

My name is NKOMEJEGUSENGA Dieudonné, I am Rwandese living in Rwanda. This is my second time participation in the Global Enterprise Experience. But, and believe it or not, there is always something new to be learnt from the GEE as every challenge is unique.

For my first participation in GEE, as an individual from a part of the world where solutions to local challenges are mostly and wrongly expected to come from the outside, I actually got introduced to what should truly be the source of answers to problems we face in our daily lives, and that was simply OURSELVES.

This time I particularly found it is amazing to be seated before my computer screen chatting with a Malaysian born Chinese student currently studying in New Zealand, chatting about a telecommunication service that we could offer to the poor in countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It is worth mentioning that there were no questions of the kind: "how are the poor in your country?" or "Do you think this is going to make any difference?" Instead the main question was "does this service have the potential to work, and if so, how?"

I realized in the process, how much, in the present world, we were privileged to have access to so much knowledge and information as this is something that is often taken for granted; I bet things didn't used to be this way where a Chinese student and a fellow Rwandan have an equal information about social or economic issues facing their respective societies and the world in general; and certainly the factor that we could only consider the realization of our project as a possibility albeit the distance and other obstacles, pictures so well how much opportunities the current generations enjoy in terms of realizing their ideas and dreams thanks to the advancements in technology. Here I will quote a Rwandan wise saying as: "**Uwambaye ikirezi ntamenya ko cyera**" which means that one wearing a white cap generally doesn't realize how beautiful it is. And I think GEE is one of the initiatives that through introduction to Entrepreneurial Experience contribute to eradicate this attitude of one not apprehend one's potential and opportunities in hand.

And finally I found the GEE really bears its name. But in the whole name the words 'Enterprise' and 'Experience' became my favourites; Because I found it's always important to have an idea no matter how good, but it's a different thing to have it shared and accepted by 7 or 8 people from so different backgrounds; though I doubt the task would be any easier if there were matching backgrounds. And then it's certainly a real challenge to demonstrate that the idea is viable (Even theoretically through discussion within the team).

This is why working in a team is never an easy affair; but it's the only way to narrow the error margin to its minimum by continuously examining other possibilities and "painfully" adopting others alterations to your initial idea. There is another Rwandan wise saying that (and I hope not many participants did the same as this): "**Umutwe umwe wifasha gusara.**" which literally means: "One's individual thinking only assists one on one's way to inanity". And when it comes to business proposal elaboration, this saying proves even more true since a seemingly very good/profitable proposal from one perspective could prove disastrous if certain factors are taken into consideration under a different perspective. I experienced this during this contest when after reading a proposal we had about the telecommunication service to the poor at a late stage of the contest, I found it quite cohesive and say... viable until one of my teammates in a comment asked three questions that literally made me realize that the proposal I thought was a grown 'man' was actually nothing more than a fragile 'foetus'; I therefore now see a team as a painful but reliable route from a dream/idea to reality and results.

I hope this initiative have a broader reach and see an even higher participation, and not only from universities, but also from other categories of people because every human being has the capacity to innovate and create new openings within his own environment. I would also propose that instead of having appointed team leaders from the very first day of the contest, GEE teams have a 'starter' who is familiar with the GEE context and whose job would be to introduce team members to each other and help them pick their own team leader. Because this will heighten the element of commitment and ensure that every team member especially the leader will deliver.