

Opinion **MBA blog**

Holiday cheer

Monica Dee, Chinese University of Hong Kong JANUARY 30, 2015

The new year has finally arrived and I am proud to say that I concluded the holiday season with a valuable impact on society.



For about four months, starting from September 2014 until early January 2015, I have been working closely with five other CUHK MBA candidates on the [Operation Santa Claus MBA Charity Challenge](#). This is an annual competition for students from different business schools in Hong Kong to demonstrate their innovative flair by creating a business plan to raise money for charity from Santa hats.



We began forming the team in early September 2014, less than one month into the first term! It was a gamble for us since it was obviously too early to really know each others attitudes and work styles. But, despite coming from various backgrounds, we were able to establish a great working relationship and produce a business plan and a promotional video – both of which received high praise from the judging committee.

Even though we seemed to be off to a good start, we were met with countless hardships. We are still MBA students after all, with a heavy academic and extracurricular workload. Also, as we started implementing our strategies, we found out that some of them were not actually feasible given the available resources. It was in the midst of such difficulties that our key abilities were tested. Teamwork was exhibited especially when each member leveraged his or her strengths to compensate for the weaknesses and shortcomings of another and it is because of this that we were able to push on and accomplish what we have set out to achieve. The challenge officially ended on January 6 with a final presentation to the judges.



The team's journey into this entire project has been a rollercoaster ride. We may not have raised the top amount of funds out of all the participating teams, but we have been granted a greater

prize in the form of the valuable learning experiences we have gained and the connections we have built.



[Copyright](#) The Financial Times Limited 2018. All rights reserved.

Latest on MBA