

Participating in the Co-Hosting of His Excellency, Ambassador Mahmamin Mahmaminov



Ambassador Mahmamin Mahmaminov (Photo by: Hailee Hodgson)

On Friday, October 5th, 2018, I had the opportunity to participate in, and photograph the hosting of His Excellency, Mr. Mahmamin Mahmaminov, the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations (UN). The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) (www.utahimf.org), along with the help of the UVU Office of Global Engagement represented in all that the students are doing to advocate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) on a global scale.

There were two meetings with the Ambassador, the first was a series of presentations from members of the UIMF through student engaged learning model, including, Sam Elzinga, Hagen Isaacson, Meghan Davis, Mark Driggs, and Victoria Bachrii. All members touched on efforts or achievements they have made in contributing to the promotion of mountain targets in the State of Utah, North America and at the UN. Two of the students, Isaacson and Davis, are only freshman at UVU, which I found fascinating and profound. These are two young students

who are actively taking part in the sustainability of their home, and they are setting an example of how many of us should be participating in affairs of our land and how it can help others around the world.

Ambassador Mahmaminov, followed the student presenters with a presentation about Tajikistan, focused on the economy, and the SDGs they are involved in. The Ambassador reflected that mountainous Utah reminded him of Tajikistan: he said flying into the Salt Lake City International airport felt like “coming home”. Tajikistan and our state are fixed in the same general climate zone, meaning we have similar geography across their country, and our state. The Ambassador Mahmaminov’s presentation revolved around things we do here in Utah, as a mountain community and things his country does, and how we can learn from each other to progress in water sustainability.



Hailee Hodgson with Ambassador Mahmaminov

This experience for me, as someone who wants to be more aware of local issues and things we can do individually to help design a better future for myself and future generations, was a great opportunity to learn and get involved. I was able to capture moments between an Ambassador and students, who can now refer to one another as friends, and possibly in the future, colleagues. This

opportunity taught me that through student engaged learning model I can get involved in more ways than one, I was able to listen and be a part of the discussion happening in the presentation, while also taking photos of key members of the UIMF, who will be able to use those photos in future portfolios or just for memories. This is exactly the essence of the model when students learn professional skills, gain networking experiences themselves by working together as a team on implementing real tasks, like in this case the hosting a foreign dignitary, while their teacher provides them just general guiding lines and mentorship. I am excited to continue to work with the UIMF on future events and learn from them as we move forward.

Hailee Hodgson, member, UIMF