

I knew about the Global Enterprise Experience from a discussion with my dissertation supervisor about the having something to occupy my time, after writing my final exams in January, 2013 and just before going for the mandatory one year National Youth Service Scheme earlier scheduled for June, 2013 in my country. I went through the competition website almost immediately, and was convinced the competition is exactly what I was looking for.

Prior to the commencement of the competition, and upon successful completion of my coursework, I relocated to where my family live, in another State about 3,000km from the State my University is located. For me, life outside the University campus was a different ball game when it comes to power supply and easy access to the internet. Having envisaged the possible hindrance this could cost my active participation in the competition, and after so many days of persuading my mother, I was able to convince her on the importance of relocating back to school for 3 weeks to gain this invaluable experience. With a total savings of about \$80 to cover local transports and food for 3 weeks, and no official accommodation anymore in the University, I set out on my journey for a Global Enterprise Experience.

As scheduled, Team allocation was done on May 1st and I was in Team 25 with members from New Zealand, China, Colombia, and Israel. I exchanged emails with my team and got replies from about 4 members including the team leader (Akira Kaneko) that same day. Thereafter he created a Facebook page and we agreed on Skype conferences as our primary mode of communication. Facebook page was our secondary mode of communication, and Google Docs to share files with team mates. It was my first time of knowing about and using Google Docs and it feels great. We also figured two different meeting times, after which I instituted a voting process through which we agreed on one of the meeting time. Subsequent decision making followed my voting process suggestion and that really helped us in resolving a lot of issues amicably.

From this point, the brainstorming began on both Skype (Whenever a meeting is scheduled) and on Facebook (Whenever a team member has urgent information to pass across). It was always nice discussing with the team, and I must commend every team member for the level of maturity and support displayed in all of our meetings. Akira is up 2am his time in New Zealand, Aleja and Cristian have to wake up early to join the meeting at 9am their time in Colombia, Katia and Oleg have to sacrifice their evenings for the meeting at 5pm their time in Israel, Stephanie has to stay up late for the meeting time which is 10pm her time in China, and I have to dare the consequence of the scorching Sahara sun to make the meeting 3pm my time in Nigeria. Most times, I'm in the University vicinity early enough, wandering from one location to another in search of quality access to the wireless network, which goes off anytime the light goes off too. In fact, I was cut off abruptly from the group discussion on a couple of occasion by the light. But in all, the zeal to achieve coupled with the support of every team member made the stress worth it. This taught me the beauty in team work, and the exceptional results it can produce. Even though we are all from different cultural background, having a discussion with the group is always enlightening, given me an insight into other countries and their ways of life.

The real challenge however showed up after we agreed to develop Oleg's (a team mate from Israel) idea through one of our voting process, following series of deliberation on each idea submitted. After the work assigned to each member has been done seriously for many days, and just 7 days to the submission date, I noticed that the idea which focused on disaster preparedness did not fall directly under the purview of any of the Eight Millennium Goal of the United Nations Development Programme, so I raised the observation on our Facebook page. The team leader subsequently suggested we swap to my idea which was the runner up in our voting process. This exerted a lot of pressure on everyone and more pressure on me, as I have to make myself available to respond to any help needed, at any time by any of the team member. I also had to do more research on the idea so as to make relevant information available within the shortest possible time.

With the not too regular power and internet situation in the University (though far better than the village my family lives), I had no choice than to buy 2 extra batteries for my phone out of my meagre budget to keep up with the team on Facebook, whenever I can't access the internet for Skype. I drafted the Executive Summary, Business Overview, Business Objectives/Goals and Value Proposition of the idea amidst intense poor living condition, as my accommodation arrangement was to put up in one of the University Hall of Residence with a friend who is a medical student. Unfortunately, his night posting at the teaching hospital only lasted for a week. Since it was a single bunk space, I had no alternative than to sleep overnight for 2 weeks in the Hall TV room, go to his room when he has gone for classes in the morning to take a nap, shower and change my cloth. I also provided required information needed by other team members to do their own part, and we did the final review. In choosing a name for the business, my team members insisted my name should appear as the business name, citing my passion for education and the location of the business in my home country as reasons, to build the confidence of the citizens in our business. Thereafter, I did the page layout, pictures and graphics beautification, to make the proposal more aesthetic. Our team leader then made some minor changes, and the proposal was submitted on the final day. It was a big relief, even though I don't want the team work experience to end yet!

I sincerely don't know how to thank everyone who has made this experience possible; from the organizers, to the sponsors, and to my wonderful team mates. In just 3 weeks, Global Enterprise Experience has lived up to its name of not been a competition but an Experience. This opportunity has made me more resolute with my life-long interest of achieving an educationally improved society in Nigeria; as education in my opinion is the way forward to end the scourging effect of poverty in our communities. I have learnt a lot in 3 weeks that I'm finding it difficult to summarise all in one page. I've met with people across the globe, learnt new cultures and new world views. Though the competition is ending with me in debt to my friend, I've gathered new skills money cannot buy. This experience will remain a forever part of my life, as it has proven to me that "an illiterate in the 21st Century will not only be someone who cannot read or write, but also someone who cannot humble himself to learn more." Once again, thank you for the opportunity... Goodbye till Next year!