

125s Kgotso Makwana South Africa Journal

The past three weeks of my life have been quite hectic, I have to admit. I joined the competition because I have always wanted to become a leader and engage with individuals with similar ideas to improve our world. I was attracted by the fact that it is a global competition, which means I was going to be able to learn about different cultures, learn about different experiences around the world and also share my views in the quest to get our heads together and find solution to given challenges.

During the first week of the competition our leader introduced himself and we followed his lead. From the second day it was a bit weird because we never communicated. This happened until one of my team members sent me a message on Facebook asking me if I have heard anything from our leader, so we were worried. Our leader sent an e-mail informing us about the Facebook group that will be created and then we will start sharing ideas immediately. The Facebook group was created. By then me and my team member, Katja, had already discussed an idea so that when the group starts discussing we will just give them what we have.

Members were not sharing ideas, some said that they don't have ideas because everything in their countries seem right, others had internet connection problems, others didn't participate at all but we could see that they are online on Facebook. Our leader set a date which we all agreed, a date when we will be dishing our ideas and select one that we will be working on. It happened that it was me and Katja who gave our idea that we had discussed before, the team leader didn't even tell us his idea and he kept quiet for some days, other members were not saying anything in the group, we got the impression that they were stalling and so we didn't know what to do. Therefore we had to take action, after one and a half week we had communication issues, it drove me crazy, we took the (me and Katja) to confront our leader informing him that we are running out of time as we don't know what we are working on. He finally started getting us together to communicate but it was just four of us, we had a member from Nepal we told him that we understood his situation and we will keep him updated because he had bigger problem to deal with. We felt the pressure because it was almost the end of the second week without any discussion.

However, it turned out to be an experience that helped me learn how to work under pressure. Basically we worked on the project for about a week and a half, which was the craziest time of my life but I'm glad I went through it. The whole team agreed to work on the idea me and Katja discussed. We did our researched individually. We worked well together, shared information, some members had network problems but we understand. The team leader gave us individual tasks and a deadline for those tasks. I gave them an insight about the electricity situation, load-shedding, in South Africa and I was glad that they we interested in coming with a solution which is basically what our report is all about. It was interesting to hear different, I was impressed by the way they come up with pieces of information and knowledge to create a solution to South Africa's challenge. I loved it when there seemed to be progress.

I honestly learned a lot from the Global Enterprise Experience competition, from my team member and leader. Now I know how to create a business plan and importance of it. I am more motivated to become a global leader so that I can learn about different cultures, meet different leader across the globe and create a better world for those who live in, and leave it in a much better condition than that we I found it in. Now I know that other countries are facing deeper challenges and if we can come together we can eliminate those challenges. It is important as young people to engage on issues affecting the world, because if one economic issue affects one country it might end up affecting the other country as well so if we work together, initiating to limit the challenges, the world will be are much better place for all generations.

In conclusion I would say, it is of a significant importance to develop people, this another reason why I joined this competition, I wanted to develop as a leader and as a person. As Deb Gilbertson would always

say, to my global leadership success, this competition was worth it and I believe I have gained a lot of knowledge that only Global Enterprise Experience competition can offer and I will forever be grateful.