



Participation of Bishkek Nomad Rotaractors at the 14th International Mountain Day Celebration at Utah Valley University

On December 5th, 2023, Utah Valley University hosted the 14th International Mountain Day celebration, an event organized by the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs dedicated to mountain issues. The event was organized through a student-engaged learning (SEL) model. SEL invites students to work together on a practical problem when their teacher mentors them. UIMF members organized all aspects of the event, starting from its agenda, to logistics, protocol, media coverage, etc. This year's gathering saw an array of distinguished speakers, each contributing their unique insights and experiences related to mountain regions and their sustainable development.



UVU faculty and students in the audience

Following addresses by prominent figures including Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva, the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations, Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, UVU faculty and mentor for the UIMF, Congressman Joseph Pitts, Dastan Abikov, Past President of Rotaract Club of Nomad Bishkek, Dr. Atabekov and Mrs. Tatiana Panfilenko, faculty from Osh Technological University.



Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations, Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva speaks before faculty and students at Utah Valley University

UIMF members invited me to contribute to the event as the Vice President of the Rotaract Club of Nomad Bishkek, and I had the honor of addressing the audience next. I spoke about our club's commitment to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with a keen focus on nurturing the mountain region, empowering youth, safeguarding the environment, and upholding human rights, particularly for women. Our belief is steadfast: the vitality of the future hinges on the empowerment of the youth. This was also an opportunity for UIMF members, including UVU Rotaractors, to expand the SEL model by working together with our Rotaract club.

Our club, had collaboration with the national government, actively engages in youth-centric initiatives and is a proud member of the Union of Youth Organizations of our country. Established in 2017 by the Rotary Club of Bishkek, our club has spearheaded numerous projects across a spectrum of areas, from social outreach to international cooperation. All proceeds are channeled into charitable endeavors, supporting single mothers, orphans, and large families.



Photo from a charity event organized in 2023 together with the Red Crescent

A recent highlight was the Central Asian Inclusive Model United Nations, marking the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sponsored by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights'

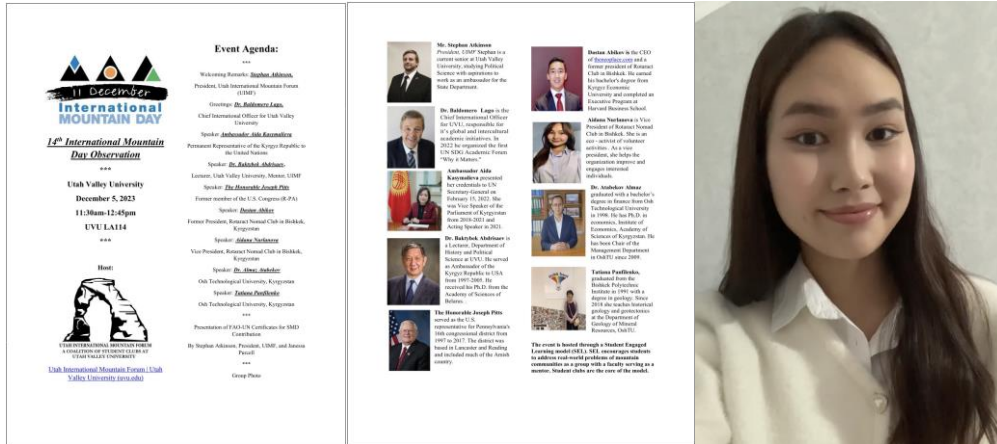
Regional Office for Central Asia, the project rallied over 100 participants across Central Asia to champion human rights, with a spotlight on women's rights.



Photo from the meeting with the Head of Tazalyk Ramiz Aliyev

Looking ahead, we are excited to organize a charity concert, aiming to delight 500 attendees and devote all proceeds to creating a festive experience for orphans—a testament to our belief that every child deserves a joyous childhood. Additionally, we regularly conduct seminars and conferences in collaboration with the UN Women office in Kyrgyzstan, advocating for human rights and specifically addressing the unjust practice of bridal kidnapping.

Our outreach extends to educational institutions, where we annually host informative sessions. Furthermore, in the upcoming spring, we plan to lead a nationwide afforestation effort alongside other organizations.



A copy of the brochure for the IMD observation and a photo of Aidana Nurlanova

In my speech, I underscored the critical role of both local and international partnerships in tackling the multifaceted challenges confronting mountain communities, particularly against the backdrop of climate change and the need for cultural preservation. This initiative not only advanced our objectives but also refined my competencies in zoom recording, multitasking, and collaborative teamwork, offering a meaningful, hands-on learning experience in the context of modern, digital collaborative workspaces. The event was not only a platform for sharing the impactful work of the Rotaract Club of Nomad Bishkek but also a beacon for inspiring commitment to the sustainable future of mountain regions globally.

Aidana Nurlanova, Vice President, Rotaract Nomad Club of Bishkek