

EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS – 2009 Multi Nation Program
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Founder and Director, Center for Economic Policy Analysis
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Ms. Sodontogos Erdenetsogt is the Founder and Editor of *The Mongolian Mining Journal*, the first trade journal in Mongolia printed bilingually in English and Mongolian. She is also the General Manager of the “Discover Mongolia” international mining investment forum as well as the host of the English language television talk show “Face to Face”. Recently, she co-created the Center for Economic Policy Analysis, which aims to support Mongolia’s overall development through providing objective, professional, independent analyses of the economic policies of the country. Leveraging its world-class mineral deposits, Ms. Erdenetsogt envisions Mongolia as a full-fledged and recognized player in the world’s economic affairs. While on fellowship, she explored the fundamentals of America’s minerals sector, including economic and legislative policies, with a particular focus on coal. In addition, she discussed issues relating to the economic development of Mongolia.

Meetings at federal agencies such as the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior provided critical insight into American thinking on minerals development and innovations in the field of energy. Visits to state regulatory agencies provided further insight into the topics and policies that oversee the minerals and mining industries in the United States. Discussions with scholars at Harvard and Stanford Universities, Indiana University and the Colorado School of Mines provided further insight into minerals economics in the United States and around the world.

Ms. Erdenetsogt had the opportunity to meet with coal and energy companies while on her fellowship. These meetings afforded her the opportunity to discuss how corporate goals and priorities are balanced and obtained within the U.S. regulatory framework. She was impressed with the business translation of academic research into tangible products and energy solutions.

A week during her program was spent at the Mining Law short course, a conference hosted by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. The course was an intensive examination of the formulation of domestic and international policies governing mineral resources and other topics in minerals economics. The course provided an opportunity for Ms. Erdenetsogt to reconnect with some of the individuals she had encountered earlier in her program.

While discussing Mongolia’s economic development with a faculty member at the Colorado School of Mines, Ms. Erdenetsogt was confronted with a startling statement. The scholar asserted that, “Mongolia would need some 150 years to reach the level of today’s America.” Though uncomfortable to hear, this assertion has strengthened Ms. Erdenetsogt’s resolve to help her country through the further development of its mining sector. She plans to strengthen scientific ties between the US and Mongolia through connections made during her fellowship. Through her think tank she will collaborate with noted scholars at American institutions to develop research critical to Mongolia’s further economic development. As well, she will speak directly to the Mongolian people about her time in the US via Mongolian Central TV, in addition to publishing a revised version of her program report in Mongolian newspapers.