

IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS IN MONGOLIAN
ARCHIVAL SECTOR WITH FOREIGN
CONTRIBUTION AND THEIR RESULTS

D. Zolboo
Head, Cabinet Secretariat Archive
Mongolian Government

[국문초록]

몽골 기록분야에서의 외국의 기여에 의한 프로젝트와 결과

D. 졸부*

외국 정부가 공여한 기록관리 프로젝트를 통해 몽골 기록분야가 발전했다. 이 글은 외국의 기여에 의한 기록프로젝트의 내용과 결과를 소개한다. 몽골은 20세기에 들어와서 마이크로 필름 제작을 통한 기록보존 등 외국의 발달된 기록보존제도를 성공적으로 받아들였다. 몽골민주화 이전에는 러시아와 동독의 공헌이

*몽골정부 내각기록보존소 소장

있었으며, 민주화 이후 일본, 중국 등으로부터 기록보존 장비를 지원받았다. 1990년대 후반 이후 정보통신기술의 미비로 인한 곤란을 겪었으며, ICA와 EASTICA에 참여하는 국제협력활동을 통해 기록관리 선진 지식과 국제표준을 접하고 이를 번역하여 기록관리 업무에 활용했다. 2006년에 한국 KOICA로부터 지원받아 디지털아카이브즈 프로젝트를 수행했다. 이 KOICA 지원프로젝트는 주로 장비를 지원했으며 외국이 지원한 몽골기록관리분야의 최대 프로젝트였다. 2010년에는 KOICA의 의회기록프로젝트가 수행되었다. 내각기록은 터키정부의 협력으로 대규모 디지털화프로젝트가 수행되었다. 외국정부의 지원에 의한 기록프로젝트는 몽골정부의 기록관리 정보화 계획과 이행으로 이어지고 있다.

주제어: 몽골기록관리, KOICA, 디지털 아카이브즈, 기록관리프로젝트, 국제협력

Key words: Mongolian archives management, KOICA, digital archives, international cooperation

The past year of 2011 has been one of the special years not only for the Mongolians but also for the historians, with many events took place starting with the celebration of 2220th anniversary of the establishment of the first nomadic statehood of Hunnu Empire and other equal anniversaries simultaneously celebrated.

Thrived on the Central Asia's throne, established nomadic national statehood had left us rich heritage of paperwork culture that is later proven by modern science through the priceless archeological and historical findings.

However, paperwork culture from our ancestors' legacy has been

inherited relatively lesser than expected which can be explained as by the unique lifestyle of the nomadic life.

We are all aware within archival history of Mongolia, 20th century history shows adopted foreign archival technologies and methodologies and reached certain results.

It is a must to address the our previous generation of archivists' successful adaptation of documents preservation, archival methodologies and technologies including microfiche and microfilm, which were considered as the best practices of the time that its relevant.

Prior the current social state we broadly used the archival equipments from the Soviet Union as well as the Germany Democratic Republic.

During the 1990's the country shifted to democratic state and as similar to many art institutions the archival sector directed investment and technological reforms have been abandoned for a number of period.

During the heavy years of social and economical reform Mongolia received support from foreign countries and a small amount of funds from the foreign aid were distributed to the National Archives.

For example: from Japanese JICA organization, National Archives usage publications and documents copier, equipment along with its user guide; from China, historic document restoration equipment; and with support from Open Forum Soros Fund, we became able to provide training and send local archivist to participate in specialty trainings abroad.

In addition, we have collaborated with historic and archival research agencies of foreign countries including Inner Mongolia, Taiwan, Japan and Korea on line of historic document digital copy sharing.

Therefore, I would like to provide brief introduction on foreign funded projects on archives information technology sector as well as their results

and some additional views on parts.

Since the 1990's Information technology break through showed rapid growth in archival sector. It is fair to say that information Technology has been introduced to us relatively later but is has given us an advantage to leap through some of the earlier stages of the information technology development.

Our colleagues and other archivist are celebrating 85th anniversary of the historic development of the national archives while working in the most interesting era of technological era. Major influence comes from the development trend of globalization and the rapid technological development in the Information Technology industry. Similarly with the social and cultural sector of Mongolia, it has been more than 10 years have passed since national archives have hired the first full time staffs on the required fields including IT specialists, engineers and experts were hired.

In addition, we must address that the earlier years of the archival history shows technological laggardness such as being less advanced than similar institutions such as libraries.

This was the bitter consequence of many factors such as small sized fond materials of the National archives, lack of trained human resources and their productivity, and secondary information obtaining fond were not fully set up. In addition, major drawback in introducing modern technologies in the archival sector was influenced by external factors such as lack of unified introduction policies, programs and monetary source availabilities.

However we must note for all this period National archival administration became affiliated with International Archival Council,

EASTICA, EURASICA and other regional institutions, translated and adopted basics of international standards, our archival experts and managers were sent on retraining and re-educatory training programs in Russian, Chinese, Korean and Japanese National Archives, and organized works such as inviting high ranking international archival experts for short term training programs and seminars in Mongolia.

In 2006 National Archives Authority has prepared the “National Program for Introducing Information Technology Systems into Archives and Record Management Operation” approved by the 64th resolution of the Government, which marks the new era of digital archives development.

All of projects implemented on central and special state archives and organizational archives, divided into as before and after the National program adoption. Projects executed before the National programs were the starters and provided valuable experience for this action. One project, started and is still in continuum, at the same time to the National program implementation process, is the Foreign relations central archives project “Digital Archive” was funded and implemented by KOICA.

First project implemented on the special archive gave experience and provided background on the forthcoming projects. The project was implemented between January through December of 2006 and the opening workshop was held on December 15th. The project financing supported total of 33 equipment supplied, installment of 120 compacted drawers in 4 preservation fonds and digital library service for 14 people at once. All the equipments and softwares designed to improve document protection and preservation condition, digitalization and ease of searchability.¹⁾

One the distinct advantage of this project relies with the micro project

1) <http://www.mfa-archives.mn/> (2012.06.26).

named Project Aftercare, executed in 2008 shortly after the initial project conclusion, gave an opportunity to improve necessary parts of the first project.

During the 20 years of operation, it is unarguably true and no one can argue when addressing KOICA as the biggest contributor of the Mongolian archival sector. Although, archival sector receives relatively small portion of funds donated internationally specifically in Mongolia, we maintain high distribution to return ratio. The first stage of the funds contributed in archival sector, were used mainly to set up the organizational digitalization rather than sole distribution of archives. One of those projects “Establishing modern archival system for transferring of Mongolian historic records of meteorological records”, located in the Environmental and Meteorological Scientific Research Center.

Because of the project, the archive preservation fond was equipped with special designed equipments, compacted drawer, and folder, ladder, dump, thermometer, and air conditioner, documents preservation and protection standard condition improved. In addition, Central Archives of Environment and Meteorology records (CAEMR) received computer, copier, scanner, whole puncher, barcode printer and scanner affected positively on the archival daily operations and enabled fast document sharing service.

In addition, provincial and metropolis sub-fonds of CAEMR and special archives of related organizations were supplied with computer, scanner, table, chair, external hard drive, ladder, and dump and temperature indicator. In the aim of improving and advancing of current information fond, the archive is fully installed with large capacity storage 20 TB and Backup 10 TB systems supporting high capacity server computer. With the

purpose of safe preservation of environmental and meteorological data information, web based Mongolian Climate Data Preservation System (MCDPS) software system is being written by Korean experts.²⁾

At the 20th anniversary of Mongolian and Korean diplomatic relationship in coincidence with 20th anniversary of State Great Khural (Permanent Parliament), we have implemented “Establishing of Parliament Digital Archive” project, funded by KOICA in 2010.³⁾ The project also supported fully equipped office, reading hall, dedicatory fond preservation archival information fond with capacity of 40 TB and comprehensive archival registration and search software systems were successfully installed. As of today, documents preserved in the Parliament archives dating 1990–2012 11,151 files or 1,727,792 pages, 1,619 photo images, 4,074 video records, CD records, and 1,798 song documents are in the process of digitalization. In 2011, KOICA has signed off an agreement, with the Mongolian Government, the Ministry of Finance and the State Registration General Authority, in the aim of improving of the state registration and its centralized information system for the State Registration General Authority and the finished project was handed in May 2012.

Thus, the project mission was subjected to the Civil Documentation Archive, Legal entity registration archives and the transferring of the documents and recordings of legal entity registration archives into digitalization. In accordance with the bilateral cooperation agreement between Mongolian and People’s

2) <http://180.149.65.144/archive/taniltsuulga.htm> (2012.06.25).

3) <http://e-archive.parliament.mn/>

Republic of Turkish, TIKKA funded “Digital Archive” project at the Cabinet secretariat office of the Government of Mongolia was made possible.

Our archives hold the records of Ministers Board of People’s Republic of Mongolia and their resolutions, orders, statements of the director of Cabinet secretariat office, Government resolution, orders, stated missions, reports of the departments and incoming and outgoing documents counting about 15,000 files being preserved since 1956. In addition, organizational and secretive documentary archives of legal entity registration authority received reading hall with 15 computer sets, 3 printers, 5 copier and 164 preservation cabinets will suffice our need for 40 years.

Moreover, we also adjusted and installed same software as using in the Turkish central archives to our organizational archives. Within the national project scope TIKKA, financed project at the Governmental archives proves by far the biggest and the best investment. Within the project, scope more than 400 files, dating 1956–2011, were digitalized and activities including opening, arranging and refilling along with other technical activities were executed. Total of 9.9 GB or 100,000 page documents recording government recordings, Prime minister’s order and others more than 30,000 pages were preserved by file with separate copies of usage and reserves.

As a conclusion of this presentation the following suggestions shall be heard; According to Mongolian accustoms there is saying of “beggars can’t be choosers” and I would like to thank for all the people and organizations in making these projects available in aim of preserving Mongolian heritage, history and culture with great kindness, but we also must mention that

there are some parts that we should pay special attention for the next projects. For example:

- Executed and forthcoming projects on archives information fond digitalization at central, special and organizational archives has overlooked the idea of how to connect and make it national centralized system
- Projects solely aimed at archives but overlooked its important part of records management and created duplicated work assignment.
- Also current projects lack project aftercare systems which limits current software

Therefore, forthcoming operations on setting up digital information fond in Mongolia shall comply with our National project of “Introducing information technology in records management” and establishing of digital information fond international academic study, equipments and determining of the further improvements.

International donators to establish digital information data fond for the cooperation and support not only archivists, but for Mongolian future generation and humankind in favor of historic heritage shall be thankful to.