



Open Society Forum

**Covering Economics and Business; A Workshop for Reporters
To Be Held in Ulan Bator on June 25, 26, 27, 2007
Hosted by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue and the Open Society
Forum**

This three-day workshop bring local journalists who write on economics and business in order for them to learn the basics of covering the stock and bond markets, macroeconomics, banking, business and trade. And map out strategies for future coverage. It is expected that each reporter will leave with story ideas and concrete plans for reporting them.

The event is open to Mongolian journalists who cover business, economics and/or development. Interested applicants will need to submit samples of their work, their cvs and a brief statement as to why they want to attend and what they hope to learn from the workshop.

The Workshop Agenda

Day One—Monday July 25 –Companies and the Stock Market

10:00-10:15 opening remarks by **P. Erdenejargal**, Executive Director, Open Society Forum.

10:15-11:15 introductions and going around the room exercise with participating reporters led by **Elizabeth Becker** and **Margie Freaney**.

11:15—1pm

Covering companies, joint ventures and foreign direct investment with **Margie Freaney**. What sort of stories you can expect and how to cover them. This session will include how to find business stories, tips for writing

a good business story and discussion of how business stories differ from other kinds of stories.

13:00-14:00 lunch break

14:00-16:00 An introduction to stock market reporting, How the markets work and how to cover them with **Margie Freaney**. Freaney will highlight some of the characteristics unique to emerging markets.

16:00-17:00 Elizabeth Becker to wrap up the day's discussion and discuss possible story ideas with participating reporters

Day Two—Tuesday July 26 Macroeconomics, Banking and Bonds

9:30-11:30 an introduction to economic indicators and covering the macro economy with **Elizabeth Becker**. **Becker** will discuss which are the most common indicators, what they tell us about the macro economy and how to write stories that are interesting.

11:30-13:00 introduction to bond markets with **Margie Freaney**. This session will include corporate bond issues.

13:00-14:00 lunch break

14:00-16:00 Margie Freaney. How banks work, reporting on banking. What kinds of stories journalists do and how to report them.
Exercise: Write a lead from provided information

16:00-17:00 discussion with **Elizabeth Becker** of story ideas gleaned from the day's sessions and how to report them.

Day Three: Wednesday June 27

9:30-10:30

Banking system in transition countries with emphasis on Mongolia (this session will cover some of the theories of banking and banking crises and how they affect the larger economy) with **Margie Freaney**.

10:30-12:30 introduction to the global trading system---GATT, WTO, DOHA, Intellectual Property with **Elizabeth Becker**. She will update

journalists on some of the current debates and how they affect developing countries.

12:30-14:00 lunch break

14:00-16:00 Where do we go from here? Each reporter to present two story ideas and discuss how they will begin to report them. With **Elizabeth Becker** and **Margie Freaney**.

16:00-16:30 discussion with **Munkhsoyol** on follow-up activities, including organizing a journalists' club and journalism prize.

16:30-17:00 evaluation of training by journalists

17:00-1730 hand out of certificates of training to participating journalists

Elizabeth Becker is the Former New York Times trade correspondent; senior foreign editor at National Public Radio; Becker began her career at The Washington Post. She is currently working on a book about US farm policy.

Margie Freaney Margie Freaney is a former newspaper reporter and editor, and an international journalism trainer, primarily in business and economics. She was editor-in-chief of Record Newspapers on Long Island, New York, when the chain had 10 weekly newspapers. She also was editor of the Baltimore Business Journal and executive editor of the Atlanta Business Chronicle; worked for daily newspapers in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and was news editor for Pioneer Press in suburban Chicago.

She has won first-place prizes in writing and reporting, including news, feature, editorials and columns. She also was a Knight International Press Fellow. She was founding academic director of the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management, a master's degree program in Tbilisi, Georgia, in the former Soviet Union, from 2001-2003, and is now an adjunct faculty member.

She frequently conducts journalism training for foreign professionals in countries including Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, the countries of Central Asia, Egypt, Vietnam and Cambodia.