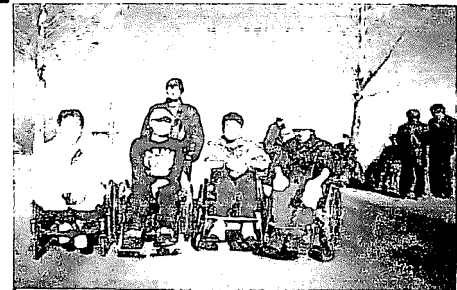


**High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude
the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002
25-28 October 2002. Otsu City Shiga, Japan**

COUNTRY REPORT MONGOLIA



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1. PROFILE OF MONGOLIA

| | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Territory: | 1.580.000 square meters |
| Capital City: | Ulaanbaatar City |
| Administrative Units: | 21 Aimags/Provinces |
| Population ¹ | 2,373,493 persons |
| Population Growth, %: | 1,4 |
| Population Density: | 1,5 person per square km |
| Urban Population, %: | 57 |
| Age distribution, %: | |
| 0-14 | 35,8 |
| 15-64 | 60,7 |
| 65+ | 3,5 |
| Literacy rate (15+), %: | 97,8 |
| Labor Force Participation rate (15+), %: | 62,0 |
| Unemployment rate, %: | 17,5 |
| GDP ² per capita (PPPUS\$): | 1,783 |
| HDI ³ : | 0.655 |

2. INTRODUCTION

During the transition from the centrally planned economy to the market economy, started in 1990, Mongolia has made overall reforms covering all aspects of society.

The objectives of these reforms are to provide the sustainable human development by ensuring high economic growth in harmony with population and environment.

Mongolia, which was isolated from the world development for decades, has undertaken active measures on joining world economy and has made reforms in political, economical, humanitarian and intellectual areas for relatively short period.

The state policy on people with disability of Mongolia is being implemented based on the following internationally agreed main principles on advancement of situation of people with disability:

- The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disability were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 48th session on 20 December 1993 (Resolution 48/96).
- 159th ILO Convention on Employment and vocational rehabilitation of People with disability, adopted in 1983 and
- Resolution 49/6. Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

In 1998, the Government of Mongolia approved "National programme on Improving the Quality of Life of People with Disabilities" which is being implemented.

This report summarizes the progress and achievements in Mongolia in achieving the goals of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

¹ 2000 Population Census, National Statistics Office

² UNDP World Human Development Report, 2002

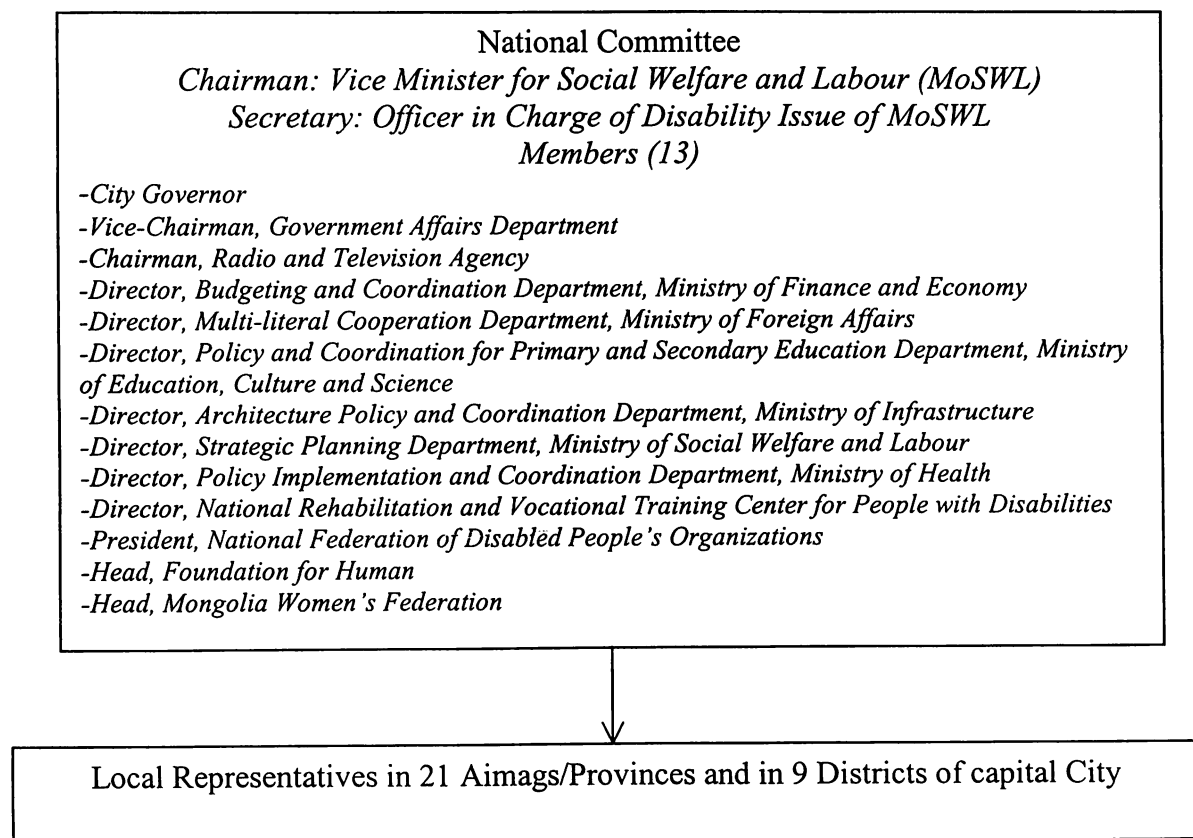
³ UNDP World Human Development Report, 2002

3. NATIONAL COORDINATION

The countries of Asia and Pacific region were called upon to promote national coordination on disability-related matters through the establishment and strengthening of national coordinating committees on disability, emphasizing the multi-sectoral approach, with a view to ensuring the participation of all stake-holders in the planning and implementation of Decade-related programmes and activities.

National Committee: A National Committee for Coordinating Activities planned in the frame of the Asian and Pacific Decade of the People with Disability was established by the Resolution of the Prime Minister. The Mongolian Government Resolution 16 of January 24, 2001 proclaimed 2001 a “Year of Support for the People with Disability” and assigned the National Committee to coordinate the activities in the Year of Support for People with Disabilities.

The Minister for Social Welfare and Labour of Mongolia chairs the National Committee and it has local representatives in 21 aimags/provinces.



The Committee meets once or twice in a year to review the planned activities.

In 1997 the Government has formulated plan of action for the “Year for Supporting People with Disability” following the Mid-point Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Decade of the People with Disability of 1997 in Seoul.

4. LEGISLATION

In Mongolia, legal environment has been set up to provide equal rights to people with disability, involving them in social life, ensuring their employment and rehabilitation, and to provide social security to ensure this legislation is implemented.

The Government of Mongolia declares human development as a priority issue, considering that the basis for country's development and progress is a human being by means of creative power, intellectual ability and great opportunity.

One of the main principles on establishing humanitarian and democratic civil society, where human rights, freedom, justice and national solidarity are respected, is provision of equal opportunity for people with disability to participate in social life, by improving livelihood and education of the people with disability.

During the Asian and Pacific Decade of the People with Disability, quite a few policy documents on protecting rights of the people with disability were approved in Mongolia. Namely, policy trends on people with disability were reflected in the Population Policy of Mongolia, approved in 1996 and issues and concerns of the people with disability were stressed in the "Law on Social Insurance", "Law on Social Welfare" and "Law on Social Security of the People with Disability".

"National Programme on Improving the Quality of Life for the People with Disability" approved by the Government of Mongolia in 1998 and "National Programme on Preventing from Accidents and Injuries" approved in July of 2002 are under implementation process.

- Through the "Law on Taxes of Added Value" releasing from taxes of added value was legislated in case of manufacturing, importing and selling of special equipments for people with disability.
- Through the "Law on Customs Tariff" customs taxes on special equipments for the people with disability, equipments and source materials, required for producing of special equipments for the people with disability, and goods of humanitarian and grant aids, are freed.
- Due to "Law on Education", education in Mongolia is humane, democratic, uninterrupted and accessible for all, as well as citizens have equal right to education and they are entitled to provision of condition and possibilities to study.
- Due to "Law on Higher Education", granting and crediting of the tuition fees for people with disability are legislated.
- In the "Labour Law", revised in May of 1999, labour related issues of people with disability and dwarf people were emphasized. According to this law, in case of not influencing on speciality of activities, entities and organizations with 50 or more staff must employ disabled or dwarf people at 3 percent of vacancies. Otherwise, the entity or organization must pay for the monthly fine in order to contribute to the state centralized budget and the money will fund some social welfare measures for disabled and dwarf people.

5. DATA AND INFORMATION

Citizens of Mongolia or residents who lost their ability to work in normal condition or who are identified as having sight, hearing, speaking, limb or mental problems, due to hereditary

or non-hereditary reasons, congenital defects, diseases or accidents are legally considered as people with disability.

As of National Statistical Offices data of 1999, there are 45000 people with disabilities, of which 15 percent blind, 19.5 percent speaking and hearing disability, 36.5 percent mentally ill and 30 percent disabled for other reasons.

According to the results of Sample Survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in 1998, 4.8 percent of Mongolian population or 115000 people were people with disability. 16.6 percent blind, 25.3 percent mentally ill, 25.2 percent physically disabled people, 17 percent deaf, and 13.2 percent with other disabilities. It would be noted that the statistics on people with disability are limited in Mongolia.

The study conducted by the Ministry of Education states that about 8 percent or 34000 children of school age were children with disability. 5.8 percent of them were attending special schools or special centers of vocational training, 21 percent were attending ordinary secondary schools.

In Mongolia registration and survey of the people with disability are in insufficient level and attentions are required mainly in relation to the complete and improved registration and survey on people with disability.

6. PUBLIC AWARENESS

In the frame of the Asian and Pacific decade of the people with disability, the Government of Mongolia proclaimed 2001 as a “Year of Support of the People with Disability” to improve social security of the people with disability and to protect their rights, particularly, to create favorable social environment among the entire nation for understanding and supporting the people with disability.

In the frame of the “Year of Support of the People with Disability”, there were many achievements in relation to increased involvement of government and non-government organizations, entities and communities in advancing living condition of the people with disability and solving their social challenges.

Measures were taken to encourage by awarding the entities, organizations, and communities, which have actively supported the people disability and undertaken substantial actions in this regard with honour of “Humane Activist” with the signature of the Prime Minister.

7. ACCESSIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

In the frame of activities for the Decade, measures were undertaken to enable the people with disability with wheelchair to access to some organizations without someone’s support, including Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour, State Social Welfare Office, 29th School for Blind and Deaf Students and Labour Training Factory for the blind, by establishing special paths, entrances or stages for the people with disability with wheelchair and special path for the blind.

Initial measures were undertaken to reflect establishment of special entrances, paths and stages for the people with wheelchair and blind people in designing of buildings and roads by the Minister’s order of Infrastructure. Thus the Government promotes the barrier-free features in all new construction, as well as all renovation and expansion.

Sign language books were translated into Mongolian and were distributed to provinces. Training to prepare teachers for special schools of people with disability and deaf children in rural area was conducted in 2 stages and prepared more than 40 teachers.

The news programme "Tsagiin Khurd" of the Mongolian National Television is started to broadcast with sign interpretation. Besides, actions were undertaken to provide financial support from the Government to activities of the special industries and complexes of the people with disability.

A new information and research center of the people with disability was opened in the National Center of Rehabilitation and Vocational Training for the People with Disability and it was provided with techniques and equipments, as well as with a researcher and an operator. A library for the blind was established in the 29th secondary school and was equipped with special computers, printers, Braille books and other tools.

8. EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

According to the Constitution, all citizens of Mongolia are entitled to free access to secondary and complete secondary education.

The Government is aiming to provide children with disability with opportunities to study or to work with healthy children, by ensuring integration of ordinary secondary schools and pre-school educational institutions.

In 2001-2002 academic year, 500000 children studied in secondary schools nationwide and 7.7 percent or 40000 children of which were children with disability, whereas 80 thousands children were covered by pre-school educational institutions and 0.4 percent of which were children with disability⁴.

The Government is taking appropriate actions in order to rehabilitate working ability of the people with disability, support their attainment of qualification, retrain them, and improve their working conditions. For instance, implementation of issues regarding education and qualification of children with disability falls under state policy framework. Currently, a National Center of Rehabilitation and Vocational Training for the disabled and 6 special secondary schools and a kindergarten for people with disability and mentally handicapped children are operating.

In the past few years, the National Center for Rehabilitation and Vocational Training for the people with disability has been giving more than 100 citizen with disability 7-8 kinds of qualification yearly and provided 78 percent of them with work so far by establishing contracts with industries and entities⁵.

9. TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

In August 2001 Mongolian Government passed a Labour Law stating that a business which employs 50 or more people has to have 3 percent of their workforce who are people with a disability⁶.

⁴ Ministry of Education, 2002

⁵ National Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Center of People with Disabilities, 2001

⁶ Labour Law, 1999

There are 353 entities with more than 50 employees in the Capital City. Out of 65000 employees working in these entities, 1200 employees are disabled or dwarf people, which makes 63.9 percent of all disabled or dwarf people supposed to be employed. During the inspection, some entities and organizations were revealed that they have not employed the appropriate number of disabled or dwarf people and were fined by 1.3 million tugrugs. The amount goes to the "Development fund of disabled and dwarf people" and as of first half of 2002, 3.1 million tugrugs had been accumulated⁷.

A NGO, named "Liberal Trade Union Coalition of Disabled and Dwarf Citizens" has established an Employment Mediating Office and helped 150 persons to find jobs, on subcontract basis with the Central Employment Office⁸.

With financial support of the Employment Promotion Fund, the National Center of Rehabilitation and Vocational Training for the People with Disability covers 20 disabled citizens in vocational training of sewing and baking yearly and provides them with work places.

The Asian Development Bank, with grant assistance of 1 million US dollars of the Japanese Poverty Reduction Fund, started to implement a 3 years project aimed at promoting employment of the people with disability. It is estimated that 4000 disabled citizens with ability to work will benefit from the project in direct or indirect way. The project has four components: employment services, business support, creating job opportunities and sheltered employment and public awareness⁹.

10. PREVENTION OF CAUSES OF DISABILITIES

The issue concerning the prevention from disabilities is one of the main concerns of the Population Policy of Mongolia.

The key indicator of the successful implementation of the "National Programme on Improving Quality of Life of People with Disabilities" will be reduced rate in new cases of disabled.

The approval of the "National Programme on Preventing from Accidents and Injuries" to be implemented between 2003-2008, shows the Government's commitment to the issue.

11. REHABILITATION SERVICES

There is a National Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Center for the People with Disability to provide rehabilitation services for the people with Disability nationwide.

It has Vocational Training Department, Prosthetic-Orthopedic workshop, Clinical Rehabilitation Department and a Research unit.

The Prosthetic-Orthopedic workshop produces each year more than 30 kind of prostheses-orthopedic appliances for 1000 disabled¹⁰.

⁷ Central Employment Office, 2002

⁸ Central Employment Office, 2002

⁹ ADB Project MON 9014 "Expanding Employment Opportunities for Poor Disabled Persons"

¹⁰ National Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Center of People with Disabilities, 2002

In 2001 a special attention was paid in order to improve accessibility of rural people with Disability to the rehabilitation services by providing services in provinces.

Moreover, in 11 aimags/provinces established small factories to produce and repair the prostheses-orthopedic appliances with support of the Government and International Donors.

During the past 3 years private industries of prosthesis and orthopedic equipments with foreign investments were established, including a private factory "Ninjin Setgel" which produces prosthesis using Japanese technologies and a private factory with investment of the "Otto Work" company of Germany.

Clinical Rehabilitation Department plays an important role in providing rehabilitation services to the people with disabilities, by providing mobility rehabilitation; electric treatments and step-by-step treatments for people lost their limbs.

It is essential to underline that a private clinic "Takhilt" is operating to rehabilitate people with back and spinal cord injuries.

Additionally, a project on the Community based rehabilitation of the people with disability is being implemented with support of an international NGO.

12. ASSISTIVE DEVICES

As a result of legal efforts of the Government to improve provision of the assistive devices for the people with disabilities, since 1995 the provision of wheelchairs, hearing apparatus, Braille equipments and rehabilitation appliances has significantly improved.

According to the Law on Social Welfare, people with Disability are entitled to get wheelchair, hearing apparatus, cassette player, Braille book and home made prostheses and orthopedic appliances free of charge.

State provides annually 500 people with wheelchairs, 380 people with discounted prostheses and orthopedic appliances and 2500 people with hearing apparatuses¹¹.

13. SELF HELP ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

The Government supports the idea of establishing self help organizations of the people with disability. There is a special factory of the people with disability operates under name "Labour Training Factory of the Blind".

The factory is established in 1964 and since then it was undertaking activities directed at ensuring social welfare services of the Government for the blind people, creating job opportunities for them, protecting their rights and improving social protection of the blind people, on the base of self-funding.

Currently, the factory has more than 100 employees, 80 percent of them are blind and the rest are able bodied people working in positions of management and administration, as well as in positions where skilled qualifications are required¹².

¹¹ Annual Report, State Social Welfare Office, 2001

¹² Annual Report, Labour Training Factory of the Blind, 2001

The factory has newly established felt processing section in addition to its carpenter, sewing, wool processing sections and produces products of 32 kinds, including felt upholster, curtains and inside covering of the root for the Mongolian style tent, bed sheets, protecting work clothes, horsehair ropes, grass and horsehair sweeping brush, chairs, shovel holders etc.

80 percent of employees of the factory receive social welfare pensions for disability, on top of their salary.

The factory has accommodation of 48 households for its employees, canteen for its workers with discounted lunches, cultural and body-building halls, own doctor and a folk song group "Tsatsal" of blind people.

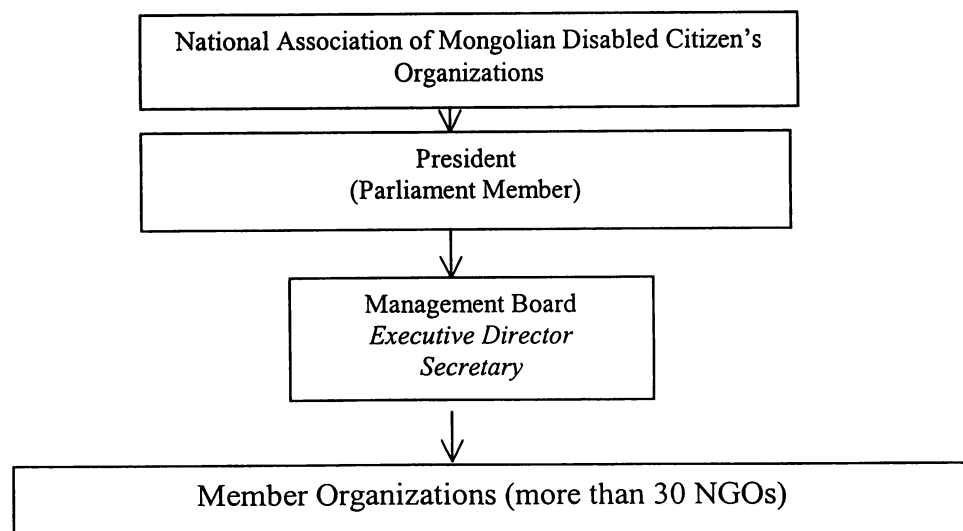
14. MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Constitution of Mongolia and other legal acts legislated the freedom of association of the people with disability.

The "Law on Social Security of the People with Disability" legislated formation of NGOs on protecting rights of the people with disability.

Furthermore, the law has stated that some functions of the government implementing agencies, related to development of certain parts of state policy on people with disability or involvement of the people with disability in some cultural, artistic and sports activities in national or local level, could be implemented by NGOs on protecting rights of the people with disability by funding relevant cost of these activities.

The National Association of Mongolian Disabled Citizen's Organizations cooperates with government institutions namely, Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Finance and Economy on a contractual basis, as well as it cooperates with NGOs with similar activities of foreign countries such as Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation.



15. POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

State policy on social security of the people with disability reflected in and coordinated by the Package Law on Social Insurance, Law on Health Insurance of Citizen, Law on Social

Welfare, Law on Social Security of the People with Disability and relevant rules and regulations.

The main objective of the “National Programme on Improving the Quality of Life for the People with Disabilities” is to improve quality of life of the people with disability by ensuring their active involvement in social life.

Currently, the monthly disability benefit is relatively low. Efforts are being made to increase.

However, these pensions and assistances are not sufficient for their living and quite low compare to price growth and inflation rate. Therefore, the Ministry is aiming at increasing pensions and benefits of the people with disability and supporting their income generating activities.

As of end of 2001, more than 20000 people with disability were granted benefits and assistances and more than 10 thousands people with disability were provided with social welfare services, in addition to 40000 people with disability, granted pensions and assistances from the social insurance fund¹³.

The living standard of the people with disability is not in appropriate level, although the Government is undertaking various measures. Along with social welfare and care services of the Government, every citizen’s community based efforts to support and assist the people with disability are essential.

The policy trends of the Government on poverty reduction of the people with disability are to promote active involvement of the people with disability in social life, support their employment through provision with work places and encourage them to independent living in society and community.

16. WOMEN WITH DISABILITY

There are more than 50 NGOs in Mongolia operating to protect rights of women, including the Disabled Women’s Association aimed at protecting rights of women with disability.

The Association has started its activities since 1995. It provides community based rehabilitation services for the women with disability and conducts IEC activities on life and culture of the women with disability. It organizes field training and workshops for rural women with disability.

The Government of Mongolia supports activities of the Disabled Women’s Association through various training. For instance, local social welfare organizations have facilitated training on Reproductive Health for the people with disabilities.

17. REGIONAL COOPERATION

Mongolia has been fully supporting the activities of the Asian and Pacific Decade of the People with Disabilities.

Representatives and members of the National Committee on Coordination of Activities of the Decade have been constantly attending the high-level meetings, trainings and workshops conducted in the framework of the Decade.

¹³ Annual Report, State Social Welfare Office, 2001; State Social Insurance General Office, 2001

In August 2002, the Executive Director of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, has made an official visit to our country and get acquainted with the activities of the National Committee on Coordination of Activities of the Decade.

18. FURTHER CONCERNS

Although the Government of Mongolia is undertaking various explicit measurements on disability, due to severity of socio-economic condition of the country and poverty rate, issues of the people with disability are still remaining as a challenging and priority issue.

Further concerns on disability include:

- Improve access to education for children with disabilities
- Improve availability of training for people with disabilities
- Increase amount of disability benefits
- Promote NGOs and movements of the people with disability
- Promote Public awareness campaign on abilities and needs of people with disabilities
- Redefine legal definition of disability so that services, benefits can be targeted more efficiently
- Improve statistics on disability
- Attentions are required in constructing of special paths and establishing special passages, signs and stages to facilitate traveling of the people with disability in the city and their entrance to organizations and public service places. The Ministry of Infrastructure needs to control the new buildings, whether it has special entrances, paths and stages for the people with wheelchair and blind people.
- Reduce poverty among people with disability by improving accessibility of education and vocational training, promoting their employment and supporting their independent living.
- Ensure rehabilitation of the people with disability, improving provision of prosthesis and orthopedic equipments for them
- Improve access to information and education

The Government of Mongolia expresses it's commitment to support the strategies and resolutions of this high level meeting on issues of people with disability in countries of Asia and the Pacific.

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