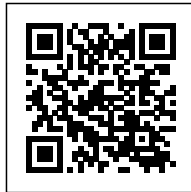


EFFORTS TO COMBAT SOIL POLLUTION AND IMPROVE SANITATION IN MONGOLIA

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Mongolia has identified five main areas of development, which include protecting soil fertility and moisture and preventing land degradation, soil pollution, and desertification. The government has also developed an action plan to address the challenges of reducing soil pollution and improving access to eco-friendly toilets. The plan includes several initiatives, such as bringing residential toilets up to standard, and ensuring that the sanitary facilities of tourism centers and commercial service organizations meet requirements.

In urban areas, bacterial pollution related to household sanitation is a major concern, while waste from mining and mining centers is the primary cause of soil pollution in rural areas. The government has taken steps to address these issues, including the organized removal of pit latrines in natural protection zones of riverbeds and tourist areas. To date, 999 pit latrines have been removed out of 2,523 non-standard pit latrines.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the National Environmental Pollution Reduction Committee, over 9,000 households in the Ger neighborhood of Ulaanbaatar city have been equipped with eco-friendly toilets. The initiative began in 2018 and installed 4,200 eco-toilets in 2020, 3,150 in 2021, and 2,000 in 2022.

To further encourage the use of eco-friendly toilets, green loan products have been made available since 2019. These loans carry an interest rate of 2% for citizens and 8% for enterprises and can be used for the installation of pit toilets for citizens and small and medium-sized sanitary facilities for tourism organizations.