



## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASIAN RAPTORS

**ASIAN RAPTORS-Science and Conservation for Present and Future**  
**23-27 June, 2010 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

Ikh surguuliin street-1, Ulaanbaatar 210646A, P.O.Box 537. MONGOLIA  
Tel: 976-91000148; 976-99180148; 976-11-323970. Fax: 976-11-320159  
E-mail: mongolianbirds@mail.com; gombobaatar@biology.num.edu.mn

## THE 6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASIAN RAPTORS

**ASIAN RAPTORS –Science and Conservation for Present and Future**

To be held in collaboration with

**Asian Raptor Research Conservation Network,  
Mongolian Ornithological Society, National University of Mongolia, Ministry of Nature,  
Environment and Tourism and Mongolian Academy of Sciences**



**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL**

*Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On 23-27 June 2010, the Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network (ARRCN) will hold the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Asian Raptors in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in collaboration with local organizations. The conference will be hosted by the Mongolian Ornithological Society, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism. Please forward this information to anyone who may be interested in participating in the conference on Asian Raptors in Mongolia. All persons interested in Asian birds of prey (Falconiformes and Strigiformes) are invited to attend the conference, irrespective of whether or not a member of the ARRCN.

We believe in your active participation in the conference and having an impact on future activities of the ARRCN by sharing your experiences and discussing issues with other members. We encourage you to participate in the conference and to play an active part in the future of our raptors. We welcome you to Mongolia, the land of Chinggis Khaan and pristine nature and wide open spaces!

## Organizing Committee

### Honorary Chairs of Organizing Committee (OC):

Hon. Chairman: **Prof. O.Shagdarsuren** (National University of Mongolia; [info@mos.mn](mailto:info@mos.mn))  
**Prof. D.Sumiya** (National University of Mongolia; [info@mos.mn](mailto:info@mos.mn))

### Chairs of Organizing Committee:

**Dr Sudev Gombobaatar** (Mongolian Ornithological Society, National University of Mongolia; [info@mos.mn](mailto:info@mos.mn); [gombobaatar@biology.num.edu.mn](mailto:gombobaatar@biology.num.edu.mn))  
**Prof. Reuven Yosef** (International Birding & Research Centre in Eilat, Israel; [ryosef@eilatcity.co.il](mailto:ryosef@eilatcity.co.il))

### Secretary:

**Dr N. Tseveenmyadag** (Mongolian Academy of Sciences; [tseveenmyadag@magicnet.mn](mailto:tseveenmyadag@magicnet.mn)),  
**Ch. Uuganbayar** (State University of Agriculture; [uu\\_bb2001@yahoo.com](mailto:uu_bb2001@yahoo.com); [biology@msua.edu.mn](mailto:biology@msua.edu.mn))

### Committee members:

**Dr. Sh. Boldbaatar** (Mongolian Academy of Sciences; [boogii51@yahoo.com](mailto:boogii51@yahoo.com)),  
**Dr. D. Bayarkhuu** (Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism; [bayarkhuu@mne.gov.mn](mailto:bayarkhuu@mne.gov.mn))  
**D. Usukhjargal** (Hustai Nuruu NP; [usukhjargal2001@yahoo.com](mailto:usukhjargal2001@yahoo.com); [info@mos.mn](mailto:info@mos.mn))  
**Z.Uuganbaatar** (National University of Mongolia; [uuganbaatar@biology.num.edu.mn](mailto:uuganbaatar@biology.num.edu.mn))

### Treasurer:

**P. Amartuvshin** (Mongolian Ornithological Society; [info@mos.mn](mailto:info@mos.mn); [amar015@yahoo.com](mailto:amar015@yahoo.com))  
**B. Odkhuu** (Chinggis Khaan International Airport Bird strike; [odkhuu\\_mos@yahoo.com](mailto:odkhuu_mos@yahoo.com))

## Scientific committee

**Dr S. Gombobaatar** (Mongolian Ornithological Society, National University of Mongolia; [info@mos.mn](mailto:info@mos.mn))  
**Dr N. Tseveenmyadag** (Mongolian Academy of Sciences; [tseveenmyadag@magicnet.mn](mailto:tseveenmyadag@magicnet.mn))  
**Mr. Toru Yamazaki** (ARRCN; [t-yamazaki@mx.biwa.ne.jp](mailto:t-yamazaki@mx.biwa.ne.jp))  
**Prof. Reuven Yosef** (International Birding & Research Centre in Eilat, Israel; [ryosef@eilatcity.co.il](mailto:ryosef@eilatcity.co.il))  
**Dr Rick Watson** (The Peregrine Fund; [rwatson@peregrinefund.org](mailto:rwatson@peregrinefund.org))  
**Dr Martin Gilbert** (Wildlife Conservation Center-Mongolia; [mgilbert@wcs.org](mailto:mgilbert@wcs.org))  
**Mr. B. Nyambayar** (Wildlife Science and Conservation Center; [nyambayar@wscc.org.mn](mailto:nyambayar@wscc.org.mn))

## Programme outline

- 23 June 2010, Wednesday, 15:00-18:00 PM  
Registration and official opening of the Conference  
Welcome reception in the Flower hotel
- 24 June, 2010, Thursday, 8:00 AM-17:00 PM  
Scientific Programme  
Oral and poster presentations and workshops in the Chinggis khaan complex  
Drive to the Hustai Nuruu NP
- 25 June, 2010, Friday, 8:00 AM-18:00 PM  
Scientific Programme  
Oral and poster presentations and workshops in the Hustai Nuruu NP
- 26 June, 2010, Saturday, 8:00 AM-18:00 PM  
Workshop on Raptor field techniques: trapping, counting and marking will be held at the Hustai Nuruu NP on 26 June 2010.
- 27 June, 2010 Sunday, 7:00 AM-14:00 PM  
Field excursion in the Hustai Nuruu NP to show breeding Saker falcon, Lesser and Common kestrels, Upland buzzard, Steppe and Golden eagles, Cinereous Vulture, Amur Falcon, Eurasian Hobby, Little Owl etc...
- 26 June 2010 and 27 June, 2010 (After or before of 27 June, 14:00 PM)  
Departure delegates

Further progress of the Conference will be regularly reported through the ARRCN Electronic Newsletter, <http://www.mos.mn/arrcn>; <http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/~raptor/> and other International mailing list concerned raptor research. A web site of the conference will be operational at the earliest. Suggestions and sharing information on the Conference are welcome and would be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed to the address below;

**Mongolian Ornithological Society,  
National University of Mongolia**

Ikh surguuliin street-1, Ulaanbaatar 210646A, P.O.Box 537. MONGOLIA

Tel: 976-91000148; 976-99180148; 976-11-323970

Fax: 976-11-320159

E-mail: [mongolianbirds@mail.com](mailto:mongolianbirds@mail.com); [gombobaatar@biology.num.edu.mn](mailto:gombobaatar@biology.num.edu.mn)

## Scientific Programme

The scientific programme will include oral and poster sessions and training workshops. Formal oral and poster sessions will be separated. Delegates would be asked to attend the poster session. World known raptor biologists will lead the conference and workshop. All papers presented must be made available for publication in the proceedings of the conference.

## Transport, Registration and Scientific Information

### Transport

Members of the Mongolian Ornithological Society will pick you up at the airport and take you to the hotel. They will await you at the airport with a sign of the conference at the exit area of the airport.

### Registration for participants

1500 hr.-1800 hr., 23 June 2010 at the Flower hotel

### Registration Form and Conference Fee

Please use this form to register for the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Asian Raptors in Mongolia.

### Use one form for each person attending

Title				
Name				
Surname				
Address				
Country				
Email				
Conference fee for each person				
150 \$US				

*Fees include attendance of the conference, package of the conference, coffee/tea/refreshments at breaks, lunch, dinner, transportations to and from hotel and field excursion. Fees exclude accommodation in Ulaanbaatar and Hustai Nuruu National park.*

### Please give the names of any accompanying persons that you would like to register

	Accompany person-1	Accompany person-2	Accompany person-3	Accompany person-4
Title				
Name				
Surname				
Address				
Country				
Email				
Conference fee for each person				
90 \$US				

*Accompany person fees include breakfast, coffee/tea/refreshments at breaks, lunch, dinner, transportations to and from hotel and field excursion. Exclude opening and closing ceremony dinners, attendance and package of the conference. Accompany person fee will be 120\$US including opening and closing ceremony dinners.*

*Please note that for your registration to be valid we must receive payment for your subscription.*

## Condition of the payment

### Fees

Early registration payments will be accepted until the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

Early registration (before the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010)

- Regular registration 150 \$US

Late registration (after the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010)

- Regular registration 200 \$US

### Cancellation policy

Cancellations made before 1 May: reimbursement of 75% of the conference fee

Cancellations made after 1 May: reimbursement of 50% of the conference fee

Cancellations made after 1 June: NO reimbursement. If the conference is cancelled for whatever reasons, fees will be refunded excluding correspondent bank fee in case you unpaid the fee.

### Bank transfer

Please transfer the Conference fee to the following account:

Bank account: 510 702 9398

Bank: Khan bank

Address: Seoul Street-25

PO.BOX-192, Ulaanbaatar-44 Mongolia

Tel: 976-11-332-333. Fax: 976-7011-7023

Email: [info@khanbank.com](mailto:info@khanbank.com)

<http://www.khanbank.com>

Account Owner: Mongolian Ornithological Society

Swift/BIC: **AGMOMNUB**

For bank transfers please clearly indicate your name(s) followed by "ARRCN-Mongolia-2010".

## International inter-bank remittance

Khan Bank is a member of SWIFT, the international inter-bank financial network, providing timely foreign settlement services to its customers.

### Correspondent Banks

Countries	Correspondent Bank	Swift	Currency	Nostro Account
China	<a href="#">Agricultural Bank of China</a>	ABOCCNBJ050	CNY USD	05710101040022003 05710114040001000
	<a href="#">Agricultural Bank of China</a>	ABOCCNBJ050	CNY USD	05710101040022003 05710114040001000
	<a href="#">China Construction Bank</a>	PCBCCNBJNMX	USD CNY	15014150500220100376 15001658408052502836
Japan	<a href="#">Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Ltd</a>	BOTKJPJT	JPY	653-0461970
	<a href="#">Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation</a>	SMBC JP JT	JPY	4441
Korea	<a href="#">Shinhan Bank</a>	SHBKKRSE	USD	187-TA-000013
	<a href="#">Kookmin Bank</a>	CZNBKRSE	USD	763-8-USD-01-9
	<a href="#">Korea Exchange Bank</a>	KOEXKRSE	KRW	0963-FRW-001000059
	<a href="#">WOORI Bank</a>	HVBK KR SE	USD	1083 100 005315

Russia	<a href="#">SBER Bank</a>	SABRRUMM	USD	30111840800000000577
	<a href="#">Vneshtorg Bank of Russia</a>	VTBRRUMM	RUB	30231810355550000131

Countries	Correspondent Bank	Swift	Currency	Nostro Account
USA	<a href="#">Wells Fargo Bank N.A</a>	WFBI US 6S	USD	412 127 4369
	<a href="#">HSBC Bank USA, N.A</a>	MRMD US 33	USD	000148571
	<a href="#">CitiBank N.A</a>	CITI US 33	USD	36881444
Canada	<a href="#">Toronto Dominion Bank</a>	TDOMCATTOR	CAD	0360-01-2316094
Germany	<a href="#">Dresdner Bank AG</a>	DRES DE FF	EUR	499/08 104 451 00
	<a href="#">Dresdner Bank AG</a>	DRES DE FF	USD	499/08 104 451 00
Switzerland	<a href="#">UBS AG</a>	UBSWCHZH80A	CHF	023 000000 874300 50000X
Australia	<a href="#">Commonwealth Bank of Australia</a>	CTBAAU2S	AUD	100568001AUD112601

## Scientific Information

All participants for both oral and poster presentations must contact the Presenter's desk when they register at the Flower hotel on 23 June 2010.

### Presenter's Desk / Registration Desk

All authors must submit their manuscripts and presentation media (CD, hard copies, e-mail, flash stick etc) to the scientific coordinator's desk (near Registration Desk) (MSc. D.Usukhjargal, [usukhjargal2001@yahoo.com](mailto:usukhjargal2001@yahoo.com)) during registration.

Presenters are advised to test-run their presentations and to make sure that they run smoothly. Members of the Logistics Committee will help you set up.

All poster's presenters will give their posters to Mr Ch.Uuganbayar ([uu\\_bb2001@yahoo.com](mailto:uu_bb2001@yahoo.com)) at the poster presentation desk which will be near the registration desk. Additional information and requests will be available at the Information desk.

### 1. ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Members of the registration and logistics committee will collect your presentation materials and confirm the audio-visual requirements for your presentation during the registration or later.

#### *(a) Visual Equipment*

LCD and overhead projectors are available and their simultaneous use is possible.

#### *(b) Presentation Duration*

Each presenter will have 15 minutes for the presentation (including discussion). A bell will ring once to indicate that 3 minutes are remaining. The bell will ring twice when the presentation time is over. Kindly cooperate in keeping within your allocated presentation time.

#### *(c) Language*

The language used for presentations will be English.



## 2. POSTER PRESENTATION SESSION

### (a)Poster Presentation Areas:

Location: Poster Areas 1 & 2

### (b)Poster Mounting (Set-Up) Time:

Poster set-up time: **1500 hr-1830 hr.** on Wednesday, 23 June 2010

### (c)Poster Removal Time:

Poster removal time: **1830 hr-1900hr.** on Friday, 25 June 2010

### (d)Poster Session Period:

All posters should be printed on A0 size (1189 x 841 mm/46.81 x 33.11 inch; portrait) paper and displayed throughout the conference. Participants are encouraged to visit the poster presentations during coffee breaks and during free time to view the posters. All poster presenters are requested to attend to their posters during the Poster Session time to answer questions and for discussions.

## 3. WORKSHOP SESSION

### *Workshop on Raptor Research and Management Techniques*

The 6th International Conference on Asian Raptors will feature a workshop on raptor research and management techniques. It is open to all registered delegates at no additional cost. The workshop is organized in partnership with The Peregrine Fund, ARRCN, Mongolian Ornithological Society and the Ornithological Laboratory, National University of Mongolia, with funding provided by the Trust for Mutual Understanding.

The workshop will include lectures and hands-on field instruction from some of the world's most renown raptor biologists, including Prof. Ian Newton (Population Ecology of Raptors) and authors from the latest edition of "Raptor Research and Management Techniques" manual. The workshop has something for everyone, from students to experienced biologists alike, and will include valuable information, from cutting-edge tracking technology to important standards for understanding change in raptor populations, and a great deal more.

Workshop lectures will be included in the conference programme and hands-on field experience will be at the Hustai Nuruu NP. Workshop speakers include Prof. Ian Newton, Dr. Keith Bildstein (Hawk Mountain Sanctuary), Dr. Todd Katzner (National Aviary), Lloyd Kiff (Global Raptor Information Network), Dr. Rick Watson and Russell Thorstrom (The Peregrine Fund).

*The scientific programme is under process.*



## Venue and accommodation

### Venue

#### Chinggis Khaan complex

The conference will be held in the Chinggis Khaan complex which is situated in the centre of Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. The Chinggis complex is close to Flower hotel that is ca. 300 m to the north-east of the complex. The complex is equipped with modern technical services and is easily reachable by taxi and bus from Chinggis Khaan International airport. The conference hall of the Chinggis Khaan complex has audio and video equipment, copying and printing machines, and internet and will also serve tea and coffee. There is a meeting room which can be arranged as a business meeting with 20-30 people capacity. More info about the complex is available at [www.chinggis-hotel.com](http://www.chinggis-hotel.com).



Address: Tokyo street-10, Ulaanbaatar-49, Mongolia. Chinggis Khaan hotel Complex.

#### Hustai Nuruu National Park

More information about Hustai Nuruu NP is available at <http://www.hustai.mn/index.php> and <http://www.owc.org.mn/macne/hustai/stay.htm>

## Accommodation

The conference delegates will stay in the “Flower Hotel” (Mongolian: Tsetseg) on 23 June 2010. It is a traditional Asian style hotel and is joint Mongolian-Japanese venture. The hotel is located on the Zaluuchuudyn avenue left side of the "Chinggis" Khaan Hotel. Flower Hotel offers 184 rooms, "Altai" European restaurant, "Khana" Chinese restaurant, "Fuji- Sanshiro" Japanese restaurant, "Sansar" Cozy bar, Japanese style sauna, business center, and a souvenir shop. Elevators are provided and room rates include breakfast and 15% VAT. At the Flower Hotel you will find luxury and elegance throughout the hotel and in their rooms. There are five types, 180 rooms, each of them designed to make your stay memorable. All rooms are equipped with TV, high speed internet access, mini-bar and regular toiletries. Delegates staying at the hotel are welcome to use the sauna and hot bath for free.

### *Distance to attractions:*

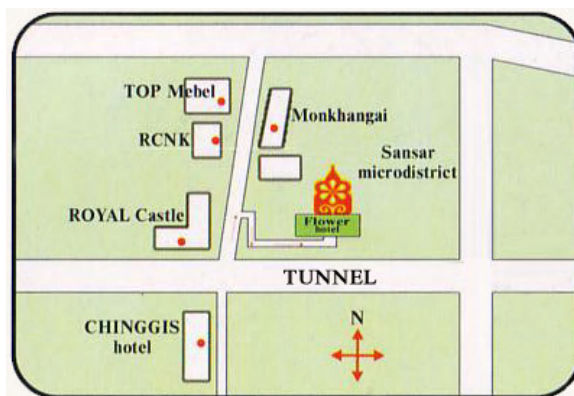
- The International Chinggis Khaan airport ~20 km
- Natural History Museum 1.50 km
- Museum of National History 1.50 km
- Sukhbaatar Square 1.50 km
- Central Post Office & Tourist Information Centre 1.50 km
- State Department Store 2.00 km
- Bogd Khaan's Palace Museum 4.00 km
- Zaisan Memorial Hill 5.00 km
- Gandan Monastery 5.00 km

You can take a taxi from anywhere in Ulaanbaatar and tell the taxi driver “Tsetseg” hotel and show the following map.



### **Site map of the Flower Hotel**

Address: Bayanzurkh Duureg,  
Zaluuchuud Avenue-18 Ulaanbaatar,  
Mongolia



## Hustai Nuruu National Park

You will stay in the ger (*yurt* in Russian) is a traditional Mongolian, round, lattice-framed felt dwelling tent. Due to limited number of gers in the park, 2-4 delegates will share a ger.

If you want to stay in the ger with a single bed, the price will be 80\$US per a night. If you wish to book the ger with a single bed, please inform us before 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2010. Accommodation price of the ger is 20\$ for a person per a night.

### Ger Camp

Each ger is equipped with beds, chairs, tables, storage space and wood stoves for heating.

Next to the ger camp is the national park's administration building. In a dining room where you will dine alongside organizers, the kitchen staff prepare both Mongolian and Western dishes. All meals contain meat and the chefs are unable to produce individual meals. There is a small range of snacks and drinks (including beer and spirits) available for purchase. The water for the ger camp is obtained from a well that pumps from 100 m-deep aquifer. Tests have shown the water to be 100% free from contamination and purification is not necessary. You will also find modern toilets and showers in the administration building. To minimize electricity, hot water is available in the mornings and evenings. Laundry facilities and a sauna are also available for a small fee.



### Moilt Camp

The Moilt Valley in the northwest section of the park, is a small cluster of cabins. The cabins have beds and bedding but no cooking facilities, and electricity is supplied by a diesel generator. Gas stoves and food for dinner can be brought from the kitchen at the ger camp, and breakfasts and lunch can also be supplied. The Moilt Camp is a pleasant four to five hour walk from the administration building. If you wish, you may spend a night in a cabin and walk back through the forests and open valleys of the park.



### Camping

There is one area you can camp at the park where is located in the south section of the park in the Tuul River valley. The camp site is one of the excellent places for bird watching including raptors. To preserve Hustai's sensitive ecology, camping is not permitted elsewhere within the borders of the park.

More information is available at <http://www.owc.org.mn/macne/hustai/stay.htm>

### Potential hotels you can stay in Ulaanbaatar on 23 and 27 June, 2010

Name of hotels	Standard single	Single Semi-lux	Single lux	Double standard	Double Semi-lux	Double lux	Link
Zaluuchuud	35	-	90	65	-	-	<a href="http://www.zh.mn">www.zh.mn</a>
Misheel	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Flower	74	96	118	96	134	156	<a href="http://www.flower-hotel.mn/mn/">www.flower-hotel.mn/mn/</a>
Chinggis	105	-	-	130	-	-	<a href="http://www.chinggis-hotel.com">www.chinggis-hotel.com</a>

*Please let us know if you need to book the above mentioned hotels for your accompanying persons in Ulaanbaatar city during the Conference.*

## Abstract Submission

### Submission of Abstracts for Oral Presentations and Posters

*(Deadline of abstracts for oral and poster presentations: 30 March 2010)*

All contributed papers (both oral and poster) should present results of unpublished, original research, or a new synthesis interpreted in the light of contemporary theories. Papers which have already been published or which have been or are intended to be submitted elsewhere are unacceptable, unless the previous publication was in a non-international language.

### Confirmation of Acceptance

Abstracts can be submitted by e-mail and should reach us by 30 March 2010. Please, do not copy your text in any irrelevant files. Abstracts will be reviewed and edited by members of the Scientific Committee (SC), and senior author will be notified of the results by April 2010. The decision of the SC is the final. The chances of abstract acceptance will be increased if it is accompanied by a complete manuscript to be published in the subsequent proceedings of the conference.

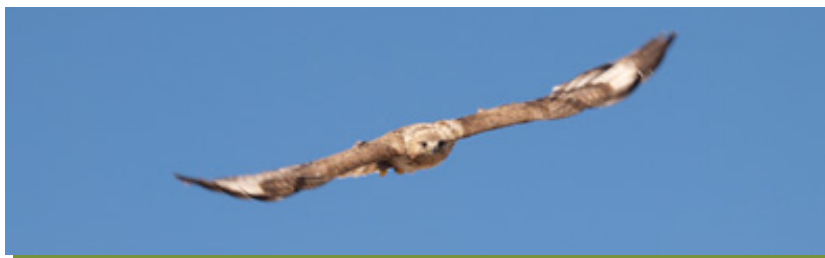
### Format and Content

Each abstract for oral and poster presentations must not exceed 500 words (minimum 200 words), excluding the title. The title should not be more than 15 words including spaces and should be given in capital letters and bold-face font. The abstract is followed by full names of all authors. Each author should have a postal address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address (if possible). The name of the corresponding author should be underlined. The text of the abstract should contain a clear statement of the problem addressed and briefly outline methods, results and conclusions. The abstract should provide sufficient information for attendees of the conference to grasp the major points of the presentation. The abstract text must be typed using USA/UK English of the Windows XP/VISTA and Macintosh software. Common used characters and symbols will be used for the abstract. **DO NOT INCLUDE REFERENCES IN THE ABSTRACT.**

All talks will be Power Point presentations and you are required to bring your presentations either on a lap top or a USB adaptable drive.

Please, send your abstract together with the Abstract Submission Form to:

**Mongolian Ornithological Society,  
National University of Mongolia**  
Ikh surguuliin street-1, Ulaanbaatar 210646A, P.O.Box 537. MONGOLIA  
Tel: 976-91000148; 976-99180148; 976-11-323970  
Fax: 976-11-320159  
E-mail: [mongolianbirds@mail.com](mailto:mongolianbirds@mail.com); [gombobaatar@biology.num.edu.mn](mailto:gombobaatar@biology.num.edu.mn)





## **Additional Information**

### **Official opening ceremony and welcome dinner**

1930 hr.-The opening ceremony and welcome dinner on 23 June will be held at the Flower restaurant.

### **Breakfast on 24 June will be at the Flower hotel.**

On 25, 26 and 27 June will be at the Hustai Nuruu NP

Lunch (24 June) during the conference will be at the Flower hotel.

Lunch on 25, 26 & 27 June will be at the Hustai Nuruu NP

Special food requirements should be informed to the Registration Committee during the registration on 23 June.

### **Coffee Breaks**

Coffee breaks will be at the Chinggis Khaan complex and Hustai Nuruu NP.

### **Dinner**

Dinner on 24 and 25 June will be at the Hustai Nuruu NP.

### **Banquet Dinner and Closing Ceremony**

Banquet dinner will be held at the Hustai Nuruu NP on 26 June, 2010.

### **Raptor watch field execution and raptor study workshop**

Workshop and raptor watch will start at 7:00 AM at the Hotel and drive to the field. Please bring your own binoculars and scopes. You will have a chance to see breeding Cinereous vulture, Saker falcon, Steppe Eagle, Upland buzzard, Amur falcon etc.. Members of the Mongolian Ornithological Society will guide you in the field.



## Raptor watching tours after or before the Conference

If you have a special request for seeing a particular species of raptors and other birds in Mongolia and additional birding and sightseeing trips before and after the Conference, please contact Mr P.Amartuvshin, manager of the Mongolian Ornithological Society ([amar015@yahoo.com](mailto:amar015@yahoo.com)) and MSc D.Usukhjargal, wildlife biologist of the Hustai Nuruu NP ([usukhjargal2001@yahoo.com](mailto:usukhjargal2001@yahoo.com)). More information about birding in Mongolia is available at: [www.mos.mn](http://www.mos.mn)



## Contact us

### **Mongolian Ornithological Society, National University of Mongolia**

Ikh surguuliin street-1, Ulaanbaatar 210646A, P.O.Box 537. MONGOLIA  
Tel: 976-91000148; 976-99180148; 976-11-323970  
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## About Mongolia

Population:	2.7 million
Area:	1,566,000 sq km
Average altitude:	1,580 m above sea-level
Land boundaries:	8,158 km, with Russia 3,485 km and with China 4,673 km
Terrain:	Vast semi-desert and desert plains, mountains in west and south-west, Gobi Desert in south-east
People:	Khalkh Mongols (86%), Kazakhs (6%), about a dozen other Mongolian ethnic groups
Languages:	Mongolian, Kazakh, Russian. English is widely spoken in Ulaanbaatar city.
Religions:	Tibetan Buddhism, Muslim, Christian and Shamanism
Climate:	Average summer temperature +20°C, average winter temperature -26°C, average rainfall 200-220 mm.
Political system:	Parliamentary republic. President elected for four years. Present President, T.Elbegdorj, who was elected in 2008.
Legislature:	State Great Khural (Parliament), unicameral with 76 members elected for four years.
National currency:	Tugrik (MNT), about MNT 1410 = USD 1 in Sep, 2009
Fiscal year:	January 1 - December 31
Main entry points:	Chinggis khaan International airport in Ulaanbaatar Trans-Siberian railway goes between Russia, Mongolia and China
Time:	Add 8 hours to Greenwich Mean Time
Electric current:	220 volts/50 HZ
Weight and measures:	Metric System
Visa arrangements:	Visa shall be issued by Mongolia Embassies and Diplomatic Missions as well as Honorary consuls of Mongolia.

## Land

Located in the plateau of Central Asia between China and Russian Siberia, Mongolia covers an area of 1.566.600 sq. km, which is roughly the size of Western Europe. Mongolia stretches about 2.400 kilometers from west to east and about 1.260 kilometers from north and south. The total length of the country's border is 8.158 kilometers. The country is mountainous with an average altitude of 1.580 meters above sea level, which makes Mongolia one of the highest countries in the world. The lowest point, Huh Nuur Depression, is 560 meters above sea level and the highest point

is Huiten Mountain in the Mongolian Altai Range (4,374 m). The capital Ulaanbaatar lies at 1,380 meters. The geography of the country is characterized by great diversity. From north to south, it can be divided into four areas: mountain-forest steppe, mountain steppe and, in the extreme south, semi-desert and desert (latter being about 30% of the entire territory). In contrast to most visitors' expectations, much of the country's territory is mountainous. The principal mountains are concentrated in the west, with much of this region having elevations above 2,000 meters. The country's highest peaks are permanently snow-capped land covered with glaciers. Mountains and dense forest predominate central and northern Mongolia. The grasslands cover large areas of this region. Across the eastern part of the country stretches the vast grasslands of the Central Asian steppe. The steppe grades into the Gobi desert, which extends throughout southern Mongolia from the east to the west of the country. The Gobi Desert is mostly gravelly, but also contains large areas of sand dunes in the drier areas of the Gobi near the southern border. The country is dotted with hundreds of lakes, the largest being Uvs-Nuur (covering an area of 3,350 sq.km), Huvsgul (2,620 sq.km), and Har Us-Nuur (1,852 sq. km). Lake Huvsgul is also the largest fresh-water lake in Cnetral Asia. The Orkhon (1,124 kilometers), the Kherlen (1,090 kilometers) and the Selenge (539 kilometers) are the largest rivers. (Detailed descriptions of geographic places of the country are included in Travel Destinations section of this book)

## **Climate**

Mongolia's climate is very dry with extreme continental temperatures. Humid air from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans are blocked by the huge Central Asian mountain ranges. Although Mongolian winters are long and famously cold, with temperatures dropping as low as -50°C in the far north of the country, summers are generally pleasant. For two or three months in summer, the weather is warm and pleasant and relatively hot in the southern Gobi region, where mid summer temperatures peak at around 40 degrees and there is little shade available.

Winter usually lasts from mid-October until April, with the coldest period being between mid-December and the end of February or mid-March when the temperature drops to -20 or -30°C and occasionally even lower. Snow usually falls between mid-October and mid-April. There are some regions, especially in the northwest, where the temperature goes down to -40 to -50°C. In the Gobi it drops to -40°C. Spring, which generally starts in March, is known for its constant dust storms and huge fluctuations in air pressure. The steppe gradually starts to sprout fresh, green pasture and even in the capital, the change is both visible and welcome. Summer evenings in the Western Altai range tend to be cooler and local nomads have to wear warm and heavy clothes. The annual rain fall begins in late July and continues until September. Humidity winter. But in the country the number of sunny days ranges between 220 and 260 a year.

## **Flora**

Mongolia has diverse vegetation that includes an important part of Central Asia's plant life. Plant species representative of Siberia's coniferous taiga forest, Central Asian steppe and desert, and the Altai Mountains are found here. Over 3000 vascular plants, 927 lichens, 437 mosses, 875 fungi, and numerous algae have been recorded up to date. There are many other species still to be classified. 150 species are endemic to Mongolia and more than 100 plant species still are recorded as rare or endangered.

## **Fauna**

Like its vegetation, Mongolia features diverse wildlife species from the Siberian forest, the steppe and desert. Mongolia has 128 mammal species, more than 487 different types of birds, 76 species of fish, 8 amphibians, and 22 reptiles. From the abundance of wolves to the globally endangered snow leopard, there is a myriad of wildlife to track and photograph. The central and northern forest area is home to wolf, wild boar, elk, roe deer, and brown bear. Steppe and forest margins support marmot, muskrat, fox, steppe fox, and sable. Western high Altai Mountain boasts a rich wildlife. Apart from common wolf and wild cats, such as lynx and snow leopard, Altai is home to the world's largest wild sheep-argali and Siberian ibex. Species endemic to Central Asia are found primary in the Gobi desert and steppe including the Mongolian subspecies of the saiga antelope, four species of jerboa, and a vole. The Gobi desert and the eastern Mongolian steppe and inhabited by thousands of gazelles. The rarest animal in the world-the Gobi bear is found in the south-western part of Gobi. Wild ass and wild camels are abundantly found in the desert while argali and Gobi ibex also inhabit the rocky mountains within the Gobi region. Takhi known as Przewalski horse, which in the last remaining true wild horse has been reintroduced to the country from captivity abroad after being unseen for about thirty years in their home country. Bird life is rich and included the golden eagle, bearded vulture and other birds of prey, while the country's 2000 lakes are a magnet for water birds including storks and gulls. The east of Mongolia is famous for its birds life, boasting lakes of storks and pelicans, while vultures can be seen at will across the country and species are rare as the Altai Snowcock and the mute swan are still observed in the countryside.

## **Population**

The population of Mongolia is 2,600,000 (official estimate 2005), out of which 45% are nomadic herders. Most of Mongolia's large land is very sparsely populated. The average population density is 1.5 per square kilometer, making the country one of the sparsely populated nations in the world. In the southern Gobi it is as sparse as 0.3 square kilometers. Although this small population of Mongolia is scattered across the vast steppe, the urbanization rate is high. During the last two decades, migration from the rural areas has accelerated, with the proportion of the population living in urban areas rising to 54%. More than a quarter of the entire population lives in Ulaanbaatar. The population is homogeneous, with Mongol-speaking people constituting 95% of the total. The only substantial non-Mongol group, representing over 5% of the population, is the Kazaks, a Turkish-speaking people dwelling in the far West. A Chinese minority lives in Ulaanbaatar. Mongolians can be subdivided into more than 20 different ethnic groups, which are scattered across the country. These groups can be distinguished by their individual customs, histories and dialects. The largest ethnic group is Khalkh, which accounts for over 75% of the total population mainly live in central, eastern and southern Mongolia. The Oirats are a group of ethnic western Mongolians, which includes smaller groups, Durvud, Torgud, Bayad, Uld, Zakhchin, Myangad, and Uriankhai. Since the early history of Mongolian Oirat people have resided around Siberia's Lake Baikal, the Sayan Mountain Ranges in Northern Mongolia and forested area within the Altai Mountain Range. The name Oirat translates as forest people. After the fall of the Mongol empire in the 14th century, Oirat became an independent state, known as Dzungarian Kingdom. It covered western Mongolia and the eastern Chinese steppe and only became part of the Mongolian Republic during the Manchurian conquest in the 1600's. Northern Mongolian ethnic groups include the darkhat, Tsaatan, and Khotgoid. They inhabit the dense forests of Huvsgul lake area, near the Russian border. The Buryat are the only group who originates from the vast eastern steppe.

### **Brief history**

The first Mongolian state was established in 209 BC by Huns or Hunnu people. The name Hunnu comes from two ancient Mongolian words. "Hun" means "man" and "nu" translates as "sun". The Hun's first king was Modun Shan Yui, whose father Tumen was chieftain of Hun's most influential tribe. The Huns territory stretched from Korea in the Far East to Tian Shan Mountain in the northern China and from the southern section of the Great Wall to Lake Baikal in southern Siberia. From 200 BC until its collapse in 98 AD, the Hun state was the most powerful nomadic nation residing in the sprawling Central Asian steppe and mountain. But, after three hundred years of domination the Hun state imploded, ruined by internal conflicts between powerful chieftains. After the Hun state collapsed several other ambitious clans established their own states and dominated Mongolian territory up until 1200 AD. The first domination state after the Hun's collapse was the Sumbe State, which lasted until the 3rd century BC. The Toba finally took over the Sumbe state in 250 AD and established its own state with a number of tribal allies. In turn the Tobas were defeated by the Nirun, who were forced to hand the state over to Turkic tribes who established the Tuger Kingdom On Mongolia in 552 AD. Thousand of Turkic people has arrived from the far west via the Altai Mountains during the 4th century AD. They extended the ancient feudal system, but were also defeated by their own internal conflicts in 745 AD. The Uigar tribe then became the most powerful in Central Asia, but were unable to dominate the whole of Mongolia. It was the Kidans, who had peacefully coexisted with several previous ruling tribes, who took over Mongolia in 907. Their dominance lasted until the 12th century when a number of Central Asian tribes invaded at the same time. There was now no ruler in Mongolia and this vast territory was divided and subdivided into tribal areas.

### **The Mongol Empire**

Temujin was born into the Esuuhei in 1162 and is best known as Chinggis (Genghis) Khaan. His father was a chieftain of one of the numerous tribes and was killed by the Tatars when Temujin was just 9 years old. With the support of his father's friends, Temujin established the Great Mongo State in 1189. By 1206 he had united 81 different Mongolian tribes and established the Great Mongolian Empire in 1206, when he was crowned as Chinggis Khaan. 2006 is the year of 800th anniversary of the establishment of Mongol Empire. Chinggis Khaan died in 1227. Subsequent Mongolian Khaans were chosen from following generations of Chinggis Khaan's children. During the 13-14th centuries, Mongolia developed in terms of its economy, culture, military strength and politics. It was a huge, sprawling empire which encompassed many separate Asian and European nations. Still known as the Golden Era of Mongolian history, during this time the Mongol Empire was the most powerful nation on earth. Chinggis Khaan was a great military general, statesman and Mongolian national hero. The Mongol Empire began to fall apart in 1368. This was bound up with the collapse of the Mongolian Yuan Dynasty, which had been established in China after Kubilai Khan named Beijing the new Capital of the Mongol Empire. The Manchurians conquered Mongolia in 1691 and the Manchurian colonization lasted for 220 years. By the beginning of 20th century Mongolians were embroiled in a struggle for national liberation, which finally came to fruition in December 1911, when the Manchurians withdrew and Mongolia's independence was proclaimed in Urguu (as Ulaanbaatar was previously known), Mongolia's theocratic ruler Bogd Khaan was awarded power across the entire country.

### **Socialist and Democratic Mongolia**

On 11 July 1921, the socialist revolution, known as People's Revolution took place. In 1924, the Mongolian People's Party proclaimed Mongolia a People's Republic's first constitution. As Mongolia maintained strong links with the former Soviet Union, the socialist era continued until 1990, when democratic changes first started in Mongolia. The country's first multi-party election was held in June 1990. The new parliament adopted Mongolia's first democratic parliamentary republic operating with a President. Both parliament and president have to be directly elected by the general public. Throughout these political changes, Mongolia has slowly been paying its way towards a free market economy and way from the old economic system.

## **Religion**

Mongolia's religious roots are bound up in Shamanism. However this religious phenomena doesn't match the conventional description of a religion in the same way as Buddhism or Christianity. Shamanism has no founder from whom its teachings originate. There is no collection of sacred sutras or a bible, as it doesn't possess any monastic communities to preach or distribute its doctrines. The origins of Shamanism are still unclear, but historians are certain it emerged at the same time as the first human artistic concepts of fetishism, tokenism and animism to name just a few. Shamanism was the major religion during both the ancient Mongol states and the Mongol Empire until Tibetan Buddhism (also called Vajrayana Buddhism) gained more popularity after it was introduced in 13th century. Tibetan Buddhism shared the common Buddhist goals of individual release from suffering and reincarnation. Tibet's Dalai Lama, who lives in India, is the religion's spiritual leader, and is highly respected in Mongolia. Shamanism has continued to be practiced by a few of the ethnic groups living in northern and western Mongolia, including the Tsaatan, who are more commonly known as the reindeer people. Mongolians practice ritualistic magic, nature worship, exorcism, meditation, and natural healing as part of their shamanistic heritage. Buddhism was introduced to Mongolia from Tibet by Khubilai Khan during the late 13th century. Khubilai Khan invited an eminent Tibetan lama, Pagba, to be empire's religious representative. From the late 14th century onwards hundreds of Buddhist temples were rapidly built across Mongolia. Thousands of Mongolian males vowed to live as lamas at one point almost one seventh of the male population has taken robes. Until the beginning of the twentieth century Buddhism developed and spread across the country, playing an important role on both religions and intellectual spheres of life. The 1921 People's Revolution swiftly installed a socialist regime, which officially prohibited any religious practice. During the 1930's political purges under resulted in the destruction of more than 700 temples and the death of around 10.000 lamas. It wasn't until the early 1990's that, as part of the rise of democracy, Buddhism was revived as Mongolia's major religion. Mongolia's largest monastery- Gandan-is in Ulaanbaatar. In October 1996, Gandan hosted a massive opening ceremony for its newly installed 25 meter high, 60 ton Megjid Janraisag statue, which is the symbol of the revival of Buddhism in Mongolia. The statue's name translates as "the all seeing Lord". Meanwhile Mongolia's Kazakhs are Muslims. Islam is mainly practiced in Bayan Olgii, the most westerly province in Mongolia. Since the mid nineties large number of Christians, Bahais and Mormons have arrived in Mongolia seeking to convert Mongolians from Buddhism to their various faiths. There has recently been concern about missionaries working mainly as English teachers and seeking to convert in and outside of classrooms.

## **Administration**

Under the new constitution, the state structure of Mongolia consist of the State great Hural (Parliament) as the highest organization of state power and the legislative body, the President as Head of the State and the Government, comprised of the Prime Minister and cabinet members, as the executive body. Mongolia is administratively divided into 21 aimags (provinces), as well as the capital city district of Ulaanbaatar. The provinces are further divided into 348 soums and districts in urban areas, and each of these is divided in turn into bag and micro districts in urban areas both comprising between 50 and 350 families.

## **Economy**

Mongolia has abundant pasture land and the potential for mineral and hydrocarbon exploitation. About 80% of Mongolia is suitable for extensive animal husbandry, and traditional herds include cattle, horses, camels, goats and sheep. Intensive crop cultivation is limited by the short growing season and sharp daily fluctuations in temperature. The country is rich in mineral resources including coal, iron, tin, copper, gold, silver, tungsten, zinc, fluor spar and molybdenum, as well as semiprecious stones. Thermal power, produced from indigenous coal and imported diesel oil, and traditional sources of fuel are supplemented by electricity imports from the Soviet grid. Recently one of the largest reserves of copper and gold was found in Oyutolgoi, South Gobi province. Both domestic foreign direct investments have flown into mining sector of Mongolia due to its rich natural resources. In 1990, the Government of Mongolia decided to abandon central planning with the intention to move to a market-led system. The new economic structure was to be achieved through privatization of state assets, tight monetary and fiscal policy and liberalization of prices and tariffs. With the establishment of the Mongolian Stock Exchange in 1991, the process of privatization and the establishment of a secondary stock market started. Almost 100% of training, catering and service entities and animal husbandry has been privatized. Housing privatization started in 1997. Land privatization started

in 2001 only in urban areas, but the process is still quite sluggish. Other flourishing economic areas include banking sector, service and tourism.

### **Mongolian Clothing**

In Mongolia, young people favor western style clothes, many people wear cashmere and fur during the winter. But older Mongolians still wear the traditional deel (pronounced as del) in and outside of work. In the countryside most people also prefer the deel and gutuls (boots). They're just more practical.

*Deel*. The deel is a calf length, loose tunic made of one piece of material. It has long sleeves, a high collar and buttons on the right shoulder. The buttons are either silver balls, or narrow strips of cloth tied into intricate knots. Deel is worn with a brightly colored sash. Deels have the same cut whether worn by men or women. Male deels are wider and made of more somber colors. Each ethnic group living in Mongolia has its own individual deel, distinguished by its cut, color and trimming. These distinctions go unnoticed by foreigners, but are obvious to Mongolians. There are three different types of deel, each worn during a particular season. The dan deel is made of light, thin, brightly colored material and is only worn by women and only during the late spring and summer. The terleg is a slightly more padded version and is worn by both men and women. The winter deel is a serious, padded tunic, lined with shepskin or layers of raw cotton.

*Boots*. Gutuls are knee high, unheeled boots made from thick, stiff leather, decorated with leather applique. The toes of gutuls are upturned and several explanations have been offered for this unconventional style. One of the most plausible explanations is the religious motive. Lamas were traditionally forbidden from disturbing "the earth's blessed sleep" i.e. kicking soil as they walked. The gutuls were designed to prevent them from harming the earth as they moved around on foot. Another explanation is that the unturned tip prevents a rider's feet from slipping out of the stirrups. However, it's also true that gutuls are so thick and rigid that if they were flat they would be almost impossible to walk in. These hefty boots are still worn in Ulaanbaatar and are particularly in the countryside.

### **Traditional music and dancing**

Laments about the open steppe, nature and horses are popular themes of traditional Mongolian music. Long songs, as the name suggests, last quite a while and are loved by Mongolians. The original long songs were written about eight hundred years ago and there are special songs written for weddings, festival and religious ceremonies.

There are traditional Mongolian string and wind instruments, as well as drums and gongs, Mongolians have made their music through the ages using metal, stone, bamboo, leather and wood. The most popular musical instrument is Morin Khuur (horse fiddle) which is said to represent the movement and sounds of a horse. It is a square fiddle with a long, straight handle curving at the tip and topped with a carving of a horse's head. Every Mongolian family strives to have a morin khuur in their ger, although they are hand made and fairly expensive instruments. Small flutes and pipes are also popular. Many musical instruments are used purely for religious ceremonies. A shell shaped bugle called dun is used to gather lamas before ceremony and ganlin horns are still used to dispel bad spirits. The ganlin is made from the femur of an eighteen-year-old female virgin (who died of natural causes) and is filled down to size. Example of this instrument can be found in Chojjin Lama museum in Ulaanbaatar (see the city guide section) and in Manzushir monastery 5 km-s south of the capital. Mongolia's Buddhist temples host the spectacular Tsam dances during special religious ceremonies. Lamas wearing huge, ornate masks and brilliantly decorated costume sway and circle to the sound of gongs and trumpets. It is theatrical art by those bearing the external appearance and characters of different apostles and devils, animals and real people.

### **National Holidays**

Mongolia's two biggest national holidays are the lunar new year celebration Tsagaan Sar and Naadam sports festival. While Naadam is always held on 11-12 July, Tsagaan Sar dates vary, as it reflects the irregular lunar calendar cycles. Both holidays are celebrated nationwide. Mongolians are intensely proud of both holidays, which also offer interested foreigners the opportunity to see the nation celebrate in style.

### **Language and Script**

The official language, Mongolian, is spoken and understood throughout the country. Russian is the other major language used. However, other foreign languages, primarily English, are becoming more popular. With regard to dialects, the twenty plus different ethnic groups who historically lived within their own territories each developed their own local dialects. The dialect spoken by Khalkh, Mongolia's largest ethnic group, is the most widely

known. The eastern Mongolian dialects include those spoken by ethnic groups who previously inhabited Inner Mongolia and now live on the far eastern steppe, in Dornod province. Northern dialects are spoken by Buriyat people, who still live in northern Mongolia and the Buriyat republic in southern Siberia. Western dialects include those spoken by the ethnic groups belonging to the Oirad. These groups live in western Mongolia and inhabit Altai mountain range.

### **Alphabet**

Mongolian is written in Cyrillic, but the traditional Mongolian script, which is written from the top downwards and sometimes known as the classical Mongolian script is gradually reappearing, mainly in signs and logos. The oldest example of this script has been preserved is the so-called Chinggis stone, which is still in display at St. Petersburg's Hermitage Museum. The script was engraved as early as 1225 and is a eulogy of the fearless archer Esuuhei, who shot a single arrow 600 meters. The classic Mongolian script (also known as old Mongolian alphabet) was a landmark in the development of written language in central Asia. In 1941 the classical script was replaced by the new alphabet based on Russian Cyrillic characters and introduced to Mongolia as the official script of the country. There is no major difference between the spelling and the pronunciation of this script. The modern Mongolian alphabet consists of 35 characters. Below are each of the characters and a basic language guide, including greetings, simple questions and numbers.