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## Mongolia to Formulate and Implement the "National Resilience Strategy"

■ On February 11, 2025, President of Mongolia and Commander-in-Chief of the Mongolian Armed Forces Khurelsukh Ukhnaa attended the strategic assembly of the defense leadership.

The assembly was held under the theme "National Resilience and the Readiness of the Armed Forces." President and Commander-in-Chief Khurelsukh instructed the participants to finalize the "National Resilience Strategy," based on the country's defense and disaster response systems. The purpose of this Strategy is to prevent potential threats, risks, and disasters, and to ensure the capacity and readiness to overcome them with minimal damage and to restore normalcy. The President also declared 2025 as the "Year of Senior Officers," directing to refine the officer training system, elevate the prestige of military ranks and positions, and deploy highly educated and experienced senior officers in security, defense, and other social sectors.

President and Commander-in-Chief Khurelsukh also visited the Directorate of the Construction and Engineering Forces of the Mongolian Armed Forces and Military Unit No. 065.

The foundation of Mongolia's construction troops dates back to 1936 when the Engineering and Construction Department along with a construction company was established under the Ministry of Military Affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic.

The main areas of responsibility for the Construction and Engineering Forces are building and renovating critical state facilities, constructing and repairing buildings and engineering structures for military units, organizations, and branches of the Armed Forces, promoting national development; assisting with post-war and post-disaster reconstruction, providing humanitarian aid, supporting peacekeeping missions, conducting research, innovation, and experimental studies, and conserving and restoring the environment. Head of the Directorate of the Construction and Engineering Forces Colonel Kh. Batsaikhan noted that going forward, the troops could also take part in various projects and



programs such as railways, roads, gas pipelines, industrial parks, hydropower stations, urban water supply, housing, eco-friendly green townships, forest cleaning, reforestation, and land reclamation.

Military Unit No. 065 was established in 1964 as the "Special Radio Engineering Battalion of the People's Army." This Unit provides weather and air status reports to the General Staff of the Armed Forces, the Air For-

ce Command, the Central Command, and other units, and is responsible for announcements, as well as monitoring and safeguarding Mongolia's air borders and airspace.

## Mongolia and Uzbekistan to Open Trade and Economic Representative Offices



On February 6-7, 2025, the first Meeting of the Mongolia-Uzbekistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economy, Science, and Technology Cooperation was held in Tashkent, the capital city of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia and Member of the Parliament of Mongolia Amarsaikhan Sainbuyan, and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Zhamshid Khodjaev.

During the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia

Amarsaikhan emphasized that several initiatives discussed during his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Zhamshid Khodjaev in August 2024 in Ulaanbaatar had been realized at the Meeting of the Mongolia-Uzbekistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Zhamshid Khodjaev expressed satisfaction with the intensive development of cooperation between the two countries over the past two years and ex-

pressed confidence that the first Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission in Tashkent would bring tangible results and practical decisions.

This was the first Meeting of the Mongolia-Uzbekistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economy, Science, and Technology Cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1992. Mongolia and Uzbekistan, the two landlocked developing countries, share many similarities. Therefore, the two

countries are discussing ways to expand bilateral relations and cooperation in infrastructure, transport, logistics, agriculture, and light industry, and reduce trade barriers between Mongolia and Uzbekistan, mutually leveraging their advantages and resources.

Also, the two sides agreed to open Trade and Economic Representative Offices in Ulaanbaatar and Tashkent respectively, and the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan were tasked with establishing the Trade and Economic Representative Offices.

According to the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the decision to reciprocally open Trade and Economic Representative Offices is a realization of the two countries' commitment to intensify economic cooperation with Central Asian countries.

The Mongolian delegation was led by Deputy Prime Minister Amarsaikhan Sainbuyan and included Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Uzbekistan Batbaatar Daadankhuu, Chairman of the

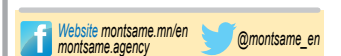
Standing Committee on Environment, Food, and Agriculture of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Beisen Bulan, and President of the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tur-Od Lkhagvajav.

### Inside

**National Organizing Committee for COP 17 Holds Inaugural Meeting .....p3**

**Number of Tourists Visiting Mongolia Rises by 23 Percent .....p4**

**Mongolia Introduces Stereotactic Radiotherapy for Cancer Treatment .....p5**



Bloomberg commodity price 2025/02/13		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2941.80
COPPER	USD/lb.	470.80
SILVER	USD/t oz.	32.82
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	74.28
WHEAT	USD/bu	592.00

## President of Mongolia Hands Over Letters of Purpose and Motivation to the Recipients of the “President’s Scholar-2100” Scholarship



The “President’s Scholar-2100” Scholarship Program, initiated by President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, is now in its fourth year of implementation. On February 6, 2025, the President extended best wishes to the students who have been awarded the scholarship and are currently enrolled in the preparatory program and handed them letters of purpose and motivation.

The Head of State emphasized that making full use of this opportunity and beginning one’s professional life with confidence depends on dedication, academic performance, and hard work. President Khurelsukh expressed confidence that the students would diligently pursue their studies, acquire an internationally



competitive education, and devote themselves to the development and prosperity of Mongolia.

Under the “President’s Scholar-2100” Scholarship Program, 761 students are pursuing their studies in universities across 19 countries, including the United States, the

United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic, Canada, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Poland, Australia, the Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of India, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

The Scholarship Program aims at selecting outstanding students from each soum and khoro, providing them with prepara-

tory training to meet the admission requirements of top universities worldwide, sending them to study abroad, and, upon their graduation and return, appointing them to lead the development of their local communities as part of a comprehensive program.

## Performance Monitoring Unit Highlights Streamlined Permit Issuance



The Performance Monitoring Unit under the Prime Minister of Mongolia held its 5th meeting on February 8, 2025. The implementation of decisions made at previous meetings, the financing model for projects to be implemented in Ulaanbaatar City, and the improvement of the legal environment were discussed at the meeting.

Ulaanbaatar City plans to implement 24 projects related to reducing air pollution and congestion in 2025-2028. Of these, the financing sources for eight projects have been resolved, including the Tuul Highway Project, the Cable Car Project, the Selbe and Bayankhoshuu Housing Projects, the Infrastructure Project of the Emeelt Eco-Industrial Park, and the Ulaanbaatar Tram Project. The financing for these projects will be allocated in the Capital City Budget, foreign loans, and bonds, stated Governor of the Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar Nyambaatar Khishgee. The Tuul Highway Project, for example, requires MNT 1.9 trillion. The

32-km, six-lane highway from the Nalaikh Highway to the Darkhan Highway junction is expected to increase the average traffic speed by 14 percent when it is put into operation in 2027. Meanwhile, the Selbe Housing Project requires MNT 1.7 trillion and is planned to be financed with foreign bonds. Once the Project is completed, the number of households that burn coal for heating will be reduced by 10,000. As of today, the engineering infrastructure of the Selbe Housing Project has been completed, land release is at 70 percent, and construction tenders are underway. Furthermore, the work to resolve financing sources for the remaining 12 projects is ongoing. The financing for the Ulaanbaatar Metro Project (Line 1) will be confirmed soon, according to Mayor Nyambaatar.

A total of 73 tasks were given in six areas during the first four meetings of the Performance Monitoring Unit under the Prime Minister. Of these, 17 have been resolved, while the rest are in the implementation stage, said Chief

of the Cabinet Secretariat Uchral Nyam-Osor. In his presentation on the implementation of the Law on Permits, Mr. Uchral highlighted that there are some bureaucracies and shortcomings in the permit issuance process, including a large number of steps, insufficient digitalization, and government agencies requiring insignificant documents as well as some permits are issued under a regulation. Therefore, the Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat suggested implementing regulatory reforms based on risk assessment and transferring the function of issuing some types of permits to professional associations. Streamlining and expediting the issuance of permits is crucial for the construction work taking place in the Capital City, noted some members of the Performance Monitoring Unit, mentioning the need to reduce duplication and steps.

Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyuun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai instructed to continue working on the process of switching to gas fuel, using domestic resources, exploring opportunities for cooperation with entrepreneurs, continuing to work on financing sources for major projects to be implemented in the capital, improving the relevant legal environment, and developing and presenting proposals on how state-owned enterprises can support and participate in the construction projects to be carried out in Ulaanbaatar. The Prime Minister also reminded relevant officials that the pressing issues in the capital and their solutions should be comprehensively reflected in the general plan for the development of Ulaanbaatar until 2040.

## CABINET SESSION



During its regular session on February 12, 2025, the Cabinet of Mongolia made following decisions:

### Bagakhangai-Khushig Valley Railway Project to Be Implemented in Two Stages

The Cabinet of Mongolia authorized the State Property Policy and Regulation Department, Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi JSC, Mongolian Railway state-owned JSC, and Tavan Tolgoi Railway LLC to finance the Bagakhangai-Khushig Valley Railway Project with the net profit of “Mongolian Railway” JSC and “Tavan Tolgoi Railway” LLC in 2024, investments in 2025, and leveraging domestic resources.

“Mongolian Railway” Company will be responsible for the construction and operation of the Bagakhangai-Khushig Valley Railway in compliance with relevant laws, international standards, and quality requirements.

The Bagakhangai-Khushig Valley Railway will branch from the Bagakhangai station of the “Ulaanbaatar Railway” JV and pass through Selenge soum of Tuv aimag to Khushig Valley and reach Shuvuun Fabric, for a total of 102.8 km. The railway is planned to have three stations and four junctions. The project will be implemented in two

phases.

The relevant officials have been instructed to promptly issue the technical conditions and relevant permits required for the construction of the railway infrastructure, and its components, including engineering facilities, energy, water supply, stations, crossings, and other buildings, according to the appropriate regulations.

### Draft Law on the Amending the Law on Reducing Traffic Congestion in Ulaanbaatar City

Minister of Mongolia and Chairman of the 20-Minute City National Committee Erdeneburen Ravjikh presented a draft Law on Amending the Law on Reducing Traffic Congestion in Ulaanbaatar City and Providing Housing to Ger Districts and its accompanying draft laws. The amendments include provisions for smart traffic control using artificial intelligence, big data, and automation systems.

Accordingly, Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City Nyambaatar Khishgee and Chairman of the 20-Minute City National Committee Erdeneburen Ravjikh were tasked to prepare the draft Law for discussion at the Cabinet session to submit it to the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia.

## General Election Commission of Mongolia Becomes First in Asia to Join Online Platform for Political Finance Transparency



The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting was held in the Philippines on February 5-7, 2025.

During the meeting, Head of the Office of the General Election Commission (GEC) of Mongolia D. Bat-Erdene, and Foreign Relations and Cooperation Officer B. Uyanga, participated in ministerial-level discussions, interviews, and meetings, where the officials introduced electoral legal reforms and shared experiences of Mongolia.

The General Election Commission of Mongolia has become the first in Asia to join the Open Government Partnership’s newly launched Online Platform for Publishing Political Finance

Data, which has been in effect since 2024. The OGP’s oversight committee reviewed the GEC’s initiative and officially certified Mongolia’s participation during the conference.

More than 800 representatives from governments, civil societies, and international organizations across the Asia-Pacific region participated in the Open Government Partnership Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting Philippines 2025. Discussions focused on strengthening democracy, enhancing transparency and accountability in governance, and addressing challenges in implementing open and transparent government initiatives in the region, according to the GEC.

## National Organizing Committee for COP 17 Holds Inaugural Meeting

The National Committee in charge of Management and Coordination of Preparations for the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which will take place in Mongolia in 2026, held its inaugural Meeting on February 6, 2025, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia and Chairperson of National Committee in charge of Management and Coordination of Preparations for the UNCCD COP17 Odontuya Saldan, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and Deputy Chairperson of National Committee in charge of Management and Coordination of Preparations for the UNCCD COP17 Battsetseg

Batmunkh delivered opening remarks. Senior officials from relevant ministries and members of the National Committee took part in the Meeting.

At the Meeting, the COP17 Preparatory Office under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change presented updates on the ongoing preparations and upcoming measures to be undertaken for COP 17. Additionally, the meeting reviewed and approved the National Committee regulations.

In her remarks, Minister of Foreign Affairs Battsetseg Batmunkh emphasized that Mongolia's successful bid to host COP17 demonstrates the country's growing international reputation and its contributions to global efforts of maintaining peace and security, sustainable development, climate action, and the fight against desertification.



She underscored the critical need for coordinated and efficient action by the Government of Mongolia to ensure the successful organization of this international conference in 2026. Furthermore, she highlighted the importance of engaging and fostering

collaboration with the private sector by providing them with concrete information.

Hosting COP17 in Mongolia will give a major impetus to the efforts of the Government to align its national environmental policies and land management

practices with international standards and best practices. Moreover, it presents an opportunity to draw global attention to Mongolia's pressing environmental challenges and facilitate practical solutions.

## The "Yalta Conference-80 and Mongolia" Scientific Conference Takes Place

On February 10, 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, the Mongolian National Academy of Sciences, and the Institute for Strategic Studies of the National Security Council of Mongolia jointly organized the "Yalta Conference-80 and Mongolia."

Director of the Institute for International Studies Associate Professor D. Zolboo noted, "The Yalta Conference is undoubtedly one of the key historical milestones that secured Mongolia's independence. Therefore, we are organizing this academic conference in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Yalta Conference."

Researcher at the Institute for Strategic Studies under the



National Security Council Dr. T. Sukhbaatar stated, "The Yalta Conference, held 80 years ago, stands out as an exceptional event in the history of our country's independence. As a result of that

referendum was held on October 20, 1945, involving all eligible citizens. Every single participant in that referendum voted 100 percent in favor of Mongolia's independence. Therefore, we need to undertake specific measures to

educate future generations about the historical importance of the events of October 20, 1945, and to enhance their understanding."

Professor at the School of International Relations and Social Studies of the Mongolian University of the Humanities Dr. Professor D. Ulambayar noted, "The Yalta Conference was a meeting between the leaders of the three Allied powers, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Great Britain, held in Yalta. One of its major outcomes was the recognition of Mongolia's status quo, which greatly contributed to strengthening Mongolia's independence and sovereignty on the international stage."

At the Scientific Conference, Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary Dr. R. Bold delivered a presentation on "The Yalta Conference and Mongolia," Dr. Professor D. Ulambayar of the School of International Relations and Social Studies at the University of the Humanities spoke on "The Legal Recognition of Status Quo in Diplomacy: Its Essence," Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Professor D. Bayarkhuu presented on "Soviet Union–Republic of China Negotiations and Agreements Concerning Mongolia," and Dr. N. Khishigt of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences discussed "The National Referendum: International Outcomes." Each presentation was followed by a discussion.

## Direct Flights on the Ulaanbaatar-Tashkent Route to Be Launched



On February 6-7, 2025, the first Meeting of the Mongolia-Uzbekistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economy,

Science, and Technology Cooperation was held in Tashkent, the capital city of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed to continue working closely to increase exports and supply of agricultural products, including leather, hides, wool, and cashmere goods, from Mongolia to the Uzbek market and decided to organize a "Made in Uzbekistan" Trade Fair in Ulaanbaatar this year.

Emphasizing the importance of developing cooperation in transportation, the two sides agreed to launch regular flights on the Ulaanbaatar-Tashkent route in the second half of this year as part of the implementation of the "Agreement on Aviation Relations" signed during the State Visit by President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa to Uz-

bekistan in 2024.

Also, the first session of the Mongolia-Uzbekistan Joint Committee on Transport was held. The two sides agreed to establish a new road corridor and routes connecting the two countries and to initiate pilot transport of goods. The two sides agreed to expand cooperation in the energy and mining sectors, particularly in geological surveys, exploration, extraction, processing, and mineral beneficiation.

Additionally, the two sides agreed to deepen cooperation in education, culture, science, and technology by fostering collaboration among relevant institutions, research centers, and universities of the two coun-

tries. They also decided to enhance academic exchanges and organize joint symposiums, scientific conferences, concerts, and cultural days.

The two parties agreed to align Mongolia's "Billion Trees" National Movement, initiated by the President of Mongolia, with Uzbekistan's "Green Space" project. As part of this cooperation, the two countries will work on introducing Uzbek fruit tree saplings to Mongolia, establishing a model horticultural farm in the Gobi region of Mongolia, developing new sapling greenhouse farms, and exploring the possibility of creating a "Mongolia-Uzbekistan Friendship Park."

## Mongolia Hosts Workshop on UN Security Council Resolution on "Women, Peace and Security"

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia co-organized a Workshop on the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security" in collaboration with the Embassy of Canada to Mongolia and the UN Women's Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific on February

10-11, 2025, in Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia.

The workshop aims at raising awareness of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, study the experiences of other countries in its implementation, adopt a National Action Plan, and develop a roadmap.



# Number of Tourists Visiting Mongolia Rises by 23 Percent

The "Tourism Week-2025" commenced on February 10, 2025, with the "Regional Development and Tourism" Forum.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia and the Mongolia Tourism Organization are jointly organizing this Forum for the second year to strengthen coordination within Mongolia's tourism sector and enhance collaboration between the public and private sectors. Participants are discussing the sector's pressing challenges, potential solutions, and pathways forward. They emphasized that tourism plays a vital role in economic growth and development, highlighting the importance of continuous innovation and reform, as well as the need for timely and efficient cross-sector information sharing to foster sustainable tourism.

The tourism industry in Mongolia came to a standstill during the COVID-19 pandemic, incurring losses of MNT 1.6 trillion. However, it has since rebounded, with revenue increasing by 65 percent. In 2023, Mongolia generated USD 1.2 billion in tourism revenue, and in 2024, the country welcomed 808,956 tourists, earning USD 1.6 billion.

Minister of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia Nomin Chinbat noted, "Tourism revenue has increased 2.8 times compared to 2022. Last year, we launched a partnership with Trip.com, enabling international travelers to book flights to Mongolia and purchase travel services directly. Additionally, to expand transportation capacity for tourists, we signed agreements on aviation relations with several countries and actively worked

ting Mongolia, 47 percent are interested in eco and adventure tourism. Solo travel is becoming a global trend, making it essential for us to develop such experiences in line with international standards. Additionally, as artificial intelligence continues to advance in a big way, integrating technologies such as chatbots into our operations is crucial."

CEO of the Mongolia Tourism Organization M. Narangerel highlighted, "Mongolia has an



on securing flight permits. As a result, direct flights are now available to a total of 155 destinations. For the first time in history, Mongolia's air transport sector has served over 2 million passengers. Of the tourists visi-

ing interest in Mongolia's extreme climate, but travel and outdoor activities are possible year-round, not just in summer. In January alone, we welcomed 33,462 tourists, the highest number ever recorded in the winter season, demonstrating the gro-



wing interest in Mongolia's winter tourism. To develop four-season tourism, we need to systematically improve infrastructure, attract investment, and train a skilled workforce. One of the key challenges in this industry is domestic air travel, particularly the capacity of national flag carriers. Given Mongolia's vast territory, flying is the only viable option to reach certain destinations. However, high flight costs make it difficult to design competitive tourism packages."

Mongolia is seeking to welcome 2 million tourists annually by 2030 and increase tourism revenue to USD 8 billion. To

achieve this, the country plans to develop tourism in regional clusters. For example, the central region will be developed as a sub-region focused on diversified agriculture and industry, while the eastern region will be developed as a specialized area for historical tourism and intensive agriculture.

Over 1,000 representatives from more than 600 businesses in the tourism sector are participating in the "Tourism Week 2025." Throughout this week, they will engage in discussions on topics such as tourism strategy, infrastructure, destination services, and product development.

## Foreign Currency Reserves of Mongolia Stand at Approximately USD 4.9 Billion



As of the end of 2024, Mongolia's foreign currency reserves reached an all-time high of USD 5.5 billion. However, the current reserves stand at approximately USD 4.9 billion.

On average, exchange rate fluctuations tend to occur at certain times of the year, particularly in September and October when business activities increase, and during the Lunar New Year when demand rises. Recently, factors such as increased outbound tourism and automobile imports have also

contributed to these fluctuations. Additionally, the seasonal slowdown of certain mining operations has led to a reduced inflow of foreign currency.

The Bank of Mongolia reported that it has fulfilled all foreign currency purchase orders from commercial banks in full and that operations remain stable.

As of February 10, 2025, the official exchange rate of USD announced by the Bank of Mongolia was MNT 3,455.89.

## Exports in January Decrease by 23.1 Percent

In the first month of 2025, Mongolia exported goods and raw materials worth USD 1.019 billion, a 23.1 percent decrease compared to the same period last year.

Mineral products that amounted to USD 889.7 million made up 87.3 percent of the total exports, while USD 72.6 million worth of pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, precious metals, jewelry, and coins accounted for 7.1 percent, and USD 12.7 million worth of live animals, livestock, and

animal products accounted for 1.2 percent. These items in total made up 95.7 percent of the export revenue, according to the Mongolian Customs General Administration.



## First Oil Refinery Plant of Mongolia: Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Contract Signed

The construction of the first Oil Refinery Plant in Mongolia with a capacity to process 1.5 million tons of crude oil per year is progressing in Altanshireet soum of Dornogobi aimag, financed by a soft loan from the Government of India.

On February 6, 2025, state-owned enterprise "Mongol Refinery" LLC signed an engineering, procurement, and construction contract with India's "Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited" (MEIL), which was selected as the general contractor for the EPC-04 package, construction of the final licensed technological facilities of the oil refinery project.

The oil refinery will have a total of 12 technological facilities, seven of which are deep processing licensed technological facilities. The construction of these seven facilities will be carried out by MEIL under the contract. The deep processing technological facilities will be built under the technological licenses of companies from France, Italy, the United States, and the Netherlands. The patent owners or licensors have completed the design of their technological facilities. Specifically,

-Hydrogen plant-Italian "Kinetics Technology"

-Sulfur separation -French "Axens"



-Gas processing plant-US "UOP Honeywell"

-Hydrocracking-US "UOP Honeywell"

-Diesel hydrotreating-US "UOP Honeywell"

-Liquefied petroleum gas separation -US "UOP Honeywell"

-Visbreaking-under license from Dutch "Shell" company.

MEIL, a company with 34 years of experience in implementing major petrochemical and infrastructure projects not only in India but also internationally, will complete the construction of the seven facilities within 36-38 months as stipulated in the contract. The construction of the oil refinery, which is being implemented with a soft loan of USD 1.7 billion from the Government of India, consists of four packages of work including non-technological buildings, atmospheric and vacuum distillation units, saturated gas plant, auxiliary and supporting units, a thermal power plant, and a

licensed technological facility.

The first package of works which consists of nine facilities, electricity and water supply systems, and infrastructure work on the industrial site have been fully completed and were accepted by the state commission in November 2024. The concrete pouring works for the pipeline trestle and technological furnace foundations of the second and third package facilities have been also completed, and the installation of steel structures will begin soon.

The relevant officials reported that the foundation for the monitoring and substation buildings of the thermal power plant has been poured and the main construction works are almost complete. Currently, more than 1,000 engineers and specialists from Mongolia, India, China, Italy, France, the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, and Spain are working on the oil refinery construction project.

## Imports in January Increase by Four Percent

Mongolia imported goods and raw materials worth USD 973.2 million in January 2025. Compared to the same period in 2024, imports increased by USD 37.2 million or 4 percent, according to the Mongolian Customs General Administration.

Of the total imported goods, machinery and equipment and

parts, electrical appliances and their spare parts that amounted to USD 207.5 million accounted for 21.3 percent, mineral products (USD 230.8 million) for 23.7 percent (including USD 206.5 million worth petroleum products or 89.5 percent), animal and plant products, and foodstuffs (USD 84.9 million) for 12.3 percent,

motor vehicles and aircraft and their parts (USD 250.3 million) for 25.7 percent, basic metals and its products made (USD 57.5 million) for 5.9 percent, and chemical and related industrial products (USD 35.9 million) accounted for 3.7 percent. These items in total made up 89.1 percent of the imports value.

# Mongolia's "Tourism Week-2025": Charting the Path for Two Million Annual Visitors by 2030

As part of the "Years to Visit Mongolia 2024-2028" Initiative, the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia, in collaboration with the Mongolia Tourism Organization, is organizing the "Tourism Week-2025" on February 10-15, 2025.

The "Tourism Week-2025" brings together representatives from 30 public organizations, 1,200 private sector companies, 85 NGOs, research institutions, and professional associations, as well as 30 international organizations, serving as a dynamic platform for discussing the achievements, challenges, and future development strategies of the tourism industry of Mongolia.

Notable figures, including Minister of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia Nomin Chinbat, President of the Mongolia Tourism Organization T. Battulga, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mongolia Tourism Organization B. Zolbadrakh, and officials from the Tourism Policy Implementation Department of Ulaanbaatar City, delivered speeches. Esteemed international guests, such as Regional Director of Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA) Hannah Pearson, and Professor at Sejong University Dr. Seul Kee Li, also shared their invaluable perspectives on the global tourism landscape.

At the Opening Ceremony, Minister Nomin Chinbat highlighted several major achievements in the tourism sector from the previous year. A notable milestone was Mongolia's for-



mal partnership with Trip.com, a platform with 500 million users, enabling travelers to easily book flights to Mongolia and purchase tourism products and services. Moreover, the Minister emphasized, "Mongolia has been named an official partner at the "China International Travel Mart" and has earned accolades from globally renowned travel publications such as "Lonely Planet" and "Wanderlust," which have ranked Mongolia among the top destinations to visit in 2024. These efforts have contributed to a remarkable 126 percent increase in positive perceptions of Mongolia internationally.

In an effort to boost air travel accessibility, aviation agreements have been signed with key countries, facilitating direct flights to 155 destinations as of 2024. Mongolia also achieved a historical milestone by surpassing 2 million air travelers. As part of this, United Airlines, a major airline company in the United States, is to commence direct flights to Mongolia in May 2025.

In line with visa policy sim-

plifications, citizens from 32 countries can now visit Mongolia without a visa, while citizens from 36 countries are eligible for e-visa applications. Collaborative efforts with international media organizations such as CNN, BCC, and influential global content creators have notably enhanced Mongolia's international profile.

Mongolia is seeking to welcome two million tourists annually by 2030 and double the average expenditure per tourist from USD 2,000 to USD 4,000. This

launch of the "Years to Visit Mongolia" initiative in 2023, the tourism sector of Mongolia has seen a remarkable 23-percent growth, which is an impressive achievement by any standard. The upcoming discussions during the event will focus on how to build on this success, with particular attention to promoting year-round tourism and integrating it with regional development strategies to reach one million tourists annually."

President of the the Mongolia



ambitious target could generate up to USD 8 billion in tourism revenue, contributing 10 percent to the country's GDP. To reach this target, Mongolia's tourism sector must maintain an annual growth rate exceeding 15 percent, supported by cohesive strategies, sustainable investments, and inter-sectoral coordination."

Furthermore, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mongolia Tourism Organization B. Zolbadrakh noted, "Since the

Tourism Organization T. Battulga highlighted, "While growth metrics remain essential, the quality of the tourist experience is equally crucial. Enhancing the length of stay and enriching the travel experience are top priorities. Developing region-specific tourism strategies and fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors will be vital to realizing these goals."

Regional Director of Adventure Travel Trade Association

Hannah Pearson shared, "This is my second time in Mongolia. For me, my purpose for participating in the "Tourism Week-2025" event is to share how the "Adventure Travel Trade Association" sees adventure travel, the trends, and how that can support Mongolia and its aims to develop tourism.

The strengths of Mongolia's tourism sector are the amazing landscapes, the culture, and the spiritual side as well. There is a lot that Mongolia has to offer. On the other hand, Mongolia seems to have challenges in the private sector. Connectivity seems to be one of the big challenges. Moreover, another issue is seasonality. The fact that a lot of travelers come in the summer and not in the winter might be a challenge. However, I believe adventure travel can help address the seasonality because adventure travelers love to travel in the shoulder season. They don't mind the extreme temperatures. So it is definitely an opportunity. Adventure Travel Trade Association brings vast expertise in helping destinations position themselves as globally attractive travel hubs.

Although my experience in Mongolia is still relatively limited, I went out to the steppes, where we rode horses. This might be the typical experience for tourists visiting Mongolia, but this experience was quite unique. I think experiences like that, perhaps even more off the beaten track, even more engagement in local cultures and nomadic life, should really attract tourists to visit Mongolia."

## National Oncology Center of Mongolia to Launch Robotic Surgeries in August



The National Oncology Center (NOC) of Mongolia has con-

firmed that it will commence robotic-assisted surgeries in August

2025, following its previously announced plans to introduce this advanced technology.

Traditionally, surgeons have relied on direct visualization to examine blood vessels during surgery. However, with robotic assistance, they will be able to magnify the view up to ten times, enhancing precision. Robotic surgery also allows for minimal incisions on the abdominal wall, eliminating the need for large surgical openings.

Director General of the National Oncology Center of Mongolia Erdenekhuu Nansalmaa said, "We have successfully performed our first laparoscopic liver donor

surgery. Moving forward, we plan to expand laparoscopic procedures to other surgeries.

Additionally, we are preparing to introduce robotic-assisted surgery. Over the past year, we have trained eight lead instructors for robotic surgeries, and their training will be completed by August 2025. After that, we will begin performing robotic surgeries. The robotic system will be physically present in the operating room, but the surgeon can control it remotely from home, within the medical facility, or from any location. However, the robotic arm performing the surgery will be stationed in the operating

room, and we will control it remotely via a high-resolution imaging system."

The robotic surgical equipment costs approximately MNT 3 billion. Robotic-assisted surgery offers a high-precision, minimally invasive approach that provides an enlarged, highly detailed view of the surgical site. The system translates the surgeon's hand movements into precise robotic motions, ensuring greater control and accuracy. Additionally, robotic surgery reduces the risk of human error, making it a safer and more advanced alternative to conventional laparoscopic procedures.

## Preparation Works Underway to Increase Internet Speed Tenfold

The Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Communications of Mongolia is preparing to introduce a 5G network nationwide, with competitive bidding to begin in March 2025.

The internet capacity of soums in Mongolia is set to increase tenfold. This enables the accessibility of all modern digital services and allows students to study on all digital platforms and learn foreign languages. The increased internet capacity will also provide swift accessibility for medical services. Minister of Digital Development, Innova-

tion, and Communications of Mongolia Baatarkhuu Tsend noted, "With the implementation of the 5G network, we can discuss the introduction of self-driving vehicles and automation technology in the manufacturing sector. Also, households would no longer need to submit their electricity and water meters manually, instead, it can be fully automated and more accurate."

Mongolia has 53 thousand kilometers of fiber optic cables throughout the cities and soums, which means 23 percent of the country's territory has internet access.

## Mongolia Introduces Stereotactic Radiotherapy for Cancer Treatment

The National Oncology Center of Mongolia is introducing new and innovative technology and treatments to improve the accessibility of cancer treatment.

The Oncology Center began introducing stereotactic radiotherapy for the removal of tumors in livers and lungs in 2024. This reduces the duration and repetition of therapy. Previously, patients required treatment 25-30 times over a month, while the new precise radiotherapy can be completed in a week with 4-5 treatments. Deputy Chief Operating Officer of the National Oncology Center



Ts. Uranchimeg noted, "The effects of Stereotactic or target-

ted radiotherapy show after a minimum of 1-2 years. However, observations show the reduction of tumors. International studies indicate that Stereotactic radiotherapy is just as effective as surgery. We are planning to introduce this type of treatment for the brain and spinal cord, and preparing medical teams."

Stereotactic radiotherapy can be done when the tumor is less than 5 centimeters in size or in the early stages of cancer. The National Oncology Center of Mongolia is seeking to include this treatment option in the Health Insurance discount.

# Davaadalai Batsuri: National Consensus is Imperative for Mongolia to Safeguard the Environment and Advance Green Development



■ The Mongol Messenger spoke with Mr. Davaadalai Batsuri, Economic Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia, on Sustainable Finance.

## -What issues were discussed at this year's Forum? How did it differ from previous ones?

-Under the auspices of the President of Mongolia, the Third Mongolian Sustainable Finance International Forum was successfully organized in Ulaanbaatar. Marking its third iteration, the Forum was jointly organized by the Office of the President of Mongolia, the Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association (ToC Association), Khan Bank, and the United Nations in Mongolia, with support from various national and international partner organizations. A notable aspect of this event was that it took place immediately following the 29th UN Climate Change Conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan. At the Forum, leaders in green development from all sectors, policy makers, regulatory bodies, private companies, and civil society, presented the ongoing work and outcomes, and discussing how to collaborate effectively moving forward. For Mongolia, the most pressing challenges include climate change, land degradation, dust storms, and desertification. Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, we must meet our international commitments by 2030. Domestically, improving the livelihoods of citizens and businesses, including those in rural areas, while simultaneously protecting our environment and accelerating green development, has become an urgent goal and a practical necessity. Therefore, this year's Forum focused in detail on green development, the -green transi-

tion, and how to finance these efforts.

## -The Parliament of Mongolia and the Government of Mongolia are addressing green development and the green transition. What are the initial outcomes of the Forum?

-The principal outcome is that the Parliament and the Government of Mongolia provided citizens and businesses with more comprehensive information on impending initiatives, projects, and programs aimed at advancing green development. Three key points were highlighted by the Government during the Forum. First, the Government announced it will carry out energy sector reforms, specifically implementing Renewable Energy Projects. This had been highly anticipated. Three Renewable Energy Projects are already included in next year's budget. These include the Erdeneburen Hydropower Plant, Baidrag Hydropower Plant, Eg River Hydropower Plant, as well as the Central Region's Water-Storage Hydropower Plant. The Government of Mongolia aims at pursuing these Projects. Second, in the agriculture sector, three National Movements such as "Food Revolution," "White Gold," and "New Cooperative" are currently underway. We also understand that the Government will soon launch the "Atar-4" Campaign. Therefore, as loans and funding are provided within these existing agricultural projects and programs, green development standards must be applied. For example, there was a discussion on using incentives that favor individuals and companies

employing environmentally friendly technologies. Third, if private homes are built in environmentally friendly and energy-efficient ways, these households may be eligible for mortgage loans. Another key outcome is that participants agreed on the paramount importance of educating and strengthening the capacity of citizens and businesses regarding environmental and green development issues. We need to have a unified perspective. It is not enough for only the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia to push these efforts forward. For this reason, achieving national consensus that involves every social group is essential.

## -Energy, agriculture, and construction sectors are core economic sectors. Obviously, addressing challenges in these sectors is timely.

-Nearly 90 percent of Mongolia's greenhouse gas emissions originate from these three sectors. To achieve tangible results, we must focus on these three sectors. For instance, current data show that only about 6 out of every 100 livestock are raised under intensive methods. This does not mean we must develop our agriculture sector entirely through intensive farming, as we must preserve our cultural heritage. However, it would be appropriate to develop a certain proportion in an environmentally friendly demeanor that supports green development. In other words, if 20 out of every 100 cattle were raised in a farm-based, environmentally friendly ways, we could take a step forward in protecting the environment and advancing the green transition.

## -What solutions have been identified as suitable for Mongolia, according to international and domestic experts?

-Mongolia has committed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 22.7 percent by 2030. International assessments suggest that two strict measures are needed to meet this commitment. First, we must reform our coal-based energy sector. Second, we must intensify the agricultural sector to maintain livestock numbers at an environmentally sustainable level. In addition, the major overarching solution is to impose taxes on carbonemitting sectors. In other words, if your activities harm the environment, you pay higher taxes; if they cause less harm, you pay lower taxes. Many other countries use such taxation as a fundamental policy tool. We have not yet introduced such measures, but the Central Bank of Mongolia is studying them. Ultimately, this approach is very fair. On the other hand, citizens and businesses that obtain green loans could benefit from lower-interest, long-term financing, and incentives.

## -How much funding is needed to advance these initiatives?

-To fulfill our commitment to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 22.7 percent by 2030, it is estimated that approximately USD 11 billion will be required. President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa proposed in 2021 that Mongolia allocate an amount equivalent to 1 per-

cent of our GDP annually to the environmental sector. With an economy valued at around MNT 70 trillion, this would translate to funding MNT 700 billion on policies, activities, projects, and programs that are environmentally friendly and promote green development. However, this funding should not rely solely on the State Budget but should be sourced from all possible avenues, including the private sector and international organizations. Furthermore, we should utilize the carbon market and secure stable financial resources dedicated to this field. This concept is relatively new for the country, meaning there is limited awareness among citizens and businesses. It is crucial to fully establish the necessary policy and legal frameworks. In essence, Mongolia should transition to a model that fosters environmentally friendly activities and trades the resulting benefits with other nations, thus integrating into the international carbon market.

## -How should the total financing be allocated across the three key sectors?

-Based on the overall emissions breakdown, the agriculture sector accounts for about 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, the energy sector for 30 percent, and the construction sector for around 20 percent. Consequently, the recommendation is to direct the largest portion of financing to the agriculture sector, which is the largest emitter.

## -What mechanisms is Mongolia using to attract green financing?

-Mongolia is adopting international best practices for increasing environmental financing. A notable example is the Eternal Mongolia, Project Finance for Permanence (PFP), which we established domestically in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), with the initiative and support of the President of Mongolia. As of today, we have mobilized over USD 70 million from international investors. By 2030, there is a potential for the public and private sectors to jointly raise an additional USD 100 million. The goal of the Fund is to expand the area of specially protected lands to 30 percent by 2030. Mongolia has already legally approved this objective. Currently, about 20 percent of our territory is Strictly Protected Area.

## -Banks and Financial Institutions are viewed as leaders in accountability. Is the goal of increasing green loan portfolios to 10 percent of total loans by 2030 realistic?

-The banking and financial sector has no choice but to work in that direction. Why? Because in recent years, investors have been channeling their funds into environmentally friendly and Green Development Initiatives. The whole world is shifting towards green standards. If Mongolia does not follow suit, its chances of raising funds on international markets will diminish.

-The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia has been reorganized into the Ministry of Environment and

## Climate Change of Mongolia. Does this mean our country is now paying greater attention to green development?

-President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa participated in several World Leaders Summit on Climate Change. High-level of attention is being paid to environmental and climate issues. Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai attended the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. With the Government's new structure, reorganizing the Ministry of Environment and Tourism into the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is indeed a significant step forward. International organizations have requested the Government of Mongolia to review and enhance its legal and regulatory framework for environmental and climate issues. In some countries, dedicated Climate Laws consolidate all relevant provisions, providing clear definitions of governance structures, assigning responsibilities to specific ministries, and establishing mechanisms for financing.

## -How are we focusing on training personnel in this field? For instance, are there any students studying under the "President's Scholar-2100" Scholarship Program?

-Recently, more young people have been pursuing education in this field. There is a policy to include students in this sector under the "President's Scholar-2100" Scholarship Program. However, a question arises: Is there a domestic job market for youth who have studied climate change? There is a market for them in the private sector, and international organizations and funds are hiring capable young professionals. The Government of Mongolia also has positions, but due to wages and incentives, it struggles to retain qualified personnel.

## -Has there been a shift in public perception and attitude toward green development?

-To be candid, most people still prioritize businesses like transportation over environmental ventures. For instance, given the choice, many would prefer starting a transportation business over an environmental one. This highlights the need to transform market dynamics and encourage environmental businesses. Incentives such as subsidized loans for green businesses should be offered to spark interest. While there has been significant progress in public attitude over the past few years, particularly with increased activity in the banking and finance sectors, more work is needed.

## -Mongolia has successfully hosted three Green Forums. What key documents have been adopted at these events and what were the outcomes of the Forum?

-At the first Forum, the banking sector committed to allocating 10 percent of its total loan

# “Mongols Depicted in Chronicles” Mughal Painting Special Exhibition Displayed

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Republic of India, the Chinggis Khaan National Museum of Mongolia and the Embassy of the Republic of India in Mongolia jointly organized and opened the “Mongols Depicted in Chronicles” Mughal Painting Special Exhibition on February 7, 2025.

lineage, and the lifestyle and history of the Mongol nobility of that time. Researchers worldwide view these illustrations in two ways. Some consider them Persian paintings during the era of Mongol conquests, while others believe them to be Mongol artworks made in a distinctly Mongol style.

Currently, the original manuscripts are preserved across

on par with “The Secret History of the Mongols.” The miniature paintings on display at the Exhibition are primary sources of Mongol history. Although many details about the material culture, palaces, clothing, food and drink, music, and dance from that era are not recorded in the text of the manuscript, these illustrations provide valuable visual insight. Presenting the illustrated pages of the “Compendium of Chronicles” that highlight important events in Mongol history is very noteworthy.”

From this Exhibition, visitors can glimpse into the centuries-old historical and cultural ties between the two countries. The watercolor illustrations in the Persian-language manuscript of the “Compendium of Chronicles,” preserved in India, depict the history of the Golden Lineage of the Great Mongol Empire. In 2015, Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi presented President of Mongolia Elbegdorj Tsakhia with a commissioned reproduction of the



In 2022, the Chinggis Khaan National Museum received a digital copy of a 273-page manuscript entitled “Compendium of Chronicles,” preserved in its original form at the Raza Library in Rampur, India.

Director of the Chinggis Khaan National Museum of Mongolia Academician Chuluun Sampildondov delivered opening remarks, noting, “The



six countries. This Exhibition is notable as this is the first time that an illustrated copy of the “Compendium of Chronicles,” dating back to the reign of Ulziit Khaan of the Ilkhanate, has been displayed at the Chinggis Khaan National Museum.”

Furthermore, Academician Chuluun said, “The Chinggis Khaan National Museum obtained the rights to publish the manuscript in its original language along with an English translation. Thus, the original copy of the “Compendium of Chronicles,” one of the largest sources on XIII-XIV century Mongol history, will soon be published in Mongolia and made available to the public. The “Compendium of Chronicles” is a primary source of history, supplementary to and

rare XIII-century manuscript on the history of the Mongols from the Raza Library in Rampur.

This manuscript, which contains over 80 illustrations, depicts the history of XIII-XIV century Mongol Khaans, the sons of Great Emperor Chinggis Khaan, their palaces, culture, traditions, clothes, and way of life.

At the Exhibition, 44 Mughal-style paintings have been selected and are being displayed to the public for the first time.

Mughal (Mogol) painting refers to a unique school of art that evolved during the Mughal Empire in India. This type of Mongol art developed under the influence of Persian art is distinguished by a striking harmony of colors. Most often, these paintings feature depictions

of Khaans, nobles, their daily lives, battles, and the splendor of nature.

Second Secretary and Commercial Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of India in Mongolia Sanjeev Kumar said: “This Exhibition



offers a glimpse of the centuries-old historical civilizations and cultural relations between Mongolia and India. The images on display depict the history of Chinggis Khaan, his ancestors, and his successors up to the era of Ilkhaan Ghazan. In the 13th century, at the request of Ilkhaan Ghazan, the Mongol statesman Rashid al-Din Fazlullah Hamadani compiled the “Jami al-Tawarikh,” or the “Compendium of Chronicles.” This manuscript is a two-volume work made up of several parts. The second part of the first volume is showcased here at the Exhibition.”

Founded in 1774, the Rampur Raza Library houses a rare collection of manuscripts and artworks. It holds over 17,000 manuscripts in languages such as Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit, and Turkish, as well as more than 60,000 ancient printed books.

Second Secretary and Commercial Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of India in Mongolia Sanjeev

Kumar expressed gratitude to the Rampur Raza Library, under India’s Ministry of Culture, and the Chinggis Khaan National Museum for co-organizing this Exhibition.

Translator Ch. Burenbayar said, “I served as a Counselor at the Embassy of Mongolia in the Republic of India from 2019 to 2023. During that time, I heard about the “Compendium of Chronicles” and went looking for it. I discovered that it was kept at the Raza Library in Rampur, about 200 kilometers north of



Delhi. The Raza Library is an ancient library. Most copies of the original manuscript, which was written and illustrated by Rashid al-Din himself, are in Persia and Iran, while there is only one copy in India. When I was in India, I managed to obtain a copy of the manuscript from the library and handed it over to the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia and the Chinggis Khaan National Museum.

I am currently discussing with the Director of the Chinggis Khaan National Museum the possibility of publishing a copy of the manuscript in its larger format. We have already received permission to publish from both the Raza Library and the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia.”

## Davaadalai Batsuuri: National Consensus Is Imperative for Mongolia to Safeguard the Environment and Advance Green Development

Continued from page 6

portfolio to green loans. At that time, green loans accounted for only 1 percent of the sector’s total loans. Over the past two years, this share has tripled, reaching 3 percent of the total loan portfolio. In parallel, the Financial Stability Council approved the Green Taxonomy, marking a key milestone. At the second Forum, a taxonomy aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was introduced, providing clear

definitions and approvals for activities that support the SDGs. These developments represent significant progress. In 2022, the Green Finance–Regional Forum was organized around two primary themes: Green Development Policy and Green Finance.

The Green Finance–Regional Forum Achieved Several Key Outcomes:

- The Financial Stability Council, comprising the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia, the Central Bank of Mongolia, the Financial Regulatory Commission, and the

Deposit Insurance Corporation of Mongolia, endorsed Mongolia’s National Sustainable Finance Roadmap.

- Initiated by commercial banks to support green financing and combat desertification, the Billion Tree Fund began operations immediately. By March 2023, the Fund started providing grant funding for its first reforestation projects and has since planted approximately 3,080,000 trees.

- A regional call to action was presented, focusing on mitigating climate change, and combating

desertification and dust storms.

- Recommendations from the Green Finance–Regional Forum were introduced during the plenary session of the Mongolian Economic Forum 2022.

The 2023 Forum was held under the theme “Financing a Green and SDG-Aligned Future” as part of Sustainable Finance Week 2023. The key outcomes of the 2023 Forum included:

- The Financial Stability Council approved Mongolia’s SDG-aligned financing taxonomy, aligning financial practices with Sustainable Development

Goals.

- Nine events, including official meetings and main conference sessions, were organized over four days, facilitating in-depth discussions and collaborations.

- Over 60 guests and representatives from 24 countries participated in the Sustainable Finance Week events.

- The Forum launched the Green Finance Leadership Programme 2023 and celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Mongolian Sustainable Finance Initiative in Mongolia for the first time, marking significant milestones in the country’s sustainable finance journey.

**-Thank you for taking the time to talk with us**

## Mongolian Team Participates in the Opening Ceremony of the Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games

On February 7, 2025, the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games took place in Harbin, the People's Republic of China.

The Asian Winter Games, which will continue until February 14, 2025, is a grand spectacle featuring 1,275 athletes from 34 countries competing in 64 events across 11 sports.

This marks the third time that China hosted the prestigious Asian Winter Games, and the Mongolian team proudly partici-

parted in the Opening Ceremony for the ninth time.

The Asian Winter Games, organized under the auspices of the Olympic Council of Asia, were first held in Sapporo, Japan, in 1986. Since then, Japan has hosted the event four times, the Republic of Korea once, the Republic of Kazakhstan once, and now the People's Republic of China for the third time.

This year, Mongolia sent its largest-ever team to the Asian Winter Games, with 35 athletes,

guided by 28 coaches, competing in seven events across four sports.

The Mongolian team won its first bronze medal in the men's cross-country ski relay at the Sapporo 1990 Asian Winter Games. Since then, Mongolian athletes have earned more accolades, including the bronze in free skiing at the Changchun 2007 Games, the silver in men's ice hockey at the Astana-Almaty 2011 Games, and four more medals in ski orienteering.



## Mongolian Skiers Compete at the Asian Winter Games

The Mongolian Team consisting of four male and four female athletes, under the guidance of Coach S. Temuulen, participated in the alpine skiing slalom event of the 9th Asian Winter Games held in Yabuli, the People's Republic of China.



The women's alpine skiing slalom event was held on February 8, 2025, with 45 skiers from 17 countries competing. In this category, a Japanese skier took first prize, followed by athletes from the Republic of Korea and Japan. Of the Mongolian Team, A. Sondorbayar took 27th, M. Injin 29th, A. Itgel 31st, and Kh. Khaliun 33rd place respectively.

The men's alpine skiing slalom event was held on February 9-10, 2025, with a total of 58 athletes competing. In the event, Mongolian athletes A. Ariunbat finished in 23rd, and E. Temuulen in 28th place. Alpine skiing is one of the few sports in the Asian Winter Games that the Mongolian Team has continuously competed in since 1986.

## Mongolian Cyclists Win Two Silver Medals at the Asian Road Cycling Championships

The 44th Asian Road Cycling Championships, the 31st Asian Junior Road Cycling Championships, and the 13th Asian Para Road Cycling Championships are taking place on February 7-16, 2025, in Phitsanulok and Pichit, the Kingdom of Thailand.



By the end of the third day of the championships, Mongolian cyclists won two silver medals in the elite event. Specifically, international master D. Erdenetuya and athlete of the "Khorshoolol" club D. Enkh-

Od grabbed silver medals in the women's elite 45-49 age category, and the men's 60-64 age category respectively.

In the 40-44 age category, A. Oyun-Erdene claimed the fourth place, while in the individual race under-23 age group, athlete of the "Tuv Urgats" Cycling

Association, Master of Sports, and National Champion under 23 Kh. Temuulen came in 7th place. In addition, in the elite mixed race for juniors and adults, Mongolian teams took 8th and 6th places.

## Mongolian Professional Boxer Tsendbaatar to Fight for WBA Central Asia Lightweight Title

The "Night of Champions, Ulaanbaatar-2025" for WBA Central Asia Lightweight Championship Title is scheduled to take place on February 15, 2025, at the ASA arena, Ulaanbaatar.

Professional boxer from Mongolia Tsendbaatar Erdenebat will fight against Pedro Bernal Rodriguez from Mexico for the WBA Central Asia Lightweight Champion Title.

This will be the first-ever fight of boxer Tsendbaatar for the title in his home country.

At the "Night of Champions, Ulaanbaatar-2025" event, eight more Mongolian boxers, including Tugstsogt Nyambayar, Olympic and World Silver Medalist, who also held the IBO featherweight title in 2019, will fight against international professional boxers.

## Mongolian Junior Judokas Win Three Gold and Two Bronze Medals at the Genoa Cadet European Cup



The Mongolian junior judo team successfully competed in the European Judo Tour. Mongolian wrestlers have won three gold and two bronze medals in the Genoa Cadet European Cup 2025, held in Genoa, Italy. Specifically, the gold medal winners at the competition, which provides points for the qualification for the Junior

World Cup and the World Championships, Tegsh-Ochir Narmandakh from the "Khangardi" Sports Club in the men's 60 kg weight category, Dalaitseren Batbuyan from the "Winner" Club in the 73 kg weight category, and judoka Maralmaa Khurelchuluun of the "Guru Dojo" Club in the women's 63 kg weight category.



Tegsh-Ochir emerged victorious, triumphing over judokas from Italy, France, Great Britain,

Spain, Mongolia, and Bulgaria, while Dalaitseren defeated judokas from Italy, Sweden, Croatia, France, Switzerland, and Croatia. Judoka Maralmaa won against the wrestlers from Georgia, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, and France.

In the men's 60 kg category, Tsolmon-Od Baljinnyam from the "Khangardi" Club, and in the women's 57 kg category, Tsendbazar Mashbat from the "Winner" Club clinched bronze medals. In addition, two Mongolian judokas claimed prize winners. With three gold and two bronze medals, and two prize winners, the Mongolian team took second place.

The next challenge for the young judokas will be the Samorin European Cup to be held in Samorin, Slovakia, on February 15-16, 2025.

## Mongolian National Team's Extended Lineup for the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Announced

"The League," organized by the Mongolian Basketball Association, is on a short break following its "All-Star Game."

At the "All-Star Game," top players from the generations, who have shaped Mongolian basketball over the past three decades, came together and treated their fans to an exciting game. Meanwhile, the National Team began its training on February 10, 2025. This is because the Mongolian National Basketball Team will play two crucial games on February 20 and 23, 2025, which will determine whether it participates in this year's FIBA Asia Cup.

On February 20, 2025, Mongolia will face Guam on Guam's home court, and then on February 23, 2025, Mongolia will host the Japanese National Team in Ulaanbaatar. Of these two matches, the most decisive is the game against Guam. If the Mongolian team manages to defeat Guam by 12 or more points on their court, Mongolia will keep its hopes of qualifying for the Asia

Cup. In other words, Mongolia would then play an additional qualifying match against the third-place team from another group. However, if they lose or win by fewer than 12 points, the Mongolian team's journey will come to an end.

Currently in Group "C," Japan leads with eight points, followed by China with seven. Guam has five points, and Mongolia has four. If Mongolia beats Guam on Guam's home court, both teams will be tied at six points, in which case the result of their head-to-head matches will be considered. In 2024, Guam defeated Mongolia 74-63 in Ulaanbaatar, meaning that Mongolia now faces the tough task of winning by at least 12 points.

The extended lineup of the Mongolian National Team consists of players Sh. Enkhii-Od, D. Bayasgalan, E. Sugar-Ochir, G. Dulguun, O. Enkhbaatar, Ch. Temuulen, B. Barsbold, G. Baljinyam, B. Enkh-Amar, Ch. Margad, T. Uuganbayar,



Ch. Ikhbayar, B. Bilguun, O. Erdenetsogt, E. Saruul-Erdene, E. Enkhbayasgalan, G. Bolor-Erdene, and A. Azbayar.

It should be noted that as of now, seven teams have qualified for the FIBA Asia Cup, which is set to begin on August 5, 2025, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The teams are Saudi Arabia, Australia, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand, Lebanon, and Jordan.

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### WEATHER

Sunrise: 08:02 Sunset: 18:11

- Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -21 C and -15 C. Day time temps between -10 C and -2 C
- Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -22 C and -14 C. Day time temps between -9 C and -3 C
- Western Aimags: Night temps between -16 C and -13 C. Day time temps between -3 C and +1 C
- Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -17 C and -15 C. Day time temps between -4 C and -1 C