

Project Plastikan

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Abstract

Project Plastikan is a student project under the Global Social Impact Fellowship. The project aimed to create a social venture with a two pronged focus: (1) to reduce the amount of plastic waste in Metro Manila, the Philippines, and (2) to elevate the livelihoods of the women of the poorest municipalities in Manila by providing them with a steady income opportunity.

The project consists of student led research in the 2019 spring and fall semester, as well as research under the summer Mountaintop initiative. The students and faculty in the project also spent 3 weeks in Quezon City, the Philippines doing fieldwork research. This research included meeting with stakeholders in the plastic recycling industry as well as collaborating with the University of the Philippines to implement these small scale community recycling techniques into a facility that will employ local women in poverty.

Project Objectives

1. Connect with plastic waste stakeholders
2. Validate & crystallize business framework
3. Assess machinery in action and ideate necessary adjustments
4. Conduct workshop with women of Paradise Village Community
5. Begin processing and completing first order with *Manam*
6. Leverage network of stakeholders to assist early adopters



Project Results

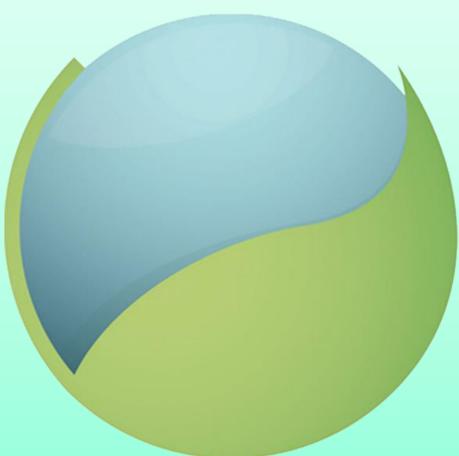
1. Founding of partnered social enterprises *PlasTech Ventures* (US) and *Cloop* (PH).
2. Ruggedized and tropicalized designs for recycling machinery in low resource environments.
3. Strong network connections with executives in plastic waste stakeholders such as PPIA.
4. Successful validation through stakeholder summits of the need for small scale recycling facilities to fill in gaps left by the industry.
5. Finalized first order from early adopter restaurant franchise *Manam* for 150 recycled plastic drink coasters.

Impacts

1. Established a network of stakeholders involved in plastic recycling and similar environmentally conscious fields in the Philippines
2. Lehigh and UPD have a stronger academic and professional bond
3. Students involved experienced considerable personal and professional growth

Future Work

1. Finalize facility designs to house the machinery
2. Venture creating steps such as branding and funding
3. Publish a second paper in a relevant journal
4. Collaborate & coordinate with partner venture *Cloop*.



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