



Invitation to the Press Conference

Genghis Khan and his Heirs. The Empire of the Mongols 16 June – 25 September 2005

**The press conference will be held on 15th June 2005 at 11.00 a.m. in the
Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.**

The year 2006 marks the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Mongolian empire. The exhibition 'Genghis Khan and his Heirs' presents the Mongolian empire at the height of its power. In addition, the exhibition will also treat its forerunner and successor dynasties. Genghis Khan's empire and that of his successors are part of a long tradition of nomadic states established along the Eurasian steppe, their range of influence extending from the Pacific Ocean to Central Europe. The Mongols were not only successful conquerors. They were also capable of controlling their huge empire through effective administrative structures and a great degree of religious and cultural tolerance.

The most recent archaeological discoveries, including impressive armor and weapons, illustrate the state and military system maintained by Genghis Khan and his successors. Focus is given to the excavation site of Qaraqorum, Genghis Khan's legendary capital, headed by German archaeologists. Spectacular finds shed new light on this culturally as well as economically cosmopolitan city.

Exceptional works of art from the collections of international museums (Paris, St. Petersburg, Taipei, Tokyo) represent the successor dynasties Yuan (China), Golden Horde (Russia) and Ilkhanids (Persia). The exhibition closes with two far-reaching topics of Mongolian history: the role of Buddhism since the 13th century, manifested in valuable examples of Buddhist art (manuscripts, paintings and bronzes), and Mongolia's varied history in the 20th century.

The exhibition will be opened for viewing by 10 a.m.. Please register by Fax (+49/228/9171-211). Extensive essays and photo material are available at the press office or www.bundeskunsthalle.de. Please direct all requests for interviews to this office.

We are looking forward to your visit.

Maja Majer-Wallat
Head of the Press Department