

# **Impact of globalization**

Mongols as a nation who, once in history, promoted and maintained flow of people, goods, ideas, and knowledge between West and East as the “first wave” of globalization can themselves become victims from its modern “tsunami”?

What can be expected from globalization as advantages and disadvantages in Mongolia?

## ***Side effect of globalization?***

The concerns are raised in relation with globalization impacts from the possible **overturned effects of high tolerance** of “nomads” to any new elements in life sustaining systems, which might include non native, but more disturbing and life changing “cultural” elements. Mongols can compete with the world only by offering their own assets in maintenance of which they have inherent skills, and not copying others with whom they need to compete.

- **The rate of tolerance and acceptance** can be defined mostly by the aggressiveness of the invading, non native cultures rather than by its benefits for local communities. Alcoholism, drug addictions, gambling, highly commercialized “dirty” entertainment, cross border economic crimes, human trafficking and etc., are only a few examples of the side effects of globalization that could be more disturbing for “virgin” societies like in Mongolian case rather than the infrequent extreme weather events.

## **Serious concerns in economy sphere:**

Unregulated FDIs, mostly in mineral resource extracting sectors.

Example: Currently the world's "hot places" in terms of money laundering like Virgin Islands (UK), Bermuda are among the top 10 investors to Mongolia while Japan is listed at the bottom of the list despite the fact that Japan has been and still is a single top donor country for Mongolia.

## **Stratification and polarization in society**

World wide respected and popular newspapers and magazines are also publishing articles about the opening of high class shops in Ulaanbaatar by the world leading companies, selling most expensive and luxury goods as a sign of Mongolian progress. In reality it is an indication of **income polarization** in the society rather than prosperity of the society.

## **Prosperity is not for everyone**

At present, more than 35 percent of the population is living below the poverty line. Only a few ladies can shell out one thousand USD for a single bag in Louis Vuitton shop in UB while many women and mothers are still striving to pay one thousand tugrics (less than one USD) for milk for their children.

## **Serious concerns on new mentality of people:**

Unhealthy competition among business people and entrepreneurs showing off their non productive assets like high rise office buildings, riding cars, ceremonial dressing etc, not by quality of products and services.

Best selling magazines are publishing materials about those individuals who bought a luxury car paying a half million USD, or those who paid half billion tugrics (a little bit less than half million USD) for single horse etc. as exiting news.

## **Mentality and incompetence**

If a more active part of a society, as an engine for development, would be affected by a “mentality crisis” like it has been happening in Mongolia, it might lead to failures in policy making processes and incompetence of governing structures.

If it is the case the newly emerging challenges might generate additional challenges before they would be handled properly.

## **New wave of public brainwashing. Mongolia and Kuwait**

The same rank of world wide popular newspapers are publishing material about the riches of Mongolia, predicting that it could or would soon be like Kuwait of Asia. Such kind of message , as a masked advertisement in order to increase the “value” of companies’ shares at the international market can play as the brain washing information for the public who accepts it literally.

## **What is recommended to do?**

The globalization induced changes in society need to be harmonized with the natural capital and traditional cultural values in order to avoid possible “shocks” that might trigger negative “domino effects” shaking the sustainability of the entire society.

## **Globalization versus tradition?**

### **What is tradition? Who needs tradition?**

Traditional lifestyle is not merely a subject of identity for Mongols or subject for tourist attraction. It is the most accessible for everyone option for the BHN, based on the guaranteed available resources, as vast grasslands and available capacity in the form of traditional knowledge tested and shaped throughout thousands of years of the nation's existence.

- **Tradition** is not static nor “frozen” and unyielding. It has its own dynamism. Best traditions can survive and continue to serve people when they are able to reconcile with evolution of natural environment and human history coping with challenges of societal development. In this sense, the tradition in Mongolia needs **innovation** and traditional lifestyle needs **diversification**.

## **Distortion in tradition, “mentality crisis”**

- The lessons from around the world show that Traditions might not “serve” to benefit the communities if left without a necessary care at the level of society.
- During the transition period since 1990-ies Mongolia faced market distortions which occurred almost in every sector of its economy. Likewise, a sort of distortion in tradition or even “mentality crisis” was occurring in society as a nation wide phenomenon.

## **Some examples:**

- Shift from full rejection of religion related ceremonies in the past to a full range of religion based life arrangements (for travel, medical treatments, business meetings etc.)
- Building of “subargans”, erection of “ovoos”, marking of trees as sacred everywhere by everyone without a serious reason, leaving “khadaks” everywhere (ovoos, trees, rocks, bridges and etc.) without clear understanding or indication of purpose and etc.

## **Falsification of tradition and traditional beliefs**

Widespread shamanistic beliefs and rapid increased number of fortune tellers. Some of fortune tellers are trying to convince people that they are capable to manage their clients fortune, if...

It is well known from the ancient time that not every one can be trained as a shaman.

Many people are confused about the use of what, when and why? **Conventional wisdom, scientific knowledge, instructions of a shaman...**

## Lesson from Mongolian transition

Any vacuum left beyond national policy, particularly during the transition period, can be filled by chaotic endeavors, including wrongdoings, mysticism masked by religion or tradition.

What can be done? **No idea.**

# Can Mongolia benefit from Globalization?

- Answer is: YES.
- Smart policy combined with wisdom of people can make globalization work for the benefit of Mongolia. This world wide phenomenon can work even for **revitalization of traditional way of life**, but **not for erasing it**. Properly managed globalization process can inject new impulse to the traditional life sustaining system enabling it to become stronger to serve the people who created it in their not easy exercise of dealing with modern day's challenges.

## **Modern technology and know how**

- modern communication technologies with wireless and mobile connections,
- renewable energy facilities with flexible energy supply opportunities;
- water purification equipment;
- internet access with remote education and healthcare services;
- modern compact machineries to process livestock products for family based and small scaled businesses;
- modern commercial networks promoting, providing access to markets in cities without having to migrate into urbanized areas and so on.

## **Alternatives or complementary endeavours**

Crop cultivation based on indigenous knowledge, modern science and agro technology, as well as ecotourism would be essential options for diversification of income sources for local communities.

## **Convert negative impacts into positive ones**

Smart policy at the national level and wisdom of people in everyday life can make difference, even **reversing** the negative effects of the global warming and globalization into positive ones.