

2nd Pathways to a Sustainable Future: Day 2

Minoru Nakata

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Loma Plata

We started our day traveling 6 hours by bus to Loma Plata to visit the Mennonite Settlement. When we arrived there, we were greeted by Patrick, one of the members of the Mennonite Community who shared with us how the Mennonites came to live in Paraguay and showed us their museum and factory where they package milk into cartons. The Mennonites have been in Paraguay for 89 years. They came from Canada to avoid war and to create a community centered on faith, honesty, and hard work. They didn't feel much hope about the land they were given in Paraguay. No one expected them to create packaging factories, slaughterhouses, and a functioning community because of the environmental factors. But through hard work and perseverance they were able to create a sustainable community with, among other things, factories, running water, hospitals, churches, and schools where they taught their beliefs of faith, honesty, and hard work. It took a lot of patience but through their hard work and determination they were able to create the community they have today. We have a lot to learn and take away from the Mennonites.