Monday 20th April 2015

Seminar with documentary film show at NCCU, Taipei

12.00: Presentation by Prof. Eldon Li & Prof. Dipak R. Pant

12.10: Film projection (Into the Extreme Lands, in Search of Sustainability)

12.45: Introduction by Prof. Dipak R. Pant (Managing a local development project among a most marginal community in an extreme human habitat: An empirical account and some methodological analysis of "Mobile Community Training Project" conducted in the steppes and taiga of central-northern Mongolia, 2010-2012)

13.10: Floor discussions

13.30: Conclusion.

Summary of the seminar

Nomadic herders of the wild and harsh Mongolian steppes, taiga, desert and highlands are pushed to settle down in the urban peripheries, provincial and regional centres, even in the crossroads and makeshift trading posts near the mining sites - in search of basic public services, employment, training and cultural opportunities. The official economic policy seems to consider that it is un-avoidable for the nomadic herding communities to settle down and be “normal” if they have to be developed. Mongolian herding communities are caught in an ever accelerating process of de-nomadization (sedentarization).

A small team of European researchers in collaboration with a Mongolian NGO conducted a small experiment in the local development among the nomadic herding communities of steppes and taiga by promoting a local empowerment project with a nomadic character to serve effectively the nomadic herding citizenry and to preserve their nomadic life-style: Mobile Community Training Project, Ulziit soum, Arkahnagai aimag, Mongolia.