

## Personal Reflections - Team AdverCity

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**Matt:** This project completely opened my eyes to international natural disasters. It is not something I considered, especially in the context of financial support and sustainability. Once we began our research, I realized how much the world needs help to overcome the issues from natural disasters. In particular, we noted that Jakarta had such a severe culmination of issues which we wanted to tackle.

The problem was more complicated than we thought, requiring a multi-step solution to truly accommodate all kinds of people. This wasn't the type of situation where one overarching theme would be able to solve everything. We kept our solution nuances and multi-faceted so it could cover the entire solution. This was new for me and somewhat difficult at first. Keeping track of all the different topics and results was confusing, but in the end, being able to tie them all together into one, unified solution, made me proud.

Our team has been absolutely incredible to work with. Everyone is so eager to help out and take on their own role. Each member became increasingly specialized as the challenge continued on, so we each became somewhat of an expert in our respective field. Everyone was so ecstatic to share their week's worth of research during our meetings and we all learned from each other. This dynamic means our solution has both depth and breadth.

Our mentor, Ganesh Nagarathnam, was always there to help us if we struggled. His insights were so extremely helpful to our solution. His experience in the financial and technical world provided a fresh perspective in this project and made sure we included all different groups of people. He was also extremely responsive and active on Launchpad, which made it effortless to communicate with him. We truly appreciate all the help he has given us.

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**Cindy:** The past few months have been an incredible experience learning in terms of natural disasters and the impact that they have on global communities. I've learned so much about the importance of establishing strong adaptive capacities and how factors such as education, local involvement, and infrastructure can greatly impact the time that it takes for a community to recover from a natural disaster.

It is amazing being able to work alongside a diverse group of students from around the world. We collaborated and communicated very well and always maintained a level of openness with each other. When there were difficulties, everyone stepped up to offer solutions. Despite our busy schedules and individual commitments, we always managed to dedicate time to our solution and the team, ensuring a balance between work and fun team bonding. I am also grateful for our mentor, Ganesh Nagarathnam, who offered his wealth of experience to the team during team meetings and on LaunchPad discussions. The connections I have formed through the Junior Academy are truly priceless, and I'm so grateful to be part of Team AdverCity!

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**Emily:** Very few times in my life have I had the chance to consider a complex and pressing issue like this one while collaborating with such a diverse peer group. Although there were moments of miscommunication, confusion, and difficulty, it was incredibly rewarding to flesh out all of our varying perspectives to see what each of us could bring to the table. Our solution reflects a combination of our interests, research, and talent -from machine learning to social planning- which shows how international partnerships invite innovation that would be impossible without a platform like the Junior Academy.

I am incredibly proud and grateful to be part of such an inspiring and dedicated group of young people. Whether talking about science or school or culture, I've learned a lot about not just Indonesia, but also other parts of the world through the eyes of my fellow JA members. Regarding our solution, there were times when I thought we would never devise a comprehensive plan from our very scattered thoughts, but thanks to the tireless bouncing of ideas off of each other and hours

spent researching, we pulled through. Best of luck to everyone from Team AdverCity in solving the problems of the world!

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**Vikram:** Working on this project was another stepping stone for my journey into using machine learning for solving real-life problems. The learning from brainstorming as well as discussing research and ideas with the team was a great learning experience.

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**Johan:** This challenge was quite fascinating, given that natural disasters are present all over the world. A plethora of ideas surged through my mind as I was thinking about this challenge. I knew that the stakes were high for this challenge as many good teams formed spontaneously. A bit of luck and timing helped me to join a really strong team. We had several brainstorming sessions held during calls. At first, we seemed clueless but as time passed by our ideas adjoined into multiple solutions incorporating different aspects of our research. It was great to see each piece come together to display a unique solution for this significant problem. I learned a lot throughout this challenge. Communicating with a diverse group of people from different parts of the world and engaging in meaningful conversations regarding the most pressing issues of our current era, this challenge has launched me into a different dimension altogether. It's amazing how minds can unite to create such innovative masterpieces.

I thank our team lead, Matt, for his dedication and support throughout the entirety of this challenge. I also thank our Mentor for his valuable feedback that helped us refine our solution. All in all, this challenge has been quite remarkable.

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**Aditi:** I truly enjoyed this project and believed that our team and mentor were extremely helpful in helping us achieve our goals. This was a massive topic to tackle, and we all made sure to collaborate to make this solution a reality. This was for sure very tough, but our collaboration made it all possible. There were struggles

to overcome the expected and unexpected issues, but we all made sure to work together to solve this. The solving process for this was unlike any other project I have worked on.

I appreciate our mentor, Ganesh Nagarathnam, in being so helpful and providing key insights for the project. He has been an asset to our team in every way.

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