



## BioRegions International 2019 Activities in Mongolia 2019 Work Trip Brief

The mission of BioRegions International (BRI) is to exchange *knowledge, experience and skills* through personal visits and communications. During the exchange process, participants agree to act on projects to support and improve local economy, education, environment, health, traditional skills/knowledge and the arts.

### **Mongolian staff:**

Mugi (Munkhsetseg Dorjjanstan) Mongolian Director  
Bulga (Bulganzaya Tumurbaatar) Staff Translator for Community Team  
Mishig Jlgjidsuren, Darkhad Valley Coordinator  
Turbat Gochoo, Lead driver and logistics, Bulgan Coordinator  
Adza, Head Cook  
Sunjee (Sunjidmaa Tsagaan), Ulaanbaatar Coordinator, provided logistical support from Ulaanbaatar

### **Health Team of medical professionals and students from Mongolia, Sweden, and Montana:**

Susan Gibson, Coordinator, Bozeman, Montana, USA  
Dr. Hans Ohrling, Internal Medicine physician, Stockholm, Sweden  
Simone Ohrling, Psychologist, Stockholm, Sweden  
Dr. David Goodwin, resident physician, Family Medicine Residency Program, Billings, Montana, USA  
Michael (Mike) Robinson, medical student, Bozeman, Montana, USA  
Maral Gombobaatar, medical student from Mongolian National University of Medical Science (MNUMS)  
Khantushig (Tom) Bilegsuren, MNUMS medical student  
Ariunzaya (Zaya) Jamsranjav, **translator** and MNUMS medical student  
Nasanjargal (Naska) Erdene-Ochir, **translator** and MNUMS medical student

### **Community Team:**

Susie Becker, Elders' Associations and Bozeman (Montana) Senior Center, USA  
Rachael Briggs, Sixth Grade Science Teacher, Bozeman, Montana, USA  
Dr. Diane Dodd, Veterinarian, New York State, USA

### **Health Team Activities**

- Trained 74 physicians and health workers in Bulgan and Huvsgul province hospitals  
Depression and suicide, domestic violence, physician burnout
- Dental Project  
Three-year project to determine if *parental dental and nutrition education, dental exams, and fluoride varnish treatments improve dental health for children 2-6 years of age?*

- Established treatment and control groups and treated 32 children in Ulaan Uul and 34 children in RENCHINLHUMBE, First session in June, Second session in December
- Examinations in Ulaan Uul for 26 and diabetic clinic for 22, also womens' workshop on domestic violence, shared about Swedish programs for child psychology
- Examinations in RENCHINLHUMBE for 46 and follow-up depression survey to compare with 2008 survey

### **Community Team Activities**

- Sponsored 13'th annual Cultural Festival, this time in Burentogtohi with 10 ethnic groups. Received request for translation and publication of illustrative postcards by Mr. Baasansuren, specialist of Cultural Division of Education and Cultural Department in Murun.
- In Eastern Taiga presented carving tools to 24 Tsaatan families.
- Met with numerous Elders groups in Murun, Ulaan Uul and RENCHINLHUMBE to share information on Elders organizations in Mongolia and US (Bozeman, Montana). Will consider follow up on long term collaboration proposal by Tumurbaatar.
- conducted science teaching workshops to demonstrate active learning in Murun, Ulaan Uul and RENCHINLHUMBE. Learned importance of active Wi-Fi service for modern teaching and learning.
- Received request by Otgon-erdene Shinee, Deputy Chairman of Education and Culture for Khuvsgul Province, for BioRegions to help find and invite English teachers to come to Huvsgul and train teachers.
- Veterinarian met with VET Net in Ulaanbaatar, visited pharmacies in Ulaanbaatar and Murun, met veterinarians in Burentogtokh, Ulaan Uul, RENCHINLHUMBE and eastern Taiga (Tsagaan Nuur).
- Items of concern: worms, dangers of over exposure to Ivermectin (cancer), brucellosis, fewer veterinarians are practicing
- Needs:
  - Primary diagnostic tools and equipment for two or more soums combined as one region.
  - Improving the practical skills of the veterinarians in small animal surgery.
  - Procuring more veterinary equipment for the private veterinary hospitals (horn saws, thermometer).
  - More diagnostic labs with PCR and ELISA capability to document major contagious diseases (in Soviet times there were diagnostic labs in every soum), now just Murun.
  - Overall animals well fed and healthy, lots of overgrazing (especially by goats), need for high quality regional diagnostic laboratories

### **BioRegions activities elsewhere in Mongolia**

- Healthy Taimen Festival in Henti aimag soums of Binder and Bayan Adraga in cooperation with Mongolia River Outfitters, September
- Help sponsor Matt McKinney and Chris Ryciewicz in meeting with the Freshwater Resources & Nature Conservation Center in Mongolia. Objective is to arrange details for a 5-year MOU with the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy (University of Montana) to enhance capacity of river basin councils and natural resource professionals to engage in natural resource conflict resolution.

In addition to specific project goals, BioRegions International provided multicultural research, education and service field experiences for Mongolian, US, and Swedish members of BioRegions teams.

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