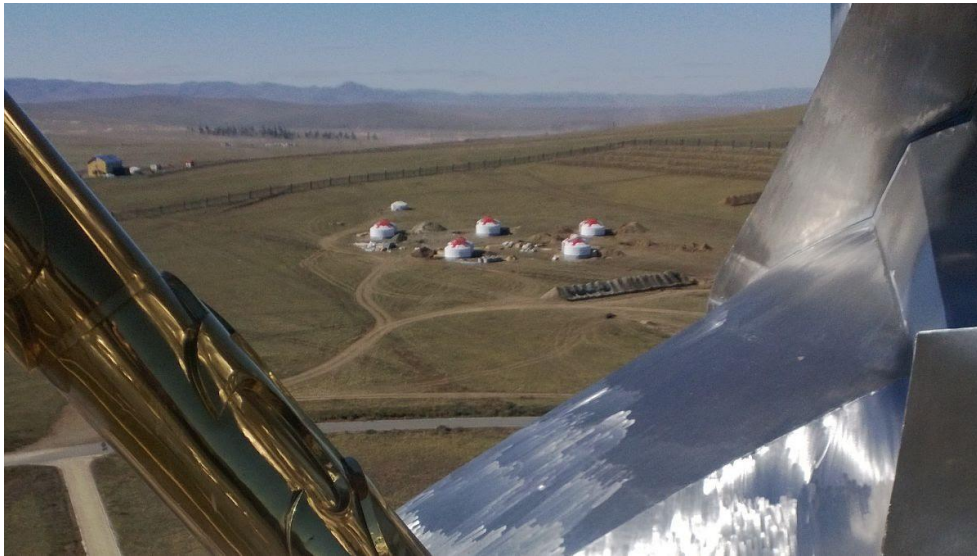


October 2024

Letter from the Executive Director



An autumn view of the Mongolian steppe from the [Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan](#).

Photo by Brian Hammer.

The gift of life is a gift of the opportunity for invention. That means creating something new for the benefit of other humans or the planet. And more personally, it means we have the opportunity to invent who we are relative to the values we hold dear.

Here at t2pRI, leadership of self and others is grounded in four guiding principles that make us human: Integrity, Responsibility, Compassion, and Forgiveness. As Doug Lennick noted during a recent conversation, putting these principles into action leads to a host of potentialities that further our growth and enhance all of our relationships:

- **Integrity** begets 'Trust';

- **Responsibility** begets 'Inspiration';
- **Compassion** begets 'Retention'; and
- **Forgiveness** begets 'Innovation'

I don't know about you, but sometimes it's hardest to put those principles into practice in the relationship I have with myself. We have ample opportunity to forget how to embody these principles when the internal conversations we have with ourselves is evermore framed by social-media images driven by algorithms.

But some of our oldest human proclivities remain as they seemingly always have been: We struggle to put the principles of integrity, responsibility, compassion and forgiveness into practice (or to find compassionate solutions) when we've decided we differ in irreconcilable ways from others.

As someone who has dedicated significant time to breaking down barriers to understanding between the U.S. and China, I know how challenging this can be.

But I also know I've been in work situations in which individuals in positions of power have used our very human weaknesses to divide and conquer a team under already trying circumstances. Certainly, we see this in other aspects of our lives too, especially in media and politics.

In Mongolia, the statue of revered, globally influential leader Genghis Khan (aka Chingghis Khaan), symbolizes his power and influence over the Mongolian people. It also reinforces how, under his leadership, Mongolian cultural innovations and practices of managing power and sharing ideas across difference continues to influence us today.

But you don't have to be Chingghis Khaan for your leadership to have meaning and impact.

As human as many of our challenges are, we are inspired by those who live with the best of intentions with integrity, responsibility, compassion, and

forgiveness, and create relationships that sustain values-based decision-making.

I'm personally inspired by our Future Leaders Academy's Mentorship Teams and their practices of mutual support that emphasize joy, active listening, and being true to oneself.

Thank you to Solo and Courtney, and to all of our Mentorship Teams, for providing us with stories of inspiration to live by.

If you or someone you know will be attending this year's MEA Conference on October 17th in St Paul, please stop by our booth. We'll be there to highlight the leadership purpose of the Future Leaders Academy program for 16-23 year olds.

For more on living our four principles, see *Moral Intelligence: Enhancing Business Performance and Leadership Success* (2005), by Doug Lennick and Fred Kiel, PhD.

Enjoy your October.

- Brian Hammer, PhD, Executive Director

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