

Taking part at lunch with Ambassador Ibragimov

On February 5th of this year I had the opportunity to dine with Ambassador Bakhtiyor Ibragimov, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations. The opportunity was enjoyable and educational. Prior to this event, I have not given to much thought to the need for studies involving international relations. Due to the focus of my major, I have not spent the majority of my time engaging in events concerning foreign affairs. I tend to focus my studies on the United States of America. However, this meeting has open my mind to the importance of international relations in all forms of government and especially to that of the United States. Considering the United States to be one of the largest powers in our world today, it is incredibly important to be well rounded in all foreign affairs and in the workings of International Relations to better understand how our nation functions. The choices of the United States have effects on the world at large and many choices ripple into even the smallest of nations. We live in a connected world. Many political scientists consider it to be flat, in that there are no real boarders preventing communication, trade, or foreign relations. Because of this, organizations like the United Nations are so important. I have come to realize the importance of foreign studies more through meeting with Ambassador Bakhtiyor Ibragimov. His work with the nations of central Asia is rather aw inspiring. After receiving independence due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the central Asian countries have been rather unknown to much of the world. However, the work that Ambassador Bakhtiyor Ibragimov has been engaged in has helped to escalate this region to a higher level of recognition and helped to restructure the region to a brighter future in the global playing field.

Ambassador Bakhtiyor Ibragimov, had a lot to say about his extensive experience in the political world. Now, after years in various positions he has been appointed as a Permanent Representative of his country to the United Nations. Along his path to become a Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Bakhtiyor Ibragimov spent a considerable number of years as Deputy Chief of mission at his country's Embassy in Seoul, Republic of Korea, since 2011, holding the rank of Political Counsellor. Working in South Korea under such a position is no easy endeavor. Having experience in the country myself I can attest to the character of Ambassador Ibragimov as one who is dedicated to the cause of advancement and progression of all people due to his success among the people of Korea. Korea being a nation that rose from a state of crippling colonialization and poverty to a modern symbol of capitalism and democracy, could contain many ideas for solutions

in central Asia. I had also a pleasure to talk to Ambassador Ibragimov a little bit in Korean, which he learned during his posting in Seoul.

In closing, I am very happy to of been able to set aside some time and be educated by those who have given so much of their lives to the bettering of the world around us. We live in a complex society of ever changing ideas and problems. People like Mr. Bakhtiyor Ibragimov help link the world together and create a better world. I only wish that I would have been able to stay longer and ask more questions and dive deeper into the world of the United Nations that Ambassador Ibragimov had experience with.

Kyle Warren, UVU student