



Tsagaan sar with all the trimmings!

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July 2012

Volume XIII, Issue 1

Friends of MongoliaTM

A National Peace Corps Association Affiliated Organization



Friends of Mongolia Donations Received by Children in Need

Ariel Wyckoff

Friends of Mongolia (FOM) would like to thank all the generous supporters of this past winter's holiday donation drive for Mongolian children in need! Mash ikh bayarllalaa! This year marked the third consecutive holiday season that FOM has collected good-quality used books, toys, and clothes for children in need in Mongolia. The first year our donations went to children in Ulaanbaatar and last year they went to children in Darkhan. This year, we headed east and our boxes went to Dornod. Each year this donation drive has gotten larger and received more support from people all over the United States and other countries.

This year, the response was tremendous. We collected about 200 books and very great quantities of clothes and toys as well! A special thanks to parents and teachers of the Mongolian School of the National Capital Area and members of the Mongolian Cultural Center for making special collections through your networks! After an unexpected shipping delay of several weeks, we ul-



timately sent out fifteen 24"x18"x24" boxes filled with toys, books, and clothes from California to Ulaanbaatar. Once received, these boxes were then put on a large Mongolian van (porgon), and driven out to the city of Choibalsan in Dornod aimag.

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Some of these boxes went to Save the Children in Choibalsan, where a small staff run a daycare and overnight shelter for about fifty former homeless or street children, orphans, and other children in need. The remainder of the boxes were put on a train for an eight-hour ride north up to the small town of Chuluunkhoroot, right along the Mongolian border with Russia. This is a small rural town on about 1750 souls, with little access to modern conveniences. The donations for Chuluunkhoroot were distributed to children at the Middle School there, especially to the children of herding families who must leave home for months at a time and live in a small dormitory.



As you can see from these pictures, the children were very appreciative of these donations!

One interesting and heart-warming anecdote related to this donation delivery is that a former resident of Save the Children, who recently got married and had a baby, was able to use some of the infant clothes collected by FOM to clothe her newborn!



We'll be conducting another drive this winter—sooner than you may think! So keep an eye out for it in the next newsletter.

Tsagaan Sar 2012 – Washington, DC Area

Ariel Wyckoff

On February 12, 2012 the Friends of Mongolia organized a Tsagaan Sar/Lunar New Year party for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), and our local Mongolian friends, in honor of the 25th anniversary of official U.S.-Mongolia relations. RPCVs Ethan and Darlene Takahshi were the gracious hosts. According to the Mongolian calendar, this is the year of the dragon/luu.

With over 50 people in attendance, lots of food and drink, many traditional Tsagaan Sar greetings, and lots of reminiscences and memories of life in Mongolia, this the event was a huge success! RPCVs made their own buuz, with varying degrees of success, but our Mongolian guests also provid-



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Letters

Practice your Mongolian! ☺

Хандивын хувцас, ном тараасан мэдээлэл

2012 оны 5 дугаар сар 16

Хүүхдийг Ивээх Сангийн Дорнод аймаг дахь салбарт Америкийн Монголын андууд ТББ –ийн хандивын зүйлсийг 2012 оны 04-р сарын 24 нд хүлээн авсан.

Хандивын хайрцагт :

Нярайн хүүхдийн хувцас -1 хайрцаг

Том хүний өвлийн куртик – 1 хайрцаг

Ном, тоглоом -1 хайрцаг

Хүүхдийн хувцас -2 хайрцаг нийт 5 хайрцаг хүлээн авлаа.

Хандивын зүйлийг Нийгэмшүүлэх цирк сургалтанд хамрагдаж буй дотуур байрны, малчин өрхийн, Ерөнхий боловсролын сургуулийн хүүхдүүдэд гардууллаа./хавсралтаас харна уу/

Нярайн хүүхдийн хувцасыг Бүсийн оношлогоо эмчилгээний төвийн нярайн тасгийн эрхлэгч Хандамд хүлээлгэн өгсөн.

Хандам сэтгэгдэл – Маш их баярлалаа. Манай тасагт шинэ мэндэлсэн хүүхдүүд эхийн хамт байдаг. Хөдөөнөөс аймагт ирж төрөх эмэгтэйчүүд их болсон ба зарим хүнд амьдралтай эмэгтэйчүүд ирж төрдөг. Тиймээс та бүхний хандивласан хувцас, живхийг хөдөө орон нутгаас ирж төрсөн эмэгтэйчүүдийн хүүхдүүд болон ядуу өрхийн эмэгтэйчүүдийн хүүхдүүдэд өгнөө. Нярайн тасагт хэвтсэн 5 нярай хүүхдэд хувцас живхийг өгсөн. Цаашид байгаа хувцасыг өгсөөр байх болно. Маш их баярласныг минь уламжилж өгнө үү.

Номыг ерөнхий боловсролын 2-р сургууль болон 8-р сургуулийн 3А ангийг ханд хүлээлгэн өгөв.

8-р сургуулийн 3А ангийн багш Урантогос сэтгэгдэл:

Манай сургуульд англи хэлний номны хүрэлцээ муу. Манай ангийн хүүхдүүд дараа жил буюу 2012 -2013 оны хичээлийн жилд англи хэл үзэх учраас маш их хэрэгтэй, сайхан зүйл боллоо. Манай анги ганцаараа бус 3б ангийхантайгаа хамтран номоо ашиглах болно. Номнууд нь их гоё зурагтай, англи үг нь томоор бичигдсэн яг л анхлан суралцагч нарын сонирхолыг татсан номнууд байна. Баярлалаа.

Тоглоомуудыг 6-р сарын 01 нд хүүхдийн баяраар тараах болно.

Хувцасыг 11, Шинэхөгжил, Цагаан –овоо сумын сургуулийн нийгэмшүүлэх циркийн сургалтанд хамрагдаж буй 40 хүүхдэд өглөө.

11-р сургуулийн нийгмийн ажилтан А. Мөнхцэцэг сэтгэгдэл:

Бид нийгэмшүүлэх циркийн сургалтанд хамрагдаад суралцаж байгаа 10 хүүхдэд хандивын хувцасыг өгсөн. Бид дотуур байранд амьдарч байгаа эцэг эхээсээ хол хүүхдүүдээ голлон өгсөн. Хүүхдүүд минь их баяртай байна лээ. Хэдийгээр зарим хувцас нь хүүхдүүдэд таарахгүй ч гэсэн ах, эгч, дүү нартаа өгөх болно. Маш их баярлалаа.

Маш их баярлалаа.

Хүндэтгэсэн:

Г.Байгалмаа- ЯХИС Дорнод салбарын зохицуулагч

Mongolia Job Postings

New postings in Peace Corps Response! Check out:

[Behavior Change Communication Specialist](#) with the GIA-Department of Health.

[Technical English Teacher Trainer](#) with Mongolian University of Science and Technology.

Asia Pacific Investment Partners has a variety of jobs opening up in Ulaanbaatar for those who may be longing to return. A few of the postings, briefly, are below. To view all positions go to their [careers webpage](#).

Project Architect

Architectural work, including managing projects from inception through construction. Leading the project team consisting of architects, engineers, designers and consultants. Responsible for supervising studies of proposed building projects, and for the design and preparation of complete alteration and repair plans for existing buildings.

Property Development Project Manager

The role of the Project Manager is to plan, execute, and finalize projects according to strict deadlines and within budget. This includes acquiring resources and coordinating the efforts of team members and third-party contractors in order to deliver projects according to plan. The Project Manager will also define the project objectives and oversee quality control throughout the project life cycle.

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Folks were also encouraged to pick up one of our Friends of Mongolia T-shirts as our traditional “from the host” Tsagaan Sar gift.

It was a great event and many RPCVs said it was like being back in Mongolia. You don’t need to take our word for it, however, as this event was partly captured on camera by local Arlington, VA Mongolian news channel, Mongol TV: <http://www.orloo.info/studio/montv/8837>

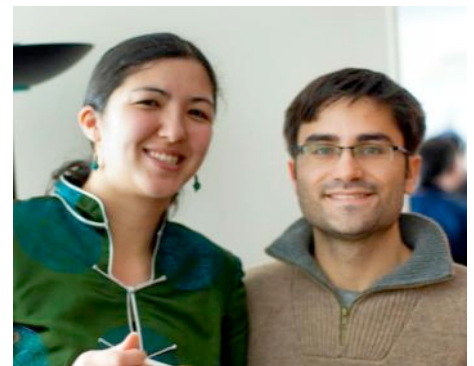
ed us with buuz, hushhur, milk tea/suutei tsai, tsoivan, Mongolian vodka/arikh, kvas, and even a bottle of fermented mare’s milk (airag/koumiss).

Many RPCVs wore their Mongolian deels, boots, and other clothes, and brought their snuff bottles (horog) to exchange with each other in the traditional Mongolia fashion. Ambassador Al LaPorta was in attendance with his wife, Anne, as well as the Principal of the Mongolian School of the National Capital Area, Munguntsetseg Frankosky, and her family. One of the guests to this Tsagaan Sar event, Dorje Batuu, was a recently arrived Russian Buriat who had just taken a job with Voice of America.

In addition to the food and drinks, a video screen in one of the rooms was set-up to scroll through interesting Mongolia-related trivia questions and an

swers, and the renowned opera singer, Saran Erdenebat, honored us with the performance of a traditional Mongolian song.

This was a family event and people did bring their children, including a few kids two years and under. The day ended with final shots of vodka, and singing of songs, to welcome in the new year.



Friends of Mongolia 2011 Small Grants Results

FOM Board

In keeping with the educational and community development goals of Friends of Mongolia (FOM), our small grants program targets low-dollar (up to \$500 each), high-impact opportunities through an annual solicitation to the Peace Corps and other international and/or domestic volunteers in Mongolia.

These grants do require in-kind commitments from the implementing institution or community, and a feasible plan for longer term sustainability beyond the end of the project life cycle.

FOM just received our reporting from last year's grants recipients, and we're pleased to be able to share some of the positive benefits of these projects below.

Sukhbaatar Aimag English Camp

With funding from Friends of Mongolia and other local organizations, Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) Katie Borkowski and Nate Lingo organized a summer English camp in Dariganga soum, Sukhbaatar aimag, at a dedicated camp site a couple kilometers outside of Baruun Urt.

The PCVs and Mongolian English teachers collaborated on this project with the Aimag hospital, health department, and children's center. The PCVs and hospital volunteers were in charge of the programming, especially life skills, outdoor activities, and organizing the other PCV and hospital volunteers coming to camp.

One of the major foci of this camp also was teaching students about teamwork and leadership. Students were split up into camp teams of 10, and were given a flag to decorate, and were told that each day they were going to work together with their teams for a common goal. Every day, the teachers and counselors received five ribbons to give out to children who were going above and beyond our expectations. Each morning after breakfast, the campers gathered in their teams to count the ribbons and put the team total on a scoreboard. The teams with the most points at the end of the session were deemed the winners, although all teams were recognized for their achievements.

In the afternoons, life skill lessons were taught. Students responded



positively to the classes, participating well and exhibiting improved scores on their post exam at the end of camp. The campers learned about life skill topics such as self esteem, time management, volunteerism and nutrition and exercise. Two days in a row, the campers were split into four age-appropriate groups and focused on HIV/AIDS/STIs (for older teenagers, 13-16) and accident prevention (for younger children, 9-12). The



first session students had one group of HIV/AIDS/STI education and three groups of accident prevention. The second session had all groups in the HIV/AIDS/STI education, because of the increase in age. Additionally during the sexual health lessons, we explained to the students that if they had questions or concerns, that the PCVs, hospital volunteers and counselors would be there for confidential support.

The pre and post examinations were very interesting to read. There were ten questions, including three multiple choice and seven long answer. In both sessions, over half of the students were unable to fill in anything concerning how one can contract HIV/AIDS, steps of time management, or what swimming strokes they know. About 80% of the students in the first session put "juice" as the healthiest drink. As sessions were winding down and post-tests were given, it was that the students had learned a great deal about all topics covered.

Overall the camp was a great accomplishment. All sessions ran without incident, and the children were very pleased and excited about what they had learned at camp. Many people from the com-

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community told the PCVs afterwards that their children were greatly impressed and could not stop talking about camp after they had returned home.

Mongolia 4-H Reading Program

With \$500 received from Friends of Mongolia, Mongolia 4-H Program Officer Sergelen Vanganjal (V. Sergelen) has been facilitating an English language reading program at the American Corner of the U.S. Embassy of the United States on Saturday mornings. The program began March 2011 and is slated to run through June of 2012.

To date more than 100 children have participated in this program from various schools in the Ulaanbaatar metropolitan area. Through this English reading program, the Mongolian students have also been able to create a cross-cultural connection to American students attending the Pinedale School in Wyoming. These students were visiting Mongolia and attended one of morning sessions and were able to meet with Mongolians students. They share jointly read aloud *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Of Thee I Sing*, and exchanged bookmarks. The Mongolian 4-H will soon run a similar exchange with students from Hawaii.



Among other activities that Ms. Sergelen has run through this Saturday Morning Reading program are a Halloween party, a New Year's Party, and a puppet show based on the children's novel, *Little Red Hen*.

These are the books on the schedule for this ongoing reading program:

White Fang, by Jack London (March-May)

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, by



Jules Verne (May-August)

Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens (August -December)

Alice in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll (January -March)

Ardyn Nomyn Zohiolyn Tailbart Deej Bichig (Mongolian), by Professor D.Tserensodnom (May-March)

Bridge to Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson (June)

Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters, by President Barack Obama (March)

Little Red Hen, by Paul Galdone (March -June)

Ms. Sergelen also obtained permission from Random House Publishing to translate President Obama's *Of Thee I Sing* into Mongolian, and have it published in Mongolia.

Mongolian 4-H is now raising funds to support this effort. Next year, the Mongolian 4-H will seek to expand this program to many library and reading rooms throughout Mongolia.

Friends of Mongolia funding went to pay for supplies, snacks for the children, support for the teachers participating in the program, and books designated as a prize for the top readers.

Psychiatric Ward of the Darkhan Central Hospital

This project was run by Altantovch Jamiyan (J. Altantovch), who is a Mongolian national working for Volunteer Services Overseas (VSO). With small grant funding from Friends of Mongolia, Mr. Altantovch created a short-term occupational therapy program based on creating arts and crafts for patients at the psychiatric ward of the Darkhan Central Hospital in Darkhan, Mongolia.

The Psychiatric Ward of Darkhan Hospital is a standalone building located in an isolated area on the outskirts of Old Darkhan. It is some considerable distance from the main hospital, which is in New Darkhan. The patients are isolated, generally have little to do, and often suffer bouts of depression. This activity was designed to provide them with a useful and energizing activity that can boost their self esteem, especially as they see that the work of their own hands is generating something of value for the community.

This program was run between March and December 2011, and involved seven Mongolian VSO national volunteers providing in-

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struction and supervision for 75 patients aged 13-25 at the psychiatric ward, including 36 women, in creating plates, beads, jewelry (bracelets, necklaces, earrings), cotton bags, money boxes, and potted plants that could be sold to the

“Doctors and nurses at the psychiatric ward saw the improved mental health of their patients as a result of their having some life-affirming and effective activities to occupy them for a few hours each day.”

community.

Prices for the supplies involved in creating these arts and crafts were set to ensure full cost recovery, with a small profit margin added. Labor costs for National Volunteers and Psychiatric Ward staff was considered a zero cost.



This project was considered a great success, and benefited all parties involved with this project. The psychiatric ward clients were given useful, achievement-based activities to perform. The local community, who bought and received of the arts and crafts, also ultimately benefited from the improved mental health of the patients. The National VSO Volunteers who lead the occupational therapy activities saw the direct benefit of these daily two-hour sessions. Doctors and nurses at the psychiatric ward saw the improved mental health of their patients as a result of their having some life-affirming and effective activities to occupy them for a few hours each day.

Towards the end of this project, Mr. Altantovch organized an exhibition at the Darkhan Central Hospital to showcase the fine products and good work of the 75 patients



involved in this project, and outpatients and hospital staff very pleased with the display.

Lotus Children's Center – Abundance Felt Guild Project

The Arvin Noos Tsekh (ANT)/ Abundance Felt Guild of the Lotus Children's Center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia is very grateful to Friends of Mongolia (FOM) for a small \$500 grant. The Lotus Children's Center is a Mongolian non-profit, non-government organization working with vulnerable chil-

dren and families to provide the basic human rights of shelter, food and education.

The newest expansion of the Lotus family is the development of a new orphanage centre, 20 kilometers from the centre of Ulaanbaatar, which our children moved into at the beginning of 2012. The ANT project of the Lotus Centre is facilitated by Sandrina Da Cruz of Volunteer Services Overseas that involves vocational training for low income young women and girls at the center in producing and selling products from felt. The women received expert training in this art, and purchased materials to help them produce the felted craft products. They also received some basic business management training, and be contributed financially to receive the training. Friends of Mongolia support allowed this project to begin their training and work.

FOM's small grant was instrumental in funding purchases of the initial raw materials and paying for the costs associated with renting a space in which to produce and dis-



play their materials. The very first kilograms of wool, leather materials, and many other necessary tools, which included scissors and measuring scales, allowed group

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Welcome, new FOM Officers!

FOM Board

We are happy to announce a new cadre of Friends of Mongolia officers. This new team brings a wealth of experience to FOM; give them a warm welcome!

Co-Director (USA): Samuel Ludwig

Samuel served from 2007 to 2009 as an English teacher trainer. He lived in Arvaikheer soum, where he worked with Uvurkhangai's Education and Cultural Center and with his fellow PCVs and Mongolian counterparts on a variety of community development projects. Samuel earned a BA in International Studies from Colby College and a Master's degree in Regional Studies: Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia (REECA) from Harvard University. He has worked as a small town newspaper writer, office worker, snowmaker, professional countertenor, and maintenance worker at a private fly fishing club. Samuel is still searching for the next non sequitur from his new home in Washington, DC and very much looks forward to exploring new opportunities for American-Mongolian exchange.

Treasurer: Maureen Scanlin

Maureen served from 2006 to 2009 in Uvurkhangai, Mongolia. She spent her first two years in Mongolia as an English teacher at Arvaikheer Secondary School #1, and her third year juggling time as a Peace Corps Volunteer Leader, development consultant with the National Center Against Violence, and English instructor for the Arvaikheer City Government. After returning to the United States, she completed an M.S. in Management of International Development at SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont, focusing on non-profit management and organizational development, and now works as a grants specialist with Chemonics International in Washington, DC. Maureen grew up in Massachusetts, holds a B.A. in International Affairs from The George Washington University, and has also

worked with local and international organizations in the U.S. including the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, Peace Corps, and Barakat, Inc.

Communications Coordinator: Richard Lopez

Volunteering from 2008-2010 as a TEFL soumer, Richard offers Friends of Mongolia experience in website management and communication coordinations. Having helped arranged several Mongolia meet ups in New York City and worked for a news website about the country (miningMongolia.info), he will serve as a Coordination Officer by offering assiduous correspondence and cordial access. Richard is currently a masters student at Columbia University and looks forward to continuing his service to Mongolian counterparts.

Membership Coordinator: John Macom

John is a second year PhD student in Social Policy - Global Health and Development at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management. John served from 2005 to 2007 as a Health Extension Volunteer. While in the Peace Corps, he worked for the Norwegian Lutheran Mission's Child and Family Strengthening Project where he implemented various community health education campaigns within UB's ger districts. Since Peace Corps, John has worked in Thailand, and for Boston University's Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research. Upon completion of his Master's degree in Public Health, John returned to Mongolia as a Fulbright Fellow studying the sexual and reproductive health of one-year male conscripts in Mongolia's military. John is currently working in Washington DC as an HIV/AIDS Policy Fellow at the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR). As some point, John plans to return to Mongolia for a third time to conduct research for his dissertation.

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members to begin their training and subsequent creation of felt crafts. Other funding for this project was made available by the Lotus Children Center and the Lotus Khutul Community Center and Cafe

There are many important business lessons to be learned during this first year of operations, and the group members have attended skills training and workshops in both crafts production as well as business

-related areas such as accounting and marketing. In some cases, the women funded a trainer specializing in felt production and design through their modest investment into the group through membership fees. The groups' members hope their cooperative will continue to thrive through the sale of their merchandise in Lotus hospitality operations as well potential shops in UB. The sustainability of this community-based initiative could not have been possible without this initial investment by FOM.

2012 Community Development Grant Awardees

Sunaree Marshall, M-17, Co-Director (US)

On July 15, 2012, Friends of Mongolia awarded 5 Community Development grants for a total of \$2190 in awards. This year, FOM membership dues and donations that regularly contribute to these grants were bolstered by a \$1300 donation from the Sommerville family, allowing FOM to award additional grants over previous years. We would like to thank the Sommerville family and our members for their generosity, and allowing us to fund these projects. This year we had 9 applicants and were able to fund 5 projects. Congratulations to them! More information is provided below:

Bonnie Nelson, Peace Corps, M. Khishigdelger, Sukhbaatar aimag Children's Center, Baruun Urt, English language education, (Awarded: \$500): This project will create an English-language resource room for use by students and adults in the aimag center's children's center. The resource room will offer opportunities for English language practice by students and adults and for use by teachers for lesson planning and development.

Gerald Durkan, Peace Corps, Tumurchuder Erdene, Tov aimag Hospital, (Awarded: \$500) In the summer of 2012, 20 service providers from the soumes of Tov aimag will attend a 3-day training of trainers using the Sexuality: HIV/STI Prevention Manual, increasing their knowledge of HIV/STI prevention and ability to facilitate sessions on this topic using the Life Skills manuals.

Andrew Wilson, Peace Corps, B. Sodnom, Uvs Aimag Health Dept, Uvs aimag (Awarded: \$490) This project will educate 30 employees at 30 different organizations to increase knowledge of first aid, car safety and increase alcohol awareness among adults in Uvs aimag. The expectation is that the training recipients will share the learned information with their colleagues.

Emma Healy, Peace Corps, S. Bold, Hanhongor 12 Year School of Performing Arts, Omnogovi aimag (Awarded: \$500). Project funds will be used to purchase books to be used in a "Fun Reading Library" to promote reading and literacy of Mongolian language books and ensure that local students have easy access to Mongolian books. Focus on middle and high school aged children in Hanhongor soum near Dalanzadgad city.

Bianca Brownfield, Peace Corps, Avirmed Uugantsetseg, Secondary School #3 Bogdiin Gol Bag Uliastai Zavkhan (Awarded: \$200): Project funds will be used to purchase headsets to allow a current resource room which already has computers and English software to be used for regular classroom learning time in English classes. Currently, the resource room exists but cannot be used for formal learning time because of lack of these materials.

Scholarship announcement

Friends of Mongolia is once again offering scholarships for Mongolian students looking to attend college or university for the 2012-2013 school year. Scholarship information and applications can be found at: <http://www.friendsofmongolia.org/programs/scholarships>. Please spread the word to interested students. The deadline for scholarship applications will be **July 15, 2012**.

Screening of “Mongolia: Mining Challenges a Civilization”

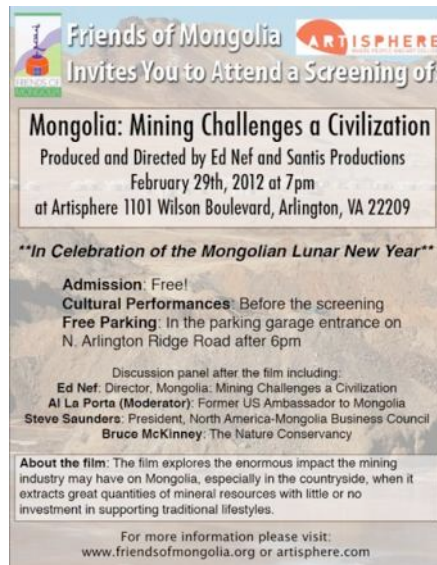
Ariel Wyckoff

On February 29, 2012 Friends of Mongolia, in coordination with Ed Nef of Santis Productions, screened the new film “Mongolia: Mining Challenges a Civilization” at the Dome Theater at the Artisphere in Arlington, VA.

This documentary film explores the enormous impact the mining industry may have on Mongolia, especially in the countryside, when it extracts great quantities of mineral resources with little or no investment in supporting traditional lifestyles. With the recent passage of a new mining law in Mongolia, the country has opened up to major investments by giant multinational extractive corporations, and this is having a significant impact on the lives and the economy of the nation.



Ed Nef, a retired Foreign Service Officer and long-time supporter of Mongolia, produced and directed this film through his new company, Santis Productions. As part of the production of this film, Mr. Nef came into contact with Ms. Urangoo, a young contortionist whose family was adversely affected by mining, and Ms. Nomnerdene, a Buriat Mongol who sings several beautiful songs on the film soundtrack. In preparing



for this film screening and others across the country and in Canada, it occurred to Mr. Nef that one of the best ways to put a human face to the mining issue in Mongolia would be to bring out these two young women for performances to accompany the film. For the film screening at the Artisphere Feb 29, Mr. Nef and Friends of arranged for Ms. Nomio to sing a few songs, for Ms. Urangoo to perform contortion, and asked a throat singer and horse-head fiddle/moriin khur player from Chicago named Ulziisaikhan to perform as well.

After the film screening, there was also a panel discussion of some of the film's main issues: the impact of the mines on water and land resources, the effect of mining on a nation whose traditional economy is livestock and herding, the role and/or responsibility of mining companies (if any) to ensure employment for Mongols and meet health and safety standards in their operations, and the

boom in the national economy due to all the high-level investment by major international corporations such as Ivanhoe, Rio Tinto, and Peabody Coal. The panel was moderated by President of Friends of Mongolia, Ambassador Al LaPorta. Ed Nef was on the panel, along with Bruce McKinney of The Nature Conservancy and Steve Saunders, President of North America Mongolia Business Council (NAMBC).

This event was very well-received, to say the least. There were about 120 people in attendance, and the Dome Theater was nearly at standing-room-only capacity. The audience was greatly impressed with the live performances, and had many questions for the panel once the film had ended. The only regret voiced by some in the audience was that there was not more time for further discussion.



Council on Foreign Relations Commemorates 25 Years of U.S.-Mongolian Relations

Al La Porta

January was a special month for Mongolia and the United States. It was on January 27, 1987 that formal diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in a ceremony at the Department of State in Washington, DC. This event was commemorated on January 30, 2012 in New York at a program of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Earlier a diplomatic reception was held at the Mongolian Embassy in Washington on the anniversary date itself.

At the urging of Ambassador J. Enkhsaikhan, then Mongolia's envoy to Austria and the United Nations Agencies in Vienna (and former Permanent Representative to the UN in New York), CFR organized an early evening dinner program at their impressive headquarters on 69th St. and Park Avenue. Dr. Elizabeth Economy was chief organizer of the program which was divided into two panel discussions:

- Bilateral Political Developments and Economic Cooperation featuring Ambassador Bekhbat from Washington and Ambassador Jonathan Addleton from Ulaanbaatar.
- Cooperation in Asia and the World, moderated by Ambassador Winston Lord (former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs), Ambassador Enkhsaikhan, Ambassador Bekhbat and Ambassador Al La Porta, an FOM Board member who served in Ulaanbaatar in 1997-2000.

The sum of this ambassadorial knowledge basically was that both the bilateral and international aspects of U.S.-Mongolian cooperation have yet to be maximized. Ambassador Bekhbat called attention to much-needed investment in non-mining sectors of the economy and society, an easing of trade barriers, an expansion of educational exchanges, and more frequent high level contacts and visits. Ambassador Addleton, author of a forthcoming book on the 25 years of diplomatic relations, recounted the tremendous progress that has been made in many sectors, the overwhelming success and contributions of the U.S. Peace Corps program, the closeness of political relations, and mutual interests in promoting democracy (Mongolia is the current chair of the Community of Democracies) and shared values. He also expressed gratitude for Mongolia's support of the Coalition and NATO missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Africa and elsewhere.

The international panel focused on Mongolia's interest in promoting regional arms control and security arrangements, such as the single-country nuclear weapons-free zone, playing an intermediary role in relations with Pyongyang, and its participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum and APEC (the latter as an observer). All panelists agreed that Mongolia's role in all of these areas could be enhanced, although there are limitations regarding Mongolia's ability to field experts in all areas of endeavor and the resources required to support a significantly expanded international agenda. There was considerable discussion of the meaning of Mongolia's "Third Neighbor" policy, the upshot being that Mongolia has many nations in this category – including the United States, Japan, South Korea, and several European nations – which helps to ensure security and stability in its relations with China and Russia.

Approximately 80 people attended the CFR program, including a large contingent of New York FOM members and friends.

Ambassador Addleton's book is expected to be published in the next several months, mostly likely after the conclusion of his tour of duty in UB in July, and FOM plans to arrange a book signing or other appropriate event.

Mongolian Cultural Center's Sixth Annual International Mongolian Studies Conference: Chinggis Khaan – 850 Year Legacy

Ariel Wyckoff

On May 4-5, 2012, the Mongolian Cultural Center, in collaboration with the Embassy of Mongolia in the United States, and the Institute for Defense Studies in Mongolia, hosted their sixth annual International Mongolian Studies Conference.

The theme of the conference this year was, “Chinggis Khaan - 850 Year Legacy,” as the year 2012 coincides with the 850th anniversary of the purported birth of the founder of Mongolia’s great ancient empire – Chinggis Khaan.

Participants from Mongolia, the U.S., and others parts of Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe presented papers in seven different categories, on a wide variety of topics. Dr. Alicia Campi of the Mongolia Society and Indiana University was the first presenter, with a presentation on the concept of “founding fathers” and the compelling idea that images and perceptions of a nation’s founding father – including Chinggis Khaan – change over time to meet the changing values of the society and people they represent. She contrasted the changing image of Chinggis, now often portrayed as a unifier and democratizer rather than a fierce warrior and conqueror, with those of other found-

ing fathers, including George Washington and Napoleon Bonaparte. Mongolian presentations were summarized and translated into English by Colonel Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder of the Institute for Defense Studies.

Mr. Michael Polczynski explored the impact of Mongol conquests on Europe through the example of their effects on Piast, Poland, and Mr. Batir Xasanov of the Tel-Aviv University discussed the rehabilitation of the image of Chinggis Khaan in Turkic steppe nations such as Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Mr. Bazarsuren Jamba of the Institute of Defense Studies, an expert in historical weaponry of the Chinggisid era, described the various types of weapons, and armor (including the bow and arrow, of course), and the innovative uses of these weapons that allowed a relatively small Mongol army to dominate and defeat armies often ten times larger than they were. Dr. Paul D. Buell of Horst Gortz Institute, Berlin seemed to reinforce this line of thinking with his presentation on how the army of Chinggis Khaan and his descendants was able to conquer and maintain such a large empire with such a small core group of Mongols. Ms. Zoljargal Nyambuу provided a very interesting presentation on the ways that elements of traditional Mongolian clothing are infiltrating and becoming very popular in the fashion industry. Ms. Otgontsetseg Damdinsuren of the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul described the history of Mongolian language teaching outside of Mongolia, and discussed the recent growth of such Mongolian language courses as well as the need to support this effort with better funding and improved higher level materials. Ózlem Arzu Azer a Turkish banking expert even gave a presentation on the ways that the Great Yassa/Law of Chinggis Khaan could be applied to successfully managing a corporate business. Another presenter, Mr. Ishaq



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RPCV updates

Travis Helstrom (M19), along with other Mongolia RPCVs, is hard at work spreading the word about Peace Corps through his [Peace Corps 101](#) worldwide online class.

He says, “The idea behind Peace Corps 101 all along has been to bring the Peace Corps community into a group call and help each other through our service, whether we’re just starting or we’ve been at it for 50+ years. I joined the Peace Corps because the Volunteers and RPCVs that I met were literally some of the best people I have ever met in my entire life and bringing all those people on to a conference call has been amazing. I feel very lucky to be part of such a great group.”

Travis is also working on [Peace Corps 101 Interviews](#) and an online course concerning “everyday humanitarians from around the world” called [Everyday Service](#).

Announcements? Want to share where you are and what you’re doing? Looking to reconnect with sitemates?

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Mohammadi, formerly the Assistant Director Department of Archaeology, Balochistan – and an ethnic Hazara – spoke about the various ways that the language of the Hazaras of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, demonstrate a direct link between those peoples and the Mongol nation. The similarities in words and grammatical structure are striking indeed!

One of the last speakers at this conference was Don Lessom, organizer of the travelling “Genghis Khan Exhibition” that has been making the rounds of various museums in Texas, Colorado, and parts of the Midwest. He also spoke of the great need to communicate, through multimedia presentations such as this exhibit – and the imminent release of a new book he has prepared with Bill Fitzhugh,

Morris Rossabi, and Bill Honeychurch – the much more nuanced reality of what life was like in the ancient Mongolian Empire; and the need to shake off outdated and frankly prejudicial images many Westerners still hold of Mongolia and the Mongol peoples. Mr. Bill Honeychurch, a respected anthropologist of Yale University was also honored with the award of a friendship medal from the Government of Mongolia, by Ambassador H.E. Khasbazaryn Bekhbat.

The conference concluded with a warm reception at Ambassador Bekhbat’s official residence in Potomac, Maryland. It was an excellent two-day event that showcased the continuing legacy of Chinggis Khaan’s Mongol nation on the modern world.

Selected Mongolia newswire bits

Korea looks to break up alleged MIAT-Korea Air monopoly

“...Since the launch of flights between Incheon and Ulaanbaatar in 1999, only Korean Air and Mongolian Airlines have operated them. The Korean government asked its Mongolian counterpart in 2005 to increase the number of flights by allowing other carriers to operate Incheon-Ulaanbaatar flights, but Mongolia rejected the proposal.

‘People traveling between Korea and Mongolia paid much higher fares than those flying similar distances to Hong Kong and Guangzhou,’ said an FTC official. ‘This shows Korean Air and Mongolian Airlines have been abusing their monopolistic status to maximize profits at the expense of air travelers.’

The official added that Korean Air provided a wide range of favors to Mongolian government officials on many occasions, adding the company tried to derail aviation negotiations between the two governments to prevent main rival Asiana Airlines from flying between the two countries. Korean Air denies the claims.

Source: [Korea Times](#)

Mongolia Wrestles With Dinosaurs, NATO and Politics

“Squeezed between geopolitical giants Russia and China, Mongolia has long struggled for independence and visibility.

Two events on Sunday promise to raise the global profile of the country of just 2.8 million people: the planned sale in New York of a stunning skeleton of Tyrannosaurus bataar, an Asian cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex; and a meeting in Chicago of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which Mongolia will attend as a formal, though not full, partner, for the first time.”

([read more](#))

Source: International Herald Tribune

Enkhbayar freed on bail

“The former Mongolian president jailed pending charges of corruption, has been released on bail after a 10-day dry hunger strike, temporarily soothing a dangerous stand-off that has rolled Mongolia's democratic politics ahead of elections next month...

...Enkhbayar's release on bail later on Monday followed several days of protests by supporters in Ulaanbaatar, and mounting concerns from human rights organizations about his treatment in jail. The former president had been planning to run for Parliament in Mongolia's nationwide elections on 28 June as the head of an independent political party he founded. It is Mongolia's third most popular political party, according to polls before his arrest.

However, Enkhbayar has been charged with five instances of corrupt behavior, and was forcibly arrested on 13 April after failing to appear for questioning. The allegations represent the highest-level corruption case Mongolia has ever experienced, and has deepened political fissures ahead of the polls. Corruption has been a growing challenge for Mongolia as it seeks to develop its vast mineral resources without falling prey to the so-called “resources curse,” a phenomenon in which countries rich in raw materials experience slower economic development than countries without.

The end of Enkhbayar's hunger strike and release on bail should clear the way for the beginning of his trial, although a date for the first court hearing has not yet been set. His lead defense said he plans to ask for the case to be dismissed on procedural irregularities due to alleged denial of basic rights granted to defendant under Mongolian law, including the right to confidential legal counsel.”

Source: ([Financial Times](#))

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