



**Email interview with Sukhgerel Dugersuren\***

Executive Director, Mine Watch Mongolia  
Mongolia, October 2014

**What led to the creation of OT Watch in the first place? In other words, how/when did it start and why did it start?**

*OT Watch was established in October 2009 as soon as the Oyu Tolgoi investment agreement was signed with Ivanhoe Mines and Rio Tinto. Civil society went on a hunger strike to stop this unfair and illegal agreement but failed. Hunger strikers were taken into "compulsory treatment" by hospitals to clear the Sukhbaatar Square for the high level Canadian government delegation's comfort of mind. It was officially registered in March 2010. Please see early info at [www.minewatch.mn](http://www.minewatch.mn).*

**What is OT Watch's vision for the future? In other words, where do you wish to see Mongolia in the next 5, 10, 20 years in terms of mining/resource extraction and Mongolian environment and society, as well as OT Watch's role?**

*We wish Mongolia to:*

- 1. Stop issuing extraction licenses as soon as possible. Evaluate ecological damage and close mines that are most detrimental or have no water resources to support mining operations.*
- 2. Set international standards for mine closure and reclamation technologies and reporting requirements.*
- 3. Enforce mining contracts to implement reclamation programs.*
- 4. Establish effective compliance monitoring and accountability for environmental and human rights violations in mining affected areas.*
- 5. Comply with Mongolia's international obligations under the UN environmental conventions and most importantly the Nuclear Arms Non-proliferation Treaty.*
- 6. Prepare its own human resources capable of negotiating mining contracts, technical capacity in modern mining and reclamation technologies.*

*[The] ultimate goal is to mine only for Mongolia's own mineral resource needs. What we do not need today for ourselves is not ours to use. Allowing western corporations to take advantage of our inexperience and their own illiteracy to sign illegal agreements to extract our wealth sell to China is a thoroughly corrupt and unethical action part of decision-makers, transnationals and recipient governments.*

\* This interview was conducted as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Challenge of the 2014/2015 school year, which focused on mining and resource extraction in Mongolia.