

A Brief Introduction to Mongolian Studies in Mainland China

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Abstract

Mongolia¹ is a landlocked country situated between China and Russia in Asia. The country is also China's next-door neighbor in the north. Unlike Soviet Union (and later Russian Federation), China's another next-door neighbor in the north, China is a late beginner when it comes to promoting Mongolian studies. When China first established diplomatic ties with Mongolia, the Chinese virtually hadn't conducted any research on Mongolia, merely translating the works of the Russians into Mandarin language. Then in the mid 1960s, China created a group of research institutions to work on international issues including Mongolian studies. It was the official beginning of Mongolian studies in China. However, within less than two years, the Cultural Revolution was known to have caused a ten-year hiatus in the development of Mongolian research in China. It was after China introduced and deepened the reform and open-up policies that research work pertaining to Mongolia, along with research work pertaining to other countries, was able to return to normalcy and produce substantive results in China.

Key Words: *Mongolia, research, scientific research institution, results*

I . The Earliest Mongolian Studies in Mainland China

The earliest Mongolian studies in Mainland China are translations of Mongolian studies conducted by the Soviet Union (Russia). The Russians started to conduct studies on the history, politics, economy, and natural geography of Mongolia in as early as mid-19th century.

1. Russia started Mongolian studies earlier than China

Russia, China's neighbor in the north, has always attached a lot of importance to Mongolian studies, and has yielded substantive results over the years. For example, Майскийн's *Modern Mongolia* was published in Irkutsk in 1921. Other studies include *Social System of Mongolia* (Leningrad Oblast, 1934) by Владимирцов of Russian Academy of Sciences, and *A Revolutionary Mongolia* (Moscow, 1925) by Каринников, as well as many studies on the

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¹ Mongolia: Known as Outer Mongolia or Khalkha Mongolia before 1924, known as Mongolian People's Republic from 1924 to 1992, and known as Mongolia since 1992.

recent history and contemporary history of the Mongolian People's Republic. Mongolian studies released in 1950s Russia include Златкин's *Mongolian People's Republic is a New Democratic Country*, Маслунников's *Mongolian People's Republic Moving Toward Socialism*, and Тенищев's *Mongolian People's Republic*. The Russians started investigating the natural geography of Mongolia in as early as the 17th century. In 1654, Ф•Байков and fellow travelers traveled through the entire Mongolia for the first time. They started from the Altai Mountains, passed through the Gobi Deserts and finally made it to Beijing. Since then, many Russian geographers and travels have conducted field studies on Mongolia, and written books and essays about their findings of "High Asia." For example, the traveler-cum-Mongolist Позднеев (1851-1920) wrote the two-volume *Mongolia and Mongolian People*, the geographer Пуржеварский's (1839-1920) *The Nation of Mongols and Tanguts*, Потанин's (1835-1920) *Introduction to Northwestern Mongolia*, Козров's (1836-1935) *Mongolia and Gamu*. Since the 1940s, the Russians have turned their attention to geographical and geological studies of Mongolia. The Mongolia Committee under the Russian Academy of Sciences organized several expeditions to Mongolia. The Ulan Bator-based Department of Geography under the Mongolian People's Republic's Science Council has been systematically conducting investigations under the guidance of Soviet Union specialists, and has released many publications about Mongolia's natural landscape.

There is no question about the substantial contributions made by Russian Mongolists to the studies of science and natural landscape of contemporary Mongolia. That is why many countries consulted studies released in Russia before conducting their own Mongolian studies. Before the 1970s, countries in the West relied heavily on translations of studies of Russian Mongolists in developing an understanding of Mongolia.

2. Early progress of Mongolian studies

When China and Mongolia first established formal diplomatic ties, the Chinese translated a batch of Mongolian studies released by Russians. As the Mongolian People's Republic shares many similarities in natural landscape with China's northern regions, which include Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Gansu Province, and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the Chinese translated studies on the natural landscape of Mongolia released by Soviet Union scientists. Some of the more influential translated works are as follows: Liang Yan's translation of *Introduction to Mongolian People's Republic* by Цаптин (Beijing, People's Press, 1951), Yang Yuhua's translation

of *Mongolian People's Republic (Natural Landscape)* by Морзаев (Beijing, SDX Joint Publishing Company, 1958), and Fang Wenzhe's translation of *The Soil of Mongolian People's Republic* by Беспалов (Beijing, Science Publications, 1959). With regard to social science studies, there are also Chen Dawei's translation of *Development History of Mongolian People's Republic*, an epic work by the famous Soviet Union Mongolist Златкин (Beijing, Era Publications, 1952), Zhang Hueiqing's translation of Mongolia Prime Minister Khorloogiin Choibalsan's book written in Russian language called *A Brief History of Mongolian People's Revolution* (Beijing: World Affairs Press, 1956), and Zhang Jingping's translation of the Mongolian Цэгмид's book written in Russian language called *Mongolian People's Republic* (Beijing, China Youth Publishing House, 1955). In addition, the Department of Russian and Mongolian Languages of Liaoning College of Foreign Languages translated and published Mongolian geographer Гунгаадаш's book written in Russian language called *Economy and Geography of Mongolia* (Shenyang, Liaoning People Press, 1977). Liu Hanming and Zhang Mengling translated and published Позднеев's monumental work, the two-volume *Mongolia and Mongolian People* (Hohhot, Inner Mongolia People's Press, 1983 and 1989). These and other translated works have been of great value to Mainland China in conducting Mongolia-related studies.

The earliest Mongolian studies conducted by Mainland Chinese scholars include the following: *Mongolian People's Republic* by Pan Lang (Beijing, SDX Joint Publishing Company, May 1950), *Encyclopedia on New China: Mongolian People's Republic* by Si Mu (Beijing, SDX Joint Publishing Company, February 1950), *Mongolian People's Republic* by Shan Shumo (Beijing, New Knowledge Press, 1955), and *Mongolia People's Republic* by Shu Yuan which was published by Beijing's World Affairs Press in 1961. These books, which share the same title, present in great details the state of affairs in Mongolian People's Republic, including the country's geographical location, natural resources, ethnic composition and population, and administrative divisions and major cities. These books also introduce briefly the history of Mongolia, the victorious Mongolian people's revolution, and the country's development toward non-capitalism. The books describe in great details how Mongolia practiced planned economy following the people's revolution, how the country managed to pull off the five-year plan and the three-year plan and shift the country's economic focus from animal husbandry to a combination of agriculture, animal husbandry, and industry, and how the country was able to constantly improve the material and cultural aspects of the people's lives. The

books also cover the peaceful foreign policies of Mongolian People's Republic, the friendship and all-round cooperation between Mongolia and Soviet Union, the traditional brotherhood between Mongolia and China, Mongolia's status as a member of the socialist family, and Mongolia support for the struggle of people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America for independence. These books are pretty much the earliest attempts of Mongolian studies made by Chinese scholars. They provide a more comprehensive, systematic approach to the history of Mongolian People's Republic, and they are also the first batch of works that filled the gap of Mongolian studies.

Scholars from Mongol settlements in Mainland China translated (from classical Mongol script to new Cyrillic script) and published a large number of works about the language, literature, culture, and art of Mongolian People's Republic, which have been quite popular with interested readers from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

II . Mongolian studies conducted by Inner Mongolia University

Inner Mongolia University's Institute of Mongolia (now known as Institute of Neighboring Countries), founded in September 1964, is one of the first college-level research institutions in China that specialize in foreign countries.

1. Institute of Mongolia

When it was first founded, the Institute of Mongolia decided to focus on investigating the economic and social situations of Mongolia, as well as the history and other dimensions of the Mongolian People's Republic. Following an extended period of time, the Institute of Mongolia gradually started to conduct academic research in mid-1980s. In 1995, the Institute of Mongolia was incorporated into the newly founded College of Mongolian Studies of Inner Mongolia University. Over ten years later, the Institute of Mongolia was expanded into the Institute of Neighboring Countries in 1997, in order to switch the focus from one single country to a whole region, from the current situation of Mongolia to regional issue with a special emphasis on Mongolian studies, and from data compilation and general research to serious academic studies.² The new Institute of Neighboring Countries aimed to focus attention on the current situation of Mongolia, as well as the political, economic, social, cultural situations and foreign relations of Russian Federation republics with

² Enhe: "Development and Future Prospects of International Studies at Inner Mongolia University," in Introduction to Development of Certain Fields of Scientific Research at Inner Mongolia University, pp.347-359 (Hohhot: Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Bureau of Press and Publication, Permission No.115 of 1997, August 1997).

Mongolian population.

With China adopting reform and opening-up and the relationship between China and Mongolia deepening, mutual visits and academic exchanges between research institutions in China and Mongolia increased. This opens up more opportunity for researchers to embark on fact-finding visits to enhance understanding and exchanges. Members of the Institute of Neighboring Countries frequently went to Mongolia to undertake advanced studies, give lectures, and participate in international conferences under the arrangement of the Ministry of Education or via mutual cooperation projects. They have been able to broaden their horizon and produce quality researches through multilateral cooperation projects, which allowed them to visit countries like Russia and the United States.

2. Research Achievements

For over 40 years, the Institute of Neighboring Countries has translated, compiled, and written nearly ten millions words on Mongolia-related issues. It has also written over a million words in research projects funded by China's National Social Science Foundation, the Chinese Ministry of Education's Humanities and Social Sciences Foundation, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region's Philosophy and Social Planning Foundation, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region's Department of Education, and Inner Mongolia University.

Major research achievements since the 1990s are as follows:

(1) Books

1. *Mongolian People's Republic*—compiled and edited by Baoyin, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Publication License (1992) No.2. The book, jointly written by Baoyin, Bateer, Nashun, Nalin, Wuriqige, Qirigefu, and Tegusibayin, is the first academic work released by the Institute of Mongolia. The book provides a more objective, systematic, and comprehensive introduction of political, economic, cultural, and military situations as well as foreign relations of Mongolian People's Republic before mid-1980s.
2. *45 Years of China-Mongolia Relationship*—Compiled and edited by Nalin, Mongolia Autonomous Region Publication License (1994) No.133. The book provides a reliable summary of the interactions between China and Mongolia and the beginning of a long-term good neighborly relationship towards the 21st century. The book provides accurate, systematic, and

frequently cited historical data about China-Mongolia relationship, which can be useful for people who have an interest in international relations, especially issues related to Mongolia.

3. *A Study on Economic Transition and Developmental Trend of Mongolia*—written by Wuriqigige and published by the Inner Mongolia People's Press in 2007. The book consists of six chapters, and covers subjects such as Mongolia's economic achievements during socialism era and the country's economic and social progresses, the key drivers of Mongolia economy during socialism era and the success stories, Mongolia's choice between economic transition and radical changes and the outcomes, Mongolia's privatization of state-owned assets and financial reforms, Mongolia's major macroeconomic reforms such as foreign trade reform, the changes in Mongolia's economic theories and the country's economic development model, and the strategic objectives and trends of Mongolia's economic development. The book is the first work of the Institute of Neighboring Counties that discusses Mongolia's economic transition from the perspectives of international studies, economics, and Mongolian studies. The book has made a profound impact on the studies of Mongolia economy.

(2) Studies

1. The Reform of Mongolia and Our Country's Response Strategies—this is a National Social Sciences Foundation project (1992-2000) completed under the leadership of Professor Enhe. It is the first national first-class scientific research project that the Institute was approved to undertake, which demonstrates that the Institute was found to be able to conduct first-class research. The project yielded results that are well-received in China as well as other countries.
2. The Current Situation of Mongolia's Religious Development and Its Impact on China—this is a National Social Science Foundation's project for young people (1996-2000) completed under the leadership of Tumenqigige. The project looks into the current situation of Mongolia's religions, and provides useful information for studies on religions in Mongolia.
3. Mongolia's Foreign Policies and Relationships with Superpowers since Its Transition—this is a National Social Sciences Foundation project (2002-2010) completed under the leadership of Nalin, a research fellow. It provides a detailed analysis of Mongolia's foreign policies and relationships with superpowers, i.e., the pros and cons of Mongolia's “multi-point” balanced foreign policies, the restoration of friendly relationships between

Mongolia and Russia and the establishment of strategic partnership, China-Mongolia's neighborly partnership's evolution towards strategic partnership, the "third-neighbor" relationship between Mongolia and the United States, all-round partnership between Mongolia and Japan, the "spiritual neighbor" relationship between Mongolia and India, the relationship between Mongolia and international organizations, and the interactions, competitions, and check and balance of superpowers in Mongolia. The findings of different stages of the project were published in well-known journals in China, and were frequently cited by major journals in China and other countries, and have been of great value to the academic circle.

4. A Study on Economic Transition and Developmental Trends of Mongolia—this is one of "tenth five" humanities and social sciences research projects of the Ministry of Education of China, and was completed (2001-2009) under the leadership of Wuriqiqige, a research fellow. The findings have been published as a book called A Study on Economic Transition and Developmental Trends of Mongolia (see above).
5. *A Dictionary of Mongolia-China Foreign Trade*—the dictionary was compiled by Bateer, a research fellow, under the "eighth five" philosophy and social planning projects (1994-1996) of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.
6. An Analysis of Politics and Political Parties of Mongolia and Our Response Strategies—this is the "ninth five" philosophy and social planning projects (1996-2000) of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and was completed under the leadership of Narixin, a deputy research fellow.

The Institute is currently undertaking the following research projects: Development Potentials of Mongolia's Mineral and Animal Husbandry Industries and the Framework of Cooperation between China and Mongolia (a National Social Sciences Foundation project (2010-2013) conducted under the leadership of Hugejiletu, a deputy research fellow, Mongolia's Cultural Development and Its Impact on China-Mongolia Relationship (a Humanities and Social Sciences Foundation project under the Ministry of Education (2009-2012) conducted under the leadership of Siqin Gaowa, a deputy research fellow.

(3) Academic Papers

Research fellows at the Institute have released nearly a hundred pieces of high-quality works on Mongolia-related topics, which were published on

major academic journals around the world. A number of works concerning economy, politics, international relations, religion and culture, and environmental protection of Mongolia were published by journals including *World Economy* (Beijing), *Northeast Asia Forum* (Changchun), *International Studies* (Beijing), *Journal of Inner Mongolia University* (Hohhot), *Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies* (Beijing), *Contemporary World* (Beijing), *Foreign Studies* (Beijing), *Issues of Contemporary World Socialism* (Jinan), *World Knowledge* (Beijing), *Northeast Asia Studies* (Changchun), *Japanese Studies* (Shenyang), *The World Religious Cultures* (Beijing), *Inner Mongolia Social Sciences* (Hohhot), *Contemporary International Studies* (Beijing), and *Mongolian Studies* (Hohhot). They are also found in Taiwan's *Bimonthly Journal on Mongolian and Tibetan Current Situation*, *Mongolian and Tibetan Quarterly*, and *Journal of Soochow University*, Mongolian Academy of Sciences' *International Studies* and *China Today*, *Strategic Studies*, *Agriculture and Animal Husbandry*, *Journal of National University of Mongolia*, and Russia's *Historical and Cultural Studies*.

Some of the more well-known works are as follows:

1. "The Polity Pattern Crisis of Mongolia and Its Constitutional Roots," *Soochow Law Journal* (Taiwan), Vol.12, No.1 (February 2000)/Enhe.
2. The Mongolian Tradition of Legal Culture and the Grassland Management in Inner Mongolia, [IISNC] *NOMADIC*, №4, 2000/Enhe.
3. "An Analysis of the Economic and Trade Co-operation Relation between China and Mongolia and the Counter-measure," *Northeast Asia Forum*, 2002, No.2/Bateer.
4. "Several Points on the Development of Grassland Animal Husbandry," *Inner Mongolia Social Sciences*, 2002, No.5/Bateer.
5. "Retrospect of Mongolia-Japan Relationship and All-Round Partnership," *Bimonthly Journal of Mongolian and Tibetan Current Situation* (Taiwan), Vol.15, No.3. (2006)/Nalin.
6. "On the Bilateral Relationship between Mongolia and the United States," *Contemporary Asia Pacific Studies*, 2007 No.2/Nalin.
7. (In Mongolian language) САНХҮҮГИЙН ХЯМРАЛЫН ДАРААХЬ ҮЕИЙН МОНГОЛЫН ЭДИЙН ЗАСАГ БА ХЯТАД, МОНГОЛЫН УУЛ УУРХАЙН САЛБАРЫН ХАМТЫН АЖИЛЛАГАА, 《ОЛОН УЛС СУДЛАЛ》 №3-4, 2010/Nalin.
8. "Significant Measures by Mongolian Government During the Economic Transition and Their Effects on the Economy and Society," *Comparative*

- Economy and Social Systems, 2004, No.3/Wuriqiqige.
9. "The Impact of Global Financial Crisis on Mongolian Economy and Mongolia's Response Strategies," Mongolian Studies, 2009/Wuriqiqige.
 10. "An Analysis of the Past and Present Relationship Between Politics & Religion in Mongolia and Its Existing Problems," Journal of Inner Mongolia University, 2002, No.2/Tumenqiqige.
 11. "Genghis Khan as the Trademark of Mongolia," World Knowledge, 2006, No.7/Tumenqiqige.
 12. "60 Years of China-Mongolia Relationship: Retrospect and Future Prospects," Mongolian Studies, 2010/Tumenqiqige.
 13. "The Mongolian Way of Thinking and Market Economy Principles," Northeast Asia Forum, 2002, No.1/ Bayin Jirigela.
 14. "A Preliminary Discussion of Mongolia's Options of Industrial Development," Northeast Asia Forum, 2001 No.3/Hugejiletu.
 15. "Directions of Mongolia's New Politics and New Government," Northeast Asia Forum, 2005 No.5/Narixin.

4. Expansion of Mongolian Studies at Inner Mongolia University

In recent years, the liberal arts departments of Inner Mongolia University started to focus academic attention on Mongolia-related issues, thus expanding the scope and depth of Mongolian studies at Inner Mongolia University.

The book *Security and Cooperation in Northeast Asia* (Beijing, Jiuzhou Press, 2009) jointly compiled by Professor Liu Lihua, a specialist on international issues at Inner Mongolia University, and Professor Liu Jianfei, Deputy Director of Institute of Strategic Studies at Central Party School of the Communist Party of China, includes essays on Mongolia-related issues. According to book's introduction, the book contains two noteworthy essays on security strategies and foreign relations of Mongolia, which directed the focus of readers from the four major countries of Northeast Asia and Korean Peninsula to the landlocked country of Mongolia. Mongolia made a couple of noteworthy moves in terms of foreign relations, maintaining a balanced relationship with two neighbors—China and Russia and also trying to make the United States and Japan the "third neighbor" and "fourth neighbor" respectively. Mongolia is growing in strategic importance, and is becoming a new stage of wrestling between superpowers in Northeast Asia.

Sc.D Zhongnasheng of the College of Law at Inner Mongolia University compiled and translated *Selected Laws of Mongolia* (Hohhot, Inner Mongolia University Press, 2006) and *Introduction to Mongolia's Judicial System* (in

Mongolian language, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia University Press, 2005). These two books introduce key laws of Mongolia enacted since the country's political and economic transition, providing a valuable reference for China's legislation, judicial practice, and China-Mongolia economic and trade cooperation.

The works mentioned above not only provide reliable sources for the deepening of China-Mongolia neighborly relationship, the development of China-Mongolia economic and trade relationship, and China-Mongolia cooperation in various fields, but also facilitate the expansion in scope and depth of Mongolian studies in China.

III. Mongolian Studies conducted by Inner Mongolia Academy of Social Sciences

1. The Institute of Economics is one of the first academic institutions to conduct Mongolian studies

In the 1980s, the Institute of Economics under Inner Mongolia Academy of Social Sciences translated and released a book called *Seventy Years of Mongolia's Economy*, and subsequently released *A Study on China-Mongolia Economic Relations* and *A Study on Trade Activities in Inner Mongolian Frontiers* which provide a brief analysis of Mongolia's economy and China-Mongolia economic and trade relationships.

Ayan, the former Director of the Institute of Economics, worked with Dr. Dundaoge of the Institute of Economics to write the book *A Guidebook of Investment, Trade, and Travel in Mongolia* (Hohhot, Inner Mongolia People's Press, 1994), which provides updated, reliable information on the newly emerging commercial activities between China and Mongolia.

Eerdunbuhe, a research fellow, completed a National Social Sciences Foundation research project called "A Study on China-Mongolia Economic Interactions" (1987-1990) along with fellow researchers. The findings were published as a book called *A Study on China-Mongolia Economic Interactions*. It is the first book which systematically and comprehensively discusses the past and present of China-Mongolia economic and trade relationships. It also includes predictions about the trend of China-Mongolia economic interactions in the 1990s.

Ao Renqi wrote a book called *A Study on Mongolian Economy in Transition Period* (Hohhot, Inner Mongolia People's Press, 1998). The book provides valuable information on the situation of Mongolia, the first country in Asia to make the transition toward market economy, as well as Mongolia's political and economic transformations in the process of transition towards market

economy, and the lessons learned during the transition.

2. The Institute of Russian and Mongolian Studies

Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region's Academy of Social Sciences founded the Institute of Russian and Mongolian Studies in November 2008, with the purpose of conducting research on economic and trade relationships, cultural exchanges, and social issues about the Russian Federation, Mongolia, and China.

The Institute of Russian and Mongolian Studies currently has the Department of Russian Studies and the Department of Mongolian Studies. The faculty members have a good command of the related theories, as well as Russian, English, Cyrillic Mongolian, and Japanese languages.

Research fellows at the Institute were involved in the nearly ten regional, provincial, and national-level research projects: National Social Sciences Foundation's A Study on Religious Issues in Contemporary Mongolia, On the History of Grassland Culture, A Study on the Grazing System of Northern China, A Study on the Virtuous Circle of Grassland Eco-economic System, National Natural Sciences Foundation's A Study on Changes in Primary Production, Grazing Intensities, and Rotational Grazing Experiments in Major Grasslands in Inner Mongolia, and A Study on Economic Competitions and Cooperation between China and Mongolia. They have also released the following works: *System Transformation and Nomadic Civilization*, *The History of East Mongolia and Relationships with Neighboring Countries*, *Ethnic Composition and Ethnic Policies of Neighboring Countries*, and also translated the following books: *The Mongol Script and Books* and *The Mongols and Russia*. Research fellows at the Institute have also released up to a hundred pieces of works including essays, investigation reports, and translations. Members of the Institute are currently working on a national-level research project called Northern Frontiers Studies.

IV. Mongolian Studies Center at Peking University

1. Mongolian Studies Center

Peking University founded the Mongolian Studies Center on October 30, 2004 by putting together available resources in Mongolian language and Mongolian studies. The Mongolian Studies Center aimed to focus academic attention on Mongolia-related issues, China-Mongolia relationship, and traditional Mongolian studies, and also to organize, coordinate, and plan Peking University's research projects on issues concerning Mongolia's

economy, politics, judiciary, society, and culture, as well as conducting general Mongolian studies and working with academic institutions and specialists in related fields.

Peking University held the opening ceremony of its Mongolian Studies Center and the “Mongolian Studies in the New Century: Retrospect and Future Prospect” international symposium on October 30 and 31, 2004. Over 80 Mongolists from around the world presented their works at the symposium. They looked back on the history of Mongolian studies, summed up the academic achievements in various fields of Mongolian studies, and look at the bright future of Mongolian studies. The healthy, swift development of Mongolian studies around the world was manifested in the following presentations: *The Past and Future of Research and Teaching of Mongolia History at Peking University* by Professor Yu Dajun of Peking University’s Department of History, *Retrospect and Future Prospects of Qing Era Mongolia Historical Studies at Inner Mongolia University* by Professor Qimudedaoerji of Inner Mongolia University’s Mongolian Studies Center, *Retrospect and Future Prospects of Mongolian Studies at Inner Mongolia University* by Professor Baiyinmende, Director of Inner Mongolia University’s College of Mongolian Studies, *A Brief Introduction of Mongolia’s International Mongolist Convention and Participation of Chinese Scholars* by Professor Nalin of Inner Mongolia University’s College of Mongolian Studies’ Institute of Neighboring Countries Studies, and *Mongolian Studies in 20th Century Germany—A Brief Retrospect* by Dr. Dang Baohai of Peking University. Scholars from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Minzu University of China, Peking University, Inner Mongolia University, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Nanjing University, Beijing Union University, as well as specialists from Mongolia and Hungary presented high-class keynote works on the five topics of “Mongolian language and script,” “the history of Mongolia: retrospect and future prospect,” “Mongolian literature,” “folk customs and culture,” and “Mongolia studies.” These presentations demonstrate the fact that Mongolian studies had reached new heights.

2. Academic events

(1) Keynote speeches by Mongolian speakers

In December 2005, Peking University’s Mongolian Studies Center staged keynote speeches delivered by Энхтүвшин, Deputy Director of Mongolian Academy of Sciences and Director of the Institute of International Nomadic Civilization, and Сампилдэндэв, Director of

Mongolian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Language and Literature. Энхтүвший made a speech on the topic of "Issues regarding the Development of Nomadic Civilization," in which he pointed out that civilization is the spiritual and material cultures created by human being, which include the elements of lifestyle, administrative system, social system, and legal system. Like western civilizations, nomadic civilizations also facilitated mankind's social development. He also pointed out how the nomadic peoples contributed to the cultural development of mankind and gave rise to abundant material and spiritual cultures. He remarked that nomadic civilization is not outdated in today's world of globalization and digitalization. The harmony between men and nature is the very essence of nomadic civilization, which is inspirational to the human society of today. Сампилдэндэв made a keynote speech on the topic of "The History and Future Prospects of Modern Poetry of Mongolia," in which he discussed the development history of modern poetry of Mongolia. Unlike other nations, the nomadic peoples have always maintained a harmonious coexistence with nature, and also preserved their culture in its original form.

(2) The International Symposium Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of China-Mongolia Diplomatic Relationship

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of China-Mongolia diplomatic relationship, Peking University's Mongolian Studies Center, College of Foreign Languages, Institute of Asia Pacific Studies worked together to conduct the international symposium "Sixty Years of China-Mongolia Diplomatic Relationship: Retrospect and Future Prospects" on June 19, 2009. Over 100 people representing diplomatic, economy and trade, cultural, and educational circles and multinational enterprises from China and Mongolia participated in the event. They summarized China-Mongolia relationship for the past 60 years from political, economic, cultural, and educational dimensions, and discussed how China and Mongolia should work together to overcome the challenges of a new era and deepen the good neighborly relationship.

V. Chinese Society of Mongolian Studies

1. Establishment and Mission

The Chinese Society of Mongolian Studies is the only private academic society which specializes in Mongolia-related issues. Founded in September 1984, it is under the jurisdiction of the Inner Mongolia University and the

Ministry of Education of China. Members of the Society include nearly a hundred specialists and research fellows from over twenty central and local government agencies and over ten higher education and research institutions.

The primary missions of the Society are to gain full understanding of the actual situation of Mongolia through academic research, provide advisory services regarding friendly relationship and joint ventures between China and Mongolia, organize various academic events, push for friendly cooperation between China and Mongolia, and facilitate development of both countries. For over 20 years since its foundation, the Society has conducted 18 national academic seminars to facilitate exchanges between specialists and research fellows. In addition to attending academic conferences organized by the Society, members of the Society also participated into related academic conferences around the world. The Society also organizes academic exchanges and seminars featuring foreign visiting scholars to facilitate exchanges between scholars from around the world and elevate the standards of academic works.

2. Research at the Chinese Society of Mongolian Studies

Members of the Society have engaged themselves in basic studies, theoretical studies, and applied studies since the founding of the Society to service economic and other cooperation ventures between China and Mongolia. Since 1999, the Society releases a new issue of the journal *Mongolian Studies* on a yearly basis. Each issue includes over 20 papers (150,000 to 180,000 words in total) which are essentially studies conducted by members of the Society. Since the beginning of the new century, members of the Society have convened every year for the annual national assembly and academic conference, in which they exchanged views on issues over Mongolia's politics, economy, foreign relations, society and culture, and China-Mongolia relationship.

With China and Mongolia joining efforts in various fields, the Society attempts to facilitate exchanges at home and abroad. In 2009, the Society held its first international conference. On June 16 and 17, 2009, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of China-Mongolia diplomatic relationship, China-Mongolia Friendship Association and Chinese Society of Mongolian Studies jointly staged the Symposium Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of China-Mongolia Diplomatic Relationships at Erenhot, a city at China-Mongolia border. It was the Society's first international academic symposium, and the event was attended by scholars and specialists from China and Mongolia. Over a hundred participants from China and Mongolia exchanged views on the development of good neighborly relationship between China and Mongolia over the past sixty

years, in particular the ever increasing mutual trust, economic and trade cooperation, and cultural exchanges since the normalization of China-Mongolia relationship in 1989, and the positive future prospects.

The symposium was a successful event which enhanced the friendly relationship between China and Mongolia. The participants all realized that unofficial academic exchanges were a good way to enhance mutual understanding, friendship, and mutual trust and also to build a solid foundation on which the good neighboring relationship will prosper.

VI. Major works on Mongolia-related issues

1. *Soviet-Japanese Border Wars*—written by Li Chunpeng, Xu Zhanjiang, Abide, Yan Weimin, and Nashen (Changchun, Jilin Wenshi Press, 1988), it is the first book in China that provides a relatively more comprehensive account of the Soviet-Japanese Border Wars. Japanese historians described Japan's military invasion of Mongolian People's Republic in 1939 as "the greatest defeat suffered by the Japanese army." It was a major event in the military history of Japan and also an important event of anti-Fascist history of the world. However, very few books discuss this section of history in detail. The book effectively fills China's knowledge gap of the war. The author of the book writes about the geography of the battlefield, the history of Soviet-Japanese border, the cause of the war, and Japan's defeat and the end of war with adequate supporting historical evidence. The book reveals the invasion of Japanese militarists and reconstructed this part of lesser-known history.
2. *Inside Outer Mongolia's Independence*—written by Shibo (Beijing, People's China Press, 1993), the book provides a systematic account of Outer Mongolia's independence from China based on historical evidence and also reveals many insider stories. It tells how Tsar Russia manipulated certain Outer Mongolian princes into staging the "independence farce," how Khorloogiin Choibalsan turned to Soviet Union for help, how the Russian Red Army entered Outer Mongolia, how Joseph Stalin called the shots in Outer Mongolia, how Chiang Kai-shek administration acknowledged Outer Mongolia's independence, how Mao Zedong was trapped in a dilemma in negotiations in Moscow, how Nikita Khrushchev reneged on his pledges in Beijing, how Zhou Enlai found it useless to stop Outer Mongolia from declaring independence, as well as details about Outer Mongolia's bitter "independence" and difficult transition following dissolution of the Soviet Union.

3. *Mongolia*—written by Hao Shiyuan, Director of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences’ Mongolian Studies Center, and Dr. Du Shiwei of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences’ Mongolian Studies Center (Beijing, Social Sciences Press, 2007), the book provides a systematic introduction of the geography, history, cultural customs, politics, economy, national defense, education, science and technology, society, and foreign relations of Mongolia. The book offers an access to the past and present of Mongolia.
4. *The Economic Development of Mongolia and the Regional Cooperation of Northeast Asia*—written by Wang Shengjin, Deputy President of Jilin University (Changchun, Changchun Press, 2009), the book is essentially a collection of works presented in the international symposium “Mongolia’s Economic Relationships with Other Countries and the Regional Cooperation of Northeast Asia” organized by Jilin University’s Institute of Northeast Asian and Tottori University of Japan on September 29, 2008. The book includes over 80 essays and translations by authors from Mongolia, Japan, Korea, Russia, and China on three topics of the symposium—socio-economic development and future prospects of Mongolia, Mongolia’s economic relationships with other countries, and Mongolia’s participation in regional cooperation in Northeast Asia.
5. “Mongolia’s Foreign Strategies”—this is a long essay written by Chen Shan, Deputy Director of Northeast Asian Studies Center under the Institute of Asia Pacific Studies of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and is included in a book called *Foreign Strategies of Northeast Asian Countries* (Beijing, Social Science Academic Press, 2002). The book features five topics: “Mongolia counting on the Soviet Union when it was first founded,” “Mongolia forging full-scale alliance with Soviet Union during the Cold War,” “fundamental thinking behind adjustments in Mongolia’s foreign strategies after the Cold War,” “the actual practice of Mongolia’s foreign strategies,” and “regional significance and future prospects of Mongolia’s foreign strategies” and provides a general discussion and analysis of the transformation of Mongolia’s foreign relations and foreign strategies. According to the essays, Mongolia always keeps her national interests and security at heart when enacting foreign policies, and also takes into account geopolitical factors. Since mid-1990s, Mongolia has adopted the middle way in terms of foreign policies, adhering to the guiding principle of “no alliance and multiple footholds.” This conclusion effectively predicts the direction of

Mongolia's foreign policies in the long-term future.

6. *At the Other Side of the Great Desert—Firsthand Witness of Lin Biao Plane Crash Incident and Changes in China-Mongolia Relationship*—written by Sun Yixian (Beijing, China Youth Press, 2001), the book features the author's firsthand experience of deterioration of China-Mongolia relationship during his eight-year stay in Mongolia (1965-1973). Being a Mongolian diplomat who personally examined the site of Lin Biao's plane crash accident on September 13, the author provides an objective account of events in this book, which includes abundant historical materials and dozens of old photographs to construct a stronger sense of reality. The book helps readers understand more about a special period of China-Mongolia relationship and the truth about Lin Biao's plane crash incident.
7. *Five Visits to Mongolia: 20 Years of Memories of a Diplomat in Mongolia*—written by Huang Jiakui (Hohhot, Inner Mongolia University Press, 2008), the book tells the author's experience of working at the Chinese Embassy at Mongolia for five periods and receiving three heavyweight politicians from China including Yang Shangkun, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao who were visiting Mongolia. The book includes historical materials about lesser-known major events in China-Mongolia relationship. This interesting, easy-to-follow book is a useful guide for diplomats and research fellows who might be interested in knowing the truth about China-Mongolia relationship during that period.
8. *Economy of Mongolia*—written by Zhang Xiujie, a research fellow (Harbin, Heilongjiang Education Press, 2006). The book offers an analysis of the historical trend in Mongolia's macro-economy by examining Mongolia's economic development, economic reform and transition, and economic development strategies. The book also includes a comprehensive analysis of major economic sectors of Mongolia by looking at transformations of the country's industrial structure. It also demonstrates the importance of foreign economic relations to Mongolia's national economy by looking at the adjustments in Mongolia's foreign economic and trade strategies and establishments of Mongolia's multiple economic and trade relationships.
9. *Walking Into Mongolia*—written by Meng Songlin (of the Oroqen ethnic group) (Hohhot, Inner Mongolia University Press, 2007), the book presents readers with vivid descriptions and photographs of the vast Monen grasslands, the refined Khentii Mountains, the spectacular Gobi

Desert, the magnificent snow-capped Altai Mountains, and the heavenly Khövsgöl Nuur. The author wanted readers to have an understanding of the Mongolian “nomadic lifestyle,” “nomadic culture,” and “nomadic civilization,” to realize that “nomadic production” is the most ideal form of economic production involving men and nature, and to understand that the unpolluted, unspoiled, natural environment of Mongolia is a precious gift the Mongolian people give to the world. Xi Murong, a celebrated Taiwan-based Mongol poet, writes an introduction for the book entitled “Pleasantly Surprised,” in which she says. “The many intangible spiritual assets still inherent in nomadic culture, such as the virtues of perseverance, courage, teamwork, reciprocity, trust, and sympathy, which have been praised by scholars around the world, were actually developed by the Mongolian people over a long course of history through harmonious coexistence with nature.”

10. *Geography of Mongolia*—written by Yang Qingshan, Gao Shali, and Li Xiumin (Changchun, Northeast Normal University Press, 1994), the book makes an adventurous exploration of Mongolia’s geography using modern regional geographical research system. It also introduces Mongolia’s diverse geographical features in an easy-to-understand manner using relatively more updated theoretical framework. It is an informative and useful book.