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Global Enterprise Experience

Ever since, I was raised with an optimistic mentality of doing the best that I can do, to pursue challenges with commitment driven by passion because mainly of the fact that, my family encountered massive problems back then. Growing up in the Philippines is quite hard since we are in a third world country and that our economy is not as impressive like others. I'd lived up to them saying, *"You need to work hard for you to achieve your dreams. If not, you will end up being nothing."* One of my goals is to be part of any competition, organisation or program that enhances my being of becoming more professional since it would benefit me in the real world. When my school advertised about the Global Enterprise competition, I did not hesitate to join even if I am a newbie. I teamed up with my best friend, Jipo, since we have unusual/weird ideas and that we both somehow enjoy experiences like this. I really like the concept of the competition because it is about fulfilling the goals of UNDP figuratively by portraying yourself as Superman saving the world. I am eager in making a difference in every aspect, whether big or small.

The thing is, at first I thought this was going to be pretty easy. I was wrong. Upon reading many previous reports, I realised that they were science related, like the Claw for Coreguaje business proposal. I was like, *"WHAT THE?! A CAT'S CLAW CURING ARTHRITIS?! HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!"* Even the Drumstick Biodiesel report! I thought they were producing energy with the use of chicken legs! I found the reports remarkable and made me feel a bit down on myself since I do not know where to start and felt pretty uneasy when I was teamed up with people who are a bit far from my age because I know they are more knowledgeable than me in terms of current global issues. Monica, our group leader who is from New Zealand, made a Facebook group since it is the most widely used social networking site in the world. We all met through Facebook at a certain time, and I was delighted to meet Jeremiah (New Zealand), Sally (Australia), Mateo (Colombia), Maria (Colombia) and Adebola (Nigeria). They were kind and friendly. Moreover, we were consistent in using Facebook and Gmail for communication. It was not hard for me to interact with diverse cultures since I study in an international school and deal with people of different races every day. Jipo and I had to meet at his house in order to brainstorm for some cool ideas for the Gee project and, because Monica told us so. It was pretty funny because we came up with silly business proposals. I was so enthusiastic to pursue the food scraps idea, and then I told Jipo that I had another idea but I was unsure about it.

As our leader set up a chat meeting on Facebook, I had trouble when she told me I had to be online at around 20:00, with the fact that my work was done at that time, and I knew I would be stuck in traffic. I decided to stay at a café for quite a while to not miss the meeting. We came up with our first proposal, which was building houses using plastic bottles, which are totally impressive. It was my first time hearing so much about it. Since everyone had been sharing their ideas, I shared mine as well. I talked about having a new way of converting food scraps into edible food as a survival meal for the poorest of the poor. I came up with this idea since it is one of the major issues in my country and I know everyone would find this beneficial since everyone's daily need is food. The slums in the Philippines had been going to commercial restaurants to gather some food scraps and feed it to their families. I was surprised that they like my idea because I am one of the youngest members in our team. When the meeting was about to end, Jipo told our team that I had another idea in mind. They all encouraged me to tell them all about it. I told them that there was this company who used to sell an organic fertilizer that could improve plantations as well as a remedy for ailments/diseases. My grandfather used to be the spiritual adviser of the company. But then, I was still unsure of the idea since I was not familiarised about it. As the meeting ended, we had to vote which proposal we were going to pursue. Almost everyone voted for building houses with plastic bottles as their proposal. Suddenly, I received an email from our leader the next day saying we will be using my idea, which was the non-organic fertilizer as our business proposal for Geebiz since it is very unique. I was in deep shock and honoured at the same time. This gave me the urge to give my very best in

accomplishing the proposal. We finished our tasks using Google Docs since it is easy to add and edit stuff and that the members of the team can review everyone's work.

This is my first time participating in a competition of this nature and I appreciate it for giving me a clearer view of the world. The Global Enterprise Experience has left with me purely stress and procrastination since some of the members were absent, but the experience I gained is truly worth the exhaustion. Like what Yoda said, you need to feel the force and should not end your training because you will end up like Vader, becoming an agent of evil by choosing an easier path. More than anything, this competition shows that no matter what race you are, there is always a way in giving a full understanding towards each other in order to sort things out together that brings a greater nation. I thank my teammates for making everything worthwhile, to our leader who motivated us all the way and especially to my grandfather, without him everything would be impossible. Furthermore, I also thank Deb for giving me a reason to open my Gmail account every day since I barely use it. You never fail to send me an email just to check my progress. You are forever a mystery to me. Wish I could see you soon and as well as my teammates.