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***National Seminar on Strengthening Fire Management in Mongolia-2014***

Ulaanbaatar  
21 March 2014

**Opening remarks: Mr. B. Tulga, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Green Development of Mongolia, and Chief, National Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection (NCCFSFP)**

The “National Seminar on Strengthening Fire Management in Mongolia – 2014” seminar takes place at a time when at the end of the winter the weather conditions of spring time will create conditions of high flammability in the forests and steppes of our country. The combination of three factors – dry weather, abundant dry grass of last year and the carelessness of people working in or visiting our natural landscapes – lead to extended fires all over the country. In the last years we have experienced more and more fires that are not only causing harm to our natural environment, but also to the livelihood and wellbeing of people, sometimes even injuring and killing people. During the last years many communities and families have suffered from losses of forest products and grazing lands. Often animals have been killed by wildfires and left behind big economic problems for the affected families.

All of us have also experienced the long periods of forest and steppe fire smoke lingering over our villages and towns, including Ulaanbaatar. We know that this smoke pollution affects human health, short-term and long-term. Elderly people, children, and those suffering asthmatic and cardiovascular diseases are most affected.

We have recognized that as a result of extreme continental climate and global climate change, Mongolia experiences extreme drought periods, *dzud*, and severe snow and dust storms. These extreme events cannot be prevented. Additional environmental stress and secondary damages caused by wildfires, however, can be prevented. This is because most of the damaging wildfires in Mongolia are caused by people. Thus, with careful land management and especially the prevention of human-caused fires we can reduce additional stress to our environment and thus reduce the trend of forest losses and halt desertification.

Almost six years ago this National Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection (NCCFSFP) was established. This decision followed the First International Central Asian Wildland Fire Conference entitled “Wildland Fires in Natural Ecosystems of the Central Asian Region: Ecology and Management Implications”, held in Ulaanbaatar in June 2008. It was followed by a consultation of the agencies and other stakeholders involved in fire management in Mongolia. As a result the Committee was established by a joint order of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Nature, Environment and Tourism in early 2009. A few weeks later, in June 2009, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. M. Enkhbold, attended the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in Geneva, Switzerland (June 2009), and informed the international community about the measures taken by the Government of Mongolia to implement the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action, which included the approval of the “Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Procedure” and the establishment of our National Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection with wide involvement of the governmental organizations and civil society.

With the launch of the Activity Plan “Sustainable forest fire management” in 2009 the Forest Agency, the National Emergency Management Agency and many other institutions like the State Specialized Inspection Agency, the State Investigation Department and General Authority for Border Protection have been striving to enhance our national capacities in fire management.

Most important is the work of our agencies at the local level. We must support local communities in their efforts to prevent fires and to attack them while they are small, before

they become uncontrollable.

With this seminar and meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection we want to move ahead and exchange experiences about the progresses made by the participating agencies. We also want to share the views and visions about the future in fire management in the country. Today is the "International Day of Forests", which is a reason to reflect about the global significance of healthy landscapes and their protection from destructive fires. We have seen that Mongolia is often affected by smoke from fires burning in the neighbouring Russian Federation. And wildfires are crossing the borders from the territory of our country to our neighbors, and vice versa, fires escaping the control in the neighbouring countries sometimes enter our territory. Neither fire nor the fire smoke are respecting territorial boundaries. This is why we need to work intensively with our neighbors and exchange personnel, resources and knowledge to unite our efforts in preventing and fighting destructive fires. I greatly welcome the efforts of the Forest Department and its international partners, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), who together with the Secretary of our Coordination Committee and some specialists from NEMA, the University of Law Enforcement and from neighbouring Russia have developed a new an very detailed English-Mongolian-Russian Fire Management Terminology. The experts have worked together for almost two years to produce this volume, which will be an important contribution for better understanding international literature, but also to talk with our neighbors.

**Opening remarks: Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c mult. Johann Georg Goldammer  
Director, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)**

The meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection at the occasion of the seminar “National Seminar on Strengthening Fire Management in Mongolia – 2014” opens a new phase of collaborative activities in fire management in Mongolia for the next two years.

Since the Regional Conference “Wildland Fires in Natural Ecosystems of the Central Asian Region: Ecology and Management Implications”, which was organized by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and financed by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the GFMC has intensified its work in the Central Asian region. Mongolian scientists participated in the "International Conference on Cross-border Fires" (Irkutsk, Russia, 2010), and participated in the two International Fire Management Weeks in Krasnoyarsk Krai (2012 and 2013), and in the "International Congress and Trade Fair on Forest Fire and Climate Change: Challenges for Fire Management in Natural and Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia" (Novosibirsk, November 2013). Most importantly, however, was the participation of the Secretary of the Coordination Committee, who is also chairing the UNISDR Regional Central Asia Wildland Fire Network, in the "UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management", which was held at the United Nations (Geneva, November 2013). This Forum was co-sponsored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to which Mongolia belongs since 2012 as the 57th participating State. The OSCE is a close partner working with the GFMC in wildfire disaster risk reduction, particularly in the countries belonging to the Eastern European / Caucasus / Central Asia (EECCA) region.

With the upcoming establishment of the Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center (RCAFMRC) in Ulaanbaatar, the GFMC will further support the policy dialogue and capacity building in fire management in Mongolia and the neighbouring Central Asian countries.

**National Seminar on Strengthening Fire Management in Mongolia-2014**  
Ulaanbaatar, 21 March 2014

**Agenda**

Хугацаа	21 March 2014	Presenter
09:30 – 10:00	Registration of participants	
Moderator: Mr. B. Tulga, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Green Development and <b>Chief, National Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection (NCCFSFP)</b>		
10:00 – 10:05	Opening Remarks: Mr. B. Tulga, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Green Development	
10:05 – 10:10	Greetings for the International Forest Day	Deputy permanent representative of the FAO, Mr. Sheich
10:10 – 10:25	Some issues on improvement of Forest and Steppe Fire Prevention and Protection	Dr. Ts. Chuluunbaatar, Specialist, Department of Forest Protection and Reforestation, Ministry of Environment and Green Development
10:25 – 10:40	Current situation and ways to improve the Fire Fighting Methods and Technologies	Mr. Zaluukhuu, Department of Firefighting, National Emergency Management Agency and <b>Deputy Chief of the NCCFSFP</b>
10:40 – 10:55	Brief report on current situation of Wildland Fire Research in Mongolia	B. Bayarjargal, Director, Institute for Disaster Research, National Emergency Management Agency
10:55 – 11:10	Issues on improvement of information exchange on Fire prevention and Protection	S. Enkhtuvshin, National Agency for Meteorology and the Environmental Monitoring, Ministry of Environment and Green Development
11:10 – 11:25	Current situation on Forest and Steppe Fire origin and Cause determination	S. Bayanmunkh, Chief, Department of Prevention and Fighting on Environmental Crime, State Investigation Department and <b>Member of the NCCFSFP</b>
11:25 – 11:40	Issues on Prevention and Protection of Wildfires along the National borders	Colonel Kh. Damdinsuren, Chief, Border Sector, General Authority for Border Protection and <b>Member of the NCCFSFP</b>
11:40 – 11:55	Future role of the Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center (RCAFMRC) based in Ulaanbaatar (including financial issues and preliminary	Dr. B. Oyunsanaa, Permanent Representative of Mongolia and Central Asia Branch, the Global Fire

	work plan 2014-2016)	Monitoring Center and <b>Secretariat of the NCCFSFP</b>
11:55 – 12:25	Discussion	
12:25 – 13:25	Lunch	
13:25 – 13:40	Participation of the State Specialized Inspection Agency in the fire prevention and protection activities	N. Batbayar, Chief, Department of Nature, Geology and Mining Control, State Specialized Inspection Agency of Mongolia and <b>Member of the NCCFSFP</b>
13:40 – 14:10	Urgent issues on the Fire prevention and Fire fighting (Khentii, Dornod, and Sukhbaatar province, 10 min brief each)	Secretaries, Provincial Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection (Khentii, Dornod, and Sukhbaatar province)
14:10 – 15:10	Urgent issues on the Fire prevention and Fire fighting (Tuv, Selenge, Bulgan, Darkhan-Uul, Khuvsgul, Arkhangai provinces and Ulaanbaatar city, 10 min brief each)	Secretaries, Provincial Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection (Tuv, Selenge, Bulgan, Darkhan-Uul, Khuvsgul, Arkhangai provinces and Ulaanbaatar city)
15:10 – 15:25	Work Plan of the National Coordination Committee on Forest and Steppe Fire Protection, 2014-2016	Dr. B. Oyunsanaa, Permanent Representative of Mongolia and Central Asia Branch, the Global Fire Monitoring Center and <b>Secretariat of the NCCFSFP</b>
15:25 – 15:55	Discussion	
15:55 – 16:15	Discussion and approval of the NCCFSFP work plan	All participants
16:15 – 16:45	Activities for the International Day of Forests	Department of Forest Protection and Reforestation, Ministry of Environment and Green Development
	Brief report of the FAO activities on Mongolian forestry	Deputy permanent representative of the FAO, Ms. G. Nyamjargal
16:45 – 17:15	Closing remarks	Moderator

Venue: “King” hall of the Ministry of Environment and Green Development, Mongolia