

## PRESS RELEASE

At the initiative of the Governor of the Capital City and with the support of the Australian Government, The Capital City Governor's Office, CDD, Stanford University and The Asia Foundation jointly organized Deliberative Polling "Citizens' Participation-Tomorrow's City" in December last year.

**Who participated?** A scientific random sample of UB was recruited to deliberate for two days in the Government Palace, December 12-13, 2015. The 317 deliberators were highly representative of the whole population in their demographics and in their attitudes on the issues to be discussed. The 317 showed almost no differences when compared to the larger sample 1185 who did not participate. The process put the whole city in microcosm in one place where they really think about challenges facing the city. The sampling, surveys and recruitment were done by MMCG, Consultancy Company. The moderators for small group discussions were provided by the Zorig Foundation.

**What happened?** The topic was how to set priorities among the 14 major projects in the Master Plan that would require a substantial amount of debt. Before incurring more debt, the city want to find out how important these projects are to the people once they become really well informed about them.

The people's priorities changed during the Deliberative Poll. Eight of the fourteen projects changed significantly. Three went up, five went down. After all the discussions, the people clearly had three top concerns. First was an environmental focus. Four of the top six proposals concern clean energy, energy efficiency and waste disposal. They wanted to upgrade the insulation and heating system of the public schools. They wanted to protect Tuul and Selbe rivers. They wanted the Eco Park with recycling facilities and improve the insulation of apartment buildings. A second major concern was to realize the vision in Master Plan to decentralize industry and employment and move them from the city center. They increased support for Nalaikh construction technology park, and for the light industry part in Emeelt and for the freight and logistics center in eastern UB. They also felt very strongly that "companies produce or store hazardous waste should be required to move from the city center". Thirdly, they were concerned about debt and taxes. These concerns probably explain the drop in support for the Metro (which is very expensive) and for the Eco corridor (which had no revenue source).

**What effect on citizens?** The participants greatly increased their sense of efficacy and trust. They increased their agreement that "public officials care about a lot what people like me think" and they increased their "trust that UB government would do what is right". The participants also evaluated every component of the process highly. 95 percent or more thought each part of the process was "valuable".

**Advisory Committee.** The whole process was undertaken with the supervision of a distinguished Advisory Committee, co-chaired by Mayor E. Bat-Uul and Mr. G. Zandanshatar. Advisory Committee members are:

- D. Sodnom, Former Prime Minister
- Ts. Gombosuren, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Ch. Ganbold, Chairman of the Board, XasBank
- B. Dash-Yondon, Distinguished figure of Science in Mongolia
- D. Choijamts, His Eminence Khamba Lama of Gandantegchilen Monastery

Ts. Ariunaa, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Mongolia.

J. Od, President of MCS Group

B. Batbayar, Columnist

P. Tsenguun, Director of Altan Taria Co., Ltd

D. Sukhjargalmaa, Senior Advisor, MONFEMNET, National Network of Mongolian

Women's NGOs

R. Bat-Erdene, President of National University of Mongolia

**Next steps.** Given the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> Deliberative Polling in Mongolia, the city is planning a second project on the City Charter and Improving Self-governance of UB city.