



PROJECT INFORMATION

Technical workshop and excursion on the remediation of mining sites in Mongolia

Updated: September 2016



Dumping of spoil from the
cooper mine Erdenet outside
the mining town of Erdenet.

Source: R. Wollmann

Background

Mongolia is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of raw materials. The country especially has extensive resources of coal, copper, gold, fluorspar and rare earths. Foreign investment increased in this economic sector after 1990 and Mongolian companies also intensified their activities. Raw materials are mainly supplied to neighbouring China. In 2011 Germany signed a bilateral raw materials agreement with Mongolia. The mining industry now makes up 40% of the Mongolian gross domestic product and it is planned to expand this sector. Problem areas in Mongolian mining include deficient remediation measures and a lack of consideration for environmental issues, especially with regard to handling mining waste. The Mongolian Ministry for Environment and Tourism (MET) has therefore asked the German Federal Ministry for Environment for support.

Project details

Together with MET, the German Environment Agency (UBA) organized the workshop “Strengthening environmental performance in the Mongolian mining industry”, held in the Mongolian capital of Ulaan Bataar on 20./21.09.2016, and attended by representatives of Mongolian ministries, specialist organizations and mining companies. Experts of UBA and of the ‘Lausitzer und Mitteldeutschen Bergbau-Verwaltungsgesellschaft’ (Lausitz and Central German Mining Management Company) presented their experience from the implementation process of the EU Mining Waste Directive 2006/21/EC and remediation in east German brown coal districts. Mongolian partners presented the framework of regulations involved and the current state regarding remediation measures. Discussion was enhanced by a three-day specialist excursion to mining districts in Booro (gold), Erdenet (copper) and Zaamar (gold). Finally, the Mongolian and German experts defined the demand for advisory assistance in more detail with regard to further cooperation.

Target country/region: Mongolia

Duration: 09/2016

Beneficiary: Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Implementing organisations: German Environment Agency, ‘Lausitzer und Mitteldeutsche Bergbau-Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH’ (LMBV)

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)
for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union –
a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

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