



FRIENDS OF MONGOLIA

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JUNE 2001

Friends of Mongolia (FOM) is an incorporated nonprofit organization conducting operations in both Mongolia and the United States. It is an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association and its membership includes both Americans and Mongolians. It is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, and developmental purposes. Friends of Mongolia exists to develop partnerships with the people of Mongolia in furtherance of cultural exchange and human development.

FOM MEMBER SUPPORTS REVOLVING FODDER FUNDS



Horses grazing in Tuv Aimag Photo by S. Boedy

With the support of new member, Mr. Rudolf Futer of Carmel, California, Friends of Mongolia (FOM) was able to support both the scholarship fund and the development of revolving fodder funds in Mongolia.

ACDI/VOCA Farmer to Farmer Program, supported by USAID, has a project designed to improve the quality of the cashmere breeding stock in the Gobi region. Cashmere is still one of the most important natural resources in Mongolia. One of the ways to boost herds during harsh winters is through cooperatively run revolving fodder funds. According to Mr. Benderya Ariunbold, Cashmere Project Assistant at the ACDI/VOCA Farmer to Farmer Program, "In two soums where ACDI/VOCA has

been training small groups of herders, the survivability of newborn goats doubled over last year's rate." Neighboring commercial herders have already asked to be included in the fodder fund so that they, too, may ensure a better survival rate for their herds next year.

The Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW) and UNICEF support a similar program called the Local Program of Action. Soum governments are trained to go through a community participation assessment process at the bag level that involves all community residents. In the pilot soum, Gobi-Ugtaal of Dondgobi Aimag, the community made a revolving fund a priority as a locally initiated project. Aimag and soum officials attribute the fodder fund to the greater survivability during the 2000 zud.

Ms. Tsetsegbadral, LPA Project Manager at MOSW thanks FOM on behalf of project soums.

Mr. Futer, who made these donations possible, developed an interest in Mongolia and joined FOM



South Gobi by S. Boedy

because he is an avid horse lover. He contacted FOM after discovering our award-winning website.

ZUD UPDATE

Some international journalists have announced the end of pastoral nomadism in Mongolia. It is true that the past two winters have been the worst in decades, but is the situation hopeless? Articles in the Gobi Business News (GBN) #11 (www.gbn.mn) say otherwise.

According to a GBN editorial, alarming trends preceded the recent zud. The number of herders in the Gobi Region tripled, but the number of livestock only increased 25%. Consequently, many herders had unsustainable herd sizes. In fact, 50% of these herders had fewer than 100 livestock. All of the families that lost their entire herd during the zud had herds smaller than 100. What solutions will prevent such a disaster from happening again?

According to GBN's Tsendmaa Natsagdorj, one positive outcome of the disaster is that herders are forming voluntary for profit cooperatives in order to pool their resources for stronger, but not bigger herds. She interviewed Tumurchuulun, a herder from Dundgovi Aimag's Huld soum. "Camping in search of good pasture for my livestock was not only expensive for me," he said, "but exhausting, too. Over time I realized that it would be more efficient in terms of cost and human resources if I worked together with other herders to protect our animals, and our families, from zud." Their cooperative is also able to have bulk purchasing of supplementary fodder,

purchase a truck together and sell their cashmere as a group. Other herders who weathered the winter well used the following strategies: rotating pastures, building shelters, stockpiling dung, and serving animals nettle teas.

According to GBN, some herders have learned that quality of stock is more important than quantity, and that if you respect Mother Nature, she will respect you. This wisdom could help herders survive the next zud.

ASIAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

Texas Wesleyan University School of Law announced today that the school's Asian Judicial Institute is hosting a delegation from Mongolia in its second annual Judicial Retraining program. According to Professor Joe Spurlock, Acting Director of the Institute, the program will be held at the school in Fort Worth, Texas in early June. Last year three members of the Supreme Court of Mongolia, a Capitol City court judge, and a District judge attended the program. This year's group will include a Member of Parliament, the legal advisor to Parliament, a member of the Constitutional Court of Mongolia, as well as a representative of the Supreme Court, two Capitol City Court judges, a District judge, and other court officials.

"Last year's program stressed the need for independence of the judiciary and for following the developing concepts of adherence to the rule of law in all of Mongolia's courts," said Professor Spurlock, a Senior retired Justice of Texas. "This year, with the inclusion of a member of Parliament, at the request of the Speaker of Parliament, and of a member of the Constitutional Court,

Mongolia and horses. One cannot imagine one without the other.

The love and respect that Mongols hold for their horses is reflected in their national instrument, the horse-head fiddle (morin khuur), a two-stringed fiddle, crowned with the head of a horse.



Since its founding in 1994, the Z-Bud Company has crafted traditional Mongolian instruments to professional levels of quality. The top musicians in our country, including those in the State Folksong & Dance Ensemble, the State Horse-Head Fiddle Ensemble and at the famous Music & Dance College, regularly perform our instruments. One is even on display at the Schubert's Club Musical History Museum in St. Paul, MN, as a representative of the Mongolian people's ancient musical heritage.

Owning a horse-head fiddle or a *tovshuur* (folk lute), either to play or simply to admire, will evoke the sounds, sights and smells of Mongolia, its people and beautiful nature. We are beginning to market our instruments in America and invite inquires on how you can own a piece of Mongolia.

For more information, please contact B. Bayarsaikhan, email: bayar_saikhan@yahoo.com



we will continue to stress the need for an independent judiciary, and for a comparative study of the current Mongolian judicial system, based predominately upon the civil law system, and the common-law based United States system," Spurlock added. He stressed that other efforts are being made internationally to help retrain the Mongolian judiciary, notably that of the USAID efforts and other international institutes, but the Wesleyan effort is based upon close ties between the school and the Mongolian Supreme Court. "Speaker Enebush was very complimentary about the program last year, and toured our facilities here at the school in early May this year when he and his party stopped over on their way back to Mongolia from a state visit to Mexico and Cuba," Spurlock said. He added, "We are honored to have these opportunities to help Mongolia continue its transition in today's world economic marketplace. A strong, independent judiciary is an essential for any country to have in order to do business in the international markets today, and to assure any freedom for its people or garner any respect among other nations of the world."

Prof. Spurlock serves on the FOM Board of Directors.

FESTIVAL OF MONGOLIA



East Meadow in Central Park by P. Sommerville

The Festival of Mongolia, co-sponsored by the Mongolian Mission to the United Nations, will return to New York this June. Central Park will host a Naadam on June 23rd & 24th in the East Meadow. There will also be performances at the Financial Center, the Bronx Zoo, and World Music Institute. For more info see www.festivalofmongolia.com.



The Mongolia Society, Inc.

The Mongolia Society, Inc., is America's first and most prestigious organization promoting the study of the Mongol peoples, their history, language, and cultures. It is also one of the largest resellers of books, recordings and souvenirs from Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Buryatia and Kalmykia. For more information, visit us at:
www.indiana.edu/~mongsoc

**The Mongolia Society, Inc., Indiana University,
 Goodbody Hall 356, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA**

Ms. N. Norovbanzad will give a very special performance at the World Music Institute. She has been recognized as the Best Female Singer of Long Songs in the Twentieth Century in Mongolia, and the People's Actress of Mongolia, the highest title bestowed on performing artists by the President of Mongolia. She was also named the Hero of Labor, the nation's highest recognition awarded by Decree of the President of Mongolia. Ms. Norovbanzad was the winner of the Fukuoka Asian Cultural Award, a prestigious international music award by the Fukuoka Foundation of Japan. She will perform on June 10th at the World Music Institute, Symphony Space, Broadway and 95th Street, 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$26.00. For information, please call (212) 545-7536.

TUMEN EKH COMES TO DC

Tumen Ekh is a folk music and dance ensemble that performs in the Ulaanbaatar Children's Park in Mongolia. They perform traditional Mongolian songs and music, as well as newer hybrid forms that include a synthesis of foreign styles. Western audiences have especially enjoyed Tumen Ekh's Tsam dance performances that are traditionally a part of Buddhist annual religious celebrations. Tumen Ekh has traveled to Japan and Europe many times. Throat singers will also be joining the artistic delegation.

The Tumen Ekh ensemble, will be in Washington, DC from June 11th through 19th, 2001. They perform on June 11 at 6 p.m. at Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, June 12 at 1 p.m. at the Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Gallery (on the Mall), and finally on June 16 at 7 p.m. at Park School in Baltimore.

For further information, please contact Baasan Ragchaa, First Secretary of the Embassy of Mongolia, at (202) 333-7117, ext. 104, e-mail: Baasan@aol.com, or fax # (202) 298-9227.

THE 14TH ANNUAL CHINGGIS QAN MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The 14th Annual Chinggis Qan Memorial Ceremony, sponsored by the Mongol-American Cultural Association, will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 999 Route One South, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 on Saturday June 9, 2001, beginning at 1:00 p.m. An evening dinner reception will be held with a performance of authentic and contemporary Mongolian music. Ticket prices are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information and advance purchase tickets, call (732) 297-1140. Please call the hotel directly at (732) 246-3737 and mention the Chinggis Qan Ceremony to obtain a special overnight rate of \$75.

MEMBER NOTES

- Carly Garret (M6) is going to Mongolia August 11th and has offered to take (small) packages or letters to friends and host families. Contact her at csporer@hotmail.com.
- Eric Swanson (M7) has returned from Mongolia and is relocating to the Washington DC area in search of employment.
- Susan Boedy (M7), FOM Communications Officer, will be attending Thunderbird, The American Graduate School of International Management, to study for her MBA this fall in Glendale, AZ.
- Anyone know of any Mongolians in the Phoenix area? An FOM member in Phoenix wants to meet Mongolians. Contact smithrichardj@msn.com.

AUSTIN COLLEGE

A group of 5 students and one professor from Austin College in Sherman, Texas will be traveling to Mongolia for six weeks this summer to carry out a research project on Mongolia's foreign policy. The students will research topics such as Mongolia's relations with China, Russia, and international organizations, and Mongolia's national security arrangements, and

international economic ties.

Charles Krusekopf, Assistant Professor of Economics at Austin College and member of FOM, is leading the trip. The trip was made possible through a grant by the Freeman Foundation, and is being arranged through the ASIANetwork, a consortium to build Asia Studies at liberal arts colleges. More information on the Freeman Foundation and ASIANetwork programs can be found at www.asianetwork.org.

The Freeman Foundation is also sponsoring a special scholarship program through the School of International Training (SIT) to encourage American students to study abroad in Mongolia. SIT runs the only undergraduate on-site study abroad program in Mongolia. More information on the SIT program in Mongolia, and the Freeman Foundation's scholarship initiative, can be found at www.sit.edu or by calling SIT at 1 (888) 272-7881.

PRESIDENT BAGABANDI RE-ELECTED

Friends of Mongolia would like to congratulate President Bagabandi of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) on his re-election. According to AP, he won 57.95% of the vote over Democratic contender R. Gonchigdorj's 36.58%. Voter turnout was unusually low this year, according to Reuters only 83% of eligible voters cast ballots on May 20th. Although some foreign media sources are spinning the election as a return to hard line communism, the MPRP has pledged to continue its commitment to human rights, multiparty democracy and free market reforms.

2001 FOM OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

Each winter, FOM elects a new slate of officers, who volunteer their time to oversee the day-to-day operations of FOM. The officers include two Co-coordinators, Treasurer, Communications Coordinator, and a Membership Coordinator. Board Members serve a three-year term and advise the officers.

This year all officers ran unopposed. Patrick Sommerville and Rick Smith will continue as Co-Coordinators. The Membership Coordinator remains Lara Ho and Susan Boedy continues to serve as Communications Coordinator. We do, however have a new Treasurer, **Charissa Thacker (RPCV 97 – 98)**. She served as a TEFL instructor in Bayankhongor. Upon

returning from Peace Corps, she worked at the New York Peace Corps Recruiting Office. She currently resides in Florida. FOM would like to thank Adam Zenko, who served as our first treasurer. He will continue to serve voluntarily on FOM projects.

FOM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FOM has raised about \$1200 from members and other interested people for its scholarship fund. We are always interested in more donations, but we would be especially interested in organizations or corporate partners to help us achieve our goal of establishing a sustainable trust with an organized delivery system in Mongolia. The future of our fund depends on the initiative of our members to build these partnerships.

Last year, FOM delivered scholarships to primary school children in Ulziit Soum in Ovorkhangai. This year, FOM is tentatively offering scholarships to students from the countryside entering their first year in an accredited Mongolian college or university in 2001-02. The objective of this scholarship program is to help offset costs of post-secondary schooling for Mongolian students who demonstrate both financial need and academic ability. Two scholarships, of USD\$500 each, are to be distributed in August 2001.

Tentative Scholarship Guidelines

- 1) Applicants must show proof of acceptance as a first year student to an accredited college or university in Mongolia for 2001-02.
- 2) Applicants must be entering their first year of college or university in 2001-02. Applicants who have completed one or more years of post-secondary schooling, or who already possess a post-secondary degree, will not be considered.
- 3) Applicants must have graduated from a secondary school in the Mongolian countryside. Applicants from Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan and Erdenet will not be considered.
- 4) Applicants who are able to document financial need through submission of financial records, an essay or other means, will be given priority.
- 5) Applicants from all fields of study will be considered.
- 6) Language of submission for all materials is Mongolian.

The deadline for completion and submission of all scholarship materials is June 15, 2001. No extensions to this deadline will be granted. Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by August 1, 2001.

For more information contact FOM Board Member Rachel Fix at rachel_fix@post.harvard.edu <http://scholarship.friendsofmongolia.org>.

JOIN FRIENDS OF MONGOLIA (FOM)



As a member you can:

- Subscribe to our e-mail list serve
- Receive our newsletter
- Vote in FOM elections and meetings
- Serve on ad hoc committees for scholarships, fundraising, and development projects
- Join the National Peace Corps Association for an additional \$25

_____ \$15 individual FOM

_____ \$25 family FOM (2 people at the same address)

_____ \$40 individual joint FOM/NPCA

_____ \$55 family joint FOM/NPCA

_____ I would like to receive future newsletters by e-mail

\$ _____ **Additional donation for FOM's general fund**

\$ _____ **Additional donation for the Scholarship Fund**

(<http://scholarship.friendsofmongolia.org>)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

FOR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: NEW AND CURRENT MEMBERS (OPTIONAL)

Current Occupation: _____

Connection/interest in Mongolia: _____

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. DONATIONS OVER \$100.00 WILL BE MAILED A RECEIPT.

Make check payable to:

Friends of Mongolia

PO Box 1269

New York, NY 10276

friendsofmongolia@worldnet.att.net

<http://www.friendsofmongolia.org>

FOM REUNION



Join Friends of Mongolia in celebrating 10 years of Peace Corps Mongolia, and the 40th Anniversary of Peace Corps in Washington, DC this September 20-23, 2001. For more information on the NPCA 40th anniversary conference please go to www.rpcv.org. (Registration for the NPCA conference is separate from FOM's registration.) Tentative schedule for NPCA and FOM events (FOM events are italicized):

Thursday, 9/20/01:

Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill
Country of Service (COS) Business Meetings and Reunions (Informal happy hour)
Capitol Hill Reception

Friday, 9/21/01:

Keynote Speaker – TBD
Career Fair
Spotlight on RPCV Achievements (panel discussions)
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Author Readings
Global Challenge (K-12 educational activities)
Peace Corps Staff Reception
World Music on Stage

Saturday, 9/22/01

Symposiums/Workshops including career workshops
Presidents' Forum
Annual General Meeting
Community Service Activities
Habitat House Dedication
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Author Readings
Country of Service (COS) Group Updates (afternoon)
Embassy Receptions/COS Dinners (speaker TBA)
Country of Service Dances (FOM participation tentative)
World Music on Sylvan Stage on the Mall

Sunday, 9/23/01:

March Across Memorial Bridge with COS Flags
Arlington Cemetery Recommitment/Memorial Service
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Author Readings
Picnic and Games on the Mall
Gala at the Kennedy Center

FOM plans to have a table at the Bazaar with Mongolian goods on sale. Please remember that fees for FOM reunion events will be discounted for members. Non-members fees will include a one-year membership to Friends of Mongolia. Costs are to be determined, but there will be a discount for early registration. Please keep an eye out for more registration information! If you already know you will be attending, or have questions or suggestions, please e-mail us at fomreunion@yahoo.com.

Friends of Mongolia
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