

## My presentation during the International Mountain Day celebration at Utah Valley University



On December 1, 2021, the International Mountain Day event was held at Utah Valley University as an online conference between representatives of Utah and Osh Technological University. The event was hosted by the students of Utah Valley University and Alitha Thompson was the moderator of the International Mountain Day celebration. Alitha is the vice President of the Utah International Mountain Forum, which is a coalition of student clubs at UVU. She coordinated activities of her student team by using student engaged learning method when students work on a particular problem as a group and teachers help them as mentors.

While there were many participants at the event, we got to know each other already, because we started preparations for this event several months ago by having online zoom meetings between Osh city in Kyrgyzstan and Orem city in Utah, USA. Therefore, it was easy for us to introduce our city's and our country's at the beginning of the event, and after that we shared information about our nature and mountains and how they are related to tourism both in Kyrgyzstan and in Utah.



***Tatiana Panfilenko, OshTU faculty, speaks during the event***

Tatiana Panfilenko spoke from our university as a teacher and she stated that tourism is important for sustainable development in the Kyrgyz Republic. Then as my mentor, she introduced me to everyone.



***Baiei Abibillaev presents during the event***

Then I talked about the nature and mountains of Kyrgyzstan, as well as about main tourist places. I mentioned such tourist attractions as the Pobeda (Victory) peak, Lake Issyk-Kul, as well as the Arslanbob, famous for its walnuts, and Sary-Chelek reserves and much more. I talked also about the influence of the economy on tourism and about the affairs associated

with this, what the Kyrgyz Republic does for the development of tourism, and about what cases and projects are managed in Osh city and by our Osh Technological University.



***Alitha Thompson as representative of Utah Valley University, moderates the event***

Many students spoke on behalf of the student coalition and in addition to Alitha Thompson I would like to mention here Dallas Karen, Cody Conklin, Camila Pendleton and others. They also represented their university and their native places in the United States, as well as introduced us to their nature and tourist attractions.



***Dr. Rusty Butler speaks about tourism in Utah***

Dr. Ross (Rusty) Butler, as a keynote speaker also made his presentation and told us about the beauties of the states of Utah and its tourist attractions. He talked about Utah's beautiful mountains, ski resorts, and other places that are visited by so many tourists every year. We really liked the sights of Utah and he also told us that he was in Kyrgyzstan with his family and that he was also delighted with our nature.



***Screenshot of our event:***

At the end of the event, Dallas Karen, President of the coalition of student clubs at UVU announced the names of students and teachers and everyone both in Utah and in Kyrgyzstan who contributed to the International Mountain Day celebration and the sustainable Mountain Development promotion during 2021.

I liked this activity, which encouraged people to do more to promote both tourism and sustainable development both in Utah and Kyrgyzstan. This was also a good experience for our students and faculty at OshTU to learn about student engaged learning methods and make our own contributions to it.

***Baiei Abibillaev, student OshTU***