



“Despite the obstacles, the participation of women in Mongolia's renewable energy sector remains robust overall, with ample potential for continued growth and advancement.”

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CEO of Mongolian Renewables Industries Association (MRIA)



This profile is part of the 'Women in Mongolian Energy' series sponsored by the USAID Mongolia Energy Governance (MEG) Activity. The series aims to highlight the stories of women who come from different backgrounds but have broken barriers in the male-dominated energy sector to become agents of change.

Did your education play a role in your eventual career in the energy sector?

In 2017, I graduated from the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the National University of Mongolia, majoring in Renewable Energy Engineering. Recognizing the challenges women face in the energy sector, I was aware of the few opportunities available. However, driven by my passion and determination, I pursued my aspirations. I managed to secure an opportunity to work in my field during the final year of my studies. This marked the beginning of my professional journey in renewable energy as I joined the Mongolian Renewables Industries Association (MRIA).

How did you reach your current role in the energy sector, and how have you navigated any challenges that came your way?

While still a student, I started working as a program specialist at the MRIA, where I continue to work till today. When I first started there, I had no prior experience, so everything was new to me. My job entailed organizing activities for member organizations and the public, communicating with international organizations, and writing projects and feasibility studies.

One particularly notable experience was when I took on the responsibility of organizing our annual conference, the International New Energy Summit (INES) in 2022 and 2023. Even in the face of numerous unexpected hurdles like registration glitches, partner negotiations, and speaker invitations, I maintained my composure, took charge of the situation, and ensured the summit's successful execution. This experience taught me the importance of adaptability and resilience when navigating challenges in the workplace. It helped that my colleagues were very supportive of me.

In 2023, I was elevated to the role of MRIA Executive Director. This position involves a lot of responsibility and requires various skills. Initially, I felt that my leadership skills were not enough, and I felt inadequate for this job. However, after attending the leadership training for women in the energy sector organized by the USAID MEG Activity last year, my whole perspective changed. The course completely changed my point of view and I learned how to turn my weaknesses into strengths, how to resolve conflicts, how to negotiate, and how to create a good working environment for my colleagues.

Armed with these newfound skills, I found myself better equipped to navigate the challenges of executive leadership, offering significant support to fellow young women in managerial positions like myself.

What accomplishment(s) in the energy sector are you most proud of so far?

The energy sector is absolutely crucial globally, constantly evolving and facing challenges. Mongolia is no exception, grappling with financial losses and a lack of awareness about the value of electricity among its citizens. This undervaluation is largely due to the incredibly low cost of energy in Mongolia due to high subsidies received by the power generation sector. On top of that, there are serious concerns about the poor quality of energy and frequent power outages, especially affecting disadvantaged families and schools, making the situation even more complicated.

To tackle these problems head-on, I worked closely with our organization and the MEG Activity to develop a preliminary feasibility study for a micro-grid project aimed at bolstering energy supply and reliability in residential areas. It was a completely new experience for me, collaborating with professional engineers to address various challenges, such as installing necessary systems for schools and kindergartens. One of the biggest hurdles was introducing the concept of microgrids, which was relatively unfamiliar in Mongolia. Despite the lack of information, we applied international best practices and devised a suitable system based on our calculations. This project marks a significant step forward in addressing the issues we've been facing, and I'm incredibly proud to have been a part of it.

Do you have any advice for younger women pursuing a career in Mongolia's energy sector?

In the global energy sector, women's roles have traditionally been limited, and Mongolia is no exception. In Mongolia, there's a positive trend where young women enthusiastically pursue STEM education, particularly in renewable energy, without encountering significant barriers. From my observation, the renewable energy sector appears more inclusive compared to its traditional counterpart. Many of the female renewable energy engineers I've encountered are highly skilled professionals deeply committed to their work. One notable challenge for women in this field is the aspect of assembly work. We need more women in this area. Despite this obstacle, the participation of women in Mongolia's renewable energy sector remains robust overall, with ample potential for continued growth and advancement.

About USAID funded Mongolia Energy Governance Activity (MEG)

The goal of USAID's Mongolia Energy Governance (MEG) activity is to promote a secure, stable, diversified, modern, and self-reliant energy sector through improved governance. The Activity promotes the development of, implementation of, and adherence to existing laws related to competitive and transparent processes to: (1) Incentivize private investment; (2) Boost the use of new advanced energy generation and management technologies; (3) Increase resilience to natural and human-induced shocks (including cyberattacks); and (4) Promote a secure, stable, diversified, modern, and self-reliant Mongolian energy sector.

To learn more, please contact: infomongolia@usaid.gov

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