

GLOBAL VILLAGE 2004

I am a final year Electrical Engineering student. I recently attended “the Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry” at Lehigh University, USA. (June 2004 – Aug 2004). The Global Village is an intensive 6 week long International Business and Leadership Program targeted towards students, entrepreneurs and young professionals identified as future leaders of Business and Industry.

The aim of the program is to help participants develop skills and attitude necessary for success in Business in today’s fast changing environment. As part of the program, participants attended classroom sessions as well as workshops conducted by leading executives of major companies. The focus of these courses were subjects such as improving negotiating skills, understanding methods and techniques of doing business in different parts of the world, improving on networking and interpersonal skills, studying strategic alliances etc. The courses were varied and had considerable breadth and depth. There were also many sessions on developing leadership skills and doing business in the new economy.

Besides the courses, we also had the opportunity to work on a Consulting project for a company. Teams that worked on the projects were very diverse with team members each of different nationality. It was an excellent opportunity to work in a diverse setting and put into practise some of the theory picked up during the courses. The program was an excellent platform to network with like minded people from different parts of the world.

Apart from the tangible benefits gained from attended courses, working on projects, visiting companies in the region and meeting executives, Global Village was also a whole lot of fun. I made several great friends from different parts of the globe. I learnt about countries which I didn’t know existed and I sampled the food, drink, dance and music of a plethora of cultures.

The program was attended by 81 people from over 40 countries. The ages of attendees ranged from 18 to 38. All of us stayed in a dormitory at Lehigh University. Since we lived in such a closed setting during the program, I got to know a lot about my fellow participants and made many great friendships.



Since the program was spread over only 6 weeks, it was extremely intensive. The combination of classes, projects and late night parties meant that we hardly got any time to sleep. However, I found that the benefits were definitely worth the effort. Global Village 2004 is an experience I will cherish forever.