

P145 Salawu Muideen Oluwatosin Nigeria Journal

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“Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa”, (warm greetings in the Maori language as taught me by Eva, my Maori team leader from New Zealand).

One never knows what one is missing by not participating in the GEE. Yes, last year, I registered for the competition but couldn't contribute much because it clashed with my examination and when my group's business plan came out, my name and that of my partner were missing from the plan. That really drove me mad though I knew I didn't do much. The biggest surprise however was that someone in my Department, Temiloluwa Awonbiogbon was awarded highly recommended journal. I was amazed that he could actually cope with GEE and the school examination. So, I made up my mind to compete this year, regardless of the challenge.

I encouraged my friends in school (Obafemi Awolowo University) to register and more than 10 of them registered for the GEE this year. I paid for browsing time for some of them and encouraged them to participate actively. I made them realize that this is the best chance they have to really connect with the outside world. They were really inspired to learn about foreign cultures through GEE. To crown it all I was nicknamed the “GEE Ambassador” on campus.

Getting to know my team members was not difficult at all, thanks to the Biodata initiative of GEE. Within the first 30 hours from the start of the competition, I mailed all my team members 3 times to familiarize with them. My team leader Eva was quite wonderful, despite having technical problems with the internet; she still found the time to make meaningful contributions to our business idea. I cannot also forget the immeasurable contributions of Jordan and Egle, they are really wonderful guys with great ideas. In short if I am named the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of a company, my team members will be the very first set of people I will recruit. It's really nice working with them.

The GEE experience itself, which lasted for 3 weeks was fantastic though very tasking. I spent up to 40% of my money researching on our topic and sending e-mails to group members. My semester examinations started on May 17 and SIFE (a campus organization I belong to) has a major competition by May 26, so I had to cope with preparing for all three major events at the same time, I worked under a great deal of pressure, but it was fun. As an engineering student, it was not easy writing the financial part of the business plan, but GEE made me research beyond my discipline and it was highly rewarding.

The greatest lesson, I learnt in GEE this year was that by understanding our cultural differences, we derive amazing strengths for creating an environment of opportunities for everyone. It is a pity that it is all over; I thought it will last forever.