specialized Inspection (GACI), which was responsible for oversight across all sectors, including healthcare, education, mining, roads and transport, and construction. They carried out inspections according to the Law of State Inspections and Control. The inspectors should ensure the implementation of the standards in compliance with the inspection checklists, with all the relevant standards being reflected. For example, let it be a hospitality enterprise, the checklist must specify all the requirements: how the entrance must look, how the door should be, and how the outdoor lighting should be. Or else, if it is a tourist facility, the checklist must detail everything, including the cleanliness of public restrooms.

The sector-specific inspection bodies must enforce these standards are met through such checklists. As of now, each sector's respective ministry is taking responsibility for overseeing the enforcement of standards.

-How many standards are there in effect in Mongolia today?

-As of today, Mongolia has 6642 standards in effect. There

is a long list of standards in each sector, approximately, over 700 standards for each. Of the total number of standards in Mongolia, 44.1 percent comply with international standards. This means any product that meets the standard of Mongolia will exactly meet the international standard. We are working towards increasing it, striving to align Mongolian standards with international standards. When national enterprises produce goods and offer services that meet international standards, their competitiveness will significantly increase in foreign markets. Last year, the ratio of national standards aligning with international standards was 43.6 percent, while this year it has increased by around five percentage points. This is an area in which we are quite successful.

-What are the advantages and disadvantages of conforming national standards to international standards?

-Generally, making national standards align with international standards means bringing domestic products or services to the international level. However, there is a problem with this. Enterprises say, "You have approved standards that are too difficult to achieve. How can we meet them?" International standards are globally accepted to ensure that products and services are safe for both people and the environment, without risks. Imposing these standards domestically raises the bar, it is a sign of progress. As Mongolia strives to keep pace with global development, we should have national standards closer to international standards. There is also another issue, making a national standard an international standard.

-You have noted the need for legal reform. How favorable is the legal environment regarding national standards in Mongolia? You intend to submit proposals to the State Great Khural of Mongolia on amendments to relevant laws. Could you provide more information?

-We have been working to formulate the basic fundamental law on standards since 2023. This draft law was thoroughly discussed by relevant officials and specialists in all aimags and professional institutions and was presented to all ministries of Mongolia.

When this draft law is approved, it will provide essential support to Mongolia's development and provide leverage on

a policy level. We have completed the draft law. Now, we are waiting for the approval of the law concept by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia. The draft law outlines the control and regulation policy.

The draft law also addresses several key issues. First, it includes articles on the social protection of professionals in the field of standard and metrology. Second, it seeks to clarify the wording "optional" in the law. This wording has led to ambiguity, with some interpreting it as optional to adhere to. In countries with a strong rule of law, standards must be strictly adhered to.

But in Mongolia, this phrasing has allowed businesses and individuals to choose which standards to follow. This has resulted in some products not meeting full safety requirements, which the amendments to the law aims to correct.

-What are MASM's plans for the near future?

-One of the biggest difficulties our agency faces is the lack of investment. We had no investment in upgrading vital equipment, lab tools, workforce development, and renovations of the building. For over a decade, only around MNT 300 million was allocated. Gladly, Deputy Prime Minister Amarsaikhan Sainbuyan pays special attention to our sector. This year, MNT 3.4 billion has been earmarked, which will be used for the equipment upgrade and renovation.

Furthermore, there is a need to improve our Agency's foreign relations. Currently, we have relations with 16 international organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization and the International Organization of Legal Metrology, and cooperate with over 30 foreign organizations.

In addition to funding, enhancing our agency's foreign relations is crucial. Therefore, we give great attention to the cooperation with international organizations including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, KOICA, JICA, and other partners.

To summarize, adherence to standards is essential. These standards ensure safe and healthy conditions for everyone. Moreover, the national standards can be a driving force for Mongolia-made products to be internationally recognized.

We all should adhere to the standards to safeguard our future.

Mongolia and France to Cooperate on Climate Change and Specially Protected Area Management

Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia and Member of the State Great Khural Odontuya Saldan met with Senator Philippe Mouiller, Chair of the French-Mongolian Parliamentary Group in the French Senate, on September 9, 2024.

The two sides discussed key environmental issues, including sustainable forest management, climate change, and renewable

energy. Minister Odontuya expressed her gratitude the French side for supporting Mongolia's "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, initiated by President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, and sending French experts to Mongolia. The Minister emphasized the importance Mongolia places on the Mongolia-EU Forest Partnership and highlighted that Mongolia and France were among the first countries to support the initiative to protect at least 30 percent

of the planet's land and water by 2030. Minister Odontuya pointed out that there is potential for Mongolia to adopt France's best practices in expanding the network of specially protected areas (SPA) and strengthening the management of SPA authorities in line with international standards.

Senator Philippe Mouiller reaffirmed France's commitment to cooperating with Mongolia, pledging support from the Senate and other relevant institutions of the French Republic.



Camel Milk Processing Plant to Be Put into Operation in Umnugobi Aimag

The construction of a camel milk processing plant in Umnugobi aimag is over 90 percent complete, and it is planned to be commissioned in October of this year.

In 2023, the Governor's Office of Umnugobi aimag, in cooperation with "Solid Partners Group" LLC and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) established a camel farm in Umnugobi aimag with joint investments and the construction of a joint camel milk processing plant is ongoing.

The plant will simplify the processing of milk and dairy products and increase the milk yield. The project initiators aim at introducing the latest technologies and, creating conditions for facilitating animal farms.

As part of the realization of the goals, a workshop was held at the camel farm on September 8, 2024, to present herders with the operation of the camel farm, the camel milk cluster policy, the camel milk supply chain, and the raw material supply network.

B.Tsend-Ayush, Executive Director of "Solid Partners

Group" LLC said, "Since 2021, "Solid Partners Group" LLC has been implementing a project called "Mongol Camel", which aims at drying camel milk for export. Within the framework of the project, we initiated the establishment of a camel milk processing plant in Dalanzadgad soum, and a camel farm in Khan-khongor soum, Umnugobi aimag. We will focus on meeting export standards for our products further. When we started the project, the establishment of a reliable supply chain for raw materials was the key challenge."

"In 2021, our company started operating a camel farm teaming up with five herder households from Umnugobi aimag. However, we came to the conclusion that it is impossible to sustainably develop a camel farm using traditional livestock herding practices. Therefore, we cooperated with the UNFAO in 2023 to establish an intensified camel farm.

Moreover, we are collaborating with the Governor's Office of Umnugobi aimag. Over the course of a year, we trained the camels for milking and increa-



sed their milk yield. Generally, a Mongolian female camel produces 800 grams of milk per day, but our farm's camels initially produced only 400 grams. The milk yield has increased by providing the camels with proper diet. It illustrates that it is possible to increase the milk yield of Mongolian camels. As of now, we have achieved 3 liters of milk yield per camel. We believe that it can reach 4 liters by adjusting the camels'

feed intake and increasing the fodder reserve. Herders are not able to milk camels throughout the four seasons. By adopting intensified farming practices, their income from milking can increase 2-4 times. Therefore, we aim to intensify our efforts to provide herders with training and advice on the farm's operations. Currently, we have over 450 camels, and we are selling our products in the local market," noted Mr. Tsend-Ayush.

"Teacher Treasures" Forum for 1000 Teachers Held in Gobi-Altai

The Governor's Office of Gobi-Altai aimag and the Education and Science Department of Gobi-Altai aimag organized the "Teacher Treasures" Forum on September 8, 2024.

Around one thousand teachers, who are "sowing the seeds of knowledge" in Gobi-Altai aimag, took part in online sub-sessions, divided into eight research teams, and held discussions on the results of the sub-sessions at the plenary session of the Forum.

The plenary session covered topics, Results, Issues, and Solutions of the Education Quality Improvement Program; Teacher Development, Social Guarantee, and Professional Reputation and

Value; Training Quality, Curriculum Implementation; and Child Development and Protection.

At the Forum, the teachers, whose students made high achievements in the University Entrance Exam, National Olympiads, and other competitions, were given rewards, following the Reward Granting Rule of the Education Quality Improvement Program. For instance, teacher N. Erdenesuvd from the Third School of Yesunbulag soum was awarded MNT 10 million, while her students each received MNT 500 thousand for their accomplishments of winning second place at a national competition for the Mongol Script. Teacher N. Erdenesuvd emphasized that if teachers and students



work hard together, they can achieve success.

During the Forum experienced teachers who are leading

in their fields shared their best practices, reported the Education and Science Department of Gobi-Altai aimag.

Twenty Thousand Trees to Be Planted in Khovd Aimag This October



Since the launch of the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign initiated by the President of Mongolia, over 300 thousand trees have been planted in Khovd aimag, Mongolia, to combat desertification and land degradation.

Environmental officials are now focusing on supporting the local tree nurseries and increasing the number of tree seed-

lings and saplings to sustain this momentum. As part of the National Tree Planting Day and the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, 48,000 trees were planted this spring across 17 soums of Khovd aimag. Looking ahead, approximately 20,000 more trees will be planted in October.

Additionally, Khovd aimag plans to plant trees on 250 to 260 hectares of land this fall to

strengthen its climate adaptation. These initiatives are crucial in light of the severe desertification affecting Khovd aimag. Over 90 percent of the territory of the aimag has been affected by land degradation and desertification to varying degrees. Specifically, in Khovd aimag, 1.4 percent of the land is classified as severely desertified, 13.3 percent as strongly desertified, 29.2 percent as moderately desertified, and

46.4 percent as mildly desertified. Only 6.7 percent of the land in Khovd aimag remains unaffected by desertification.

A study shows that most territories of Durgun, Chandmani, Erdeneburen, Myangad, Man-khan, Zereg, Buyant, and Jargalant soums of Khovd aimag are particularly hard-hit by desertification, and the grazing capacity is exceeded.

The lawyer's advice



Hanns Seidel Foundation

-When will a driving license be invalid?

-According to the Law on Traffic Safety (2015), the driving license shall be invalid in the following cases:

1. Expiry of the effective period of driving license;

2. The driver has been disqualified by a statement of health organization to drive the vehicle of the given category;

3. Demerit points have reached their limit;

4. Driving license has been terminated as stated in the relevant law.

In the case that a person's driving license is invalid, such person's international driving license shall be deemed invalid too.

-When will a driving license be restored?

-The driving license will be restored in the following cases:

1. Driving license has been extended under the relevant procedure;

2. The driver has been qualified by a statement of health organizations to be able to drive a vehicle of the relevant category;

3. On expiry of a termination of the driving license.

-What are the fundamental requirements for ensuring traffic safety during planning, building, expanding, and maintaining road and road constructions?

-Planning, construction, expansion, and maintenance of road and road constructions shall be consistent with the requirements for road traffic safety.

The State administrative body in charge of the relevant inspection shall monitor if planning, construction, expansion, and maintenance of road and road constructions are in line with the laws, technical norms, procedures, and standards concerning traffic safety.

Engineering solutions for the planning, construction, expansion, and maintenance of road and road constructions that will negatively affect traffic safety shall be prohibited.

The Government member in charge of road shall be responsible for ensuring that the planning, construction, expansion, and maintenance of road and road constructions have met the relevant traffic safety requirements.

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Presenting "The Miracle of Craftsmanship"



On September 11, 2024, the National Art Gallery of Mongolia opened a special exhibition titled "The Miracle of Craftsmanship" to commemorate the centennial of the birth of Honored Cultural Worker of Mongolia, Master Sculptor Sengee Samdan.

Sengee Samdan is renowned for revolutionizing the traditional Mongolian carving style by creating large works using materials such as ivory and wood. His works are characterized by traditional Mongolian patterns, fascinating visual elements of abstraction, poetic expressions of



events, and a new style of symbolic representations, all crafted with exceptional detail. The Ex-

hibition offers over 30 pieces of artwork selected from the collections of the National Art Gallery of Mongolia, the National Museum of Mongolia, the Ulaanbaatar City Museum, the Museum of Uvurkhangai aimag as well as private collections. The Exhibition will be open to the public until September 15, 2024. Some of his notable pieces include "Peaceful Earth" (a globe made of carved ivory with nine layers), "Prosperous Nature" (wood carving), "Flourishing Ulaanbaatar", (carved ivory), "The Banner That Never Bowed" (carved ivory).

Sodnompiljee Becomes Mongolia's First Paralympic Athlete to Win Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals

On the 10th day of the "Paris-2024" 17th Summer Paralympic Games, Hero of Labor of Mongolia and Honored Athlete of Mongolia, Paralympic Champion and World Champion Sodnompiljee Enkhbayar, won a silver medal in the 107 kg weight category.

Under the guidance of State Honored Coach of Mongolia D. Battulga, E. Sodnompiljee, who

makes him the first Mongolian athlete to win gold, silver, and bronze medals at the Summer Paralympic Games.

E. Sodnompiljee, Mongolia's final competitor at the "Paris-2024" Paralympics, is a three-time World Champion, holder of four silver World Championship medals, a six-time World Cup gold medalist, and a two-time Asian Games gold medalist with one silver medal as well. The Mongolian



previously won a gold medal at the "Tokyo-2020" Paralympics and a bronze medal at the "Rio-2016" Paralympics, successfully lifted 248 kg in the men's 107 kg powerlifting event to secure the silver. This achievement

National Olympic Committee reported that Mongolia's team concluded the Paralympic Games with one gold, three silver medals, and four top-ranked finishes.

Mongolians Competing at the 5th World Nomad Games



The 5th World Nomad Games are taking place in Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan, on September 8-14, 2024. Over 2,500 athletes from 85 countries are competing in 21 categories, vying for 97 sets of medals.

At the Games, 66 athletes are participating from Mongolia in 16 sports, such as wrestling, archery, and horse racing. The Opening Ceremony of the 5th World Nomad Games was solemnly held on the first day of the Games, and D. Anar, the World Champion of Kurash Wrestling, served as the flag bearer for the Mongolian team.

As the hearth of nomadic civilization, Mongolia is participating in the 5th World Nomad Games and promoting its unique nomadic culture to

the world once again. Also, Mongolia regularly organizes the World Festival of Nomadic Culture every year to expand the cultural relations of countries with nomadic civilizations and promote them to the world. The primary goal of the World Nomad Games is to strengthen friendship, expand cooperation, and consolidate regional unity through traditional nomadic sports.

The first World Nomad Games were held in Kyrgyzstan in 2014, followed by the UAE in 2016, Kyrgyzstan in 2018, and Turkey in 2022. The Mongolian national team won seven medals in 2014, five in 2016, 24 in 2018, and 10 in 2022. Today, N. Altanhuyag, who competed in mounted archery, won a silver medal, and M. Nauryzbek won bronze in Er Enish.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ULAANBAATAR

Facilities Manager

Apply no later than 5 PM, September 20, 2024

NATURE OF WORK

The Facilities Manager shall assist the Director and Deputy Director with the organization, operation and administration of the non-instructional school program. Within the limits of established policy, he/she shall make decisions involving the grounds and maintenance personnel and drivers/vehicles belonging to, or in the service of, the International School of Ulaanbaatar (ISU). His/her primary responsibilities shall involve ensuring the safety, maintenance and development of all school facilities, and all transportation systems (at a high, international standard) at ISU.

Position Requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree required (specialization in engineering preferred, but not necessary)
2. FMA designation or equivalent strongly desired
3. Minimum of three to five years of prior experience in facilities administration and management (prior experience of construction projects preferred)
4. Demonstrated history of meeting international standards in facilities maintenance
5. Ability to work in, and manage, a team in a firm but fair, manner
6. Prior experience of working in a multicultural environment is strongly desired
7. Written and spoken fluency in English and Mongolian required

APPLICATION:

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

- A formal letter of application
- A formal curriculum vitae (CV) / resume detailing: Your employment history; your education background; and your contact information (including both e-mail and phone number)
- The names and contact details of at least two direct supervisory references

All applications should be addressed to:

Deputy Director
International School of Ulaanbaatar
Four Seasons Garden, Khan-Uul District, Khoroo 15
Phone: 70160010
Email: depdirector@isumongolia.edu.mn

For further information about this position's job description, please visit this www.isumongolia.edu.mn.