

## The Belt and Road Initiatives & Mongolia: Expert Survey Results

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**Abstract:** *Since 1990, Mongolia has been moving from a planned economy to a market economy for more than 30 years, revolutionizing the social order and adopting democratic methods. Over the past few years, Mongolia's social, economic and political development studies have produced specific assessments and conclusions. These articles explore Mongolia's development, characteristics, participation in the Belt and Road Initiative launched by the People's Republic of China, its benefits, its impact on the present state of Mongolia's society and the obstacles it faces. The paper presents the results of research into four main groups: common reasons, cause-effect, solution-effect and conclusions.*

**Keywords:** *Mongolia, China, Belt and Road Initiatives, experts, tradition and assessment*

### Identifying the Common Causes and Conditions

One of the important aspects of the traditional political values of the Mongolian people is their unique culture and nomadic culture. At present, the Mongolian traditional nomadic culture is entering a powerful cultural wave, with nearly half of the population<sup>1</sup> still living and working in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. The current political views of the Mongols and the change of modern Mongol thinking about nationalism show that there has been a certain period.<sup>2</sup> This characteristic will be an important basis for the formation of a mongol political

culture with national identity and unique characteristics. Historically, in the 16th and 17th centuries, the Mongols directly absorbed the Tibetan Buddhist knowledge and developed it in their own ways of thinking. Buddhist knowledge and understanding has spread widely in Mongolian society and has become the basis for a deep penetration at all levels of the spirituality. This shows a theoretical and conceptual approach to the harmony of Mongolian traditional and modern features.<sup>3</sup>

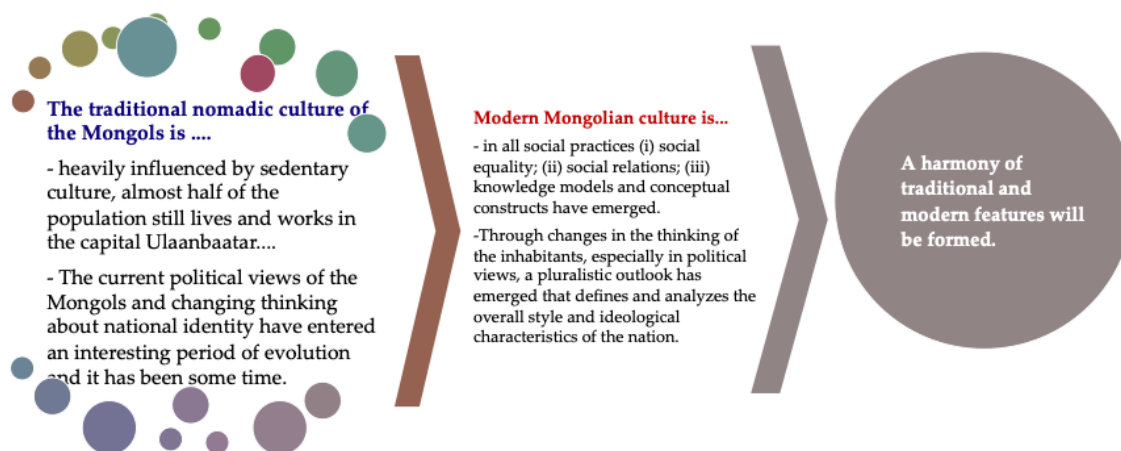
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Received: 1 November, 2023; Accepted: 22 January, 2024

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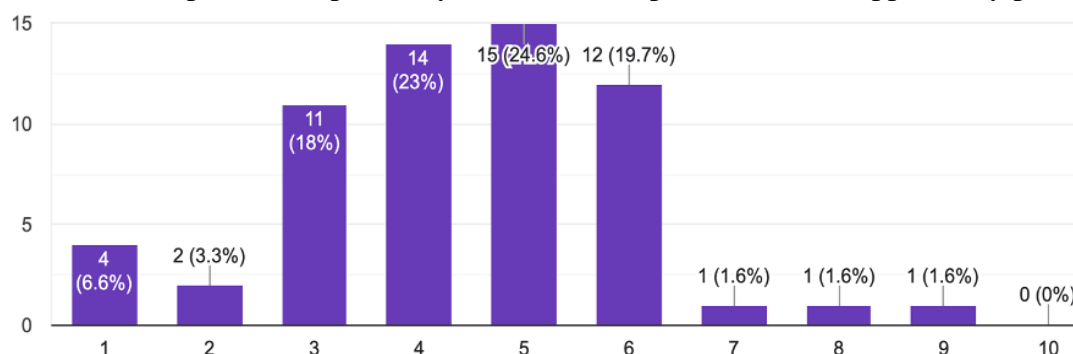
The satisfaction level of the current development of the country was measured from 1 to 10, where 1 to 5 was "very bad and unsatisfactory", and 6 to 10 was "very good

and satisfied". The overwhelming majority of experts surveyed - 75.5% - were "unsatisfied" and 24.5 percent "satisfied" with 6 points above the average.

Very bad, not satisfied					Very good and satisfied				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

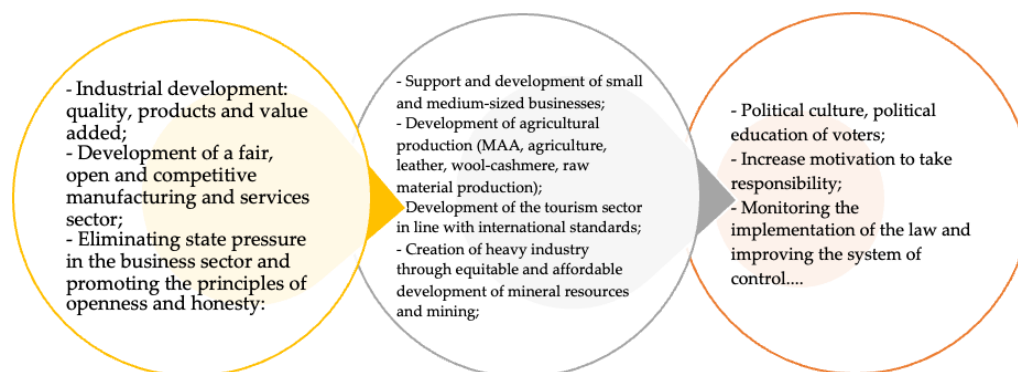
The reason for this assessment is overconcentration, political dependency, and

lack of coordination of economic empowerment and opportunity policies.



In order to eliminate the reasons mentioned, the industry can be defined as the future development of the country. After analyzing the suggestions of the research

reference group, the most frequently repeated expressions are as follows.



On the basis of the above process, we tried to align the current development of Mongolia with the speed of development of neighboring countries. In doing so, the three

most important sectors considered by experts are education (57.3 per cent), manufacturing (42.9 per cent), and livestock (47.5 per cent), summarized below (Figure 2).

Figure 2: On what industry is the development of Mongolia? (Explanations of the benefits)

Response	number of experts	percentage
Manufacturing	30	50.0
Animal husbandry	29	48.3
Farming	14	23.3
Infrastructure	9	15.0
Communication	6	10.0
Energy	6	10.0
Construction	2	3.3
Financing & Banking	2	3.3
Health	13	21.7
Education	35	58.3
Culture	5	8.3
Tourism	7	11.7
Trade & Service	5	8.3
Mining	14	23.3
Others	2	3.3

The above-mentioned figure shows that Mongolia's development can be rapidly developed if it is based on a specific sector. Then we would study, through our next comparison, what factors influence Mongolian friendly relations with other countries in the development of the current social life process of friendly countries. If we calculate the average point of view of such attitudes, the experts have rated countries such as Russia, South Korea, India, Turkey, and China with 4.92–4.97, and China with 3.69 (Table 1).

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and China on 16 October 1949, the relationship has experienced some repercussions, but the main line remains friendly-neighborly relations. In 1994, the two countries signed a friendly cooperation agreement in Ulaanbaatar, which was an important step in improving relations between the two countries. Since 1991, the Mongolian and Chinese Governments' Joint Working Group on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation has been working

to ensure trade and economic cooperation by regularly organizing meetings.

The following conclusions can be drawn from this fact. For example, Mongolia has maintained close relations with Russia for 70 years, but relations between the two countries have weakened considerably in the first years of democracy. But Russia still has a more positive image for Mongolians. In the past 30 years, the flow of Mongolians abroad has been very intense, and only a few places in the world have not been reached, but Mongolians are affected by cultural differences and often settle in the country, attracting their brothers and friends when they have the opportunity to do so.<sup>4</sup>

Poor development in a country is directly linked to a lack of transparent, open and responsible development partners. In other words, the promotion of sustainable

development, economic and social activity requires stable democratic governance. In this regard, it is necessary to provide highly qualified and educated personnel to the public services and to create a stable working environment. It will promote the leadership, transparency and accountability of public organizations at all levels, ensure political stability and respect for the rule of law. The challenges continue to be to improve stakeholder participation in decision-making, listen to the public, improve efficiency and quality of government regulation, and eradicate corruption.

In examining the social life of contemporary Mongolia in this challenge, it is revealed to what extent Mongolians have friendly relations with other countries and what factors affect them.

*Table 1. Expert ratings and percentages specify their opinions on countries.*

№	Countries	Very positive (6)	On the bright side (5)	Slightly positive (4)	A bit of negativity (3)	On the negative side (2)	Very negative (1)	Don't know	Average (1-6)
1	China	3.5	16.7	26.0	21.0	17.5	9.4	5.9	3.69
2	Kazakhstan	2.5	16.4	35.5	19.9	5.6	1.4	18.8	4.80
3	Russia	18.5	45.9	23.9	4.7	1.6	0.6	4.8	4.97
4	South Korea	13.4	38.4	30.3	7.1	2.1	0.3	8.3	4.94
5	India	4.4	16.2	36.0	15.6	6.2	1.4	20.3	4.94
6	Türkiye	6.2	18.3	34.6	15.7	5.7	1.2	18.4	4.92

*Source: Expert research conducted under the Joint Project on the Interaction of Mongolian and Russian Civilizations in the Eurasian Region. 29 February 2022.*

Experts assessed the possibility of cooperation between our countries, especially the countries of the European

continent, and summarized the results. Most of them point out the need for more productive and mutually beneficial

cooperation in the fields of industry, livestock processing, education and tourism (Table 2).

*Table 2: Expert assessments of where Mongolia should concentrate more efforts in Eurasia*

№	Branch	%	№	Branch	%
1	Manufacturing	13.6	9	Infrastructure	6.4
2	Agriculture	11.1	10	Employment and trade of ordinary citizens	4.5
3	Processing of animal products	14.1	11	Cooperation in international organizations	4.4
4	Culture	5.4	12	Cooperation between history and museums	2.3
5	Sciences	7.5	13	Youth activities and competitions for the children	3.0
6	Education	11.2	14	Governance	2.0
7	Sport	3.1	15	Tourism	8.6
8	Military field and peacekeeping operations	2.6			

In the framework of the Joint Project "Interaction between Mongolia and Russian civilizations in the framework of the Eurasian Partnership" (2020-2023), the position of friendly neighbouring Mongolia has been clarified. As a result, most experts believe that “cooperating for the good” (51.3%), “having respect for others” (51.3%), “putting only the interests of the country first” (98.8%) are more effective in strengthening

friendly relations with neighbours. Based on this, the average index developed to clarify the degree to which Mongolians believe that they have friendly relations with the Eurasian countries observed the following pattern. For example, Mongolians can promote better relations with the countries mentioned at the level of the president. On the other hand, civil and community friendly relations are relatively low (Table 3).

*Table 3: Experts' answers on the level of communication between Mongolia and Eurasian countries such as Russia, China and Türkiye at an efficient level*

№	Level of government to enhance cooperation	Very good (5)	Good (4)	Amidst (3)	Poor results (2)	No results (1)	Don't know (9)	Average (1-5)
1	Government	6.0	31.8	32.5	10.2	3.9	15.7	4.20
2	President	8.0	29.6	29.7	10.6	4.6	17.5	4.31
3	State Great Khural (Parliament of Mongolia)	4.4	21.0	35.4	15.8	6.2	17.1	4.05
4	Local authority	1.1	8.8	29.2	27.6	15.2	18.2	3.62

<b>5</b>	At the level of citizens	1.5	8.8	25.1	24.7	20.6	19.2	<b>3.61</b>
<b>6</b>	Between organizations	2.3	13.0	26.1	18.9	15.1	24.6	<b>4.16</b>

As shown in the table, the effective communication index at local and civil level varies between 3.61 and 3.62. For example, in order to create opportunities for more effective communication of the above activities, the first of these is to reveal the findings of the study, which include the development of the tourism industry, the solution of visa problems, improved diplomatic relations and the growth of the industry (21.9%).

The following conclusions can be drawn here. In particular, citizens believe that harmonization of Mongolia's national and daily culture with the characteristics of the future development of the country is of great importance to the country. In particular, the development of the region's population and intellectual habitat through the intensification of relations and cooperation has shown, at the local level, that this has become an important step in mutual understanding with friendly countries.

### **Ways and Solutions**

Mutual cooperation in any country aims to successfully implement ambitious development projects and multilateral cooperation in a constructive, mutually beneficial, transparent and responsible manner. In order to do this, it depends directly on the stability and clarity of the policies and institutions of the relevant stakeholders, on the trust of citizens and communities and on the mutual trust and effectiveness of sectors. These relationships are measured by the values required for countries to create an economy capable of economic development. In other words, without taking into account economic policies (treaties, promises), cultures (national values, norms, customs, habits, history and cultures), the effectiveness and stability of national institutions, many citizens cannot ensure full public trust, mutually beneficial flexible economic policies and their continuous and stable growth.

The research presented here confirms this, and we are seeking a solution. In doing so, Mongolia attempts to determine how to participate in the rapid development of China's One Belt and One Road initiative through micro-research to understand how this initiative benefits society, how it affects the current life of society, and how it overcomes the obstacles and solutions to one-way road initiatives. The results of this improvement are collected electronically through a specially prepared expert questionnaire in more than 60 high-level experts of the article via the Google Form platform, with the results of each question being presented as follows.

According to expert research, the results of the above-mentioned study were the basis for the Belt and Road Initiative. However, the following research results clearly demonstrate important ideas and solutions for further improving and

accelerating the implementation of the Belt Road Initiative.

For example, about 60 experts who participated in the electronic micro-analysis expressed their views on the Belt and Road

Initiative initiated and implemented by the People's Republic of China. At the same time, we present an analysis of the content of answers to expert questions and a summary of statements with final results.

1	for understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Coordinate the development of infrastructure and economic development of the countries in the region;</li> <li>o Active foreign policy to strengthen China's role at the regional level;</li> <li>o Generally, it is an action and policy of forward-lovingness';</li> <li>o Policy and activities to expand China's influence in the regional and international arenas;</li> <li>o This initiative demonstrates Asia's great ambitions (especially China's) to become the world's economic, political, cultural and scientific center;</li> <li>o Initiatives to expand foreign trade and economic</li> </ul>
2	for action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The implementation of the Belt and Road principle is still insufficient, but the channels of activity that promote it are well used by the Chinese side;</li> <li>o This is a megaproject involving dozens of countries</li> <li>o The efforts to ensure mutual benefits in various economic and social sectors;</li> <li>o The opportunities can be created to develop low-level socio-economic border areas;</li> <li>o The international trade and economic cooperation can improve;</li> <li>o Mongolia believes that this historic opportunity should be exploited by the world;</li> <li>o If used properly, it may be profitable, but in the long term it may be expensive until negative interests of politicians are taken into account:</li> </ul>

According to experts' research, the results expected from the participation in the Belt and Road Initiative are expected. The

following statements have been observed generally following the results of group analysis of the expressions of research.

1	- By participating in this initiative, Mongolia will have a special opportunity to contribute to regional infrastructure, including electricity and roads.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for trade, infrastructure, energy and domestic production,</li> <li>- Preserving the balance between Mongolia's foreign and trade policies;</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning and long-term planning are important when developing policies, not short-term policy decisions;</li> <li>- Linking long-term development strategies and implementation stages;</li> <li>- Better governance practices that ensure cross-sectoral coordination and results-based outcomes;</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation in this project will improve the quality of life of the population;</li> <li>- The unification of railway and road networks;</li> <li>- The implementation of infrastructure reforms;</li> <li>- The attracting of foreign investment (investors);</li> <li>- The opening up of opportunities for Mongolian companies to enter international level;</li> <li>- Increasing the sale of mining products;</li> <li>- The positive influence to the extent to which there will be positive opportunities to solve infrastructure problems.</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By joining regional economic integration, China can benefit from economic growth in the region.</li> <li>- Calculation of the results and benefits of participation in the initiative, benefits for the national economy, appropriate use of resources, increased opportunities;</li> <li>- Positioning of a country on the advantages of geography, development, and influence in countries in the same region;</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve the control and management system, develop infrastructure in this area,</li> <li>- Expand mutual cooperation between cultures, increase trust,</li> </ul>

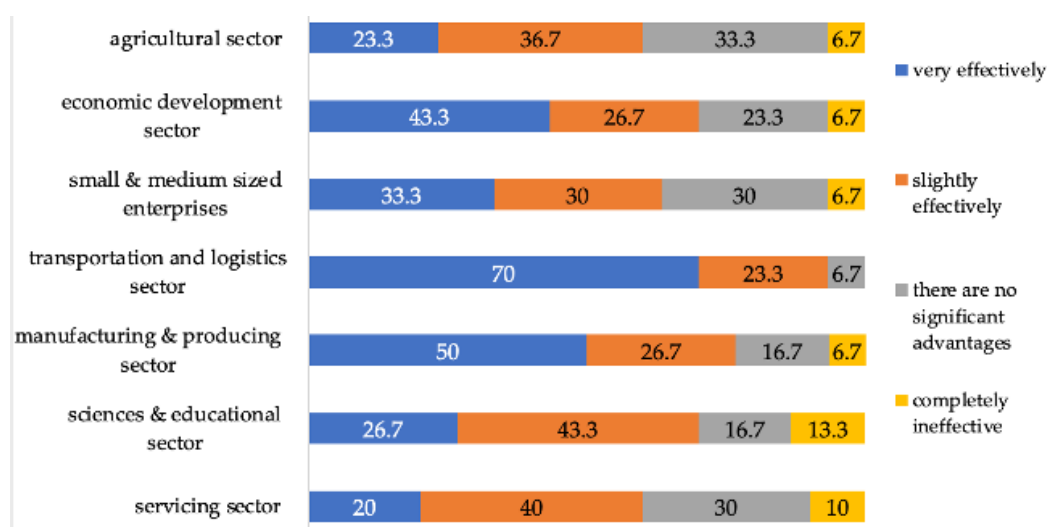


	- Participate in initiatives to positively affect the economic cycle of countries in the landless areas, which are almost entirely dependent on goods and trade.
7	- If political and economic policies are not implemented, the risk of excessive debt will be high. Currently, 138 countries are benefiting from this initiative, but it must always be noted that only one country's loans are equal to 20% of GDP.

Experts have identified sectors that will benefit most from the implementation of the One Belt One Road initiative in our country and summarized the results. 73 per cent of the experts surveyed (60/44) believe that the

majority of them will bring the greatest benefits in the transport, logistics, economic development, mining, extraction and processing industries.

Figure 3: Expert assessment of the sectors of our country that will benefit most from the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative



53.3% of all experts (60/23) participating in the survey reported little benefit from television science in education, services and small and medium-sized enterprises. However, 15 percent of experts believe that there will be no significant benefits in agriculture, small and medium-sized industries, manufacturing and other industries (60/9). 26 per cent of the surveyed experts (60/16) described it as "completely ineffective". One of the important conclusions is that the development of international road transport, trade and technology will be shared and a new corridor will bring enormous economic benefits. If the

appropriate policies are not implemented, the processing industry is more likely to become a raw material exporter than to be destroyed.

When asked about the significance of the Belt and Road Initiative for Mongolia's long-term development, 47.8 percent of experts said it was "moderately important", 39.4 percent said it was "the most important", and 13 percent said it was "very important". "Nothing important". On this basis, when assessing how the Belt and Road Initiative was observed, opportunities were created to contribute significantly to regional relations and cooperation and development on a five-scale scale. Specifically, 39.8 per cent of

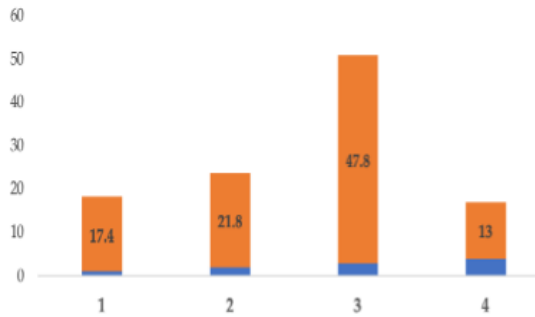


experts believe that the Belt and Road Initiative has made a significant contribution to regional relations and cooperation, 39.1

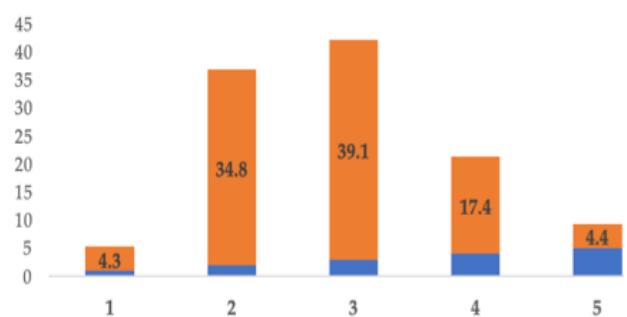
per cent believe it has made a “moderate” contribution and 21.8 per cent believe it has made the “worst” contribution.

*Figure 4: Contribution of the One Belt, One Road Initiative to regional relations and cooperation (1 best, 5 worst)*

*Regarding the importance for Mongolia's long-term development:*



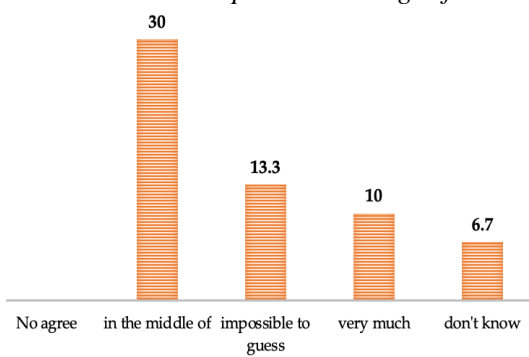
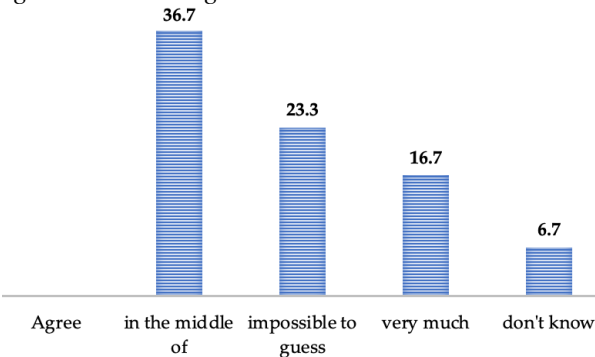
*In terms of real contribution and potential to regional relations and cooperation, its development:*



The following figure shows that the experts participating in the study agreed that the question of identifying the identified risks

was 50:50, and agreed whether the One Belt One Road initiative posed a risk to Mongolia's development (Figure 5).

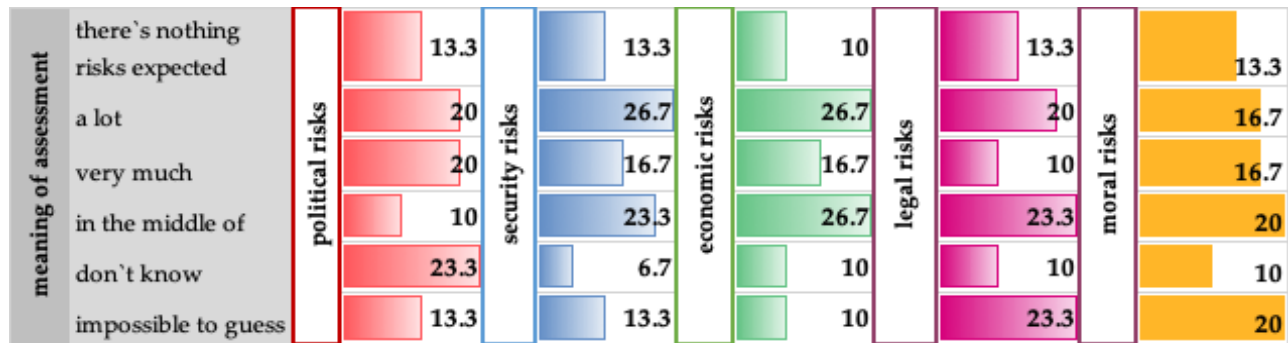
*Figure 5. How long will the Belt and Road Initiative take to create development challenges for Mongolia*



Considering the above, it is expected to take a careful risk calculation. Meanwhile, the study experts were invited to participate in Mongolian initiatives and expressed their perception of the risks that could arise from some projects. The next scene was observed. To make it clear, experts mainly referred to political risks and economic security risks as the greatest risks.

They accounted for 21.6 per cent of these risks. On the other hand, 15 per cent of experts consider the risk of legal and morality to be among the unpredictable risks. It also stated that security threats cannot be predicted. 28.1 per cent of surveyed experts (60 out of 18) assessed the risks associated with security, economics and law by determining the average value and indexing it.

Figure 6. Possible risks to Mongolia's membership in the Belt and Road Initiative (sector-by-sector)



In order to mitigate the risks mentioned above, we sought advice from experts on activities that should be actively implemented and strengthened the results

obtained. For example, if the expert's answer is grouped, the following expression is usually mentioned.

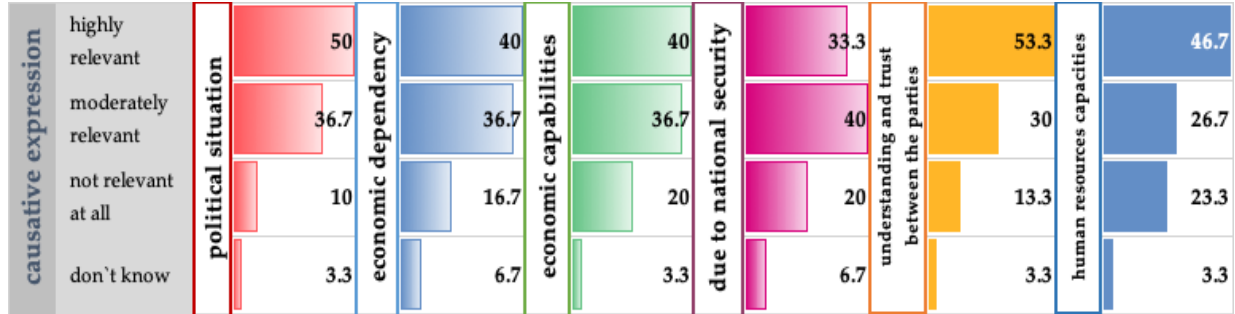
1	- In the case of increased economic dependence, Mongolia's project and programme must be strictly agreed under the initiative and jointly decided.
2	- Support for national culture, history, and language immunity; - Active participation, creation, and creation of initiatives is important, not passive follower of initiative. - Increase the involvement of the private sector rather than the public sector is important.
3	- Policies and their level of implementation/politics should be carefully calculated in each sector and throughout the sector, taking into account all the necessary effects, such as policies, the understanding of citizens, the information environment, national security, investment security and resources.
4	- In order to comply with international law and reduce risks, it is necessary to sign agreements and ensure a balanced policy with neighbors in the first phase.
5	- Identify priority areas to be followed for economic integration and to be compared to other countries, or identify areas where other regions (such as rare earth elements and uranium) cannot progress without Mongolia.
6	- Do good research and analysis, create influence and pay attention not to lose it. - Maintain a clear and stable legal and regulatory environment. - Make preliminary calculations, studies and impact assessments. - Conduct SWOT analysis, including potential revenue and risks for Mongolia.
7	- Doing good research and analysis, building influence and paying attention not to lose it,
8	- Stability of public policy, improved sectoral coordination, empowered and accountable public officials at the intermediate level
9	- You have to listen to the opinions of expert foreign policy experts. Special development of Mongolian neighborhood research
10	- Details of your participation, calculation and evaluation of the risks and benefits of each Mongolian project.

The main reasons why the Belt and Road Initiative has not been actively and effectively implemented in our country can be explained by the answers given by the

experts below. Approximately 65 percent of experts believe that the main reasons for the ineffective and active implementation of this initiative are political situation,

economic potential, mutual understanding and communication between parties and human resources.

Figure 7: The main reason is that the Belt Road Initiative has not been actively and effectively implemented in our country.



We asked experts what measures should be taken to strengthen the country's development through harmonising the "One

Belt One Road" initiative with Mongolia's long-term "Vision 2050" policy. The following views are generally expressed. If they are grouped:

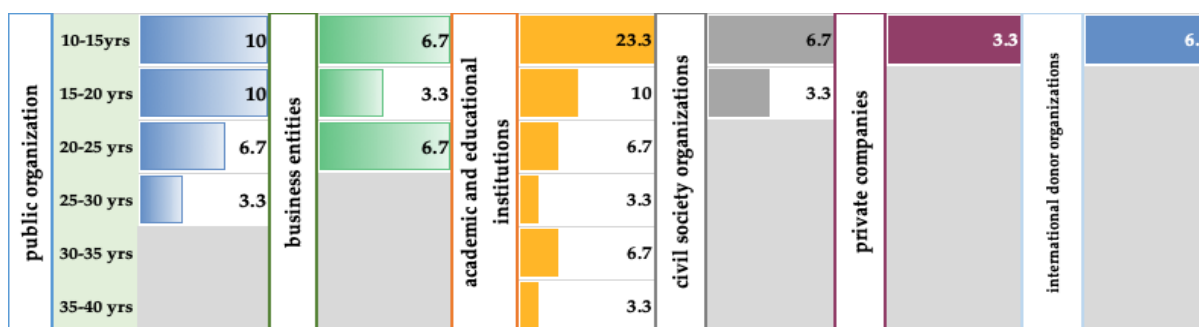
1	- To move away from one country's dependence on fuel and energy, to implement 2 to 3 mega-coal and renewable energy projects, not only to supply the inner coast, but also to connect energy to the regional network.
2	- As a landlocked country, linking countries in the region to the sea, opening the entrance to Europe, modernizing and electrifying the railways by double tracks, and urgently building high-speed vertical axis on the roads. The way to meet international standards. The path to complying with international standards.
3	- To implement the policy of releasing national agricultural and SME products to the regional market, the necessary transport and logistics infrastructure should be solved in a unified manner,
4	- It is important to promote national production, eliminate corruption and malfeasance, maintain policy continuity, and apply more scientific research at the policy level.
5	- In a democratic society, human rights must come first. Comparing these two projects, Mongolia should win by itself. Both projects should mutually enrich each other for the development of the country and its human resources.
6	- - Mutual respect and cooperation should ensure the quality of the implementation of the project. Mongolia will increase international investment confidence, train highly qualified staff for the implementation of projects and continue its neutral policy.
7	- It is difficult to answer questions because I do not know the programme, plan, and activities of the Belt and Road Initiative. I have heard of this initiative, I know three countries are organizing conferences, but I don't understand the other real initiatives and their results.
8	- First, pay particular attention to the energy and mining sectors and the development of the manufacturing industry. Furthermore, the connection of the Uygur-Europe railway to the western Xinjiang region.

The age of experts participating in the micro-expert survey was 37.5% from 35 to 45 years old, 43.8% from 45 to 54 years old, and 12.5% from 54 to 65 years old. 6.3 percent

were over 65 years of age. In terms of gender, 62.5% of experts surveyed were men and 37.5% were women. With regard to education, 93.8% of experts who participated

in electronic microsurvey had higher education and 6.3 percent had a professional degree.

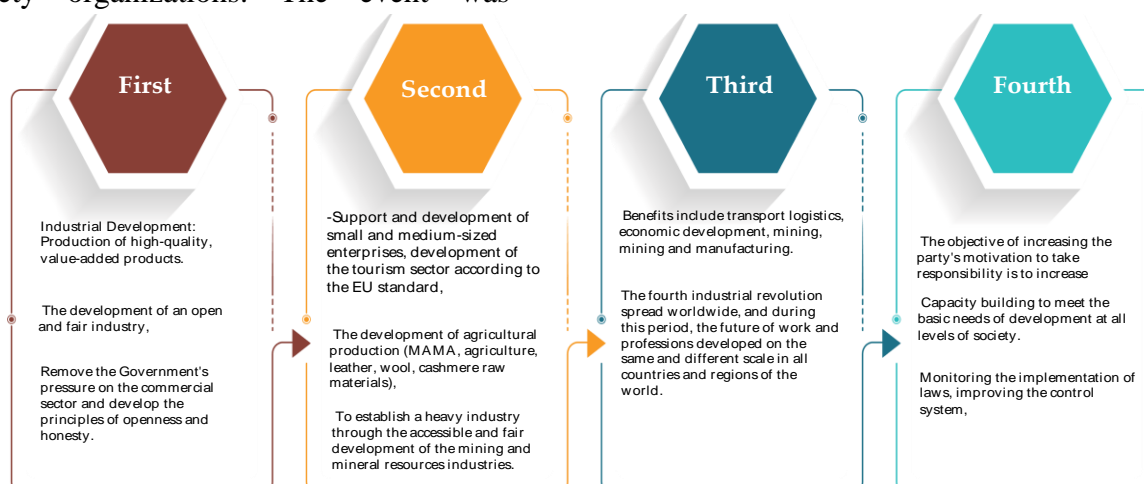
Figure 8. The employment and length of the service of experts participating in the “Belt Road Initiatives” and Mongolia



Taking into account the work of experts and the duration of their service in this field, 28.1 per cent represent representatives of scientists, research and educational institutions directly involved in research and research, and 15 per cent represent government and political officials, 16.6 per cent represent companies and private sector, 16.6 per cent represent international organizations and non-governmental civil society organizations. The event was

attended by 23.5% of other or small and medium-sized producers, politicians and representatives of private enterprises.

The following orientations have required to believe in, that it will be aimed at enhancing the level of development of our country through harmonization.



## Conclusion

Mongolia is a landlocked country located between Russia and China. In this sense, Mongolia's foreign policy, as shown on the pages of history, is determined to some extent by circumstances. For example, during the socialist system, Mongolia, like other socialist countries, was directly dependent on all state and foreign affairs under the direction and direction of the Northern neighbouring Soviet Union. However, after the collapse of the Socialist Bloc, Mongolia had decisively chosen the path of democracy and reform, and then radically reformed its foreign policy. In other words, after the collapse of the Socialist Union, Mongolia began to significantly expand its foreign policy relations, thereby abandoning its unilateral approach to the former Soviet Union and Russia and radically changing its policy. The approach to foreign policy is simple. its foreign policy. Foreign policy has a holistic approach.

As a result, the development of relations with China and other countries around the world has become a major basis for forming principles of multi-dimensional foreign policy. Mongolia and China have been economic, historical, and cultural neighbors since ancient times. In this respect, cooperation between the two countries in recent years has developed in the fields of politics, society, economics and other fields, especially in the fields of trade and investment.

The concept of unity and respect for diversity is directly linked to Chinese philosophy or Mongolian worship of

“methods and wisdom”, and its balance can lead to peace and tranquility in the world, eliminating hostility between peoples and making it fair and just. Therefore, capacity-building is a fundamental social organization that not only meets the basic needs of development issues at all levels of society, but also includes the development of organizations and communities, including economic development. In other words, each citizen can express his views clearly and rationally in a democratic way and see the reality of any negative development.

Finally, in order to understand development as freedom, we must go beyond the limited concept of human capital. One of the demonstrates is the Joint Economic,

Trade and Technology Committees between the Governments of China and Mongolia, which uses interconnected minerals and energy cooperation to increase and expand bilateral trade, develop minerals resources, rebuild cities, and provide humanitarian assistance. The creation of cooperation opportunities in this area will be an importa The Fourth Industrial Revolution spread across the globe, and during this time the future of work and profession developed equally and differently in every country and region of the world.

To achieve this, we must improve our trading structure, develop value-added production, improve customs clearance capacity and diversify trade in mining and agricultural products.

### **Notes**

<sup>1</sup> As of 2022, 1,596.3 citizens, or 45 percent of all citizens, live in Ulaanbaatar.

<http://ubstat.mn/StatTable=20>

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