

[2015]

ANNUAL REPORT



INTERNATIONAL
THINK TANK FOR
LLDC

Foreword

Since launching the International Think Tank for LLDCs in 2009, the ITT has achieved a lot. The year of 2015 marked another vital development not only at the domestic level, but also at the international level. Our work still focuses on delivering high quality research papers in order to deliver valuable information to all landlocked developing countries and their partners and overcome the challenges LLDCs face.



From Kazakhstan's Ratification of the Multilateral Agreement on Establishing International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITT for LLDCs) to the Workshop on ICT for Promoting Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Development and Luncheon for the Group of LLDCs at the UN, ITT for LLDCs' activities are gaining considerable international attention through its continued efforts and commitment.

Our think tank continues to engage in global dialogues on the issues related to the landlockedness by disseminating research in that area, organizing international seminars, conferences and workshops. We also actively work on our established relationships with international organizations, universities, research personnel, public and private sector, while further expanding our network with partners and supporters.

In this newsletter the excerpt of our numerous activities conducted by the think tank in the year of 2015 are briefly introduced for the knowledge of the esteemed reader. Please take the time to browse through this annual report to explore the full dimension of our activities.

We appreciate your kind and continued support.

Odbayar Erdenetsogt M.A.

Interim Director

Content

Events organised by the ITT for LLDCs.....	3
May 14 - 15 - Workshop on ICT for Promoting Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Development	3
May 15 - Media coverage and case study on ICT.....	5
September 9 - The Luncheon event for the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at the United Nations	6
September 29 - High Level Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries	8
November 2 - Luncheon for LLDCs in Bangkok	10
International Conferences and Participation.....	12
May 2 - 5 - Observer status at Asian Development Bank.....	12
May 4 - Meeting with UNDP Azerbaijan.....	13
May 5 - Meeting with Azerbaijani Center for Strategic Studies (SAM)	14
May 5 - Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Institute of Finance	15
May 5 - 48th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of ADB	16
April 7 - 8 - ARTNeT-GIZ Capacity Building Workshop on Gravity Modelling	18
Research.....	19
February 17 - 18 - Joint research project	19
March-April - Research on building e-resilience.....	20
October 16 - Starting date of the research project on Free Access of a LLDC to the sea.....	20
Publications	21
Multilateral trade negotiations and LLDCs	21
Building e-resilience	21
Other.....	22
February 23	22
June 2	22
April 10 - Kyrgyz Ambassador pays visit to the ITT for LLDCs	23
April 17 - Kyrgyz Government officials pay visit to the ITT for LLDCs.....	24
June 21 - 28 - Visit to Japan.....	25
July 7 - 11 - Visit to Australian universities.....	26
October 2 - Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Sydney.....	28
October 11 - 13 - Official visit to Tajikistan	29
October 14 - Official visit to Kyrgyzstan	30

1.

Events organised by the ITT for LLDCs

May 14 - 15 - Workshop on ICT for Promoting Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Development

The ITT for LLDCs in cooperation with UN-ESCAP organized a thematic workshop in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where the ITT for LLDCs also contributed with a case study on e-resilience and acted as co-organizer. International experts from Thailand, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Germany, India, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and local Government officials responsible for disaster risk management and ICT participated in the workshop.

The key objectives of the workshop were to examine the role of the ICT as a critical tool in a disaster management context, as well as to share lessons learned and good practices from countries in the region, facilitate ongoing interaction and peer-learning, identify and discuss programs and initiatives, especially those based on public-private sector partnerships that can enhance e-resilience in disaster resilient development, identify key ICT activities which are relevant to disaster resilient development.



Attendees of the Workshop on ICT for Promoting Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Development

Experts also discussed regional and national experiences related to these issues, and explored present improvements in well-known strategies in use of ICT for disaster risk management. A case study of ICT readiness aspects of Disaster Risk Management in Mongolia was launched during the second day of the workshop. Apart from Mongolia, other LLDCs from the region (Bhutan, Nepal , Lao PDR, etc.) actively participated in the workshop.



From left: Mr. Dulguun D., Research Coordinator of ITT, Mr. Matthew Perkins, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), UN-ESCAP, Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs, Mr. Sopheap Seng, President, National Institute of Posts, Telecoms & ICT

May 15 - Media coverage and case study on ICT

Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs was interviewed by Bloomberg TV Mongolia as well as by the Mongolian National Radio. These interviews helped to raise awareness both for the “Workshop on ICT for Promoting Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Development” and for the activities of the ITT for LLDCs in general. Mr. Odbayar talked about the use of ICT in the fields of DRM-Disaster Risk Management, and DRR-Disaster Risk Reduction, case Mongolia and other landlocked developing countries in Central Asia and countries of the Asia Pacific Region.



During the interview with Bloomberg TV Mongolia



During the interview with Mongolian National Radio

Mr. Peter Lange, Senior Analyst of BuddeComm, is presenting his case study on ICT and DRM in China. China is improving its download and upload speed gradually. There is still room for improvement because it finds itself on the middle range in terms of internet speed compared to countries of the ESCAP region.



During the presentation on ICT and Disaster Risk Management in China done by Mr. Peter Lange, Senior Analyst of BuddeComm

September 9 - The Luncheon event for the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at the United Nations

The International Think Tank successfully organized a luncheon for the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at the United Nations HQ in New York. This event was jointly organized with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN in New York.

The main objective of this luncheon was to introduce the current status and activities of the International Think Tank for LLDCs as well as the introduction of the latest product of the International Think Tank “Multilateral Trade Negotiations and LLDCs: A Handbook for Negotiators and Practitioners” to the distinguished members of the Group of LLDCs.

Within its mandate to work closely with the Group of LLDCs at the UN, the International Think Tank for LLDCs briefed member states on the activities of the International Think Tank and its achievements so far. The achievements of the ITT for LLDCs were praised by member states and Permanent Representatives of LLDCs congratulated Interim Director Mr. Odbayar E. and his team at the ITT for LLDCs for their achievements and for their service to the LLDC community.

The event was opened by H.E. Mr. Sukhbold S., Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations. His Excellency Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under- Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and Her Excellency Dr. Kasese Bota, Permanent Representative of Zambia and Chair of the Group of LLDCs at the UN were guests of honor.



H.E. Mr. Sukhbold S., Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN



Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs, briefing the group of LLDCs



During the luncheon



H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS



Brochures and information distributed to the group of

September 29 - High Level Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries

A High Level Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries was convened in New York, on September 28, 2015. Under the theme “Linking Landlocked Developing Countries into Global Opportunities”, the forum brought together Heads of State and Government of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) to renew their commitment to implement the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and as well as the newly approved Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting also explored ways to mobilize and strengthen partnerships for implementing the VPoA and the SDGs.

At the conference, President of Mongolia Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj made a statement and underlined the importance of partnership, support and cooperation between LLDCs as crucial to the effective and successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. The VPoA is a 10 year (2014 to 2024) action-plan which defines the area of concern of all LLDCs. It was adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, on November 3-5, 2014. The President of Mongolia has also highlighted the importance of the International Think Tank for LLDCs by highlighting the idea of having our own think tank which became an initiative designed to enhance the analytical capability of LLDCs in coordinating and substantiating efforts to pool the best minds and mobilize targeted resources from the donor community to the successful implementation of the VPoA and achieve the SDGs. President Elbegdorj Ts. concluded his speech by calling on the remaining fellow members of the Group of LLDCs to become party to the Multilateral Agreement for the establishment of an International Think Tank for LLDCs with a view to fully operationalize the activities of the International Think Tank in the near future.



During the High-Level Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries in New York

Other landlocked developing countries, including Tajikistan, Malawi, Nepal, Bhutan, Botswana, Lesotho, Lao PDR participated at the level of heads of state and Government and delivered statements respectively on their pressing issues, further actions and opportunities for partnerships. Participants highlighted the linkages between implementation of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the VPoA, calling on the international community to provide adequate support for implementing the VPoA.



During the High-Level Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries in New York



Brochures, research materials and information provided by the ITT for LLDCs during the event

November 2 - Luncheon for LLDCs in Bangkok

The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and the Embassy of Mongolia in Bangkok organized a luncheon for Representatives of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries on the sidelines of the Fifth Meeting of Asia Pacific Foreign Direct Investment Network in Bangkok. The aim of the luncheon was to introduce and provide updated information on the current status and activities of the International Think Tank for LLDCs for participants of the Fifth Meeting of Asia Pacific Foreign Direct Investment Network on 2 November 2015.

The luncheon was opened by Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (UN-ESCAP) H.E. Tugsbilguun T., followed by an address extended by Her Excellency Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Undersecretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP to participants of the event.

Interim Director of the International Think for LLDCs Mr. Odbayar E. briefed the audience on the support and assistance provided by the Government of Mongolia to the International Think Tank for LLDCs as well as the United Nations General Assembly's resolution calling for the support of ITT for LLDCs. He further delivered a detailed presentation on the concept, objectives and importance of ITT for LLDCs and its activities.

Moreover, he urged representatives of landlocked developing countries of the Asia Pacific region to accede to the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for LLDCs and introduced latest study reports released by ITT.



H.E. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Undersecretary-General and Executive Secretary of UN-ESCAP

The event was attended by over 50 people including representatives of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, Ambassadors and Permanent representatives, diplomats from donor countries and landlocked developing countries of Asia-Pacific as well as heads of divisions of ESCAP Secretariat.



Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs



During the luncheon



H.E. Mr. Tugsbilguun T., Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN-ESCAP

2.

International Conferences and Participation

May 2 - 5 - Observer status at Asian Development Bank

International Think Tank for LLDCs was officially registered as an Observer of the Asian Development Bank. Therefore, ITT for LLDCs was invited by the ADB to take part at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of ADB in Baku.

The 2015 Governors' Seminar, entitled "Rethinking Growth Potential and Growth Models" discussed Asia's future economic models, how to prepare the region to meet these new challenges and opportunities, and how to design appropriate policy packages to maximize growth potential.



48th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of ADB



Challenges and opportunities for livable Asian cities



Unearthing the Future drivers for Asia's Growth Pillars

May 4 - Meeting with UNDP Azerbaijan

Interim Director Mr. Odbayar E. held a meeting with Ms. Nato Alhazishvili, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in Azerbaijan.

Mr. Odbayar informed Ms. Nato Alhazishvili about the ongoing Mongolia, UNDP Joint Project on the Operationalization of the International Think Tank for LLDCs and discussed about possibilities of promoting this project to Azerbaijan, also a member of the Group of LLDCs.



From left: Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of ITT and Ms. Nato Alhazishvili, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in Azerbaijan

May 5 - Meeting with Azerbaijani Center for Strategic Studies (SAM)

ITT and Azerbaijani Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) were convinced that the SAM can contribute towards the activities of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries profoundly by establishing cooperation in the fields of academic partnership, joint research for landlocked developing countries as well as for Azerbaijan and the region. As a result of the meeting, Mr. Odbayar E. and Mr. Farhad Mammadov agreed to proceed with drafting a Memorandum of Understanding to start cooperation while exploring the possibilities of organizing a joint seminar in order to share knowledge and experience between Azerbaijan and other members of the Group of LLDCs.



From left: Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of ITT and Mr. Farhad Mammadov, Director of the Center for Strategic Studies

May 5 - Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Institute of Finance

Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of ITT, Prof. J. D. Agarwal, Chairman, The Board of Governors, Director and Professor of Finance and Prof. Yamini Agarwal, Vice-Chairperson (Research Development) and Professor of Finance from the Indian Institute of Finance have discussed potential areas of cooperation with the view to implement the MoU successfully.



Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs, and the members of Indian Institute of Finance



From left: Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of ITT for LLDCs, and Prof. J. D. Agarwal, Chairman, The Board of Governors, Director and Professor of Finance are signing Memorandum of Understanding

May 5 - 48th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of ADB

The representative of ITT for LLDCs attended the 48th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of ADB in Baku, Azerbaijan. Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of ITT, met with Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao to inform ADB that the joint research project is ongoing and soon to be launched.

President Nakao also underlined the importance of the Observer role of the ITT for LLDC at the ADB and congratulated Mr. Odbayar and his team of researchers for lifting up the ITT to its current stage.



From right: Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of ITT for LLDCs, and Mr. Takehiko Nakao, President of Asian Development Bank, Mr. Takehiko's wife

Within the framework of the networking efforts of the ITT for LLDCs with renowned Think Tanks from other LLDCs, Interim Director Mr. Odbayar E. held a networking meeting with Dr. Vugar Bayramov - Chairman of CESD - center for Economic and Social Development. Both parties underlined that cooperation based on mutual benefit is welcomed and exchanged views on potential areas of collaboration.

The Center for Economic and Social Development is a leading independent economic think tank in Azerbaijan. Its mission is to promote research and analysis of socio-economic issues in order to positively influence the public policy decision-making process.

CESD was ranked as the top think tank in Central Asia and Caucasus by the University of Pennsylvania's (UPenn) "Go-To Think Tanks" report.



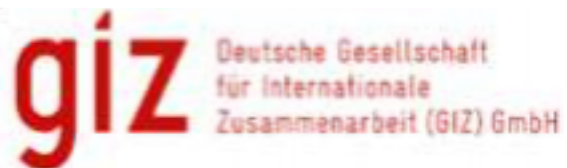
Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs and Dr. Vugar Bayramov, chairman of CESD

April 7 - 8 - ARTNeT-GIZ Capacity Building Workshop on Gravity Modelling

In the framework of improving the capacity of ITT for LLDCs, researchers of the ITT Ms. Onon S. and Ms. Ariunaa S. took part in a 3-day workshop held at UN House, in Ulaanbaatar.

This workshop aimed to provide participants with the following:

1. A solid understanding of the gravity model of bilateral trade, including its theoretical basis,
2. Practical skills in applying basic gravity econometrics using Stata,
3. An appreciation of data and estimation issues involved in the use of gravity models in a range of applied trade policy research.



3.

Research

February 17 - 18 - Joint research project

In the framework of a joint research project of the ITT for LLDCs and ADB on "Facilitating Trade for Fragile and Landlocked States in the post-Bali Institutional Environment", International Think Tank for LLDCs researchers worked in Manila in order to present their research findings.

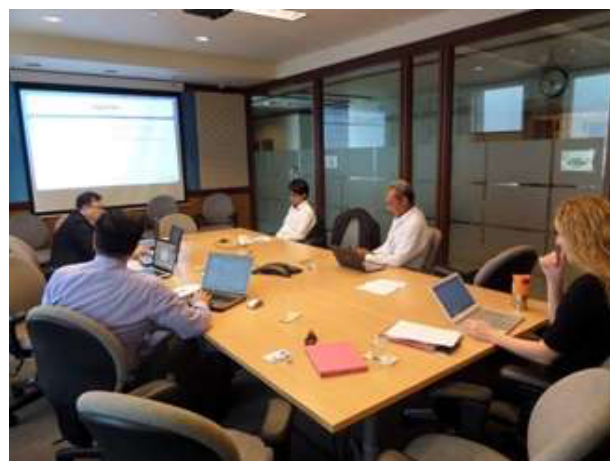
Mr. Dulguun D., Research Coordinator of the ITT, made a presentation on "Economic Geography of Mongolia's Exports". Within his speech, Mr. Dulguun introduced the general economic outlook of Mongolia for the last two decades, which included detailed information about the country's economic situation, export structure as well as destination and external and internal shocks affecting its economy.

Ms. Onon S., Project Officer and Researcher of the ITT, made a presentation on "Market opportunities for Mongolia's primary and value added products". Within her presentation, she briefly introduced the main import and export markets for Mongolia and provided detailed information on how Mongolia benefits from EU GSP for export. She talked about the major and potential markets for Mongolia's value added products. She also introduced the opportunities for value chain development and the relevant national policy initiatives of Mongolia.

Mr. Enkhbold V., Associate Researcher of the ITT, made a presentation on "Mongolia's free trade agreements: Trade and Transit Transport Aspects". During his speech, he talked about the trade policy and trade and transit agreements of Mongolia, its changing strategy towards addressing transit constraints through regional integration and FTA: Case Japan-Mongolia EPA.



Research working group



Research working group

March-April - Research on building e-resilience

The ITT for LLDCs has signed a Letter of Agreement with UN-ESCAP to implement the project entitled “Building e-resilience: Enhancing the role of ICTs for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Mongolia” to provide a national synopsis of the ICT readiness aspects of Disaster Risk Management in Mongolia, on 18th of March.

The ITT staff members, the Project Coordinator and Project officer, drafted the research paper entitled Building e-resilience: Enhancing the role of ICTs for Disaster Risk Management (DRM), case Mongolia and submitted the findings to UN-ESCAP.

October 16 - Starting date of the research project on Free Access of a LLDC to the sea

Research project on “Free Access of a Landlocked Developing Country to the sea – Case India and Nepal” was launched. The contract was signed with international consultant, Ms. Deepali Fernandes, on October 16, 2015 through UNDP Mongolia. The research project aims to consider the trade and transit linkages between Nepal and India for the usage of LLDCs in particular Mongolia. ITT for LLDCs, along with Ms. Fernandes have already held several consultative meetings in Mongolia with the Ministries of Road and Transportation, Mining, Industry, Foreign Affairs, Mongolian Customs and several private operators in logistics, transport and mining industry. The research team of the ITT for LLDCs will visit India and Nepal to deepen the research in the 1st quarter of 2016 and finalize the research.



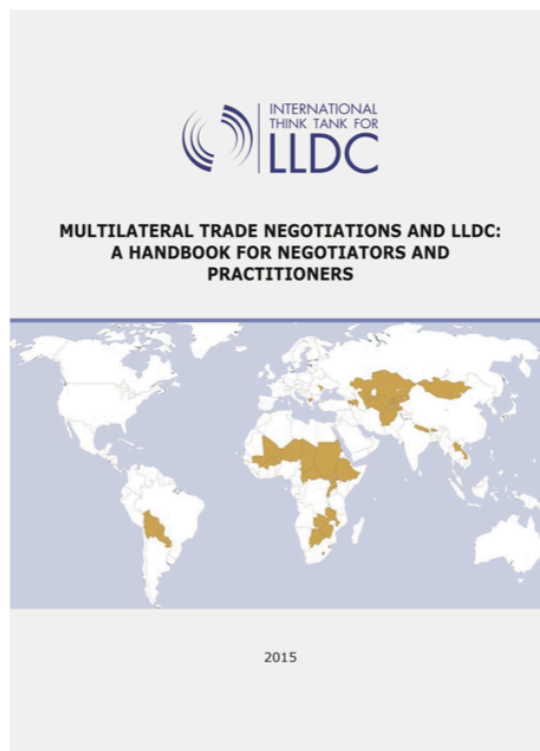
From left: Ms. Fernandes with Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCS and Mr. Dulguun D., Research Coordinator, ITT for LLDCs

4.

Publications

Multilateral trade negotiations and LLDCs A handbook for negotiators and practitioners

Conducted by Mr. Paul Baker, an international consultant and trade expert, on the request of ITT and published in September, 2015.



Building e-resilience Enhancing the role of ICTs for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Mongolia

Conducted by the ITT on the request of UN-ESCAP, finalized in August and published in September, 2015.



5.

Other

February 23

Kazakhstan becomes the newest member of the ITT for LLDCs. Kazakhstan has presented its instrument of accession to the UN Treaty Section, informing the UN about its accession to the Multilateral Agreement for Establishing an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC).



June 2

UNCTAD and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia signed Memorandum of Understanding for the support of the ITT for LLDCs on June 2 in Livingstone, Zambia.



April 10 - Kyrgyz Ambassador pays visit to the ITT for LLDCs

H.E. Kanaiym Baktygulova, Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Mongolia visits the International Think Tank for LLDCs. Mr. Odbayar E. informed H.E. Kanaiym Baktygulova about the ongoing Mongolia, UNDP Joint Project on the Operationalization of the International Think Tank for LLDCs and both sides discussed about possibilities of Kyrgyz Republic's membership at the ITT for LLDCs.



From left: H.E. Kanaiym Baktygulova, Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic and Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs

April 17 - Kyrgyz Government officials pay visit to the ITT for LLDCs

The Kyrgyz Government officials headed by Mr. Akunaly Dosaliev, Member of Parliament, visited the International Think Tank for LLDCs. During the meeting, Mr. Odbayar E. and Mr. Akunaly Dosaliev discussed about the potential participation of Kyrgyz Republic at the activities of the International Think Tank for LLDCs.



Third from the left: Mr. Akunaly Dosaliev, Kyrgyz Member of Parliament, Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of ITT for LLDCs and other Kyrgyz Government officials

June 21 - 28 - Visit to Japan

Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of ITT, and Ms. Ariunaa S., Japan desk officer and researcher paid a working visit to Japan between June 21-28, 2015 in order to hold numerous networking meetings with representatives from Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA). Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director discussed ways to start substantive cooperation between the ITT for LLDCs and abovementioned organizations.



Main goals of the visit to Japan:

Interim Director, Mr. Odbayar E. has discussed steps towards starting cooperation between the ITT for LLDCs and with abovementioned organizations in a broad range of areas such as: Establishment of any form of partnership, joint projects in LLDCs, joint seminar or workshop or podium discussion on trade and export issues, different possibilities of support measures for the ITT for LLDCs and more.

Furthermore, views were exchanged on possible secondment of fellows or experts and officers from JETRO, ERINA to the ITT for a certain period of time as capacity building support, accepting trainees or interns and volunteers at the ITT for LLDCs and vice versa.



Mr. Odbayar, Interim Director of the ITT, held a meeting with Hirofumi ARAI, Director and Senior Research fellow, Research division, Economic research institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA), 25 June 2015 Japan

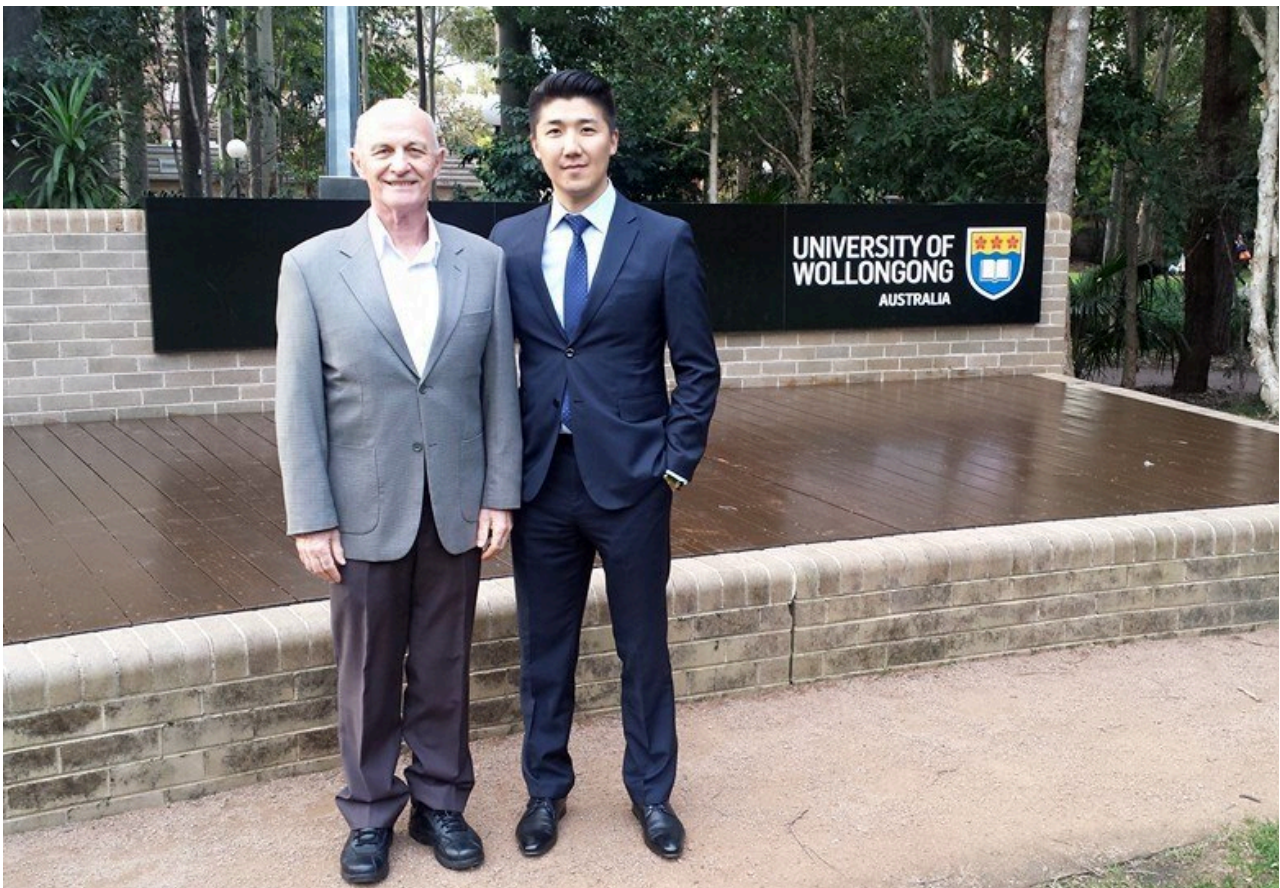


Mr. Odbayar, Interim Director, held meeting with Mr. Daisuke Hiratsuka, Executive vice president, Institute of Developing economies (IDE), JETRO, 24 June 2015 Japan

July 7 - 11 - Visit to Australian universities

The Interim Director of the ITT Mr. Odbayar E. visited Australia between July 7-11, 2015 and held meetings with the University of Wollongong, University of Sydney, and the University of Adelaide.

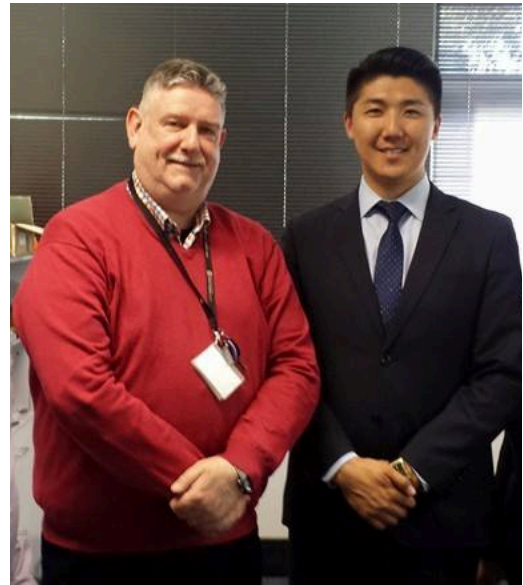
Mr. Odbayar E. discussed different options of relations and cooperation with the Universities. In particular both sides exchanged views on a mutually beneficial cooperation such as capacity building measures, joint research projects, exchange of knowledge and exchange of already existing research materials as well as sending and receiving visiting scholars, researchers and fellows.



From left. Assoc. Professor Dr. Ed Wilson Economics Discipline, University of Wollongong, Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs



From left: Mr. David Morfesi, Executive Director of the Institute for International Trade, Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs



From left: Professor John Glynn PhD, Executive Dean of the Sydney Business School, University of Wollongong, Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs



From left: Professor Richard Pomfret, University of Adelaide, Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs, Professor Christopher Findlay, Executive Dean, Faculty of Professions, University of Adelaide

October 2 - Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Sydney

The International Think Tank for LLDCs signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Sydney on 6th October 2015.

During the participation in the 2nd ASEAN Forum 2015, organized in Sydney, Australia on 1-7 October, Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dr. Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney.

The MoU aims to provide a platform for closer cooperation between the Think Tank and University of Sydney, including joint research projects, the exchange of expertise and experiences in the field of development, transit transport policy and international trade, trade facilitation etc. as well as the mutual participation in workshops and expert meetings organized by the two organizations.



From left: Dr. Sandra Seno-Alday, Research Coordinator , Business School, University of Sydney, Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs

October 11 - 13 - Official visit to Tajikistan

The Mongolian delegation including Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs led by Mr. Gankhuyag D., the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia paid a working visit to Tajikistan on October 11-13, 2015. Within the framework of this visit, Mr. Gankhuyag and his delegation called on Mr. Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan.

During the meeting, State Secretary Gankhuyag highlighted the great importance the Government of Mongolia is attaching to the operationalization of the ITT for LLDCs and he also expressed his confidence about Tajikistan's accession to the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of the International Think Tank for LLDCs.

Mr. Odbayar introduced in detail the activities of the ITT for LLDCs and also distributed recently published reports and research papers to the Tajik side and explained the nature of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank, which has to be ratified by at least 10 LLDCs to make the ITT for LLDCs an Intergovernmental Organization.

Furthermore on the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Mr. Odbayar made a presentation for young diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan on the special needs, challenges and opportunities of landlocked developing countries.



Mr. Odbayar E., Interim Director of the ITT for LLDCs during the official visit to Tajikistan



During the official visit to Tajikistan

October 14 - Official visit to Kyrgyzstan

The Interim director of the ITT for LLDCs accompanied State Secretary Mr. Gankhuyag D. and paid a working visit to the Kyrgyz Republic on October 14, 2015. Within the framework of this visit, Mr. Gankhuyag and his delegation called on Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. During the meeting both sides not only shared views on the present situation of the economic development of the two countries, and bilateral cooperation in trade and economics but also the possibility of Kyrgyz accession to the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think-Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.

Furthermore, Mr. Odbayar provided an in detail introduction to the Kyrgyz side on the activities of the ITT for LLDCs in general and explained that the Multilateral Agreement, which has to be ratified by at least 10 LLDCs, would make the ITT for LLDCs an Intergovernmental Organization.

2015

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The cover page for this annual report was designed by Richa Sharma, a graphic designer who has dedicated time and effort to collaborate with the ITT for LLDCs on this project through the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme. We would like to thank Richa for the excellent design of the cover page.