

Competition Report

Competition: QEC/CQI 2015 – Scientific Communication

Members: Kimberly Yeung (3rd QEC) & Ijazul Faruque (4th QEC)



General Notes:

We are both veterans at the QEC competition (Ijazul in Consulting and Kimberly in Junior Design & Reengineering) and this year we decided to both compete in Scientific Communication for the first time. We presented the theme of abundance. Abundance is the concept that there is in reality a multitude of technologies in the future for humanity to tackle all its needs and there is no real scarcity for resources!

We both also acted as head delegates for the Concordia University delegation which meant we organized and prepared all pre-competitions as well as make the team selections. This also entailed keeping everyone on track at the actual competition and bringing energy to represent Concordia and the ECA to its upmost best.

Questions:

1. How has this experience enhanced your engineering skills/knowledge?

Especially with scientific communication we were able to develop our communication skills in regards to clarity, intonation and charisma. It also provided a different form of experience since in our fields of study we aren't always asked to make presentations for a general audience. This is also a great experience when it comes to making connections within our own school and with other faculties across Quebec.

In terms of engineering knowledge, this experience has attained to us a greater understanding of many emerging technologies such as exponential growth, lab-on-chips, aeroponics, hydroponics, smart water grids and photovoltaics. Also, we gained a new positive mindset for tackling engineering problems. By researching such solutions, it allowed us to further understand the importance of keeping an open mind when discussing about different solutions that may not be viable in today's society, but that can save humanity in the long run given that we put all our effort to further such technology.

During competition, we are encouraged to assist to the presentation of our competitors. Each presented a different subject related to engineering and explained it in such a way that the general public can understand such a complex subject. At the end of competition, we have definitely gained a better knowledge on all subjects that have been presented.

2. What are the lessons learned and how can you improve upon these lessons?

When deciding our subject, we took a risk to explain the concept of abundance. We knew from the beginning that some judges were either going to hate it or love it. This competition is very difficult to pick a good topic because, in the end, it depends on the interest of the judges.

We learnt that we must make sure that our theme and subject is more tightly defined and follows more exactly to what is expected from the judges. The improvement going forward would be to select a simple single subject theme that is easily explained and understood.

3. What does this competition mean to you?

Ijazul: QEC is by far my favorite competition and is an event I look forward to each year. It is for me to grow my love for my school as well to show off our prowess to other faculties. It also has let me

develop many skills over the years and I highly recommend QEC for any ENCS student who would like to grow his or her overall skillset.

Kimberly: I have participated in the Quebec Engineering Competition for three years now and have tried three different categories. QEC is the best competition academically and each participant can improve so much on their skills no matter which division they are placed in. It has allowed me to grow as a person, to push me to my limits, to learn to react quickly, to properly present and to expand my network.

4. What would you like the ECA to improve upon next year?

The ECA can improve by advocating more bilingual judges for the competition itself to ensure that English schools aren't at as much of a disadvantage as they have had in recent years. As well as continue to work upon generating interest for students to participate at QEC, there is a lack of participation at the moment for this competition which weakens the overall potential of Concordia University's delegation.