

472s Kavi Raj Joshi-Nepal, Journal

Participation in the Global Enterprise Experience was really a great learning experience for me. It not only helped me communicate and work with a multicultural, multinational team, but also taught the real values of teamwork, commitment, punctuality and a true leadership. Working in a global team of members with totally different socio-cultural backgrounds wasn't an easy task. However, I experienced it successfully, making it easy. Communication and collaboration with these different people really made a significant difference in my life.

Different collaborative tools, resources, suggestions and recommendations provided by GEE helped me and my team a lot. I came to know about such amazing platforms and got to use them efficiently, which made the project possible, today. I started communicating with the global participants from the day I was selected for the competition, went through the bio-data of many fellow participants and got to know a lot about life and interest of young minds around the world.

Working in such a team was the first ever opportunity for me and was a real great collaboration. We started off with emails, regular online-offline chat, messages from the first day of team division and then with Skype. I would never forget the first meeting, which was my first of its kind discussion on Skype. Moreover, the use of 37signals package, Facebook, Gmail, and Google docs helped me a lot. I also used telephone making calls to my team member. All these means of social media and communication made the project easier.

Cultural difference was one of the greatest challenges that I faced during this project. Being from South Asia, it became really hard for me to work with the friends from low context culture there in the west and focusing more on individuals' idea was a major problem for everyone in the beginning. I always wondered having a friend somewhere from Europe or America, who could share the experience of life there and the GEE made it a reality for me.

Sad part of life here, I do not have a PC (personal computer) and no any private internet connections. Whatever I worked on, it was all I did at the University (Computer Lab) during the class breaks and lunch hours. For few days, I worked through the cyber café and later on, a friend of mine supported me a lot. I went to his place several times and used his computer and internet to work upon, which made it today. Also, currently I'm writing this journal at his place.

I can feel the change that I developed into myself during the journey. I learnt that every winning ideas in today's business world does not necessarily need to be different, we can even win over market working on simple or small things, differently. Although many ideas were striking my head during the initial days, I tried giving it a concrete form and finally forwarded few, the most realistic ones. As a whole, a lot of ideas for International Business were conceived and few of them even went through a preliminary market research. Tourism is one of the major businesses and occupation in our economy. Ecotourism (i.e. in particular Agri-Tourism) is my subject of interest, as an aspiring entrepreneur. The whole world today is thinking for sustainable development and so do we. Thus, we developed this idea of 'Ecolodges in Peru'. This will help us step towards a green economy.

Leading a global team with totally different backgrounds and perspectives is a tough job. I had just studied it during the courses of Business Communication and Global Business Management, but through GEE, I experienced it in real life. Few of the fellow members were found to be really stubborn and many aggressions were seen during the decision making process. However, the team leader was a real nice and understanding personality. So, I easily persuaded him with different ideas to work upon and we had a great team work later. This also helped me know that one can win people with the power of words.

Having exams during the second week of GEE and being hospitalized for two days later on, my team supported me a lot. Despite of a series of problems in Nepal, with a daily power cut of 11 hours, the regular political strikes, instability, without a personal computer and internet, I tried hard continuous and we did it. Someone great said, "Where there is a will, there is a way". In fact, I realized it though GEE. Thanks to the organizers and supporters.