

<<Taikichiro Mori Memorial Research Fund>>

Graduate Student Researcher Development Grant

Application Form for the Academic Year 2015

Achievement Report

Submission date: 2016/02/26

● Full name <p align="center">MYAGMARSUREN ENKHMEND</p>	Affiliation: Graduate School of Media and Governance
● Supervisor <p align="center">WANGLIN YAN</p>	Grade: M2 /Student ID: 81425331 Program Name: EG
● Theme of fieldwork <p>Mining and Its impact on local community, A – case study Khanbogd soum, Mongolia</p> <p>Mining operations have negative influences on our environment such as degradation of soil quality, depletion of water supply, destruction of forested areas and deterioration of air quality. These adverse impacts are potentially affecting our people’s right to live in safe environment. The mining of copper, gold, silver (Oyu tolgoi) in Khanbogd soum region is creating a negative impact on drinking water supply, air quality, living condition and corporate social responsibility.</p> <p>This project addresses this question by investigating mining by corporations and its impact on the economy and lifestyle of local communities in the Khanbogd soum region of Mongolia.</p>	
● Purpose of work <p>This fieldwork analyses the negative impact of mining on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. water quality,2. depth of ground water reservoir,3. nomadic life,4. community, <p>in the Oyu Tolgoi Khanbogd soum region of South Gobi Desert Mongolia between 2009 to 2014.</p> <p align="center">Key words: Mining; Local Community Development; Environmental impacts; Corporate Social Responsibility; Mongolia</p>	
● Schedule 2015/08/21 ~ 2015 /09/03	Actual working days 13 days
● Location: Ulaanbaatar city, Umnugobi province, Khanbogd soum <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Name of organization or company: Administration of Galba-Oosh-Doloodyn river basin▪ Address: Santi Building II floor, Sainsand city, Dornogobi province, Mongolia▪ Tel: 976-70523682▪ URL: http://galba.gobiwater.mn▪ Name of organization or company: Ministry of Environmental and Green Development, Tourism▪ Address: Chingeltei district, UN street, Government building II▪ Tel: 976-51-261699▪ URL: http://mne.mn	

Description of the study area

Khanbogd (43°11 45 N, 107° 11 57 E) is one of the administrative units in Umnugobi province, covering South Gobi region Tsogttsetsii Red Lake valley, located 550 km south of Ulaanbaatar. South Gobi province 90 km from the center, 16 km south and 440 km railway from Sainshand, Dornogovi province, 400 km from the nearest point of black fermented station, 270 kilometer Mongolian Gashuunsukhait port located more than 170 kilometers from the border between China covers a total area of 220 square kilometers. Administratively, Khanbogd soum is divided into 5 ten separate divisions (bag) and 4005 local people.

Environmental problems facing Mongolia include desertification, inadequate water supply, and air and water pollution. The presence of the Gobi Desert in the southeastern part of the country and mountains in the northwest provide natural limits to the amount of agricultural land. Areas affected by deforestation and excessive grazing are eventually overtaken by the desert. Water pollution is a particularly significant problem in Mongolia because the water supply is so limited. In other words, this fragile ecosystem of Gobi region is more than likely to be irreversibly damaged by the current methods of mining operations and policies.

This fieldwork has been a great learning experience for my future research. During the fieldwork data and information was collected from different sources including field surveys and direct observation. Subsequently all such data and information was processed and evaluated.

Mining practices have already caused serious social and environmental impacts in some mining areas in South Gobi, including Khanbogd soum. These problems include land degradation, damage to water quality, pollution, and harm to livestock and wildlife biodiversity. Although there is growing awareness of the importance of sound environmental management amongst mining stakeholders and Government officials in Mongolia, mitigation strategies are possibly offset by conflicts of interest on both political and economic grounds at central and local levels.

In summary, seven main points were made in this fieldwork.

1. Since there are no rivers or lakes in the Gobi region the locals and their livestock use only salty underground water for sustenance. Toilets that directly flush into the underground water pollute the quality of underground water.
2. The scarce natural resource of the Gobi region is now scarce with both depletion and pollution of underground water. Mining also uses enormous quantities of underground water leaving herders with very little usable water.
3. As mining companies fence roads and clear land, herders find it difficult to find pasture or graze cattle.
4. The local community does not benefit much from mining companies as tax is collected by the government and not recycled in regional development programs.
5. Air and water pollution are primary issues of concern for the local community as both pastureland and grazing land depend on sustainable environment, which is necessary to maintain employment and livelihood.
6. Though the eradication of environmental and air pollution are necessary, loud noise and heavy vibration from mining machines are of immediate concern to mine workers to lead a normal life.
7. Collecting first and secondary data especially stockholders interview and taking 104 questionnaires also took 356 research photographs.

Analysis Output 1

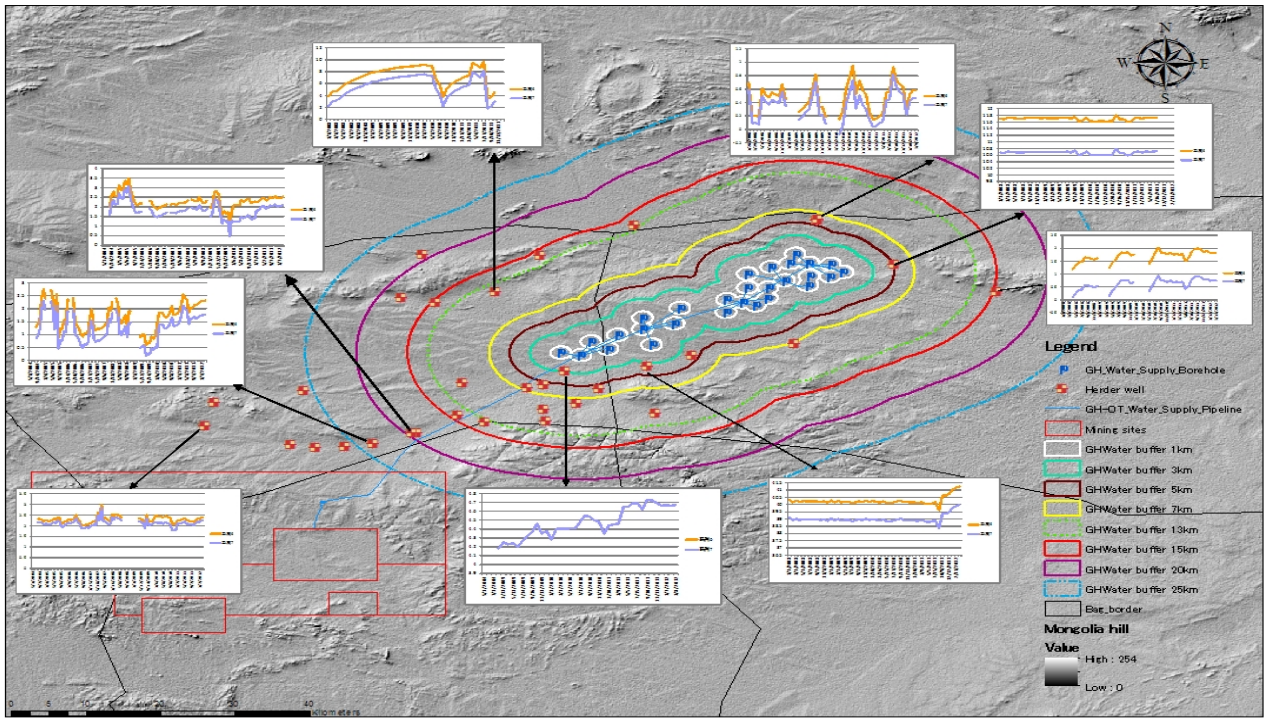


Figure 1: Mining impact on herders well



Figure 2: Herders water well





Figure 3: Pastureland



Figure 4: Spent time and long distance, result is lost of half water



Figure 5: Open pit coal mining site

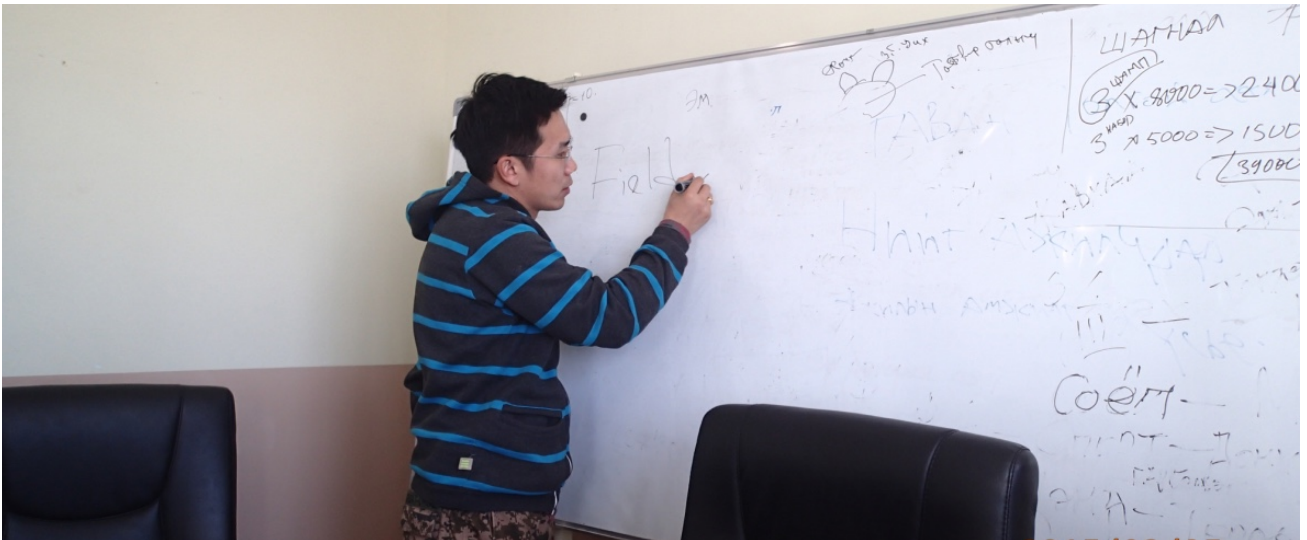


Figure 6: I introduce my filed work objective



Figure 7: Interview and questionnaire time



Figure 8: New sewerage system



Figure 9: Energy, television, freezer, washing machine



Figure 10: “The Pen is Mightier than the Sword”

Acknowledgement

This fieldwork has been a great learning experience for my future research. During the fieldwork data and information was collected from different sources including field surveys and direct observation. Subsequently all such data and information was processed and evaluated.

I am grateful to my supervisor Professor Wanglin YAN for his valuable and insightful comments during my fieldwork. I also wish to thank Professor Lynn THIESMEYER for her generous advice and ways to sharpen the focus of fieldwork method and my questionnaire.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Taikichiro Mori Memorial Research Fund also Research Development and Sponsored Projects office staffs. Without their untiring assistance, my field trip could not have been undertaken.