

20TH EDITION

INTERNATIONAL CONTEST
FEATURING **TOYS MADE**
FROM **REUSED MATERIALS**

Guide to **ORGANISE** the activity
INTERNATIONAL



 **CLUB 2/3**
Youth Division of Oxfam-Québec

 **Oxfam**
Québec

20th edition

International Contest Featuring Toys Made from Reused Materials (ICFT)

Deadline for receiving the toys in Canada: November 18, 2011

Awards Gala: December 3, 2011

Creative Waste exhibit at the Montreal Biôdome: December 3, 2011 to March 16, 2012

For further information: 514-937-1614 or visit oxfam.qc.ca

The International Contest Featuring Toys Made from Reused Materials (ICFT)

The International Contest Featuring Toys Made from Reused Materials came to existence in 1992. Since then, the contest has allowed 250,000 young people all over the world to express their creativity and to exchange views on the essential themes of international solidarity and sustainable development.

1. History

In 1992, a CLUB 2/3 educator visiting Burkina Faso witnessed how young children made their own toys, using salvaged materials. The idea for an International Contest Featuring Toys Made from Reused Materials (ICFT) was born. The ICFT thus became a means to pay tribute to the creativity of young people in the South, in a world where poverty is often unfairly associated with a lack of resourcefulness. Through the years, the contest has also become an excellent educational tool to raise issues related to overconsumption and the interdependence of individuals and peoples.

2. Who are we?

CLUB 2/3 was founded in 1970 by a group of students and youth facilitators at Marie-Victorin College. It was so named because at the time, two thirds of the world population already faced injustice and poverty. Today, CLUB 2/3 brings together a multitude of people who share an ideal of solidarity based on the conviction that young people are the most effective change agents in the world.

Active for over 40 years in hundreds of Québec high schools, CLUB 2/3 became the youth division of Oxfam-Québec in 2005.

Oxfam-Québec is an international cooperation organization that works with partners and colleagues in developing countries in the design and implementation of sustainable solutions to poverty and injustice. The organization also mobilizes the people of Québec in order to allow the expression of their solidarity.

Oxfam-Québec is a member of Oxfam, an international confederation of 15 organizations who work together in over 99 countries.

2. Context

The ICFT is organized by Oxfam-Québec, in collaboration with its partners. The contest is not meant to be a competition, but rather a collective effort to promote friendship and collaboration among individuals and peoples everywhere.

The ICFT offers an interesting way to establish direct contact with youth. You can use the contest as a special occasion to share your experiences with young people, or to introduce them to new educational activities. It can also be highly rewarding for young people to take part in an **international** contest, something the ICFT allows them to experience.

3. Objectives of the contest

The International Contest Featuring Toys Made from Reused Materials is meant to be a meeting point for youth all over the world. The contest can be used to stimulate discussion on several important issues, such as global inequalities, social and cultural differences, overconsumption, the environment, etc.

Depending on the angle you choose, you can bring young people to see that their reality is different from that of youth in another country, region or even school, and that this difference can be a starting point for intercultural dialogue. Should you wish to highlight the environment as part of the ICFT, you could have young participants reflect on and promote the “6Rs”: 1) reduce consumption; 2) reuse goods; 3) recycle; 4) re-evaluate our value systems; 5) restructure our economic systems; and 6) redistribute global resources.

The ICFT also aims to meet some specific objectives:

- 1) To promote the development of key competencies in young people, namely :
 - a. To share, create and cooperate with others through team work;
 - b. To make use of their creativity, ingenuity, imagination, sensitivity, artistic sense and manual abilities;
 - c. To become aware of the differing realities and inequalities that exist among individuals and peoples, and to be able to explain them to others;
 - d. To critically assess the materials used to make the toys, and to understand their impact on the environment;
 - e. To construct a more accurate, realistic and positive image of the situations confronting youth across the world, by calling on one’s individual creativity to build toys;
 - f. To take part in activities that promote solidarity, as citizens of the world;
 - g. To raise awareness among their peers as to the importance of taking action, either by joining the contest or by getting involved in their community through other means.
- 2) To allow schools and youth groups to use the contest as a tool to better integrate subject areas such as history, geography, religion, morals, human rights, etc.

- 3) To reach the general public and raise awareness about international solidarity and sustainable development through local toy exhibits.

4. Testimonials

Each year, the ICFT generates many thoughtful comments from young participants, teachers, youth facilitators or community organizers in various countries. Here are a few examples:

Young participants from Senegal tell us:

“... We are joining this contest for many reasons: first, we have always had an environmental protection group in our institution. Early on, we were made aware of our planet’s ills and of the dangers that threaten humanity on a regular basis. We took an active part in “Set setal”¹ days, as well as in reforestation days.

This contest is allowing us to explore a new aspect of the movement for environmental protection. Making toys from reused materials allows us to rid the world of its refuse, to pollute less and to objectively meet the needs of young children.”

In Peru, a participant has set personal objectives:

“I really like the idea of creating a toy from reused materials. It’s a lot more difficult and ingenious. My goal is to entertain young people from all ages, so that they can have fun with it. I believe that this toy is a good alternative to the classic toys we find today, which are too violent.”

*- Michael John Mejia Vargas, age 16,
Nuestra Señora de la Esperanza School,
Peru)*

A committed teacher tells us that while youngsters take part in the contest:

“...The project teaches them how to have fun with reused materials. It is up to us, the adults, to teach them early on how to protect their planet, their living environment.”

- Sophie Chartrand (École Marie-Rollet, Canada)

5. Taking part in the ICFT:

To take part in the ICFT, you must:

- 1- Familiarize yourself with the participation criteria and contest rules;
- 2- Register your organization, by filling out the Overseas Registration Form;
- 3- Implement the contest in your organization or school;
- 4- Select 12 toys to represent your country in the international contest;
- 5- Register the participants, by filling out a Toy and Participant Registration Form for each toy;

¹ Set setal : days on which young Senegalese clean the streets in some neighbourhoods.

- 6- Ship a maximum of 12 toys to Oxfam-Québec in Montreal, to be included in the international final for the contest.

5.1 Participation criteria

- The ICFT is for young people aged 6 to 19. The participants are divided into three age categories : 6 to 9 year-olds, 10 to 12 year-olds, and 13 to 19 year-olds. To be eligible, participants must be enrolled in an educational institution or belong to an association or youth group comprised of at least 5 members.
- Young people from all countries can take part in the ICFT.
- Toys can be made individually or by a team. Team submissions are encouraged, given that team work is an essential component of international cooperation.
- An individual or team can only submit one toy each year.
- All submitted toys become the property of Oxfam-Québec and of its youth division, CLUB 2/3.
- There is no registration fee for participants outside of Canada.

5.2 Contest rules

Here are the rules to follow for making the toys. Toys that fail to meet any of these rules will be disqualified from the contest; however, the disqualified toys will still be included in the exhibit.

- Produce a toy that is made only of reused materials.
- Use glue, tape, string or wire **sparingly**. However, make sure that the toy is sturdy and that it will hold during shipping.
- Create a toy that does not refer to war or arms, given that the ICFT is meant to promote peace and solidarity among individuals and peoples of the world.
- IMPORTANT!** The use of new parts, paint (new or reused) or batteries (non-reusable or rechargeable) is prohibited.²
- IMPORTANT!** The size of the toy should not exceed 40 cm x 40 cm x 40 cm.
- Fill out the Overseas Registration Form.
- Fill out the Toy and Participant Registration Form and affix the identification tag to the toy. The tag should not be glued onto the toy.

5.3 Overseas Registration and Toy and Participant Registration Forms

² Paint and batteries generate highly toxic waste.

5.3.1 Overseas Registration Form

The Overseas Registration Form can be found in Appendix I.

5.3.2. Toy and Participant Registration Form

The Toy and Participant Registration Form can be found in Appendix II.

Please **print legibly** so that we can reprint the names of the organization, country and participants correctly when labelling the toys for the exhibit.

Remember to fill out and detach the **toy identification tag**, and to affix it to the toy. This is an essential step, because it allows us to correctly identify each toy. A toy submitted without a Toy Registration Form or identification tag could be disqualified from the international final.

There is **no registration fee** for participants outside of Canada.

5.4 Shipping the toys to Canada

The International Contest Featuring Toys Made from Reused Materials occurs in two stages. The first part of the contest is held overseas, in a school or youth group. The second part occurs at the international level.

Each country may submit up to 12 toys to the ICFT. The toys must be packaged solidly and submitted along with the Overseas Registration Form and the Toy and Participant Registration Form. Toys must arrive at the following address **before November 18, 2011**:

**Oxfam-Québec and its youth division, CLUB 2/3
2330 Notre-Dame Street West, Suite 200
Montreal, Quebec H3J 2Y2
CANADA**

In order to send your toys to Montreal, we recommend that you call on Québec Sans Frontières participants, interns, international cooperation volunteers or overseas representatives who are traveling to Canada. Shipping costs will then be handled by Oxfam-Québec, provided that you have made previous arrangements with the person in charge of the ICFT at Oxfam-Québec.

Oxfam-Québec is not responsible for any toys that are lost or damaged, or for any submissions received after the deadline, regardless of the reason. Also note that the toys become the property of Oxfam-Québec and that they can be used to support the organization's mission in any way that we should determine (exhibits, shipping the toys to other countries, etc.).

5.5 Toy exhibit

The toys received by Oxfam-Québec will be exhibited at the Montreal Biôme (Québec, Canada), for approximately three months starting in December. Each year, close to 80,000 people attend the exhibit and are moved by the imagination, creativity and resourcefulness of the young participants, from here and abroad.

5.6 Excellence Awards

Each year, we assemble an international panel of judges from a variety of background. They can be educational, environmental or arts specialists, embassy representatives, sponsors, board members, Oxfam-Québec partners, etc.

The international judges select 12 Excellence Award winners among the toys received from

ALL COUNTRIES:

- ❖ Three Excellence Awards in the 6 to 9 age category
- ❖ Three Excellence Awards in the 10 to 12 age category
- ❖ Three Excellence Awards in the 13 to 19 age category
- ❖ Three Special Excellence Awards (one for each age category)

5.6.1 Distribution of awards

Each winner of an Excellence Award will receive a cash prize. The prizes are first directed to the organizations that held the contest, in local currency, either through the local Oxfam-Québec office or through a Western Union transfer. The organization should then remit the prize money to the winners, ensuring that they sign an acknowledgement of receipt.

5.7 Evaluation criteria

The judges on the international panel rely on values of international solidarity, social justice and respect for the environment to evaluate the toys and the participants' learning. Judges conduct their evaluation anonymously, using the following criteria:

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
Physical aspects of the toy	Esthetics (the toy is attractive, artistic and reflective of its country's reality)
	Practical aspects (manual skills, toy sturdiness)
	Recreational aspects (playing style: toy that invites group play or not)
Toy-making process	Varied and original use of salvaged materials
	Creativity (ingenuity, imagination, originality, inventiveness)
	Teamwork

Values conveyed by the toy	Promotion of international solidarity values; construction of a more accurate, realistic and positive image of youth in the world (<i>answer to question 7 of the Toy and Participant Registration Form</i>).
	Promotion of environmental values (<i>answer to question 8 of the Toy and Participant Registration Form</i>).

5.8 Certificates of participation

All participants in the international component of the ICFT will receive a personalized Certificate of Participation.

As well, we encourage ICFT organizers to hand out certificates to all local participants. To that end, contest organizers can duplicate and fill out the Certificate of Participation appended to this guide.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS FILL OUT THE TOY AND PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FORM, SO THAT THE LOCAL ORGANIZER CAN FILL OUT THE CERTIFICATES.

6. Organizing the ICFT in a school, association or youth group

6.1 How to organize the ICFT

The ways of organizing the ICFT will vary according to the school, association, youth group and country where it is held. Local organizers are responsible for determining the approach used as a function of their objectives, of local realities, of the educational project supported by the ICFT, etc. Here are some guidelines to assist you:

Toy-making activities: These can take place in class, or they can be opened to all students in a given school. They can also involve all the members of an association or youth group, in which case we encourage you to hold the activity in a common area and to invite the participants to register on a voluntary basis.

Toy exhibit: As part of the contest, you should consider bringing public attention to the young participants' work. A toy exhibit not only raises awareness among parents, friends and the community, but it also highlights the participants' creative potential in a positive way.

Selection committee for the toys : You can ask teachers, local authorities or well-know people in your region to join the selection committee. They will then select 12 toys that will represent your country in the international contest. If you wish, you could organize a gala and hand out participation prizes and certificates to all the participants.

6.2 Key steps for organizing the contest

Should you wish to organize the contest in your school, here are some key steps to ensure that the contest runs smoothly and that you follow the rules:

- Explain the project to the participants;
- Facilitate an introductory activity to the contest;
- Allocate sufficient time for toys to be made individually or in teams;
- Facilitate an awareness-raising activity on international solidarity and the environment;
- Have each participant fill out the Toy and Participant Registration Form;
- Ensure that each toy conforms to the contest rules;
- Plan a toy exhibit in your school, neighbourhood or community, assemble a selection committee and organize a gala;
- Ship the winning toys to Oxfam-Québec, before the deadline; each participating organization may submit a maximum of 12 toys.

7. Taking part in the ICFT: the case of Haiti

In the Fall of 2010, in Haiti, Dr. Danielle Domersant, Public Health Coordinator for Oxfam-Québec, got together with a number teachers to organize the ICFT in several camps for displaced persons in Port-au-Prince. Our partner MIDADE also coordinated the contest in Jacmel. In all, the young participants produced about 50 toys. The majority of the children created toys that represented ways of rebuilding their country after the earthquake: power shovels, hospitals, ambulances, or helicopters. As well, each toy-making session was used to promote public health through educational vignettes that addressed basic hygiene in the camps and cholera prevention. A toy exhibit was held in the Oxfam-Québec office in Port-au-Prince, so that all could admire the toys and vote for their favourite. The ten toys with the most votes were shipped to Oxfam-Québec, as submissions to the ICFT. Of these toys, two were awarded Excellence Awards.



Dr. Danielle Domersant
visiting the toy exhibit
Photo : Julie McHugh



Public health prevention workshop. Photo : Éric St-Pierre

This is one story among many; you can adapt the ICFT in a variety of ways, according to the time you have. The only limit is your imagination!

To see more examples of toys submitted to the contest, visit our photo gallery featuring 2010 winners at

www.flickr.com/photos/oxfamquebec/sets/72157625425909847/.

For further information on the ICFT, please visit our Web site at oxfam.qc.ca (french) or get in touch with the Oxfam-Québec representative in your country.

Remember that whether in your country or elsewhere, the most important aspect of organizing the ICFT is to create a meeting space and to stimulate discussion on issues of solidarity and environmental stewardship. As important is for young participants to share their involvement in the ICFT with their families and peers at the community level.

**Was your ICFT successful?
Do you have good stories to tell and colourful photos to
share?**

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR SUCCESS!
WE WILL SHARE YOUR STORIES ON OUR WEB SITE.**

Have a great contest! Thank you for helping bring justice and fairness to the world!

Appendix I

How can I participate?

To register, please fill out the form below and return it to us by email or fax at 011-514-937-9452.

Visit our International Contest Featuring Toys Made from Reused Materials Web page to access a toolkit where you can download a promotional video and posters. You can also view our photo gallery to get inspired and help your participants generate ideas.

Participants must be between 6 and 19 years of age, and be enrolled in a learning institution or belong to a youth group.

Overseas Registration Form

Full name of your organization / school:		
Country:		
Contact person:		
Title:	Telephone:	Extension:
Email:		
Fax:		

Elementary level (6-12): <input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary Level (13-19): <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/> _____
First-time participant: <input type="checkbox"/>	We have participated before: <input type="checkbox"/> How many times: _____	
How did you learn about the contest?		

Appendix 2

INTERNATIONAL CONTEST FEATURING TOYS MADE FROM REUSED MATERIALS

TOY AND PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FORM

You must fill out all requested information and send this form along with the toy submitted for the contest.

1) School or group name: _____

2) School or group address: _____

3) Contact person: _____
Telephone number: _____
Fax number: _____
Email: _____

4) Name of the toy: _____

5) Names of the participants who made this toy:	Age	Level
a) _____	_____	_____
b) _____	_____	_____
c) _____	_____	_____
d) _____	_____	_____

6) Materials reused for this toy: _____

7) If your toy could speak, how would it describe a typical day in your life to a young person living in another country?

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FEATURING **TOYS MADE**
FROM **REUSED MATERIALS**

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

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Oxfam-Québec and its youth division, CLUB 2/3, recognize the work and engagement of:

Title of the work:

Organizer's signature:

 **CLUB 2/3**
Youth Division of Oxfam-Québec

 **Oxfam**
Québec





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