

Joint Humanitarian Entrepreneurship Summer Academy (SA) 2019

Summary of Students' Reflective Essays

".....The best part of learning is you get to apply what you have learnt to various circumstances effectively. During the time in Kazakhstan, we had chances to form groups to work on our own projects. From the first draft to the final presentation, we have made use of the skills and methods learnt to solve the problems identified in that particular topic. Our group focused on the development of biogas in rural Kazakhstan. In the process of investigating this issue, I understood more about some social issues and problems faced by the citizens and stakeholders, especially the villagers living in rural Kazakhstan. In order to construct a detailed project, we had a site visit to Yntymak, a remote town with villages around. We have conducted interviews with the local villagers and families. This has helped our project a lot. Moreover, sightseeing in Kazakhstan was another remarkable part of the summer academy." – Beatrice CHEUNG (Major in Social Sciences, 4149141)

".....it was interesting to witness how "emotions" were being created and brought up from the conversations. It was meaningful as I think it would help the participants to experience what "empathy" should really look like, listening and acknowledging other persons' voice, understanding the roots behind every answers and emotions so that the goal of the conversation could be reached." – THUM Qiao Hui, Claire (Major in Psychology, 4019463)

".....We started with lessons at Kazakhstan National University then visiting our community partners according to assigned groups. Each group worked on separate issues such as : Renewable Energy, Waste Management, Bio-Gas or Urban Planning.....Never in my life time have I thought I would be in Kazakhstan, proposing something and make an influence on the local community." - PHAM Thanh Thao, Clara (Major in Business Administration, 4132904)

".....I hoped things we worked out during the trip would be useful and probably insightful from the very beginning. After all, we had suffered a lot, especially the African trip (i.e. 6 shots of vaccinations, 18 hours of flight, no running water, almost no internet, no proper flushing toilet), things better worked out well for the account of those sufferings.....A lot of the issues that we discovered in Uganda were not even thought by a typical city boy, like lack of water, electricity and even free education. Yet after putting myself into such an environment made me rethink if I should take it for granted to have those in my life." – TSE King Chun, Gordon (Major in Accounting, 4092075)

".....The words "SDG," "Arduino," "humanitarian" and "entrepreneurship" leapt off the pages, and I began piecing them together to imagine what a summer full of these ideas and activities could look like.....More specifically, we began discussing the future of sustainable eco-tourism and how Kazakhstan was perceived as a holiday destination to the rest of the world." – BOON Hannah Elisabeth (Major in Human Resources Management, 4005826)

".....The program gave the opportunity of teaming with the students from different corners of the world and work towards a Sustainable Development Goal. In Kazakhstan, we worked on Biogas technology with aim of facilitating a sustainable source of energy to rural Kazakh population.....The best part of Uganda was that we were working outside of our comfort zone.....Our approach was based on research and fact-finding missions. We visited three nearby schools, 5-6 villages and collected data regarding the challenges their community face. After the first two days of data collection we identified four major problems to work on. They were; water, energy, library, waste disposal. The entire team was divided into four groups." – Sonal CHANDRA (Major in Economics, 4196443)

".....But the most stunning part of this program is, I never thought that doing business and making money could achieve humanitarian purpose, until this program happened. I hate living in a capitalistic society where everything is about money.....The trip guided me to review my own conception about what capitalism means to me and how it actually does." - TANG Hau Ying (Major in Philosophy, 4017348)

".....In the Nepal section we focused on the data collection of the farmer problem. We interviewed the farmer group and visit many local farms. We found out that they face a lot of problem in outdoor farming and lack of clean water.....we decide to introduce some indoor farming project such as mushroom and hydroponic farming. We first collected the demand and supply of the mushroom in the local market. Finally, we suggest designing a simple hydroponic system to the farmer and help the farmer to create a local mushroom market.the summer academy programme allow us to learn how to create a comprehensive project starting from data collection to make prototype and design a final business plan. We all hope that our solution can help the local community." - WONG Wai Sum (Major in Social and Public Policy Studies, 4181008)