

I GOT INTO A ROLLERCOASTER!!!!

“Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.” Edgar Allan Poe

“Wooow!!!”- This was the first expression I had when I saw everybody’s bio in Basecamp.

Some months ago my International Strategic Management teacher proposed to be part of the GeeBiz experience as a class activity, I really didn’t think it was a very big deal, -“Anyway it is just a class activity” I said-. A few weeks later I started doing some research and hearing things about the contest every day in class and I got scared.

When the bio solicitude came up to my e-mail I thought that it wouldn’t be hard writing about me but it really was difficult to do it. By reading all the participants’ bio, I got worried since all of the people were so trained and experienced; I said “I have a big competition!!!”, to my mind came thoughts as “I have no chances” and “I will lose”, but when the team was designated my spirits rose because the team members had different career specialties and cultures -“How incredible my teammates are!!!” I thought-. That is when I finally understood that I would learn a lot from this experience.

How cool!!!!... I can’t believe it!!!- In previous days to the contest, my laptop broke down and that frustrated me because it became a big obstacle for me to participate in the contest, but I struggled to continue working in the business proposal. By watching a video that talked about the planned obsolescence I came up with the idea that my team and I later worked up on: an E-Waste recycling company in Nigeria. Days after and thanks to my idea, the teacher who involved me into the GeeBiz experience got me a new computer!!!: she told about my GeeBiz business idea to the Dean of a University in Medellin called EAFIT and he liked it so much that he decided to donate to me a new computer.

I love animals and I think I always will!!!- A team member who lives in Rwanda told me that dogs in Africa are savage, I couldn’t believe it because for me dogs will always be the cutest and more loving animals that could ever exist. In the same way, I was impressed by the huge time differences that can exist among countries; and by how the personalities and mind sets of people can

change across countries; it is even delightful how they talk and express!!.

Arrrggg!!!- It is hard managing across countries and cultures because sometimes people don’t show up, don’t care, don’t work or just do what you indicate to them to do; it was really frustrating to me and I was so desperate about it since I’m the kind of person who is looking forward team members who are proactive and hardworking people, but this time I had to push the team members to get the job done for a while. However, we finally could get to understand each other and develop the project by doing such a great work.

What????!!!- I couldn’t believe that there where all those problems in Africa when I first started doing the research for the business proposal. In my country (Colombia) you tend to think that people in Africa don’t have food or employment, but you don’t realize that the region has also lot of illnesses, environmental, economical and political troubles, and also that the African continent is not on the development aids map of big countries; and these are mostly the reasons why I wanted to contribute to the country (Nigeria) by at least helping the environment in a way that other social and economical factors in the area could get a little solved.

I can’t do it!!!- The GeeBiz experience gave me a lot of challenges to deal with, but I think that the biggest one was that English is my second language. At first I was making big mistakes, but I think that my English improved through chatting with my team members and through developing the business proposal.

There are a lot of face expressions and onomatopoeias I said during this process because everything was new to me and I learned about things that I never thought I would learn about. This experience has helped me growing a lot as a professional and as a person.

I want to keep in touch with the members of my team because they taught me a lot of things and I want to keep learning from them. We have the world’s future in our hands and have to keep working together to improve it in order to provide better life conditions to future generations. I have met a lot of colleagues all over the world and we need to keep striving together, because "there is strength in numbers" and the current global challenge is to use globalization to benefit humanity, instead of hurting it.