

# STEP-BY-STEPPE

ADRA MONGOLIA: CREATING OPPORTUNITY, CHANGING LIVES



## ADRA AUSTRALIA PLEASED WITH MONGOLIAN EXPERIENCE

**ADRA Australia representative's recently completed a monitoring tour of the five projects they support in Mongolia enabling them to witness first hand the positive impacts to beneficiaries.**

Quentin Campbell, International Program Coordinator and Harwood Lockton, Director International Program, recently spent two weeks monitoring in throughout Mongolia.

Both visited Tosontsengel where they observed the *Sustaining the Seasons* project and were able to speak with motivated beneficiaries who were busily watering and tending their gardens.

Self Help Groups of the *Youth Enterprise Project* were visited in Uliastai where Campbell received a haircut from a hairdressing student.

The Australian visitors also met and spoke with participants of the *Micro Economic Development* project. The positive attitude and hard working nature of the participants was noted.

Quentin and Harwood were



Australian representatives meet beneficiaries in Tosontsengel.  
Insert: Quentin receives a stylish haircut from a hairdressing student.

impressed with the motivation of the Peer Educators involved in *Acting on Gender Based Violence through Peer Educators*, in particular the self directed activities at school.

*Health Education Against Tobacco* is the largest project that ADRA Australia supports. Staff informed the visitors of the recent and lasting successes of the mass media campaign. They also visited schools to see the work of adult

educators and junior leaders and observed positive messages and behaviours.

Both Quentin and Harwood were more than satisfied with the results being achieved by the projects it supports. Quentin is looking forward to the follow up visit in November.

*Want to know more? Click here to read Campbell's full account of his trip to Mongolia.*



Participants of "Child Rights and Gender" Training.

**60 participants recently attended Child Rights and Gender training as part of the Acting on Gender Violence through Peer Education (AGAPE) project in ADRA Mongolia's effort to promote the rights of children.**

Every child has a right to a healthy life, safe environment, education,

development, and participation in social life. However rights of many Mongolian children are being violated. With almost half of the population under the age of 18, it is essential that those who work with children are knowledgeable and aware of how to protect child rights violation and how to protect the integrity of the child.

The AGAPE project team recently conducted a two day course titled "Child Rights and Gender." Teachers, parents, and school personnel from school 58 in Sukhbaatar district, school 34 in Khan-Uul district and school 116 for children with visual impairment attended.

## CHILD RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Training was comprehensive and covered topics such as: violation of child rights, gender based violence, working as supporters for Peer educators, Mongolian child protection system, and Mongolian laws on child protection issues.

The training was co facilitated by Stop Child Abuse Center and Child Protection Network. A training manual was also produced to support adult educators in their daily work with children. This project is supported by ADRA Australia

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# MONGOLIAN JOURNALISTS UNITED AGAINST TOBACCO

**Health Education Against Tobacco (HEAT) recently held "Journalists for Health" a training and education forum for participants to hear real facts and real stories about tobacco.**

Those attending the training on June 13th and 14th were treated to a range of speakers and topics ensuring participants had a firm understanding of tobacco use and promotion and acknowledgement of tobacco as not only a health problem, but one with social, economic and political implications.

G. Tsetsegdari of the Mongolian Health Ministry gave an update on Mongolian government policies against tobacco. Z. Tuya of the Mental Health Centre of the Health Ministry spoke about tobacco health affects and "Mental Immunity" NGO's Head G. Enkhbaatar gave a much anticipated speech on the role of journalists in writing about health issues. HEAT Coordinator D. Orgonchimeg spoke about the strategy and policies of tobacco manufacturers.

Mongolia is one of the easiest



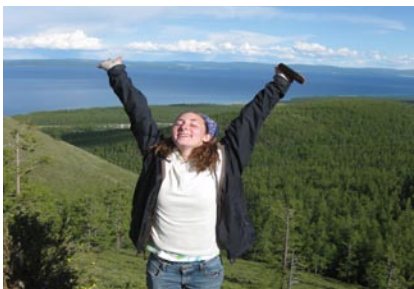
Those attending the "Journalists for Health" capture footage of the negative effects of tobacco.

places in the world to sell tobacco, with a tobacco tax of only 24%. "We don't fully understand the health problems we are paying for," said D. Orgonshimeg, "In particular our youth don't know the full effects of tobacco use. That is why we need journalists to unite against deadly tobacco with full capacity. We hope journalists will spread the

information they have learned," concluded D. Orgonchimeg. HEAT believes this is the first step in reaching decision makers. It is hoped that increased coverage of the issue will pressure government to make comprehensive and enforced laws against tobacco.

This project is supported by ADRA Australia and AusAID.

## A LAND OF TREES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS



Agriculture intern Ellen Abramowitz enjoying the Mongolian countryside.

**Ellen Abramowitz, agriculture intern sponsored by Brandeis University, Massachusetts, is working with ADRA Mongolia this summer on community engagement in agriculture. Here she shares with us her recent experiences on a monitoring trip.**

Trees, rivers and mountains, oh my! Though not the words that usually come to mind when think-

ing about Mongolia, the north-west area of Mongolia is a beautiful area, where steppe meets taiga and numerous herds can be found. It is also a flourishing agricultural area. I have always wanted to come to Mongolia and this internship is an incredible opportunity to learn about different career options in the international environmental field.

With the Disaster Management team, I visited many agricultural gardens and greenhouses, which were growing lots of potatoes, cabbage, beets and some cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes. While on site it was evident that the ADRA team members are very knowledgeable about agriculture, community

planning and education and are very passionate about their jobs, and eager to help their beneficiaries. As an Environmental Studies major this trip showed me how to put the principles of sustainability and community organizing into action.

I was also able to visit other Mongolian sites including Lake Khovsgol, the largest freshwater lake in Mongolia, Khorkhorum, Chinggis Khan's capital, Amarbaysogalant monastery, Erdenet and Zavkhan (the biggest cities after Ulaanbaatar). This trip was definitely an eye-opening experience, both culturally and educationally. I look forward to continuing to learn with ADRA for the rest of the summer.

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