Books for Asia Mongolia

The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program is committed to connecting Mongolian institutions with some of the world’s best information resources. It reaches nearly 400 institutions annually, including schools, universities, non-governmental organizations, and policy-making institutions throughout the country, including in remote areas. Since 1993, the program has put one million books, ranging from children’s picture books to university-level textbooks, into the hands of students, educators and community leaders in Mongolia.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR MONGOLIAN STUDIES

Since October 2013, through a partnership with the American Center for Mongolian studies (ACMS), the program under the name of Books for Mongolia has distributed around 50,000 books nationwide and organized workshops for librarians and book promotion events. ACMS, a non-profit educational organization, aims to develop academic resources, support student research, and foster academic partnerships in all fields of study related to Mongolia.

NEW PROGRAM AREAS

Book for Asia Mongolia has expanded its activities in a number of new directions, including offering digital material, supporting open access, and promoting reading. The program works closely with Mongolian key organizations in these areas, including the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; Mongolian Academy of Science; and Mongolian Libraries Consortium.

OPEN ACCESS SEMINAR

In order to improve knowledge sharing and support sustainable scholarly communication in Mongolia, The Asia Foundation supported an Open Access Seminar hosted by Mongolian Academy of Science, Mongolian Libraries Consortium, and Books for Mongolia in December 2014. Electronic Information for Libraries was a key facilitator of the seminar and 47 researchers, librarians and teachers attended. Major topics included maximizing the visibility of research publications, how to effectively disseminate research publications, and measuring and managing research.

“The Books for Asia donations have been deeply appreciated by the Mongolian people.”

—MR. TS. ELBEGDORJ PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA

PARTNERS

The Mongolian Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; American Center for Mongolian Studies; Children’s Book Palace; Electronic Information for Libraries; Khan Bank Foundation; Mongolian Academy of Science; Mongolian Libraries Consortium; National Authority for Children; Ulaanbaatar City Library; and World Vision.


ABOUT BOOKS FOR ASIA

Books for Asia is the leading provider of donated information resources in the region. Each year, the program reaches thousands of institutions in 20 Asian countries, connecting students, educators, and local and national leaders with the knowledge they need to improve lives and expand opportunities.
“I especially remember a big event in 2008. I traveled to Khuvsgul aimag with some officials. The dirt road was very bumpy, and we were exhausted when we reached the aimag. But when we saw the little children from the elementary school singing English songs and speaking basic English while holding the English language books donated by Books for Asia, I was really proud. In the 1990s, there were no English books in the libraries, and there were very few English-speaking people. But in 2008, I saw that many children in countryside were learning English. That is a big achievement, and Books for Asia has played a major role.”

– MS. B. BAYARAA, POLICY OFFICER FOR LIBRARIES AND PRINTING, DEPARTMENT OF POLICY ON ART AND CULTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SCIENCE OF MONGOLIA

SPECIAL BOOK DONATIONS AND EVENTS

* Marking World Book and Copyright Day 2014, The Asia Foundation and ACMS organized Reading Time with Art, an event that aimed to develop children’s creative thinking and encourage use of recycled materials in making handmade crafts. 120 students from three schools participated in the workshops and 300 children’s books were donated to the schools.

* To promote citizens’ participation in decision-making, the Foundation collaborated with the Zuunmod soum Citizens’ Hall and the Children’s Book Palace mobile library on the Read & Know & Participate event in June 2014. 2,000 high-quality English-language books were donated to local governor’s offices, citizens’ halls, public libraries and government organizations.

* On National Book Day 2014, Books for Asia and Books for Mongolia jointly organized Motivating English Reading through Libraries, a workshop for librarians that was initiated by the President of Mongolia. During the event, 12,000 books were donated to public libraries of all soums and aimags in Mongolia.

* In 2015, through cooperation with World Vision, the Foundation established book clubs in seven high schools in Ulaanbaatar’s Khan-Uul district that serve children of newly arrived migrant families. Using materials donated by the Foundation to the school libraries, the book clubs encourage children who have limited access to books to read and help their integration into the communities.