POLICY ISSUES ON STEPPE AND FOREST FIREFIGHTING

ОЙ ХЭЭРИЙН ТҮЙМЭРТЭЙ ТЭМЦЭХ ТАЛААРХ ТӨРИЙН БОДЛОГЫН ЗАРИМ АСУУДАЛ



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Товч утга: Ой хээрийн түймэртэй тэмцэх, түүнээс урьдчилан сэргийлэх талаар төр засгаас анхаарч ажиллаж байгаа боловч ой хээрийн түймрийг унтраах ажлыг онцгой байдлын алба, шалтгаан, нөхцөл, буруутай этгээдийг тогтоох ажлыг цагдаагийн байгууллага, түймрээс учирсан хохирлыг зохих шатны засаг даргын ажлын хэсэг, урьдчилан сэргийлэх ажлыг байгаль орчин, ногоон хөгжлийн яам зэрэг байгууллага хийж байгаа нь түймрийн нөхцөл байдлыг бодитойгоор үнэлэхэд хүндрэл учруулж байгаа тул хууль эрх зүйн орчинг боловсронгуй болгох, түймэртэй тэмцэх талаар төрөөс баримтлах бодлого шаардлагатай байгааг сүүлийн жилүүдэд Монгол Улсын нутаг дэвсгэр гарч байгаа ой хээрийн түймрийн сургамж харуулж байна.

Abstract: Strengthening legal environment and determining scope of burned area properly taking into account fire situation assessment difficulties caused by distribution of task's like extinguishing fires executes by emergency management service, identifying reason and guilty person by Police department and determining damage scope by governor's working group, preventing by Ministry of nature and environment.

Түлхүүр үгс: Ой хээрийн түймэр, шатлагын талбай, цаг уурын өөрчлөлт, зайнаас тандан судлал, онц байдал, шинжилгээний төв, инноваци.

Key words: Forest and steppe fire, burning area, climate change, NOAA, Emercom, Global Fire Monitoring Center, innovation.

The base of the professional fire fighting organization was set up in the beginning of the Peoples Government¹, 1922, through designating watch-post commander under khoshuu governor in Khan Khentii to protect forest from fire. For this period, forest and pasture land protection from fire fitted into traditional culture or livelihood behavior that relied on nature and getting its fruits and was important for fire prevention.

Since the middle of XX century, Mongolia started to experience urban style of life and were established branches of industry used wood and began to prepare hay and fodder for livestock husbandry. All these initiatives in green area have created some negative consequences.

In connection with increases of fire at steppe and forest territories, "Air-Watch and Firefighting Service" was established under Ministry of Forest Industry with the responsibility to extinguish steppe and forest fire by the 435th resolution, 1968,

¹ Law of the Forest, 1922, page 19

Ministerial Council, the Peoples Republic of Mongolia². As a result of regular attention of the Government on forming legal environment of steppe and forest firefighting, preventing from fires and strengthening human and technical capacity, organizational structure was developed under General Department of Police, Ministry of Social Security by the 112th resolution of Ministerial Council, 1973, in the framework of State Board for Civil Defence by the 112th resolution of the Government of Mongolia³, 1990 and under Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs after adopting the Law on Fire Safety, 1999 and since 2004 it has begun to work under present structure.

In 1980s, air-control system for surveying more than 10 millions of hectares forest area created in Arkhangai, Bulgan, Khuvsgul, Dornod, Khentii, Selenge aimags prone to forest fire and discovered fires at small area or in earlier stage that were effective and important for extinguishing. For that period state policy on steppe and forest firefighting has executed in accordance with Government resolutions and Minister orders.

The Law on Protection Steppe and Forest from Fire was adopted by the Parliament of Mongolia, 28 May, 1996. Regarding to this Law, the procedure on estimating steppe and forest fire damage, the procedures on mobilizing human and technical resources and fire warning and other documents like the list of required firefighting techniques and equipment were developed and adopted by the Government of Mongolia and have been pursued in daily activities.

State Emergency Commission, Aimag and Capital City Governors issue official tasks and orders on intensifying prevention activities, improving fire preparedness and preparing fire extinguishing machines and techniques considering nature and climate condition of specific year, dryness level of spring and autumn and risk to fire and take a complex measures to protect people, property and forest fund. All these measures give their effects.

Since 1990s, as a result of global warming, technological development, population growth and human careless activities damage to nature and ecology caused by disasters, especially by steppe and forest fire exceeds monetary measurement. The Government of Mongolia developed National Forest Program in connection with Development Program of decade to protect nature of Global Sustainable Development Program for XXI century, Rio de Janeiro, 1992 and provided it with provisions on steppe and forest firefighting and annually reviewed its results and implementation. Government Action Plan has reflected strengthening disaster prevention and preparedness capacity.

Nevertheless policy measures taken by Government on strengthening legal environment of steppe and forest firefighting, preventing from fire and improving nationwide management, the number of fires has not been reduced and damage to property, nature and ecology estimated in hundreds of billions MNT and highlights needs to reform firefighting.

Priority issues on strengthening steppe and forest firefighting

- 1. Improving the implementation of the responsibilities of aimag, capital city, soum, bag governors, entities and enterprises, and citizen identified by the Law on Forest Mongolia and implementing control mechanism and responsibility system.
- 2. Strengthening legal environment and determining scope of burned area properly taking into account fire situation assessment difficulties caused by distribution of tasks like extinguishing fires executes by emergency management service, identifying reason and guilty person by police and determining damage scope by governor's working group, preventing by ministry of nature and environment.
- Studying a possibility to cooperate with Global Fire Monitoring Center

² 435th resolution, 1968, Ministerial Council, the Peoples Republic of Mongolia.

³ 112th resolution of the Government of Mongolia

considering backwardness of nationwide determining steppe and forest fire scope and assessing direct and ecological damage of fires.

- 4. Studying a possibility to receive information and satellite images on fires at the territory of Mongolia from satellite data network of Siberian Center for Emercom, Russian Federation and to cooperate with international organizations on data processing using GIS system taking into account increases of fire scope and damage which depends on discovering steppe and forest fire at small area or in earlier stage (late receiving fire images from NOAA, Information and Computer Center, National Agency for Meteorology, Hydrology and Environmental Monitoring due to clouds).
- 5. Studying a possibility to implement a project to renew techniques and equipment with the support of international organizations and foreign countries considering that NEMA firefighters extinguish steppe and forest fires by manual equipments like water spray, blowing apparatus and their difficulties to get unreachable for human and techniques places.
- 6. Setting up traditional horseman-watch service at emergency management units with steppe and forest firefighting and preventing purpose.

Thank you for your attention!