Egypt, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates

Members: Lindsay Coe, Mariana Garavaglia, Mark Garavaglia, Kelsey Morgan, Scott Orleck, Jeremy Sporn

Team Advisor: John Owens T'61

1. Had any of you worked in these countries before this project?
   - No

2. What was it like working in a foreign country and how was it different from working in the states?
   - Work week is Sunday - Thursday
   - Business people seemed a bit more relaxed (e.g., time management is more lax)
   - Business is very relationship oriented (i.e., who you know is very important)
3. Were there any surprises? Please elaborate.
   - We didn’t have an office (the construction was not finished in time)
   - How nice everyone was and were willing to talk with us
   - How easy it was to integrate into the culture (because Dubai is a melting pot with 80% expats)

Dubai
   - Amount of construction – so many cranes!
   - The traffic and few areas designed for pedestrians
   - How westernized the culture is given US ideas of the Middle East

4. How did you manage working with a cross-culturally diverse team?
   - Our team was not very culturally diverse but our onsite client was (see question 2)

5. What did you do to immerse yourself in the local culture?
   - Met up with alumni living in Dubai
   - Met up with friends-of-friends living in Dubai
   - Toured the Jumeriah Mosque
   - Went to restaurants throughout the city
   - Visited various souqs (i.e., markets)
   - Rode Dhows across the creek
   - Attended a Friday brunch (popular with the expats)
   - Went to the beach (what a scene on UAE national day)
   - Toured the desert in the UAE and Oman
   - Rode a camel
   - Got henna tattoos
   - Went to the Emirates Mall (skied at Ski Dubai)
   - Smoked shisha

6. What key things did you learn from your overall experience?
   - Dynamics of takaful and retakaful markets
   - Sharia law as it applies to takaful
   - Dubai is a fascinating place (Can’t wait to see how it changes in the future)
   - Coordinating with a team in Kuala Lumpur
   - Working with 5 other strong personalities for 3 weeks straight
   - It’s a small world (e.g., meeting alumni, running into friends, westernized culture)