

## NEW S-IN-B R I E F—From The MONTSAME AGENCY

● On October 4 – 5, Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, is paying a two-day visit to Mongolia at the invitation of the Government of Mongolia.

During his visit, Mr. Graziano da Silva will meet with Kh. Battulga, Mongolia's Minister of Industry and Agriculture and will exchange views on current and future cooperation between the two organizations. Talks will include ensuring food security and nutrition; increased production in agriculture and livestock; development of the value chain and other related issues. On October 4, the parties signed a "Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening cooperation between the Government of Mongolia and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization".

● On October 2, Prime Minister N. Altankhuyag continued his tour to western aimags by working in two bagas (the smallest administrative unit in localities) of Bayan-Olgii Aimag's Ulaan-Khus Soum.

The Prime Minister got acquainted with the activities of schools, kindergartens and hospitals and heard opinions of local people about some problems. Locals want the Premier to pay attention to social matters; for example, Khokh khotol baga with over 4,000 people, equal to the soum's population, needs more kindergartens. For the time being, only 60 percent of kids can go to kindergarten and old dormitories must be repaired.

In response, N. Altankhuyag promised to support these bagas with a special policy.

On October 3, he headed to Uvs aimag. There, he was welcomed by a guard of honor on the central square of the province's center. The PM laid a wreath at the monument of Tsendenbal Yumjaa, an outstanding state figure, and then got an fait with thermal power stations, central stadium construction, and commercial markets.

● On September 26, the Embassy of Mongolia to Vienna, Austria, organized a round table meeting "The Function and relation of the regional nuclear-weapon-free zone in the age of nuclear-weapons" with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. The action ran in frames of the 20th anniversary of Mongolia's declaring its territory a nuclear weapon-free zone.

Opening remarks were given by the department director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria, the Ambassador of Mongolia Mr. J. Enkhsaikhan, a representative of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), an envoy of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and others.

The delegates discussed the present situation in nuclear-free zones and exchanged experiences. The Mongolian representative spoke about measures his country is running to affirm its nuclear-weapon-free status.

Then the gathered considered the possibilities of creating such a zone in the Middle-East and preparations for a conference in Helsinki this year which will focus on these matters.

● On September 26, G. Tsogtsaikhan, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia, received Lee Te Ro, Ambassador of South Korea to Mongolia.

The latter said he is satisfied with Mongolia-S. Korea relationship development and assured Mr. Tsogtsaikhan that he is working on expanding economical cooperation and attracting S. Korean investment to Mongolia. He also said that plans are being worked out to reduce the number of papers and shrink the visa waiting time in order to ease the two nations' visits to each other.

State Secretary Tsogtsaikhan underlined the importance of strengthening economical ties and jointly working on facilitating the visa terms.

Mongolia's Parliament approved an "Intergovernmental agreement between Mongolia and the Republic of Korea on facilitating visa terms has become an important step to increase Mongolia-South Korea citizens' exchange, he noted.

● The Bank of Mongolia (BoM) appointed Bold Sandagdorj as its Chief economist and advisor to the bank's president. S. Bold graduated from Mongolia's University of Sciences and Technology in 2002, and the Michigan Technological University in 2005, majoring in engineering and economics. Before the appointment, S. Bold worked as an expert and administrative official at the Erdenet Mining Corporation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the BoM.

● On September 28, E. Bat-Uul Mayor of Ulaanbaatar, received Ms. Piper Anne Wind Campbell, Ambassador of the USA to Mongolia. Expressing his satisfaction with meeting with Ulaanbaatar's Mayor, Mr. Campbell mentioned that Denver city's representatives left happy after meeting with the Mayor.

The Mayor stated that he is adhering to a policy on transparency for citizens and briefed her about his works.

● On September 27, the Honorary Consulate of Mongolia opened in Vienna, Austria. Mr. J. Meyer, Honorary Consul of Mongolia in charge of the territories of Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Steiermark states took his duty that day. Present at the opening ceremony were officials from the Austrian side, Honorary Consuls of other countries in Vienna and Mongolian citizens residing in Austria.

● On September 27, Mongolia's Vice Foreign Minister D. Gankhuyag said there is wide opportunity to activate ties between Mongolia and the Philippines at a meeting with Ms. Laura Del Rosario, the Philippines Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Economic Relations.

Vice Minister D. Gankhuyag put forward a proposal to activate cooperation between the Foreign Ministries to expand ties between business organizations and businessmen and to develop bilateral collaboration in the regional and international arena.

In turn, Ms. Rosario said the Philippines wants to develop relations and cooperation with Mongolia in the trade and commercial sectors and collaborate in preparing professionals and protecting people's interests at the international level.

The sides shared views on celebrating the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations next year, running high-level talks, and organizing mutual visits at the Foreign Ministry level in frames of the anniversary.

● On September 24, the sixth US-Mongolia business forum titled "Bilateral cooperation in the mining sector" was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

This forum was co-organized by Mongolia's Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Mining, the Embassy of Mongolia in Washington D.C., the US Department of Commerce, and US Department of the Interior. Opening remarks were given by N. Ankhbayar, Consul-General of Mongolia to San-Francisco; and Nicole Melcher, Division chief of the U.S. Department of Commerce in charge of Mongolian and Chinese affairs.

The business forum brought together some 250 representatives

from 40 companies such as 'Erdenes', 'Shivee Ovoo', 'Mongol Alt' and 'Energy Resources', companies, and from the American side 'Peabody Energy', 'Rio Tinto' and 'Caterpillar'.

Within the forum, participants attended the opening ceremony for the 'MinExpo International-2012' exhibition which featured the most up-to-date mining techniques, facilities, and products of over 1,800 enterprises.

● A solar power station has been constructed at the Mongolian Civil Aviation Authority (MCAA) in frames of a project called 'Environmentally-friendly solar power station' realized with non-refundable aid of the Japan's government.

With electric capability of 443 kWt, this solar power station is expected to reduce the expense of electric consumption of the MCAA. As shown by one feature of this solar power station, it was built with the latest technologies of Japan and produces electricity without using batteries.

The main purposes of the 'Environmentally-friendly solar power station' project are to advertize eco-energy, reduce air pollution, and increase experiences and the practice of exploiting solar power stations. It is considered that the solar power station will make a big step in the renewable energy sector of Mongolia.

● On October 1, Minister of Health, N. Udval received Maria Hortensia Febles Mirabal, Ambassador of Cuba to Mongolia.

The Ambassador spoke about achievements the two countries gained in the health sphere saying it is, "the most convenient sector to expand the relationship between Mongolia and Cuba".

She said all possibilities exist to cooperate by organizing trainings for Mongolian medical doctors, inviting Cuban ophthalmologists to Mongolia, and importing natural medicaments to Mongolia. Over 140 Mongolian students studied in Cuba on their government's scholarships; presently, seven Mongolians are studying at a recently-opened university in Latin America, the Ambassador added.

Minister Udval said that cooperation in the medical sphere is really rich, that a majority of the alumni of the Cuban universities are leaders of their sectors, and that she was able to recognize the level of Cuban hi tech and training while working as the health vice minister and chairman of the Mongolia-Cuba intergovernmental commission.

Ms. Udval said she will work on expanding the ties between Mongolia and Cuba and wished the Ambassador success.

● On October 1-3, Mr. Bilahari Kausikan, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, will pay a working visit to Mongolia.

Mongolia's Foreign Minister L. Bold will receive him. Then, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs D. Gankhuyag will meet with him to run negotiations, evaluate the current level of the ties, focus on ways of widening cooperation, and collaborating in international and regional fields.

Mr. Kausikan and officials accompanying him will meet authorities of the Ministry of Economic Development to discuss Mongolia's economics and trends of economical cooperation to share opinions on ways of increasing Singapore's investments to Mongolia. This visit is the very first high level action ever made by Singapore on the government level.

● On October 1, Mongolia's Minister of Health Ms. N. Udval received Ms. Piper Anne Wind Campbell, Ambassador of the United States to Mongolia and Mr. Francis A. Donovan USAID Representative to Mongolia.

Ms. Campbell noted that the relations and cooperation between the two countries are developing in four main directions. In the health sector volunteers from the Peace Corps who have been working in cities and the countryside are helping to increase the knowledge about health and supporting organizations with health education trainings.

Minister Udval agreed that cooperation in the health sphere is active and thanked her for the projects realized in frames of the \$39.1 million USD grants-in-aid given by the US Government.

The sides focused on problems in the health sector, health projects and other matters. The Minister also confirmed her willingness to cooperate further.

● On October 2, Mayor of Ulaanbaatar E. Bat-Uul met with the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Mongolia Mr. Viktor Samoilenko, and said Russian investors may play a role in Ulaanbaatar's development.

In the course of the meeting, the Ambassador said cooperation between Mongolia and Russia has been entering a new level. "Currently, the first block of the 'Moscow' micro-district has been completed and Mongolian families are living there nicely," he said, adding that construction of a second block is under negotiation.

Mayor E. Bat-Uul said the Russian builders' experience is needed here. The meeting ran in a friendly atmosphere, said the Mayor's press office.

● To date, some 480 kinds of birds have been registered in Mongolia. About 300 of them are migratory birds, which mean Mongolia can develop bird-watching tourism, ornithologists say.

Last weekend, Mongolia's Association of Ornithologists and the Union of Ornithologists at Mongolia's State University (MSU) organized a National day for bird watchers for the fifth year near the Terelj River. Led by professor S. Gombobaatar, head of Mongolia's Association of Ornithologists, participants watched 20 kinds of birds and now they will preserve information and files about these birds in the Association's database.

Ms. Ts. Oyungerel, Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism, said that bird watching tourism is knowledge economy. Officials say "There are few professional guides and researchers whose thorough knowledge about birds would help develop this type of the tourism."

● Young Mongolian painters O. Angarsuren, J. Anunaran and Sh. Tamir opened an exhibition in Sweden named 'Mongolia: Past and present'.

It was opened in frames of the annual 'Cultural evenings' measure in Norrkoping, with support from the "Tunamal togs" NGO, DeMulan, a voluntary artist, and the Embassy of Mongolia in Sweden.

Through their paintings, the young Mongolians show their understanding of the revolution and the reforms in Mongolia for the 21st Century.

At the opening ceremony, speeches were given by Mr. B. Enkhmandakh, Ambassador of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Sweden, and Mr. Olle Johansson, a member of Norrkoping's administrative council. The Ambassador said that this exhibition, which Sweden sees for the first time, is dedicated to the 850th birth anniversary of Chingis Khaan and expressed hope that this action will give a start to cultural exchange between the two countries.

## WEATHER

Sunrise: 07.01  
Sunset: 18.47

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -3°C and -8°C. Day time temps between 9° and 14°C. Precipitation on October 7.

■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between 3°C and -2°C. Day time temps between 9°C and 14°C. Precipitation on October 8.

■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -4°C and -9°C. Day time temps between 5°C and 10°C. Precipitation on October 11.

■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between 0°C and 5°C. Day time temps between 10°C and 15°C. Rain on October 8.

UN Assembly provides opportunity for high level talks  
President Ts. Elbegdorj meets with world leaders

## President Ts. Elbegdorj holds talks with Japan PM Yoshihiko Noda

On September 25, President Ts. Elbegdorj held talks with the Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihiko Noda during the 67th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. President Elbegdorj expressed satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries, within frames of the strategic partnership and extended his gratitude to the Prime Minister of Japan for making efforts to expand mutual relations.

President Elbegdorj noted that enhancing cooperation and partnership with its third neighbor—Japan remains a top priority in Mongolia and the State of Mongolia pays great importance to relations with Japan. The President of Mongolia congratulated Japan on the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries and invited Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda to Mongolia. Also, President Elbegdorj expressed his willingness to expand higher education partnerships and increase the number of Mongolian students in Japan.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda replied, "I'm truly grateful for the speech you delivered to the Parliament of Japan. I would like to congratulate Mongolia on the inauguration of a new Parliament and Government and wish them great success. We give great importance to the state visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia to Japan. I offer my congratulations to Mongolian sumo wrestler Harumafuji on winning the autumn sumo tournament and being recognized as the 70th Yokozuna. The new Yokozuna, Harumafuji and the previous champion Hakuho, are both respected sumo wrestlers in Japan. Congratulations on the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties between the two countries".

## The President also met with Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic.

President Elbegdorj expressed satisfaction with the growing mutual relations of the both countries and his hope that the pending partnership agreement between Mongolia and European Union will soon be established. The President of Mongolia emphasized that "Over 6,000 Mongolians live in the Czech Republic. It means that both our countries enjoy close and friendly relations. Further, we are aiming to enhance mutual economic relations and increase the number of Mongolian students in the Czech Republic".

President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus noted that "Mongolia and the Czech Republic enjoy friendly relations. We are truly grateful for Mongolia's achievements in democracy and human rights. Mongolia's economic growth reached 17 percent last year. European countries spent over 20 years to reach this result. Mongolia is making outstanding economic achievements while the economy of Asia is rapidly growing".

## On September 26, President Ts. Elbegdorj met with his counterpart from Switzerland.

Saying she is happy to meet with Mongolia's State Head, President of the Swiss Confederation Ms. Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf asked Mr. Elbegdorj about the situation with human rights and freedom in Mongolia.

The leader of Mongolia replied that a new cabinet and parliament were formed after the June parliamentary election and that local elections will take place this November. Mongolia started its democratic revolution 23 years ago, now it has reached it achievements, "we are taking steps to transmit into a direct democracy from the representative democracy and give people more power and control over budgets" he said, and added that Switzerland has rich experience in direct democracy.

The Mongolian President said he is glad to see that Swiss scholars and researchers arrived in Mongolia to meet our people and to cooperate with them in spreading democratic values; for example, Martin Dahinden Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) visited Mongolia last summer to see the implementation of projects realized by their agency. He hoped that the two countries will reach big success in propagandizing direct democracy in the international arena.

Emphasizing that Mongolia is focusing great attention on educating its people, Mr. Elbegdorj expressed his interest to expand the ties with Switzerland in the education sector. Then the dignitaries discussed issues of cooperating at the regional and international levels.

Ms. Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf congratulated Mongolia on success and achievements in human rights and democracy and said she will support Mongolia's efforts to transmit into a direct democracy.

## The President also held a meeting with Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

At the meeting, President Elbegdorj noted "I would like to express satisfaction that crucial steps have been taken toward democracy



President Ts. Elbegdorj /R/ with Japan PM Yoshihiko Noda/



President Ts. Elbegdorj with President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus



President Ts. Elbegdorj with President of the Swiss Confederation Ms. Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf



President Ts. Elbegdorj with Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize winner, human rights activist

in Myanmar. In chairing the Community of Democracies, Mongolia initiated to organize a working group in order to ensure the democratic transition in Myanmar".

Afterwards, President Elbegdorj met with Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize winner, human rights activist and Chairperson of the National League for Democracy in Burma.

During the meeting, President Elbegdorj said "I extend my sincere congratulations to you on your efforts towards the fight for freedom. Your fight for a free society and human rights and your life experiences inspire young democracies".

Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi replied "Your speech delivered at the General Assembly was truly exciting. We are grateful that Mongolia is sharing its experience with democracy. We are truly satisfied that Mongolia is chairing the Community of Democracies and making a contribution to the future of human well-being".

Editor-in-Chief: BORKHONDOIN INDRÁ

English Editor: DAVID BROWN

Journalists: BATBAYAR OOLUUN

Translator: MISHIGDORJ UNURZUL

DALKHJAV UNDRÁKH

Layout/design: SARANTUYA MUNKHTULGA

The Mongol Messenger, P.O. Box 1514, Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA.

Telephone: 266740, Tel/Fax: (976-11) 325512,

Home Page: www.mongolmessenger.mn

E-mail: monmessenger@magincnet.mn

The Mongol Messenger is operated by the government news agency MONTSAME and is printed by the MONTSAME

ISSN 1684-1883