

Kurmanbek Dyikanbaev speaks about Kyrgyzstan at UVU



Mr. Dyikanbaev speaks during class on Central Asia at UVU

On August 25, 2019, Mr Kurmanbek Dyikanbaev visited our class on Central Asia. He made his major presentation about the current reforms in Kyrgyzstan, political trends in his country and Kyrgyzstan's sustainable development. Meeting with us was part of the visit to Utah for the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament of Kyrgyzstan). It was a great opportunity for me to hear about Mr. Kurmanbek Dyikanbaev's unique experience. He lives in a part of world that tries to completely banish the traditional authoritarian regime. He spoke also about his life during two different times – the Soviet rule and current one, when the two different political ideologies existed in the country. I can't imagine being a Kyrgyzstani when the Soviet Union existed, since all my rights is being stripped by the authoritarian leaders. Back those times, Kyrgyzstan was part of the most oppressive place in the world.

The presentation which Mr. Dyikanbaev made in Russian before our class, our teacher Dr. Abdrisaev translated it into English. Mr. Dyikanbaev mentioned the role of Kyrgyzstan in the Soviet Union, and how since independence the elected officials made many difficult decisions to protect the country's interest through economic and political reforms. Mr. Dyikanbaev brought an interesting point when he talked about the decentralization and decision making in Kyrgyzstan in comparison with the USSR. Mr. Dyikanbaev spoke about his experience as veterinarian by education, and his contribution to decentralization in the country and how a new system that justifies rights of local communities is critical, especially in his country with entitled municipalities. Mr. Dyikanbaev was able to present how reforms with local administrations effectively reshaped the governmental system in Kyrgyzstan. His perspective presented quite a compelling story and taught us in the audience many important lessons.

Cory Levin, UVU Student