Notebook

Week 1 (14th to 20th Jan)

- Siva Sir agrees to be our PI and gives our seniors an opportunity to recruit the juniors.
- The seniors present about iGEM to the juniors and recruit the interested ones.
- We disperse for the semester exams after assembling the team.

Week 3 (28th Jan to 2nd Feb)

- Our ideation phase starts. We decide to work on bioremediation to remove heavy metals from water.
- We work on the initial components of our project.

Week 4 (3rd Feb to 9th Feb)

- We have to modify our idea as we found a similar project already completed in the iGEM competition.
- We take steps to modify our idea.
- We consult with Dr. Alka Mehta to provide us some insights.

Week 4 (12th Feb to 19th Feb)

- We refine our ocean acidification control idea for the approaching iBEC deadline.

Week 5 (20th Feb to 28th Feb)

- We submit the completed manuscript to the iBEC website and await results.
- We disperse for the mid semester exams.

Week 6 (12th Mar to 18th Mar)

- iBEC results arrive!

- We are one of the five teams that get funding from the Department of Biotechnology to participate in iGEM.

Week 7 (24th Mar to 31st Mar)

- We register for iGEM.

Week 8 (23rd Apr to 30th Apr)

- We have our first Skype call with iGEM REC Chennai and talk about collaboration.
- Our kits arrived and we verified the contents.

Weeks 9 & 10 (1st May to 15th May)

- We spend our summer leave time optimising protocols for culturing miniprep, digestion and ligation.

Week 11 (21st May to 27 May)

- A member of our team visits NYU Abu Dhabi and we collaborate with them.
- We also have a Skype conference on the wiki page with them.

Week 12 (1st June to 7th June)

- We begin our Human Practices work.
- We also obtain further feedback on the project by presenting our idea to Dr. Debashish Mishra.

Weeks 13 & 14 (8th June to 21st June)

- We present our idea at Maharishi International Residential School, Sriperumbudur.
- We also perform a beach clean-up along with iGEM-REC and iGEM-IIT Madras teams.
- We interview local fisherman relating to the recent changes in the catch rate.

Week 15 (22nd June to 28th June)

- We interview Mr. David Ishee, an expert in CRISPR technology and get his insights on our idea.
- We also attend the National Workshop on Marine Biotechnology conducted at the National Institute of Oceanography, Chennai were we meet Dr. Joseph Selvin, an expert on corals.
- We also start working on the wiki.

Week 16 (2nd July to 8th July)

- We start working for the interlab study.
- We contact Dr. Joseph Selvin to work in his lab for the interlab study.

Week 17 (16th July to 22nd July)

- We reach Dr. Selvin's lab at the Pondicherry University and start our interlab work.
- We successfully complete the calibration part of the interlab.
- There seems to be some problem with the *E.coli* culture we use for the interlab study.
- We find contamination in our samples and we repeat the protocol.
- There is a persistent contamination problem so we had to leave Dr. Selvin's lab and return to VIT.

Week 18 (23rd July to 30th July)

- We try to complete the rest of the interlab study at VIT.
- We submit the data we were able to collect.
- Our data was deemed not satisfactory and we are given a second deadline.
- We attend the All India iGEM Meetup held at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and present our idea there.

Weeks 19 & 20 (1st August to 15th August)

- We work for the interlab study by culturing a pure culture of *E.coli*.

Weeks 21 and 22 (16th August to 31st August)

- We complete our interlab study and have our data accepted.

- We also apply for our visas.
- We order the necessary sequences from IDT.
- We order the restriction endonucleases and other enzymes we need to complete the 3A Assembly.

Week 23 (1st Sep to 7th Sep)

- We present our ideas to our juniors and encourage them to participate in iGEM the next year.
- We start with the mathematical modelling of our system.

Week 24 (8th Sep to 14th Sep)

- We attend the iGEM 2018 Virtual Conference conducted by NYU Abu Dhabi where we present our idea.
- We attend our Visa interviews.

Week 25 (15th Sep to 21st Sep)

- We fill the necessary details for the title and abstract freeze.
- We also create 'Unmask the Shores', a collaboration aimed to clean sea shores worldwide.
- We attend the lecture of Dr. Sanjaykumar from Christian Medical College, Vellore on 'GMO Safety and Regulations'.

Week 27 (1st Oct to 7th Oct)

- We present our idea to the Vice President of VIT, Mr. Selvam.
- We also synthesize our biobricks by digesting the respective part and ligating in the plasmid.
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Week 28 (8th Oct to 14th Oct)

- We send the ligated biobricks to iGEM.
- We complete all the residual work that remained before the big freeze.