



International Mountain Day 2012 REPORT

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Orem, Utah

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INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2012 REPORT

The Utah International Mountain Forum, (UIMF) a coalition of student clubs on the campus of Utah Valley University (UVU), recently sponsored their third annual International Mountain Day Celebration in the history of the state of Utah in which the contributions, made by both UIMF and other Utah Mountain Partnership members during 2012, were recognized. UVU students who, with the help of many UVU professors, created invitations, guest-lists, posters, and many other materials in preparation for this conference organized this event. The end result of this conference was a greater cohesion with our local network, outreach to the local youth, including many high school students, and a general accountability to our financiers by demonstrating what we as an institution had accomplished over 2012.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The establishment of International Mountain Day dates back to the year 1992, when the adoption of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 “Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development” was approved. Later the year 2002 was established as “International Year of the Mountains” and brought increased attention to issues that mountain communities face. At the same time “International Year of the Mountains” was approved by the United Nations decision, the 11th of December was established as “International Mountain Day” for 2003 and onward. This year, 2012, represents the 10th anniversary of “International Year of the Mountains” and an opportunity for UVU to take a look at the progress the last 10 years have brought for the development of mountain issues, and more specifically sustainable mountain development.

PURPOSE OF INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY CELEBRATION 2012:

1. To provide an opportunity for UVU to present the work it has done for the sustainable mountain agenda for the year 2012.
2. To provide an opportunity for education regarding the sustainable mountain development agenda.
3. To provide an opportunity for UVU to be held accountable for the substantial work it has done within the sustainable mountain development community, and maintain the support of this community.

CELEBRATION DETAILS

UVU’s third annual celebration of International Mountain Day 2012 was held on the campus of UVU on the 7th of December 2012 in the new Science Center Auditorium and Atrium. The celebration began at 7:00pm with a small reception at 6:00pm held beforehand. The agenda of the conference was the following.

AGENDA:

- 7:00pm Welcome by MP Secretariat and Jane Pratt, Trustee of the Mountain Institute, VA
- 7:05 Welcome by UVU Associate vice-President Brian Birch, UVU Student Body President Chad Workman, Charlene Mackay from Orem City
- 7:10 Brief History of UIMF/Mountain Day/ (Brandon Merrill, President, Sustainable Mountain Development club)
- 7:15 Video-greetings from Igor Gruppman, President, Gruppman International Music Institute, MP member
- 7:20 A look at 2012 Events (slideshow)
- 7:25 An Overview 2012 Events (Cory Hudgins, President, Foreign Affairs club)
- 7:35 Looking forward to 2013 (Dr. Snedegar, Advisor, Sustainable Mountain Development club)
- 7:45 Introduction of HELP International, MP member (Marie Poudiougou, member of UIMF)
- 7:50 Emily Jessop of HELP International (Member of Mountain Partnership)
- 7:55 Introduction of John McClure, President of UIMF (Gina Spurlock, member of UIMF)



John McClure President UIMF

- 8:00 John McClure, Address about Participation at RIO+20(10 min)

- 8:10 Introduction of Dr. Sara Ulloa, Head of UVU delegation at RIO+20, Advisor, sustainable mountain development Club (Chris Whitehead, member of UIMF)
- 8:15 Dr. Sara Ulloa address
- 8:25 Recognition of UVU Staff and Contributors (John McClure)
- 8:35 Conclusion (Nadia Wendleboa, member of UIMF)

The entire celebration lasted about 1 hour and 30 minutes and immediately following the conference a light dessert was served to the almost 100 guests in attendance.



Silent Auction Fundraiser- Sustainable Mountain Development Club and UIMF Sponsored

Both during the reception preceding and during the light dessert served afterwards, the Sustainable Mountain Development Club, a formal member of UIMF, sponsored and organized a silent auction fundraiser and raffle where items donated from local businesses were auctioned off in order to raise funds for the “Light a Village Project” sponsored by local business TIFIE. The goal of the fundraiser was to raise \$1000 to help provide 10 homes with a solar panel powered light and battery in efforts to help stimulate their local economy.



Right: Elisabeth Jessop-Help Address **Center:** Conference Audience **Left:** Reception Preceding Event

2012 events that were touched on included:

In January of 2012, the UIMF and UVU advisors contributed to the Sustainable Mountain Development North American Report in preparation for the RIO+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development to occur in June 2012. This is a particular achievement for UVU, as this was the first time that UVU students were mentioned in a Sustainable Mountain Development North American Report, which was also published by Mountain Partnership members from Aspen, CO and Telluride, CO by the request of the Mountain Partnership in Rome. The funding for distribution of this document at the RIO+20 Conference on Sustainable Development has also been made available by the Swiss government.

In February of 2012 the UIMF made contributions to the zero draft of the final document of the RIO+20 U.N. Conference on sustainable development. This was an important task, as this was an opportunity quite unique for students to have the opportunity to contribute to a document of global significance.

In June 2012 UVU hosted the third Women of the Mountains Conference at the Universidad Privada de San Carlos in Puno, Peru. This conference once more spotlighted gender issues. The major importance of the conference was the push once more for the establishment of regional ties through the collaborative efforts of the Universidad Privada de San Carlos and the Proyecto Especial Binacional Lago Titicaca. This cooperation of universities and non-governmental organizations worked to: a) improve the living standards of Altiplano Andean habitants, women and children in particular; b) accomplish decisions of two international women of the mountains conferences hosted by UVU in 2007 and 2011; c) establish new regional cooperation and agreement. Through further knowledge and experience sharing and the push for a youth call to action, this grassroots driven conference provided a link for the Rocky Mountain region in the United States and the Altiplano region of Peru.

In June 2012, UVU and the UIMF delegation participated in RIO+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and the Third Global Assembly of the Mountain Partnership. This was a great opportunity for students and faculty alike from UVU to take part in the shaping of policy that will affect global practices of sustainable development for the next five years.

In October 12, 2012 UIMF members were included to the UVU delegation led by Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, Advisor of UIMF, in order to take part at the meeting of the MP members from North America at Aspen, CO in order to inaugurate the regional hub, which jointly will be further hosted by Aspen International Mountain Foundation and Telluride Institute. John McClure, President of UIMF, Jessler Molina, President, Model U.N. club, and Jordan Giles, Media Director, UIMF, contributed to the discussions and conversations about future activities and plans for both regional hub and each MP member.



UVU delegation during round table on Rocky Mountains-Central Asian cooperation in Bishkek, on December 10, 2012

During December 8-11, 2012 UVU and UIMF co-organizing a number of international conferences in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Mountains, International Mountain Day and as a follow-up events to RIO+20 conference. Delegation of UVU led by Dr. Rusty Butler, Associate vice-president, International Affairs and Diplomacy and comprised of Dr. Michael Minch, Director of Peace and Justice Program at UVU, Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, Lecturer, History and Political Science Department and Advisor of UIMF, Dallin Kauffman and Greg Haddock, members of UIMF, went to Kyrgyzstan in order to commemorate IYM anniversary and IMD by co-organizing a conference “Conflict and Peace in the Mountains” on December 8, 2012 in Osh city, round table “Youth and SMD” on December 8, 2012 in Bishkek, and another round table “Rocky Mountains – Central Asian cooperation on joint promotion of SMD-agenda.”

CONCLUSION

The third annual UVU celebration of International Mountain Day was a success because of the following reasons:

1. UVU able to continue its annual celebration of International Mountain Day and grow the conference to a new level
2. With the concentrated effort to invite and involve local community leaders and Mountain Partnership members put forth by the students of UVU, our local network of support, both political and financial, was strengthened.
3. UVU and UIMF were held accountable to the local leaders, faculty members, and financiers as to how UVU was using their support, both political and financial, to further develop its agenda regarding sustainable mountain development.

4. A general vision was provided for 2013 which included the announcing of the 2013 High School Essay contest and the 2013 Women of the Mountains conference and joint plans for cooperation between UVU and partners in Central Asia on conflict prevention and academic exchanges

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED:

LETTERS OF WELCOME FROM:

JANE PRATT

THOMAS HOFFNER

IMD 2012 ATTACHMENTS

IMD 2012 POSTER

SMD FUNDRAISER – TIFIE

LIGHT A VILLIAGE POSTER



On of the 10th Anniversary of the UN International Year of the Mountains: Mountain Day 7 December 2012

To members of the Mountain Partnership, and the Utah International Mountain Forum, I bring you greetings and thanks!

Anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "Never underestimate the power of a small group of people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Twenty years ago, in 1992, a small group of us worked hard to get mountains on the agenda of the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. We got a chapter in a UN document. Two years later, we got another 'mountain' report tabled at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development for its follow up to Rio. Then the Mountain Forum was launched in 1995. By 2002, the Rio+10 Summit on Sustainable Development saw the launch of the Mountain Partnership in Johannesburg; and that same year witnessed the first-ever conference on mountain women in Bhutan, as well as the salient achievement of having the UN declare 2002 the International Year of Mountains, culminating in the Bishkek Mountain Summit. All of these were important steps that form the backdrop to your celebrations today.

But your celebration marks the most significant step forward yet: It makes clear that all of the previous steps were just preparation for the most important work of all: the engagement of young leaders, ready and willing to make a commitment, able to recognize that deep spiritual inspiration -- and the environmental services that are a gift of the mountains -- are necessary to a sustainable future for the family of human life on our small planet. You ARE that small group who will change our world!

For the work you do, for the leadership and inspiration you bring, I am deeply grateful. Going forward, I know our mountains are in safe hands. Your hands. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Pratt".

**Jane Pratt, Ph.D.
Trustee, and Former President**



Rome, 26 November 2012

Dear Friends of the Mountains,

The United Nations' Mountain Partnership Secretariat welcomes the members from the state of Utah and Utah International Mountain Forum today for your gathering commemorating International Mountain Day 2012 and the tenth anniversary of International Mountain Day. This day is an occasion to celebrate the importance of mountains to life and to reinforce our collective commitment to sustainable mountain development. International Mountain Day is an opportunity to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains and highlands.

As you know, since 2003, the United Nations General Assembly has designated 11 December, as the "International Mountain Day". It is observed every year with a different theme relevant to sustainable mountain development and FAO is the agency mandated to lead observance of International Mountain Day.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Mountains, FAO has undertaken a review of the International Mountain Day concept in order to revisit its mission and improve its impact. The IMD aims at raising a stronger awareness on Sustainable Mountain Development by targeting different ranges of audience, in particular those who are not aware of the importance of mountains for the ecological health of the world and the well-being of billions of people. As such we have decided to focus on SMD as a whole, rather than choose one single theme and have produced, like every year, information material available in all the UN languages.

I would like to congratulate the members from the State of Utah for the involvement and commitment to the global mountain agenda over the past year, in particular your participation at the RIO + 20 conference. This is exactly within the spirit of collaboration that we promote for the further advancement of sustainable mountain agenda.

As you probably know we have strong ties with North America and there are plans for North American *Mountain Partnership* hub in Aspen which will aim to connect and interact the North America region with the rest of the international membership. This exciting opportunity will fill a critical void in representation for this important region of the world. It also will allow their positions to be better represented in critical international policy discussions and give the North American mountain region more prominence in the world. Furthermore, it will offer public and private entities unique opportunities to network within the vast international mountain community.

Meanwhile, it is active members of the Mountain Partnership like you that I would to thank, and wish to all of you a great ceremony.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Hofer
Interim Coordinator
Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Jordan Giles
IMD 2012 Organizer
Utah International Mountain Forum

John McClure
President
Utah International Mountain Forum



WELCOME
to the

International Mountain Day

CELEBRATION

2012



DECEMBER 7, 2012
7:00 PM
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY
SCIENCE CENTER AUDITORIUM
OREM, UTAH



AGENDA FOR THE EVENING

Welcome by President Holland
Brief History of UIMF & International Mountain Day
A look at 2012 Events (slideshow)
An Overview 2012 Events
Looking forward to 2013
Elisabeth Jessop of HELP International Address
John Mclure, President UIMF Address
UVU Professor Sara Ulloa Address
Recognition of UVU Staff & Contributors
Conclusion

Light dessert served after

Come see what contributions the State of Utah
is making to the Global Mountain Agenda



The Sustainable Mountain Development Club
with
The Utah International Mountain Forum

PRESENTS OUR

**Semiannual
TIFIE FUNDRAISER
Light A Village Project**

DATE: December 4-6, 2012

TIME: 10 am - 3 pm

WHERE: New Science Center Atrium

We will be selling small items to raise money to light 10 homes with solar power in the DR Congo.

We will also have a drawing for everyone who wishes to enter for prizes that have been donated to us by local businesses and individuals.

For more information contact:
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brandonmerrill88@gmail.com

