



Embajada Británica
Ciudad de Guatemala



The British Embassy in Guatemala and Semillas del Océano present the results for the 1° Youth Leadership Summit for the 4Rs

During the Summit, 97 young Guatemalans interested in reducing waste pollution were trained; in addition, four groups of young people were awarded with funds to carry out their ideas to tackle this issue, and today they present the outcome.

Guatemala, 24th of February 2020. At the Residency of the British Embassy in Guatemala, the results presentation of the 1° Youth Leadership Summit for the 4Rs (Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Reject) was carried out by the projects funded through the Mini-Grants: 4Rs. The Summit was an event organized by the British Embassy in Guatemala and Semillas del Océano, which aimed at empowering a new generation of young Guatemalan leaders who promote actions that reduce solid waste pollution. The Summit had an attendance of 97 young people from different parts of the country.

“We created the concept of the Summit for the 4Rs as a space where young people from Guatemala could learn about the environmental problem that is causing waste pollution, and how they can take actions to tackle this issue from the root” Said Nick Whittingham, British Ambassador to Guatemala.

After participating at the Summit and submitting their project ideas, the four youth groups who received the “Mini-Grants: 4Rs”, presented their results in favor of the environment in Cobán, Zacapa, Villa Nueva and San Lucas Tolimán.

The fund was given by the British Embassy in Guatemala, Semillas del Océano and MAR Fund, for a total of twelve thousand Quetzales (Q 12,000) which was split among the four groups of young people. In addition to the fund, the winners had follow-up sessions and field visits by Semillas del Océano, where they were reinforced through training for the correct implementation of their projects and impact assessment.

“The project began as an idea embodied in paper and thanks to the support of the British Embassy and other institutions and companies in Guatemala, it became a reality that is having positive impact on youth” said Alerick Pacay, Executive Director of Semillas del Océano



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Results of the projects sponsored by the Mini-Grants: the 4Rs

The first-place winner group executed the “Makamul” project in Cobán, Alta Verapaz to reduce the environmental impact of discarded notebooks at the end of school year. The young people managed to create environmentally friendly notebooks, made from rescued and reused paper from educational centers in Cobán. The amount of paper collected by the project was more than 100 quintals. As part of their results they also presented the achievements of their “give a chance” program that supports the education of children of vulnerable economic conditions through the donation of notebooks of students of schools in greatest need in that region.

The second group presented the results of the “La Casa de los Bichos” project in Zacapa, through which they built 15 structures specially designed to provide shelter for pollinator insects that are important for the dry forest survival of that region. For the manufacture of the “hotels for bugs”, the young people used plastics, waste and rescued materials in cleanup events that were organized with the community of Pueblo Modelo, Zacapa. The project had the support of different actors in the region, workshops and community awareness talks and the collection of more than 1 thousand pounds of garbage and solid waste.

The young people who carried out the “Restauración de áreas verdes” Project in Villa Nueva, managed to organize the neighbors through the “Your green space” campaign to restore the green areas in the residential INDE and GUATEL II, through environmental improvement and proper management of solid waste. They also managed to place two collecting stations for recyclable materials with segmented sorting cans in plastic/Tetrapak-paper/cardboard and glass/cans. Since its inauguration, recycling points have collected a total of 85.76 lbs of waste.

The group that executed the “Buenas Practicas GT” project in San Lucas Tolimán, organized an aquatic and terrestrial cleanup in Lake Atitlan to reduce the volume of solid and organic waste found in the area that is damaging the ecosystem. They manage to extract 439 pounds of garbage. They also did a reforestation in the sector with the support of 38 people who voluntarily came to help. During the implementation of this project, the group of young people held workshops and talks to increase people’s awareness on environmental issues and proper management of solid waste.



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About the 1° Youth Leadership Summit for the 4Rs

Last year, the Summit brought together 97 young people from different parts of the country, who received training on waste pollution, negative impacts of solid waste on environment and comprehensive waste management strategies in Guatemala. Participants also received leadership workshops, development of proposals and budget writing skills, planning of community actions and environmental campaigns and effective communication for fundraising.

Currently, the British Embassy in Guatemala and Semillas del Océano are looking for donors and sponsors interested in making positive impact on the environment through younger people, to make a second edition of the Youth Leadership Summit for the 4Rs.

“We want this Summit to become an event that can be held year after year, and that more young people can be trained in a topic with such relevance worldwide. Guatemala has talent, but for this to happen we need the sponsorship of institutions and companies” said Alerick Pacay.



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Facts of interest

- The Youth Leadership Summit for the 4Rs is a free empowerment program aimed at young people interested in reducing waste pollution in the country, applying the 4Rs of sustainability: Reject, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
- Institutions such as MAR Fund, CECI Guatemala, Porter Novelli and Universidad del Valle de Guatemala joined the first edition.
- More than 250 young people from all over the country applied to the summit, making a total of 57 applications with ideas to apply at least one of the 4Rs in Guatemala.
- 100 people were chosen to attend the Summit.
- 97 people attended
- 30 of these people were from Retalhuleu, Zacapa, Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Sacatepequez and Huehuetenango.
- All applicants were in the age range of 16 to 30 years old.
- At the end of this event, the 97 participants were summoned to apply for the “Mini-Grants: the 4Rs” grant fund.
- 4 groups were selected and received funds to implement their ideas in their communities
- The young people who won the Mini Grants successfully implemented their ideas and had technical assistance from Semillas del Océano
- The update of all activities can be found through the social networks of the organization @semillas_del_oceano or the UK embassy in Guatemala

MORE INFORMATION

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