



Happy Tsagaan Sar! Mongolian New Year

May the year of the rabbit bring you and your families happiness, good health and prosperity!

Mongolian State Alumni Magazine



State alumni - Your global community - <https://alumni.state.gov>

Please join the Global State Alumni Community at <https://alumni.state.gov> where you can meet and stay in touch with the fellow alumni from all over the world and hear their news and activities as well as learn about job and grant opportunities for alumni and access over 1000 academic and prominent journals and periodicals in addition to sharing your stories and participating in global discussions. The State Alumni website is an exclusive community network only for the U.S.G alumni to ensure that your exchange experience does not stop when you return home, but continues to result in productive professional, societal, cultural, and community engagements.



Mongolian State Alumni hold their first National Conference

Ulaanbaatar January 15, 2011

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Announcement alert

Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund

Many of you may return home from your exchange program with good ideas, but lack either the funding or support to implement them.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce a new alumni initiative to help you – the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF).

AEIF, which will have more details on the State Alumni website soon, offers alumni of U.S. government-funded exchange programs the opportunity to partner with other alumni and U.S. missions abroad on innovative projects on specific themes.

The themes for 2011 are climate change, mentoring and innovative alumni engagement.

Winners in each category will receive up to \$50,000 to implement their projects! More details will both be sent to you by email and posted on State Alumni.

Mongolian Alumni of US Government Exchange Programs Hold Their First National Conference

On January 15, 2011, the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia successfully organized the First National Conference for Alumni of U.S. Government Funded Exchange Programs in conjunction with the Mongolian association of State Alumni at the Nukht Corporate Hotel Resort outside Ulaanbaatar.

More than 100 Mongolian alumni of U.S. Government exchange programs took part in the conference. The participants were alumni of a variety of programs both long and short-term, degree and non-degree exchange and scholarship programs funded by the Department of State and USAID. Programs represented included Fulbright Programs, the International Visitor Leadership Program, Humphrey Fellowships, Eisenhower Fellowships, the IOWA Writer's Program, and the Global Undergraduate Program.

Exchange programs between the U.S. and Mongolia date back to 1989 and more than 700 Mongolians have taken part in these programs. The main goals of this conference were to give alumni information about the U.S. State Alumni Program and to allow them to network, to support and encourage them to "give back to their communities", to promote the Mongolian Alumni Association "Ambassadors for Development", to develop project ideas for grant competitions, and encourage alumni participation in activities of the Embassy and the alumni association.

The U.S. Ambassador Mr. Jonathan Addleton opened the conference and remarked that "My hope is that your experience in the United States has and will continue to play a useful and important role, both personally and professionally.... As an Embassy, we recognize that returned alumni can continue to have influence long after they complete their scholarships and return home." He also commended the pioneering alumni who started the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA) back in 2007 and the many volunteer efforts and initiatives of alumni on variety of community service activities.

Other guest speakers of the conference included

- Mr. Enkh-Amgalan, Vice President of Energy Resources and President of MASA, who invited and encouraged alumni to take on a leadership role in the further development of the alumni association
- Ms. Oyungerel, President of the Mongolian Democratic Women's Association and a Fulbright and Stanford alumna, who gave an inspirational speech for the alumni to devote their "American education and experience" to the development of Mongolia and their communities
- Ms. Gantuya, Business Director of Tavan Bogd LLC and a Fulbright and Williams College alumna, who impressed and inspired all the attendees with her presentation of the past activities of the alumni association and
- Mr. Glenn Moller, Country Director of CHF International, who conducted a project management training for the attendees in conjunction with the State Alumni annual project competition.

Mr. Nicholas Hill, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, closed the conference with remarks that the alumni association creates the basis for the alumni to network, exchange ideas, and collaborate and said, "With the combined effort of all of you, I'm more than confident that the association has the potential to fulfill its mission and be a true ambassador for Mongolia's development."

(in the link below you can access the full texts of the speeches for the conference: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/emb-speeches.html>)



Welcome remarks from the U.S. Ambassador Mr. Jonathan Addleton



Opening remarks by Mr. S. Enkh-Amgalan, the President of MASA



Welcome Remarks from Ms. Ts. Oyungerel, Fulbright and Stanford alumna



Humphrey alumna Altantsetseg presenting during the brainstorming session



UGRAD alumni and English Language Intensive alumna with E.Uyanga, alumni coordinator



UGRAD alumna Munguntuya Youth Alumni Presentation. Climate change



State Alumni Website, Its Resources and Benefits, UGRAD alumna M. Yumjirmaa



Alumni discussion during brainstorming session

Ten youth alumni from the 2008 and 2009 UGRAD programs and the 2009 Intensive English programs formed a Young Ambassadors for Development team and presented two project proposals at the conference for the 2011 AEIF project competition to get the feedback of the other more experienced alumni and seek their collaboration and advice on their ideas. The youth alumni team also was invaluable for the success of the conference contributing their time and assistance with the preparation and organization of the conference.

The Alumni Coordinator Uyanga Erdenebold talked about the State Alumni Global network and the importance and advantage of being a part of this prestigious community as well as explained about the Embassy alumni activities in 2011. 2009 UGRAD program Yumjirmaa Mandakh gave an interesting presentation about the State Alumni Website and its resources and benefits.

The conference consisted of two basic parts. The first part was for providing information to alumni on State Alumni, Mongolian State Alumni Association and Embassy alumni activities while the second part was devoted to brainstorming during which the alumni were divided into small groups and brain stormed on topics as membership promotion and fund-raising for the alumni association and possible project ideas for the annual State Alumni project competitions.

All the conference attendees were provided with a folder containing State Alumni Website bookmark, a flier with information about the State Alumni AEIF project competition, a membership application form along with the membership policy of the Mongolian Alumni association.

During the conference, 51 alumni registered as official members for the alumni association and paid their annual dues. As a result, conference also was a fund-raising opportunity for the association and collected over \$600 in member dues. The Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA) also called "Ambassadors for Development," was created in September 2007 as an association that represents alumni educated in American universities and colleges under US Government scholarship and fellowship programs.

The purpose of the association is to contribute to the multilateral cooperation between Mongolia and the U.S. and to promote positive impact of alumni for the development of the country and the society. The association also seeks to promote further development of its alumni members.

for news about the conference on the state Alumni Global Website, please see : <https://alumni.state.gov/news2/alumni-news/mongolian-alumni-hold-their-first-national-conference#R6s6D3rOjwOZrKaLpkueaw>

Conference Follow up

Election of new board

In light of the 51 registered official members and the recently held conference, the association wishes to re-appoint/elect its governing board and determine its goals and plan for 2011. Therefore, the current board of the association and the Embassy will hold a meeting in February with the association's new members who have been nominated as possible board members during the conference and elect the new board and appoint the president for the association. The newly elected board will then determine its goals for 2011 and discuss ways to support alumni initiatives and ideas for the annual alumni project competition from ECA.

Alumni collaboration for AEIF

In February, the Embassy will hold a meeting with all alumni interested in participating in the AEIF project competition to follow up the alumni project ideas presented at the conference and to choose possible project ideas and form alumni groups to further develop and oversee the project for AEIF and collaborate with the alumni coordinator. Alumni coordinator will notify alumni through e-mail about the date and the time of the AEIF meeting and will send brief summary of project ideas presented at the conference for discussion at the meeting.

masa.org.mn

After the conference, the alumni association's public website is being updated and the domain name and address of the association's website is changed from MUSGAA.ORG.MN to MASA.ORG.MN: Mongolian Association of State Alumni. On this website, the association will promote its activities and its members and post information about U.S. government exchanges programs to the public and provide information about America and its educational system.

Based on this website, the association will create an alumni e-mail list serve to provide alumni a platform where alumni can connect and exchange ideas. This list serve will allow alumni to directly connect with one another and share their ideas and information with all alumni and hold online discussions and see one another's postings.

The post is going to follow up the conference with alumni meetings to appoint the new board members of the association and assist with the development of its 2011 goals.

The alumni Facebook group

The alumni Facebook group is temporarily suspended and will soon be re-activated under a different name: Mongolian State Alumni Community. The Alumni Coordinator will duly notify all alumni of its reactivation and the new group will no longer be publically available. It will be a closed community only for those who have been approved by the Alumni Coordinator as a valid member.

Fulbright regional collaboration: Fulbright Professor from Hong Kong visits Mongolia



From November 10-14, 2010, Dr. Jacqueline M. Moore, Professor of History at the Austin College, Sherman, Texas and a 2010-2011 Visiting Fulbright Scholar to Hong Kong, visited Mongolia on the invitation of Mongolian alumni to share experience and establish professional ties.

During her visit, Dr. Moore visited and lectured at the School of Foreign Languages of National University of Mongolia and the University of Humanities' and met and shared experience with the faculty and curriculum developers of both schools.

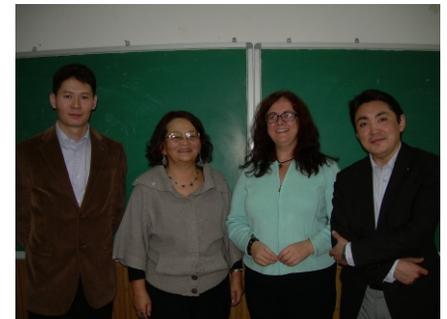
She was also invited to give a lecture at the ACMS based on her insights from working with the General Education Reform Project in Hong Kong and her own experiences with curricular design at her home institution.



Dr. Moore presenting at the NUM



Dr. Moore with SFLC students



Dr. Moore with Fulbright alumni



Dr. Moore, Dr. Kaye and alumni

On November 13, Dr. Moore met with the current Fulbright scholar to Mongolia Dr. Candice Kaye and the alumni of FLTA, SUSI, and Humphrey programs and held an interesting discussion on curriculum development and modernization at the American Information and Cultural Center at the UB City Public Library. They had a very informative discussion of different educational methods in their countries and their different experiences living and working abroad.

Dr. Moore explained the Hong Kong curriculum reform process and her role in consulting on the GE Fulbright program. Dr. Kaye shared interesting incites from her experience and observation as a visiting scholar about Mongolian educational system, especially early childhood education.

As Mongolian universities are currently undergoing their own curriculum revision and design process, aiming to move toward a more student-centered methodology of teaching, the alumni, all of whom worked in the higher education field, appreciated the incites from the two U.S. professors.

As a result of Dr. Moore's visit, a contingent of 6 faculty members from the English Language program at the University of Humanities' secured funding to come to Hong Kong for 5 days and engage in faculty development workshops.

A Day of Fun: Thanksgiving on Independence Day

A while ago a group of Embassy spouses paid a visit to Bayanzurkh orphanage and was charmed and moved by the friendliness, the curiosity and longing for attention of the kids. "The thought of having a Thanksgiving event for the 26 kids was conceived in the car when we were returning from our visit to the orphanage." Wrote Anna Durmus, Consular Associate of the U.S. Embassy, and the main organizer of the Thanksgiving event for the Bayanzurekh Orphanage.

So, on Friday November 26, 2010, an National Independence Day of Mongolia, a van of 26 kids between 3 to 10 ages, all carefully bundled up for the cold, rushed into the cheerfully decorated Star Community Center to enjoy the delicious food, and gifts and sweets made and donated by Embassy staff and the residents of the Star Community. Our Fulbright English Teaching Assistants and the American Fulbright scholars as well as representatives of our Access Micro Scholarship program alumni came and assisted with the event. They donated drinks, sweets, fruits and our Access alumni brought some small gifts for the kids.

The main role of our Mongolian and U.S. alumni was to play and interact with the kids and they have done their duty admirably. Our ETAs prepared a picture of a Turkey for the kids to play "put the feather on the turkey", and they enjoyed playing musical chairs, rope jumping and balloon balls with the kids. The room was filled with sounds of laughter and excited cheers of the kids as they rushed around the room jumping and chasing balloons.

All the kids even the smallest ones were very interested in Gladys, alumni coordinator Uyanga Erdenebold's guide dog, and all wanted to pet her and asked lots of questions like why is she wearing this handle thing? Is she so knotty? Is she being punished? And when Uyanga explained to them that Gladys was a working guide dog they all became very serious and concerned. Afterwards, the kids were heard telling one another that "Don't scare that dog, she is blind"

However, when it became lunch time, the kids ate their food with fork and knife like adults. Our alumni were even more surprised and impressed when the kids all understood when Sister Marie Francoise, a Catholic Nun who runs the center, spoke to them in French and to see that the kids responding in French.

At the end of the event, the kids were very excited to receive the donated gifts and Sister Marie had to make a special round with her minibus as the donations were too much to fit in with the kids by one ride. Mr. Ambassador and her spouse Ms. Addleton also took a moment from their busy schedule and attended the event. I would like to thank all our ETAs, U.S. Fulbright scholars and Access alumni; your contributions are priceless for making these kids happier for at least some time.



The children coming into the Star community center



Children having lunch



Children playing with Access alumni and a U.S. Fulbrighter



Children painting pictures and having fun



Paying "put the feather on the turkey"

Alumni and libraries



Enoch Pratt library entrance hall



Experiencing Enoch Pratt



Getting acquainted with Library for the blind



It is very likely for one to run into our alumni at the City Public Library of Ulaanbaatar named after the great poet Natsagdorj. It is not only because of the location of the Embassy's U.S. Information and Resource Center at the library, known as the "American Corner" among alumni, but also because of the friendly and supportive relationship of the City Library with the Embassy and the support and collaboration of our IVLP alumni Begzsuren and Altantsetseg who work there.

In 2005, Altantsetseg, Deputy Director and Begzsuren, IT Specialist of the Natsagdorj Library participated in our IVLP program on U.S. library system and inspired by their experience from the program, they have been working actively to improve their library's service and have made significant progress. In order to further assist in their continued efforts, the U.S. Embassy sponsored Mr. Begzsuren to do a two-week internship at two state libraries in Baltimore Maryland In October 2010.

With the gracious help and friendly collaboration of Mrs. Jill Lewis, the director of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) Mr. Begzsuren was able to work at the Enoch Pratt public library and LBPH.

Mr. Begzsuren noted that his experience at the Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) was very interesting and useful as it afforded him an opportunity not only to see how a similar library such as his works in the U.S., but also to learn about how a State Library Resource Center and a depository library work. After working at the EPFL, Mr. Begzsuren interned at the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH). Mr. Begzsuren stated that "This library service was totally new for me, because these kind of professional and special services are just only emerging in Mongolia and therefore was extremely interesting and valuable."

This was an excellent opportunity for Mr. Begzsuren to learn more about especial library services for people with disabilities as his library has opened a new reading room for the blind and is doing a pilot project in relation to the Mongolian National Federation for the Blind to bring the DAISY Talking Book technology to Mongolian blind and visually impaired readers. He said that one of the most important things he learned during his internship at LBPH is how the Library of Congress and its network libraries like LBPH use non-commercial encrypted technology to protect copyright and unauthorized duplicating. At the moment, the new DAISY files are not encrypted and therefore are possible to be duplicated for commercial purposes. "Addressing this issue is our open task for future."

Mr. Begzsuren noted that he is very thankful to the U.S. Embassy and the two libraries in Baltimore for their wonderful support and partnership for his internship and that he came back just in time for the thirtieth anniversary of the Ulaanbaatar City Library full of wonderful ideas and information to share with his colleagues. Mr. Begzsuren wrote a 60-page report about his internship experience and it is available for the public and the librarians at: <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/63265096/>; <http://www.inom.mn/detail/108>

The Embassy's support for improvement in the libraries in Mongolia also expanded to rural libraries such as the Khovd Central Public Library. In November 2010, one month after Mr. Begzsuren's visit, the Embassy sent Mr. Odonpurev, Executive Director of the Hovd Central Public Library, to visit the U.S. on the International Visitor Leadership Program to gain an understanding of the American Library System.

During his program, Mr. Odonpurev visited four major cities in the U.S. and held meetings with officials and professionals from variety of library-related institutions, such as the American Library Association and the Library of Congress (including the department on special needs' for blind and visually impaired persons and the Mongolia Collection). Mr. Odonpurev noted that this visit enabled him to create professional networks abroad and helped him to see different ways to improve library services in Mongolia and in particular in rural areas like Hovd. said that future exchanges and collaboration between Mongolia and U.S. in the field of library and information science would be highly beneficial.

Where there is a will there is a way

Disability awareness and communication: A voluntary visitor project for Mongolia



All ten participants in D.C

Ms. Enkhtuya never dreamed that she could ride a bike or ski in her life. Enkhtuya is a physically disabled woman who uses wheelchair and until her recent trip to the U.S. she never thought for one moment that it would be possible for a person “like me to ski. So, you can imagine my surprise when I not just saw by my own eyes, but spoke with people just like me skiing and doing all sorts of unbelievable activities at the Outdoors for All in Seattle.”

In November 2010 the U.S. State Department organized a Voluntary Visitor (VolVis) Program for 10 activists from the Mongolian disability rights NGO Wind Bird. Part of ongoing efforts by the Embassy to promote disability issues in Mongolia, this program aimed to allow the visitors, seven of them disabled, to observe how the Americans with Disabilities’ Act (ADA) works “in practice,” learn how federal and local governments support people with disabilities, and discover how people with disabilities live, work and study in the United States.



Ms. Enkhtuya riding a bicycle

The Office of International Visitors in the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs funded and organized the U.S. component of the visit, which included meetings and roundtables with government officials, NGOs, and service providers in Washington DC, Baltimore, Annapolis, and Seattle. The participants were particularly inspired by their meetings with Ms. Judith E. Heumann, the State Department’s Special Advisor for International Disability Rights and Mr. Kareem Dale, the Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy.



All ten participants of this Volvis program are active members of the Wind Bird NGO and each is a leader in their own right, using their unique talents and experiences to promote the rights of the disabled. They include media professionals, teachers, craftsmen, entrepreneurs, NGO activists, and the director of a rehabilitation center. The participants of the program all said that the experience inspired them to advocate and work for change.



Meeting with Kareem Dale, President Obama’s Special Assistant for Disability Policy

Upon their return to Mongolia, Ambassador Addleton hosted the group for lunch at his residence so that the participants could share their thoughts and impressions from the program. When asked by the Ambassador about their impressions of the trip, the first thing they all mentioned was how the trip changed their lives and their perceptions of their own strengths, and that the greatest lesson they learned from this trip is that they no longer should let their disabilities prevent them from doing more and living life to the fullest.

The non-disabled participants of the group said that they are greatly inspired by the strength of volunteerism and community support that they experienced in the United States and most of all by the enthusiasm of their fellow group members. They now are discussing ways to promote volunteerism and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

The initiator of this trip Ms. Badamkhand was inspired to organize this trip because of the English for Disabled project organized by the alumni in 2009 and 5 of the ten visitors of this VolVis Program took part in this English training. Our alumna and the President of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni, Mr. Enkh-Amgalan greatly supported this program by helping to provide funding for the travel expenses of three participants of the program from his company Energy Resources.



Riding on an accessible bus



It was our hope to encourage these individuals towards further leadership and success by giving them the opportunity to hear and see the many success stories of the people with disabilities in the U.S. and the stories above illustrate the impact that this trip had on these ten individuals, but the lessons learned are already reaching the general public as well. A documentary and a series of programs about the trip and the group's experiences in the United States have already aired on Education TV. And on November 16, Ms. Naranbileg's newspaper ran a full page story about the trip, with pictures and descriptions of all the meetings and events. The headline of the article says it all -- "The U.S. Focuses on what the Disabled Can Do, Not What They Can't Do."

We are happy to invite our Mongolian State Alumni community to welcome these remarkable ten individuals among our family and further collaborate with them to make their American dreams come true in Mongolia.



Meeting with Mr. Andrew Imparato



Riding a metro in D.C - participant D.Bat-Erdene



Touring different cities in U.S.

Alumni and consul outreach to universities

PAS Ulaanbaatar has been organizing scholarship and student visa outreach to universities in Ulaanbaatar in conjunction with the Consular's Office in order to give students clear and correct understanding about student visa and scholarship opportunities to study in the U.S. Recently we have started inviting alumni, especially young alumni such as the alumni of the Global UGRAD program, to come and share their experience of going through the whole process (starting from learning about the scholarship program, applying for it, and going to the U.S.) in person to their fellow friends and this has been a great success.

In November 2010, the U.S. Embassy Consul Mr. Philip Cargile and U.S. Government exchange program alumni met with the students and faculty of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Chingis Khaan College to give information about student Visa procedures and scholarship opportunities.

More than 150 students and faculty attended the meetings at both universities and they asked many questions about student visas, scholarships, work issues while studying, what to know for student visa applications, financial support and student life in the US. The US Consul and the alumni of the U.S. Government exchange programs answered every question. The students greatly appreciated the information provided by the Consul and the opportunity to listen to the real life experience of their fellow friends who have received U.S. Government scholarships.

The attendees were also given student hand outs, a pamphlet for students about their rights and responsibilities while studying in the US as well as some US magazines. It was clear from the number of questions from the audience for the alumni that students really appreciated this opportunity to hear from a fellow friend who has achieved what they all want to do and were greatly inspired by hearing their success stories. This kind of outreach approach really intensified the effect of the Consul's information and gave the students much encouragement.

After the meeting, many students expressed that this kind of lecture be organized more often and asked if there will be a similar lecture with the Consul and alumni in the future. PAS is planning more lectures and meetings with students at universities such as Institute of Finance and Economy, Mongolian International University of Business and Economy and Otgontenger university. PAS invites alumni to contact us if you wish to participate in any of these lectures and share your experience and advice with students and faculty of Mongolian universities.



Consul, an embassy staff, two UGRAD alumni and a MUST representative



Consul meeting president of MUST

Secretary of State pays surprise visit to FLTAs



Secretary of State

Secretary of State Mrs. Clinton paid a surprise visit to the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant mid-year conference in Washington D.C. last week. Her visit was most warmly received by all the participants of the conference and The Secretary spoke very positively about the Fulbright Program and shared about her personal connection to Senator Fulbright. A video and transcript of the Secretary's speech can be found at: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/12/152620.htm>

Over 400 Fulbright FLTAs from almost 50 countries (including Mongolia) were on hand for this exciting event, which was followed by a roundtable discussion with Assistant Secretary for Cultural and Educational Affairs Ann Stock and six Fulbright FLTAS from Mongolia, Brazil, Kenya, Oman, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Prior to the conference, the Assistant Secretary Stock also encouraged the Fulbright FLTAs to submit questions to her via Twitter and the first six Tweepers, one from each region, had a chance to meet with her just prior to the Secretary Clinton's speech. Those Fulbrighters were from China, France, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Tunisia.

Look for pictures of these students on the Fulbright and ECA websites: www.fulbright.state.gov and www.exchanges.state.gov.

Alumni Spotlight

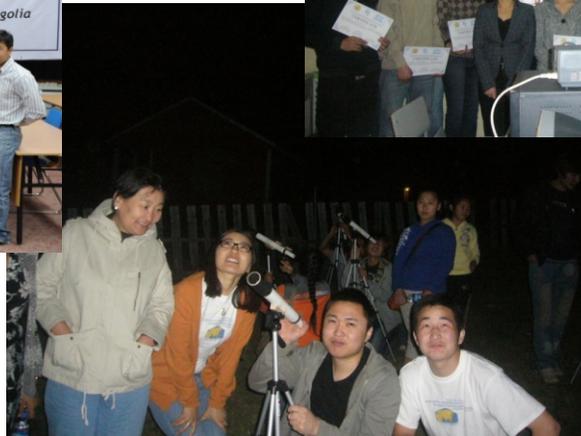
Alumna takes lead in promoting Mongolia's Geo-information and Space Science development



The participants of the workshop



The participants
with their course
graduation
certificates



Observe the Moon and Night Stars

Dr. Tsolmon Renchin, a 2008 Humphrey alumna, is one of the few dedicated professionals of remote sensing and Geo-information system science in Mongolia, a specialized field of science that studies the processing, application and development of data collection and remote sensing and geographical information systems such as satellites.

Dr. Tsolmon has been teaching at the National University of Mongolia (NUM), the only institute nationwide that train professionals in the field, for over 20 years now.

She says that it is very important for not only the Mongolian scientists but also the general public and the government officials to know about remote sensing and geographic information system and what kinds of important scientific benefits this field and the professionals in the sector holds for the nation.

She said that depending on the purpose, the remote sensing and geo-information systems can be used for many important and strategical reasons from improving whether forecasts to creating satellite geo/natural resource-map of Mongolia as well as developing environmental policies. Dr. Tsolmon says her Humphrey experience was an invaluable contribution to her professional development and helped her and the remote sensing and GIS lab to establish many critical networks with the U.S. counterparts in the field.

DR. Tsolmon is one of the establishers of the only remote sensing and geo-information systems' lab in the country at the NUM and in conjunction with many foreign scientists she organizes many trainings and public information sessions to promote science education among different professionals, government officials and youth.

Dr. Tsolmon emphasizes importance of educating professionals from the remote parts of Mongolia on the application and advantages of remote sensing and GIS technologies and she often organizes and fund-raises for such trainings as "Geo-Informatics Application for Conservation in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia" which gathered over 30 participants from the different provinces from Eastern steppe Mongolia. The purpose of the training course was to teach the professionals and scientists how to apply and use Geographic Information System (GIS) for protecting Mongolian Wildlife and its preservation.

Dr. Tsolmon and her lab work in close relationship with the Mongolian astronomical researchers and works together to promote the development of astronomical science in Mongolia as well as public education about astronomy.

In July 2009 Dr. Tsolmon organized a public information workshop titled "Empowering astronomical communities in Mongolia" at Remote-Sensing Space Science laboratory at the National University of Mongolia. This workshop provided lectures and practical experience opportunities for the attendees which comprised of space science researchers, astronomers, amateurs, students and government officials and even nomadic herders from remote areas to learn about astronomy and its wonders. Dr. Tsolmon believes strengthening astronomy and science education in Mongolia can help promote socioeconomic development of the country in many different ways.

Exchange Reflection

Humphrey experience

As my home country Mongolia increases its pace of development to participate more in the international community, I embraced the opportunity of spending a year in the United States. The academic year 09/10 became my Humphrey year that I spent at the Peabody College of Education and Human Development (Vanderbilt University) in Nashville, Tennessee. It became a year full of professional networking, site visits and trips besides our academic learning.

From the very beginning, I saw the opportunities of professional as well as personal development when pursuing a professional affiliation at an American university. I completed my professional affiliation at the Teaching Center, Belmont University lasting six weeks. This enabled me to increase and complete my knowledge about the professional development of the faculty at university level.

To me, one of the highlights of the program was the chance to attend conferences and seminars that were organized in the US and that responded to individual interests. I highly appreciated the panel discussion of the Association of International Education Administrators Conference in Washington DC, the American Management Association Seminar on Human Resources Management in SF as well as the TESOL convention in Boston, MA. They gave me great insights into the internationalization of American higher education, current issues of Human Resources Management and teaching English as a foreign language.

Upon my return from the United States, I joined the Institute of Finance and Economics as a Director of International Joint and Exchange Programs. Being highly motivated and full of ideas, I want to make my contribution to the development of international programs of the Institute. One of my first successes? While I was at Vanderbilt University we paid a number of site visits to universities and colleges and among them was the Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee.

Recently, the IFE and the Volunteer State Community College signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote the strengthening of mutually beneficial educational exchanges and cooperative programs between our schools. Isn't it great? In the future, we intend to expand our international relations with American universities and colleges and share our experiences in the field of Higher Education.

Dolgormaa Jamiyan
Humphrey Fellow 2009-2010
Peabody College of Education and Human Development
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN



At the American and Chinese principals Forum.

During the Association of International Education Administrators' Conference



During the Spring Retreat organized by the Teaching Center at the Belmont University.



TESOL Convention in Boston

Cities and themes

As Foreign Relations officer of a local government, I attended the World Learning Visitor Exchange program entitled “State and Local Government with the support of the U.S. Embassy from September 7-24, 2010 in the U.S. This program offered me a great opportunity to get familiar with American culture, history and gain clear understanding of divisions of power between the states and local governments, and understand how both relate to a federal governmental system which has its own powers under the constitution. During my program, I visited several states such as Washington DC, Florida, New York, Illinois, New Mexico, California.

Totally 8 visitors from 6 different Asian countries participated in the World Learners Visitors Program. Although, our main goal was to explore how state and local governments function in the U.S, how they interact with the federal government, and how local elections are organized, we had a lot to learn from each others experience as we all work for the local and state governments in our home countries.



In Washington we discussed about U.S. federalism, the election process, transparency in government, and Washington DC congressional offices. Also, we had a great tour among the institutions and historical places in Washington DC. Another experience in Washington that was new but very memorable to me was volunteering to feed homeless in Washington. It was my first time to volunteer at such a place and the experience gave me a wonderfully rewarding feeling that I did not expect. It allowed me to see there is no such thing as “small help” when volunteering.

The second part of our program was held in Orlando, Florida and the main topic was local elections/city/country and state relations, and local issues which were particularly interesting to me. I had numerous questions about public transportation and disaster preparedness which are all very important issues to Ulaanbaatar. During the weekend we stayed in New York, and we spent a memorable time at “Time Square” and fantastic Broadway show.

After the weekend we traveled to Freeport, Illinois, This small community held a major attraction for me and I had many questions about local legislations and city service. We met with Mayor George Gaulrapp and I proposed to him to establish further cooperation between one of the districts of Ulaanbaatar city and Freeport. Because, they have created an excellent and very effective system of encouraging and managing “city farming”, and the Mayor responded very positively to my request.

During this meeting I offered a small souvenir of Mongolian hand crafted felt chess board to the Mayor. He was very happy with this traditional Mongolian souvenir and on the next day the local newspaper reported about this meeting and my photo of presenting this gift to the Mayor was on the front page of the newspaper.

In my opinion New Mexico had the most similar culture and tradition to Mongolia. When we visited Native American Pueblos, I realized that they have very similar history and heritage to nomadic Mongolian culture. Another interesting thing I noticed there was the function of the State Representatives. They don't get paid and they get elected as the State representative from the local residents and work as volunteers. It was interesting for me to understand the motivations that prompt these people work as volunteers to represent the State.

Finally, I had wonderful opportunity to find out how San Francisco Government created clean streets, recycling and waste management system, and their financial independence. In order to learn more about their success, I have met with the General Manager of San Francisco and exchanged ideas on how we may create the same comfortable environment in our Ulaanbaatar city.

This opportunity enabled me to learn and develop many important ideas that we can bring into our local government system such as open government, public participation, public and private partnership. My experience from this program will have a positive and continuing effect on my future activities in the local government level.

**JANCHIV Barsuren, Specialist
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Miscellaneous



LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Teacher : Why are you late for school?

Johnny: Because of the Sign.

Teacher : What Sign?

Johnny : The sign that says "School ahead go slow"

Two cows are standing in a field.

One says to the other "Are you worried about Mad Cow Disease?"

The other one says "No, It doesn't worry me, I'm a horse!"

Q: What do you call a man who lives in an envelope?

A: Bill.

Teacher: Henry,I hope I didn't see you copying Casey's math test.

Henry: I hope you didn't either.

Q: What do you call a old snowman?

A: Water.

Sudoku

5				8			
		2	5	9	7	6	
8	4			7		3	5
2		5		8		9	
3			6			4	
	9		7	2	6		3
	2			4	5		
9	5		2		8	1	
		8		6	5	2	

Alumni Recipe



Ingredients:

6 servings

Instruction:

- 2 lg Onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tb Vegetable oil
- 3 ½ c Vegetable stock
- 1 ½ c Apple cider
- 1/3 c Pearl barley
- 2 lg Carrots, diced
- 1 ts Thyme
- 1/4 ts Dried marjoram
- 1 ea Bay leaf
- 2 c Unpeeled chopped apples
- 1/4 c Fresh parsley, minced
- 1 tb Lemon juice
- 1/4 ts Salt

In a small soup pot, saute onions in oil over medium heat for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Reduce heat, cover and cook, stirring frequently for 10 min or until onions are browned. Add stock, cider, barley, carrots, thyme, marjoram and bay leaf. Cover and cook for one hour or until barley is tender. Add apples, parsley and lemon juice. Cook for 5 minutes or until apples are slightly soft. Discard bay leaf and serve.

Apple Barley Soup



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