

German Chancellor visits Mongolia

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of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). She also expressed that she fully supports the proposal of Prime Minister S. Batbold to cooperate in the legal, health and education sectors.

Prime Minister S. Batbold and German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel were present at the ceremony to sign Mongolia-Germany relations and cooperation documents. The following documents were signed:

- An intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in mineral resources, industrial and technological sectors by D. Zorigt, Minerals and Energy Minister of Mongolia and Peter Schaller, German Ambassador to Mongolia, and Jochen Homann, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Economics;

- An agreement between Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi Company of Mongolia and BBM Operta Group of Germany on contract miners, by B. Enebish, CEO of Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi Company, and Wolfgang Peters, Chairman of BBM Operta Group;

- A general cooperation agreement between Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi Company and Siemens Energy by B. Enebish, CEO of Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi Company, and Markus Tacke, CEO of the Industrial Power Business Unit of Siemens Energy.

Moreover, Ch. Bat, General Manager of Ulaanbaatar city, and Uwe Gauff, Chairman of GAUFF Engineering, confirmed by signing an agreement between the Investment Department of Ulaanbaatar City and GAUFF Engineering on consultancy for working out a feasibility study for sustainable water use and water supply in residential areas to be newly built in Ulaanbaatar city.

A memorandum of understanding between the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia and the Council for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings and the Foundation Lindau Nobel prizewinners Meetings at Lake Constance and an agreement between the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia and Gerda Henkel Foundation of Dusseldorf on cooperation in archeological sector were signed by the B. Enkhtuvshin, President of ASM, and Dr. Michael Hanssler, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gerda Henkel Foundation.

Following the ceremony to ink the documents, Prime Minister S. Batbold and German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel reported to the press. At the press conference, Prime Minister S. Batbold said, "The visit of German Chancellor Angela Merkel is going successfully and this is a historical visit because it is the first-ever visit by a German government head to Mongolia. Also, the visit elevates bilateral relations and cooperation to a new level and shows full partnership relations between the two countries. Therefore, we would like to appreciate Ms. Angela Merkel for visiting our country and express the gratitude of the Mongolian people for the German government and its people for their support in times of our transitional period to democracy and market economy in Mongolia. One of our foreign policy priorities is to expand relations and cooperation with Germany, a main partner of Mongolia in Europe.

It is very pleasant that our talks ran successful and friendly and businesslike talks were held about current Mongolia-Germany cooperation and expanding more in the future. Certain issues were shared on intensifying economic cooperation, attracting investors, and use Germany's leading technology in major infrastructural and mining



President Ts. Elbegdorj greets Chancellor Angela Merkel

projects. We have a purpose not to export raw materials directly, but to process raw materials and produce value-added products. Through this meaning, we dialogued that it is important to cooperate by using Germany's nature-friendly state-of-the-art technology and know-how. Some cooperation documents have been signed. Talks have been held to deepen democracy and the market economy developing in Mongolia, share the experience of Germany, render support on developing the electoral system of Mongolia and cooperate in sectors of education, defense, society and health within frames of bilateral full partnership relations. Also, we have shared views on bilateral and regional cooperation.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, "I am very happy with my first visit to Mongolia as German Chancellor. Although Mongolia and Germany are located far apart, the countries still strengthen cooperation. We shared views on strengthening the economy and democracy and cooperating in the mining sector. We will cooperate in mineral resources and the mining sector. The sides pay attention to introducing and sharing techniques and technology. For instance, we have talked to set up a joint working group of the two governments on introducing technology to extract mineral resources that make cooperation actually work. I hope our bilateral cooperation will expand further."

After the press conference, the German Chancellor was officially received by President Ts. Elbegdorj and Parliamentary Speaker D. Demberel and shared views on bilateral relations



Chancellor A. Merkel and Prime Minister S. Batbold holding talks

and cooperation. The President said that assistance given by Germany during the transitional period of Mongolia was very helpful and legal trainings and intellectual assistance implemented through German foundations such as Konrad Adenauer, Hanns Seidel and others contributed very much to strengthen democracy.

During the meeting, Chancellor Angela Merkel appraised Mongolia's achievement in strengthening democracy within a short period and congratulated Mongolia on chairing the Community of Democracies. An important issue that was discussed agreed during the meeting was about cooperation in the education sector. President Elbegdorj made a

proposal to the German Ambassador about establishing the University of Germany in Mongolia when he met with the ambassador. "There are many Mongolian students and youth who want to study in Germany, but it is very expensive. I think it is right to establish a German University in Mongolia, which will conduct training under German standards and train professionals," said President Elbegdorj. In response, Ms. Angela Merkel expressed that she would give attention to this issue.

Ms. Angela Merkel also expressed her support for the President's position on the moratorium on capital punishment and said she would support initiatives on ensuring human rights and freedom in the international arena.

Ms. Angela Merkel made an address at the honorable session of the Mongolian Parliament. Also, President Ts. Elbegdorj, Prime Minister S. Batbold and German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with representatives of Mongolian military troops and German trainers who served in Afghanistan.

Afterwards, Prime Minister S. Batbold offered a banquet for Ms. Angela Merkel. During the banquet, the Prime Minister invited Ms. Angela Merkel to visit Mongolia again for a longer stay. Ms. Angela Merkel expressed thanks to the Prime Minister and his spouse for the cordial welcome. She said that although she is visiting Mongolia for a short period, she felt the hospitality of Mongolians and its beautiful nature. "I am inviting you Mr. Batbold, to pay an official visit to Germany," said Ms. Angela Merkel.

"Official talks, meetings with Mongolia's state top officials and the statement I gave at the honorable session of parliament during this historical visit have elevated bilateral relations and cooperation to a new level. As German Chancellor, I will give attention to making these agreements and documents real actions," said Ms. Angela Merkel.

After the banquet, the German Chancellor concluded the visit and departed for her home country.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel addressing Mongolia's Parliament



German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed by Prime Minister S. Batbold on Sukhbaatar Square in Mongolia's capital city