

p675 Santiago Pabón Olarte Colombia Journal (First language: Spanish)

My GeeBiz experience started one year ago, when a buddy who had taken the International Strategic Management course told me he was in a competition and that, in teams, he and 7 other people from different countries were to have meetings at 2 or 3 am (Local hour) to plan a business proposal for linking developed and developing countries. Imagining that idea really excited me. I could have taken this subject last semester but I preferred to wait until 2013 to do it, because I knew that Geebiz was coming.

Time went by and sooner than later May 1st arrived. I was kind of nervous and excited about the competition because I had never had a multicultural experience like this. Therefore as soon as the competition started I got in contact with 4 of the team members on Facebook by adding them to the group I had just created: "Dream Team 38 (GeeBiz 2013)." Then to get more of a family feel to our team I asked all my teammates to post videos or pictures about something which made them feel passionate and that is how I found out that Meri, the girl from Finland who lives in Scotland, loves travelling and making postcrossing (which means sending postcards to random people around the world and then receiving cards from all over the world) and that Guy is a passionate DJ about electronic music. I have followed him on Soundcloud since then and his tracks are awesome. We also posted videos about our cities and that's how I realized that Afroza and Ananya couldn't watch or post videos because Bangladeshi government has blocked Youtube overthere, and that Meri honestly thinks Medellín should be elected as the host city for the Youth Olympics 2018 although she lives in Glasgow, one of three finalist cities for being elected as such.

It wasn't until Sunday May 5th that we actually had our first meeting via Skype. Unfortunately Daniela, my Colombian partner, and Mene, the guy from Nigeria, were not able to attend the meeting due to their problems with internet connection. In that meeting I realized that Guy is an amazing "Kiwi" (as he told me New Zealanders are called) who has high leadership skills, Afroza and Ananya are both friendly girls from Bangladesh and Meri, the postcrosser, is a creative Finnish girl, definitely they deserve to be called "Dream Teamers." However, everything was not that peachy. Our professor, Tatiana Vélez, told Daniela and I that the way the idea was focused was not profitable and that we should review a lot of its elements or even change the idea if we wanted to win, so we decided to write an e-mail to Guy, in which we said to him what our teacher had told us and we asked him if we should rethinking our idea. Quickly he replied to us with some motivating words which made us believe again! (Dear dream teamers: if I win this journal, probably you are going to read it and that's why I want to apologize for not tell you openly that we thought about reappraising our idea, we just wanted to be prudent and respectful of you all). Then Daniela and I presented the reloaded idea to our classmates, and professor Vélez told us that we had found a good way to make it profitable, it felt really nice! We went ahead no matter if some classmates laughed at the idea after our presentation; this just made us more eager to work harder for creating a profitable "Recipes Company" which empowers women and helps them out of poverty.

 When our team started working Daniela and I felt like we were in a total lack of organization, where separately, everyone did whatever they wanted but then we identified it was a huge cultural difference, because what was lack of organization (for us), was seen by other team members as a free and autonomous task which is the normal path to be followed in a teamwork.

Finally, I would like to highlight and thank what the Global Enterprise Experience (GEE) does, aiming global interest goals year by year and integrating people from all over the world that could possibly have been touched by any of the problems that GeeBiz seeks to support for being solved.