

This summer, I travelled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for two months as part of a group of 27 students from the Cambridge Development Initiative (CDI). CDI is a student-led, student-run society whose mission is to empower and collaborate with students, professionals and local communities, to improve the quality of life for Tanzania's underprivileged. It does this through four projects in Engineering, Education, Healthcare and Entrepreneurship. I was a member of the entrepreneurship team running the DAREnterprisers course.

DAREnterprisers is a 7-week-long entrepreneurship training program for a group of 30 students from universities in East Africa. The course provides budding entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to develop their own social enterprise businesses to tackle some of the problems facing Tanzania across three 'tracks': Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Manufacturing & Urban Living, and Off-grid Energy. As the team leader for the WASH track, I was responsible for leading interactive sessions to teach the students skills in researching ideas, ideation, prototyping and creating a business plan, as well as providing close mentorship of the three teams in my track. These three teams developed unique ideas; a business centred around the provision and servicing of portable toilets in fishing camps and slum areas, a business manufacturing ceramic water filters to increase access to clean drinking water, and a third business producing reusable sanitary pads aimed at reducing schoolgirl absenteeism.

The 7-week course culminated in a conference, 'Dare to Change Dar 2016', at which the student teams pitched their businesses to a panel of expert judges. Over 420 guests were in attendance, including government officials, prominent members of the Tanzanian business community, as well as potential mentors and investors. Following a successful sponsorship campaign, we were able to fully fund three USD \$3000 prizes, which were awarded to the best businesses in each track. In addition, some of our sponsors awarded their own prizes, raising the total number of cash prizes to seven.

Overall, the entrepreneurship course and conference were a great success and provided a group of Tanzanian students the skills and confidence to pursue a career in entrepreneurship as an alternative to traditional employment. I also learned a lot and wouldn't hesitate to recommend CDI to anyone else looking to expand their world view, gain experience in development and make lasting friendships in the process.