



## Weekly newsletter - Millennium Challenge Account - Mongolia

## Nº1 (8)

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## **GOVERNMENT IS TO PAY UTILITY BILLS FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD AND SELECTED INDUSTRIES**



Government of Mongolia held an irregular meeting on December 13, 2020 and decided to pay utility bills for all households and 123 800 entities from the selected industries from December 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021 to support livelihoods of people and activities of businesses during the pandemic. In addition, heating bills for households living in a house or apartment with a space of less than 100 square meters will also be fully covered by the government. It means households living in 120-square-meter apartments will have to pay heating bills for 20 square meters. However, state-owned entities and other legal entities partially owned by the government, mining and processing industry enterprises, banking and

non-banking financial organizations, cryptocurrency-related activities, special license holders of production, import, wholesale and retail trade of petroleum products, business in internet, mobile communications, as well as alcoholic beverages and tobac co production and sales companies and companies from non-ferrous metals, metallurgy and cement production sector are not exempt from payment of utilities bills.

Source: https://zasag.mn/

# UNICEF: BY 2040, ONE IN FOUR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WORLDWIDE, OR ABOUT 600 MILLION CHILDREN, WILL BE LIVING IN AREAS WITH SEVERE WATER SCARCITY



By 2040, one in four children under the age of 18 worldwide, or about 600 million children, will be living in areas with severe water scarcity, according to a study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). How much water resources will be left for future generations directly depend on how properly we use it today. Under the "Women's Leadership" program initiated by Zorig Foundation and the Australian Government, five young Mongolian women, who completed their Master's Degrees in Australia have started implementing a "Save the Future by Drop" project with an aim to educate the public of the proper use of water and help young people love and conserve water. 30 pupils from 3-5th

grades of "Oyunii Undraa" secondary school are involved in the eight-month program for which a special curriculum not only on water use but also on leadership was developed. The format has been changed to online-based classes due to the pandemic situation and running from 18:00 to 20:00 on every Saturday for the chosen kids and their parents.

Source: https://www.gogo.mn/

#### WATER AGENCY HELD AN ONLINE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM AUTHORITIES OF 21 RIVER BASINS



On December 8, 2020, Water Agency, a government implementing agency, held an online meeting with representatives from authorities for 21 River Basins. The meeting presented the results of the major activities implemented by the Water Agency and discussed the work plan for 2020-2024. Other subjects of the meeting include human resources issues of the River Basins Authorities, the submission of the annual financial reports for 2020, the plan to digitalize public services, as well as implementation of water sector-related projects and programs. Final part of the meeting focused on the results of "Blue Gold - Water" campaign.

Source: Water Agency facebook page

### ONLINE HEARING ON ACTION PLAN FOR PROTECTION AND POLLUTION REDUCTION OF TUUL RIVER TAKES PLACE



The Government of Mongolia's action plan for 2020-2024 includes a policy to stop gravel extraction activities in the Tuul river basin, implement rehabilitation and increase water

levels of the Tuul River. As informed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), the plan is being executed accordingly during the pandemic time. On December 7, 2020, Ministerial Council of MET held an online hearing of the action plan to reduce pollution of the Tuul River for 2021-2022.

Source: https://www.mne.mn/

### **APPOINTMENT**

### MINERAL RESOURCES AND PETROLEUM AUTHORITY OF MONGOLIA NOW HAS WATER SPECIALISTS

Three main division of Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority of Mongolia now has specialists who are in charge of waterrelated issues, as the authority informed. Specifically, Kh. Anar, a specialist from the Heavy Industry, Research and Technology Division, B. Alttsukh, a specialist from the Coal Research Division, and Kh. Lkhagvabaatar, a specialist from the Mining Research Division, will be in charge of water-related issues.

Source: Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority of Mongolia

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