



**P32 - Harry Akbar Sutiono**

Singapore

First language: Bahasa Indonesia

### **Through the ups and downs of life**

A few days after the competition was launched, Brendan (my group leader) contacted me and the rest of the team through email. Soon enough, everybody was really excited about the competition and contributed great ideas for the business proposal. Observing the high level of motivation at that time, I knew our team would come up with something great. Everything seemed to work really well until one day I received a phone call from my father in Indonesia. It was not good news that he told me, a really bad one actually.

My mother was hospitalized because her brain cancer caused her to experience heavy seizure that paralyzed her right limbs. I was very shocked and worried about her condition that I flew back to Indonesia on the very next day. At that point in time, I could not concentrate in doing anything so I decided to put aside all sorts of my work including my commitment in GEEBIZ. I spent most of my days beside my mother's bed when I went back Indonesia and I did not bother to get in touch with the rest of the team.

After my mother's condition had more or less stabilized, I resumed my usual life. The first thing I did was to catch up with my school works, GEEBIZ was obviously not at the top of my priority lists. I considered pulling out from the competition but I changed my mind after I read all the emails exchanged when I was not around. I realized I could not let these people down.

Firstly, I really appreciate to have Brendan as our leader who showed great support and understanding towards me even during the time I was not contributing at all. I was also moved by Florian who still did a great job in the midst of her busy work and seminars in Berlin. Tyler showed tremendous dedication through his willingness to do the research for our business proposal while Mallory was really fast in setting up a Facebook group account as a more efficient way to communicate. Last but not least, I am grateful to have Ee Chan and Daniel in the group who also contributed greatly in the making of our proposal. Teaming up with such a great group of people gave me the motivation to continue on and contribute as much as I can. From the experience, I learn that high morale in a team is like a flame that can easily spread from one member to another. All we need to do is to start the spark by having high spirit in ourselves.

In short, I want to thank all my team members for their tireless efforts and also to the GEE organizers for giving me a chance to participate in this great event.