



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. WHAT IS GLOBE INTERNATIONAL CENTER?

Globe International Center (GIC) is a not-for-profit, non-membership and tax-exempted NGO founded in March 1999 and based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital.

Globe International is a signatory of the NGO Code of Conduct of Mongolia. It is a member of IFEX, Toronto-based global network defending and promoting free expression, Forum Asia, Bangkok-based regional human rights network, the Global Forum for Media Development. It is a partner of the World Bank's Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA).

Mission

To sustain Mongolian democracy and civil society through the spread of information and knowledge.

Motto

Knowledge is Power

Strategy

Information is the basis of knowledge. Informed and knowledgeable citizens are powerful and they are able to participate in government affairs, social development and progress. Enjoying the rights of freedom of expression and access to information are fundamental to the consolidation and development of a democratic, civil and healthy society that respects human rights and truly serves the public.

Vision

To establish a democratic culture and develop informed and empowered citizens

Values

- Independence
- Fairness
- Democratic
- Non-discriminatory
- Corruption-free

Strategic goals

Globe International Center's goal is to help the public access information using all possible means of distribution, such as traditional media, social and multimedia platforms.

OUR PROGRAMS

Program I: Supporting the rights of an independent media

Our goal is to assist in the building of a powerful media that will have greater freedom to play a leading role in the development of democracy.

Program II: Promoting good and transparent governance

Our goal is to improve governance and accountability, so that public institutions are able to provide a truly good public service.

Program III: Empowering the public through the Arts

Our goal is to raise public awareness on social issues using the Arts as an educational tool.

Highlights of 2019



10 projects



743 participants



15 events



7 trainings



I. 2019 ACTIVITIES

Advocacy and Awareness Raising

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOUR RIGHTS THROUGH GSP+



Within the framework of the project titled “Promoting Human and Labour Rights through Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP+)”, Globe International Center (GIC) has organized one and a half day National Forum on May 23-24, 2019. Funded by the EU, the project was aimed at supporting civil society organisations in their efforts to raise awareness and advocate for the full implementation of fundamental rights. GIC has implemented the project as a part of the global programme of Democracy Reporting International.

The National Forum, which was the final event of the project intended to assess the project activities and its results. The event has brought together in total 74 participants from 46 organizations such as government bodies, business community, CSOs and international organizations including 11 local representatives of Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Mongolian Human Rights Commission from the provinces.

Minister Counsellor of the EUD to Mongolia Mr. Marco Ferri, , Programme manager “GSP+” Ciaran O’Really, , Vice director General of the Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs G.Ulziisaikan, s and GIC CEO and President Kh.Naranjargal delivered opening remarks. It is estimated that 74 representatives consisted from a variety of stakeholders attended the forum.

The participants have raised their awareness on the civil society monitoring results and recommendations to the relevant counterparts and contributed to the development of further strategy.

The National Forum was structured within the following three frames:

- What is Done?
- What are the Current Concerns?
- What is Next?

What has been done?

Improved knowledge on the role of the GPS+ in the economic growth and sustainable development agenda through recognized role of the CSOs in the promotion of GSP+ and core conventions

Raised awareness on the current status of the freedoms of expression, media and information. The National Forum has fostered synergies of the current initiatives in promoting GSP+ core conventions and provided a platform for the further strategy via discussing the recommendations to the relevant counterparts:

As a part of the first frame, the first day of the National Workshop was devoted to inform the stakeholders on the project achievements and share the findings of the monitoring as well as GSP+ utilization status in Mongolia.

What are the Current Concerns?

Crucial human rights concerns are:

- Torture and
- Violation of child rights
- Re-introducing the death penalty

What is Next?

The National Forum's participants have also contributed to develop a set of recommendations to the Government of Mongolia regarding the following issues:

- I. Promoting the GSP+ trade mechanism
- II. Strengthening the efforts to practically implement the ICCPR
- III. Harmonizing the existing domestic laws with international standards
- IV. Promoting other human rights

1. TO THE PARLIAMENT AND CABINET :

- Strengthening efforts to practically implement Article 19 of the ICCPR
- Aligning existing domestic laws with international standards

2. TO MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS:

- Media organisations should create a safe environment for their staff
- Civil society and media NGOs should strengthen advocacy activities



The latter half of the first day had a panel on the linkage between SDGs and GSP+ and the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process in Mongolia. The participants were informed on the VNR process and exchanged information and their views about how GSP+ is linked to the SDGs, particularly to poverty and the economic growth. The second day started with panel discussion on the labour and human rights as an essential part of the company governance and development of the National Plan on Business and Human Rights.

Then until the end of the day the recommendations have been discussed and ideas on the further strategy that is beneficial to promote GSP+ and core human rights conventions.

The second day starts with panel discussion on the labour and human rights as an essential part of the company governance and development of a National Plan on Business and Human Rights.

The rest until the end of the second day will be devoted to discussing the recommendations and participants will come up with their ideas on the further strategy that is useful to encourage GSP+ and core conventions.

During the project:

18 months (1 December 2018-31 May 2019)

- Focused on the Article 19 of the ICPPR
- Monitoring on Safety of Journalists in partnership with the Media Council Mongolia (MCM) and Mongolian Bar Association (MBA)

Capacity building trainings:

- NGO: 20 participants
- Media: 20 participants

More than 160 participants at two main events:

- Inception workshop
- National Forum

275 participants from **177** organizations attended at **8** Town Hall meetings in **7** provinces and the capital

Issues raised during the project implementation were:

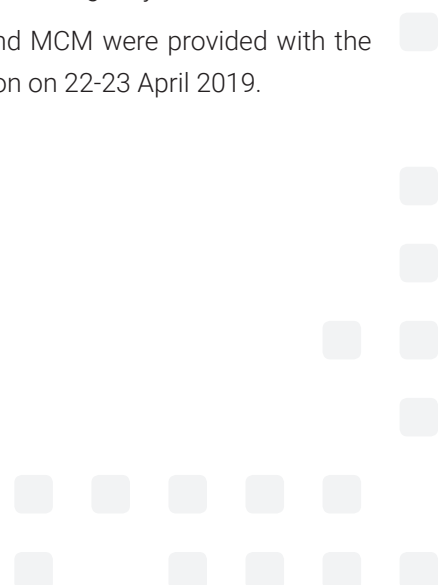
- The safety of journalists
- The Right to Information
- The Death Penalty
- Torture
- Violence of child rights
- Decent work
- Economic and Labour rights of women
- Unfair business environment
- Ethical business that respect human and labour rights.

The National Forum started with the utilization status of the GSP+ mechanism in Mongolia and Ch. Tsetsegmaa, Chair of the International Trade and Investment Department of the National Chamber of Commerce and Carmen Fratita, EU TRAM Project Leader introduced the issues.

The main human rights focus area of GIC project were Article 19 of the ICCPR. B.Bolorsaikhan, Board Chair of the Amnesty International, Mongolia and member of the 3CS Support group introduced the findings of the Assessment on Article 19 of the ICCPR that used the OHCHR's Human Rights Indicators. Mongolia's legal framework of freedom of expression and the safety of journalists were presented by L.Galbaatar, Lawyer of the MBA and A.Amartuvshin, Researcher and Journalism Trainer, MCM.

The National Forum discussion also focused on the most crucial human rights issues such as violence of child rights, torture and the death penalty. The last panel on GSP+ and SDGs 2030 Agenda: VNR Process, CS Spotlight Report and SDGs Target 16.10 (Access to information) was contributed by Suzanna, National Development Agency.

The Media freedom monitoring team consisted of MBA and MCM were provided with the professional consultancy by DRI-hired expert Emily Patterson on 22-23 April 2019.





https://www.gic.mn/public/docs/publications/Media_freedom_monitoring_report_2019.pdf

https://www.gic.mn/public/docs/publications/Media_freedom_monitoring_report_2019.pdf

https://www.gic.mn/public/docs/publications/MediaHandbook_GIC_GSP_eng_2018.pdf

Findings of the Media Monitoring report have been used for the UPR Submission and the 2019 Mongolian Media Freedom Report annually produced by GIC.

The National Forum was reported by nine media outlets.

Prior to the National Forum, a total of 34 stakeholders attended the final Town Hall meeting co-organized by the Capital City Governor's Office, the Ulaanbaatar Development Corporation, Mongolian Human Rights Commission and Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry which was held on May 5, 2019 at the meeting room of the City Governor's Office.

It was aimed at bringing the issues and challenges related to the implementation of human rights into the government agenda by reinforcing local dialogue to raise the local stakeholders' awareness on the GSP+ and Mongolia's obligations to the implementation of the international conventions of which Mongolia is a state-party.

On 5 May 2019, a total of 34 participants attended the meeting in the Capital City Governor's office including representatives of public bodies (14), business sectors (21) and CSOs (5) out of which 12 men and 28 women.

Chargé d'Affaires i.o.f. the EUD to Mongolia Mr. Marco Ferri, Deputy Governor of the Capital city M. Khaliunbat and Executive chief of the Commission and Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry T. Duuren delivered opening speeches.

M. Khaliunbat Deputy Governor of the Capital city:

The half of population live in Ulaanbaatar city and 66% of them are business entrepreneurs and 57.9% - business organizations that actively engaged and produced more than 70% GDP. It means we have a lot of opportunities and key strengths for our country. Producers and entrepreneurs have many problems in exporting their products to another country. At the same time, there are many chances about which they are not aware and do not speak up. Thus, this meeting is significantly important to explore the next steps for supporting private businesses, providing them more opportunities, reducing government pressure, and creating positive legal environment through the government and city governors acts and decisions.

Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the EUD to Mongolia Mr. Marco Ferri:

The EU and Mongolia share many common values including the respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law which are the foundation of our relationship. The GSP+ scheme is an incentive to ratify and effectively implement 27 international Conventions on human and labour rights, environmental protection and good governance.

We are supporting Mongolia in strengthening the capacity to further develop appropriate export development strategies through the "Trade related Assistance to Mongolia" project which aims at enhancing Mongolia's international trade and economic diversification and to contribute to the sustainable economic growth and development.

T.Duuren, Executive Director of Commission and Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI):

What we think is that when we moved to the free democratic system, we gained an opportunity to produce quality products than can make profit. But we realized that buyers would not purchase them if we could not identify their desire and needs. Thus, we started to focus on our consumers' concerns and talk about developing plan at the policy level. MNCCI will work on it. EU, TRAM project is working on developing yak and seabuckthorn products while working to cooperate with other projects and organizations for preparing consumers. In this regard, four of our staff are studying in China research into China market. At the moment, surveys on foreign trade has not been done well enough in Mongolia. The cost is so high. So, MNCCI is focused on this issue.

While the first half of the meeting provided information about the GSP+, local business environment, the second half of the meeting gave information about GSP+ human rights conventions including freedom expression, freedom of information, access to information and current situation of the safety of journalists.

Then, free discussion with the participants moderated by Kh.Naranjargal was held. The participants actively attended the discussion and highlighted the following issues:

- The use and challenges of the GSP+
- The facing challenges in right to know and freedom expression



ACCESS TO INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION: SDGs: 16.10.2

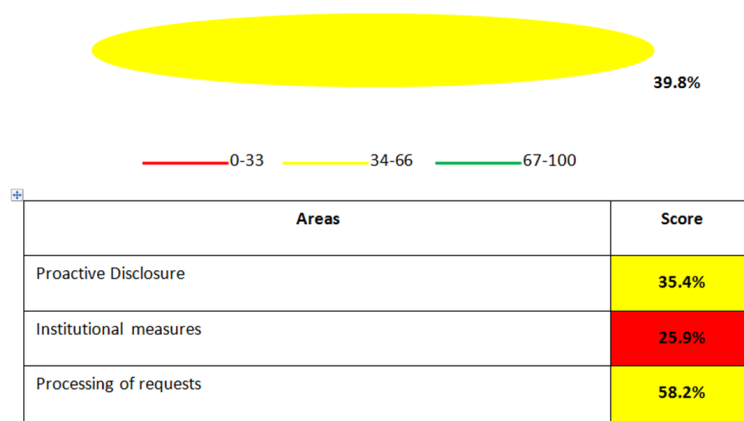
Mongolia's first VNR to the HLPF 2019 held in July 2019 did not include the specific analysis on the access to information, SDGs Goal 16.10.2. Unfortunately, VNR shortly mentions that "it is needed to guarantee the transparency of the public activities and enhance the access to information and information transparency".

<http://nda.gov.mn/backend/files/WPzFZwDaebnpM4M.pdf>

Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030 was approved by the State Great Khural of Mongolia in February 2016. In this context, there is a strong need for an increased awareness on the SDGs, particularly target 16.10 among policy makers and the general public. Ensuring public access to information and fundamental freedoms are a key to achieving the SDGs. The importance of inclusion of these issues are often overlooked when considering other priorities, so GIC had an action to conduct an assessment of the RTI law, hold consultation with various stakeholders and organize capacity building trainings for journalists (Please refer to the next Session).

The public awareness raising campaigns should highlight that the right to information can only be effectively exercised and implemented on the basis of effective laws, regulating such right in accordance with international standards. Therefore, public debate on the amendment to the existing law is necessary. Moreover, educating the public on the access to information is a necessary complementary dimension to the realization of the right to information which encourage adoption of ICT, open access policies, and stimulate the independent, pluralistic and free media.

The assessment of the implementation of the Law on Information Transparency and the Right to Information (LITRI) passed in 2011, concludes that regime of exceptions is too broad and there is no nodal agency responsible for the monitoring of law implementation. Furthermore, public bodies have no information officers and no incentive to provide sufficient response to information requests.



Three local NGOs from Arkhangai, Darkhan Uul and Khuvsgul provinces and utilized a methodology of the FOIANet (Freedom of Information Advocates Network) for the assessment GIC conducted among randomly selected eight public bodies in March 2019. It was a part of the project framework of the Advocacy of SDGs, target 16.10.2 VNR supported by the Deutsche Welle Akademie (DWA) and Free Press Unlimited, Dutch NGO implemented from January 25 to March 15, 2019.

The assessment results were presented at a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting held on March 3-4, 2019 in Ulaanbaatar hotel. The meeting has gathered 30 participants from governmental bodies, civil society organizations, media outlets and media NGOs. Gerwin De Roy from DWA, Toby Mendel from the Centre for Law and Democracy and N.Doljinsuren, Head of the Development Policy and Planning Division of the National Development Agency spoke on the process of the VNR.

As a result of the consultative meeting, the national stakeholders agreed to develop an advocacy strategy aimed at different government institutions related to SDG Goal 16 and the VNR process. This strategy would also target the VNR itself, whose first draft was to be published on March 15, 2019. Furthermore, organizations focused on media issues have expressed their willingness to work towards the implementation of the SDGs target 16.10.2 and the VNR progress until 2030.

Public's Right to Know and Secrecy

The right to Information of the Mongolian citizens is strictly restricted by the Law on State and Official Secrets passed in December 2016 and became effective from 1 September 2017. The new law obligates the Government to approve the rule and the list of secret information by its resolution. In accordance with this decision, public bodies are allowed to internally approve their organization's rules on secret information and the list of secret information. This contradicts the Constitution of Mongolia which declares that secret information shall be protected by law.

GIC conducted the research "The Legal Analysis on the Legislation Restricting the Right to Information" on from 10 to 21 May, 2019.

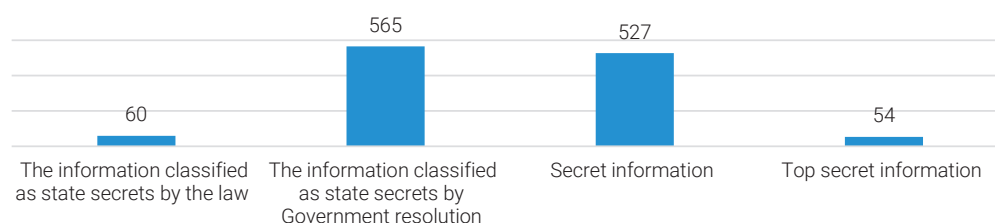
The research team involved three members including L.Galbaatar, researcher and member of the Mongolian Bar Association who worked as a team leader, B.Purevsuren, GIC lawyer and Ch.Turbold, researcher of the National Legal Institute who worked as research team members.

Within the framework of the survey, official letters to request information were sent to 49 public authorities. We also have contacted relevant experts from 21 aimags and 9 districts to be informed about the organization's confidentiality rules and their list of secrets. Preliminary results of the survey were presented at a consultation meeting held on June 28, 2019.

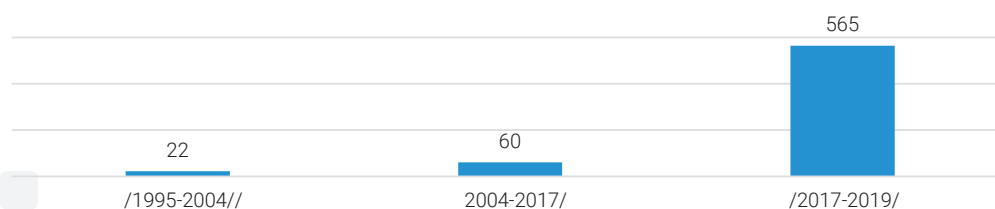


Number of secret information has radically increased from 60 in 2017 to 565 in 2019 as findings of the Legal Analysis on the Legislation Restricting the Right to Information revealed.

Graphic 1. The total number of information classified by the Law on State and Official Secrecy and Government Resolutions



Graphic 2. Increase in the number of information related to state secret, 1995-2019



Case study

The case study was completed from May 13 to June 21, 2019. A researcher from the Center for Investigative Reporters A.Amartuvshin led the research team. Ch.Bolortuya, editor-in-chief of Ikon.mn, Ch.Battsetseg, a reporter of Eagle TV, B.Ariutsetseg, MNBTB, and P.Tumentsetseg, a researcher have worked as a team members. The study focused on the mining, investment, land infrastructure, and education issues. Within the study, access to the information regarding the above-mentioned issues have been requested from the relevant public authorities and 16 pieces of information have been gathered. As a result of the project, the report on the Legal Analysis on the Legislation Restricting the Right to Information has been developed including the survey and case study.



https://www.gic.mn/public/docs/publications/public_Restrictions_right_to_information_acts_pdf_2019.pdf

A consultative meeting on “The Public’s Right to Know and Secrecy” and “Secrecy and Government Transparency” was held on 28 June 2019 in West Premier Tuushin hotel conference hall. Based on the preliminary results and inputs of the meeting participants, the Legal Study was finalized and final results and draft recommendations were discussed with media organizations, 5 international organizations and 3 organizers. The opening speeches were delivered by representatives of Canadian Embassy and Kh.Naranjargal, Head of GIC.



ADVOCACY MEETING

“Public Right to Know and Confidential Information” policy seminar

A policy seminar on “The public right to know and confidential information” was held on 10 September 2019 at the conference hall of Ulaanbaatar hotel. The opening speeches were delivered by L.Bold, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and Kh.Naranjargal, Head of GIC. The meeting was moderated by B.Purevsuren, GIC Lawyer.

In his speech, L.Bold highlighted that “Freedom of information is the main criteria of democracy. Restricted access to information and any type of censorship are the basis for corruption in the society. The right to information is a recent social issue. The worst thing today is that torture regarded as a state secret issue. Today is the day of the oppressed people. Remembering this day, I believe that today’s recommendations are very important for the Mongolian government to build the grounds for no more repression. We promise to take into account your recommendations in the implementation of state legislation.”

Kh.Naranjargal, in her speech, underlined that “The most effective way to fight corruption is government transparency. It is based on open information. When people trust the government, it will be more effective. This will help improve all types of public services.”

By enacting the new Law on the State and Official Secrets, the Law on the State Secrets and the Law on the List of State Secrets were replaced by it. All of 60 participants from 22 public bodies, 16 civil society organizations and NGOs, 2 academics, 16 journalists and 4 organizers attended the policy seminar. The main purpose of the meeting was to present the final results and recommendations of the analysis on the non-transparency of government information, confidentiality and other laws that limit transparency to the public, civil society and relevant governmental organizations, and to get their feedback.

Social Media: Legal and Self-regulation

A total of 40 representatives from public bodies, media outlets, journalists and journalism academics gathered at the Consultation meeting on “Social Media: Legal and Self-Regulation” which was held on October 23, 2019 at the Conference Room of the Open Society Forum. The purpose of this meeting was to present the results of the study on “Legal and self-regulation of social media” and to consult with the participants of the meeting. The study had two main parts. The first part of the study was conducted by lawyer L.Galbaatar, who studied the legal regulation of social media content and the experience of other countries. The second part was facilitated by Kh. Naranjargal, head of the GIC, and Ts. Munkhjin, program manager who conducted a study on self-regulatory practices for social media.

The study is comprised of two sections, one of which was developed by L.Galbaatar, a lawyer specialized in social media content and a member of the Mongolian Bar Association. The second one was conducted by Kh.Naranjargal, and Ts.Munkhjin, Head and Manager of GIC

respectively. The study has focused on four media organizations' self-regulation schemes from Asian, American and European countries. It has also touched on international standards and laws that have been implemented in Germany, Italy, Australia and South Korea. Case studies included The Associated Press, BBC, The New York Times, Asahi Shimbun and Media council's experience of Belgium, German, the Netherlands and Finland.

Meeting participants have discussed the scope of media regulations for social media and developed recommendations to improve the situation in line with international standards. It included the call to Mongolian media organizations to adopt their rules and guidelines for social media.



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https://www.gic.mn/public/docs/publications/survey_result_social_media_regulation_191024.pdf

Strengthening The Mongolian Community Radio Association



The development of the community media is one of the priorities of GIC under the first strategic program. Two-days meeting held on 5 June 2019 was attended by around 20 participants representing 10 community radios from western Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd, Khuvsgul and Uvs aimags, the central and local governments, the Communication, Information and Technology Agency (CITA), the Communications Regulatory Commission (CRC), academia and media NGOs, who shared their views on the future development of the community radio.

The main purpose of the meeting was to re-organize board members of the Mongolian Community radio association. During the meeting, the further development of community radio as discussed with stakeholders. The preliminary findings of the survey on community media sustainability and the recommendations of the international expert were presented at the meeting.

In 2012, 10 community radio stations were established in 10 soums of four western aimags, where national and ethnic minorities dominate. This work was supported by the UNESCO, Beijing Office as a part of the MoG and the UNDP project titled "Community Radio" which was funded by the UN Human Trust Fund. Unfortunately, the community radios became non-operative since 2016 due to the expiration of the licenses, so they have to re-apply for new licenses based on conditions as commercial radios.

The issues of sustainability were revealed by the Baseline Study conducted in 10 soums by 4 researchers including G.Bilguun, D.Jandos, N. Zulzaya and G.Oyuntungalag. Aizada Kalkanbekov from the Community Radio Association of Kyrgyzstan has worked as a consultant on this baseline study. The goal of the assessment was to collect the existing information on the implementation mechanism, to define benchmarks and to establish the steps for legislative improvement and to support the community media in Mongolia.

The baseline survey was conducted using a combination of data collection methods, such as interviews, analysis of available documents and materials, surveys, meetings with focus groups, direct observation of the general actual state of the community radios. The survey

has covered all 9 soums of 4 aimags out of initial 10 soums' with the community radios (1 soum's community radio after its successful operation for a year had a fire accident and was closed down).

The results of the survey revealed that there are no waivers, allowances for registration, status, operation of community radios reflected in the Mongolian laws and regulations. The requirements for the operation of community radios are the same as for other radios, national and commercial ones. Moreover, there are some limiting regulations on the rights of the service providers, their accountability and radio program content.

Rural Journalists Association B. Sharavdorj:

Today, the country's information flows in one direction. From the center and the city to rural areas. There is an essential need for two-direction information flow allowing information flow from rural areas, soums, aimags to the city and the center. To create such free flow of information, we are currently working to start a project titled "Soum reporter." It is possible to cooperate with the community radios in this project and to exchange local reports and interviews of our reports.

Globe International Center, president Kh. Naranjargal:

There are numerous obstacles and challenges faced in the establishment of soums' independent community radios. It is essential to build capacity of the public and citizens to build the independent media. Thus, it is important to work closely with them.



WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY, MAY 3

Media for Democracy: Journalism and elections in times of disinformation

Mongolia ranked on the 70th place from 180 countries by the RSF Press Freedom Index, 2019.

The WPDF event was held on May 2, 2019 at the OSF Conference Hall with a total of 69 participants - representatives of public authorities (18), civil society organizations (12), international organizations (13), students (4), political party members (2) and media outlets (20).

The welcoming remarks were delivered by S. Uyanga, Secretary-General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and opening speeches were delivered by Ambassador H.E. Traian Laurentiu Hristea, Delegation of the European Union and Ambassador H.E. Philippe Merlin, Embassy of the French Republic.

In his speech, Ambassador H.E. Philippe Merlin highlighted that in order to preserve and strengthen democratic values in our societies, we have to foremost uphold and implement in full the fundamental human right of access to information, so that we are all aware of and understand the challenges faced in our times. The World Press Freedom Day highlighted the professional rights of journalists and their responsibilities towards this objective.

The first session of the event was "Media situation in Mongolia" during which researchers from the MCM and MBA presented the results of the monitoring on the "Threats to the safety of journalists" and "Legal environment for media freedom".



In 2019, News website www.ikon.mn became a winner of the 11th Media Freedom Award "For the Truth!". They were honored for their investigate work which revealed corruption issues related to the MPs and high-profile public officials who misused the public fund which supports small and medium-sized enterprises.

The second half of the event was fully dedicated to raise awareness of the stakeholders and address the issues through panel discussions on each sub-themes of the event. Ms G. Gunjidmaa, executive director of the Media Council of Mongolia, Ms Ts. Munkhtsetseg, advisor of the Mongolian People's Party, Mr Kh.Temuujin, vice-chair of the Democratic Party and Mr. S.Sharavdorj, President of the Local Media Association were panelists of the first discussion "Media's potential to contribute to a culture of democracy and democratic election."



The World Freedom Day was covered by a total of 20 traditional and online media outlets: 8 TV stations, 1 national radio, 3 daily newspapers and 8 news websites.

The cartoon competition among youth between ages 16 and 24 was held with the support of the Embassy of the French Republic in Mongolia. It aimed to sensitize the youth on the emerging challenges regarding press freedom and freedom of expression, and elections processes in times of disinformation. More than ten students have participated in the competition among which the best three have been awarded. Ms B.Uyanga (17yrs), student of Mongeni secondary school took the first place, Ms Kh.Ganganmurun (20yrs), student of School of Fine Arts and Design the second place, and Ms B.Minjin (21yrs), student of School of Fine Arts and Design the third place. The winners were awarded by Ms Esther Piccinali, attaché of the Embassy of the French Republic in Mongolia for their excellent participation and contribution. The competition has been organized for the second time.





In 2018, Mongolia was on the 70th place out of 180 countries according to the media Freedom Index conducted by the Reporters without Borders. The country was still among the countries with notable problems around media freedom.

The present report includes the preliminary results and findings of the monitoring on the safety of journalists conducted in partnership with MCM and MBA with the support of the EU-funded project "Promoting Human and Labor Rights through GSP+" and incorporated with the Democracy Reporting International. The monitoring results revealed that at least one out of two journalists faced violations of their professional rights such as denial to the access to information, demand to disclose their confidential sources, as well as harassment, threats, pressure, damage of their equipment, and bans of their publications and programs. By May 2018, the Mongolian courts heard a total of 19 civil defamation cases against the media and journalists.

https://www.gic.mn/public/docs/freedom_report/media_freedom_report_2018_en.pdf in English



International Day to Universal Access for Information (IDUAI), September 28

Open Talks 2019, Access to Information: Leaving No One Behind!



Freedom of expression and access to information that fall specifically under the SDGs target 16.10 (To ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms), are both a target and a driver of sustainable development. SDGs target 16.10 plays a crucial role in the awareness and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as only informed citizens are empowered to participate in, advocate for and monitor the meaningful progress towards positive change. That is why the involvement of the media is a precondition for the implementation of SDGs Goal 16 and the wider 2030 Agenda.



On the occasion of IDUAI, GIC jointly with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO organized the Open Talks on 27 September 2019. It gathered around 60 participants at the Open Talks which aimed at raising awareness and reinforcing social dialogue on the SDGs target 16.10.2 to ensure public access to information. The specific objectives of the event were:

1. Raise awareness and knowledge among policy-makers, media professionals and 1. To raise awareness and knowledge among policy-makers, media professionals and citizens at large on the right to information as a fundamental human right;
2. To promote government commitment towards transparency and openness, and strengthening norms, policies, legal and regulatory provisions for the access to information.

Panelist and topics:

- D.Jargalsaikhan, De Facto – “Corruption and Information”
- G.Galbaatar, Independent Researcher- “Restrictions on confidentiality legislation and practice”
- N.Zulzaya, Globe International Center – “Information Transparency and the right to Information ”
- S.Dana, Journalism Student of the University of Humanities- “National minorities and the right to information”
- S.Budragchaa, Reporter, Live TV- “Journalist and the right to information”

Open Talks 2019 focused on three topics:

1. Implementing access to information law in Mongolia in line with international standards;
2. Restrictions in the practice and use of secrecy legislation;
3. Open Information and Government Transparency.

The event was supported by the Dutch Government and BMZ through the UNESCO, Beijing Office, and the Government of Canada through the Asia Foundation.

On 17 November 2015, UNESCO adopted a resolution (38 C/70) declaring 28 September of every year as the International Day for Universal Access to Information IDUAL. The objective of marking IDUAL is to promote universal access to information through all platforms, as an essential means to achieving the 2030 Development Agenda and the SDGs.

Opening remarks were delivered by:

- Marco Ferri, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission Delegation of the European Union of Mongolia
- S. Uyanga, General Secretary, UNESCO Natcom
- A.Zolzaya, Head of Division of the Policy and Regulation of the Broadcasting and the Digital Policy Planning Department, CITA

Social media campaign

The Open Talks was live streamed. Social media campaign run on GIC Facebook and Twitter to raise public awareness on IDUAL and its relations to the implementation of the SDGs. As a part of IDUAL campaign, recorded speeches and presentations were made available on GIC Facebook and YouTube channels with English subtitles. You can refer to the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jdpp-Zz3amE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WLjPkJw0KA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5WD8JjmQbc&t=175s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5QcJSIwjEY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6DY0Utl6SQ>

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI), November 2

Keep Truth Alive:

GIC held a press conference on 1 November, 2019 to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. The event involved more than 40 representatives of relevant government agencies and law enforcement authorities and journalists, journalism and law students. This day spotlights the fundamental right to freedom of expression and its corollaries such as access to information, freedom of the press, and the safety of journalists.

Mr. Tapan Mishra, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Uyanga Sukhbaatar, Secretary-General for the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, and Mr Traian Laurentiu Hristea Ambassador for the European Union, gave opening speeches for the event in which the main concerns of the United Nations and the International Community on Mongolia's context were highlighted.

Mr. Tapan Mishra highlighted that freedom of expression is a basic human right which is essential for human dignity, for the rule of law, good governance and the implementation of the SDG 16.10, to ensure public access to information and to protect fundamental freedoms. Ambassador for the European Union, Mr Traian Laurentiu Hristea underlined that freedom of speech is one of the cornerstones of modern democracies and our fundamental right to express our opinion. However, it should not be taken for granted, he further stressed. We need to protect this right and especially those who take the risk and reveal stories of injustice, discrimination or impunity. Journalists and media actors across the globe hold states, government officials, corporations and society at large accountable for their actions, he said.

During the event researcher A. Amartuvshin presented the findings of GIC's monitoring results that analyzed Mongolian law and practice, including the safety and security of journalists, in comparison with international standards relating to freedom of expression. The researcher highlighted that regardless of legal guarantees of freedom of expression and the existing policies, findings of the monitoring show that 67 percent of journalists have experienced some form of threats, pressure, or insults in regard to their work. The monitoring also identified several cases of journalists being subject to instances of harassment and violence such as beatings and intimidation. Four out of every five journalists surveyed felt that Mongolia's implementation of ICCPR Article 19 is not satisfactory. On average, journalists reported experiencing such violations three to four times over the course of their careers. The outcome of the research included in the UPR submission on freedoms of opinion and expression.

At the end of the event, GIC president Kh. Naranjargal handed over the recommendations of the UPR submission report to the President, the Government and the State Great Khural (the Mongolian Parliament) through their official representatives including B. Shirnen, senior expert of the Office of the President and B. Gandulam, expert of the Cabinet Secretariat of Government of Mongolia.



The event was widely covered by more than 15 media outlets including Mongolian National Broadcaster, Mongol HD TV, SBN TV, Ikon.mn, and gogo.mn, and whole event live streamed by MNCTV.



The researcher A. Amartuvshin also presented the findings of GIC's work on "Journalists' Safety Monitoring" conducted in 2018-2019. The GIC has been continuously conducting research on the relevant issues and the following recommendations were sent to high-profile officials and authorities.

1. Recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review submission on freedoms of opinions and expressions sent to the UN Human Rights Council
2. Recommendations for an analysis of legislation that limits the right to information
3. Recommendations for improving the human rights situation through the GSP+ Mechanism for Trade Agreements between the European Union and the Government of Mongolia



The GIC also joined UNESCO's social media campaign #KeepTruthAlive and provided materials with Mongolian translation and shared through our social media channel.

Universal Periodic Review: Submission on Freedom of Expression

The third cycle of Mongolia's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was scheduled in May 2020. GIC submitted the shadow report to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on 3 October 2019 as a part of the NGO submission of the Mongolian Human Rights NGO Forum. With the support of the IFEX, GIC developed the submission with participations of ... the media organizations, academia, urban and rural journalists through three consultation meetings.



In addition to the recommendations accepted by the Government of Mongolia from previous UPR cycle in 2015 none of which has not been implemented yet, GIC suggests seven new recommendations.

During the project, a total of 30 persons contributed to the project through five focus group meetings including two online meetings with rural journalists were organized.

- I. The meeting with journalism teachers was organized on 2 July 2019. A total 12 person attended the meeting including 8 journalism university teachers and 4 GIC staff.
- II. The meeting with media NGOs was organized on 30 July 2019 and five representatives of the of The Local Media Association, Press Institute of Mongolia, Mongolian Center for Investigative Reporters and Mongolian Journalists' Union attended.
- III. The meeting with journalists was organized on 2 August 2019 and five journalists representing the Mongolian National Broadcasting (MNB), NTV, Livetv.mn, "The Daily News", daily newspaper.
- IV. Online meeting with local journalists

Two online meetings were organized and involved 12 local journalists. The first online meeting was organized on 8 August 2019 including six local journalists from Bulgan, Bayan-Ulgii, Sukhbaatar, Khovd, Gobi-Altai, Dornogobi and Dornod provinces. The second online meeting organized on 14 August 2019 with involvement of six local journalists from Zavkhan, Khovd, Khuvsgul, Khentii and Uvs provinces.

During the focus group meetings with local and rural journalists, media communities and academia teachers, we introduced the UPR mid- term report and implementation of previous cycle report of freedom of opinion and expression to the participants. The main importance of the focus group meeting is gathered their real cases and included their facts in the reports.

ADVOCACY MEETING

“The consultation meeting for the UPR”



In preparation of the Mongolia's next Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle to be scheduled on November 2020, GIC and other NGOs submitted their report to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on 3 October, 2019. GIC organized a consultation meeting of for the UPR in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice on 28 August, 2019 at the conference hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Around 80 participants attended the meeting. Out of total participants, there were 32 public authorities, 26 CSOs, 6 academia teachers, 10 media development professionals and 5 journalists.

The Human Rights NGOs Forum developed a total of 11 reports for the UPR and representatives of each NGO presented their own report to the public authorities. GIC developed a report on freedom of expression by three consultation processes with representatives from media organizations, academia, and journalists from both urban and rural Mongolia. GIC has participated along with other stakeholders and presented its findings to public officials.

The Mongolian Government has accepted eight recommendations on freedom of expression (108.131-108.138) from the previous UPR cycle, but no progress has been made towards their implementation. Immediate actions should be taken to safeguard freedom of information as stated in Article 10 of the Constitution and fulfil the nation's pledges before the international community. Nevertheless, the new recommendations for this cycle included:

1. Abolishing Article 6.21 entitled Libel of the Law on Regulatory Offenses.
2. Initiating legislation to recognize public figures, in order to ensure their tolerance to open criticism and to be subject to public control.
3. The Right to Information (RTI) Law should be amended to narrow the regimes of exceptions and a nodal agency should be appointed to monitor the implementation of the law.
4. The Law on State and Office Secrecy should be revised to provide the restrictions by law only, rather than by Government resolution or by internal rules of the public bodies. It should be based on a three-part test of legitimacy, necessity and proportionality. All secrecy laws should incorporate a substantial harm test to define when the harm overrides the public interest.

5. Revising section 19.11 titled “Illegal Access to the State Secret Information” of the Criminal Law.
6. Considering adopting legislation on data protection.
7. The provisions on election campaign included in the current drafts of three election laws should be revised in accordance with international standards, and sanctions on the termination and withdrawal of broadcast media should be abolished.

Printed factsheets of the UPR recommendations were disseminated during GIC events and posters shared in the social media channels



The Information Market

The Information Market was held on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day. More than 20 journalists covered the event “Our Rights-Human Rights” which was held on December 9, 2019 at the Blue Mon Art Gallery and informed the public about the human rights issues raised by the NGOs submission for the UPR through the traditional and online media. The information market was attended by member organizations of the Human Rights Forum who submitted their reports on human rights situation in Mongolia.



FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN:

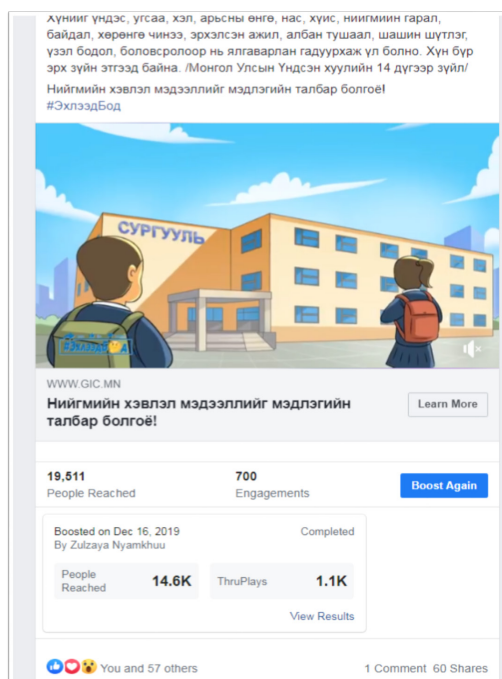
let's make the social media as knowledge platform

#ThinkFirst, #ЭхлээдБод

GIC run an online campaign titled “#ThinkFirst” to encourage a proper use of the Internet. The goal of the campaign was to promote a proper use of social media through the development of a culture of positive behavior and attitudes in the online environment.

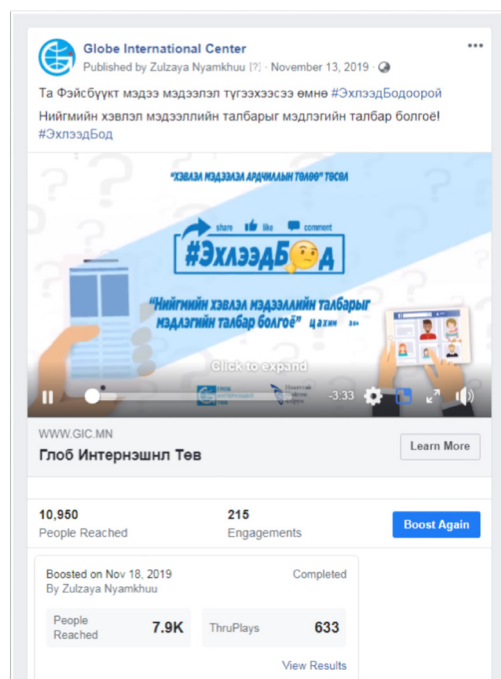


In the framework of the #ThinkFirst social media campaign the following actions were taken and the the following results have been achieved:



E-Reminder-1:

A total 19511 social media users” have been reminded to collectively stop discrimination within the theme “Let’s stop discrimination”



E-Reminder-2:

A total 10950 social media users” have been reminded to general principle of Facebook Community Standards

II. CAPACITY BUILDING

A total of 23 journalists and media practitioners attended a workshop “Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation” on May 1, 2019 co-organized by GIC and Media Council of Mongolia (MCM) with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). The workshop was a part of the GIC’s WPF campaign. Dr. Niels Hegewisch, Country Director of the FES and Mrs. Gunjidmaa Gongor, CEO of the MCM delivered opening remarks. The key presentation **“Journalism and Election: Issues of Disinformation” was taken by** Kh.Naranjargal, GIC President and CEO. Three main themes related Elections and Fake news were addressed during the workshop panels in the afternoon.

Elections and Fake news

- Theme 1: Mrs. Zehra Abid, Aga Khan University, Pakistan Media and Lessons of the Elections (TBA)
- Theme 2: Media and Fake News. Moderator (Mrs. Gunjidmaa G, MCM)
- Theme 3: Voter Education and Fake news.



Elections Finance and Fake News - How does Disinformation influence Media and Journalism?

Mr. Manfred Protze, Deputy speaker of German Press Council.

Fake news in the context of Pakistan and South Asia

Mrs. Zehra Abid, Aga Khan University, Pakistan



Media Literacy and Fake news

Ch. Munkh-Erdene, Executive Director, Consortium of the Mongolian Libraries

Social media monitoring on the Presidential election in 2017

B.Bold-Erdene, Ph.D, Director of School of Social Science of the National University of Mongolia

Elections Regulation Regarding Online and Social Media

B.Purevsuren, Lawyer, GIC

Identifying Fake News

B.Namnandorj, Remo Media



Journalists' Digital security

A two-day training on digital security for journalists, media professionals supported by IFEX was held on 18 and 19 September, 2019 at GIC's premises. Bobby, an expert on digital security with the IFEX, came to Mongolia for the training of trainers and moderated the two-day training. A total of 12 journalists attended the training. The training module included a wider area of digital security, such as the Identity Management, Content, Meta-data and encryption, multiple email accounts management, the utilization of ProtonMail and Tutanota email services. Training evaluation indicated that most of the attendants highlighted the importance of the training and expressed their willingness to learn more about the digital security.



Using the Right to Information Law

A total of 15 journalists from TV, news websites, daily newspapers and journalism academics attended the two-day workshop "Investigative Journalism: Using the Right to Information and Reporting on SDGs target 16.10.2" which was organized on September 5 and 6, 2019 with the support of the UNESCO, Beijing Office and the Government of the Netherlands.



Mr. Toby Mendel, Executive Director of the Centre for Law and Democracy facilitated the training in partnership with local trainers. Ms. S.Uyanga, Secretary-General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and Ms. Kh. Naranjargal, GIC CEO delivered opening speeches.

The participants have been educated on:

- The importance of the Right, Recent Trends and Legal Foundations,
- The Benefits of the Right to Information
- Making Requests and Lodging Appeals
- Understanding and Applying Exceptions
- Dealing with Difficult Officials
- Reporting on the SDGs including Overview of the SDGs, SDG 16 and SDG Target 16.10, methodologies to assess SDG Indicator 16.10.2 and interpreting the results presenting conclusions from the monitoring

The session on “Journalism and Fake News” was facilitated by local trainers, GIC Head Kh. Naranjargal, who focused on Basic Concepts of Misinformation, Disinformation and Mal-information and Fact Checking, and Ts. Tamir from the Centre for Mongolian Investigative Reporters, who focused on Fact Checking. The second day of the training journalists was divided into four groups in which participants have consolidated their knowledge and practiced by Case-Based show.

As a result of the training, journalists increased their awareness on the public’s right to know and the Law on Information Transparency and the Right to Information. Toby Mendel and Kh.Naranjargal presented certificates to the participants. At the end of the training, 12 journalists have signed a Partnership agreement to actively seek information from public bodies.



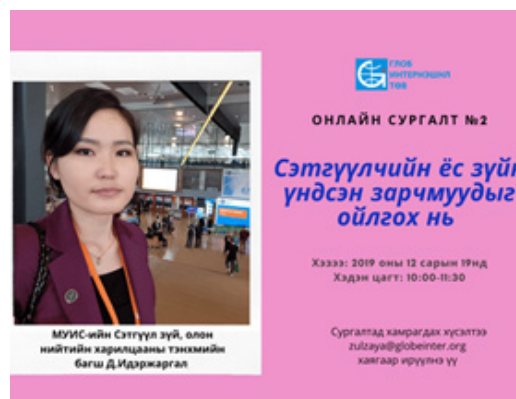
Webinars for journalists



Webinar 1: Current journalism trends and progress in journalism

Trainer: D.Munkhchimeg, Director of Mongolian Centre for Investigative Reporter

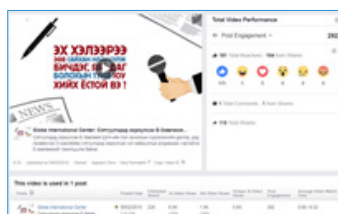
The first webinar training for journalists in the scope of “Current journalism trends and progress in journalism” was organized on 2 April 2019. D.Munkhchimeg, Director of Mongolian Centre for Investigative Reporter worked as a trainer and she facilitated the topic “Competitiveness of traditional media and journalists.” A total of 14 participants from the capital city and provinces including journalism students, academics and journalists attended the training. As a result of the training, all participants joined the Facebook group created in the framework of the webinar. They expressed their willingness to join further webinars.



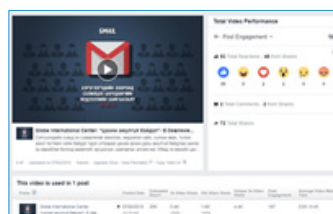
Webinar 2: Understanding the key principles of journalistic ethics

Trainer: D.Iderjargal, teacher of the National University of Mongolia

The second webinar training was organized on 19 December 2020 with trainer D.Iderjargal who is an academic for journalism department of the Mongolian National University. The training highlighted the understanding of the key principles of journalistic ethics based on international and Mongolian cases. A total of 12 participants including journalists and students from the capital city and provinces attended the webinar training.



Linguistic tips for journalists e-tips reached for 13239 users



Digital security tips for journalists e-tips reached for 13249 users



Legal advice for journalists' e-tips reached for 11636 users

Supporting Mongolian Filmmakers

The “48 hours” short-film festival was held in Ulaanbaatar for the 10th year. More than 350 filmmakers from 24 teams contested and the best short film was awarded. The winner was a short film named “Hets” produced by “Talx-77” team. the team had planned to compete at the “48 Hours 2019” International Film Festival in March 2020 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The award ceremony was held on October 12, 2019 at the Black Box Theater. It gathered together more than 100 participants such as filmmakers, co-organizers, sponsors, and representatives from international and civil society organizations. The film festival was sponsored and co-organized by Tengis Cinema, Ox Animation Studio, Black Box Theater and Jur Ur bakery.



Promoting Voter Education

Mongolia is holding its Parliamentary election in 2020. As one of GIC priorities to use the arts as public awareness and education tool, GIC has started producing three documentaries to educate the voters on:

- Election integrity, precisely election financing
- Women participation in politics and
- Importance of informed voting



GIC is 20 years old

2019 was specific for GIC. Founded in March 1999, it celebrated the 20th anniversary on 5 July, 2019 at the Monet restaurant.

GIC's 20 years at a glance

- Targeted citizens of 8 districts of the capital city, 30 soums (provincial districts) and 17 aimags (provinces) of Mongolia
- 372 events, trainings and workshops
- 130 handbooks and guidelines
- 313 citizens from 11 aimags and 30 soums received GIC's free legal advices .
- 21 media campaigns, 54 donors supported 177 projects
- 12 human rights documentaries
- 12 staged readings of the human rights short plays
- 30 audio and video spots
- 28-episode TV series produced on anti-corruption with NTV
- 30 PSAs, educational videos and audios educating on human rights including the public's right to know and freedom of expression; radio programs, staged readings, and step-by-step promotion of anti-corruption laws.
- GIC has lobbied for the implementation of laws in Mongolia such as "The Law on the Public Radio and TV" and "The Law on Information Transparency and the Right to information".
- 10 community radios have been established
- 22 websites and information sharing system through mobile phone usage have been set up in 36 soums.
- 21 media campaigns have been organized within the media program.



Over 100 guests, including representatives from private and public authorities, NGOs, and international organizations, the embassies with whom GIC has been cooperating for over the last 20 years, attended the celebration.

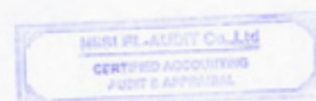


We would like to thank all our partners, supporters and donor organizations who encourage us.



2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Name of customer: "Globe International Center" NGO			
Statement date: 2019-12-31			
Expressed in '000 MNT			
№	Description	Year	
		Unaudited	Audited
A. BALANCE SHEET			
1.1 Current assets			
1.1.1	Cash and cash equivalents	50,322.2	50,322.2
1.1.2	Accounts receivable	2,635.9	2,635.9
1.1.3	Taxes, payroll taxes receivable	-	-
1.1.4	Other receivable	-	-
1.1.5	Other financial assets	-	-
1.1.6	Inventories	4,590.6	4,590.6
1.1.7	Prepaid expenses	24,890.0	24,890.0
1.1.8	Other current assets		
1.1.9	Non-current assets held for sale (disposal group)		
1.1.10	Total current assets	82,438.7	82,438.7
1.2 Non current assets			
1.2.1	Tangible assets	41,206.2	41,206.2
1.2.2	Accumulated depreciation	(32,920.4)	(32,920.4)
1.2.3	Other assets	1,607.9	1,607.9
1.2.4	Accumulated depreciation	(93.7)	(93.7)
1.2.5	Intangible assets	3,114.1	3,114.1
1.2.8	Total non-current assets	12,914.1	12,914.1
1.3	TOTAL ASSETS	95,352.8	95,352.8
2 LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
2.1 Liabilities			
2.1.1 Short-term payable			
2.1.1.1	Accounts payable	-	-
2.1.1.2	Payroll tax payable	-	-
2.1.1.3	Income tax payable	167.2	167.2
2.1.1.4	Health and social security payable	-	-
2.1.1.5	Short-term bank loan	-	-
2.1.1.6	Interest payable	-	-
2.1.1.7	Dividend payable	-	-
2.1.1.8	Unearned revenue	29,641.8	29,641.8
2.1.1.9	Provisions /Liabilities/		
2.1.1.10	Other payable		
2.1.1.11	Liabilities related to groups of assets held for sale		
2.1.1.12	Total short-term payable	29,809.0	29,809.0
2.1.2 Long-term liabilities			
2.1.2.1	long-term loan		
2.1.2.2	Provisions /Liabilities		
2.1.2.3	Deferred tax liabilities		



2.1.2.4	Other long-term loan		
2.1.2.5			
2.1.2.6	Total long-term liabilities	-	-
2.2	Total equity	29,809.0	29,809.0
	liabilities		
2.3	<i>Property:</i>		
2.3.1	Accumulated Income	65,543.8	65,543.8
2.3.2	Total equity	65,543.8	65,543.8
2.4	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	95,352.8	95,352.8
B. INCOME STATEMENT			
1	Revenue	337,225.0	337,225.0
2	Other income	-	-
3	Total Revenue	337,225.0	337,225.0
4	Operating cost	307,323.0	307,323.0
5	The result of main operation	29,902.0	29,902.0
6	Non operating Income and expense	2,750.7	2,750.7
7	Net income	32,652.7	32,652.7
C. Statement of changes in Equity			
1	Accumulated Income	65,543.8	65,543.8
2	TOTAL	65,543.8	65,543.8
D. Cash Flow Statement			
1	Cash flows from operating activities		
1.1	Cash Inflow	349,643.1	349,643.1
1.2	Cash Outflow	335,892.4	335,892.4
1.3	Net Cash flows from investing Operating activities	13,750.7	13,750.7
2	Cash flow from Financial activities		
2.1	Cash Inflow		
2.2	Cash Outflow	1,050.0	1,050.0
2.3	Net cash flow from investment Operations	(1,050.0)	(1,050.0)
3	Cash flow from Financial activities		
3.1	Cash Inflow		
3.2	Cash Outflow		
3.3	Net Cash flow from Financial activities	-	-
4	Exchange Difference		
4.1	Total Net Cash flow	13,750.7	13,750.7
5	Beginning balance of cash and cash equivalents	37,621.5	37,621.5
6	Ending balance of cash and cash equivalents	50,322.2	50,322.2


 Nisnel-Audit" LLC
 CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS
 AUDIT & APPRAISAL
 Date: 2020-02-10