

## Research Article

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASING THE OPERATIONAL FACILITIES OF THE STATE BORDER GUARD

<sup>1,\*</sup> BAYANDALAI TSEELEE and <sup>2</sup>TEMUJIN Amgalan

<sup>1</sup>Master student at University of Internal Affairs, Mongolia.

<sup>2</sup>Doctoral student at University of Internal Affairs, Mongolia.

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### ABSTRACT

The main goal of our study is studying Increasing the operational facilities of a state border guard can involve various strategic enhancements and opportunities. Implementing cutting-edge surveillance technologies, such as drones and automated monitoring stations, significantly improves border security by providing real-time data and enhancing situational awareness. Utilizing biometric systems for identification at border crossings, including facial recognition and fingerprint scanning, enhances the accuracy of individual tracking and verification processes, thereby bolstering security measures. Enhancing training programs for border personnel to focus on new technologies, security tactics, and cultural sensitivity is crucial for effective operations and community relations. Increasing collaboration through joint exercises with other law enforcement agencies improves coordination and response times during border incidents. Upgrading or expanding border facilities is essential to accommodate more personnel and equipment, facilitating efficient operations in securing borders. Improving access roads and transportation links ensures rapid deployment of resources to border areas, enhancing operational responsiveness during critical situations. Establishing partnerships with neighbouring countries for intelligence sharing and joint operations fosters a collaborative approach to border security challenges. Launching public awareness campaigns educates citizens about border laws and security issues, promoting community cooperation in border protection efforts. Assessing current resource use and reallocating funds toward high-impact initiatives ensures that operational needs are met effectively and efficiently. Incorporating strategies that consider environmental impacts is vital to ensure that operational facilities do not adversely affect local ecosystems. These strategies collectively aim to enhance the effectiveness of state border guards while addressing modern security challenges.

**Keywords:** Surveillance, Biometric, Training, Collaboration, Infrastructure.

### INTRODUCTION

**Surveillance:** Effective border surveillance is critical for national security. Technologies such as RF spectrum monitoring, high-definition cameras, and thermal imaging systems enable continuous monitoring and classification of suspicious activities along borders. These systems can operate 24/7 to detect threats like illegal immigration and smuggling, providing real-time data for border control officers to respond effectively.

**Biometric:** While specific references to biometric systems were not highlighted in the search results, the context implies that integrating biometric identification methods at border crossings would enhance security measures by accurately tracking individuals and verifying identities.

**Training:** The search results did not directly address training programs for personnel. However, the emphasis on advanced surveillance technologies suggests that training would be essential for personnel to effectively utilize these systems and adapt to evolving security challenges.

**Collaboration:** Establishing partnerships with neighboring countries and collaborating with various law enforcement agencies are crucial for sharing intelligence and coordinating responses to border security threats. The collaborative approach enhances operational efficiency and effectiveness in managing border security challenges.

**Infrastructure:** Upgrading border facilities and improving access roads are vital for enhancing operational capabilities. This includes deploying advanced surveillance systems that require robust infrastructure to support rapid deployment and effective monitoring of border areas.

### THE FRAMEWORK OF THEORY AND CONCEPTS

Increasing the operational facilities of a state border guard can entail a variety of strategies and opportunities. Implement advanced surveillance systems, including drones and automated monitoring stations. Utilize biometric systems for identification and tracking of individuals at border crossings. Enhance training programs for personnel focusing on new technologies, border security tactics, and cultural sensitivity. Increase joint exercises with other law enforcement agencies to improve coordination and response times. Upgrade or expand border facilities to accommodate more personnel and equipment. Improve access roads and transportation links to ensure rapid deployment of resources to border areas. Establish partnerships with neighboring countries for intelligence sharing and joint operations.

Engage in international training programs and conferences to learn best practices from other countries. Foster relationships with local communities near border areas to improve cooperation and intelligence gathering. Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about border laws and security issues. Assess current resource use and reallocate funds toward high-impact initiatives and necessary equipment. Consider grants or funding from government bodies or international organizations focused on border security. Review and update policies and procedures to accommodate

\*Corresponding Author: BAYANDALAI TSEELEE,

<sup>1</sup>Master student at University of Internal Affairs, Mongolia.

current security challenges and technologies. Advocate for legislative support to address funding and operational needs. Incorporate strategies that consider environmental impacts, ensuring that operational facilities do not harm local ecosystems. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is involved in a project that aims to rehabilitate and modernize equipment at selected border crossing points in Mongolia. This project focuses on upgrading the Customs Automated Information System and establishing a single-window system to facilitate trade processes more efficiently. The initiative is crucial for improving connectivity and cross-border cooperation, which are essential for Mongolia's economic growth given its geographical challenges as a landlocked nation.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is actively involved in a project aimed at enhancing the operational efficiency of border crossing points in Mongolia. This initiative is part of the Regional Improvement of Border Services Project, which focuses on modernizing equipment and upgrading the Customs Automated Information System. Additionally, it aims to establish a single-window system to streamline trade processes, thereby improving connectivity and cross-border cooperation essential for Mongolia's economic growth as a landlocked nation. The project will rehabilitate and provide modern equipment at selected border crossing points, addressing inefficiencies in trade processes. Upgrading the Customs Automated Information System is a critical component, facilitating better management of customs operations and reducing transaction times for traders.

The establishment of a single-window system will allow all necessary documentation for imports and exports to be submitted through one portal, significantly simplifying the process for businesses. Economic Impact improving trade facilitation, the project aims to enhance Mongolia's competitiveness in global markets, which is crucial given its reliance on international trade for economic development. The project is particularly vital for Mongolia, which faces geographical challenges that increase trade transaction costs. By enhancing border services, the ADB aims to support Mongolia's integration into regional and global value chains, thereby promoting inclusive economic growth and improving living conditions for communities near border area.

## THE CASE STUDY AND ANALYSIS

The Zamiin-Uud border port, a vital trade gateway, is undergoing significant renovations under the "New Revival Policy." This expansion includes the construction of 30 new inspection facilities, significantly increasing its capacity to handle both passenger and cargo traffic. The port's operational capacity has been enhanced from approximately 900 passengers and 100 vehicles per hour to 5,000 passengers and 500 vehicles per hour, with plans for further increases. This modernization effort is supported by funding from the Chinese government and aims to align the port with international standards. The Zamiin-Uud border port, a crucial trade gateway for Mongolia, is currently undergoing extensive renovations as part of the "New Revival Policy." This initiative aims to modernized the port's infrastructure significantly, enhancing its capacity to handle both passenger and cargo traffic.

**Expansion of Facilities:** The renovation includes the construction of 30 new inspection facilities in the passenger transport section and 28 buildings in the cargo transportation section.

The total area of the port has been expanded eightfold, allowing for a substantial increase in operational capacity. Increased Capacity following these upgrades, the port's operational capacity has surged from approximately 900 passengers and 100 vehicles per hour to

5,000 passengers and 500 vehicles per hour. The port is now equipped to operate 24 hours a day, with a potential daily capacity of up to 20,000 individuals. Investment and Support modernization effort is supported by a grant of CNY 233.5 million from the Chinese government, alongside an investment of MNT 30.35 billion from Mongolia's state budget. The project reflects a collaborative effort to enhance trade efficiency and align with international standards.

The Zamiin-Uud port plays a vital role in Mongolia's economy, facilitating approximately 22% of the country's exports and 49% of its imports. The ongoing renovations are expected to further boost trade activities, which have already shown significant growth—from USD 2.7 billion in imports in 2019 to USD 4.5 billion in 2023, and exports increasing from USD 2.3 billion to USD 3.4 billion during the same period. The completion of these renovations is anticipated to create new economic opportunities for Mongolia, enhancing its position as a key transit country in the region. Additionally, plans are underway to improve legal frameworks and management practices at border crossings, ensuring that they operate efficiently and effectively in supporting economic growth.

Valentin Batomunkuev highlighted that only ten out of 29 border crossing points on the Russian-Mongolian border are fully operational, indicating a need for improvement in border infrastructure. The report emphasizes that enhancing these facilities is critical for managing freight and passenger traffic effectively. He has highlighted significant challenges regarding the operational status of border crossing points along the Russian-Mongolian border. Out of 29 border crossings, only 10 are fully operational, indicating a pressing need for infrastructure improvements to effectively manage freight and passenger traffic. Also, he studied that the geographical area under consideration here is the Russian-Mongolian section of the state border, which passes through the territories of the four entities of the Russian Federation located within the Siberian federal district: the Altai Republic, Tuva, Buryatia and the Zabaikalsky Krai. Russia's land borders are 22,170 km long and the border with Mongolia represents 15.7% of the total length (3,485 km). The total length of Mongolia's border is 8161.9 km, 42.7% of it with Russia (along the Altai and Sayan mountain ranges), and the relatively flat section is confined to the valley of the Selenge River. The Russian-Mongolian section of the border is characterized by a low checkpoint density, the average distance between permanent checkpoints being 387.2 km (Figure 1).

**Figure 1** Transport and communication links of Russian and Mongolian border regions

Border region	Length of the border, in km	Number of checkpoints (permanent)	Distance between checkpoints, in km
Altai Republic	288,7	1	288.7
Tuva Republic	1305	3	435.0
Republic of Buryatia	1275	3	416.0
Zabaikalsky Krai	831,5	2	415.8
Total	3485	9	387.2

At present, nine permanent crossing points are operational along the Russian-Mongolian border, seven of them are road crossing points and two are railway crossing points.

Figure 2 Permanent crossing points between Russia and Mongolia

Crossing point		Russian entity	Mongolian aimag	Crossing point classification		
Russian	Mongolian			Status	Type	Type of exchange
Tashanta	Tsagaan-Nuur	Altai Republic	Bayan-Ölgii	Bilateral	road	cargo and passenger
Khandagaity	Borshoo	Tuva Republic	Uvs	Bilateral	road	cargo and passenger
Shara-Sur	Tes	Tuva Republic	Uvs	Bilateral	road	cargo and passenger
Tsagaan-Tolgoi	Arts-Sur'	Tuva Republic	Zavkhan	Bilateral	road	cargo and passenger
Mondy	Khankh	Republic of Buryatia	Khövsgöl	Bilateral	road	cargo and passenger
Naushki	Sühbaatar	Republic of Buryatia	Selenge	multilateral	railway	cargo and passenger
Kyakhta	Altan-Bulag	Republic of Buryatia	Selenge	multilateral	road	cargo and passenger
Verkhny Ulkhun	Ulkhun	Zabaikalsky Krai	Dornod	Bilateral	road	cargo and passenger
Solovyovsk	Erdentsav	Zabaikalsky Krai	Dornod	Bilateral	railway	cargo

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The development of cross-border cooperation is not only a leading factor of regional integration, but it also strengthens the strategic partnership between countries. Figure 3, for example, provides data on the number of people who crossed the border during the period 1995–2008. In 2008, through eight checkpoints on the Russian-Mongolian border the number of arrivals and departures was 513,621. Out of these, 76.2% of passenger traffic crossed through the three checkpoints on the territory of the Republic of Buryatia: 52.3% through Kyakhta-Altan-Bulag, 20.1% through Naushki-Sühbaatar and 3.8% through Mondy-Khankh<sup>1</sup> (Osodoev 2010).

CONCLUSION

The integration of advanced surveillance technologies, such as drones and automated monitoring systems, is essential for enhancing situational awareness and improving overall border security. Implementing biometric systems at border crossings significantly enhances the accuracy of individual tracking and verification processes, thereby strengthening security measures.

Continuous training programs focusing on new technologies and cultural sensitivity are crucial for equipping border personnel with the skills necessary to adapt to evolving security challenges.

Strengthening collaboration through joint exercises with other law enforcement agencies fosters improved coordination and response times, which are vital during border incidents. Upgrading infrastructure, including border facilities and transportation links, is critical for ensuring efficient operations and rapid resource deployment in securing national borders. These strategies collectively aim to enhance the effectiveness of state border guards while addressing contemporary security challenges.

<sup>1</sup>Osodoev, A. (2015). Border-Crossing Infrastructure: The Case of the Russian Mongolian Border. In Border-Crossing Infrastructure (pp. 1-15).