



ANNUAL REPORT

December 2023

Foreword

The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC) dedicates its work to addressing the unique needs and challenges confronted by Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). The organization's core mission aligns with the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for LLDCs.

Many LLDCs are striving to regain their pre-pandemic status, witnessing the resumption of transportation and infrastructure projects previously halted. Consequently, regional integration and cooperation have reached unprecedented levels. Notably, the inaugural China-Central Asia Summit transpired in Xi'an, China, from May 18 to 19, 2023. During this summit, the President of China and leaders from five Central Asian LLDCs (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic) deliberated on ongoing and future transport and logistic projects, resulting in the signing of multiple cooperative agreements.

The resolution of fundamental issues related to transit transport and infrastructure policy holds the key to propelling LLDCs onto the path of development. Heads of state are demonstrating their commitment by undertaking historic visits to LLDCs after prolonged intervals. Examples include the President of France visiting Mongolia, the President of Singapore visiting Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and the Emir of Qatar visiting Uzbekistan. These visits have led to agreements on economic and investment cooperation, with a focus on enhancing direct flights, a primary concern for LLDCs in transit.

In a significant step towards improving air connectivity across 32 LLDCs, Mongolia, supported by Armenia and Ethiopia, presented a timely Working Paper A41-WP/61 EX/30 titled "Improving Air Connectivity in LLDCs." This proposal received endorsement at the 41st Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). ITLLDC has thrown its support behind this initiative and sent a letter expressing its interest in collaborating on research concerning air connectivity issues in LLDCs.

A momentous occasion occurred on June 27, 2023, when H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the United Nations visited the headquarters of the ITLLDC at the UN House, Mongolia. A bilateral meeting ensued, culminating in an agreement to jointly organize events addressing LLDCs' issues and to enhance the visibility and activities of the ITLLDC in support of the landlocked developing countries.

Looking ahead, the Third UN Conference on LLDCs is scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda, from June 18 to 21, 2024, at the level of Heads of State and Government. In preparation for the conference, a series of regional meetings, preparatory committee sessions, ministerial gatherings, and review meetings were conducted, with the active participation of the ITLLDC. As the Executive Director, I conveyed the ITLLDC's perspectives on the new Programme of Action, hopefully contributing to the design of an ambitious program for LLDCs for the upcoming decade.

INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Furthermore, I am pleased to announce the addition of an Administrative Officer to the ITLLDC team, reinforcing our capacity to operate at full potential. Additionally, we welcomed interns from Australia and China, who contributed to the research papers and policy briefs on the socio-economic issues of LLDCs. I would like Members of the Board of Governors visit our website and review the research papers of our interns.

The detailed account of our activities throughout the year 2023 is provided below. We extend our gratitude for your kind consideration and continued support.

Lastly, I wish to draw your kind attention to voluntary contributions for the International Think Tank for LLDCs, as stated in the Clause 8.2 of the Article VIII of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.

As historic year for LLDCs I approaching (3rd UN conference on LLDCs), your contributions will be supporting the active participation of the ITLLDC for drafting the next decade programme of action for LLDCs and will help the Secretariat to continue funding research projects, vital programs and services to help landlocked developing countries meet their special needs and overcome their LLDC-specific challenges.

Sincerely,

DULGUUN DAMDIN-OD, Executive director

1. Introduction

This report is prepared for the Board of Governors of the ITTLLDC, highlighting the activities and initiatives undertaken by the ITTLLDC throughout the year 2023. The report offers a comprehensive review of the significant progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the Annual Work Plan, outlining major accomplishments aligned with the six priority areas of the VPoA.

In Section 3.1, the main activities conducted under Priority 1: Fundamental Transit Policy issues are detailed, encompassing national, regional, and international seminars and workshops that addressed transit-related challenges.

Section 3.2 outlines key activities under Priority 2: Infrastructure Development and Maintenance. Notably, the ITTLLDC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mongolian Maritime Administration under the Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia. Discussions were initiated regarding collaboration with UN-ESCAP, The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute (CARECI), and ITTLLDC on a research project titled "The Infrastructure Corridors Simulator" portal.

In Section 3.3, the report delves into the main activities conducted under Priority 3: International Trade and Trade Facilitation, highlighting the 2023 Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the VPoA Review in North and Central Asia.

Section 3.4 covers the main activities conducted under Priority 4: Regional Integration and Cooperation, including the 79th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, and the 14th Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the VPoA for LLDCs.

Section 3.5 provides an overview of key activities under Priority 5: Structural Economic Transformation, including preparatory meetings for the World Export Development Forum hosted by Mongolia this year.

In Section 3.6, the report details the main activities under Priority 6: Means of Implementation. Here, it is highlighted that ITTLLDC signed an MoU with Global Cultural Adventures (GCA), an international education and cultural exchange organization dedicated to assisting Chinese university students in participating in internships.

The concluding section of this Annual Report emphasizes the critical importance of financial support for the organization's activities to be conducted on a large scale at the international level.

2. Implementation of the Priorities of the VPoA:

2.1 Priority 1: Fundamental Transit Policy Issues

Given that LLDCs' lack territorial access to the sea, the ITLLDC is committed to facilitating these countries in establishing access to and from the sea. This is achieved through the production and dissemination of research and studies on transport and transit-related topics, along with an emphasis on strengthening the analytical capacity of LLDCs in transit matters.

As part of these efforts:

- The Friedrich-Ebert Foundation Mongolia, in collaboration with the Institute for Strategic Studies, has initiated a series of National Foresight Labs. The inaugural edition, held on April 14th, focused on the specific challenges faced by Mongolia as an LLDC. Participants from diverse backgrounds provided policy recommendations addressing transport and logistics challenges, aiming to position Mongolia as a corridor connecting Asia and Europe.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director, served as a keynote speaker during this event. He highlighted the pivotal role that freedom of transit and transit facilities play in the overall development of LLDCs. Discussions centered around the actions LLDCs and their partnerships should undertake.

- The second meeting, held on September 22, delved into the theme of "New Geopolitics-Economics and Mongolia." The ITLLDC team actively participated, informing attendees about the Development Movements of fellow LLDCs and sharing the Think Tank's perspectives.

These engagements underscore the ITLLDC's commitment to addressing fundamental transit policy issues and contributing to the development and connectivity of LLDCs.



- The Meeting of the Representatives of LLDCs to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), hosted by His Excellency Mr. Ariunbold Yadmaa, Ambassador of Mongolia to Canada and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to ICAO, was conducted

virtually from 10:00 to 11:05 am, Ottawa time, on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, within the framework of Working Paper A41-WP/61 titled "Improving Air Connectivity in LLDCs." This Working Paper aims to coordinate policies that promote air connectivity, advocate aviation liberalization, and reduce air transportation costs in LLDCs—an essential tool for the development of these countries.

In attendance at this second virtual meeting were representatives from Armenia, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Nepal, and the Airports Council International (ACI), alongside ITTLLDC and the Embassy of Mongolia to Canada.

Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od provided an introduction to ITTLLDC and presented the current air transport situation of LLDCs, including data analysis during and after the pandemic. He emphasized the potential for LLDCs to serve as aviation hubs for transit transport.

During the meeting, participants exchanged views on continental capacities, institutional capabilities, the role of LLDCs within ACI, and airport accreditations within LLDCs. The discussions aimed to enhance cooperation and understanding among LLDCs and other stakeholders in the realm of aviation connectivity.



- ITTLLDC participated as an observer in the Transport Mongolia Forum held from November 6th to 9th, 2023, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The event was organized by the Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia in collaboration with the International Transport Forum (ITF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The forum featured presentations not only from private sectors but also from representatives of prominent organizations such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank (WB), The International Road Transport Union (IRU), ESCAP, the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, the Russian Ministry of Transport, and Ulaanbaatar Railways.

During the forum, participants delivered speeches introducing both ongoing and planned infrastructure projects in Mongolia. The event was structured to focus on a specific sector each day, covering Road Development and Transportation, Rail Development and

Transportation, Air Development and Transportation, as well as Logistics and Dry Ports. This thematic approach provided a comprehensive exploration of diverse aspects within the transportation and infrastructure landscape.



- ITTLLDC Executive Director, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, actively participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the LLDCs held under the theme "Enhancing Equitable, Affordable, and Inclusive Transport Connectivity as a Driver for More Sustainable and Resilient Economies in LLDCs" in Yerevan on December 14 and 15, 2023.

This Ministerial meeting, organized by the Government of Armenia in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), played a crucial role in the preparatory process for the third United Nations Conference on LLDCs. The outcomes of this meeting served as a significant thematic input for the formulation of the next program of action for LLDCs.

ITTLLDC would like to express its sincere appreciation for the contribution to the ITTLLDC to the Government of Armenia through inviting it to the Ministerial meeting.

- As Mongolia progresses towards establishing its first Dry Port, several activities, including seminars, forums, and discussions, have been organized, with active participation from ITTLLDC. Serving as an international platform for LLDCs, we have shared insider news, Dry Port contacts, and challenges related to establishments in LLDCs. For instance, on November 1, 2023, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the World Bank (WB) organized a seminar titled "Strengthening International Trade and Logistics through Private Sector Participation and Pre-feasibility Study for a Dry Port in Mongolia."

2.2 Priority 2: Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

The ITLLDC is dedicated to fervently pursuing activities aimed at enhancing the analytical capacity of LLDCs in crucial areas such as infrastructure development and investment.

- Within this overarching objective, the ITLLDC, in collaboration with the Mongolian Maritime Administration under the Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia, formalized their commitment by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 18, 2023. This MoU is designed to facilitate and foster research and development cooperation within Mongolia's transport and logistics sector. The agreement outlines a shared commitment to strengthening research capacity in port management, transit transportation, water transport, and logistics. Moreover, it entails conducting studies, organizing joint training, seminars, and study tours to glean insights from the experiences of other landlocked countries.

As part of the MoU framework, the parties engaged in discussions and endorsed the Action Plan for cooperation in 2023-2024. The action plan outlines a series of meetings, seminars, and events geared toward identifying solutions to common challenges in transit transportation, as well as the export and import of goods by sea. These activities will involve representatives from both the public and private sector organizations. Additionally, the plan includes joint research initiatives focusing on the implementation of the intergovernmental agreement on "Dry Ports" in both developing and developed countries. Study tours to dry ports established in the Republic of Kazakhstan and Nepal are also slated within the scope of this comprehensive plan.



- ITLLDC actively participated in a workshop organized by Landbridge LLC on April 26, 2023, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, following their invitation. The workshop served as a gathering for representatives from the private sector, decision-makers, and policymakers, fostering discussions on the current state and the imminent future of the transport and

logistics industry. Professionals provided insights and advice to transport companies on navigating relationships with coastal countries.

During this workshop, ITLLDC Executive Director, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, introduced the Think Tank and delivered a presentation on "Current Situation and Challenges in the Transport and Logistics Sector in LLDCs and Mongolia." The session aimed to enhance awareness and understanding of the unique challenges faced by LLDCs and Mongolia in the transport and logistics domain.



- ITLLDC conducted a Zoom meeting with UN-ESCAP and The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute (CARECI) on May 26, 2023, to discuss collaboration on a research project titled "The Infrastructure Corridors Simulator" portal. During this meeting, Mr. Vadym Kaptur, Vice-Rector on Scientific Work of A.S. Popov Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications of Ukraine, introduced the portal. Designed for professionals, engineers, and decision-makers, the portal facilitates joint planning, infrastructure co-deployment, and integrated corridor development across borders and between countries. The launch of this portal requires USD 245,000.
- ITLLDC held a meeting on March 22, 2023, with Mr. Erkhembaatar Jargaltsengel, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information and Telecommunication Mongolia, and Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of ICT and Development Section of UN-ESCAP, to discuss the joint research project "Assessing the Current Situation of the Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Fostering the Markets of Intellectual Property and Copyright Patents on Digital Products and Services in Technology Mongolia."
- Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od had meetings with Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and with Mr. Aamir Riaz, her team member from ITU on June 14, 2023. The discussions focused on jointly organizing training sessions at national, regional, and international levels for LLDCs and conducting joint research on ICT issues such as frequency interference, satellite potential, data center as a hub, and emergency telecom.

In collaboration with ITU, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communication of Mongolia (MDDC), and the Communications Regulatory Commission (CRC), ITLLDC organized a joint seminar titled "Digital Development in LLDCs of Asia and the CIS" from September 26-28, 2023, in Ulaanbaatar. The event, addressing common challenges faced

by LLDCs, featured the participation of industry experts, specialists, and delegates from Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Mongolia. The seminar explored best practices, legal environments, and discussed challenges and opportunities for ICT sector development and digitization.

The seminar highlighted the importance of the ICT sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Targets set by the VPoA. During the event, the delegates shared country experiences, best practices, and legal frameworks contributing to ICT sector development.

Continuing the collaboration, the ITLLDC team had a courtesy meeting with CRC on October 5, 2023, at the CRC office in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Both parties introduced their activities, and recognizing the importance of energy and information and communications technology infrastructure in the Priority 2 of VPoA, agreed to share information and discussed potential avenues of collaboration in the near future.



"DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT IN LLDCS OF ASIA AND CIS" JOINT SEMINAR



26-28 September 2023
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

On the second day of the joint seminar, ITLLDC presented key insights from their study titled *"Evaluating the Regulatory Frameworks and Systems for Fostering Intellectual Property and Copyright Patents Markets on Digital Technology, Products, and Services in Mongolia."* This study was conducted in collaboration with UN ESCAP at the request of the Ministry of Digital Development and Communication of Mongolia in 2023.

The primary objective of this study was to gather and analyze national policies, practices, and lessons learned, providing substantiated recommendations based on data analysis regarding intellectual property and copyright patents. Ms. Ariunaa Lkhagvasuren, CEO of Intec LLC, Mongolia, and consultant for ITLLDC, reviewed laws and regulatory documents related to intellectual property in ICT cases from various countries. She engaged in interviews and discussions with sector experts and private sector representatives. The process for patent, copyright, trademarks, and geographical indications specific to Mongolia was developed as part of the study.

- The ITLLDC team, in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) colleagues, organized a pre-side event at the World Export Development Forum from June 26-28, 2023, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, adopting a roundtable format titled "Private Sector Consultation: Business Voices from LLDCs." Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITLLDC, served as the rapporteur for the private sector consultation and delivered summaries of the roundtable discussions held under the themes of Infrastructure for supporting enhanced trade, Regional connectivity for improved trade coordination, Trade and development for stronger economic growth, and Inclusive trade facilitation for sustainable development. These discussions were facilitated by ADB, OHRLLS, EBDR, and ITC, respectively.

The establishment of the Infrastructure Development Fund originating from a visionary idea surfaced during a substantive LLDC business dialogue at the World Export Development Forum, ITLLDC, co-organized with the International Trade Centre and the OHRLLS. This concept advocates for the creation of a dedicated Infrastructure Development Fund precisely tailored to address the unique requirements of LLDCs. While infrastructure undeniably constitutes the bedrock of the transportation and trade sector, it is evident that the associated financial investments are substantial.

The World Export Development Forum (WEDF) serves as the annual flagship event of the ITC. Hosted by the Government of Mongolia, this year's 20th edition of WEDF brought together participants from around the world, including landlocked developing countries, to engage in discussions on trade, conduct business, and drive development.



- Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, virtually participated in the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific (RDF-ASP) with the theme "Digital Transformation and Innovation for a Sustainable and Equitable Digital Future: Supporting the SDGs," upon the organizer's invitation. He addressed Session 5: Regional Initiatives ASP 1: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable on September 14, 2023.

During his address, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od underscored critical considerations for analyzing the current situation and advancing digital development in LLDCs. He emphasized the need for targeted support, including policy updates, technological innovation, and the financing of ICT infrastructure within LLDCs. Mr. Damdin-Od stressed the importance of fostering an enabling environment conducive to ICT development, including reducing barriers to foreign direct investment, implementing robust sector regulation, nurturing competitive markets, and attracting much-needed investments.

Furthermore, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od referenced the significant outcomes of the LLDC Business Talks, jointly organized by ITC and ITLLDC on June 26, 2023, as part of the World Export Development Forum in Ulaanbaatar. During these talks, businesses and private sector representatives from LLDCs expressed their strong commitment not only to recovering from the pandemic but also to successfully achieving the SDGs and the targets set out in the VPoA. Their dedication underscores the vital role of private sector engagement in LLDC development efforts.



- The 7th Session of the APIS Steering Committee was co-hosted by ESCAP and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia from November 8-9, 2023, in Yerevan, Armenia. During these sessions, country delegates and sector experts were actively engaged in extensive discussions, reviewing the progress, achievements, and outcomes of the APIS Action Plan 2022-2026. The focus was on strengthening cooperation and partnership among ESCAP Member States, regional organizations, and UN agencies, as well as exploring further engagement with the private sector and donor agencies.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, participated in this two-day event at the invitation of ESCAP and addressed Session 5: Regional Review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines within the framework of the APIS Action Plan 2022-2026.

During his presentation, he highlighted ICT connectivity issues and challenges in LLDCs, underscoring the importance of targeted support for LLDCs in policy updates and development. This included financing new technology and infrastructure, fostering innovation, increasing investment and funding for both soft and hard ICT infrastructure development, and enhancing a regional approach to address connectivity challenges specific to LLDCs.



2.3 Priority 3: International Trade and Trade Facilitation

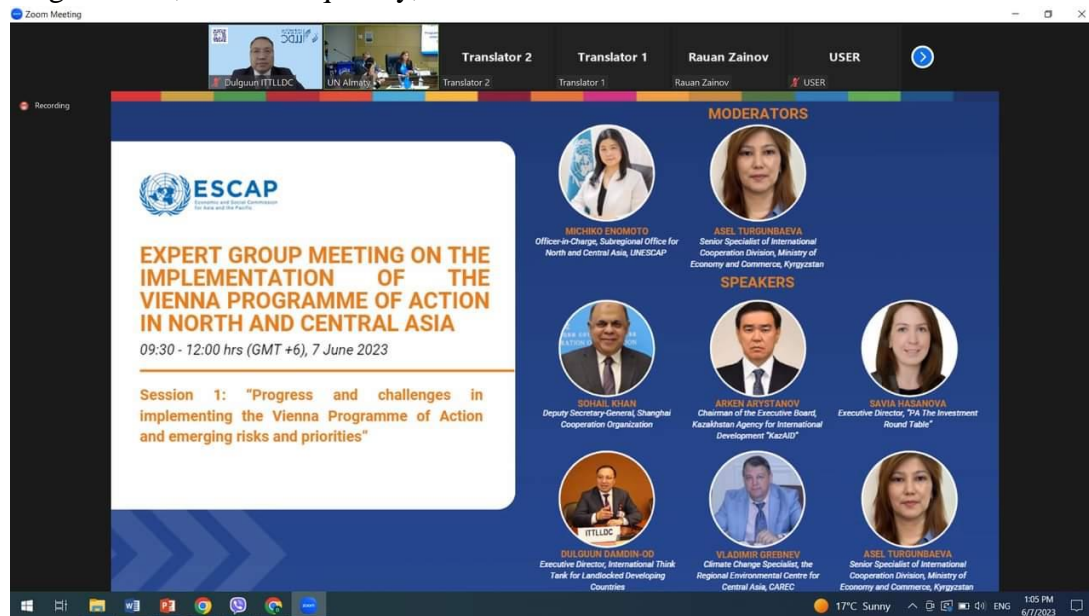
Enhancing the capacity of LLDCs in the realms of trade facilitation and negotiations stands as a core function of the ITLLDC.

- Upon receiving an invitation from UN-ESCAP, the ITLLDC actively participated in the "Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the Implementation of the VPoA in North and Central Asia." This hybrid event took place from June 7-8, 2023, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Building on the substantive discussions and outcomes of the previous year, the 2023 Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the VPoA Review in North and Central Asia meticulously

scrutinized progress, identified gaps and challenges, and explored key action areas in transport, energy connectivity, and trade facilitation. The EGM served as a platform for the exchange of expert opinions, best practices, and lessons learned, aiming to accelerate progress towards the long-term transformation of LLDCs.

During the session on "Progress and Challenges in Implementing the VPoA and Emerging Risks and Priorities," ITLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od presented his findings on socio-economic, Information Communication Technology (ICT), energy, transport, trade facilitation, and climate change developments and concerns in LLDCs.

The outcome of this sub-regional review will contribute valuable inputs to the Euro-Asian Final Review of the Vienna Programme of Action scheduled in Bangkok, Thailand, in August 2023, and subsequently, to the Third UN Conference on LLDCs in 2024.



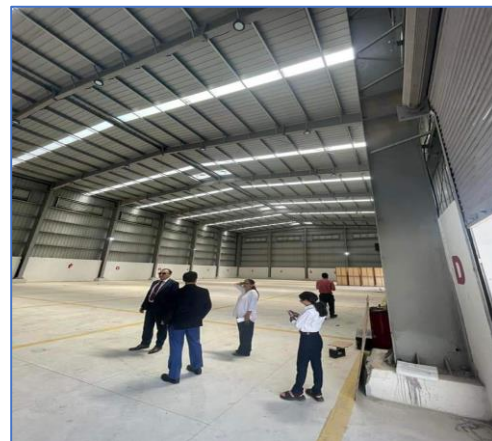
- On June 21, 2023, ITLLDC Executive Director, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, welcomed Mr. Sakhone Philangam, Managing Director of Thanaleng Dry Port, Lao PDR, to discuss potential collaboration in organizing joint training sessions and conducting research. During the meeting, Mr. Sakhone Philangam generously shared his insights and experiences in building and managing a dry port, highlighting the challenges faced as a LLDC and proposing effective solutions. Thanaleng Dry Port holds the prestigious status of being the Class One dry port in Lao PDR and is recognized as one of the nine dry ports of "International Importance," as approved by the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Port of UNESCAP.



- On July 3, 2023, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, the Executive Director of ITTLLDC, met with Mr. Satoru Kumagai, Director, and Mr. Hiromu Fukai, Deputy Director, of IDE-JETRO (Institute of Developing Economies of the Japan External Trade Organization) to discuss potential collaborations on critical initiatives. During the meeting, the Executive Director of ITTLLDC and the Deputy Director of IDE-JETRO explored the feasibility of conducting a study on the evaluation and assessment of infrastructure corridors in African LLDCs. The objective of this study is to identify key areas for improvement and propose potential strategies to enhance trade and transport connectivity in African LLDCs.



- On August 11th, 2023, Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od visited the newly opened Chobhar Dry Port in Nepal, located in the southwestern corner of Kathmandu Valley, covering an area of 11.77 hectares with the generous support of the Government of Nepal. This Dry Port enables importers to conduct customs clearance for their goods directly in Kathmandu, eliminating the need for multiple trips to various border checkpoints where shipments enter Nepal. Such a facility is anticipated to streamline imports and exports, contributing to more organized and competitive trade in Nepal.



2.4 Priority 4: Regional Integration and Cooperation

To foster regional integration and enhance regional trade, transport, communication, and energy networks, ITTLLDC is conducting a baseline study on ICT intellectual property issues in Mongolia.

- In collaboration with UN-ESCAP, ITTLLDC is undertaking a baseline study titled "Evaluating the Current Situation of the Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Fostering Intellectual Property and Copyright Patents Markets on Digital Technology, Products, and Services in Mongolia." The primary objective of this study is to assess the existing policy and regulatory frameworks aimed at fostering intellectual property and copyright patents markets in the digital domain within Mongolia.

Since its commencement in January 2023, the ITTLLDC study team has organized several key informant meetings and conducted interviews with officials from the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications (MDDC), the National Information Technology Park, software development companies, ICT sector experts, and officials from the Intellectual Property Office of Mongolia (IPOM).

On April 7, 2023, the ITTLLDC study team convened its bi-weekly online meeting with UN-ESCAP ICT team members and representatives from MDDC and IPOM. During this session, extensive discussions took place regarding the progress and findings of the study. The UN-ESCAP team expressed keen interest in continuing their support for cooperation, broadening the study's scope, and participating in the ICT EXPO held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on June 9-11, 2023.

- ITTLLDC participated in the 79th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) held in Bangkok, Thailand, from May 15-19, 2023. The

central theme of the annual session was "Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific for Sustainable Development."

During the event, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od addressed the Special Body of Least Developed, Landlocked Developing, and Small Island Developing States. He underscored the critical importance of enhancing physical transport infrastructure and ensuring reliable transportation by advocating for the simplification of transit procedures through automation and digitalization. Mr. Damdin-Od also emphasized the need for harmonizing customs procedures, policies, and regulatory frameworks among LLDCs and transit nations in the region.



- ITLLDC organized a High-level Luncheon event on the Impact of Climate Change on LLDCs on May 17th at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the UN-ESCAP.

Seamless and sustainable connectivity in transport, energy, and digital infrastructure across borders is crucial for enhancing the quality of life in countries facing unique challenges. This interconnectedness serves as a catalyst for sustainable development and plays a vital role in accelerating climate action within these nations.

For example, improved multimodal transport connectivity enables the utilization of less energy-intensive modes of transport. Greater energy connectivity facilitates the cost-efficient deployment and integration of renewable energy sources. Additionally, enhanced



digital connectivity supports access to green and innovative climate adaptation solutions. The long-term advantages of establishing seamless and sustainable connectivity are particularly noteworthy for countries facing unique challenges, considering the current and anticipated impacts of climate change and the sustainable development dividends derived from fostering a low-carbon and climate-resilient world.

- The 14th meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on LLDCs took place in a hybrid format at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on June 12, 2023. The IACG meeting was organized in the context of the preparations for the Third UN Conference on LLDCs in 2024, mandated by the UN General Assembly in resolutions 76/217 and 77/246. ITTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od utilized this opportunity not only to reintroduce the activities of the ITTLLDC to the IACG group but also to provide recommendations for expediting the implementation process of the VPoA and for the development of next decade Programme of Action for LLDCs. The IACG is an informal consultative mechanism with experts on LLDCs issues from the UN and other international and regional organizations, convened by the UN-OHRLLS, focusing on opportunities to enhance coordination and collaboration in support of LLDCs in the implementation of the VPoA for the Decade 2014-2024.
- On June 9, 2023, the UN-ESCAP organized a workshop to enhance policymakers' knowledge on opportunities to access and scale up public and private sources of financing in line with the VPoA for LLDCs priority areas. The workshop on Leveraging Public and Private Investment to Accelerate the Implementation of the VPoA in North and Central Asia placed particular emphasis on financing regional connectivity and sustainable infrastructure investment in the sub-region. ITTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od was invited by UN-ESCAP to speak during Session 3: "Enhancing regional cooperation to finance better connectivity for LLDCs in North and Central Asia," where he shared his thoughts on how to help fast-track the mobilization of private and public sources of financing to implement the VPoA in North and Central Asia. The 2022 EGM on Implementing the VPoA in North and Central Asia organized by the Sub-regional Office for North and Central Asia of the UN-ESCAP highlighted the need for LLDCs in the subregion to strengthen collaboration and cooperation in developing transport and transit corridors, facilitating energy transit, digitalization, and sustainable finance. Building on the substantive discussions and outcomes of the previous year, the 2023 EGM on the VPoA Review in North and Central Asia reviewed progress, gaps, and challenges and examined key action areas in transport and energy connectivity and trade facilitation. The outcome of this sub-regional review will provide inputs to the Euro-Asian Final Review of the Vienna Programme of Action in Bangkok, Thailand, in August 2023, and, in turn, to the Third UN Conference on LLDCs in 2024.

- On June 15-16, 2023, ITTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od attended "The Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security," the VIII International

Conference organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. This conference consists of five parts and discussed security challenges and opportunities in the region, multilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia, featuring peace in Northeast Asia, post-COVID economic cooperation in the region, and power grid connectivity for the energy transition in Northeast Asia.

- Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od participated as a panelist at the Mongolian Economic Forum 2023 Sub-session on Regional cooperation and LLDCs on July 10, 2023, at Chinggis Khaan National Museum. He informed participants about opportunities for Regional Cooperation in LLDCs.



- Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od attended the Regional Meeting on "Enhancing energy efficiency of the freight transport sector in Asia and the Pacific" from August 9 to 10, 2023, in Kathmandu, Nepal, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP).

This Regional Meeting aims to enhance the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders in the ESCAP region to formulate and implement effective policies and plans to promote an energy-efficient future for the freight transport sector, notably road transport, in achieving SDG 7, 9, and 11. In order to achieve its objectives, it provided a detailed analysis of the current state of affairs and offer insights into future paths and strategies that will transform the freight transport sector.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od attended as a speaker, introducing the freight transport situation in Asian LLDCs and their transition to energy-efficient freight transport.



2.5. Priority 5: Structural Economic Transformation.

Many LLDCs remain reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition. To fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is crucial for LLDCs to undertake measures that promote structural economic transformation, capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks.

- The World Export Development Forum, hosted by Mongolia this year, officially gathered insights from businesses for the Ministerial meeting. Discussions cover trade connectivity, infrastructure, trade finance, and inclusive trade facilitation. The World Export Development Forum 2023 was scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from June 26 to 29, 2023. ITTLLDC participated in several preparatory meetings for the forum. During preparations, the ITTLLDC engaged in extensive discussions on the themes and structure of the session dedicated to women entrepreneurs' empowerment and trade issues of the landlocked developing countries with the ITC delegates headed by Mr. Govind Venuprasad, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mongolia team led by Mr. Yasin Janjua, Economist UNDP Mongolia, and representatives from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI).

H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), attended the event.



- Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od participated in a roundtable discussion organized by UN-ESCAP on November 1, 2023, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, under the theme of “Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Roundtable: Building smart, low-carbon, climate-resilient infrastructure in developing countries.” ITTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od informed participants about the infrastructure in LLDCs, sustainable energy in LLDCs, introduced Rwanda’s Digital

Communication case, and highlighted Mongolian infrastructure challenges. The discussions at this meeting provided the basis for a set of preliminary recommendations for developing country governments in the region to partner with the private sector in conceiving and delivering sustainable infrastructure projects.



- ITTLLDC and the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic have mutually agreed to organize a capacity-building program for civil servants. In line with this agreement, both parties co-organized a study tour visit to the Czech Republic from October 9th to 12th for the diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia.

2.6. Priority 6: Means of Implementation.

The ITTLLDC has undertaken various initiatives to enhance collaboration with existing development partners and explore opportunities for establishing new partnerships that complement the endeavors of LLDCs.

- The ITTLLDC welcomed Mr. Angelo Groza as an intern in this year's internship program, commencing on June 5th, 2023. As per the internship requirements of the ITTLLDC, interns are expected to conduct at least one research paper on a chosen topic related to LLDC issues during their internship.
- Earlier this year, the ITTLLDC formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Global Cultural Adventures (GCA), an international education and cultural exchange organization committed to assisting Chinese university students in participating in overseas internship, volunteer, and education programs. As part of the MoU framework, Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od engaged with internship students through Zoom throughout 2023. Additionally, starting from April, ITTLLDC began delivering online lectures to the interns covering various topics, such as introducing LLDCs, the challenges they face, the role of ITTLLDC in supporting LLDCs, international trade and trade facilitation, policy briefing, and the impact of climate change on LLDCs. The research papers and policy briefs of the interns are available at the ITTLLDC webpage for review by experts, academia and government officials of LLDCs.



For more information please go to the <https://land-locked.org/explore-the-innovative-research-of-gca-interns-in-collaboration-with-itlldc/>

As a testament to the dedication and hard work of our GCA interns, we invite you to explore their insightful research papers, covering a diverse range of topics relevant to the challenges and opportunities faced by LLDCs:

- Exploring the Financial Dimensions of E-commerce Development in Asia’s LLDCs
 - Agriculture and Food Security in Nepal
 - Evaluating the current situation of the policy and regulatory frameworks for promoting economic diversification in trade in LLDCs
 - Role of economic growth and Railways to achieve environmental sustainability in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan
 - Research on Digital Transformation Strategy of a Clothing Company in Turkmenistan
 - Enhancing Agricultural Trade and Transportation in Ethiopia: Challenges and Opportunities
 - The Impact of IT Technology on LLDCs
- ITTLLDC attended the High-Level Political Forum #HLPF2023 of the United Nations on Sustainable Development on July 13th, 2023, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.

ITTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od spoke as a panelist at the session for African Countries, LDCs, and LLDCs, along with the UN-OHRLLS, the African
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Union Migration Observatory, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, President of Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, Qatar Fund for Development, Youth Survival Organization (Tanzania), Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (Niger). He highlighted the importance of clean energy, regional trade and supply chain networks, and the role of aviation for the LLDCs.



- ITTLLDC participated in the Latin America Regional Review of the VPoA for LLDCs for the Decade 2014–2024. This significant meeting, jointly organized by the Government of Paraguay, the UN-OHRLLS, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), took place on 27-28 July 2023 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Asunción, Paraguay. Attended by Senior Officials from LLDCs, transit countries in Latin America, development partners, relevant UN agencies, and other international organizations, the gathering aimed to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the VPoA for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024. This review process will lay the groundwork for the LLDC3. The forthcoming conference will formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of LLDCs and enhance partnerships between LLDCs, transit countries, and development partners. In alignment with the General Assembly's resolutions 76/217 and 77/246, the Conference will be preceded by national and regional-level reviews, including this High-level Latin America Regional Review Meeting held in Paraguay.

The outcomes of this regional review will contribute to the preparatory process of the upcoming LLDC3, fostering more comprehensive and effective approaches to address the unique challenges faced by LLDCs.

ITTTLLDC would like to express its sincere appreciation for the contribution to the ITTTLLDC to the Government of Paraguay through inviting it to the Regional review meeting.



Mr. Enrique Franco, Member of the Board of Governors of the ITTTLLDC from Paraguay, Ambassador, Director General for Economic Policy, MFA of Paraguay

- ITTTLLDC participated in the High-level Euro-Asia Review Meeting of the VPoA. The Review Meeting, held in Bangkok, Thailand on August 22-23rd, 2023, saw the participation of Mr. Dulguun, Executive Director of ITTTLLDC, as a distinguished panelist. He contributed to "Panel Discussion 6: Priorities of the next program of action for LLDCs." Here, panelists explored avenues to expedite COVID-19 pandemic recovery, achieve SDGs, and design an ambitious program for LLDCs for the upcoming decade. Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od's insights encompassed recommendations on targets, commitments, and deliverables, envisioning a transformative VPoA that significantly propels SDG achievement in the Euro-Asia Region's LLDCs.

Anticipated outcomes from the Review Meeting comprised the adoption of an outcome document that offered substantive inputs for the Third United Nations Conference for LLDCs. This document is poised to serve as a crucial foundation for the Preparatory Committee Meetings slated for early 2024 in New York.

Dignitaries, ministers, senior government officials responsible for VPoA implementation, transit and trade-related issues, infrastructure development, and finance congregated at the meeting from Europe and Asia. Transit country representatives, development partners, the United Nations system, pertinent regional organizations, international financial

institutions, and the private sector contributed to a vibrant exchange of ideas and strategies. The gathering underscored the collective commitment to propelling the development and well-being of LLDCs in Europe and Asia.



- ITTLLDC, as an observer at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, participated in the 22nd Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries on September 21, 2023.

This Ministerial Meeting brought together ministers and high-level officials from the 32 LLDCs, transit developing countries, development partners, and high-level representatives of the UN system and other international and regional organizations.

During the meeting, an outcome document with recommendations for the preparations of the LLDC3 was approved, contributing to the discussions of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly.



- Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, the Executive Director of the ITTLLDC, had the honor of meeting with Ms. Matilda Dimovska, the newly appointed Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mongolia, and Ms. Lin Cao, Deputy Resident Representative, on September 28, 2023.

During the meeting, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od provided a concise overview of ITTLLDC's multifaceted initiatives and ongoing projects aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by LLDCs worldwide. He emphasized the organization's commitment to research, policy development, and advocacy in support of LLDCs' sustainable development goals. The discussion centered on exploring potential areas of collaboration between ITTLLDC and UNDP. Both parties acknowledged the importance of addressing the specific needs of LLDCs in achieving the United Nations' SDGs and recognized the synergies between their respective mandates.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with a mutual commitment to further discussions and the exploration of concrete avenues for collaboration. The ITTLLDC and UNDP look forward to strengthening their partnership and jointly contributing to the well-being and progress of landlocked developing nations.



- In a courtesy call meeting on October 5, 2023 between Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of the ITTLLDC, and Dr. Socorro Escalante, World Health Organization Representative in Mongolia, discussions were held to strengthen collaboration and exchange knowledge between the two organizations.

During the meeting, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od introduced ITTLLDC's study and comparative analysis on the "Current situation of surgical care delivery and emergency medical services of Mongolia and Lao PDR." This comprehensive study highlights the critical importance of prevention against surgery-related diseases and emphasizes the timely and reliable treatment of such ailments as a fundamental component of any country's healthcare policy and implementation process.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od and Dr. Socorro Escalante engaged in a productive dialogue during the meeting, exploring potential avenues for collaboration between ITTLLDC and WHO to further advance healthcare and sustainable development goals in LLDCs.



The meeting between the two organizations signifies a commitment to fostering international partnerships that can drive positive change in healthcare and development, especially in regions facing unique challenges.

- On October 3, 2023, ITTTLLDC Executive Director, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, held a meeting with Mr. Vinoud Ahuja, the Country Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO) in Mongolia.
In preparation for the next year's plan of ITTTLLDC, the parties engaged in discussions about collaborating on research concerning food security and the transportation challenges faced by LLDCs. They explored strategies to reduce dependence on global chains and underscored the critical importance of infrastructure in addressing these challenges. Ultimately, both parties agreed to continue focusing on the topic of "Food security issues in Central Asia" as a key area of research and collaboration.
- On November 5th, 2023, ITTTLLDC Executive Director, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, held a meeting with Mr. Daovy Vongxay, Director General of the International Organization Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR in Vientiane, Laos. Mr. Dulguun expressed appreciation for the annual voluntary contribution to ITTTLLDC and provided an overview of the recent achievements and accomplishments of the Think Tank, outlining future planned actions in support of LLDCs.
During the discussions, both parties explored avenues to strengthen collaboration and exchange knowledge, particularly focusing on topics related to Dry ports, preparations for the Third UN Conference on LLDCs, and various cooperative research initiatives.
Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od also took the opportunity to introduce ITTTLLDC's study and comparative analysis on the "Current situation of surgical care delivery and emergency medical services in Mongolia and Lao PDR." The study highlights Mongolia's achievements as a best practice for other LLDCs in emergency assistance, surgery, and anesthesia. It emphasizes the necessity of making well-informed decisions to enhance the development and accessibility of the healthcare sector. Furthermore, the research aims to identify and address healthcare challenges in both Lao PDR and Mongolia, taking into account their unique socio-economic and developmental stages as well as geographical distinctions.



- On November 17, 2023, the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Mongolia, H.E. Mr. Farhod Arziev, undertook a historic visit to the offices of ITLLDC at the UN House. As a fellow LLDC, Ambassador Arziev engaged in discussions with ITLLDC Executive Director, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, exploring potential avenues of collaboration across various sectors.

During the visit, the Executive Director provided an overview of ITLLDC's activities, shedding light on its role as a think tank dedicated to addressing the unique challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od shared insights into ongoing projects, research initiatives, and policy advocacy efforts aimed at promoting sustainable development, connectivity, and economic growth for LLDCs.

Expressing a keen interest in understanding the intricacies of ITLLDC, Ambassador Arziev engaged in a dialogue with Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od to explore the potential benefits of Uzbekistan's participation in the think tank and the process of becoming a member country of ITLLDC.

The Executive Director provided a brief overview of the membership criteria and the collaborative opportunities available to member states within the framework of the organization. Their discussions focused on avenues for cooperation in areas such as trade facilitation, infrastructure development, and policy formulation tailored to the specific needs of landlocked developing countries.

The visit of Ambassador Farhod Arziev signifies a significant step toward enhanced regional cooperation and underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges faced by landlocked nations.



- On November 17, 2023, His Excellency Mr. Bishnu Pukar Shrestha, Resident Ambassador of Nepal to the People’s Republic of China, and Non-Resident Ambassador to Mongolia and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, visited the offices of ITLLDC at the UN House.

Nepal, a fellow Landlocked Developing Country and a steadfast supporter, joined the International Think Tank in 2017. Notably, Nepal aims to achieve middle-income status by 2026.

During the meeting, the parties exchanged views on expanding cooperation within the group of LLDCs, Nepal's contributions to the organization, areas of focus for future research and analysis, and the inclusion of pertinent issues in the forthcoming ten-year Programme of Action (2024-2034) to be approved at the 3rd UN conference on LLDC .



- On November 21, 2023 — Mr. Iain Frenkiel, Charge d'Affairs of the British Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, engaged in a brief courtesy meeting with Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, the Executive Director of the ITLLDC at the UN House.

During the courtesy meeting, Mr. Frenkiel expressed a keen interest in the primary focus and pressing challenges faced by LLDCs in the contemporary geopolitical landscape.

The parties engaged in a meaningful discussion on key issues affecting these nations, focusing on crucial areas such as infrastructure development, regional integration, economic diversification, and the challenge of establishing efficient dry ports.

The meeting underscored the commitment of the British Embassy in Ulaanbaatar to engage constructively with organizations like ITTLLDC, contributing to a broader dialogue on addressing the unique needs of landlocked nations. As the discussion concluded, both parties expressed optimism about future collaboration and the potential for shared initiatives aimed at enhancing the resilience and development of Mongolia and LLDCs worldwide.



- On November 22, 2023, His Excellency Mr. Aibek Artykbaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to Mongolia, visited the offices of ITTLLDC at the UN House in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Kyrgyz Republic, a fellow landlocked developing country and a member of the Board of Governors of ITTLLDC, was at the center of discussions during Ambassador Artykbaev's visit. The Ambassador engaged in fruitful discussions with ITTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, exploring potential collaboration avenues across various sectors. The topics ranged from the impacts of global warming on the mountains of Central Asian LLDCs to infrastructure links and joint research on renewable energy, transport routes, and climate change.

During the visit, the Executive Director provided a comprehensive overview of ITTLLDC's activities and shared valuable insights into ongoing research initiatives and connectivity possibilities. Both parties expressed a mutual commitment to collaborate on research activities and organize thematic events in accordance with a mutually agreed plan for 2024. The visit of Ambassador Aibek Artykbaev signifies a significant step toward enhanced regional cooperation and underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges faced by landlocked nations.



- The ITTTLLDC team consistently participate in forums and seminars related to Transport and Logistics. One notable event the ITTTLLDC team attended was the National Risk Forum 2023, held under the theme of “Risk and Standard: Sustainable Development.” This forum was organized by the National Council for Disaster Risk Reduction of Mongolia and took place from November 20 to 22, 2023, at the Government House in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The primary objective of the forum was to formulate optimal policies for preventing and mitigating risk factors to promote sustainable development. Additionally, the event aimed to enhance awareness and engagement among stakeholders in the field of disaster risk reduction.

Various state and government agencies, along with stakeholders such as civil society, international organizations, private enterprises, research and academic institutions, and universities, were invited to participate in discussions. The topics covered national, regional, and global achievements and challenges in disaster risk reduction, climate change, and other socio-economic development issues. This participation aligns with ITTTLLDC's commitment to staying informed about key developments and contributing to discussions that impact landlocked developing countries.



- On the 28th of November 2023, ITTTLLDC Executive Director Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od held a meeting with Diplomats from Turkmenistan's Embassy in the People's Republic of

China. During this visit, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od provided a comprehensive overview of ITLLDC's activities, emphasizing its role as a think tank dedicated to addressing the distinctive challenges encountered by LLDCs.

The Executive Director shared valuable insights into ongoing projects, research initiatives, and policy advocacy efforts, all aimed at promoting sustainable development, connectivity, and economic growth for LLDCs. Additionally, discussions were held regarding potential avenues of cooperation for Turkmenistan to become a member of the International Think Tank.

This meeting marks a significant step towards enhancing mutual understanding among LLDCs and lays the groundwork for a meaningful partnership in the future. The exchange of information and ideas contributes to fostering collaboration and addressing the specific needs of landlocked nations.



- On November 29th, 2023, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITLLDC, visited the Embassy of Moldova in the People's Republic of China. During this visit, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od engaged in discussions with Ambassador Mr. Dumitru Braghis of Moldova.

As fellow Landlocked Developing Countries, the meeting primarily focused on encouraging Moldova to ratify the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for LLDCs. The Executive Director emphasized the significance of Moldova's participation and extended an invitation for both Moldova and Turkmenistan to become the next member countries of the Think Tank. This underscores the collaborative strength needed to address shared challenges among LLDCs.



3. Financial support

3.1 Audited financial statement for 2022

Audited financial statement for 2022 was conducted by the independent international audit company Ernest and Young Mongolia Audit LLC. Audited financial statement is attached for your reference.

3.2 Request for voluntary contributions

ITLLDC is grateful for the voluntary contributions from Mongolia and Lao PDR that enable the smooth operation of ITT in 2023.

ITT has received valuable in-kind contributions from Paraguay and Armenia and UN-OHRLLS etc (various other countries and international organizations). These contributions have facilitated the active participation of ITLLDC, allowing the presentation of insightful analyses on challenges faced by LLDCs to the international community throughout the past year.

As ITLLDC, we grapple with limited funds when it comes to planning or organizing events, conducting research, participating in forums, and voicing our presence on the international stage. At times, invitations specifically extended to our organization are declined due to financial constraints. Nevertheless, ITLLDC endeavors to participate in significant conferences, workshops, and meetings virtually.

In 2024, the 3rd UN Conference on LLDC will be convened, and the role of ITLLDC will be crucial in attending this conference to provide insights on the new Programme of Action for the next decade. As detailed in the Annual work plan for 2024, organizing side events on specific topics during the 3rd conference is paramount.

Therefore, members of the Board of Governors of ITLLDC are kindly requested to consider making voluntary contributions to support our vital initiatives. Your financial support will enable us to actively contribute to shaping the agenda and discussions surrounding the unique challenges faced by Landlocked Developing Countries.