

[2022]

ANNUAL REPORT



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EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE ITTLDC

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries for the year 2022. The report highlights the progress we have made to support the full implementation and final review of the Vienna Programme of Action, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals fulfilment in the landlocked developing countries in today's times of recovery from the pandemic and political restlessness.

Over the past year, the landlocked developing countries confronted a number of additional challenges in an already highly complex socio-economic and political environment. In most countries, the acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic appears to have passed; however, its' effects still continue to reverberate. The combination of the pandemic impact and the political restlessness has led to significant bottlenecks in international relations, global supply chains, trading and transportation, which has resulted in a step backwards, with inflation rates at its highest in over four decades.

At the same time, the landlocked developing countries need to be attuned to changes in the post-pandemic financial and economic landscape. Through our in-depth studies, policy analysis, and international networking, the ITTLDC focused its efforts to gain the attention of international organizations and regional partners to the challenges facing the landlocked developing countries.

The continuing need for international dialogue and cooperation underscores our role as the global platform for the landlocked developing countries. The virtual and in person meetings held last year in the context of the developmental challenges and pandemic recovery fostered exchanges of views and experiences on topics such as the uneven post-pandemic recovery, impact of the war, interactions of international/national regulations and standards in all fields, and building cyber resilience.

In addition to our regular activities, the Secretariat of the ITTLDC broadened its engagement across respective regions, conducting targeted research, shaping policy debates in Asia and Europe in collaboration with the UN agencies and development partners, including bringing critical issues related to the LLDCs to the desired targets and focus of the development agencies at the national and regional level.



From a think tank's perspective, 2022 was an extremely challenging but successful year. Despite ongoing Covid-19-related constraints and restrictions, its networking and communications have continued to broaden and strengthen, with more and more talks and discussions having reached consensus for the benefit of all landlocked developing countries. These actions will be extended to the all parts of the globe, reaching each and every member and non-member states of the IT-TLLDC.

In 2023 - hopefully with the voluntary contribution and supporting funds of the member states and other donor organizations, the ITTLLDC hopes to be at a new phase of expansion of its operations, with improved progress on planned projects that directly address the priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries 2014-2024.

Looking back at the achievements over the past year, I must warmly thank ITTLLDC member states and development partners, without whom none of this would have been possible and who consistently go the extra mile to anticipate and respond to the special needs of the landlocked developing countries and the Think Tank during these challenging times.

DULGUUN DAMDIN-OD

Executive Director

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EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE ITLLDC

February 15 – 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ITLLDC

(Virtually)

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Think Tank for LLDCs, as the highest authority of the ITLLDC formed by the Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of an International Think Tank for LLDCs, convened virtually on the 15th of February, 2022.

In line with Article 6.3 of the Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of the ITLLDC, Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN, was elected as the new Chairperson and Mr. Ugyen Dorji, Chief of Social & Humanitarian Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, was elected as the new Vice-chairperson.

The Board discussed key operational issues concerning the ITLLDC, such as its Annual Report for 2021, financial audit report, and the Annual Work Plan for 2022.

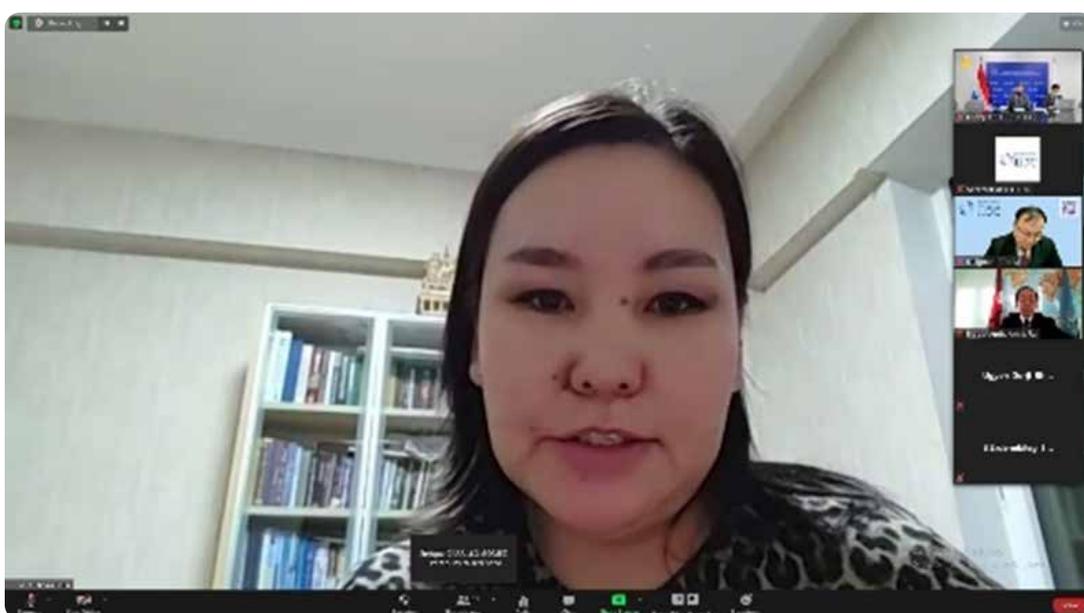
During this meeting, the Election for the Executive Director was held. The Government of Mongolia nominated the ITLLDC's Director of Operations Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od for the Executive Director and he was elected and appointed by the Board as the new Executive Director of the ITLLDC.



Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN



Mr. Ugyen Dorji, Chief of Social & Humanitarian Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan



Ms. Gerelmaa Davaasuren, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN Office in Geneva

The meeting was also observed by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN - OHRLLS), who was granted observer status by the Board of Governors of the IT'TLLDC in 2019. During the meeting, Mr. Erdenebileg Sandagdorj, Chief of the OHRLLS, informed the Board of Governors about activities of the UN-OHRLLS in support of landlocked developing countries during the pandemic and its cooperation with the IT'TLLDC.



Mr. Erdenebileg Sandagdorj, Chief of the Office of the High-Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS



Mr. Enrique Carrillo Gomez, 1st Secretary, Director for Multilateral Economic Organizations of Paraguay and Mr. Santiago Mainero, 3rd Secretary



Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, newly elected Executive Director of the ITLLDC



April 27 – ITLLDC co-organized a meeting on “Pressing problems and its resolution: Mongolian Trade and Transportation Logistic” with Business Council of Mongolia

(Shangri-La Hotel, Ulaanbaatar)

On April 27, 2022, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC) in cooperation with the Mongolian Business Council (BCM) and the National Road Transport Association of Mongolia (NARTAM) organized a meeting at the Shangri-La Hotel under the theme “Pressing problems and its resolution: Mongolian Trade and Transportation Logistics”.

Although the epidemic that has plagued economic growth over the past two years has eased somewhat, geopolitical challenges continue to weigh on foreign trade, transport and logistics, as well as the economy, putting enormous pressure on the private sector. Thousands of containers are currently stranded in the ports of Tianjin and Erlian due to the pandemic, while goods from Europe have been delayed due to the Russia-Ukraine war. Although the reasons for these problems might be caused by external circumstances Mongolia’s policies on transportation, logistics and trade needs to be vastly improved.

Thus, under 2 thematic panel discussions titled “Pressing problems and its resolution of Mongolian Transportation and Logistics” and “Pressing problems and its resolution of Mongolian Trade”, transport/logistics and trade experts, professional associations working in the fields, representatives of governmental and international organizations in charge of these issues, and professional researchers held roundtable discussions on the current situation to hear the voices of the private sector and discuss possible solutions.

During the meeting, ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od presented the pressing issues in the transport and logistics sector of Mongolia as a keynote speaker and moderated the panel on transport and logistics.



*Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od,
Executive Director of the
ITLLDC*



May 19 – Dry port discussion organized

(UN House, Ulaanbaatar)

On May 19, 2022, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries organized a consultative meeting on Mongolia's dry port.

In accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, the goal was to discuss the timetable of tasks and duties of government agencies, to exchange and present information about international documents, within the framework of the requirement to ensure coordination between the government agencies related to the construction of a dry port.

Representatives from the Ministry of Road and Transport Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Maritime Administration under the Ministry of Road and Transport Development, and the Investment Research Center under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the meeting and exchanged views on measures to be taken in the future.



Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLDC



D. Baigalmaa, Senior Officer at the Mongolian Maritime Administration



Mr. Yesukhei Enkhuvshin, Director of the Investment Research Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia



May 25 – Side Event “Connectivity for All” at the 78th Session of the Commission of UN ESCAP

(UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand/Hybrid)

The ITTLDC organized the Side Event titled “Connectivity for All” for the LLDCs in Asia in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN ESCAP on 25 May 2022 at the United National Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand in hybrid form.

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Mr. Erdenebileg Sandagdorj, Chief of Policy Coordination, Development, Monitoring and Reporting Service of the UN-OHRLS, H.E. Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN-ESCAP, and Mr. Weimin Ren, Director of Transport Division of the UN-ESCAP, delivered the opening remarks.

Dr. Sandra Seno Alday, Lead Researcher of the ITTLDC, Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn and Mr. Edouard Chong of the Transport Division of the UN-ESCAP, Mr. Yesukhei Enkhtuvshin, Director of the Investment Research Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, and Dr. Chang Yong Son, Expert on ICT and Development of the UN-ESCAP made presentations at the Side event.

The Side event was a platform for constructive dialogue on the current situation of the connectivity issues in the landlocked developing countries and the way forward in supporting and accelerating a smooth and better recovery for landlocked developing countries.





Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council



Mr. Erdenebileg Sandagdorj, Chief of Policy Coordination, Development, Monitoring and Reporting Service of the UN-OHRLS



Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN-ESCAP



June 17 – MoU Signing Ceremony between the ITLLDC and UNITAR in Geneva

(Palais Des Nations, Geneva)

On June 17, 2022, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) held a ceremony for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the 2 organizations at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, with the presence of the Ambassadors of member countries of the ITLLDC and partner organizations.

The Signing Ceremony commenced with a welcoming address from Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC and opening remarks by Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of UNITAR.

During the ceremony, Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief of United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), Ms. Mihoko Kumamoto, Director of Division for Prosperity of UNITAR, H.E.Ms. Gerelmaa Davaasuren, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and H.E. Mr. Tenzin Rondel Wangchuk, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations Office in Geneva made remarks commending the MoU signing and expressed their high hopes for this cooperation agreement.





Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC, and Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of UNITAR



From left: Ms. Gerelmaa Davaasuren, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN Office in Geneva, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC, Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of UNITAR, and Ms. Mihoko Kumamoto, Director of Division for Prosperity of UNITAR



From left: Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of UNITAR, Ms. Mihoko Kumamoto, Director of Division for Prosperity of UNITAR, and Mr. Erdenebileg Sandagdorj, Chief of the Office of the High-Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS



Mr. Tenzin Rondel Wangchuk, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the UN Office in Geneva



June 29-July 1 – Strengthening the capacity of the Mongolian Presidential Office

(UN House & Government Palace, Ulaanbaatar)

As part of the "Strengthening the capacity of the Office of the President of Mongolia" project jointly implemented by the Office of the President of Mongolia and the Swiss Development Agency, the ITTLDC in cooperation with Mr. Odbayar, Foreign Policy Advisor to the President, and the "Strengthening the capacity of the Office of the President of Mongolia" sub-project unit organized the following two trainings for the employees of the Office of the President of Mongolia on June 29 and July 1, respectively.

LECTURE 1: "LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND MONGOLIA (UN ACTIVITIES IN MONGOLIA)",

COURSE 2: "MONGOLIA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND FOREIGN POLICY DECISION-MAKING MECHANISMS".



Mr. Odbayar Erdenetsogt, Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia



Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC



Ms. Doljinsuren Jambal, Development Coordination Officer for Strategic Planning for UNRCO



July 6 – Capacity Building Workshop on Digital Connectivity and Transformation under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026 with UN-ESCAP

(UN House, Ulaanbaatar/Hybrid via Zoom)

The Capacity Building Workshop on Digital Connectivity and Transformation under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026 was co-organized by the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP).

The workshop aimed to enhance knowledge and capacity on digital connectivity and digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region through sharing good practices and lessons learned.





Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC



Mr. Tapan Mishra, United Nations Resident Coordinator



Ms. Bolor-Erdene Battsengel, State Secretary of the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications of Mongolia



Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of the ICT and Development Section, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of UN-ESCAP

September 29 – LLDC session on the sidelines of the WTO Public Forum

(WTO Conference Room 3, Geneva, Switzerland)

Botswana (as Chair of the Group of LLDCs), the UN-OHRLLS and the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC) jointly organized the LLDC dedicated session during the WTO Public Forum under the theme “Enhancing integration of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) into global trade for sustainable Covid-19 recovery: The role of digital technology” on September 29, 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The objective of this session was to discuss policy options for addressing LLDCs challenges and how LLDCs can leverage digital technologies to enhance structural transformation and their integration into trade and for inclusive recovery.

The session also discussed policy options to address LLDCs ICT connectivity issues and the digital divide and how LLDCs can leverage digital technologies to enhance their integration into trade and achieve structural transformation for inclusive recovery. As finding solutions to deepening of ICT connectivity will contribute towards a sustainable and inclusive recovery in LLDCs, ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od took this opportunity to speak on the challenges LLDCs face daily in their efforts to leverage digital technologies to enhance their trade capacity.

The meeting was attended by representatives from LLDCs, development partners, UN organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations as well as the private sector and academia.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND PARTICIPATION

January 26 – ITTLDC participated in the UN-ESCAP Regional Dialogue

(Virtually)

Director of Operations of ITTLDC Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od participated in the webinar on “Regional Dialogue on Linking the Past with the Future of the Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific” organized by the UN-ESCAP on 26 January 2022.

This Regional Dialogue shared the key findings and outputs of the four-year project titled “Addressing the Transboundary Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration (RECI) in Asia and the Pacific”; and discussed the use of knowledge products, opportunities, and new initiatives to strengthen transboundary economic cooperation and integration.

The high-level decision makers, experts, and government officials from the target countries Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and from the Asia-Pacific region joined in the event virtually.

The ITTLDC has cooperated with the UN-ESCAP and validated the online tools among the other analytical knowledge products, and delivered capacity-building workshops on seamless connectivity and resilience of integrated infrastructure corridors, e-resilience, and digital transformation.

The ITTLDC plans to co-host the above mentioned two online tools in partnership with UN-ESCAP and other development and funding partners. More information on the webinar is available at <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/regional-dialogue-linking-past-and-future-regional-cooperation-and-partnerships>

ESCAP
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON LINKING PAST AND FUTURE REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
12:00 - 15:00 hrs (UTC +7), 26 Jan 2022

The regional dialogue will discuss the key findings and outputs of the four-year project. The speakers will consider how to use the knowledge products, new opportunities, and partnerships to strengthen transboundary integrated corridor connectivity and economic cooperation.

Through this project, the ESCAP secretariat delivered over 39 analytical knowledge products, including 3 online tools and 17 capacity-building workshops, expert group meetings at national, regional levels on seamless connectivity and resilience of integrated infrastructure corridors, e-resilience, and digital transformation.

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HIGH LEVEL SESSION: OPENING STATEMENTS

HANNAH SAGDAN ALI JASSARA
Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

LORNA HU SANARA
Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Economy Affairs, Bhutan

TALESTEEN SHARIF
Minister, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Kyrgyzstan

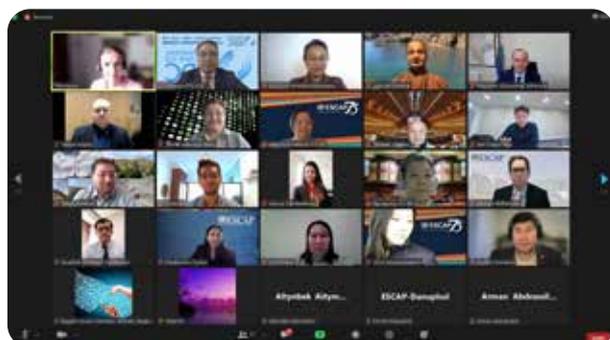
KUDUSMANI
Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture, Indonesia

MODERATOR: TIZIANA BONAPACE
Director, Information and Communications Technology Risk Reduction Division (DDR) of ESCAP

ESCAP - Damphol
ES ESCAP Amal...
Tae Hyung, ESC...



H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UN-ESCAP



Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC

March 18 – Participation in the workshop on the “Integrated National Financing Framework of Mongolia”

(Blue Sky Hotel, Ulaanbaatar)

A joint working group consisting of the Ministry of Finance, the United Nations, the IMF, the European Union and civil society organizations has developed the draft of the "Integrated National Financing Framework of Mongolia" with the aim of creating and mobilizing funding sources for the national sustainable development policy of Mongolia.

The Ministry of Finance of Mongolia and the United Nations jointly organized the workshop on the "Strategic Draft of the Integrated National Financing System of Mongolia" to discuss the draft of the strategic document, its action plan, and the monitoring system, where opinions and conclusions of the stakeholders were heard.

On invitation, Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od participated in the discussion and shared his opinions on how to efficiently harmonize the goals, objectives, and development direction of the Vienna Action Program for Landlocked Developing Countries.

April 19-20 – ITLLDC participated in the Expert Group Meeting on “Implementing the Vienna Programme of Action in North and Central Asia”

(Virtually)

The Expert Group Meeting on Digital potential to advance implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in North and Central Asia was virtually organized by the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia of ESCAP on 19-20 April 2022. The expert group had fruitful discussions to analyze the level of digitalization in North and Central Asia, especially in each of the action areas of the VPoA Roadmap and identify potential areas for digitalization that can support the implementation of the action areas listed in the Roadmap.

At this virtual meeting, Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od delivered his statement with highlights on the importance of digitalization in landlocked developing countries and briefly shared the best cases and findings of the latest studies and projects implemented by the ITLLDC.



Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC

May 23-25 – ITLLDC visits Bangkok to participate in the 78th Session of UN ESCAP

(United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok)

The seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Guided by the theme “A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”, the annual session discusses and shapes the future of regional cooperation centered on a new form of multilateralism and cooperation.

On the invitation of the Executive Secretary of the UN-ESCAP, the ITLLDC participated in person in the 78th Session of the Commission of UN-ESCAP and Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od addressed the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries of the Asia and Pacific Region on May 25, 2022. On the same day, the ITLLDC organized the Side Event titled “Connectivity for All” for the LLDCs in Asia in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN-ESCAP.



H.E. Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of United Nations ESCAP

May 25 – ITTLDC addresses at the UN-ESCAP Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries

(ESCAP Hall, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok)

As the 3rd Agenda Item of the 78th Session of the Commission of the UN ESCAP the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries was held on 25 May 2022.

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UN-ESCAP, H.E. Mr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh (in a video message), and Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief of Policy Coordination, Development, Monitoring and Reporting Service of the UN-OHRLLS delivered statements on the special development issues of the Least developed, Landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries.

The country representatives from Cambodia, Palau, Tonga, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Nepal, Mongolia, Turkmenistan made addresses during the event virtually and in-person.

At the invitation of the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UN-ESCAP Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od participated in-person in the Special Body and delivered his statements on the importance of connectivity for the LLDCs.



Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council



Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UN-ESCAP



Mr. Erdenebileg Sandagdorj, Chief of the UN-Office of the High-Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS



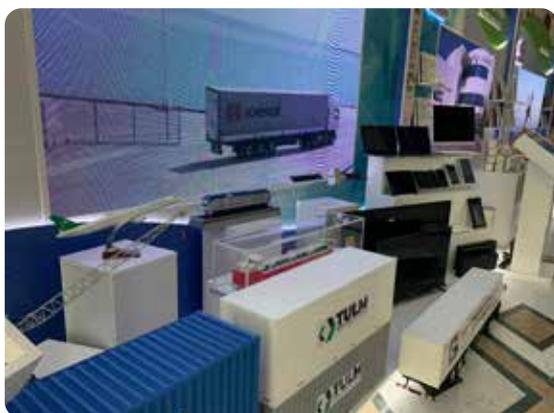
15-16 August – ITTLDC speaks at the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries

(Awaza Congress Center, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan)

The ITTLDC was invited to speak during the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries under the theme “Ashgabat Process: Financing for Better Connectivity”, organized by the Government of Turkmenistan, and the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN - OHRLLS) during the days of 15-16 August 2022 in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan.

The Conference, organized under the theme Financing for Better Connectivity, is part of the preparatory process of the Third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries – to be held in 2024 - and its outcome will contribute towards the thematic area of transport. Beside of the 32 landlocked developing countries transport ministers, conference was attended by the representatives of neighboring transit countries and relevant international organizations.

ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od made his presentation on the current challenges in the transport and logistics sector for all LLDCs during the 6th session on “Strengthening partnerships for capacity-building, sustainable transport, data, initiatives and road safety”.







H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States highlighted the following statements at her opening speech at the Ministerial Transport Conference of LLDCs.

“...Going forward we need to intensify our efforts and scale of solutions. We must strengthen partnerships to close the infrastructure-financing gaps, including investment in sustainable and resilient transport systems. We must make sure that those in smaller communities are not left behind and we must harness all sources of finance, including climate finance. You can count on the full commitment of the United Nations and we stand ready to make the 2024 3rd United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries a success. Let us work to fully utilize innovation and technology to overcome the challenges of geography. Let us join forces to advance sustainable transport and bring true connectivity to landlocked developing countries...”



Quotes from the video message of the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov delivered at the Ministerial Transport Conference of LLDCs is below.

“...Dear participants the coronavirus pandemic affected almost all states, had a negative impact on the world economic relations. The LLDCs arguably turned out to be the most vulnerable from the point of view of the transport component.

Under these circumstances there is an urgent need to consolidate our efforts to concentrate them on achieving prompt and obvious results. One of the most important directions in this respect

is formulation of common principles of world in the frames of United Nations. In our opinion transport issues should take the permanent and firm place in the UN agenda as a separate line of activity of the world organization.

More over our country is ready for the intensification and expansion of new sort of projects and plans. In this context I propose to consider the establishment of creating a special working group at the UN, which will defend the interests of LLDCs in the transport sector and conduct a systematic work with the relevant UN agencies for this purpose. We are also considering in due time to start drafting a General Assembly resolution on enhancing the role of LLDCs as a development strengthening global transport cooperation. It seems that such a document could give an impetuous to the promotion of the interests of our states. To show the significant and understanding of appropriate issues the commitment of world community to their solution..."



29 August-01 September – ITTLDC speaks at 10th APTFF

(Fairmont Hotel, Singapore)

The ITTLDC was invited to speak at the “10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum: Next Generation Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development” held in Singapore during the days of 29 August - 01 September 2022. The Forum was co-organized by ADB, UN-ESCAP, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore.

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of good practices and knowledge on trade facilitation. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with a growing number of partners, since 2009, have organized the APTFF. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30 countries, and offers extensive opportunities for capacity building and cooperation.

The 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum focused on how trade facilitation should evolve to enhance the resilience of international supply chains in times of pandemic and to better support sustainable economic recovery and development in the Asia-Pacific region. The Forum featured panel discussions, interactive and informative sessions allowing the participants to share experiences and perspectives on different aspects of trade facilitation, including trade finance, cross-border e-commerce and paperless trade, transit, innovative application of emerging technologies, etc.



Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLDC participated in Session 5: Aid for sustainable trade facilitation – Evolving needs and available support as a speaker. He presented the challenges and issues of the trade facilitation in LLDCs and recommendations.



Quotes from the opening speech of Mr. Albert Park, Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB is below.

“...due to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, Great coordination among stakeholders of trade, government agencies, private sector and logistics is essential and advancing paperless trade will be great facilitation... Governments need to leverage digital technology and streamline custom procedures and exchange information to reduce cost and increase participation of SMEs in supply chain in critical commodities...”



Quotes from the opening speech of H.E.Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP is “...Accelerating trade digitalization is essential for more resilient and inclusive economy...”



Quotes from the opening speech of H.E.Ms. Low Yen Ling, Minister of State Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore at the 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum is below.

“...it is vital to receive essential and critical goods smoothly, to intensify trade, to overcome challenges of Covid-19 and reduce trade cost and facilitate SMEs, digitalization and cross border paperless trade have to be developed...”

September 7-8 – Participation in the 6th North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals

(Blue Sky Hotel, Ulaanbaatar)

ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od was invited to the 6th North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals which was held at the "Blue Sky" Hotel in Ulaanbaatar on 7 and 8 September 2022. The North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on SDGs is an opportunity to exchange experiences and revitalize partnerships for sustainable development.

The meeting was entitled to a total of 6 sessions. The sessions of the 6th North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on SDGs discussed on themes in line with the SDG targets in focus for 2022: Clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, Industry, innovation, and infrastructure, and Sustainable cities and communities. There were also sessions dedicated to highlighting countries' progress in their SDG implementation and voluntary national reviews as well as on revitalizing partnerships for sustainable development.

Stakeholders agreed the implementation of the SDGs is too slow, especially environmental goals, and highlighted the importance of sustainable financing for inclusive growth of economy with women led businesses and government policy on sustainable food security.





November 9 – ITLLDC participated in the Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum

(InterContinental Seoul COEX Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea)

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITLLDC, participated in the “Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum” (APDTF) being organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) of the Republic of Korea on 9 November 2022.

This Forum provides a great opportunity for high-level senior officials from member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, the civil society with ICT/Digital agendas, as well as donor agencies, to discuss and consider new digital business opportunities and cooperative actions that will encourage building an inclusive digital society and economy.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od shared the ICT and connectivity issues in the landlocked developing countries and case of Mongolia, and provided key recommendations and further ways to develop ICT development and connectivity in the countries.

ITLLDC will conduct a research project on the ICT development in 2023 in cooperation with the UNESCAP.



WAYS FORWARD

- Provide targeted support for LLDCs for policy update and development, financing new technology and infrastructure, and innovation;
- Increase investment and funding to the ICT soft and hard infrastructure development;
- Develop a regional approach to address the connectivity challenges;
- Create enabling environment for the supported development of ICT;

The slide also features a circular diagram with 'GOAL' at the center, surrounded by various icons representing different LLDCs and their specific challenges or focus areas.



H.E. Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of United Nations ESCAP



Mr. Tae Hyung KIM, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UN-ESCAP



H.E. Mr. Uchral Nyam-Osor, Minister of Digital Development and Communications of Mongolia

November 16-18 – ITLLDC participates in 2022 SPECA Economic Forum

(Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Almaty, Kazakhstan)

United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) organizes the 2022 SPECA Economic Forum on “Greener and Safer Future” on the days of 16 and 17 November 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od , Executive Director of the ITLLDC participates in the Forum at the invitation of the SPECA. He delivers speech at the third session of the Forum on Economic security and resilience: Leaving no one behind. He highlighted the importance of transportation legal framework, trade facilitation acceleration and ICT development in LLDCs.

The session covers the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and high inflation and volatile economic conditions also further exacerbate pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities in the SPECA countries. The pandemic induced developmental challenges provide a unique opportunity for the countries to repurpose policy priorities to make economies more resilient to future pandemics, disasters and crises.





*Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan,
former UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia and Good friend of the ITLLDC*

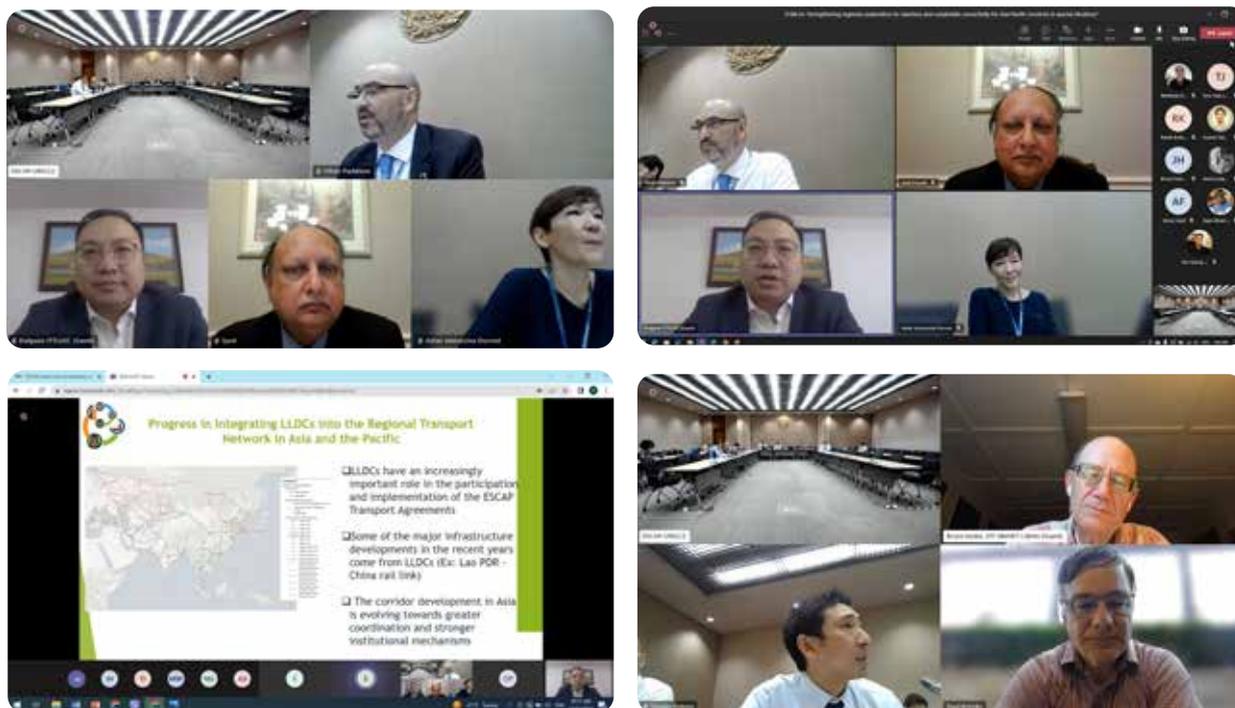
November 21 – ITTLDC reviews the Expert Group Meeting on the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2023

(Virtually)

On 21 November 2022, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) organized the Expert Group Meeting on the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2023 under the title “Strengthening regional cooperation for seamless and sustainable connectivity for Asia-Pacific countries in special situations” in hybrid form.

The Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs (CSN) Development Report assesses the development challenges for least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small Island developing States (SIDS) in the region. These countries are collectively referred to as countries in special situations (CSS). The 2023 Report will focus on the role of transport, energy and ICT connectivity as catalysis of sustainable development in CSS and examine cooperation needs and options, especially considering the limited time left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting gathered insights of experts from academia and think-tanks, particularly in/for Asia-Pacific LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as well as the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, with a view to guiding the preparation of the Asia-Pacific CSN Development Report 2023, where the ITTLDC had been requested to review the report and Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLDC, attended the meeting to share his views on transport, energy and ICT sectors.



November 18 – ITLLDC visits Khorgos Dry port

ITLLDC was warmly welcomed by the Administration of Khorgos Dry Port of Kazakhstan and introduced with the port facility and industrial zone on November 18, 2022.

The ITLLDC sincerely appreciates the support and coordination the Government of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kazakh Railway, and Governor's office of Zhetysu to organize the official visit of Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od to the Khorgos Dry Port and exchanged views on the further cooperation in terms of dry port development, construction and legal framework issues in LLDCs.





November 24 – ITTLDC attends the Ambassadorial Meeting of LLDCs in Geneva

(Virtual)

On November 24 2022, the Ambassadorial Meeting of LLDCs in Geneva was organized virtually by the Permanent Mission of Botswana, coordinator of the Group of LLDCs at the UN.

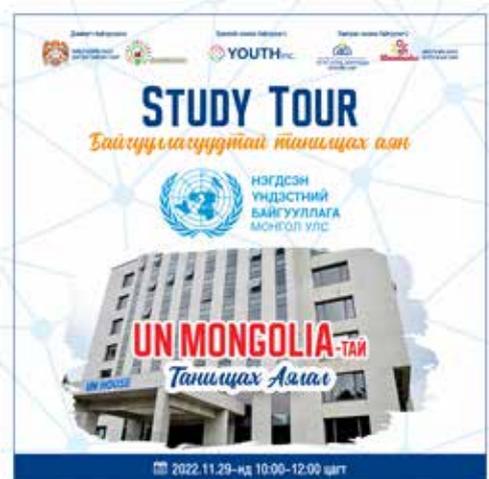
The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the Committee on Trade Facilitation meeting scheduled to take place on 28-29 November 2022 and consider the LLDC Group statement for the Dedicated Session on Assistance and Capacity Building.

ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od was invited to address the meeting and took this opportunity to briefly introduce the activities and plans for 2023 of the Think Tank.



November 29 - ITTLDC participates in the Study Tour Program

ITTLDC participates in the Study Tour Program for the Mongolian youth organized by the YOUTHinc.mn - Young Mongolian Professionals Association and introduces the issues of landlockedness and activities of the ITTLDC.



OTHER

March 1 – ITTLDC and Investment Research Center agree on further cooperation

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ulaanbaatar)

ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od met with Mr. E.Yesukhei, Ambassador-at-Large and Director of the Investment Research Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, on 1 March 2022.

The Investment Research Center was established in 2019 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aiming to put forward the project implementation reflected in the Program on Establishing Economic Corridor between Mongolia, China and Russia.

The parties agree to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation in areas of joint research and studies, and capacity building and networking for economic corridor development of the member states of the ITTLDC.



*Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC, and
Mr. Yesukhei Enkhuvshin, Director of the Investment Research Center of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia*

March 2 – ITLLDC in talks to sign MoU with UNITAR

(Virtually)

ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od held Zoom discussions with Mr. Michael Adalla, Programme Officer of the Trade and Finance Department of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) on 2nd of March, 2022.

Ever since the Executive Director visited the UNITAR office during his visit to Geneva last November in 2021, the ITLLDC and UNITAR have been discussing the establishment of a MoU between the 2 organizations.

Both sides agreed on how to proceed with the MoU and discussed the possibilities of expanding their collaborative efforts, such as implementing capacity building projects for the diplomats of the LLDCs.



March 3 – ITLLDC to partner with BCM

(BCM Offices, Ulaanbaatar)

On March 3, 2022, ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od visited the offices of the Business Council of Mongolia (BCM), which is a politically unaffiliated, membership-based association of leading business and investors, advocating for economic freedom and property rights provided by the Constitution of Mongolia, and protecting and promoting common lawful interests of members for a fair, stable, and internationally competitive business environment. Currently, the BCM represents over 260 businesses and seeks to be a bridge for domestic and international investment.

The Executive Director met with BCM chairman Mr. Tumentsogt to discuss long-term cooperation plans. Both sides further discussed the possibilities of future collaboration on not only joint research and studies for the year 2022 but also organizing more workshops and seminars with the main objective of promoting and strengthening the role of the private sector within the framework of the Vienna Programme of Action.



March 3 – Courtesy meeting at the Country Office of World Bank in Mongolia

(World Bank Country Office, Ulaanbaatar)

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLDC had a short courtesy meeting with Mr. Andrei Mikhnev, World Bank's Country Manager for Mongolia, at their offices on 3 March, 2022.

The two parties exchanged their organization's research publications and discussed potential ways of collaboration regarding joint activities and exchanging knowledge on LLDCs related issues, particularly economic diversification.



March 31 – Courtesy meeting with the new Ambassador of Czech Republic

(Embassy of Czech Republic, Ulaanbaatar)

ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od visited the embassy of the Czech Republic to have a courtesy meeting with the newly appointed Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Mongolia Mr. Jan Vytopil on 31 of March, 2022.

The two parties discussed potential ways of collaboration regarding joint activities, exchanging knowledge on LLDCs related issues, especially the exchanging of experts from the Czech Republic, which is a landlocked country itself, on the important issue of developing dry ports for landlocked developing countries and capacity building for civil servants.



April 13 – Courtesy meeting with Resident Representative of UNDP in Mongolia

(Virtually)

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC) made a virtual courtesy call to Ms. Elaine Conkievich, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on 13 April, 2022.

Ms. Elaine congratulated the Executive Director on his recent appointment, while Mr. Dulguun thanked UNDP for its continuous support extended to the ITTLDC over the past 8 years since the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Mr. L.Bold and UNDP Permanent Representative to Mongolia Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu signed a joint-project document to commence activity of the ITTLDC in 2014.

The two parties briefed each other on recent developments of their respective organizations and agreed to broaden further collaboration in the field of research and organizing events on economic diversification, regional integration and trade.



April 13 – ITTLDC signs MoU with Business Council of Mongolia

(BCM Offices, Ulaanbaatar)

The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC) and the Business Council of Mongolia (BCM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the BCM office on April 13, 2022.

The Business Council of Mongolia is a politically unaffiliated, membership-based association of leading business and investors, striving to deliver value for the public, the members, and the employees by advocating for economic freedom and property rights provided by the Constitution of Mongolia, and protecting and promoting common lawful interests of members for a fair, stable, and internationally competitive business environment. Currently, the BCM represents over 260 businesses, which covers global companies to embassies, international financial institutions (such as the IFI, ADB, World Bank, and EBRD), NGOs, and international organizations.

During the signing ceremony both parties discussed collaboration possibilities on topics such as foreign trade, transportation, and logistics, which are among the main areas of activities set out in the objectives of the ITTLDC.



April 15 – Lecture at School of Mechanical Engineering and Transportation of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology

(Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Ulaanbaatar)

On April 15, 2022 on the invitation of the School of Mechanical Engineering and Transportation of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od gave a lecture on LLDC issues such as transportation and logistics developmental issues that landlocked developing countries continuously face.



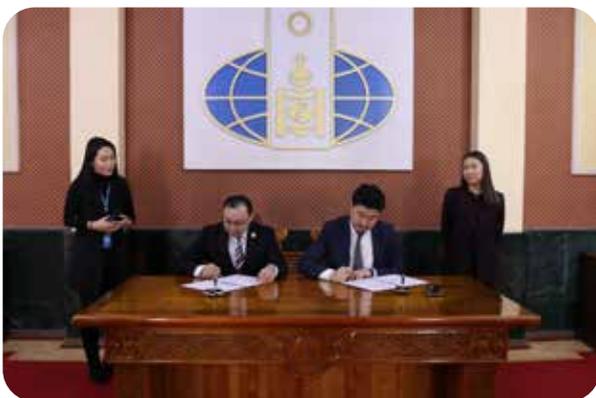
April 21 – ITLLDC signs MoU with IRC

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ulaanbaatar)

The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a mutually beneficial cooperation with the Investment Research Center (IRC) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia on April 21, 2022.

The MoU was signed by the Executive Director of ITLLDC Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od and the Director of IRC Mr. E.Yesukhei.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to collaborate in the field of research on economic corridors, coordinating regulations to prepare advice and methodology, projects related to infrastructure, border checkpoint, dry port, free trade zone, and etc.

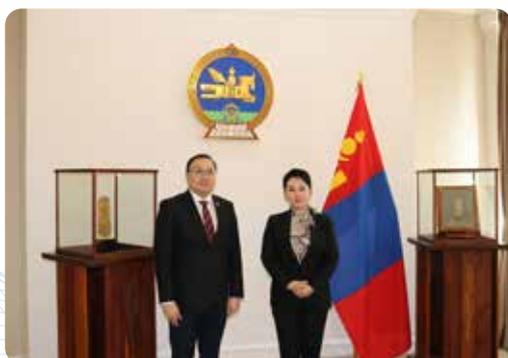


April 29 – Courtesy call on Minister for Foreign Affairs

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ulaanbaatar)

ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od paid a courtesy call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs of host country Mongolia Ms. Battsetseg B. and exchanged views on cooperation in the field of research and capacity building of civil servants and women entrepreneurs.

During the meeting, the Foreign Minister Battsetseg congratulated Mr. Dulguun on his new appointment, expressing her satisfaction with the achievements of the ITLLDC. The two parties also discussed the possibility of further collaboration in promoting the activities of the ITLLDC.



April 18 – HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH PROGRAMME SPONSORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT



The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC) and the University of Wollongong (UOW) of Australia established a MOU to facilitate research collaboration and academic engagement in 2016. As part of this arrangement, in 2021 the ITTLDC and the School of Business within the Faculty of Business and Law at UOW agreed to establish a Higher Degree Research (HDR) sponsorship program for scholars from landlocked developing countries.

The ITTLDC and Business School offers a full sponsorship to two PhD students in 2021-2022, with a view to expanding the program to up to four students in the coming years.

UOW will sponsor successful applicants in the form of an International Postgraduate Tuition Award (IPTA), which is

a tuition fee waiver, for the duration of their PhD candidature.

The successful candidate however will be fully responsible for his/her living expenses. The ITTLDC will assist successful applicants in obtaining funding in the form of a stipend tenable (for living expenses) for the duration of their PhD candidature, which is up to 3.5 years.

The parties will jointly select HDR candidates to complete a PhD course within the Business School under the partnership of UOW and ITTLDC.

May 6 – Preparatory meeting with UN-ESCAP Partners

(Virtually)

Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od had an online meeting with Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of the ICT and Development Section, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) on 6 May 2022 in preparation for UN-ESCAP's upcoming visit to Ulaanbaatar.

The Parties exchanged views and ideas to further strengthen cooperation in the fields of capacity building in LLDCs and research on ICT, digital transformation and connectivity issues.



May 11 – Coordinating meeting held with CICA

(UN House, Ulaanbaatar)

Mr. Kairat Sarybay, Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), visited the ITLLDC office at the UN House to have a brief coordinating meeting with ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od on May 11, 2022.

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA Secretariat) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia to achieve its main objective of enhancing cooperation through elaborating multilateral approaches under five broad domains: economic dimension, environmental dimension, human dimension, new challenges and threats, and military-political dimension.

The two parties discussed potential ways of mutually beneficial collaboration regarding joint activities, including possible joint research, capacity building/training workshops on various subjects of interest to both parties such as economy, e-trade, ecology, climate change, women empowerment, etc.



May 23-24 – ITLLDC meets UN-ESCAP Partners

(UN-ESCAP Offices, Bangkok)

Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od held bilateral meetings with UN-ESCAP partners during the 78th session of UN-ESCAP during the days of 23-24 May 2022.

During the meetings, the parties discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the fields of diverse research and studies and exchanged views on the issues of landlocked developing countries developmental challenges in a post-COVID recovery.

The bilateral meeting with Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of the ICT and Development Section of Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) of the UN-ESCAP, was fruitful and the parties agreed to co-organize a capacity building workshop on digital connectivity and transformation in the Asia Pacific Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026 for the regional national experts and civil servants in Ulaanbaatar in July 2022. Moreover, the parties discussed the possibilities on developing joint research and capacity building projects.

During the bilateral meetings held with the Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest, Chief of the Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section of Transport Division of the UN-ESCAP, and Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of UN-ESCAP, established a good foundation for the further development of cooperation in the fields of research and capacity building in landlocked developing countries in the region.



From left: Mr. Yann Duval, PhD Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of UN-ESCAP, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC, Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of UN-ESCAP, and Ms. Enkhtuul Jantsankhorol, Administrative Officer of ITTLDC



Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC, and Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of the ICT and Development Section of Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) of UN-ESCAP

June 9 – ITTLDC cooperates with IDLO

(UN House, Ulaanbaatar)

On 9 June 2022, Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Dadmin-Od held an official meeting with Mr. Stephan Kent, Country Manager of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), at the ITTLDC office.

The parties had fruitful discussions on further development of a mutually beneficial cooperation at the national level. They discussed a potential collaboration to conduct a review and assessment on bilateral and multilateral trade and transport agreements of the landlocked developing countries.

June 15 – Meetings with member states in Geneva

(Missions of Bhutan and Lao PDR, Geneva)

During their visit to Geneva, the Secretariat of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC) had the opportunity to meet member countries of Bhutan and Lao PDR at their respective missions on June 15, 2022.

ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od invited Mr. Tenzin Rondel Wangchuk, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), and Mr. Bounnalith Southichak, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Lao PDR to the United Nations Office at Geneva, to the Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony between the ITLLDC and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) that was being held on June 17, 2022 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The Executive Director informed them of the most recent ongoing activities of the ITLLDC, such as the capacity building project for officials from landlocked developing countries on trade negotiations that is being planned within the framework of the MoU with UNITAR, including the PhD Programme for candidates from landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) that is being jointly funded by the ITLLDC and the University of Wollongong of Australia, where Mr. Dulguun asked their Excellencies to circulate the programme in their countries.

Their Excellencies thanked the ITLLDC Secretariat for the information and their visit, and expressed their continued support to the ITLLDC as member states of the ITLLDC.



From left: Ms. Sodbolor Enkhsaikhan, Executive Assistant of ITLLDC, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, and Mr. Bounnalith Southichak, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Lao PDR to the UN Office at Geneva



From left: Mr. Tenzin Rondel Wangchuk, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the UN Office at Geneva, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, and Ms. Sodbolor Enkhsaikhan, Executive Assistant of ITLLDC

June 15-16 – Meetings with international organizations in Geneva

(UNDP Offices & Palais Des Nations, Geneva)

During their visit to Geneva, the Secretariat of the ITLLDC met with officials from international organizations based in Geneva, such as the World Trade Organization - WTO, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the days of June 15-16, 2022.

From the WTO, the Secretariat met with Mr. Raul Torres, Head of Development Policy Unit of the Development Division and Mr. Juan Manuel Fernandez-Azpiroz, Head of Technical Assistance Coordination Section of the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation.

From UNDP, the ITLLDC met with the Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva Ms. Agi Veres and the Policy Specialist of the Sustainable Finance Hub Ms. Luisa Bernal.

The think tank also met with Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief of Landlocked Developing Countries' Section of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes of UNCTAD together with Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer of the Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch of UNCTAD, and Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli, Chief of Trade, Gender and Development Programme of the Division on International Trade and Commodities of UNCTAD, in a separate meeting.

The Secretariat exchanged views on potential collaboration modalities and updated them on the activities of the ITLLDC and ongoing projects that are being planned, such as the development of a free trade model agreement specifically designed for the landlocked developing countries, a regional experience-sharing conference for the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Asian (with a view to expanding) LLDCs, and the capacity building project for officials from LLDCs on trade negotiations that is being planned within the framework of the MoU with UNITAR.



Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, and Ms. Agi Veres, Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva



Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli, Chief of Trade, Gender and Development Programme of the Division on International Trade and Commodities of UNCTAD, and Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC



From left: Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief of Landlocked Developing Countries' Section of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes of UNCTAD, and Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer of the Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch of UNCTAD

June 16-17 – Meetings with missions in Geneva

(Missions of UK & Austria, Geneva)

During their visit to Geneva, the Secretariat of the ITLLDC had the opportunity to meet the missions of Austria and United Kingdom on the days of June 16-17, 2022.

From the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office in Geneva, the Secretariat met with Mr. Oli Sharp, Head of Trade for Development, and Mr. Josiah Littlehales, Second Secretary of Trade for Development and from the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations Office in Geneva – Mr. Andreas Bilgeri, Counsellor.

ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od took this occasion to introduce the activities of the ITLLDC and ongoing projects that are being planned, such as the development of a free trade model agreement specifically designed for the landlocked developing countries and a regional experience-sharing conference for the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Asian (with a view to expanding) LLDCs.



From left: Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, Mr. Oli Sharp, Head of Trade for Development, and Mr. Josiah Littlehales, Second Secretary of Trade for Development



Mr. Andreas Bilgeri, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN Office in Geneva, and Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC

June 28 – Meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator

(UN RC Offices, UN House, Ulaanbaatar)

On June 28, 2022 at the UN House, ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od had a brief meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC) Mr. Tapan Mishra to discuss potential collaboration on ICT, energy and trade development in Mongolia and the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action of the Landlocked Developing Countries.

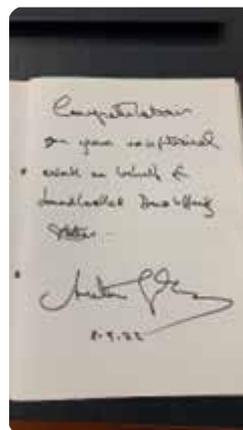


August 9 – UN Secretary-General visits ITTLDC offices

(ITTLDC Office, UN House, Ulaanbaatar)

During his official visit to the UN House in Mongolia, the ITTLDC had the pleasure of welcoming UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to its office and had a brief discussion about the activities of the ITTLDC. The Secretary-General thanked ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od and highlighted the importance of an organization purely dedicated to the cause of landlocked developing countries and their specific challenges.





September 6 – Meeting U.S Agency for International Development’s Senior Development Advisor

(ITLLDC Office, UN House, Ulaanbaatar)

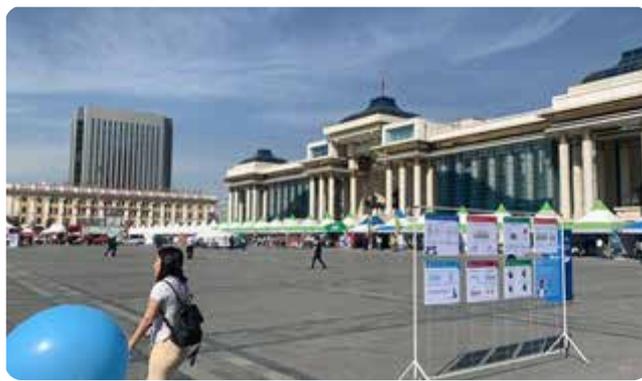
On September 6, 2022, ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od had brief meeting with the U.S Agency for International Development’s Senior Development Advisor Thomas P. Crehan at the ITLLDC offices in the UN House and discussed the challenges of landlockedness in Mongolia and other LLDCs, potential collaboration on tackling those challenges and finding possible solutions to those issues.



September 10 – ITLLDC participates in the SDG OPEN DAY fair

(Sukhbaatar Square, Ulaanbaatar)

The ITLLDC actively participated in the SDG Open Day fair took in the central square of the Capital city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia along with the UN agencies, other international development partners, and national civil society organizations to promote the SDG implementation in the country.





September 20 – ITC visits ITLLDC

(ITLLDC Offices, UN House, Ulaanbaatar)

ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od welcomed International Trade Center (ITC) officials visiting Mongolia to the offices of the ITLLDC at the UN House for a brief meeting on September 20, 2022.

In light of the upcoming 20th edition of the World Export Development Forum (WEDF), which is expected to take place in Ulaanbaatar, Mr. Dulguun and ITC Deputy Executive Director Ms. Dorothy N. Tembo discussed various ways of cooperation in the field of trade facilitation, including gender equality and women empowerment, the main focuses of the ITLLDC for the next year.

The World Export Development Forum (WEDF) is the International Trade Centre's annual flagship event and the ideal platform to discuss the latest issues around trade and development and strategies to connect businesses to new markets.

Participants from all over the world, including business leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and representatives of international organizations, business support organizations and the media take part in the event to support inclusive, sustainable and prosperous economies.



September 26 – Meeting with the Coordinator of the Group of LLDCs

(Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland)

During his visit to Geneva for the 2022 WTO Public Forum, ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od took the opportunity to meet with Dr. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, on September 26, 2022.

They discussed the joint event of the LLDCs session during the upcoming WTO Public Forum and, as the Chair country of the Group of LLDCs at the UN (Botswana), the Executive Director informed the Ambassador of the most recent ongoing activities of the ITTLDC, such as the capacity building project for diplomats and officials from landlocked developing countries on trade negotiations that is being planned within the framework of the MoU with UNITAR.

Her Excellency thanked Mr. Dulguun for the informative visit and cooperation, and expressed Botswana's intention to join ITTLDC as its 15th member state.



September 27 – Meeting with member states in Geneva

(Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nepal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland)

During his visit to Geneva, the Executive Director of the ITTLDC had the opportunity to meet member country Nepal in September 27, 2022.

The Executive Director informed His Excellency Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, of the most recent ongoing activities of the ITTLDC, such as the capacity building

project for officials from landlocked developing countries on trade negotiations that is being planned within the framework of the MoU with UNITAR, including the PhD Programme for candidates from landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) that is being jointly funded by the ITTLDC and the University of Wollongong of Australia, where Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od asked their Excellencies to circulate the programme in their countries.

His Excellency thanked the ITTLDC Secretariat for the information and their visit, and expressed his continued support to the ITTLDC as member states of the ITTLDC.



September 26-30 – Meeting with international organizations in Geneva

(Geneva, Switzerland)

During his visit to Geneva on 26-30 September 2022, ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od had meetings with international organizations such as WTO, EIF, ITC, UNCTAD, ITU.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od exchanged views on potential collaboration modalities and updated them on the activities of the ITTLDC and ongoing projects that are being planned, such as the development of a free trade model agreement specifically designed for the landlocked developing countries, a regional experience-sharing conference for the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Asian (with a view to expanding) LLDCs, and the capacity building project for officials from LLDCs on trade negotiations that is being planned within the framework of the MoU with UNITAR.



Ms. Anne Chappaz, Chief of Institutions and Ecosystems for the International Trade Centre



Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director of the Enhanced Integrated Framework at the World Trade Organization

September 30 – Meeting with missions in Geneva

(Permanent Mission of the Republic of Austria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland)

During his visit to Geneva, ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od had meetings with the mission of Austria on September 30, 2022.

From the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od met with Ambassador Dr. Désirée Schweitzer & 1st secretary Mr. Nicolas Wimberger.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od took this opportunity to introduce the activities of the ITTLDC and ongoing projects that are being planned, such as the development of a free trade model agreement specifically designed for the landlocked developing countries and a regional experience-sharing conference for the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Asian (with a view to expanding) LLDCs.



October 7 – ITTLDC becomes BCM member

(Shangri-La Offices, Ulaanbaatar)

The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC) officially became a member of the Business Council of Mongolia (BCM) on October 7, 2022.

It is an honor to become a part of the family of the membership-based association of leading business and investors.

ITTLDC seeks to cooperate with the private sector in order to facilitate cooperation with governments as indicated in the Vienna Program of Action for LLDCs.



October 13 – Meeting with KOTRA, Ulaanbaatar

(KOTRA Offices, Ulaanbaatar)

On October 13, 2022 the Executive Director of the ITTLDC Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od visited the local offices of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in Ulaanbaatar to hold a courtesy meeting with Ms. Seongwoo Hong, Director General of the KOTRA Ulaanbaatar.

The 2 parties discussed cooperation possibilities on such activities as conducting research, organizing workshops or seminars, exchanging information and publication. The Executive Director also informed her about the Regional conference on women entrepreneurs of Asian LLDCs and Capacity building training project for LLDCs diplomats in Geneva that ITTLDC is planning to organize in 2023.



October 18 – Courtesy meeting with the Korean Ambassador

(Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar)

H.E. Mr Lee Yeo-hong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Mongolia, received Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLDC, at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mongolia for a courtesy meeting on October 18, 2022.

During the meeting, both sides discussed cooperation possibilities, such as conducting research, organizing joint events and exchanging information. The Executive Director also shared the details of some of the ongoing projects of the ITTLDC, namely the Regional Conference for Women Entrepreneurs of Asian LLDCs that the ITTLDC plans to organize in 2023.

He informed the Ambassador of his upcoming November visit to Seoul, Korea for the “Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference” and asked for his assistance in connecting the ITTLDC to local organizations and institutes in Seoul.



October 19 – Meeting with the German Ambassador

(Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar)

H.E. Mr. Jörn Rosenberg, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Mongolia, received Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ulaanbaatar for a brief courtesy meeting on October 19, 2022.



The two parties discussed potential ways of mutually beneficial collaboration regarding joint activities, including possible joint research, capacity building/training workshops on various subjects of interest to both parties such as economic diversification, trade facilitation, women empowerment, which prompted the Executive Director to share the details of some of the ongoing projects of the ITLLDC, specifically the Regional Conference for Women Entrepreneurs of Asian LLDCs that the ITLLDC plans to organize in 2023.

The Ambassador thanked Mr. Dulguun for the informative visit and expressed his willingness to cooperate in any capacity he can, including exchange of information and connecting the ITLLDC to German institutions of common interest.

October 19 – Courtesy meeting with Japanese Ambassador

(Embassy of Japan in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar)



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Mongolia Kobayashi Hiroyuki received Executive Director of ITLLDC Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od at the Embassy of Japan in Mongolia for a brief courtesy meeting on October 19, 2022.

The Executive Director took this opportunity to introduce the mission and activities of the ITLLDC to Ambassador H. Kobayashi. They talked about the challenges of landlockedness and how to be more proactive in raising awareness of these specific challenges.

Afterwards, the parties discussed potential collaboration possibilities for 2023 in the fields of research, workshops and capacity building seminars, where Executive Director also shared the details of some of the ongoing projects of the ITLLDC, such as the capacity building project for officials from landlocked developing countries on trade negotiations that is being planned within the framework of the MoU with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

October 28 – Meeting at the Chinese Embassy

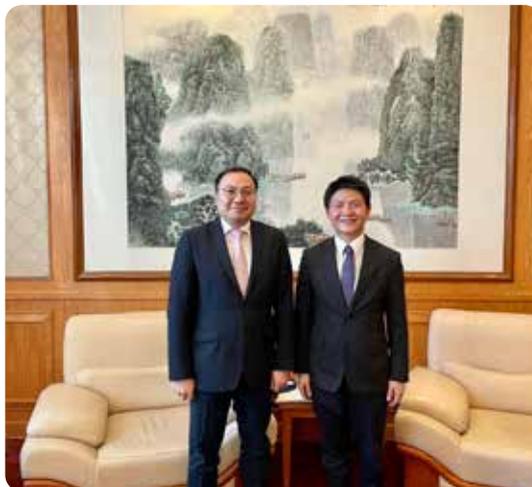
(Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar)

On October 28, 2022 Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC), had a brief courtesy meeting with Mr. Lin Mingxin, Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Mongolia.

As this is ITTLDC's first visit to the Chinese Embassy the Executive Director seized the occasion by introducing the mission and activities of the ITTLDC to Mr. Mingxin, who in turn talked about his own experiences with landlocked developing countries.

The two parties discussed the possibilities of mutually beneficial collaboration, including possible support on conducting research and organizing capacity building/training workshops on various subjects of interest to both parties, such as transit/transport issues and the Belt and Road Initiative.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Dulguun handed over some of the ITTLDC research publications that's on print for the embassy's perusal, while Mr. Mingxin thanked the Executive Director for the information exchange and the informative visit.



October 31 – Meeting at GIZ Mongolia

(GIZ Offices, Ulaanbaatar)

ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od met with GIZ Country Director Ms. Beate Dippmar at the GIZ's local offices on October 31, 2022.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is the main German development agency headquartered in Bonn and Eschborn that provides services in the field of international development cooperation and international education work. It is the organization's self-declared goal to deliver effective solutions that offer people better prospects and sustainably improve their living conditions.

During the meeting, both parties agreed that there are plenty of exciting possibilities in terms of conducting a joint research and exchanging research materials and expertise for guest lectures and consultations on topics of mutual interest, such as the energy sector and SMEs.



November 4 – US Senate Foreign Committee visits ITTLDC

(ITTLDC Offices, UN House, Ulaanbaatar)

On November 4, 2022 representatives from the US Senate Foreign Committee visited the offices of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDC) for a brief introductory meeting.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the challenges of landlockedness, including the importance of trade facilitation, transit transport and dry port development, while ITTLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od briefly introduced the activities of the think tank and handed over some of ITTLDC's printed publications for their perusal.



November 4 – ITLLDC signs MoU with Young Researcher Foundation

(Young Researcher Supporting Foundation Offices, Shangri-La Offices, Ulaanbaatar)

The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a mutually beneficial cooperation with the Young Researcher Supporting Foundation on November 04, 2022. The MoU was signed by the Executive Director of ITLLDC Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od and the Director of YRSF Ms. J.Nomin.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to collaborate in the field of research on mutually interested topics of policy development and solutions to overcome challenges caused by landlockedness and capacity building of researchers.



December 09 - Briefing member states

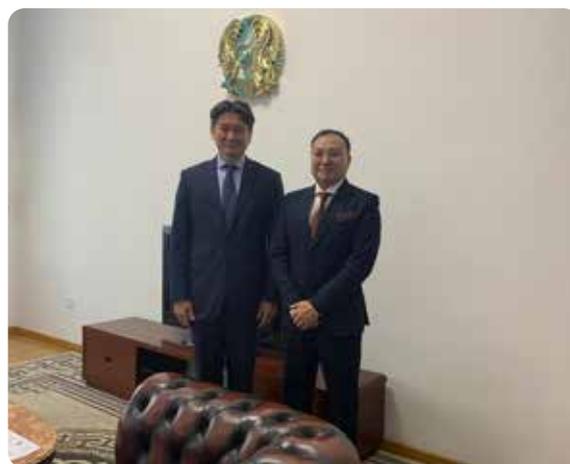
(Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ulaanbaatar)

On December 09 2022, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries met with 2 member states.

ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od briefly informed the activities of the think tank for the year of 2022 and discussed the annual work plan for 2023 with H. E. Deputy Foreign Minister of Mongolia Mr. Amartuvshin Gombosuren and H. E. Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Mongolia Mr. Gabit Koishibayev.



*H. E. Deputy Foreign Minister of Mongolia
Mr. Amartuvshin Gombosuren*



*H. E. Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to Mongolia Mr. Gabit Koishibayev*



Secretariat
International Think Tank for LLDCs
UN House
United Nations Street-14
Sukhbaatar District
Ulaanbaatar 14201
Mongolia
Tel: 976-11-351971
E-mail: thinktank@land-locked.org
Web: www.land-locked.org
www.facebook.com/ITTLDC
twitter.com/ITTLDC