

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present you the 23rd volume of the annual journal *International Studies*, published by Institute of International Studies, Mongolian Academy of Sciences. Our Editorial Office has received total of 8 articles from researchers and scholars around the world in 2022. Based on the result of three step assessment: editorial primary assessment, independent experts review and decision of editorial board meeting, 5 articles have been selected to be published on this issue. On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to express our appreciation for the experts who devoted their valuable time writing a review to improve the quality of the materials published in the journal.

First article in this volume is “Pastoral Khans: from Mongolian Steppe to African Savannah”, by Prof. Dr. Troy Sternberg, Oxford University, Dr. Joana Roque de Pinho, a senior researcher at Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal, and Dr. Batbuyan Batjav, director of Center for Nomadic Pastoralist Studies. The article reflects an emphasis on geo-politics, particularly evolving relations with its superpower neighbours. Global drylands exchange network process provided an exceptional opportunity to present Mongolian perspectives to pastoralists and academics from Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. This grounded Mongolian livelihoods and situated rural dynamics in a global context.

Next, we have an article entitled “Mongolian-Russian Border Cooperation: The Role of the Republic of Buryatia”, by Prof. Dr. Zolboo Dashnyam, director of Institute of International Studies, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, which emphasizes the expanding cooperation in border areas of Mongolia and Republic of Buryatia, Russian Federation. The border areas of the two countries play a key role in expanding effective relations and cooperation between the two countries. As a border region, Buryatia has a centuries-old history of economic, political, cultural and humanitarian relations with Mongolia. Mongolian-Russian border relations have been successfully developing in all areas, high-level reciprocal visits have become regular, and mutual trust has been expanding.

“Multilateral Economic Ties of Mongolia with its Asian Trading Partners in period of 2011-2021”, by Ph.D. Robert Dygas, Department of East Asian Economic Studies, World Economy Research Institute, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland, examines main aspects of Mongolian’s economy related to its Asian Trading Partners namely China, India, South Korea and Japan in period of 2011-2021.

We hope our readers find interesting insights in “An Inefficacious Shock Therapy: A Critical Analysis of Mongolian Neoliberal Reforms”, by Zugeerbai Zul,

Ph. D Candidate at National Taiwan University, and Hyunwook Cheng, Senior Researcher at Korea Maritime Institute, which attempts to elaborate on the effects of neoliberal reforms in Mongolia and to critically review the free market monetary policy.

Dr. Erdenechimeg Bor, Center for Security and Defense Studies, and Narantsatsral Enkhbat, Doctoral Student at School of International Relations and Public Administration, National University of Mongolia, introduce you their article “China’s Breakout from Encirclement: Belt and Road Initiative”. China’s greatest security concern has always been a strategic encirclement – its neighbors aligning with one another or with strong powers such as the United States to isolate China. Emerging as a feature of China’s so-called peaceful development, the Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI) is a manifestation of its aspiration for connecting itself to the countries of the great Afro-Eurasian landmass by railroads, highways, shipping routes and communication network.

From 2023, the articles will be published on the online journal as well, after they are received and selected. Although this 23rd volume is in paper based form, it is a pleasure to inform you readers that we are working to promptly deliver the journal to the public on an "online first" basis starting next year. This will give researchers an opportunity to make their articles accessible to the public in a short period of time. We are deeply grateful to the scholars for their collaboration.

*Your Sincerely,
D.Zolboo
Editor-in-Chief*