

# Global Encounter-China

## Chinese Stakeholders-Improving Their On-Campus Experience-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

- Student associations both CSSAMSU and students who have been there
- Make use of expertise of students, faculty, and scholars who have been in China as resource people for life experience/cultural competency
- Use community resources as well as those on campus
- MSU is a relatively internationally friendly campus
- Land grant frame of reference
- Systematically organize our assets around thematic areas/areas of expertise; reach out to organize our resources here on campus
- Provide additional resources to support GAs, TAs - field work, data collection, etc.
- Closer consultation with community of MSU scholars/students/stakeholders/alumni
- Global grant environment here at MSU is welcoming, understanding, open, tolerant, accepting
- Office for International Students and Scholars

- Fertile research environment-good technological resources and library facilities
- Many Chinese alumni to tap
- The Chinese graduate student and visiting scholar population is a striving one—a hard working group.
- OISS resources

## **Challenges**

- Language barriers, for spouses/families as well as students tends to lead to isolation
- Cultural isolation; adjustments
- Costs are prohibitive
- Expectations that the University will take care of minutia details
- Need better bridging system to MSU/US cultural expectations
- Be more accepting of foreign students
- Visa problems
- MSU advice from OISS and Housing is often written in jargon language which is too official sounding. The students don't understand the requirements or expectations.
- Costs to involve students in research
- Misperception-Fear-Stereotypes-Cultural Ignorance
- American xenophobia
- Different teaching and class style
- Housing and transportation issues

## **Advice**

- Offer more joint research programs; scholarships, assistantships
- Use MSUE to offer MEET MICHIGAN for Study Tour Groups across Michigan
- Social visits to home
- Internal funding for int'l students should be posted in a single location
- Make greater use of student experience
- Programs tend to be individual based so that when student finishes a program, it ends—need continuity.
- Need to support inter-faculty consultation-multidisciplinary efforts

- Encourage Chinese group to offer more from their own expertise
- Adaptive research, teaching, and learning. Need to travel to learn—not just from books.
- The international component of the MSU student/scholar population is about 10%. This is not very large compared to what some institutions have, i.e., Australian ones.
- Develop a bridging course to help new students arrive and be successful.
- Social visit to faculty home
- Joint degree programs
- Use MSU Extension for “tour”
- Ask and have a way of recording needs of Chinese students and scholars
- Much information exists-focus on how to share and use it

This material was generated from Global Encounter-China, <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/china>>, held at Michigan State University on May 18, 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 China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.