

Global Encounter-India

Working with Alumni from the Region

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

- Build on MSU Today, e-mails, booklets
- Live Web conferences with alumni. For example, Global Encounters
- Develop online communication with alumni—do not rely on coincidence and happenstance
- Lifelong learning and engagement
- Offer continuing education/training to international alumni including on campus
- Networking is the #1 reason for alumni to stay engaged—not social, not sports
- Engage alumni on travel opportunities to go to India

Challenges

- Little awareness among faculty of who is doing what and where
- Networking among alumni who are in India
- Weak alumni clubs in India
- How to judge involvement of alumni in India. It cannot be just by the number of MSU Alumni Association Members or donors.
- Need to identify the interests of the alumni and donors. What do they need and want? This information is needed to help decide what MSU can offer.
- Should not just ask for money. Must explain MSU benefits and what we can do for them.

- Develop DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS, not only institutional ones.
- Mail/postage from U.S. to India is expensive.
- Comment: Send one package to India with enclosed items going to multiple addresses. Let local alumni chapter or alumni contact distribute within the country.
- E-mail addresses change and are difficult to track.
- MSU international alumni database has weaknesses.

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.