

s436 Fenella Brown New Zealand Journal

The Global Enterprise Experience is not just a competition, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity that not only teaches you how to lead multinational teams, but also teaches you a thing or two about who you are as a person. This project was always very close to my heart as ever since I was young I have always wanted to grow up to be an entrepreneur. Not only has this project allowed me the opportunity to get a taste of what it might be like, it has also given me the chance to take my dedicated team members with me and together create a business idea that will help build sustainable nations and improve their overall quality of life.

I came into this project very naïve; I assumed that it would be challenging and stressful trying to manage a team that is not only vastly diverse but distributed all over the world. Once the project began, I was very prompt in sending out my launch letter welcoming my team to the project and was overwhelmed with the response I got! Every single member replied within a day with such enthusiasm, I could not wait to work with a team just as passionate about this project as I was. Throughout this experience it was refreshing how connected our team became with each other. People we essentially had never met before we considered as friends. Many of us would often chat to each other on Facebook getting to know one another better; I even attempted to learn some Spanish from my Columbian friends Andres and Sebastian! I felt that this initial relationship building was important in order for our team to be able to work successfully alongside one another.

The biggest challenge I faced throughout this project was the initial sharing of ideas, time was flying by and we had hardly any ideas put forward! I came up with a plan to encourage more ideas flowing among the group. I started posting some of my crazy and most outrageous ideas, asking the team how these could be turned into a feasible idea. In doing this I demonstrated that every idea is a good one as it sparks further innovation and collaborative teamwork. After this, ideas were flying, and when it came down to the vote I was pleased that we had so many innovative ideas to choose from. From the start of the project I ensured that each and every member of the team felt a sense of ownership towards our project idea. To do this I directly asked each member a question about the idea that would get them thinking about how they could add to it e.g. who will we target, how can we make this profitable etc.

I am finishing this report on a high. I feel our group has worked so well together and I am so happy that I was able to hand in a project with eight names at the bottom, eight hardworking, dedicated, passionate people. People I will remain in contact with long after the end of this project. I came into this determined to inspire my fellow team mates and lead them to success. However I did not stop to consider that they would also have this effect on me. I am so thankful for this opportunity from which I will take away life lessons. Thank you again to Andres, Rojjan, Kah, Anisah, Zaim, Mariam and Sebastian I truly appreciate all you have done. 😊