Greetings from H.E. Mr Batlai Chuluunhuu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Australia

First of all, I would like to send greetings to all friends of Mongolia, including scholars and researchers involved in Mongolian studies, in relation to the recent Tsagaan Sar, the Mongolian Lunar calendar New Year.

The State of Mongolia gives great importance to Mongolian studies abroad. In 2012, the “National program to support Mongolian studies” was approved, followed by a Presidential Decree to establish The Foundation to support the Mongolian studies. Consequently, the Parliament of Mongolia established the National Council on Mongolian Studies, which oversees the policy development, coordination, implementation and networking of Mongolian studies abroad.

I say with confidence that scholars and researchers around Australia are already an integral part of the global Mongolian studies network that reaches all continents. Without any doubt, ANU’s Mongolia Institute, with its well-established and popular activities and events such as the Mongolian Studies Open Conference, Mongolia Update conference, and Mongolian language intensive courses, has been genuinely contributing to this network, as well as strengthening links between Mongolia and Australia.

Whilst the Government of Mongolia is keen to support, and has been supporting the Mongolian studies in Australia, I would like to invite and encourage Australian scholars and entities to support this promising field, which is expanding.

While expressing my assurances that the Embassy of Mongolia will continue its support towards the ANU’s Mongolia Institute and Mongolian studies, I wish every success to all the Mongolian studies scholars in this year of the Monkey.

Batlai Chuluunhuu

Congratulations

In Dec. 2015, two new graduates from Mongolia and one honours student working on Mongolia at the Australian National University (ANU) graduated:

Ganchimeg Batchuluun, Master of Environment and Resource Economics,
Tsendsuren Batsuuri - Master of Environmental and Resource Economics/Graduate Diploma of International and Development Economics,
Mark Pennini - Honours Thesis in Law, on ‘Female Judges in Mongolia’.
The Third Mongolian Studies Open Conference

The Third Mongolian Studies Open Conference in Australia was successfully held at the ANU on 3 November 2015.

In addition to scholars based in Australia, the conference was attended by a number of researchers from overseas, including China, Japan, Mongolia and South Korea. The conference was opened by Prof. Li Narangoa, Director of the ANU Mongolia Institute. A keynote address was delivered by Prof. Zayaabatar Dalai, National University of Mongolia and National Council for Mongolian Studies, followed by the closing remarks from Igor De Rachewilz, ANU. Topics covered at the Conference were as diverse as mining, religion, history, human rights, economic and financial relations between Mongolia and various countries. The biannual conference aims to cultivate the interaction between younger and established scholars, and between Mongolists and those with a comparative interest in Mongolian Studies.

Expanding outreach outside academics and researchers interested in Mongolian history, politics and economy, a keynote public lecture was delivered by Mr. John Man at the end of the conference. The lecture “World Conqueror Genghis’s Ideology of World Rule And Why It Matters Today” attracted nearly one hundred attendees.

The conference was presented by the Mongolia Institute and generously supported by the Research School of Asia and the Pacific at the ANU.

The first New Colombo Fellow to Mongolia has returned home

Mark Pennini was awarded the Mongolia Fellowship of the New Colombo Plan funded by the Australian Government and resided in Ulaanbaatar from July to December 2015 completing this Honours Thesis via the National University of Mongolia. During the fellowship he undertook intermediate language training and completed two internships at the Judicial General Council of Mongolia and in the Legal Department of Max Group, one of Mongolia’s largest and fastest-growing corporate groups.

According to Mark Pennini, the Mongolia Fellowship allowed him to gather evidence for his Honours Thesis in the field, greatly improving the quality of his research. It allowed him to enhance his Mongolian language skills, making him feel more adapted to living in the country. The fieldwork opened up various Mongolian and Australian academic, legal, business and government networks. Mark notes that “ultimately, while perhaps being an unconventional destination, Mongolia is an exciting, rapidly developing country that offers so much for academics, businesspeople and travellers. The New Colombo Plan Fellowship was a wonderful experience. I wrote my Honours thesis on Mongolian women judges, as well as interned at a company and did some Mongolian language lessons.”

Mark Pennini’s Honours Thesis in law was supervised by Professor Kim Rubenstein and sought to answer why so many women (67%) serve in the Mongolian judiciary and what their experiences of gender were in their role as judges. Because of this ‘feminised’ setting, and because of the unique circumstances of women in Mongolian history and culture, Mongolia offers a rich site for the exploration of gender and judging.
A Mongolian intensive course was successfully held for the fourth time since 2013 attracting the highest number of students. The course was organised during the 2016 summer session between 27 January to 13 February 2016 for two weeks. The course introduced students to Modern Mongolian in the Cyrillic alphabet, basic Mongolian pronunciation and grammar, and to everyday conversations along with knowledge of Mongolian culture and traditions.

Ms. Bayartuul from the National University of Mongolia returned to the ANU once more to conduct the course as an experienced linguist with expertise on teaching Mongolian as a second language. This language course was supported by Culture, History and Language in the College of Asia and the Pacific, Mongolia Institute, ANU, the Mongolian National University and the Mongolian Embassy in Australia.

The twenty three students who enrolled in the course included ANU postgraduate and undergraduate students, and interested members of the public. Some students who shared their experience found the course engaging and fun despite its intensity. The majority of the students were confident that language skills gained during the course will help them visit Mongolia and communicate with its people in their own language. One of the students - Christian Sorace, who is a postdoctoral fellow at the Australian Centre on China in the World believes that the course laid a perfect basis for his Mongolian which he hopes to use in his field work for his next research project on urbanisation in the long-term.

Please visit the student performance of the Mongolian national anthem here: https://youtu.be/J2kB9w2tODo
**Some Members’ Activities**

**Mongolian Perspective of Asian Community**

Prof. Li Narangoa was invited to give a talk on Mongolian Perspective of Asian Community at the ‘Asia Time’ Symposium organized by Guandong Museum of Fine Arts on 11 December 2015.

**Seminar on Industrialization and Urbanization of Inner Mongolia Grassland**

Dr. Tungalai Burenjargal presented a seminar on 29 January 2016 at the ANU, giving a brief report on his research. According to his research, industrialization, urbanization and illegal occupation of grasslands for other use have increasingly caused social problems in Inner Mongolia in recent years. Inner Mongolian pastoral areas share common borders with Mongolia and Russia and this region has therefore been a target for industrial and urban development. Over-occupation of grasslands and the transformation of grassland into non-pastoral areas during industrialization and urbanization is not a simple economic problem but a complicated issue that concerns the survival and sustainable development of Mongols and many other nationalities in the pastoral area.

**A documentary film titled "Well Water Testing: Public Participation in Scientific Research"**

Wuqiriletu (Uchralt) has released a short documentary film online titled "Well Water Testing: Public Participation in Scientific Research", produced out of his fieldwork in Inner Mongolia and Japan. The video segment can be found at the following link: http://survivalpolitics.org/case-study/mongolia/fieldwork-mongolia/.

**Final Oral Presentation of PhD Thesis**

G. Narantuya has been writing her PhD thesis on ‘Transcending Human Rights Instrumentalism: a Study of the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Australia and Mongolia’. Her final oral presentation will be held on 23 February 2016.

**New Administrator**

Enkh-Orshikh Khurlee, a graduate student from Mongolia at the ANU National Security College, was accepted as a part-time administrative assistant with the ANU Mongolia Institute.
Appointment of Ambassador to Mongolia

On 22 December 2015, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, announced the opening of the Australian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar and the appointment of Mr John Langtry as Australia’s first resident Ambassador to Mongolia.

Australia’s Embassy in Ulaanbaatar will serve more than 50 Australian organisations currently undertaking business in Mongolia and many more seeking trade, investment and education opportunities there. It will enhance the already strong cooperation between the two countries ‘on global and regional issues, including defence and security’.

Mongolian ethnic ballad band at ANU


The event was organised by the ANU Mongolia Institute in association with the Embassy of Mongolia in Australia. The performance attracted about 300 guests, including Members of the Australian Parliament, representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other governmental organisations, members of the Diplomatic corps, Mongolians in Canberra as well as the Australian public. The event took place in the Llewellyn Hall, ANU.

Welcome

Dr Christian Sorace has recently joined the Mongolia Institute. Christian Sorace is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian Centre on China in the World. His research focuses on the ideology, discourse, and political concepts of the Chinese Communist Party and how they shape policies, strategies, and governance habits. Christian’s new research project is a cross-national comparison of planned urban redevelopment, demolition, and relocation in Mongolia and China. He is specifically interested in the local state plans to redevelop Ulaanbaatar’s ger districts, and how local ger residents encounter and perceive the state. He is also interested in the fate of Mongolia’s communist-era planned cities, like Choibalsan, that no longer have viable political economic support. Additionally, he would like to research the political aesthetics of Mongolia’s communist-era cinema."
A presentation on Mongolia at the CWA country of study event

The Country Women’s Association (CWA) of New South Wales Branch organized a gathering in Canberra on 30 January 2016. Professor Li Narangoa was invited to give a talk on ‘Chinggis Khan and Women’. Each year, the Country Women’s Association of New South Wales selects a country for study and invites women to participate in discovering its history, geography and culture. Mongolia was chosen to be the study subject for 2016.

This one day event was organised by the Embassy of Mongolia in Australia and the Country Women’s Association of NSW. Nearly 300 women (some of them accompanied by their spouses) came together to this event. Prof. Li Narangoa’s talk was followed by a talk by Madam Losol Byambaa, spouse of Mongolian Ambassador Mr Chuluunhuhu. A Mongolian fashion show organized by the Mongolian community in Canberra in the morning with other talks in the afternoon.

Upcoming Events and Conferences

International Mongolian Studies Congress: The four yearly international Mongolian Studies Congress will be held in Ulaanbaatar between 15-18 August 2016. For more information, please send a message to <iams@magicnet.mn>

A "One Health" Approach: health and wellbeing on the grassland steppes

The ANU Mongolia Institute is organizing a workshop on traditional Mongolian medical approach in conjunction with the International Mongolian Studies Congress in August 2016.

The key purpose of the workshop is to build collaborative research ties with academics from Mongolia and Inner Mongolia (within China), as well as medical and veterinary practitioners operating within Mongolia. The workshop will be a means of establishing further connections with experts in their field, relating to both human and animal health in the Mongolian cultural area, from both Mongolia and Inner Mongolia. This workshop will be funded by the Research School of College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU. For more information, please contact Natasha.fjin@anu.edu.au.

Mongolia Update in Ulaanbaatar: The ANU Mongolia Institute is convening a Mongolia Update in Ulaanbaatar on 13 August 2016.

Postgraduate Summer School in Ulaanbaatar: The Mongolian National Council for Mongolian Studies is convening its 2016 Postgraduate Summer School in Ulaanbaatar between 5 and 19 August 2016. Application forms will be released shortly. If you are postgraduate students in Australia, please contact Mongolia.institute@anu.edu.au for further details.
Public lecture: "Mongolia in the Shadows of Two Nuclear Neighbours"

A public lecture by Dr. Enkhsaikhan Jargalsaikhan, a former diplomat who represented Mongolia in Austria and at the United Nations in New York, will be held at the ANU at 5pm, 18 March 2016.

Venue: Lecture Theatre W.121, Baldessin Precinct, Building 110, ANU.
For more details, please contact: Mongolia.institute@anu.edu.au

A brief abstract: Mongolians are a proud people with a glorious history that in the XIII century built the largest land empire. They are also known for their unique nomadic culture. However, geopolitically, Mongolia is a country locked between the resurgent Russia and “peacefully” rising China that in the last century have been rivals, ideological allies, then adversaries. This was followed by a period of communist version during the cold war on the verge of a hot war, with Mongolia serving as a buffer. During the height of Sino-Soviet dispute and border clashes, the Soviet bases in Mongolia served as potential springboards for possible Soviet preventive strikes against China and its nuclear facilities. Unlike the Cuban nuclear crisis, not much is known about this dangerous period of history.

In order to prevent such situations in the future, since the early 1990s Mongolia has been working to turn its territory into a nuclear-weapon-free zone and to have the five nuclear-weapon states, including its immediate neighbours, recognize that status and provide it with appropriate security assurances. With over two-dozen nuclear facilities of its neighbors near its borders, Mongolia is also aware of the potential harm that these peaceful uses of nuclear energy can cause to its people and the environment. Dr. J. Enkhsaikhan shall be speaking on these troubling issues that are overshadowed by day-to-day headline grabbing issues.

Sustainable grassland conference in Shilingol

The ANU Mongolia Institute is organizing an international symposium on Sustainable Grassland together with Inner Mongolia University, Agricultural College of Shilingol and Mongolian Academy of Social Sciences on 1-3 July 2016. The conference covers three main themes: pastoral culture, grassland ecology and sustainability. The deadline for abstract submission is 30 March 2016. Paper abstract along with a short CV for consideration should be sent to the Mongolia.institute@anu.edu.au

Erecting Mongolian Ger At the ANU

The ANU will be the first Australian university who will own a Mongolian ger (yurt). A beautiful ger will be presented by H.E. Mr. Mongolyn Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, the President of Mongolia, as a gift to the ANU.

The Ger will be erected on 17 or 18 March 2016 (depending on the weather) by the Mongolian Embassy on the ANU campus outside the Coombs Building. Members of ANU community as well as the general public who are interested in architecture, design and Mongolian culture are very welcome to participate in the event. More information will be given on the College of Asia and the Pacific Event site closer to the date.

The Ger will be officially handed over by Mr. Damba Gankhuyag, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, on 23 March 2016 (the exact time is yet to be confirmed).
### Our Community

#### Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Research Interests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Li Narangoa</td>
<td>Political economy, welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Cribb</td>
<td>Borders, violence, nationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igor de Rachewiltz</td>
<td>History, Mongol Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Powers</td>
<td>Intellectual history, Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McComas Taylor</td>
<td>Epic narratives, literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Fenner</td>
<td>Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natasha Fijn</td>
<td>Human-animal studies, observational filmmaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Rost Rublee</td>
<td>Security, nuclear issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt</td>
<td>Mining, gender, development study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baiying Borjigin</td>
<td>Family history, Qing history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gesar Temur</td>
<td>Religion, identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariun-Erdene Bayarjargal</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Sorace</td>
<td>Politics, urbanization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PhD, MA Scholars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Research Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narantuya Ganbat</td>
<td>Universal regulation and local application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Ratcliffe</td>
<td>Geser Epic and Buryat Mongol identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenzin Ringpapontsang</td>
<td>Advice to the King: A letter from Phags Pa Lama to Khubilai Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wuqiriletu</td>
<td>Environment, Grassroots politics in Mongolia and Inner Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spencer Haines</td>
<td>'State' power and nomadic relations in Inner Asian history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enkh-Orshikh Khurlee</td>
<td>National security, Northeast Asia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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#### Advisors

- H.E. Mr Batlai Chuluunhuu, Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia
- Kent Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) and Professor of Law at the University of Western Australia
- Ravdan Bold, Former Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia
- David Guy, Independent consultant

#### Board Members

- Li Narangoa
- Natasha Fijn
- Jack Fenner
- Robert Cribb
- John McCarthy
- David Brophy

#### Assistant

- Enkh-Orshikh Khurlee