

# Global Encounter-India

## Health- Making a Difference

### Group Report Out

Procedure used to generate this document:

This document represents the summary of group discussions related to their self-selected area or interest/expertise in one of six topic areas (Education; Environment; Food Systems and Agribusiness; Gender, Poverty, and Social Inequalities; Health; and Technology and Economic Development.). Individuals first wrote responses to these specific questions related to the topic to be considered:

What are **your** *current or future focused areas of teaching, research and/or outreach (engagement)* related to India?

What *resources* (existing at MSU or working in collaboration with MSU) should be considered as the University moves forward on any and all work related to India?

What are the top three to five things that MSU should be doing in regards to this theme/area of concern in India over the next five to ten years? How would we know that we had been successful?

After the pre-writing period, the group discussed both questions within the last item. These report-out notes are taken from the presentation the group facilitator made to the plenary session.

## Top Things MSU Should Be Doing

### Group A

- With development come health issues including:
  - Environmental Health
  - Occupational Health
  - Public Health
  
- Program Development in area of health
  
- Capacity Building-training

## **Group B**

### **Teaching:**

- We have to focus on certain universities that are easy to work with, such as ones that have pre-existing, functional agreements with MSU. We can also consider smaller universities that have potential. The idea is to
  - develop sound permanent links with Indian universities
  - lasting impact
- We can invest in virtual (online) courses with some personal contact established through faculty visiting the universities in India once a year. If these courses are offered as part of a certification program and not as a degree program, then there are several advantages:
  - students pay less for fees which will not be cost-prohibitive for Indian students
  - there will be minimal expansion of labor
  - adding more students to the program will not involve additional costs
- Establish virtual learning communities for exchange of ideas, learning new technologies and establishing fruitful collaborations
- There is a need for more study abroad programs in India. We can also have "Reverse-Study abroad programs" with faculty and students from India visiting MSU to learn new technologies, administration, and management and to do research.
- We should increase the number of Indian faculty teaching culture, languages, etc.

### **Research:**

- Research has to translate into public benefit for the greatest impact.
- Promote exchange of faculty:
  - tailor the research to fit their Indian partners' needs
  - provide on-site training here at MSU
- Collaborations with industry have to be established, for example, the auto industry and software industry in India. These will promote two things:
  - we can provide internship training for MSU students in Indian industry – Dr. Shobha Ramanand is willing to talk to industry personnel in Bangalore to set this up.
  - this will promote exchange of ideas
- Research on Indian education is needed

## Resources

### Group A

- Internal
  - ISP
  - OISS
  - CVM
  - IIA
  - MSU Alumni Association
  - MSU Development Office
  - Others
- Extramural
  - National Institutes of Health
  - National Science Foundation
  - Foundations

### Group B

- We should consider this as an INVESTMENT not cost
  - federal funding is available through NSF – programs such as PIRE (Partnerships for International Research and Education)
  - private foundations
  - funding from collaborating Indian institutions – they have local and state funding that they can use to support these international activities
  - fund raising for graduates and visitors through endowments, private scholarships, etc.

## Outcomes (Metrics)

### Group A

- Increases in knowledge
- Improvement in attitudes and beliefs
- Increased awareness about environmental pollutants occupational pathogens and pollutants
- Increased participation in MSU and in India
- Increased number of publications

## **Group B**

- Tracking enrollment in MSU programs and completion rates
- Language testing
- Benefit to Indian society as well as MSU society
- If MSU is given credit from a political viewpoint – if the Indian government can understand the benefit of MSU’s involvement and the benefit to Indian society and gives credit to MSU in the political arena – it will be publicized.

**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.**