

**13<sup>TH</sup> NORTHEAST ASIAN CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
COOPERATION  
(20-22 December 2004, Seoul, Korea)**

Honorary Chair,

Dear colleagues,

**LOCAL MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION**

The basic principle for sustainable development, being as main tendencies of development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, forms balances relations between environment and economy and leaning upon this relations it is necessary to create the conditions for improving the livelihood of the people, for eliminating the poverty, for using the natural wealth and resources on a possible extent as well as for preventing the environmental pollution and deterioration.

The main ways and means for solving this issue will be development of methods of planning and management, definition of the state of environment and its capacity, fixation of the negative impacts beforehand, monitoring and assessment, and reduction of these negative impacts by controlling and studying resources. Parliament of Mongolia has adopted Environmental Impact Assessment Law and this law has created the legal basis for this activity.

Although necessary steps are being taken already in this direction, the measures mentioned in assessment report are still not enough for the nature protection and restoration.

The Government of Mongolia is following the policy for providing a normal condition for nature and environment, for their restoration, and guiding the principle for keeping the balanced proportion between utilization and restoration, for proper use of natural resources in line with its capacity and loading, for directing the citizen's activity for restoration of deteriorated environment, for widening the rights and obligation of the citizens in providing economic development with ecological orientation.

Since 1990 Mongolia has been transferred to the market economy and numerous legal acts and laws were adopted for widening the competence and independent activity of local administration and the principles for environmental management policy have been defined in the law on administrative units of Mongolia and their management, in the law on environmental protection and in other related law.

The local citizens' representatives meetings are the highest organ in the territorial units and they enjoy full rights in planning the measures for restoration

of nature and environment and for their proper use, in concentrating the financial means in the local budget, by opening a special account for this purpose.

However, nowadays, local administrations make their efforts only for the budget tasks and they do not make enough efforts for the protection and restoration of nature and environment.

8 percent of Mongolia's territory to forest area and 40 percent of them are influence negatively by human activity, pests and fire.

Works for the restoration of forest have been organized by the Government of Mongolia on 106.4 thousand hectares of land for the last 24 years. But not enough works have been done for the protection of forest, for restoration of forest area. Local organizations and farms are organizing measures for planting trees and preparing seedlings only by their own efforts and means, but they are in serious need of financial support and technical assistance.

90 percent of Mongolia's territory belongs to dry, semi-dry, land with less moisture and 41.3 percent of entire territory of Mongolia, specially 647.0 thousand square km's of land are affected by desertification.

The Government of Mongolia has taken definite measures for reduction of the impacts of desertification. However, our government is in great need of financial sources for the implementation of National Program for combating desertification. The local administrations are doing their best in this direction, but the real potential is not enough for combating the increasing process of desertification.

Mining industry is now in full swing in Mongolia and they make tangible contribution to the development of national economy. On the other hand, these mining enterprises are influencing very badly on environment.

Every economic unity in the country shall have its own plan for the restoration of nature and environment and local administrations control the implementation of this plan. Most mining companies are ignoring the demand for restoration of natural landscapes and degraded soils after extracting the minerals.

The utilization of minerals and restoration activity should be proportional and the Ministry of Nature and Environment is guided by this principle in its activity.

But we shall note that sufficient measures have not been taken to control the whole process of activity of mining enterprises. We need complex mechanism for the control of activity, aimed at restoration of nature and reducing the negative impacts of mining industry on nature and environment.

For the last 2 or 3 years, the violations connected with the restoration have some tendencies towards reduction thanks to the adoption law on land and legal acts on minerals.

Now it is necessary to take the following measures:

- To organize a campaign for planting trees in order to combat the process of desertification with the help and support of foreign countries and donors.
- To take measures for increasing the participation of local people in protection of forests and to support the ownership of forests by involving local people.
- To organize a fund for forestation and to organize a nation-wide campaign in the country for the reforestation.
- To take measures for invalidating the licenses for extracting minerals if the mining enterprises do not take steps for the restoration of degraded land.
- To improve the controlling mechanism of ecological restoration and this issue should be included in the program of action of candidates for local election.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**