



Alгаа Saikhantuya

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Alгаа Saikhantuya came to study in Japan from Mongolian University of Science and Technology under a Japanese government scholarship program in 1992. After studying the Japanese language for a year, she entered Yokohama National University to study business administration. While in Japan, she became interested in former socialist countries undergoing economic transition as well as the role of Japan's ODA in supporting those countries. After obtaining a master's degree, Saikhantuya returned to Mongolia and in 2002, she joined JICA.

In the 1990s, Ulaanbaatar was experiencing power outages almost every day. JICA supported improvements to the local thermal power plants, which reduced the outages. As a young student, Saikhantuya was impressed when she learned about the impact that the Japanese assistance had had on people's daily lives and this motivated her to later join JICA.

After joining JICA, Saikhantuya started working in rural development and poverty reduction. Between 2002 and 2011, she was involved in the agriculture and livestock sector, visiting rural areas together with JICA experts to meet nomads that they were working to help and to hear their

concerns. These visits helped JICA develop projects that met the needs of the beneficiaries.

A quarter of a century after its transition to a market economy, Mongolia was able to swiftly overcome the 2008 financial crisis and achieve a high rate of economic growth driven by mineral resource development. It is now important to strengthen the governance of administrative organizations that invest the growing revenue from resource development into social capital to ensure sustainable development of the country.

Saikhantuya has been working in this area since 2011, managing projects in international taxation, internal auditing, capital market supervision, and fair market competition, to name a few. The assistance to governance sector takes time to have visible impact, therefore JICA provides continuous assistance in collaboration with Mongolian partners while respecting their autonomy.

Japan is a top ODA donor for Mongolia, and Mongolia has the largest number of exchange students studying in Japan, by proportion of the population. As the head of the local staff in the JICA Mongolia office, Saikhantuya hopes that the two countries will continue to deepen mutual trust for the sustainable growth of Mongolia.