

CISM Global Issues Network (GIN) Update

March 20, 2014

Gang Group: Biodiversity

Gang Leader: John Torento

Main Project for the Semester:

Title: Pasig Patrol

Project Leaders: Danielle La-O and Sofia Ochoa

Objectives: To participate in volunteer work (involving the entire group) to help in the effort to rehabilitate the Pasig River, in partnership with the ABS-CBN "Kapit Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig" project.

Timetable for Action:

March 7: A representative from ABS-CBN comes to speak to group about what their rehabilitation project is about and how we are going to help in the clean-up.

March 14: Entire GIN group is informed about plans, partnership for trips are finalized, materials and resources for final trip are arranged, circulars are made (upon approval of school)

March 21: Trip on March 28 is finalized; needed materials are specified and day-plan is detailed to all participants.

March 28: Students go the Pasig River

Progress Update: Letters are being distributed, containing all the necessary information for the upcoming trip to the Pasig River on March 28. Costs and needed materials are being arranged and finalized before Friday.

Secondary Project/Activity for the semester:

Title: Information Dissemination on Promoting Biodiversity

Project Leaders: Alexis Bangayan and Philip Exconde

Objectives: To establish, maintain and promote a public Facebook page to raise awareness on issues such as loss of biodiversity through deforestation and water pollution and promote the other GIN Biodiversity activities done by the group.

Timetable for Action: On the words of the pair, the Facebook page will be updated once a week, at the least.

Progress Update: Letters are being distributed, containing all the necessary information for the upcoming trip to the Pasig River on March 28. Costs and needed materials are being arranged and finalized before Friday.

Secondary Project/Activity for the semester:

Title: Back to the Earth

Project Leaders: Nathan Barria and Bryan Ong

Title: Information Dissemination on Promoting Bioiversity

Objectives: To create and manage a compost bin wherein biodegradable materials (including leftovers from the canteen) will be converted into usable fertiliser for the soil.

Timetable for Action: The compost bins are filled, cleaned, and maintained/managed weekly.

Progress Update: The bins are already filled with fertilizer which can now be used as fertilizer for the soil?

Secondary Project

Title: WikiPlant

Project Leaders: Sophie Cruz and Monika del Rosario

Objectives: To identify and explain the different plants in the school's front yard and to create awareness about the biodiversity in school. Picket signs containing the pertinent information will be put up near the plants.

Timetable for Action: Up to March 7, the pair have researched and gathered all the information they could find from school about the plants growing in the front yard. March 14, the pair will post their informational pickets.

Progress Update: As of March 14 during GIN block, the pickets have already been placed throughout the school's front yard for everyone to see.

Secondary Project

Title: Companion Planting

Project Head: John Torento

Objective: Increase school's plant biodiversity by planting different types of plants together that are beneficial to each other. By doing this, members of the community are expected to have an increased awareness of the environment.

Timetable for Action: Beginning February 21, plants have been grown at home, to allot time for growth, in preparation for transplanting to school soil on before March 7. Everyday, plants are watered and observed for plant growth.

Progress Update: Original Plants have been ravaged and eaten by pesky birds; therefore, new plants had to be placed on March 14. Plants are constantly checked everyday for growth

Secondary Project

Title: Juicy Stamps

Project Leaders: Megan Arambulo and Justin Sian

Objective: Create and introduce a sticker system in the school's cafeteria that will encourage students to bring their own cups to get their fruit shakes and collect stamps for every purchase, until they have collected enough to get a free shake. This saves the paper cups replaced in the process, helping reduce paper use.

Timetable for Action: March 7: Idea is concretized and clarified with school cafeteria "Dell's" and permission is sought from school. March 14: Ideas for stamp board and stamp design is created and preparation for introductory launching program to school is started. March 21: Designs are finalized and launching program is planned.

Progress Update: The design for the stamp boards have already been made. Campaign will begin in the following week for introducing the new system to the school.

Secondary Project

Title: Recycle Shoots

Project Leaders: Lance Pimentel and Rendell Uy

Objectives: Create 3 sets of "basketball" ring trash bins around the school that serve as creative mediums for the recycling of plastic bottles.

Timetable for Action: As of March 7, the pair will plan what they are supposed to do, what the rings will look like, how will they be placed and the parts attached and where the rings will be. On March 14-21, the pair would have purchased the basketball rings and the necessary "drums" to catch the bottles. On March 28, the group would have finished setting the rings up around the school.

Progress Update: The basketball rings have already been bought and the design for the trash bins have already been designed.

Secondary Project

Title: Logo Making

Project Leaders: Aizec Arboleda and John Sia

Objective: Create a logo for the Biodiversity GIN Group that will function as group's trademark symbol and means of identification.

Timetable for Action: March 7: Create rough draft March 14: Finish Final Design

Progress Update: Logos have been created; Design options just need to be finalized and decided upon before incorporation into different projects.

Reflection:

All the members of the GIN Biodiversity group of 2014 certainly have learned and experienced much during all our sessions. Since the beginning of the GIN blocks, all the members have actively listened and brainstormed ideas. These separate ideas have each developed into separate projects, from which every single member has learned to take responsibility into culturing and maintaining their projects. So far, a few projects have already been finished, some ongoing, and some in the planning stage.

Around the school's entire front yard, the "WikiPlant" project is informing everyone about the school's own diversity of plant species. Behind the scenes, the "Back to Earth" compost project is underway, the members collecting scraps for their project. As a result of the "Veggie Groups" companion planting project, a range of plants are being (and will be) grown together in the school grounds. The "Pasig Patrol" Pasig River cleanup project members are readying the entire group to set out by Friday. Soon, the "Juicy Stamps" cafeteria "shake-system" will also be starting with a school campaign to make people aware of the new introduced system. Meanwhile, the "Facebook Biodiversity Page" project is informing and updating everybody about these projects and reiterating the significance of biodiversity.

Altogether, these projects have achieved the goal of promoting the group's main objective – that is to stress the importance of biodiversity in the world. Along the way, however, everyone has also learned to take responsibility for their projects while promoting the news of biodiversity not only to others, but also to themselves.