



## The Elite International – May 2009

**Journalist:** The Elite International is the team who won the second place in the Ace Manager, the first online banking game organized by BNP Paribas. As the name points out, the team is really international. It consists of two Spanish students, Ignacio Zunzunegui and Marcus Saxby, from ICADE in Madrid, an American, Elizabeth Lawrence, from the University of Pennsylvania and Xiang Li, a Chinese student from the University of Singapore, currently on a Study Abroad program in the University of Pennsylvania. They worked together on the online challenges of Ace Manager from two different continents. They met for the first time on the final of Ace Manager. So we asked them, how did they manage to build such a strong team?

**Marcus:** I think the mix of culture and different educational systems has helped quite a bit.

**Ignacio:** I think that definitely, we are all already optimistic people in this group and just the good atmosphere and the good work together has definitely made a good presentation.

**Elizabeth:** It's also been interesting because we all hadn't met prior to this competition or even in until yesterday. So but I still think that we were able to come together and work very well together.

**Journalist:** What was your personal motivation to play Ace Manager 2009?

**Xiang Li:** I think at the beginning, it's like you just have an interest in finance and just trying to understand that not just investment banking, not just asset management but overall, the financing industry. And also, I mean, the time lap, because we are playing a game and in the meantime, we are learning as well ...I think it's really important, as you grow up. So that's the main motivation to join a game. For me personally, I didn't expect that I can really get into final but, you know, I'm really excited and also, after presenting, I feel like I've learned a lot along the way.

**Elizabeth:** Plus I think I definitely decided, I definitely want to go into what I thought. You know, I have sort of been leaning towards a lot of Asset Management, private wealth and I think this competition definitively reconfirmed that interest and if anything, just gave me more experience with that, which is great.

**Ignacio:** And I thought retail banking was quite boring, at first, and I thought it was loans, credits and not exciting at all and today, I discovered that retail banking is actually a lot more and very interesting and you can definitely be creative with it. It's definitely a good experience ... I think most of the people nowadays lack the information of what investment banking is and what asset management is and this gives you a clear insight. I think it was a great experience, especially the final, the final that was amazing.

