

United Nations 9th International Mountain Day At UVU



UIMF President Samuel Elzinga (L) addresses attendees at the 2018 UN International Mountain Day at Utah Valley University.

5 December 2018 Utah Valley University's premier student club for international engagement, the Utah International Mountain Forum and Foreign Affairs Club, hosted the United Nations International Mountain Day for the ninth time. The United Nations organizes these events in order to promote its sustainable mountain development goals for Utah and for North America more generally. Hosting the event at Utah Valley University in conjunction with the group of student clubs gives these student clubs a prestigious platform to highlight student, school, and community involvement in working toward these development goals.

Holding to Utah Valley University's focus on engaged learning through student involvement, the event's proceedings were run by members of the UIMF club. The event was facilitated by UIMF student members, spearheaded by Mr. Hagen Isaackson, introducing the event speakers and presenting them with certificates from the Food and Agriculture Organization

of the United Nations. Many UIMF student members were also awarded certificates of contribution.

UIMF President Samuel Elzinga delivered the day's opening remarks. He commented on how much the UIMF and Foreign Affairs clubs have accomplished over the course of the 2018 school year, from things such as students presenting at the UN's High Level Political Forum, to hosting foreign diplomats and operating information booths on Utah Valley University campus.

Following Mr. Elzinga's remarks event attendees heard from distinguished guest speakers Dr. Baldomero Lago (CIO/Vice Rector of the UVU Office of Global Engagement), Orem City Mayor Richard Brunst, Dr. Ross Butler (Main Representative at the UN Russian Academy of Natural Sciences), and Mrs. Wendy Jyang (President of the Utah China Friendship Improvement NGO). The speakers presented on topics of paramount importance in both achieving and advocating for sustainable development. Topics covered included the importance of mountains, the relevance of student involvement, and the contributions of non-governmental organizations in working towards sustainable development.

Those listening gained a deeper appreciation for the work the UN, NGOs, and Utah Valley University do in preserving the environment and working to raise public awareness about important issues. For the student members of the UIMF and Foreign Affairs clubs, the event was a rewarding capstone to a semester of hard work and student engagement.

Joseph Lloyd, Director of Global Operations, UIMF/Foreign Affairs