

Reflecting on the Impactful Visit of H.E. Mr. Csaba Korosi: A Catalyst for Change and Inspiration

The visit of H.E. Mr. Csaba Korosi, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, to Utah Valley University, on May 15, 2023, was an exceptional event that left a lasting impression on both faculty and students alike. The visit not only provided a unique opportunity for engagement and dialogue but also shed light on crucial topics such as crisis management, transformation of the world, and the significance of student engagement in addressing global challenges.



(President of Utah Valley University Astrid Tuminez speaks with the President of General Assembly, H.E. Csaba Korosi)

The visit of the dignitary was inspired by his friendship with Dr. Rusty Butler who is a mentor in the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University with the main goal to promote sustainable mountain development not only in Utah but globally. UIMF heavily focuses on their SEL (student engaged learning) model where students strive to solve real world problems as a group under the mentorship of their professors.

As part of his visit, hosted by UIMF through the SEL model, President Korosi was given a comprehensive tour of our vibrant campus. From state-of-the-art facilities to innovative learning spaces, he witnessed the environment that nurtures creativity and academic excellence. The President's interaction with the students during the tour exemplified his genuine interest in their experiences and perspectives. His engaging discussions and willingness to listen resonated deeply with the student body, leaving an indelible mark on their educational journey.



(President of GA H.E. Csaba Korosi during tour of UVU campus)

During his lecture titled “Crisis Management to Transformation - The UN In a Brave New World” President Korosi delivered a compelling speech on crisis management and the transformation of the world. Despite the summer semester posing issues of attendance, the room was packed with students, faculty, and community members eager to listen to such a high level UN official. With his vast experience in global affairs, President Korosi shared insightful perspectives on the pressing challenges facing our planet. His speech emphasized the need for collaboration, innovation, and sustainable approaches to tackle these issues. President Korosi's

words inspired students and faculty to embrace their roles as change-makers and actively contribute to positive societal transformations. I was so proud of McKay Brooks, UIMF's new President, ability to moderate the lecture so skillfully and effectively which is normally conducted by a seasoned faculty member. This was done by the SEL model allowing students extraordinary opportunities to learn new skills and gain new knowledge while interacting with high level officials.



(President Korosi giving his lecture "Crisis Management to Transformation - The UN In a Brave New World")

The President's genuine engagement with the audience and students was truly remarkable. His willingness to answer questions, offer guidance, and provide valuable insights demonstrated his commitment to fostering meaningful connections. The President was specifically engaging with the audience using modern technologies to allow personal participation. He asked many questions and collected the data and responses through the use of each individual's smartphone. He was curious to find existing opinions of the modern challenges and threats among the audience members.



(Students Presenting to H.E. Csaba Korosi in a special round table)

President Korosi took the time to interact individually with students, listening to their ideas and research in a special round table. They were given the opportunity to present their research on sustainable mountain development in countries around the world. The students also shared their recommendations of how to contribute to the sustainable mountain development in their countries. The panel was led by Alitha Thompson, the outgoing UIMF president, a mother of five children and a non-traditional student. She spoke particularly on some issues, for example, only 40% of her community has internet access which is drastically affecting education in the surrounding area. These are issues facing her home community here in Utah, which is also considered a mountain community. Particularly, emphasizing global mountain communities problems in sustaining their own lives. This inspired other students in the panel to voice their ideas and aspirations as well. I personally was able to share my research on Guinea and their challenges of their constitutional reform and women's rights but how their transformation presented an opportunity for growth and development. President Korosi asked me questions as well as provided feedback. This personal touch made a significant impact on me as well as the students, empowering us to believe in our potential to effect change.

The visit of H.E. Mr. Csaba Korosi to Utah Valley University was an unforgettable experience that sparked inspiration and ignited a sense of purpose among the faculty and students. His tour of the campus, thought-provoking speech on crisis management and transformation, and engaging interactions with the audience demonstrated his commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders. This visit served as a catalyst for change, encouraging me in particular to embrace a role as a global citizen and actively contribute to a better and more sustainable life among mountain communities. Each UIMf member including myself are immensely grateful for the profound impact President Korosi's visit had on our university community and ourselves. His visit left an enduring legacy of motivation, empowerment, and the belief in the power of education to shape a brighter future.

Chandler Davis, Member of Utah International Mountain Forum