

**"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things but in a great way"** (Martin Luther King).

This is what I felt the Global Enterprise Experience is mostly about. It seems that in the global world we live today connecting people from all around the globe has become an easy task, but to connect them to find a solution for a better place to live - that is a great experience!

This is the first time I participated in Global Enterprise Experience, and I'm so happy I did. The context of working together with people around the world, and preparing a business proposal, this is all new to me.

When we just started the competition I was very excited. I hurried to send an email to my team members and introduced myself, and I was very excited each time I got an email in reply. Very quick we moved to use Facebook. Our Team Leader, Alana, opened a group for us, where we could post, upload files, and see who had seen the posts, and this way we knew who is updated with what. It helped very much to overcome the time zone limitation. After saying this, I must admit I missed a bit the personal communication. It would have been nice also to see and hear the people behind the written words. But I learned that when working with people who come from countries where Internet is not an obvious thing, I have nothing but to respect them for doing everything they could in order to be involved and take part in the assignments. Some of our team members didn't participate due to lack of internet connection, and I feel that maybe if we had longer time, it would have been easier for them to find a way and communicate with us.

It is not easy to motivate people. Not those who are physically close, and certainly not those who are far away thousands of km. Alana has done amazing job doing so. When I posted a question, I knew I will get an answer within few hours the latest. She was flexible for changes, attentive to everyone, and always encouraging and trying her best to motivate the group. I was happy that she had shared with me some of her thoughts and had consulted with me regarding some issues. I felt she gave trust in me and I truly appreciate this. For me, the key to a successful leadership of a global team is openness, transparency, and looking beyond the written word. It is important to understand who is the person behind the text, what he means, and why is he saying what he says. Alana was able to do all of this and I'm happy she led our team.

The chosen idea for our business proposal was the idea I suggested. Therefore it was really important for me to show flexibility towards the idea and to adapt the initial idea according to the various proposals of the rest of the team members. I believe I succeeded in this. I learned a lot from everyone's concerns and questions regarding the proposals, and together we have come up with solutions to different problems. We chose to implement the idea in Medellin, Colombia, Lyzzeth's city, and this has created a major commitment towards the idea. It was very interesting for me to learn about her city and life there.

2 days before the submission day, a terror attack occurred in Nigeria, which resulted in the death and injury of dozens of people. As I heard the news on TV, right away I thought of Oluwasegun, a team member from Nigeria. I didn't know where exactly he or his family live, and I was very concern about him. Today I wrote him about my concern, and his reply had really touched my heart: *"I really appreciate you Maya. It sounded new to me when a friend I've never met before but on the platform of GEEBIZ, just so concern about me. Indeed you are a friend. Indeed we are in our team. Our unity is unique and understanding worth commendable"*. For me - This is equal to winning this competition.

This experience was very special for me. I feel I developed as a person and as a citizen of the world. Thank you all, my team members, our team leader, and the organizers of this experience. I wish we could have do more together than just to write a business proposal, but I believe that maybe in the future, and with the connections we are tying here, we will be able to make the world a better place to live in, with a mutual global effort.