



Covering Economic Development; A Workshop for Reporters To Be Held in Ulan Bator on July 5, 6, 7

Hosted by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Open Society Forum and the Press Institute of Mongolia

Transition countries face enormous challenges as government and citizens adapt to new economic and social arrangements. The challenge for Mongolia is to craft economic policies which will promote growth and ensure that the benefits of economic development are shared among its people. Managing foreign aid inflows and creating a climate that will attract foreign investment are just two of the policy dilemmas that Mongolia faces in the coming years.

Making sound policy choices depends in part on educating the public to become informed about the options available. One way of disseminating information about the successes and failures of other countries is through the media. The economic and development issues are complex and technical and require training of reporters so that they can report accurately and critically on the topic.

This three-day workshop bring together foreign economists with decades of experience in development and local journalists who write on economics and development in order for them to discuss the key issues that Mongolia faces, the experiences of other countries, and map out strategies for future coverage. Particular emphasis will be placed on the use of foreign aid and the role of mining in economic development.

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—Tuesday July 5

10:00-10:30 greetings and introductory remarks by **Anya Schiffrin, director of journalism programs at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue**

10:30-10:35 opening remarks by **P. Erdenejargal**, Executive Director, Open Society Forum.

10:35-10:45 introductory speech by **B. Burenjargal**, lecturer, Press Institute of Mongolia.

10:45-11:30 introductions and going around the room exercise with participating reporters led by **Graham Watts** from the Financial Times.

11:30-1pm presentation by **Isabel Ortiz** on Development Aid: What is development assistance at the beginning of the 21st century, issues to be aware of, and how to handle them.

1:00-2:30 lunch break

2:30-4pm **Anna Shen**, a former World Bank staffer, will present a session on the ways that journalists can employ other communications techniques in their work, whether it be straight news stories, documentaries, blogs or other. She will discuss how journalists can use their vast knowledge to communicate in new ways about the issues they care about. She will show one or two of her documentaries, which were used to educate people on development issues around the world.

4:00-4:15 pm coffee break

4:15-5:00 **Graham Watts** on writing. Watts will discuss how to make economics writing accessible to the general reader and talk about how to get information and structure stories

Day Two—Wednesday July 6

9:00-11:00 **Joseph Stiglitz** to speak on development and the role of the media. “Reform and Institution Building.”

11:30-1pm **Isabel Ortiz** on “Poverty Reduction: From rhetoric to Reality.” Poverty reduction can happen fast, there are many historical examples. All governments and public institutions say they work to reduce poverty - but, do they? An analysis of the budgets allows us to see the truth, who pays and who benefits. How to make policies and budgets work to reduce poverty?

1-2:30 pm lunch break

2:30-4pm **Jenik Radon** will look at the fundamentals of mining arrangements, whether in the form of licenses or agreements, from a public interest point of view. The corporate interests and positions of mining companies will also be presented.

3:45-4pm coffee break

4pm-5pm Reporting clinic with **Graham Watts** who will discuss past stories with Mongolian reporters and give suggestions on how they can find information for the pieces they are working on now.

Day Three: Thursday, July 7

10-11:15 am Presentation by **Ch. Khashchuluun** on "Poverty alleviation strategy in Mongolia and challenges for journalists.”

11:15-11:30 coffee break

11:30-1pm Jenik Radon will go into the details of mining contracts with particular emphasis on certain critical issues: 1) compensation, whether in the form of fees, taxes or royalties, and the role of stabilization clauses; 2) regulatory matters, in particular environment and health (of employees and people in surrounding areas), and other externalities; 3) termination, whether for cause (policing and supervising of contracts) or normal expiration, with particular emphasis on restoration of the mined area; 4) liability of the mining company and its parent companies and possible liability of individual officers; 5) guarantees of parent companies; 6) confidentiality; 7) the functional role of creditors, including international institutions; and 8) the role of advisors.

1:00-2:30 pm lunch break

1:30 pm-3:30 pm Graham Watts will discuss Action Plan and Strategies for Future Coverage. They will lay out which stories will need covering and likely problems journalists could face and work out an action plan for future coverage and strategies for future reporting bearing in mind problems such as: corruption, lack of information, unwillingness to publish, self censorship, pressure on reporters.

3:30-3:45 pm coffee break

3:45 -4:15 filling out of evaluation forms by reporters

4:15 Anya Schiffrin to hand out certificates of training to participating journalists

List of Speakers

Isabel Ortiz is Master and Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. From 1995-2003 worked at the Poverty Reduction and Social Development units of the Asian Development Bank, where she has been Team Leader/Manager of both project and policy initiatives. She has also worked for the European Commission, DFID, World Bank, and earlier, in Spanish academia. She

Joseph E. Stiglitz—is now Professor of Economics and Finance at Columbia University in New York. In 2001, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics. He was a member of the Council of Economic Advisors from 1993-95, during the Clinton administration, and served as CEA chairman from 1995-97. He then became Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank from 1997-2000.

P. Erdenejargal –is the Executive Director of the Open Society Forum. She has 10 years of experience in the fields of civil society issues.

B.Burenjargal - is engineer-economist and master in management from Science Technology University of Mongolia, has diploma in journalism and is a doctoral candidate, Social Humanitarian Academy, Moscow, Russia. She has been working as lecturer for the Press

Institute of Mongolia and leading the Volunteer Club of journalists focusing on business reporting.

Ch. Khashchuluun – is economist graduated from the Moscow State University's Economic Faculty. After successfully passing State Graduate Studies Examination in 1991, went to study Economic Theory in Japan. After acquiring Master and Ph.D degree in international economics in Japan returned to Mongolia to continue to work in economic/business research and education field. Participated in a number of international economic and business studies as a domestic and JICA consultant. Now he is working as a Dean of School of Economic Studies of National University of Mongolia.

Jenik Radon—is an adjunct assistant professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Radon has worked on a number of pipeline deals in the Caspian region. Radon was a lecturer at Stanford University's Schools of Law and School of Business and in 2000 received the Order of Honor from the Georgian government.

Anya Schiffrin, is the Director of Journalism Programs at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue which has a website for reporters www.journalismtraining.net and organized workshops around the world. Schiffrin spent 10 years working as a business journalist including three years in Amsterdam and two years in Hanoi as bureau chief for Dow Jones Newswires. She has freelanced in Spain, Turkey, Pakistan and the UK. Schiffrin is co-director of the media concentration at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Her textbook, *Covering Globalization: A Reporter's Handbook*, was published by Columbia University Press in 2004 and has been translated into Mandarin and Vietnamese. Translations into Arabic, Spanish, French and Serbian are forthcoming.

Anna Shen began her career as a journalist, which included stints at the New York Times, US News and World Report, ABC News London, etc. She then moved to the World Bank, where she launched "Global Links," a tv documentary series, which was shown in 60 countries around the world. She also edited their newspaper. She was assistant director for program development at the University of Hong Kong Journalism and Media Studies Center, which also included overseeing the launch of a master's program there. Her other experience includes the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, where she was a press officer. She currently freelances for New York publications.

Graham Watts has been at the Financial Times for nearly 20 years. He is an editor on the weekend section. Before that he worked on the world news desk, editing news features and special pages. He runs training courses at the FT, in developing countries and on an internet-based journalism school he set up himself.