

Baiyel Abibilaev
Osh Technological University
67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Side event

“Advocating for mountain women and girls’ education through student-engaged learning.”

March 8, 2023

Hello everyone,

I am a geologist, an important profession in the mountainous Kyrgyzstan. The mining industry affects our country and people both economically and environmentally. Extracting minerals contributes to the economic development, prosperity of the country, including the development of new technologies and IT. But it also harms our ecology. The development of deposits is accompanied by the release of harmful substances into the environment, and since all our deposits are in mountainous areas, local communities, families and women suffer from that.

That is why, it is an important for us, students, to advocate for sustainable development in the mountain areas including in Kyrgyzstan.

Through the student-engaged learning (SEL) model, we have advocated for sustainable development jointly with students from Utah Valley University both in-person and online while our teachers mentored us. It was very interesting, important, and convenient for use method of work. Together, we jointly observed the International Mountain Days on December 11th in 2022 and 2023. We also jointly advocated for mountain women and girls during a parallel event at the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women last year.

This model allowed us to create a network of students in different countries to exchange experience in ongoing work, production technologies, innovations for preserving the environment, and joint resolution of many other urgent problems. The SEL model can easily be implemented in any universities located in the mountain states globally.

Thank you very much for your attention!