

*“Women of the Mountains
Conferences and promotion of
gender and Sustainable Mountain
Development Agendas”*

R.E. “Rusty” Butler, Ph.D., Associate Vice President
International Affairs and Diplomacy
Focal Point
Mountain Partnership
Utah Valley University

The Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference
Orem, October 7-9, 2015

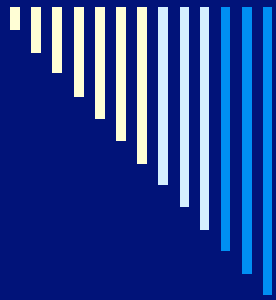
WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCES FOUNDERS



Dr. Asylbek Aidaraliev, President of the International
University of Kyrgyzstan with Utah State Senate President
John Valentine at UVU

Women of the Mountains Conferences:

- Are co-hosted by UVU with the International University of Kyrgyzstan since 2007;
- Advocate gender and sustainable mountain development (SMD) agendas of the United Nations;
- Contribute to the efforts of the Mountain Partnership (MP) under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-UN), coordinator of SMD activities globally.

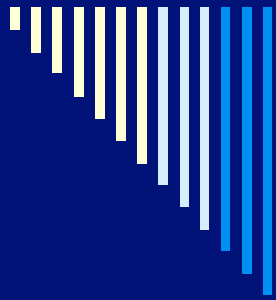


WOMC AND MP



- ❑ UVU joined the Mountain Partnership (MP) in 2006;
- ❑ The idea to host WOMC in 2007 was made by UVU and IUK to advance gender and SMD agendas as a foundation for building partnerships between Utah and Central Asia
- ❑ MP is a United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world. (For more information, see: <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/>)





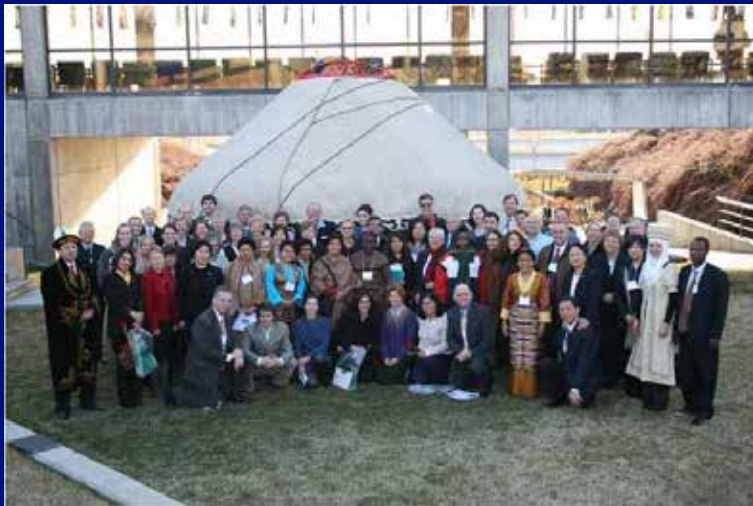
WOMC AND MP

Main features of WOMCs are:

- Focus on raising awareness about the importance of gender and SMD agendas of the UN in the state of Utah and the Rocky Mountains region, as well as their contribution to the efforts of the MP on a global level;
- To continue traditions of gender advocacy established during the “Celebrating Mountain Women” conference in Bhutan in 2002 (part of the commemoration of the United Nations International Year of Mountains.)




2007 WOMC IN OREM, UTAH



International Conference "Women of the Mountains" in Orem, Utah
March 7-10, 2007

The [First WOMC](#) hosted in Orem UT in 2007 gathered representatives from almost all the Rocky Mountain States and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in contributing to gender and SMD advocacy globally.

United Nations A/64/222

 **General Assembly** Dist. : General
3 August 2009
Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Item 55 (h) of the provisional agenda
Sustainable development

Sustainable mountain development
Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 62/196, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-fourth session on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions. The report describes the status of sustainable mountain development at the national and international levels, including an overall analysis of the challenges that lie ahead, and provides suggestions for consideration by the Assembly as to how to continue to promote and effectively sustain development in mountain regions around the world within the existing policy context, including chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") and the Millennium Development Goals.

* * *

58 In response to the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women (the final document of The Women of the Mountains Conference, 2007, organized by Utah Valley University and the Utah-Russia Institute in Orem, Utah, United States of America), several institutions in the Rocky Mountain States of North America established a regional network on sustainable mountain development and gender issues. This led to exchanges of state legislatures/parliaments between Rocky Mountain States and mountain nations in Central Asia, including support of sales by Vista 360, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of hand-made local handicrafts from the mountains of Central Asia in the United States and the funding of cultural exchanges.

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2011 WOMC IN OREM, UTAH



Second International Conference "Women of the Mountains" in Orem, Utah
March 8-9, 2011

The [Second WOMC](#) hosted again in Orem, UT in 2011, continued the tradition of the previous gathering and at the same time helped to expand a network of the Mountain Partnership members in North America. As one of the results of the 2011 conference, the Mountain Partnership secretariat created a North American regional hub in Colorado State under the auspice of Aspen International Mountain Foundation and Telluride Institute.

2nd INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE (www.WomenoftheMountains.org)



MARCH 8-9, 2011
Utah Valley University
900 West University
Parkway
Orem, Utah 84058
Opening reception 8:00pm
9:00am, UVU Library, Utah



UVU

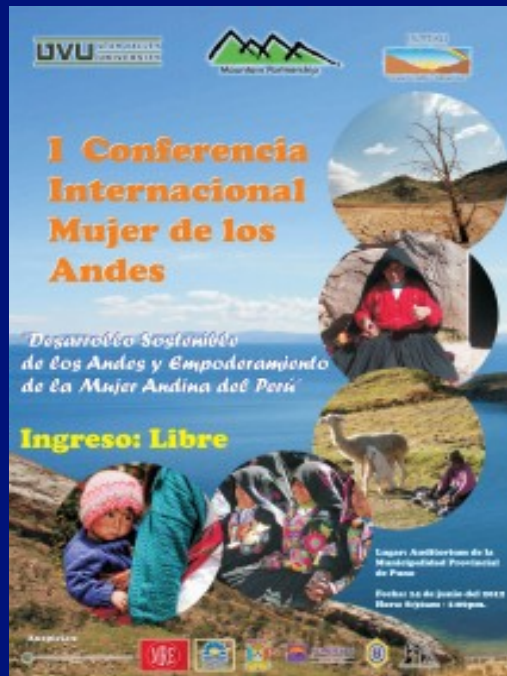
CALL FOR PAPERS

Send 300 word abstract and C.V. to Roger Blomquist, rblomquist@uvu.edu or Cholpon Akmataliyeva, TcholponA@uvu.edu
DEADLINE: December 30, 2010

Conference topics:
Health of women and children
Education
Economic issues, family and gender
Access to information
Human trafficking
Women leadership
Family values, heritage and culture

Conference is organized by Utah Valley University together with International University of Kyrgyzstan and institutional support from the Mountain Partnership, F.A.O.-UN, in Rome.

2012 WOMC IN PUNO, PERU

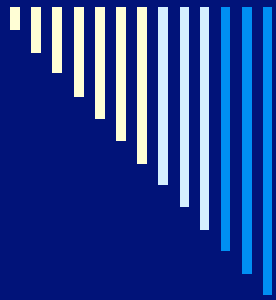


The Third International Conference
"Women of the Mountains" in Puno,
Peru
June 12-14, 2012



The Third WOMC was:

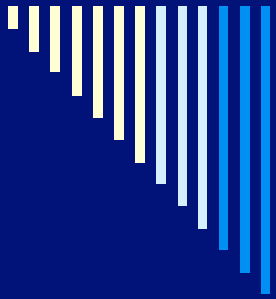
- Held in Puno, Peru in 2012;
- The first gathering held outside of Utah, implementing the decisions of the [Laramie Declaration of Mountain Women](#) (the final document of the 2007 WOMC) to alternate the location of the conference between the State of Utah and mountain nations around the world;
- Contributing event to the activities of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil (RIO+20) and UVU delegates reported WOMC results during the Global Meeting of MP in Brazil on June 18, 2012



WOMC AND SMD



- WOMC is a grass-roots initiative which unites officials from different international organizations, led by the F.A.O-U.N., the World Bank, diplomats, scholars and leaders of NGOs, educators, students and local community representatives.
- Their goal is to network, socialize and discuss joint initiatives and projects with a focus on engagement in global gender and SMD advocacy mountain communities from North America.



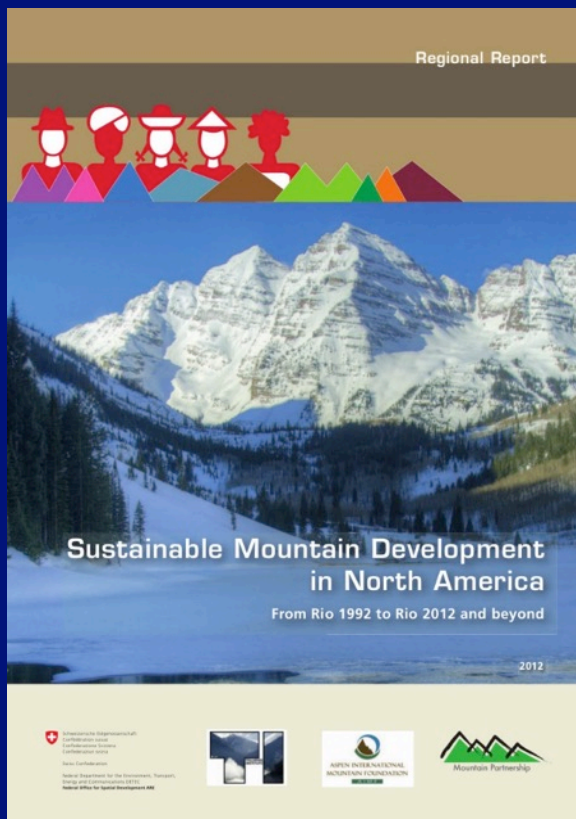
WOMC AND UIMF



In 2011, Utah Valley University students created the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of several student clubs with a focus on SMD promotion in their state and in the region (www.utahimf.org)

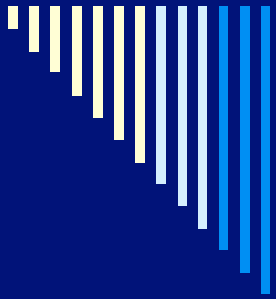
- What should we expect from the coming Fourth International Women of the Mountains conference on October 7-9, 2015?
- This conference will be hosted for the first time by students from the State of Utah and Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) in particular.

WOMC AND UIMF



UIMF Achievements in SMD advocacy:

- UVU students contributed research to the Report on SMD in North America, prepared by the Mountain Partnership for the landmark United Nations [RIO+20 conference](#) in Brazil in 2012.
- They were able to raise funds to send representatives to the RIO+20 conference and to participate at the Third Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership as a side event there.
- Two UVU students contributed to the agenda of the Fourth Global Meeting of the MP in 2013 which developed strategies for SMD advocacies by MP members in 2014-2017.



UIMF AND SDGs



- They advocated for the inclusion of mountain indicators among Sustainable Development Goals during sessions of several United Nations Open Working Groups in 2013-2014.
- Since 2010, they made a tradition to commemorate the United Nations International Mountain Day on December 1.
- Since 2011 they host an annual essay-contest on different SMD aspects among high schools in the state of Utah as a tool to foster new leaders for future SMD programs.



2015 WOMOC



The Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference will:

- Continue the tradition set during the previous International WOMOCs of strengthening the involvement of North American mountain communities with the United Nations' Mountain Partnership;
- Address critical issues facing women and children in mountainous regions across the globe and provide a forum to raise both awareness and advocacy on eliminating gender inequality and addressing challenges to sustainability;
- Allow to raise an awareness among local communities and in North America about importance of the WOMOC and to transform it into a biennial international forum with alternating sites between Utah and mountain nations around the world.