



Twenty Years Under Blue Skies: A Milestone in Mongolian-American Relations

Thursday, February 8, 2007 from 6:30-8:30 p.m, The George Washington University
Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E Street, NW Washington, DC – Lindner Commons, 6th Floor

Friends of Mongolia in cooperation with the Chinggis Khan Foundation and the George Washington University's Sigur Center for Asian Studies, is proud to commemorate the 20th anniversary of official US-Mongolian diplomatic relations with a panel discussion on the changing dynamics of this bilateral relationship. The panelists are:

Dr. Alicia Campi

Chinggis Khan Foundation

Dr. Alicia Campi has an M.A. from Harvard University and Ph.D. in Mongolian Studies from Indiana University. As a diplomat for the State Dept, she worked on preliminary negotiations to establish diplomatic relations with Mongolia in the 1980s. She is President of a Mongolian consultancy company, US-Mongolia Advisory Group; President of a non-profit charity, the Chinggis Khan Foundation; Executive Director of North East-Inner Asia; and on the Board of Directors of The Mongolia Society. She also is the Asian specialist for the Immigration Policy Center in Washington, DC. She has served in several Asian posts as well as in Mongolia, and writes and speaks extensively on Mongolian and Chinese issues.

Dave Citron, Foreign Service Officer

U.S. Department of State

Mr. Citron has been the Mongolia desk officer at State Dept. since August of 2006. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he served as an officer in the Army Reserve and lived for five years in Moscow, working for the U.S. Embassy there as well as for a British law firm. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1999, he has served as a Consular and Economic officer in Warsaw and London and as a Political officer at the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo. Mr. Citron received a B.S. in Business from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and did his graduate studies in International Affairs at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He is originally from Atlanta, GA and is married to a wonderful lady from Poland.

Steve Saunders, President

North America-Mongolia Business Council

Mr. Saunders has been President of the North America-Mongolia Business Council since 1998. He is also President of Saunders & Company, a public policy consulting firm specializing in the Asia Pacific region, now in its 25th year. A frequent visitor to Mongolia since 1994, he is a Life Member of the Mongolia Society, on the Board of Directors of the American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) and the only foreigner ever elected a member of the Mongolian Society of Antiquarians. Previously, Mr. Saunders served as Assistant U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and Staff Director of the Republican Conference of the U.S. Senate.

Odonjil Banzragch, Senior Foreign Service Officer

Mongolia Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Odonjil currently serves as the Minister Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Mongolia in Washington, DC. Prior to this assignment, he was Director of the Bureau for America, Middle East and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. Earlier in his career, he was the Foreign Ministry's Deputy Director of the Bureau for Europe, and served as Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Department of the Secretariat of the Mongolian Parliament. Mr. Odonjil is a constitutional and international lawyer by profession, and a graduate of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna in European Studies.

Ambassador Alphonse F. La Porta

Former U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia

Ambassador La Porta served in Mongolia from 1997 to 2000. From 2000 to 2003, he served as Political Advisor to the U.S. Commander-in-Chief of the Regional Headquarters Allied Forces in southern Europe. In late 2003, he retired from the U.S. Foreign Service after 38 years of service. His previous posts included Indonesia (1967-1970 and 1978-1981), Malaysia, Turkey, and New Zealand. In April 2004, he assumed the presidency of United States Indonesia Society (USINDO). Ambassador La Porta was President and Vice President of the American Foreign Service Association from 1995 to 1997. He is a graduate of National War College, Georgetown University, and New York University.