



Message from  
HE Bulgaa Altangerel,  
Ambassador of Mongolia  
to the United Kingdom

Close cooperation and ties with western countries including the United Kingdom are crucial to Mongolia. The maintenance of constructive bilateral relations and cooperation with the United Kingdom is one of the main priorities of the Mongolian government's foreign policy. The UK is an important partner in Mongolia's efforts to strengthen our democracy and market economy. For Mongolia, landlocked between Russia and China, continued western support is important to maintain balanced relations with our immediate neighbours.

The UK was the first western country to establish diplomatic relations with Mongolia. Mongolia regards Britain as our 'third neighbour'. Last year was significant in that the two countries celebrated the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The establishment of relations on the 23rd January 1963 was an important step in the process of Mongolia gaining recognition in the international arena and enhancing our prestige internationally.

Over the last half century, especially in the past two decades, the relationship between our two countries has deepened significantly, stimulated by shared democratic values. A number of important visits took place in recent years including an official visit by the President of Mongolia to the UK in 2007, while HRH The Duke of York visited Mongolia in 2008. Mongolia views these visits as a

clear reflection of the current state of our bilateral relationship.

Bilateral cooperation in the fields of mining, education, trade and investment continue to grow successfully. Britain is one of the ten main trading partners of Mongolia and one of our major foreign investors. The expansion of trade and investment relations with the UK is one of Mongolia's priorities to further develop our economy. Mongolia is genuinely interested in attracting more British investment and technological know-how to advance our economic development. Currently Mongolia is a member of key global organisations such as the WTO, IMF and the World Bank. It is worth noting that Rio Tinto, one of the world's leading mining companies, has invested in Mongolia recently signing (along with its partner Ivanhoe Mines) an investment agreement for the Oyu Tolgoi copper-gold project. This is another big step towards further fruitful cooperation with British investors.

In Mongolia we view the mining sector as an engine of growth that will generate resources to further develop value added up and downstream activities as well as human development. In today's world, building a successful economy with highly developed industries and an educated, healthy, democratic society can be challenging. However we believe it is achievable. With the active support of the UK and other countries, the Government of Mongolia is optimistic for the future. **F**