

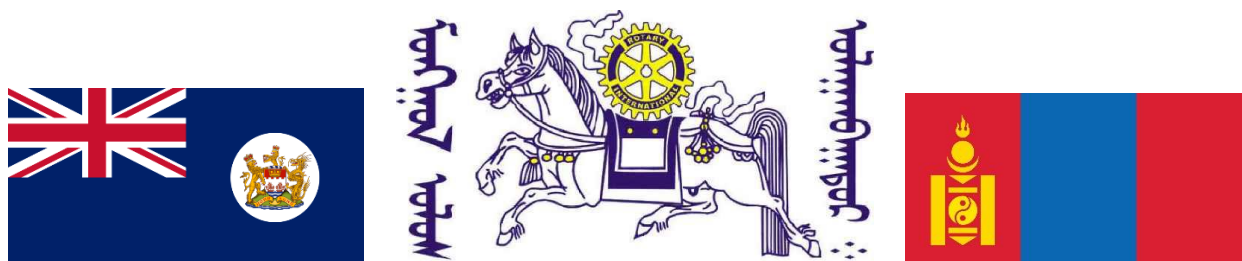
Rotary Extension from Hong Kong to Mongolia

Shatin Rotary Club sponsored Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club in 1995

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

Honorary Citizen of Baraq Mongol, China

13 May 2015



The Free Independent Country since 1990

Mongolia's transition from a Soviet satellite state to a free, independent democracy is one of the most successful and peaceful political transformations of the post-Cold War era. Following the collapse of the Ch'ing Empire (大清國) in 1911 and a Soviet-backed revolution in 1921, the Mongolian People's Republic was established in 1924. It became the world's second communist state and functioned as a *de facto* Soviet Union satellite for nearly 70 years. In the late 1980s, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced the policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring). These ideas heavily resonated with Mongolian intellectuals and youth who were frustrated by economic stagnation, strict censorship, and the forced suppression of traditional Mongolian culture (such as Buddhism and the memory of Chinggiskhaan). The Soviet Union began drawing down its military presence, signaling that Moscow would no longer forcefully project control.

Unlike many structural transitions in Europe, Mongolia's exit from communism was completely peaceful and achieved through civilian organization. The Democratic Revolution of 1990 led to the country's transition to a multi-party system. The Revolution came to an end on 9 March 1990. On 12 February 1992, a new constitution went into effect, officially ending the communist "People's Republic". The red communist star was stripped from the national flag, human rights and religious freedoms were explicitly guaranteed, and a unicameral parliament (the State Great Khural) was formed.

Geographically landlocked between authoritarian superpowers Russia and China, modern Mongolia preserves its democratic independence through a distinct diplomatic approach. To avoid over-dependence on its immediate borders, Mongolia actively builds strong economic, cultural, and diplomatic ties with democratic "third neighbors" like the United States, Japan, South Korea, and the European Union.

Global network of world-wide fellowship, business and service

It was early in 1993, MIAT Tour director Dambadarjaagiin JARGALSAIKHAN took a business trip to the United States. He found there is an amazing organization call “Rotary Club” that provides global network of world-wide fellowship, business and service opportunities which were all being needed in the free Mongolia. After returning home, he has the desire to form a Rotary Club but found no detail of the procedures.

Almost at the same time, Borjin Corporation President Dr. Galbaataryn BOSHIGT was looking for trading opportunity in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong. He met with Franklin Sham (沈佑陽) who was the charter president of Shatin Rotary Club (沙田扶輪社). Boshigt was invited by Sham to attend the Rotary Club meetings which aroused his great interest if there would be the feasibility to have the same in Mongolia. It was, vice versa, also a challenging idea in Sham’s mind to have Rotary extension to this vast “virgin” land of Mongolia, if possible.

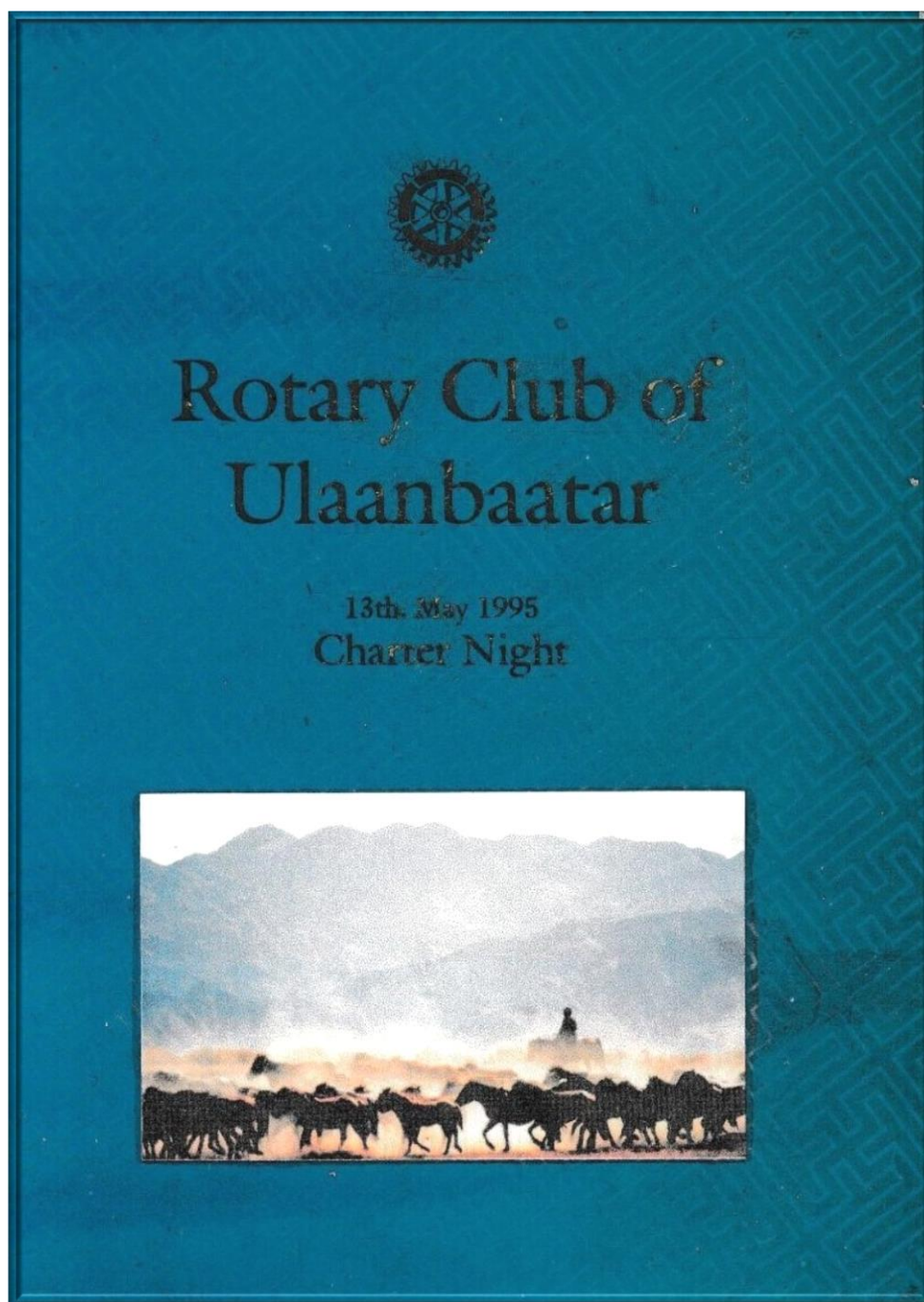
Immediately, after consent was obtained from Shatin members, Sham began to provide his guidance to Boshigt. Simultaneously he brought the proposal to 1993-1994 District 3450 Governor Moses Cheng (鄭慕智) who was sitting on the Rotary International Asian Affairs Committee. Green light was soon given to open Mongolia as a Rotary country by Rotary International meeting that 1994 would be the [75 Years of Rotary in Asia] celebration. Past District Governor Peter Hall (賀錦平) was appointed to conduct the feasibility survey, while Sham was responsible for the new club organization and training. Months later, the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar was admitted to Rotary International on 10 January 1995, Club #30519, making Mongolia the youngest Rotary country in Asia. Attending the Charter Presentation on 13 May 1995, there were more than 80 Rotarians and spouses from Hong Kong (香港), Macao (澳門) and Taipei (臺北). However, the new Club was not yet grouped under District 3450 until petition was made in early 2000.



On 13 May 1995, Moses Cheng (R2), Hong Kong Sub-Committee Chairman 1994-1995 of the Rotary International Asian Affairs Committee, presents charter in Mongolia to Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club’s first president Dr. G. Boshigt (L2), witnessed by District 3450 Governor Liu Lit-Mo (R1), and Rotary International Presidential Extension Administrator for Mongolia, Franklin Sham (L1).

The name “Ulaanbaatar” is composed with two words “Ulan” and “Baatar”, literally in English, Ulan = red, Baatar = hero.

The Mongolian capital city was named Ulaanbaatar officially on 29 October 1924. At that time, Mongolia formally abolished the monarchy and established the Mongolian People’s Republic---the second communist state in Asia---officially on 26 November 1924. The name “Ulaanbaatar” was chosen to honour Damdin SUKHBAATAR, a pivotal leader of the 1921 Mongolian Socialist Revolution who had died the previous year. The central district is named “Sukhbaatar District” and the heart of the district is named “Sukhbaatar Square”.



The Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Charter Presentation Night

13 May 1995

Bayangol Hotel, Ulaanbaatar

PROGRAMME

19:30 Cocktail Reception

20:00 Welcome by Master of Ceremony and
Chairman of Organizing Committee

Guests of Honour

(1) His Excellency Punsalmaagiin OCHIRBAT

President of Mongolia

(2) The Honourable Moses Mo-Chi Cheng (鄭慕智議員)

Rotary International President's Personal Representative

Rotary International District 3450 Governor 1993-1994

Charter President 1983-1984-1985 Hong Kong Northeast Rotary Club

(3) Dr. Raymond C. W. Wong (黃志偉醫師)

Representative of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International

Rotary International District 345 Governor 1987-1988-1989

President 1984-1985 Kowloon East Rotary Club, Hong Kong

(4) Liu Lit-Mo (廖烈武太平紳士), MBE, JP

Rotary International District 3450 Governor 1994-1995

President 1991-1992 Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club

(5) Franklin Sham (沈佑陽)

Rotary International Presidential Extension Administrator
for Mongolia 1994-1997

Charter President 1980-1981-1982 Shatin Rotary Club, Hong Kong

(6) Peter K. P. Hall (賀錦平)

Rotary International District 345 Governor 1981-1982

President 1964-1965 Hong Kong Island East Rotary Club

(7) William W. L. Fan (范偉廉)

President 1994-1995 Shatin Rotary Club, Hong Kong

Presentation of Charter by The Honourable Moses Mo-Chi Cheng to

Charter President Dr. Galbaataryn BOSHIGT, Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club, Mongolia

20:30 Dinner and Entertainment

21:00 Project Hishigzul report and live telephone link with Rotary Club of Wahroonga,
Australia

21:30 Presentation and Exchange of Gifts
Dinner and Entertainment



Монгол Улсын Ерөнхийлөгч

To the Members of the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar

On the occasion of the presentation of your Charter as the first Rotary Club in Mongolia, may I offer you my congratulations and best wishes.

Rotary is an internationally respected organization working towards the peace and prosperity of all humankind and we are proud that our nation should have joined the family of Rotary countries of the world.

In the short time your Club has been in existence you have already worked on an impressive number of projects that have brought the admiration of the people of our country. Your work gives others a vision of mode; citizenship and demonstrates how democracy and business can be a force for good in the world.

May I offer you my congratulations on the presentation of your Charter and encourage you to continue your noble work.



Punsalmaagiin OCHIRBAT
President of Mongolia



SENATOR THE HON. GARETH EVANS, QC
PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

Message of Greetings to the Government of Mongolia

On behalf of the Australian Government and people, I wish to extend warmest greetings to the Government and people of Mongolia on the occasion of the inaugural meeting of the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar.

I recall with great pleasure my visit to your country last year. The visit gave me the opportunity to witness first-hand the remarkable progress Mongolia is making towards democracy, a market economy and economic internationalization. I believe that the visit made a valuable contribution both to the deeper engagement Australia seeks with Asia, and to advancing economic cooperation between our two countries. While relations between Australia and Mongolia have small beginnings, I believe that the future is bright.

The Australian Government has always been a supporter of increased contacts and exchanges which promote goodwill and international awareness. And it is indeed heartening to see an event such as yours taking place.

I wish the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar every success and congratulate the organizers for their contribution to international understanding.



Gareth Evans



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

To my friends in the
Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

I congratulate all of you on the occasion of your Charter Presentation. This begins your club's history and I hope you will enjoy every moment.

You are a new force in your community, bringing with you the potential for community service, endless possibilities and many expectations. To fulfill these, you must have a strong and stable foundation, by training given to your club's officers year after year.

Above all, BE A FRIEND to your fellow Rotarians and to the community. Working together there are no limits on what you can accomplish and no goals you cannot achieve.

My best wishes go with all.

Your friend,



Bill Huntley
President 1994-1995



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

I am honoured and privileged to extend to members of the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of your Charter Night Celebration. I would like to also warmly welcome all of you to the Rotary Family.

With your admittance into membership, Rotary International and its services are being extended to Mongolia, the 151st country where Rotary has its presence. This is a significant step forward in the extension of Rotary and is happily recognized world-wide by Rotarians in all parts of the world.

The challenge which lies ahead of all of us, in particular C. P. Franklin, who has been appointed the R. I. Presidential Extension Administrator for Mongolia, is how we can effectively share Rotary with more people in Mongolia. No hurried actions are contemplated but proper plans of action should be in place after careful evaluation and consideration.

In this year when R. I. President Bill Huntley is challenging all of us to be concerned with community developments, we should live up to such challenge by understanding the real needs of the community and the real strength of our club so that we can be a Real Friend to our community by providing the really-needed services to those who need our assistance.

May I wish the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar every success on this Charter Night Celebration as well as their efforts to serve the community. I am confident that under the eminent leadership of Charter President Dr. Boshigt your club will have a truly outstanding first year.



Moses Cheng
Chairman, Hong Kong Sub-Committee,
Asian Affairs Committee, Rotary International



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Dear President Boshigt:

It is my greatest honour to extend to you and all your club members my most sincere congratulations on this auspicious occasion of the charter night of the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar.

Rotary is always on the move, seeking new opportunities to serve and extending fellowship and service to different parts of the world, beyond geographical boundaries and limitation. The successful set up of this new Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar has exemplified the ideal of Rotary – to “Be a Friend” and provide assistance to people of every corner of the globe.

The setup of the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar does not happen automatically. It is the result of continued hard work of President Boshigt and many fellow Rotarians. I would also like to commend the Rotary Club of Shatin for sponsoring and supporting this new member of the Rotary family – which under the excellent leadership of President Boshigt, will continue to grow and strengthen itself and add new vision to Rotary service.

Let us all advance the goals and programme of Rotary and I wish you all every success in the years to come.

Yours ever in Rotary,



Liu Lit-Mo

District 3450 Governor 1994-1995



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

To my dear friends in Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar on your Charter Presentation:

I feel extremely honoured to have the opportunity working with your Dr. Boshigt to extend Rotary ideals into Mongolia.

Rotary is service. Man cannot make fast progress alone. It is through interaction with others that we can grow stronger, to serve our fellow mankind better. Your Club is young, yet together, you have accomplished many worthy projects for the benefit of fellow Mongolians.

You have started the Rotary wheel rolling in Mongolia. Please keep it in motion, keep up the good work and spread the movement to all parts of the country.

“Be a Friend” to the needed, “Act in integrity, Serve with love, work for peace” for a better tomorrow. I am sure you will enjoy and profit from Rotary.



Franklin Sham
Presidential Extension Administrator for Mongolia
1994 - 1997



On behalf of the Rotary Club of Shatin, I send special greetings to you, the members of the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar on this grand occasion of your Charter Ceremonies on 13th May 1995.

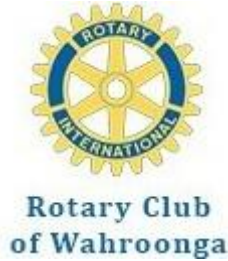
As your sponsor Club, all the members of the Rotary Club of Shatin feel very close with our fellow Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar and look forward to enjoy more special occasions of service and fellowship in the years to come with members of your Club.

This Rotary Year's theme, "Be a Friend", says it all about the relationship between your Club's and mine. The friendship of the members of our two clubs proves that people of different backgrounds can work together, play together, sing together – and thus bring countries closer together.

Continue to be friends and through our joint efforts, our two clubs will be able to promote more worthwhile programs and service projects for the Rotary.



William W. L. Fan
President 1994-1995



Dear President Boshigt and all Ulaanbaatar Rotarians:

The Rotary Club of Wahroonga sends our special greetings tonight because we feel the valued links that already exist between your Rotary Club and ours in Sydney, Australia.

First, that of father and son between our member Philip Hinton and your member, Sean Hinton. It is that contact that has begun so much more.

Second, our special visitor, Hishigzul who we have seen grow better and stronger every day since her surgery in Sydney. It has been wonderful to see her father, Enkhbat's happiness as his daughter's health improves.

Third, we know that Dr. Boldsaikhan has been busy learning about surgical techniques and equipment that will help many more patients after he returns to Mongolia.

So many Rotary clubs have helped to make our Mongolian visitors' journey possible – clubs from Mongolia, Hong Kong and from more than 25 clubs in Australia's District 9680.

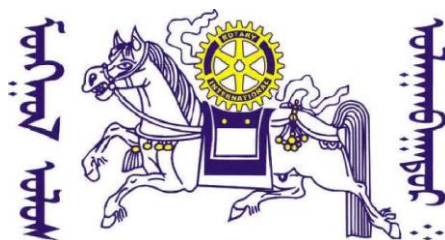
It is a wonderful example of Rotary working in a truly international way!

Finally we salute your new Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar by having our own Mongolian dinner to-night in Sydney at the same time as you have your charter dinner.

We all wish the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar a very happy and successful future in Rotary service.

Yours in Rotary friendship,

Bob Quodling, President 1994-1995



Улаанбаатар Ротари клуб
Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

On the occasion of the Charter Night I extend my heartfelt compliments to my fellow charter members of the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar and congratulate all on being formally admitted to Rotary International.

At this exciting moment I look back to the short history of our Club and it makes me happy to recall once again my first inspiring visit to a Rotary meeting in Shatin, Hong Kong. It took almost two years for us to set up this Club and for our dreams to come true and be granted our Charter.

I thank all members from the bottom of my heart for their tireless support, collaboration and personal sacrifice without which this would never have been possible.

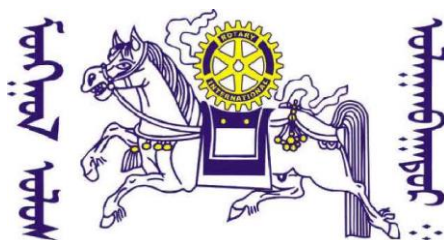
In my capacity as Charter President I am proud to say that, despite the fact that not a single charter member of our Club has ever been a Rotarian before, the noble principles of Rotary International are truly manifested in the deeds we have all accomplished so far, and in the richly diverse international character of our Club.

I must also pay tribute to the Rotarians in various clubs around the world with whom it has been our privilege to work on so many exciting projects in these last few months and who have assisted us in forming our Club.

God bless all fellow Rotarians for their work towards making the people of Mongolia and the world happier, wealthier and healthier.



Galbaataryn BOSHIGT
Charter President



Улаанбаатар Ротари клуб

Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia Charter Members List (with classifications) 39 men / 7 women -- as on 10 January 1995

- (1) President --- Galbaataryn BOSHIGT (Галбаатарын БОШИГТ) (M) (*General Retailing*)
- (2) Vice President --- Dambadarjaagiin JARGALSAIKHAN
(Дамбадаржаагийн ЖАРГАЛСАЙХАН) (M) (*Tourism Promotion*)
- (3) Secretary --- Ts. GANTUYA (Ц. ГАНТУЯА) (F) (*Trade Promotion*)
- (4) Treasurer --- M. MUNKTUYA (М. МӨНХТУЯА) (F) (*Interpreter*)
- (5) Sergeant-at-Arms --- Hiroshi Fujisaki (藤崎 寛) (*Hotel Management*) (M) (Japanese)
- (6) Director Club Service --- S. ODONTUYA (С. ОДОНТУЯА) (F) (*Clothing Retailing*)
- (7) Director Club Service --- L. DAMDINSUREN (Л. ДАМДИНСҮРЭН) (M) (*Metals Trading*)
- (8) Director Vocational Service --- Sean Hinton (*Business Consultancy*) (M) (Australian)
- (9) Director International Service --- Chuluun GANBOLD
(Чулуун ГАНБОЛД) (M) (*Public Relations*)
- (10) I. ANAND ((И. АНАНД) (M) (*Cashmere Trading*)
- (11) Sukhbaatar BATBOLD (Сүхбаатар БАТБОЛД) (M) (*Capital Investment*)
- (12) G. BILEGSAIKHAN (Г. БИЛЭГСАЙХАН) (M) (*Import/Export*)
- (13) Luvsanvandangiin BOLD (Лувсанвандангийн BOLD) (M) (*Financial Services*)
- (14) M. BOLD (М. БОЛД) (M) (*International Banking*)
- (15) D. BOLDBAATAR (Д. БОЛДБААТАР) (M) (*Sports Promotion*)
- (16) L. CHINZORIG (Л. ЧИНЗОРИГ) (M) (*Foreign Trade Representative*)
- (17) J. DALAI (Ж. ДАЛАЙ) (M) (*Foodstuffs Importer*)
- (18) Ch. DALL (Бүлэг. ДАЛЛ) (M) (*Electronics Assembling*)
- (19) S. DARIDULAM (С. ДАРИДУЛАМ) (F) (*Jewelry Manufacturing*)
- (20) Lkhagvajavyn DEMBEREL (Лхагважавын ДЭМБЭРЭЛ) (M) (*Economist*)
- (21) G. DORJBAL (Г. ДОРЖБАЛ) (M) (*Information Technology*)
- (22) Jambalyn DUGER (Жамбалын ДҮГЭР) (M) (*Orphanage*)
- (23) S. ENERELT (Ө. ЭНЕРЕЛТ) (M) (*Insurance*)
- (24) Dangaasürengiin ENKHBAT (Дангаасүрэнгийн ЭНХБАТ) (M) (*Data Communications*)
- (25) Ch. ENKHBOLD (Бүлэг. ЭНХБОЛД) (M) (*Management Training*)

- (26) Ts. ERDEMT (Ц. ЭРДЭМТ) (M) (*Printing*)
- (27) S. ERDENE (С. ЭРДЭНЭ) (M) (*Shoe Manufacturing*)
- (28) Balsanjav GALTMAA (Балсанжав ГАЛТМАА) (F) (*Tour Operator*)
- (29) Boshigt HANGARID (Бошигт АНГАРИД) (M) (*Electronics Retailing*)
- (30) Babu Joseph (*Accounting*) (M) (Indian)
- (31) Purevjavyn KHAYANKHYARVAA (Пүрэвжавын ХАЯНХЯРВАА) (M) (*Composer*)
- (32) D. LHAGVASUREN (Д. ЛХАГВАСҮРЭН) (M) (*Knitwear Manufacturing*)
- (33) Kh. МААМ (Х. МААМ) (M) (*Restaurants*)
- (34) S. MUNKHJARGAL (С. МӨНХЖАРГАЛ) (M) (*Textile Fiber Manufacturing*)
- (35) U. NARANTSETSEG (У. НАРАНЦЭЦЭГ) (F) (*Sales Agent*)
- (36) Z. NASANJARGAL (З. НАСАНЖАРГАЛ) (F) (*Baking*)
- (37) N. NYAMDAAVA (Н. НЯМДАВАА) (M) (*Movie Production*)
- (38) Janchiv OYUNGEREL (Жанчив ОЮУНГЭРЭЛ) (F) (*Petroleum Importing*)
- (39) M. SANAA (М. САНАА) (M) (*Building Construction*)
- (40) I. SANITSAR (И. СЭРГИЙН) (M) (*Tannery*)
- (41) P. SHURCHULUU (П. ШҮРЧУЛУУ) (M) (*Management Consultancy*)
- (42) D. SUKHERDENE (Д. СҮХЕРДЭНЭ) (M) (*Private Banking*)
- (43) R. SUKHYAGMAR (Р. СҮХМЯГМАР) (M) (*Computer Engineering*)
- (44) Isao Tanaka (田中 功) (*International Trading*) (M) (Japanese)
- (45) Gelegpil TUNGALAG (Гелегпил ТУНГАЛАГ) (M) (*Geological Exploration*)
- (46) Namsraijav ZORIGT (Намсрайжав ЗОРИГТ) (M) (*Freight Forwarding*)



Part of Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club members in early 1995 at Bayangol Hotel – Front row R3 Treasurer G. Munkhtuya; R5 President G. Boshigt; R6 Sergeant-at-Arms Hiroshi Fujisaki; R7 Secretary Ts. Gantuya. Vice President D. Jargalsaikhan was in the second row between Gantuya and Fujisaki.



1995 -- The Government Palace and Sukhbaatar Square



1995 -- Culture Palace / The State Opera & Ballet Theatre

The huge white building on the east side of Sukhbaatar Square is the Culture Palace, a fairly recent building which was erected in the end of the 1980s. The front part facing the square houses a huge stage while the tower in the back houses the Academy of Sciences, the International Association for Mongol Studies, and other institutions. That was then the tallest building in the country. The pink building on the right side is The State Opera & Ballet Theatre which was constructed after World War II.



*1995 -- Statue of Vladimir Lenin in front of Ulaanbaatar Hotel
Although Mongolia has been an independent country since 1921,
the Soviet Union has had a strong influence until 1990.*



*The Gandantegchinlen Khiid Monastery, commonly known as Gandan Monastery,
literally the “Great Place of Complete Joy”, Machu Ch’ing Empire heritage, is a Tibetan-Buddhist monastery.*



Infant Ventilator Appeal 25 January 1995

Immediately after the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar was admitted to Rotary International, the Club launched its first community service project --- Fundraising for the Ulaanbaatar Maternity Hospital's "Infant Ventilator Appeal".

In the evening of 25 January 1995, a charity ball with the theme "A Winter Night with the Classics" was well attended by over 200 guests of multi-nationalities, ministers, ambassadors, local business leaders, Rotarians and families. Other than dinner and dancing, highlight was the performances by some of the Mongolia's finest classical and popular artists who all donated their time, effort and talent to raise money for this worthy cause. It was resulted in total contribution of more than US\$11,000 to support the Appeal.

Dental Clinic Project 18 March 1995

In collaboration with the State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar presented a gala concert of performances by Mongolia's opera and ballet stars. There were a full-house and made a net gain of US\$4,000.

Making use of this sum, the Club initiated to set up a Rotary Dental Clinic for Children in the city by applying to the Matching Grants from the Rotary Foundation. With contributions from international partners of: (1) Shatin Rotary Club, Hong Kong (沙田扶輪社); (2) Kowloon East Rotary Club, Hong Kong (九龍東區扶輪社); (3) Taipei Fu Jung Rotary Club, Taiwan (台北芙蓉扶輪社); and (5) Tokyo Josai Rotary Club, Japan (東京城西扶輪社), the Project was successfully matched by funding from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International under Matching Grants Project #4950.

[Note]

- (1) The total project value needed to be further verified.
- (2) Dr. William W. T. Li, DDS (李偉庭牙科博士), Past President of Shatin Rotary Club, was in August 1995 responsible for the setting up of the Clinic in person with the assistance of 2 technicians from Hong Kong. It took about 3 days of installation and testing.
- (3) Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒), Charter President of Tolo Harbour Rotary Club, Hong Kong (吐露港扶輪社), joined the trip and served as the Project Coordinator on site.

Australian Rotarians rescue a life in Mongolia

BY PHILLIP HINTON

Hishigzul is a playful, robust two-year-old Mongolian girl. Her rosy cheeks and inquisitive eyes would certainly qualify her to be the star of a movie or a television program. In November 1994, however, she was experiencing severe heart problems. In a country lacking the necessary medical facilities to help her, Hishigzul's life seemed destined to be tragically brief. But thanks to links of friendship and service established by Australian and Mongolian Rotarians, she was able to have a sophisticated cardiac operation, and will now lead a fruitful, normal life.

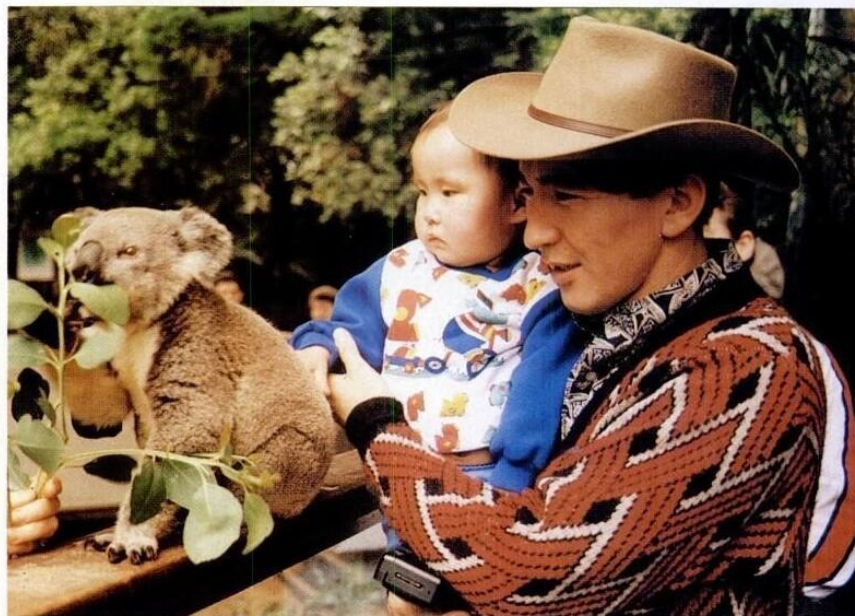
During the summer of 1994 my oldest son, Sean, rang me from UlaanBaatar, the capital of Mongolia, where he had lived for seven years. His newly formed tourism company was having its first profitable year, attracting many international visitors to Mongolia, a vast and fascinating country just recently opened to the West after almost 70 years of communist rule.

Sean asked me whether he should accept the invitation to join the [then provisional] Rotary Club of UlaanBaatar. A few weeks earlier, I had joined the Rotary Club of Wairoa, N.S.W., Australia, and my enthusiasm was running high.

"Of course, you must join!" was my reply. So, Sean became a charter member of one of the newest and most far-flung clubs (chartered on 10 January 1995) in Rotary's worldwide family.

In September 1994, I visited Sean in Mongolia and "made up" at the luncheon meeting of the UlaanBaatar club. I was impressed by the openness, energy, and friendliness of the club members, but had no idea that we would soon join efforts in what became my baptism of fire in Rotary service.

In late March, Sean rang me again to relate a touching story. A man he had met three years earlier in the town of Khovd had called



Eager to explore Australia's fascinating fauna, a healthy and inquisitive Hishigzul pats a koala from the safety of her father's arms.

Sean's office, asking for an urgent meeting. Since that time, Enkhbat (Mongolians have only one name) had joined the police force, gotten married, and had a daughter, Hishigzul.

She was born with a congenital heart defect no hospital in Mongolia could treat. Unless she received expert treatment, Hishigzul might not live longer than a year, at best. As doctors later explained, her little heart had four holes. The point where the four chambers met was interconnected. She also had a split mitral valve and a narrowed pulmonary artery. She was starved for oxygen.

Enkhbat had gone to the local newspaper and even appeared on television appealing for help, but in Mongolia, where the average monthly income is about U.S. \$80, the money raised was a drop in the ocean. Perhaps, Enkhbat asked, Sean had friends in Australia who could save the little girl's life?

Thanks to Rotary, Sean certainly found the friends. He never could have guessed how many, and how spontaneous their response would be to his plea.

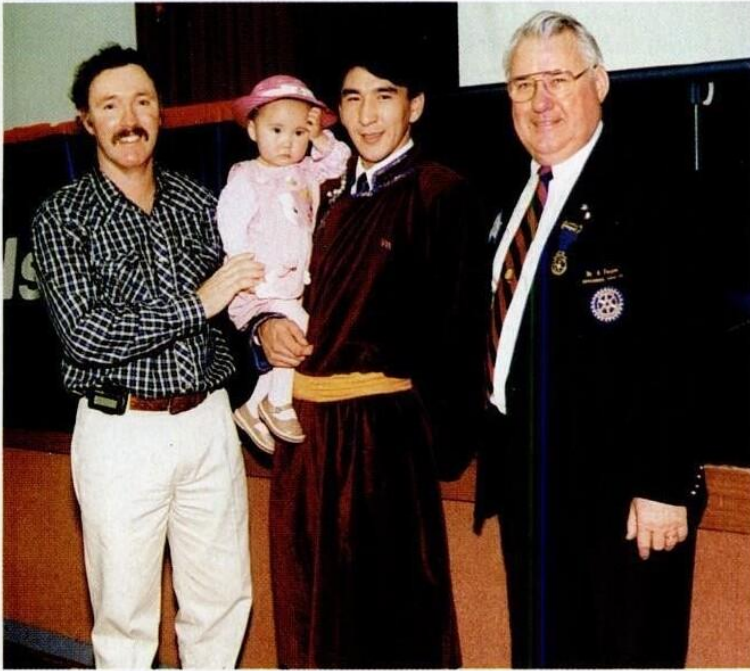
I took Hishigzul's case to our club president, Bob Quodling. Together with Rotarians Peter Weekes, director of the Sydney Adventist Hospital, and Alan Gale, chief cardiac surgeon of the same institution, we began to improvise a plan.

We approached 1994-95 District Governor Ivan Skellet. Within hours, we received a faxed copy of his appeal to all the clubs in R.I. District 9680. Funds began to flow in, but not only from Rotarians. We received the financial support of the Lane Cove Uniting Church, the Bahá'í Community of Hornsby, and several individuals and organizations. The Rotarians in UlaanBaatar were doing their bit, too. Generous contributions also arrived from the Rotary Club of Shatin in Hong Kong, a German company based in Mongolia, a Catholic mission, and even from the Australian Ambassador to Mongolia based in Beijing.

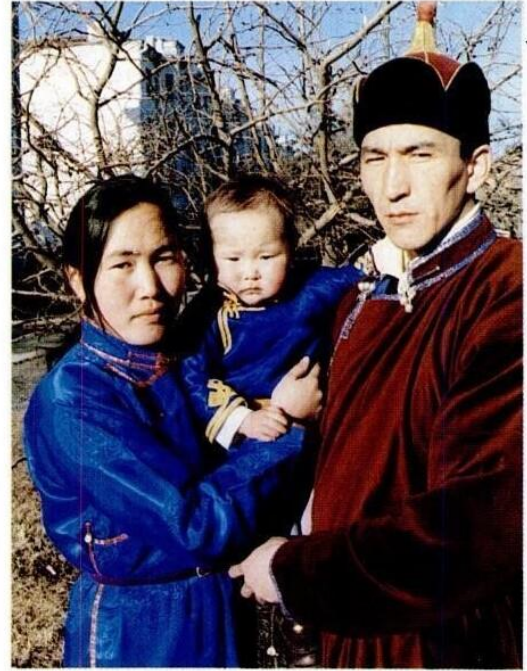
Sean came to Sydney. Two weeks later, we were able to call Enkhbat: "Come to Australia. We think we can help Hishigzul!"

Alan Gale challenged us: "Wouldn't it be a real bonus if we

具有脈動的資料



Under the leadership of Ivan Skellet, 1994-95 governor of R.I. District 9680 (right), a veritable chain of efforts saved Hishigzul's life, who appears here with her father. Engineer John Kitchener (left) established a vital telephone link between Sydney and UlaanBataar.



Back in Mongolia, Hishigzul's reunited family displays their traditional, colorful attire: prussian blue for mother Altantsetseg and her daughter, ruby-ochre for a radiant Enkhbat.

could bring a Mongolian heart surgeon to observe the operation and study alongside Australian surgeons?"

Sean called Dr. Boldsaikhan, one of Mongolia's foremost cardiac surgeons. Two days later, Dr. Boldsaikhan and Enkhbat boarded a flight to Sydney, via Beijing, accompanying a tiny Mongolian girl, listless and lethargic. Most of the time she was too tired to play the games her father brought to amuse her.

Alan Gale was the speaker at our Wahroonga breakfast meeting the day before Hishigzul arrived from Mongolia. After the meeting he took a few of us aside: "You must understand this is a very risky procedure. There are no guarantees of success. We need some more tests. We may even decide it is too dangerous to operate. Be prepared."

We took our jet-lagged visitors to meet Dr. Gale, and then to the Children's Hospital at Camperdown. The tests showed Hishigzul's condition was even more complicated than first thought.

The surgeons then made their decision. On 26 April, Dr. Tim Cartmill operated on Hishigzul at the Children's Hospital. Assisted by

Dr. Gale and with Dr. Boldsaikhan in attendance, Dr. Cartmill reconstructed Hishigzul's heart in a five hour procedure.

The operation went well, and Hishigzul's fragile heart was strong enough to pull through the next critical hours. We nearly lost her several times during the following days. Her heart failed, and pleurisy and pneumonia set in. Then, as children often do, she suddenly rallied and there she was, a week after her surgery, sitting up in bed and eating the ice cream her smiling father offered her.

When Hishigzul was still in intensive care, the Mongolian Ambassador to Australia, Mr. Tsakhilgaan, visited her at the hospital. I shall never forget the sight of the burly Mongolian holding back tears at Hishigzul's bedside. He said, "Thank you and all the friends who helped this little Mongolian girl. This is a very significant act of friendship from your country to ours. I will never forget this kindness."

• Phillip Hinton is a member of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga, N.S.W., Australia.

Anniversary clubs

Two clubs were admitted to Rotary International in October 1920. A special salute to these clubs for their 75 years of service.

U.S.A.—Louisiana: Lafayette.

Maryland: Frederick.

Ten clubs were admitted to Rotary International in October 1945. Congratulations to these clubs on their 50 years of service.

Denmark: Kerteminde.

England: Garston (Liverpool);

Hatfield; Mendip.

Finland: Lappeenranta.

France: Chalon-sur-Saône.

Norway: Bergen.

Sweden: Lysekil.

U.S.A.—Kansas: Johnson;

Ohio: West Milton.

Working on water projects?

During 1995-96, the R.I. Board has set a goal for Rotary clubs and districts to provide 5,000 new water wells for communities worldwide.

If your club is participating in a water well project (or a water project of any kind), we would like to know. Share your story with the editors at: *THE ROTARIAN*, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201 U.S.A.