First of all I will start saying that my opinion on the contest might be not very accurate due to the fact that I missed 2 weeks of it.

Besides that what I think of the contest is that is a good opportunity to meet people from all the places on the world and work together for a specific issue related to entrepreneurship and mixing ideas and points of view of the world today.

I also think that the time allowed for the contest is quite short and brings some difficulties, because I think that is not enough time for people who study and work at the same time, and end up being a project carried on only by 3 people of the team, while the other 3 might be sick, on spring break or any other issue that might occur, and related to a previous experience I got last year on a subject named project engineering where all the students had to submit a whole project covering all the areas as financing, marketing, law, investing, viability and more, showing as a final results that there are projects that need years to be developed accurately so they would not fail because nobody wants to invest in something that might fail because of lack of preparation.

It will be interesting if the contest offers some kind of intellectual property protection, and I say that because I did not publish a few ideas I’ve been developing for the past years, one of them regarding to an international office where people can buy and sell business ideas.
another issue to consider is that some people have trouble working in groups and sometimes people develop a good teamwork with some mates that have previously worked, and due to that our teacher allowed us to join by couples, but I don’t know if was my fault or my mate’s or the contest’s but we got into different teams.

Other aspect I don’t see it clear is how come a group of people that never have met before, work on a issue for 3 weeks and maybe win the prize, carry on to develop a project they started for the contest? Because I think that GEE seeks to encourage people to come up with ideas that might change the world, but what happens after the contest is over? Or if one of the teammates takes the info and develop the project in his area without notifying the rest of the group that did an effort to develop it and have the right for ownership?

To be honest I will not enroll the contest if it wasn’t a grade for my class, because the week has 168 hours, I spend 8 hours sleeping daily for a total of 56, 1 hour for each of the 3 meals being in a week 21 hours, I have 6 subjects 4 hours each for 24 hours of school, I work by myself developing a business idea that demands me a lot of time, but with a part time will be 4 hours daily, 28 a week, so I’ll still have around 40 hours without taking into account issues like how long does it takes to me to go to school from home, how much time does it takes to me to prepare myself for quizzes, mid-terms or presentations, and besides that I was supposed to get online, meet the teammates, bring ideas, research for proper references not as Wikipedia and more but I could not do this because I got a cirgury in a very sensitive area.

Despite this, I find amazing the contest, it is a great a idea, and might be very rich experience for the people that enroll volunteering, that have time to cover all the aspects of developing a new project, get in contact with people that might help them a lot to encourage entrepreneurship and probably become partners further, as well as help people develop leadership skills and work with deadlines and problems like teammates missing. Is amazing how people can beat all that I said before and bring a report as good as the one my team did, where all the commitment, work and sacrifice done can be noticed, and set the bases for what could be a real business idea that can change the world or help it.

If I catch up some free time I’ll participate again in an active way and get all the experience possible from GEE.

Alejo Zapata