

# COUNTRY REPORT

## MONGOLIA

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### 1. Introduction

Mongolia, situated in the center of the Central Asia between Russia and China, has 1.6 million square meters of land and 2.7 million of population. The country effectively accomplished a transition from a centrally planned economy to a market oriented economy in the 1990s overcoming numerous challenges to achieve radical changes in its social relations and in the mentality and consciousness of the population. At present, the nation has completed the transition and is stepping into a phase of intensive development.

- The GDP per capita achieved USD 1000 in the year 2006 though Mongolia is still in the group of low income countries. With a human development index 0.691, the country is in the class of nations with average level of development on the 116th place among 175 countries. Of the total population, over 30 percent live in poverty.
- As the end of 2008, Mongolia has 2.683.5 thousands of population. 48 percent of entire population is men, and 52 percent is women, while 28.1 percent is children under 15 years old. Additionally, 67.7 percent is population aged 15-64 and 4.1 percent is people above 65. According to the 2008 population census, annual population growth is 1.7, while life expectancy is 67.2.
- 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 persons with disabilities.
- According to the results of sample survey made by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour in 2008, 4.2 percent of Mongolian population or 115,000 people were persons with disabilities. 20,900 of them have mental problems, 8,800-speaking or hearing problems, 7,500 blind, 28,000 have limb handicap, and 49,800 were persons with disabilities for other reasons. According to the statistics of the year

of 2008, there are 61,355 working age people with disabilities. Totally, more than 80,0 thousand persons with disabilities receive monthly benefit from the social insurance and social welfare funds.

- As a research made by the Ministry of Education 8 percent or 34,000 children of school age were persons with disabilities (PWDs). 5.8 percent of them were covered in special schools or at special centers of vocational training, 21 percent were attending ordinary secondary schools, and the rest were dropped out. In Mongolia registration and survey of the PWDs are in insufficient level and complete, improved registration and survey on PWDs are required.
- Mongolia, which has been isolated from the world development for decades, has undertaken active measures on integrating world economy and has made reforms in political, economical, humanitarian and intellectual areas for relatively short period.

Mongolia has a democratic government, and information is open and accessible to everyone. Information and Communication Technology, encompassing Internet and e-mail technologies, software, and telecommunications, among others, is seen as an excellent opportunity for Mongolia—a land-locked country with a relatively small population—to better communicate on a global scale and to improve the social and economic well-being of its citizens. Considering that the information communications technology is the fundamental accelerator of Mongolia's development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and based on the "Information Communications Technology Development Concept for the Period up to 2010", the Government have defined the medium-term development strategy in this sector in order to establish a state policy and regulatory system and create a favorable environment for human and social, economic and business, political and legal developments. The main objectives of the medium-term ICT development strategy are to refine current policy and legal framework, to develop the ICT infrastructure in rural areas, to strengthen human capacity in this field and to promote business and private sector in ICT development.

## **2. Summary of Policies on Disability**

In Mongolia, legal environment to ensure equal rights of PWDs, involve them in social life, ensuring their employment and rehabilitation, and providing social security of the PWDs has been created basically. The state policy on PWDs of Mongolia is being implemented basing on internationally agreed main principles on advancement of situation of PWDs and concepts of UN conferences and High level meetings including, main principle on giving equal opportunity for PWDs, adopted by the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly of 1948, Regulations of UN norms on Equal right of People with disability, adopted in 1993, 159th ILO Convention on Employment and vocational rehabilitation of

People with disability, adopted in 1983 and Resolutions of ESCAP, proclaimed the years 2002-2012 as a decade of the people with disability of the countries in Asia and the Pacific.

- State policies and resolutions on the PWDs, and issues concerning their involvement in social life and provision of life security are reflected in the “Constitution of Mongolia”, “Law on taxes of added value”, “Law on customs tariff”, “Law on education”, “Labour law”, “Law on social insurance”, “Law on benefits provided by the industrial accidents and occupational disease insurance fund”, “Law on health insurance of citizen”, “Law on health”, “Law on social welfare”, “Law on social security of PWDs”, and “National programme on advancement of livelihood of the PWDs” approved by the Government in 1998, “National programme on preventing from the accidents and injuries” approved in July of 2002, and other resolutions and regulations from the Government and relevant ministries.
- “National programme on advancement of livelihood of the people with disabilities” has been renewed by the Government in 2006 and the implementation of the “National programme on preventing from accidents and injuries” has been extended until the year of 2012.
- Through the “Law on taxes of added value” the manufacturing, importing and selling of the special equipments for PWDs is exempted from the tax of added value.
- Through the “Law on customs tariff” customs taxes on special equipments for the PWDs, equipments and source materials required for producing of special equipments for the PWDs, and goods of humanitarian and grant aids, are freed.
- According to the “Law on education”, education in Mongolia is humane, democratic, uninterrupted and accessible for all, as well as citizens have equal rights to education and they are entitled to provision of condition and possibilities to study.
- According to the “Law on higher education”, granting and crediting of the tuition fees for PWDs are legislated.
- In the “Labour law”, revised in May of 1999, labour related issues of PWDs and dwarf people were emphasized. According to this law, in case of not influencing on specialty of activities, entities and organizations with 25 or more staff must employ disabled or dwarf people at 3 percent of vacancies. Otherwise, the entity or organization must pay a 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.

- The Government Policy on PWDs is under the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour and policy activities are implemented by the local Labour and Social Welfare Offices.

The Parliament of Mongolia has approved the law on Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in December 2008. Following this ratification, the Government has planned some legal reforms and put forward goals in its Action Plan to ensure the rights of people with disabilities. The following major actions have been undertaken:

- National Committee on Promotion of Citizens with Disabilities has been set up by the Decree # 101 of the Minister for Social Welfare and Labour, dated 08 July 2009. This intersectoral Committee will serve as the coordinating body for the implementation of the Convention, as well as the National Programme for People with Disabilities, approved in 2006 by the Government.
- The Ministry is planning to undertake a study on the consistency of the Mongolian national laws and legislations with the newly joined Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the support of the Mercy Corps International organization. Study findings are expected to provide some recommendations for further improvement of legal environment concerning the rights of the persons with disabilities.

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 PWDs are still remaining as a challenging and priority issue. Further concerns on disability include:

- 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 Roads, Transportation, Construction and Urban Development needs to control the new buildings, whether it has special entrances, paths and stages for the people with wheelchair and blind people.
- Within the legal framework, the activities aimed at amending and revising laws and regulations related to the social security and employment of the people with

disability, widening the scope of social protection measurements, increasing pensions and assistances and improving access to care services for the PWDs are needed to be taken.

- Reducing poverty among PWDs by improving education and vocational training issues, promoting their employment and supporting their independent living.
- Ensuring rehabilitation of the PWDs, improving provision of prosthesis and orthopedic equipments for them and increasing their access to information and traveling.
- Establishing internet and IT training center for PWDs near the National Rehabilitation center that is responsible for training and information on using IT equipments.

**5. Developments in ICT accessibility policies, plan or activities for persons with disabilities after participating in the first regional workshop on the enhancement of ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities in Incheon, Republic of Korea, 29 September to 2 October 2008.**

Mongolia has ratified UN Conventions on “Rights of persons with disabilities” and Supplementary Conventions “Rights of persons with disabilities” in December 2008. In the framework of implementation of the Conventions the following major actions have been undertaken:

- Creating access to infrastructure in order to enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities to the social relation; and
- Conducting IT and computer training to the persons disabilities for increasing information accessibility.
- According to the Social Welfare Law of the persons with disabilities, the standard price of prosthesis and orthopedic equipments for disabled has been renewed and it has been increased 10 times compared to previous year.
- WIDEX Bravissimo BV-CIC, Flash FL-CIC, Inteo IN-CIC and other digital hearing apparatus for deaf made in Germany, Korea and Japan are used instead of analogy hearing apparatus.
- Quantity and types of the prosthesis and orthopedic equipments and other rehabilitation tools for blind have been improved and Social Welfare Fund supports by funding relevant cost of Braille software, printers and Braille books.

However, availability and supply of prosthesis and orthopedic equipments for people with disabilities not in the line with international standards.

- In terms of improving accessibility of information and communication for persons with disabilities, computer and English language training have been conducting by NGOs with financial support of international organizations.
- 4th North East Asian Sub regional conference for organizations of people with disabilities held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 23-25, September 2009. In this conference the representatives of NGOs on protecting rights of the people with disability Korea, China, Mongolia as well as international organizations of people with disability. The representatives of the conference exchanged views on encouraging countries to ratify the UN Convention on “Rights of persons with disabilities” and Supplementary Conventions on “Rights of persons with disabilities”; and ensure the rights of people with disabilities through implementing the Conventions and made joint statement. 5th North East Asian Sub regional conference will be held in Korea in 2011. Extension of decade of the people with disability of the countries in Asia and the Pacific will be decided after consultation with governments.