



## MANAGERS TRAINED FOR STUDENT'S BENEFIT

**"I thought I knew enough about HIV/Aids and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's), but in real life I didn't know very many things," said a dormitory manager who attended a two-day training course run by the 'Safe Choice' project (supported by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development).**

The training about condoms was quite a surprise to the participants, as they did not know the real facts, and many of the myths that they believed, were wrong. Training on topics such as loneliness and anger were also very useful because a lot of the students are living far from their homes, and the information will be able to help the students make better decisions and life choices. After the training the managers were very enthusiastic about teaching the dormitory students about HIV/Aids and STD's in an interesting way, "I didn't know so many things! It was a new way of teaching and very effective. The students will be interested to participate in this kind of training."



*Creative activity helps participants understand difficulties of condom use under the influence of alcohol*

## BUSINESS GAMES VALUABLE FOR LEARNING

**During much of the month of September, Training and PR Officer Ariuntuya Galbadrakh and Project Manager Altantuya Torbat traveled west from Ulaanbaatar to educate and motivate bank workers and Board and Committee members over three different trainings in two aimags.**

They traveled first to Zavkhan Aimag where they met American Peace Corps Volunteer Nathan Chamberlain, who then traveled back with them for the second training at his Bayankhongor field office.

During the three-day Board and Committee trainings, participants were inspired by active learning and received tools they can put straight to use in their businesses. The most productive and instructive activity was an afternoon business game that pitted teams in different businesses against each other through a mock, month-long scenario of negotiations, pro-

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duction of goods, loans and also "unexpected setbacks". Bank personnel also played this game during their one-day training in Bayankhongor, which gave them insight and relevant experience, working directly with micro-enterprises as they themselves were the owners. The games were a great learning experience for all involved.

The 36 women and 2 men from 9 Zavkhan soums, and the 41 women and 6 men representing 11 Bayankhongor soums at the Board and Committee trainings also received

instruction on a range of topics covering the intrinsic rewards and responsibilities of being chosen as a representative, cooperative structures, and conflict management techniques. Members also made quarterly goals that included detailed action plans.

In Zavkhan, where the MED program has 70 SHG's, the attendees were energetic, showed up early every time and displayed a great cooperative spirit. In Bayankhongor, which has 72 SHG's, the training staff were challenged to manage a small meeting room, but despite close quarters and fast-paced, heavy topics, the Board and Committee members remained engaged throughout the training. Participants left the trainings feeling energized, with new skills and ideas that they were excited to share with their groups.





# THE SAFEST CHOICE

On her recent monitoring trip, ADRA Germany's Gabriella Zipper came to Mongolia to observe how the 'Safe Choice' project is running. The project, which teaches university dorm students about HIV/Aids and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's), with the emphasis on prevention, is supported by the German Government and has been running for half a year now. Gabriella met with the peer-educators from the university dormitories and explained to the students that the German government is helping other young people to learn about the prevention of HIV/Aids and STD's in other countries too.



Gabriella Zipper visiting student dormitory and giving interview to fm radio

She was very supportive of the work that the 'Safe Choice' project is undertaking, how they are giving education to young people about important issues as well as other relevant topics

such as family planning and how to lead the right kind of lifestyle. While on her trip she also visited dormitory clinics and country clinics as part of the monitoring process.

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## YELLOW FALL-A CELEBRATION OF HARD WORK AND "HAPPY" FOOD

**Yellow fall; like the leaves of the fall season. This was the name for the annual harvest festival that was held in September, as part of the 'Self Help Group' project and the 'Reinforcing food security at the community level through diversified agriculture' project (supported by the Canadian Food Grain Bank).**



Project beneficiaries at harvest festival

The harvest festival was celebrated in Bayankhongor province, on separate days, in Bogd, Jinst, Galuut, Ulziit, and Bayankhongor districts. The festival is an opportunity for the project beneficiaries to show others the results of their hard work throughout the year. This is shown through displaying an array of fresh produce that they have grown and dairy products that they have made.

The beneficiaries look forward to the harvest festival all year, and the festival days were crowded and very happy for all involved. ADRA

Mongolia's Programs Director, Michelle Abel and the Food Security Project Manager, Tilyeubek Yeltai, participated in the festival, as well as representatives from 10 other districts.

Project beneficiary B. Sangidulam said "People were talking about the economic crisis, and that the summer was not really summer, but we did a lot of hard work and were able to grow and produce things. You can see this from the

products on our table, various kinds of vegetables, fruit, salad, appetizers, juice, handmade souvenirs, and other products."

Winners were awarded and champions of the garden patch were recognised for their hard work and effort.

Nowadays people are more likely to buy organic, "happy" food. That is why there were lots of buyers at the harvest festival and they were satisfied to buy vegetables grown locally, in Mongolia. On one particular day, in the first four hours, almost 4 million tugrugs (approx 2700 US\$) worth of vegetables were sold! This means that we have the resources available, and there is also a market for the produce.

Just imagine if every household became producers, our country would become richer and the future would be brighter! Because of these projects, people can now help themselves and, in turn, help others!

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