

The Ambassador of Hungary to USA, Dr. Szabo at UVU



The presentation by the Hungarian Ambassador, Dr. László Szabó, to the students at Utah Valley University in Orem Utah on November 6, 2018, was about the establishment and progress of Hungary and the Hungarian people over time. One of my initial reactions to the presentation was the relationship and attachment that Szabo has to Hungary. The Ambassador expresses pride, love, in what Hungary has done and what it is able to do. The love for his country made Szabo leave his job as a CEO for a fortune 500 company in the pharmaceutical industry to take up a job with the government that paid one-sixth less than his salary and required him to work twice as hard. With pride and gratification, the Ambassador demonstrates how, through his position, he has helped Hungary advance its efforts of establishing and sustaining a social, political, and economic environment desired by all Hungarians. At the ministry of foreign affairs, the Ambassador explains how he effectively took the role of transitioning the ministry's exports and finances and combined the resources that the Hungarian government had amassed in four years to create the most successful promotional agencies. Of all the interesting facts that the Ambassador gave about Hungary in the presentation, I think the most fascinating one is the assertion that Hungarians are

among the most innovative people in the world. To prove his point, Szabo starts by demonstrating how Prezi is a Hungarian invention, and how very many other inventions by Hungarians are thought to be American. In a comic way, Szabo points out that Hollywood was invented by Hungarians. To substantiate his statement, he mentions that Paramount was founded by a Hungarian named Adolph Zukor. The Ambassador goes ahead to demonstrate how there are many movie directors with Hungarian roots in the American movie industry. Other than the characters and capabilities of the Hungarian people, the Ambassador also promotes how Hungarians have progressed as a nation. He provided a candid description of how the Hungarian GDP is growing impressively, how the rate of unemployment has constantly dropped, how the country is religiously established, and the country's advanced healthcare systems, and the country's cultural heritage.

In my opinion, a large portion of the information that the Ambassador presented was relevant and a true reflection of the situations in Hungary. However, I tend to feel that the Ambassador was biased and exaggerating in some parts of his presentation. Many times, he fails to give satisfying reasons for his claims, as though the audience should just accept the claims because they are told by the Ambassador, who is supposed to know better about his country. For example, as one individual from the audience questions, most of what the United States has read about the Hungary government in the past 3-4 years has been very negative. According to the person in the audience, Hungary is often associated with terms such as "anti-constitutionalism", "euro-skeptic", and "extremism." For these reasons, there is a notion that, while most of what the ambassador is saying is true, some of his assertions are an exaggeration of the situation in Hungary.

Listening to the presentation of VIP guest has enriched my experience on interesting facts about Hungary and the Hungarian people that I had earlier not known. It was captivating to learn that some of the greatest and most important innovations of all times have connections to Hungary. As the Ambassador claims, major inventions such as the electric engine, the telephone, Plasma TVs, the color TV, digital computing, the Rubik's Cube, and the Microsoft Word and Excel. For this reason, the Ambassador describes Hungary to be having the highest number of inventions per capita. Other than the Hungarians' invention capabilities, I also learned about the country's commitment to improving the livelihood of its citizens through efforts such as attracting foreign investment, strengthening bilateral relations, and developing domestic infrastructure and social amenities.

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