

Thulasizwe Ndzhukule

Enactus World Cup 2013 Report

I was part of the second group to depart from OR Tambo International. The group consisted of 13 other Enactus UP members. We departed at 20:00 for Atlanta, USA. The flight was 15 hours long. We arrived in Atlanta at 07:00 in the morning, Atlanta time. We were set to leave Atlanta at 09:30 to Cancun, Mexico where the world cup was set to take place. On arrival in Cancun there were shuttles from the airport to take us to Moon Palace Resort where we would be staying for the duration of the world cup. We checked into the hotel at 14:00. Once checked in we waited for the arrival of the first group, although they left South Africa first their route was longer and so they arrived later in the day at about 16:00. Once everyone had checked in and were settled we had a team meeting, which consisted of a run through of our presentation. At 18:00 the team had supper together at one of the restaurants at the hotel. All food and drinks were inclusive of the payment package. The rest of the evening the members had for leisure. The next day, the members had the morning for leisure. Most of the team took a shuttle to the local market place. The market was similar to what a South African equivalent would be however the shopkeepers were much more aggressive when trying to get business. After the trip to the market we had team meeting, this consisted of practising the presentation and a Q and A session. The next day was the official opening day. Each country had to have a cultural fair stall. I was heavily involved in the cultural fair. In South Africa, I personally went to SA tourism, City of Tshwane, Pretoria Zoo and Proudly South African to try and secure merchandise to display at our stall. We set up the cultural fair stall for most of the morning, each member was required to dress up as something distinctively South African, I rented a Mandela mask from a costume shop in Pretoria and went as President Mandela. The cultural fair was a great opportunity to network with different people and experience other cultures and their people. After the cultural fair it was the official opening ceremony and the groups for the next day's competition were decided, we were pitted in a group against Kyrgyzstan, France and China, only the top two teams from the group advance to the next round. The members who were not part of the presentation team were assigned groups to go and spy on the other teams during competition, this is to gauge which teams you would want to avoid during the next round. You do not want to face teams with

similar projects or presentations as you. I was looking at a group that consisted of Ukraine, Japan and India as the major threats. We made it through the first round and were then placed in a group with United Kingdom, India and Guatemala for the semi-finals. Only the top team makes it through to the finals from the semi-final groups. We unfortunately came second in the group and so just missing out on a spot in the final. This was a very heart breaking moment, but looking back it is a great achievement to have placed in the top 8 teams in the world. With continued hard work and dedication I believe we can push this programme further.

It was personally a highlight of my life and a great learning opportunity. Enactus is truly a wonderful thing it impacts a lot of lives. All the 36 Teams that were present at the World Cup are doing phenomenal work in their communities. This was a once in a life time experience and I am grateful for having had the privilege to attend.

I would like to thank Professor. Maritz; Mr Jansen and the department for your support, it would not have been possible without your help and backing. This opportunity meant that not only do I leave the university with a degree but with experiences that make me a better-rounded person.