

GLOBAL ENTERPRISE EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP JOURNAL – TEAM 80

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I have decided to write this at the end of the experience – report all finished – so I can give a true account of how this experience went for my team and myself. Beginning on Wednesday the 26th of March, I sent out my carefully constructed launch letter to my team eagerly awaiting their response. I soon realized after a day or so of no response that maybe my letter was a little bit too big (tip to future leaders – try and keep this to a minimum). With a second (shorter) email sent out I got some responses and I got the idea that everyone seemed eager to get started.

Facebook seemed to become our main path of communication and it worked well as everyone had a Facebook profile. I created a group on Facebook just for the team where people could post their thoughts, ideas, etc. I soon discovered that I was the only one posting on our page.

I planned our first meeting together on Saturday 29th of March using the website timeanddate.com. This site was fantastic for trying to work out the best times to have meetings that was appropriate for everyone (no one was having to be awake at 3am). This seemed to work well within the group and people understood how to use it. The whole team turned up to our first meeting which was great but unfortunately people weren't very prepared with ideas so it was basically me putting ideas out and people just saying they liked it. One of the Bangladeshi's in my time, Riyadh, was enthusiastic and put out a lot of his ideas and his knowledge (not always relating to the task on hand) but it was nice to see someone putting effort in.

I organised another meeting the following week with the team to try and finalise our ideas and get moving on the project – unfortunately no one turned up to it so I felt the need to lay down the law with them and make sure they understand that it is unacceptable to not turn up to a meeting without any notice. It seemed to help but with future meetings some people still didn't turn up. I decided the best and fair way to pick an idea was for a vote so that's how we decided on 'Happy Teeth' – a mobile dental clinic that would travel from town to town.

In the end, everyone pulled together well and all contributed to the overall proposal. Timo Aula was a great help to me throughout the experience as not only was his English perfect (with some kiwi slang!) but he understood how I felt and what I needed and pretty much acted like my co-leader, it was a huge help to me and great so have some support. The cultural differences weren't too diverse in our team and English was pretty good throughout although sometimes there were issues with the two guys from Bangladesh.

If I was to do this again I would probably do some things a bit differently. Firstly, I would be more prepared to deal with people not getting back to you quickly, be more assertive with my team as that saw things get done much quickly and make my launch letter be a lot smaller as it probably looked quite daunting to them!

EMAIL TO TEAM AFTER THEY DIDN'T TURN UP FOR MEETING

Hello Everyone,

I was disappointed to see that only half of the people in our team turned up for meeting today. Everyone takes time out of there day to join up with everyone to get this project going and when people don't turn up it is frustrating for everyone.

We have very little time to get this proposal done (16 days to go) and we don't have time for people not to turn up. Facebook is our main form of communication so please check this at least every day as there will be updates on there and meetings scheduled. If you ever have issues with meeting times please let me know as soon as possible so I can try and change times around.

Our next meeting I'll post on Facebook and also link here, PLEASE turn up to this one with researched and specific ideas as this is when we will decide on one idea to use. Review the notes I put on our Facebook messenger as well as last year's winners proposal.

I am sorry to be so strict but I really want us in for a really good chance of winning and I really think we can do it - we just need to work as a team 😊

I look forward to hearing all your ideas on Thursday and I'll let you know on Facebook if anything changes.

Thanks everyone,

Haidee