

Global Encounter-Brazil: Moving Toward Action

Bio-economy and Development

Group Report Out

(Note: Participants were students who were not in the Making a Difference morning session and were unaware of the discussion in that group.)

Procedure used to generate this document:

Participants were asked to answer these questions in the pre-writing phase and before any group discussion:

What *factors* can help explain the gap between where we are today and where we want to be on the items discussed earlier within this theme area?

What *barriers/challenges* exist for MSU in acting on the opportunities in this theme area?

What *advice* do you have for MSU concerning addressing the challenges and barriers to success as we move forward on the Brazil initiative (related to this theme area as well as in general)?

Do you want to be contacted for meetings/work *on this theme and Brazil* in the futures (and for other themes listed at the top of the previous page or in other Lusophone countries)?
If yes, indicate which themes and country/countries.

Additional comments?

After the pre-writing period, the group discussed questions 1-3. The report to the entire group should reflect the ideas the group wanted most to share with the larger group. These report-out notes are taken from the presentation the group facilitator made to the plenary session.

What *factors* can help explain the gap between where we are today and where we want to be on the items discussed earlier within the bio-economy theme?

- A lack of publicity-leads to little student involvement and students are left out of the conversation
- No communication between departments. Bring disciplines together. Is there competition between departments for attention and funding?
- Why don't we learn about things like this conference in our classes- anthropology, international relations?
- Maybe professors aren't even aware of this conference?

What *barriers/challenges* exist for MSU in acting on the opportunities within the bio-economy area?

- Targeting students
 - African studies and Portuguese
 - Business majors
 - Technology majors
 - Other majors
- Develop specific internships geared toward specific study areas that are centrally administered. Talk to students. Get students interested early through freshmen seminars on a regional (linguistic) basis or Alternate Spring Break to Brazilian favelas (shanty towns)

What *advice* do you have for MSU concerning addressing the challenges and barriers to success as we move forward on the Brazil initiative (related to the theme area and as will in general)?

- Develop a daily online calendar of events
- Community participation
 - Other conferences
 - Communication between MSU and conferences/groups

This material was generated from Global Encounter-Brazil <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/brazil>>, held at Michigan State University on November 7, 2006. This interactive and participatory event was designed to obtain input and to elaborate in a country-specific forum on relevant themes, opportunities, issues, and opportunities affecting MSU's current and future engagement in Brazil (and to some degree Lusophone countries).