



# REFORMING ECONOMIC EDUCATION IN MONGOLIA: COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NUM AND UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

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Mongolian-British Cooperation in 60 Years

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# Launching of the TACIS project

- In 1995 the European Union's TACIS program announced the "Reform of Economic Education" project (total budget of US\$ 2 million)
- Recipient institution: the Economic Teaching and Research Institute (later renamed School of Economic Studies)
- The counterpart: the University of Manchester and the Council for British Teachers
- The project objectives were defined as:
  1. Reorganising the SES to reflect the demands of the market economy;
  2. Making it a leading provider of economic training at the Bachelor's and Master's level;
  3. Turning it into an institution capable of providing economic policy advice and research both to the public and private sector

# Improving the faculty's skills and qualifications

- Permanent office at the SES, with administrative office
- Prof. Tom Christie, Dean of the School of Education, appointed Project Director
- Short-term visits of professors from the U Manchester, working with academic staff of all 8 departments of the SES on a continuous basis for ~ 2 years
- Lectures and training seminars for the SES academic staff
- Detailed discussion of critical terminology, concepts and theories, course content, course sequence, and the like
- 2-4 lecturers from all departments of the SES visited U Manchester for 1-3 month period
- 2 lecturers studied in a Master's program

# Building a new academic curriculum

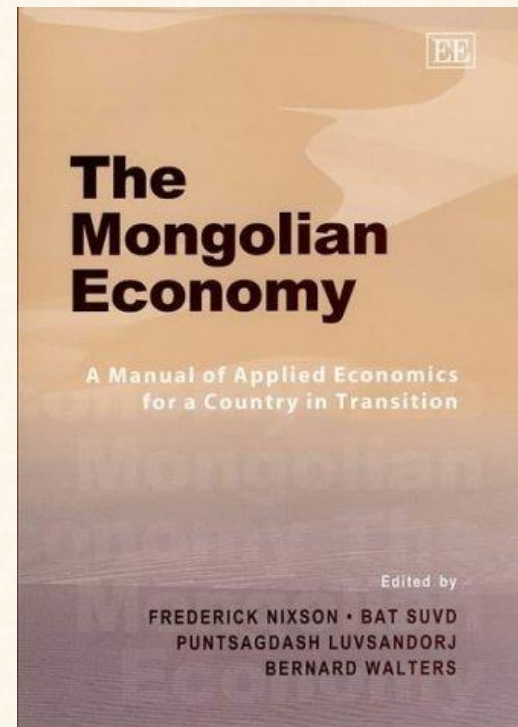
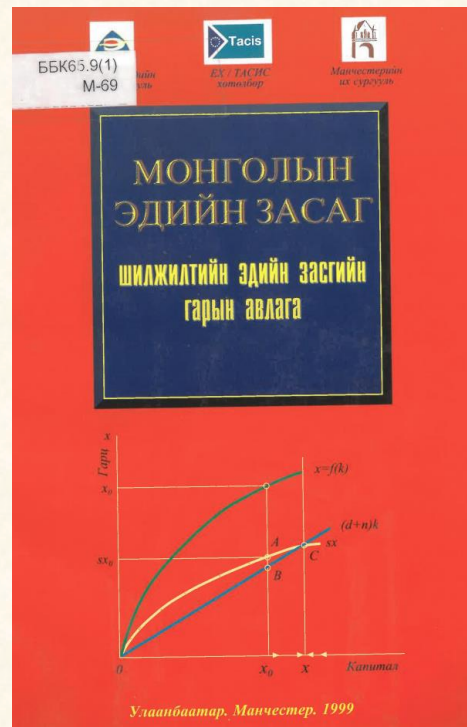
- The SES had 1 academic degree program in Economics and 10 professional degree programs in Business Administration (accounting, trade, finance, information technology, management, etc.)
- Just like the national economy, all programs were at the very early stage of transforming from the central plan to a market economy – a strange mixture of old and new
- The academic curricula were changed to include
  - General education and core professional skills in Math, Economics, History of Mongolia, Business English, Accounting, and Marketing (years 1 and 2)
  - More specialised professional courses (years 3 and 4)
- Bachelor of Economics curriculum – completely new, vigorous curriculum to match (and may be even exceed) international standards of undergraduate level

# Revamping course syllabi and teaching methods

- Introduction of brand new courses at every department
- Completely revamping the existing course syllabi to reflect the new realities of the market economy
- Department of Economics – 20+ new courses
- A new (small) library of critical sources – set of up-to-date texts and books in English
- First-ever Center for Independent Studies for students – a space for students with important reading sources
- Development of new teaching materials – lecture notes, test banks, case studies
- Brand new computer lab with software and Internet connection – crucial both for teaching and research



# Conducting joint research



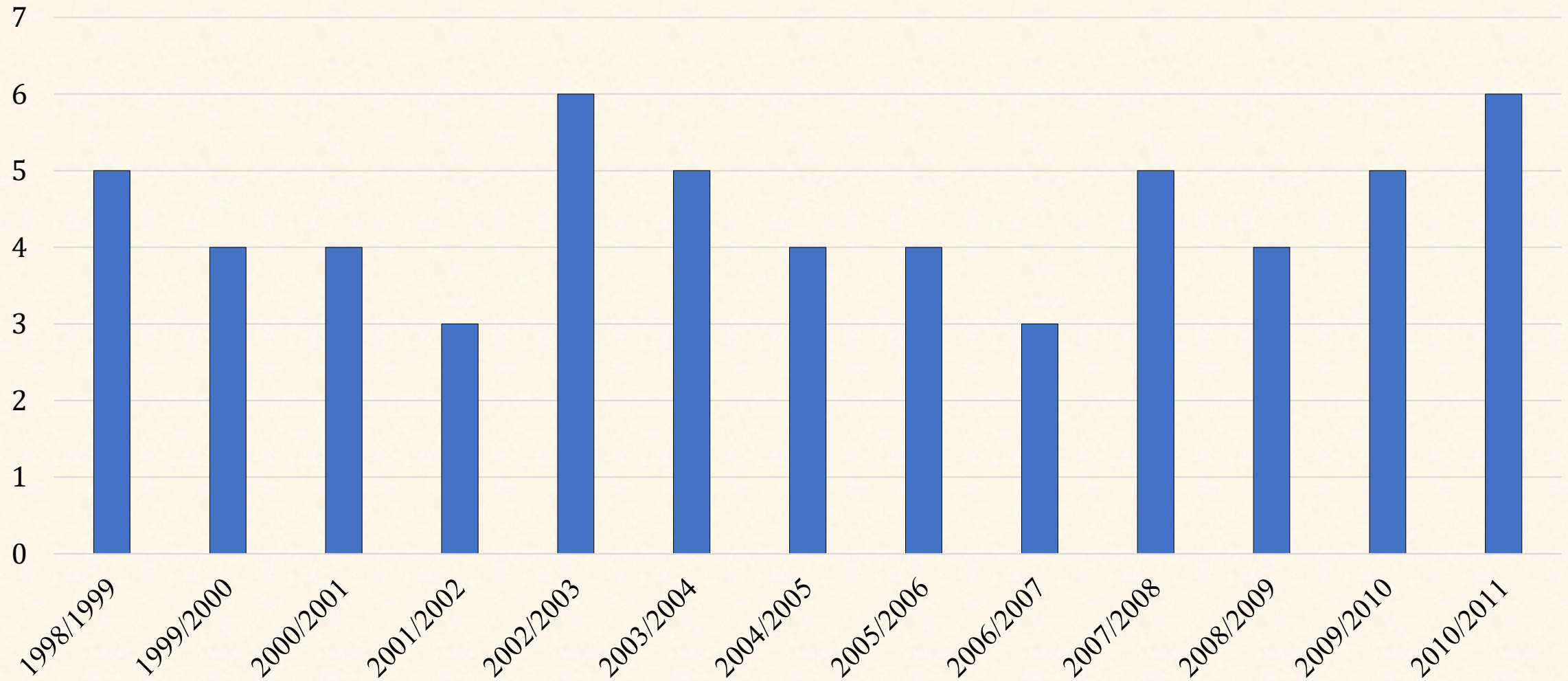
## The Mongolian Economy: A Manual of Applied Economics for a Country in Transition

- The first monograph to comprehensively analyse economic transition in Mongolia
- Edited by F.Nixson, B. Suvd, P.Luvsandorj, and B.Walters
- Mongolian version published in 1999
- English version published in 2001 by Edward Elgar Publishing
- All chapters are co-authored jointly by Mongolian and UK scholars

# Training economists at the University of Manchester

- B.Altantsetseg and B.Otgontugs – the first two lecturers from the SES to obtain Master of Economics degree at the University of Manchester (1997-1998)
- The following year a joint scholarship by the Soros Foundation/Mongolia Open Society Institute, the Chevening program, and the University of Manchester was launched
- Offered in the field of Economics, Econometrics, Development Economics, and Agricultural Economics
- Successfully implemented for 13 years (1998-2011)
- Total of 58 Mongolian economists were trained under the program
- Numerous lecturers at the Department of Economics and graduates of the SES completed the program
- Several graduates work at the Bank of Mongolia, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Economy and Development

# Number of scholarship recipients (1998-2011)





# Conclusion

- The project was implemented at a critical point in the transition
- The SES was able to completely revamp its curricula and course content
- The impact was spread to other higher education institutions nationwide (e.g. University of Finance and Economics)
- The SES faculty reached a new level in terms of knowledge and skills
- A vigorous Bachelor of Economics degree program was built from scratch, becoming a nationally and internationally recognised program
- Numerous graduates continue to contribute to the academia, policymaking, and private sector development in Mongolia
- U of Manchester faculty approached the project with great care – with respect and mutual understanding, which ultimately led to the success