



## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY with YOUNG LOCAL COUNCILORS OF MONGOLIA

12 August, 2016. Mongolia

Globally, the International Youth Day (IYD) – 12 August - has been celebrated since 2000. This year's IYD theme is “The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption”.

In June 2016, Mongolia held capital city and aimag (province) local council (Citizens' Representatives' Hural - CRH) elections. On the occasion of International Youth Day 2016, newly elected young local councilors shared their views on youth participation, their plan for the election term (2016-2020), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



### TUV AIMAG

“My name is Bayarmaa Sukhbaatar, I am 31 year old Banking economist. I worked for soum<sup>1</sup> CRH (council) from 2008 to 2016, Deputy Soum Governor from 2008 to 2012, and in 2016 I was elected to Tuv aimag CRH.

When I first ran for CRH at the age of 23, I was the youngest. At that time, there were very few young CRH Representatives. Personally, I support young people working for local self-governing bodies, because young people are very energetic, take initiatives, and continuously develop themselves.

I have many ideas on how to develop our local communities. Our aimag has many soums, the infrastructure is relatively well developed. But no matter which soum we visit, we always face the challenges of unemployment and poverty. It is important for young people to get their voices heard. I think young people should not underestimate themselves, but instead participate in local development confidently and with specific goals. I would like to start my work by changing the mindset of people. This sounds simple, but requires a lot of time”.

<sup>1</sup> Soum – lowest administrative unit



## BAYANKHONGOR AIMAG

“My name is Purevsuren Jambaldorj and I am 31 years old. Previously, I worked as Chair of CRH of Bayan-ovoo soum, Soum Governor, and in 2016 I was elected to Bayankhongor aimag CRH. I am a tax economist.

As compared to previous CRHs, more young people were elected this year. As a young local Representative, I wish that every issue is dealt with responsibly within the framework of laws, and that views, enthusiasm and solutions of young people are appropriately reflected in decisions”.

## ORKHON AIMAG

**Erdenebat Gombonasan, Orkhon aimag CRH Representative, 30 year old, economist-accountant.**

“In the past, 1-2 young people were elected into the CRH, but when it comes to getting views of young people reflected in CRH decisions, I think, it was insufficient. This time, during the 7<sup>th</sup> local election, quite a few young people were elected to Orkhon aimag CRH. Youth voices have been missing in the past, and it is now time now for young people to act, not just speak.

Of course, as a young local elected representative, I will strive to do everything that I can, and try to reflect public views and suggestions as much as possible into CRH decisions. When things are adequately discussed, there is little chance to fail. Particular attention will be paid to vocational skills of unemployed youth, and furthermore increasing jobs and employment.

**Sustainable Development Goals** are, as I understand, are the continuation, more updated version of MDGs. Representatives of 193 countries jointly recognized the need to systematically tackle the interrelated global issues facing humanity, and put forward 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The formulation of SDGs was based on inputs of over 8 million people, including around 5 thousand Mongolians, as I heard. This is a global appeal to leave no one behind, to eliminate poverty, protect the nature, and provide opportunities for people to have peaceful, wealthy, and equitable lives.”





## BAYANKHONGOR AIMAG

**“My name is Natsagdorj Batsuren, a dentist, 31 years old. I was elected to the soum CRH in 2012, and this year to Bayankhongor aimag CRH in 2016.**

I think the representation of young people in local CRH’s is insufficient, and it is important for them to participate in local development. Especially, local CRHs should aim at creating employment for citizens. On the other hand, young people must not be too picky about jobs. Personally, I will draw more attention to the health of people.

SDGs were approved by the joint decision of 193 countries-members of UN, and contain 17 goals and 169 targets. SDGs were developed on the assessment of the implementation of MDGs, and include goals, such as poverty reduction, protection of nature and environment, and right of people to live in peace. Of these goals, I will focus more on supporting health related goals.”

## UVS AIMAG

**“My name is Amarzaya Tulga, I am a medical doctor, 33 years old. I was elected to Uvs aimag CRH in 2016.**

Young people’s representation in local CRH was relatively low in the past, but in 2016, it increased. This is something to be proud of, but it also comes with responsibilities and duties. Young people can do a lot for local development. I think, to reduce poverty and improve livelihood we need:

- To process livestock raw materials, wool, cashmere, meat and dairy products, and support small SMEs to bring them to the market;
- To support domestic production, make local brand products, improve their quality and export;
- To improve local/soum infrastructure, promote the nomadic civilization, and develop tourism, and;
- To furnish health facilities with modern technology, train medical staff overseas in order to provide world standard health services domestically, and thereby reduce the outbound flow of money for medical treatment.”



## TUV AIMAG

**“My name is Dugar Nyamdorj, 31 years old, computer specialist. I received my Master’s degree in computer science from a US university, and now I am doing a PhD at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. I was elected to Tuv aimag CRH in 2016.**

As far as results of 2016 aimag CRH elections are concerned, I think, youth representation is sufficient. I am one of many young people who want to contribute what they have learned to their country.

Tuv aimag CRH has several young Representatives. We are of the common belief and position to unite to pursue policies aimed at youth – the future of the country. The majority of Tuv aimag population are children and young people. Therefore, it is important to support youth development policies and organizations.



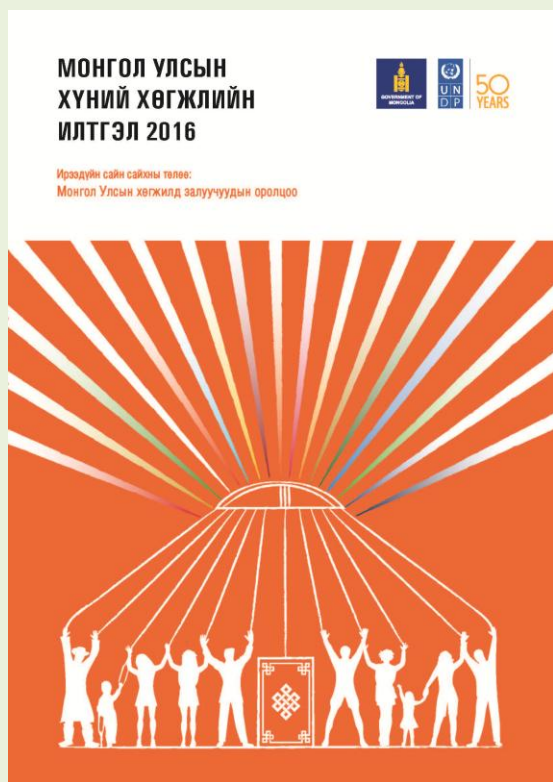
I am planning to work more on youth employment, job creation, low-interest loans for young families, youth education and health. I would like to encourage everybody to work, produce, unite efforts to create whatever you can for the development of our community.”

**UMNUGOBI AIMAG**

**Uziijargal Eldev-ochir, Umnugobi aimag CRH Representative, lawyer**



“Youth representation in local self-governing bodies was low, if you look at the data of the last 3 local elections. Local development and poverty reduction plans must be based on data of recent studies from the past several years and cover medium and long term visions. At the local level, policy documents should be developed independently relying on local resources, and should be pursued for generations with some adjustments”.



**“NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT OF MONGOLIA 2016**

**Building a better tomorrow: including youth in the development of Mongolia**



<http://www.mn.undp.org/content/mongolia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/06/14/faaf/>