

SUMMARY DOCUMENT
King Hassan II World Water Prize-2012

Introduction

Doctor Batbayar, 37, is recognized as one of Mongolia's most influential environmental policy makers in the field of water resources management. By combining policy making and raising public awareness he has reframed our understanding of water resources, its utilization and how water ecosystems are impacted by humans and the surrounding landscape.

He serves as the Deputy Director of the Water Authority – Government Implementing Agency of Mongolia and is the National Director of “Strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management in Mongolia” project. He is initiator of the Water Forum of Mongolia, and member of the Khovd-Buyant River Basin Council, Zavkhan River Basin.

Doctor Batbayar is best known for his research on legal issues related to water resources management - a concept which describes how to improve the legal arrangements for the integrated water resources management. For example, in order to reduce the water pollution in Mongolia to apply the “polluter-pays-principle”.

Achievements in water policy and law reforms

Dr. Batbayar is a first person to make an assessment of Mongolia's Legal Arrangements for Integrated Water Resources Management. His findings have provided concrete concepts for amendments of the Water Law, which will provide a practical framework for the implementation of the management of Mongolia's freshwater resources. He was appointed as a member of the working group on drafting the Water Law amendments for which the following proposals were made to improve the legal environment:

- To strengthen the water institutional set-up: to establish the River Basin Administrations in River Basins (Mongolian territory was divided into 29 River Basins in 2009 by Ministerial Order of Nature, Environment and Tourism), to serve as the managing units in charge of water resources management in the River Basins. The River Basin Administration will be the decentralized arm of the Water Authority-Government Implementing Agency, the unit to issue/annul water use rights, to establish River Basin database, to advise on developing the River Basin Management Plan and to support its implementation and many other responsibilities. This new institution is very important as water resource management at the aimag¹ level is currently the responsibility of only one officer.

Dr. Batbayar has played a pioneering role in the establishment of Khovd-Buyant River Basin Council - the first model River Basin Council, and the Tuul River Basin Council that serves the most important River Basin of Mongolia. Many other River Basin

¹ Aimag-Mongolian province, Mongolian territory divided in 21 aimags, aimags sub-divided in soums, soums in bag.

Councils have meanwhile been established with his active support and working successfully in developing the River Basin Management Plans.

- To increase the economic value of Mongolia's water resources: Dr. Batbayar is driving force for applying the Dublin Principle No. 4 that water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good. For example, according existing Water Law of Mongolia the water utilization is divided by its purpose.² Following this legal terminology agriculture water use falls in the category “water consumers”, which implies that no water use fees need to be paid. During the past ten years the agriculture industry is rapidly developing in Mongolia in parallel increasing its water use. The proposed amendments for the Water Law include the concept of water having an economic value and hence the agriculture industry will be required to pay for its water utilization.
- To apply the polluter-pays principle: Dr. Batbayar has initiated the application of the polluter-pays principle in Mongolia. This crusade has taken a long time. In 2007 he started to talk about the polluter-pays principle, organizing meetings and discussions where he presented the disturbing situation of water pollution caused by the tanneries and food processing industries in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia. The final result of his long and hard endeavor was achieved this year when the policy-makers and water users agreed to apply the polluter-pays principle in Mongolia.

At the same time Dr. Batbayar has played a leading role in drafting a new Law on Water Pollution Fee, an absolutely new concept for Mongolia which makes every water user a water polluter and every polluter must pay a fee for his water pollution.

Dr. Batbayar raised the small grants to improve the legal arrangement for the polluter-pays principle with support of international organizations such as UNICEF, WWF, and established the professional working group to continue research work on water pollution.

To raise public awareness by involving all level stakeholders

Dr Z.Batbayar is not only an excellent policy maker he also has excellent personal communication talents to stimulate people by his intelligence, knowledge and other personal characteristics. Dr. Batbayar's initiated many successful events, meetings, trainings with and for all level stakeholders in water resources management. Here only few of those which were held this year will be mentioned.

- Training on water resources of Mongolia and IWRM: Dr. Batbayar finds the time from his tight schedule to visit kinder-gardens, secondary schools and universities to give

² 3.1.14.“water user ” means a citizen, economic entity and organization that uses a water or water environment for profit in industry and service operations;

3.1.15.“water consumer ” means a user who utilizes water or water environment for not profit seeking necessity such as drinking, household purposes, herding and agriculture.

lectures to young children and students alike. He has visited more than 1000 children in over 20 kinder-gardens, 2000 pupils at secondary schools in the Govi-Altai aimag, Bayankhongor aimag, Uvurkhangai aimag, Umnu-Govi aimag and capital city Ulaanbaatar to present lectures on water resources of Mongolia, to give a comprehensive understanding on water use, how to protect and how to teach their parents in correct use of water at home.

In universities he has given lectures on selected subject such as “Water as a human right”, “International Water Law and Mongolia”, “IWRM in Mongolia” for the legal faculty; “IWRM and Mongolian Legal Arrangements”, “Water Institutional Set-Up, current situation and further changes” for IWRM specialized students. More than 20 000 students have attended his lectures.

Dr. Batbayar played a leading role in strengthening the capacity of the established River Basin Councils, like those of Khovd-Buyant, Onon, Tuul and many other River Basin Councils.

It should be mentioned here that Dr. Batbayar is not paid for these training activities , but does it out of his interest to prepare the young generation to protect our water resources.

- Internationally celebrating events. This year the World Water Day was celebrated under the slogan “Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge”. Dr. Batbayar initiated and organized the following package of activities:

No	Organized activities/Date	Co-organizers/Participants	Purpose/Result
1	“Water-Human right” international research conference (17 March, 2011)	<p><u>Co-organizers:</u> WA, Shikhikhutag Law School, National Commission on Human Right</p> <p><u>Participants:</u> Parliament member, lawyers, advocates, students, interested parties (> 70 participants)</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To raise public awareness on decreasing water pollution, provide the latest information on water pollution and human right, further amendments in related laws, for example in Criminal Code and Constitution, if needed</p> <p><u>Results:</u> - Raised the interest to be an Environment lawyers; - Introduction of new terminology such as “human basic right for sufficient and safe water”; - Proposals to make the amendments in mentioned laws, Water Law, Administrative Las, Criminal Code, and Constitution, if needed</p>
2	“No water-no business”	<u>Co-organizers:</u>	<u>Purpose:</u>

	meeting (18 March, 2011)	WA, Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry <i>Participants:</i> Private sector, entrepreneurs, water users, NGOs (> 20 participants)	To introduce the technology of water use and re-cycling, make the calculation and introduce the differences on water re-cycling. To know the response of water users to the polluter-pays principle <i>Results:</i> Water users express their opinion on polluter-pays principle and water re-cycling. Their interest to receive financial support or incentives, for water protection and restoration, using for newest technologies
4	The 1 st Children Water Forum (20 March, 2011)	<i>Co-organizers:</i> WA, Looloi's Friends Studio, UNICEF, AF, National Center for Children <i>Participants:</i> Teachers, pupils of 3-5 grades, Education Departments of Districts, parents (> 500 participants)	<i>Purpose:</i> to share their experiences, discuss solutions how to save water in their water use (washing teeth, dishes and etc.) <i>Results:</i> -Children delivered the message to adults "to save water for the future". -Children raise their voices to call for changes

In order to celebrate Global Hand Washing Day and World Toilet Day, Dr. Batbayar successfully found sources of funding.

- Dr. Batbayar's voice through media and his participation on the international stage. The media play an important role in swaying public opinion on water, helping people to better understand these issues. Dr. Batbayar is working closely with journalists to improve their knowledge on environment and organized several workshops. Also, he has been guest in several talk-shows discussing on current problems of water resources issues broadcasted on national and regional TV.

Dr. Batbayar represents Mongolia at the World Water Council delivering his voice to the world stage. As a legal expert he was invited to attend in World Justice Forum to represent Mongolia, to introduce Mongolian rule of laws.

Conclusion

Mongolia is in a transition process both economically and socially since the beginning of 1990. In recent years, changes have been carried through by the Government of Mongolia in all sectors. One of the biggest reform is made in environmental management, for example, with the financial support of the Netherlands Government the "Strengthening Integrated Water Resources

Management” project is implemented successfully under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Batbayar. Despite that the concept of “Integrated Water Resources Management” is absolutely new in Mongolia Dr. Batbayar is successfully accomplishing his task. He understood that environment management is not just the task of Government alone, it is a shared responsibility to become effective.

Dr. Batbayar’s proposals to reform the water policy and laws are essential and needed. That is why his proposals are unanimously endorsed by the policy-makers and other stakeholders and submitted to the Government of Mongolia. All his outstanding contributions will be a fundamental part of further development of water resources management in Mongolia. And, he is a SMALL MAN with a BIG HEART for MONGOLIA.