

University of Guyana's Open Day and Job Fair 2024



OPEN DAY AND JOB FAIR 2024



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
The Event.....	3
Aims of the Event	3
The Policy Forum Guyana Booth.....	4
Appendices.....	5

Introduction

Access to environmental education is unequal in Guyana. It is not a part of the formal school curriculum resulting in many school-aged children having to rely on external exposure to environmental concepts. Environmental education is particularly crucial for the development of desired behaviours and attitudes towards the environment. It helps them to better understand the natural world and foster an appreciation for all its benefits. Early education and exposure help to instil a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship. It is behind this backdrop that Policy Forum Guyana attended the University of Guyana's Open Day and Job Fair as it aimed to reach and touch as many young ones as possible to inspire them to make positive changes in their lifestyles and communities in order to better protect the environment.

The Event

The University of Guyana held its 2024 Open Day and Job Fair from March 21st to March 23rd under the theme "Delivering an Empowered Workforce." The aim of the event was to showcase to potential students, the opportunities that the university has to offer. As such, most of the visitors are primary and secondary school aged children, young adults seeking jobs and companies looking to recruit or invest. Open Day also includes the display of models, awards earned by faculties and sharing of basic knowledge in key subject areas.

Aims of the Event

Policy Forum Guyana was invited through letter to be an exhibitor on March 21st, 2024, by the Eco-Trust Society under the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences of the University of Guyana. Considering the theme, Policy Forum Guyana aimed to:

1. Raise awareness about environmental issues and their impact on the workforce.
2. Showcase successful sustainable initiatives taken by companies to reduce their environmental footprint.
3. Highlight the benefits of sustainability in personal life and how companies can benefit through increased reputation, cost savings and improved employee morale.
4. Educate visitors on the wide array of career opportunities available in the environmental sector.

The Policy Forum Guyana Booth

The Open Day and Job Fair started at 10:00am and ended at 4:00pm. The Policy Forum Guyana Team present consisted of Benita Davis, Britney Semple, Jasmine Crawford, Joel Dazzel, Shankar Cyril, Joshua Van Buckley and Juwel Van Buckley. While there, the team was able to have visitors play with the Eco Snake and Ladder, River Guardian Boardgame and Earth Helper Game.

The Eco Snake and Ladder reinforces the idea that the climate crisis is real and that both individual and collective action are needed to make a difference. Through the game, players race to the finish line but experience setbacks by being eaten by a snake or progress faster with ladders. Players are engaged which allows them to be more receptive to learning about environmental issues. They can then reflect on their actions and are more inclined to incorporate the positive actions that helped them progress in the game and avoid the behaviours that caused the setbacks leading them to be more empowered.

The Eco Earth Helper Game mirrors everyday activities and the choices that are made which can impact the environment. It includes scenarios that allows players to evaluate their impact as these determine whether they move forward, backward or miss a turn. Through identifying the effects of positive and negative actions, they then can possibly make the necessary changes in their life so that it better aligns with the 1.5°C lifestyle. This game directly allows for the development of an empowered labour force as it can inspire innovation in the workplace and encourage advocacy for more sustainable practices in the professional world. Knowledge is the key to empowerment.

The River Guardian Board Game features four local endangered species, Jabiru, the Giant River Otter, the Black Caiman, and the Arapaima. The game allows players to enter their respective habitats. However, along the way, these animals, face many adversities, such as the destruction of their habitats, drought, overfishing and more. This results in the player moving a few spaces back or restarting the game. But the game also includes many positive actions, such as the replanting of native trees, the river being cleaned, and an active conservation effort being made. The overall aim of the game is to educate students about the challenges these endangered species face and the positive actions that can be taken to maintain their survival. It directly supports the development of problem-solving skills, which is advantageous in many professions.

Moreover, they also had the opportunity to interact with items from the Trash to Treasure Project and the Glass It Up Competition done in 2023. The bag and hat made from plastic bottle labels were the most popular items among visitors to the booth. Witnessing the transformation of trash into beautiful items exposed them to the concept of upcycling and potential beauty in waste. Additionally, many were introduced to the 1.5°C lifestyle and encouraged to introduce sustainable alternatives in their daily routines. Students were also able to win prizes by participating in the activities available at the booth and playing the life size games.

Overall, the PFG booth was well executed and succeeded in accomplishing the intended objectives.

Appendices



The Set-up at the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Science



Set-up and playing of the life size games on the lawns



The Policy Forum Guyana Booth



Volunteers and students engaging in environmental advocacy at the booth.



Students and Lecturers participating the games at the booth




Joint Service Professionals taking a picture with Policy Forum Guyana's Frame



Students using the hat made of bottle labels

Link for post made on Facebook

 Policy Forum Guyana
March 21 · 🌐

Earlier today Policy Forum Guyana participated in the University of Guyana's 🇬🇵 Career fair, 👤👤👤👤 in which they displayed several aspects of their Educational materials, board games and projects.


Take a look at how it went 📺 😊

·
·
·

#careerdevelopment
#SustainableLiving
#environment

1.00

UG Career Fair 2024 🇬🇵👤👤👤👤🌱



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/445374577926908>