

Global Encounter-India

Indian 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 India?

1.
 - A good and mostly pleasant campus
 - Good infrastructure - communication, computing resources
 - OISS and ISP working to smooth transitions and help with bureaucracy and introduce people to new home
 - Volunteers and volunteer groups who help
2.
 - CVIP
 - Intercultural workshops
 - Orientations
 - Coffee hours
 - Nationality clubs
 - Recruitment issues
 - Career services
3.
 - MSU is a relatively internationally friendly campus
 - Office of (for) International Students and Scholars
4.
 - Good campus
 - Good programs
 - Good resources
 - Opportunity

5.
 - 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
6.
 - Short term summer projects with leading institutions
 - Wildlife research
 - Health research
 - Environmental/public health
 - Undergraduate as well as graduate education
 - Enable funding mechanism-actively

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

1.
 - Ethno-centric isolationist mentality
 - Our unwillingness to put out effort to bridge differences
 - Occasionally incomprehensible bureaucracy/ red tape
 - Cultural differences which lead to unmet expectations and needs
2.
 - Money and scholarships
 - Visas
3.
 - Improved understanding of MSU/U.S. cultural expectations
 - Transportation issues
4.
 - Provide U.S. cultural exposure to students.
 - Transportation
5.
 - Accurately assessing the needs of students
 - Meeting the needs of students (i.e. resource issues)
 - Reaching the students that are falling through the cracks
 - Stereotypes students face
 - Housing and Residence Life understanding the needs of international students and being able to meet the need(s)
6.
 - MSU lacks the thrust - coordination required.
 - Orientation
 - Networks

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?

1.
 - First, international students/faculty are sharp and at the top of their fields.
 - Buddy/mentor system
 - OISS needs to also collect and help with questions and information that goes beyond their mission.
 - I am aware that students have gone into the OISS office with questions and were told that “we don’t deal with that” and sent away. The feeling in the discussion was that even if it was not specifically an OISS thing to handle, that they should at least have been able to refer the students to some other resource that could help them. There were three or four incidences mentioned. I think at least one had to do with Visas or other official paperwork when traveling outside of the USA, which OISS should have something to say about. The incidents were probably due to persons working the reception desk who were ill-informed. But, it still seemed like something that needed mentioning and pointing out that OISS (as well as all departments actually) must see itself in the context of the whole mission of internationalizing and not just with its own duties and part of the university. In the area of international students and their questions, it really needs to go extra – out of its way to make sure there is some help given, even if it is out of their specific field. In general, I find that the OISS people do go out of their way to be helpful. But, if some incidences happened, then some communication was missed sometimes.
2. ****NO RESPONSE****
3.
 - Make greater use of Indian community resources to help students adjust to their new surroundings.
4.
 - Have a small team (buddy system) consisting of Indian Student and American Student to do group study. So both sides can explore each other’s ideas, Building a Network
 - Assign different host to explore them to take them around (sic)
 - Video tape presentation of different departments and their function
5.
 - The importance of providing a sense of community to these students
6.
 - Exchange program
 - Educational system- acclimatize
 - Buddy system

D. Additional Comments?

1. ****NO RESPONSE****
2. ****NO RESPONSE****
3. ****NO RESPONSE****
4. ****NO RESPONSE****
5. ****NO RESPONSE****
6. ****NO RESPONSE****

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.