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Development Trajectories for Mongolian Women in and after Transition

Yuki Konagaya
Maqsooda S. Sarfi (Eds.)

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National Museum of Ethnology
2013 Osaka

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Foreword

Dr. K. N. Pandita

Former Director,
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Mongolia is known to the outside world by the greatest empire ever raised that spread over the Asian and the Eurasian continent under Chinggis Khaan. Empires have risen and fallen in the course of history. After the fall of his empire, very little remained to be talked about Mongolia except the incredible stories of extensive campaigns and conquests made by her warriors.

Centuries after centuries passed: Mongolia returned to the normal life- pattern of great Central Asian region and her society was back to its equilibrium.

The authors of this work has focused on Mongolian woman after the fall of the empire down to the times of the rise of Soviet power in its neighborhood in 1917, then the implosion of Soviet Union in 1991 and finally the emergence of contemporary Democratic Republic of Mongolia.

These are varying eras of Mongol history. Historians will compile the historical data of those eras but understanding Mongol society through the life and work of their women folks will give interesting insight into that society. This is precisely what the authors of this work have done.

Around the middle of 13th century AD when Chinggis the great conqueror embarked on vast campaigns in Asia, the Mongol women enjoyed greater amount of freedom, at the same time leaving space for men to fight, to conqueror or to get killed on the battlefield. This has to be taken into consideration in the broader spectrum of the status of women in other parts of Asia. For example, this was the time when a woman of Turkic descent namely Razia Sultan ruled over the vast Indian kingdom of the Slave dynasty. Almost in the epoch and in the spiritual realm, we have a female hermit of great popularity in Kashmir, named Laleshwari (Lalded) conveying message of peace, harmony and love among human beings. The impact of her message of humanism is still held in great respect not only by her own people but peace loving people all over the world.

However, the long medieval period saw the Mongol women enslaved to home chores allowing them no space for growth of independent personality.

Nevertheless sustaining social structure of Mongol society remained integral to Mongol woman's life activity side by side with men folks. She became partner in population mobility, nomadic settlements, cattle breeding and petty agrarian activities. She was a partner sharing responsibility and performing duty as desired

by the contemporary society.

In an over-all assessment, her life pattern was very close to what obtained in the wide region of Central Asia where we find a combination of nomadic and tribal life style flourishing. The rise of Soviet State in close geographical proximity impacted Mongolian society and its institutions including governance and political system. Though like the Central Asian states Mongolia was not under the suzerainty of the Soviet Union, yet in a sense Mongolia could not escape Soveitization.

Transformation of Mongolian society by her women from medieval to modern life and thought, was undoubtedly brought about by Mongolia's close cooperation with Soviet Union. For the first time, after the revolution of 1921 in Mongolia, the Mongol woman got equal rights with man. She became partner in all productive activity contributing in strengthening economy. Doors of education from lowest to highest levels including professional and technological were flung open on her. She became active, vibrant, and creative. Her talent flourished because of exposure to all walks of life. She became not only a political activist but also a stakeholder of power, in all organs of state. Mongol men folk found a new healthy and pragmatic role awaiting Mongol woman. She exercised the practice of trade and commerce and within six decades of Soviet influence it helped Mongol woman cast aside her age-old backwardness and isolation, and rose to become a teacher, a doctor, a technocrat, a bureaucrat a diplomat and a jurist.

The collapse of Soviet Union in 1991 inevitably snatched away from Mongol women all those privilege and concession, which the Soviet system provided to the Soviet Central Asian States. Education, medical health assistance, employment and social security suddenly stopped. Now the Mongolian women had to fend for themselves. A life of new responsibilities and compulsions began for her.

The consequences of cessation of Soviet era privileges almost shattered Mongol society with worst impact on woman and children.

The transition period from communist model to democratic model was painful. There were no jobs; there was no free education and there was no health support. It is this phenomenon that the present study brings into focus. It tells us about new social institutions that had to be forged to take care of unemployed women and youth, errant kids turning into begging and bullying street kids and woman striving to put a break to this situation.

The interesting and educative part of the writing deals with the role women in Mongolia are playing in rebuilding and shaping their country in new political dispensation. Her problems are enormous but at the same time, institutions are created for women to play active role and hasten the transformation.

The best possible way to estimate and evaluate their role and the methodology adopted by the authors is to interviewing and recording interviews with ten

prominent women working in different walks of social reconstruction. The interviews have been faithfully recorded and are open for any researcher to examine and draw inferences. This gives credibility to the assertions and inferences made by the authors.

Preface

Yuki KONAGAYA

Maqsooda S. SARFI

Over the past 20 years Mongolia has changed and made considerable progress. Thinking and values of Mongolian people have revolutionized. Democracy and a market economy have brought new opportunities. Government is keen and shows considerable interest to reduce the poverty level of its people, and has succeeded to a great extent. It has launched several projects for the protection and development of women, to help them stand on their own feet and become active members in the nation-building process. Government launched projects proved a healthy option and more and more Mongol women took to them. Women not only started ventures in Mongolia but with the easing of travel and transit facilities, they could move to contiguous countries and let their ventures grow through interaction and cross border activities. With the passage of time, Mongol women found favorable exposure that has gradually helped them to change their life style.

On the political front, their dream is also coming close to reality. Mongolian Government passed new election law in 2011, which introduced the proportional representation of women and includes 20 percent of women candidates on each party list. In the recent election held on June 28th 2012, women regained their political presence in parliament. Nine women who have been very active in promoting the women's issues were elected as parliament members. These women have already started making a noticeable impact on certain issues. They formed a non-official caucus to work for the betterment of society, and particularly women and children. For that they need a considerable budget. The huge foreign investments could be utilized for this purpose.

Mining and construction are bringing a lot of foreign investment. These sectors are the noticeable taxpayers. They are creating many jobs, and living standards are improving with the increasing GDP. Disparities still exist, which limits the capacity of women to participate and benefit from the development. Economic development alone cannot help to uplift the women, unless and until the institutional environment is created. Overall, the Mongolian government is trying to redistribute the coming wealth equally to the population of three million.

The ten women we interviewed all made tremendous efforts to reach to their current positions. Each of them highly appreciated the freedom of speech and thought that democracy and market economy brought them. Recognizing the importance of this they availed the new opportunity to explore, which was unthinkable during the socialist period. Qualities showed by all the ten women are

their independence and vision about their role in society and how their jobs and work can benefit the public and country. They are playing the role of mother, a wife and above all as an individual they all appreciate the freedom of movement in a democratic environment. All were of the opinion that the Socialist era was very organized. All agreed that they need the "чимхүүр" tweezers to organize society in modern times. Although they come from diverse backgrounds, they all share a common purpose: working towards the betterment and development of Mongolia, the country to which they belong.

Sanajasuren Oyun came to power after the murder of her brother Sanjaasuren Zorig. She shares a story like that of other female leaders in Asia. In India, Sonia Gandhi is continuing the legacy of Congress after the assassination of Rajive Gandhi. Late Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan was elected after the murder of her father. Khaleda Zai, Sheikh Hassina of Bangladesh or Corazon C. Aquino of Philippines, share the dynastic background when elected in democratic system, after the assassinations of their husbands.[1)] These women definitely have made a difference.

Margaret Alva of India says, "you are doing two full-time careers, unlike the men and yet we women are always told we are the weaker sex."[2)]

Tanaka Makiko, Former Foreign Minister of Japan, once said, Prime Minister Mr. Koizumi asks me to step ahead and change government policies. So, I start walking but somebody is stepping on my skirt, I cannot move and to my surprise, it is the PM himself.[3)]

Dr.Vidya Veravdekar, Joint Director of Symbiosis University India in an interview with Delhi Times, 2006, stated, "I have never felt that my gender has ever adversely affected my chair, to the contrary, I think women are multifaceted and can cope with stress better than men. Our communication and public relation skills are superior and I have not at any time thought that I would be better at my job if I were a man! "

Recently we see a change especially in the educational sector. The percentage of girl students in higher education is more than boys whether it is Mongolia, India or Japan. Dr. Nyamdawaa Former Ambassador to India is concerned about this imbalance.

Agvaanluvsan Undraa as a nuclear expert praises the old system for its social welfare and work atmosphere for women. At the same time she is very optimistic about the future of Mongolia. As a nuclear expert, she is of the opinion that this sector will help Mongolia in a big way. Ms. Magwann Beliget is of the opinion that socialist government achieved impressive educational results. Free and compulsory education for both boys and girls was a cornerstone for such results, and was needed to give people equal and universal access to the basic needs of life.

Senden Enkhee and Ishdorj Saihana also believe that democracy brought them

freedom of thought and speech. Freedom of movement, which was not possible during their youth, has now given them opportunities to visit different countries and explore more. Enkhee insisted that knowing not much about the foreign lands force young people depend on brokers, which sometimes brings nothing but a hard life in abroad. She mentions that there have been many cases where young girls were killed or made to work as prostitutes. So in her opinion, before leaving ones own country, one must know the background of the destination country. Dr. Khulan is an expert in good governance, believes that Mongols are still in a process of transition. To get rid of corruption at the government level is very hard in her opinion. National actress N. Savvda acknowledges the fruits of democracy, but also suggests that the personal character of an individual determines how he/she contributes to society, regardless of the surrounding political system. Dr. Altantoya and Dr. Otganbayar are both experts in the health sector. They spoke in detail about emerging health issues and new challenges in the present system. Lack of experience of how health systems work in a democratic environment has made it difficult for management to comprehend the situation sometimes. Otganbayar concluded her talk by saying "Санан нь сохор бол нүд нь сохор" (if your brain is blind your eyes become blind automatically), therefore, in any system what is most needed, is to keep your brain open to learn and accept.

The examples of these ten women illustrate the process of Mongol women taking to professional life after the disruption of Mongol society during the post-Soviet period. We have tried to relate the successful transition to the phenomenon of self-employment and the building of new social structures within the parameters of a democratic and free economy. Through these interviews, we can see tremendous diversity from high-profile politicians, businesswomen, and professionals in the health sector and culture, to a leader of women's organizations. The authors have investigated the factors and influence that have contributed to the development of women who have and still are contributing to their own development and the development of Mongolia. This study could be a roadmap for women in other societies struggling for improvement in life style, economic stability, and political participation.

We are grateful to all who directly or indirectly were involved with the project. Our thanks goes to Ms. Erdenchimeg, president of women's Federation in Mongolia, Mr. Burenbaya Chanrav, Senior Manager communication and media, Oyu-Tolgoi, LLC, Ulaanbaatar and Dr. Indermohan Narula, International Health Consultant to Ministry of Health in Mongolia, Global Fund, School of medicine, Health science university of Mongolia, without whose support it was not possible to conduct the interviews. Last but not least we are thankful to all of the interviewees for their time and support, appreciate precious memories they have shared with us and our readers.

Notes

1) M. R. Thompson, Female Leadership of Democratic Transitions in Asia, *Pacific Affairs* 75(4), 2002, pp. 535-555.
2) Elisabeth Bumiller, *May you be the mother of Hundred sons, A journey among the women of India*, published in India by penguin books India, 1990, p. 165.
3) HNK News, August 9, 2002.

CONTENTS

Foreword i

Preface v

Part I: Women in Historical Review

1. The socialist period 5
2. Post-transition period 7
3. Democracy and market economy 9
4. National program on gender equality 11
5. Women's labor force 15
6. NGOs led by women 17

Part II: Interviews (Verbatim Transcription)

7. SANJAASUREN Oyun:
   Minister of Nature, Environment and Green Development, Mongolia 23
8. AGVAANLUVSAN Undraa:
   Deputy Director at Institute for Strategic Studies,
   National Security Council of Mongolia 37
9. MAGWAN Bilegt:
   President, Achlal Real Estate and Construction Company 49
10. SENDEN Enkhee: Owner, Chinese restaurant "Greenland" in Ulaanbaatar 57
11. ISHDORJ Saikhanaa:
    Owner President, Chinggis Guest House in Ulaanbaatar 65
12. NAMSRAI Suvd: Vice-Director of the State Drama Theatre,
    Honoured President, ITI Centre of Mongolia 73
13. HASHBAT Hulan:
    Governance Consultant and Former Democratic Party Parliament Member 83
14. JIGJIDSUREN Altantuya:
    Project Manager, Asian Development Bank, Mongolia 91
15. RADNAA Otoganbayar:
    The Chairperson of the Medical University of Mongolia, IMSHUS 105
16. MUNHJARGAL Tsog-Javh: President and CEO, Eagle Construction LLC 119

Part III: Conclusion

17. Looking to the Future 127

Part I: Women in Historical Review

Mongolian women, since the ancient times have played a vital role in all spheres of nomadic life whether economic, social or political when compared to other Asian countries. According to the Secret History of Mongolia, during the Chinggis khaan's period, women's opinion in the royal court was greatly valued. She was the advisor and her influence in the court was tremendous. Her intelligence was appreciated and respected. The history also tells us how women were actively participating in war and were given military training. It was considered wiser for a man to marry an older woman, as it was believed that she as an intelligent person could guide him better in everyday affairs.

To mention a few of the outstanding women during those times, the first is Chinggis Khaan's mother Hulan who made the way for Chinggis to become a ruler and then Borte the wife of Chinggis. Chinggis respected and trusted her advised. Next is the Kublai khan's mother Sorghagtani Beki and wife Chabi, who had great influence on administrative policies of Mongols. Borji and Khutulun were also prominent and helped their men in administrative skills such as dealing with the people of conquered countries. Khutulun was famous not only for her beauty but for her tremendous strength. She did not marry as she thought that there was no man worthy of her strength. There are many stories written about her by Maroco Polo. The Great granddaughter of Kublai khaan, Princess Sengge was a collector of art specially Chinese Art. It was not only the royal females who played a great role but there were women among the common people too, who were also active. Guan Daosheng was a renowned painter of her times during the Kublia khaan's rule.[1)] In the nomadic economy the duties and responsibilities of woman were very demanding. They have to look after the herds and make the dairy products for the family to survive the cold winters. These duties and responsibilities in the nomadic life of women are same even now.

With the decline of Mongolian Empire, the position and role of Mongolian women deteriorated. During the Manchurian period (late seventeenth century) women lost all their rights and were treated like chattels. After the revolution of 1921 and the establishment of socialism, the condition of women started improving. The education for all policy of Socialist Era elevated the position of women and she became a full-fledged member of the society. As her literacy level rose so did her role in the society. Her role expanded and was not limited to the economic sphere only, in which she was always active, whether literate, or illiterate. By the late 1980s she was actively participating in politics, trade, medicine, information technology and education.

1. The socialist period

Under the communist system, basic amenities and requirements of life were almost ensured even if minimally. At least the classical struggle for survival was over and the dignity of labour was ensured. In so far as women's rights were concerned, The Revolutionary Party of Mongolian Peoples Republic adopted its first constitution in 1924 where it established women's rights to be equal to men in education and employment. The Party and State devoted particular attention to make education and culture accessible to women.[2] From the very beginning they aimed to arm women with the powerful instrument of education. Their participation in politics and decision-making was encouraged. Co-education became normal practice and the pedagogical principles for both boys and girls were the same from the kindergarten up. In the same year 1924, the women's organization committee was founded, which promoted the wide participation of women in political, social and labor activities while the constitution granted them the right to participate in elections. Participation in social life greatly changed their outlook, their way of life and thinking. Professionally, they became more politically aware. During the 1930's enormous gains were made by and for women: 16 women ministers, deputy ministers and agency heads, 35 percent of judges were women, 40 women headed cooperatives and 14 women out of 35 were in the *Khural* (legislative body) by 1940.[3]

Government took many measures to build a large work force. Between 1960-1970 focus was directed towards the social welfare, health care, and pension benefits and establishing of professional training centers where women could get training and utilize her knowledge to serve the society. The custom of forcibly marrying off women was legislatively done away with in 1925. Abortion was illegal although not uncommon and contraceptives were mostly unavailable. Total fertility rate reached 7.53 in early 1970 and population growth rate peaked in a few years. Efforts were made to provide many maternity homes with qualified medical personnel, free medical care and meals. Large families were recommended and mothers of such large families were awarded the "Order of Mothers Glory," which entitled them to annual cash award or free stay in a rest home (sanatorium) for a period of 14-21 days.[4] Working mothers also had the right to take maternity leave of six months following childbirth. This act was enforced since 1977. The upbringing of the children was the common task for both the parents. All the family members shared the household chores. Their role in the society and in the family changed. Mother and child protection laws ensured that women were not interrupted in their work as deputies in the ministries, doctors, engineers, writers and industrial workers.

More than half of the population engaged in national productive labor included

women. The establishment of cooperative movements in rural areas gave a lot of help to women and freed them from the burden of much of their work. In the urban areas also many kindergartens looked after the interests of mother and child thereby giving women further chance to utilize her time in other types of work in a comfortable way.[5)]

The rights of women to work, to rest, to educate and receive equal pay were guaranteed. During the socialist regime the majority of women constituted the work force.[6)] On an equal footing with men, one finds majority of women working as herders, in factories, State farms agricultural associations and in other enterprises. With the development of economy and culture, women have acquired higher merited work in all fields of society. However, this emancipation in the socio-economic sphere was at the cost of freedom of expression.

Notes

1) Women in medieval China, http://web.clark.edu/afisher/HIST252/lectures_text/women_medieval_china.pdf
2) *Mongolia*, 1977, No. 2.
3) *Socialist Mongolia*, 1981, p. 100
4) *The 60th anniversary of peoples Mongolia*, p. 101.
5) *Mongolia*, 1972, No. 2.
6) *Socialist Mongolia*, 1981, p. 100.

2. Post-transition period

With the collapse of Soviet Union and undoing of communist ideology, countries like Mongolia came face to face with an economic crash. In 1990, most subsidies were withdrawn and many economic entities had to manage without it, hence a lot public and private business entities preferred to survive by reducing the number of staff. As a result, number of pensioners increased four folds. No pension was given to the single women and widows if the husband died outside their place of work. Even when pension was granted, it was often not enough to feed the family and there were no adequate supports for the education of the children. Widows were and are still not in a position to buy daily commodities, as they could not work full time. Women between the ages of 38 to 55 with more than four children were forced into early retirement. Women who were rewarded to have many children and were called the "glorious mothers" during the socialist period were now pushed into poverty. Consequently, these same women who contributed to over half of the labor productivity were almost ignored in all spheres of country's life and were relegated to social and economic backwaters and marginalized.

The Government was unable to do much as it tried to reshape its whole structure politically, economically and socially from a centrally planned economy to a free market economy. To take the path towards democracy with diminished subsidies from socialist block was a tough challenge not only to the government but also to its citizens. The issues were many. Therefore, the Mongolian government had to turn to the International community for help. The International organizations like Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund and such aid organizations as the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan Foundation and the US Agency for International Development all came forward to assist the newly established democratic government. To prepare the government for the market economy many measures were taken with the help of the foreign institutions. Privatization of state assets, elimination of government subsidies affected all segments but its worse impact was on women of Mongolia who had to bear and bring up children, run the household, fend for large family and do odd chores just to keep two ends together. Their unemployment besides the unemployment of the male members led to the alcohol, abuse, domestic violence and finally to divorces that increased the number of female single headed families. These single headed families who were most vulnerable were those who were below the poverty line. In the rural areas her burden was more as she had to look after the herds, make the daily dairy products, construct the fence, which was done previously by the collective farms. Due to this hard labor many families abandoned the herding and migrated to the urban cities especially Ulaanbaatar. Some had the relatives in the cities but some were new to the city. Without a job,

they are forced to use illegal means to earn money. During the transition period prostitution, trafficking of women, street children were the new grave social issues that emerged which the society and government had to deal with. On the one hand they got freedom and opportunities but at the same time they were the ones who had to struggle to grab the new opportunities to overcome the poverty during the early years of transition. The unemployment of both, men and women, the huge migration from rural to cities in search of better life led to the imbalance and a huge gap between the haves and have-not's.

3. Democracy and market economy

United-States of America, came forward with their experts to help Mongolian government in creating a true democratic set-up. Knowing the special strategic and economic importance of Mongolia, United-States of America, made sure that Mongolia does not go back to the rigid method.

The National Parliament "Ikh Khural" (The State Great Khural) adopted a new constitution in 1992. It was amended in 1999 and 2001. The women were given equal rights. In article 16.11 of the constitution, it was stated, "Men and women enjoy equal rights in political, economic, social and cultural field and in marriage." In the same year 1992, women started mobilizing together for their political, social, and economic status. There was a great response from the women belonging to nook and corner of Mongolia. They proved their potential to the world. These women courageously overcame the hurdles and participated in political, social and economic changes. They emerged with many ideas and activities. They created a network, which helped to promote their interests.

Government of Mongolia put their efforts to reduce the poverty. From 1990-1994 several major changes were introduced to amend the basic pension scale. Due to the concomitant increases in the prices and tariffs on consumer commodities, basic goods and all types of public service, the purchasing capacity of the income remained unchanged despite the increase in the amount of the pension payments. As of 1995, about one quarter of the population was estimated to be living in poverty and women headed over 20 percent of all the poor households. The rise in the number of female headed house-holds inevitably increased unemployment among women with low levels of education and skills, while low wages for those in employment were the major cause for the prevailing trend towards the feminization of poverty as it happened in other post-Soviet countries.

To address such issues, in 1994 the government of Mongolia approved a "Poverty Alleviation Programmer" which is currently being implemented with the international assistance. Subsequently, in 1995 another resolution was passed. Under the resolution number 104 and 105 the scope of the pensions was increased; however, it was applied only to veterans over 70 years old, creating unfavorable conditions for old women who retired on privileged terms because they were mothers of many children.

"The National Poverty Alleviation Programmer" along with the support of the donor countries and UN, the Asian Development Bank and Japanese TASMS tried to create jobs. Priority was given to the *aimag*s. *Aimag* governments along with the *soum*s had to show the ability to generate employment for women by providing credit for small-scale business. They had to compete with each other for start-up credit funds and involve the local financial community, local women's networks

and NGO's. By doing so, the visibility of such groups increased and so is the status of women.

In 1996, the Government of Mongolia declared "The National Program of Action" for the advancement of women. In the declaration it was mentioned that, women of Mongolia have been always a sustaining force behind the nation's progress throughout the annals of its history. The advantages and disadvantages of nomadic and sedentary life style of Mongolia had brought them both opportunities and constraints. The Mongolian culture and traditions, which has both European and Asian influence, also affected the role of its women.[1)]

To implement the laws on National program of Action, Ministry of Health and social policy from 1997-1999 tried to give a budget of 30 million *tugrug*s (Mongolian currency) but not whole was spent for the program.

According to the report of NSO (women and men in Mongolia) in 1998, "Women's political, social and economic participation is much lower than men's. The women constitute only 10.5 percent of current parliament members, 11 percent of government (Cabinet) members, 0 percent of *aimag* and capital city governors, 2.4 percent of *soum* and district governors, 6-13 percent of citizens' representatives of the Khurals (local legislature) at all levels, 0 percent of the heads of the citizens' representatives of the Khurals and 3-8 percent of Presidium members. Even in the judicial branch, despite women constituting about 70 percent of all legal professionals, only 23.5 percent of the Supreme Court members are women."

According to the research of LEOS of 1998, there were 21 political parties of which four have seats in the parliament. Mongolian National Democratic Party also took some steps to appoint some women as senior advisors. As per the report, "An important indicator of progress in the political life of Mongolia is the fact that over the last few years these parties that had been concentrated in the Capital city only have reached out into rural areas establishing local branches and intensifying party work in the country side." Health law was passed in 1998 (it was updated in 2010) and Family law came into force in 1999 with which women were given equal right to inheritance, land and ownership of livestock and other property. In 2006 to improve the condition and health of women, law on Monetary Assistance to the child and family was passed.

Note

1) *The National Program of Action for the advancement of women*, Ulaanbaatar, 1996, p. 4.

4. National program on gender equality

In 1995, The Information and Research Centre (WIRC) NGO was established. There main work is to uplift for the cause of women in Mongolia. Under their various objectives on women's issues, one of the objective is to collect the information on gender issues, educate the public on such issues, involve the government in policy makers, collect the data on problems confronting by the women in different areas do the research and work for the empowerment of women through educational and professional training. They work with other domestic and international NGOs.

In 2002, the Government of Mongolia adopted the "National Program on Gender Equality" the aim of which was to improve the living standards of its people. By creating a favorable environment in which both men and women could participate equally for the development of their country and benefit equally by the progress. Many NGO like National Center against Violence, Mongolian women's Federation and Democratic women's Association has been taken into confidence by the government in order to achieve its program goals. With the collaboration of UNDP Mongolian office, Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Finance and Economy, in 2003-2004, implemented a project on "Developing Capacity for Gender-sensitive Budgeting." Japanese Women's Development Fund funded this project. According to the Japanese women's development, Mongolia, so far, has been successful in implementing the gender sensitive budgeting, the main aim of which is to make public aware about the gender issues. In order to train and educate the community on gender issue program workshops were set up. In order to change the mindset of the people on the traditional role of gender, seminars were organized in all the four regions, Khangai, Western, Eastern, and Central and in Ulaanbaatar.[1)] To make public aware media and press was involved in the training process. In 2005, participation of women in decision-making was included in the Mongolian Millennium Development Goals. This was a big step to ensure the gender equality. But this did not last long. In 2007, State Great Khural removed the Article 28-2 on election law. The law was about the participation of minimum 30 percent of women candidates in the Parliament. The cancellation of law by the Parliament was strongly criticized by many NGO's. The NGO for human rights and development demonstrated a fervent distress. They appealed to the President to show the respect for the international treaties on human rights.

It was only in February 2011 that State Great Khural approved the law on promotion gender equality. The chair person of the UN Gender theme Group Mrs. Rana Flowers while praising the significant steps of Mongolian Government on gender issues showed some concern on the low participation of Mongolian women in decision-making. While emphasizing on the balance of power in the political

sphere between men and women she mentioned that the Government of Mongolia accepted the fact in the Millennium Development Goals progress report of 2010, that it has very low percentage of women in the parliament that needs to be taken care of. Mrs. Rana also mentioned that omitting quota means putting the MDG commitment and its target at risk. This was put in the parliament in 2005 but took a bit of time in the parliament to get the legislation passed on 2011, 14th February. Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, UNDP Resident Representative in Mongolia, in her opening statement commended Mongolia for its new election law, which introduced the proportional representation of women and includes at least 20 percent of women candidates on each party list.

Michelle Bachelet, Executive director of the UN entity for gender equality and empowerment of women talking on the role of quota in accomplishing the women political Participation, said on March 2012, "Today I call for stronger commitment by the leaders to increase women's participation in politics. I encourage countries to use quota to expand women's participation in parliament. It is also good to open public debate about the right of women to take part in government and to hold public office. Democracy grows stronger with the full and equal participation of women."[2)] Quotas have a positive effect on increasing women's involvement in politics. Those countries that have adopted quota system according to the IPU report have gained 27 percent of parliamentary seats compared to those who did not apply quota.

According to the National Statistics of Mongolia, the Mongolian population increased by1.9 in 2009. The average size of the family is 3.8. Out of 716.5 thousand households, 38.5 percent live in rural areas and remaining 61.5 percent live in urban areas. With regard to number of marriages these increased by 3.3 percent and divorces increased by 26.2 percent in 2009. Number of female headed households is estimated at 8.2 thousand in 2009, increased by 12.4 percent compared to 2006, 12.6 percent compared to 2007 and 5.8 percent compared to 2008. The 42.0 thousand of 51.7 percent of total number of female headed household have up to 3 members. In 2009, number of households with 4 and more children aged below 16 reached at 27.0 thousand, representing 1.0 percent of the total population. The number of single women with children aged below 16 reached at 42.3 thousand in 2009.[3)]

Also according to the National Statistics, females make up 50.4 percent of the country's population and represent 43 percent of all highly educated people, 70 percent of lawyers and 36.8 percent of state employees in education, health trade and financial sectors. Of the female population, 43.2 percent are below the age of 16, 47.4 percent are aged 16-54 and 9.4 percent are 55 years old and above. By the year 2020, the female population is expected to number 1,730,600, of whom 33.9 percent will be under 16, 54.1 percent will be working age and 12 percent will be

aged 55 and over.[4)]

Notes

1) November 2005 International Monetary Fund, Country Report, No. 05/405. (Mongolia: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report)
2) http://www.unwomen.org/2012/03/michelle-bachelet-highlights-quotas-to-accelerate-womens-political-participation/
3) National Statics office Mongolia. 2009.
4) Ibid.

5. Women's labor force

Results from the LFS shows that economically active population in 2009 was 1137.9 thousand of which 1006.3 thousand or 88.4 percent were employed and 131.6 thousand or 11.6 percent were unemployed people. The male and female shares of the economically active population in terms of percentages employed and unemployed people have been close.

According to the document of the European Bank for reconstruction and development in Mongolia compared to many other countries, 51.3 per cent of the employed women play a big role in the Mongolian economy. Women are as educated as men. There are no significant differences in unemployment figures by gender (see Table 1 for details).

Table 1 Differences by gender in Mongolia

	Male	Female
Life expectancy at birth (years)	62.6	69.4
Adult literacy rate (%)	98.0	97.5
Economically active population (%)	48.6	51.4
Employment (%)	48.7	51.3
Unemployment rate (%)	14.1	14.2
Poverty headcount (%)	34.8	43.8
GDP per capita (PPP US$)	3,046	2,611

Source Document of the European bank for reconstruction and development

6. NGOs led by women

Prior to 1990, Mongolia had one effective Association, the Mongolian Women's Federation. This Organization during the Socialist period was a State Organization and exercised both government and non-government functions, but now is working as an NGO with diminished state resources and with the support of foreign donor countries. I have the privilege to meet its presidents like Ms. Dashaa, Ms Gerelsuren and now Erdenchimegee. Ms. Dashaa told me that they did need money but want to have some tools, which will provide employment to its women. Ms Gerelsuren, a very intelligent and skillful head of her organization was working hard to bring her women colleagues back on the equal footing in all sphere of life. Ms Erdenchimegee introduced me to some of the wonderful women who have been very successful in their ventures.

Apart from these Organizations, there are many others such as the Federation of Mongolian Democratic Women's Association, Mongolian Business Women's Federation, and Women for Social Progress, Lawyer Women's Association, Liberal Women's Brain Pool, Mongolian Consultative Committee, Women Information and Research Centre and Women against Violence, which are active in the field.

These organization have broad agendas including equal rights, access to work, housing and credit, women's legal issues, employment generation and vocational crisis intervention, health care for mothers and infants, promotion of the women's movements and establishment of an independent database. During the transitional economic crisis these were the issues that became the causes of the deterioration of status of women in Mongolia. In addition, the indifference of the government towards the elevation of the economic status of the women had been alarming. Despite the fact that there were a lot of educated, intelligent and talented women working for the advancement to management, the men were not interested in sharing the power. The women are a great power who could be used in the development of the country.

The deterioration of women's status has economic, social, and political dimensions especially in the absence of a clear government policy and participatory mechanisms for the women. On the political front these NGO's have demanded their active participation in the political affairs of the country. Seeing Politics as an effective way to solve their problems, women across the country united to form a coalition of Women's Organization in preparation for parliamentary election. The oldest organization, the Mongolian women's Federation, appealed to the public to support female candidates.

As mentioned above, these NGO's with the assistance of different international women's' organization and with the financial assistance of Australia have established a centre for the victims of different kinds of violence, which has been

operational for quite some time where they provide medical as well as moral support to such destitute people. The violence in the family affecting women and children has become the order of these days, and mostly people prefer to hide such shameful acts sometimes for reputation's sake and sometimes simply not knowing it as a crime. Hence, priority should be given to the women's problems and their basic civil rights. A service to support single mothers was established in Ulaanbaatar at the initiative of the women's Democracy Movement and the Single Mother Society. The Centre aims to help youth and single mothers in securing employment.

The International NGOs in association with the local NGOs have stepped in to alleviate the status of women folk and bring them back on the pedestal that they were standing upon. They are making use of their expertise in their new endeavors mainly in the small-scale trade and commerce as the structure of female employment also underwent a considerable change.

The Mongolian Business Women's' Federation was established in 1992, under whose guidance many women led enterprises emerged and they utilized their experience in various fields of business. And some of them have succeeded in establishing their own successful businesses.

Through the authors' observations, the women who worked previously in state run canteens became at first street peddlers of baked items. There are many Mukhlag (small convenience store) run by men, women and even children in Ulaanbaatar. Many women also entered in private sector as canteen operators and restaurant owners. For instance, a lady who was an interpreter in the Academy of Science started her own restaurant serving Indian food, and has 6 other members working as staff. Another woman who was working as a kindergarten teacher established her garment business and is now exporting to the USA. She has more than 20 staff members who are all young women. A dentist opened a private dental clinic with the help of a small loan from special credit line for women. A former state truck mechanic out of work received a loan and put herself and her brother to work on repairing trucks and now she has a registered business and is looking for the tire supplier and a larger workshop. Another women along with her husband started a business of importing used cars from Japan. Some outstanding women did wonderful jobs of not merely getting a job for herself, but employed all other women co-workers in her factory, which was established with a small loan under a UNIFEM[1)] Credit Scheme Project. She started her business at home by making sausages to sell in the street and she could do this as she had the experience of making sausages in her meat factory where she was working during the socialist period. Within six months, she obtained loan and soon repaid it with an additional contribution to the fund so that more women could profit. A year later, she leased production space and hired 14 more employees from the factory where she had

once worked and obtained quality, imported equipment from Germany, which she financed through another loan.

Many NGOs like the Mongolian women's Federation with the help of UNIFEM provided loans to the women. The Federation put an extraordinary effort to encourage women even in remote areas by visiting Gers (Tent) or apartments to provide advise on how to start their own manufacturing units and make use of the funds and grants.

The financial assistance provided by the donor organizations like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Program, TACIS, World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund and the Japanese government was in a hope to achieve the goals of the National Action Program such as poverty alleviation program, projects for improving the access to health and education for the vulnerable groups. UNICEF and NGO from United States, Japan and Australia also implemented 6 projects with which thousands of women in the rural and urban areas will receive soft loans, grant aid and free machines and technology so that they can produce garments and grow vegetables which can help alleviate poverty and address some of the problems confronting women.

Likewise, the government of Mongolia is also trying to solve the problems of women with the help and assistance of different International Organizations who are ready to invest in this field. A national program on women's issues for the period up to 2020 was discussed by the congress Labor Minister, E. Gombojav, who stated, "By 2000 the government will make every effort to decrease the poverty and the death rate of the mother. As per his statement, by 2000-2010, priority will be given to the economic and social development of women by creating employment schemes. By 2010-2020, foreign and domestic financial fund will be used for poverty alleviation program to assist poor and female-headed families with low income. Rural women with few animals will be provided part time jobs through income generating projects. Besides they will be provided land for cultivation and restocking, low cost housing, priority health care and vocational education for their children."[2)]

Mongolian women have shown great wisdom and courage while managing their political and economic rights. To ensure rights and freedoms they wish to pursue positive roles in the political and economic spheres of their country more effectively than during the days of regimentation. Their efforts, and the help of international agencies, have been quite gratifying. These powerful women have had a tough time dealing with new emerging issues as well as traditional social and cultural taboos but have shown their capabilities slowly but surely. They are recognizing the importance of democracy and greater market freedom, and have made good use of freedom of thought and freedom of movement. With the freedom of movement they are able to interact with the outside world. With this

interaction, educated women are challenging traditional power bases. Communication technology is a big tool, which has connected them and their country with the world outside. Some smart women took to business because the arrival of multi-national companies opened opportunities for those wishing to build new enterprises. With the passage of time, the Mongol women found favorable connections that gradually helped them change their life style.

Notes

1) UNIFEM is the United Nation's fund for women's empowerment strategies. It works with governments and nongovernmental organizations to promote women's political, social and economic rights. With this Fund women are getting financial and technical assistance.
2) http://www.un.org/esa/gopher-data/conf/fwcw/conf/gov/950906230321.txt

Part II: Interviews (Verbatim Transcription)

7. SANJAASUREN Oyun: Minister of Nature, Environment and Green Development, Mongolia

(Member of the Parliament in 2010 when the first interview was taken)

Dr. Sanjaasuren Oyun is Ph.D. in Earth Science, Cambridge, United Kingdom. She did her B.A and M.Sc. in Geochemistry from Karlova university, Czechoslovakia. She joined Politics in1998 and was re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012. From 2007-2008 held the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs. She is the Founder of the Civil Will Party since 2011, a third force party next to the MPRP Mongolian Peoples' Revolutionary Party and DP Democratie Party. From 2004-2005 she acted as the Vice-Speaker of the State Great Khural (parliament) and leader of the Democratic Coalition caucus. She has been the member of the Standing Committee on Security and Foreign policy, and budget besides being the member of the Parliament working Group on Mining Policy and strategic deposits. She was co-chair of the Parliament Anti-Corruption working group and Election Reform working group 2005-2006. Besides she is the Former Chair of the parliament Sub Committee on the UN Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction from 2005-2007. Since 2003 she is selected as Young Global Leader of the Economic Forum.

It was a very pleasant day when I met Ms. Oyun in a hotel very near by where I was putting up in Ulaanbaatar. She entered the lobby of the hotel while on her mobile talking something very important. I felt thankful to her for giving me the time under such a load of work. As usual she greeted me with her beautiful smile, the same smile that her mother had. Watching Oyun always take me back to the memories of our 80's, spending all my weekdays with that family, when I was a student. Her secretary, Onon a very charming young girl, and I were waiting for her as we had planned to have lunch together. After having lunch we started our interview in the next room a small meeting room of the hotel. In between our interview she has to receive many calls and every time she will apologize that told me how much occupied she was especially on that day. She was planning for a dinner with Suzuki Munio the parliament member of Japan, who was visiting Mongolia. Her NGO Zorig Foundation staff was fixing the place and time and was taking her opinions.

She was wearing blue skirt and the white and blue printed scarf on her neck was enhancing her beauty. While taking lunch all she was talking, was about her children and the baby daughter and other family members. Her face was glowing whenever she talked about her children. She is a wife and a loving mother beside being a parliament member, a Founder and chair of the NGO Zorig Foundation, a

professional geologist. She is a member of geological Association, Head of the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia and most of all a very beautiful human being.

Our conversation started by, well Maqsooda, you are here to know more about my background? Ya, you solved my problem by coming to the point, please

This year again 6th August 2012, I visited her for updates after the election of June 28th 2012. She was again re-elected from the Civil Will Party which she founded in 2000. Though very busy she was kind enough to give me some information on political happenings since 2010 August when I met her last. I was also very privileged to be invited by her to attend the first unofficial women's parliament member Caucus workshop on "maternity health" on 7th August 2012. She was appointed as Minister of nature, environment and green development.

Standing up to the responsibilities

I was born in January 1964. My father Sanjaasuren comes from a nomadic herds family from Dornod province. He was a Buryat. He is one of the youngest of the 13 children in his family. He is also the only one who could come to Ulaanbaatar to get a university degree in history. He became a professor in Mongolian National University and in some point was vice- minister of education in Mongolia.

My mother Dorjbulam was a doctor. She was a pediatrician physician. She has a very interesting background. She was born to a Russian father and a German local mother. Her Russian father Simukov was a very famous geographer and a traveler. He came to Mongolia with Kozlov's expedition in 1923. Unfortunately during the 1933 suppression KGB took him to the prison, back to the one of the collax. When my mother was very little, a Mongolian local Chinese family adopted her. She was brought up as a Mongolian. She became a pediatrician and for many years she taught in Mongolian medical nursing university.

I am one of the three children. We had a sort of typical childhood in the Socialist period. We had a very interesting background during the communist period. We went to kindergarten and later on to the school. All three of us went to the number-23 school that was one of the schools where the medium of education was Russian. We had all Russian teachers but of course some Mongols too. I graduated from that school with distinction. I went to Prague, then Czechoslovakia to study geology. It was not that I had a dream to be a geologist, but when I was graduating I was just looking at various professions and I liked science in school, so thought Geology and Chemistry is a profession which combines both and involves nature and also evolution. Prague sounded very nice in those days. As

Mongolia was such an isolated and closed place, so for most of us Mongols, the whole world was only Mongolia, Russia and COMECON countries. Going to Germany or Czechoslovakia was the farthest place where one could go. Going to Prague was like going to West. That was also very interesting.

In 1981, I went to Prague. Charles University and Karlova University are one of the oldest universities in Central Europe. I entered in Karlova University. It has a very good geology department. So, I graduated with B.A and M.Sc. Geochemistry, in 1987 from the Karlova university, Czechoslovakia. Many Mongolian students learned geology in Republic of Czechoslovakia and many of them did quiet well. While I was in Prague, I also tried to do other things. I learned my English while I was there, went to Language Courses and also did intensive karate course as it was still quite close to martial-arts in Mongolia. It was very interesting. I got Black Belt from there. At the same time, some of the Mongols who came back from abroad, they started Karate federation in Mongolia. It was not an official federation but a sort of semi-official. Many young people were interested in this art and Mr. Rentsendoo Jigjid who is currently the Ambassador of Mongolia in Japan; he also came back from Japan. There were very few people in late eighties who went to Japan to study Cashmere processing business for Gobi factory. JigJid came back from that studies and he was our trainer and master in karate. He invited many Japanese Karate masters to come to Mongolia and get the connection with them as well. After doing few years of field geology work, I came back in 1987.

Soon after I started working with Mongol-Czech joint exploration expedition. It was like a geological expedition. I worked there until 1990.

My brother Sanjaasuren Zorig is called the founder of the Democratic Mongolia. In 1990, Mongolia started opening up. The pro-democracy demonstration and movement started. My brother Zorig was very actively involved. He was one of the main leaders of the pro-democratic movement. Although, I was not in the forefront of that but I tried to help him in any means, helping at the back. My mother, my brother Zorig and myself lived in the same place. My elder brother Bayaara had his own family, so he lived separately. My brother Zorig was still young, 27 years. He did not have family so I helped him, making his food, washing his clothes and I tried to help him in replying his letters. Those days he received many letters, from rural areas, from Ulaanbaatar, tons and tons of letters everyday. I was trying to classify them. I also tried to translate for him when some of the first foreign western journalists started coming to Mongolia. Translating the interviews and to arrange his interviews with them etc. The democratic movement in Czech started much earlier. The civil movement started just before the Chenkizform and it was the main flat for the democracy platform there.

As I spoke Czech, so I also translated their manifest and programs into Mongolian. So that my brother get some idea out of those. That was the time we had the first democratic election, 22nd of July 1990. Mongolia is celebrating 20 years of its democratic revolution this year 2010. Because of this democratic movement Mongolia opened up and Mongol people got the freedom of traveling. For many young people one of the main desires was to see the world, same for me. I wanted to either get some studies from the west or do some job. We had an English language-teaching course in Mongolian National University. There was this professor in Mongolian National University called David Lambert. I went to English evening classes, those days we had a really good quality of English classes. I was attending those and I told David, look David Bagsh (teacher) I need a job. I asked him if he could find me a baby-sitting job in London. One of my student friends told me that she saw the world by doing baby-sitting job in Czech Republic and she could travel to London and she learned language a bit. David was surprised and he said 'what'? Then he said that he is going to London for winter vacations and will see. After his return to Mongolia he got me two application forms, one from Cambridge university and one from Imperial college of London. Of course being in such an isolated place for so many years we cannot even think to go to study in Cambridge. I filled the form and applied for both. Cambridge sent me an acceptance letter. I thought to do one-year course in MA in geology but they told me they don't have MA course in geology instead they have Ph.D. I thought wow goodness, its Ph.D.

At that time I was working as UNDP project officer for the establishment of a Mineral processing Technological Center. After working for a year 1990-1991, I left. We managed to get some scholarship and funding as well. So in 1991, I went to do Ph.D. in Cambridge. From 1992-1996 I did my Ph.D. in Earth Science from Cambridge University, United Kingdom. So trying to get about six months language baby-sitting experience I ended up in doing Ph.D. In the beginning it was not easy. Even science wise, the Russian geology school until then was still teaching theory only that does not include Plate Tectonics yet. I was interested in plate tectonics. Plate tectonics were main foundation for the geology in the west already. Even if you look at science and the concept of science, it was not very easy but at the end I managed, I did my Ph.D. quite well. It was a great experience in Cambridge not only professionally but also getting to know people, arts, culture, the whole experience was very interesting. At the same time while I was doing Ph.D., I also approached one of the biggest coal mining company called Rio Tinto Mining and Exploration Ltd; United kingdom. It was a London based mining company. I heard that they are going to Mongolia to have a look at Mongolian mining possibilities in 1992. Soon after, I went to Cambridge to work for them as a translator in the summer trip so that I can get my trip paid. In 1992,

that is when Rio Tinto came first to Mongolia. Now, Rio Tinto is a big investment in Mongolia. In 1992, it was a bit earlier for the mining companies to invest because there was no proper mining legislation. Mongolia was not yet ready to attract investment. In 1996 when I finished my Ph.D. I joined Rio Tinto as their project geologist, worked there in the New-Berry office. New projects and developments took place and it was a great experience. Rio Tinto is a very big multi-national company as it has very good quality of professionals working there. The New Berry office was a top professionals worked to identify new projects for Rio Tinto. I was the first Mongolian to do a degree in the Cambridge University and there was another student Uradin Bulag who was from Inner Mongolia who did Ph.D. From Outer Mongolia I was probably the first Mongolian to join a multinational company as an employer. It is just because I started earlier and it was a very exciting to work with a foreign company. Now there are many young Mongolians who study in the top universities and are working in many multinational companies. I worked for Rio Tinto until 1998; I still had been working there until when a sad thing happened. My brother was murdered and unfortunately, it has been 12 years and the case is not still resolved even now. The public believes that it was a politically motivated murder and that is why it is not yet resolved. I feel now may be that is true. I came back, not with this determination that I will join politics but for his funeral and console my mom. I stayed for a few weeks and while staying in Mongolia some of my brother's colleagues in politics suggested that I should run for by-elections, which I did not have in mind because my brother has been in politics and has been the main leader of the Democratic Party. At the time of his assassination he was the minister of Infrastructure and Development. He was the main pro-democracy leader. It did not occur to me to be active in politics. I was quite happy with my geology work. My elder brother Bayaara was already working with Democratic Party as the head of the International relations so he was also involved in politics. After thinking quite hard for about a month, I thought ok let me run the by-election. I did not think for big elections. But because I lived seven years in England, I read the news about Mongolia but was not that much involved, I was not up to date and did not know what's happening in Mongolia. It was only after I came back for the funeral of my brother, I saw how much respect my brother had among the public. I knew he was respected as a young politician, I saw this wide out pouring mob and when I run for the by-election, and won the election I felt it is a huge responsibility. It is not only about myself it was my brother's previous legacy; the respect of people towards my brother so I have to be very responsible and I have to work hard. I am working hard to carry out what Zorig was planning for political and economic reforms. As everybody was shocked about the murder of my brother; I am not a policeman, I am not an investigator, I don't know what happened, I cannot help in

opening or resolving the case but what I could do as a politician is to clean up politics to be more frank, transparent and open.

This murder happened because it was so fake, dark and ugly. Let me try to help, to contribute at least to make it a bit cleaner. So that is why from the very beginning I called for clean politics, hard stance against corruption, good governance and transparent accountable government, not because it was always my hard conviction or aim in life. I was simply a geologist, happy doing my own things. Just because of the case and all the backgrounds and circumstances I had called for that and I feel I have to be very loyal to those principles that I called in the beginning.

I am in politics for past 12 years, I won the by-elections in 2000, 2004 and 2008 by-elections and three more perspective elections. Although so far, it's been 12 years in politics, most of the time I was in the opposition side because I decided not to join any of the two main parties. Although my brother was one of the leaders of the democratic party, but I preferred to stay independent. In 2000, we created our own party called Civil Will Party and our party although we represented in the parliament, it is almost impossible for any third party to have a big presence because of the election system which what they call political machinery of this country. For most of the part of my political life in the parliament I was in opposition.

It was actually possible to influence in the decision making to some degree. In1998 I was elected as Parliament member for the first time. I think we were the very lonely voice in the beginning of 1998-99 mostly in politics and tough signs against corruption. Now this is not a lonely voice anymore and I think in 2006, finally after six-seven years of being one of the close signatories of the anti-corruption bill. I managed to go ahead with the working group of the anti-corruption bill and election campaign financial reform in the parliament 2005-2006. We managed to get the legislation passed. We managed to get independent corruption bill passed although we knew that by passing the legislation and creating institutions does not resolve anything but I felt that it is a higher risk, less profitable business nowadays than 10 years ago. I also called from the very beginning for disclosure of the income assets and level funding of the public officials and it used to be a confidential thing that nobody has to disclose but I was disclosing by myself voluntarily and asking other parliamentary members to disclose their assets and income and the conflict of interest, again I was one of the lonely voice than but now it is norm, in the legislation, all the high level public officials have to declare their income and assets for it has been monitored. The clean politics is still a big problem. We feel we also manage to contribute to a certain degree to put pressure on politicians to get a political will for getting some of the legislations through.

At the same time, being the leader of a small political party I have to get involved with almost all the issues. As a geologist, I understand the mining environment and mining issues, as it is becoming a deal and important sector in Mongolia. My background helps me and so I am working on those issues. But as a leader of the political party I have to raise my voice on other various issues. I raise my voice on gender issue as well very actively because promoting women in Mongolia, especially women in the decision making level is very important. Mongolian women are carrying as much responsibilities in the society as much as men. One of the main problems in gender issues is that there are only few women in the high-level decision-making. The number of women in the parliament when I entered into politics was ten. It went down from ten to five and from five to three. We tried to introduce women's quota when I was co-heading a working group in form for election, we managed to get 30 percentage of women's quota and support the legislation managed to get it passed but unfortunately before it was even applied in the elections. Just few months before the election the male dominating parliament decided to revoke the clause so that the vote of women's quota was abolished just a few months before 2008 elections. Managed to pass the clause at the end of 2006, women were very excited. Across the parties there were partnership of women and also international organizations were helping to prepare the women candidates. Just a few months before 2008 elections it was crabbed. Basically, there is not yet any political will among the men to support this agenda. I think it is a mentality thing, which prevails in any country. Men are more in decision making than women but I also think that it is simply men who do not want to share and give up their power because it is dominated by men and if it is 30 percent women's quota, One-third of the male currently in the parliament will have to give up their right to run for the election for women. They did not have this political will understanding and it is still very difficult to get it passed now in the parliament. While debating the elections law now and I feel that it will be very difficult unless one introduces quota. We saw it in many countries, unless you introduce the quota or unless you put those affirmative actions, it is almost impossible to get fair and equal competition. Male politicians say it is an equal competition, then why do we need quota. Why cant we just run whoever is voted, is voted. But of course from the very beginning it is very unequal play and competition. The thing that I am very much worried is money is becoming number one factor in winning the elections. It is becoming a very important factor in politics now and that's of course bad. We tried to put various restrictions on the campaign and political party funding and individual campaign funding but unfortunately it has not been enforced. Possibly in next elections but in a situation where money is becoming such a big factor plus it is also with further schemes in politics.

2012 again I visited Ulaanbaatar to have some more interviews. It was soon after the June 28th election, therefore, I thought to meet Dr. Sanjaasuren Oyun for Update of recent political changes.

———Congratulations! You are re-elected and Gender equality bill is also passed. Do you think that your efforts have changed the present political system?

Thanks, yes of-course I think we tried to change the system and we are successful to some extant.

In 2009 government submitted legislation on gender equality. Parliament passed the legislation in 2011 February. It took a bit of time in the parliament to get it passed. Basically the gender equality legislation is putting a lot of good policies to promote gender equality and there are certain quotas in the government institutions and there are various quotas starting from 15 to 30 percent or so depending the level of the responsibilities. There is a requirement of minimum one gender to be represented in the department. We have *heldes gazar* (administrative division) and also the state secretaries also cabinet level most of the political appointees quota is valid from the next year January 2013. As male dominated parliament decided that once the price is distributed at least for women may be after the four years so the gender equality is a big milestone although we could not introduce women's quota in the gender legislation. I think the minimum 30 percent quota remained in the draft. Parliament more or less was not discussing it. Because of the quota for the parliamentary election we three woman decided for the compromise and we said let us take quota out from the gender legislation and let the gender legislation be passed first. And the quota could be discussed after the election legislation. We did not want gender legislation to be stuck because of quota. So the election legislation again we proposed minimum 30 percent legislation quota for all the women candidates but unfortunately it went down to the 15 percent for the working group then we put some pressure and it went to about 20 percent which is not bad, but we still want to push for minimum 30 percent in the next election for the older candidates. This time the election system is an annex system where the two thousand candidates were elected from the constituencies and one third from party list. On the party list and from the constituencies combined parties put minimum 20 percent women candidates but for example Democrat Party (DP) put a few more women among the top ten, two were elected from the party list where as Mongolian Peoples Party (MPP) put first women on the 11th and 10 were elected. Mongolian Peoples' Revolution Party (MPRP) has two women I represent the Civil Will Green Party (CWGP) so that is four. And the Democratic have four.

There was overall mood for the public to support the women candidates. We had lot of advocacy work in media, every time when it was possible we raised issues, when the election legislation was under process we raised the issue. I think

there was pretty good mood from the public too to support women candidates. Female owner of some media outlets launched an initiative this spring as diamond press club and they announced that they are going to support women candidates free of charge. Unfortunately money is the big factor in winning the election it is very difficult for women to raise the fund this initiative at least to helped in free coverage, free space and the initiative to help the women candidates was not heard before as media will ask for money they will never give any free service but I think this was very symbolic and very good that women were supporting women which never happened before. Men never thought that women could be supported without any charge. Last year in autumn UNDP helped to organize so called; Эмэгтэйчүүд чадна "Women Can" campaign, which were for the whole month September on the national TV and other media. There was a campaign, there were be adds, interviews broadcast on why women's participation is important and women were invited to talk about general issues not only politics. It was organized and the potential women candidates were given the training on how to perform and participate in election, how to appear on TV and women from the three party seats in the parliament then MPP, Democrat and us CWGP with the help of UNDP organized the workshop on what women will concentrate on if more women win the elections. First of all we wanted to make it clear to ourselves. If there are not only three but ten women who are of the different party lines what could be done. We agreed that we cannot cover all the issues but let us concentrate only on a couple of issues like children but more emphasis on maternity issues, hospitals, kindergartens, children's hospitals probably on elementary schools. The birth rate has increased. From 2004 forty-six thousand babies were born and in 2011 September twenty-nine thousand babies were born. So we can see that the birth rate is going up too much from the last few years. If we see the percentage it is sixty percent rise of the children and the budget is not keeping up with this speed. It is obvious that we need more hospitals, we need more budget we need more doctors. Of course the trend started six seven years ago and it is now going to kindergartens, from there to elementary school. Therefore, the children's hospitals are crowded. This is the one reason we decided that we should concentrate on this issue first. To show that women can make a change we have to start now to change a quit bit. Many Prominent, very energetic, active and intelligent women were elected this time, some of them from the civil society. Among the nine women MP, L. Erdenechimeg is from pharmaceutical private sector company who understands the problems women face when it comes to infrastructure. Ts. Oyungerel from Democratic Party is very well known. She was the advisor to the President, former ambassador to Taiwan and very knowledgeable person on the security issues. R. Burmaa as the head of an NGO has been promoting women's education and vote education for many years. It seems everybody is very eager to

make some impact and work four times more than a single MP because we are nine and we represent the 15 percent of the population we calculated that 50 percent of the parliament is 36 or 39 it is four times more then male MPs. The gender legislation was passed although the election legislation helped to certain degree but with the party list four MPs were elected from the party list, five were elected from the constituencies if you consider that it was fully proportional. 20 percent quota was a bit helpful but not a bigger progress. In the previous election I think only 3.9 percent candidates were women and it went about twenty but I think there was this advocacy and campaign trying to promote the women and put the quota in it helped. Of course if you see the local elections on *aimag* and *soum* level more women run and win the election. In some *aimag*s we have 30 percent women wining the election. It is more then 20 percent overall in the country. Proportion helped a little bit. Again five or six would have been election.

Women Caucus under the leadership of L. Erdenechimeg is very eager to bring a change. Like last two weeks after Naadam the whole parliament is in situlimate on some party issues in the parliament but the women caucus meet five times, it is not an official caucus because we cannot have an official caucus it is unofficial nine member caucus. During the first caucus meeting we decided to concentrate one three things one is maternity second will be of course gender women's issues in general third M. Batchimeg suggested that we should take corruption as one of the issue. We stop on those three issues as there are party lines and every party has their agendas. We want to try to put some impact and I think these three issues are pretty big. We will push that quota go up minimum 30 percent and also for political parties in political participation unless you put there is no point in implementing the quota system. The nine women has to show that they can make a noticeable impact to certain issues not only the three. It is a very responsible term for us to show there are so many issues accumulated it has to be solved and that is why more women should get involved.

It is very difficult for the women to run and win the elections. It is also very discouraging for women as well. We had a gathering of older women and peace that were elected in the last 20 years in the parliament. There were 20 women since 1990 except one or two all the women said we are not going to run again. I am just very happy with what I am doing now. That shows that it is not easy for women and 10 years ago when I first entered in politics; people for example, journalists asked me if it is different to be in politics as a woman. I said definitely no, I don't see any difference being a women politician. Now, I know otherwise. Now I say it is more difficult because at that time I did not have a family. I have three children now. One, four and seven years of age. Now I am wiser, wiser because taking care of children and bringing them up is a very important job for every woman. Definitely, one can combine all of that. But it is probably like

anywhere in the world, any profession, a woman has to take care of the household, family and children. Women also face time poverty or shortage of time. Men can just watch TV or eat something in the evening, sit with friends and get updated with information. But women, if they have grown up children, then she does not have so much of family responsibilities. Then it does not make much difference but if you have young children, it can be difficult.

I am a happy mother. I try to balance both family matters and political life. I always try to make time for my children. In the evenings and weekends, I leave everything and spend some time with them. I read somewhere about three principles: Do, delegate and suppose. Do it effectively and try to delegate the work, which I do with the help of my efficient stuff. Being the leader of a party, I get a lot of help, information and feedback from my party members. If I cannot do something I just dispose.

Besides being a Member of Parliament and the leader of the party, I also had a foundation called Zorig foundation that has been running for more than 10 years. I have good staff at the Zorig Foundation too. At Zorig Foundation we basically follow three lines of things. Good Governance, Youth and Education and Social Project are taken care of.

The first line, good governance: Initially we where active in educating public against corruption. Now there is an anti-corruption agency and they are in charge of that. We try to do most of the monitoring in government agencies. The second line, Youth and Education: We think that the very important thing for the progress of any country is education for that we are investing revenues in education. We try to educate youth with the help of other NGOs.

Specially now, when revenues are coming we invest in education. We are trying to raise money for the scholarship for the local students and local families. So, in the last seven years we have given scholarships to almost 800 students. We don't have our own endowment or our own income but we raise money for various projects. Also under the young leadership program, we try to get young people, fresh graduates to get familiar with the society and progress so that they also become leaders of their own country. Leaders being not necessarily political leaders but leaders in what they are doing. Under the school twinning programs we are trying to build capacity in Mongolian schools and in USA schools and develop the country's name as well. The third line, social project: We are trying to help honorable groups and low-income groups. We have also been helping to raise funds for preparing dormitory schools and hospitals. Restocking of hundreds of families after Zuud. Projects were held and lot of livestock died during the Zuud in 1999 and 2001. We have hundreds of families to be restocked. Recently we have been working more on migrants. There is a huge migration from countryside to Ulaanbaatar. We are undertaking projects with UNESCO, trying to help the young

female migrants to start a new life in Ulaanbaatar. It was a completely different life in the countryside. They don't know anybody but they hope for a better future. They don't have income, they don't have job, they don't know anybody in the city and they are not registered yet. Such ways we are running a project like this. And also we are trying to do some work remembering Zorig. We did some archive, some TV programs about Zorig, did some documentaries to remember him. Also recently we opened a small Zorig's cabinet in Zorigs classroom in the national university. In one of the classes he used to teach in the national university, we decorated it a bit in Zorig's memorial period. Some pictures from the democratic movement and so on. I also have been in Mongolian geologist association society work being a geologist and by also helping. It is also an NGO. My other lines of society work are that I am the head of the Down-syndrome Association of Mongolia consisted of a group of parents with children having syndrome. I had an organization and we tried to help children with cognitive disabilities. We set up this 3 years ago although there are some processes and legislations in Mongolia to help people with disabilities. A proper system is not yet in place, especially for children with cognitive disabilities. There are few special schools but it is very difficult for those children to get integrated with in regular schools. Many of these children it is possible to get integrated in regular schools with some additional help. System for the additional help and individual education plan does not exist in Mongolia because budget is a problem. Chronicle budget has been a problem in Mongolia for many years. It is just now, that things will improve. Health-monitoring system does not exist for these types of children. There are no doctors to help these children. For example the Down-syndrome children are with a bit higher risk of various illnesses potentially they have eyesight and hearing problems. Some of them have heart problems too. So we are trying to start these systems here. We are trying to help those children and as a member of parliament I am trying to concentrate on next one or two years to try to introduce some of these systems. Introduce legislations regulations and some other programs and maybe introduce something in the budget as well. During the communist period, the system was not in place and it is not in place yet. For example, if a downsynrome child is born, the doctors will tell the parents but there is no health guide lines nor is there any system where every six months or every year there is this special doctor who will advise them. Therefore, we put some guidelines for the parents where they know where to go and whom to contact. I tell to my own son who is seven years old, sending him to a special school maybe a bit easy for him but sending him a regular school will be a bit difficult, so he needs special individual educational plan. I myself can probably ask teachers in regular areas to create an environment like this. We have been getting some speech therapy lessons for the past 3 years. For many families, they don't know this information, they don't have budget for that. Especially in

rural areas they have no special schools to start with. So, it is not an easy life and of course it is not a tragedy. These children need more help so we are trying to help them in that too. Although it is lot of work; yet it is lot of fun as well.

One thing which I still feel, in the last 10 years that many people ask how is it different from to be a geologist or a politician. I say being a geologist my life had a spectrum of colors, which were quite narrow but bright and lighter colors. It was nice and interesting; mostly in the countryside, people affiliated with work quiet often. I went into politics and now I have a bright spectrum, which is much wider and broader, anything from very dark and bright. I had many opportunities, many new people to meet. One day is much more with knowledge, experience and confidence and you understand that you can actually influence the decision-making and make an impact which is much more interesting.

At the same time, there is always this huge remorse, the reason why I went to the politics because it had very sad circumstances, especially because the case is still not resolved. I just feel that maybe I didn't contribute enough. My mom also died 5 years after my brother's death as she was very sad and she could not get over the death of her loving son. She became more and more ill. I also feel sad that maybe I did not do as much as I could have done for my mom. Although when I was in Czech Republic and in England, my mom used to visit me and stay with me for 5-6 months. Those were very good times, but maybe after coming back because I was in politics, I was very busy and so I could not spend much time with her. Two things which I always feel very sad about is that everybody keeps asking me what has happened with the case and I reply, I don't know. It is the police and the investigators whosoever has to reply. I know I can say that there has not been enough political will, maybe to resolve the case. Most of the politicians even from the Democratic Party (as my brother was the leader of that party) I feel they just kept a distance from it rather than trying to show a political will to resolve the case. Of course they too are not the police or investigators but I feel if there was a political will may be things were different. I feel sometimes for some reasons may be I am responsible not been able to resolve the case. I feel very sad about my mom. She was not very happy in her last 3 years. But since my mom died, now I have 3 children, new life and new generation started.

During the communist period, we had limited freedom. Now, it is incomparable. Especially with the political freedom, freedom to speak, freedom to travel. Young generation is completely different. They grew up in an open society and the whole world is open for us. All the opportunities are there. Of course subject to the finance funding. The main challenge and main problem I feel is that after 20 years, majority of the population, their living standards, and economic life is not better. I think it's a sad thing. Poverty and unemployment are still the biggest pressing issues in this country like it has been 20 years ago, 10 years ago

and now. Now, we hope that finally after the big mining projects hopefully people will get jobs and they will have a better life in the next 5 or 10 years.

Unless we improve the lives of the majority of population of our people we cannot justify the transition, of course we became much more independent, we used to be political and economically dependent on one country because of the circumstances. Now we can make our own decisions. Although it is a pretty vibrant multiple party, our country having democracy and because it is a vibrant multiple democracy, everybody hopes that at the end of the day, the decision will be more or less the right one. I think that failures are possible. So I feel they will listen details now as the major reforms have been undertaken economical and political. A lot of new legislations, lot of new employees, lot of more institutions, mentality has been in transition and changing. But now, it is time to work as a day-to-day hard work on improving democracy, implementing democracy, improving living of people, and just trying to enforce all the reforms. Especially what I was saying previously, money is becoming important even in politics and even in elections.

For a country where teachers and doctors still get about 200 dollars per month as salary, miserable salary, but even with this small salary and job it is difficult to survive. It is a shock that individual candidate spends so much money on election. And of course like in many other countries, Mongolia is not an exception. I think there are problems of democracy, fair elections, integration and everything is a huge problem in many countries and Asian countries as well. And vested interests start dominating politics, and vest interests subvert democracy. It is no longer democracy. It looks like so official but it is a sort of Electoral democracy. If you look at details you open up a box, I cannot say box of worms you will see many problems. So, we just have to work on improving the system. I am trying to reduce those problems and I just feel that rather than huge reforms it is time for what we call in Mongolia "чимхүүр" tweezers. Day to day hard work in all the fields like politics as well as social is needed.

8. AGVAANLUVSAN Undraa: Deputy Director at Institute for Strategic Studies, National Security Council of Mongolia

Dr. Agvaanluvsan Undraa obtained her Ph.D. from the North Carolina State University of Raleigh. She did her MSc in physics from National University of Mongolia and she got her Diploma in high energy physics at International centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy. She served as an advisor to Mongolia's Minister of Foreign Affairs. She also held the post of Ambassador-at-large on nuclear energy issues at the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Trade of Mongolia. She has many awards and honours at her cridet. She teaches the nuclear physic at Standford University, USA as a visiting Professor. She has a long list of her publications. Presently she holds the post of Deputy Director at Institute for Strategic Studies, National Security Council of Mongolia.

I met Agvaanluvsan Undraa in July 2010 when she had just joined the office as an advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Before her present position she was the Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies of the National Security Council of Mongolia. Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren introduced me to her. Ms. Oyun told me that Undraa would be at Zorig Foundation office next morning at 3 pm. I along with my friend went to the office and there she was, a very elegant woman. She is very soft spoken and humble person. She had this charming smile on her face while greeting us. I am Undraa; it is so nice that you are interested to see what we Mongolian women are doing to be a part of our country's progress. It will be an honour, if I will be of any help to make other people or nations understand how Mongolia is overcoming its difficulties and moving towards a path where people are free to develop and become prosperous as a nation. I am sure she as an expert on nuclear issues will find a better way to use her wisdom and bring prosperity to her nation and people.

March 11th 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami of Tohoku in Japan changed the whole scenario and things took a different turn. The devastated Fukushima nuclear power plant made the world again rethink nuclear energy and nuclear issues. In May 2011 the Mainichi Daily News reported plans of United States and Japan to build nuclear waste storage facilities in Mongolia. The plan received strong public opposition both in Japan and Mongolia. The daily newspaper mentioned that the three nations along with United Arab Emirates had their first round of talks in February in Washington. (Ms. Undraa took part in these meeting as a nuclear advisor) The Foreign Minister Gombojav Zandanshata denied any such plans and talks among the three nations. In October 2011, it was

learned that Government of Mongolia in late September informed the United States and Japan about their decision to abandon the plan. Nuclear expert Jeffrey Lewis had already mentioned" I don't think Mongolia is going to accept being a regional spent-fuel repository." He also mentioned that." I don't think Mongolia has any interest in developing a bomb right now," he said. "But if Mongolia wants to move from uranium mining into the fuel cycle, that could contribute to an unwelcome spread of sensitive facilities." On September 13th 2011 Mongolian President Ts. Elbegdorj, issued a presidential statement in which he declared that all negotiations on nuclear waste storage plans in Mongolia were to be discontinued. Due to these developments Ms. Undraa gave her resignation.

Democratic revolution brought opportunities

I was born in a mining town called Nalayaikh, which is not really far from Ulaanbaatar. It is a small town on the way to Terelj Park. Nalayaikh is an underground coal-mining town, which supplies coal to Ulaanbaatar's key power stations that was run by Mongolian and former Soviet Union workers.

My father was a mineworker; Mine working is a very dangerous job. There are many accidents in the mine-working place. I grew up understanding that mine work is not easy; it's a very difficult labour and the risk associated makes one feel the appreciation of the difficult job. The importance of the safety of the mineworkers and eventually to their families is something that is in Mongolian blood.

My father though a mineworker appreciated the value of education. He somehow was into it and he valued it and I think my father played a very important role in my life by giving education the first priority, putting my studies first which is very important to enter into a university. He also placed a big importance for us in doing what we really wanted to do. In a way, it is much similar to the U.S where the individual freedom in pursuing your dream is first priority. He often told me stories and encouraged me to read books that inspired me. Some of the books, which were the most inspiring, were the books of Indira Gandhi. My father often told me to become a diplomat which is an interesting job. When I was of seven years old, my father bought me 3 volume sets of letters of Jawaharlal Nehru to his daughter and in the forward it was written that my daughter is like more than 1,000 sons. In Asia especially men value son more than a daughter in any country, which is a wrong assumption to see a women as a less important person. A woman is as important as a man. It is important to speak your mind and this volume encouraged me and it really worked for me to lead me

anywhere my desire takes me. It played a very important role in my life. My father passed away.

Even though I was very interested to become a diplomat but later on I was interested in Journalism and ended up in science. My mother was a mathematics teacher who is now retired. She really focused on the education of her four children that led me to be a scientist. I was sent to math competitions often eventually that helped me to become a student in the National University.

I joined Physics department, I like physics and I enjoy it. I think it's a really interesting subject. I met my husband in the first year of the university. I was 16 and my husband was 17 years old and like in that movie "Going to be seventeen", we are that couple. I was very lucky to marry a guy who is so supportive and who was my first love. We got married two years later and with the support and help of our families we could continue our education and graduate from the National university of Mongolia. We graduated in 1994. I stayed in the university to continue my Masters and also started teaching some courses in the National University of Mongolia. Growing up during the communist time and starting university in that period means you graduate, you sign the paper, you are given the apartment and everything is just there for you. The understanding was that after the graduation, job guarantee was there. Teaching in the university or having some job was no problem. With the university degree, good life was almost guaranteed.

In 1990, when we where in the second year of university, democratic revolution was taking place. All the students were naturally drawn into the concept. It was appealing to all. It was very hard to concentrate on our studies. As the national university is facing the right to the square, physics department is in the second and third floor, so in our classrooms we could hear demonstration and loud speakers and then we skip the classes to join the demonstration. Even though we were not the leaders, but we were the real participants, which made a great difference in our lives and with the revolution came the new challenges and difficulties. The whole infrastructure economic and social broke down and we had to start a new. Mongolia as a nation had to come up with new ways of life and new ways of business. I think my husband grasped the concept quickly, than I did. By that time, my husband started a company for export. It was a trading-company. That was very good as having business meant economic support. As economic support continued, so did our lives.

He managed to graduate the university basically because he was in business; he had a hard time to concentrate on his studies. As we where in the same class, so I used to take notes and do extra homework for him. Together and we were a team.

In 1995, I obtained my Masters in physics from the National University of Mongolia. By that time things started to improve in Mongolia. I learned that some

of our young professors were going to Theoretical Physics Centre in Italy. Most of them were studying in the condimental physics and I was in theoretical physics department. I thought since I am not a condimental person there is a high-energy physics course also. I thought to give it a try, as there were quiet a few Mongolian students. I started learning English, as it was a requirement. At the same time I started helping my husband to run his cloth business, sit behind the counter to help him to sell his clothes but I was not good at that. Instead, I was reading books, memorizing words under the table.

I applied to this school in Italy. I guess that was the most life-changing move. In 1996, I was awarded a scholarship and I was overjoyed. I went to Italy, which was a great experience not only for Physics and science but the quality of education. It was an International Center for Theoretical physics in Trieste that belonged to UNESCO. There I got my diploma in high-energy physics in 1997.

It selected the students from member countries, especially from the developing countries. I had this opportunity to meet students from Vietnam, Venezuela, and Ethiopia etc. We became very close friends. We laughed, cried and ate together. Knowing the prospective of all students of my age coming from all these member countries, the only thing that united us was to try to learn things. We tried to be close to books that helped us to apply for the advanced degrees in the USA. Many students from other countries also went to USA for advanced studies. They were discussing the system about the examination, GRE's, TOEFL. I joined their efforts so they were my inbuilt teachers. I applied to the university because I wanted to study nuclear physics. I was going to library to see the huge catalogues; there are thousands of universities in USA. I was lost but my friends helped me to find ways. There was a professor from Boston who was teaching in ICTP, I told him that I want to do nuclear physic projects. He gave me some really good universities listed in nuclear programs. I asked him about nuclear physics program and I picked a few from that list. It was almost like drawing some lottery. I came back and started teaching in Mongolia and a year later, I got letters from some USA universities awarding fellowships, books explaining about their programs, explaining the city and city maps. There was a professor in North-Carolina University, a well-known person. His work is one of the top-large. He is one of the leading professors in nuclear reaction experimental theory. That is only a few people could do. So, I thought if I could be a student to this professor that will be great, as he was well known not only in USA but also in Former Soviet Union when the iron curtain was still up.

I ended up going to North Carolina with my husband leaving my seven-year-old son in Mongolia. In the first year I spent my time in qualifying exams and my husband started working in a grocery shop. It was a very hard time for him as he left his business. He knew only 'Hello' and 'Thank you'. My friends were joking

saying that he has some problem because he always smiled at everything and said Thank you. The first two years he worked in a pizza shop, he learned English and was able to enter the Ph.D. program too and then the year after we brought our son to USA.

The USA educational system appealed to me much as it shows different directions to the students. I was amused to know that one does not have to choose his/her major in the first year. In USA the system of credit is different than in Mongolia. They have the system of taking your problems. If you don't pass the first year, second year accumulates your credits. To accumulate the credits, the school gives another chance to the students. So maybe the students are not good at something, but they could change their mind and go to different directions. That kind of freedom is something that was very new to me.

USA has a wonderful library and the freedom appealed me very much. In Mongolia, during the communist area when we were studying, we could not take out the books from the library. We had to study in the library only till we finish studying. Of course, library is the integral part of studies.

In 1999, I believe we started thinking that if Mongolia had a research university where Bachelors, Masters Program and Ph.D. program all could be done together and if the professors can do the research, they could apply for the grants in addition. Universities could collaborate with industries or maybe with the government on specific projects that have useful applications to read life. Then education becomes part of solution. Not just understanding and memorizing theories and the graduate students have the opportunity to work on application development and later on, after their graduation, they immediately go to the practice. That is very useful and practical in technical areas such as science, agriculture and engineering. We started drawing dreams like Mongolia has a Capitalist comprehensive university, where would it be located, how would the campus look like, how could we set up a dome, how we could set up a faculty, a library where students could get books to read.

In 2002, I got Ph.D. in nuclear reaction and quantum chaos in nuclei, from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. My husband and I were too lucky to get the post simultaneously in Lawrence Livermore University in California. Of course, getting a post doctorate was a big difference to me. My husband got the graduate fellowship to get his Ph.D. and by then he finished his course.

We rented a big truck to move our luggage and moved to California from east coast to west coast. I think living in California was like all these people from different countries. We had quite a bit of Mongolians also there. We continued on with our dream speculation and our projection on future campus idea in Mongolia and how we could work with the existing university setup and the ministry. We realized that the National University of Mongolia has several related science

programs. We had to testimony to ourselves looking at the textbooks we used in Mongolia been not the topmost texts from Moscow and Russian programs. Those were all we knew. The science programs were very good. Our university has many students now, but national university professors had not enough students to teach, while in technical universities you have many students but few professors. So we thought that they should work together.

The university buildings are scattered all over the city. The national university has 5 dorms and many lecture halls that are located in different parts. Technical university is also like that. For medical university, they need really good chemistry and biology instructors. Professors where sitting in the national university without work. Why were they not working with the medical university doctors and specialists? So we thought these have to be connected. We thought we need not have huge research campus but tide universities are better. For the life science, we may go to the cultural university.

By 2005, my husband got his Ph.D. my job was in progress. I was doing nuclear reaction experiments. I was traveling for that. It was the first major detective, measuring the neutron capture numbers. When neutron is captured by the heavy nuclei, that reaction innate large fission which is similar to Uranium energy. Thus, it can be used for electricity. There is something called cross-section, which is basically on the probability whether the reaction happens, or not. We build this huge detector in Los Angeles and measured this reaction on rarest isotopes that were in quantities like micrograms or even milligrams. It was a very difficult experiment though it was a fascinating experience. I was traveling from California to New Mexico constantly once a month, since our work was at cutting edge. We were invited to different conferences all over the place. I was working very hard in those years, constantly working till maybe 2-3 am. In the next day I get up early at 7, go to work at 8 and on the weekends too, I was glued to my computer analyzing and collecting data carrying pen drive, hard drive of gigabytes or terabytes volume of data, Huge data but for me it was a new experience to see how science is funded in US. Working in the national lab, things are very expensively done. Like the research project had also overhead, you have to work harder to raise it. I had to make science to compete with other projects. Why Livermore is great, why Los Angeles is great was also very interesting to watch. In North Carolina, we were working in the university. Now, we were looking at the work of energy and how funding is done. What the government has to do to maintain good science program and science laboratories and how it feeds to the rest of the society. What kind of technology is needed or used. I also went to other nuclear experiments in Norway, Europe, and Czech Republic in Prague. I was very lucky to work with these top scientists to see the competitive side and of course success is measured by how much good work is published. Which journal has

published it? Journals are immediately ranked. The articles published in a top-level journal means it is high quality work, which takes a long and hard effort to get to that quality. In order to compete to that level one has to be smart enough to balance time, choose the right collaborator, present it in a right conference. In order to sustain visibility I had to attend the conferences. The finest thing was the method called Mecent level estimation that shows the number of energy levels that are observed. If some energy levels are missing, it is difficult to observe them because of the lack of equipment. The total number of levels determines how much energy the system has. If you don't know the total amount of energy levels then you are making a mistake. So the total impact for example the reliability of nuclear reactor, Safety reliabilities are important and that method has been extended to other fields like quantum dots and in financial sector and educational sectors. When I went to the conferences I run the people who had read my work and whom I thought I was smart. The most gratifying part was publications that I see, later on, that the other scientists cite these publications for the generation to come. I think that is a remarkable thing.

In 2005, my husband and I, we had another member in our family. We had our second son born in California and he is more American than Mongolian. But when I ask him, he says I am a Mongol. I think our moving back to Mongolia somehow helped us with his attitude, he says always let us go back home.

In 2007 I was in one conference in Stanford University, I was recommended by the director of Livermore University to go to this conference. The conference I was thinking that just doing pure science only is interesting but also the policy application, policy implications and studying how policies are made in nuclear energy is more needed and I also use my technical background to work in this area, not as all the politicians understand the difference of the certain types of reactors, while one reactor is useful to make a bomb and the other is useful to make electricity more efficiently. So one can tell the technological differences to the policy makers, the signals. I applied to a job in Stanford University. The center at Stanford University is also called Center for International Security and Confession. It included among its faculty with leading political scientists as well as technical people. The centre had these entire top-level scientists like former director of Los Angeles laboratory, former state secretary, former secretary of defense, as well as one of the political scientist studying Pakistan and India issues, South-East Asia. That is how I became also interested in South-East Asia and I had an opportunity to get some exposure. The centre in which I was teaching is called International policy Studies Program. The course was titled "Contemporary Issues in Nuclear Energy policy" and it included the students from Masters and Ph.D. program and some senior undergraduates. While I was studying nuclear energy policy and international security issue concurrent with the expansion civilian

nuclear energy and the internationalization of nuclear fuel cycle for example how countries would work to minimize the risk of nuclear weapon. Issues like that was my research side but teaching was the nuclear energy policies. I really enjoyed the teaching. My students were practitioners as well as scholars.

In 2007, a few of us started a Mongolian-American Scientific Research Centre in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. So that was an exact result of our vision to have a Research University, the centre is called "MonAme" Scientific Research Center. We do research in energy environments in mineral processing areas and that are really crucial for Mongolia's economy. We work on nuclear energy, wind energy, solar energy and also coal processing. We also look into environmental issue like water pricing, industrial water, ground water, underground water issues. We also bring students from USA to conduct a research here that are studying on nuclear reactions. We have done a Young Leaders Program in the USA twice now, so these are the students from the top universities of the USA. Not necessarily from the top universities but the students who want to come back to Mongolia. We have done it in Washington, California and Washington D.C. and another one this year for European union so that is a Non-US too.

There are 14 countries with 20 students from different European countries, all Mongolians. There main topic was really 'how do you see your education being useful to you and your country. What you see for Mongolia in its direction to progress". So MonAme is in I think its 3rd year of operation and now we are working with the Mongolian ministry of education on consultative universities. Or if not consultative, but definitely how we can improve this cross work and the ministry of education is leading the governments effort to move to the campus outside Ulaanbaatar. The direction of the Nalayaikh, all universities were going to move there and it is going to be a campus area and the embassies are probably going to move outside the city to the embassy quarter. We are working as an advisory group to ministry on that move. Be careful of what you think, dream and be positive. I think it is nice to have a dream.

In 2008, I had a privilege to be invited by Dr. Sanjaasuren Oyun, when she was the minister of foreign affairs. At that time Mongolia was developing its nuclear energy law, as the country has no nuclear law at that time. There was a great interest around the world on the Uranium resources, nuclear fuel resources. Therefore, Mongolia in terms of investors had quiet a bit pressure to have a nuclear energy law.

I think our government was not prepared yet to have nuclear energy policy and I think Dr. Sanjaasuren Oyun recognized the importance of that. She asked me to work on the nuclear energy law where the technical hands are needed on how the policies are made in the developed world. I am working in the ministry of foreign affairs for about four months now on nuclear-related issues as well as Northeast

Asian Security and US affairs. It is really nice to go back to the old dream of mine to become a diplomat and work with all the former ambassadors and foreign civil officials.

In 2009 Mongolia passed the nuclear energy law and also nuclear energy policy. It was a law approved in the parliament. I think making this law is a tremendous progress on Mongolian part. To have a law in place, first we need the infrastructure in a legal framework before we proceed to any next level. Now there is lot of interest as well as persons from many nuclear technological countries such as France and Japan. Our two neighbors, China and Russia are both ambitiously pursuing their nuclear industry. Russia has a very strong nuclear capacity just close to our border Irkutsk and Angarsk; there is a big facility. Chita area is also with lots of large complexes. Northern China has several different key places where they have high capacity and high technology areas. China is building nuclear reactors like 'left and right'. So the world until now has built 135 reactors but in the next twenty years maybe 300 reactors are going to be built. China plans to built nearly 60-100 nuclear reactors, it's a huge deal, like 80 Gigawatts of nuclear power, electricity generation. Mongolia has less than a Gigawatt.

India is also planning to build about a 30-40 Gigawatt nuclear power. It maybe many more depending on how fast India and China will develop. So, the electricity demand will just be rising and rising. At the same time we know that the price of Gas and Natural Gas and other neutral energies are increasing and we do not want to keep polluting the planet. We already have this horrific problem of pollution. So, I think nuclear energy, whether we want or not will stay here. The more it grows the more demand on the nuclear fuels. That means Mongolia has to be smarter and has to think for the future demands required and develop this sector of responsibility.

Mongolia and USA had value systems quiet similar. I think Mongolians are freedom-loving people. Our change from communism to democracy was in destiny. In addition I think, the way Mongolians are right now affirmilating their policy or law, there is for sure lots of debates. I think we also democratically elect our leaders, so there is a lot of similarity. Mongolia still has many problems like corruption and inefficiency in the government, maybe business sector needs to develop and become strong. In education we have so many young people. Even though our universities are full, we have so many private schools; we still need more rooms to train our people. Our demography is such that to have 70 percent of illusionists and 30 percent common gentlemen. But if you look at the demography, 16 year to 18 year olds are the most in terms of number. So what are they going to do in the next ten years, they going to study? I think there is lot of freedom, lots of positive energy and excitement in Mongolia, which I really like.

As a women scientist, there is of course harassment in the nuclear security

sector too as in every other every field. I remember this meeting in Japan where there were 200 scientist members, only 2 women and how they will shake hands only with men, though, I was the senior most official scientist. Certain things like these indicate that there is discrimination when it is a woman. There is definitely some thing like that in Mongolia too. If I write a paper without writing my name on it which does not show whether its a man or woman, it will be received differently; from if I write my name, which shows it, is a women. But, it does not stop women; Of course frustration is associated because of such kind of an attitude. Men in different societies express their things differently. Mongolia has quiet a bit of sexual harassment in the work place, I think I know some of the colleagues, I don't want to name anybody but and if it was in USA, they will be in Jail and fired probably. So people show that kind of mean behavior to women. That's what I see how young women are being treated at the work place regardless of age.

We have quiet a few women scientists, if you see in the university we have more girls than boys. But in the hard science, there are few women. But I think compared to the world average Mongolia does better. Precisely because, I think Mongolian families raise their daughters to be educated as a productive women. But in the decision making level and in the management level, we don't do well. In our parliament, out of 76 members only three are women. The number has been decreasing which is disappointing. Given, the fact that more than 50 percent of our population is women. Women would understand better as a mother, wife and a responsible person in the society and public share. In that sense, the decision-making opportunity should also be shared with the women. So, this makes logical sense, so after 76, 38 it goes through and the numbers just decrease, then somehow it will be 38 members. 3 are really not enough. At the top level and the ministry level, I think we have one female minister in the cabinet of 14 ministers.

Our decision to come back was that we wanted to come back to our motherland. I think, as a nuclear scientist in the USA, we had tremendous opportunities. There is a demand for highly educated workforce especially in the nuclear sector. Various fields of options were open. I felt strongly there was a call from the motherland and we had to come back to our country. We find the work here much more meaningful too. We find ourselves more useful and I think that kind of satisfaction is very important for a productive life. We wanted to give back to our country.

My little one always complains, he says don't go to work. I say, Oh I might get fired and he says YES'. He's like Mom why do you have to go. The older one I feel takes pride in me. He really seems to take interest in what I do. My work is very fascinating to him, which I feel is the best compliment for me so I feel very happy. My husband and I are a team. My husband is very supportive and we support each other. We never had any kind of problems. There are people who

always compete with each other in a non-constructive way or either in a drastic way but in someway I feel marrying so early, so young happen to grow closer was the real key. That's no guarantee. One could have gone too destructive way too but nothing is statistic.

My children feel pride in me. My son is in USA at Stanford. He is studying philosophy. My younger son came back to Mongolia with us and he is going to start pre-school here. I think he is really enjoying Mongolia, as large extended families and close net-families. I think lifestyle is really different here; people are very close to each other, very warm.

9. MAGWAN Bilegt: President, Achlal Real Estate and Construction Company

Ms. Magwan Bilegt is a herd's woman who has turned an owner of the business venture. She is operating Achlal Department store, construction, restaurant and some real estate business. In 2010 October, Ms Erdenchimig the president of Women's Federation introduced me to her. The appointment was fixed at Achlal the department store, Ard Ayush avenue, 14 Khoroo, Bayangol District, Ulaanbatar-24 where Ms. Bilegt has her office too. I had to wait for some time as she was in a meeting. After waiting for some time I was shown to her office. A very beautiful women full of energy, greeted me with apology, sorry we Mongols are bad at keeping time. Don't worry, I came from Japan (very punctual in time) but basically am from India, Time is no problem. That was how we greeted each other. She hails from a herder family of Bayanhongor *aimag*'s Battsagaan *soum*. She did not wait for my questions. It seemed she already knew what I wanted o know from her. She started her talk and it was exactly what I had come for to her.

New women of Mongolia

After the democartic revolution everything changed in our home land. Our people especially young generation is going towards the slothfulness. Out of these only 20 percent think that to be lazy is not good. That is to say that 80 percent of people choose free lazy way. The people who were doing their jobs normally, are now changing their jobs to get easy way of money. The bigest mistake is the way these young generation has been brougt up and educated. On the one hand when the market economy started there were people who thought they will become rich. Among this generation they were forced to leave school when they were small children. When the privaveriztaion started they could not get education and remained uncultured. They focused on their rights but forgot about their responsibilies. Everything flipped upside down. That is why when you see in

01.07.2008 revolt happening in Mongolia, you would not imagen what our young people have become during these past twenty years. Twenty years of democracy has made these young educated generation nothing but hostile and they have lost human sense. When they start violence others joined them too without having their own mind and sense. They just follow others. That is how we see our educated young generation behave recently. It is easy to make them to kill anybody if you give them money. For money they will not say no or cannot say no. Their answar now is only yes! To see these people have no human feelings, one feels nothing but symphathy towards them. They are destroying public property which is their own property. They do not understand that. They should fight for their rights but they should not damage the public property. The property of future generation which I think they should realise.

When I was 21, I become the first president or say it leader of the Mongolian young communist revolutionary league. We had 300 young members. when I was asked to become the leader of revolutionary leauge, I could not say no as I was trained to accept anything without a no at that period. Now a-days anybody becomes a leader without even knowing the meaning of such responsible task. They even do not know if they have leadership qualities. I was educated not to say no at that time. Now we can not imagine how this young generation can handle such a position.

If you want to be called as the head of young communist party you should prove yourself to be as such. That is improtant and needed. At that time there were a lot of people who were graduating from Russian universities and working as geologists. Among all these engineering graduates from Russia, I was only one student who graduated from technical collage. The leaders of this league before me had graduates of Russian language and from the higher educational insitution who asked me to become the leader. I was not confident and was afraid if I could do the job well among these highy educated people. I worked for 11 years as a succesful leader of the young youth. I think whatever exprince I gained as a leader of the party in the socialist period, is now helping me in dealing with my current job. It is all because I was under the very strict administrators who gave me tough training. Therefore, I am able now to perform my job. My parents brought me up, give me education made me stand on my feet, but I think as a person one has to prove oneself. The company of which I am the head does not only belong to me but also to my workers. We made this company together. Many people supported and worked together for it. I am not the only one who is working. It is usually a team work. With my workers I have good relationship. We have good team work. I choose right people for the right work for my company that is why we are able to have good real estate, and trade business with which we contribute to our country's economy. I am proud of myself and my workers. We are not only getting

our salaries, but by providing employment to many people and these people in turn help the country to grow. Our company is a sort of family company. My husband B. Munkhjargal is CEO of the company and I, the wife is president of the company. During the socialist period we had good times. We need the dictatorship of that time even now. If we have dictatorship now it will give right education to the young generation. The strong and capable leaders whom under I was working helped me in polishing my qualities during my young days. Just as the oil which has to be stare to make it butter (this is a Mongolian proverb) same way during your young days, you need to have capable strong boss who could polish you for future. Although I am in my 40's now it is becasue of my exprince that I could become successful even in market economy. The benifit of freedom and democracy is that you could work freely. That is the benefit of this period. Therefore, I think, a person who would not lose a moment, always be deligent could reach a position where he will get good benefit. My message to young generation is we are gettng to our 50's. If I look back I hope our young gerenation should not repeat the same mistakes which we did in the past and I wish I could give some benefit to any of them who could pass on that to other people. Young generation should know time is 24 hours which is very important and they should not waste it and always keep their mind open to learn. Only sitting in front of the table is not real education. It is only 25 percent of your life. You have another 75 percent. You will fined your 75 percent when you start working. To my young generation I want to say that they should not think that getting a diploma makes them set for the life. So please work hard under the capable person. We can say that your future will become bright.

Business is like fire, which has risk so we have to be cautious to get progress. That is how we have to be strong capable hardworking to reach to success. Success does not come easily. The easy money does not benefit anyone and does not give any good feelings. Easy money does not bring happiness. When you work hard that taste of success makes you happy. You should know, what I understood during this period of market economy is that one has to work hard to get the success by their own efforts that makes them proud of themselves. A person who suddenly gets rich or get such a good career is afraid of falling and looking back. He always is afraid. The people who reach success step by step or the people who over come any difficulties, are the people who in real sense are successful. I think it is important to play it well in life sometimes holding the flag sometimes by just becoming an ordinary herder to reach the goal. We can see the two highly developed capitalist countries Japan and America who are already well settled. Those people have already established theirselves. From the very small they know thier responsibilies. I am surprised to see thier sense of social order even when you tell them to take off their shoe and they put it in a right manner. Thier

communications skills are also good.

But our Mongolian people are very energetic. I am proud to be a Mongolian as we are very intelligent and energetic people. Although we Mongols are sandwiched between the two great powers, sandwiched between the hundred million people on both sides and we the only small population of 2 million without seaport I think though in this situation we still are lucky and blessed people. As our country has everything so we need only education. The right education is very important from the very beginning. It is 20 years since we got market economy and democracy because of that spontaneously things are becoming better. The arrogance is scrounging. We are getting better. If you get everything done you lose your confidence. People who say we have food and are not hungry are the most happy people. Recently our young generation thinks going abroad brings them good living standard. You can get education from abroad. They leave thier family, wife and children behind. They think they get good money. If you see the real situation they lose love and warmness of thier families. They think transferring money to families is enough. But that is not true. Children who are left behind they remember thier father and mother who are far away and they are lonely without thier parents who need them when they are growing. Even if they get 200,000 Mongolian *tugrug* it is worth it, as they live together that is life. I pity them because after 5 or 6 years when they return to Mongolia they do not beheave like Mongols. They always complain that life is very hard in Mongolia. When you were in your own country you can be succesful and find your career. When the market economy was under process people who remained in Mongolia could find their carees but the ones who left when they return they felt it very difficult. It was not difficult as we had enough place to work. They were wiping the floors taking care of people. They should have started the same work from here only. It is not difficult to find a job if you trust to somebody. Our people get easily discouraged. They feel that they are admonished that way they are mistaken. The urgency of work and insistence are required when you are young. Immidiately getting high position looking back does not make you a coward. May be the words of the people are strong.

———Currently what trade is your company doing? You said you have your own history. Did you write your autobiography? You have good trade. Did you construct Achlal shop by yourself ? What is your future aim?

After the on set of market ecomony everything changed and to work by yourself became neccessary. Those days the freinds who were working in the goverment offices were thought to be lucky but as the market economy started there were a few people who remanied in the office. The salaries also decreesed. On the one hand many lost the jobs but the ones who were samrt they statrted their own business and found the right path. Although the times were difficult but the people

were proud to be going into a right direction. That time the Associations who closed down their work they paid six month salaries to their workers. I personally thought how to spend this money which I got from my working place. What I did was, I bought clothing matiral and started to make garnments. My friend had a shop where we could keep our ready made garnments.

———What were you making?

There is almost nothing which I did not put my hand on. I tried everything and made everything from Mongolian costume to Euroepen costume. In the beginning I made deel. After that I made western outfit, the shirts and pants. Realy I made almost everything. We had hundered families where I was living. From the early morning people were going to the community center. I was sitting in front of the window making the outfits from morning to evening. I could not take any rest untill I finish my work. That time my husband was a student. He used to get upset and angery to see me working all the time. He tell me, what I want, life or money. I was pertending to sleep but was making things by which I was getting joy. I was reaching to my thirties As I was a worker I could get a loan. I coud get 50 million *tugrug* (Mongolian currency) as a loan. But those days I was feeling very uncomfortable to get loan as I was thinking it may effect even my children. So that is how I was making things, putting them into a wagon and selling them in China and Russia.

———How many workers are working in your company and trade?

We have restuarants, real estate and trade. We have right people who are working with us. It is a team and our team work is very strong. That is way we complete our work within time. In the peak times we have more than 200 workers.

———Did you make this department store by yourself?

Yes I did. I took a loan. We started our company in 1996 but I started my department store in 1999-2001 and since then has expanded it. We have 800 employees working with us now. I am very proud of my job. Although it was not easy but the experience I had during the socialist period became my asset to start new venture. I am a bit worried about the new generation who want easy money without any honest effort. “They lack hard working spirit.’

———What is the profession of your husband?

My husband is geological engineer. I myself am the geologist. I graduated from the technical collage. Especially we are the people who were working for the Associaton. We have different sections in our department store. The second and third floor is for trade. So that is how Achala is providing work for about 800 people. These 800 people if you combaine their families it becomes more than 1,000 who Achala is employing. We made the residential house of about 10,000 meter in 2006-2008. In 2008-2010 we made another residential complex near khan mountain and tuul river. I planned all this construction. My house is also there.

———How many families can fit in the residential place in tuul river side?
We have eight private eresdentail houses and hope coming years it will be beautiful place for everybody.
———What your parents were doing during the period of socialism?
My parents were herders. Both my parents had big families. All of them were herders. I was the eldest in the family. I was the first to leave the country. After moving I made my place here in Ulaanbaatar. My husband is number 9 of his family. He is from Hovosgal and he was born in Tov *aimag*.
———Did your family send you to the school?
I have many siblings. We could go to school together and as the eldest I had to look after all of them. I had to wash them, help them in studies, educate them and wash their cloths. I was just like a mother.
———So did you go to the school by yourself?
Yes I finished as a geologest.
———How many children you have?
I have two children and one grandchild, that makes me mother of three children. After the democratic revolution happened many new options were open to us. My daughter returned from America after greduating from there. My son is a student in USA and is right now there. In our times we were not even aware of these countries.

As for me, so far so good. For us I think it is necessary to participarte in the social issus and work for the benefit of the society.
———What is your future aim?
After the democartic revolution as I said before everything changed. There are many new options open to us women. But to go for them we have to change or say re-order the whole social system. We are a sort of leaving behind our ways and traditions. But we can not help it as times have changed. Just take the case of country side and herds families. Transition brought privatization in rural areas, which in turn brought the heavy load of work for women particularly on single headed families. The work, which was done collectively, has to be done individually. Some benefited but most of the single headed families suffered. The lack of man-power and the severe winter is an additional stuff to take into consideration. The decline of social, cultural and communal services, lack of favorable living and working conditions in rural areas is consequently forcing people to move to urban areas. Therefore, my first priority is to provide jobs in my hometown.

In any society mine or yours, women have to be 200 times intelligent than man, she has to be more strong as she has these delicate duties towards the family. She has to bring harmony both in the domestic as well as work place. At the same time she has to be an active member of the society to bring progress as a wife, a

mother, a member of the society and she herself has to take up and look for the opportunities."

———What do you think about Global economy?

Our Country needs to be economically sound only than we go international. I as a person of Bayanhongor have the duty or responsibility to see the progress of my birthplace first.

10. SENDEN Enkhee: Owner, Chinese restaurant "Greenland" in Ulaanbaatar

I met Enkhee for the first time in Ulaanbaatar when I was a student of National University of Mongolia in 1980. We lost our contact for some time but due to her efforts she had been searching for my whereabouts and finally we met again in 2009. We continue to meet whenever I visit Ulaanbaatar. This Year 2012, I observed a change in her. As always this time again I was invited to her home. She has joined Shamanism rather she has become a Shaman. Talking about her spiritual life, she said that "these days our (Mongolian) ancentors are crying because of our ill deeds, therefore, they need shaman body to enter and stop the evil that is spreading in Mongolian society. During the time of Socialism everybody was at peace with life so no shaman needed".

During this period Mongolia as a nation had to come up with new ways of life and new ways of business. The structure of female employment underwent a considerable change. Many women entered in private sectors as canteen operators and restaurant owners. Enkhee is one such woman. Enkhee was born in 1962 as the eldest daughter in Ulaanbaatar. She spent her childhood in the Socialist society. Talking about her school days one thing, which she always remembers was at school, pupils used to write with a pen and ink that they had to carry separately so that it didn't spill in their school bag. During the winter, it always froze, so they had to warm it with their breath to let it melt. During that generation, the youth were encouraged to attend sporting activities and they were free of charge. Parents always taught to treat people honestly, be hardworking, and be harmonious and to be helpful to others.

In her 4th grade, she was a member of the ski club and was a good skier. She participated successfully at the state and province's competition that helped her to grow up healthy and develop her outgoing personality. In 1980, when she was graduating from secondary school, the school director encouraged her to compete for the MNU. She entered the Nursing College and worked as a nurse at the Child association's recovery unit. In the beginning she did not like the job, as she wanted to study Economics. But after some time, she became interested in it and graduated the college with an excellent 5 (during the socialist period, education results were a number not a percent, and 5 was the highest mark). At the work, she learned quickly, and she became a head nurse. She became so skilled that she used to do all the sophisticated major works at the hospital.

Her husband Tumurtsogt graduated university as a pilot and he went to work

in Tuv province's Altanbulag region. Then they got married in 1985 and lived in the countryside for 3 years. After their return to Ulaanbaatar, she worked for 9 years at the Shastine's 3rd hospital's heart dispensary as a nurse. At the end of 1989 socialism collapsed in Mongolia. They lost jobs and life started getting harder with all the changes.

Though a nurse by profession has to take a chance to go to South Korea and worked for five years in a publishing company. With the money she earned there she started her own restaurant a Chinese restaurant. It was a great success. While operating her business she continued for higher studies. In 2007 she earned a degree at the Humanity University in Mongolia. Later she had a chance to participate at the Management.

With the help of UNIFEM Credit Scheme Projects and the funds which are provided by the donor organizations like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Program, TACIS, World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund and the Japanese TASMS, Some outstanding women did wonderful jobs of not merely getting her-self a job, but employed all other women co workers in their work place.

Энхээтэй хийсэн ярилцлага

Намайг Энхээ гэдэг. Би 1962 онд Улаанбаатар хотод айлын том охин болж төрсөн. Аавынхаа төрсөн эгчид өргүүлээд ганцаараа өссөн. Хоёр ахтай. Манай аав тэр үеийн МАХН-ын ажил хийж байсан. Жижиг дарга, намын дарга хийж байсан. Ээж маань цэргийн оёдлын үйлдвэрт оёдолчин байсан. Бага насаа Төв аймагт өнгөрүүлсэн. Аав маань хөдөө намын даргаар томилолтоор явдаг байсан санагддаг. 8 настай намайг сургуульд ороход хотод орж ирсэн. 1970 онд нийслэлийн 10 жилийн 14-р дүгээр дунд сургуульд 1 дүгээр ангид орсон. Тэр үед үзэг гэдэг чинь дүрдэг бэхтэй байлаа. Сурагч бэх гэвэл ягаан өнгийн бэх байсан. 1 дүгээр ангид орохдоо дүрдэг бэхэндээ үзэгээ дүрэх гэвэл их хөглөдөг байсан. Бэхээ идсээр байгаад толгойгоор дүүрэн цэг, толбо болчихдог байсан. Тэр үед юм жаахан ховор байсан шүү. Бэхээ сордог үзэг байддаггүй, бэхэндээ дүрж бичдэг үзэгтэй байсан. Яг л социалист нийгмийн үе байсан. Тэр үед Улаанбаатар хотод орос мэргэжилтэнүүд их байдаг байсан. Манай 14 дүгээр сургууль орчинд орос 14 гэвэл Оросууд их байдаг. СОТ2 гэвэл одоо бодоход барилгын компани байсан юм шиг байгаа юм. Манайх СОТ2 орчимд байсан. Тэнд барилга байшин байгаагүй. Гэр, хашаанд аавтайгаа хамт амьдардаг байсан. Хоёр ах Оросд мэргэжлийн сургуульд сурахаар явчихсан. Хоёр ах маань сургуулиа төгсч ирээд гэр бүлтэй болж тусдаа гарсан. Социалист нийгмийн үед хүүхдүүдийн амьдрал яаж өнгөрсөн минийх яг л

тэгж өнгөрсөн. Тухайн үед сайн амьдрал гэвэл бүх айл нэг хэвийн амьдралтай, мөн аав ээж нь бүгдээрээ ажилтай байлаа. Үйлдвэрлэл их хөгжиж байсан юм шиг байгаа юм. Барилгын салбар их хөгжиж байсан. Бүгдээрээ л ажилтай, сайн ажиллаж байгаа хүнд тухайн үед үнэгүй орон сууц өгдөг байсан. Бүгдээрээ ажилд орохдоо цалин мөнгөтэй, илгээлтийн эздээс хөдөлмөрийн баатар болтлоо ажиллаж социалист хөдөлмөрийн бүтээн байгуулалтын жил байсан. Тэр үед бид нэг нь нийтийн төлөө, нийт нь нэгнийхээ төлөө гэсэн уриатай хамтач байсан. Одооныхоор бол багаар ажилладаг байсан байгаа юм.

Би тэгэхэд бага насандаа Алдар нийгэмлэгт спортоор хичээллэдэг байсан. Тэр үед бүх хүүхдүүд дугуйлан секцэд хамрагддаг. Би эхлээд гимнастикийн секцэнд явж байгаад цанын спортын хичээллэж эхэлсэн. Хандгайтад цанын бааз байдаг байсан. Тиймээ 4 дүгээр ангиасаа эхлээд цанын спортоор хичээллэж эхлээд өвлийн 3 сар Хандгайтад өнждөг байлаа. Дөрөвдүгээр ангийн хүүхэд жаахан ч байсан. Тухайн үеийн нийгэм ч бас сайхан байсан. Ээж, аваасаа эмэгтэй хүүхэд хол явж байдаг, ээж аав маань явуулж л байдаг. Би секц дугуйланд явдаг их хүмүүжилтэй хүүхэд байсан. Ах, эгч, дүү нар их цэгцтэй, хоорондоо ах дүүгийн ялгаатай, бие биенийхээ үгэнд ордог тийм сайхан хүмүүжилтэй байлаа. 1980 он хүртэл Алдар нийгэмлэгийн шигшээ багт байсан. Мөн Замчин нийгэмлэгт шигшээ багт тамирчин байсан. Хүүхэд насандаа улс, хот, нийгэмлэгийн аваргын тэмцээнүүдэд амжилттай оролцож аварга болж нэг хэсэг сайн тамирчин гэж мандаж явлаа. 1976 онд өсгөсөн аавын хоёр хөгшин хоёулаа тэтгэвэрт гараад манай ээж, аав 1976 онд буцааж намайг авсан. Аав маань жолооч мэргэжилтэй байсан. Сайн ажилтан, улсын аварга жолооч болоход улсаас таван шар гэдэг газар 3 өрөө байр өгсөн. Миний залуу ээж германы хөрөнгө оруулалтаар байгуулагдсан Мах комбинатад нягтлан бодогчоор ажилладаг байсан. Би дөрвөн эмэгтэй дүүтэй. Би 1976 онд 12 дугаар сургуульд шилжиж ирсэн. Тэргүүний тамирчин гээд их сайн ангид орсон. Одоо УИХ-ын гишүүн, Боловсролын яамны сайд байсан Болормаа манай ангид сурдаг байсан. Манай ангид дунд сурдаг хүүхэд байдаггүй байлаа. Бүгдээрээ их нийтэч, сэтгэлгээ сайтай, бүх юманд их сайн оролцдог нийгмийн идэвхи сайтай байсан. Урлаг спорт хичээлдээ их сайн байсан. 1980 онд 10 дугаар ангиа төгсөөд, бараа худалдааны мэргэжилтэн болъё гэж бодож байсан. Их сургуулийн бараа судлалын анги хоёр жилд нэг удаа элсэлт авдаг 4 жилийн сургалттай байсан. Манай захирал Гончигдорж гэж хүн байсан. Намайг сургуулийн нэр хүндийг гаргасан сайн тамирчин байсан гээд их сургуулийн бараа судлалын ангид суралцах хуваарийг надад бараг л бэлэглэсэн. Их сургуулийн бараа судлалын ангийн хуваарь ердөө нэг л ирсэн байсан. Миний оноо хаагуур байх нь хамаагүй шууд сургуулийн захирал надад бэлэглэсэн. Тэгээд би их сургуулийн шалгалтаа өгсөн. Тэр үед

15 баллын системээр дүгнэдэг байлаа. Химийн шалгалтаа 13, орос хэл 12, математикийн шалгалт 0 өглөө. Яагаад гэвэл 4 ангиас 10 анги төгстөл жилийн 4 улирал хичээллэдэгээс 2 улиралд нь хичээлд суугаад, 2 улиралд нь суугаагүй. Тэгээд л математикийн хичээлээс хоцорчихсон. Математикийн шалгалтанд ороод их сургуульд орж чадаагүй.

Би ерөөсөө ийм тоотой ангид орохгүй ээ, тоо бодож чадахгүй юм байна гээд хуваарь авлаа. Тэр үед доошоо гулсаад техникум, коллеж, техник мэргэжлийн сургууль, илгээлтээр үйлдвэрт ажилчнаар орох зэрэг хуваариуд байсан. Би тоогүй ангид оръё гээд анагаахын дунд сургуульд орлоо. Анагаахын дундад сувилагчийн ангид орсон. Энд онц сурахаар эмч болдог юм гэсэн. Би эмчид нэг их дуртай биш байлаа. Тэгээд 2 жил суралцсан суралцах хугацаандаа Төмөрцогт гээд хүнтэй үерхэж байсан. Одоо миний нөхөр. Үерхэж байгаад хүүхэдтэй боллоо. Хүүхэд гаргалаа. Аав, ээж авлаа. Би сургуулиа төгсөөд, нөхөр маань хойшоо Фрунзед байдаг Нисэхийн сургуульд явсан. Бид хоёр 4 жил хол амьдарсан. Би сургуулиа төгсөөд Октябрь дүүргийн шинээр баригдаж байсан хүүхдийн больницод ажилд орсон. Ажлаа их сайн хийж байлаа. Мэргэжилдээ дуртай ч боллоо. Миний мэргэжил их сайхан, хүнд тустай. Хүүхдийн эмч их зүгээр юм гэж бодож байсан. 3 жил сайн ажиллаад эмнэлгийн аварга, дүүргийн аварга болсон. Тэгээд нөхөр сургуулиа төгсөж ирээд, хуримаа хийлээ. Төв аймгийн Алтанбулаг суманд нисдэг тэрэгний анги шинээр нээгдээд нөхрөө дагаад явсан. Хотоос 40 км зайтай. Сургуульд орох байхгүй. Хөдөө сумын эмнэлэгт ажиллаж үзлээ. Түлээ модоо өөрөө хөрөөдөөд, хүүхдийн больницод ажиллаж байсан чинь шинэ төрж байгаа эмэгтэйг өөрөө гардаж төрүүлээд хөдөө их юм үзсэн. Дуудлагаар морь, мотоциклоор яваад хөдөөний амьдрал нилээн үзсэн. Тэгээд 3 жил болоод хүүхдүүд сургуульд орох болоод хотод шилжиж ирэхээр болсон. Хөдөө ер нь явцгүй юм байна гэж бодсон. Бид хотод шилжиж ирсэн. 1986 онд хүү төрүүлсэн. 1989 онд охин төрүүлсэн. Тэр охин маань 8 сартайдаа гэнэт нас барчихлаа. Тэгээд ажил хийе гэж бодоод 3 дугаар эмнэлэгт зүрхний бичлэг, электродиаграм сувилагчаар ажилд орсон. Амьдрал үргэлжиллээ. Ер нь социалист нийгэм нурж унаж байгаа нь мэдэгдлээ. Дэлхий нийтээрээ өөрчлөгдөж, оросд өөрчлөлт шинэчлэлт бий болсон. 90 оны ардчилал эхэллээ. Би тэр үед ажлаа л хий ёстой, өөр газарт хувийн бизнес наймаа хийж болохгүй гэж бодож байсан. Тэр үед наймаа хийдэг хүнийг панзчин, наймаачин, их мөнгөтэй, худалч, хуурмаг гэж социалист нийгмийн үед ойлгодог байсан. Тэгээд хоёулаа улсын ажлаа хийж байсан. Сүүлдээ цалин мөнгө багасаад ер нь улсын ажил явцгүй болсон. Манай нөхрийн нислэг ч багасаад ирсэн. Хүүхдүүд томроод сургууль соёлын мөнгө хэрэгтэй боллоо. Ер нь мөнгөгүйгээр явахгүй юм байна. Социалист нийгэм шиг нийтийн хуарангаар амьдардаг больж байна гэдгийг ойлгосон. Хүмүүс Солонгос улс

руу явж хар ажил хийж их мөнгө олж, шинэ байр машин худалдаж авч, бизнес, наймаа худалдаа хийж байлаа. Бизнес хийж байгаа хүмүүс манайхны хэлдэгээр зарим нь шатаад орон гэргүй болоод зарим нь ч Москва, Бээжин, Америк яваад эхэлсэн. Ер нь хүмүүсийг дуурайя, нэг янзаараа ингээд байж болохгүй юм байна гэж бодлоо. Манай нөхөр ногоон паспорттой байлаа. Тэгээд бид 2 ярилцаж байгаад ногоон паспорт хаана ч визгүй юм чинь ажлаасаа чөлөө аваад Солонгос явж ажиллаач гэлээ. Ажлаасаа чөлөө аваад Солонгос явж ажилласан чинь их боломжийн юм байна, ажил нь их хэцүү ч мөнгө авах нь сайхан юм байна гэсэн. Тэгээд манай нөхрийг нисэхийн академд яв гэсэн. 30 хувийг нь өөрсдөө гаргаад 70 хувийг нь академи төлнө. 4 жил сураад ир гэж байна гэж Солонгосд байхдаа хэлж байна. Би эвдэрхий нисдэг тэрэгтэй ажиллаж яах юм, би тэнд нэг жил ажиллаж байгаа цалингаа энд нэг сар ажиллаад авч байна. Чи ер нь энд хүрээд ир. Хоёулаа хамтдаа ажиллаж мөнгө их хураагаад хоёулаа сайхан амьдаръя гэлээ. Тэгээд Солонгос явах гээд визэнд орлоо. Би азтай виз гарлаа. Тэр үед Солонгосын виз хэцүү байсан. Хүмүүс их явдаг, харлаад виз их хэцүү байсан. Тэгээд Солонгос явлаа. Тэнд очоод капиталист нийгмийг үзлээ. Харахад онгоцны буудал бүх юм нь шил толь, их олон машин тэрэгтэй. Нөхөр маань тосож авсан. Тэгээд Үүжинбүү гээд одоогоор хөдөө дүүрэгт байдаг Сөүлээс зайтай газар Хуанли хийдэг хэвлэлийн үйлдвэрт ажилласан. Харсан бүх юм их гоё харагдсан. Солонгосд ажиллаж байгаа хүмүүс контэйнерт амьдардаг байсан бол бид орон сууцанд амьдардаг байсан. Компьютер удирдлагатай хуанли үддэг машин дээр ажилладаг байсан. Яаж ажиллахыг зааж өгсөн. Надад казак хэлээр яриад байгаа юм шиг санагдаж юу яриад байгаа нь мэдэгдэхгүй байлаа. Өөдөөс нь монголоор яриад, манай нөхөр хүрч ирээд солонгос хүнтэй солонгосоор ярь гэж хэлэхээр нь гайхаад Солонгос хэл яаж сурах юм, Солонгосд ирээд хоёр хонож байхад Солонгосоор ярь гэж хэллээ гээд нүдний нулимс гарч байсан. Тэгээд хэлийг нь сурч эхэллээ. Ажиллаад анхны цалин 1,000 $ авч маш их баярласан. Өмнө нь 100,000 төгрөг авдаг байсан. Үнэхээр л нэг жилийн цалин байлаа. Гэхдээ ажлын цаг их урт байсан. Өглөө найман цагт ажилладаг. Зарим үед шөнийн 4 цаг хүртэл ажилладаг. Өдөр нь Солонгос хоол идэж чадахгүй өөрөө хоол хийж иднэ. Яаж их ажиллаж байв аа. Өглөө гар хөдлөхгүй байлаа. Их хэцүү байсан. Мөнгө авах нь их сайхан байсан. Ажлаа сайн хийх тусам мөнгө сайн авдаг юм байна. Ажил их тусам мөнгөтэй, амьдралтай байдаг юм байна. Ажилгүй байвал болдоггүй юм байна гэж ойлгосон. Тэр цаг мөчөөс эхлэн капиталист нийгэм өөрийн бизнестэй, өөрийн хөдөлмөртэй, зах зээлтэй нийгэмд хэрэгтэй юмаа хийх юм байна. Хүнд хэрэгтэй юм хийх зах зээлийн эрэлт хэрэгцээг нийлүүлэх юм байна. Тийм учраас хүнд өөрийн ажлын байр хэрэгтэй юм байна. Би ямар нэг юм сурах хэрэгтэй юм байна гэдгийг ойлгосон. Үйлдвэрлэл хөгжсөн газар үйлдвэрийн ажилтан хэрэгтэй юм байна.

Социалист нийгэмд заавал дээд боловсролтой байх хэрэгтэй гэж бодож байсан. Тэгэж хүн ойлгож байсан. Гэтэл үгүй юм байна. Сайн талхчин, гуталчин, оёдолчин, сайн үсчин гээд хүнд ойр ийм мэргэжил хэрэгтэй юм байна. Тэгвэл хүн мөнгө олох юм байна гэдгийг ойлгосон. Тэгээд үйлдвэр маань хаашаа бараа бүтээгдэхүүнээ борлуулж байна гэдгийг эхэн үедээ ойлгохгүй байлаа. Сүүлдээ хэл усыг нь ойлгоод, Солонгос улс дотоодын зах зээлд нийлүүлдэг юм байна. Байгууллага компаниудын рекламыг хийгээд зах зээлд нийлүүлдэг юм байна. Америк, Япон руу вагон вагоноор нийлүүлдэг юм байна. Эхний 3, 4 сар ажиллаж байтал 1997 онд эдийн засгийн хямрал болсон. Япон, Солонгосд эдийн засгийн хямрал болоод бүх үйлдвэрүүд хаалгаа барьсан. Нэг ч үйлдвэр ажиллаагүй. Манай үйлдвэрт 30-аад Монголчууд ажиллаж байсан. Бид 2 гэр бүлээрээ ажиллаж байсан. Тэр үед Монголчууд маань ажил сайн хийдэг ч тогтмол ажил хийж чаддаггүй. Ажлаасаа хоцрох, таслах зэрэгт үйлдвэрийн эзэн цалинг гүйцэд өгдөггүй юм байна. Солонгос менежмент. Цалингийн талыг нь өгөөд одоо яв гээд л. Бид хоёрын цалинг бүтнээр өгөөд, та 2 үйлдвэрт үлдэж ажилла гэдгийг солонгосоор хэлж байсан. Тэгээд тэр нэг сараас хойш, өвлөөс хойш эдийн засгийн хямрал болоод бүх үйлдвэр хааж, зурагтаар харахад бүх компаниуд дампуураад, үйлдвэрийн эзэд нь банкнаас авсан зээлийн өрөнд баригдаад, шоронд орж байгааг харуулаад л тэрийг хараад ямар энэрэлгүй юм бэ, их мөнгө олж баян амьдарч байгаа ч өр зээлтэй нийгэм нь хайр найргүй байдаг юм байна. Монгол бүгдээрээ ийм юм чинь хэнийгээ шоронд хийхэв гэж бодож байсан. Тэр хэцүү үед бүх гадаадын хүмүүс буцаж байсан. Солонгосд Филлипин, Энэтхэг, Алжир, Ветнам гээд олон үндэстнүүд ажиллаж байсан. Бүгд нутаг буцаж байсан. Цөөхөн хүн үлдсэн дээ. Манай үйлдвэрийн эзэн сайн хүн байсан учраас бид 2 сарын 10 хоног ажилтай, хоолны мөнгөө аваад хэцүү үеийг давсан. Ажил төрөлгүй, орон гэргүй, ажлын байргүй бол хүн амьдрахгүй юм байна гэдгийг ойлгосон. Ажилдаа үнэнч, сэтгэлээсээ хандах хэрэгтэй юм. Социалист нийгэмд ажиллаж байхад өглөө ирээд цаг бүртгүүллээ. Орой явлаа. Тэгээд л тэр хүн цалингаа бүтнээр нь авна. Тэр хооронд хүн ажлаа сайн хийж байна уу үгүй юу гэдэг нь хамаагүй байсан. Тэрийг би боддог байсан.

Солонгосд олон үндэстэн ястантай хөдөлмөр хийж сурсан. Хөрөнгөтөн нийгмийг ойлгоод бараг 5 жил болсон. Одоо харья, үр хүүхдээ санаж байна, гэртээ харья гэж бодсон. Тэр үед бид 2 байр байшинтай байсан. Хүүхдүүдээ дүү нар дээрээ үлдээгээд ирсэн байсан. Тэгээд Монголдоо ирээд зүгээр сууж болохгүй юм байна. Солонгосд ажиллахад миний бие өвдсөн. Сүүлийн жилд бие өвдөж байсан ч эм тариа хэрэглээд ажлаа хийж байсан. Нэг өдөр ч ажиллахгүй байж болохгүй гэдгийг яс махандаа тултал ойлгосон. Хүний нутагт ирчихээд юу гэж зүгээр суухав. Тэгээд ирээд хүүхдүүдээ төлбөртэй

сургуульд оруулаад, би нийтийн хоолны системд орсон. Тэр үед циркэд цайны газар ажиллуулж байсан. Жүжигчидэд нь хоол хийж өгөөд, тоглолтын үеэр буфет гаргаад fastfood маягийн юм хийхэд мөнгө их олсон. Цайны газар гэлгүй мөнгө их олсон. Тэгээд 2 жил ажиллаад архи зардаг өөр маягийн хоол хийдэг ресторан ажиллуулъя гэж бодлоо. Энд байгаа Монголчууд ажил хийж сураагүй, аргагүй нэг нийгмээс нөгөө нийгэм руу ор байгаа юм болохоор тэр байх. Тийм болохоор хоцрох, таслах их гарах байх гэж бодсон. Би Солонгос явж ирээд хагас бүтэн сайныг мэдэхгүй ажилладаг байсан. Солонгосд байдаг шигээ ажиллахаар хүмүүс дургүй байдаг. Тэгэхээр сайн ажилласан хүн цалингийн ялгаатай мөнгө өгдөг байлаа. Ер нь гадаад хүмүүстэй ажиллая, хятад хүмүүсийг ажиллуулъя гэж бодлоо. Тэгээд нэг найз маань өвөрмонгол хүн ажиллуулдаг нэг хоолны газар хаах гэж байгаа тухай хэлсэн. Тэр рестораныг тогоочтой нь гэрээ хийгээд ажлаа эхэлсэн. Би бизнесээ амжилттай хийсэн. Солонгосд ажиллаж байсан болохоор Солонгос менежментээр ажлаа хийгээд миний бизнес 5 жил сайн явсан. Өмнөх жил дэлхийн эдийн засгийн хямрал болоод мөнгөний хомсдолд ороод яг ажлын байрны гэрээ дууссан л даа. Гэрээ дуусаад байрны эзэд маань 900$ нэмээд ер нь байж болохгүй болсон. Ийм үед яаж ажил хийхэв, ажил маань ч хэцүү байсан болохоор болъё гэж бодлоо. Тэр хооронд энэ чиглэлээр нарийн мэргэшье гээд Хүмүүнлэгийн ухааны их сургуульд аялал жуулчлал, байгаль экологийн мэргэжлээр орж сурсан. Аялал жуулчлалын анхны ангийн 2.5 жилээр сурч, ХУИС-ийг төгссөн. Сурч эхэлж байхдаа англи хэлгүй бол болохгүй юм байна гээд давхар англи хэл сурах гэж Отгонтэнгэр их сургуульд орсон. Ингээд ажлаа хийх, сургуульд сурах, давхар англи хэл сурч байсан. Би бүх юмаа өөрөө хийгээд сурчихсан. Бараа таваараа татах зэрэг. Ингээд их сургуулиа төгссөн. Харин хэлний сургуулиа төгс чадаагүй. Чөлөө аваад дутуу орхичихсон. Тэгээд эдийн засгийн хямрал болоод бизнесээ ч орхилоо. Нөхөр ч шахаж хавчиж эхэлсэн. Чи гэр орондоо байх юм уу эсвэл хятад ресторантайгаа байх юм уу, гэрийн бараа харахгүй байна, ер нь боль гэсэн. Тэгээд ч хямрал нь таараад нэг жил түр зогсоочихоод байж байна. Энэ хугацаанд ажил төрөл сайн хийсэн. Нийтийн хоолны тогоочдын холбооноос шилдэг сайн хоолтой 10 рестораны эхний 3 байрт орж, шилдэг захирал, шилдэг ресторанаар шагнуулж байлаа. Сургууль соёл төгссөнийх Японы засгийн газрын шугамаар жижиг дунд бизнес эрхлэгчдийн уулзалтанд явсан. Энэ хооронд би газар тариалан эрхэлнэ гээд Төв аймгийн Залуучууд суманд 149 га газар авсан. Тэрэнд бас орж чадахгүй байна. Өөрийн гэсэн машин тэрэгтэй, хүүхдүүд сургуульд сураад эхнээсээ эмч болоод төгч байна. Амвдрал сайхан хэвийн дундаж. Одоогоор бизнес байхгүй түр зогсоосон байна. Тэгээд эхэлнэ. Гэхдээ хэцүү. Манай Монгол жижиг дунд бизнесийн хамгаалалт муу, банкны зээл муу, банкны зээл ажлын байрны зээл өгөхгүй,

зөвхөн тоног төхөөрөмжийн зээл өгдөг. Японы засгийн газрын шугамаар 2 жилийн өмнө сургалтанд явсан. 15 хоног бүх юмыг Японы засгийн газраас даагаад тэр хооронд Япон бол юун Солонгос, илүү юм байна. Хүмүүс нь илүү мэргэжсэн, ажилдаа үнэнч, Япон менежмент үзсэн. Бүх юм дээд зэргийн түвшинд хөгжсөн. Машины үйлдвэр үзсэн. Бүх зүйлийг робот хийж байна. Хөгжил манай улсаас техникийн хөгжил үнэхээр үсрэнгүй юм байна. Ресторан ажиллуулдаг байхад манай ресторан япон сэтгүүл дээр гардаг байлаа. Япончууд их ирж хоол иддэг, Америк, Солонгос бүх үндэстэнгүүд ирдэг байсан. Би Японд байхдаа Токио, Осака, Нагоя, Киото гэдэг хотуудыг үзсэн. Эртний хотууд нь бүх юм нь уламжлалаараа байгааг харсан. Бизнес хийсний хүчинд их юм сурлаа. Одоо ч сурч байна. Ер нь хүн зөв яваад, зөв сэтгэлээр, зөв санаатай байвал аль ч нийгэмд амьдарна.

11. ISHDORJ Saikhanaa: Owner President, Chinggis Guest House in Ulaanbaatar

C. Humphrey expert on Mongolian studies explains. "Since Mongolia, in common with Russia, also has a problem with alcoholism, there is an imbalance between urban educated women and the number of men these educated women deem to be suitable husband-material."

The solution is simple: they just don't get married. Instead, they take what is known as a "secret lover" – usually a well-educated man who just happens to be married to someone else. Any children resulting from the union are brought up by their mother and the maternal family.

"It is completely accepted. These women are among the elite of Mongolian society – they might be a member of parliament or a director of a company and they are tremendously admired,"[1)] Humphrey says.

I met Saikhanaa at her Guesthouse, which is located in the Seoul Street. Saikhanaa is a very busy woman but very helpful. She has a beautiful smile with a courageous heart. Saikhnaa is one such woman who was left with two small children with one she was still inside her by her husband; As she had not rejestered her marriage, therefore was not entited to any financial support from her patner. She had a very tough life before getting where she is now. With no job at hand, she had to work during nights to sell her products. She was making the felts for ger and selling them at the *zakh* (flea market). During that period children will pray for her success. Her daughter Tumei and son Esukhei who are helping her now in her business talked how they spent their early childhood thinking that the other families were not normal. To see father once or twice on birthdays only with some present was normal for them. Staying until late in the kindergarten was not something they did not like as per them seeing other kids going early home and their parents coming to fetch them was something they thought was not right. They had the impression that adults should work until late. Tumue thought that all other families are lazy. After selling felts she saved some money and started a bakery house. She had to get up very early to bake the bread and pastries. So running away from her, her husband was not able to discourage her from expanding her business. She saved some money and stared a small guesthouse for foreigners.

This guesthouse is now her pride and she says it brought her happiness. Responsibilities, challenges and new skills are always needed when one is on the top. Things are not rosy always. There are times when it is hard but standing up

to the responsibilities make it better and at the end it is joy to enjoy and share.

During the communist period, we had limited freedom. Now, it is incomparable. Especially, with the political freedom, freedom to speak, freedom to travel. My children they grew up in an open society and the whole world is open for us. All the opportunities are there.

This year again I met Saikhanaa at her guest house. The work load has increased and so does her business. It is much busier this year that I could see. She with her daughter and son are planning to have Ger Guest Houses out-side Ulaanbaatar with archery range. Archery is the passion of Saikhanaa's son Esukhei is ready to help his mother to expand the business.

Сайханаатай хийсэн ярилцлага

Намайг Иждоржийн Сайханаа гэдэг. Би 1962 онд Улаанбаатар хотод төрсөн. Манай аав Ишдоржийн тавдугаар охин болж төрсөн. Манай аав Ишдорж Увс аймгийн хүн, Москвад ОУХДС төгссөн. Төгсөөд Монгол дахь ГЯЯ-нд ажиллаж байна. Гадаадад элчин сайдын яаманд ажиллаж байгаад ирээд социализмын үед Ю. Цэдэнбалын туслахаар ажиллаж байсан. Манай ээж бага ангийн багш хүн. Булган аймгийн Тэшиг сумынх. Аав ээж хоёр маань Улаанбаатар хотод танилцаад суусан. Ээж маань буриад, улсад гучин жил багшилсан. Олон сургуульд багшилж байсан.

——— Аль сургуульд багшилж байсан бэ?

24, 23, 11, 5, 1 дүгээр сургуулиудад багшилж байсан. Аав маань 2005 онд нас барсан. Ээж маань одоо амьд сэрүүн, Булган аймгийн Тэшиг суманд тэтгэвэртээ гарчихсан тэнд амьдарч байна.

——— Ах дүү хэдүүлээ вэ?

Би 2 ах, 2 эгч, 1 дүүтэй, Бүгдээрээ Монголд байдаг. Дөрөв нь гадаадад, хоёр нь Монголд дээд сургууль төгссөн. Том ах олон улсын харилцаа ба хуульч (аавын мэргэжлийн өвлөж авсан), Киевийн улсын их сургуулийг төгссөн. Хоёр дахь эгч маань Монгол улсын их сургуулийг эдийн засгийн мэргэжлээр төгссөн. Дараагийн ах маань Новосибирскт радио холбооны электроникийн мэргэжлээр төгссөн. Дараагийн эгч маань Германы Дрезден хотод төмөр замын барилгын инженер мэргэжлээр төгссөн. Би Украйны оёдлын дээд сургуулийг төгссөн. Дүү маань Монголд анагаах ухааны дээд сургуулийг төгссөн. Бүгдээрээ тус тусдаа амьдардаг.

———Ямар ажил хийсэн бэ?

Би 1987 онд сургуулиа төгсөж ирээд оёдлын үйлдвэрийн нэгдэлд технологичоор ажиллаж байна. 1988 онд хүүгээ гаргаад 1 жил амраад, 1990

оноос огт ажиллаагүй. 1992-1993 онд үйлдвэртээ хааяа ажилласан. 2 хүүхэд харах хүнгүй болохоор хоёр хүүхдээ аваад ажилладаг байсан. Тэр 2 үйлдвэрийн коридорт тоглоод л би ажиллаад л байж байдаг байлаа. Манай нөхөр Уран зургийн дээд сургуульд сурдаг байсан. Монголд ажиллаж байгаад сурсан болохоор намайг дээд сургуулиа төгсөж байхад хоёрдугаар курсээ төгсөж байсан. Би багадаа цэцэрлэгт явж байсан. 7 настайдаа арван жилийн нэгдүгээр дунд сургуульд орж 10 жил сурч төгссөн. Оёх их дуртай, өөрөө оёод гоёж гоодох их дуртай байсан. Тэгээд энэ мэргэжлийг сонгосон.

1987 онд өвлийн амралтаас буцаж явж байхдаа Эрхүүгийн онгоцны буудал дээр явж байхдаа нөхөртэйгээ танилцаж байлаа. Киев рүү хамт онгоцоор нисэх гээд онгоц хойшлогдож хүлээж байхдаа танилцсан. Би сургуулиа төгсөж ирээд, манай нөхөр зуны амралтаараа ирээд 1990 онд төгссөн. Сургуулиа төгсөж ирээд 1990 оныг хүртэл нөхрийнхөө аав ээжийнд байсан. Төгсөөд ирэхээр нь тусдаа гарсан. 1993 онд улсаас байр өгсөн. Оёдлын үйлдвэрийн нэгдэлд насаараа ажиллаад зарим нь байр авч чадаагүй. Тэр үед дөрвөн өрөө байр хөлсөлж байсан. Манайх тавилга энэ тэр ихтэй айл байсан. Оросын цэргийн анги байсан хэсэгт хөлсөлж байсан. Оросын цэргийн анги явах болоод монголчууд тэр байранд ороод байх юм. Хөлсөлж байсан байрны эзэн маань 21 настай Орос монголын эрлийз охин байсан. Хамгийн анх бид хоёр гурав, дөрөвдүгээр хороллын хэсэгт байдаг шавар байшин хөлсөлж байсан. Ханан пийшинтэй их дулаахан, цэвэрхэн. Түлээ нүүрс бүгдийг бэлдчихсэн. Би 6 сард төрөх гэж байсан. Төрөхөөс өмнө 4 билүү 5 сард манай дүү манай гэрт ирэв. Бүтэн сайн өдөр байсан. Нөхөр маань хажууд өөр нэрээр дуудаад байсан. Манай дүү гайхаад нэртэй хүнийг нэрээр нь дуудаач гэж хэлж байсан. Зургаа зураад их ажилтай байгаа юм байлгүй гэж бодсон. Нөхөр маань төгсөж ирээд хүүхэлдэйн театрын зураачаар ажилласан. Тэгээд яагаад өөр нэрээр дуудав гэсэн чинь ажил ихтэй байгаа, маргааш очиж үз гэлээ. Маргааш нь театр дээр нь очиж үзсэн чинь ерөөсөө юу ч хийгээгүй, нэг эмэгтэйгийн хэдэн зураг, нөгөө эмэгтэйтэйгээ бөөн хоол тавьчихсан байж байсан. Би жирэмсэн болохоор идэмхий их хоол тавьчихсан болохоор идэж болох уу гэсэн. Нөгөө эмэгтэй нь тамхи татаад уурлаад гараад явсан. Би аавындаа ирсэн. Манай ах дүү нар байсан. Би уйлаад хэллээ. Намайг хуурсан байна гээд. Миний ах нар уурлаад чи юундаа уйлсан юм гэдсэн дэх хүүхдээ бод гэсэн. Би тайвшраад тоглоод байж байсан чинь орой 6 цагийн үед манай нөхөр ороод ирлээ. Харих уу гэхээр нь би явлаа. Төрөхийн өмнө хөлсөлж байсан байрны эзэн 6 сарын 1 гэхэд гараарай гэж байна. Хаашаа хаана амьдрах вэ гэсэн чинь чи гэртээ нүү, би гэртээ нүүгээд оръё гэж байна. Би чадахгүй ах дүү олуулаа, ийм их тавилгатай гэлээ. Би тусдаа байр хөлсөлж амьдарна гэсэн чинь нөхөр таг дуугүй. Нэг өдөр манай хамгийн сайн найзын дүү орж ирлээ. Ус байна уу ам цангаад гээд орж ирсэн. Би ус өгөөд, эгч нь

одоо удахгүй төрнө, бас энэ байр хөлслөх хугацаа дуусч байгаа гэсэн чинь манай эгчийн найз нь сансарт 4 өрөө байр хөлсөлдөг. Өнөөдөр хэлье гэлээ. Хэлээд уулзсан чинь нүүгээд ор гэлээ. Хөлсөө тохироод нүүгээд орох гэсэн чинь манай нөхөр хамт нүүе гэлээ. Би тэр шөнөө өвдөөд хүүхдээ гаргасан. Тэр үед картын бараатай байсан. Манай нөхөр картын бараагаа аваад надад шөл хийж өгөөд нэг өдөр дуусчихсан. 5 хоног хэвтээд эгч маань хоол хийж авчраад цуг гаргаж авсан. Буриадаас Дугардашиев гэдэг хүн ирнэ, дайлна гээд хонины гуя аваад ирлээ. Дайллаа мах дуусчихлаа. Маргааш нь 5 кг төмс барьж ирээд, төмс шараад идье гэлээ. Монголчууд төрсөн эмэгтэйд шөл өгдөг байхад төмс идэж байлаа. Тэгээд хөлсөлж байсан байрандаа 2 хүүхэдтэйгээ гурвуулаа амьдарч байсан. Байрны хугацаа дуусах дөхлөө. Байранд хүмүүс ороод гараад байх юм. Хажуу айл руу орж хүмүүс яаж байр аваад байгаа юм бэ гэж асууллаа. Миний байр хөлслөх хугацаа дуусч байгаа, би хоёр нялх хүүхэдтэй гэж хэллээ. Хаанаас хүмүүс байр аваад байна гэж асуутал шархадны орос цэргийн ангийн генерал Мизун гэж хүнд өргөдөл гаргаад очдог юм гэлээ. Гэрт орж ирээд цаас аваад орос хэл дээр өргөдөл бичлээ. Гараад гүйхээрээ автобусанд суугаад очлоо. Гадуураа хашаатай, харуултай. Намайг оруулдаггүй. Би оросоор гуйлаа. Цаашаа жижүүр нь дамжуулсан чинь оруулаад ир гэнэ. Удаж удаж байгаад орлоо. Нэг сайхан зантай хурандаа байна. Нөхөр чинь хаана байна гэлээ. Би хоёр хүүхэдтэйгээ амьдардаг нөхөр маань зураач хүн, эрх чөлөөтэй байх дуртай хүн гэлээ. Та явж бай, хоёр дахь өдөр хариу өгье гэнэ. Хоёр дахь өдөр очсон чинь генерал танд гарын үсэн зурсан гэлээ. Хоёр өрөө байр надад өгсөн. Ордероо бичүүлээд байрандаа очсон чинь дотор хэдэн монголчууд байна. Бид нар энэ байрыг авчихсан гэнэ. Би буцаж очиж учир байдлаа хэлтэл ондоо айл 7 хоногийн дараа буцна, буцахаар нь ороорой гэлээ. Орох гэтэл баахан цагдаа ирчихсэн оруулдаггүй. Нөгөө эмэгтэй рүү ярьсан чинь наанаа байж бай гэлээ. Тэгээд ирээд намайг оруулсан. Өвөл өнгөрөөд хавар болж байхад оросын цэргүүд бүгд явсан хойно хотын захиргаанаас манай гэр дээр ордер өгсөн гээд нэг айл орох гээд ирлээ. Тэднийг том өрөөндөө оруулаад, өөрсдөө жижиг өрөөнд нь байж байтал хэсэг хүмүүс ирээд биднийг гудамжинд гаргалаа. Би ах дүү нараа дуудаад тэд тэр айлын хүмүүстэй уулзаж оросын засгийн газрыг төлөөлсөн генералын ордертой хүнийг гудамжинд гаргалаа, эд хогшил алдвал 5 нугалж төлүүлнэ гэсэн чинь эргээд миний эд хогшилыг зөөгөөд оруулсан. Байраа лацдаад асуудал шийдэгдтэл аавындаа байж байтал зун надад нэг өрөө байр өгсөн. Сансрын тунелийн хажууд нэг давхарын байр өгсөн. Би нэг давхараас айдаг. Тэгээд хоёр давхарын байраар сольё гэсэн зар өгсөн чинь нэгдүгээр хороололд том байраар сольё гэж болно. Би зарим юмаа зараад ордерын 4000 төгрөгийг олсон. Тэгээд нэгдүгээр хороололд шинэ байрандаа орж амьдарсан. Тэр үед сэтгэл санааны байдлаас сүү ширгэснээс болж хүүхэд хөхүүлэхээ

больсон. Хүүхдийн сүүний газраас сүү авахын тулд өглөө оочирлоод орой таван цагт ирдэг байсан. Кино үйлдвэрийн ойролцоо байхдаа сонгино авч шараад талхтай хольж иддэг байсан. Гурил байх үедээ мантуу, мантуун бууз блинчика хийж иддэг байлаа.

———Таны нөхөр алдартай зураач уу?

Тийм, зурагтаар их гардаг.

———Хэн бэ?

Ариунболд гээд зураач. Женко-ийн 13 дугаар зуун цогцолборт ажилладаг.

———Одоо нөхөр чинь гэр бүлтэй юу?

Гэр бүлтэй. Гурав дахиа гэрлэсэн.

———Энэ хооронд оёдлын нэгдлийн үйлдвэртэй ажилласан уу?

1987 онд сургуулиа төгсөөд 6 сар ажиллаж байгаад хүүхдээ гаргаад, 45 хоног, 56 хоног, 3 сараар чөлөө авч эргээд оёдлын нэгдэлдээ ажиллаж байсан. Хүүхэд өвдөх үед төлөвлөгөө биелэхгүй цалингаас хасагдаад байсан. Тэгээд цалингүй чөлөө авдаг байсан.

———1990 онд ардчилал гараад юу хийв?

Нэгдүгээр хороололд амьдарч байсан. Дүүгийн худ ирээд гэрийн бүрээс хийвэл хурдан зарагддаг гэж сонслоо. Аавындаа ирсэн чинь оёдлын машинаар гэрийн бүрээс оёж байна. Энэ хурдан зарагддаг гэж байна. 5000 төгрөгөөр материалаа аваад 10 000 төгрөгөөр гэрийн цаваг гэдэг зүйлийг зардаг байсан гэнэ. Би цахилгаан машинаар оёод аваад ирье гээд оёод авчирлаа. Дараа нь зарахад нь хүртэл зах гарч туслаад өглөө. Тэгсэн чинь хурдан зарагдлаа. Ингээд энийг хийж оёъё гээд оёж эхэлсэн. Нийтдээ би 80 бүрээс оёсон. Нэг бүрэээнд 65 м материал орно. Тасралтгүй гишгээд таван цагт нэг бүрээс оёдог байсан. Хоногт гурван бүрээс хийдэг байсан. Зах руу зарах үедээ тэргэн дээр тавиад хоёр давхараас буулгаж чадахгүй, хүнээр туслуулдаг байсан. Бас автобусанд суухдөө туслуулдаг байлаа. 250 м даавуу маш хүнд байсан. Нэг өрөө байрандаа оёод суудаг байсан. Даавуугаа дэлгэж жишүү эсгэдэг байсан. Манай хүү 5 настай байхдаа надтай хийлцдэг байсан.

———Мөнгө хэр цуглуулав?

Гайгүй шүү. Байрны мөнгө 2000 төгрөг байхад би 400 000 төгрөгтэй байсан.

———Тэр мөнгөө яав?

Би хүнд зээлүүлээд алдчихсан.

———Тэгээд яаж босов?

Нэг их босоогүй. Манай том ахын бизнес урагшлахгүй, зээл авчихсан. Гэрт нь хүйтэн байна гээд. Залуу авгай аваад, тэр нь хоол хийж өгөхгүй байна. Байраа нийлүүлээд хамтдаа амьдаръя гэж байна. Манай байр чинь цоо шинэ 6 жил амьдарсан. Бараг шахуу надаас зөвшөөрөл авахгүй манайхыг нүүлгээд, орос гуравдугаар сургуулийн ард монголчуудын барьсан байранд орсон.

Чамд хоёр өрөө байр болгож өглөө гэсэн байдаггүй. Би өглөө босоод л

хоол унд хийгээд, гэрийг нь цэвэрлээд, ирэхэд нь хоол унд хийчихсэн байдаг байсан. Тэгсэн тэд нар таргалаад, жингээ хасах дугуйланд явж байсан. Би зүгээр байдаггүй байлаа. Оросоос ирэнгүүт гэртээ дандаа торт хийдэг байсан. Захиалга тасралтгүй орж ирээд л торт байнга хийнэ.

———Юмаа оёж байхдаа унтдаггүй байсан уу?

Эхлээд орой эсгэж тавьчихаад хүүхдүүдээ унтахаар оёдог байсан. Заримдаа машинаа дэрлээд унтчихсан байдаг байлаа. Сэрээд л оёод л 10 цагт зах цуглахаар аваад гардаг ажилтай байлаа.

———Хүүхдүүд чинь яадаг байв?

Орой заримдаа бүрээсээ зарахгүй ирнэ. Та хоёр мөргөөгүй юу. Би холоос харчихсан гэхээр тийм үү гэдэг байлаа. Бунхорол тавьчихсан, тэрэндээ манай ээжийн бүрээс зарагдаасай гэж мөргөнө. Мөргөөд байхаар би бүрээсээ зараад, усан үзэм алим энэ тэр аваад ороод ирдэг. Дандаа 100 төгрөг, ширээ дүүрэн мөнгө цэгцлэх шаардлагатай болно. Бага ах соёлын төв өргөөнд гуанзийг түрээслэж ажиллуулна. Би мантуу хийж тэнд нийлүүлнэ. Хэсэг хугацаанд үйлдвэртээ ажиллаж байх үедээ өглөө 7 цаг гэхэд мантуугаа хийчихээд цэвэрхэн цагаан даавуун уутанд хийчихээд хоёр хүүхдээ дагуулаад үйлдвэр дээрээ очоод, ажлын дундуур 30 минут гарч соёлын төв өргөөнд мантуугаа аваачиж өгдөг байв. Орой 10 гээд ирнэ. Заримдаа торт хийгээд, тавихад тортын мөнгийг надад өгнө. Нэг удаа гуанз руу шагайсан чинь жүжигчин Сувд миний мантууг хоолноосоо түрүүнд аваад идэж байхыг хараад сайхан санагдаж байсан.

———Ахынхаасаа салж нүүсэн үү?

Нэг удаа ахынхаа залуу эхнэртэй нь муудалцсан. Учир нь аав нь манайд ирээд хоол цай уугаад, өглөө нь жорлонд ухаан алдаад уначихсан. Тэгээд намайг аавыг асраагүй гэж баахан юм ярьсан байгаа юм. Жижиг зүйлээс хүртэл манай хүүхдүүдийг загнах гээд байсан. Ингээд ахдаа хэлээд тусдаа гаръя, хоёр өрөө байраа авъя гэж хэлсэн. Гэтэл нэг өрөө байр өгсөн. Тэрийг засаад авсан. Ордерийг нь залуу эхнэрийнх нь нэр дээр авсан. Гэтэл эхнэр нь Англи явсан. Байраа солих гэхээр ахын байр миний нэр дээр, миний байр эхнэрийнх нь нэр дээр байсан. Эхнэр нь итгэмжлэх бичээд явсан, тэрэнд нь хэн ч үнэмшихгүй байсан. Хавар мах үнэд орох үед би хоол хийнэ, намар хямдрах үед эхнэр нь хоол хийнэ. Гэтэл хоёуланд нь ижил 2,000 төгрөг өгдөг байсан. Би их нарийн хоол хийж өгдөг байсан.

———Тэгээд байраа зарсан уу?

Манай найзын эгч нь Англи явах болоод 300,000 төгрөг зээлээч гээд зээлвэл надад урилга явуулна гэсэн. Тэгээд байраа заръя гэж байтал нэг өдөр худалдаа хөгжлийн банкны гадаад төлбөр тооцоо хариуцсан ажилтан манайд ирээд байраа өөрийн нэр дээр шилжүүлбэл маргааш авъя гэж байна. Ингээд 10,000 төгрөг олоод итгэмжлэхэ солиулаад байраа зарчихлаа. Ах маань мөнгөө нааш

нь өг, Англи явахаасаа түр хүлээзнэж бай гэж байна. Өгөхгүй гэсэн чинь намайг загнасан. Гэтэл эгч маань 14 хоног зээлчих гээд гуйхаар нь өгчихлөө. Тэгээд мөнгө байхгүй. Ахын хуучин эхнэр сансарт 4 өрөө байртай. Тэрнийгээ хөлслүүлэх хэрэгтэй болоод тэрэнд би орчихсон. Би баяраар ямар ч амралтгүй торт хийдэг байсан.

———Одоо тортоо хийж байгаа юу?

Одоо больсон. Эгчийнхээ хүүхдийн төрсөн өдрөөр торт хийж өгсөн чинь голоод идээгүй. Тэрнээс хойш хийгээгүй.

———Тэрнээс хойш ямар бизнес хийв?

Манай эгч аавтай муудалцаад манайд амьдрах болов. Би ч эгчтэйгээ муудалцлаа. Учир нь хүүхдүүдийнх нь дэвтэр дээр онгоц буудаад тоглож байсныг мэдээд хүүхдүүдэд маань уурласан. Ингээд эгчтэйгээ яриад тусдаа гаръя, мөнгө өгчих гэтэл хоёр өрөө байрыг хөлслүүлээд зарахаар нь мөнгөө авчих гэж байна.

10 Сая төгрөгөөр зарсан чинь надад мөнгө өгөөгүй. Харин эгч маань зээлж авсан доллараа хуучин ханшаар нь бодоод өгөхөд хоёр байтугай нэг өрөө байр ч болохгүй байсан. Ингээд тал мөнгийг нь өгөөд хоёр өрөө байранд оров. Тэр үед хуучин байр аваад супер засвар хийгээд эргээд зарахад хоёр сая төгрөг унадаг байсан. Дүүтэйгээ хамт засвар хийж зардаг байлаа. Засварчин хөлслөөд материалыг нь авч өгөөд туслалцдаг байсан. Ингээд хуримтлалтай болоод тоног төхөөрөмж худалдаж аваад тортны цехээ нээлээ. Ингээд 10 сараас 3 сарын 15 хүртэл ажилласан. Шинэ жилийн үеэр нэг өдөр 100 торт зарагдаж байлаа. Ах, эгч нар маань хүртэл надаас авч байлаа. Ингээд Меркури дээрх лангуугаа хаагаад тоног төхөөрөмжөө авсан үнээс илүү үнээр зарсан. Тэгэж байтал манайд солонгос хүн өрөө хөлсөөд, гадныхан байлгадаг байсан.

———Энэ байраа худалдаж авсан уу?

Үгүй. Олон жил түрээсэлж байна.

———Хүнтэй суусан уу?

Суугаагүй. Би нэг найздаа байр авахад нь туслаад хүүгүйгээр надад 2500 $ зээлсэн. Ингээд guest house бизнесээ эхлүүлсэн.

———Эмээ болсон уу?

Болоогүй байгаа

———Ярилцлага өгсөнд баярлалаа.

Note

1) A study of polygamy in Russia | Education | *The Guardian*, 27th Oct 2009.

12. NAMSRAI Suvd: Vice-Director of the State Drama Theatre, Honoured President, ITI Centre of Mongolia

NAMSRAI Suvd is the most famous face of Mongolia. She is the National Actress of Mongolia who worked as an actress for about forty years. She serves as the UN Goodwill Ambassador, Vice-Director of State Drama Theatre, Honourd President of International Theatre Institute, Artistic Director of the state theatre. She has won many awards and prizes for her performance. Presently she is a professor of National University of Mongolia.

I asked my friend to call Ms. Suvd as I was not quite confident of my Mongolian vocabulary when it comes to speak in a polite form and it becomes more difficult to talk when you respect that person most. We got the appointment at 10 in the morning next day. She asked us to come to the State Drama Theatre. In early 80's the red and white colour building drama theatre was well maintained. Now it has become a little bit old. It was a very sunny morning when I went to see her. She was waiting at her office. Very elegant and graceful Suvd was in an outfit of white blouse and black skirt. As usual she looked dignified and at the same time very charming. Her beautiful smile and a warm hug made me comfortable to start my work of interview. While talking to her, I could know she is not only intelligent, wise and beautiful but she has a very charming personality too.

She spoke in Mongolian and Mr Burenbayar Chanrav who is a senior manager of communications and media at Oyu Tolgoi LLC was kind enough to sphere his time for translation to English. This is to explain contents in English, but not be translated word-by-word.

Амжилтийг Бэхжүүлэх

Би одоо ийм сайхан эрдэмтэй номтой ийм сайхан эмэгтэй хүнтэй уулзаж байгаадаа их баяртай байна тэгээд намайг бас алдартай хүний тоонд оруулж байгаад би их баярлаж байна. Тэгэхдээ би өөрийгөө нэг их тийм том алдартай хүн гэж бододгүй. Миний ээж аав хоёр бол Монгол улсдаа их нэр хүндтэй алдартай хүмүүс байсан олон улсын хэмжээнд бас монгол улсаа төлөөлж чаддаг ийм хүмүүсийн гэр бүлд төрсөндөө би их баяртай байдаг. Хэдийгээр

одоо социализмын үед бол эцэг эхчүүд хүүхдээ их дээш нь татах гэж арын хаалга гэж ярьдаг тийм юм социализмын үед байгаагүй ижий аав хоёр маань бид нарыг хичээл сургуульд оруулж өгөөд л тэгээд бид нарыг манай аавын эгч өсгөсөн. Ижий аав хоёр маань бол биднийг хаячаа л ажлын төлөө гэсэн тийм хүмүүс байсан. Миний аавын эгч хэдийгээр сургууль төгсөөгүй хөдөө өсөж төрсөн хүн байсан ч гэсэн маш их амьдралын хар ухаантай хүн байсан учраас бидэнд юу гэж сургадаг байсан бэ? гэхээр нэгдүгээрт эрдэм номондоо сайн сур хоёрдугаарт ажил хийж сур ямар ч үед ажил хийж өөрөө өөрийгөө тэжээх ийм чадалтай байх ёстой гэж бид тавд хэлж сургасан бид ах дүү тав одоог хүртэл тавуулаа тус тусдаа ажлаа хийгээд өөрөө өөрсдийгөө тэжээгээд социализм капитализм хөдөө байна уу хотод байна уу тэр бол бид нарт ерөөсөө ямар нэгэн нөлөөлөлгүйгээр амьдрах ухааныг тэр хүн бидэнд олгосон гэж би боддог юм.

Би 1948 онд Улаанбаатар хотод сэхээтний гэр бүлд төрсөн. Тэр үед олон цэцэрлэг байгаагүй хот цөөхөн хүнтэй байсан тэгээд биднийг ижий аав хоёр маань орос цэцэрлэгт явуулж орос хэл сургадаг багадаа сурсан учраас унаган орос хэлтэй гэж болно. Гэхдээ аав ээж маань дунд сургуульд бол монгол сургуульд оруулж байсан тийм учраас монгол хэл уран зохиол үндэснийхээ хэлийг сурах нь зүйтэй гэж үзээд арван жил тэр үед арвадугаар анги төгсдөг байсан Сүхбаатарын нэрэмжит хоёрдугаар арван жил гэж сургуульд арван жилээ төгссөн. Тэгээд аравдугаар анги төгсөөд дээд сургуульд ороход бол сурлагын дүнгээр их сургуулийн хуваарь авдаг байсан л даа тэгээд манай сургуулийн багш нар бол намайг математик хими физик гэсэн хичээлүүдэд сайн гэж дүгнэдэг байсан учраас багш нар маань чи их сургуулийн физик математикийн ангид ор гэж ятгаж байсан. Би бол бүр цэцэрлэгээс эхлээд л бүжиглэдэг концерт тоглолтонд бүжиг хийгээд явдаг тийм хүүхэд байсан зургаадугаар ангид багш нар сурагч бид нараас ямар мэргэжилтэй болох вэ гэж санал асуулга явуулж байхад би ердөө мэргэжил гэж мэдэдгүй бододгүй зүгээр сурдаг хүүхэд байсан.

Тэгээд тэр зохион бичлэг дээр би яг чин үнэнээсээ би ямар хүн болох вэ гээд бодсон чинь миний аав эдийн засагч гэхдээ бүх насаараа орчуулагч сэтгүүлчийн ажлыг бүх насаараа хийсэн тийм учраас нэг бол аавыгаа дуурайж орчуулагч сэтгүүлч болох нэг бол жүжигчин болох гэсэн ийм л хоёр зам байсан тэгээд би тэр үед жүжигчин болно гээд бичцэн юм зургаадугаар ангид байхдаа миний юманд үнэнч байх зан тэгээд бичсэндээ болоод тэр юм уу мэдэхгүй дунд сургууль төгсөөд багш нарыг ятгаад байхад нь үгүй ээ би жүжигчин болно гээд тэр үед бид нарт жүжигчний ангийн хуваарь бидэнд ирээгүй тэгэхлээр нь би соёлын яаманд очно тэнд ямар сургууль байна би тэнд очно гээд тэгсэн манай аав ээж жүжигчин болохыг зөвшөөрөхгүй байсан л даа яах юм миний хүү жүжигчний мэргэжил хэрэггүй ээ өөр харин тэр

физикч математикч чинь их гоё мэргэжил гээд багш нартай нийлээд намайг ятгадаг байсан тэгээд би үгүй ээ та нар ердөө над саад битгий бол би өөрөө өөрийгөө мэднэ гээд соёлын яаманд очиж асуусан чинь Москва хотод кино урлагийн дээд сургуульд кино судлаачийн мэргэжил байна гэхээр нь би энэ сургуульд шалгалт өгч болох уу гэсэн болно гэж надад хэлэхээр нь шалгалт өгөөд тэнцсэн тэгээд Москва хотод очоод есөн сарын нэгэнд сургуулийн захирал дээр ороод би жүжигчин болох гэсэн чинь Монгол улсад бидэнд тийм мэргэжлийн хуваарь ирээгүй надаас шалгалт авч өгөөч би одоо ингээд жүжигчин болох гэсэн юмаа гэж түүнд хэлээд тэгсэн надаас Орос улсын хөдөлмөрийн баатар ардын жүжигчин Чапаев гэж кинонд тоглосноороо их нэрд гарсан Борис Андревич Бабучкин гэж хүн жүжигчиний анги авч байсан тэр хүн намайг шалгасан би энэ хүүхдийг авнаа гэж хэлээд тэгээд би жүжигчний ангид орж сурсан юм.

Тэгээд шинэ жилээр гэртээ ирэхдээ ээж аавдаа уучлаарай ингээд би жүжигчнийхээ ангид орцон гэж хэлсэн тэгээд яахав нэгэнтээ жүжигчнийхээ ангид орсон юм чинь тэд маань юу ч хэлээгүй. Тэгээд би сургуулиа төгсөөд Монгол кино үйлдвэр гэж байсан тэр үйлдвэрт жүжигчинээр орж ажилласан тэр үед гадаадаас худалдаж авсан киногоо бүгдийг нь монгол хэл дээр орчуулж жүжигчдээр ам бариулаад зүгээр уншдаг биш тоглолтонд нь зориулсан жүжигчнээр дуу хийлгээд монгол хэл дээр гаргадаг тэр орчуулгыг хийдэг байсан тэгээд кинонд нь тохирсон дүр байх юм бол ажилладаг янз бүрийн ажил бас хийнэ тэр кинонуудад тэгж тэнд гурван жил ажилсан.

Кино үйлдвэрт урлагын гавъяат жүжигчин Доржпалам гэж хүн байсан уран сайхны удирдаач нь тэр хүн намайг чи яг цэвэр Монгол ёс заншил монгол жүжигчний арга ухаанд сурах шаардлагатай байна гэж хэлээд чи театрт тоглох уу гэж асуусан би зөвшөөрөөд хүүхэд залуучуудын театрт ажилласан тэнд манай ээжийн багш байсан найруулагч эрдэмтэн зохиолч Оюун гэж хүн надад чи манай театрт жүжгийн гол дүр хийгээд үзээ гэж хэлсэн тэгээд би театрт инжгүй хүүхэн гэж гол дүрд анх удаа тоглосон юм.

Тэр жүжгийг тоглосны дараа чамайг зөвшөөрч байвал энэ хүүхэд залуучуудын театрт шилжүүлж болно гэж хэлсэн кинонд бол хүн өдөр болгон ажиллахгүй тэнд дуу оруулна кинонд хааяа нэг дүрд тогловол тоглоно тийм байсан учраас өдөр болгон гурил нухаж байгаа юм шиг жүжигчнийг ажилуулдаг газар бол театр байсан тийм болохоор уран чадвараа дээшлүүлэх зорилгоор театрт орох болсон тэр үед долоо хоногт дөрөв таван удаа тоглолт театрт зайлшгүй болж байдаг бас тоглолтонд орохгүй жүжигчин гэж бараг байдаггүй гол дүрд тоглохгүй байлаа ч гэсэн олны дүрд тайзан дээр байж л байх ёстой өглөө нь ч бусад улсууд сургуулилт хийж байхад чи тэрийг харж дасгал сургуулилтанд хамт орж байх ёстой социализмийн үед тийм байдаг байсан тийм учраас байнгын дасгал сургуулилттай байх нь хамаг жүжигчний

ур чадвараа өсгөхөд театр бол асар их хувь нэмэр туслалцаа том үүрэг гүйцэтгэсэн гэж би хувьдаа боддог юм.

Тэгээд тэнд 1973 оноос 1980 он хүртэл би ажилласан социализмын үед жүжигчин гэдэг бол нийгмийн хамгийн түрүү эгнээнд явах ёстой гэж дүгнэдэг тэр үед ганцхан нам байсан тэр намын бодлогыг хэрэгжүүлэхэд бол хамгийн манлайлагч уриалагч ийм үүргийг жүжигчид гүйцэтгэх ёстой гэж үздэг байсан үзэл сурталын дарамтанд уран бүтээлчид тухайн үед бадаг байсан ганц намын бодлогоор дарамт шахалтанд ганц намын бодолгоор байсан учраас хэцүү үе байсан ялангуяа уран бүтээлчид бидэнд эдийн засгийн хувьд бол хэдийгээр хүрэлцээтэй их хэмжээгээр мөнгө өгч багаагүй ч гэсэн зохих хэмжээний бололцоотой хөрөнгө санхүүг улсаас өгч байсан.

1990-ээд оноос хойш бол уран бүтээлийг санхүүжүүлэх сан байхгүй болсон харин үзэл суртлын хувьд дарамт байхгүй болсон тэр нь маш сайхан байсан ч уран бүтээл хийе гэсэн хөрөнгө мөнгөгүй болсон амьдрал бол дандаа тэмцэл байдаг гэж эрдэмтэн мэргэд ярьдаг шиг үнэхээр театрт ажиллана гэдэг дандаа тэмцэл хөдөлмөр энэ бүгдийн үр дүнд л энэ театр оршин тогтнодог гэж би ойлгодог.

Тэгээд 1992 онд би театраас гарсан гараад анхны хувийн бага театр гэж байгуулж өгөөд түрээсийн мөнгө төлдөггүй байртай машинтай бага зэргийн тоног төхөөрөмжтөй болгож өгөөд дараа нь би соёлын яаманд хэлтсийн даргаар дөрвөн жил ажилласан тэнд ажиллаж байхдаа гадаад харилцаа киноны асуудал хариуцаж ажиллаж байсан тэгээд 1996 онд соёлын яам татан буугдсан тэр үед намайг Соёл Урлагын Их Сургууль, Кино Урлагын их сургууль ирж багшлаач гэж би тэр хоёр сургуульдаа багшлаад 2000 онд энэ театр эргээд намайг дуудаад дахиад л жүжигчнээр театртээ ажиллах болсон одоог хүртэл ингээд байж байна даа олон улсын театрын институт монгол улсын театрыг элсүүлэх ажлыг зохион байгуулж тэнд гишүүнээр элссэн тэгээд ноднин хүртэл би ерөнхийлөгчөөр нь ажиллаж байгаад олон улсын институцд монголын төв гэж ажилладаг Дэд ерөнхийлөгч гэж ажиллаж энэ олон улсын харилцаанд дундаас тус дэм болох зорилгоор ажиллаж гадаад хурал зөвөлгөөнд, фестивалд оролцох, монголдоо олон улсын фестивал, сургалтууд хурлыг зохион байгуулах гээд ийм ажилуудыг хийж байсан.

Одоо манай залуучууд үргэлжлүүлээд одоо манай гавяатъ жүжигчин Сарантуяа тэр ерөнхийлөгчийн ажлыг аваад ингээд идэвхтэй ажиллаж байна би залуучуудаараа үнэхээр бахархдаг Сарантуяа маань энэ ерөнхийлөгчийн ажлыг аваад явж байна энэ театраа залуучуудын гарт үлдээгээд гарахад театрыг цааш нь аваад явах ийм эрч хүчтэй шинэ залуучууд, найруулагчид энэ бүхнийг би зохион байгуулсан гэж бардам боддог тийм учраас яахав залуучууд, ахмадуудтай байхад бол өөрсдийгөө их л залуу юм шиг боддог миний энэ байрыг аваад явах хүн бий манай одоо 2000 онд би орж ирээд анх

дахиад шинэ хүүхдүүд авсан тэр хүүхдүүд дотор байсан Наранбаатар гээд манай найруулагч одоо гэгээн музагаас олон шагнал авч байсан ийм найруулагч байна манай ерөнхий найруулагч Найдандорж болвол тэр 1981 онд би анх ажлаа авсан бас манай Сарантуяа, Найдандорж, Сосорбарам анх театрт хөөцөлдөж авсан залуучууд маань бараг ахмадууд болчоод байна.

Бас Найдангийн Ганхуяг Соёл урлагын их сургуулийн тэнхмийн эрхлэгч хийж байна. Сосорбарам бол хувийн том театртай ийм сайхан ажил аваад явж байна. Сарантуяа маань бол эндээ ажиллаад бүх ажлыг өөрөө хийх чадварай хүн болоод явж байна гэх мэтчилэн бүтээлч залуучууд бий энэ уран сайхны удирдагч ажлыг аваад гадаадад боловсон хүчин бэлдүүлэх шаардлагатай байна гэж үзээд тэр үеийн дарга нар дээр орж зөвшөөрүүлж Соёлын яамны шугамаар Москвагын театрын урлагын акедами гидси гэж тэр үед байсан одоо ч гэсэн дэлхийн том театруудын нэг тэнд 1 бүхэл бүтэн анги явуулсан тэнд сураад ирсэн хүүхдүүдийн Жаргалсайхан Уранаа гээд жүжигчин манайд ажиллаж байна хоёулаа гавъяат болсон Мөнхсайхан гээд зурагтаар хөгжим тоглоод явж байна Энхтайван гээд бас боловсорлын салбарт аж ахуйн мундаг ажилтан болсон сая хөдөө орон нутаг гэхэд гавяатъжүжигчин Уранчимэг гавяат жүжигчин Оюундарь энэ жил хаврын баргиадуудаар даргалуулаад явсан.

Миний аав Баянхонгор аймгийн Жаргалант нутагт төрсөн миний аав монгол улсын төрийн шагналтай орчуулагчаараа марсизмийн үеийн бүтээлүүдийг монгол хэл дээр орчуулсан олон улсын сэтгүүлчдийн холбооны дэд ерөнхийлөгч олон улсын шатрын холбооны дэд ерөнхийлөгчөөр олон улсад сонгогдоод ажилласан үнэн сонины сэтгүүлчэд хорь гаруй жил ажилласан Гэгээрэлын яамны сайд байсан гадаад яаманд ажиллаж байсан Сэндий Намсрай гэдэг хүн байсан.

Миний ээж бол Лувсанжамцын Цогзолмаа гэж Хөдөлмөрийн баатар, Ардын жүжигчин бас Төрийн шагналтай хамгийн анх бие даасан уран бүтээлийн концерт хийгээд 1951 онд төрийн шагналыг авж байсан Төв аймгийн Угтаалцайдам нутагт төрсөн манай аавын ах хүн нь хэлмэгдэлийн үеийн хамгийн анхны 13-т буудуулсан гэж ярьдаг энэ хүмүүст зориулж хөшөө босгосон байдаг манай ээж бол өнчин мөн хүргэн ах нь ч бас тэр хэлмэгдэлийн үеэр өртөж нас барсан гэхдээ бэрхшээлгүй амьдрал гэж байхгүй учраас зовлонд үл сөхөрч жаргалд үл ташуурч амьдрах ёстой гэж эцэг эх маань сургасан манайх гэрээсээ 1 эрэгтэй 4 эмэгтэй хүүхэдтэй байсан манай гэрийнхэн одоо бүгд л урлаг талруугаа ажилладаг болсон манай дүү чинь сургууль төгсөж ирээд уг олон улсын харилцааны мэргэжилтэй өөрөө шилжилтийн үеэр урлагаар явсан хүн их олон засгийн газар албан тушаалтангууд ажлын санал тавьсан ч зөвшөөрдөггүй хүүхэд байсан тэгээд гитараа тоглоод явдаг хүн.

Би 1971 онд хүнтэй суугаад хоёр хүүхэдтэй болсон миний хоёр хүүхэд хоёулаа Америкийн нэгдсэн улсад магистер хамгаалж ирээд том нь 4 жил болоод одоо уул уурхайгаар ажиллаж байна одоо бага нь ирээд нэг сар болж байна миний том хүү найруулагч болно гэхээр нь би зөвшөөрөөгүй улмаас миний үгэнд орон хуульч болсон бага хүүгээ эдийн засгийн сургуульд явуулсан чинь бас надтай адилхан өөр хөгжмийн сургуульд ороод төгссөн одоо манай том хүү 5 хүүхэдтэй заримдаа ач зээгээ харж өгдөг хамгийн бага 3 нас хүрж байна манай гэрийн нэг л зарчим нь Их сургууль төгсөнгүүт л баяртай одоо яахаа өөрөө мэд гэж хэлдэг, залуучууд цаг цагтаа л муу ч сайн ч талтай байдаг болохоор би туйлширсан зүйлийг хүлээн авч чаддаггүй, яагаад гэвэл социализм үед л бүр хачин сайхан байгаад л бүгдийг нураацан юм шиг ярьж болохгүй, жишээ нь манай театрт авч үзэхэд санхүүгын хувьд үнэхээр уран бүтээл хийхэд боломжтой байсан, тэр үзэл суртлын дагуу бол байсан гэхдээ нэг бодлын хэрэгтэй байсан гэж боддог ийм жүжгийг гаргахгүй гээд л хэлэхэд тэрнийг чинь яаж гаргах вэ? гэж ухаан гаргадаг одоо бүх юм чөлөөтэй болсон чинь тэгж давж гарч бодох тийм чадвар муудаж буй юм шиг санагддаг хөрөнгө мөнгөний хувьд мөн тааруу болсон сая нэг төсвийн шинэ хууль гарсан гаднаас хандив туслалцаа авахыг хориглосон улс уран бүтээлийн мөнгө өгөхгүй тэгээд хандив тусалцааны мөнгө авахгүй гэхээр жүжиг хийхэд хүндрэлтэй байдаг.

Cementing Success

I am extremely happy to be meeting with such a wonderful educated lady and I am excited for being included as a famous person. But I personally do not consider myself to be an important famous person. My parents were well-respected, famous people in Mongolia and I feel very proud to have been born to a family that can represent the country. Under socialism every parent tried every means to do something good for their children, better than others, but unlike them my parents admitted myself and my siblings to school and we were given under the charge of our aunt. We were five brothers and sisters. Our parents were very much committed to their job and did not have time for us. Although my aunt was uneducated and brought up in the countryside she was extremely practical and bright, and she used to teach us to be, first, committed to our schooling, and second, to learn to work emphasizing that we should be able to work and feed ourselves under any circumstance. Even today, we five have gone about our own private lives doing what we were supposed to do, capable of living in working

anywhere, be it the city or the rural area and we know that our aunt had helped us to be brought up this way.

I was born in Ulaanbaatar in 1948 to a family of intellectuals. In those days there weren't many kindergartens and the city itself was small with a tiny population. We were then admitted to a Russian kindergarten and we can claim that we learnt Russian from a very early age. And when we reached school age, our parents sent us to a regular Mongolian school as they believed that we had to learn the native language and literature. I used to go to the Sukhbaatar memorial Secondary School Number 2 in Ulaanbaatar from where I graduated. After completing my secondary school I was admitted to the university because I had good academic marks from school. My school teachers knew that I was good in mathematics and physics and so they used to persuade me to join the physics and mathematics faculty in the university. And when I was at the kindergarten I loved to dance and used to take part in song and dance concerts. When I reached grade 6 our class teacher asked us to write an essay "What is my our future ambition".

When I sat down to write the essay different thoughts raced through my mind: when I said to myself to be honest about my future profession, I used to think about my father who was a journalist and translator. I had only two choices, either to become a journalist and a translator like my father, or to become a performing artiste, an in my essay I wrote that wanted to become a performing artiste. I think that was a sincere wish of mine because after finishing my school although my teachers persuaded me to take up another profession, I said I wanted to become an artiste. So I told my parents that I wanted to go to the culture ministry to find out if I could be admitted to an art school. But my parents were not happy about my choice saying that the profession of a performing artiste was a tough job and together with my teachers tried to persuade me to take up mathematics and physics. But I refused and asked them not to persuade me as I myself knew what I wanted to become when I grow up and so I went to the culture ministry. There I was told that students were being admitted to cinema art college in Moscow to major in film critic. I asked the ministry if I could appear for entry exams which I passed with flying colors. And so I went to Moscow, but after coming there to the college on 1 September I met with the director and told him that I wanted to be an actress and not a film critic. So I had appear for another exam and the exam was supervised by Boris Andreevich Babuchkin, a very famous Russian actor. He told the director that he wanted me to be in his class and that's how I started my college life in an actor's class.

When we had our winter vacation I came home and told my parents that I was sorry that I had joined acting class. They did not say anything. After graduation, I returned home and started working with the Mongol Kino (Mongolian Film) studio. In the beginning I started working by translating all films into the

Mongolian language as we used to buy them all from overseas. And at times I also used to be the voice-over actor and if there was a suitable role in the film I used to play in that role. In other words, I did everything possible in a film industry and in this way I worked in the studio for three years.

Dorjpalam, a very famous cultural personality, used to work at the Mongol Kino studio as the artistic director, who used to tell me that I should learn in the traditional skills Mongolian acting. One day he asked me if I would be interested in working in the theatre. I jumped at the offer and started working at the Children and Youth Theatre. Director, writer and scholar Oyun, who was my mother's teacher, was working at the Theatre who asked me to try a lead role in the theatre and an experienced young girl that I was then played in the lead role for the first time. After the first performance Oyun told me that if the theater accepted my first performance I would become a full-time actor with the theatre.

In the film industry someone does not work everyday except for voice recording and only sometimes, acting in a film or two. But in the theatre, one has to practice lliterally every day and if a performing artiste really wanted to improve on one talent and skill, he or she needs to work in a drama theatre. The more so, during those days plays used to be put in the theatre four to five times a week and almost all the performing artiste, one or the other way, had to perform a role in the play, even if it was not a lead role. And every morning there used to be training and rehearsal, and even if you did not take part in them, you had to look at others rehearsing and training. That's how it was during socialism. This is how, after continuous training the theatre helped me improve my professional skill, this is what I believe and think.

I worked at the children and youth theatre from 1973 to 1980. Under socialism, a drama actor was believed to be walking in the forefront of the society. At that time, the society was ruled and managed by only one party and it was aken for granted that a drama actor had to be the leader and in the vanguard of implementing the party policy. It was not easy working under ideologocial and political pressure of a single ruling party but we did not feel any shortage of funding from the party and the government although financailly like the rest of the society then our monthly income was very small.

When the democratic transformation happened in the country, that is after 1990, the government became almost bankrupt and it no longer could financially support us the performing artistes, but what was a very positive development was that we longer lived and worked under the ideological pressure of a party. However, without any funding and financial support, it was really difficult to put up a play. An eminent scholar had once said: Life is constant struggle. Indeed so, I also realized that theatre, like life, is an arena of constant struggle and if we overcome this struggle, we can survive.

In 1992 I left the theatre to set up the first private theatre which was housed in a rented place and left the private theatre again when I was given the job as head of department at the Ministry of Culture. I worked for four years with the ministry overseeing external relations for the film industry. When the Ministry was dismantled in 1996 I was invited to work as a professor at the School of Film Art under the University of Culture and Arts. I left the university in 2000 when I was once again invited to work at the Drama Theatre and here I am since then. Since 2000 I have also worked successfully to make Mongolia as a member of the International Institute of Theatre and until last year I was working as its President. The International Institute of Theatre has a Mongolian Center and I am now working as the Vice President of this Center. Its objective is to ensure Mongolia's participation in international forums and conferences, theatre festivals and also organize in Mongolia international theatre festivals, training and symposiums. Now the younger generation is taking an active part in this international activity.

We have at the theatre a talented person, Sarantuya by name, she is now the President of this Center and I am proud of what she is doing. I am also proud to have mentored such talented artistes and producers full of new innovative energy and creativity. So feel happy to leave behind something for which I had devoted my entire life to the young talent and working with them makes us the senior generation happy and feel youthful. From among them I am also proud of Naranbaatar, a young budding producer and Naidandorj, the chief producer of the theatre, and talented artiste Sosorbaram whom I had recruited way back in 1981, and today, Sosorbaram has his own theatre which is very popular.

While working as the Director of the theatre, I thought it my duty to train younger generation of performing artistes. So I took up this challenge and requested support from the Ministry of Culture to provide scholarship to the Academy of Theatrical Art in Moscow, one of the world famous educational institutions. What I was able to accomplish was send to this Academy an entire group of young talented Mongolians. From among them two students Jargalsaikhan and Urnaa are working in our theatre, while another student Munkhsaikhan appears on TV. And I need also to mention Enkhtaivan who is working in the education sector. So I am proud of such young talents.

My father S. Namrai was born in Bayankhongor *aimag*, in Jargalant *soum*. He was a recipient of the State Award translator and journalist who had worked in the media for more than 20 years. He was also elected the Vice President of the International Journalists' Association and Vice President of International Chess Federation. He was also working as the Minister of Education. My uncle was one of the first 13 who were persecuted in the 1930's and there is a statue to my uncle in his birth place.

My mother Luvsanjamtsyn Tsogzolmaa has the title of Hero of Labor, State

Award winning artiste which she won in 1951 when she performed solo. My mother was born in Ugtaaltsaidam *soum* in Tuv *aimag*. My mother was an orphan and her brother-in-law was also persecuted in the 1930's. There are very few families in Mongolia that had not gone through the agony of political persecution. My parents who had also experienced this terror used to tell us "control oneself in times of happiness and never give up when encountered with a challenge in life." We are one boy and four girls in our family and today we are all working in the realm of art. My youngest brother is actually an expert in international relations, but since childhood he has been befriending guitar and in the year of democratic transformation many governments invite him to work for them, but he refused devoting himself to arts instead.

I married in 1971 and I have two children. Both of them did their Master's degree in the United States, the older of them is a lawyer, working in the mining industry, he wanted to become a producer but I did not agree with him. And my younger son returned to Mongolia only a couple of months ago. Actually my younger son had gone to the States to major in economics but instead he went to a music school. My older son has five children and I feel very happy looking at my grandchildren. Well, looking back at my life, I know that under socialism we had our own problems and challenges as we had to go along one ideology, but despite that we had the money to produce something new and innovative. That was good. But today we have become free and with this freedom there also came some restrictions. Recently a law was passed according to which we are not allowed to receive donations from foreign countries and given the restricted budget and with this new law, we have many challenges when it comes to staging a new play.

13. HASHBAT Hulan: Governance Consultant and Former Democratic Party Parliament Member

Hulan Hasbat has a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. Since 2007, Hashbat Hulan has been a highly effective National Advisor to Millennium Development Goal Projects and Advisor to the Minister of Education, Culture and Science in Mongolia.

As Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Policy of the Great State Hural (Parliament) she served as team leader for several working groups that made many important amendments to Social and Health insurance and to various codes concerning Law, Education and Labour. and has a wealth of legislative experience and a long and fine record in developing democratic governance indicators in Mongolia. I met her for lunch in a very modern cafe where she has come with her daughter. The cafe was full of customers so we have to wait for the table. In between we had formal greetings, introduceded each other and smilingly she said I was told that you are from japan and I thought you are a Japanese. I am a resident of Japan basically from India. By that time, we were shown to the table. She looked very professional but humble. she talked about her love to India and the India sunivers she got from her father when he was on diplomatic mission there. In between our interview too, she kept very busy by receiving many calls from her business clinets. Some she declined to take and apologitically she answered some. While waiting for our food to come we started on our interview.

Brilliant Streaks of Grit and Determination Makes it Work!

I was born in Ulaanbaatar in 1961. People who were born at the end of 50's and early 60's was the first generation of Mongolians who were born in urban environment so to speak. The rest were born either in the countryside or in a place, which was most probably difficult to call a city. By the time I was born we had buildings and running water in the city. So I am the first generation born in the city. At that time Mongolia was speeding up its modernization with the help of Soviet Union and China. I was born in to a family of diplomats. My father was a diplomat who went to the Moscow state institute of international relations. My mother graduated from the same institute and I later on completed my degree from the same institute. We in our family had three persons who finished in a famous school in Moscow. My father comes from Huvsgul. He was born in a place, which

is called Ulaankhad “red rock” in tsetserlig soum in Huvesgul. My mother was born here in Ulaanbaatar. My maternal grandmother comes from Bulgan *aimag* khutag undur *soum*. My parents met in Moscow at the same school. My father’s personal story is very indicative of socialist period a very rapid social lift. He comes from a family of herders but his ancestors on his mother’s side were of noble origin. All of them were prosecuted at the end of the thirties. In the end of 30’s my father was born in the family of 16 children. He was given away to his elder sister who by that time must have been already having her own family. He was raised by her but in close proximity with his parents. When the literately campaign was launched in Mongolia in the socialist period people from *aimag* will come to the *soum* to take the children away from the families for education. If the families refused to do so they were sent to the Ger prison for three days. These *aimag* people came to his *soum* and asked his sister that she has to give away the children for schooling. First they refused, they were sent to Ger prison and after three days they decided that they should send some one to school. And when next time *aimag* center people came on the horseback to take the children to boarding school they said take Hasbat my father to school. The reason was that my father was lazy and was not active in house hold chores. Those days’ boarding schools were made for herder children. That is how my father was sent to the boarding school and educated there. He did not know how to comb his hair. He has two braids. As there was nobody to comb his hair after three months of his schooling one day he woke up and saw his one braid on the pillow it just fell of and after another three months his second braid fell of and this is how he became independent so to say. He finished his boarding school when he was in fifth grade as he was very good in his studies. He had best grammar and best handwriting. He was appointed as an archivist. Because of his good grammar skills and excellent handwriting he was given the job to write documents in the administration. Then all of a sudden he was sent to Ulaanbaatar for schooling at the Mongolian National University. He was admitted into the medical faculty to become a doctor and of course nobody asked him what he wanted to do with his life. The decision did not bother him. He was happy to become a medical doctor. He spent one year in the medical faculty when he was asked to go to Moscow, as government of Mongolia needed diplomats to strengthen its position in foreign countries. Government started sending its people abroad to work in the embassies and expand its relations. As my father was good at his studies so he was selected to go to Moscow. So he went to Moscow. My mother was six years younger than my father. She too was very good at her school. She studied in school number two which was famous for its good education. For her further studies she went to Moscow in her school uniform, as she did not have other clothes to wear. It took them eight days to reach Moscow. She did not know much Russian at that time. At her very first class her

professor asked what do you know about Marxism. She raised her hand and professor said, here is the Mongolian student she will tell us what is Marxism. She said in her little knowledge of Russian; the Ghost is wandering in your body the ghost of Marxism. And the professor said you are an excellent student. That is how she got initiated. Both my parents had excellent Russian and English accent. They were trained very excellently. They used to go pubs and dance. Both of them were very good dancers. They could dance tango, polka. Balls and all of this. My father was a very trendy fashionable man. He had very trendy suits, his pants were narrow down and he used to wear narrow pointed shoes.

They were stationed for the first time in New Delhi for the first time and they liked India very much. For my first birthday my father gifted me an Indian rug and my gifts from my parents were ivory table lamp and the ivory elephant with a rider on the back. For me it is a treasure now as ivory is forbidden now.

When my parents were stationed at New Delhi, I was very small at that time. Therefore, I was left with my grandmother and aunt. My grand mother was fifty one year old when I was born. I heard that once I was born my grandmother quit her habit of smoking, which she has developed when she was in her teens. She loved me so much that she left smoking once for all. My grand mother besides my parents played a huge role in my life and what I am today is what they input in me. My parents shared all their stories and experiences with me. That is why I feel that I know life rather well. My grandmother was a very hard workingwoman. She worked as a cook in kindergartens and she also worked as a typist in the newspaper agency Unen and she did all sort of such jobs. She divorced her husband when my mother was ten or eleven years old and my aunt very small. She raised the two girls by her own. My grandmother raised my two younger sisters and me too.

As my father was diplomat, I spent most of the years of my life outside Mongolia. My father has his posting in New York, London, Belgrade but most of his diplomatic career was in Moscow. So I spent sixteen years of my life in Moscow. My sisters, we all and I are Russian native speakers. Because of that tradition our children are also like us native Russian speakers. My daughter Dariya is also a native Russian speaker. I finished my schooling in Moscow and I did my Ph.D. from Moscow. At that time I was one of the youngest Ph.D. holders in Mongolia. After my Ph.D. studies we returned to Mongolia. After coming back to Mongolia I joined the academy of science for some time and left the academy to join the Democratic Party. In 1996 I was elected the parliament member. I was also the first Mongolian woman to have the award of world economic forum in 1996. As world for tomorrow I also have fellowship foundation for political science and international relations so I spent some time in working with center kaka in Washington DC and also taught in the university of Vienna small collage.

I got married when I was thirty-five. Dariyaa was born afterwards in 1999. so she will be thirteen in this autumn. I also run for parliament seat in 2004 but lost the elections to fraud. The elections have already become fraudulent. Since then I haven't been very active in Mongolian politics. I became a project advisor and consultant and I did governess consulting I have to so many years since then. Right now I am trying to become a producer a film producer together with my friends an effort to reinvent my self in other field, as politics is no longer my interest. It is no longer the way we wanted it to be today and it will never be like that. It is like it lost its virginity to democracy. And once you lose your virginity and give your body to too many men what will become of you. That is what is happening to Mongolian politics and generally to the country. We lost lot of our value and virtues. Regrettably it can never be retaken; we cannot go back and return the time that is not possible. So there is no point being there. Therefore, I am trying to reinvent myself and do something else and raising my daughter is also an important priority.

As a part of my biography I think it is important to say that I was married to Sanjabayar who later on became the chairman of the Mongolian Revolutionary party and later on became the prime minister of Mongolia. This marriage played an important role in my life. In terms of positive side there was this big love affair by which Dariyaa was born and on the negative side we were not able to create a very strong family. We did not have any political differences. We were political partners, I supported him a lot in his career but in terms of creating a strong family dedicated to a family which is based on mutual respect, mutual understanding and acceptance of individuality of a person, that was not happening. But we were from different political parties that played a very important role in my life. I was alienated and ostracized from my own party because of this marriage the way my political career went. I really can't say that it ended my political career but it did end my political career within the Democratic Party. But outside the democratic party I was by my own and I could have made it but because of many personal challenges after the divorce finance wise, work wise, friends wise, I had to concentrate on my own life to survive when I lost lot of my friends and contacts have no job. That also played a role in my decision not to get involved in politics any more. Because the Mongolian politics are based on money. Money plays a huge if not the most important role not only in Mongolian politics but also in generally. So I thought I need to concentrate on my life for the survival of Dariyaa and myself. I worked on different projects like Asian Development Bank and UNDP and other projects that gave me an opportunity to survive and get better from the worst in matters related governance issues. I had to read a lot in order to know the governce has connection to political science, international relations and public administration. As it also deals with how government are organized.

I think Mongolia generally survived the chaos and managed to keep the Mongolian tradition in transition. The transition is very tragic and painful period and in my opinion it is still going on. Other people may say that transition has ended already and we are now in a democratic country and functioning market economy which may be true but I talked to one Russian professor scholar who is the head of the Buriat – department of Russian Academy of Sciences in Ulan-Ude who is vey famous he said that with all these transitions societies undergo economic and political transformation but Mongolia is under going one fundamental transition. This transition has to do with the civilization transition. If a society has a genetical code then Mongolian are changing their genetic code transformation I think Mongolian society is changing from a nomadic society to a urban society which is more tragic and fundamental. All these political and economic changes of course we could accept but DNA level change is much more painful. It looks like from your body another body is created and that may have nothing to do with you and you don't know whether it is a monster or an angle. This is what he said to me when I visited Ulan-Ude for a conference. In 2007. I still remember his words and feel strongly that what he said was very true. And because of such genetic transformation in Mongolia I don't think social institutions ere able to react to these changes. Mongolian institutions beat families, tribal connections and all other social relationships are disintegrating. I think it is too much for Mongolia they are losing their values and morals and the design of our government is as such that it is not stable enough to handle this change. I think these major changes in politics; economy and social transformation is too much for Mongolian people. The transformation from nomadic life to urban set up is forcing people to lose their civilization and code of ethics. Our government is not able to mange the change in a thoughtful strategic way. So the change is not managed very well. As a result we have lot of pains in our society.

Our politicians are exploiting the patron, which are in tribel in blood, which is still vibrant in Mongolia. Parties exploited this and use this as their political platforms to get elected. Giving away money solidifies further reliance on patrons in this case the state. But it can be anyone in Mongolia; it can be any rich person who has a big company, ruining a whole *aimag* whatever. Instead of creating jobs and training for the people it is easier to buy them off through lots of different handouts. Experience of other countries has shown that handouts is not the solution of the social problems. In some point they have to deal with the fact that they have to stop this. Somebody has to stop it. It may be painful but every medicine is painful or bitter but we cannot offered the social evils that are related to wrong decisions to continue for very long because then we may not be cured at all. We will lose the chance for cure. We have many problems and from the past two decades we have lost what we were able to have under socialism. We lost free

medical services. We still proclaim that we have free medical services but we no longer have them in reality. We need to do something with the gap between the deton, ation the intent and the actual state of affairs. People who have money have better access to everyday life and people who don't have money have less access or no access at all. Suppose we see the medical sector, we have lot of diseases, we have declining understanding of health issues amongst the people as the standard of education is not also very good. We have problems in addition to what we had under socialism we have an up surging sexual transmitted diseases, we have Aids we have too many abortions we have teen pregnancies which is random, we have alcoholism we have other infectious diseases. And the system is not able to react to all these new challennages. It has to do with system the funding practical education so on and so forth. Comperhenses but not along the market principles because the social sector is not able education for every one, health services for everyone it is difficult to speak about profits. Of course there should be set principles for those who can pay and those who cannot pay. We need to take care of those who are not able to take care of themselves.

In the capitalist system there is always a hole but to fill it you need to improve your political system your democratic process to ensure that the people of the country benefit. When there is big corruption and the political reins are given to the people who have no principles and knowledge on governess it is normal outcome or it is quite predictable.

I cannot compare the socialist and capitalist system as these are totally two different systems and the lives we had in two systems are quite different. There are many opportunities today. Compared to the pervious system but Mongolians are not happy. There is a lot of aggressiveness in the society, a lot of frustration a lot of inequality. I think when a society has huge gap in equality that society cannot be happy but then the society that is fully equal is not possible. I think we need to strive for more social democratic type of setup where there is less inequality. There is lot of ideological still over that socialism was a bad system it had not but Mongolian solitarian was very soft always very soft system. In Mongolian politics the democratic ideology is fanatic. Any fanatic is the same fanatic. There is very little difference between the political or very different religions or ideologies what they do is that is very little reflection of reality of traditions, social values, what is possible they aim at the maximum and when you aim at the maximum you become very zealous and over the process you tend to destroy a lot and that destruction is never and the effects of such destruction is never taken into account by fanatics. So we destroyed a lot. I don't think we were able to create a lot into socialist period but let us see two decades is very less. To the women I can say don't be dependent on any one except yourself. The state is not funding the arts any more. The concept of charity is new to Mongols they would rather lose the

money in gambling then to pay for good cause.

14. JIGJIDSUREN Altantuya: Project Manager, Asian Development Bank, Mongolia

Altantuya Jigjidsuren is presently working with Asian Development Bank as Project Manager. She is a medical doctor, MMS, MMA and holder of many certificates. She was awarded the certificate of Management Methods for International Health by Boston University in 1996, certificate of Health sector Financial management by University of Leeds, UK, 1999, certificate of Social Insurance Administration by JICWELS, Japan 2000. In 2008 she received Good Governance Capacity Building certificate from Lee Kuan Yew School of Public policy, National University of Singapore and in 2012 yet another certificate came to her credit by World Bank Institute, Asian Institute of Management, Philippines Strategies for Private sector policies and engagement in health program. She held many responsible posts in Ministry of Health. 2009 to date Project Director, Third and fourth Health sector Development Program, 2007-2009, State secretary of Health, 2005-2007, Director, Health policy and planning department, 2002-2004, Head of the health economics and technology department. Director Chingeltei District General Hospital, Ulaanbaatar city 1997-2002. From 1993-1997 she was officer in charge of Public Health, National Development Board, Under the Prime Minister.

My friend, Dr. Indermohan Narula, Country Director VSO Mongolia, fixed my appointment with her. The day I called her for reconfirmation of our appointment she was on her summer vacation. She was kind enough to keep the secudual despite the fact that she was not well. Along with my friend I visited her office. It was raining in Ulaanbaatar and roads were full of dirty water. It was very difficult to walk, soaked in water we somehow managed to reach her office. A tall slim and sharp lady greeted us hello and she said I heard you speak Mongolian. Yes I do speak Mongolian language but as you are fluent in English, I would rather prefer you speak in English as it will save my time in translation. While we were talking about her education abroad I mentioned her first visit to Nagoya, Japan of which she said it was my second visit. Where were you in your first visit, she smiled and said, Kanazawa. It was my turn to be surprized, what I reside in Kanazawa. We both got up and hugged each other. Actually it was in 1992 when we met in Kanazawa. She had come on JICA training program and I was the Vice-president of Ishikawa-Mongolian 21th Century women's friendship Association at that time. She told me that she has been in my house and my restaurant where we had Indian Sari Party. Remembering the day at Rubina

Indain Restaurant, She mentioned, "you told us to select the sari, there were more than hundred saris and I selected blue colour sari which I thought suits me best, but to my surprize, you told me, no, no, this is not your colour. You pulled out a redish pink sari and said here is your colour. It was a moment of tremendous joy for me and the colour fitted me so well. The picture in that sari is my most favourit one which decorates my drawing room. Thank you so much". I felt a strong connection. Reminiscence sometimes play a great role in cementing the relations.

Taking Challenges Better

I was born in 1966 in Ulaanbaatar, which was a socialist period. I am the youngest daughter of my parents. I have another two brothers. In terms of my childhood I am very happy. My father Jigjidsuren was an engineer and my mother Dolmaa is a teacher. She is a biologist. My parents are the first from their generation I mean from their family who came and settled in Ulaanbaatar city and they got the high education. My parents were from Sukhbaatar *aimag*, Dariganga *soum*. Basically we are minority, and we are Dariganga people. My father has six siblings and my mother has nine siblings. Out of all the siblings only my parents were able to get the higher education. I know everybody cannot get the education. When I was born they had already an apartment in the center of Ulaanbaatar. My parents made a very good decision in terms of the education of their children. I think when the parents are giving the chance to the children, it is very good opportunity for the children. I know there are many people who cannot afford this kind of things. But if they offered they are lucky children to get proper education. I consider myself very lucky to have such parents. During those days there were many Russian schools established by Russians for their own children. But with the cooperation of Mongolian Government, these Schools also accepted Mongolian children. For example if there were thirty students in the class, five or six were Mongols rest were Russian. I was lucky that my parents send me to a Russian school. I was admitted in the school number three but I remember they took me to two different schools to take examination. My father was standing in long queue in front of the school number 23 for my entrance examination. I remember he was in the queue form the evening to next day morning. I cannot forget that. So I have two-entrance examination in school number three is fully Russian and school number twenty-three is both Russian and Mongolian. I got a green card for both the schools but and my parents helped me in getting in the Russian school. Sending me to Russian school was a good decision my parents made. All my education was in Russian. I

am more comfortable in Russian language and my understanding of Russian language is better then Mongolian I am sorry to say that but it is true. From the age of six my basic language was Russian therefore, it has become my first language. Of course I am very good at Mongolian as well. This was my first opportunity my parents gave me. That time even in Mongolian school Russian was taught as second language. But having a chance to learn in Russian school with Russian Kids gave me much bigger opportunity and I had a very good experience. Compared to my own generation kids of Mongolia I had better chance in terms of education. I always think how smart the parents are in making the decisions on behalf of the children. If the parents have good understanding of the situation even if they are not educated but their vision and knowledge helps the child to make the future. My parents made good choice for me and for my brothers. One of my brothers studied in the school number 23 the joint Russian Mongolian school and another studied in a Mongolian school. We were very lucky that we all got education in schools which were very good. I believe that time was good for Mongolia. The education was the big benefit of Socialist period to Mongolia. The big advantage of the socialist period was that we were treated equally. There was no concept of girl boy. We were all students. Now-a-days people are talking that we had bad period during the socialist time that is not true. I believe that time was very good and helpful for Mongolians in terms of education, in terms of health, in terms of social services and we gained a lot at that time. I am not sure if we would have achieved what we had if it was some other way. That was a big benefit of socialist period. Everybody had a right to education, everybody had free access to health services and every body had a right to work at least. It was a very good period for us might be. Of course socialist period had some disadvantages as well. I think we should not talk only about the disadvantages of the system and ignore the advantages. Every system has its good and bad. For example, how many people were there in the beginning of 19th century in Mongolia, not more than five hundred thousand isn't it and now we grow up to more then two million. How it happened? It was only because of the support of the socialist system. Our social, cultural behavior all changed dramatically all due to that system. The education it self was scientific. They were not giving any practical training. That is why I think girls were not able to choose the right profession. When I graduated from the middle school the next question was what profession should I choose for my future. I remember that we had a long discussion in the family and my parents apparently asked me to go for medicine. My parents decided for me to go to medical school and the reason they said was that medicine is good for girls. I could not find the logic behind that why becoming a doctor was good for girls. The second reason they mentioned was that there was no medical doctor in our family. Therefore, if there is one, you will help the whole family. I think that was

the main incentive for me to go to medical school. So I was sent to medical school. If the choice were left with me I would have chosen engineering, as I was good in mathematics, physic and drawings. About my own daughter I am surprised why would not I consider some different thing for her, some other field or other profession. Our focus is on very general professions, teacher, doctor, lawyer and an engineer. We do not understand that there are lots of multiple choices, which are very interesting, challenging and useful to our times now. The new professions are very challenging and are also needed. Now people have started thinking about that new choice too. Our mind was very narrow. Those days we had entrance examination. I was quite a high scorer in my studies. When it comes to choosing a school medical was not my field of interest. My understanding is that a doctor should be a doctor. In my imagination a doctor was one who has a stethoscope, giving treatment, prescribing some medicine and that was the treatment I was thinking. When I have to choose the school there was one medical school and they taught hygiene, there was another it was in terms of Somatology, which was in Russia, Leningard and Irkutsk. But there was no school as such, school of medicine. Therefore, I was thinking Somatologist is not medical doctor and hygiene is not at all medicine. I need to become a medical doctor so I choose to study in Mongolian medical school. It was a right choice. I studied here for six years and graduated. During my studies I realized that personally I am not a medical doctor, I mean as a person. In my third year of school in medicine, as a practice we have to see the patients. But I realized that I am not a good doctor. I had no interest in other people's lives or their sickness. Suppose a person comes and complain that he has pain here and there I got easily bored to listen to the patient's problem. I wanted the person to stop and go. And I understood that it is not my destiny. There was no choice for me but to continue my studies. I could not leave the school if I do so my parents will go crazy. So I decide that I won't practice as a doctor but I shall use my knowledge in other sector of health. That was the decision I made when I was still in the school. After graduation in 1990, I wanted to study further but not in medicine but may be a relative field. In 1991, I went to Moscow to do my Ph.D. in microbiology, which I thought was quite interesting. Early 90's were a very difficult time for Russia as perestroika was happening there. After three four months in Russia, our all scholarship and stipend was stopped from the government of Mongolia and from the government of Russia. There was no payment for the school at all. We had to survive by ourselves and the main sources of living were to do some small business. We will buy some clothes from Mongolia or China to sell in the market and get some money. As I was very fluent in Russian I thought I could sell anything. But again I was not good at trading too. That was also very clear. There was this one person from Mongolia who came to Russia to sell his goods. He did not know any

Russian and I teach him one word that was "Тысяч Рубле" that is one thousand ruble. We were selling the T-shirts in the black market standing in the same corner. He could sell all his T-shirts with the single Russian word and I a perfect speaker of Russian could not sell even a single one. This was the second time when I have to make a different decision. I left the idea of doing business as it became very obvious that business is not my cup of tea. Those two years of perestroika were very difficult not only for me but for many people. The inflation was incredible. One day you buy bread for three rubles and next day the same bread is six rubles and then some days later it is nine rubles. It was going out of hand. I did not have enough money to buy and reserve the bread. You cannot reserve and consume the bread. There was only chance to buy something with the money, which I had. For my survival, what I did was the scientific workers of the institute I studied, most of them had "*gaacha*" (summer house) most of the Russian people have, I helped them, worked for them in the weekends to sort the vegetables and greens. In return I was getting fruit baskets and vegetables to live on. It was enough for me for a week and next week again I will go to help another field and get some fruits. That was the main source of survival for me at that time. My husband came to visit me in Russia and was very unhappy and upset for the way I was living. He could not believe that I could survive without meat and butter. Although it was a very tough time for me but the experience I gained was very helpful. Not everyone could gain such an experience. My husband was asking me to come back. I was trying to explain him that I was doing my Ph.D. but he could not understand. I was able to stay there for two years but as all the educational institutes were closed I could not complete my Ph.D. degree. The Institute were I was studying did not get any support from the Russian Government and it was closed and my scholarship was stopped. Most of the scientist went to Israel. I was pushed to return home. I retuned to home without finishing the studies. Of course I could not complete my Ph.D. as in Mongolia we did not have microbiology even now. I started searching for jobs. That time a new organization was established by the government by the name of "Улсын Хөгжлийн Газар" National Development Board for the development of the country. It was under the Prime minister and this institution has to plan the development program for the country. I applied for the work in there and was accepted. That is how I started my job. I was in charge of the social sector that covered health and population sector. It was not only technical things but also planning of good attitude of the people, which are the fundamentals in any company. That was a very good time for me as I learned many things in this job. I meet many people and worked with many organizations. After a graduating if a person gets into a good company or organization good internal quality it is a good start. It is very essential for a person to grow and stand up. So instead becoming a doctor I became an administrative person. Looking at the data I realized that this is

a very interesting job for me. I was making bigger decisions in planning and administration. It was so satisfying for me then treating a person as a doctor. The doctor's work is also very noble. You can treat people from their illness, which is good for a person and the doctor as well. If you treat the system you treat whole country, you could help in much bigger scale. When you are doing planning and the planning is done in a proper way, you are building hospitals for thousands of people the satisfaction was much bigger, encouraging and appreciating. Some people say it is boring as you are sitting all the time in front of the desk. But I found this job is suiting me. My job gives me chance and opportunity to go abroad to study and travel around the world. I went to Japan, USA, Singapore, and Australia.

When democratic revolution was happening I was young. Young people doesn't care about the comforts or stability. Young people like changes. Now I have started thinking about stability. May be I am getting old. Last week I was visiting Saishant by train and I was recalling my student life when I used to travel by train to Moscow, which takes four nights five days. I was wondering how I was doing it that time. I remember that time I was reading a lot and knitting while going to Moscow. But I never thought that time my travel was problematic in terms of toilet or water or food. I really cannot recall. So I think young people do not consider these things. They like changes. It was with me. I had graduated from the medical school and in early 90's whatever was happening it was like a challenge. I was looking forward for the new system without realizing that old system was not totally bad. My husband Tomorbaatar was also the one person among the people who initiated the democratic revolution. During those days everyday we had plenty of people, friends of my husband in my house. They were having meetings and discussion about democracy. I was also a part of this some times as a minority, some times a full active member but not as active as them but in the back. The young generation was accepting the changes readily. This needed to happen and it has to happen. It was good for us without any inhibitions.

Before 1990 Mongolia had only one partner Soviet Union. Everything used to come from there. The soviet block, they could give some aid but on certain conditions. And the conditions were quite difficult for Mongols to fulfill. I was a small child that time I don't have much idea about this one. But one thing is certain that the system, which was established that time, was not bad one. During the transition period from 2000 to 2003 that time I was working with the government and we were discussing with our main donors and aid people. As it was transition period the life of the people was not easy. We had some card system. Every family was given the food card to receive food according to the food card. It was a very difficult time for me as well. That time I was a young mother. Small amount of food was given through these cards. What I was trying to

do was cut the meat in small portion and divide the meat for thirty days. Regardless what we will eat I was just making the small amount of meat and everyday I will make only one piece. I am wondering now, how I could manage. It was a very hard time. Another thing, which I did for my survival was sewing. I was making leather bags. I would do this sewing during the nighttime. There were some companies who will give me the leather pieces, which were left after making a dress. I will sew these small leather pieces into one piece. This one piece I will make bags. I was selling these bags by 10 *tugrug* each. I had a contract with the company. I had not to sell these bags in the market instead company will come to collect these and give me the price of the made bags. That was my main business during the transition. I had to support my child and myself. My husband was involved with the revolutionary actives. As he was active in revolution, so no income was coming from his side. The donor countries and organizations were only concentrating on day-to-day supplies. I remember that time Japan, Korea were bring food like powder milk butter or rice just everyday living supplies. Most of them focused on that but that was very much needed at that time. But later the head of the organization of Development board was Mr. Ulaan now he is the member of the parliament, said that what we are getting is not aid, it is an aid but that is not what we want to have. What we need is the infrastructure; we need to have power but not the food. As it was the planning section donors were bringing the flour or rice the basic necessities of life but at the same time we started to understand that donors should understand that we need support in terms of development. This was the time when we got the soft loan from Asian Development Bank. The ADB loan was used for the establishment of family doctors clinics. It started in 1997. That is how we stared moving from everyday supplies to bigger development strategies. The amount was not enough and we needed more. Every assistance, which was coming from outside we had to go for a lot of process for that. We had to work hard to get it. It is not like now. Everybody wants to give something but now our government is in a position to choose. Economy is getting more powerful. Now the government is in a position to say no if you don't like something for example. Sometimes you know we have some consultancies coming and giving the regulation, which is not appropriate for Mongolian. It is not that they do not know how to plan but it is that they don't know the situation in Mongolia. That time we had no choice but to accept. We had not enough knowledge about how it works. We also had no knowledge about the recommendation prepared for us. For us it was difficult to understand this kind of thing. Now the government is very strong, people got education in other countries and became aware of our needs. I think now we can focus on donor support more efficiently and make it work. This donor support started coming in early 1993 to the 1994, it is almost 15 years now and it is a long time.

The government tried to send many people to abroad to get training. For short term and long-term training. If I talk about myself, as a civil servant I was sent to many countries for training from 1992. I was sent to Japan twice once in Kanazawa and once Nagoya for long and short time training. Later I was sent to Korea and Singapore. Short term training I had in UK and USA, Thailand. So you see I was able to visit so many countries. It added my knowledge. I learned how other people live and work. To understand the situations and to accept the other people helped me in contributing to the development of my country. When it comes to assistance, people even now are saying that we need buildings. When we talk about training people, they are not happy about it, as they want something concrete, which they can use. Training is very essential for any country. Most of the civil servants were trained in different countries like me. But I should say that it was not well planned or well organized on human resource. Suppose we had this one person Altantoya. We knew her skills and her capacity, so we know where to train her but this sort of attitude was lacking. We had proper knowledge what exactly we needed from the trainees the results would have been more efficient. But we did not know. Anyway, everybody wanted to get the training by his or her own. It was not planned but it was expontenous. Though it was a sort of random training not well organized but still we got a lot of this kind of training that helped us in the long run. By the end all the public servant understood the world around him or her. Before 1990's we had only one partner who is Russia and we were looking at Russia as the world. Now we understand that there are so many other places besides Russia. Visiting different countries, seeing how the development is going, how the people are working and thinking, what they are doing it helped us very much in understanding what we really has to have.

The community benefited of course. For example like in the beginning of 1990 when the pervious system fail people could not buy the medicine in pharmacies especially in rural areas. In *soum*s there was no pharmacy. People of the *soum* have to go or has ask to some one who is going to Ulaanbaatar to buy them medicine. That was the situation in the 90's. We tried to establish community centers in all the *aimag*s with the help of the UNICEF. And by the end every soum had its own pharmacy, which is supported by the community center as well. We call it as a drug revolt reform. UNICEF as the support to the government was giving three million *tugrug* to every pharmacy. By that money they buy some drugs and after selling they will get some little profit and use that money for again buying the medicine. It started in 1998. So you see the benefit was for the people. Instead of going to Ulaanbaatar they could buy it in their own place. For ordinary people it was a very good help. May be people are not realizing that how much happened. They are very quick to forget. But if they recall of course they will feel the difference. Unless they recall they will not remember. In the family clinics they

used to have very good system. These clinics used to serve children, mothers, disabled people the single mothers and the poor people. Through these clinics they become more close to the people. Like before it was not only helping the children or mothers but it was helping the whole family. The concept of family medicine came from that time. Now people can understand. It is now 15 years people have started accepting it. It was a very good approach to reach people. Almost everybody benefited with this. They are the people who use this clinic. The venerable people the single mothers old age people they benefited with this system. Wealthy people don't even know where these clinics are. They don't know even the name of the family doctor. This kind f people are about 45 percent of the population. They know how the system works. They go every day bases to the clinic without any charge or any kind of payment. They can consult the doctor any time and ask for his advice. They can get the treatment in the medical center. Mothers can bring their children for immunization for free of charge. Sometimes people say it is not the right one, it is not the good one it is not efficient. I was thinking ok, if you close all these family clinics for one day what will happen. When you have everything you don't realize but when it is gone you miss it. And the people like me who am working for the system does not get any appreciation immediacy. It comes after several years. We have to understand that we are doing right things. We have to be more efficient. I think we Mongolians have a kind of may be it is in our blood or may be it is our mentality we are very fast in accepting new things but get bored very quickly. We want to make changes; we want to accept changes but our interest shifts to other things easily. May be it is in our blood and I think we have to do something about it.

In my opinion Mongolian women are very privileged. In the family most decision are made by woman. Men may be making some decisions when it comes to buying or selling of big things but in everyday life woman is very powerful. If it is not very young family and if the family is growing the most decision about children and old parents woman make decisions. Therefore, the changes, which happened during these past 20 years, women faced it very bravely. I could say there are many jobs, which usually men cannot do but women could. May be the women realizes their responsibilities as they have to feed the children they have to look after the family, they have to treat the parents, may be that is why feeling of responsibility among women is strong. That is the reason why women can go for trading. They can sell or buy anything in black markets. They could do any thing. Since the women are working in all kinds of fields they are facing many problems too. But at the same time the changes, which are happening around us, women accept them very easily. I think the women are the focal point of these changes in the family, in the community and in the society as well. Therefore, I think women are in dominating position in education, health and in social sector. But when it

comes to politics not every woman want to join it. They don't have the time to do the politics. Because at this stage of Mongolian development nothing is clear. There are no clear rules, what is right or what is wrong no clear policies. There are no principles actually. Which is against women's prospective. Women are not feeling comfortable in an environment where nothing is clear. For example people are asking me why I am not joining the politics, why there are so less number of women in politics.

As they are the focal point of all sphere of life they are the ones who were benefited most. As for the international aid and help is concerned they are the ones who took full advantage of it. I could mention here one example, several years ago; JICA was helping and supporting Mongolian government in immunization for the children. They supported for a long period more then ten years. There was a point when they had to take a decision whether to continue or enlarge the support or not. That time I was asked to guide the Japanese team who was doing the evaluation of the JICA support. We choose one Soum, which was in Tuv *aimag*. It was not planned visit we just choose it. We went to the health clinic of that *soum*. The initial plan of JICA delegation was to meet the women and old people. We reached the clinic in the morning and it was quite crowded. There were many people with their children. Japanese people wanted to talk to the people by themselves and my work was only to translate. They approached one young lady who was sitting on the bench waiting for her turn to see the doctor. She was young mother but looked very confident. JICA people approached her and I translated for them. They asked her why she is here, and she said I am here to get second dose of immunization for my baby. They asked her do you know about the immunization and she replied very confidently explained about it and they asked her if she knows where the government is bring this and very confidently she told them, "There is one organization called JICA, they are helping Mongolian Government to get this immunization". I was surprised but very happy. I could not find the right word to say and they JICA team were also very happy. Later on I discovered that she was a primary school teacher and as a teacher she was fully involved in the discussion on *soum* level. I really was not expecting that she would talk about JICA. I knew people might talk about immunization but not about the organization, may be it is because the education of Mongolian is not a bad one. Literacy rate is very high and people could know and understand the work international organizations are doing. In transition there was a trend, which is sill, continuing. Parents think girls are weaker than boys and could not do "хар бор ажил" unskilled labour and boys are strong they could survive by doing anything. In the nomadic society we need strong hands and boys are strong. This was the concept as girls can only cook and clean in the house it is better they spend their time in school and secure their future. Therefore girls are sent to school to get

education and stand by their own and reserve her future. The consequence is in all medical no not only in medical but also in all other higher education institutions girls are more privileged. There is a huge imbalance between girls and boys. As boys are not qualified so many qualified girls in terms of education, in terms of social statues in terms of job cannot find a suitable husband. They are also breaking the other families just to find a man, they become as a second wife or a mistress of a man and having the child outside the marriage. I don't think this is a right thing. This is a very bad thing. The girls do not date boys who are not qualified. Our society is changing people have started accepting it as there is no other way. There is a анекдоты onigot in Mongolia now, in every family there is one person who is working outside in earthline.

Do you know what it is? It is a cosmetic chain in Korea. Many men went to Korea and women were left behind and also the women who are in higher position cannot leave the country so she has to have someone for her. So she ends up in being the mistress of any men. The conclusion I want to make here is that we need a policy to encourage the boys I mean men, how to become stronger in the society. I don't know what kind of the policy will it be but the government really needs to think about it. It is not the issue of one girl or two girls but it is a big issue of the society. The children of these illegal relations they become a factor of which I think is another issue we have to deal with. You know when these women make a decision of having a child they make it a short-term decision. They want a child because they don't want to be alone. The fear of being alone is threatening. They want to have someone besides them at least one child. That is the common mentality of a woman at least has a child who will look after me in my old age. This is very short term thinking of woman. But in the longer term when the child will grow up and know that he is illegal, having someone as his father who is on TV everyday and has other legal children. But this young person cannot reach the father I don't know what will happen to this generation people. There was one intative "анекдоты" a joke that shows the problem exists. One parliamentarian wanted to initiate the law for men to have two wives. There was joke, in one family the husband and wife were watching this parliament discussion and the wife asked the husband, what do you think about this law and the husband replied well I will fellow the law. This shows that there is the problem. Of course there is a solution the government should make the relationships legal so that it gives the children the same statues as the legal ones. I don't say this is the only one solution there are many other ways too. In olden days in Mongolia had the tradition of having many wives and many children. May be that is also acceptable. But I do not think that is the right solution. We really need to think about these social issues too. Because of these many health issues come up. Like mental disorder, depressions etc. We are not dealing with the mental stress or problems of the

population. We are only focusing on body diseases not the mantel diseases. This is the right time that health sector has to focus on this kind of diseases. We have to have good consulting for the patients who have stress related problems. But to tell the truth we do not have good specialist or experts on this field. Until this time we are thinking of maternity or child diseases or diarrhea for example but not the mentality of people and its care. This kind of issues is to be addressed too.

I am working as a manager for the ADB supported health projects. ADB started helping the health sector since 1996. They started their own health clinics. ADB is mostly working on the system organization. They are not working on the patient and diseases like WHO. ADB is working how to make the system more efficient. In this term we are implementing the fourth project following the first, second and third one. Now we are writing the fifth project. We are going one by one. Every project has its own agenda and its own objectives. We are focusing on more how to improve the health system, especially the primary health system. How to improve the efficiency of *soum* hospitals and family clinics. How to make family doctors work more efficiently. Also we are working on how to improve the financial system, the equipments, insurance, budgeting and also we are trying to improve the structure of the health sector. These are the main focus on these issues. We are supporting the ministry of health in major reformations. I used to work for ministry of health for several years. And now I am working with the ADB as a donor-supporting sponsor. Of course there is a difference between the two. In the ministries there are so many things to do on daily biases. We don't have the experience in dealing with the health policies and reforms therefore, by ADB support we are bringing the international consulters to support ministry of health to develop their policies and to do the reforms to bring the change in the system. These projects, which I am in, are very helpful for the health sector. We are doing a lot in policy areas but at the same time we are helping government to build the hospitals, to renovate and to equip the hospitals. The range of the projects is very wide. ADB is the biggest partner in the health sector. The third project which is implemented now is about 14 million US dollars fourth is about 35 million dollars the coming project is again 30 million dollars. So the amount of support coming from ADB is huge. We are using it not only for policy reforms but also to improver the existing infrastructure. Realizing what is needed now and writing the new projects and proposals, getting them approved by the government of Mongolia and by the ADB and then getting them implemented is really encouraging.

Women are doing great work in every field and I want more of them in the line. Recently we had elections and now we have nine parliamentarian women in the parliament. As a person in health sector I am glad that they are taking up issue, which are related health. Yesterday I watched on TV that they have taken the issue

of maternity hospitals in Ulaanbaatar city and ministry of health is planning to build a new maternity hospital and they were discussing it yesterday. They are helping to the ministry of health to solve this problem and I am very glad. And if they go like this way to discuss specific topics, that means they want to solve this problem. There is no need to go for big democracy issues or parliamentary issues. There is a need to go for the small issues and fix them one by one by that we will fix the whole system. These women are quite recognized ones. They really want to do something for our society. It is not an easy way to go to the parliament especially for women. This is a big risk for women. A big challenge to go and fight against a man but once they are parliamentarian she has strong power. Once she has strong power she will help the whole society in a better way. The structure of the cabinet and composition is not decided as yet but hope there will be at least two or three women ministers in the cabinet. Men talk about money but women talk about the daily necessities of life. Now-a-days the number of governors is increasing in *soum*s. We have many governors in *soum* level and surprisingly when the governor is woman the *soum* becomes better. In terms of cleanness and policies. The women can see the small details and can fix them properly. It is more organized communication between the people is easy and they are closer to each other. There are no big problems. And the *soum* where the governor is man it is different. Men know about the horses and big things. We will find the big deference between the two *soum*s where the head is a man or woman. There is lots of woman who are becoming governor of *soum*. Women are trying to settle the basic problems. Even though the budget of the *soum*s are same. There are many small NGOs and also National NGOs who are working not only in UB city but also in *aimag*s and their approach is very modern. They are working on community-based approaches. They are not talking but they know what people need. They are supporting the needs of the local people. Having again the example of *soum* health center there are many *soum* health centers who are developing their own projects. There is a new fresh NGO who are helping the centers how to write their proposals. They will do all the analyzing and draft the proposal. So this NGO is very helpful and they with *soum* health center is becoming one team. They understand each other, they know who is good at what and they are building the community in the center very well. By writing their own proposal budgets get money from the World Bank, from minor business supporting fund. This kind of initiatives is very common in the rural areas. I think NGOs are more interesting in rural areas as people there are more open. I think if we work honestly we have a bright future waiting for us.

15. RADNAA Otoganbayar: The Chairperson of the Medical University of Mongolia, IMSHUS

Otogonbayar Radnaa is MD, MPH, Ph.D. the Chairperson of the Medical University of Mongolia IMSHUS "Ээрүүл Мэндийн Шинжлэх Ухааны Эх Сургууль." She has many honours and awards, like, Outstanding Teacher of Education, awarded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Mongolia, Outstanding Health Worker award by Ministry of Health, Honorable medal of labour by President of Mongolia, the Honour medal of 800th anniversary of Great Mongolian state award by president of Mongolia, 90th anniversary medal of Peoples Revolution of Mongolia and Golden Star medal awarded by president of Mongolia and not to mention many more.

It was again Dr. Inderumohan Narula who asked her if she could be available for the interview. On 30th morning, I fixed the time with her by phone. She was very kind to give me appointment though she was very busy with a big project with JICA. I reached to her office exactly at 11 am, our appointment time. The day of the appointment 30th July 2012 was very cold. It was raining in Ulaanbaatar. Although it was summer yet it did not feel like summer. Each time I visit UB it is different. New buildings and new shops have increased. Ulaanbaatar has turned another big metropolitan city, very congested and lot of traffic jam. At the information I asked for her but was told that she has gone to countryside for her summer vacation. I was surprised and did not trust the man sitting behind the counter. I knew he was lazy. He did not want to find out instead said she is on leave. I called her number and she said she is in the office waiting for me.

I reached her office and she was giving final shape to her project with her staff. The office building was under renovation so it smelled all paint and there were workers working, cutting wood on the floor. She told me later that they are renovating the building in order to increase 13 beds indoor patient ward where people could be hospitalized too. While taking the interview there was lot of noise about which she was bit concerned. The chairperson looked very elegant but very humble. She greeted me with her broad smile and apologized for her busy work schedule. While talking to her I could feel that she really enjoys her work.

Determination Makes it Work

My name is Otoganbayar. I am a medical doctor. I was born in 1964, 4th of May in Ulaanbaatar. We were twins. I have a twin brother. My mother gave birth seven times and has 8 children, four boys and four girls. I have three sisters and four brothers. I am the youngest in the family. My father Radnaa was an economist who as a socialist party member mainly worked for the socialist party. He did the job of Surveillance in government office and that time it was observation and checking of the people, which was a norm during the socialist times. He worked in the district office almost 28 years. He was a very intelligent, hardworking and highly educated person. He had a very good spirit. My mother is also a very highly educated, kind and hard working. She worked as an accountant for about 30 years in the government office. Now she is in her 70's. The best mom may be in the world. My father passed away six years ago in 2006, 28th December. It is already six years now. After the death of my father, my mother is now living with us my husband and me.

About my childhood memories I have nothing but good memories. My childhood was very interesting. I was born during the socialist period when everything was well planned. During socialist times it was policy of the government that all children to be sent to "цэцэрлэг" or Yasli. Yasli is a Russian word for the Pre-kindergarten. Before joining kindergarten all children were put into Yasli a pre-kindergarten school from the age of three months to three years. My twin brother and I were also put into the Yesli when we were six months old. After that we went to kindergarten up to the age of eight years. At the age of eight we were put into a secondary schools a Russian school. During the socialist period going to Russian school was very special. Our school was called 23 Russian foreign language schools. We got our secondary education in that school. We have all happy memories of this period. As I was the youngest child of my family, my parents and my elder siblings were very much protective towards me. My twin brother was asked to take care of the younger sister that was I. Even when we joined the secondary school he was asked by my parents to take care of me. My mother insisted my twin brother that he always should hold my hand while crossing road and while walking in order to protect me. When we were in our teens we some times felt very shy. Other students from the school were thinking that we were dating, as they did not know our relation. We were hesitant to walk together. All the responsibility was put on his shoulders. Now I think why he has to take all that responsibility. We were twins; we are of the same age. But the thing is that those days our culture was good. Parents asked boys that they should take responsibilities as men. Even now he takes good care of me. He will present me flowers and gifts on the women's day on 8th march. He invites me home whenever he makes good food for the family. He feels proud to be my elder

brother. I think myself very lucky person to be born in a big family. All loved me. They will give me many tasks to do. They will encourage me to practice and learn more. I strongly believe whatever I am doing currently, is the seeds sown by my parents and elder siblings through their education. I can say that my father was a good organizer and good manager. Well planned in his work. In my family he will plan and share our tasks and duties. He will always schedule our time. Parents were also included in the schedule. Dates and work were fixed for all the members. For cooking to all the eight children had to cook turn by turn. When I was ten years old, I had to get up early to make the breakfast for rest of the family members and clean the house. After coming back from the class, I had to cook dinner for the whole family. That is why all our family members are good cooks. From the youngest age our parents well educated us. Second job was to clean our house. Our big family lived in a big apartment about 150 sq meters. It was very difficult for one person to clean the house. As the apartment was big two people were assigned to clean the house in one week. It was a very good education for me from my childhood. That is why we all share our responsibilities, our happy good and difficult times together. We are very close to each other. We often get together on Saturdays and Sundays. We spend our holidays together. After my father passed away we see that we meet every week. My parents will always tell us to take care of each other. All my elder siblings will take care of me. I could say they spoiled me, spoiled in a right way. They will teach me many things turn by turn. I am a kind of his style. I think that is way I do things very perfectly. Even now my twin brother is very encouraging and supportive. He is my number one supporter and friend.

From 8 to 18 years of age I studied in secondary school. In Secondary school we had ten years education. In 1982, I graduated successfully from this special Russian language school. In Russian school we learned the Russian language and some basic of the English language. After graduation from the secondary school I entered to the National Medical University of Mongolia. I entered to the Pediatric department. After six years of study, I graduated in 1988 from the medical university. During my studies in the medical university I always scored high marks like 5 throughout my six year education, therefore I got Red Diploma signifying the excellent academic record. That time the number 5 was like now-a-days A or hundred. After graduating in 1988, I was nominated as an “Excellent student” with the honour stipend of D. Sukhebaatar from the National Medical university of Mongolia. I also received the high salary in my early 30’s, as I was an outstanding student. During my student years, I was a very active student. I was in all-cultural and sports activities. I was good at singing, dancing and a good basketball player. I was an athlete. In 1983-1984 I got three bronze medals in Mongolian National sports Festival. Currently I am athlete master of Mongolia. For my all cultural and

sports activities credit goes to my father. He was very talented and he encouraged us to be active in other fields of life too besides being highly educated. He himself was a good dancer but he was not a good singer. Even though he could not sing himself he bought us music videos and encouraged us to play music that is why all my brothers could play musical instruments like guitar and other such instruments. I have a very wonderful memory of my childhood to share with you. When I was a little girl three years old in 1967 we had a family concert. We were in newspapers and on television. We are trying to get the recorded reel from the national television but as you know the recording system was bad during those days so we are not able to get the reel. But I have lot of pictures of that concert. This was the first family concert in whole Mongolia. I think our family was a good example to other people. It was a good education for us all.

All my brothers are also highly educated. As they had good grades in their secondary school so they all were sent abroad for their higher studies but not girls. When it came to girls to go abroad for studies my father strictly refused because of that a lost many chance. When I entered to the medical university I got good grades. I tried to go abroad but he did not allow me and told me to stay back in Mongolia. In my first grade I worked very hard and passed my exam with good grades. Ministry of education selected some students with excellent grade to have training in Irkutsk, Leningrad and Moscow. I was also selected. But again my father said no, you can only go after graduation, you must study in Mongolia. When I was in my second grade for the first time I went to Irkutsk as a leader of youth and labour International day for 44 days. It was a team and that was my first experience to visit a foreign land. Get paid and then bring gifts to my family. I was very happy with that experience. Because it was international student's labour team 10 students were selected from various universities of Mongolia. In my third year I chair the students union association in our pediatric faculty. I had five different jobs with the different associations and clubs. That is why as a representative of medical university I participated in 12th world student youth festival in Moscow in 1985. It was after my third year graduation this gave me a big chance to realize that if I will be active it will helpful and useful for others. I could realize that being hard worker and getting good results getting good remarks it means I was promoting myself in a better way. I set goals for myself from the very beginning of my school years and in order to reach those goals I worked hard that paid me in an excellent way until I reached forty.

Democracy is very good but personally I think as for as equality is concerned socialist period was the best. We Mongols achieved a lot during that period. Everything was well planned, well organized under control. Everybody, even students had goals. In my own case, I knew if I work hard, get good results, government will give good awards. As I mentioned earlier too I got very good

salary in my thirties much higher than people in their middle age. It was a sort of promoting me, promoting myself through my hard work. With my goals, I knew I would go to countryside for practice work there. That time as you know we had only one political party and to be a member of that was the high requirement. Only the outstanding students could get the chance to be the member of this party. One has to prepare oneself fully as there was lot of examination. I had to prepare for one full year for this exam. One has to know the history and other social sciences. It was a big motivation and challenge for me to develop myself. Socialist time was all equal. All women worked. If she gives a normal birth she could join back her work after three months. No need to stay home. The working conditions for women were much better as I mentioned before. The huge network of Yesli helped women to continue their jobs. Although Democracy is giving women chance to be with their children for three years as now there are no such pre-kindergartens but at the same time it is hard to find work after three years absence from the work. Women now could take loan and stay home. Recently some private companies are organizing and trying to establish something like Yesli. But it is only a small number. Not every mother has a right to get the seat in these private pre-kindergartens. Seats are limited and very expensive. Due to the economic strain and lack of Yasli, to look after children has become only moms job. She could not participate actively in public life and her career takes a back step. Of course every system has its advantages and disadvantages but in my opinion socialist system had better advantages. Freedom of movement, freedom of travel to other countries, freedom of speech and the IT development and its technology was closed but as a product of that system, may be I personally liked that system. I got many benefits from that system. Education was free all the students were getting sutpind pocket money and good students were getting scholarships. The system was equal to everybody. Average student gets average scholarship, middle one gets 100 *tugruk* more and excellent student gets 100 percent scholarship and pocket money. So the system was very encouraging to all. You have to create your own chance by improving your skills by hard work and rewards were always there. At the same time the disadvantage of that system was that all was free. People could easily change schools and jobs. Another disadvantage was that we had to work even on Saturdays. Family time was very limited. Parents had not enough time to spend with their children, as everybody has to work very hard to reach to a good position. But honestly speaking, tell me who has time now, does democracy gave us enough time to spend with our family and friends. In any system we have to work hard. I like my job very much. I spend most of my time working at my office because I want to achieve something by which other people also benefit. If I don't like my job I will finish early between the working hours and return my home. Therefore it depends on a person rather then the system. For me time is not

important but the result is. After my graduation I went countryside Huvsgul *aimag* Central Hospital for work. From 1988 our medical school started working on human resources development. It was the development program for young lectures. During those days the entire faculty was in their mid or senior years of age so government needed younger generation. From our medical school four outstanding students were sent to Huvsgul in 1988. I worked there for about a year. I worked in *aimag* general hospital Out Patient Department, maternity department and then eight months I worked as the head of the pediatric emergency department. All the young doctors had to work even on Sundays; we had to visit each and every house. We learned a lot during that one-year by interacting with many people. After one year I retuned and that time human resources distribution was centralized. When my distribution was announced, it was said you have to work at the health ministry. I thought because I am an outstanding student and red diploma holder that is why they choose me for this position in the ministry. But no, I was wrong, it was only because of my practice in countryside and helping to educate the young people, which helped me to get this position. It was a very good system. All the students who were sent to help in creating human resources were given positions in the different departments. In 1988 to 2000, I was assigned as local consultant and trainer by the medical university and my job was to improve the medical curriculum of national medical university of Mongolia, supported by EU' TACIS (Europian Union—Technical Aid to the Common wealth of Indipendent States). In 1999, I worked as a local consultant on Epidemiology, feasibility on the project funded by the Netherlands Government. I also worked as local expert on health and nutrition status of women and children with UNICEF office Mongolia in 2000. I joined the National medical university as a lecturer and senior lecturer in the pediatric department. As our department was located between the maternity and child hospital so we had two jobs like working as doctors as well as teachers. I consider myself a lucky person as I worked on different stages of health system. I started from primary health to secondary health for about eleven years. From 2000 to 2011, I worked in the ministry of health. For first three years I worked for the human resource development and every time when I had to move to another stage I felt it is my challenge. I learned a lot of things in ministry of health because I taught 11 years in medical university.

When I was 32 years old I defined my Ph.D. on Pediatric cardiology in Medical Academy, Kazakhstan. To defend Ph.D. at this young age was very rare. Most of the faculty members receive their Ph.D. in their late 40's or 50's. Actually I had a good teacher when I entered to the medical university. Her name was Mandhax. She was a very good teacher and good pediatrician. She taught me for six years. I respect her very much. When I joined the medical university as a lecturer she advised me, Otogan she said," if you want to be a good lecturer, first you should

be a very good doctor, second if you want to be good doctor you must know the medicine without knowing medicine you can not teach clinical subject. Third is you should be a researcher. You should take a scientific degree or Ph.D. on a young age. If you wait for your late age you cannot do it, as you are a woman. You will have family, you will have children and for a woman it is difficult to complete the research. Your fourth task is to be a good mother. I always remember her advice and am trying my best to reach where she asked me to reach. From last year I am giving the same advice to my young students. I am asking them to work hard and start their research from an early age.

As career women and as a mother, the tasks are different. I married at the age of 24, soon after I graduated form the university. I had my first baby when I was 25 years old a baby boy. But unfortunately he got the virus of infection and remained sick for about two and a half years. He died at the age of three. After that I again give birth to my baby daughter. My daughter is now 18 years old. We have now fewer salaries I have to work long hours and young generation does not understand the difficulties we are facing. My first marriage was not successful. After ten years of our joint life we divorced. My husband never understood my active life. My husband was a Buryiat and they are in minority. He was a special man and according to him wife should do all the work husband wants. He did not like my success. He will tell me; woman's job is to look after the house, husband and children. He did not bring enough money home but was pushing me down. I was from different family background. My father was very supportive to my mom. My mother got married when she was 17 years old. Those days in early 40's and 50's the education was limited. My mother went to secondary school and graduated fourth grade after giving birth to four children. During that period my father was encouraging her that is why she could complete her secondary school and could go for evening classes for higher studies.

She also went to the accounting school. That is how she could work in the government office for such a long time. Before joining her accounting job she was working in a factory and sewing clothes for seven years and thirty years as an accountant. It was all because of the support of my father. If my father did not allow her to take evening class or study she would have ended up in the sewing clothes for all her life. Therefore, after ten years of marriage I divorced my husband. I am so sorry as divorce is not a good thing. I really tried hard and was patient with him, I gave up lot of things, and I closed my eyes on many matters. During the socialist period divorce was a very shameful act. I was feeling so much ashamed of myself how people would think; oh Radnaa's daughter divorced her husband how shameful. It was a lot of pain to go through. In 1988 I divorced my husband. From 2000 I started working in ministry of health and I had no time to think about my next marriage. I could not find any good person. Also my job was

very challenging to me but all my family my siblings were besides me and they did not give me any chance to feel that I am a single mother. They supported me through thick and thin. My parents looked after my daughter and they were very proud of me that I was taking challenging jobs but was performing them in a successful way by my hard work. Their support encouraged me and I became very enthusiastic in my work. I accepted all the challenges because I knew my family is there for me. In 1995 my elder brother who passed away at the age of 56 after a long illness of 19 years, told me if you want to go abroad for higher education I will pay for your ticket but if you deny and do not want to go you are foolish enough to lose the chance of getting higher education.

Although we had a very good life in socialist period but from 1990 change came. Our country became democratic country. Life became difficult, government became poor, and our salaries diminished, no funds for post graduation, everything collapsed. From 1994 to 1997 I started my Ph.D. in Kazakhstan. Within two years and eight months I have done my Ph.D. I left my daughter with my parents. When I reached Kazakhstan I told my supervisor famous pedritrtion, Majitawazitawna told me that you are dekabarista, during the revolution in Russia Dekabarista were very strict, you left your daughter of 9 months. I said I need to complete my Ph.D. within two years, she said ok if you want to finish it soon you must work hard, you should be my right hand you have to study. I have to do nothing it is all your work, after one year and eight months When I went to board for my interview, I told them that I have to finish my Ph.D. within two years as I have to pay by myself from my pocket and I am not a rich woman. They all said that is impossible nobody can finish it so quickly no aspirant no doctor. They said you are dreaming so I have to find some other institution. It was Pediatric Institute of Kazakhstan. They refused to take me. Also they raised the fee although it was not expensive but for me it was a big money. When I arrived to Kazakhstan by that time the tuition fee has become double from 1,200 dollars to 2,200 dollars but I had brought with me only 1,000 dollars, it became very difficult for me, as I have to pay my living expenses and transport. My brother paid my airfare, I could not go back like this, and I have no money. But I am a lucky person I met with this supervisor, she had her own private institute of pediatric ecology of Baku. She also was working in Pediatrician academy of medical university. She said "Otogan, I will take you with these 1,000 dollars." I said I have to finish it within two years. She said it is only you who have to work hard for that. I worked very hard and completed my Ph.D. dissertation by one year and eight months. I went her with my thesis and she could not believe. She could not believe that I did it. You finished it? You are a crazy woman. Nobody will trust you; no body will understand that you finished within two years. You are very smart, where did you get all this research material. I explained to her but she said I have no time to read it; she just

refused to go through it. I was put into a very difficult situation. My child is small, my father was also sick. I was very much worried about my family back home. What if my father dies? I talked to three of my friends in the same department and they pleaded my case in front of my guide. They told her that Otogan has a small daughter, husband is doing crazy things; father is ill, please help her. At last my supervisor was ready to read my dissertation. She was very pleased with my work. Of course she corrected and added many things but she was happy with the work. And I defended my work to the academy of science and as I my pediatrician I defend in the pediatrician department. After one month I defended my second revision I was put to many questions and my work was evaluated very high. In 1997 all the departments were closed as everything was changing. It was the transition period for Kazakhstan also. Everything was changing. In Kazakhstan too there were lot of Russian people working so whole structure has to go for a change. Waiting was very hard for me as I am not a rich person. Paying for my stay for food for transport everything was so difficult. But one thing in Kazakhstan was good. When I first arrived to Kazakhstan I paid my tuition fee and living expanses and I bought tickets for food, therefore, even if I had no money for the food I had tickets so I could buy little food with that. Our hospital was located very far. I had tickets for the local transport but some times I have to spend money on transport as school was far. It was central hospital located little bit far in the countryside. Even though I had ticket but it was only for half way. I arranged in whatever little money I had. Thank God I had already submitted my dissertation so it was fine. All my siblings helped me, my parents send me their pension, and all of them supported me. They were very proud of me. My father will say, my daughter is the best he will repeat many times because he really was proud of me. When I started my medical collage, fared very well in all my subjects. In graduation we had a stupid examination and we have to pass that that was official exam, which our country take. It was philosophy and for medical doctors it was very difficult. We have to write about Russian reforms. I really could not catch up with all this, this changed that changed, and I was lost. This philosophy was stupid. We had to pass this exam successfully. It was the biggest task. During the six years of my medicine I did not feel difficulty with any subject except this subject. But in a way I was lucky as my father was the party worker so he will teach me everything about this philosophy. Day before my exam my father explained about the Russian reforms. So I passed my exam with flying colours. Those days as you know, there were no mobile phones so I could not tell my parents that I passed the exam. As I was a good student my friend's grandparent who were living little bit far from Ulaanbaatar on the top of the mountain on Chingiltai asked my friend to ask Otogan to check their blood pressure. Although my friend also was a good doctor but they trusted me more. So I went to my

friend's house without informing my parents about my result. My parents thought that Otogan has not passed the exam that is why she is not coming home. When I returned home very late, my parents very sitting with sad face. When I entered home my parents are not asking me anything. I said what is wrong with you? They asked Otogan you studied very hard for six years got excellent results but final year you failed. I said what? I got excellent; oh we were very much worried about you, as you did not come home early. Sorry I went to my friend's house to check the grand parents. That is how you can see my family supported me and where behind me. In 2000-2001, I worked with the European Unions TACIS project on improving the financial management of the health sector in Mongolia.

Four years ago I re-married to a very nice person. He was a widower for four years. His wife died. He was the former secretary to ministry of foreign affairs. We worked together but we were so apart of our thinking. Our thinking was quite different. When we were working together he will always criticising my work. It was very difficult to work with him. But once he left the post of secretary he changed. He was like a different person and we married. Very strange, even ministry people were surprised; they have nothing common how did they marry. Of course job is job, life is life. He is a very nice man. Second marriage is successful; my daughter is already 18. Life is very good. My daughter is in third year of dental school. My daughter is just like me. From the very childhood she is very intelligent.

Democracy brought many opportunities. For me too I would say, it gave me chance to travel to a lot of countries. I was in Budapest for Health management school of world Bank, I visited University New South Wales Australia for advance discussing English course. I was in Academic Hospital Amsterdam and Groningen, Netherlands for Upper intermediate English course and in Philadelphia, Children's Institute for the course on medical curriculum methodology. 2007-2008 one year I studied in National university of Malaysia HUKM.

I did Masters in community health science and hospital management. I was the oldest in the class. They did not believe me that I was over forty. I studied in two Muslim countries Kazakhstan and Malaysia. I tried to understand Malaysian women. I would say Mongolia is very democratic country. Men say they are in power but I think it is woman who is running the whole show. If we see our tradition, women always respect men. In my house I have seen my grand mother my mother respecting their men so I fallow the suite I do the same. I respect my husband. Cleaning or making food for your husband is not inequality it is love and respect. Behind my husband's name is my name. In Mongolia we say the women comes to the family by husband's name but when I husband goes out he goes by the wife's name. Like we say oh that house is nice they are warm they are clean it is all they are praising the women. House runs with the wife, if the husband earns

good salary has good post but the wife is not good everything goes bad. Rich houses look cold, no warm atmosphere.

I think in our country democracy has a real meaning. But currently there is a trend; on the name of democracy people have misunderstood its real meaning. Even in the house some women think I am equal why should I cook. I think that is wrong. Whenever I go for a business trip to abroad I make sure that I make food for my family for a week or so. I make food so that even in my absence my spirit remains with them. I think it is my responsibility as a woman and as a mother. The meaning of democracy should be interpreted in a proper way. I am a director, a dean and a president of a very good university but at home I am a wife and a mother. My daughter sometimes complains that I give her less time but I think she is used to it by now.

My second job was in ministry of health it was a very difficult job because I was the team leader of a core group big project "Health sector strategic master plan" initiative of ministry of health, which was supported by Japanese government. This project was that health sector must develop. From 1st November 2003, untill October 2009 I was team leader of the big project. We developed health master plan with JICWELS (Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services), Japan for the coming ten years in four documents. These documents were my big challenge and create them was a huge task for me. I grow in this job that time Dr. Indermohan Narula was the representative of JICA, he teach us a lot of things. Jointly with our team we reached to a very good achievement. 2006-2015 health sector must improve; it really was a big job. From 2003 to 2006 I had no weekends, no Sundays and summer vacation. It was a hard job, as we have to prepare everything within a very short time with limited budget. Under my leadership, team was consisted of 12 persons. I was 39 years old the oldest in the Mongol team. I think this was the most important and challenging part of my job. Of course during my all this career as a lecturer as a doctor, as a team leader as an expert all went well and successful. I think I achieved it all due to my family education; we listen to other we communicate with each other. My communication skills were good from my childhood, and in the job too all my teachers, my supervisor everybody made me grow. During the time when I was working with the ministry my daughter needed my help but I could not spent time for her. But I told her look I am a single mother; I have to work hard to earn money to give you good education. You should understand me and I think she fully understood me. Since past five six years my husband is also supporting me fully. He really is a nice person.

The recent elections have shown a good result. The quota system, which was used in this election, increased the number of women in the parliament. From 1998 until 2003, I was vice president of a big women's association. It was my angel

work the name of the NGO was Social Democratic Association. That time we talked about that government should put the quota for the women. Twice I had chance to contest the election but I refused although I had a good chance of winning. That time it was Mongolian Revolutionary Party and currently it is People's Party. It is main and big party of Mongolia. In Politics I could make policies which will benefit people but remaining in my profession will benefit more people I thought. Of course in politics we need powerful women. Every woman who is working doing great jobs I support them because they are women. Women always think about the benefit of all. From home to the country. That is why quota is very important. This time we have nine women parliament members and they organized this time the one women's league and the head is now Democratic Party member. This will change every year. There are many NGOs and associations, which I think is good because all women cannot fit under the one umbrella. The more the number increase I feel happy and good as I think there are some women who are trying their best to bring the happiness to others.

2005, I worked with UNDP as a short-term consultant for writing chapter health in "Human Development Handbook". The dean school of medicine offered me this job. Even when I worked with the ministry of health my job was related to the human development resources. I cosly worked with our university. We are producing 95 percent of all health professionals. In our country ten years established or grow three four medical institutes. This is one private institute this is very small one. Our university is biggest one in our country. Just one state university and we are having about eleven thousand students and eight hundred ninety-eight staff. Currently I am doing three jobs. One is vice president of the clinical affairs of health science university, second is dean school of medicine this is the big school in our university. We are having almost three thousand student out of 11 thousand and 33 faculty members very outstanding doctors and professionals' third job is, I am director of the health science university general hospital. As I did health and hospital management in Malaysia and also worked in the ministry, it gave me chance to prove myself as a good manager. I changed the hospital I gave my report to the minestry. There are ten members in the board. They evaluated our work and our school received the certificate of external evaluation medical association in west pacific. This is my big achievement in this school. First time in Mongolian history from all over the Mongolia, Our medical curriculum was approved internationally. This was my first big task, because when our president first appointed me he said, Otogan you have to pass this evaluation and if you fail it will be connected to your name. If we pass, our university will reach to the world federation of medical association. Therefore last year again I had no summer vacation. On October 2011 expert came from different countries. One of the experts was from USA, two from Australia, one from Taiwan, one from Philippine,

two experts from Korea. This international team evaluated our work. We did it and I went to Korea to receive this certificate. I am so proud. This is our school achievement my achievement which we could do in one year. So I showed them what I woman can do. Second job was done last year in December. Our university hospital was established three years ago. This times also my team I as the director got the accreditation with the ministry and our hospital, which was not in-patient, but out patient and since I took over we have changed everything dramatically. We have done a tremendous service to the population through our work. From July our hospital will have 30 beds for neurology and surgery. That is why you see a lot of construction work is going on. Actually my office was in the front of the building but I have to give that to the patient ward and also in Bayanchiligi our hospital is establishing a sanitarium for our population with hundred bed and we may open it on next Monday. That is why you see me so busy. This time I am also working on different projects too. The hospital will open soon as we have got the permission in July so it will be opened in September. Our university is celebrating its 70 years in October. In our country our university does not have university hospital, therefore, today I am submitting the proposal to ministry of finance. It is seventy million dollar project, which will establish the university medical staff. From March I am working on this project. Today is the last day for submission that is why I am busy. When you entered my room I was talking to JICA they were asking to send the file so that they are able to check and give the feed back. It is the will of a person if they want to work they will develop if they don't they remain were they belong. You need to have spirit. In Mongolia we have this saying, "Санан нь сохор бол нүд нь сохор" if your brain is blind your eyes are blind. So one needs to keep mind always open to learn.

This is the fruit of our hard work. I would refuse to become a politician but I will remain a professional to benefit my people and population. As a women I strongly believe that women should have power that is why I continue to be the member of the women's association to be the voice of the women I am still the member and through them I am giving my voice as I need to be a good citizen too. I should be the good voice of women also. I have good qualification, good position so I think I have power to say. Not only me but also other people could say their opinions as we have a democratic set-up now. Our constitution has given us the freedom of speech and free health service. But some voices we cannot reach. We know which way we can pass the massage. I feel my angel work; my party work is helping other people and population. I hope and wish that I remained a help to other people in health sector. For the future generation I need my people to be healthily and I will try to improve the health sector.

16. MUNHJARGAL Tsog-Javh: President and CEO, Eagle Construction LLC

Tsog-Javh is the CEO of Eagle construction company. Since the day I landed in Ulaanbaatar rain poured almost everyday. It did not feel like summer. It was a bit cold. On August 8th Ulaanbaatar was covered with sunrays. It looked very pleasant. My friend called me and inquired if I was free. That day my appointment was cancelled as the person who I was supposed to meet did not show up. I was relieved to hear my friend saying if I was free, yes I am free. Get ready we are going to meet our friends in country side and you may be able to interview one of the lady who is president of the company. After about 40 minutes they picked me up and our car hit the road for countryside. The road was rough and traffic jam was terrible. The number of the cars on roads of Ulaanbaatar is in increase every year but unfortunately the infrastructure is same as it was before. So it has become very difficult to travel. Although Ulaanbaatar is reachable on foot as it is not so big but these days everybody wants to use a car as having a car is a statues symbol too for many. Anyway it took us some time to reach our destination. There were many modern summerhouses, which looked alike; therefore, my friend has to ask the directions to the house. The summerhouse was a log house designed by some Russian architecture.

I was searching for Mongolian Summer house but it looked like I was in Europe. The moment we entered the gate there were Merserdaze benz, not only one but three four and landcurise very expensive cars at the parking. The lawn was very big and five six dogs were moving happily with the master of the house. We were greeted with warmness, which is a traite of Mongolians. It was a big gathering of friends, lunch was served with of course the arkhi and the atmosphere became relaxing. After the lunch everybody started playing some games. I was also asked to join though I had no idea of the game. The 24-year-old son of the house, who is studying in USA, explained me the way and rules of the game. The name of the game is Daaluut. I started playing the game and I really don't know how but I won the game one after the other which made one of the participants irritated and she said, "she just stepped in and how come she is winning." That made everybody laugh and I was told that she was the oldest in the house and the mother of the CEO whom I had to interview. It was a beautiful gathering and wonderful experience.

Building A New Mongolia

My name is Tsog-Javh. I was born in 1969 am 43 years old. I was born in Ulaanbaatar. My mother is Monkchargal. I do not know much about my father. When I was born my father and mother was not married. My grandparents brought me up. They had moved to Ulaanbaatar from Khentii *aimag* when my mother was only three years old. They had four children. They brought up their children with good education. She and her brothers graduated from the same school she graduated. Their elder son passed away very young. My grand parents were highly educated. Both of them were teachers. My grandmother was Mongolian language teacher and my grandfather was a mathematics teacher. They sent my mother to a medical school. My mother is a doctor. As you know Mongolians are basically nomads or you can say headers. Out of these families, some moved to cities to get education. As my grandparents were well educated they were able to send my mother to school in Ulaanbaatar. Lot of people was entering in school number one by paying some bribe. My grandparents were educated so she was introduced to that school. As I was born out of wedlock, my grandparents kept it a secret until I finished my high school. I think may be my grandparents were not happy about it. As I was very small I don't know the details but my grandparents were always yelling at her. May be they did not like the idea of being single mother. My last name was my grandfathers. None of my other classmates knew that I am born from a single mother. I used to call my grandfather as my dad and my grandma as my mom but to my own mother I called her young mother. It was only after a graduated high school that my mothers name was entered to my diploma. So I am now called Munkhjargal Tsog-Javh during those years some people will always come to check on the family records. Even in school they will ask in front of whole class, who your parents are what is their name etc but I never was hesitant to say my parents name as I was thinking that my grand parents were my real parents. I think my grandparents were very smart knowing that I might have problems in school they deliberately put me as their daughter. I was thinking my mother as my elder sister. Later on my mother married and she gave birth to two sons. I have two young brothers. I treated them as my own sons as they are not much older than my own son. Even now my brothers work with me in my company.

My relation with the step- father was not very good. I never accepted him as my father. I never used his name as my last name. I always lived with my grandparents. He had a good position in the society as he was working in the high post in the Government. He died very young. I remember when I was going to the Buddhist shrine for prayer I will pray for everybody except for my stepfather. I will read names of my great grandparents, and my mother and two stepbrothers but not my stepfather. The Lama will ask me, you must pray for your father too. But I

will not. My great grand parents were also very nice and they lived a very long life.

I went to school number one and I took special class in mathematics. In the communist system in school we had to get certain numbers of points to pass the exams and to get good job but I was not a good student. I will always get less then 0.01. I liked it that way. But now I think it was very good for me. I feel God wrote my destiny in a right way. I finished my school in 1986. After graduating from the secondary school I went to Russia for my university. My major was civil engineering. I was getting my stipend and there were no worries for me.

In 1990s communism was falling. I finished my university in 1992. My generation did not face many difficulties as compared to the generation who were ten years elder than us. They lost everything when the change came. Before the democratic revolution once you graduate job was ready but it was not same for me. I have to find my own opportunities by my own ideas. I consider myself lucky as from the very beginning I looked for business opportunities. Although it was a difficult time but for me I feel it was not so hard.

During the early years of revolution my husband was working as a merchant. He was bringing goods from Mongolia to sell those in Russia. My friends introduced me to my husband, when I was in Russia. I got married in 1996. I have three children all boys. The difference between my first son and third son is about 20 years. My eldest son is 24 years old, second is 18 and third son is three years old. My husband is very supportive. The eldest one is studying in USA and second is going to go to USA for his university.

After coming back to Mongolia I joined a company who were buying the construction material from Russia. This company became private in 2000 as the communist system collapsed. Everything changed even in the business field. So with my friends who were working with me in the construction company we started our own business. We did not invest anything. We started from zero money. We became brokers. We used to introduce different business people. When the deal finalizes we get margin. First I reached 1,000 dollars, I was so happy and then I reached 10,000 dollars and I thought I am the richest person in the world. That is how I started creating capital for my future business. This brings the beautiful memories back. Between 1992 till 2000, I was working as broker. After that I started my own business. Once I had enough money to invest I started my own business. I bought construction material from Russia to Mongolia. We did many sorts of jobs until I made my own company fully owned by me. First we were selling building materials but now we do our own construction. We are still in the process. I have now more than 200 people working with me on contact basis but the permanent workers are between 18 to 20. In the early years of my business we had a huge profit. This was a new business. People started having the concept of

having their own apartments. You know in any business you need to have right approach. You need to have right vision. I could read that time what people wanted, I made good business strategies that is why I became successful. Whatever business I did small or big helped me to reach where I am today. I think the most difficult job is making people work for you. When I was doing small business with two or three people it was nice but now I have to deal with so many different people, which is quite hard. It becomes harder when you are a woman. If you are mother it is more difficult as you have to look after the children as well. But if there is people to help you it may become little bit easy. If the child gets sick mother has to stay with the child until the recovery. Otherwise I don't feel any difference between a man and woman when it comes to work. Whether a man or a woman, they should reach on the top with their own efforts and intelligence. If some one can go to the top by their own power depending on their own wisdom it does not really matter if it is a man or a woman.

I think human beings always need a change. And in Mongolia people usually get bored easily. it is the same side of the coin. Any kind of thing bores any person so people were bored of the previous system. They wanted a change. In my opinion there are people who have wrong ideals. If a person has good character that person can accomplish many things no matter how things are difficult. There are always small possibilities. Another strong factor is depending upon whom you are comparing with. If you are comparing with someone who is very higher then you, you feel always poor but if you compare with a person who has less then you, you consider yourself rich. Depending how you see the world is something different. Getting rich in a small space is not big deal but when you go out and see a different world you feel how small you are. People are called wealthily when they make a better society.

There is a different kind of new generation coming up. I think there are people who are very intelligent now days. But during the socialist times they will choose their major and get everything easily. The one group between 28 to 35 years of age who are highly educated but their ideal of living is wrong. For example the young people before getting job before dong any work they will ask how much the company will be paying them. Where is this coming? Getting educated is most important thing, which is not happening now. There is no character building in schools. But I hope that they will do well. In our times in my school years the school taught the students the morals. They wanted us to be good person, they taught us to do voluntary work, help people. We were not paid for that. Our education was very helpful in making our character. We used to buy the books to study which country is where. We used to read lot of books, see the dictionary flip the pages and then remember them. Right now my sons generation is getting more technological, they just go and look up at the Internet search for it and once they

figure out the information they forget about it next day. People may say that period was bad but I don't have any regrets. Because of that period I am the person who I am now.

I believe if the Mongolian Government works correctly, I think Mongolia will develop in a much better way. I think if we put the effort honestly in our work we will defiantly accomplishes what we want. The small amount of effort and looking after the small needs without being asked help not only in everyday life but also in business as a whole. Actions speak for a person.

About my children also I think they should go different countries and learn by their experiences. I ask them to live their own lives but I will be always assisting them whenever they need me. In my time we used to watch on TV but now our children can go and see by themselves that is what I like most about democracy. You have a one proverb in Mongolian, which says that "Аавын бийд хүнтэй танилц, Агтны бийд газар үз" when your father is alive, learn how to meet people and if you have a horse learn to go and see different places. I believe this golden word and allow myself and my children to accomplish what ever they think is better for them. We are human beings and we have a purpose to come to this world and our purpose should be for a good cause.

Part III: Conclusion

17. Conclusion

Looking to the Future

Maqsooda. S. SARFI

Much has been written about the vulnerability of Mongolian women. The authors of this book intended to highlight the success stories pertaining to some of these women. At "The Tenth International Congress of Mongolists", August 9-13, 2011 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the one of the authors presentation on Mongolian women's development was well received by the audience, and Prof Enkhbayar. Byambanorov requested the full paper to be sent for the publication. Another presentation by the author, was made on "Women in Modern Mongolia," during the International Seminar "Indo-Mongol Colloquium, some unexplored areas of Research" from 1st to 4th February 2012 held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi India. There was a recommendation during the Seminar, that the interviews in present volume should be televised so that other women can be motivated to obtain their economic freedom.

Taking into consideration the fact of the scarcity of data and limited in-depth of research on Mongolian women especially during the socialist period, an oral history of these prominent women is very unique and informative. All of them have personally experienced both the periods, socialist Mongolia and now democratic Mongolia, which reflects both communist as well as modern era. Spoken in the context of Social, political, economic and business point of view, one could see the role Mongolian women have and are playing in every walk of life. In their efforts to reach to the current stage of their individual and collective development, the women in Mongolia had to go through many tribulations and hardships. It should be noted here that these hardships do not only apply to Mongolian women, but also to women in other countries who have experienced similar tribulation in getting their individual and collective human rights articulated, recognized, respected and exercised. Even now in many countries their roles are underestimated although in any society, women play an inescapable, indispensable vital and pivotal role.

In the political sphere, women parliamentarians in Mongolia succeeded in bringing the legal quota of women parliamentarians from 15 percent quota to 20 percent. This is a huge achievement. The new law and 20 percent quota in all administrative positions may significantly change the political and administrative and economic scene in Mongolia. Elections were held in Mongolia on June 28th, 2012 and the proportion of female candidates was above the 20 percent. In the local *aimag* (province) and *soum* (district) election more women ran and won their

electoral races. In some *aimag*s 30 percent women won their electoral races and were elected. It is more then 20 percent overall in the country. This is an extremely positive result. Nevertheless, there is still a great need to educate the masses about the importance of the nomination of and election of the women especially in the political arena. Women themselves have to come forward to participate in decision-making. They can do this only by developing and applying their leadership skills. While the establishment of the quota system has proved to be a difficult process in increasing the number of women in higher administrative divisions, on the whole, it has, nevertheless, served as a powerful incentive at grass roots level. Recent election results show that Mongolian women are demonstrating greater interest in playing a positive and effective role in the political decision making of their country.

The newly elected nine women parliamentarians formed an unofficial caucus under the leadership of Erdenchimeg Luvsan. Caucus members at the first meeting on August 6, 2012, focused on issues like families, childcare, and corruption. They set out an agenda for the improvement of the maternity hospitals and asked the government to provide more budgets for health sector. In order to balance the dual demands of work and family, plentiful and affordable childcare is also on agenda. Equality and equity are essential for the growth and prosperity of any nation, and to utilize the talent and power of the other half of the nation, balance is a must. On the gender issues, the caucus has decided to press the government to increase the quota from 20 percent to minimum 30 percent for female executives and government –ministry jobs in coming years.

An important change in the government has been the first appointment of women to significant positions in the Cabinet. In recent election of 2012, again women were given the important portfolios (health, Nature and Environment) in the Cabinet. For the building of a truly sustainable democracy, these women have to work for a transparent and corruption free government within a framework of good governance best practices. They, also have to show that they can make noticeable impact on certain political, social and economic issues at the national level. They, will undoubtedly, face many challenges, but in order to get the highly educated younger women involved in decision-making at the community, government, and private sector and utilize their skill and knowledge in social and cultural domains in coming years, women MPs, NGOs and local networks need to raise awareness among urban and rural women about their rights and duties towards their country. At the same time it is the women by herself who has to give chance to the young women to take the ladder of success by avoiding the jealousy. The women on upper and traditional hierarchy have to create a road for the younger women without feeling insecure. Future generations should be provided information, skills, competencies and delegated appropriate authority and

commensurate resources on gender issues, family relations for effective and sustained participation in their communities and societies. Therefore, the *aimag* and *soum* committees should be delegated clear authority and resources to take the gender sensitive decisions to identify the projects to be funded and implemented. One thing is certain; their increased percentages in parliament, in the managerial positions in the economy, health, education, and their attempts to address their problems will gradually, but surely, bring them on an equal footing with their male counterparts in near future.

However, the present volume does not tell the whole story. There is still much to be learned. As Professor Morris Rossabi in his recent article on Mongolian economy mentioned, according to International Monetary Fund, in 2012 Mongolian GDP increased by 12.7 percent and in 2013 it will grow further to 15.7 percent, which puts Mongolia as the fifth rank on fastest growing economy in the world.[1] Unfortunately this is not helping the general population. The wealth is concentrated in a few hands and the gap between the rich and the poor is widening day by day. Women, at grass roots level and women headed households are still facing increasing economic difficulties and social regression. In order to bring them on an equal footing with men, efforts has to be made to invite, encourage and enable them to play a major role when it comes to consultation and decision-making on distribution of the wealth arising from the extraction of natural resources located in Mongolia. They have to be mobilized and supported to show their fears and concern regarding the social, economic, environmental, and health impacts of mining and enabled along with their male counterparts to address the issues and consequences of climate change. The female gender has to, individually and collectively raise its own voices to assist to change the face of the country in a positive way. Unless and until women are given and are willing to exercise fairly and effectively, their full authority to build a new social structure, within democratic and free economic parameters, this anticipated and expected positive change in Mongolia is not possible.

Note

1) http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138794/morris-rossabi/meteoric-mongolia

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