

Global Encounter-India

Community/Campus Cultural Understanding and Opportunities

Group Report Out

Procedure used to generate this document:

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

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

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

Additional comments?

After the pre-writing period, the group discussed the topic. These report-out notes are taken from the presentation the group facilitator made to the plenary session.

Opportunities

- Partner with MSU Study Abroad Programs
- Partner with MSU faculty from India to make these programs "successful"
- Participate in "folk festival"-shows and events from Asia
- Visit integrated with other Indian MSU professors
- "Michigan" and "India"-common exposure
- Partner with the local Indian community

Challenges

●Defining "culture" itself is a challenge. In India there are 14 languages, 1200 dialects; business is done in English. Religion is also very diverse. Culture is based on religion.

- Time for faculty
- Time for students
- Complexity of the culture

Advice

- Focus on similarities and differences and what they mean
- Develop a 1 credit course related to cultural understanding
- Indian Film festival
- Need improvement in communication and marketing of all cultural events (including newspaper ads)
- "Group travel"

Additional Comments

- Understanding culture is important to other types of exchanges and activities

This material was generated from Global Encounter-India, <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/india>>, held at Michigan State University on September 22, 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 India and to a lesser degree southeast Asia.