

Report on 11th University Fair, Suchitoto Sunday, June 11, 2017

The Formal scholarships and University loan programs of Suchitoto organized the eleventh university fair this now the second year support and coordination of the new Association scholarship and ex scholarship students of Suchitoto (ABESUCHI) and with the now 12 years support of Palo Alto Friends Meeting program director Mr. Robert Broz Moran. The fair was held, Sunday June 11 of this year, at the Art Center for peace starting at 9:00 am and ending at 12:30 pm. One hundred and thirty-five (135) graduating high school students and seventy-three (73) University students attended. The attendance of high school students from rural Suchitoto remained similar compared with previous years due in part by transportation paid by different programs. As we have seen in previous years students from the INSU assistance is low, but with a notable increase compared to last year. Several teachers from the schools and representatives of seventeen (17) institutions of higher education, including representatives of the National Academy of public security (ANSP) and Education USA participated in the fair this year. There was a global attendance of 278 people fair in 2017. The fair was inaugurated with the presentation by the licensed Mirna Yamilet Hernandez recently graduated in Business Administration from the University of El Salvador as the mistress of ceremonies and with participation of the Mayor of Suchitoto Licda. Pedrina Rivera, Licda. Erika Lucia Alas Serrano and student Silvia Evelin Gomez from the Association scholarship and ex scholarship students of Suchitoto (ABESUCHI), Professor Rafael Barrios from the school in El Barrio, and Lic. Robert Broz Moran who provided data on existing programs of scholarships in the town of Suchitoto. Then the 17 institutions present were given time to present to the students. The event closed with the words of scholarship student José Edenilsen Hernández Navarrete recently graduated in industrial engineering from the University of El Salvador, who spoke of dreams of the late Dr. Frank Cummings founder of the fair and scholarships programs in Suchitoto, a few words of motivation of the mistress of ceremonies and words of gratitude from Robert Broz Moran. Before the students opened the fair giving opportunity for students to speak with different universities and institutions which, provided materials about their studies programs, grants and funding opportunities. Participants also had the opportunity to speak with current university students from several different fields of studies. A snack was provided to all students

As well as others present. The fair concluded with a lunch for the institutional representatives, organizers and personal logistics of the Mayor's office.

Statistics on the attendance of high school students is presented in table #I and compared with data from previous years in table #II. It is important to note that the total number of potential high school graduates in Suchitoto is less in 2017 with 225 compared with 245 in 2016 and that student attendance increased from 96 students in 2016 to 132 in 2017, this also shows a considerable increase in the percentage of graduating high school students present with 58.7% of the total number of potential graduates from the town of Suchitoto in 2017. There were no indications that students from other graduating classes from Suchitoto attended at the fair in 2017. As in past years the programs contributed funds for transportation for students from 4 of the 5 rural schools where percentage of total graduating students ranged from 73:3 % - 100% of the students at the fair. We also noticed a substantial increase in the participation of students from the National Institute of Suchitoto with the assistance of 36 in 2017 compared with 17 in 2016.

This year there was no participation of new institutions to the fair. It was not possible to confirm the participation of 1 institution, the Lutheran University after receiving the invitation advised ahead of time that they could not participate this year but expressed interest in participating in the future. For some reason the University Francisco Gravidia did not participate in 2017. This year for logistical reasons we did not invited: CATS-MiTur, EsArtes-PrimerActo or Ayuda en Accion this due to the reduced space because of the work of restoration of the Art Center for peace. Data on institutional assistance are given in the box # III.

Tabla I. Attendance of Graduating High School Students, 2017

Institution	# Present	# to Graduate	%
INSU 2nda Gen	25	75	33.3
INSU 3ra Tec	11	26	42.3
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío	24	26	92.3
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Américas	7	16	43.8
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo 2nd Gen	20	24	84.6
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo 3ra Tec	6	15	73.3
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	14	20	70.0
Anexo Las Delicias	9	9	100
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo	13	14	92.8
La Mora	3		
Total de Suchitoto	132	225	58.7%
Otros Municipios			
Instituto Nacional de Aguilares	3	Sin datos	Sin datos
Total de otras Municipalidades	3		
Total	135		

Table II. Attendance of High School Students 2007-2017

Institución	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
INSU (incluyendo egresados)	68	16	21	40	25	38	12	15	29	17	36
INSU-a Distancia					55	41	43	0	0	0	0
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Américas	5	5	3	13	11	2	1	11	1	9	7
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío	10	22	5	31	21	20	8	6	15	12	24
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	9	8	4	14	22	19	7	21	18	16	22
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo	0	0	3	6	24	42	6	20	26	21	26
INDEC (La Colima)	0	7	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo						11	3	5	10	9	13
Total de Suchitoto	92	60	38	104	159	173	79	78	99	96	132
IN San Francisco Lempa	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Otras	20	16	10	4	2	5	1	11	0	0	0
Nuevas en 2016											
IN de Tenancingo										111	0
IN de Cinquera										40	0
IN de Tejutepeque										35	0
Nuevas en 2017											
I.N. de Aguilares											3
Total de otras municipalidades	33	24	10	4	2	5	1	11	0	186	3
Total	125	84	48	108	161	178	80	89	99	282	135

Table III. Institutions of Superior Education at University Fair 2017

Invited Institutions	New in 2017	Participated in 2017	Years attending
UES		X	10
UES SEDE SUCHITOTO	X	X	1
ENA		X	7
ANSP		X	6
UCA		X	7
U. Don Bosco		X	11
UTEC		X	8
U. Evangélica de ES		X	5
UMOAR		X	9
U. Andrés Bello-Sede Chalatenango	X	X	10
U Pedagógica		X	11
U. Salvadoreña Alberto Masferrer		X	4
U. Católica/Megatec Sede Ilobasco		X	8
ITCA-FEPADE		X	7
ITCHA		X	7
Zamorano		X	5
Education USA		X	5
U. Francisco Gavidia		NP	2
U. Luterana Salvadoreña		NP	1
CENAR		NP	2
EsArte		Not Invited	7
Ayuda en Acción		Not Invited	5
SACDEL/FESPAD		Not Invited	2
Plan		Not Invited	1
MITUR-CAT		NP	3
Total	2	17	

(X=Present, NP= Not Present)

The organizers of the fair in 2017 were the University loan program of Palo Alto Friends Meeting, the municipality of Suchitoto and the new Committee ABESUCHI of Suchitoto. The municipality of Suchitoto was the main sponsor with the additional support of the project of Santa Cruz El Salvador, Palo Alto and funds from the friends of Atlanta program and the Cummings family. The Art Center for peace, as in previous years, provided services and support with the use of the Centre, chairs, tables, sound system and preferential prices for snacks and lunches which without this support were not possible to realize the fair this year.

The fair was preceded by 1) visits by Robert Broz and some members of the Committee in May to the six schools with high school level, also the use of social medium like Facebook to share the invitation to graduates of the municipality of Suchitoto and 2) Lic. Erika Serrano and Robert Broz contacts by telephone, email, and a formal letter with all the institutions invited to send representatives, a process that began in early May and continued until just before the show.

Finances for the fair are shown in table #IV. The Art Center for peace provided a substantial amount of in-kind support for the use of your space, equipment, sound, tables, chairs and preferential prices for food. The staff of the Art Center for peace provided an excellent service. The municipality of Suchitoto continues their substantial financial support covering a large part of the costs of the fair in 2017. 2017 fair expenses were similar but slightly higher than in previous years due to more participants from the institutions. Costs this year were less than expected as support in logistics with the Mayor and local institutions like the CORDES Foundation we were able to provide many canopies, tables and chairs saving expenses for rent as shown in previous years.

Low number of students from the INSU always worrisome because most students who continue their studies in the town of Suchitoto come from this institution and many institutions of higher education do not visit schools individually. This year increased the participation of students from the INSU perhaps indicated the impulse by teachers or a visit to the institution with a few days before the event. It is clear that the efforts of some directors and teachers at the Guillermo Ungo, Los Almendros, El Barrio and Copapayo complexes and this year a very positive change in Las Americas combined with payment of transportation for some of those institutions were important factors and resulting in high numbers of students from those institutions at the fair in 2017.

It is likely that programs include payment of transportation for all of the rural school complexes in 2018. After the evaluation of the fair in 2016 we believe it is suitable to look for a place with more space if we contemplate involving young people from neighboring municipalities or limit the fair only young people from the town of Suchitoto. Evaluating the fair in 2017 we see the need to continue the search for another place for the fair in 2018 and contemplate using the roofed basketball court of the INSU giving ample space both for the formal act as well as for area of stands for the institutions. This could be an important factor to achieve attendance of more students from this Institute. Contributions and logistics provided by new Association in Suchitoto in one formed declined compared to the previous year that in the number of participants but the people who contributed time and energy and resources worked in a more organized and professional way, it is my opinion as one of the founders of the fair that in 2018 the main protagonists will be the youth of the Association that has much of the experience necessary to be able to organize this event on its own. That said I as director of programs of Palo Alto and one of the founders of the fair will be willing to continue to support where and when I can with work and funds with the contributions that we have always given in support from our project.

Table IV. Finances, 2017

Item	Amount (\$)
Income	
Municipality of Suchitoto	\$600.00
Palo Alto Friends Meeting/Patrick O'Hara	\$130.00
Santa Cruz El Salvador	\$135.00
Family Cummings-Youth Association	180.00
Total	\$1045.00
Expense	
Refreshments Centro Arte (200 @ \$1.50)	\$300.00
Lunches Centro Arte (60 @ \$5.00)	\$300.00
Lunches Centro Arte (24 @ \$5.00)	\$120.00
Support for use of CAP	\$60.00
Photocopies and Printing expenses(Palo Alto)	\$15.00
La Ciudadela Ungo (Santa Cruz) refreshments	\$65.00
Transportation	
Copapayo(Palo Alto)	\$30.00
Los Almendros(Palo Alto)	\$30.00
El Barrio(Palo Alto)	\$25.00
La Ciudadela Ungo (Santa Cruz)*	\$70.00
Gas (Palo Alto) for visits to the rural schools	\$30.00
Total	\$1045.00

*Support Municipality, *Support PAFM,

*Support Youth Aso./Atlanta FM, *Support Santa Cruz al Salvador