

## President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa Pays the First State Visit to Turkmenistan

*President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa arrived in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on October 10, 2024, with a State Visit.*

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan Batyr Atdayev and other officials welcomed President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and the Mongolian delegation at Ashgabat International Airport of Turkmenistan.

This is the first State Visit by the Head of State of Mongolia to Turkmenistan since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on April 23, 1992. The State Visit aimed at expanding and deepening friendly relations between Mongolia and Turkmenistan, enriching bilateral cooperation with economic content, and strengthening the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

During the Visit, the two sides signed Intergovernmental Agreements and Documents between relevant organizations and agencies of the two countries, which will provide crucial impetus to consolidating the legal foundations of bilateral relations.

Ashgabat, a city with a population of one million and home to 543 white marble buildings, was registered in the Guinness World Records as the "City of White Marble" in 2013. Currently, the embassies of 28 countries and 15 international organizations' representative offices are in Ashgabat.



### President of Mongolia Meets Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty of Turkmenistan

As part of his State Visit to Turkmenistan, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa met with Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty (People's Council) of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow on October 11, 2024.

At the meeting, President Khurelsukh expressed commitment to expanding and developing mutually beneficial cooperation in trade and economy. The Head of State

further expressed satisfaction in paying a visit to Turkmenistan for the first time as President of Mongolia, and personally getting acquainted with the people of Turkmenistan and the prosperity of the country.

The two sides expressed confidence that this State Visit will strengthen the legal framework of the relations between Mongolia and Turkmenistan, enrich cooperation with new content, and have significant contributions to strengthening the peace and friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

The Halk Maslahaty (People's Council) of Turkmenistan is an independent, highest representative body that implements constitutional authority. The Halk Maslahaty has the authority to amend the constitution and discuss the Government of Turkmenistan's guidelines on domestic and foreign policy.

President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow welcomed President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa at the Oguzhan Presidential Palace of Turkmenistan on October

12, 2024. The National Flags of Mongolia and Turkmenistan were raised at the field in front of the Oguzhan Presidential Palace, with the Independent Honor Guards of Turkmenistan standing in formation.

After President Serdar Berdimuhamedow invited President Khurelsukh to the honorary podium, the National Anthems of the two countries were played. The Captain of the Honorary Guard greeted the Heads of State, who then greeted the official representatives.

The Oguzhan Presidential Palace of Turkmenistan was constructed in 2011, on 7.5 acres of land, with 16 thousand square meters of space, and the interior design was furnished with marble and rare woods.

### President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and President Serdar Berdimuhamedow Hold Official Talks

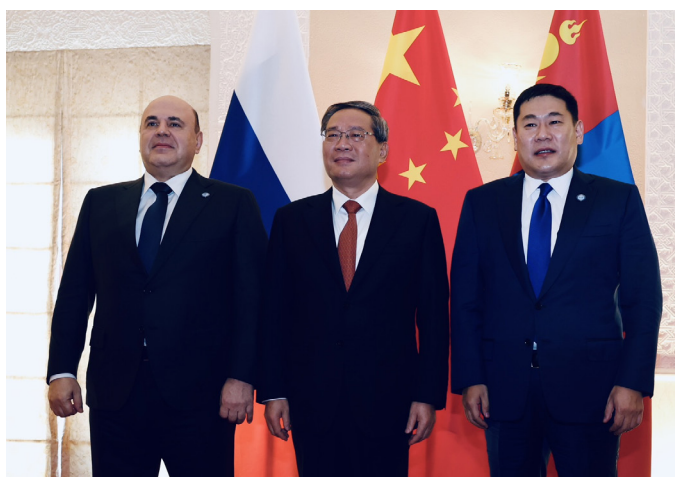
The Heads of State held official talks at the Oguzhan Presidential Palace of Turkmenistan on October 11, 2024. The official talks were held in a warm and constructive atmosphere. The two sides exchanged views on strengthening the friendly relations between Mongolia and Turkmenistan, enriching cooperation with new content, in particular, expanding and developing cooperation in agriculture, transportation, logistics, tourism, education, and culture, and on a wide range of issues on collaboration on international and regional fora.

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## Meeting Between the Heads of Government of Mongolia, China, and Russia Held

Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai met with Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin and Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang on October 16, 2024.

Premier Oyun-Erdene participated at the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states and observer states held in Islamabad, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on October 15-16, 2024. Organizing a meeting between the Heads of Government of Mongolia, Russia, and China signifies the importance of trilateral relations. The three sides expressed commitment to turning the agreements reached between the three countries into tangible actions, intensifying cooperation in trade and economy, and implementing major trilateral projects and programs including the "Economic Corridor."



Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene proposed several initiatives aimed at advancing trilateral cooperation, such as infrastructure development to connect the three countries, implementing

the project to build a natural gas pipeline from Russia to China through Mongolia on a trilateral level, cooperating on green and renewable energy projects within the frameworks of energy reforms,

establishing a model tourism region between the three countries, creating a cross-border e-commerce platform, and collaborating on education, science, culture, humanitarian efforts, and disaster response.

Premier Oyun-Erdene noted Mongolia's readiness to actively advance the Mongolia-China-Russia Economic Corridor by aligning Mongolia's "Steppe Road" Program, the Eurasian Economic Union, and China's "Belt and Road" Initiative. Relevant Mongolian agencies have agreed on the list of 33 projects to be included in the project for establishing the economic corridor. Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene emphasized that the construction of the Zamiin-Uud-Altanbulag railway, listed first on the list, will be an essential starting point in establishing the Mongolia-China-Russia Economic Corridor.

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Bloomberg commodity price 2024/10/17		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,696.10
COPPER	USD/lb.	431.30
SILVER	USD/t oz.	31.81
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	74.44
WHEAT	USD/bu	585.75



# President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa Pays the First State Visit to Turkmenistan

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At the outset of the talks, President Khurelsukh invited President Serdar Berdimuhamedow to visit Mongolia, a beautiful country connecting Asia to Europe at the conjunction of the Silk Road. President Khurelsukh expressed sincere gratitude to President Serdar Berdimuhamedow, the Government, and the people of Turkmenistan for their hospitality and warm welcome extended to the Mongolian delegation. The Mongolian Head of State expressed commitment to strengthening friendly relations with Central Asian Countries including Turkmenistan, and expanding and developing mutually beneficial cooperation in trade and economy.

President Serdar Berdimuhamedow expressed confidence that the first State Visit between Mongolia and Turkmenistan since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992 will be significant in deepening the friendly traditional relations between the two countries and strengthening the peace and friendship between the people of Mongolia and Turkmenistan. The two Heads of State assessed 30 years of achievements, setting guidelines for future relations and priorities, and expressed contentment in turning a new page in the history of relations.

The two Heads of State noted that as part of the State Visit, documents signed between the Governments and organizations of the two countries will contribute significantly to strengthening the legal framework of Mongolia-Turkmenistan relations. The two sides agreed that cooperation in transport and logistics is important in expanding and developing economic cooperation and emphasized that as part of the State Visit, documents on aviation relations and international road transport have been signed between the Governments of Mongolia and Turkmenistan.

The Heads of State also noted that in line with developing and expanding cooperation in agriculture and increasing the trade turnover between the two countries, the two sides signed documents on agriculture, veterinary medicine, and animal husbandry, agreeing to supply agricultural goods and goods originating from light industry to the markets of the two countries. President Khurelsukh proposed researching and implementing projects and programs based on the capacity of the agriculture and light industry sectors, which would become the symbol of cooperation between Mongolia and Turkmenistan.

President Serdar Berdimuhamedow commended the Mongolia-Turkmenistan business meeting held as part of the State Visit, noting that the business meeting would be significant in expanding and developing collaboration in investment and



laying a solid foundation of cooperation between the business owners and producers of the two countries.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa noted that relations on culture and arts between the two countries have made important contributions to strengthening the peace and friendship between the peoples of Mongolia and Turkmenistan, expressing satisfaction that a Mongolia-Turkmenistan joint performance was played in Ashgabat to continue the good tradition.

The two Heads of State agreed to closely collaborate on combating climate change and desertification and protecting the environment, cooperating in the environmental sector in line with the "One Billion Trees" National Movement initiated by President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and the "National Forestry" Program of Turkmenistan. As an outcome of the official talks, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow signed a Joint Statement on Mongolia-Turkmenistan Relations and Cooperation.

## President Khurelsukh and President Serdar Berdimuhamedow Hold Press Briefing Following Official Talks

The two Heads of State held a press briefing on the outcomes of their official talks.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa:

"Honorable President Serdar Berdimuhamedow, Representatives of the Press, I extend my greetings to you all.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the honorable President Serdar Berdimuhamedow, the State, the Government, and the friendly people of Turkmenistan for the warm and cordial welcome

extended to us in your beautiful homeland, the Pearl of Central Asia.

Since ancient times, our two peoples have developed relations in trade, commerce, and culture, and we have cherished this relationship to this day, maintaining a beautiful tradition of treating each other with warmth and kindness. As the crossroad of the Silk Road connecting Asia and Europe, your wonderful country welcomes the first State Visit by the President of Mongolia, and I am delighted to become acquainted with the development and prosperity of Turkmenistan and the friendliness and hospitality of the Turkmen people, as well as their rich history and culture.

Our official talks took place successfully in a warm and business-like atmosphere. We reviewed and discussed the achievements of the past 30 years, and exchanged fruitful ideas on enriching relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Turkmenistan with new content and expanding and developing them in all sectors in the coming years. Together, we outlined the prospects and priority areas for our future cooperation.

As an outcome of the official talks, the two Heads of State issued a "Joint Statement on the Relations and Cooperation between Mongolia and Turkmenistan." We also agreed to strengthen the legal foundations of Mongolia-Turkmenistan relations and accelerate cooperation in vital sectors such as trade, economy, transport, logistics, agriculture, tourism, culture, and education. Additionally, documents were signed between the governments and pertinent organizations of the two countries aimed at expanding and developing Mongolia-Turkmenistan relations and cooperation.

We agreed that cooperation in

transport and logistics is essential in expanding and developing economic cooperation between Mongolia and Turkmenistan and have signed inter-governmental documents on aviation relations and international road transport. These documents will outline cooperation in road and transport sectors and establish new routes of transport and logistics, which would facilitate favorable conditions in expanding and developing trade and economic relations.

The two countries signed documents aimed at expanding and developing cooperation in agriculture, as well as veterinary medicine, and animal husbandry to increase the trade turnover between the two countries and supply agricultural goods and goods originating from light industries to the markets of Mongolia and Turkmenistan. Furthermore, we have agreed to research and implement programs based on the capacity of agriculture and light industry which would become a symbol of bilateral relations. The Mongolia-Turkmenistan business forum, which was held as part of the State Visit, is a significant event in laying the foundation of cooperation between the business owners and producers of the two countries and expanding and developing relations in investment and business collaboration.

Relations in culture and arts have played an important role in the peace and friendship between the peoples of Mongolia and Turkmenistan. As a delightful example of this tradition, the Mongolia-Turkmenistan joint performance was held, with the melodies of the steppe played by the Morin Khuur Ensemble of Mongolia in Ashgabat for the first time. I am pleased we have created memories and that our Turkmen friends have listened to the melodies of the Morin Khuur.

Dear President,

I am satisfied that We have strengthened the peace and friendship between the peoples of our two countries, enriched bilateral friendly relations and cooperation with new content, and turned a new page in the history of relations between Mongolia and Turkmenistan. I am fully confident that our talks and the agreements we have reached will come to fruition and become tangible actions for the prosperity of the two countries and the betterment of the peoples' lives of Mongolia and Turkmenistan and that the cooperation and relations between the two countries will further develop and expand.

Your Excellency Mr. President, I would like to extend my cordial invitation to you to pay a State Visit to Mongolia, the land of the eternal blue skies with ancient history, at your convenience. May the peace and friendship between the peoples of our two countries strengthen for generations to come and the friendly relations and cooperation between

Mongolia and Turkmenistan prosper for eternity. Thank you."

## President of Mongolia Attends International Forum as an Honorary Guest

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa participated as an Honorary Guest in the International Forum "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations—The Basis of Peace and Development," and delivered a speech at the Opening Ceremony on October 12, 2024.

The Forum was organized by the Government of Turkmenistan to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of the renowned Turkmen poet and philosopher Magtymguly Pyragy. Heads of State from Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as high-level officials from Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Türkiye, attended the event.

During the Forum, President Khurelsukh met with the leaders of several countries, exchanging views on bilateral relations and cooperation on regional and international fora.

Scholars have noted that the works of the distinguished poet Magtymguly Pyragy, rooted in the ideals of unity and friendship among the Turkmen people, continue to play a significant role in shaping the patriotism and moral education of the younger generations.

In 2023, UNESCO issued a resolution commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Turkmen poet and thinker Magtymguly Pyragy and registered him in the "Memory of the World" Program.

## President of Mongolia Lays Wreath at Turkmenistan's Independence Monument

On October 12, 2024, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and the Mongolian delegation paid tribute and laid a wreath at the "Independence Monument" of Turkmenistan.

The State Honor Guard of Turkmenistan stood in formation and welcomed President Khurelsukh and the Mongolian delegation upon their arrival at the "Independence Monument." The 118-meter-high Monument was erected in Ashgabat in 2001, and in front of the Monument stands a golden statue of Turkmenistan's first President Saparmurat Niyazov.

After the Wreath-Laying Ceremony, President Khurelsukh planted a tree in the Garden of Honorary Guests to symbolize the friendship and solidarity between the peoples of the two countries.

During the State Visit, the two Presidents agreed to coordinate Mongolia's "One Billion Trees" National Movement with the National Forestry Program of Turkmenistan, aimed at combating climate change, desertification, and protecting the environment.

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**WEATHER** Sunrise: 07:15 Sunset: 18:00

■Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -13 C and -4 C. Day time temps between -2 C and +9 C

■Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -12 C and -6 C. Day time temps between -1 C and +9 C

■Western Aimags: Night temps between -9 C and -2 C. Day time temps between -2 C and +9 C

■Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -8 C and -1 C. Day time temps between +5 C and +12 C





# President of the Australian Senate Susan Lines on an Official Visit to Mongolia

*At the invitation of Chairman of the State Great Khural Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve, President of the Senate of the Australian Parliament Susan Lines, is on an official visit to Mongolia on October 16-19, 2024.*

On October 16, 2024, Chairman of the State Great Khural Amarbayasgalan welcomed President of the Australian Senate Susan Lines at Sukhbaatar Square and the two parties held an extended meeting at the State House.

During the meeting, the parties confirmed their commitments to expand and strengthen friendly relations and cooperation between Mongolia and the Commonwealth of Australia and noted that the relations are developing based on common democratic values.

The Speaker of the Parliament D. Amarbayasgalan expressed his confidence that the visit of the President of the Senate Chamber of the Australian Parliament S.

Lines would give an important impetus to expand the cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries and strengthen relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Australia within the framework of Mongolia's "Third Neighbor" policy.

The parties commended that the two countries are working to establish an agreement on social security and an intergovernmental air transport agreement, in connection with the rapid expansion of relations between citizens in recent years.

President of the Senate of the Australian Parliament Susan Lines emphasized that the relations with Mongolia, which are developing



based on the democratic values of human rights, freedom, the rule of law, and gender equality are expanding in a number of social and economic sectors.

Expressing that she attaches special importance to the cooperation in the education sector of the two countries, as a person with extensive experience in the education sector, President of the

Senate Susan Lines stated that the Australian Parliament will provide all-round support for the effective implementation of Australian projects, aimed at strengthening the professional and citizen-centered civil service, gender equality and empowering civil society in Mongolia.

The parties agreed that the official visit of President of the

Australian Senate Susan Lines to Mongolia is a significant event for strengthening mutual trust between the two countries, bolstering ties between the highest legislative bodies as well as elevating the level of relations and cooperation between the two countries, reported the Media Department of the State Great Khural of Mongolia.

## Meeting Between the Heads of Government of Mongolia, China, and Russia Held

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Prime Minister of Russia Mikhail Mishustin and Premier of China Li Qiang expressed support for the initiatives proposed by Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai. Premier Li Qiang expressed his commitment to intensifying trilateral cooperation and the joint implementation of projects and proposed formulating a medium-term roadmap of trilateral cooperation, noting that the Government of Mongolia's consistent policies are important for the realization of cooperation projects.

Prime Minister of Russia Mikhail Mishustin expressed Russia's support for the construction of the natural gas pipeline from Russia to China through Mongolia and emphasized Russia's focused efforts in the realization of this project. Premier Mikhail Mishustin also noted that Russia is collaborating with Mongolia on implementing joint energy projects.

The Heads of Government agreed that institutionalizing this level of trilateral meetings between Mongolia, China, and Russia is not only key to activating tangible trilateral cooperation and advancing major strategic joint projects but is also in line with the common regional interest of peace and sustainable development of Asia. The next trilateral meeting between the Heads of Government will be held in 2025.



At the first session of the Citizens' Representatives Khural of the Capital City,

## Nyambaatar Khishgee Reappointed as Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City

the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) nominated Nyambaatar Khishgee for Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City. The majority of the Representatives supported the nomination.

The decision and related documents from the session will be submitted to the Prime Minister of Mongolia.

During the session, Nyambaatar Khishgee, Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City, stated, "The upcoming four years will be marked by great development and significant progress. The 2024-2028 Action Program for the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City will align with

the platform proposed by the MPP in the 2024 Citizens' Representatives Khural of the Capital City elections, the Mongolian Government's 2024-2028 Action Program, and the Ulaanbaatar City General Development Plan 2040. This plan will focus on ensuring the development of the population, society, and economy, balanced environmental sustainability, and improved governance. It will be comprehensive, coordinated, non-overlapping, inclusive, and ensure public participation," according to the Public Relations Department of the Mayor's Office.

## The First Session of the Citizens' Representative Khural Held

The first session of the newly formed Citizens' Representative Khural of Ulaanbaatar City was held on October 14, 2024, with the attendance of 45 representatives elected with the highest number of votes at the 2024 Election.

The session was chaired by representative Batsaikhan Gombosuren. At the beginning of the session, Chairman of the Election Commission of the Capital City Khadbaatar Pagmajav presented the election results and the confirmation of the representatives' mandates. Mr. Khadbaatar Pagmajav underscored, "15 political parties and one coalition submitted applications for the 2024 Elections of the Citizens' Representative Khural of the Capital City, of which, 10 parties and one coalition were accepted. Of 276 candidates registered, 36.2 percent, or 100 were female. Moreover, the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) had 45 candidates, Democratic Party (DP) 44, National



Coalition 26, Civil Will Green Party 45, Freedom Implementing Party 1, Civil Movement Party 6, National Labor Party (HUN) 44, Truth and Right 14, People's Majority Governance Party 18, Civil Unity Party 25, Good Democratic Citizens United Party 8."

Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City Nyambaatar Khishgee noted, "The Capital city of Mongolia is facing some pressing challenges such as air pollution and traffic congestion as

Ulaanbaatar has expanded its settlement sixfold and the population has tripled since 1992. To resolve these issues, the 2024-2028 Action Program for the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City, which reflects the city's development policies and plans, will be presented to and approved by the Citizens' Representative Khural."

During the session, A. Bayar was selected as the Chairman of the Citizens' Representative Khural of Ulaanbaatar City.



## Mongolian Delegation Participates at the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



The 149th Assembly of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 13-17, 2024.

Deputy Chairman and Member of the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia Bulgantuya Khurelbaatar, Members of the Parliament (MP) of Mongolia Nominchimeg Odsuren and Khosbayer Ganbat, and Secretary General of the Parliament of Mongolia Baasandorj Barsuren have participated at the Assembly.

The General Debate focused on the overall theme of "Harnessing Science, Technology, and Innovation for a more Peaceful and Sustainable Future," and concluded with the adoption of an outcome document. Separate forums were held by all IPU statutory bodies, including the Governing Council, Standing

Committees, Committees on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and on Middle East Questions, as well as the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliament Members.

Representatives discussed new technologies, in particular, artificial intelligence, and exchanged views on mitigating the risks and increasing benefits. At the Assembly, a session on "Artificial Intelligence's Impact on Democracy, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law" was held, with a relevant document approved by the IPU Standing Committee on Human Rights.

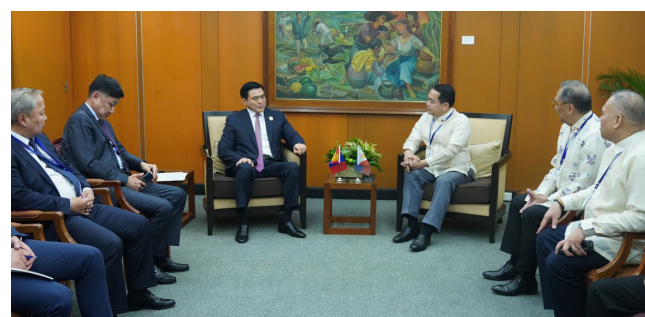
International Parliamentary Union was established in 1889 in Paris, France. The IPU convenes parliaments around the world and currently consists of 180 full members and 15 associate

(regional parliaments) members. The IPU's main purposes are to contribute to the protection of human rights, establish relations between the parliaments of different countries, support the development of interparliamentary cooperation, hold discussions on urgent issues affecting international interest, make recommendations and resolutions, and improve parliamentary activities.

In 1962, the People's Great Khural of the Mongolian People's Republic became a member of the IPU. In the early 1990s, as Mongolia transitioned into a new political and economic system and established its first permanent parliament under the Democratic Constitution of Mongolia, the relations and cooperation between the State Great Khural of Mongolia and IPU reached a new level. A notable example is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the State Great Khural and the IPU in 2022, which focused on strengthening guarantees to protect and promote human rights and ensuring gender equality, which are fundamental values of democracy.

According to the methodology developed by the IPU, the State Great Khural of Mongolia became the 13th parliament to assess its gender sensitivity and the first to conduct a self-assessment on ensuring the protection of human rights, as reported by the Press and Public Relations Department of the State Great Khural of Mongolia.

## Establishing a Cooperation Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Northeast Asia Discussed



The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, under the theme "Surge to 2030: Enhancing Ambition in Asia-Pacific to Accelerate Disaster Risk Reduction," was organized on October 14, 2024, in Manila, the Philippines.

On the sidelines of the biennial Ministerial Conference, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia Amarsaikhan Sainbuyan and Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Kamal Kishore held an official meeting. During the meeting, Mr. Amarsaikhan Sainbuyan reported on the Government's activities in implementing the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030," and the two sides exchanged views on collaborating with countries in the Asia-Pacific region and international organizations in this sector. Furthermore, Deputy

Prime Minister Amarsaikhan Sainbuyan extended an invitation to Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Kamal Kishore to participate in the Subregional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in 2025, in Mongolia.

Mr. Kamal Kishore expressed the UN's commitment to supporting activities and policies implemented by the Government of Mongolia to overcome the challenges caused by climate change, harsh winters, and dry summers and minimize potential damages.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed the establishment of a cooperation platform focused on Northeast Asia and underlined the progress in creating a Regional Center for Rapid Disaster Management in collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## Documents on Relations and Cooperation Signed between Mongolia and Turkmenistan

During the State Visit of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa to Turkmenistan on October 10-13, 2024, the following documents were signed.

-Minister of Road and Transport of Mongolia Delgersaikhan Borkhuu and Chairman of the Agency "Turkmenhowayollary" [Turkmen Airlines] of the Agency for Transport and Communications under the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan Dovran Saburov signed an Agreement on Aviation Relations between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of Turkmenistan.

This Intergovernmental Agreement will allow airlines from the two countries to operate direct and commercial flights. For Mongolia, it will open up the possibility of becoming a transit hub for new flights to Central Asia. This will create conditions for expanding and developing relations and cooperation between the two countries and people-to-people ties in all areas, particularly tourism, trade, and economy.

-Minister of Road and Transport of Mongolia Delgersaikhan Borkhuu and Chairman of the Agency "Turkmenautoulaglyry" [Turkmen Motor Transport] of the Agency for Transport and Communications under the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan Guvanchmurat Akmammedov signed an Agreement on International Road Transport between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of Turkmenistan.

Under this Agreement, vehicles registered in Mongolia and

Turkmenistan will be able to transport goods and passengers between the two countries and through their territories, as well as through third countries. This will enable Mongolian carriers to choose more direct routes for transit to other countries, reducing travel time compared to current routes. Furthermore, the Agreement will play a crucial role in developing cooperation between the two countries in the road transport sector, establishing new directions in transportation and logistics, facilitating relations between citizens and businesses of the two countries, and expanding mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation.

-Minister of Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia Enkhbayar Jadamba and Minister of Agriculture of Turkmenistan Charyyar Chetiyev signed an Agreement on Cooperation in Veterinary Medicine and Livestock Husbandry between the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry of Mongolia and the Ministry of Agriculture of Turkmenistan.

Under this Agreement, the two parties will facilitate the trade of livestock and animal products within their territories, prevent and combat livestock diseases, protect animal health, and cooperate in veterinary hospitals and livestock husbandry to boost the livestock sector. Additionally, it provides opportunities for relevant organizations of the two countries to exchange information and experiences on veterinary science, disease surveillance, and control measures in the livestock sector. Furthermore, the two parties

expressed mutual commitment to supporting each other in organizing meetings for livestock specialists, veterinarians, and scientists, as well as in training and capacity-building initiatives. This Agreement will be an important foundational document for beginning cooperation between the countries in the livestock and veterinary sectors.

-Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia Enkhbayar Jadamba and Minister of Agriculture and of Turkmenistan Charyyar Chetiyev signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the Agricultural Sector between the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia and the Ministry of Agriculture of Turkmenistan.

Under the Agreement, the two sides will collaborate on the digitalization of agriculture, the introduction of modern innovations and technologies into agricultural production, the establishment of joint enterprises for the production and processing of agricultural products, the development of animal husbandry and livestock production, organic agriculture, and the expansion of cooperation in crop farming, particularly in food production and the fruit and berry sectors.

Mongolia's active cooperation and exchange of experience with Turkmenistan, which occupies a leading position in the agricultural sector in the Central Asian region and has traditional agriculture and animal husbandry, aligns with the regional development policy outlined in the Action Program of the Government of Mongolia. The

Agreement serves as a foundational document that facilitates the successful development of agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

-Minister of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia Nomin Chinbat and Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan Atageldi Shamuradov signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Cultural Sector between the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth of Mongolia and the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan.

Under the MoU, the two sides will collaborate on promoting mutual understanding of the culture and people of the two countries by organizing cultural and art exhibitions, art performances, and film screenings, conducting joint research in the field of heritage protection and restoration of intangible cultural heritage, as well as exchanging publications on cultural objects, and documents.

This document is significant for enhancing cultural relations between the two countries with ancient history and culture, implementing cultural programs along the "Silk Road" and supporting joint research on the unique heritage and historical resources of the two countries, while establishing connections between national museums.

-Minister of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia Nomin Chinbat and Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan Atageldi Shamuradov signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism between the

Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth of Mongolia and the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan.

Under the MoU, the two sides will expand cooperation in the tourism sector between the two countries, exchange information, support cooperation among stakeholders, organize mutual meetings, and share experiences.

This document will make a significant contribution to promoting and showcasing both Mongolia and Turkmenistan, countries rich in historical and cultural monuments and unique natural landscapes, to their citizens, developing tourism based on the history, culture, and customs of the two countries, strengthening the ties between governmental and private organizations in charge of tourism issues.

-In addition, CEO of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Duuren Tumenjargal and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan Mergen Gurdov signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan.

The Memorandum aims at expanding trade and economic relations between enterprises and organizations of the two countries and exchanging information and experiences. The document creates opportunities to establish connections between entrepreneurs and producers, expanding and developing further cooperation, and thus increasing the exchange of citizens.





## Total of 262.4 Thousand Tons of Grain Harvested Nationwide

As of October 1, 2024, a total of 262.4 thousand tons of grain, 95.2 thousand tons of potatoes, 121.4 thousand tons of vegetables, and 65.2 thousand tons of cultivated fodder have been harvested nationwide. Additionally, 403.7 thousand tons of hay and 8 thousand tons of silage have been prepared.

Compared to the same period last year, grain harvest increased by 200.1 thousand tons (4.2 times), vegetable harvest by 19.4 thousand tons (19 percent), and cultivated fodder by 11.3 thousand tons

(20.9 percent). However, hay production decreased by 121.3 thousand tons (23.1 percent), potato harvest by 17.4 thousand tons (15.5 percent), and silage by 0.5 thousand tons (5.5 percent).

The 4.2-fold increase in grain production was influenced by the expansion of farming within the framework of the "New Cooperative" National Movement and the early harvest due to anticipated early cold weather, according to the National Statistics Office of Mongolia.

Additionally, in Orkhon, Darkhan-Uul, Khuvsgul, Bulgan, Tuv, and Selenge aimags, the harvested grain constitutes between 3.3% and 52.4%. In Uvurkhangaigai, Darkhan-Uul, Khovd, Selenge, and Tuv aimags, the total potato harvest accounts for 3.0% to 38.4%. In Uvs, Darkhan-Uul, Khovd, Tuv, and Selenge aimags, the harvest of vegetables ranges from 2.2% to 50.9%, while in Selenge, Zavkhan, Uvurkhangaigai, Uvs, and Tuv aimags, between 7.8% and 30.2% of cultivated fodder has been collected.

## Further Processing of Cashmere is Significant in Increasing Profits for Mongolia

In 2023, Mongolia exported cashmere and cashmere products worth USD 441.2 million, of which USD 263.6 million was from washed cashmere. Of total amount of washed cashmere produced domestically, 5,449 tons, or 74 percent, were exported.

A total of 10 thousand tons of cashmere is produced yearly in Mongolia and if raw and washed cashmere export is banned, more processed or value-added cashmere would be exported, making significantly higher profits, emphasized Executive Director of Mongolian Wool and Cashmere Association Altantsetseg Duger at a scientific conference "Mongolian Cashmere Study-2024".

Mongolian export of knitted cashmere

products amounted to 1.8 million pieces and cashmere fabric was 58.2 thousand meters last year, according to Ms. Altantsetseg. "The value of cashmere products made from cashmere from goats that graze in wild nature is growing year by year in the global market. There is a high tendency to buy more value-added, high-quality natural products with natural colors. Moreover, as customers' knowledge and awareness of nature protection improve, the sales and demand for recycled cashmere products also increase. We have a potential to earn more than USD 1.5 billion annually, if we produce and export final cashmere products."

There are 10 thousand employees

in the cashmere processing industry, of which 85 percent are women, particularly 75 percent are young people aged 18 to 45 years.

The participants of the conference stated that the "White Gold" Movement, initiated by the President of Mongolia, is at the starting point of implementation. The movement aims at establishing a favorable legal and investment environment for the industry and encouraging quality cashmere production and preparation systems.

Although Mongolia has a cashmere spinning capacity of 4600 tons, currently, the country processes and exports just 728 tons of yarn annually, and supplies to the renowned brands in the world.

## Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia Successfully Secures Long-Term Financing from U.S. International Development Finance Corporation



Trade and Development Bank (TDB) successfully secured long-term concessional funding by signing a finance agreement with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) on September 30, 2024, noting a first-time direct correspondence of Mongolian banking and financial institutions with DFC, a U.S. Government Agency. This financing enables TDB to promote financial inclusion of women-owned/ led and micro, small, and medium entrepreneurship (MSME) and partially commits towards climate

financing to accelerate green growth in Mongolia.

DFC was first established in 2018 through the passage of the BUILD Act (Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development). DFC provides debt and equity financing, investments, feasibility studies, political risk insurance, and technical assistance in order to support economic growth, stability, and livelihoods in developing countries and also financing for MSMEs and women entrepreneurs to create jobs.

In the research conducted by DFC, MSMEs account for an estimated 50% of Mongolia's employment and 90% of all registered businesses, playing an important contributor to economic growth of Mongolia, and a significant financing gap for MSMEs of USD 1.3 billion has also been estimated, out of which 62 percent is represented by women-owned/ led MSMEs. The International Finance Corporation has evaluated that Mongolia's annual green investment need is nearly \$700 million to transition to a more sustainable economy. Through this financing, TDB will contribute to making a positive development impact in Mongolia by increasing access to finance for the country's growing MSME

segment, including enterprises that are women-owned/led and/or seek to make investments in renewable energy and sustainable agriculture practices.

Trade and Development Bank remains committed to its long-term strategy of disbursing green financing of USD 2 billion by 2030 to Mongolia's economy and is closely cooperating with international organizations to raise concessional funding.

As DFC is a prestigious international finance institution, we firmly believe this landmark deal will pave the way for Mongolia's economy to access foreign funds from international investors and lenders.

Trade and Development Bank opened its U.S. Dollar direct clearing account at the Bank of New York Mellon for the first time since the country's inclusion in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list and marked a reestablishment of Mongolia's direct access to the global U.S. Dollar payment system. As a leading financial institution in Mongolia, Trade and Development Bank continues to extend its cooperation with U.S. institutions and once again demonstrates its commitment to serve as an accelerator in Mongolia's economy and to fortify its collaboration with international counterparties.

## Export Consist of Precious Stones, Metals, Jewelry, and Textiles Products

Mongolia conducted trade with a total of 154 countries in the first nine months of 2024, with total foreign trade turnover reaching USD 20.4 billion.

### SPECIFICALLY:

✦ Exports amounted to USD 11.8 billion

✦ Imports amounted to USD 8.6 billion  
Trade turnover increased by USD 2.3 billion compared to the same period in 2023, with exports growing by USD 482.7 million (4.3%) and imports by USD 1.9 billion.

The increase in exports for the first nine months of 2024, compared to the same period in 2023, was driven by:

✦ Copper concentrate: USD 264.6 million

✦ Coal: USD 218.0 million

✦ Iron ore and concentrate: USD 123.1 million

On the other hand, exports of zinc ore and concentrate decreased by USD 59.8 million, and canned meat products dropped by USD 50.9 million.

The growth of imports in the first nine months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023 is attributed to:

✦ Passenger cars: USD 304.4 million

✦ Trucks: USD 259.7 million

✦ Diesel fuel: USD 187.0 million

✦ Bulldozers, motor scrapers, rollers, graders, and excavators: USD 122.7 million

✦ Telecommunication apparatus: USD 67.5 million

✦ Gasoline: USD 62.9 million

The price of gold increased by USD 355.2 per ounce compared to the same period in 2023, while the price of copper concentrate rose by USD 160.8 per ton, and iron ore and concentrate prices grew by USD 6.2 per ton. However, coal prices decreased by USD 23.9 per ton.

### FOR CHINA:

✦ 62.4% of exports were coal

✦ 21.0% were copper concentrate

### FOR SWITZERLAND:

✦ 99.5% of exports were unprocessed or semi-processed gold.

Coal exports accounted for 61.6% of Mongolia's total exports to China in the first nine months of 2024, a 0.2 percentage point decrease from the same period in 2023.

In terms of export routes, 45.6 percent of exports were conducted through Gashuunsukhait port, 19.5 percent through Zamiin-Uud port, and 13.4 percent through Shiveekhuren ports, totaling 78.5 percent of all exports. Exports of mineral products, precious stones, metals, jewelry, and textiles made up 96.2 percent of total exports.

Meanwhile, 72.4 percent of imports consisted of mineral products, machinery, electrical equipment, transportation vehicles, parts, and basic metals and their products.

In the first nine months of 2024, 70.9 percent of goods imported from Russia were petroleum products, while 78 percent of goods imported from Japan were passenger cars, and 11.6 percent of goods imported from China were trucks.

Machinery and equipment imports from China accounted for 27.8 percent of total imports, a 1.2 percentage point decrease from the same period in 2023. The majority of imports, 51.7 percent, were conducted through Zamiin-Uud and 21.6 percent through Sukhbaatar ports, totaling 73.2 percent.

**Exports:** Goods that deplete the country's material reserves and are sent abroad from the economic territory. Total exports include direct exports of domestic goods and re-exports of foreign goods.

**Imports:** Goods that increase the country's material reserves and are brought into the economic territory from abroad. Total imports include direct imports of foreign goods and re-imports of domestic goods, according to an explanation provided by the National Statistics Office of Mongolia.





## The Sixth World Media Summit Convenes Representatives from 106 Countries

*The Sixth World Media Summit under the theme "Artificial Intelligence and Media Transformation" took place on October 12-17, 2024, in Ürümqi, the People's Republic of China.*

At this summit organized by Xinhua News Agency and the Xinjiang regional government, representatives from United Nations agencies and international media organizations held discussions on artificial intelligence and the transformations in the media sector, sharing their innovative experiences within the industry.

Specifically, topics discussed included "Development and Change: The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Media Development," "Regulations and Responsibilities: Ethics for Journalists in the Age of AI," and "Facts and Truth: The Mission of Media in the Digital Age," touching on new technologies in artificial intelligence development in the media sector, its contributions to advancements in industry, and the promotion of global sustainable development.

At the summit, high-ranking officials from the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, officials from the Xinjiang regional government, President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua, and heads of member organizations of the World Media Forum delivered keynote speeches.

As artificial intelligence continues to develop, the media industry must adhere to ethical standards and follow professional guidelines. This Summit is a crucial area for international media professionals to collaborate at the highest level, emphasizing the importance of deepening sector



cooperation and collectively aiming for a better future.

At the opening session of the Summit, President of the Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua stressed that the Agency has enhanced productivity by seventy percent with the development of AI, emphasizing that the Xinhua News Agency is leading in AI in the media sector.

At the Summit, 208 mainstream media outlets from 106 countries and government agencies, including the MONTSAME National News Agency of Mongolia, and around 500 representatives of international organizations participated. Previously, MONTSAME participated at the Summit in 2009, 2013, and 2018. This

year, editors and journalists of the English, Chinese, Content, and Press Departments of MONTSAME took part in the Summit.

First Deputy Director of the MONTSAME Mongolian News Agency Enkhuyaa Taivanshar met with Deputy President of Xinhua News Agency Yuan Bingzhong.

During the Sixth World Media Summit, the First Deputy Director and Chief of the Secretariat of the MONTSAME Mongolian News Agency Enkhuyaa Taivanshar met with Yuan Bingzhong, Deputy President of Xinhua News Agency.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed revitalizing cooperation, which faced temporary setbacks due to the global pandemic in 2020, as well as cooperation, continuing the exchange of journalists and professionals, and renewing the process of sharing news. The two sides agreed to renew the cooperation agreement in Ulaanbaatar in 2025.

The MONTSAME National News Agency and the Xinhua News Agency have been developing their relations and cooperation for 66 years since the agreement on mutual information exchange and cooperation was established in 1958.

In the past 103 years, MONTSAME has cooperated with numerous news agencies worldwide, one of which is Xinhua, publishing official and reliable news about Mongolia worldwide.

The MONTSAME National News Agency exchanges news and information with 42 news agencies around the world, through multilateral cooperation. International forums and conferences on media, such as the World Media Summit, serve as good opportunities for face-to-face meetings, warm conversations, and discussions.

## Actions to Enhance Social Security Discussed



The Ministry of Family, Labor, and Social Protection of Mongolia has set a goal of halving the unemployment and poverty rates, increasing GDP per capita to USD 8-10 thousand, and advancing ten positions in the Human Development Index in the period of 2024-2028.

On October 15, 2024, Minister of Family, Labor, and Social Protection of Mongolia Enkh-Amgalan Luvsantsuren presented to the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Policy the legal reforms within the sector and the Action Program for 2024-2028. Minister Enkh-Amgalan noted, "As of today, 983,485 families are registered in Mongolia, with one in five families facing housing issues and one in three encountering financial challenges. Consequently, over 4,000 couples annul their marriages annually. Therefore, the Ministry is aiming to enhance the legal environment for family-based employment and social services, ensuring the availability of family therapists in each aimag and district, and prioritizing young families in the Affordable Housing Program."

Moreover, the Ministry of Family, Labor, and Social Protection of Mongolia plans to establish a private pension system, enhance transparency in the Social Insurance Fund, digitalize and virtualize services utilizing artificial intelligence, eliminate the duplication of welfare grants, adhere to policy on the transition from welfare to employment, and provide social welfare to the target group.

Due to decisions following the Law on Social Insurance Law, including criteria for pension grants and changes to the calculation period from seven to five years, Mongolia's Pension Fund has faced a deficit equivalent to MNT 4.7 trillion. Starting next year, mothers awarded with the second-class Glorious Mother Order will be granted MNT 200 thousand, while the first-class - MNT 400 thousand.

Also, the Ministry plans to increase the benefits to children with severe developmental challenges by 30 percent and establish support centers for therapy on labor, movement, and speech and advice for caregivers.

Thereby, the Ministry has developed a package of draft laws and revised draft laws to submit at the autumn session of the State Great Khural, including the draft amendments to the Package of Social Insurance Laws and the Law on Labor Force Migration, draft Law on Family Support, a revised draft Law on Social Welfare Services, a revised draft Law on Human Rights of Persons with Developmental Challenges, a draft Law on Private Pension Supplementary Insurance, and draft laws on Accessibility and Sign Language.

## World White Cane Safety Day

October 15 of each year is traditionally marked as the World White Cane Safety Day, raising awareness for visually impaired individuals.

The Ministry of Family, Labor, and Social Protection of Mongolia is focusing on upgrading the legal environment for persons with developmental challenges and enhancing access to buildings, facilities, and roads. The Ministry is developing a revised draft Law on the Rights of Persons with Developmental Challenges, as well as the first draft Law on Accessibility. The Ministry aims at creating opportunities for everyone to study, work, and fully and effectively participate in society, eliminating environmental and attitudinal barriers.

In a press conference held in anticipation of the World White Cane Safety Day, President of the Mongolian National

Federation of the Blind Ganzorig Batbayar noted, "In Mongolia, buses do not always stop at designated bus stops, and bus numbers and routes are not announced verbally, making it difficult for visually impaired people to use public transport. Obstacles such as light poles, tree branches, billboards, and people riding scooters along the sidewalks hinder our participation in society. Although relevant organizations have been informed of these issues, tangible results have not been achieved. Since 2013, we have been fighting for the right to vote and be elected, publishing braille-labeled materials and guides on electoral laws and placing them at polling stations. However, visually impaired people were unable to exercise their right to vote or be elected during this year's parliamentary and local elections. Numerous complaints



have been made on issues regarding the absence of braille-labeled ballot secrecy folders at several polling stations, braille labels, and holes and slots on ordinal numbers and oval figures in front of the candidates' names.

Approximately 30 percent of visually impaired citizens reside in Ulaanbaatar city, while 17 percent, or 2048 citizens, are employed. Additionally, World Sight Day is celebrated on the second Thursday of October of each year.

## Eighty Nine Thousand Tons of Briquette Fuel Stockpiled

As part of the winter preparation efforts for 2024-2025, "Tavantolgoi Tulsh" LLC has completed technical upgrades at its Eastern Plant's Sectors II and III to increase production capacity.

As a result, the plant is now producing 2,500 tons of compressed fuel per day across five high-capacity production lines. Currently, the compressed fuel is being sold through 582 contracted distribution points, with plans to increase that number to 650-670 points during peak winter demand. The fuel is priced at MNT 3,750 per package.

A total of 89,000 tons of compressed fuel reserves have been stockpiled, with 80,126 tons stored in 42 warehouses across the seven districts of the capital and 8,243 tons stored in the plant's warehouses.





# “One Billion Trees”: 41.5 Million Trees Planted Nationwide

As part of the “One Billion Trees” National Movement initiated by President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, the nationwide tree planting for autumn is being held from September 24 to October 26, 2024. Starting from October 5, 2024, the nationwide tree planting has been taking place in ten designated locations in Ulaanbaatar city.

Citizens, who are unable to participate in the tree planting in designated locations, are encouraged to plant trees in their yards, camps, and in the vicinity of schools, kindergartens, and hospitals. Moreover, organizations and enterprises are urged to allocate 20 percent of their building and structure areas to green spaces.

Around 41.5 million trees have been planted in Mongolia, as reported by the Forest Department of the Government Implementing Agency. Selenge aimag leads the initiative, having planted and nurtured 4.7 million trees.

Under the “One Billion Trees” National Movement, Mongolia set a goal of planting and nursing a total of one billion trees by 2030. This initiative is expected to:

- Increase the forest coverage in Mongolia to 9 percent,
- Mitigate desertification and land degradation, enhance greenhouse gas absorption, and increase water resources,
- Mitigate climate change, and accelerate the recovery of green development.



## Snow Protection Fence Project Presented to the Ministry of Road and Transport Development

On October 16, 2024, State Secretary of the Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia Batbold Sandagdorj held a meeting with representatives of a Japanese company “Riken Kogyo,” its Mongolian business partners “Mongol Eco Construction” LLC and “Badrakh Bulag” LLC, and got acquainted with the objectives and significance of Japan’s “Snow Protection Fence” Project.

The snow protection fence is designated to safeguard the trees and seedlings planted along the roads from snowstorms and strong windstorms, thereby supporting their healthy growth. By implementing the Project in Mongolia, snow protection fences could be effectively utilized in the road and transport sector, and within the framework of the “One Billion Trees” National Movement.

During the meeting, the initiators of the Project highlighted the potential for collaborative efforts to address numerous challenges faced by Mongolia using snow protection fences. Furthermore, the sides exchanged views on ways to cooperate and utilize the snow protection fence in order to prevent from road damage and ensure safety.

Founded in 1955, “Riken Kogyo” LLC operates in Hokkaido Prefecture, Japan, and specialized in planning, production, and sale of wind and snow protection fences. These fences are produced using steel panel materials to reduce wind speed, enhance road safety, protect against snowstorms, and minimize road damage. In Japan, despite relatively mild winters, these snow fences are widely used to ensure road safety in snow-prone regions such as Hokkaido, Tohoku, and Hokuriku.

The project team introduced the feasibility of implementing the “Snow Protection Fence” Project in Mongolia in the road and transport sector to protect roads and transport infrastructure from snow, reduce road damage, and ensure safety for drivers. Also, the team emphasized that the combination of wood and steel in the fencing production provides durability and high quality. When developed in compliance with Mongolian unique climate, road management, and infrastructure policies, this product will be of high significance in various areas. For instance, during the winter months, heavy snowfall across much of the country leads to slippery roads, visibility issues, and frequent road closures. The Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia reported that research and testing are being conducted in collaboration with local authorities in several aimags to assess the implementation of this technology.

## New Tourist Information Center Opens at Central Square



The Ulaanbaatar City Tourism Department has opened a new Tourist Information Center at Sukhbaatar Square, the central point of the capital.

The four-season facility's design was created in cooperation with “Ord Ger” LLC, with a modern solution of spherical shape and a prefabricated wooden frame, low heat loss, and energy-saving portable structure, reflecting the national features.

The first Tourist Information Center was launched in 2013. Today, there are seven centers, of which, three provide year-round service, three are active seasonally, and one operates in Germany. The Centers focus on delivering quality and prompt services as the number of tourists is increasing every year, noted the Ulaanbaatar City Tourism Department.

The Tourist Information Centers provide visitors with information on travel routes around the city, places to visit, top sights in the capital city, one-day city tours, public transportation routes from the airport to the city, intercity public transportation routes, currency exchange offices, attractions,

service facilities, and shopping centers. Tourists can get information related to locations, the working hours, as well as information on airports, the international, and domestic flights.

Moreover, instructions on how to get a refund after purchasing duty-free goods, the list of goods, and information on the location, price information, phone numbers, working hours of hotels, inns, guest houses, tourist camps, and resorts, as well as information on places where mobile phone SIMs and data can be obtained, taxi services, medical institutions, emergency services contacts, and applications are available at the centers.

In addition, for domestic citizens, information on the location of government service centers, instructions for using E-Mongolia, a list of information reference hotlines, and information on renewing operation permits are provided.

In Ulaanbaatar city, Tourist Information Centers provided service to more than 15,000 people in 2022, about 17,000 in 2023, and 16180 visitors by the third quarter of 2024.

### The lawyer's advice



Hanns Seidel Foundation

### How does the law on economization (cost-saving) regulate appointments?

The law on Economization was enacted on the April 29, 2022, to enforce financial discipline in the state, its organizations at all levels, public services, and their activities, to ensure transparency, to increase efficiency, to limit wastefulness, and to regulate relations related to monitoring.

It is prohibited for a person specified in Article 3.1 of the law to travel by air transport on official appointments in seats other than an economy class with public or organizational funds, and priority shall be given to the national air transport entity. If the transportation, accommodation, and food expenses of the employee working on the appointment are budgeted and provided by the organization employing him, it is prohibited to pay the expense in duplicate.

### How are remunerations and cash benefits regulated by law?

Taking into account the direction of operation and the level of profitability, the general standard of remuneration to be paid to the executive director and other employees of state-owned and local legal entities shall be established by the Government in the case of state-owned legal entities, and in the case of local-owned legal entities by the Council of Citizens' Representatives of that level.

If laws other than the law on Civil Service provide for one-time cash benefits upon retirement, the employee has the right to choose more than one of them and will not be paid twice.

### What other cost-saving measures shall budget organizations, and state and local legal entities take?

Budget organizations, state, and local legal entities shall take the following measures:

1. saving electricity, heat energy, and clean water consumption of the organization;
2. setting the buildings connected to the integrated heating system to economy mode and using meters;
3. saving paper, copier, and printer ink costs by transferring documents and records to electronic format in the organization's intranet;
4. approving and implementing a debt settlement plan and schedule by fully reflecting scheduled and overdue debts in the annual budget;
5. determining the structure and functions of the organization and paying according to income, performance, results, and efficiency.

The contract between the board of directors and the executive director of a state-owned or local legal entity in the banking, financial, or other sectors shall have a term of one year. The executive director's contract can be extended for the duration of the main contract if the financial and operational criteria specified in the contract are fully met.

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# Chinggis Khaan National Museum of Mongolia and State Museum of the State Cultural Center of Turkmenistan to Collaborate

During the State Visit of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa to Turkmenistan on October 10-13, 2024, the Chinggis Khaan National Museum of Mongolia and the State Museum of the State Cultural Center of Turkmenistan reached a collaboration agreement.

Established in 1998, the State Museum of the State Cultural Center of Turkmenistan mainly showcases archeological artifacts from the time of human settlement in Turkmenistan up to the 17th century. The museum displays restorations of ancient settlements found in the territory of Turkmenistan, featuring clay, bronze, ceramic, and stone artifacts arranged chronically. Notable exhibits include several artifacts from excavations of ancient cities such as New Nissa and Merv, which relate to the history of the Great Mongol Empire, and interesting relics from the Seljuk and Khwarazmian empires before the Great Mongol Empire. Moreover, it houses Buddhist art collections of the Sogdian period, as well as a collection of human-shaped stone sculptures.

Director of the State Museum of State Cultural Center of Turkmenistan Meretgeldy Charyev and Director of the Chinggis Khaan Museum of Mongolia, academician Chuluun Sampildondov



held a special meeting.

At the meeting, the two sides agreed to collaborate in conducting joint research on artifacts related to the Great Mongol Empire and the Turkic history in Mongolia. Mr. Chuluun Sampildondov extended an invitation to Director Meretgeldy Charyev to participate in the "Forum of Mongolian and Regional

National Museums" to be held in Mongolia in August 2025.

Turkmenistan has a significant number of artifacts related to the history of the Chagatai Khanate, Ilkhanate, and the northern regions of the Golden Horde, and people of Turkmenistan spoke the Chagatai language.

## O. Enkh-Erdene Named Asia's Best Country Singer



"The Knights Award" ceremony, which honors outstanding achievers and corporations from various industries who make remarkable contributions to society, was held at the Petronas Philharmonic Hall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on October 14, 2024.

It was previously reported that singer O. Enkh-Erdene was invited to participate in "The Knights Award", making him the first nominee from Mongolia. He proceeded to the final stage of the "Outstanding Country Singer of the Year" category and received the award. Notably, he was selected as Asia's Best Country Singer among artists from around 30 countries.

O. Enkh-Erdene is the winner of the "Mongolia's Got Talent 2016" show and a finalist in "The World's Best 2019" and "America's Got Talent: Fantasy League 2024." He is also an artist signed under the "New Nomad Records" label.

## Young Mongolian Football Players to Depart for London

The training for young football athletes of Mongolia, organized by the renowned English football club Fulham FC, took place on October 8-11, 2024, at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium.

As part of the "Go Mongolia" project implemented by the Government of Mongolia, 11 outstanding young athletes were selected from this training program to participate in Fulham FC's program in London. The selected athletes will visit Craven Cottage Stadium and the first-class training facilities in England, engage in a two-day training session with coaches from Fulham FC's academy, and play a friendly match with the team from the Fulham FC Foundation.

Youth Development Coach Yannick Jean said, "It has been a truly rewarding experience to coach a portion of Mongolia's talented footballers. Seeing the young players' footwork, skillful defense, and focus clearly indicates that Mongolian football academies



are diligently working to develop youth talent. I hope the Mongolian children will continue to maintain their positive attitude, train consistently, and play with determination. The collaboration initiated with Fulham Football Club will undoubtedly create numerous opportunities for the development of young Mongolian athletes in the future. I am also eagerly looking forward to seeing them play on television in a few years."

## Mongolian Athletes Became Champions at the World Masters Powerlifting Championships



The IPF World Masters Powerlifting Championships took place in Sun City, South Africa, on October 5-13, 2024, and five Mongolian athletes participated successfully in the competition.

In the men's M4 66 kg category, Perenlei Shagdar grabbed the gold medal on all three lifts: squat, bench press, and deadlift, becoming the World Champion by overall points

Also, in the men's M2 74 kg category, Honored Athlete of Mongolia Enkhbat Sanduijav lifted 265 kg in the squat to earn gold, pressed 157.5 kg in the bench press for another gold, and lifted 245 kg in the deadlift to secure a silver medal, making him the World Champion by overall score as well. In the M1 category at 74 kg, Batbileg Otgonsuren won the overall bronze medal after getting bronze in all the following, 230 kg in squat, 132.5 kg in bench press, and 230 kg in deadlift.

In the M2 category at 105 kg, Ariunjargal Luvsanchultem lifted 305 kg in the squat to earn gold, lifted 280 kg in the deadlift to secure a silver medal, and won a bronze medal. Furthermore, Uurtsaikh Tsolmon, competing in the M2 category at +120 kg, won a silver by lifting 190 kg in the bench press, and a bronze medal by lifting 200 kg in the deadlift.

## Hero of Labor of Mongolia Surenjav Ulambayar Receives Kukkiwon Award



Hero of Labor of Mongolia Surenjav Ulambayar, who won the Summer Paralympic Games in Paris, France, has been honored with the most prestigious award from the World Taekwon-Do Headquarters.

Specifically, Surenjav Ulambayar was presented with the Kukkiwon Award by the World Taekwondo Headquarters. In addition, L. Tsenguunjav, Vice President of the Mongolian Taekwondo Federation, was also recognized with the same award for his contributions to the development of the sport.

During the award ceremony, President of the World Taekwondo Headquarters, Grandmaster Lee Dong-sup, said, "Taekwondo is practiced by 300 million people worldwide. I would like to express congratulations to Mongolia for winning the Paralympic gold medal in this sport. We highly appreciate your contributions to the development of Taekwondo, and we are honored to present you with this prestigious award."

Founded in 1972, the World Taekwondo Headquarters is based in Seoul and serves as the highest governing body that certifies taekwondo ranks and dan grades.

## Mongolian Basketball League Begins

Organized by the Mongolian Basketball Association, the 30th season of the Mongolian Basketball League, also known as "The League," has officially started.

Ten men's teams and six women's teams will compete in the League, with the 2024-2025 season running for approximately seven months. During the opening ceremony, the men's and women's teams of "Khasiin Khuleguud," champions of the previous season, received their championship rings, and the band "Niciton" performed. The league matches will take place at UG Arena every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday for the duration of the season.

**Here are the results of game one of the new season:**

BCH KNIGHTS 81:85 DARKHAN UNITED  
KHASIIN KHULEGUUD 65:71 UL-AANBAATAR AMAZONS /women/  
KHASIIN KHULEGUUD 66:59 BISHRELT METAL  
ARAVT 78:66 M WINX /women/  
YES'TLG 92:80 ERDENET MINERS  
SG APES 95:84 NALAIKH BISON

**Here is the schedule of basketball games on October 15:**

15:40 ULAANBAATAR AMAZONS VS MON POP  
18:10 ERDENET MINERS VS NALAIKH BISON  
20:40 SELENGE BODONS VS KHASIIN KHULEGUUD