

Mr. Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov's presentation to UIMF at UVU on Tajikistan and Water Sustainability

On Friday, October 5, 2018, the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), and the UVU Center for Global Engagement had the honor to host the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations, His Excellency, Mr. Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov.



Ambassador Mahmadaminov presenting on Water Sustainability in Tajikistan

In the first special meeting with Ambassador Mahmadaminov, members of UIMF presented to VIP-guest what UIMF is and what we do to adopt and implement the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and more specifically three mountain targets. As a new member of UIMF, I had the opportunity to present to the Ambassador himself the conceptual vision of the student engaged learning model. During my presentation I touched base on not only the engaged learning UVU students participate in, but also the initiatives and projects UIMF have helped students at UVU accomplish. Since 2008 under the engaged learning model, UVU students,

traditional and non-traditional in particular, gain professional skills, experiences, and international recognition by addressing real-world sustainability problems of mountain communities at local, regional, and global levels with UVU faculty serving them as mentors. Because of the advocacy of the Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda of the U.N., UIMF is able to promote the state of Utah as one of the best models of SMD in not only North America, but globally as well. Since 2007, students at UVU have been making major contributions to the SMD advocacy globally by hosting the Women of the Mountains conferences, the leading forum in North America to promote gender under the U.N. SMD agenda.



(L to R): Megan Davis and Ambassador Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov

In the second meeting that was opened up to the general public, Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the U.N, Ambassador Mahmamin Mahmaminov talked on the current state of Tajikistan and the Water Initiative under the SDG #6 they have implemented in their country and promoted globally through the U.N. It was interesting for me to learn more about their country from a native's perspective. The majority of his lecture was focused around construction, water sustainability, their implementation of SDGs and mountain targets, and the use of hydroelectric dams in Tajikistan. Utah and Tajikistan share many commonalities in the realm of their geographies. Because of the similarities between the two, this was a very fitting presentation for UIMF members and me to listen to and get involved with. The Tajikistan's promotion of SDG #6 on water sustainability and mountain target 6.6 was a very intriguing proposal from my peer Hagen Isaacson to Ambassador Mahmaminov to listen to, especially because it is in the UIMF's best interest to work with and for the Permanent Mission of Tajikistan to continue to implement these SDG's and the model of Utah into their country.

For me, as a new member to UIMF, it was a very good experience to have a first-time interaction with a U.N. Ambassador and high-level political member. Not only did I form new connections, but I also gained new professional skills and a better understanding of UIMF's goals with a focus on the United Nations' SDGs implementations. The successful preparation and execution of the visit to UVU of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations, Ambassador Mahmamin Mahmaminov is an experience I will forever cherish and take with me into my next professional level endeavors.

Megan Davis, Director of Public Relations and Protocol Assistant, UIMF