

From cement floor to food for families

By Justin Douglass

The Tolgoit ADP recently held a harvest celebration for those who grew vegetables. It was a joyful celebration with lots of delicious food and vegetables on display. The participants shared their experiences and so they received many tips from each other on how to grow and process vegetables.

Families from four khoroos (sub-districts), in the Tolgoit district, participated in this year's gardening.

Two years ago this vegetable plantation was a cement court now it provides food for families. Eleven people in the gardening project and people from the community broke the cement then the large trucks came and carted the chunks of cement away. It took twenty truck loads to take all the cement away. Once the cement was cleared a fence was erected around the perimeter.

Tsagaanbhuu started planting vegetables this year. He is very happy because the vegetables have grown very well this year. There are five people in his family. When he started growing vegetables he did not know anything about growing vegetables. He has learnt many things. Next year he wants to plant more vegetables.

Tseringdijing has grown vegetables for five years. "I came to visit the people who worked on the World Vision Tolgoit vegetable plantation to see how they plant vegetables and that is how I started growing vegetables," said Tseringdijing. "I was a secondary school teacher. Since then, I have built

two green houses at my home," said Tseringdijing.

Nayamgerel is the oldest person in this gardening project and he is seventy years old. He previously worked in the railways as a watchman, which was followed by being a driver

Weekly trainings take place in the training center that was built on the premise. On the walls are tips on how to grow various vegetables. Weekly trainings take place in the agricultural training center that was built on the vegetable plantation site.

Purevjav, from the third khoroos,

She wishes all her colleagues who grow vegetables all of the best for next year's planting.

The project started with a hundred households planting vegetables. During 2001, three hundred and fifty families participated in the Food Security Project. In 2002 the number of families increased to seven hundred and fifty. During 2003 the number of families reached its highest peak of one thousand families from six districts. To date there are two thousand five hundred families planting vegetables in the Tolgoit ADP.

This year the Tolgoit ADP harvested 25 tons of potato, 10.5 tons cabbage, 8.5 tons of turnip, 1.5 tons of tomato were harvested from the vegetable plantation.

Although many tons of vegetables were harvested, it was not all a bed of roses. The beneficiaries encountered some difficulties, such as poor quality soil, including stones and poor water supply. Families couldn't dig their own wells, so they had to purchase the water that was transported by hand.

Some future plans are to develop the agro training center into a business training center, build storage facilities for the vegetables and dig a water well, because it is impossible to water such a big gardening area by water that has been transported by hand.

One of the aims of the project is to improve the food security amongst poor families and increase their family income. This is achieved by teaching them how to grow vegetables. Now these families can live a sustainable life.

production, with the help of assistants successfully in past international exhibitions. The exchange between artists and assistants has proven to be a fruitful experience for both parties involved. "It will be a mistake to understand our project as a felt project. Felt is like a language to communicate with it. The cultural project in Mongolia aims to integrate the modern culture of Mongolia in the international cultural scene. We already have 300 applications from many countries. But they are not all felt artists. Some of them haven't made anything with felt before. The most important thing is improve a dialogue between the invited guests from abroad and the Mongolian intelligence," noted professor Hamdi el Attar.

The project is supported by UNESCO Germany and Mongolia, IFA Institute for foreign relationship Germany, DAAD - the German academic exchange service. The exhibition will be documented in four languages on CD ROM and video tapes.

A two-day symposium about felt and its significance in the contemporary culture will be held. International art historians, artists, academics and art journalists will be invited to talk about their researches and development of felt in different regions in field of felt.

For example, such subjects as: felt as a medium in art, in therapy and industrial production will be discussed. The creation of felt has a long tradition that dates from ancient cultures to contemporary art. Mongolia itself looks back on a 2000 year old tradition of elaborate felt making. Among all the fibres felt holds a special status. It stands singularly as a non-fabric, in that its fibres are not woven, thus denying a systematic linear structure. It is made solely out of sheep hair that is pressed, fused and treated to create a new form.

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for a business. Now at the age of seventy he is growing vegetables.

Somoyaa, from the first district, grew beetroot, carrot and turnip.

Mendbayar grew vegetables, this year, for the first time, which included forty cabbages as well as carrot, beetroot, onion, peas, tomato and lettuce. She received vegetable gardening training from World Vision and seeds.

grew eight different types of vegetables. It was his first year in gardening.

Boltzaa, also from the third khoroos, never knew anything about gardening when she started. She had to learn everything. Boltzaa said: "I am very happy that I have started growing vegetables."

Dolwar grows vegetables and has also cultivated two rooms of flowers.

Feel felt

By B. Oolun

An international art exhibition titled "Feel Felt" will be shown in Ulaanbaatar from July 5 to 25, 2004.

The Stoffwechel institute and Mongolian committee have organised this cultural project, which includes an art exhibition, performances, symposium and workshops.

50 foreign artists will make artwork on the site in Mongolia, arriving three weeks before the opening of the exhibition. The artists will translate their ideas in artwork using experiments in the techniques of wool and felt in cooperation with Mongolian artists, designers, architects, engineers and other professionals. This is the reason why the artists are going to produce the artworks in Mongolia, not in their studios or at home.

"The basic idea to organise the project is the result of researching and conducting analytical work during teaching and researching, during three years in Mongolia. The Mongolian wool and felt was the subject of our research in the technical university. I tried to develop felt art in a way not only in university but also in Mongolian public. 200 Mongolians will participate in the event assisting the foreign artists for their installations," said the project and art director of The Stoffwechel institute Hamdi el Attar.

The Stoffwechel institute has focused on non-European contemporary art since 1978. The major aim of the organization is to promote the dialogue between various cultures.

The Stoffwechel institute has carried out the curatorial concept of on-site

Asian Forum on Information Technology

By B. Ouyndelger

The Asian Forum on Information Technology will be held from October 1 to 5.

Over 60 participants from 17 countries and approximately 50 from Mongolia will take part in the forum.

The forum will evaluate the main report on information technology in Asian countries and decide ways for the solution of common difficulties. The participants of the forum will develop a document on the common problems facing Mongolia and Asian countries.

The Document Style Information Interchange seminar will be held on September 30 and October 1 at the University of Science and Technology. The Asian Forum for Information Technology, and the seminar on Enhancement of the International Standardisation activities on October 2-5 in the Chinggis Hotel.

The chairman of the National Centre on Standardisation and Measurement, J. Hurelsukh said, "a joint cooperation agreement was

signed with the Japanese on standardisation issues, where coordination with the Mongolian standardisation activities were envisaged and supported from Japan. By sending Mongolians for training in Japan with an aim to improve the national capability."

The first Asian forum on Information Technology held in November 2002 in Vientiane, Laos decided to convene the next forum on Information Technology Pacific - Human Resource Development in Mongolia.

The forum united in its ranks, with government organisations from 19 Asian countries responsible for the information technology standardisation. The forum is organised by the International Computerisation Cooperation of Japan.

The aim of the forum is to overcome the difficulties facing the information technology branches of countries of Asian and Pacific region, formulate a solution to these problems and to increase the involvement of the regional countries in international standardisation.



One of the leading film actors of Mongolia Ts. Tumurbaatar has set up the Star Film Studio to promote films for children and develop youth talents. The new studio has selected five out of 80 scripts, and it will conduct castings among 150 boys and girls aged between 6-16 to play parts in the films.

Yokozuna Ashatoryu D. Dagvadorj won the Autumn Tournament of the professional sumo wrestling held for two weeks in Tokyo, with a total of 13 wins and two defeats. This was his fourth title in such a tournament. His fellow countrymen N. Tsevegnyam and D. Babayar also finished the tournament with a successful result of 9 and 8 wins each.

The World Mountaineering Federation decided to organize a climb to the Saipan (7060 m) snow covered peak in the Himalayas in order to establish the rating of mountaineers. The sportsmen of more than 10 countries will participate in the event including D. Munkhjarjal and B. Ganbaatar from Mongolia. Well-known mountain climbers, colonel R. Kumar will lead the international team.

According to Khamba Lama of the Dashcholin Monastery Ch. Dambajav, a whole-day religious prayer ceremony was held to celebrate September 21, the World Peace Day, with the monks of Dalma Lin Monastery in Amgulan. Representatives of Catholic, Bahai and Ananda faiths as well as the monks from the Dashcholin Monastery participated.

The Buddhist Religious Center has released a new CD containing approximately twenty Mongolian readings of Mongolian Buddhism. The Center has also published a newspaper, Bodi Khutag.

A book entitled The First Empire in the Steppe has been published in France, and President Jacques Chirac of France wrote an introduction to this book. The book contains the results of the activities of the joint Mongolian-French archaeological expedition, which has been working in Arkhangai aimag since 2000.

Mongolian researchers Professor J. Batsuri, S. Nyamshig and N. Chinggis have published the first volume in the series on the genetic fund of Mongolians. This is the result of the group's study carried out since the 1970s.

O. Selenge, a resident of Sukhbaatar district in Ulaanbaatar, has grown two grape seedlings in her vegetable garden and collected 50kg of grapes. As she asserted, grapes could be grown in the Ulaanbaatar area, and she appealed to all gardeners to try this in their plots.

The International Festival of Khoomol Performers was held in Khoovd aimag on September 13-17, throat singers from France, Japan and China's Inner Mongolia attended the event.

Three Mongolian contortionists, who participated in the international circus festival in the Russian city of Saratov, won the second prize Silver Horse Cup. The artists from different countries including the Czech Republic, Poland, France, Germany and China performed more than 70 programs during the festival. Russia will organize such a festival every year, and Moscow is expected to host the next event.

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