Celebrating International Anti-Corruption Day:

Controlling Corruption in Mongolia:
Perspectives from the
Transparent Ulaanbaatar Forum
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Transparent Ulaanbaatar 2014 Forum

On October 6-7, 2014, the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), in partnership with H.E. Bat-Uul Erdene, Capital City Governor and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar, hosted the Transparent Ulaanbaatar 2014 Forum. To inform the development of a multi-year anti-corruption plan for the city. The event brought together more than 250 guests representing government, civil society, business community and academia from 16 countries and all 21 provinces of Mongolia.

“In Mongolia, however, corruption is so common that it has become a kind of social norm. In the end, it makes the state turn against the interests of the public. The state becomes the enemy of its own people. It ruins the main principles of democracy.”

- E. Bat-Uul, Mayor of Ulaanbaatar

The forum facilitated a discussion and exchange of experiences on anti-corruption initiatives in Mongolia and the region. The two-day event closed with the signing of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration Against Corruption, a statement that outlined Mayor Bat-Uul’s long-term vision for a corrupt-free city.

IRI’s Anti-Corruption Program in Mongolia

IRI, in cooperation with the municipal government of Ulaanbaatar, is working to bolster open and transparent governance in Mongolia’s capital city. In June 2014, at the invitation of Mayor Bat-Uul, IRI conducted a vulnerabilities to corruption assessment of the city government, fielding a four-member team of experts from Canada, Slovakia and the United States. As a result, IRI produced a Vulnerabilities to Corruption Assessment Report that will inform the Ulaanbaatar city government’s anti-corruption strategic plan.

IRI’s Support for Democracy in Mongolia

IRI has worked in Mongolia in 1992, immediately following Mongolia’s peaceful transition to democracy, by providing parliamentary development assistance, supporting the development of a multi-party political system and assisting with strengthening electoral processes. IRI has continued to support Mongolia’s democratic development through programs that include building the skills of the next generation of political leaders and developing the capacity of local officials to govern effectively.