

# **Global Encounter-India**

## **Working with Alumni from the Region**

### **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.
  - Individual and institutional linkages
  - Opportunities for MSU Faculty as visiting instructors
  - Opportunities for Alumni to return to MSU as visiting professionals
2.
  - Timing is excellent.
  - Strong statement of purpose by the President
  - Central Administration, including President, Provost, and Dean of ISP are on same page.
  - Strong successful experience in international programs on which to build future success
  - Large number of Alumni from India
  - Large number of students from India
3. **\*\*NO RESPONSE\*\***
4.
  - MSU has many Alumni in India who think very fondly of their MSU experience.
  - MSU alumni in India have moved into positions of influence in universities, business/industry and government. This group can/should be engaged in whatever initiative that might evolve in India.
5.
  - Alumni Association at MSU
  - Need: Alumni Association in India [**Note:** There are several Alumni Associations on record in India ([www.msualum.com](http://www.msualum.com)); however, it is not clear how active these are.]

6.
  - Using graduate students and faculty to interact with Indian Academics- this would help spread the word!
  - Leverage existing contacts in India as a credible signal- while applying for grants.
  - Many Peace Corps volunteers in Africa know MSU because of the developmental work MSU does there. How can this awareness be created in India?
  - Faculty could interact with the industry as well.
  - MSU can subsidize the incoming students-fully- at least in the initial phase.
7.
  - Opportunities for professional training programs for non-degree purposes especially in professional schools such as business, labor and industrial relations, education, journalism but also in other areas such as sciences, language study, arts
  - Opportunities for reverse study abroad programs and support for MSU's own study abroad programs
  - Opportunities for MSU faculty and staff who travel abroad to do at least one "public service" presentation related to their work and research, hopefully to Alumni with similar interests.

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

1.
  - Need for a continuous stream of contact, starting with graduation
  - Distances within India
  - Travel costs of flying to India
2.
  - Continuing to be a leader in a world where there is increased international program activity by other institutions.
  - Cost of education
  - Impediment caused by world politics
3.
  - Make Alumni Association more accessible from different parts of the world.
4.
  - How do we continue to engage with Alumni/groups in a tangible, meaningful way so they find value in staying connected beyond just Alumni Club activities? We will need to put some/lots of resources on the table to make a go of it. But in the long run, this might be the best investment MSU can make.
5.
  - Contacts with people in India
6.
  - \$\$- So, the initial expenses would essentially be time and resources for networking.
  - Travel to other countries is difficult →mainly because of financial constraints – so, we could downplay it.

7.
  - Expense of travel program fees and living costs
  - Also for identifying contact people especially alumni who might be interested in interacting with MSU
  - Real communication barriers- not language but lack of information and awareness

**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. **\*\*NO RESPONSE\*\***
2.
  - Continue in-depth discussions.
  - Redefining of priorities re: basis for faculty promotions, (so that credit will be given for research, teaching, etc. in international arena)
  - Look at inflexibility of coursework.
  - Engage Alumni and have a greater appreciation across campus for contributions of Alumni.
3.
  - Move to engage Alumni from all around the globe.
  - What can MSU offer the Alumni?
  - Alumni Associations are viewed as mostly fund raising organizations with some networking benefit. How do we change that?
  - Communicate clearly what MSU needs and is looking for from the Alumni.
  - Utilize the vast pool of faculty with Indian background to tap Indian community and alumni.
4.
  - While India is developing rapidly economically and technically, they are paying a big price. The cost of this development has been the environment, ever widening gap between rich and poor, poor health and healthcare system, and inadequate educational system that is not accessible to the masses.
  - India's infrastructure is not keeping up with the rapid growth and development in the country. Government bureaucracy and corruption and corporate greed are prevailing. Can India sustain their development or better yet, how should India go about managing its growth?
5.
  - Establish activities in India in collaboration with Alumni Association at MSU and in India.
  - Establish an MSU India contact point in India
  - Website

6.
  - Create a list of Universities in India by Nature of Work -research, teaching, etc., and choose which university to work with. This exists already in U.S. universities like Iowa State.
  - Create satellite office(s) in India. Staff it with Indians (that costs less).
  - Print MSU Newsletter and send it to alumni and friends within India. Send in bulk to representative in India to save on postage-from Lansing it will be costly to send individual copies.
7.
  - Ask Alumni what they find useful ways for MSU to interact with them both individually as well as with regard to their work and social/employment institutions.
  - Would faculty/staff lectures and meetings be seen as of interest (how to show and identify specific niches of common interest)? Some might be happy to see anyone from MSU; others might be interested only if the faculty/staff has similar or even identical interests or education areas.
  - Revisit the basis of Alumni Association membership

#### **D. Additional Comments?**

1. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
2. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
3. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
4.
  - MSU can engage in India to develop a culture of shared leadership, mission-oriented research, a culture of engagement with community, and partnerships with stakeholders.
  - MSU should engage with emerging institutions not just the elite like ITTs in the spirit of Global Land Grants.
  - "Environment and health" should be a theme where we have the expertise and can make a lasting impact in the country.
5. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
6.
  - Some faculty or people (including me) would favor our local institutions (those we know best or attended) in India. There was a discussion of which Indian institutions should be selected for MSU to work with. My idea is to identify the premier institutions – through an objective assessment – say Indian faculty who work in other U.S. institutions can tell MSU if it were good to work with them. It is more of an "External" review process. Is that good for MSU??
  - Promote the departments contacting Alumni on a regular basis (twice a year.)
  - Make the departments accountable for losing contact with their alumni.

7.
  - Need to ask how to engage interest of alumni
  - Need to ask alumni for referrals of top students and even new faculty prospects
  - Need to announce scholarship programs effective immediately with funds from MSU or donors and invite student referrals and invite additional donations
  - Consider expanding modest fellowship and scholarship amounts in the foreign countries for purposes of practical inexpensive support for local education as well as great – inexpensive public relations which can efficiently and dramatically broaden the net for finding the next star student or scholar.

**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.**