



AmCham News

SEPTEMBER 2019

AMCHAM POLICY AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS

AmCham September Monthly Meeting

AmCham September Monthly Meeting was held on August 24, 2019 at the Blue Sky Hotel & Tower in a panel discussion format on the topic, "Women Business Leaders as Catalysts of Change"- an AmCham initiative to open up a discussion about gender disparities in the workplace, and within Mongolia's business community.

On average, Mongolian women are better educated than their male peers, yet they are less likely to make use of their education. A lot of women feel forced and trapped in precarious work conditions. Most have confessed they mistrust or fear their managers or employers. Gender gaps in the country's labor market include forced labor participation, unequal pay, and higher tendency of women to work in unsecure environments. The prominent reasons for underlining disparities in the workplace are based on societal norms, prevailing views on men and women's roles in marriage, household and care duties, "suitable" career choices, and unavailable government support services and programs. In the private sector, it is estimated that women comprise only around 30% of middle level managers and 15% of higher level positions.

The meeting hosted influential panelists- Partner at ME MGL Advocates LLP Dunnaran Baasankhuu, CEO of Petrovis Venture Capital LLC Shinezaya Batbold, CEO of Mongol HD TV Nomin Chinbat, Resident Director of American Center for Mongolian Studies Tricia Turbold, and moderator Chairwoman of Monpolymet Group Munkhnasan Narmandakh.

Ms. Munkhnasan asked thought-provoking questions and effectively stirred the discussion to cover imperative topics. Ms. Dunnaran approached the discussion from a legal point of view, and focused on policies that disenfranchise or disempower women, while Ms. Nomin approached the discussion from a psychological and sociological point of view. The differences in how we raise our girls and boys is what shapes societal norms that reinforce gender stereotypes. Ms. Nomin quoted, "We tell our girls to be introverted, calm and collected, while teaching our boys to be assertive and dominant." Ms. Tricia mentioned that men have more informal networks such as clubs and associations compared to women, through which the "brotherhood" mentality is fortified. Ms. Shinezaya quoted, "It is of critical importance to openly discuss these issues. The most promising way to make an impact and change the status quo is through the private-sector. Having regular discussions like today's AmCham meeting is what will catalyze change." When the discussion was opened up to the audience, the discourse was further enriched. For instance, the CEO of Bloomberg TV Mongolia Dolgion Erdenebaatar pointed out, "The recent talks of changes to the constitutional amendments had a proposal that stated the President of Mongolia has to be of age 55 or above. This is concerning given the fact women's retirement age starts from 55." The low retirement age of 55 years for women with multiple children is intended to respect their contribution to society, but could also remove them from the jobs market prematurely.



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AmCham Hosts Assistant U.S. Trade Representative

On September 24, AmCham Mongolia's Board of Directors and some members hosted Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Trade Policy and Economics Mr. Edward Gresser to discuss U.S.-Mongolia trade relations and GSP system in details. During the meeting, AmCham members expressed the need for more competitive U.S. financing for import and export, bi-lateral free trade agreement, and other support from the U.S. government for American investors and businesses, by emphasizing AmCham's continued commitment to the Mongolia Third Neighbor Trade Act.



AmCham Auto and Machinery Committee

On September 26, AmCham Mongolia, together with representatives of the U.S. Department of Commerce and MADA, met with key officials of Ulaanbaatar City including Deputy Governor of the Capital City in charge of roads and transportation B.Otgonsukh and Head of Traffic planning, regulation, and engineering agency S.Enkhtur to discuss the issues related with limiting old and RHD cars by tax policies, improving infrastructure for pedestrians and bikers, public transport, electric cars, and recycling of old car batteries and suggested some practical solutions to these issues. The City officials agreed on existing critical issues and confirmed that prudent actions will be taken in the near future.



AmCham Advocacy on Open Sky Policy

As part of support to economic diversification policy, the AmCham Mongolia actively promoted "open sky policy" and advocated on behalf of our member, Turkish Airlines, regarding increased seats for weekly flights to Istanbul through series of engagements with relevant aviation authorities. As a result, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Mongolia and officials from Turkey signed an amendment to the memorandum on air relations between Mongolia and the Republic of Turkey. The amendment would allow Mongolia to have direct flights to Istanbul, Turkey, three times a week, instead of having flights pass through Kyrgyzstan's airport in Bishkek. The seating limit for Turkish Airlines' direct flight was raised from 500 seats per week to 800.

Asia Foundation project: Promoting Good Business Ethics

AmCham Mongolia's project for Phase III with Asia Foundation has been extended, and the project activities will commence in October. The project actions include continuing training sessions for trainers on code of ethics and business conduct in collaboration with the Mongolian Bankers' Association and other companies interested in the sessions, organizing a broad PR campaign on the reporting hotline of 1800-1969 among the general public and businesses to increase awareness on how to report corruption cases, and promoting the active application of AmCham's code of ethics and business conduct template and a checklist among AmCham members and the broader business community in Mongolia.

Testing of online grievance systems

As a member of the Investor Protection Council, AmCham Mongolia is working with National Development Agency and World Bank Group in testing of the online grievance system. On September 26, some of AmCham members participated in the actual testing of the online grievance system and gave their feedback and comments on the pros and cons of the online system. The World Bank Group is financing this project, and they are planning to make it fully operational by end of this year.

AMCHAM EVENTS

AmCham September Networking Night

AmCham September Networking Night was held on September 25, at Sky Walker in Shangri-La Center. The event was sponsored by SPS TV, a subsidiary of our member GEM International. SPS TV is the dominant official broadcaster of sports in Mongolia, bringing us NBA, UFC, FIFA World Cup live, among other prevailing sports. Thank you SPS TV!



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Golomt Bank- Best Consumer Digital Bank of Mongolia 2019

Global Finance, a renowned magazine in the banking and finance sector, has announced Golomt Bank as the 'Best Consumer Digital Bank of Mongolia 2019'. As one of the founders of the Mongolian banking sector, Golomt Bank's growth towards its mission to become a fully digitalized bank qualified them to win the award. A noteworthy initiation is their 'Social Pay – Digital Wallet' platform that provides instant, smooth and simple payment solution for customers. Golomt Bank is well known for keeping up with the era of rapidly developing information technology. Winners were chosen among entries evaluated by a world-class panel of judges at Infosys, a global leader in consulting, technology and outsourcing. The editors of Global Finance were responsible for the final selection of all winners. Only banks that entered the competition were considered for awards, and awards were only given in those regions, countries and categories in which there were entries.

**Golomt Bank organizes Football Championship between Foreign Embassies**

The Friendly Football Tournament was successfully co-organized by Golomt Bank and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia for the 10th consecutive year. This year, 250 players of 16 teams from Embassies and International Organizations in Mongolia participated in the match with 500 people in the audience. Congratulations to the Japanese Embassy for winning the tournament for the second year! Embassy of Kazakhstan came in second place, and Korean Embassy in third place. This is a remarkable annual event to celebrate globalization, sportsmanship and international relations.

AMCHAM MEMBER CSR

Khan Bank's RISE Program

Khan Bank's 2019 RISE Program, under the slogan "Let's learn and develop together!", held its opening ceremony on September 19. The RISE program will assist 1,000 students to successfully apply for jobs, and support them in their academic and creative endeavors. The program is carried out by the Khan Bank Foundation, the bank's corporate social responsibility and sustainability initiator and implementor. The Foundation has partnered with Unread online magazine to facilitate a smooth transition for new university students into the life of Ulaanbaatar, and to support academic platforms that encourage passionate, dedicated and positive growth.

**SouthGobi Sands LLC's Scholarship Program**

SouthGobi Sands LLC has awarded 21 students with full scholarships, proving yet again they are committed to responsible mining. Through the scholarship program, they will prepare a wide range of specialist professionals, such as veterinarians, educators in elementary and high school, dentists, geology and mining engineers in the Gobi region. 8 billion MNT has been donated to Noyon, Sevrei, Gurvantes, Bayandalai and Dalanzadgad Soums in the Gobi. In total, SGS' scholarship program has invested 310 million MNT into the development of our future generations. SGS is committed to continue sponsoring young talents.

**Skytel hands out school supplies**

Skytel believes all children deserve the utmost happiness and fulfillment, and they are committed in making their vision a reality. The Skytel team prepared and pass out 1,000 presents for children to prepare them for the new school year. They initiated a fund raising program to finance the supplies – for every online transaction made by a customer, 200 MNT was contributed to the program. Thus, with the contribution of their customers, Skytel made 1,000 children happy.



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Transbank celebrates International Day for Older Persons

The Transbank branch located in Khoroo 1 of Chingeltei District celebrated 'Day of the Elders' and hosted the seniors of the district. As a socially responsible bank, Transbank invited about 400 seniors to their branch for a festive event. The United Nations declared October 1 as the International Day for Older Persons in December 14, 1990. The District Governor, Chairman of the Citizen's Representative Khural and Chairman of the Elder's Council delivered speeches praising the senior attendees and thanking them for establishing the roots of what we are achieving today as a nation. Transbank was honored to be the sponsor for such a meaningful event for seniors. Transbank will continue working to better accommodate and sponsor our elders.



Wagner Asia Equipment LLC's Opportunity Project

"Opportunity 2019" Project has 15 graduates who completed courses on Heavy Machinery Operators. Wagner Asia Equipment has successfully placed five graduates for jobs. They are delighted that 5 graduates were accepted for dump truck operator's jobs at "Khishig Arvin Industrial" LLC. "Opportunity" project has been continuously supported by Khishig Arvin Industrial- they employed all seven graduates from last year's Opportunity Project. Next ten graduates are ready to join the workforce and we encourage mining companies to cooperate with us by providing job opportunity for these individuals. In addition, there are 14 participants who are waiting to complete their driver's level upgrading courses.



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Mongolian Artisan Cheesemakers Union

MACU and MACU affiliates are transforming the nomadic traditional dairy processing to fine artisan cheese making in rural areas of Mongolia



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