The Mongolia Society was established in 1961 as a private, non-profit, non-political organization interested in promoting the study of Mongolia, its history, language and culture. The aims of the Society are exclusively scholarly, educational, and charitable.

**Future Events and Announcements of The Mongolia Society**

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** The 2017 Annual Meeting of The Mongolia Society will be held on the Indiana University Bloomington campus in March, when we meet in conjunction with ACES (Association for Central Eurasian Students). The exact time of the meeting and panels will be announced as plans are formalized.

The Mongolia Society is placing a CALL FOR PAPERS for the 2017 Annual Meeting and Panels in Bloomington, Indiana. There will be three themes: 1) 30th Anniversary of US-Mongolian Relations; 2) Contemporary Mongolian Democracy and Economics (e.g. 25th anniversary of Mongolia's 1992 Democratic Constitution, mining, etc); 3) Mongolian Linguistics and the Future of Mongolian Studies.

Abstracts must be submitted to The Mongolia Society by January 15, 2017, and contain the paper title, be no more than 300 words, and have contact information, including email address. If your abstract is accepted, you will have 20 minutes to present your paper.
The Mongolia Society celebrated the 80th birthday of Prof. Kara György, a world-renowned scholar of Mongolian studies and professor at Indiana University’s Department of Central Eurasian Studies, in October 2015. During this event, samples of the extensive scholarly work that Prof. Kara conducted over the years were collected and presented to the event participants, scholars and students of Mongolian studies. Also the Mongolia Society Chairman of the Board Prof. Christopher Atwood presented Prof. Kara with a plaque from the Mongolia Society in recognition of his milestone birthday and contribution to the Mongolia Society over the years.

Prof. Kara earned his Ph.D. from Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary in 1961, and his doctorate of philology degree from Leningrad State University in 1975. His research interests include Mongol and Inner Asian studies; languages and cultures, including Old Turkic, Tibetan, Manchu, Evenki, Khitan and Altaic philology; history of writing systems; Altaic linguistics; Mongol literature and folklore. He regularly teaches classical Mongol, Mongol literature and folklore, and the history of Mongol writing systems. He has been awarded with the Order of the Polar Star of the Republic of Mongolia in 1998 and Order of Labor Merit of the Republic of Mongolia in 2005. In recognition of Prof. Kara’s scholarly work and international reputation, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awarded him with the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt research award in 1999. Prof. Kara is an honorary member of several organizations, including International Association of Mongolian Studies.
The Mongolia Society organized a number of panels under the general theme of “Issues in Mongolian Democracy and Mining” during the 16th annual conference of the Central Asian Studies Society (CESS) at the Elliott School of International Affairs of George Washington University in Washington D.C. on Saturday, October 17, 2015. These panels and events were made possible with the generous support from US-Asia Institute of Washington D.C. The event opened with remarks from Dr. Alicia Campi, President of The Mongolia Society, Dr. Cynthia Werner, Professor at Texas University and a former CESS president, Mary Sue Bissell, Vice President and Executive Director of the US-Asia Institute, and H.E. Altangerel Bulga, Mongolian Ambassador to the United States.

Following the opening remarks, participants in the event presented their research in three panels. The first panel, chaired by Prof. Christopher Atwood, focused on issues related to Mongolia’s political regime in honor of the 25th anniversary of democracy in the country. Tamir Chultemasuren from the National University of Mongolia presented on the topic “Mass demonstration and regime change in socialist Mongolia: Galactic policy against radial polity.” Another noteworthy presenter was former US Ambassador to Mongolia Joseph E. Lake, who spoke on the topic “Yaks on the Runway: Frontier Diplomacy Between the US and Mongolia, 1988-1992” along with his son, independent scholar Michael Allen Lake. The other two speakers on the panel shared their analyses of overall trends in Mongolia’s foreign policy and political regime during its transition—Mongolian Ambassador to Cuba Ts. Batbayar talked about “Foreign Policy Agenda of Mongolia: Summing up 25 Years of Experience” and Dr. Alicia Campi discussed her paper on “25 Years of Mongolian Democracy—Trends” (See page 4 for her paper).

The second panel moved beyond the analysis of general trends and patterns of Mongolia’s democracy and focused on specific issues related to democracy and democratization process. Dr. Battulga Sukhee of the National University of Mongolia examined the case of Mongolian Kazakhs in his presentation “How Choice Influences Benefit or Efficiency in “Democracy”: An Example from Mongolian Kazakh Society.”
Another presenter from Mongolia, Khishigsuren Dorj of Ulaanbaatar University, spoke on the topic “Focus on Language under Illumination of Democracy.” Dr. Saruul-Erdene Myagmar from Foreign Service Institute of the US State Department presented his research on “Latin Mongolian Script Class Taught at KUTV.”

The third panel covered another critical theme in Mongolia— mining. Presenters on this panel included Edma Khishigdelger of Virginia International University, who talked about “Mongolia’s Mining Industry Evolution (1990-2015)” and Gabriel Bamana of University of Groningen in the Netherlands, who presented on the topic “Ecological and Moral Resistance to Mining Activities in Mongolia.” The day closed with a reception at the Embassy of Mongolia.

### Twenty Five Years of Mongolian Democracy—Trends

Dr. Alicia Campi

*This is a paper presented at the Mongolia Society CESS meeting in October, 2015.*

Mongolia is spending 2015 celebrating 25 years of democracy and using the occasion to reassess its progress in nation building and to retool its strategies for interactions with the Asian region and beyond. In Ulaanbaatar, diplomats from around the world were invited on July 29 to commemorate the anniversary of the country’s first democratic elections. Mongolia’s activist president, Tsakhia Elbegdorj, who was a student leader in the streets and instrumental in bringing down 70 years of communism in March 1990, paid tribute to the remarkable changes his country had experienced in front of Mongolian parliamentarians, his fellow grey-haired democratic activists, and diplomats. Mongolian Prime Minister Chimed Saikhanbileg sounded the theme that to guarantee democracy Mongolia needed a strong economy. The nation, which has experienced roller-coaster growth based on its mineral-based economy and only now is climbing out of a deep recession because of the dramatic fall-off in foreign direct investment during the last 3 years, is re-evaluating the nature of its democracy and how it can be strengthened.

Erdene Bat-Uul, who played a leading role in 1990 as the first chairman of the newly formed Mongolian Democratic Party and now is mayor of Ulaanbaatar, forthrightly mentioned Mongolia’s serious corruption issue by noting that "The challenge is how to make politicians more accountable to the people."1

The rising role of Mongolia in Asia and the world was evidenced by the attendance of former ROK President Lee Myung-bak, former Kyrgyz President Roza Isakovna Otunbayeva, and UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman among others.2 The U.S. contingent was led by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of the Bureau

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2 Also in attendance were Indian Minister of Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Hungarian Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Janos Latoreai, Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) Yves Leterme, and LDP former chairman and special adviser to Japan’s Premier Shinzo Abe, Tsutomu Takebe. Reported in UB Post of July 30, 2015.
Twenty Five Years of Mongolian Democracy—Trends (continued)

of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton and a delegation from IRI, which included former Congressman David Drier and IRI President Ambassador Mark Green. Congratulatory video messages also were sent by luminaries such as U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe.3

Trends over the Past 25 Years

After 70 years of socialist isolation as a Soviet satellite, Mongolia successfully reinvented itself (per capita GDP in 2014 was estimated at $11,9004) during the last 25 years as a democratic, free market nation integrated into the global marketplace. The vibrancy of Mongolia’s democracy is evidenced in its 12 national elections (presidential and parliamentary) and 16 local parliamentary elections since 1990. The overarching concept guiding the country’s political and national security has been its ‘third neighbor’ policy of balancing its relations with its two border neighbors, Russia and China, and reaching out to other democracies including the U.S., Japan, the European Community, and South Korea, for political and economic support. Mongol policymakers believed that such a foreign policy would facilitate global engagement while allowing the country to bolster its sovereignty and national identity. Mongolia raised its military expertise via U.N. peacekeeping operations in Iraq, Sudan, Congo, and Western Sahara, and 13 years of joint multinational military exercises called Khaan Quest hosted annually by Mongolia and co-sponsored by U.S. Army, Pacific and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. Concurrently, Mongolia has continued its annual military exercises with Russia and has conducted eight rounds of annual China-Mongolia Defense and Security Consultations oriented towards anti-terrorism and border defense.

Its economic growth, driven by development of its mining-sector, has burgeoned alongside its traditional herding and agriculture. Mongolia's copper, gold, coal, molybdenum, fluorspar, uranium, tin, and tungsten deposits have been major magnets for foreign direct investment (FDI). In 1990 Mongolia was dependent on Soviet assistance for one-third of its GDP. When that disappeared after the dismantlement of the USSR, it endured a deep recession. Rescued by generous foreign assistance from Western nations, particularly Japan, Germany and the U.S., it quickly implemented market reforms and extensive privatization, which established the foundation for strong economic growth, but ushered in major corruption. Mongolia joined the World Trade Organization in 1997. GDP growth averaged nearly 9% per year in 2004-08, as it reoriented its economy towards FDI in large-scale mining in copper and coal and benefited from high commodity prices and new gold production. In the 2008 global financial crisis government revenues were hit by reduction of copper exports, so Mongolia's real economy contracted 1.3% in 2009. Stimulated by a $236 million IMF loan, the country then strengthened its banking sector and fiscal management. China has been Mongolia’s major trade partner and foreign investor for the past 15 years, which is a source of domestic unease and a spur to trade diversification.5 Ninety percent of Mongolia’s gasoline and diesel fuel was purchased from Russia until 2014, when the Mongols consciously began to diversify suppliers and accelerated construction of refineries to process their own crude.

The major stimulus to the economy has been a 2009 parliamentary investment agreement with an international consortium led by Rio Tinto to develop the Oyu Tolgoi (OT) mine, one of the world's largest untapped copper-gold deposits.6 As a result, the country’s growth rate soared to 17.5% in 2011 before slowing to 7.8% in 2014. For 2015 the World Bank estimates the growth rate will be around 3 percent. The OT agreement’s terms and FDI generally have become increasingly controversial domestically, causing parliamentary backtracking and other protracted disputes with foreign investors that have damaged Mongolia’s attractiveness as a destination for foreign investment. Mongolia with an unemployment rate of nearly 8 percent and almost 30 percent poverty rate has faced a loss of investor confidence, a precipitous drop in FDI, and a slowing economy since 2012. Due to a drop in demand and prices for its mineral exports7 and loose

3 Other video congratulations came from President of Austria Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Korea Park Geun-hye, Commerce Minister and Swiss Federal Council member Johann Schneider-Ammann, leader of Myanmar’s National League for Democracy (NLD) Aung San Suu Kyi, and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. Reported in UB Post of July 30, 2015.
5 Trade with China represents nearly 62% of Mongolia’s total external trade - China receives some 90% of Mongolia’s exports and supplies Mongolia with more than one-third of its imports.
6 OT’s first full year of production in 2014 expanded Mongolian industrial production by 16.1% and contributed 4.8 percentage points to GDP growth. This came despite a 16.3% drop in coal production. Asian Development Bank, http://www.adb.org/countries/mongolia/economy
7 Mongolia’s exports were estimated in 2014 at $5.775 billion and imports at $5.237 billion.
fiscal and monetary policies, there is high inflation, a deteriorating currency, and looming steep repayments for its $5.35 billion outstanding loans (31 December 2014 est.). This is pressuring the government to implement new policies in hopes of turning around the economic situation prior to the 2016 parliamentary and 2017 presidential elections.

The Way Forward

While it is true that Mongolia’s ‘third neighbor’ policy has been successful politically in allowing the nation to expand ties with other democratic nations to both counterbalance Russian and Chinese influence and increase Mongolia’s international profile, it has failed to prevent Chinese nearly monopoly over the economy nor generated the western, particularly U.S., Japanese, and German, FDI that was expected. Thus over the years Mongolia has been forced to expand its ‘third neighbor’ definition to emphasize India, Turkey, Persian Gulf nations, Vietnam, and even Iran in order to diversify trade partners for its minerals and find new sources of energy and consumer goods. At the same time in response to the rapprochement between China and Russia, it has promoted a new ‘trilateralism’ policy featuring annual summits among the Mongolian, Russian, and Chinese presidents.

The ‘third neighbor’ redefinition is an on-going process and a strong motivation behind Mongolia’s new activism on the diplomatic front to share its experiences in democracy building, human rights and a market economy via its International Cooperation Fund aimed at other ex-socialist/communist nations such as Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan. It has sponsored training programs for these government officials and diplomats, and now become more active in tackling broader Asian issues which have impacted Mongolia’s regional transportation and communication options. Prime examples are Mongolia’s development of the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security to discuss North-South Korean issues, Mongolian-Russian-Chinese Northern Railway, and the mini-U.N.-like dialogue platform, Forum of Asia.

In the economic sphere, Mongolia has initiated a ‘branding’ campaign for its exports and repealed some of the protectionist investment-unfriendly legislation. Although Mongolia’s government has made restoring foreign investor trust and reviving the economy its top priority, it must be responsive to popular opinion, especially as it is entering again into a two yearlong election cycle. This is why discussions on financing and operating the second phase of OT and developing the massive Tavan Tolgoi (TT) coal/uranium field have not proceeded smoothly.

Nevertheless, Mongolia is still very committed to democracy. President Elbegdorj at the 25th anniversary celebrations mentioned three points crucial for Mongolia in the future: 1) Development of Mongolia’s democracy will depend only on the Mongols. 2) Mongolia should focus now on terrorism while never forgetting how communism was formed and spread. 3) Democracy “is a really difficult and torturous process….Therefore, we should make efforts every day for democracy and take care of it.”

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8 The Mongolian government, in a controversial and less than completely transparent decision, in December 2014 awarded TT’s development to a consortium comprising Energy Resources/MCS (Mongolia), Shenhua (China), and Sumitomo (Japan) which left U.S. giant Peabody Energy excluded.

9 UB Post (July 30, 2015), http://ubpost.mongolnews.mn/?p=15540

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THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY WISH LIST

The Mongolia Society is in need of these items for the office:

1) LED projector for Powerpoint presentations at meetings.
2) Sound system, i.e., microphones and stands, amplifier and speakers, for amplified sound at receptions.

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Susie Drost at the Society office. The Mongolia Society is a 501(c)3 organization and a tax deductible receipt will be given for any donation. Telephone and Fax: 812-855-4078; E-mail: monsoc@indiana.edu

* The Mongolia Society wishes to thank Brian Goldbeck for his donation of a notebook computer. The computer will be used to do work in the office and on trips.
Mongolian Naadam Festival in Bloomington, IN

As per annual tradition, the Mongolia Society co-hosted the Mongolian Naadam celebration in Bloomington, IN on July 10, 2015. The celebration took place in the beautiful Lower Cascades Park and featured Mongolian wrestling game and race among the children present at the event. Special guests Justin Kennedy and Thalea Stokes entertained the guests with performances of throat singing, horse-head fiddle playing and singing. The Mongolia Society and the local Mongolian community prepared and shared delicious Mongolian dishes, such as buuz and boortsog. In addition to the local guests, children participating in the Mongolian Language and Cultural camp came to celebrate the event.

Other entities that co-hosted the event include Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, The Department of Central Eurasian Studies, and the Bloomington Mongolian community.

Mongolia Society’s Annual Summer Picnic in Washington D.C.

The Mongolia Society’s Greater Washington, D.C. chapter held its annual summer picnic for Mongolian Embassy to the U.S. officials, members and friends of the Society, the North America Mongolia Business Council (NAMBC), Friends of Mongolia ex-Peace Corps members, and the Mongolian community on Saturday, August 29, 2015. Over 35 people attended the event in the Potomac, Maryland residence of Mongolian Ambassador Bulga Altangerel. The Ambassador was not able to attend, but his Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Damda Gansukh, Defense Attache Colonel Khasbazar Boldbat, and Educational and Cultural Attache Mrs. Sanjmyatav Zolzaya were among the many Embassy officials who joined in on the celebration. Among those from the American side were former U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia Ms. Piper Campbell, Dr. Alicia Campi, President of The Mongolia Society, and Dr. Kent Calder and Mrs. Calder, professors at SAIS/Johns Hopkins University, as well as teachers from the Mongolian School of the DC area. This year's event celebrated the 25th anniversary of Mongolia's democracy.
Lecture by Dr. Battulga Sukhee on Mongolian Kazakh Society

The Mongolia Society co-hosted a lecture by Dr. Battulga Sukhee of the National University of Mongolia at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center in Bloomington, IN on October 19, 2015. Dr. Battulga is the Dean of the School of International Relations and Public Administration at the National University of Mongolia. His educational background includes a master’s degree in linguistics and International culture from Aichi Prefectural University in Japan. He received his Ph.D. in International culture from Aichi Prefectural University as well.

In his lecture, Dr. Battulga discussed Mongolian democracy in the post-socialist period focusing on events in the society of Mongolian Kazaks. Mongolian Kazaks are a group of nomadic people with Islamic religion and the largest minority ethnic group located in western Mongolia. His research delved into some factors that have had influence on the society of Mongolian Kazaks. First, it considered the period of “Nuudel” (Migration), which happened in parallel with the period when democracy started to develop. In the 1990s, more than 60,000 Kazakh people, almost half of the Kazaks in western Mongolia, moved to Kazakhstan. Some of them believed that they could improve the quality of their life through contract work, but others thought they were moving to their “historical home country.” Second, it discussed the period of Islamic religious renaissance, during which democracy provided the Kazaks an opportunity to build mosques and recover their Islamic religion or culture. In 25 years of Mongolian democracy, this was the first attempt to understand the connection between the “western” democracy model and a “nomadic society”, which had passed through “socialism.” Dr Battulga highlighted that it is necessary to relate it to Mongolia’s “socialist heritage.” This heritage has influenced relations between ethnic groups, different periods, cultural boundaries, and the psychology of the society. Thus Kazakh society’s choices influenced Mongolian democracy. The research presented during the lecture focused on the author’s observations and source materials collected during fieldwork conducted in Bayan-Ulgii province since 2000 using cultural anthropology methodology.

After his lecture, Dr. Battulga meets with representatives of the Mongolian community in Bloomington and students at Indiana University.

New U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia Sworn In

Dr. Alicia Campi

On September 15, 2015 Jennifer Zimdahl Galt was sworn in as the new U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia in front of her husband Fritz, daughter Phoebe, son Dylan and other family members, colleagues, and friends in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the U.S. Department of State. Also present at the swearing in was Mongolian Ambassador to the United State Bulgaa Altangerel, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Danny Russell, and former U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia Piper Campbell.

Ambassador Galt entered the Foreign Service in 1988 and is a 27-year career member of the Foreign Service. Her last post was as Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou, China. Previously, she served as a Senior Advisor in the Bureau of Public Affairs and as a Public Affairs Advisor at the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, Belgium. From 2008 to 2010, she served as Deputy Director in the Office of Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Ambassador Galt was posted at the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai from 2003 to 2007 and in
the U.S. Embassy in Beijing from 2000 to 2003, as well as also serving in India, Taiwan, and the former Yugoslavia. A native of Colorado, she received a B.A. from Colorado College, an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University/SAIS, and an M.S. from the National Defense University.

Nominated as ambassador to Mongolia by President Barack Obama in May, Ambassador Galt testified in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 23rd. At that time, she stated that she joined the U.S. Foreign Service out of a commitment to serve her country and sought assignments where she felt she could make a difference and make a contribution. Noting that “Mongolia and the United States share a common interest in promoting peace and stability,” she mentioned Mongolia’s support for UN peacekeeping operations around the world. She also emphasized U.S. support for Mongolia’s democracy and its independence and leadership in the region. “Mongolia is a model of democracy and has demonstrated a willingness to mentor others in the region, offering training and exchanges with leaders from Burma to Kyrgyzstan….I would welcome the opportunity to work with Mongolian officials to advance our shared interests in these critical areas.”

Ambassador Galt during her June testimony and at the swearing-in ceremony spoke about strengthening economic ties, creating opportunities for U.S. businesses in Mongolia, and being an active promoter of new initiatives. Under her ambassadorship she will oversee the process of developing a second Millennium Challenge Corporation compact, enhance Mongolia’s civil society and people-to-people ties, and support one of the U.S.’ largest Peace Corps programs in the world with over 150 volunteers now in the country working in English teaching, healthcare, and community youth development. The ambassador will lead a diplomatic mission of approximately two hundred U.S. and Mongolian employees, representing five agencies. She arrived in Ulaanbaatar at the end of September.

**Mongolia’s Third Neighbor Policy**

Bolor Lkhaajav

This article appeared in *The Diplomat* on March 28, 2016 and shared here with permission from the author.

While Mongolia is located in the North East region of East Asia, the newly implemented ‘third neighbor’ foreign policy will allow Mongolia to boost bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relations with countries around the world. One aspect we cannot neglect is the idea of the ‘third neighbor’ has been part of the Mongolia’s history since Chingis Khan ruled half of the world in the 12th century. Land-locked between two politically, economically, and militarily powerful nations Russia and China, Mongolia’s third neighbor policy by no means to exclude the neighbors. Instead, the strategic policy framework intends to use soft-power approach as *modus operandi* to tackle developing vital sectors in education, science and technology, mining and energy infrastructure. The year 2015 marked increasing diplomatic engagement for Mongolia in East Asia, the Persian Gulf, and even the Americas. Last year, the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) turned the third neighbor policy into bilateral dialogues and agreements with a number of nations, including but not limited to Hungary, Iran, Brazil, the United States, and Japan.
Mongolia’s Third Neighbor Policy (continued)

Meanwhile, the Mongolian Cabinet has worked closely with the Ministry of Education and Science in compliance with the Cabinet Resolution 71, which granted number of scholarships and financial assistance opportunities to study abroad in the leading professions, such as, mining, engineering, and economics. For example, the Mongolian Ministry of Education and Science and Hungarian Ministry of Labor has signed an agreement covering 2000 students for the “The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme of 2016-2017.” Likewise, an “Educational Cooperation Agreement” was signed by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to admit Mongolian students to Graduate level programs (PEC-G and PEC-PG) to further support Mongolia’s educational development. These educational agreements have corroborated the strategic objectives of Mongolia’s third neighbor policy, while advancing bilateral agreements not only in educational sector but also in the mining and energy industries.

Mongolia has also been active closer to home. Geographically, Japan has become the first ‘third neighbor’ of Mongolia. Japan-Mongolia’s foreign relations play a significant role in the Far East politically and economically. The increasing Chinese influence in the region forced Japan to seek new levels of partnerships and economic alliance, thus opening door for Mongolia and Japan to upgrade their ties. In October 2015, the Mongolian Prime Minister Ch. Saikhanbileg and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for major economic cooperation and development of the Tavan Tolgoi mining and its infrastructure, including the railways. These mega-projects will not only strengthen economic ties between Mongolia and Japan, but has a direct effect on employment and support for domestic workers. While these agreements show significant progress in Mongolia’s influence in the Far East, it demonstrates the strategic significance of the third neighbor policy. Furthermore, vis-à-vis US-Japan’s alliance system, US-Japan-Mongolia’s trilateralism is making its way into the policy framework in addition to Mongolia-Russia-China’s economic corridor in the Northeast Asia.

The most important goal of Mongolia’s foreign and domestic policy is to become a major energy source of the Northeast Asia. These agreements show significant progress in Mongolia’s influence in the region, demonstrating the strategic significance of the third neighbor policy. Landlocked Mongolia’s foreign policy now stretches out to many sectors, including oil and energy in the Persian Gulf.

Mongolia imports 90% of the oil from Russia, making Russia the strongest market in the North East Asia. With the number of exploration licenses given out from the Mongolian government, some discoveries of crude oil are on site and ‘third neighbor policy’ will play its part within the legal framework approved from the parliament. In addition, the concept of free economic zone (FEZ) will be an important part of attracting FDIs from the ‘third neighbors.’ In December 2015, Mongolia and Iran has signed an oil trade agreement via Chinese companies. The trivial part of ‘third neighbor policy’ is also creating a transit transportation arrangement so products can be exported to ‘third neighbors.’ Therefore, Mongolia continues to strengthen geopolitically advantaged economic and transit ties with Russia and China. In 2011, high levels of bilateral transit agreements were signed by the Ministry of Transportation of Mongolia, Russia, and China. The transit agreements will allow Mongolia to export to third countries using Chinese and North Korean shipping ports, such as Rajin.

One of the greatest advantages of Mongolia’s ‘third neighbor policy’ is the opportunity for pari passu, allowing Ulaanbaatar more influence in shaping such agreements. Although required heavy lobbying and high level meetings, the Chinese implemented “One belt, One Road” (The Silk Road) economic initiatives has greater geopolitical influence in Mongolia, Russia, and Japan if countries come to a legally-binding agreements. Nevertheless, Mongolia’s newly implemented ‘third neighbor policy’ is one of the newest and futuristic foreign affairs approach in Mongolian history.

As global political sphere changing rapidly, Mongolia’s political stability, economic developments, non-traditional national security and far sighted foreign policy strategies are trivial for continuing democratic transition and keeping up with the new developments in Asia-Pacific. The ‘third neighbor’ policy will attract FDIs in many developing sectors, which will then become diversification of the economy itself. The challenges are great and all are ahead, but with learned lessons from both developed and developing countries, Mongolian leaders and policy makers do not have room for oversight.

Scholarship Program Announced for Mongolian Studies Students

The National University of Mongolia (NUM) has started a scholarship program named after prominent scholars and linguists Ts.Damdinsuren, Sh.Luvsanvandan, and B.Rinchin for doctoral and postdoctoral students majoring in Mongol studies. The scholarship program aims to support young foreign scholars who will do research on certain topics of Mongolian studies. The scholarship named after Ts.Damdinsuren will support research work on Mongolian literature and history, the Sh.Luvsanvandan scholarship will aim to help research on Mongolian language, scripts and Altai studies, and B.Rinchin scholarship will focus on Mongolian literature, anthropology and ethnography.

Applicants who are studying for Ph.D. degree or postdoctoral researchers aged under 40 are eligible for the scholarships. Up to three winners will be involved in courses at the NUM and will conduct research in Mongolia for three months. They will be able to live in NUM dorms free of charge and receive stipend to support them during the fieldwork. Perhaps most importantly, the scholarships will allow international the award recipients to work closely with a professor of NUM and benefit from their knowledge and supervision.

The applications have closed for this year, but may open for the next academic year. For more information, please contact the NUM officials at infomonstudies@gmail.com
### Contributions and Donations Made in 2015

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- Dr. Alicia Campi *
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#### THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES

Thank you to those who paid their 2016 membership dues. If you have not paid 2016 dues, please take the time to do so now.

**Regular:**
- **$50 for one year**
- **$80 for two years**
- **$105 for three years**

**Student:**
- **$35 for one year**
- **$55 for two years**
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- **$80 for two years**
- **$105 for three years**

**Senior Citizen (age 67 or older) (Foreign)**
- **$55 for one year**
- **$95 for two years**
- **$135 for three years**

**Mongolian Ethnic:**
- **$35 for one year**
- **$55 for two years**
- **$70 for three years**

**Library Membership:**
- **$75 for one year**
- **$130 for two years**
- **$180 for three years**

**Sustaining Membership:**
- **$500 per year**

**Library Membership:**
- **$90 for one year**
- **$160 for two years**
- **$225 for three years**

**Corporate Membership:**
- **$125 for one year**
- **$230 for two years**
- **$325 for three years**

**Life Membership:**
- **$1,000 or more**

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§Patrons are donors who have contributed $1000 or more.
*Individuals who made multiple contributions in a given year.