Waste Management Project – Daltra by Sophie-Diane Donker & Ian Flanegien

On November 8th we went to an appointment with Mr. Juan Pablo Suarez Garcia, General Supervisor at Daltra. Daltra is a recycling company located near Barcadera, next to ATCO. Daltra can be divided into two sectors: non-ferrous and ferrous. Non-ferrous metals refer to metals that are not easily corrosive, that do not contain iron and are not magnetic such as aluminum and copper. The non-ferrous metals are later shipped to The Netherlands where they are further processed. Ferrous metals contain iron for example cast iron and old cars. These ferrous metals are then demolished, processed and shipped to Taiwan.

**Personal opinion on waste management in Aruba**

The first words that come to mind when referring to the waste management in Aruba according to Mr. Suarez are ‘very sloppy’. Everything is mixed together and nobody respects the different sectors within the dump which are meant to help segregate different kinds of trash. At the moment nobody respects these sectors within the dump. Mr. Suarez believes that there is a way to manage waste efficiently in Aruba; however, making this waste management process a reality is the real task. Before being able to successfully implement such waste management processes, there any many stakeholders that have to work together and come to a consensus. There must be a group of people with a vision of what they want to achieve and with the ability to invest in such a process. He believes that the current situation on the island makes it even harder due to the fact that most stakeholders are purely focused on the economic benefits instead of taking into consideration the environmental damages caused by such ineffective waste management.

**Professional opinion on waste management in Aruba**

Daltra has acknowledged the on-going inefficient waste management that goes on daily at the dump in Parkietenbos and that there does exist a better way to manage waste in Aruba. Daltra in many occasions has tried to come up with a solution for this problem alongside the dump. However, as mentioned before, the huge amount of stakeholders involved in the decision making process to implement such solutions gets in the way of Daltra ever being able to agree with the dump on certain decisions.

**Ideal future of waste management according in Aruba**

Create an organized structure to guide waste management in Aruba. According to Mr. Suarez, the participation and involvement of the community are crucial to a successful waste management process. Arubans are often referred as close-minded, ignorant and only acceptant when it is to their benefit. In many cases Arubans have strongly opposed to taxes that would have been implemented for the sole purpose of investing them in a more efficient waste management process such as using this extra tax money to start recycling. People would rather dump their waste illegally all around the island than drive up to the dump and having to pay certain taxes to manage this waste. Even if there are investors willing to take the risk and invest in such a process, there is still a great chance that the first few month might already be disappointing for these investors due to the fact that the return in investment takes months, maybe even years, to be earned back. The waste that is found in the dump, such as batteries and compressors, all add acidity to the soil and damage the environment. Mr. Suarez believes that it is eventually up to the community whether or not they want to protect the environment because the idea of recycling cannot be forced upon any individual since the chance is greater of it being refuted. In much more developed countries such as Sweden, there is a successfully implemented waste management system and it is clearly reflected in the cleanliness of the area. In such countries the recycling process is that efficient that waste is even imported.

The first step to successfully implementing an efficient waste management process in Aruba would be to locate a big enough area to practice waste segregation on a bigger scale. The segregated trash is much easier to work with and can be used to convert waste into energy or gas. If and when this waste management process is successful enough, the benefits can be enormous and could be shared with, for example, the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire). These island could eventually work together to come to a consensus on how they are going to use the generated energy in order to lower the electricity costs per month for the average household. This could benefit the economy of all three islands because at the end of each month, people would have to pay less in utilities and would have more spending money. Another solution might be if private sector firms contribute to such waste management processes where these firms could earn a certain percentage of the energy generated in monetary value. Mr. Suarez also mentioned earlier in the interview that the introduction for RVS plants or incinerators are solutions that Daltra suggested to the dump. All in all, there are many solutions to ineffective waste management problems; however, implementing one of these solutions is the real task.

**Barriers to implementing the ideal waste management process in Aruba**

The most important barrier would be the community. The community should be educated and aware of the dangers of inefficient waste management and of the benefits of a better waste management system. A great part of the community would rather get rid of their trash all in one trash bag instead of taking the time to separate the trash. This has much to do with the mentality of the community that eventually has led to people being less environmentally conscious since it is a pretty recent problem. So eventually the first step would have to be the change in mindset of the Aruban community. This could start with the younger generation and start making them aware of the harmful effects that waste has on the environment. And also start getting them used to recycling both at school and at home. The second step revolves around the government and what is important to them. Promising is one this, but complying is another. The government must take action and responsibility for the well-being of the environment. At the end of the day, it is a dump but there must be some rules and regulations to make the recycling process easier.

**Conclusion**

According to Mr. Suarez the first step involves educating the community and raising awareness about the negative impacts of waste on the environment as well as the benefits of efficient waste management for both humans and the environment’s well-being. The next step involves getting the government on board and willing to cooperate to implement efficient waste management systems. After the process has started, everything will eventually fall into the right place; however, it is the decision to start that is the most difficult part. Eventually investors and all stakeholders must take the initiative and be willing to take the risks of investing now and hopefully seeing the benefits of their investment in the future.

**Transcript of Interview with Mr. Juan Pablo Suarez Garcia(General Supervisor at Daltra)**

We started off by introducing ourselves and explaining a bit about or project. Afterwards we started the interview.

**Sophie**: Kico Daltra ta haci?

**Mr. Suarez**: Wel ja, Daltra eigenlijk ta un compania unda nos ta recycle. Nos tin nos sector unda nos tin non-ferrous cu ferrous. Non-ferrous ta tur loke ta aluminium, stain-less steel, coper, brons. Y ferrous obviously ta hero, hero bieu, mas tanto auto bieu cu ta yega. Nos ta haci demolition tambe dus tur loke cu ta sali for di por ehempel WEB of Citgo unda eynan nos ta proces’e. Dependiendo di e calidad di e material nos ta mande afo y e ta yega na Taiwan, so esey ta final destination. Y loke ta material non-ferrous esey si ta wordo, uhm, geship y ta wordo manda Hulanda unda nan ta breid e, ja, af, verder.

**Ian:** Okay. E ora nos ta cuminsa cu pregunta uno.

**Sophie**: Uhm, bo impresión personal over di manejo di sushi na Aruba. Dus kico abo ta pensa over di con nan ta handle sushi na Aruba?

**Mr. Suarez**: Slordig, slordig. Ja, hopi malo den un maner’i bisa. Bo mes por wak den e dump, bo por gewoon wak cu, ja, e manera mas ideal ta cu bo tin tur cos den un bepaalde sector. Pero hende ta yega anto tira tur cos den, den otro. Pero ja, kinan e donjo di e bedrijf ta un meneer Hulandes, varios biaha nos a purba cu dump pa haci diferente projecten pa nos por haci e proceso hopi mihor, pero ja eynan bo tin diferente factor nan manera gobierno, cu placa etc. Unda cu prome cu bo kier haci algo bon bo mester inverti y e stap ey ta esun mas moeilijk den un maner’i bisa paso maner’i procesa tur e, ja, e bari sushi ey, tin. Pero na cuminsamento e ta caro.

**Ian**: E ta caro si, anto esey niun hende kier haci.

**Mr. Suarez**: Exacto. Esey ta, ja, bo mester haya un hende cu un vision y ban bisa tin biaha na Aruba esey ta un tiki limita den maner’i bisa, unda hende tin miedo di inverti paso, ja, den un forma politico e ta mas enfoca den gana placa cu wak den e mesun bienestar di e isla.

**Sophie**: Anto awo, mas profesional. Bo, bo punto di bista profesional over di e waste management , kiermen ban bisa, Daltra en general, con nan ta wak e manejo di sushi na Aruba. Dus bo por tin un view personal y uno profesional y mi lo kier sa esun profesional.

**Mr. Suarez**: Ja, den un manera profesional por bisa cu e por miho, unda tin diferente proceso cu bo por haci. Tin e planta nan manera RVS, uhm planta di RVS. Esey ta unda cu bo ta coy tur e plastic etc. y bota uza un incenerator. A base di e incinerator ey bo ta crea energie, of gas. Y esey bo por haci’e den diferente proceso. E por ta un manera di recycling bo por bisa, unda cu bijvoorbeeld si bo traha coriente of zo, uhm, ja, bo por haci un convenio cu WEB pa bisa, y a largo plazo prijs di coriente por baha un tiki.

**Ian**: Con bo kier pa e futuro di waste management na Aruba ta?

**Sophie**: Kico ta e manera ideal pa maneja sushi segun abo?

**Mr. Suarez**: Ja, ideal lo ta crea un process unda cu a base di e process ey bo por haci tur cos mihor y tur cos den orde. Mi ta kere si nan, desde dump, paso dump ta primordial den un manera di bisa, uhm, paso si nos ta realístico, uhm, anos Rubiano ta hopi mente sera. Dus si bo bisa pueblo ‘okay nos ta bay duna boso un belasting extra pa recycling’ of algo asina, nan no ta bay acept’e of bo tin welga of tur e cos nan ey. Dus e gobierno mes no por saka un belasting unda e belasting ey mes nan lo uze pa recycle miho, paso e mesun hende nan ta bay, hende ta prefera bay tira algo den mondi cu bin te dump of paga un belasting extra. Pero hopi biaha bo ta pasa banda di mondi bo ta wak boshi bari sushi, bo ta wak auto bieu tira, bo ta wak bateria tira, bo ta wak compressors tira anto tur esaki ta zuur cu ta sali manera riba omgeving, olie cu ta sali tambe y cu tur cos ta danja medio ambiente. Dus, ja, si bo tabata tin, e prome problema ta ban bisa e pueblo. E pueblo mester mentalisa cu nan kier recycle. A base di esey bo por sigi verder. Uhm, wak paisnan mas desaroya den Europa, unda cu tin cierto orden anto bo bay bo ta wak con limpi nan ta. Tin pais nan hasta mundialmente cu ta importa bari sushi di otro pais, pa nan recycle paso nan ta traha energia di esey, dus, ja, e plan nan ey mester sierto ingreso di material, material bruto, unda cu tin biaha nan ta recycle asina bon, ban bisa, cu nan no tin extra dus nan mester tuma sushi di otro pais.

**Sophie**: Anto un pais manera Aruba, dus ban bisa un isla asina chikito, e lo ta un posibilidad?

**Mr. Suarez**: Ja, loke mi a bisabo di e RVS, e ta un cierto tonnage, si bo cuminsa algo asina e prome stap ta cu bo mester di un area grandi unda cu bo ta cuminsa segrega e material. Paso plastic, hende ta considera plastic, pero tin diferente tipo di plastic. Y a base di esey bo ta acumula, ora bo tin cierto tonnage, pa bo cuminsa uza bo machine. Unda cu di eynan bo ta cuminsa traha stroom of traha gas, y bo ta sigi verder. Si bo ta yega na un punto unda cu bo ta asina effectief, ja esey ta pensando dimas leu caba den un manera di bisa, bo por haci un convenio cu tur e ABC island nan. Un plan asina ta un plan di millones, dus si bo haci un convenio cu Curaçao, Boneiro anto tur e compania nan kinan, ban bisa si nan haci’e kinan, uhm, ja, Aruba ta haya otro manera di crea su energia. Obviously, e no ta 100% pero si bo uza un 5% of 10% di e energía cu bo ta uza den full e isla, keremi cu e prijs cu hende ta paga cada luna pa coriente lo baha. Tambe gobierno por traha tambe cu compania nan priva pa asina traha un contract cu nan cu ta bisa cu si un compania introuci e metodo aki di genera gas of stroom uzando sushi, nan lo por haya e amount cu nan a genera bek den forma di plaka. Asina nan ta haya nan placa bek, nan ta haya tiki winst paso obviously niun hende ta haci cos pa gratis y despues di tanto aantal anja bo tin esey pa bo mes den mod’i bisa. Tur hende por keha pero si bo no bin cu solution, bo no ta haciendo nada. Solution tin, djis mester wak ken ta willing pa inverti

**Ian**: E otro pregunta ta ki obstaculo nan bo ta wak cu ta stroba pa yega na e futuro ideal aki?

**Mr. Suarez**: Ok bo tin e factor mes, e pueblo. E pueblo mester consientisa. Bo por tin bijvoorbeeld 20% of 30% cu si ta willing di hacie y bo tin e otro 70% of 80% cu ta prefera tira tur cos den dump. Paso, ja, pa hende e ta mas facil coy un saco, habri un saco y benta tur cos aden, cu cuminsa saka tur cos y sorteer tur cos un pa un. Loke diferente pais tambe ta haci ta bijvoorbeeld, bo tin e option di recycle of no. Dus si bo no recycle bo ta paga extra. Paso e extra ey ta loke cu e compania ta gasta na recycle. Pero si bo bin cu e idea ey, mayoria di e hende nan no ta bay tume, manera ja den un manera positivo. Dus e prome stap ta cambia e mentalidad di e hende nan. Y tambe bo mester tin, ja, durante e anja nan k ibo tabata tin diferente gobierno unda cu tur ta bisa ‘okay, nos ta bay haci algo’. Uhm, campanja politico ta hopi ta promete pero, ami tin color y mi ta bisabo flat, esun cu gana mester ta toch willing pa haci algo pa Aruba. E bienestar zelf paso si bo analisa e area bon, e ta basta contamina. E por ta un dump pero e mester tin cierto orde. Nos a purba bijvoorbeeld cu hero. Nos zelf ta uzando hero, tin un baki cu hero di nos mes anto tur e hero ta wordo tira eynan. Cada un of dos dia nos ta busca e hero y nos ta tire den nos tereno. Eynan nos ta procese verder. Nos no ta paga nada paso e hero su prijs ta hopi hopi abou dus loke nos ta gasta den machine y tur cos ta loke nos lo paga pa e hero. Pero, boso tabata eyden, boso a wak e tereo cu tabata full limpi?

**Ian**: Si si, net na entrada.

**Mr. Suarez**: Awel e tereno ey anja pasa, wel no anja pasa, bo por bisa 5 luna pasa, e tabata yena cu bari sushi y hero. Eynan anos zelf a drenta, den convenio cu Serlimar, nos a haci un project unda cu nos a saka tur e hero y ja awo bota wak e limpi. Pero e tabata 2 of 3 veld di futbol di grootte y ja, nos a manda machine y bo ta saka hero. Nos tin un machine tambe kinan cu ta mula hero, dus tur hero grandi of bari sushi ta wordo mula.

**Sophie**: Dus eigenlijk ta e pueblo y e gobierno mester tuma e prome stap?

**Mr. Suarez**: Ja, e prome stap ta e pueblo cu mester concientisa.

**Sophie:** Ja asina hopi anja a pasa cu e mentalidad di djis tira sushi afo den bari sushi y get rid di e problema, a bira e mentalidad normal. Pa por cambia e mentalidad aki ta tarda hopi tempo

**Ian:** Esey ta berdat pero mi ta kere cu e generation nobo ta mas willing pa cambia awoki cu e generation nan mas bieu.

**Mr. Suarez**: Eynan bo tin tur bo rason, paso anos ser humano tin, nos ta custuma na un cierto manera di biba anto ora nan purba cambi’e bo no ta willing di haci’e. Pero ja, ban bisa e generation nobo of e Millenials nan, tin par ta cuminsa pensa mas ariba e mundo zelf cu riba nan mes. Dus a base di esey bo por cuminsa haci diferente stap. Bo no por haci algo diripiente paso e no ta bay asina tampoko. Ta hopi tempo y placa bo mester investeer. Pero si bo cuminsa cu kleine stappen, bo lo por yega na e meta obviously. Nan no ta haci nada, si bo cuminsa sikiera ba cuminsa y bo ta zorg nan no stop.

**Sophie:** Ok no, esey si mi ta eens cune, e educacion ey ta anto na scol tambe mi ta kere e mester ta- e no mester ta un vak precies, pero por lo menos un biaha pa siman e mucha nan lo por recycle of algo. Bo ta kere tin un mercado pa e maneho di sushi aki? Mane e ideal, e forma ideal. Bo ta kere tin hende cu ta willing pa paga of investeer den e forma di deshaci di sushi aki?

**Mr. Suarez:** A nos zelf kier cuminsa algo asina, mi no por bisa hopi paso ainda e ta aden.. Pero loke ma bisabo ta un plan unda cu e terein grandi ey mes nos por uze y bo ta haci mane un station unda tur e bari sushi nan por yega. E ta un manera mas facil pa hende trece nan bari sushi eynan mes e machine mes ta sorteer tur cos pa bo, e mes ta segrega e sushi y por haci hopi cos cune mane traha bunker of zoiets. So bo tin un bunker di plastic. Y cu e plant ey bo por cuminsa uhm, mane ma bisabo prome bo tincu acumula, ora bo tin sierto cantidad bo por sigui verder. Y nan no ta purba haci un mercado, pero si e ta bay abase di regering bo ta haci un meeting cu regering unda cu tiki stroom of e stroom cu bo a haci, uhm, bo ta mande na WEB y ja ban bisa e prijs di coriente lo mester baha den un manera di bisa, of bo ta traha cu bo stoom tambe bo ta bende na WEB.

**Sophie:** Kiermen bo ta wak WEB tambe como un protential investor ja cu e ta benificia nan tambe si e prijs di-

**Ian:** Si paso pa nan tambe e lo ta un incentive.

**Mr Suarez:** Si, bo tin dos opcion eynan. Of bo ta usa gobierno, of bo ta usa un compania priva. Y mi ta kere e local nan mes lo prefera usa un compania di Aruba mes enbes di un di afo.

**Ian:** Si, si, mane bijvoobeeld si Daltra mes cuminsa algo e pueblo mes sa cu nan kier haci algo bon, nan mes lo yuda nan.

**Mr. Suarez:** Si, pero bo tin e factor tambe di placa cu, ok, si bo hacie via regering un plant asina lo costa, depende con grandi bo haci’e y bo mester wak cuanto bari sushi bo ta bay tin, dus bo ta trece un planta di ban bisa 5 miyon Dollar. Y e regering ta bisabo “No mi no tin e placa pa inverti den esey. Dus ki bo mester haci, bo mester un compania priva. Y ki nan ta haci pa bo? Nan ta trece e planta pa bo, pero ki nan ta pidi nan kier un contract pa 10-20 anja unda cu tur energía nan genera nan ta hanja un porcentaje dus den e 10-20 anja ney nan ta hanja nan placa bek hunto cu un tiki winst. Ja paso niun compania ta bay haci’e pornada. Negoshi ta negoshi y tur hende ta wak e asina. Y eynan e gran factor ta, si gobierno kier haci’e ,gobierno mester los placa, pero bo tin e delaster dos mandata di gobierno bisando “nos no tin placa” dus e opcion ey ta hopi limita. Dus kico nos por haci ta trece un compania priva.

**Ian:** Abo tin un compania in mind cu lo haci algo asina? Of no echt?

**Mr. Suarez:** Ja, bo tin- Ja pe’sey ma bisabo mi no por echt papia hopi di dje pero a nos zelf tin e donjo di compania ta traha cu Simmons. Simmons ta conoci mundialmente, y si Simmons bay door cu e plan cu ful e instalacion, pero mane ma bisabo nan mester di un contract. Na final di 10-20 anja e incenerator lo keda Aruba. E ta di Aruba y bo ta wak Simmons a hanja su placa y nan a bay. Y Aruba ta sigui draai. Y na final Aruba lo tin un dump limpi, pero bo no por cuminsa algo y expect den 1 anja hopi resultado.

**Sophie:** Cu e sushi cu tin acumula durante e anjanan, e material cu tin ey’riba aworaki lo ta suficiente pa sostene e process?… of ja, mi no sa con e ta bay.

**Mr. Suarez:** Ja bo tin, ja mane mi di bo mester cuminsa acumula tur cu cuminsa drenta desde e momento cu ba dicidi di cuminsa y bo mester tin otro sector cu lo ta bezig ta saca material. Paso ki dump ta haci, dump ta buta un laag di bari sushi después nan ta buta santo riba dje pa e no hole hopi, dus pesey bo ta wak e berg nan asina grandi, pero eigenlijk e ta bari sushi, santo, bari sushi, santo, y asina nan ta sigui. Dus si bo bin cu un sector cu bo ta ricibi tur cu loke ta drenta y despues bo mester otro sector c unan ta cuminsa descata e material unda cu bo ta usa e mesun plan. Pero keremi e tin hopi.

**Sophie:** Si paso nos a bay anto bo ta echt wak mane hopi santo bou di tur e sushi cu bo ta wak. Dus bo ta kies mane un dia of algo cu nan ta base ful cu santo anto sigui.

**Mr. Suarez:** Exacto, asina nan ta haci. Pero ja dump tin un sierto maneho pa haci tur cos slordig.

**Sophie:** Niun hende no ta respeta, ni e departamento nan cu tin, dus mane, eyden. Hende ta gewoon drenta anto tin free-for-all.

**Ian:** Basicamente, bo ta djis trece bo garbage y ja.

**Sophie:** Si bo por a mane summarize e ideal waste management den e futuro pa Aruba den mane 5 of 6 frase of menos. Con bo lo summarize e?

**Mr. Suarez:** Uhm.. ja con mi bise… mi ta kere e prome stap ta concientiza e pueblo. Pueblo, después regering. Cuminsa un proces y abase di e proces ey sigui verder. Pero e gran problema ta bo no ta cuminsa y si bo no cuminsa bo no ta logra nada.