

## MISSIVE OF PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA

*For participants of XIX Northeast Asian Economic Forum*

Esteemed delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman!

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude for receiving our invitation and joining us here in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia-land of the blue sky. We are most ~~obliged~~ *honored* to host 19<sup>th</sup> Session of Northeast Asian Economic Forum in our country.

Northeast Asian region, which includes People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, United States of America, Japan, Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia, has long been considered throughout the world as a region of great development prospect and geopolitical importance. Five of the biggest economies of the world are located in this region where many cultural, historical, and traditional values and heritage are shared and embraced.

Veiled opportunities and undiscovered potential are not uncommon in Northeast Asian region. Today, we have gathered here to seek means to uncover and exploit these opportunities, not only for our own good, but also for the sake of the world. Past experiences and current necessities point towards the benefits and advantages of shared development and progress. I express my support Northeast Asian Economic Forum as a collective effort to reach these goals, and wish success for the further proceedings of the forum.

Northeast Asia enjoys vast number of advantages such as financial and investment resources, technological development, management best practices, as well as natural resources, which, if managed optimally, could serve as tools for creating greater wealth. One of the means to turn plans into practice would be to learn and observe experiences from Europe and Southeast Asia, regions with an active, ongoing integration process, and to discuss opportunities to adopt those best practices.

Currently discussed Northeast Asian Development Bank can be one of the possible measures to adopt. Furthermore, it is of great importance to build soft and hard infrastructure systems to be used for connecting and transporting in fields such as energy, roads and transportation, banking and financing, as well as, environmental protection and tourism.

Benefits of a mutually-productive economic cooperation lies not merely within the creation of material wealth, but more on building mutual trust, and facilitating regional stability and security, which are in turn vital for future sustainable development.

Mongolia, a part of Northeast Asian region, is considered to be one of the leading countries regarding its immense natural resources. Our plans for the near future include developing industrial structure based on the successful assimilation of natural resources into economy, and to carry out energy and infrastructure mega-projects. Prospect of three-fold economic growth by 2015 has been made, GDP per capita during this period will increase to USD 5000. And it is only a start.

Biggest trade, economic, and investment partners of Mongolia are located in Asia Pacific and East Asian region. We consider our economic development to be closely associated with these regions; thus, thrive to connect our development prospects to the aforementioned advantages of the Northeast Asian region.

One component of regional cooperation requiring much deserved attention is environmental issue. The fact that sand storms originated in Mongolia reaches regional megapolis cities such as Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo in only a few hours, confirms the notion that environmental issues have long been globalized, and no one country is able to stand alone against it.

We appreciate the fact that countries of our region lead the initiatives on greenhouse gas reduction, green development, and energy saving, such as Green Asia. Ministerial-level meeting among Japan, People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea to be held regularly on climate change and other broad spectrum of environmental issues symbolizes the continuous political will and commitment on behalf of the participating parties, and is to be considered as an important outcome of the regional efforts as a whole. Mongolia looks forward for this cooperation to evolve into a multilateral one, encompassing other countries in the Northeast Asian Region.

Expressing our support for these initiatives, Mongolia has put forward a proposal to conduct a high-level summit on environmental issues. In addition, I would also like to express my content with a study-project consisting of youth representatives of over 40 regional countries organized at the National University Mongolia, during this session of Northeast Economic Forum.

I am most certain that friendly relations between the people of neighboring countries, in particular, cultural and humanitarian exchange between the youth will be an important podium for mutually beneficial cooperation between the countries.

Once again I wish success for further proceedings of the forum.

PRESIDENT OF  
MONGOLIA

TSKAHIA  
ELBEGDORJ