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Mongolia Institute wishes you a Happy Year of the Horse!



Congratulations

2013 was a very fruitful year for Mongolian Studies at the ANU. The graduation of Michael Hope in July was followed by the successful completion of two doctoral and one masters degrees:

Rebekah Plueckhahn, PhD. Thesis: "Musical Sociality: The Significance of Musical Engagement Among the Mongolian Altai Urianghai".

Undargaa Sandagsuren, PhD. Thesis: "Property 'owners' without rights? Exploring property relations and access in the herlen Bayan-Ulaan Reserve Pasture Area of Mongolia".

Igel Chuluunbaatar, MA. Thesis: "Critical Distance: analysing China threat perception in Mongolia".

We wish all three of our members great success in their future endeavours.



Ambassadorial Affirmation

It gives me great pleasure to make a small contribution to this new issue of the newsletter of the ANU Institute of Mongolian Studies. Over the past couple of years I have seen the Institute grow from little more than a bright idea to a functioning centre for Mongolian studies of all kinds, one of only a handful of such centres worldwide. The Institute is extremely valuable in fostering relations between Mongolia and Australia by sponsoring research and by teaching the Mongolian language. I have seen the

network of the Institute expand to include scholars, researchers and professionals in Australia, in Mongolia and across the globe. I am proud that the Mongolian Embassy in Canberra is able to support the work of the Institute in small ways and I commend Professor Li Narangoa, her colleagues and the ANU for their initiative in establishing the Institute and supporting it during its early stages. I wish the Institute every success in the future.

Ravdan Bold,
Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia

Welcome to the second issue of the Mongolian Studies newsletter at Australian National University. This newsletter also hopes to serve the broader Mongolian Studies community in Australia. If you have any information that you would like to share with us, please feel free to send any news, announcements to li.narangoa@anu.edu.au or dg700238@gmail.com

Yours sincerely,
The Editors



Mongolian Studies Open Conference

The Second Mongolian Studies Open Conference in Australia was held successfully at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra on 4 November. The conference was opened by Prof. Jenny Corbett, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Research Training, ANU, followed by the keynote address by Prof. Boldbaatar, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Ulaanbaatar University. The conference was concluded by His Excellency Dr Ravdan Bold, Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia.

More than forty people attended the Conference. Speakers included scholars from Japan, Korea, China, Mongolia and Australia. The event included presentations on a wide range of aspects of Mongolian history, economics, politics, security and culture. Topics covered were as diverse as current trends in land tenure reform, historical patterns of relations between Mongolia and neighbouring countries and the development of the contemporary Mongolian language.

We are very pleased with the outcomes. It is important to hold such conferences to consolidate and expand contacts between researchers in many disciplines who have a common interest in Mongolia. Such events also help to raise the profile of Mongolia in Australia.

The conference was sponsored by the Mongolia Institute, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University and by the Mongolian Embassy in Australia. It is hoped that the conference will become a regular event on the Australian academic calendar.



Prof. Jenny Corbett, Pro-VC, ANU



Prof. Boldbaatar
Deputy VC Ulaanbaatar University



His Excellency, Ambassador
Ravdan Bold





Intensive Language Course

A three-week intensive course in the Mongolian language was held at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra from 27 January to 14 February. The course was taught by Professor Bat-Ireedui from the National University of Mongolia. Professor Bat-Ireedui is a linguist and highly experienced in teaching Mongolian to foreigners.



The dozen participants came from varied backgrounds. They included undergraduate students, postgraduate students, researchers and people planning to visit or work in Mongolia. The course assumed no prior knowledge of the language. All participants successfully passed the course and Professor Bat-Ireedui was very impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment by the students and how fast they learned. The course concluded with an exam followed by a lunch time party. The students performed one of the songs they learned “Tala Nu-tag” (the Steppe) and Cholmon, one of the students of the class played beautifully on Mongolian traditional string instrument Morin Huur (Horse head fiddle) that he learned in Inner Mongolia a few years ago. The first course of this kind was held last year, but this course attracted more students which is very encouraging.

This language course was supported by Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, Mongolia Institute, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU and the Mongolian National University and the Mongolian Embassy to Australia.

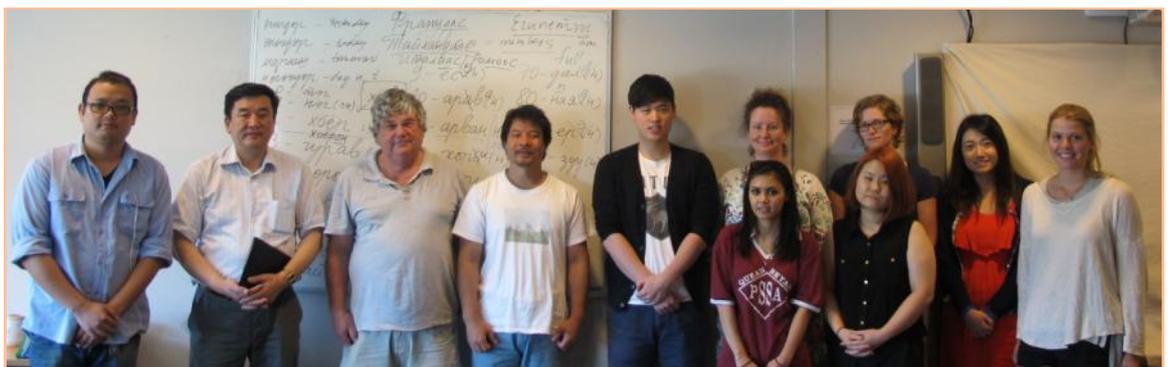
The Mongolia Institute hopes to hold the intensive course again in 2015. The ANU has also been offering a History course “The Mongol Empire in World History” and in first semester 2014 over 30 students have been enrolled in the course.



Cholmon performing Morin Huur

The ANU has also been offering a History course “The Mongol Empire in World History” and in first semester 2014 over 30 students have been enrolled in the course.

Some of the students together with Prof. Bat-Ireedui in the classroom



Some of the students together with Prof. Bat-Ireedui in the classroom





New Projects and Publications

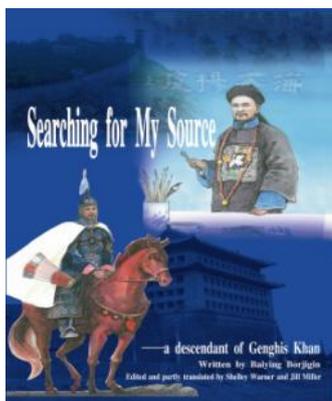
Translation of Geser Khan

Igor de Rachewiltz

After the publication in 2013 of the third and last volume of his work on the Secret History of the Mongols, Dr Igor de Rachewiltz has now started a new project, viz. the translation of the Mongolian Romance of Geser Khan (as distinct from the original Tibetan epic) in the Peking printed edition of 1716. This version has never been translated into English.

The Jarud Branch of Chinggis Khan's Family Tree

Baiying Borjigin



The project is looking at how the eldest son of this princely branch came to be incorporated into the Imperial banners during the Qing Dynasty in the 17th century. Dr Baiying Borjigin recently submitted a book manuscript to the Chinese Social Science Publishing House for publication which was part of his bigger project. The book will be published in 2014. He is also author of *Searching*

For My Source: A Descendant of Ghengis Khan (Canberra, 2010).

Nuclear nonproliferation and Disarmament

Maria Rost Rublee

Dr Rublee is investigating how norm entrepreneurs have influenced nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament in a number of countries, including Mongolia. The Mongolian project examines the process by which the country became the first single-state nuclear weapons free zone. Who were the important actors, what methods did they use, and what barriers did they face? Additionally, the project examines how the Mongolian success influenced not only Mongolian perceptions of security, but also the efforts to achieve a nuclear weapons free zone in Central Asia.

Historical Atlas of Northeast Asia

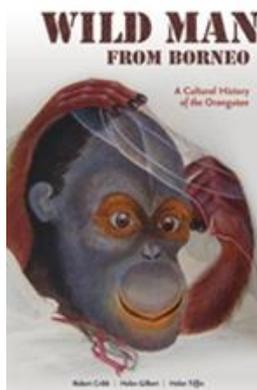
Li Narangoa and Robert Cribb

This Atlas examines a Northeast Asia whose history has been distinct from that of China, Japan and Russia and which has commonly been treated as only marginal to the history of those great powers. For four centuries, Northeast Asia has been at the junction of the ambitions of rival power centres, but local people, both indigenes and settlers, have vigorously asserted their own identities and their own aspirations in the face of outside power. This atlas tracks

the political configuration of Northeast Asia in the last four centuries, delineating the distinct history and importance of the region. This book will be released by Columbia University Press in May 2014.

Mongols: Descended from Orangutans?

Robert Cribb's new book, *Wild man from Borneo: a cultural history of the orangutan* (with Helen Gilbert and Helen Tiffen; University of Hawaii Press, 2014) might seem remote from Mongolia, but in his research he has uncovered the fascinating story of an English doctor who claimed that the difference between English and Mongols was that the former were descended from chimpanzees



and the latter from orangutans.

Details at <http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/p-9137-9780824837143.aspx>

Fieldwork

PhD scholar Nara Ganbat spent two months in Ulaanbaatar for fieldwork in 2013 examining the mechanics of domestic implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) as PhD project, Nara has conducted interviews with key actors in the area of disability and human rights from the Government, civil society and international organisations. Before she commenced her PhD study at the ANU in 2012, Nara had worked for the Mongolian Human Rights Commission, a statutory body mandated to overseeing the implementation of human rights laws applicable to Mongolia. Working as a focal point of the human rights and disability issues of the Commission (2006-2008), she was personally involved in the process of the ratification of the UNCRPD by the Mongolian Government. 'I thought that I know reasonably well about what is happening with regard to implementing the UNCRPD in Mongolia. But my fieldwork showed me that how different it can be to look into the familiar context with an outsider's eye, although I may not be able to completely separate myself from the context. I realised that my view was pretty much informed and shaped by my professional mandate. The fieldwork was an opportunity to understand the process in systematic manner' concluded Nara about the outcomes of her fieldwork.



Seminars and Visitors

Distinguished Visitor and Public

Lecture: The Mongolia Institute hosted Dr. Uradyn E. Bulag from Cambridge University who visited the ANU between 11 and 20 September 2013. On 19 September, Dr Bulag's visit was sponsored by the Research School of College of Asia and Pacific. He delivered a public lecture on "The Nationality Regional Autonomy System and Its Securitization: On the Chinese Regime of 'Mutual Deprivation'" which was provocative and stimulating. He also conducted Master Classes for graduate students.



Lecture on Mongolian Law Reform:

Dr Batbold Amarsanaa, the Vice-Director, National Legal Institute of Mongolia under Ministry of Justice of Mongolia, visited the ANU and presented a seminar talk on "Legal and judicial reform: Current developments in Mongolia" on 19 September 2013. The seminar focused on recent developments surrounding legal and judicial reform in Mongolia: what are the major components of legal and judicial reform; what is the driving force behind this reform; how



this reform is different from previous efforts. The seminar was sponsored by The Regulatory Institutions Network and Mongolia Institute, ANU.

PhD Scholar's Visit:

Mr Li Lin (Philip) from the History Department, Chinese University of Hong Kong came as visiting fellow for four months between Oct. 2013 and Feb. 2014. During his stay he worked on his PhD thesis "The military examination system of Banner men during the Qing". He also attended the Intensive Mongolian language class before his departure.

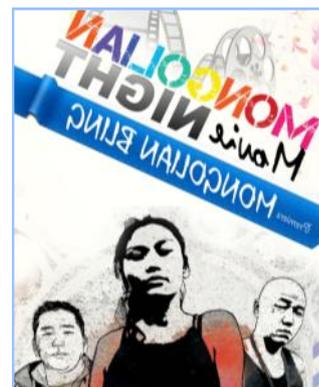


Visit by Australian Leadership Award Fellows from Mongolia

In September 2013, fifteen Australian Leadership Award fellows from Mongolia representing government and civil society visited Australia to participate in the "Leadership, Change Management and Sustainable Governance Framework" program funded under the Australian Government's Australian Awards Fellowship. They took part in two two-week intensive workshops conducted in partnership with Griffith University, Australian National University and Queensland University of Technology. During their stay at the ANU, several of the delegates including Dr Tsedendamba Samdan, Chief of Staff of the Civil Service Council of Mongolia, Mr Nyamjav Darjaa, Director of the State and Government Service Agency, Dr Urantsooj Gombosuren, Head of the Centre for Human Rights and Development and Mrs Tsetsgee Yundendorj, Deputy Director of Coffey International Development visited the Mongolia Institute. Professor Li Narangoa introduced the Institute and exchanged views on future activities and cooperation.



Movie Night: In conjunction with the Mongolian Studies Open Conference on 5 November 2013, the Mongolian Student Association in Canberra and the Embassy of Mongolia sponsored a Mongolian cultural night at the ANU in the evening. The film "Mongolian Bling" was premiered and Mongolian traditional food was served. More than 100 people participated in the film screening.



Welcome

New Assistant

Igtel Chuluunbaatar has recently joined us as part-time assistant at the Institute. She successfully completed her MA in International Relations at the College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU in the end of 2013. Now she is pursuing her second MA in Diplomacy. She also served as the President of Mongolian Student Association at the ANU until very recently and worked as assistant organizer of the Second Mongolian Studies Open Conference in 2013.



New Appointment to the Advisory Board

Professor Kent Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) and Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide has joined the advisory board of the Mongolia Institute at ANU. Professor Anderson was educated in Japan, US, and the UK in law, politics, economics and Asian studies. Before taking on his present appointment in 2012, Kent spent a decade at the ANU College of Law and Faculty of Asian Studies, where he was Director from 2007-2011. He was the Foundation Director of the School of Culture, History and Language in the ANU's College of Asia and the Pacific. He played a key role in facilitating the establishment of the Mongolian Studies Centre in 2011. He will bring a wealth of experience to the advisory board and we are most grateful that he has agreed to accept the position.

Australia-Mongolia Business Council

The Australia-Mongolia Business Council, a body aimed to promote the mutually beneficial economic, investment and business interests of Mongolia and Australia, was registered by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission on 28 January 2014. Mr Mark Green, International Managing Partner of Minter Ellison Lawyers, has been elected as the Council's inaugural Chairman. In recent times, the level of investment into Mongolia from



Australia has risen significantly. Around thirty Australian companies have established a local office in Mongolia and 170 small or medium-sized companies have links with Mongolia. The Embassy of Mongolia in Australia has long been supportive of efforts to establish a business council of this kind. The new Council intends to host a number of events in Australia to facilitate the sharing of experience of doing business in Mongolia.

News from Mongolia

Legal Reform Proceeds in Mongolia

The New Foreign Investment Law

In 2013 the Mongolian Parliament passed some important pieces of legislation relevant to the operations of international business.

A new investment law creates consistency in the regulation of domestic and foreign investors and establishes stable tax periods. The new law replaces earlier legislation and is expected to avoid disputes between the Government of Mongolia and foreign investors and reduce the time required for approvals, increasing the range and scale of future investments. Background information on the new law is available at http://chl.anu.edu.au/sites/mongolianstudies/documents/mongolia_tax2013.pdf

Judicial Reform Law Entered into Force

The Parliament also passed a package of judicial and legal changes representing the most comprehensive legal and institutional reforms since the 1990s. The package clarifies the status of lawyers and the legal profession, restructures court administration and the operations of the judiciary and codifies the role of citizen's representatives in court proceedings. It also regulates alternative forms of dispute resolution such as conciliation and mediation. The reforms are intended to lay the foundation for judicial practice in Mongolia for the next decade and beyond.

Details of the reforms are continued on page 7.

Coming Up

The Mongolian Minister of Foreign Affairs Visiting the ANU

The Mongolian Foreign Minister, Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold is visiting the ANU during his official state visit in March 2014 and will be launching the special issue of *East Asia Forum: on the Edge of Asia* which has a focus on Mongolia and Burma on 19 March 2014.

Venue: Crawford Molonglo Theatre (DLD2), Bldg 1, The Australian National University

Time: 1:30-2:30pm 19 March 2014

Contact: Rosemary Tran, Email: rosemary.tran4@gmail.com, Phone: 02 6125 6411.

Mongolia Update: After the very successful Mongolian Update in 2012, the Mongolia Institute is planning to organize the second Mongolia Update in early November 2014. Details are yet to be announced.

Judicial Reform Law Entered into Force (continued)

In 2013 a Law on Judiciary of Mongolia, Court Administration Law, Law on Legal Status of Lawyers, Law on Legal Status of Judges, Legal Status of Citizen's Representative, Reconciliation and Mediation Law passed by the Parliament within the framework of the Judicial Reform initiated by the President of Mongolia, have come into force. This reform is the biggest legislative and institutional reform in the judiciary since the 1990s. To briefly introduce these Laws:

The Law on Legal Status of Lawyers: The efficiency of this law is to establish an integrated liability system and provide a mechanism to resolve the professional fault of justices, prosecutors and attorneys. This law provides that the new Lawyers' Association shall be a professional self-governed body responsible for approving and enforcing the professional standards of lawyers. The Lawyers' Association will be responsible for uniting all persons with a license to engage in legal professional activities as well as approving professional standards on behalf of all lawyers, imposing liability, conducting continuous legal education among lawyers, developing legal education, supporting legal assistance to individuals and representing the interests and rights of lawyers.

Law on Judiciary: This law regulates the relations in connection with determination of legal grounds for judiciary system, organization,

authority, operation and guarantee for the judiciary's power. The new law regulates the restructuring of the court system is based on circle principle by bringing into consideration of territory, size of population, number of cases and disputes.

Court of First Instance and Appellate Court is established to specialize in criminal, civil and administrative cases. From this time judges are prohibited to displace one another. This law includes a package of guarantee such as economic, political, legal, security and organizational in order to guarantee the independence of the judiciary. At present the judicial budget is reduced by the government following approval by the parliament. Now the judiciary budget will be submitted directly to the parliament and there will be no deductions for salaries and operating expense.

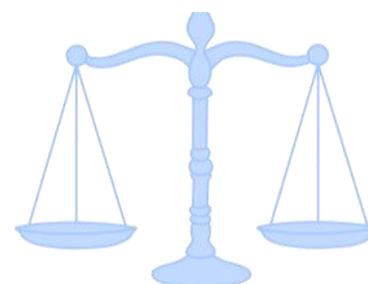
Legal Status of Citizen's Representative: This law regulates the determination of legal grounds for the activities and selection of citizens' representatives to participate in court proceedings. In the past various people have participated in trials as a representative of citizens. The new law allows individuals to participate in trials only if they are selected formally as a citizens' representative. Members of Parliament, judges, prosecutors' attorneys and other specific officials are precluded from appoint to such positions.

Reconciliation and Mediation Law: From the statistics of judicial proceedings, 30-40 percent of civil lawsuits are resolved in reconciliation. This demonstrates the im-

portance of alternative dispute resolution, especially mediation, in Mongolia. This law regulates the relations on usage of reconciliation and mediation proceedings in disputes of civil, commercial, family and labor law.

The Court Administration Law prior to this new law the concept of court administration was unclear, General Council of Court and Court Administrative function, duties were uncertain, there were difficulties in conducting judicial proceedings normally and effectively without giving due consideration to court administration. The implication of this law is to determine the duties and functions of the General Council of Courts having the primary mandate to ensure the independence of the judiciary, the impartiality of judges, and the day-to-day operation of the judicial system, including its uses, organizational structure, operational principles of the court administration, and regulation of the legal status of court staff.

This report is kindly provided by the Mongolian National Legal Institute.



Our Community

MEMBERS	RESEARCH INTERESTS
Li Narangoa	Identity, environment, social policies
Robert Cribb	Borders, violence, nationalism
Igor de Rachewiltz	History, Mongol Empire
John Powers	Intellectual history, Buddhism
McComas Taylor	Epic narratives, literature
Jack Fenner	Archaeology
Natasha Fijn	Human-animal studies, observational filmmaking
Maria Rost Rublee	Security, nuclear issues
Michael Hope	Mongol empire
Baiying Borjigin	Family history, Qing history
Holly Barcus	Culture, migration, place identity
Rebekah Plueckhahn	Mongolian music and performance

PhD, MA SCHOLARS	RESEARCH TOPICS
Gesar Temur	Buddhist revival in contemporary Mongolia: a western form of Buddhism comes to Mongolia
Narantuya Ganbat	Universal regulation and local application: Implementation of the UN convention on the right of persons with disabilities in Mongolia and Australia
Tenzin Ringpapontsang	Advice to the King: A letter from Phags Pa Lama to Khubilai Khan
Wuqiriletu	Environment, Grassroots politics in Mongolia and Inner Mongolia
Itgel Chuluunbaatar (MA)	Diplomacy

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