

# Global Encounter-China

## Chinese Stakeholders-Improving Their On-Campus Experience Individual Written Responses to Questions Related to the Topic

Procedure used to generate this document:

Participants self-selected their group. Individuals were asked to write responses to selected questions before any group discussion. All responses are included and are typed verbatim with some explanation of acronyms or terms. There is no significance in the ordering of the comments as presented in this summary.

### **A. What opportunities exist for MSU in relation to your area of consideration in our current efforts and future possibilities in China?**

- Good Teaching and research programs
- OISS- supports students –keeps them legal
- Chinese Student and Scholar Association of MSU (CSSAMSU) and activities
- English as a Second Language (ESL) for spouses – near campus
- A lot has been done but more is needed
  - in scholarship/fellowship/travel grant
  - More consultation from faculty
  - More effort of integration and coordination
  - More open communication- fear, misconception
- Fertile MSU Research environment:
  - Local Researchers + Visitors
  - Research presentations
  - High performance computing center
  - Library facilities
  - Experimental facilities such as the cyclotron laboratory
  - Striving graduate student community
- Many Chinese MSU alumni
- Invite Chinese students/scholars to American homes for meals
- Arrange visits to places they are interested in, such as food factories, Frankenmuth, Lake Michigan, skiing, Ford Museum
- Take them to “Meet Michigan” to see what MSU does in extension

- Give them orientation to MSU, starting with land-grant, Morrill Act and explain teaching/research/extension
- Explain difference between teaching and research universities
- Cultural events
- Get involved in small research projects
- Train and/or identify students' areas of expertise to be classroom resources
- Develop Chinese language "tables" in residence halls to both practice language and learn more about culture
- CVIP's program- Speakers' Bureau; Friendship Family
- Language related resources support for students and visitors: English writing, tutoring, oral communication skills (MSU Writing Center, Student Life Program, resources for persons with disabilities, etc.
- Culture related resources support for students and visitors
- Related resources for spouses
- To expand international horizons regarding educational cultural and social dimensions
- Leverage faculty, students, student associations, etc. with experience in or from China in helping welcome new arrivals
- Chances to celebrate other cultures e.g. Chinese New Year as chance to learn more (beyond food)
- Mentoring arrangements, especially for visiting professionals
- Scholarships
- Link MSU study abroad alums with new Chinese students
- Language exchange opportunities
- Cultural learning and exchange

- Language teaching/second language acquisition research opportunities
- Tap current organizations on campus
- In-class exchanges (using Chinese students/scholars as resource)
- Train MSU faculty/staff to work with Chinese (general international population)
- Encourage Chinese experts to participate on campus, teaching Americans from Chinese perspective
- Environment issues such as global warming causing of Natural disasters - More collaboration to reduce and solve these problems

**B. What challenges exist for MSU in relation to your area of consideration in our current efforts and future possibilities in China?**

- Language – tendency to stay isolated
- Getting acquainted with non-Chinese
- Different expectations
- Fear of speaking up
- Different teaching style and class expectations
- Housing and Transportation
- Institutional and policy barriers for work
- Imbalance in treating different responsibilities
- Coming somewhat from behind. Other institutions in other countries, e.g. Germany have pursued exchanges more vigorously. However, it is not too late
- Lack of some formal ramifications that could facilitate exchanges, such as joint degree programs
- Visa difficulties: Just this month a Chinese scholar gave up on attending a U.S. conference and visiting MSU because of prolonged visa processing

- Money
- Time
- Tendency for national groups to form ghettos
- Overcoming ignorance and/or apathy toward Chinese – Chinophobia
- English language ability
- Changing MSU's student culture to embrace the international student as we have developed the "culture" to study abroad
- Develop ways to better engage both MSU students and faculty returning from China with Chinese stakeholders on campus
- Temporary on campus housing
- Housing department friendly staff
- Collaboration with academic Institutions
- Students with different learning/teaching experiences understanding our classroom culture
- Lack of cross-cultural experience of many at MSU
- Existing stereotypes
- MSU/Community members with insular/closed attitudes
- Funding!!
- How to better coordinate and communicate resources and needs
- Language barriers/limitations
- Family issues – child care, spouse who can't work or study, etc.
- Perception (through visa process, press) of U.S. as unwelcoming generally
- How can we ensure that Chinese students and scholars have an adequate opportunity to integrate into U.S. academic society?

- We want the Chinese population already existing at MSU to be a support network; however, we would hope that Chinese people feel equipped and confident enough to participate in U.S. academic and social culture

- Pre-departure orientation

- U.S. academic skills/language training in country for readiness upon arrival

- Need to have an awareness of excellent test-taking of Chinese. China is well known for coaching students on how to effectively take multiple choice tests. For example, one organization in particular (The Oriental School) has done wonders to help Chinese students achieve high TOEFL scores contrary to the actual English language proficiency.

- Improve interest in China on U.S. side

- Find the connection channels to work on these issues efficiently

**C. What advice concerning this region and this area of consideration would you like to pass along to future groups following through on these ideas?**

- Some programs/activities to integrate culture/language groups

- More opportunities for interpersonal contact

- Although a lot of information is given to new students arriving, it tends to come in official sounding verbiage which is not comprehensible to the new arrival

- Have a forum for different stakeholders to maximize their exchange and dialogue

- Make more resources available

- Creation of a joint graduate degree program

- Offering long-term visas to established Chinese scholars

- Joint sponsorship of exchanges: the Chinese side provides local support at their side and MSU at the MSU side

- Best if students have chance to visit professor's home in a "non-work" setting at least once

- Make learning two-way and in a “value and judgmental free” environment (similar to this activity)
- Structured programs are needed to facilitate interaction by/with groups – will not happen only by chance
- To develop adapted teaching, research and outreach programs according to the needs and requirements of the country
- To advise graduate students to pick up their research topic in China-related problems
- Get input from students, visiting scholars, etc. as to what was most problematic or unwelcoming
- Establish a point of contact on campus pre-departure— someone who is interested in making sure the Chinese stakeholders have a successful experience

#### **D. Additional Comments?**

- Facilitate traveling opportunities for faculty and staff and provide scholarships for graduate study programs
- In what ways are these issues different for China than for all visiting scholars, students, etc.? These are issues we have dealt with a long time through OISS, CVIP, VIPP, etc. Have those groups identified their own strengths, weaknesses, strategies??

This material was generated from Global Encounter-China, <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/china>>, held at Michigan State University on May 18, 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 China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.