Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Country: Mongolia

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In the last few decades, Asia has been growing economically and socially at a fast but steady rate. Mongolia requests that the topic on the future of food be addressed first due to its importance to the wellbeing of its population. Mongolia is a free-market economy, and as one of its main economic activity, agriculture has a direct impact on Mongolia’s GDP and of course overall health of its citizens.

1. Future of Food

Agriculture is an aspect of Mongolia’s economy that is very prominent since 30% of Mongolians live off of agriculture[[1]](#footnote-1). However, due to climate change and various other reasons, Mongolian farmers saw their conditions deteriorating, which in turn caused a drop of 1.6% in Mongolia’s GDP in 2009. Furthermore, as its population grows, Mongolia will have to increase its production to meet the growing demand for food. It is for that reason that Mongolia thinks it is important to find solutions to problems in the agricultural sector. Mongolia believes that implementing measures such as a new green food revolution[[2]](#footnote-2) based on ecologically viable systems and an increase in fertilizers which are assumed to have a lower environmental footprint will be beneficial to Asia and the Pacific as a whole.

1. Role of Infrastructure in the Development of South East Asia

Mongolia believes that the wide variety of levels of infrastructure demands amongst Asian countries can be met simultaneously if all countries agree to join forces and help each other grow. More developed countries can be of assist other countries and benefit from it. A concrete example would be The Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN)[[3]](#footnote-3), which promotes cooperation among ten southeast Asian countries. Since its formation in 1967, the GDP of the countries involved have grown by a considerable amount. This shows that initiatives like creating an association that has as an aim to help each other grow works. Moreover, studies have shown “that high levels of corruption are associated with lower levels of investment and growth and that corruption discourages both capital inflows and foreign direct investment”[[4]](#footnote-4). Therefore, Mongolia proposes that a domestic legal reform be made to increase transparency and accountability in the government.

1. Labour Migration & Illegal Trafficking in the AsiaPacific

Mongolia seeks neutral and cordial relations with many countries, which can be seen with its diplomatic relations with 184 states[[5]](#footnote-5). Mongolia has a net migration rate of -0.8, which means a larger portion of people leave the country compared to the ones who immigrate to Mongolia. This number is a fairly good one considering Mongolia is a developing country. Workers are protected by law and have the right to take part in strikes and join independent unions, however Mongolian laws restrict these rights for foreigners. When a proposal to change labor policies in terms of setting actual work hours and conditions was presented to employers in Mongolia, these latter showed their disapproval to these changes to the laws saying that it would “restrict their ability to respond to market conditions”[[6]](#footnote-6). This shows that passing laws to change labour conditions will certainly cause backlash.

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1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongolia#Agriculture> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/49f589db2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Southeast_Asian_Nations> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://bibliotecadigital.fgv.br/ojs/index.php/%20revdireitogv/article/viewFile/35253/34051> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_Mongolia> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.export.gov/apex/article2?id=Mongolia-Labor> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)