

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the 25th volume of the *Mongolian Journal of International Affairs*, published by the Institute of International Studies at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. A total of 12 articles were submitted to our Editorial Office by researchers and scholars around the world in 2024, covering a wide range of topics, ranging from historical insights and economic analysis to geopolitical discussions and bilateral relations. We are delighted to announce that seven articles have been chosen for publication in this issue based on the results of a three-step evaluation process: editorial primary assessment, independent expert review, and editorial board decision. In addition, several experts took time out of their busy schedules to review these submissions, which significantly improved the quality of the journal. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation on behalf of the Editorial Board and thank you for your time and contribution.

The information we have received from the 2024 statistics does not only give us great pleasure, but it also indicates that our journal had more than 20,000 accesses, which is a very high number for a national journal of this type.

The first article in this volume is entitled "The Contribution of the Mining Sector to the Economic and Social Development of Mongolia", authored by Dr. Davaasuren

Avirmed and Ms. Khishigjargal Bold from the Institute of International Studies, Mongolian Academy of Sciences. In this article, authors examine the increasing contribution of the mining sector to Mongolia's GDP, despite its declining share of industrial production and total imports. Essentially, the authors advocate for a strategic focus on processing raw mining products in order to enhance their value, in accordance with the country's long-term development strategy, "VISION-2050".

The second article in this issue, "Central Asia as a Continental Bridge or Thucydides Trap?" by Professor Udo B. Barkmann discusses the implications of the 'New Silk Road' with Xinjiang as a crucial gateway to Central Asia. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has disrupted formerly dominant transport routes through Russia. This article examines the current dynamics in Central Asia as well as the responses of China, the United States, and Europe.

It is timely that Dr. Bayasgalan Sanallkhundev, Associate professor of the School of Political Science, International Relations and Public Administration, National University of Mongolia addressed an issue about neutrality in his article "Mongolia's Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status: Unique Approach to Neutrality". Due to Mongolia's unique location sandwiched between two nuclear weapon states, it is suggested that Mongolia's nuclear-

weapon-free status can be recognized as an option of neutrality. History and relevant events are used by the author to support his conclusions.

In his article, "Evolving Definitions of War and Peace: A Historical Analysis of the Last Two Centuries", Dr. Vitumbiko Andrew Ngwira from John Moores University of Liverpool provides an interesting look at the evolution of concepts of war and peace. By analyzing significant historical events and shifts in the international landscape, the article examines how global political shifts, technological advancements, and shifting societal standards have shaped these war and peace concepts.

Ms. Selenge Khishgee, research fellow at the Institute of International Studies, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, explores the potential for Mongolia-Türkiye relations to be elevated to the level of "Strategic Partnership" in her article, "Elevating Mongolia-Türkiye Relations to a Strategic Partnership: Insights from Political Cooperation". This study examines historical milestones and diplomatic engagements in order to provide insights into the current state of the partnership, challenges such as trade imbalances and economic dependence, and opportunities for future cooperation.

Furthermore, Dr. Bu He, a postdoctoral researcher at East China Normal University, examines the historical relationship between Mongolia and China. Bu He examines the emergence of the Chinese community in Mongolia as a significant

facilitator of bilateral relations and the evolution of the Association of Overseas Chinese in Mongolia in his article "The Prosperity and Decline of the Chinese Community in the Mongolian People's Republic (1949-1973)".

The community has an important impact on both government decisions, and he emphasizes its impact on bilateral relations.

A unique research paper entitled "An Undeclared Northeast Asian War" is presented by Tsogtgerel Nyamtseren and Mendee Jargalsaikhan, Military Fellows and Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies of Mongolia. It appears to be focusing on historical events, specifically the Khalkhiin Gol War, despite the fact that it emphasizes the importance of studying the geopolitical context and consequences of the war as well. It is timely, since it coincides with the world-shocking visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to Mongolia in 2024, during this period of international instability.

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the authors who have contributed exceptional work to this issue. Consequently, we are delighted to be able to present their work to a wider audience as a means of letting them be heard, as well as being recognized for the contribution they have made.

Yours sincerely,

Zolboo Dashnyam, Editor-in-Chief
Anudari Tuvshinjargal, Secretary