



PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION ON GREEN ECONOMY

MONGOLIA AND KYRGYZSTAN



The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) seeks to put sustainability at the heart of economic policies and practices to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Respectively, PAGE supports nations and regions in reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability to foster economic growth, create income and jobs, reduce poverty and inequality, and strengthen the ecological foundations of their economies. PAGEs supports the transition to an inclusive green economy.

PAGE AND SOUTH-SOUTH TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

South-South and triangular cooperation – where international partners facilitate direct exchange among beneficiary countries - can go a long way to pass on knowledge and experiences between countries, enable mutual learning process and increase momentum in the action to address climate change, advance green economy and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

PAGE currently has 13 partner countries, which are engaged at various levels of a green economy transformation, including policy development at national



and sectoral level, capacity building and awareness rising. This provides an ideal platform to initiate South-

South Cooperation and exchanges among countries at different stages of their transformation.

SOUTH-SOUTH TRIANGULAR COOPERATION: MONGOLIA AND KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia, both are partner countries in PAGE. Mongolia since 2013 and Kyrgyz Republic since 2016. Mongolia has already achieved significant results with the support of PAGE that can serve as best practice for other PAGE countries that have recently joined the partnership, such as the Kyrgyz Republic. The Government of Mongolia has recognized the challenges of transitioning to a more socially inclusive and environmentally

friendly economy, given its high economic growth on the back of its mining boom. It has enacted a series of environmental laws and developed a National Green Development Strategy, which is the most significant piece of development policy since Mongolia's economic transition in the early 1990s. Mongolia has demonstrated strong leadership and ownership to get sustainable results with the support of PAGE, including:

- Green development policy and planning, including green development planning at sub-national level, mainstreaming gender into the National Green Development Policy (NDGP) and assessment of the alignment between NGDP, the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Vision of Mongolia;
- Green development indicators;
- Modelling and policy assessment;
- Green jobs;
- Green building and construction;
- Green economy learning;
- Sustainable public procurement;
- Sustainable financing;
- Waste management; and
- Green economy and trade.

At the same time, the leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic has taken a path towards sustainable development, and green economy is perceived as one of the key instruments in achieving sustainable development. The country has to deal with problems jeopardizing its future sustainable development such as the depletion of resources without investment in effective alternatives, loss of essential natural ecosystems and stagnation of human capital. As a first step, it is important for the country to integrate the concept of inclusive green economy into its policy framework on sustainable development.

PAGE work in Kyrgyzstan builds on the achievements of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) to integrate Poverty-Environment nexus into national planning processes. Kyrgyz Republic has been engaged with PEI since 2011 and PEI support served as small but timely brick of green economy in the Kyrgyz Republic, as noted by one of the key national counterparts.

The South-South Triangular Cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia provided an



opportunity to build and strengthen mutual exchange on green economy policy development and practice between the two neighboring countries. This is very important to the successful implementation of green economy objectives. Today, Kyrgyz Republic is at the starting point to promote green economy and experience of other countries is of cardinal importance.

Following the participation of the Kyrgyz Republic delegation in the PAGE Green Economy Academy in Turin, Italy from 5 to 16 October 2016, the Ministry of Economy of

the Kyrgyz Republic invited the PAGE National Coordinator from Mongolia to participate at the Green Economy Forum in Bishkek, organized by the GIZ Sustainable Economic Development Programme in November 2016. This first exchange resulted in an agreement to organize a two-way exchange and learning within PAGE. There was keen interest on the side of the Kyrgyz Republic to benefit from the PAGE Mongolia experience, the lessons learned, challenges and achievements at a point when Mongolia was approaching the end of its PAGE-supported programme.

ACHIEVED RESULTS

For mutual experience exchange, the Kyrgyz Republic delegation attended a PAGE Week in Mongolia devoted to green economy issues during 14 and 21 September of 2017. The delegation comprised of the representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, the Council on Business and Entrepreneurship Development under the Parliament, the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, as well as the Business association JIA.

This visit provided an excellent opportunity for real-life exchanges of stakeholders directly involved in developing and implementing the policy reform for green economy in the two neighboring countries.

The participation of the Kyrgyz counterparts in a number of PAGE events organized throughout the week allowed targeted learning from Mongolian experience and provided insights into how specific areas of work can be realized in the Kyrgyz Republic more effectively.



“This cooperation and training exchange can significantly contribute to achieving the goals of green economy. Today, the Kyrgyz Republic is at the onset of the green economy adoption and it is important for us to establish constructive dialogue with partners experienced in implementing green economy initiatives,”

Azamat Erkebaev, the State Secretary for the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

Kyrgyzstanis highly appreciated Mongolian experience on introduction of green procurement at the government level. The introduction of green procurement in the Kyrgyz Republic could have a positive effect on the economic situation in the country and contribute to sustainable development.



“Green” or sustainable procurement imply economical and efficient use of the public money. When choosing a good/service they will consider both the price and other additional specifications favorable for sustainable development and environmental protection.”

Kubatbek Usonov, Department of Public Procurement, Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic

“Kyrgyzstan is interested in the Mongolian experience of introducing national system on sustainable financing, transformation of banking system and sustainable procurement.”

Kylychbek Djakypov, Advisor on green economy of the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic

“Introduction of sustainable financing can lead to long-term financing at low rates. This is not only socially responsible financing but it is obligatory financing to support environment.”

Umbriel Temiraliyev, Chairperson of the Council for Business and Entrepreneurship Development under the Speaker of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic



“I think sustainable finance can bring many benefits to Kyrgyzstan. It can help manage the risk in transitioning to green economy, can improve resilience, and can help stimulate innovation required for green economy.”

Iain Henderson, UNE Inquiry, United Nations Environment



In turn, the current developments in the Kyrgyz Republic also offers Mongolia opportunities to learn and benefit from the existing practices on green economy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Mongolian delegation visited Kyrgyzstan during 21 and 25 November of 2017 and participated in the Forum entitled "Green Economy: from Theory to Practice: New Opportunities for Business". The Mongolian counterparts shared their achievements in introducing green economy at the national level and at the same time learned about

Kyrgyz experiences in the use of green technologies in business.

Nara Luvsan, Senior Regional Advisor, Poverty Environment Initiative says *"The political, historical, cultural, economic, social contextual similarity made the two countries stakeholders understand each other easier and faster. Success stories could be used as convincing and encouraging material for counterparts and public. Difficulties in processes, barriers in implementation will serve as precaution to the other party and thus contribute to better designs of similar activities. Outstanding issues could be solved on a sub-regional basis thus saving international consultancy time and funding. Also, the two countries experts can step in and help each other mutually at some critical milestones of project implementation."*

The Mongolian delegation comprised representatives of the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, HacBank, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Mongolia.



“Despite the absence of any specific stimulating framework, we are already implementing “green” projects in Kyrgyzstan using various energy-efficient, energy-saving technologies, solar panels, drip irrigation technologies in agriculture, etc. Now we have to support business sector in this direction for its sustainable development, to create such conditions when use of green technologies are attractive and profitable.”

***Asel Albanova**, Specialist of the GIZ Program on Promoting Sustainable Economic Development in the Kyrgyz Republic*



So, it is not about learning only from one side but it is learning from each other. So, these methods, solutions, guidelines, policies, procedures used in Mongolia might be considered by Kyrgyz counterparts and vice versa.”

***Bold Magvan**, the Executive Director and member of the Board of Directors of XacBank*

“I think there are so many good examples, good experiences to take from Kyrgyzstan. For example, today ‘s exhibition on green business displayed many green products and innovative technologies. There were some green products that are better designed than in Mongolia, so we can learn from these innovative technologies.”

***Bayasgalan Sugarmaa**, specialist of the Public Procurement Department of the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia*



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked country that borders with Kazakhstan, China, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The total area of the country is 199.9 thousand square kilometers.

Currently, the republic is actively introducing the principles of the green economy in the strategic sectors of the country: agriculture, processing and processing industry, energy, mining, transport, construction and tourism.

6.14

Population (2017)

31

Average population density
(person per square meter)



0.63

Human Development Index
(index 0 to1, 2013)

Two-thirds of population live in rural areas

One-thirds of population live in urban areas

By 2025, population will increase by eight million people (UNFPA forecast)

Source:

1. PAGE (2017), Inclusive "Green" Economy in the Kyrgyz Republic: Overview report
2. <http://www.un-page.org/countries/page-countries/kyrgyz-republic>



MONGOLIA

Over the past 25 years, Mongolia has transformed into a vibrant democracy, tripling the level of GDP per capita.

With vast agricultural and mineral resources and an increasingly educated population, Mongolia's long-term development prospects are bright. At the same time, Mongolia continues to face important environmental challenges, such as land degradation, air and water pollution and increasing carbon dioxide emissions.

PAGE started its engagement in Mongolia in 2013, supporting the development of the National Green Development Policy (NGDP), which was approved by Parliament in 2014. Since then the country has experienced significant change. The country saw a high point in economic production with a GDP of 12.58 billion USD in 2013, contracting to 11.16 billion USD in 2016 (World Bank)

2.84 Population (2013)

4056.4

GDP per capita (current USD, 2013)



1.83 Population density
(people per sq. km
of land area, 2013)

0.7 Human Development Index
(index 0 to 1, 2013)



Our Partners:

Development partners: UN PAGE, ILO Partnerships and Field Support Department, UNDP Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP Mongolia, GIZ Sustainable Economic development programme in the Kyrgyz Republic.

National partners of the Kyrgyz Republic: Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of Kyrgyz Republic, Council for Business and Entrepreneurship Development under the Speaker of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, JIA business association, BizExpert and civil society.

National partners of Mongolia: Government of Mongolia, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment and Trade, National Development Agency, HasBank, Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

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