

Ambassador of Tajikistan to the UN Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov at UVU



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Prior to my experience with the Utah Valley University (UVU) Office for Global Engagement, I had never even heard of the country Tajikistan. I was not familiar with its geographic location, nor did I have any understanding of their values. The UVU Office for Global Engagement provided students with the opportunity to hear from Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations. He traveled to Utah on October 5, 2018 to speak about his country and inform students of the needs of his people. Tajikistan is a small, landlocked country located in the heart of Central Asia. Tajikistan is located near Afghanistan and China and serves as a buffer zone between the war-torn parts of the Middle East and Central Asia. Tajikistan is known as “The Land of Mountains and Lakes” and is a home to over 1,450 lakes. Approximately 93% of Tajikistan’s terrain is mountains. Tajikistan is a country that is big on agriculture: it produces 20% of the country’s GDP and 70% of their citizens’ employment. Tajikistan has a population of nine million people, as of January 2018.

Their climate is similar to the climate here in Utah, hot summers and cold winters. The flag of Tajikistan is very symbolic. The red stripe in the top represents the unity of their nation, symbolizes the sun, and represents their victories. The white stripe in the middle represents purity, cotton, and their snowcapped mountains. In the middle of the white stripe is a crown and seven stars. The crown is symbolic of the Tajik people, the Persian word “Taj” translates as “crown” in English. The seven stars are a symbol of perfection, happiness, and remind the people to be virtuous. The green stripe along the bottom of the flag is representative of the spiritual meaning of Islam and also represents the beauty of the nature found across the country. Mr. Mahmaminov expressed his gratitude for the people of Utah and the values they hold, especially because the Tajik people share the same values. They believe that the family is the fundamental foundation to society. Mr. Mahmaminov gives special attention to the matters in the United Nations that will directly impact the family. Leadership of Tajikistan don’t want the youth of the country to suffer, so they spend a lot of money on border protection every year to ensure that the radicals and terrorists in Afghanistan, their neighboring country, don’t corrupt the youth or the family unit. ISIS recently killed three people from the West, so the Tajik government has looked to other countries, such as the United States, to help increase funds to secure their borders.

Tajikistan is a country that is growing exponentially. Their average GDP has been on a steady growth rate of 7% annually between 2010 and 2017. They expect to see the growth in their economy continue as they work to improve their country and build relations with other countries throughout the world. They are stable in their investments and have been actively working to improve their relations with Uzbekistan, another neighboring country. They have the best interests of their people in mind, which is truly remarkable. I enjoyed attending this speech and having the opportunity to hear from someone who has served as his country’s Ambassador to the United Nations for the past eight years. I thoroughly appreciated that Ambassador Mahmadsaminov took the time, considering the fact that he is a very important and busy person, to travel to Utah and speak to the students at UVU. I enjoyed learning so much about a country I was unfamiliar with from a man who probably knows everything about Tajikistan.

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