

Ambassador Mahmaminov hosted by Utah Valley University students

On October 5th, 2108, the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) hosted His Excellency, Mr. Mahmamin Mahmaminov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations (UN). It was a really great experience to learn more about the country of Tajikistan and what is going on there. It really caused me to reflect on and become more aware some of the issues we face that relate to what the country of Tajikistan is dealing with.



*Ambassador Mahmaminov is greeted before his presentation
by Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, UIMF mentor*

After introducing himself Ambassador Mahmaminov went on to say that during his decent into Utah he felt like he was “coming home”. He went on to explain that it was because the mountains reminded him of Tajikistan and how the two regions were so similar. It is similarities like this that makes it possible for Utah and Tajikistan to work together and help each other on common issues. Other than geographic similarities, the importance of family was mentioned, I loved that and was really impressed by that because that has always been such an important part of my life.

After some more small talk he gave his presentation. The presentation focused primarily on Sustainable Development but before he went into details on the plan he highlighted several aspects of his country. He started by going over the countries geography (very mountainous, located in central Asia, with almost 1,400 lakes), demographics (population 9 million), resources (hydropower, petroleum, uranium, mercury, brown coal, lead, and zinc), industries, values, cultures, as well as some of the large issues the country is currently dealing with.

Following the presentation, a couple students were given the opportunity to ask questions from distinguished guest. One student asked what the best thing was that could be done in order to help prevent the spread of terrorism and possibly eradicate it all together. The Ambassador Mahmaminov’s answer was quite simple and something I didn’t expect. He said that it is necessary to help fix economic problems by creating more jobs. By doing so, he said, terrorism would decrease. I found it very interesting and quite fitting with the over-all theme of the presentation as the new dam project in Tajikistan would allow for a lot of new work opportunities, which would in turn result in a decrease of terrorism.

I really enjoyed the experience I had to be able to attend the presentation. It was not only entertaining, but it was it brought awareness. I loved listening to someone who loves their country talk about and plan new ways that they can improve it even more.

Max Mortenson, UVU student