

The 10th International Mountain Day Celebration at Utah Valley University



The 10th Annual Utah International Mountain Forum Day Event on December second of 2019 was an insightful walkthrough of both the Utah International Mountain Forum as a global force for activism, advocacy, and change, and an insightful guide as to how UIMF is positioning itself and mountain communities to succeed both in the 2020's and beyond.



Mr. Uday Teki speaks about his NGOs focus on mountain communities worldwide

One speaker whose presentation was unusually insightful was Mr. Uday Teki. His topic, one that he stated and demonstrated was close to his heart, was why sustainable ecosystems matter for mountain communities. Mr. Teki attended multiple schools in northern India and during his time there, was able to work with the United Nations to improve living conditions for people in those places through his working on improving and building sustainable ecosystems.

Mr. Teki's work has focused on a very simple, but vital goal: according to him, if lower to mid-size mountain communities can improve their ecosystems through goal-setting and keeping, they will be a driving force for continuing UN development around the globe. In addition to being a force for good within the UN, said communities will improve the quality of life for their residents by being able to depend on their local ecosystems for fundamental human necessities (such as food and water). This in turn will raise the standard of living in their communities, generating impetus for the aforementioned work on and with the goals of the United Nations.



Lacey Meyer speaks about rural Utah development

Ms. Lacey Meyer was another speaker that honed in on rural communities. Ms. Meyer began by demonstrating how and why rural Utah communities, specifically, are mired in an economic slump (her reasoning being that the economies of these communities are primarily

centered around natural energy resource extraction, an international industry which is suffering from both low prices and lack of demand).

Ms. Meyer's three-pronged approach to solving this issue centers around educating the general populace of rural Utah, partnering with leaders and industries in these areas, and strengthening their economies. Her proposal suggests that urban Utah's technology sector must partner with the energy dependent rural areas to stimulate economic productivity through partnership, both economically and educationally. Her proposal demands a shift toward more thoroughly educating rural areas in STEM fields. Through these initiatives, rural Utah's future will be poised with success and development will be hastened.

Mr. Teki and Ms. Meyer's proposals and work merely scratch the surface of the work the Utah International Mountain Forum has accomplished over the past decade. This organization's work has been recognized by the Secretary General of the United Nations, a feat unparalleled by many university organizations. UIMF has a bright future in continuing and developing their work toward uplifting rural mountain communities both in and out of Utah.

James Uhl, UVU student