

## President of Mongolia Participates in the UN Summit of the Future



President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa took part in the UN Summit of the Future in New York on September 22-23, 2024.

The idea of organizing a "UN Summit of the Future" originated from the UN Secretary-General's report, "Our Common Agenda." This year's Summit took place under the theme "Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow."

Heads of State of 83 countries, two Vice Presidents, Heads of Government of 52 countries, and Deputy Prime Ministers of

five UN member states participated in the Summit.

During the Summit of the Future, world leaders adopted a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations.

On September 22, 2024, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa addressed the UN Summit of the Future.

**President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa:** "This Summit of the Future is an important event focused on outlining pathways toward a peaceful, sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and prosperous future, as highlighted in UN Secretary-General António Guterres's report, "Our Common Agenda".

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Permanent

Representatives of Namibia and Germany for their successful coordination of the preparations for this Summit.

I also would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres for initiating this Summit of the Future, which aims to assess the current state of the implementation of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", provide new momentum for its advancement, and enhance its activities.

The documents "Pact for the Future", "Declaration on Future Generations", and "Global Digital Compact", which we have just adopted based on numerous discussions and consultations, represent a significant step in reaffirming our shared goals and political aspirations during these complex times.

As a country that adheres to a "peaceful, open, independent, and multi-pillar" foreign policy, Mongolia respects the pluralism that arises from the history, culture, civilization, national interests, and development paths of all countries and is committed to building international relations based on a multi-pillar approach.

Our country also believes that strengthening multilateral cooperation based on international law and the UN Charter is a key way to ensure international peace and security, with enhanced dialogue, mutual understanding, and trust serving as the foundation for global stability and peaceful

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## UN Secretary-General Welcomes President of Mongolia to the UN General Assembly

*The 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) is taking place in the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on September 24-30, 2024, under the theme "Leaving No One Behind: Acting Together for the Advancement of Peace, Sustainable Development and Human Dignity for Present and Future Generations."*



On September 24, 2024, Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres and other senior officials welcomed President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa at the UN Headquarters.

High-level representatives, including Heads of State of 88 countries, Vice Presidents of three countries, Heads of Government of 35 countries, and Deputy Prime Ministers of six countries, are participating in the General Debate of the UNGA 79.

President Khurelsukh has regularly participated in the General Debate of the UN General Assembly since 2021.

## Khurelsukh Ukhnaa: International Challenges and Misunderstandings Should Be Addressed through Mutual Understanding, Trust, Respect, and Dialogue

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In his opening speech at the General Debate of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, UN Secretary-General António Guterres remarked that our world is unstable and must change its unsustainable development. Also, Mr. António Guterres emphasized the possibility of overcoming global challenges and called for peace across the world.

During the General Debate,

high-level meetings and events will take place, including the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance, the High-level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, the Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries.

President Khurelsukh has regularly participated in the General Debate of the UN General Assembly since 2021.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa addressed the General Debate of the 79th United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2024.

**President of Mongolia**

**Khurelsukh Ukhnaa:** At the outset, I wish to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the President of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Your Excellency Mr. Philemon Yang, and wish every success in the work of the session.

Every time I participate in the General Assembly, I take pleasure in observing the sculpture entitled "Consciousness", created by a renowned Mongolian artist, located in the garden of the UN headquarters.

This sculpture evokes a deep sense of contemplation, reminding us of our responsibilities, consciousness, and dignity before the history of mankind and future generations.

This deeply meaningful work symbolizes the historical moment when countries around the world adopted the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and

the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

During my visit this year, the monument stood gloomily, as if demanding answers regarding the goals and commitments we have made for future generations.

Our lives are rapidly evolving and developing in an interdependent manner in this age of technological progress and digital advancement.

However, tensions, armed conflicts and wars continue to surge in many parts of the world, with geopolitical tensions rising due to prejudice, extreme ideologies, mistrust, misunderstanding and disrespect.

Mongolia believes that strengthening multilateral cooperation that respects international law and the UN Charter is the primary

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Website: [montsame.mn/en](http://montsame.mn/en)  
montsame.agency @montsame\_en

Bloomberg commodity price 2024/09/26			
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,700.50	
COPPER	USD/lb.	458.45	
SILVER	USD/t oz.	32.85	
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	71.57	
WHEAT	USD/bu	592.25	



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coexistence.

We are confident that this Summit of the Future will play a crucial role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, including peacebuilding, combating climate change, protecting global health, reducing economic inequalities, ensuring justice, and promoting science, technology, innovation, youth engagement,



and governance reform.

In preparation for this Summit, our country collaborated with the UN to organize various events, notably successfully hosting the World Women's Forum in August under the theme "Toward a Greener Future", which culminated in the adoption of the "Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Towards a Sustainable Future".

We are pleased that the core ideas from this declaration are reflected in the documents that we have adopted at today's Summit.

Moving forward, we will continue to support and promote the UN's central role in global affairs and enhance multilateral cooperation centered around the UN in all aspects."

During the Summit, interactive dialogues on Transforming global governance and turbocharging the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, Enhancing multilateralism for international peace and security, Towards a Common Digital Future: strengthening inclusive innovation and cooperation to bridge the digital divides, and the Future Starts Now: enhancing the global system for current and future generations were held.

In anticipation of the UN Summit of the Future, Mongolia hosted a series of events, including the World Women's Forum, the National Forum for Sustainable Development, the Youth Consultation Meeting, the Global Digital Dialogue, and the National Stakeholders' Consultation on Leveraging Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

The concept of the "Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Towards a Sustainable Future," issued at the World Women's Forum held in Ulaanbaatar in August 2024 under the auspices of the President of Mongolia, was reflected in the documents adopted at the UN Summit of the Future.

On the sidelines of the UN

Summit of the Future, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa received Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan Dashi Tshering Tobgay on September 22, 2024.

At the meeting, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa emphasized that relations and cooperation with the Kingdom of Bhutan play an important role in Mongolia's Foreign Policy towards the Asia-Pacific Region.

environment as well as exploring the ways to implement joint projects and programs under Mongolia's "One Billion Trees" National Campaign and the "One Hundred Million Fruit Trees Project" initiated by His Majesty the King of Bhutan.

Additionally, the two sides reaffirmed mutual commitment to deepening cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations.

On September 24, 2024, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa received Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa commended the deepening of relations between Mongolia and Japan, which share common democratic values, under the "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity," and the active cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations.

The two sides expressed mutual commitment to actively work together to further advance bilateral relations and cooperation.

Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida expressed Japan's readiness to continue cooperation on expanding Chinggis Khaan International Airport of Mongolia to increase its capacity. The Prime Minister Fumio Kishida underscored that Mongolia-Japan cooperation should be intensified under the Action Program of the Special Strategic Partnership. The Prime



Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck to Mongolia this year was of high significance in advancing cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry, environmental protection, and tourism. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay noted that this State Visit made Mongolian history, culture, and traditions dear to the hearts of the Bhutanese people. The Premier expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of Mongolia for their hospitality extended to the Bhutanese delegation.

The two sides agreed to intensify bilateral cooperation by contributing to global efforts in combating climate change and desertification and protecting the

Minister also expressed gratitude to the President of Mongolia for understanding and accepting the decision to postpone his planned visit to Mongolia past August due to the natural disaster in Japan.

The President of Mongolia and the Prime Minister of Japan reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the implementation of the Action Program of the "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity," expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in all sectors, enhancing bilateral and multilateral dialogues, increasing their frequency, and cooperating more closely on regional and international foras under common goals.

## Minister of Foreign Relations of Mongolia Meets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam

On the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Battsetseg Batmunkh met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Bui Thanh Son on September 24, 2024.



At the meeting, Foreign Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh remarked that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and Vietnam, an important partner to Mongolia in Southeast Asia, and emphasized that the traditionally friendly relations between the two countries have been successfully developing and strengthening based on the "Principle of Friendship and Cooperation."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Bui Thanh Son expressed commitment to actively cooperating in implementing a high-level visit to Mongolia with the wide-scale celebration 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In addition, the two sides exchanged views on establishing the Joint Declaration on Strengthening the Comprehensive Partnership between Mongolia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and realizing relations and cooperation in numerous fields including culture, tourism, trade, and investment.

## CABINET SESSION



The Government of Mongolia held its regular session on September 25, 2024

### Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi JSC Administration to Be Selected through Open International Bidding

The Cabinet of Mongolia discussed the draft Resolution on Measures for "Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi" (ETT) JSC and made several decisions. Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai tasked the Cabinet Members to improve "Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi" JSC's corporate governance and increase its profit and value.

Head of the Cabinet Secretariat of Mongolia Uchral Nyam-Osor and the Administration and Board of Directors of "Erdenes Mongol" LLC and "Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi" JSC were tasked with the following tasks:

- To improve ETT's corporate governance and increase its profit and value based on international experience,
- To undertake measures to launch an open international bid to select the management team and report on the results,
- To receive consultation from international organizations during the selection

process of the bid.

### Prime Minister Tasks the Ministry of Finance to Create a Plan for Improving Credit Ratings

Minister of Finance of Mongolia Javkhlan Bold presented Cabinet Members a general overview of the country's credit ratings, noting that Fitch Ratings upgraded Mongolia's credit rating to "B+ Stable."

In this regard, Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai tasked Minister of Finance of Mongolia Javkhlan Bold to draft a Medium-Term Plan for further improving credit ratings of Mongolia and establish a Working Group.

In recent years, due to adverse conditions caused by the global pandemic and geopolitical conflicts, credit ratings of more than 70 countries have dropped in a short period of time, while credit ratings of over 50 countries have since improved. During these challenging years, the Government of Mongolia has implemented fiscal discipline, budget policies, and debt management strategy, maintaining a stable credit rating without downgrading. Thereby, for the first time in the past decade, Mongolia's credit rating improved to a level "B+ Stable."

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

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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. Tel: 266904, 99291632, 99890918

### WEATHER Sunrise: 06:45 Sunset: 18:42

- Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -7 C and +6 C. Day time temps between +1 C and +16 C
- Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -3 C and +11 C. Day time temps between +5 C and +19 C
- Western Aimags: Night temps between -2 C and +4 C. Day time temps between +8 C and +14 C
- Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -2 C and +12 C. Day time temps between +5 C and +24 C

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# Khurelsukh Ukhnaa: International Challenges and Misunderstandings Should Be Addressed through Mutual Understanding, Trust, Respect, and Dialogue

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means to ensure international peace and security, with dialogue, mutual understanding, and trust are the foundations for peaceful and sustainable coexistence.

Mongolia has always aimed to contribute to the international community's efforts for peace, security, and sustainable development.

In this regard, Mongolia has established diplomatic relations with all member states of the United Nations and is committed to strengthening and developing friendly relations and cooperation with all countries around the globe.

As a nation that consistently pursues a peaceful, open, independent, and multi-pillared foreign policy, Mongolia respects the pluralism that arises from the history, culture, civilization, religion, national interests, and development paths of countries worldwide, and strives to develop international relations based on multi-pillar principles.

For centuries, the Great Mongol Empire employed political and diplomatic methods, such as sending and receiving ambassadors and envoys, concluding agreements, fostering friendships, and seeking consensus, in its relations with nations near and far, allies, and adversaries as well in order to resolve conflicts peacefully. It continues to be a cornerstone of Mongolia's foreign policy to date.

Mongolia has made significant contributions to the elimination of nuclear threats, by having its nuclear-weapon-free status recognized on an international level. We reaffirm our commitment to continue pursuing and supporting nuclear-weapon-free policies and initiatives.

Mongolia calls upon all countries to collaborate in ensuring peace and stability, particularly in creating a world free from nuclear threats, and proposes the convening of a special gathering on this issue within the framework of the United Nations.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce that Mongolia, through its initiative, is preparing to ensure the implementation of the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly declaring 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. We are also set to host the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Ulaanbaatar in 2026.

Our country, with its unique location on the Central Asian plateau, its harsh climate, and its status as a landlocked nation, has consistently paid special attention to the issues faced by countries in similar situations with common challenges, actively collaborating with them to protect our interests and make a tangible contribution to amplifying our voices on the global stage.

Mongolia, in partnership with Austria, co-chaired the Preparatory Committee preparing for the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) for 2023–2024 and successfully facilitated discussions on the draft outcome document among

member states.

We are pleased that the draft of the Action Programme to be adopted at the upcoming conference in Botswana in December includes innovative content outlining specific goals and measures to guide the development of LLDCs over the next decade.

Therefore, we urge all LLDCs, transit countries, and all UN member states and development partners to engage at a highest level in the Third UN Conference on LLDCs and to discuss proposals creatively for the successful implementation of the Action Programme.

The General Assembly of the United Nations is the most important and honorable platform for spreading the voice of ideas and aspirations for world peace, security, welfare and development of mankind.

Mongolia has consistently supported the efforts of member states to reform the UN Security Council into a more equitable, accessible, transparent, effective, democratic and responsible system.

We also strongly support the further strengthening of the United Nations' central role and coordination in global affairs.

Our country believes that any international challenges and misunderstandings should be addressed through mutual understanding, mutual trust, mutual respect, and dialogue, and should be resolved within the framework of international legal norms.

Therefore, I call on you, Heads of State and Government and distinguished delegates, to demonstrate exceptional leadership and make a meaningful contribution to strengthening trust, mutual respect and cooperation among the nations of the world in the vital work of achieving world peace, security, sustainable development and the well-being of humanity.

May the eternal blue sky bless us with peace across the world."



On the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa received President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric Egger on September 24, 2024.

At the outset of the meeting, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa congratulated the ICRC on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, the foundational treaties in international humanitarian law. President Khurelsukh also emphasized the crucial role of the ICRC's leadership, prompt assistance, and coordination of humanitarian aid.



The two sides highlighted that cooperation between Mongolia and the ICRC has notably strengthened over the years, enhancing humanitarian aid efforts and fostering the understanding and importance of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The two parties also exchanged views on the initiative to establish an ICRC warehouse in Northeast Asia, based in Mongolia, aimed at supporting the ICRC's humanitarian operations.

President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa expressed gratitude to the ICRC's participation in the World Women's Forum, which was successfully held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on August 22–23, 2024. President Khurelsukh also extended an invitation to Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger to visit Mongolia at her convenience.

Also on September 25, 2024, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa received Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain Pedro Sánchez.

At the meeting, President

implementing high-level visits. Furthermore, Premier Pedro Sánchez noted that as a member of the EU, Spain is ready to help intensify Mongolia's relations with the EU and serve as a bridge connecting Mongolia with other EU Member States.

The two sides affirmed mutual commitment to strengthening Mongolia-Spain traditional cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations.



On the sidelines of the General Debate of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa met with Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres on September 26, 2024.

At the meeting, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa touched upon Mongolia's initiatives and proposals for resolving challenges faced by the international community, ensuring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, combating climate change, supporting peacekeeping operations, and promoting gender equality. President Khurelsukh also expressed gratitude to UN Secretary-General António Guterres for the UN's consistent support to Mongolia.

President Khurelsukh informed that Mongolia successfully hosted the World Women's Forum, and Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security in Ulaanbaatar, the Capital city of Mongolia, and expressed commitment to strengthening relations and cooperation between

Mongolia and the UN in all areas.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the 17th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, which Mongolia will host in 2026. Mr. António Guterres noted that he highly appreciates Mongolia's contribution to solving regional and international issues.

The UN Secretary-General underscored that he is proud of Mongolia's successful implemen-

tation of its multi-pillar, peace-loving, and open foreign policy, as well as its development of balanced and intensive relations and cooperation with its two eternal neighbors and other countries of the world.

Emphasizing that Mongolia is a crucial member of the United Nations and the international community, serving as a bridge of mutual understanding and mutual trust between the countries of its region, UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed the UN's commitment to deepening and strengthening its cooperation with Mongolia.

Mr. António Guterres recalled the hospitality and warm welcome during his visit to Mongolia in 2022 and extended sincere greetings to the people of Mongolia.

The UN Secretary-General affirmed the United Nations' commitment, with its system organizations, to support the Government of Mongolia in its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and advance the country's development.





■ Commemorating the upcoming International Translation Day and in anticipation of the first National Forum of Translators of Mongolia, MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency extends its warmest congratulations to the generations of Mongolian translators. Under the auspices of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, the National Forum of Translators of Mongolia will take place at the State Palace of Mongolia on September 30, 2024. The Forum will be co-organized by the Office of the President of Mongolia, the National University of Mongolia, and MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency.

# Aquarium



By Ulziiugs Luvsandorj

I've been in here for exactly one year. My once fair and delicate skin, the envy of all the other ladies, has hardened into scales mottled with red and pink splotches. A year, exactly one year. People have thought that I have been a fish for exactly one year. Regardless of what other people say, what really matters to me is that three hundred and sixty-five days have passed with the children I bore playing with me as a pet.

When I bought this aquarium I didn't realize I was preparing my own casket. Of course, if I had known, I would have chosen a bigger one. I am an inherently anxious person. Even beyond the little aquarium, this room feels like it is closing in all around me. Though everyone says this room, the office in our four-room apartment, is quite spacious and bright, it is stifling me. Even my homeland in the vast Mongolian steppe, praised in song and poem as endlessly vast, is all too small for me. The one thing I need now more than anything, more than anything else, is more space.

Though I wish for more space now, when I bought the aquarium I could never have foreseen all that God had decided to set before me. An aquarium. Despite all of my wishes for space, all I have is this small vessel. I first awoke as a fish when my daughter decided

to decorate the aquarium, placing all of the beautiful seashells that I had gathered over the years in the tank one by one. The tiny shells that I had collected from my lake by hand were now ten times larger than I. I panicked and cried out. I rushed about, scared to death. As I was pacing, my daughter giggled and tossed a shell over me. A mother's fear had become her daughter's delight. My God! What have you done! But no, no, in truth this was not His work. God doesn't concern himself with this kind of thing. Ah, God wasn't involved in this from the start. This was all Gregor Samsa's work. It seems as though I love Samsa even more than Kafka himself. When I was a child I used to love Quasimodo. Maybe that is why I'm so strongly pulled to Samsa. Either way, Samsa is... oh I don't know, I don't know. While I sleep I hear Samsa's name whispered in my ear throughout the night, until I awake. But I'm a woman, and vehemently squeamish, so instead of a centipede he's made me into a scaly, goggle-eyed fish. Of course, he must have taken into account my intense fear of insects.

I do have one other difference from Samsa. My family does not know that I've become a fish. I have been declared missing, and the police have instigated a thorough search. My poor husband has poured all of his wealth into finding me. Every

night he drinks alone, whispering my name. I can tell that he is crying. Weeping. This knowledge does little to comfort me.

I have no complaints about my siblings. Before I would see them only once in a while, at Lunar New Year's celebrations, for example, but now they all come over nearly every day. They have created a schedule, taking turns visiting and taking care of my two children. Two of my older brothers even came and took my husband aside to interrogate him next to the aquarium. They conspired in hushed tones to investigate my poor darling. The elder of the two said that he thinks my husband may have killed me. They decided to mortgage their own houses to fund their investigation. When I heard that, my eyes filled with tears. People say that fish have no tears, but that is a complete lie. There are so many people in my life who love me. When I think about how ready they are to do anything for me, my tears subside. There are a lot of things like this that calm me. Though, of course, there are many more things that unsettle me. The only person who takes care of me is my daughter. She always used to demand that I buy her a pet fish. But she's only six years old, so she doesn't know to adjust the water's temperature.

Also, one time instead of food she put black ink into the tank and nearly killed me. Sometimes she goes without feeding me for

two or three days at a time. Still, I've never starved. When Samsa transformed me into a fish, he must have taken starvation into consideration, as my need for food has disappeared completely. It's just the memory of how I could have never gone two days without eating as a person that keeps me jumping for the fish food my daughter brings me.

Yes, my transformation into a fish has been a metamorphosis for my family as much as it has been for me. After twenty years of striving and struggling, my husband has fallen from grace. In other words, he spiraled into a long-term depression over me and totally gave up on his work as an executive. Secretly, this was really, truly, good news. He embraced our daughter, and sat down right next to the aquarium. He told her, "Daddy is home, and from now on I'll be with my kids all the time. I won't go back to work."

Our son stopped misbehaving. He never used to listen to anything I said. I couldn't deal with that willful, foul-mouthed twelve-year-old at all. If I told him "Come straight home from school," he would linger. If I told him, "Fine, stay after school and play," he would come straight home. His stubborn temperament used to drive me nearly insane. But he is no longer like that. Not one bit. My daughter likes to talk to herself while she sprinkles mealworms in the tank, and I heard her whispering that my son has started taking off and polishing his muddy shoes and putting on indoor slippers when he gets home from school. Moreover, he then goes on to wash his hands and sit down for supper, quickly finishes his homework, and walks the dog. He has started taking care of that dog just as I used to take care of him. He stopped quarreling with his younger sister. With that, all of the ruckus, the crying and bawling he used to stir up, fell silent. I once even heard him demand of his father, "Let me comb my sister's hair." My daughter has totally changed as well. Every day she passes the time talking to her fish (*dear me, I mean to say her mother*). Before, she spent every day clinging to the hem of my dress and pouting, demanding candies and fruit. She would ignore whatever tasty treat she already had. No matter what nice treat or toy she had, demands would stream out of her mouth. It wouldn't make a difference if you gave her ten pieces of candy or ten bags of it, either way she would tell you that it wasn't enough. But now, she refuses to eat whatever few pieces of candy her relatives give her out of compassion, instead collecting them for some reason. To my delight I'm finding that all of these metamorphoses have been transformations for the better. At first my aquarium felt dark, chilly, and cramped, but lately, as I have become accustomed to it, it has come to feel less confined, less dark, and less cold.

After three months had passed, I totally forgot my regret about not buying a bigger aquarium while I was still a human. This little, bell-shaped glass bowl came to feel spacious and deep. I have been pleased to become intimately familiar with each edge and corner of my glass bell jar. No matter where I look, everything on the outside of the glass is clear. I was placed on the

schoolwork table in the middle of the children's room, so no matter where I look from within the jar I can see my daughter or my son.

I am touched to see how my husband spends his days, to see him helping our children with their homework, to see him comb our daughter's hair, to see the canvasses from his art lessons with our son. In the evenings he tells the children our favorite stories until they fall asleep. I can tell when his grief from missing me overtakes him from the sound of his sighs. But curiously they never speak of me among the three of them, and, except for my daughter, I have never heard them say "Mother" once. I don't like that one bit. But what can I do? Everything is out of my control.

Once I swam up to the very top of the glass jar. I peeked out from the water, pushing as far as I could toward my daughter. I hoped maybe she would recognize me. But it was an idle hope. She gazed at me, not understanding. She earnestly pleaded, "Golden carp, grant my wishes!" Then she whispered these three wishes. "First, return my mother who was taken from me! Second, give my mother my collection! Third, I want to sleep in my mother's arms again!"

It felt as if my heart crumbled. Yes, even fish have hearts.

She never once asked her father about me and never cried about my absence, so I didn't worry. But... my poor baby... she thought I had run away with someone, but though I racked my mind I could not find the reason why. The collection she mentioned was all of her candy.

I pity my daughter tremendously. But a fish is just a fish. I can't talk to her. Anyway, think about it, what if I did talk to her? What if I told her I'm sorry and tried to explain the situation? Then what? That's it. Truly nothing would come of it. Eh, most people can't handle more than their own share of sorrow. So what is the difference between telling her and not telling her?

Ask yourself, do aquarium fish think? You might laugh at the idea, but those tiny creatures are sad. They mope about, feeling lonely, but of course you are grinning ear to ear when you look at them. I have been truly sad, lonely, and bored. But the most, most, most unfortunate, most tormenting thing is the fact that nobody knows. I pass the days trying to get used to the depression, loneliness, and unusual suffering. I didn't really strive to acclimate, but it is in the nature of all creatures to get used to their circumstances. I stopped feeling pity for my son and daughter, and for my husband. No matter what, they are learning how to live without me; it is clear that they are getting used to this strange kind of separation.

One night, eight months after my transformation into a fish, my husband came home with a dear girlfriend of mine. The children had been sent to stay with my one of my older brothers. My girlfriend sat down on my daughter's tiny bed and... well, they had sex. I was totally shocked to see my husband so eagerly, aggressively doing that with someone other than me. But the most interesting thing about the situation is that it did not make me feel jealous or

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Continued from page 4

possessive. Truly, one of the differences between fish and people must be that fish never feel jealous of others. Only humans are possessive.

After that, they told each other so many lies. When my girlfriend said, crying, "I don't love my husband," my husband replied, "I know. I've known all along." Back when I was a person, not a fish, there's no way he could have known something like that about one of my friends. From the way my girlfriend was talking, you would think that my husband is only the second person that she's slept with. "Don't lie, he's more like the fifteenth man you've slept with," I exclaimed hotly. Of course, I did not see that with my own eyes, that's just the consensus from gossip. They didn't hear me. There are no creatures on this earth as deaf as humans.

If you listened to what my friend was saying, you would think I have some kind of secret lover. "If you think about it they are probably together now," said my only friend in the world, without a hint of sorrow on her face. Then my only soulmate in the world jumped up and made his desire to have sex again known with a strange grunt. In response my friend readily agreed, giggling in a way that proved that she was never really my friend after all. I spent the night unable to ignore the noises they made, the scratches they left on each other's backs. My husband had totally changed. No, rather, he was a completely different person. As dawn broke, I thought about this and sighed.

One morning after my son finished his classes he wrote a poem in his diary. It was a poem about a tree. Once he finished writing he read it softly aloud. Suddenly he tore that notebook up into tiny pieces, scattered them about, and ran off. My daughter picked up those scraps of paper and spent the rest of the day throwing them up in the air above herself like confetti.

Only when he tore up his notebook and left it in such a state

of disarray did I understand why he was angry so often when I was human. My God, I had decided to make him into a mathematician. I swam around from morning until night brooding over what he would have wanted while I was a human, thinking, hmmm, is he acting like this because he wants to be a poet?

Later my son came in from outside with an odd, exhausted look on his face and sat down looking about for a moment. All of a sudden he jumped up and approached the aquarium. He seemed to have mischief on his mind. Then he took the watercolor paints out of their container and one by one started pouring them into the water. So I flounced about, fleeing from jets of horrifying red, green, and yellow colored poison. My son amused himself at my expense until my rescuer, my little daughter, came in.

Suddenly... ah yes everything happens suddenly now... suddenly I realized how incredibly tired I am. A whole year has passed. Fish don't do much, but I am truly exhausted. I am worn out from watching all of the things I shouldn't see. Witnessing the secrets of the people close to me with these fish eyes has led me to feel worried, ashamed, afraid, and regretful in front of them.

Everyone has two sides. In truth, it is usually sufficient to show just one of those two sides to the rest of the world. People find what is good and attractive about themselves and in order to show off just that one side they make those qualities into a mask. Though everyone has another, totally different, side, in order to face other people, you have to wear that mask. Is it really necessary to take that mask off and show the true face underneath? With these last deep thoughts, I am happy to find that I am not a normal fish, but a meditative fish. At first, being a fish appealed to me. To be without responsibilities, to live for no one but myself. Loving no one and never being jealous, never annoyed or angry with anyone. Blaming no one and being blameless in turn. People should have lived like this in the

first place. I have been brooding like this, worrying for my own sake, as well as for everyone else's sake. Oh dear. But...

In the aquarium my days and nights as a fish are becoming simpler and simpler, slower and slower. At the beginning everything felt like a new discovery. No longer. I've already become accustomed to the same old story, same old life. As soon as a person... *(No, a fish. Well, but a person regardless. Of course I'm still a person. A human. Though I'm talking about fish, in truth there's no difference.)* As soon as people get used to something, they grow tired of it. We tend to make the mistake of thinking that we are uncomfortable with things that we are not accustomed to, but truly to become used to something is to become sick of it.

I awoke, not in my glass jar, but lying on my soft couch. As I woke up, everything that had occurred came rushing back to me. I tried to convince myself that it was all a dream. My husband was at work. My son was getting frustrated and hurling insults at me. My daughter started begging for candy and fruit. My girlfriend was calling me, giggling about how she loves her husband even more now than she did before. As for my husband, he was just the same as before, continuing to meet my needs and wishes. Even in sex he maintained his courteous and gentle disposition. However, I started dealing with my son totally differently.

I stopped trying to drill math into his head and bought him books of poetry instead. Life went on, but our lives were different than before. Life seemed more delicious, and my son seemed more introspective. A person who regains what was once lost wishes above all to never lose it again. I started to think that our lives were heading in a good direction. One day I told my husband that I wanted him to tell me everything that had happened while I was gone, without leaving out a single detail, though I already knew everything that had happened. Ah well, are these people really people? My fate is not to live as a fish. But what was I hearing?

I was truly taken aback to hear

my husband's story. My brothers had been extorting money from my spouse. They threatened to have him thrown in jail and to take custody of our children themselves. They threatened to take all of my wealth and put it in their own names. My husband was forced to leave his job, because they would come to his work every day and start a racket. My husband began to weep openly as he told me that his spirits had fallen so far that he had turned to drinking alone every night.

He told me that every day when our daughter came home she would sit in the bathroom and cry, whispering "Mommy, Mommy." As for my son, not only had he decided to become a mathematician, he dedicated himself fully to pursuing those studies. In this way, my husband told me about all of the things I knew and didn't know had happened. The only thing he did not mention was what happened between him and my girlfriend. Nor did I ask. I knew without his having to say anything.

I was so offended for my husband's sake by my horrible, mean-spirited brothers that I wept for a long time. My aquarium was small but I thought I had seen everything that had happened. It had felt like the aquarium's four glass walls were the four corners of the earth, and I could see the horizon from eight directions. But! An aquarium is just an aquarium. There are other aquariums in the world. I could not see the life going on outside of those three rooms of mine. There is so much beyond our four-room apartment, so much... So much that I cannot speak of.

As the knowledge of my brothers' behavior sank in, I cried tears of indignation. Once I calmed down I asked my husband, "Did you leave anything out of what you just told me?" Of course, I did not expect a reply. It was just a question I need to ask. But how did my husband reply?

"I slept with your best friend! That is how this chapter ends. That is all there is left to the story."

As the words left my husband's mouth, I found myself


becoming despondent. I already knew as much. I was hoping my husband would lie to me and not utter the truth. But! He is an honest man. So though I did not search for the truth, nor did I wish for the truth, I think it is more practical to acknowledge the truth than to ignore it. Everything I had seen in secret was a lie. This, this is real life.

Maybe I was not asking to find out about what had happened with everyone else, maybe I was asking to decide something for myself. He asked me, "Do you miss the aquarium?" I thought about this for quite some time, before deciding to become a fish again. "The aquarium, though small, is nice," I told Samsa.

Translated from Mongolian by  
Sainbayar Gundsambuu and  
K. G. Hutchins

**Sainbayar Gundsambuu**  
*Sainbayar Gundsambuu was born in Tosontsengel soum of Zavkhan aimag, Mongolia. He worked at the MONTSAME National News Agency as a journalist and English translator before becoming an instructor of English and American Studies at the National University of Mongolia. In 2011, he was a Fulbright scholar at Indiana University, where he translated contemporary Mongolian short stories into English. His recent translations include Tudev London's "The Desert Road," Namdag Donrov's "Waiting for the Gone," and Dorjgotov Tsend's "The Light of a Finger-sized Candle." He is a doctoral candidate at Osaka University, Japan.*

**K.G. Hutchins**  
*K.G. Hutchins is a graduate student in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin Madison, currently writing his dissertation on Mongolian traditional folk music. He has been studying the Mongolian language since 2008 and has worked as an English teacher in Mongolia in 2011 and from 2016 to 2018.*



## Natsagdorj Dashdorj

(1906-1937)

Natsagdorj Dashdorj is a Mongolian poet, writer, playwright, and founder of the Mongolian Writer's Union. He is considered one of the founding fathers of modern Mongolian literature and Mongolia's first "Classic Socialist" writer. His poetry, in particular, reflected his deep love for his homeland and its people.

Despite his short time on this earth, he produced outstanding works in all genres of the new Mongolian literature: poetry, prose, and drama, thus laying the foundations of the modern Mongolian literature. His skillful use of language and ability to capture Mongolian life's essence has made him a beloved figure in the country's literary history.

His impact on Mongolian culture and society is immeasurable and his legacy is cherished and revered by all Mongolians. One of his most famous works is the poem "Four Seasons." Now we present "Autumn," the third part of the poem.

## Autumn

By Natsagdorj Dashdorj

The ochre Autumn sun  
Shines on both of us, you and I  
Happily clad with golden rays  
Are the blades of grass in the steppe,  
And deer and antelope  
Fill Nature with their gaiety.  
While bulls and cows bellow  
To the herdsman's delight.  
Rows of light fleecy clouds  
Float high in a clear sky.  
There goes the youth  
To study in regions far.  
Fluid and tranquil  
Flow the limpid streams  
Which reflect at night  
The bright moon.  
Now all becomes grey,

The frost sparkles like pearls,  
And the night-tethered courser  
Shivers with cold.  
Since early dawn  
The master has been gone  
To hunt wild wolves.  
Watching for him in the cottage  
His wife prepares dinner.  
The light noiseless breeze  
Gently shakes the grass,  
At certain moments young and old  
Feel rather dreamily sad  
From the yellowing trees  
The leaves slowly fall  
And the soul is penetrated  
By sweet melancholy.

Translated by D. Altangerel



## Mongolian and Canadian Lawmakers to Cooperate in Strengthening Good Governance

On September 20, 2024, Member of the State Great Khural of Mongolia (Parliament), Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice Tsogtbaatar Damdin received representatives of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.



At the meeting, Member of Parliament Tsogtbaatar Damdin welcomed the honorable guests and emphasized that the foundation of cooperation between Mongolia and Canada, two countries that share common values such as the rule of law, human rights, and democracy, lies in the multilateral inter-parliamentary relations. MP

Tsogtbaatar highlighted that Canada, Mongolia's third neighbor in North America, is not only a partner in mining, economy, and industry, but also plays an important role in promoting good governance and shaping parli-

mentary democracy.

Furthermore, Mr. Tsogtbaatar underscored the importance of continuity in policy and system stability for reinforcing democratic institutions. He expressed gratitude that, through the As-

sociation, former parliamentarians are exchanging knowledge and experiences across the sectors and expanding the scope of cooperation between countries. Secretary of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Bryon Wilfert praised Mongolia's commitment to upholding human rights, freedom, and the rule of law and expressed willingness to support the implementation of initiatives for social development.

Participants of the meeting noted the rapid expansion of cooperation between the two legislative bodies in recent years and discussed key concepts within the framework of the legal reforms introduced by the newly

formed parliament of Mongolia. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the possibility of establishing a voluntary association with similar goals of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, based on the initiatives and involvement of the generations of Mongolian parliamentarians.

The Canadian delegation included Bryon Wilfert, Secretary of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, Honorary Consul of Mongolia in Toronto, along with other representatives of former parliamentarians with expertise in socio-economic sectors such as human rights, youth leadership, gender equality, and environment.

## Foreign Minister of Mongolia Receives FAO Representative in Mongolia

On September 20, 2024, Foreign Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh received Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Mongolia Vinod Ahuja, upon the completion of his term in Mongolia.

Foreign Minister Battsetseg expressed gratitude to FAO Representative in Mongolia Vinod Ahuja for providing all-around support to expand relations and cooperation between Mongolia and the FAO of the United Nations. The Foreign Minister also

commended Mr. Vinod Ahuja's valuable contributions to the visit of FAO Director-General Dr. Qu Dongyu to Mongolia.

The two sides expressed confidence that the Mongolia-FAO cooperation would continue to develop in the future.



The Women's Diplomatic Club of Mongolia and embassies in Ulaanbaatar jointly organized the 24th Annual International Charity Fair on September 22, 2024.

Embassies from the European Union, Japan, India, South Korea, Laos, and Russia, along with the Honorary Consulate of Thailand, participated in the event. Around 60 women-led enterprises and small businesses sold their products at the fair. The attendees and visitors, including family members of diplomats,

representatives of international organizations, and local business owners, enjoyed the cultural diversity on display, explored hand-crafted goods, and souvenirs, and tasted unique cuisines from various countries.

Head of the Women's Diplomatic Club of Mongolia S. Onon underscored, "The Annual International Charity Fair attracts more and more visitors annually, allowing guests and visitors to experience the culture and traditions of different countries, buy products and souvenirs, enjoy the food variety, and simply get

## 24th Annual International Charity Fair Organized by the Women's Diplomatic Club of Mongolia

together and make friends. On the other hand, it is also a good opportunity for local startup small businesses and self-employed entrepreneurs to introduce and promote their products. I am delighted to point out that this year the number of participating entities has doubled. Thus around 60 business entities led by women are showcasing their goods and products, including those who benefitted from the EU TRAM projects. The Charity Fair has numerous benefits and knowing that we are raising funds for a charity aiming at making a difference in someone's life fills our hearts with joy. All proceeds from the Charity Fair go to vulnerable and most needy groups of Mongolian society, including orphans, children with disabilities, female-headed vulnerable households with many children, and the elderly."

MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency asked the impression of some attendees and visitors at the Charity Fair.

United Nations Resident Coordinator of Mongolia Tapan Mishra said, "This International Charity Fair is an example of how the Women's Diplomatic Club of Mongolia is reaching out to the most vulnerable groups with the spirit of helping those in need. These acts of kindness and humanity are the symbols that we, as human beings, care for each other. While there are currently many issues and conflicts around the world, the whole aspect of sustainable development is leaving no one behind. We need more humanity, caring, and love to help others and improve their lives. So, I want to commend the Women's Diplomatic Club of Mongolia for organizing this Charity Fair that brings people together to make the world a better place."

Director of the English School of Mongolia Graham Hill said "I have visited this Charity Fair for many years. It is an amazing event that has been held annually for 24 years. It is

great to buy Christmas presents here. This event also empowers women because it is organized by the Women's Diplomatic Club of Mongolia. This event brings people together internationally for the good cause of helping those in need."

Phou Kham, a student from Laos studying at the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences said, "I think this is a very exciting event with cuisines and products from many countries around the world. Our booth is offering food and drinks at this event and a lot of people are trying out. Furthermore, I want people to visit Laos because it is a beautiful country."

The Annual International Charity Fair aims at generating funds for projects and programs aimed at helping vulnerable groups in society, providing opportunities for small and private enterprises led by women to promote their products, and bringing people together for helping those in need.



In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the 10th anniversary of Comprehen-

sive Strategic Partnership, the "75 Years of Friendship" photo exhibition opened at the Chinggis Khaan National Museum.

The Exhibition is a part of a series of activities organized by

## "75 Years of Friendship" Photo Exhibition Opens

the Mongolia-China Friendship Society, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and the Embassy of the PRC in Mongolia. At the Exhibition, 75 photographs are presented, providing an opportunity to recall the history of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Specifically, the Exhibition showcases extraordinary historical photographs, including: an official visit of the Premier of the State Council of the PRC Zhou Enlai to Mongolia; the participation of Mongolian delegation headed by Mongolian scholar and writer Damdinsuren Tsend in the 2nd anniversary of the founding of the PRC; the arrival of ultra-distance cyclists of the Mongolian People's Re-

public (MPR) in Beijing after travelling more than 1,400 kilometers; opening ceremonies of Ulaanbaatar-Beijing railway, construction of National Sports Stadium with 15,000 seats and the Bridge of Peace. Among them, two letters testifying to the beginning of Mongolia-China diplomatic relations on October 16, 1949, were the most prominent: a handwritten letter from Premier of the State Council of the PRC Zhou Enlai to Prime Minister of MPR Choibalsan Khorloo; a congratulatory letter from Choibalsan Khorloo on the occasion of the first anniversary of the founding of the PRC on September 30, 1950.

During the Opening Ceremony, Head of Mongolia-China Friendship Society G.Batsukh

emphasized that the friendly relations between the two countries at that time have continued and elevated to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, noting "I am confident that the Exhibition will contribute to deepening mutual understanding, respect and trust between the peoples of the two countries."

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the PRC to Mongolia Shen Minjuan highlighted "There is a deep bond between our nations, forged through mutual support during challenging times. Mutual trust leads to development. Looking back at history allows us to draw a better picture for the future."

"75 Years of Friendship" will be open to the public till September 27, 2024.



# Representatives of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Visit MONTSAME National News Agency



*A delegation from the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (CAFP) visited MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency. MONTSAME is the official and reliable source of news from the Mongolian Government and plays a vital role in promoting Mongolia to the world.*

The CAFP is a non-profit organization formed by the Act of the Parliament of Canada and consists of former parliamentarians of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada. The CAFP members visit countries to get acquainted with and this time a large delegation of the CAFP is visiting Mongolia on September 18-23, 2024, during which holding meetings

with social and political leaders, scholars, researchers, archeologists, historians, students, and the youth in Mongolia.

The CAFP delegation included Dr. Jean Augustine, former Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Minister of Culturalism and the Status of Women, and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Kenneth Boshcoff, former Critic for Industry, Chair of Status of Persons with Disabilities of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Dorothy Dobbie, former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment, Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Northern Development, Chung-

sen Leung, former Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism and Deputy Chair of the Canada-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group, Yasmin Ratansi, former Deputy Whip of the Liberal Party and Chair of the Canada-Mongolia Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Bryon Wilfert, present Secretary of the CAFP, Honorary Consul of Mongolia in Toronto and former Member of the Parliament.

The CAFP delegation visited Ulaanbaatar on September 18-23, 2024, during which, they held meetings with socio-economic leaders, scholars and researchers, archeologists and historians, and students and the youth in Mongolia.

Director-General of MONTSAME Mongolian National

News Agency Sodontogos Erdenetsogt expressed gratitude for visiting MONTSAME National News Agency during their tour to Mongolia to witness the country from close up and learn deeply about the Mongolians and introduced the history and operations of the Agency to the esteemed guests.

The meeting participants conducted an interesting conversation on Mongolia, the great history and culture of the Mongols, in particular, the Mongolian language and the Mongol script, the only vertical script in the world, which has been inherited from ancient times, as well as abundant collections of works written in it. Also, Mrs. Sodontogos presented publications, magazines, and various productions produced by MONTSAME for international readers and viewers.

Honorary Consul of Mongolia in Toronto and former Member of the Parliament Bryon Wilfert noted that the CAFP is planning to organize a "Mongolia Days" event at Toronto University in October 2024, and underlined the goal to establish a Department of Mongolian Language at the Toronto University as the interest of Canadian students to study Mongolia highly grows, when they embark on a journey of discovering the country.

Honorary Consul Bryon Wilfert highlighted the meeting with Mongolian students and youth,

saying, "The Mongolian youth have a bright outlook on the future and an earnest drive to contribute to the development of their country. Meeting with the young people with amazing enthusiasm and admirable energy left a strong impression on us." Mr. Bryon Wilfert noted that aside from mining cooperation between Mongolia and Canada, there is huge potential for collaborating in small-to-medium-sized manufacturing, education, arts and culture, and media, and expressed a sincere willingness to realize the potential. Honorary Consul Bryon Wilfert underlined the importance of people-to-people relations and between institutions in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries and expressed readiness to give all-round support to connect the MONTSAME National News Agency of Mongolia with similar organizations in Canada for cooperation.

The CAFP delegation is scheduled to travel to the Gobi region of Mongolia.

In addition to its regular operation, the CAFP founded an Education Fund to strengthen democracy and good governance in Canada and abroad. The CAFP annually grants the "Distinguished Service Award" to former parliamentarians who made valuable contributions to the country and democratic institutions.

## Potentials to Collaborate with JICA in Reducing Dental Diseases in Children Discussed



Minister of Health of Mongolia Munkhsaikhan Togtmol met with Tanaka Shinichi, the out-

going Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Mongolia Office,

and Miyagi Kensuke, the newly appointed Chief Representative of JICA Mongolia Office, on September 23, 2024.

Expressing gratitude for the warm reception, at the meeting Mr. Miyagi Kensuke emphasized that JICA has maintained a standing partnership with Mongolia and stated that the healthcare sector remains one of the key areas of cooperation. He further expressed confidence that the Ministry of Health of Mongolia would continue to support and contribute to the successful implementation of ongoing projects and programs, further strengthening the collaboration.

ning the collaboration.

Mr. Tanaka Shinichi, concluding his two-and-a-half-year term as Chief Representative of the JICA Mongolia Office, highlighted that the Ministry of Health of Mongolia and JICA worked closely during his tenure, successfully implementing all projects. He mentioned the near completion of a dental examination project, implemented in collaboration with a Japanese NGO, at two general education schools in Mongolia as part of the JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project. He noted the potential for future collaboration

on children's dental health issues.

Minister of Health of Mongolia Munkhsaikhan Togtmol reaffirmed the commitment to ensuring the success of ongoing projects and emphasized the Ministry's focus on school lunch programs and training health education teachers. Health Minister Munkhsaikhan also informed about the launch of early detection and preventive check-ups for school-aged children. In this regard, the Ministry expressed its readiness to collaborate with JICA to reduce dental diseases in children in Mongolia.

## The "Let's Read Together" Project to Foster Reading Habits of Children to Continue

*Minister of Education of Mongolia Naranbayar Purevsuren met with Sarah Taylor, Resident Representative of The Asia Foundation in Mongolia, Tricia Turbold, Director of Human Resources, Operations, and Financing, and B. Khaliunaa, Foreign Relations Advisor, to discuss the continuation of the "Let's Read Together" Project on September 23, 2024.*

From 2021 to 2024, the Ministry of Education of Mongolia and The Asia Foundation, with the support of the "Lorinet Foundation", implemented the "Let's Read Together" Project to support the development of children under five years old through books and help parents and caregivers develop the reading habits of children.

As part of the Project, numerous events promoting the importance of books were organized, and advice on reading habits and techniques was shared online. Additionally, the "Let's Read" mobile application, a digital library, was developed, featuring over 10,000 children's books in different languages and approximately 230 books in Mongolian.

The Asia Foundation highlighted the positive outcomes of their collaboration with the "Ger Urgoo" NGO, which conducted training sessions in ger districts to promote the benefits of books and provide guidance on developing reading habits. These efforts have led to an increase in children's vocabulary and self-confidence. Looking forward, they aim to establish voluntary reading clubs, invigorate schools,



libraries, and community centers, and implement programs for aspiring authors and illustrators interested in creating children's books. The Asia Foundation also plans to conduct training sessions for kindergarten and

school teachers on techniques for teaching children to read, expressing a desire to expand their collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Minister of Education Naranbayar Purevsuren expressed gra-

titude for cooperating to implement this significant project, which aims to befriend children with books and promote the culture of parents and caregivers reading to their children.

The Minister stated that the "Let's Read Together" Project will continue and be supported, emphasizing its importance in improving children's reading comprehension skills at a time when these skills are needed.

According to the Ministry of Education of Mongolia, children should not wait until they enter school to learn to read; being close to books from birth plays a crucial role in their cognitive and social development. Regular reading time between parents and children fosters language development, literacy, focus, and memory, thereby preparing them for school.



## "Egchim" Exhibition Opens in Ulaanbaatar

Cheongju Biennale in South Korea, the Beijing Biennale in China, and various exhibitions in Russia, Türkiye, and Japan.

This is Nyam-Ochir's fifth solo exhibition, and it stands out from his previous exhibition with a distinctive approach and deeper meaning. The title "Egchim" refers to the traditional stamp placed on each new page of a sutra, symbolizing the dawn of a new artistic era in Mongolia.

In a bold departure from tradition, Nyam-Ochir opted not to rely on black ink alone. Instead, he infused his work with vibrant crimson red, pushing the boundaries of traditional calligraphy while maintaining its meticulous structure. Each stroke embodies both precision and power, reflecting the artist's daring exploration of new creative horizons.

Combining oil paint with ink, Nyam-Ochir captures the spirit of Mongolia's nomadic heritage, evoking the long songs, poetry, and sutras. His work bridges the gap between Mongolia's rich cultural past and the dynamic currents of contemporary art, offering viewers a profound glimpse into his inner world.

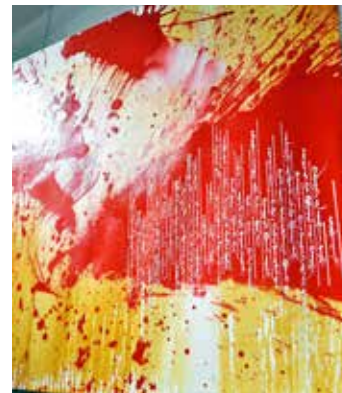
The "Egchim" exhibition will be on display at the National Art Gallery of Mongolia until October 1, 2024.



*The National Art Gallery of Mongolia has unveiled a new independent exhibition titled "Egchim" by the internationally acclaimed Mongolian artist Nyam-Ochir Oyunpurev. The exhibition, opened on September 26, 2024, features approximately 20 contemporary calligraphy artworks in traditional Mongol script, alongside striking installations.*



at prestigious international events such as the NordArt International Exhibition in Germany, the



## Mongolian Opera Singer Amartuvshin Performing at the San Francisco Opera

*People's Artist of Mongolia and renowned Opera Singer Amartuvshin Enkhbat is performing at the world-famous San Francisco Opera for the second time.*

Baritone Amartuvshin is portraying Renato in Giuseppe Verdi's opera Un Ballo in

Maschera, with his final performance scheduled for September 27, 2024, after already performing four times.

Mr. Amartuvshin has earned numerous accolades in both national and international competitions, including second place at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, the First Prize at

Plácido Domingo's Operalia, and the Audience Prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, a prestigious biennial competition organized by BBC Television.

Mr. Amartuvshin, well-known for his lead role in the opera Rigoletto, is called the "Opera Maestro" in Italy.

## The Tenth "Hope and Possibility-Ulaanbaatar" Marathon Takes Place

*The 10th "Hope and Possibility" marathon, organized by the "Achilles Mongolia" Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), was successfully held on September 21, 2024.*

Since 2015, "Achilles Mongolia" has organized seven marathons and two virtual marathons, held each September. The "Hope and Possibility" marathon has now become a staple in Ulaanbaatar, with the goal of changing perceptions about people with disabilities and encouraging them to lead more active and fulfilling lives through sports.

Member of the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia Saranchuluun Otgon, who participated in the event, said, "As a child, I lost my leg after falling from a horse. Wearing a prosthetic limb, I faced both physical and social challenges, including misconceptions about disabilities. In 2014, while studying in the United States, I discovered that people with disabilities ran marathons. It was then that I met the "Achilles Mongolia" NGO. This marathon enables people with disabilities to gain new experiences while teaching the

youth who are volunteering in this marathon the benefits of helping others. It encourages students to support others and rethink outdated stereotypes. Also, enterprises can contribute to helping people with disabilities through donations."

The marathon has grown significantly since the first event in 2015, which saw 70 volunteers and 400 participants. Today, the

number of volunteers has swelled to 200-300, with over 2,000 runners participating. Additionally, sponsorship has expanded from just 1-2 companies in the early days to 10-20 partners, alongside a growing number of collaborating organizations.

The 10th "Hope and Possibility" marathon featured four different categories, which were 1.5km, 5km, 21km, and 42km.



## Munkhzaya Bayartsogt Wins Gold at Mengniu Hohhot Marathon 2024

*International Master of Sports of Mongolia Munkhzaya Bayartsogt won a gold medal in the Mengniu Hohhot Marathon 2024 in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China.*

Specifically, B. Munkhzaya, one of Mongolia's top female athletes, has competed in three Olympic Games. She represented her home country, Mongolia, in the Summer Olympic Games in Rio in 2016, Tokyo in 2020, and Paris in 2024.

At the Mengniu Hohhot Marathon, she achieved a remarkable victory by winning the gold medal, completing the 21 km distance in 1 hour, 16 minutes, and 38 seconds.

Additionally, she is a six-time champion of the Ulaanbaatar Marathon and holds the records for the 5,000 meters, 10,000 meters, and half marathon at the National Marathon Championship of Mongolia.

Also, Mongolian athlete G. Gantsetseg finished 12th in the full marathon, covering a distance of 42 km, and earned the right to compete in the Boston

Marathon, one of the six largest and most renowned marathons in the world.

