

**Professor Osoryn Shagdarsuren
(1929-2010)**



Professor Osoryn Shagdarsuren, an outstanding scientist and educator of Mongolia, passed away on February 3, 2010, at the age of 81, after an acute illness. O. Shagdarsuren was born in 1929 in Dund Khavtsal area of the Matadkhan Mountain in the Matad Soum of Dornod Aimag, in the family of a herdsman.

Having completed the school course, he went to Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia to be enrolled at the university. Being a first-year student, Shagdarsuren became interested in unique fauna of Mongolia, especially birds of prey. O. Shagdarsuren graduated from the National University of Mongolia in 1955 majoring in pedagogy of chemistry and biology. His academic performance was so good that he was appointed as a lecturer at the university upon his graduation. At about the same time, he started his research on Mongolian raptors and he was accepted into a graduate study at the Moscow State University in 1961. There he finished his candidate's (Ph.D) dissertation titled "*Raptors of Central and Southern Regions of Mongolia and Their Practical Importance*" under the supervision of Professor G. P. Dementev. This made him the first ornithologist of Mongolia with a doctorate degree. Since that time, his

research interest has evolved into studying game animals, wildlife ecology, the biology and ecology of pastoral livestock in Mongolia. As a result of his research on game animals and their management in Mongolia, he finished his Doctor of Science degree in 1974 at the Moscow State University. During the last decades of his career, his research interest was mainly on traditional pastoral animal husbandry and the biology and ecology of Mongolian breeds of livestock.

Dr. Shagdarsuren served as the director of the Institute of Biology (formerly the Institute of Natural Sciences) of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences from 1964 to 1982, the scientific secretary of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in from 1982 to 1983, and the president of the National University of Mongolia from 1983 to 1989. He became the Fellow of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in 1982. In 1997, the president of Mongolia awarded him with the title of Honorary Teacher of Mongolia. In 2002 he won the Government Award of Mongolia for his achievements and advancement in science.

His long and distinguished academic career helped develop biological thinking in Mongolia. It is hard to imagine what the science and education of biology would have been without Professor O. Shagdarsuren. Not just biology, the modern science as a whole has been practiced in Mongolia only for a few decades and a few distinguished pioneers have shaped the landscape of modern science in Mongolia. From those figures, Prof. Shagdarsuren was a major representative forging and witnessing the history of modern biology in Mongolia for decades. He was not only a figure in academic circles, but he was a statesman, science writer and essayist. His accomplishments are numerous and manifold and his results are documented in his scientific publications. He published several books on theoretical aspects of biology, ecology of mammals and birds, biology of livestock and pastoral animal husbandry, more than 200 articles, attended scientific conferences and gave seminars (e.g., Shagdarsuren, 1966, 1969a, b, c, 1970, 1971a, 1971b, 1980, 2004, 2005, 2007). We will not recount in detail what he has