Individual Report

Asian Leadership Programme 2016 | Christabella Adelina

# Screens and Beyond | Encompass

## Application

Our team split ourselves into three sub-teams: front-end, back-end, and compass. The front-end team is responsible to design and create the framework of the application, designing the user interface and user experience. My role is focused on designing a user friendly interface and building the functionalities of the application as well as communicating with the back-end (HTML, JavaScript, AJAX) while my fellow front-end team mate is in charge of the user experience and aesthetic of the application (HTML, CSS, JqueryMobile).

## Presentation

In preparing for the final presentation, I am working with the whole team to perform a seamless demonstration of our application. I am also in charge of preparing some deliverables such as video editing and report writing (for certain parts).

## Leadership

I often take the initiative to allocate jobs and initiate meetings; however, the dynamic of the team is such there is no leader and every member is a pro-active member. As such, I believe the credit for leadership should go to the whole team.

# Challenges during the project

## Unfamiliarity with the programming languages and work flow

We embarked on the project with close to zero knowledge about the languages we have to use to create the application. It is also our first time building a full-fledged application from scratch; hence, initially we had a little glitch in getting into our roles. All of us had to learn a few languages at one time and applying at the same time. It took quite some time to get familiarised with the languages, hence at the initial stage progress was rather slow and the result of our effort was not really visible yet until a later stage in the project.

## Communication and managing the expectation of team members

Communication is very pivotal, both within the sub-team and across sub-teams. Although the majority of the work is contained within each sub-team, we eventually need to put it together to make it work. It can be frustrating when there is a lapse of communication (eg: different file reference, different variable names, etc) and especially time-consuming when we are not familiar with the language. In the course of building the app, we have to link the front-end of the app to the back-end where we store and retrieve data. Different languages are used for front and back end; as result when the connection doesn’t work, often times we were not sure where the error lies and we are unable to check each other’s work because we are unfamiliar with the other language.

# Solutions

## Perseverance and friends

More often than not, the battle is with ourselves. We have to stick through the pain of learning to be able to create something we can be proud of. I learnt to find the joy in learning the languages and play around with what I just learnt. Asking around is also such and underrated way of learning. Many times, I’m stuck with something, I will share my problems with my friend and they can offer solutions by different methods or introducing new libraries, which bring me to my next point.

## Google/ Stackoverflow / Github

Sometimes your friends might not have enough experience to give you the advice you need

## Record the decisions made during meeting and communicate

# Surviving in China

## Language barrier

## Culture

## Food

# Last Words