

MONGOLIA'S OPEN BUDGET DATAQUEST 2022

INTRODUCTION

MoF prepared consolidated budget data for the period 2010-2021 according to BOOST methodology, published on the Budget data menu of the Citizens' Budget website on end of the October 2022.

With the support of the European Union and the World Bank, the Mongolian MoF and Unread Media jointly announced and organized the OPEN BUDGET 2022 Dataquest between Nov 10th to Dec 9th.

OBJECTIVES:

To announce the budget data from 2012-2022

Increase the citizen engagement using the data

STRUCTURE:

The Dataquest was held in two stages:

1. Participants submitted the initial proposal
2. 10 teams were shortlisted to the next round to further work on the general

PARTICIPANTS:

Participants had to be 18 years or older and were to form teams consisting of 3 to 5 members.



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DATAQUEST TIMELINE

| | ACTIVITY | DATE | DETAILS |
|----------------|---|----------------|--|
| STAGE 0 | Preparation | 1 Nov – 10 Nov | -Arrangement and preparation of guidance doc etc. |
| STAGE 1 | Registration | 11 Nov – 1 Dec | -Teams to submit a research paper to email |
| | Introduced budget data information and competition guidance | 24 Nov | +Public online mentor/ technical meeting held where industry experts provided instructions on how to analyze Mongolia's 2010 -2021 budget expenditure data |
| | Selection | 4 Dec | -12 submissions received that included the reasoning, significance and objective of the chosen topic and data types used 10 teams qualified for Stage 2 |
| STAGE 2 | Orientation training | 5 Dec | -Teams met with 2-3 experts /public mentors/ to get advice on ideas and creativity. |
| | Mentorship | 6 - 8 Dec | -Team members communicated virtually with a selected mentors advising on their research paper, including regarding the necessity of basing the finding on the analyses of relevant data. |
| | Competition day | 9 Dec | -Judges reviewed the research papers submitted based on evaluation criteria, selecting the top 3 teams. |



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DATAQUEST RESULTS WILL BE USED FOR

SUCCESSFUL, MEANINGFUL AND PROFITABLE OUTCOMES WILL BE USED FOR:

- ASSEMBLE THE RESEARCH WORKS FROM WINNING TEAMS IN THE RESEARCH LIBRARY AND PUBLISH THEM ON THE MOF WEBSITES TO PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.
- BUDGET DISCUSSIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS WITH THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES.
- TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FOR BUDGET FORMULATING AND ALLOCATING PROCESS.

MUCH TO OUR EXPECTATION FROM THE DATAQUEST 2022, THE PROJECT AND TOPICS FROM THE TEAMS PARTICIPATED ARE EITHER TOO BROAD OR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION ARE NOT FULLY DEFINED. FOR THIS REASON, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TAKE DATAQUEST PROJECTS INTO ACCOUNT AND INTEGRATE THEM INTO POLICY. NEXT TIME, WE SHOULD SET UP DATAQUEST COMPETITION BASED ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC OR ISSUE TO SOLVE.

THERE WERE ALSO MANY UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BELOW.



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LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CHALLENGES

1. A significant number of applicant did not submitted the initial project paper

2. The implementation of the communication and dissemination strategy did not result in expectations being met

3. Although public mentors did thoroughly explain concepts in orientation sessions, it is thought that participants needed more time to digest the dataset in order to fully utilize it

4. The time allocated for teams to work with private mentors was somewhat limited

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The submission periods be extended to a minimum of a month
- Events to be organized to raise the awareness and to attract the interest of general public
- Encourage individuals to form a team after the registration

- To reach wider audience by engaging public servants through their institutional emails, as well as forming alliances with universities, CSOs and other stakeholders

- To encourage the usage of budget data by providing capacity building materials such as self-paced online courses, guides, infographics, and explanatory videos, as well as a clear data dictionary and metadata.

- The time provided between stages will be longer to give more time to work on budget data
- To encourage teams/individuals to be more proactive in engaging private mentoring by scheduling 2-3 session at least.



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FOR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING ADVICE TO THOSE WHO WISH TO ORGANISE THE DATAQUEST:



THE DATAQUEST IS A GREAT WAY TO ENGAGE THE STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS AND SECTOR SPECIALIST AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO STUDY THE BUDGET DATA, PROPOSE THE POLICY RECOMMENDATION AND COMPETE WITH OTHER TEAMS. THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES, THE PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPAND THEIR VIEW ON THE BUDGET DATA AND WILL ACQUIRE NECESSARY SKILLSET TO PROCESS BIG DATA.



SUCH ACTIVITY NEEDS TO BE ORGANIZED NOT JUST ONCE BUT ON A REGULAR BASIS, THAT IT CREATES THE AWARENESS OF BUDGET DATA IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC, IMPROVE CITIZEN'S KNOWLEDGE ON THE FISCAL DATA AND ITS FORMULATION. FURTHERMORE, WE HOPES THAT THE CONTINUES EFFORT WILL THE RESULT IN CREATING THE POLICY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE FISCAL CHALLENGES FACED BY MOF.



WE HOPE OUR BRIEF ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DATAQUEST WILL BE USEFUL TO ESTABLISH YOUR OWN BUDGET COMPETITION AND LEARNING POINTS WILL HELP TO FACE THE CHALLENGES THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION MIGHT FACE.



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**