

How I co-hosted Ambassador Mahmaminov at UVU through student engaged learning



Ambassador Mahmaminov and Laila Mitchell (left to right)

Mahmaminov, The Permanent Representative (PR) of Tajikistan to the United Nations (UN), came to Utah Valley University (UVU) to meet with students and club members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF). As a current student majoring in National Security at UVU, I had the opportunity to participate in co-hosting this event through student engaged learning. The meeting of UIMF members with distinguished guest took place on Friday, October 5th 2018. I was able to provide a live stream on the Utah International Mountain Forum Facebook page, followed up with a post which provides accessibility to those who wish to review the meetings.

The first of the two meetings consisted of student club members of the UIMF informing specifics of the Advocacy of Mountain Targets high level Political Forum, including personal efforts or achievements made in contributing to the promotion of mountain targets, which helps mountain communities to be provided with a sustainable development. Sam Elzinga, Hagen

Isaacson, Meghan Davis, Mark Driggs, and Victoria Bachrii shared how they've seen these efforts impact the State of Utah, North America and the UN. These statements were followed by Marcia Barlow (representative of United Families International) and Wendy Wixom (representative of the International Organization of the Family) and their experiences of global impact through involvement in these organizations.



Laila Mitchell streaming live on UIMF Facebook page (far right)

After their remarks, Ambassador Mahmaminov opened to the audience for questions. Abeir Isawi, a student of Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, took advantage of this opportunity. As a student specializing in the study of the country Tajikistan, she asked Mahmaminov his stance on the dam currently being built and how he believes this structure will impact the economy and country as a whole.

During the major gathering at UVU, Ambassador Mahmaminov opened up his lecture on Tajikistan and emphasized the importance of maintaining water stability. He also stressed the importance of maintaining a relation with neighboring countries by sharing resources and collaborating efforts on maintaining power stations. Mahmaminov expressed his feelings of astonishment when he arrived in Utah because of its geographical features being extremely similar

to Tajikistan's. The similarity these mountainous regions share, allows UIMF to provide models of sustainable mountain development which are relevant and beneficial to countries across the worlds such as Tajikistan.

Being involved in the meeting with Ambassador Mahmamin Mahmaminov at UVU has provided me with an understanding on UIMF focus and SDG goals which I can become involved in. It also gave me a realization how my work and involvement in UIMF activities provides me with the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of lives of many people in mountain areas and to be recognized at global levels.

Laila Mitchell, Member, UIMF