

# **Global Encounter-Brazil: Moving Toward Action Environment, Technology, and People Individual Written Responses to Questions Related to the Topic**

Procedure used to generate this document:

This document represents the summary of responses individuals wrote to questions related to their self-selected area of interest/expertise within six topic areas (Bio-economy and Development; Cultural Hybridizations; Environment, Technology, and People; Global Relations; Health, Education, and Social Disparities; Institutional Planning and Support and Political Economy, Commerce). All responses received are included and are typed verbatim with some explanation of acronyms. There is no significance in the ordering of the topics or comments as presented in this report.

## **A. What *factors* can help explain the gap between where we are today and where we want to be on the items discussed earlier within this theme area?**

1.
  - For me, it's impossible to say because I am a novice.
2.
  - There are no linkages between MSU and Brazilian institutions in this field (augmentative communication technology).
  - The MSU Administration has not made Brazil a priority.
  - There is no large Brazilian community in Michigan (as there is in other states in USA.)
3.
  - Establishing a few thematic linkages between MSU and Brazilian institutions. It is difficult to find a few as there is such diversity of interests on Brazil @ MSU.
4.
  - How can we reach K-12 students to want to be more globally oriented?
  - Lack of Portuguese community in the surrounding area
  - Encourage/require language studies in not only MSU learning but at a much earlier level.
  - Visibility/Communication
    - How do we reach more of the MSU community and surrounding area, retirees, alumni? Still looking for a better avenue here at MSU.
  - Need more of a global focus not just on a particular country
5.
  - Financial barriers for Brazilian students
  - Language barriers for U.S. students/scholars

- Visibility not high on either end
  - Lack of critical mass of Brazilian students, cultural isolation
  - Our climate, lack of urban attractions are probably disadvantages to many Brazilians.
6.
    - Building mutual educational exchange: unwillingness of undergrads to learn a language, study abroad for a longer period, lack of MSU publicity in Brazil
    - No money and extra support for Brazilian Masters students
    - Seed money for research collaborations: don't know much about this. I think these funds should be extensive; good collaborations don't come cheap.
    - Market MSU: also tough, esp. outside of Sao Paulo/ Rio.
    - More study abroad programs based at Universities in Brazil would help.
  7.
    - High tuition fees
    - Institutions constraints
    - Changes in priorities: e.g. Brazil was priority in terms of agricultural development in the 60s/70s. Many Brazilians were trained in U.S. universities. Today, agriculture is not priority for both countries.
  8.
    - The differences between different programs (undergrad, MSC, PhD), and their mechanisms and outcomes
    - Mutual or multilateral agreements, or exchange programs
    - Enhancement of capabilities at different institutions (MSU better at some things than Brazil, or vice versa and same with other countries)
    - Clear goal definition of educational/ research programs
  9.
    - One major factor is the institutional blocks. We need to create institutional arrangements in terms of tuition, credit acceptance.
    - We only attract middle upper class undergrads who can afford to pay.
  10.
    - Lack of interest in issues related to Brazil
    - Lack of investments (fellowships, grants, etc.) and agreements with Brazilian institutions (MOU, etc.)
    - Lack of collaboration and sustainable exchange
  11.
    - Funding
    - Not knowing how/where to develop links
    - Not having the time or funds to establish new programs
  12.
    - Cooperation
    - Partnership
    - International research groups
    - Knowledge about the programs – CAPES (Fundacao Coordenacao de Aperfeicoamento de Pessoal de Nivel Superior, Brazilian Ministry of Education)

Foundation) and CNPq (Brazil's National Counsel of Technological and Scientific Development of the Ministry for Science and Technology) and similar sponsors programs in the U.S. that could work together and formulate research groups

**B. What *barriers/challenges* exist for MSU in acting on the opportunities in this theme area?**

1. **\*\*No Response\*\***
2.
  - 1.) Lack of strong Portuguese language offerings- needs to be strengthened.
  - 2.) Lack of strong ties between MSU and Brazilian institutions doing research and development in rehab technology
3.
  - Institutional flexibility (admission, tuition costs, credit transfers, etc.)
  - Note:** This is a general topic applicable to all themes. These are issues that can create disincentives to Brazilians to come here. This is on top of the Visa issue imposed by the U.S. government.
  - We need to find ways to remain competitive vis a vis European universities.
4.
  - Lack of information as to areas of interest
  - Language barrier
  - Faculty willing or able to collaborate/travel
  - Financial-tuition, travel, housing
  - Admission standards
  - Cultural understanding
  - Grant writing teams
  - Need more of a global focus, not just one particular country
5.
  - Finding funding to support programs
  - Drumming up interest among MSU students, promoting Portuguese language study
  - Bureaucratic barriers to any formal relationships with Brazilian institutions are (can be) formidable.
6.
  - Anti-American/ environmentalist sentiment in the environmental realm
  - Social (i.e. people) – driven research that, if applied, rarely makes it to a Brazilian audience
7.
  - High tuition/students
  - Lack of knowledge about research opportunities/professors interested in Brazil
  - Language
  - Visibility
  - Communication problems

- Lack of knowledge about the opportunities here in the US (by the Brazilian students)
8.
    - Paternalistic view
    - Not enough connections with other institutions
    - Vague networking inside/ outside campus (e.g. many professors not networking nowadays)
    - Lack of knowledge about Brazil, and Latin America and Portuguese among most people
  9.
    - Market MSU and show advantage of studying at MSU.
    - Financial constraints that prevent students, especially undergrads/master students for studying at MSU
    - Graduate program standards in terms of GRE scores. Not standards across the disciplines
  10.
    - Lack of flexibility (bureaucratic issues, immigration issues, etc.)
    - Attractiveness (of MSU programs)
    - Funds
    - Grants
    - Participation
    - Priority
  11.
    - As a grad student not having a clear idea about all the Brazilian programs, projects, and resources at MSU
    - How do grad students locate Affiliate institutions for Visas or funding, etc.?
  12.
    - Financial
    - Language (in case of MSU student who goes to Brazil)
    - Tuition

**C. What *advice* do you have for MSU concerning addressing the challenges and barriers to success as we move forward on the Brazil initiative (related to this theme area, as well as in general)?**

1. **\*\*No Response\*\***
2.
  - Find institutions in Brazil with an interest in areas where MSU has strength.
  - Establish linkages to some of these institutions.
  - Establish linkages with US manufacturers and MSU that can work with Brazilian manufacturers and rehabilitation institutions.

3.
  - Improve Portuguese language offerings here- that will begin to enlarge the General interest in Brazil which amongst undergrads is minimal at best.
  - Language competency is key to the growth and success of area studies work.
4.
  - Until we have an idea of all programs at MSU and opportunities for collaboration between colleges here it is difficult to pinpoint multidisciplinary opportunities in Brazil.
  - Promote life-long education.
  - Learn from successes of others.
  - Need some kind of Webpage that allows faculty and grad students to input their programs, areas of expertise and proposed projects for research, courses, etc. Would be the place to start.
  - Promote a Global University- in MSU marketing, i.e. "Global Food University."
  - Set up an all-events calendar on Web site in addition to or instead of each college having its own.
  - Provide free and easy access to language courses.
5.
  - Cultivate personal relationships with Brazilian faculty, university officials.
  - Seek seed money to jump-start priority programs.
  - Start with more easily attainable goals:
    - Research collaborations
    - Sandwich exchanges of PhD students
    - Sabbatical exchanges of MSU ↔ Brazil faculty.
  - Building undergrad enrollment is more challenging goal
6.
  - Promote Brazil initiatives at the faculty and undergrad level while simultaneously making it more financially attractive for Brazilian grad students to come to MSU.
  - Faculty interest and undergrad involvement are the most likely to strengthen Brazil-focused programs and involvement.
7.
  - Find institutions where some type of prior contact exists.
  - Strengthen those links where some type of prior contact exists.
  - Which areas are interesting for both countries? Identify these areas.
8.
  - Improve networking inside campus.
  - Make/improve connections with other institutions.
  - Develop in consensus with partners, goals and mechanisms for action.
  - Enhance knowledge on Brazil and Portuguese, and other Latin countries.
9.
  - Identify several university/ institutional partnerships where interest is strong on the part of the faculty in both countries and invest in these.
  - Create real educational exchange – faculty and students, tuition agreements, scholarships.
  - Create uniform standards across campus for graduate admissions.

10.
  - Joint work (research and education) with Brazilian institutions (public, private, NGOs)
  - Advertise. (MSU has to enhance/ improve its advertisements in Brazil.)
  - More faculty/ student participation
  - Improve bureaucratic issues.
  - More investments in education and research in Brazil (partnerships and exchanges)
11. **\*\*NO RESPONSE\*\***
12.
  - Looking for partnerships
  - Governmental or industry sponsors from MSU even though Brazil has been supporting this area with scholarships and tuition for Brazilian students at MSU
  - Develop international research groups between MSU and Brazilian universities in specific areas.

**D. Do you want to be contacted for meetings/work on this theme and Brazil in the future (and for other themes or in other Lusophone countries)?**

1.
  - Health, education and social disparities
  - My degrees and interests are in
    - environmental education
    - extension/outreach
2.
  - Augmentative communication technology in Portuguese language, including voice synthesis in Portuguese and indigenous languages.
3. No.
4.
  - Distance education
  - Food laws/food safety
5.
  - Environment – South American tropics
6. **\*\*No Response\*\***
7.
  - Environment
  - Social justice
  - Bio-economy and development
8.
  - Environment
  - Development

- Globalization
- Latin America
- Brazil

9. ●Brazil – all themes
10. ●Environment and people
11. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
12. ●In Brazil as teaching, research or faculty

### **E. Additional comments:**

1. ●This is the first time I have taken an opportunity to work internationally- I'd like to continue to explore and learn. How can I contribute?
2. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
3. ●Please do NOT use China as a model for the Brazil initiative. Situation and context are very different.  
●Ask what Brazilians would like - cannot assume they even want what we want.
4. ●Locate English speaking Universities in Brazil which might encourage US students to study abroad.  
●With more problems and costs in traveling we may want to invest more resources in telecommunication and distance education, teleconferencing, Breeze presentations, etc.  
●Streamline and speed up the MOU process.  
●Identify what financial arrangements will be acceptable as far as tuition and expenses.  
●Freshman seminars- excellent idea  
●Free English as a second language courses - Students say they are provided this at other universities.  
●Partnerships- research projects with US AID sponsorship or participation.  
●Need to include more students in these Global Encounters.  
●Identify our priorities.
5. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
6. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
7. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*

8. ●Many of discussion topics go across others. It would be helpful for further discussion to narrow down topics
9. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
10. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
11. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*
12. \*\*NO RESPONSE\*\*

**This material was generated from Global Encounter-Brazil <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/brazil>>, held at Michigan State University on November 7, 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 Brazil (and to some degree Lusophone countries).**