

Global Encounter-India

Indian Stakeholders-Improving Their On-Campus Experience

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 China?

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

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 and Resources

- Good campus infrastructure – communication, computing resources
- Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) and ISP work to provide good service
- Volunteers and volunteer groups who help
- Good resources: Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP); intercultural workshops, orientations, coffee hours, nationality clubs, career services.
- Recruitment issues
- MSU is a relatively internationally friendly campus
- Office of International Students and Scholars
- Good campus – good programs; good resource, opportunity
- Working with housing and residence life in welcoming students by providing social events as well as educational programs in the residence halls
- Housing and residence life working with/other departments/offices that host the international students
- Connecting students to families/friends/communities in the area
- Short term summer projects with leading institutions
- Undergraduate as well as graduate education
- Enable funding mechanism – actively

Challenges

- Ethnocentrism and parochialism and attitudes
- Transportation issues
- Occasionally incomprehensible bureaucracy/red tape
- Cultural differences which led to unmet expectations and needs
- Lack of money and scholarships
- Visas
- Improved understanding of MSU/US cultural expectations
- Provide US cultural exposure to student
- Accurately assessing the needs of students
- Meeting the needs of students (i.e. resource issue)
- Reaching the students that are falling through the cracks
- Stereotype students face
- Housing/Residence Life understanding the needs of international students and being able to meet the need(s)
- MSU lacks the thrust – coordination required
- Orientation
- Networks

Advice

- Develop a buddy/mentor system to connect new students with experienced students
- Provide a sense of community
- Improve orientation for students from India to new educational system
- Residential life programming could help out
- Could work with housing and residence life in welcoming students
- Make sure the campus is ready-
 - .Help campus to understand the level of talent coming from other countries- international students/faculty are sharp and at the top of their fields
 - .Show empathy and compassion
- OISS needs to also collect and help with questions and information that goes beyond their mission
- Develop a buddy system-have a small team consisting of Indian students and domestic students to do group study so both sides can explore each others ideas; building a network
- Make greater use of Indian community resources to help students adjust to their new surroundings
- Make initial intake welcoming
- Support the India club
- Video tape presentation of different departments and their functions
- Consider showing cricket championships (similar to World Cup Soccer)

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.