

Mongolia- South Korea : Role of Soft Power

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ABSTRACT

The notion of soft power is efficient and useful in the current international political scenario because of its strength and sustainability. “Soft power is the capacity to persuade others to do what one wants”. From the time when Mongolia and Republic of Korea established their diplomatic relation in 1990, there is a constant development and deepening of the ties. The paper analyses that apart from the economic, political and diplomatic relations, the countries have also successfully adhered to the socio-cultural aspect in much deeper and broader sense. While the countries continue with their process in advance in relations in different areas, visitors or tourists from both Mongolia and South Korea is also slowly increasing. The government of Korea has tried to make incessant efforts in order to improve the relations of people-to-people between the countries.

Key Words : Mongolia, South Korea, Soft power, Shamanism, Buddhism, Hallyu

INTRODUCTION

Joseph Nye coined the term “soft power”. According to Nye, the “basis for persuasive power is attraction and emulation” and “associated with intangible power resources such as culture, ideology, and institutions”. The prominence of legitimacy for the notion of soft power is highlighted by Cooper. The actions performed by state need not to always be seen as something, which is directed towards enhancing the soft power. The American culture dispersed in the Eastern bloc was seen as American soft power during the cold war and more recently in modern time the methods adopted by European Union showcases its soft power diplomacy (Nye, 2009).

The main reason behind considerable Korean-Mongolian relationship is that the two countries have common identities, which are majorly based on history, race, language and religion connectivity with respect to shamanism. The citizen of both countries mentions the Mongolian blue spot that is near the bottom of the infants and also during the 13th-14th centuries they were close

relations between the Mongolian Empire and Koryodynasty. Therefore, “one cannot deny the fact that recently the relations between Mongolia and South Korea has prospered much more than that with the North and South Korea now stands as an important country in Mongolia’s policy of “third neighbour” (Campi, 2012).”

Mongolia successful result to the democratic revolution is not only related to the country alone but it shares common values with other countries. Mongolians demonstrated by its significant choices that human rights, freedom, and dignity are not only advantages of developed rich countries but also essential rights of everyone in each country. Furthermore, the citizens of Mongolia also exhibited that transition can be made in every sphere through peaceful revolutionary movements. It is therefore believed that the Asian countries cannot have both political and economic change at the same time. But Mongolia broke this notion by their new choice. Though the country is small with respect to its population and development however its democracy and open policy, which is continued for 20 years, is seen as a big example for other

countries.¹

Korea and Mongolia are even entitled “brother countries” as both the countries share a common race, culture and emotional closeness. It is on the basis of this distinctive relationship, both Mongolia and Korea have derived outstanding advancement in the last 25 years in every field, which includes political, economic, and people-to-people relations (Sukhbaatar, 2015).

The people of Mongolia and Korea have been expurgated by centuries of history though both are connected with respect to their ethnicities. In the 13th century, Mongolians reached down to the Korean peninsula after sweeping across China and had planned to attack Japan till numerous maritime disasters made them change their minds. But as result of Korean occupation by Mongolia left linguistic affinities, common genes and wild horse herds, which is known today by Mongolians, on the South Korean island of Cheju. On the basis of ethnic terms, both Korea and Mongolia are like fraternal twins. The advertisement banners in Mongolia appeal the girls in Ulaanbaatar to try these Korean cosmetics. Mongolian models are appointed to reshoot Korean advertisements, as their facial features are almost similar. In commercial terms, Mongolia is a base for Korean business (Brooke, 2003).

In the year 2014, Foreign Minister of Mongolia L. Bold met Mr. Kim Donggi the chief of Cultural Exchanges of Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Korea. The Minister expressed confidence in the attainment of fruitful results, which was intended for improving cultural interactions and mutual understandings between the two nations. A closer attention needs to be paid with regard to people to people relationship between Mongolia and South Korea (Sugirragchaa, 2014).

People-to-People Contact:

On 23 October 1991, an Agreement was concluded between Government of the People’s Republic of Mongolia and the ROK Government on Mutual Disbursement of Citizens with Diplomatic and Official Passports.² Again in the year 2012 both, the government signed an Agreement to ease the visa issues.³

In an interview with Unuudur newspaper, South

Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn said, “both the countries share close racial, cultural and emotional ties, and, are even called as brother countries”. People to people relations have increased sharply in the recent years. The vibrant people-people relations can act as solid base for developing bilateral relations between the countries. Since the year 2012 when both the countries signed an agreement Korea has executed measures in order to simplify visa procedures, which included relaxation of financial standards, reduction in documents required and also reducing the documents needed for multiple entry visa. The consequences of these procedures was that, more than 1 lakh people visited both Korea and Mongolia with an increase in Mongolians who live in Korea than other country. The government of Korea was positive in implementing visa policies in a reasonable way (Tugchin, 2015).

Since the beginning of mid 1990s, marked as important time for Mongolia because Korea permitted citizens of Mongolia to work in low wage factories. According to estimation, there are around 38,000 to 40,000 of workers working legally in Korea and thousands of those who work illegally. This particular situation is seen as a issue of tension between the countries for Mongolian people proclaim that the workers working in Korea are frequently exposed to the abusive working conditions, whereas Korean government is worried with illegal overstay problem. Other aggravations are difficulties in developing flights and in what way to conclude a no-visa policy (Campi, 2012).

Ambassador Ganbold in 2013 at Asia Society Korea’s Centre said, “Korea is an important part of Mongolia’s ‘third neighbour’ foreign policy.” Ganbold also said that “The third neighbour’s diplomacy is the work of coordinating and balancing the interests of each other”. “We are strengthening economic cooperation with third countries and investing in them.” Mongolia is a country where 1% of its population lives in Korea and 10% percent of its population speaks Korean (Jin, 2013).

In the year 2015, Korean government made provision for submitting bank balance statement that was required to have Mongolian tugrig worth \$10,000 or more in their bank accounts for the purpose of getting Korean

1. The Office of the President of Mongolia, Public Relations and Communications Division. Remarks of Tsakhia Elbegdorj, President Of Mongolia at the Reception in honor of Lee Myung-Bak, President Of The Republic Of Korea On 22.08.2011
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mongolia. <http://www.mfa.gov.mn/#1489020303943-b1244b0a-1381>
3. Ibid

tourist visa. This financial statement was one among the rest ten documents which were compulsory to be submitted by a Mongolian citizen in the Korean Embassy to get a visa and that allowed them stay for only three months. The rest nine documents, which were required, were employment certificate and certificate of criminal record. Mongolian Ambassador to Korea Baasanjav Ganbold expressed his view that Korea has stricter norms than other countries with respect to document required for visa and asked the Korean government to ease the norms for visa (Kyung, 2014).

Mongols travel to Korea in search of employment opportunities. Most of the influx took place when South Korea was suffering at the brink of its economic crisis in 1998. The country welcomed the cheap Mongol labour, though sometimes illegally in the factories. The universities in Korea have established a department majorly for Mongolian language and conducted scientific trips to Mongolia, which were supported by the Korean government and private NGOs (Campi, 2005).

With respect to the cultural diversity, a South Korea's overarching social phenomenon, tens of thousands of Mongolian emigrants are one of major contributors to the first-ever development in Korean history. The migration of Mongolians to South Korea for marriage has increased since the mid-1990s, which also included various immigrant labourers. This has become one of the principal providers to the binational population movement (Tseden, 2014).

The matrimonial alliance has always acted as a "magnet" between both the countries in order to increase their prospering relations. These alliances have applied to both the high and low class in both Korean and Mongolian societies. During the era of Mongol Yuan Empire, there was an increasing tendency among the aristocratic class to possess a young Korean concubine. As per the marriage in the royal families two stories are mentioned. Firstly, of a princess from Mongolia, "Nogukdaejang" she was married to "Gongmin" who was a Korean King. She is remembered and respected by the Koreans in contemporary times for being devoted and committed to her husband. The other story is of "Empress Ki", who was married to Mongolian Emperor. Empress Ki was born in Korea but was captivated by the Yuan Empire but subsequently; she was established as the First Empress amidst factional conflict of the Yuan. Such a multi-dimensional assortment must have developed much acquaintance with each other until the recent times

(ibid)".

In the year 2014, Speaker of the parliament Z. Enkhbold paid a visit to South Korea based Mongolians in Pusan. The meeting saw the gathering of around 6000 Mongolians. From the total of 26 thousand Mongolians living in South Korea around 7000 were registered as "illegal". But this number reduced on a yearly basis. South Korea is one of the closest partners of Mongolia in East Asia (Khuder, 2014).

Mongolians in order to reach the "Asia-Pacific region and North America", using South Korea as a noteworthy entry gate. Every year around 65,000 Mongolian citizen travel to and through Korea. There are both summer and winter flights which run between Seoul and Ulaanbaatar (Jargalsaikhany, 2015).

Religion:

Korea is regarded as the "Bridge of Asia". The reach of the peninsula extends from Japan and it has since very long time acted as melting pot, which accumulated different religions, and the cultural changes and then transferred it to Japan. The religion in Korea is comprised of five elements mainly: Shamanistic belief, Buddhism, Confucianism and Christianity. Buddhism arrived in the country around 4th c C.E. and established its strong hold due to the patronage provided by different rulers of the Korean dynasties. Mahayana sect of Buddhism was made popular. Various temples and Buddhist monasteries are located at isolated areas usually peaceful dwellings equipped with different Buddhist literatures and art works. As compared to other countries of East Asia Korea saw popular rise of Christianity which arrived with the Catholic and Protestant missionaries (Mcgraw, 2016).

Mongolia was originally dominated by shamanism, and practitioners of shaman's art are still important in Mongolia and are on the rise. Mongolia since 16th century recognized Tibetan or Vajrayana Buddhism as its official religion and Dalai Lama as its head. During 1937 Buddhism was banned in Mongolia. Though after the end of communist government in 1990 Buddhism reemerged. Mongolia also witnessed arrival of Christianity during that time period. It was widely made popular by the efforts of Korean evangelical missionaries, though Mormon and other American representatives of Christianity were also active. Christianity finds a small percent of population and few churches have also propped up in Ulaanbaatar, the capital (Ellwood, 2016).

Mongolia and Korea, have gone over parallel trajectories into modernity and postmodernity, and the effects these trajectories have had on the people who practice shamanism. There is an uncertainty over the existence of early historical records of Shamanism in both Mongolia and Korea. It is believed that Shamans held important political positions in Mongolia before the rise of Genghis Khan; Korea also likely saw influence of Shamanism in Goryeo dynasty and also political importance. But in both the countries, it was sidelined with the arrival of Iamanist Buddhism in Mongolia in the 16th century and state-sponsored Confucianism in Joseon dynasty Korea. These parallels also continued beyond the end of cold war. In Mongolia, the collapse of the Communist regime has meant a resurgence of shamanism. Similarly in Korea fall of the military dictatorship in 1988 and the election of the opposition leader in 1993 has meant that shamanism was practiced openly (Ross, 2015).

Shamanism in Mongolia is gender neutral in principle though in South Korea there is predomination of female shamans. With the onset of democratization and market economy, the tendency has been predominantly overturned: male shamans have occupied the focus, while the females have been ostracized (Buyandelger, 2013).

Entertainment:

As stated by the Culture Minister of South Korea Choe Kwang-Shik, “Korea has long been a role model for economic success by developing hardware industries such as electronics, shipbuilding and automobiles. However, the country will be empowered by Hallyu as a new industrial force and become a role model of soft power in the future.” (Chung-un, 2012).

The 1997 financial crisis of Asia disclosed the weakness of Korea’s reliance on chaebols,⁴ and in reaction to this the South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, acted by asserting on the expansion of the IT and content (film, pop and video games) industries. Various corporations collapsed or got reorganized such as Samsung, which progressed into the digital TV and mobile phones (Hong, 2014).

From the tremendous passion that is frequently linked with Hallyu (latest spread of Korean art, music, and literature around the world), it is seemed as the K-pop influence just came to Korean government’s lap, who

was expecting keenly in order to use it as tool to expand its soft power and cultural engagement with the world. South Korea being a small country had modest initiations whereas now it is seen as a spotlight at global stage, which is reflecting in multitude ways. This kind of soft power and its utilization in a progressive way by a small and traditional government is benefitting the country by providing a fast track pass which is helping it to connect with the young people all around the world. The cultural diplomacy of government could sometimes come as something that is enforced or unable to connect with others, though K-pop is a realistic replication as well as manifestation of youth culture and it is astoundingly adjacent with the rhythm of the “global cool” (Constant, 2011).

Korean pop groups have captivated fans in Mongolia as they toured to Ulaanbaatar on the occasion of the diplomatic anniversary in 2015. K-pop groups performed first time in Mongolia. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Korea also revealed the popularity of Korean dramas and music in Mongolia. In Mongolia, most of the South Korean dramas record high ratings and there are tens of thousands of members in the fan clubs of K-pop groups. The event is aimed to stimulate further the development of exchanges and friendly relations between Seoul and Ulaanbaatar (Min, 2013).

In the year 2014, a delegation of journalists from South Korea led by the director of the Journalists’ Association, Mr. Park Chong Ryul. The journalists visited the Mongolian National Public Radio and Television. They were received by NPRT staff that included M. Naranbaatar, the Director General of the NPRT. Both the sides conveyed about journalists organizations of the two countries, mutual visits of journalists, a development of the journalism, and ways of deepening cooperation. The South Koreans spoke about annual conference of international journalists to run in South Korea and asked the Mongolian side to take part in it (Khuder, 2014).

Z.Enkhbold, speaker of Mongolian parliament visited South Korea in 2014 to the “Korean Film Council (KOFIC) Namyangju Film Studio”. Accompanied by his delegates, which included J. Solongo, director of the Mongolian Film Union. The director expressed his willingness for cooperation in the terms of introduction of latest hi-technology in Mongolian film art. The studio had a wide scope for shooting films and TV programs

4. “A chaebol is a large industrial conglomerate that is run and controlled by an owner or family in South Korea”

(Enkhmandakh, 2014).

In the same year, parliamentary journalists and cameramen from some media organizations were involved in training in the Republic of Korea. South Korean Public Relation chief opened the discussion and derived the importance of journalists acting as the main channel to provide information to people. He also said that the journalists should be responsible as well as they should respect to all sides on any issue. There were 1350 journalists who qualified to report to parliamentary actions (Khuder, 2014).

In the year 2014 the South Korean journalists led by Mr. Park Chong Ryul, the director of the Journalists Association, visited Mongolian Public Radio and Television. The head staffers of the NPRT, including M. Naranbaatar the Director-General of the NPRT, received the delegation. Both the sides discussed the cooperation between journalists between the countries; mutual visits of journalists as well development of journalism in addition to deepening the cooperation (Enkhmandakh, 2014).

Environment, Agriculture and Communication:

An agreement for the period of four years was signed between “Korea’s Korea-Mongolia Agricultural Development Initiatives (KMADI)” and “Mongolia’s Dornod province local government” in order to lease 30,000 hectares of land in Mongolia’s eastern part for the purpose of developing eco-friendly agriculture and livestock breeding. The project was intended to bring capital investments from South Korea and technological advancements into Mongolia with an objective of generating sustainable resources for agricultural and livestock production. Thus, South Korea has developed into one of Mongolia’s biggest partners with respect to trade and has also boosted its investment in this landlocked country’s mining, infrastructure and services sectors (Jargalsaikhany, 2015).

In the year 2014, Park Bo Hwan head of the department for special protection area visited Mongolia in order to engage in cooperation between Ministries of Environment and South Korea. The administration offices of Khan Khentii strictly protected area and the “Seoraksan National Park” of South Korea concluded an agreement on sisterhood special protection area creation. In accordance to this both the sides were expected to safeguard biological species and animals

listed in Red Books of the two countries in protected areas, to carry out scientific researches, to develop ecology education of natives. Furthermore, the sides were supposed to develop together eco-tourism, facilitate training, share experience and provide assistance to each other by hi-tech technologies (Enkhmandakh, 2014).

Since 2000 Korea has fostered projects through international cooperation on afforestation as well as rehabilitation in order to eliminate desertification and dust storm in the region of Northeast Asia. The projects that are made in Mongolia are “Greenbelt Plantation Project in Mongolia”, “Small-scale A/R CDM pilot Project” of Mongolia. The “Greenbelt Plantation Project (2007-2016)” aims to prevent desertification and dust storm by using the technique of plantation. In order to promote capacity building, Korean experts will be dispatched to Mongolia, training will be provided to the local people and establishment of education center⁵ (Hee, 2010).

The state-run forestry agency of South Korea decided to send junior civil servants to Mongolia in order to provide support to its anti-desertification project as part of an on-the-spot training program for inexperienced officials. The Korea Forest Service official said, “(We) are offering a chance for the future leaders of South Korea’s forestry sector to gain more insight into global forestry trends”. Yellow dust storms originating in the deserts of Mongolia and northern China generally reach South Korea in spring. The yellow storm transports dosages of heavy metals, which leads to respiratory and health problems (Jin, 2011).

The “Asian Young Leadership Program-2014” that was held in Seoul, South Korea saw the representation of Mongolia from Vice Minister of Environment and Green Development B.Tulga. The participants exchanged their opinions as well as shared their experiences on how to replicate sustainable development and climate change concerns in the economic and social development strategies. The delegates also visited the “Cheonggycheon” green city and Seoul Transport Operation and Information Service (Enkhmandakh, 2014).

Mongolia also made efforts to cooperate with KTC in wireless communications. Mongolian government as well as “South Korea Telecom Cooperation (KTC)” entered into a memorandum of cooperation. The collaboration proposed to initiate 4G LTE technology and therefore initiating a new era of wireless communications.

5. International Cooperation Division, Korea Forest Service

40 percent stakes in Mongolian Telecommunication Company is held by KTC since 1995 (Khuder, 2013).

Since the time it was established in the year 2007, the T-DMB⁶ service has become the international standard. The “Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning” has been offering indigenously developed broadcasting equipment and also the technological consultation, which is needed to promote the pilot service and also commercializing the service of T-DMB in Mongolia since 2011. “UBDMB, the Mongolian T-DMB service provider, and UNITEL”, Mongolia’s second major mobile communications corporation; have participated in the pilot facility (Won, 2013).

Health and Education Sector:

The Republic of Korea has for long served as a niche industry for Mongolia in order to provide for doctors training and medical experts and provision for funds to new hospitals. The base for “National Diagnostic Centre” inside the “Second Central Clinical Hospital” was laid in the year 2012. A soft loan of \$55.4 million was provided from Korea EXIM Bank by the Korean government. They also decided to send Korean doctors to Mongolia and also to train Mongolian doctors in Korea (Campi, 2012).

A South Korean medical delegation led by Mr. Sung Seung Hoon (CEO of Sun Medical Center met Health Minister of Mongolia N.Udval in 2014. The visit was aimed to broaden cooperation with the Mongolian medical institutions such as “National Cancer Center, Dental Studies Center and Orthognathic Department of the National University of Medical Sciences”. Both the sides also looked for cooperation in areas such as public health promotion. The hospital had also provided for scholarship funds, free medical treatment for Mongolian children (Sugirragchaa, 2014).

South Korea is preferred most of those to China or Russia for Mongolians for the Korean hospitals are more westernized, competent and innovative medical facilities. In addition to this Mongolian medical tourist can easily rely on their Korean doctors because of the presence of few Mongolians who speak Korean fluently and easily facilitate the communication. There is also a provision for travelling to both Mongolia and Korea for three-month

time period under tourist visas. But these tourist visas are single-entry only which in a way makes Mongolians go through all the hectic and lengthy visa procedure again if they desire to revisit Korea again. The facilities of Express visas are unavailable (Kyung, 2014).

Ever since the bilateral relations between Mongolia and Korea had begun, the cultural and educational programs of Korea have influenced Mongolians. Indeed, in the year 2009, S. Bathbold, Mongolian Prime Minister declared, “The most important aspect of Mongolia-ROK relations is human exchanges.⁷” Korean Universities such as the “Seoul National University and Dankuk University” have established the department for Mongolian language and also exchanged students as well as professors to Mongolian Universities. The Korean government has provided a large number of scholarships. There has also been a surge in Korean tourism to Mongolia (Campi, 2012).

In the year 2014, an event was organized in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for implementing the “Incheon Strategy” to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific. “The Incheon Strategy builds on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific”. The Incheon Strategy was aimed to make the Asian and Pacific region proceed with regard to improving life quality, and the fulfillment of the rights, of the region’s persons with disabilities, most of them live in poverty. A mandatory report on the progress in the enactment of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy was also supposed to be submitted after three years by the ESCAP till the completion of the decade in 2022 (Khuder, 2014).

In the year 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on occupational safety and health cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Labor and the “Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA)”. The cooperation would enable them to engage in order to develop the legal environment for occupational safety and also hygiene as well as make amendments into the law on labour security and hygiene. Both the signatories were supposed to share their information and experiment in order to provide in management systems, lessening

6. South Korea developed a new digital media broadcasting service for mobile and it decided to launch it in Mongolia.

7. “Remarks by Sukhbaatar Batbold, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade,” Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C., June 8, 2009.

occupational accidents, improving the working environment and hygiene standards (Park, 2015).

In the year 2014, the Speaker of Mongolia visited the “Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KSIT)”, which was established in 1996 and had been cooperating since 2002 with respect to the economic growth of the country exclusively by enhancing research and supporting infrastructure. The speaker expressed the view that scientific cooperation is necessary between the two countries and efforts are constantly been made by the high officials in looking up for possibilities for joint “Science Education Centre of Mongolia and South Korea” (Khuder, 2014).

In drawing a comparison from the past, South Korea has a positive image in foreign countries. The costs for the medical services are admirable and also occupied by numerous qualified and highly skilled physicians. “In particular, South Korea has its strengths in cancer, cardiac and blood vessel disease treatments.” In the year 2009, South Korea revised its medical legislation and regulation in order to allow local hospitals to manage hotels and initiate a medical tourism visa. The medical tourists are majorly from China, the U.S., Russia, Japan, Mongolia and Kazakhstan. South Korea indeed has abundant potential in order to arise as a novel center of international medical tourism, capitalizing on its enriched national image from the attractiveness of K-pop and progressive IT industry (Dong, 2015).

The Gangnam district of Seoul also known as the “Heart of Medical Korea”; a large number of hospitals can be seen in the area is a front-runner. Different big cities such as “Daejeon, Daegu and Busan” also coming forward with their efforts to attract foreign patients to local hospitals. However, Medical Korea faces intense competition with other Asian countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and India. Some of the nations’ offer relatively better “customized medical tour packages” including high-quality concierge services at cheaper prices. The officials in South Korea recognize the necessity to develop the “concierge services. The officials from KHIDS are discovering ways to ways to lessen foreign patients’ language problem and other inconveniences. A lot of Mongolian patients who visited Korea for treatment had agreed to recommend these to their friends and relatives back in Mongolia (ibid).

In order to fight and treat the pulmonary disease, a partnership program was started between National Tuberculosis Association of Korea and two other

foundations in Mongolia. The ceremony was launched at the “University of Science and Technology” in the country’s capital Ulaanbaatar that was held by “National Tuberculosis Association of Korea, the Chung Mong-Koo Foundation, and the Seegene Medical Foundation”. In the year 2012, “STOP-TB Partnership Korea,” was established which was targeted to eliminate TB from the list of public health problem. These organizations also decided to recommend Korean doctors who would be sent to Mongolia so that they could train the medical doctors as well as Mongolian researchers for the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis. Mongolia is among the seven countries that have the high rate of TB majorly in the western Pacific region. The rate of mortality for TB in Mongolia is 7.2 people for every 100,000 people (Joo, 2015).

For the purpose of increasing the awareness in the world, the Culture Ministry of Korea proposed to start 14 new government-funded institutes providing courses on the Korean language. The government officials also stated that the increasing recognition of Korean pop music popularly known as “K-pop,” as well as Korean TV dramas in other parts of the world majorly in Asian countries, Europe and America has drawn attraction and interest in Korean culture internationally. Due to this very interest, there has been increasing requirement for learning the Korean language. Among these 14 locations, Mongolia was also selected as one of the countries for the establishment of a newly entitled opportunity to build King Sejong Institute, which is name after King Sejong who belonged to the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). He made the discovery of hangeul script. Korean is taught as a second language in its language education programmes as provided by the King Sejong Institutes. The Ministry also decided to send Korean qualified teachers to these institutes located in countries such as Mongolia. The procedure was regarded as the first time sending Korean teachers to foreign countries. These institutes are under direct supervision of the government and some of them under civil society organizations but with government’s support (Sun-ah, 2012).

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