

Mongolian Embassy Meeting September 15, 2015

Attending

Mongolian Embassy: Zolzaya S

Delegation: Beth Fluke, Holly Jobe, Kim Harms, Linda Hoeschler

Zolzaya started the meeting saying she had contacted, on behalf of the Delegation, Ms. Oyungerel, the current president of the Democratic Women's Organization, and a member of Parliament. Ms Oyungerel said she would be happy to meet with us. We were thrilled since Ms. Oyungerel appears to be one of the most influential women in Mongolia. The Democratic Women's Organization (with about 20,000 members) will be voting on a new president later this month, Zolzaya will contact the new president regarding the Delegation visit. We mentioned we would also like to plan a reception for the Democratic Women's Organization.

We asked for an overview of the Democratic Women's Organization work. Zolzaya stated that both gender equality and protecting the country from the illegal export of dinosaur remains were key issues. (In a Google search I noted Ms. Oyungerel was in NYC this fall arranging for repatriation of dinosaur remains from the Natural History Museum).

We presented Zolzaya with the packet of Delegate's resumes collected, reviewing experience and expertise. Once Zolzaya has received each Delegate's brief summary of interest she will contact appropriate leaders in the field to set up individual or small group meetings. She said there were many women entrepreneurs she is anxious to connect us with.

We asked if we could start setting up our Mongolian-based meetings soon, Zolzaya smiled and explained Mongolians were not good at planning ahead. (This not planning ahead has also been voiced by Undreea at Nomadic Expedition and later by the State Department; however I hope we could start the counterpart connection even if the meeting dates will be established later).

We asked about the political system in Mongolia. Zolzaya explained there are two principal parties plus three smaller parties. The parliamentary election will occur on the third week of June this year. The presidential election will be next June.

We asked if she thought we could meet with the First Lady, she saw that as a definite possibility. The First Lady's primary focus is in children's issues and orphanages.

Zolzaya reported the Embassy will be hosting a Mongolian Heritage Day in April or May. There would be food, music and other cultural events, she would keep us informed and invite the Delegation to the event.