



## Story 2: Getting Going with Voices Teams By Daniel Cantú and Alejandro Tortoriello Edited by Elda Cantú

*At first when we arrived to Vietnam and settled ourselves at the hotel we the Mexican delegation were always together and just talked to ourselves, but then we immediately realized that there were people we did not know so we started introducing ourselves with our roommates. Once we already got to know them we started introducing them with the rest of Prepa Tec's group, who were scattered in three different hotels and had already started also meeting their roommates. Socializing for us was not a difficult task, since we were singing and having a nice time during transportation on the bus and at the hotel, this made it easy to "break the ice" and others wanted to join us.*



*The Mexican delegation bonds with the Canadian delegation at the Temple of Literature.*



*Teams work better when they are able to have fun together. Here, having dinner at the Potomac with our new friends and teammates-to-be.*

*On the third day, we went to HANU, where our team assignments would be announced. Fortunately, there had been plenty of activities beforehand so that we everyone had had the chance to at least talk to all other participants at least once. We were also told that we most probably would not work on the snapshots alongside our own educators, but we would actually be part of some other educator's team.*

*When Cindy Youssef announced our teams, we were very nervous because we did not know how some of the other people in the team worked and we wanted to make our best and give the best impression in our assignments, since they told us that snapshots are very important. Finally it was the time and they split us. We had a few minutes to work on a "mock snapshot" of our educator so that we could get the hang of it before actually met our real-life interviewees. This was helpful because we could practice and get pointers from the educators and see how the rest*





## Trip Notes

of the team worked. It was really amazing to share ideas and to learn how to collaborate with people of different cultures and ways of working.

By the time we headed to the Convention Center, all formally dressed and with our heads brimming with questions, we were very excited of the opportunity we would have to meet and talk to many leaders. Some of us already had scheduled interviews, so together with our teams and educators, we would write down possible questions for that particular person. Others would prepare questions that would be interesting to ask to anyone related to APEC, so that when the time was right, we would be ready to make a snapshot.



Daniel Cantú with his educator, \_\_\_\_\_

When some of us got the opportunity to interview some of the ABAC business men we were very excited because we knew this was a very important moment. Before interviewing them we had this anxiousness about what we would ask, so we tried to focus our questions on some of the following topics: ways of motivation and leadership in the enterprise, their challenges, competition, and so on. They all were very accessible and answered us very politely every single question that we had. As a matter of fact two Mexican CEO's, one of them from Grupo Modelo Mr. Juan Sanchez Navarro and the other named Ary Kahan, talked to us and tried to make us understand the way of thinking of successful entrepreneurs.





## Trip Notes



Two Mexican delegates interview VISA CEO for the Asia Pacific, Rupert Keeley.



Daniel and Eloy Cantú with----- at the Meliá Hotel. Some of us had the chance to be at the ABAC meeting.

*In conclusion, we think that getting to know different people from different parts of the world is very enriching, getting to learn their culture and their traditions. However, working in culturally diverse teams is even more interesting because we get to see different ways of working and approaching a task.*

*Something very curious was when we were discussing some political topics other participants thought in a very different way and it was great having this chance to listen to people that have had other kind of problems or issues we do not have here in Mexico.*

*It was particularly interesting to talk to people from the U.S., to whom we didn't talk to a lot first, since we thought we had more in common with their culture than with people from Asia, for instance. However, once we started talking about the wall that is scheduled to be built in the border between our countries (Mexico and the U.S) we realized that not all the Americans agree on that project. As we worked with our teams we also recognized was that we Mexicans were very united and nationalism would surface in us whenever someone said something inaccurate about Mexico. We would normally jump to defend our country and provide positive aspects about our culture.*

*Finally, we are very thankful with the Voices people because they made all this new experiences possible for us, as well for their work and effort in this year's congress. We also want to thank all of the CEO's for giving us some of their time and even though they might have been tired they were very accessible and polite.*

