



Presentation dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Utah Valley University hosted the First International Women of the Mountains Conference on March 8-9, 2007

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE



**March 8-9**

Hosted at Utah Valley State College  
Opening session March 8,  
9 a.m., UVSC Ragan Theater



Addressing vital issues of women and children in underdeveloped and often impoverished mountain regions of the world.

Conference topics:

Health of women and children	Human trafficking
Education	Women and leadership
Economic, family and gender	Family values, heritage and culture

Participating countries and organizations include: India, Nepal, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Bolivia, Ghana, Canada, U.S. State Department, John Hopkins University, International League for Human Rights.

For information, go to [www.WomenoftheMountains.org](http://www.WomenoftheMountains.org) or call UVSC International Affairs at (801) 863-8897.



**Student Contributions to  
Empowering Mountain Women  
(SDG5) and Sustainable Mountain  
Development (SDG6.6 and SDG15.1)  
by hosting International Women of  
the Mountains Conference 2007**

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**Presenters:**

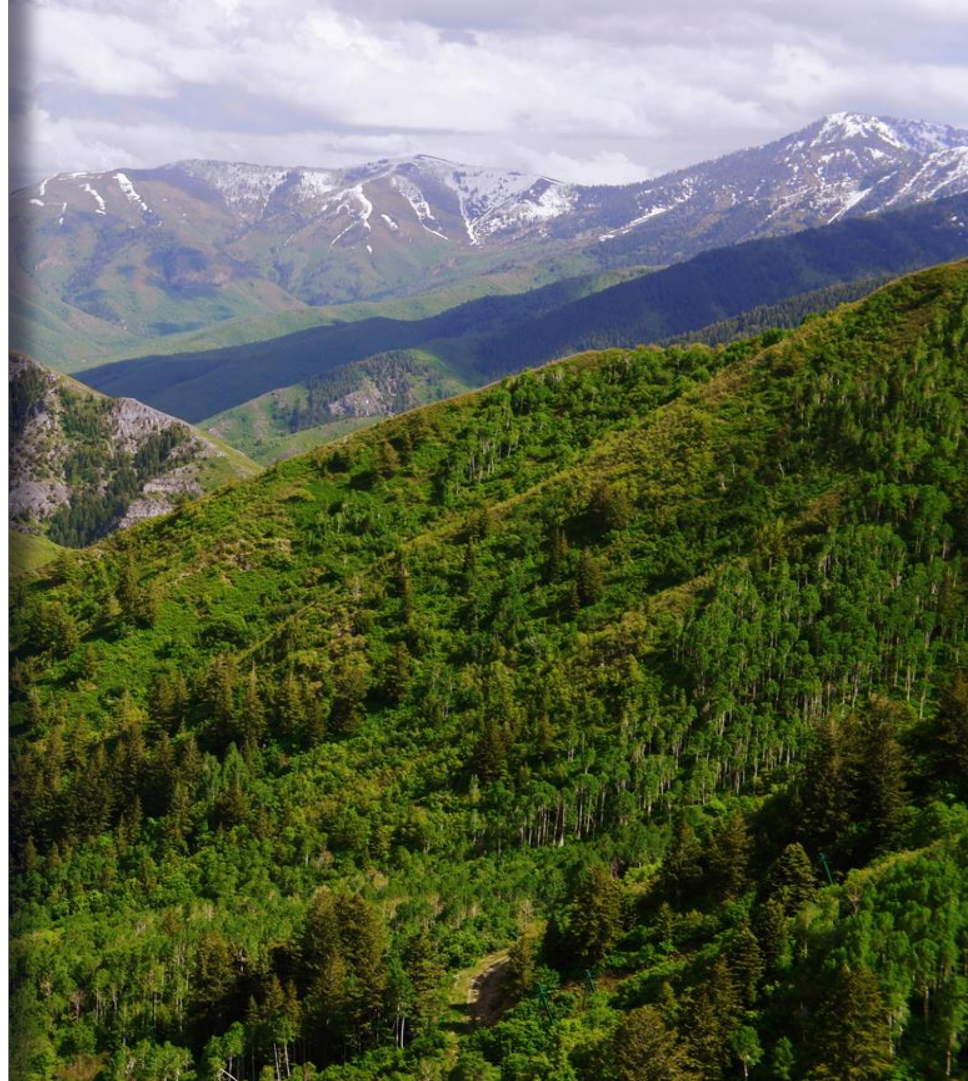
**Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition  
of student clubs at Utah Valley University**

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**One UN Hotel, Manhattan Room, 2nd Floor**

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**March 14, 2017**



# Utah Valley University Delegation at CSW 61



- 1) Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, Lecturer, History and Political Science Department, Advisor for Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), Utah Valley University (UVU);
- 2) Dr. Cholpon Akmatolieva, Adjunct Instructor, History and Political Science Department, UVU;
- 3) Kimberly Williamson, Administrative Support III, History and Political Science Department, UVU
- 4) Tony Medina, President of UIMF (2014-2016);
- 5) Christian Jensen, President of UIMF;
- 6) Regan Warner, Vice President, Sustainable Mountain development Club, UVU
- 7) Munkhbat Batmunkh, Vice President, UIMF
- 8) Meerim Abdrisaeva, UVU student



# Utah International Mountain Forum

*A Coalition of Student clubs at UVU*

[www.utahimf.org](http://www.utahimf.org)



UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM  
A COALITION OF STUDENT CLUBS AT  
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

## Who we are -

We are a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University created in 2011.

We focus on advocacy of gender and sustainable mountain development agendas of the United Nations in State of Utah and North America through student experiential learning.

## Our Purpose -

- 1) Raise awareness of mountain sustainability topics.
- 2) Bring the public into contact with international guests and foreign dignitaries.
- 3) Bring communities together to recognize their shared mountainous heritage.
- 4) Offer students a chance to make connection that will benefit them as they move into their careers.



# Utah Valley University Partnership with the United Nations



## Utah Valley University:

- 1) Became a member of the Mountain Partnership under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2006 ([www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org));
- 2) Hosts International Women of the Mountain Conferences as major grassroots event in North America to promote gender and sustainable mountain development (SMD) agendas of the United Nations since 2007





# International Women of the Mountains Conferences

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The main goal of the conferences is to mobilize communities in North America to contribute to the promotion of gender and sustainable development among mountain communities worldwide



[www.womenofthemountains.org](http://www.womenofthemountains.org)



## The First International Conference “Women of the Mountains:”

- Was hosted on March 8th-10th, 2007 by UVU together with the Kyrgyz National Center for Development of Mountain Regions;
- Was held under the auspice of the United Nations, the World Bank and the United States Department of State;
- Gathered more than 110 experts from 21 mountainous states worldwide and 9 Rocky Mountain states of the Northern America.



# The First International Women of the Mountains Conference Philosophy



- To understand the need to share our experiences in overcoming challenges caused by nature, by remoteness and by high altitude – all of which afflict mountain communities, families and women and contribute to poverty, terrorism, etc.
- To agree that it is better to exchange experiences as equal partners and human-beings rather than make attempts to explain our problems based on differences along ethnic, religious, etc. lines.







## The First International Women of the Mountains Conference:



- Has created a regional network of institutions in North America to contribute to the promotion of gender and SMD globally;
- Adopted the final document “The Orem Declaration of Mountain Women,” as the roadmap for involvement of North American communities in gender and SMD activities globally and commitment to gather it with alternating sites between Utah and different mountain nations depending on funding;
- Was funded from local sources as contribution to UN gender and SMD agendas;
- [www.womenofthemountains.org](http://www.womenofthemountains.org)



2009 UN Secretary General's Report on SMD highlighted Utah Valley University for hosting the conference, as contribution to the gender and SMD agenda, the only University in North America



Sixty-fourth session  
Item 55 (h) of the provisional agenda  
Sustainable development

**Sustainable mountain development**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

*Summary*

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 62/196, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-fourth session on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions. The report describes the status of sustainable mountain development at the national and international levels, including an overall analysis of the challenges that lie ahead, and provides suggestions for consideration by the Assembly as to how to continue to promote and effectively sustain development in mountain regions around the world within the existing policy context, including chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") and the Millennium Development Goals.

\* \* \*

58. In response to the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women (the final document of The Women of the Mountains Conference, 2007, organized by Utah Valley University and the Utah-Russia Institute in Orem, Utah, United States of America), several institutions in the Rocky Mountain States of North America established a regional network on sustainable mountain development and gender issues. This led to exchanges of state legislatures/parliaments between Rocky Mountain States and mountain nations in Central Asia, including support of sales by Vista 360, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of hand-made local handicrafts from the mountains of Central Asia in the United States and the funding of cultural exchanges.

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**UVU students contributed to the report on sustainable mountain development for the U.N. conference RIO+20 in June 2012**

## The Second International Women of the Mountain Conference:



- Was gathered at UVU in March 2012;
- Strengthened regional approach in the promotion of gender issues;
- Encouraged membership in the Mountain Partnership and Mountain Forum;
- Engaged students in hosting and providing protocol for the event;



# The Second International Women of the Mountain Conference:

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- Involved youth, through a workshop for high-school students from Utah, and creation of a students' organizing committee;
- Was funded from local sources as contribution to UN gender and SMD agendas;
- [www.womenofthemountains.org](http://www.womenofthemountains.org)





UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Mountain Partnership

MOFEMI

**I Conferencia Internacional Mujer de los Andes**

*"Desarrollo Sostenible de los Andes y Empoderamiento de la Mujer Andina del Perú"*

**Ingreso: Libre**

Lugar: Auditorium de la Municipalidad Provincial de Puno

Fecha: 14 de junio del 2012  
Hora: 8:30am - 1:00pm.

Auspician:

MRE

## The Third International Women of the Mountain Conference

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- For the first time was held abroad in Puno, Peru in June 2012;
- Discussed pressing issues concerning mountain families, women and communities in the Andean regions of Peru and surrounding countries;
- Was implemented as service learning project by UVU and funded from local sources as contribution to UN gender and SMD agendas;
- [www.womenofthemountains.org](http://www.womenofthemountains.org)

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# The Third International Women of the Mountain Conference:

Implemented a number of decisions of the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women, which aimed to:

- Strengthen the regional alliances in the promotion of gender issues globally;
- Encourage membership in the UN Mountain Partnership;
- Alternate convention sites between Utah and the other mountainous countries around the world, with the aim of identifying and resolving problems which women in mountainous regions face.





## The Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference:

- Held under the umbrella of the Mountain Partnership affiliated to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN;
- For the first time was hosted by the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU, as experiential learning initiative;
- Was hosted at UVU on October 7-9, 2015

Mountain Partnership THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS

# WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS

CONFERENCE

**BRINGING AWARENESS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND GENDER ISSUES FOR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES GLOBALLY**

7-9 OCTOBER 2015  
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY • OREM, UTAH

Hosted by the Utah International Mountain Forum  
Contact: [womenom2015@uvu.edu](mailto:womenom2015@uvu.edu)

THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE CONSERVATION. CULTURE. COMMUNITY. AMERICAN COUNCILS ON THE MOUNTAINS LEADERSHIP GRUPPMAN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC INSTITUTE

HELP International OREM UNIVERSITY TAIRA UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY VISTA 360 HINCKLEY INSTITUTE

[www.utahimf.org](http://www.utahimf.org) | [www.womenofthemountains.org](http://www.womenofthemountains.org)

Poster Designed by the Hinckley Institute of Politics, University of Utah



## The Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference:



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- Continued the traditions of previous conferences to promote gender and SMD agendas of the UN in State of Utah and North America;
- Contributed to the implementation of mountain targets among Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations in State of Utah and North America;
- Implemented a decisions of the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women about encouraging contributions from North American communities to the promotion and implementation of gender and SMD agendas of the UN globally;
- Sustained Utah Valley University's approach on student "Community Engaged Learning" through promotion of gender and SMD activities on local, regional and global levels;
- Was funded from local sources as contribution to the promotion of gender and SMD agendas of the United Nations;
- [www.womenofthemountains.org](http://www.womenofthemountains.org)





2016 UN Secretary General's Report on SMD featured for the first time the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU for:

- Hosting the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference;
- Contributing for implementation of SDG #5 on Gender, SDG # 6 and SDG #15



Seventy-first session  
Item 19 (j) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Sustainable development**

**Sustainable mountain development  
Report of the Secretary-General**

*Summary*

Mountain and upland areas have a universal importance: they provide water and other global goods and services to humanity. However, mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to climate change, extreme weather events and land degradation and recover slowly from disasters and shocks. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States pledged to leave no one behind and stressed the importance of reaching those furthest behind first. Mountain communities in developing countries are particularly vulnerable and require special attention, given that one in three people in those areas is at risk of hunger and malnutrition.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets relating to mountains as well as to poverty, hunger, sustainable agriculture, climate change and gender equality, there is a need to prioritize mountain areas by focusing on the specific challenges they face and the opportunities they provide. Mountain-specific policies and the inclusion of mountain communities in decision-making processes and capacity development can improve the livelihoods of communities while also conserving and restoring mountain ecosystems. In particular, efforts should be made to increase scientific knowledge of mountains and collect disaggregated data for sound analysis, policy advice and, ultimately, for change.

39. The Utah International Mountain Forum hosted the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference at Utah Valley University in October 2015 to address the critical issues faced by women and children living in mountainous regions across the globe and provide a forum to discuss gender equality. The outcome document contained the following observations:<sup>3</sup>

- (a) Goal 5 could be achieved through strong support for improving women's rights and welfare, including women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;
- (b) Successful implementation of target 6.6 could be achieved by supporting the vital role that women play in the protection of the environment and water sources, particularly as custodians of traditional knowledge that builds resilience and allows for adaptation to climate change;
- (c) With respect to target 15.1, women play a critical role in joint planning as promoters of innovation, development and cooperation for common benefit.

\* A/71/158.

3 "The final document of the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference". Available from [www.womenofthemountains.org/images/2015/16-03-31-WOMC-Finalized.pdf](http://www.womenofthemountains.org/images/2015/16-03-31-WOMC-Finalized.pdf).



Visit us at  
our website

www.Utahimf.org

