

Empowering Generations to Preserve Natural Heritage

Ms. Enkhbayar Zorigtbaatar

Executive Director of Mongolian Youth Council, Mongolia

Presentation on Behalf : Ms. Khulan, Project director, IPYG Mongolia

Hello, my name is Khulan, the project director of IPYG Mongolian branch. I will give a presentation on behalf of Ms. Enkhbayar Zorigtbaatar, the Executive Director of the Mongolian Youth Council. Ms. Zorigtbaatar was unable to attend the event today due to visa issues, so, as a project director working with her, I am giving you presentation on her behalf. It is an honor to attend this global conference for me and give a speech about the Mongolian Youth Empowerment Peace Workshop(YEPW) project.

Mongolia is a landlocked country in central Asia, located between China and Russia. It is also a country that has had many historical and cultural exchanges with Korea since ancient times. As it is famous by its nomadic people, if you come to Mongolia, you will be able to see horse riders, ger, traditional circular dwelling, and see majestically beautiful nature.

Mongolia is dominated by young generation, with a total population of about three point three million as of twenty twenty-one, of which sixty-two percent are under the age of thirty five. Especially, young people aged between fifteen and twenty five account for about thirty percent of the total population, so the participation of young people and the impact of their voices on society are crucial.

Let me introduce the Mongolian Youth Council that is in cooperation with IPYG. Since the voice of young people is important in Mongolia, Mongolian Youth Council (MYC) is carrying out various activities for institutional development for youth competency development and social participation.

In particular, the Mongolian Youth Council delivers their voices so that the voices of young people can be actively reflected in the youth-related laws adopted by the government. I think young Koreans' participation in their society is a good example, and I think young people are speaking out in many ways according to the principles of democracy. Because young people are an important group that can change the society, IPYG and the Mongolian Youth Council will continue activities to strengthen Mongolian young people's participation in society and their empowerment.

Mongolian Youth Council had a cooperation with IPYG by attending two conferences held in the first half of the year. Since the goals of Mongolian Youth Council and IPYG matched, Mongolian Youth Council deeply agreed with the content and purpose of the conference, and I thought that the peace walk event held on May twenty eight in Mongolia increased the participation of many young people in the community. Therefore, Mongolian Youth Council and IPYG agreed to work together in order to increase participation of Mongolian young people to climate change.

Desertification is one of the problems Mongolia is facing. Especially, recent climate changes are making this problem serious. Due to climate change, deserts, which accounted for forty percent of Mongolia's land until the nineteen nineties, expanded to seventy-eight percent. Desertification is reducing farmland, reducing plant resources, and causing visible food problems. As agricultural production decreases, urban concentration of population occurs, and secondary problems such as unemployment and unstable security are happening in densely populated cities.

Mongolia's climate crisis is a problem faced by all members of society, but it is becoming more direct and serious for young people who will live longer. The first and secondary problems caused by desertification that I told you earlier are becoming a social threat that young people have to overcome.

To solve this problem, Mongolia's president has started a campaign to plant one billion trees in the whole country. In reality, however, people do not know much about tree planting activities and lack interest.

I heard that in the nineteen seventies, there was a "Semaoul Movement" to improve people's lives and improve the environment. It is surprising that the government led the campaign and people actively participated, and it resulted in the development of the country. That achievement gave us the motive to start this campaign.

As a result, our young people are more interested in the Mongolia's desertification problem for themselves and future generations, and they are determined to achieve peace and development in Mongolia through their participation.

Based on this, we started the 'Green wave of peace in Mongolia' project. Through this project, we will increase the participation of young people to fight desertification in Mongolia. This activity will be more developed through YEPW and our network.

In June, HWPL and IPYG planted fifty trees in Mongolia's national park as a symbol of the start of the project, and ten thousand families of peace attended this event. There is also a marker stone with the spirit of HWPL Chairman Lee. The young people who attended the event promised to organize YEPW for this activity. And they promised to plant ten thousand trees together as a project of YEPW. I believe this project will be a great cause of peace which can affect many people in the future. As you can see in the picture, it is now a resting place of peace where citizens can spend their leisure time and think about the environment.

Moreover, we don't think this activity is just about planting trees. I believe that this project will be the starting point for young people, the future of Mongolia, to love the environment, cooperate together, achieve sustainable peace, and develop the country. According to the YEPW annual plan, we will hold seminars on the climate crisis, promote many things needed for young people and society, and hold workshops to discuss and solve problems together. Also, I will create a youth participation club in the university and promote it with young people. We plan to continue tree planting campaigns and volunteer activities. We also plan to provide ecological education such as planting and growing trees according to the season.

Through previous IPYG events, where we felt love and pride for Mongolia, many young people were impressed. And now, YEPW, which currently includes 12 civic groups and youth groups, is organized. Since it has already started, we will overcome the difficulties by discussing each other and finding ways. Many young people and citizens are also interested in this project, and thankfully, there are suggestions and requests that they can donate their land to plant trees.

Young people are the future of the country, and they have infinite potentials. At this time, I am really happy to create network with many young people through IPYG, which has clear plans for a peaceful world. Through the Mongolian "Semaetul Movement—the Green wave of peace in Mongolia", led by young people of Mongolia, we will work together to keep beautiful nature and achieve a peaceful world.

Thank you.