



International Conference

Democracy in the 21st Century: Challenges and The Ways Forward

(Mongolia)

09 – 10 July, 2018

Contents

CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION	3
GENERAL INFORMATION	4
CONFERENCE DETAILS	7
GENERAL	7
Keynote Speakers.....	7
Scientific Committee Members	7
Organising Committee Members	7
Number of participants	7
Presenter guideline.....	7
PROGRAMME.....	7
PUBLICATION.....	8
IMPORTANT NOTES	9
TRAVEL GRANT.....	9
VISA ISSUES	9
FLIGHT AND TRANSPORTATION.....	10
INSURANCE.....	10
ACCOMMODATION.....	11
CONTACT INFORMATION.....	12

Pre-Departure Briefing

This document is designed to provide you with information about your arrival in Mongolia. It includes conference details, what to expect, accommodation, transportation, and other items that you may find useful.

Conference Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of the Conference is to facilitate mutual cooperation and experience-sharing and to provide a close environment where participants are able to share global and multi-disciplinary perspectives on the current debates (and changes) in democracy; in Asia in particular, and globally in general.

Key features

Conference background and rationale

The World Society Foundation's conference is organised annually covering various global issues we are facing today. Previously the conferences were held in countries such as India Switzerland, Spain, and USA since 2007. In 2018, Mongolia was chosen as a venue to host the Conference on Democracy.

We are currently facing new challenges accompanied by the third wave of democracy of the 21st century. Most countries of the world have joined this wave, but achievements and difficulties are both still present. Therefore, democracy is not part of any single country or region, it is a universal value. The spread of democracy throughout the world shows that the concept of democracy should consider healthy democratic systems in the new millennium.

Mongolia hosts the Conference on Democracy for its unique history of democratic transition. In 1990s Mongolia undergone through a peaceful transition from communism to a parliamentary democracy. Mongolia has the unwavering commitment to democracy shown by the people and politicians of Mongolia, many of whom were personally engaged in Mongolia's country's struggle for democracy.

Mongolia continues to make a significant contribution to strengthening globally shared values: through its engagement with international groups such as ASEM, and positive global action – such as its highly respected contribution to peacekeeping missions – Mongolia sets a strong example to the region and the world. Nonetheless, due to lingering corruption and lack of good governance, Mongolia's democracy's seen as a flawed democracy (Freedom House 2018).

About the World Society Foundation

WSF is an organisation based in Zurich, Switzerland with the aim of encouraging and supporting research on world society – its emergence and historical evolution, its structure, its dynamics and current transformation. WSF sponsoring activities such as conferences related to the issues of world society and publishes the book series "World Society Studies".

About the Independent Research Institute of Mongolia (IRIM)

IRIM is Mongolia's leading national organizations and one of the very first organizations to promote independent research as institutional practice since 2008. We aim to help build a better society in Mongolia through spreading independent and high-quality information, promote cooperation between government, industry and civil society and to implement programmes that are innovative and responsive to the needs of the population. We deliver research, monitoring and evaluation, and project management services for public sector clients and international organizations and donors. We primarily operate in the governance, education, labor market and mining sectors. Since our establishment we implemented nearly 140 projects of national and regional scope and worked with more than 90 partners.

Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar

Mongolia is a landlocked country in Central Asia; bordered by Russia to the north and the People's Republic of China to the south, east and west. Ulaanbaatar is the capital, the largest city, and home to about 44% of the population. Mongolia is the 19th largest and the most sparsely populated independent country in the world, with around three million people. It is also the world's second-largest landlocked country (after Kazakhstan). The country contains very little arable land; much of the area is covered by steppe, with mountains to the north and west and the Gobi Desert to the south.

Miscellaneous

- Capital: Ulaanbaatar
- Government: Parliamentary republic
- National language: Mongolian
- Telephone: Country code +976
- Weights and measures: metric system
- Road: Drives on the right

General Information

Weather

In July, the average minimum temperature in Ulaanbaatar is 22°C (71.6°F) and the average maximum temperature is 35°C (95°F).

Time

Ulaanbaatar standard time is GMT +8 hours.

Currency and Banking

Mongolia's currency is the Mongolian Togrog (MNT, or ₮). Here are the most recent exchange rates for some common currencies:

- 1 British Pound = MNT 3,395¹
- 1 Euro = MNT 2,966
- 1 US Dollar = MNT 2,397
- 1 Australian Dollar = MNT 1,857
- 1 New Zealand Dollar = MNT 1,737

All major international credit cards are accepted in Mongolia, but please check with your local bank (before departure) that your bank card is valid in Mongolia. Credit cards, such as Maestro, MasterCard, Visa and American Express are generally accepted in Mongolia.

In the Ulaanbaatar Hotel, there is a currency exchange service. There may a slight difference when you exchange somewhere. Therefore, the Conference organisers are offering to change money in your hotel (first floor).

¹Official Daily Foreign Exchange Rates by Mongol Bank (22 March 2018).

Electricity

The electrical supply used throughout Mongolia is 220 V AC and 50 Hz. Plugs for electrical appliances are of the two-pin continental European standard.

Emergency phone numbers:

Fire: (+976) 101
Police: (+976) 102
Ambulance: (+976) 103

Useful websites

<http://www.worldsociety.ch/doku.php>

<http://irim.mn/>

www.ulaanbaatar.mn

Language

Some Mongolians' English language skills may be limited; but they will always be friendly and helpful.

Getting Around in Ulaanbaatar

By taxi

There is no metro in the city. Inside Ulaanbaatar there are a number of different transport options, all suited to different time frames and budgets. Bear in mind that if you plan to go somewhere special you should seek advice beforehand from the Organising Committee. Also suggests that participants make use of rented taxis by the Organising Committee; available upon request from the front desk.²

By bus

The cheapest and fastest - but most crowded - of public transport alternatives is the bus. These cost a flat rate of MNT500 - whatever the distance - and travel along fixed routes. Routes are shown on the Ulaanbaatar City Map; available via the following link.

<https://www.amicusmongolia.com/images/maps/Ulaanbaatar%20city%20Map.jpg>

Eating in Ulaanbaatar

Mongolia offers range of meat-based traditional foods. However, Ulaanbaatar has a good range of Western, Asian and Mongolian options. Even better, the prices of meals are quite reasonable. You can get a perfectly reasonable pizza for US\$10, and even a night out at a fancy French cafe should not pass US\$30. Be aware that fresh vegetable are hard to come by and expensive. You do not need worry unduly about food poisoning in Mongolia.

²Official taxi call centers: 1800-1991(Ulaanbaatar taxi), 11-321212(Imperial taxi), 70004499 (VIP taxi) or you can call to Call centers such as 19001950, 19001617 for taxi, they can delivery your request to taxi company; also they will get your address and phone number.

Vegan food:

If you have special dietary needs (e.g. vegetarian, halal, allergies, etc.), please provide detailed information on the Participation Form. Kindly note that in the hotel, vegan food options are very limited.

Mongolians' diet

Once a nation of nomadic herders, Mongolia is known as the '*Land of Five Animals*' — sheep, goats, cattle, horses, and camels. Today's diet still relies heavily on meat and dairy products, including a hardened curd called '*aaruul*'. Fermented mare's milk is the traditional ceremonial drink.

Drink

Mongolians tend to drink vodka and beer. Beers in the shops cost about MNT 2,500 (US\$1). For wine, there are few options; good ones are quite expensive.

Safety

You need to stay vigilant of bag slashers and pickpockets, especially around Naadam time when muggers do a brisk trade, working on starry-eyed tourists wandering about. You are advised you not to walk alone in Ulaanbaatar after dark.

Shopping

You can buy traditional souvenirs from inside your hotel, and grocery shops are located nearby. There are a few modern shopping malls such as Shangri-La, the Ulaanbaatar State Department Store and Central Tower. You will be given more detailed information when you arrive.

Other information about travelling is available from sources, such as:

<http://touristinfocenter.mn/en/cate2.aspx> (Travel destinations, attractions, museums & galleries, event holiday & festivals, cultural & historical heritage and diplomatic missions & consular office etc.

<https://www.amicusmongolia.com/mongolia-travel-guide.html> (Travel details)

What to pack

Despite there is no dress code, we are kindly recommending the participants to pack both informal and formal clothes for informal activities and formal receptions. It also should be noted that Ulaanbaatar can experience drastic temperature changes, which can fluctuates very often. In the summer time, it is very hot during day time and gets chilly in the evening and night. Therefore, the participants should consider to bring sunscreen, sun hat and glasses as well as warm clothes just in case of heavy cold rain.

Timing

The timing of the Conference overlaps with Mongolia's biggest national festival Naadam (more info on page eight) and it is the peak tourist season.

Therefore, traffic jam, could be crowded by people, cars and celebration parade. Generally, in Mongolia during the morning getting-to-work rush, lunch time and at the end of work (6-8 pm), traffic jams are inevitable.

Conference Details

GENERAL

Keynote Speakers

The Conference is divided into three main sessions; and in each session, a keynote speaker will make a presentation.

One keynote speaker will be **Ganbat Damba**; Chairman of the Board of the Academy of Political Education, and Mongolia's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany (Urban-Rural cleavages and democracy).

Another of the keynote speakers will be **Steven Fish**; Professor of Political Science, University of California (Civil Society and democracy).

The third keynote speaker will be **Tapan Sarker**; Senior Lecturer in the Department of International Business and Asian Studies (Extractive economics, resources-rich countries and democracy).

Scientific Committee Members

- Ambassador Bekhbat Khasbazar. President of IRIM;
- Christian Suter, World Society Foundation (Zurich) and University of Neuchâtel;
- Byambasuren Yadmaa. Director of School of Management and Governance, National Academy of Governance of Mongolia, and Board Member of IRIM;
- Tamir Chultemsuren. Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Social Work, National University of Mongolia and Board Member of IRIM;
- Khatanbold Oidov. Academic Secretary Institute of Philosophy, Mongolian Academy of Sciences;
- Dolgion Aldar. IRIM Board Member (External Relations).

Organising Committee Members

- Ch. Tamir. National University of Mongolia. IRIM Board Member and Consultant;
- A.Dolgion. IRIM Board Member (External Relations) and Consultant;
- D.Erdenetsetseg. Project coordinator, IRIM.

Number of participants

Fifteen international academics/scholars will present papers, along with 10-15 Mongolian scholars.

Presenter guideline

The format of your presentation is: **Oral Presentation in English**. Specific guidelines for the presentation (including information on PPT slide format, slide submission date, length of the presentation and your presentation date and time) will be sent to you by June 2018.

The Conference room will be equipped with computer and projector.

PROGRAMME

Two-day conference will be divided into three parts, all of which will be held in English.

Please see the brief program. A detailed conference schedule will be provided to participants in June, 2018.

Sunday, 8 July

- Arrival of participants and airport pick ups
- Welcoming of guests and meeting with the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia
- Dinner reception to welcome participants.

Monday and Tuesday, 9 and 10 July

- Conference days, where the participants are responsible for participating fully (according to the initially program, conference will organize from 9 am to 6 pm in two days)

Wednesday, 11 July

- Cultural activities; celebrating Naadam Festival. We are planning to organize half day trip for celebrating with National Festival: Here is the our initial plan for this day:
 - Watch art performances of the Opening Ceremony (most famous and talented artists of the country are gathered at one place and perform at wide extension) of the National Naadam.
 - Visit national archery competition.

Naadam Festival

The Naadam festival is a sophisticated and eloquent expression of nomadic culture. It is the honoured celebration of national independence, and an outstanding combination of arts and sports. Official festival celebrations takes place throughout the country, during 11 to 13th July each year. The Ulaanbaatar Naadam starts with a parade of cavalry transferring the symbolic '*nine banners of the Great Mongol Empire*' from Government House to the Naadam stadium. Next, the President of Mongolian gives a speech, which is followed by traditional performances, shows and much more. More information about the Naadam Festival is available from the following source.

<http://naadamfestival.com/>

PUBLICATION

The selected and accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings, under the Foundation's own book series called 'World Society Studies'. More detailed information on previous volumes are available on the Foundation's website (under 'Publications'). Full paper for publication is not mandatory for conference attendance and the grant. The publication process will start immediately after the Conference, and participants will be provided with more information at the Conference itself. Additionally, the participants provide their modified papers by 30 June, 2018.

(We have already sent you the World Society Studies Publication paper guidelines via email).

Important Notes

TRAVEL GRANT

The World Society Foundation will provide only **four-day's** grant. This will cover the following:

- Round-trip air ticket
- airport pick up from departure and arrival Chinggis Khaan airport,
- Accommodation (breakfast included) for four nights
- Visa fee
- Welcome Reception 8th of July
- Food (lunch and dinner) for 9th and 10th of July
- Cultural event ticket and transportation around the city for Naadam festival
- Lunch on 11th of July (dinner not included)

The participants have to ensure their full participation (8-11 July) in the Conference.

Any other costs not mentioned above should be at the expense of the participants themselves. For example, local transportation costs in your country will not be covered. Additional travel and stays shall be covered and arranged by the participant him/herself. We will not provide any cash and stipend.

VISA ISSUES

Participants of certain countries which have visa exemption agreements with Mongolia are exempted from visa requirements to the extent allowed by such agreements on reciprocal basis. These includes citizens from United States of America, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany and India etc. For more information, please see the list of visa free countries. <http://consul.mn/eng/02visae.php>

The participants should fill the application form, and apply for your visa at the diplomatic or consular mission of Mongolia in your country or in a location closest to you. The Organizing Committee will provide you an official invitation letter. Please see the information about Mongolian diplomatic missions abroad. <http://consul.mn/eng/05dtg.php>

We will also inform about the Conference to your consular missions and to the Immigration Agency of Mongolia.

The deadline for participants applying visa is: 14 May, 2018.

Please pay for your visa fee when you apply for the visa and keep the **original copies of your receipt** and so we can reimburse you when you are in Mongolia.

FLIGHT AND TRANSPORTATION

As this is the peak tourist season, the availability of tickets will be scarce. Therefore flight availability and bookings could be limited.

- The Conference will cover a round-trip restricted economy class air ticket from your city of origin to Ulaanbaatar.
- Please **DO NOT** buy the air ticket yourself. IRIM will purchase it for you and send an e-ticket whenever it is issued. Departure and arrival airport must be the same.
- The air tickets will be non-changeable and non-refundable after it is issued. You are expected to arrive in Ulaanbaatar on Sunday, 8 July and depart on 12 July, 2018. Additional travel and stay shall be covered and arranged by the participant him/herself; including when due to the missing of flights etc.
- Late changes will **NOT** be accepted **NOR** other/additional destinations, booking requests, etc. Other local transportation costs in your country will not be covered, nor arranged by the Organising Committee.
- The Organising Committee will arrange for participants to be collected upon arrival at Chinggis Khan International Airport and returned there after completion of the Conference.
- If transport from the airport is delayed, participants should remain waiting (not take another taxi) The ticket ordering deadline is: 15 April 2018.

Dependent: Participants will be very welcome to visit Mongolia with dependents. In this case the Organizing Committee will not be responsible for dependents. But we can only book your dependent ticket after your payment. In terms of payment, unfortunately you can't directly transfer payment to the air ticket company (there is a lot of transfer fee and errors during the transfer). Therefore, the easiest way we would suggest is to transfer USD to the our bank account so that we can make purchases from Ulaanbaatar.

If you would like to include your dependent into the Naadam Festival day (to purchase additional tickets, included in the transportation etc.), there will be additional registration and organization fee charged. Please contact the Organizing Committee about the fees.

INSURANCE

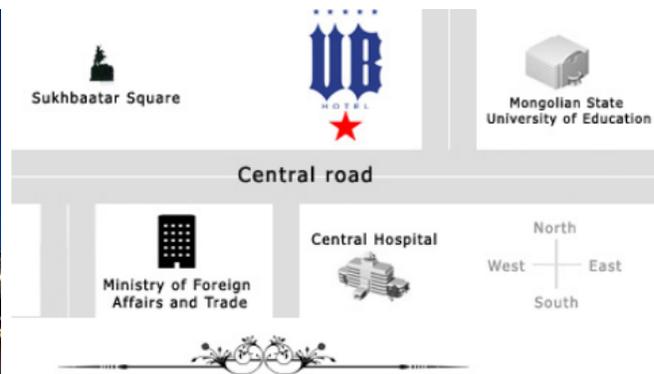
Participants are responsible for their own travel insurance, medical insurance, personal liability insurance etc. The Organising Committee emphasise the importance of the insurance. The Organising Committee **shall** accept **no responsibility** in this field.

ACCOMMODATION

The Conference will be held in the Ulaanbaatar Hotel. Each participant will stay in a single standard room of this hotel. The Organising Committee will serve complementary meals and throughout 8-11 July; specifically, dinner (8 July), lunch and dinner (9 and 10 July), and lunch (11 July). The hotel will provide breakfast each day; specifically, 9 to 11 July. Once the accommodation is booked, there will be no changes; in the room type, location, or hotel itself. Additional costs - such as hotel mini bar - shall be covered and arranged by the participant him/herself.

Ulaanbaatar Hotel

Address: Ulaanbaatar hotel, B.Altangerel's street-7, Ulaanbaatar-14200, Mongolia Telephone number:976-11-320620, 976-70116688



Hotel related information and caution:

- Is one of the oldest hotels in Mongolia and a historic one.
- Located at the heart of the city right next to the central square
- Service could be slow (e.g. past customer satisfaction rating for the hotel often rated the service as "average").
- There could be hot water (tap water) shortage.
- The hotel offers buffet food ranging from western style dishes to Asian food.
- The conference room could be hot during the day.

Conference Venue: The Conference will be held in the Khukh Asar conference hall (second floor) of the Ulaanbaatar hotel.



For any queries or additional information, there will be Hotel Information/Front Desk located on Level 1. Please get more information about the hotel's website at <https://www.ubhotel.mn/>

Facilities in the hotel

Internet access: Available, but in some instances the internet access is weak.

Laundry: Available. You will be staying in a standard single room: This room type is designed for regular business and leisure travellers and has everything needed for a short, productive stay. Features include a queen-sized bed with fine linens, desk, enhanced lighting and free Internet access.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Note: When you dial a Mongolian number, you must dial "976" before the number.

Dolgion Aldar (Scientific Committee Member/Consultant)

Email: Dolgion@irim.mn

Work Telephone: + 976-70117101

Mobile Telephone: +976-99107570

Erdenetsetseg Dashdeleg (Project coordinator/Organising Committee Member)

Email: erdenetsetseg@irim.mn

Work Telephone: + 976-70117101

Mobile Telephone: +976-99003753

IRIM

Address: Pro ONE building #1503, 15th floor, 11th khoroo, Sukhbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar 14182, Mongolia

Email: contact@irim.mn Web site: <http://www.irim.mn>