

CENTER FOR POLICY STUDIES

INTERNATIONAL POLICY FELLOWSHIPS

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MENTOR CRITIQUE FORM

Your thoughtful and honest appraisal will be most helpful. We appreciate your input and will try to implement as many of your ideas as possible. Continue comments on the back if necessary.

The IPF program pairs each Fellow with one or two mentors who are Soros foundations network-affiliated (usually Open Society Institute and Central European University), as well as one 'external' mentor who is an expert in the field working outside the Soros foundations network. Mentors should: 1) Work with Fellows to devise a brief policy paper in their field(s) of expertise based on a lengthy research paper written over the course of the fellowship year, 2) Maintain contact with Fellows at least once every six weeks or so by telephone, fax or e-mail to discuss the development of projects, 3) If feasible, meet with Fellows at least once during the fellowship year to discuss the project, 4) Facilitate Fellows' contact with other relevant experts and participation in appropriate meetings (IPF has discretionary funds to support Fellow attendance at relevant events), 5) Complete brief mid-term and final critique forms supplied by IPF to provide the program with feedback regarding the Fellow's progress.

Your name, position: Tsend Enkhbat, General Director, Mongol TV
Name of Fellow you have assisted: Munkhmandakh Myagmar

1. What, in your opinion, have you and your Fellow/program/project gained from your co-operation thus far?

Through several joint meetings, articles in print media and the paper she has written within the frame of this project the fellow has contributed to a deeper understanding and promoting of the complex situation of electronic media in Mongolia, providing valuable information and a genuine analysis of endeavours to transform the broadcasting system in Mongolia. She used the knowledge and ideas she accumulated during the last year not only for writing the research and policy paper. Using her position at the Press Institute she organised round table meetings with rural journalists, explaining the role and importance of public service media and the role, professional organisations can perform to influence policy making.

This way, she deepened her understanding of the situation and gained an insight for further activities necessary to realise the recommendations she made in her policy paper.

2. Do certain areas of this Fellow's work need improvement? Which areas?

The recommendations for NGO-s, journalists and professional organisations as potential actors of policy making could be developed to more concrete proposals. In

general the research work represents a thorough analysis, which only can realise its value if it will be continued: translation, publication, promoting, organising - these are the next steps of the work which has been done until now.

3. In your opinion, does your Fellow's project make a significant contribution to the field?

Yes. The fellow's work represents the first ever systematically analysis of legal acts and documents regarding transformation of the broadcasting in Mongolia. The value of her work has been strengthened by her knowledge and experience in advanced western nations, understanding of traditions of the own country, professional expertise and personal engagement. The paper provides realistic proposals on how to improve the broadcasting bill proposed by the Ministry of Justice and Interior working group and being submitted to the Parliament. On the other hand, the paper recognises also, that not only politicians, but also journalists and media managers themselves do play a significant role in the shaping of their own environment.

4. Would the project be important to other countries in the CEE/fSU region?

Yes. As Mongolia has already been acknowledged as one of the most successful countries simultaneously implementing reforms oriented to market economy and democracy, the fellow's work provide an interesting example for other post-Soviet countries, particularly in Central Asia, in their efforts to have their media become more independent and self-sustained.

5. Could the proposed policy research make an impact on the policy environment in specific countries or regions? (Policy makers, experts and policy research community)

Yes. Wanting of a sustained policy action by professional organisations, research community and journalists themselves require first of all a deeper understanding of the complex situation of electronic media in Mongolia in general and of the concept and importance of the public service broadcasting in specific. Exactly this need has been covered by the research and policy paper written by Munkhmandakh, and if translated and published, this research can influence significantly the policy environment in Mongolia.

6. Is the timetable for the project realistic?

Although the project has been conceived at the right time, the continuation of the project is highly recommended as the process of change is slow and continuation of support for the initiative is likely to benefit both media and the policy makers.

7. Could the project benefit a large number of people?

YES

The project has already established a strong and genuine analysis of the legislative environment of media institutions, providing valuable information not only for Mongolian researchers and policy makers, but also for foreign experts. Ultimately, if it is continued (by publications, further follow-up arrangements), it will definitely contribute to speed up the process of establishment of an appropriated legal environment for Mongolian broadcast media.

8. Does the Fellow show evidence that he/she can think strategically about the relevant project and/or field?

YES

Having received a PhD D in media studies in Germany, the fellow is a well-established media researcher with the capacity and knowledge to appraise the media situation in the political, legal and cultural context, and their importance for a functioning democratic society.

9. If the Fellow were to re-apply for continued OSI funding for follow-up work associated with the project, would you support continued funding?

YES, strongly.

10. Are there other appropriate funders that may support the project?

YES

The project may attract grants from bilateral and international donors and international organisations, which support the efforts to strengthen democracy in Mongolia.

Recommendations for other potential senior contacts for this Fellow:

Mustafa Eric, English Editor, mongoliathisweek newspaper

Additional Comments (Please comment on your Fellow's work and all aspects of the IPF program using the back of this sheet):