****

**Abdul-Hakeem Buhari (P565)**

**Geebiz Journal**

**22nd May, 2013**

**My GeeBiz Experience**

I will be honest. I do not have the usual wonder-filled, awe-inspiring tales to tell about my GeeBiz experience. However, the competition was remarkable to me in its own way. I had had a cursory interaction with the competition during my undergraduate days. A close friend of mine in school was one of the contestants and I was more than a tad surprised at the level of devotion that he put towards a project ‘with unseen people around the world’. My interest however ended there as I embarked on various projects of my own.

This time around, the situation was different, to put it mildly. My brother, Abdul-Rahman was not only interested in the competition, he was passionate about it! He ‘strong-armed’ me into registering on the same team with him and ensured that I partook in the contest. I must confess that I had initial reservations about a competition whose sole aim was in my opinion just to ‘see who could execute the best projects on paper!’ How wrong I was proven to be!

The last three weeks have been a whirlwind experience for me. Allow me share three of its major highlights. First was the project. Next was the co-operation. And last, but most important, were the people.

****

**The Project:** GeeBiz enabled me understand beyond my deepest convictions the dynamics of developmental projects on a global scale. While I have always been passionate about development especially with regards to poverty alleviation and human capital improvement, this was the first time I was taking on challenges on a truly global scale. It stretched me beyond my creative and intellectual limits and forced me to think really deeply about the ways through which we could help humanity AND remain profitable. I have done lots of projects with various non-profit organizations here in Nigeria but most of these, I realised, were not being done in a sustainable way. No one thinks of profit when it comes to development yet year in, year out, we continually seek non-existing donations from philanthropists. GeeBiz was a major eye-opener in this regard.

**Co-operation:** This was the fun part. Having to work with individuals across various time zones was both hectic and thrilling simultaneously. I could send an email to the group leader in New Zealand (which is 12 hours ahead of Nigeria), knowing she was probably preparing for bed but would still reply near-immediately and vice versa. I was also intrigued by the spirit of love and co-operation that fostered between us and how we all, despite having different personalities, were able to produce a great business plan (I hope the judges agree!) The Highs and Lows would not be forgotten soon by me.

****

**The People:** This, without a doubt was the most invigorating part of the competition for me. I feel privileged to have been put in a team with such members - some of the most fantastic people I have ever ‘met’ (via email). We opened a Facebook page, saw each other’s pictures, talked as friends, argued at times, shared jokes, edited and re-edited and re-edited the plans on Google Docs, deprived ourselves of sleep together and most crucially, contributed immensely towards the successful completion of the project. I thank all the members of the team for their team spirit, especially my brother who ‘NEVER let me rest for one moment’ for a wonderful time. Tonight might be the first time in nearly a month that I sleep like a normal human but after all said and done, the stress was worth it.

Thank you GeeBiz, for a providing me with a truly magnificent Experience in Global Enterprise!

Signed:

**Abdul-Hakeem (p565)**

Nigeria.