

NUGELP International Study Tour 2015 in Mongolia

We went to Mongolia for the NUGELP International Study Tour from the 31st August to the 4th September, 2015.

On the first day we learned the circumstance of electric power supply in Mongolia. A huge thermal power plant is located close to the Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia. We visited there and observed main facilities such as turbines and control center.

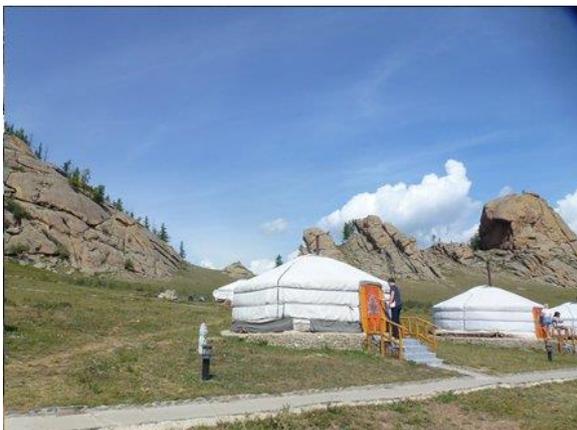


View of the thermal power plant from the city center



In the control center

After visiting the thermal power plant, we directed the *Khan Terelj* camp, where we could experience the life in “Ger”s, which are traditional houses of nomads. There was nothing artificial and a boundless expanse of grasses and mountains. The students were so impressed with its magnificent nature. We could learn a lot about the tradition and culture in Mongolia there. Staying the night in a “Ger” was unexpectedly comfortable, and that made us realize the traditional ingenuity and wisdom for nomads’ everyday life. In the night, we could enjoy beautiful starry heavens.



“Ger”s in the *Khan Terelj* camp



The statue of *Genghis Khan*



On the second day we visited JICA Mongolia Office, and had an explanation on their projects. There are serious problems in transportation in Ulaanbaatar city, and improvement of such a situation is the urgent mission of them. In addition, there are also some problems on preserving the traditional “Ger”s’ lifestyle as well as conserving the environment. After visiting the JICA’s office, a civil design consultant kindly guided us to the “*Taiyo-bridge*” (sun-bridge), which had been constructed by an ODA project of Japanese government. By listening the story from the person who had been actually involved in the project, we could understand the difficulties on implementing the project under the unique condition of Mongolia due to its climate and so on.



“*Taiyo-bridge*”

On the third day, we held a joint workshop with the School of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST). Every five students from NUGELP and MUST made presentations on their research. The students actively exchanged their ideas during the discussion.

In this tour, we could learn a lot about Mongolia, which faces some difficulties caused by its unique environment. Through this case study, we could recognize the importance of seeking appropriate solutions based on the better understanding of the characteristics and problems of the country for a successful international cooperation. Furthermore, we could also think about the importance of preserving the traditional culture and lifestyle which might be lost in economic development.