Mongolia is a land of rugged terrain, where the transition from communism to democracy has been a slow and difficult process. The move to a market economy in 1990 placed new demands on an under-prepared population, leading to a lack of economic growth and increased poverty. While the democratic transition was peaceful, the transformation of social systems was challenging, and the country has faced significant economic and social development challenges.

In 1990, Mongolia made the transition from communism to democracy, adopting a new political and economic system. However, the country has struggled to adapt to the new environment, facing economic difficulties and political instability. Despite these challenges, the country has made some progress in terms of democratic reforms, with ongoing efforts to combat corruption and promote good governance.

The Zorig Foundation is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization focused on advancing democracy in Mongolia. The Foundation was formed in October 1998, shortly after the murder of Sanjaasurengiin Zorig, a member of the Mongolian Parliament and then Minister for Infrastructure. The Foundation is committed to promoting transparency, anti-corruption, and democratic development in Mongolia.

The Foundation’s mission is to inspire and empower people from Switzerland and Mongolia to work together for the advancement of democratic development and cultural exchange. The SDC, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, has supported the Foundation’s work in Mongolia, fostering good governance, anti-corruption efforts, and educational opportunities for Mongolian students.

The Zorig Foundation has contributed to improving the lives of Mongolians through various projects, including the Mongol-Swiss Development Foundation’s scholarship programme, which aims to provide educational opportunities for Mongolians between the ages of 22 and 25. The Foundation has also worked on combating corruption, with the support of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy for Mongolia from 2007-2012, which was committed to supporting Mongolia in its efforts towards sustainable development.

The Foundation has been recognized for its efforts in advancing democracy and anti-corruption, with multiple awards and recognitions. The Anti-Corruption Posters exhibition was organized by the Zorig Foundation, highlighting the importance of transparency and accountability in public life. The Anti-Corruption Law was adopted in 2006, the first nationwide attempt to fight corruption in Mongolia, further strengthening the fight against corruption and promoting democratic development.

By 2002, corruption was widespread, and many Mongolians identified it as the most important issue facing the country. Anti-corruption efforts have been ongoing, with the Foundation working closely with the government and international partners to promote good governance and transparency. The Foundation is committed to continuing these efforts to build a fair and just state in Mongolia.

Zorig Foundation:

www.zorigfoundation.org.mn

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