

### *Developing Practical Cooperation through Science*

**Mongolia has been actively engaged within the framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme since 2012.**

The NATO SPS Programme enables close collaboration on issues of common interest to enhance the security of NATO and partner nations by facilitating international efforts to meet emerging security challenges, supporting NATO-led operations and missions, and advancing early warning and forecast for the prevention of disasters and crises.

The current SPS Key Priorities include:

- *Counter-Terrorism;*
- *Energy Security;*
- *Cyber Defence;*
- *Defence against CBRN Agents;*
- *Environmental Security;*
- *Security-related Advanced Technology;*
- *Border and Port Security;*
- *Human and Social Aspects of Security.*

Additionally, the SPS Programme helps to promote *regional security* through scientific cooperation among partners. The programme also helps to *prepare* interested eligible nations for NATO membership. SPS activities often have a high *public diplomacy* value.

## MONGOLIA

At present, Mongolia has one ongoing activity with the SPS Programme. NATO SPS Programme actively engages with Mongolia, and leading areas for cooperation include **Environmental Security** and **Cyber Defence**. Below are some examples of ongoing and completed activities under the framework of the SPS Programme.

### *Cooperative Activities*

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A GEO-DATABASE ON THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF FORMER MILITARY SITES**

The multi-year project represented an important first step in Mongolia in the process of rehabilitating land due to former military use. The project evaluated selected former military sites in Mongolia, and categorized and prioritize them according to their degree of environmental and health risk. This information was captured in a database to track rehabilitation and restoration of contaminated areas. The knowledge provided formed the basis for strengthening future remediation abilities of the Mongolian experts. An important element of this project was that it brought together military and civilian organisations to further understanding of rehabilitation and restoration of former military sites. The project was initiated in 2013 and concluded in May 2017. *This activity was led by scientists and experts from Mongolia and Slovakia.* [ref. G4366]



Vice Defence Minister A. Battur speaks at a launch event of the two SPS projects in Ulaanbaatar in February 2013.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TO THE MONGOLIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Cyber threats know no borders and are of increasing concern. Training and education is fundamental for improving the defence of networks across Allied and partner countries. Through improved IT infrastructure and training of network administrators at the Mongolia Academy of Sciences, this multi-year project was designed to have a multiplier effect in the provision information and training to other Mongolian ministries and institutions. Furthermore, the IT upgrade and training aimed to increase the protection of the Academy's networks while raising awareness of cyber defence more largely. The project was launched in 2012 and was carried out the by the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) in cooperation with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. *This activity was led by scientists and experts from Mongolia and the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) [ref. G4367].*



Experts explain the latest information technology upgrade at the Institute for Informatics at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

## CREATION OF COMPUTER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM AND SECURING THE IT INFRASTRUCTURE

The aim of the proposed project is to improve the cyber security posture of the Mongolian Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces (GSMAF) by creating a Cyber Security Center. As part of this centre, a fully equipped Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) will be established within the HQ of the GSMAF, and a Secure Business CIS Infrastructure created. Network administrators and cyber security specialists will be trained to protect and prevent the MoD/GSMAF from any internal or external computer-based attack and to enhance and monitor the cyber security posture of the MoD/GSMAF. Additionally, this project will establish secure communications between the MoD, the General Staff HQ and the 20 remote army bases located within Mongolia. *This project is led by experts from Mongolia, Belgium and the Netherlands [ref. G5281].*

## CYBER DEFENCE TRAINING COURSE FOR SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS OF MONGOLIA

The primary objective of this training course was to provide Mongolian trainees with training in network and information security to ensure resilience against cyber-threats. It also provided a means for the global exchange of cyber defence theory, best practices and experiences at the international level. The course took place in the first two weeks of July 2015 in Ankara and supplemented the current state-of-the-art theory of network security with practical experiences, tailored for the Mongolian trainees. This was the seventh course in a series of similar trainings for NATO partner countries, supported by the SPS Programme. The course content has been continuously adapted and improved, taking into account that each participating country has their specific cyber defence organizations and construct. *This activity was led by experts from Turkey and Mongolia. [ref. G5025]*



The NATO Science for Peace  
and Security Programme

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