

Global Encounter-Brazil: Moving Toward Action

Health, Education and Social Disparities

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?

1. ●Until recently, not an institutional effort to align MSU strategies related to Brazil
2. **NO RESPONSE**
3. ●Lack of programs self-sustenance because the programs have been person-based
●Lack of support for faculty from their departments for long term projects
4. ●I wasn't here for the morning, so let me just explain a bit about the project I've been involved within Southern Brazil and the barriers I've encountered. In 2000, I went to Florianopolis for a conference. I saw working cart horses in deplorable condition all over. My major professor at the time (Adroaldo Zanella) is a Brazilian and I began "bugging" him that we needed to return to Brazil and do enough research to determine why the horses were in such bad shape. Adroaldo, myself and Adroaldo's brother (Ricardo) returned to Porto Alegre in 2003 and did a 10 day research project on the horses (EQWIS ACTION www.msu.edu/~Panella/eqwis_action.html). Ricardo stayed in Brazil and continued to monitor the horses in the hopes that we would see improvements in response to our education "intervention". In 2006, we returned to Porto Alegre and Passo Fundo with a group of 7 highly committed undergraduates. We hope to return again in June 2007 and perhaps turn this into a study abroad.

- Obstacles: I speak very little Portuguese, air fare is very expensive, getting low socio-economic people to plan for the future and to buy horse feed in bulk, and my lack of time, etc.
 - Positives: We have had wonderfully helpful facilitators down there; lodging and meals are very reasonable.
5.
 - Sometimes it is a matter of finding partners in Brazil.
 - There's common sense that what has to be done is to "educate" people and institutions in Brazil and not to work on real exchanges; this does not facilitate mutually beneficial experiences.
 - Funding!!
 6.
 - Language
 - Socio-economic issues on both sides
 - Lack of partnerships and collaborators
 - Lack of support for specifics in Brazil
 - Needing to understand (truly understand) the wishes and desires of our collaborators at the University, Government, and practitioner level
 - Making connections with similar interests
 - Complexities of culture.
 7.
 - Regarding public health – need a cohesive MSU effort on that theme - bring together faculty from all colleges to input and use connections already identified to branch out subject matter.
 8.
 - Satisfaction of accomplishment/achievement
 - Economic situation of U.S. and Brazil
 - Government support of U.S. and Brazil

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

1.
 - Critical mass of faculty that are acquainted with issues/ systematic, solid, "connections/relationships" in areas of need
 - Raising awareness/ consciousness about Brazil, its people, strengths, and needs
 - Resources for applicable courses/classes, e.g. Portuguese and Brazilian culture
 - Lack of systematic pre-college programs that look at language/culture
2.
 - Major availability of MSU to engage in exchange of students and scholars in the areas of Education, Social Sciences and Health
 - Producing the correct incentives to attract people from Brazil and incentives to exchange persons from the U.S. to Brazil

3.
 - Economical issues with pharmaceuticals/ideas ownership
 - Person-based interests
4. ****NO RESPONSE****
5.
 - Sometimes it is a matter of finding partners in Brazil.
 - There's common sense that what has to be done is to "educate" people and institutions in Brazil and not to work on real exchanges – this does not facilitate mutually beneficial experiences.
 - Funding!!
6.
 - Size of the institution (MSU)
 - Diversity of professional (and personal) interests
 - Perhaps not as much emphasis previously in the social and medical sciences toward Brazil
7.
 - Somewhat fragmented interest across campus
 - Bring interests across campus together and merge interest/activity for a bolder campaign – cohesive message.
8.
 - Global awareness on-campus for the public in general
 - Seeing is more important than listening.
 - Small awareness on-campus for Brazil

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 as well, in general)?

1.
 - Efforts must be cross-, inter-, and multi-disciplinary.
 - Must listen to the "voices" of Brazil.
 - Must include all of MSU's mission of teaching, research and service.
 - Must incorporate quality aspects of outreach and engagement.
 - Efforts need to be truly cultural in context.
2.
 - Promote the use of visiting scholars and students to spread research developments in these areas.
 - Promote joint programs with Brazilian universities.
 - Develop partnerships so Brazilian universities provide courses in English.
3. ****NO RESPONSE****
4. ****NO RESPONSE****

5.
 - Language (Portuguese) programs have to be more accessible.
 - MSU has to be more well-known for its excellent programs.
 - Intercultural communication courses, so students and faculty from MSU understand different approaches and try to understand differences
6.
 - Today is a great start for making connections. Keep up the good work here.
 - Help us focus our energy and resources.
 - Facilitate connections and offer resources where possible to support the connections/partnerships and collaborations that will get things going.
- Maintain/sustain the promising effort.
7.
 - Where possible – promote cross-college interaction and activity.
8. **NO RESPONSE**

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

1.
 - Yes - Brazil
 - Health education and social disparities
 - Institutional Planning and Support
2.
 - Yes
 - Development, inequality, discrimination, education and economic strategies
3.
 - Yes (No name or themes listed)
4.
 - I would like to stay informed, not certain how engaged I can be at this time.
5.
 - Yes - Brazil
 - Urban school reform
 - Globalization and its impact in education
 - Social justice, citizenship, and education
 - Participatory democracy
6.
 - Yes - Brazil
 - Health and mental health research, teaching, and outreach
7.
 - Yes
 - Public health interests

8.
 - Yes
 - Education in Brazil
 - Health in Brazil
 - Social justice in Brazil
 - Human rights in Brazil

E. Additional comments:

1. ●Thanks for the opportunity
2. **NO RESPONSE**
3. **NO RESPONSE**
4. **NO RESPONSE**
5. **NO RESPONSE**
6. **NO RESPONSE**
7. **NO RESPONSE**
8. **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).