



FRIENDS OF MONGOLIA

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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. FOM exists to develop partnerships with the people of Mongolia in furtherance of cultural exchange and human development.

THE DALAI LAMA WISHES FOM SUCCESS

FOM is making headway on the Zaya Bayun Alternative School project. This spring the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama has corresponded with FOM Treasurer Adam Zenko about the project. "His Holiness is very pleased to learn about it and hopes that you will be successful in carrying out the various activities you have," wrote Tenzin Geyche Tethong. The Dalai Lama has worked with the Foundation for the Preservation of Mahayana Tradition (FPMT), one of the partners in the Zaya project. Last Fall, Prime Minister Enkhbayar of Mongolia met members of FOM and also expressed interest in the project.

FOM OFFICER AND BOARD ELECTION 2003

Next year FOM elects a brand new board of directors. All four officer positions and 12 board members will be up for election next January. This is an opportunity to bring your vision and energy to be an ally with the people of Mongolia. We are especially looking for board members with exceptional fundraising skills. If you would like to run for a board position or officer position, contact Patrick Sommerville at (patrickssommer@att.net) or Rick Smith at (smithrichardj1@hotmail.com).

FOM CRAFT SHOP OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT NPCA

"Now that I have free time, I always get up at the crack of dawn," said Yuen Hao-Huang, who came out early one Friday morning in June to sell *malgai*, *deel* and other Mongolian crafts at the National Peace Corps Association Bazaar. Every two years, NPCA hosts a conference for its membership, which includes a career fair and craft bazaar. This year, in honor of the 40th Anniversary of Peace Corps, the conference was held in Washington, DC at the Omni Shoreham hotel.

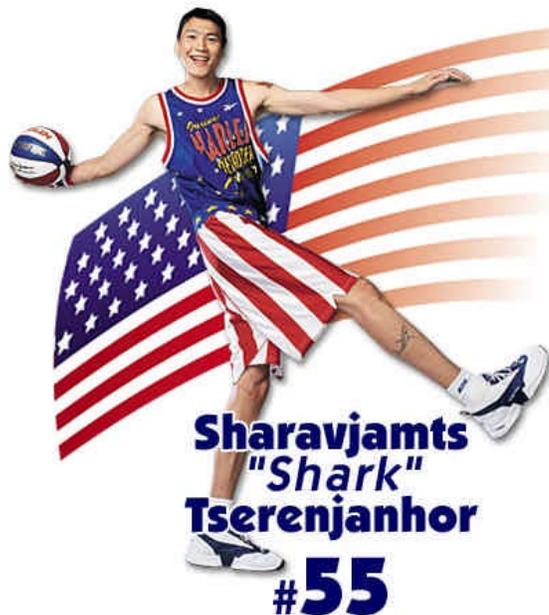
Last year members Patrick Sommerville and Stephanie Motz returned to Mongolia and came back with a suitcase each of Mongolian costumes and crafts. Special thanks to Lara Ho, Paul Dewey, Susan Buchanan, Rick Smith and Patrick Sommerville who also helped staff the FOM booth at the Omni Shoreham. All proceeds of the sale will go to assist FOM projects.

MONGOLIANS ORGANIZE IN AMERICA'S CAPITAL

In December 2001, the Mongolian Community in Washington D.C. Area established a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization working to provide bilateral interests in Mongolia and the U.S. Mongolian Community in the Washington, D.C. Area. **FOM Board Member Ganzorig** is the first President and CEO of the organization.

Mongolian Community Washington D.C. Area (MCWA) aims to contribute to a free and open democratic society in Mongolia for the purposes of encouraging a warm friendship

between the U.S and Mongolia.



FOM congratulates Tserenjanhor is the first-ever player from Mongolia to sign a contract to play professional basketball in the United States. Tserenjanhor, a native of Erdenet, is the first player from his country to join the world famous Harlem Globetrotters.

The MCWA mission is to support efforts of Mongolians that promote their development in education, qualification, career and business in the United States. See www.mongoliadc.org for more details.

THE PEACE CORPS MANDATE "Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century" NPCA Perspectives

In January 2002 President Bush delivered his State of the Union message, proposing a doubling of the Peace Corps within five years. At that time the NPCA had already convened an informal working group on the Peace Corps mandate, and had visited Congressional offices seeking support. The group then submitted recommendations to the Congress and has since participated in the drafting of legislation, expected to be introduced in connection with the NPCA Conference June 20-23. Initial sponsors are Senator Dodd in the Senate, with Representatives Farr and Udall in the House of Representatives.

For more information see
<http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=565>

FOM MEMBERS SUCCEED

Chris McKee (Peace Corps Mongolia 96-98) plans to shoot a documentary about pre-industrialized ger making next summer and needs funding. Please contact him at gawara@ragcha.com with suggestions or inquiries. He recently produced a short documentary/commercial for a company that gets tourists to work on a monastery in Henti, Mongolia. He'll be putting that up on his website in June at www.ragcha.com.

Pat Colonna (Peace Corps Mongolia 93-95) owns and operates a yoga studio in Denton, Texas. She also volunteers at a soup kitchen and at a thrift shop operated by a shelter for battered women and children.

AMERICAN CENTER FOR MONGOLIAN STUDIES

In spring 2002, people from several US institutions began working to create a new center to support academic research in Mongolia. A meeting was held in Washington, DC in conjunction with the Mongolia Society's annual meeting in March to gauge interest and to begin the administrative process necessary to create the center. In April, the American Center for Mongolian Studies was officially chartered, and this fall a call for membership will be announced and a Board of Directors formed. Membership in the Center will be open to all institutions and individuals interested in conducting or supporting academic research and language and cultural studies related to Mongolia. More information on joining the Center and Center activities will be provided through future newsletters and e-mails. It is hoped that within one-two years a Center office can be established in Ulaanbaatar.



FOM member Prof. Charles Krusekopf led a group of five students to Mongolia last summer. Mike and Charles are showing the relative height of this Turkish monument, it being over six feet tall. Its existence in the open steppe reminds us of the many different cultures that have inhabited the steppe region of northern Asia.

The American Center for Mongolian Studies is being organized along the lines of other established American overseas research centers. There are currently 16 existing centers in countries and regions such as Yemen, West Africa, Egypt and Morocco. More information on the existing centers can be found through the Council for American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) at www.caorc.org.

Overseas research centers typically have an office and staff in the host country that help facilitate academic research and exchange programs. A center in Mongolia would help international researchers make contacts and design research plans, and would provide logistical support. The center would also help Mongolian researchers connect with international scholars and institutions. The center would host a regular series of lectures and conferences open to all interested parties, and would likely house a library and research materials for use by both local and international scholars. The center might assist students to find language programs and host institutions, and could provide Mongolian scholars with information on how to prepare project and grant proposals and connect with international academic resources.

Academic research in Mongolia has been expanding rapidly in recent years in a variety of fields, including the sciences, social sciences and humanities. The creation of an overseas research center in Mongolia will provide a contact point and meeting place for individuals and institutions conducting research in Mongolia. It will complement existing organizations such as the Mongolia Society by providing an in-country presence and a place for the collection and dissemination of research works. The Center will also provide a bridge between the international academic community and the academic community in Mongolia. Funding for the Center will likely come from a mix of U.S. Government and private sources such as foundations and participating institutions.

The Center is currently in an organizational phase, and input and suggestions on possible programs and contacts are welcomed. To provide comments or to request more information or material on becoming a member of the Center, please contact Charles Krusekopf at ckrusekopf@austinc.edu or Tel. (903) 813-2279.