NATO OTAN

The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme

CountryFlyer 2022

August

Developing Practical Cooperation through Science

Mongolia has been actively engaged within the framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme since 2012.

The NATO SPS Programme enables close collaboration on issues of common interest to enhance the security of NATO and partner nations by facilitating international efforts to meet emerging security challenges, supporting NATO-led operations and missions, and advancing early warning and forecasting for the prevention of disasters and crises.

The current SPS Key Priorities include:

- *Counter-Terrorism;*
- *Energy Security;*
- *Cyber Defence;*
- *Defence against CBRN Agents;*
- *Environmental Security;*
- *Security-related Advanced Technology;*
- *Border and Port Security;*
- *Human and Social Aspects of Security*.

Additionally, the SPS Programme helps to promote *regional security* through scientific cooperation among partners. The Programme also helps to *prepare* interested eligible nations for NATO membership. SPS activities often have a high *public diplomacy* value.

MONGOLIA

Mongolia has completed several activities in the framework of the SPS Programme. Recent SPS activities with Mongolia have focused on the Key Priority areas of **Environmental Security** and **Cyber Defence**. Below are some examples of completed activities under the framework of the SPS Programme.

Cooperative Activities

CREATION OF COMPUTER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM AND SECURING THE IT INFRASTRUCTURE

The aim of this Multi-Year Project (MYP) was to improve the cyber security posture of the Mongolian Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces (GSMAF) by creating a Cyber Security Centre. As part of this centre, a fully equipped Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) was established within the HQ of the GSMAF, and a Secure Business CIS Infrastructure was created. Network administrators and cyber security specialists were trained to protect the MoD/GSMAF from any internal or external computer-based attack, while enhancing and monitoring the cyber security posture of the MoD/GSMAF. *This project was completed in 2020 and led by experts from Mongolia and the NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency.* [ref. G5281].

NATO Deputy Secretary General, Mircea Geoana, and the Minister of Defense of Mongolia, Saikhanbayar Gursed, at the virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony for the inauguration of the Mongolian Cyber Security Centre.

CYBER DEFENCE TRAINING COURSE FOR SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS OF MONGOLIA

The primary objective of this Advanced Training Course (ATC) was to provide Mongolian participants with training in network and information security to ensure resilience against cyber threats. It also provided means for the global exchange of cyber defence theory, best practices and experiences at the international level. The course supplemented the current state-of-the-art theory of network security with practical experiences, tailored for the Mongolian trainees. This was the seventh course in a series of similar trainings for NATO partner nations, supported by the SPS Programme. The course content was continuously adapted and improved, taking into account each participating country and their specific cyber defence organizations and construct. *This activity was led by experts from Mongolia and Türkiye, and took place from 18 to 29 May 2015 in Ankara.* [ref. G5025].

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GEO-DATABASE ON THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF FORMER MILITARY SITES

This MYP represented an important first step in rehabilitating land damaged by former military use in Mongolia. The project evaluated selected former military sites in Mongolia, categorizing and prioritizing them according to their degree of environmental and health risks. The information was captured in a database to track the rehabilitation and restoration of contaminated areas. The knowledge provided helped to form a basis to strengthen Mongolian experts' land remediation abilities. An important element of this project was that it brought together military and civilian organizations to advance the understanding of rehabilitating and restoring former military sites. *This project, initiated in 2013 and concluded in 2017, was led by scientists from Mongolia and Slovakia.* [ref. G4366].

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TO THE MONGOLIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Cyber threats know no borders and are of increasing concern. Training and education is fundamental to improve the defence of networks across NATO and partner nations. By improving IT infrastructure and training network administrators of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, this MYP was designed to have a multiplier effect in the provision of information and training to other Mongolian ministries and institutions. Furthermore, the IT upgrade and training increased the protection of the Academy's networks while raising cyber defence awareness in general. *This project was led by scientists and experts from the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA).* [ref. G4367].