

Meeting with Aida Kasymalieva, the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations



UIMF Delegation meeting with Aida Kasymalieva, the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

“Wisdom of Royal Glory (Kutadgu Bilig)” by Yusuf Khas Hajib is a remarkable book written in 1069 as a mirror for princes, offering advice on how to rule. The principles amidst the pages of the book emphasize the duality of worldly wisdom and religious values in political societies. Both paths acknowledge the other and, according to Yusuf Khas Hajib’s political theories, are needed. I have enjoyed studying this text personally and



Alitha Thompson presenting to Ambassador Kasymalieva

I had the privilege of presenting a copy of *Wisdom of Royal Glory (Kutadgu Bilig)* to the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations, Ambassador Kasymalieva at a meeting with her and our delegation at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Presenting this book was an opportunity to express gratitude for the political theories that came from ancient Central Asia, spanning the region which modernly includes the Kyrgyz Republic. It was also an opportunity to

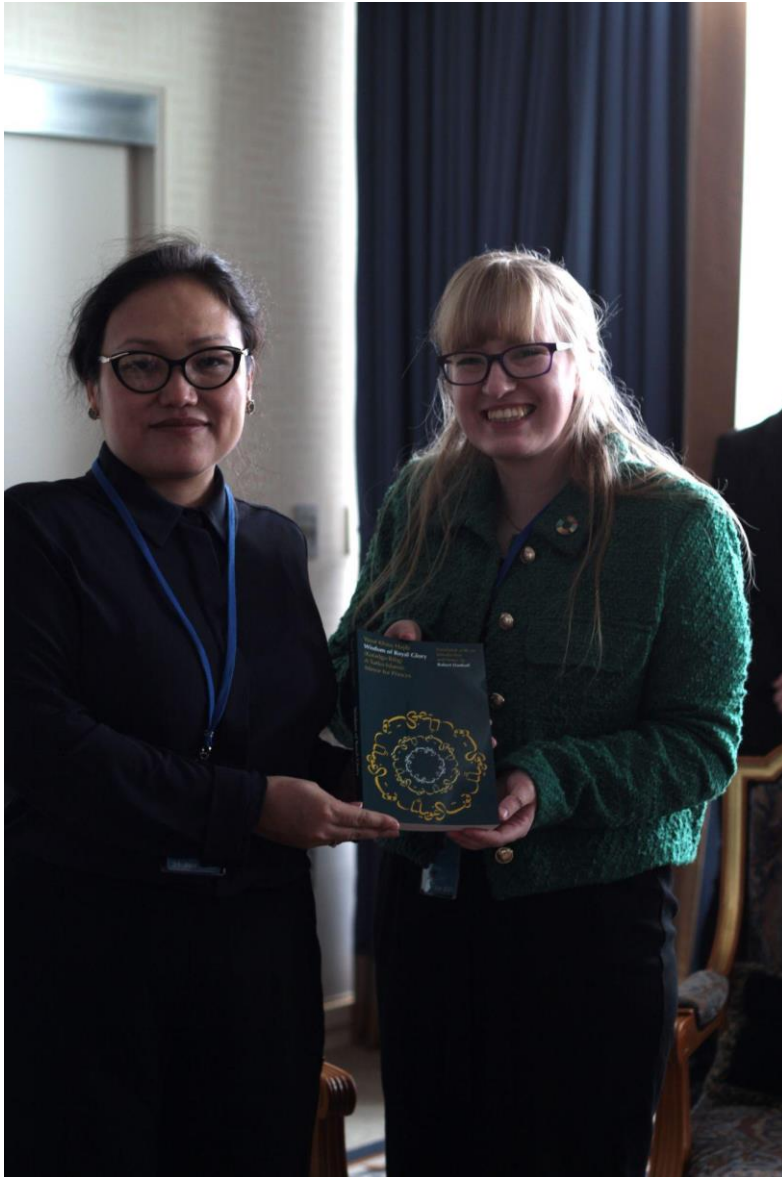
recognize how my education has benefitted from being exposed to these concepts and ideas that helped and will continue to help me engage with my government structure.



Rachel Welker and Tristin Juarez-Smith discuss ties between the Kyrgyz Republic and Utah Valley University with Ambassador Kasymalieva

Ambassador Kasymalieva was very gracious as she accepted the gifts and listened to how each of the student leaders had benefitted from our continued relationship with the Kyrgyz Republic. The student-engaged learning model has allowed us to step into organizational support roles and accomplish tasks that have given us hands-on experience working with dignitaries and carrying out several service projects. Alitha Thompson and Tristin Juarez-Smith, the UIMF President and Rotary President, also conversed with Ambassador Kasymalieva about their experiences and shared a copy of the collaborations that Utah Valley University and the Kyrgyz Republic have had

over several years. Getting to meet with Ambassador Kasymalieva was a highlight of the trip.



Ambassador Kasymalieva accepting a copy of “Wisdom of Royal Glory (Kutadgu Bilig)”

- Rachel Welker, UIMF Delegation Member