

Dear SIETAR members and friends,

Demographically, India is a young country. While this is positive, to truly reap the demographic dividend, it is imperative to equip the young with skills and competencies that prepare them for the job market and for the global world. This is the reason why we are witnessing so many cross border academic partnerships in India. Western universities also recognize the importance of giving their students an exposure to India and China. However, for these cross-border programs to truly succeed in their goals, it is important to place intercultural competence at the very heart of the curriculum. Failing to do so, results in failed partnerships, negative attitudes and a very superficial "international" exposure where students barely experience and learn about the cultural other.

The result: the interculturally supported exchange program effect. Read more below!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young SIETAR Training of Intercultural Trainers will take place in Berlin (GER) from September 12th to 15th, 2014. The theme of the intense training event is to "Improve your trainer career". You will be exposed and trained on facilitation techniques, intercultural training content, as well as related themes like marketing, technologies, etc. It is an occasion to learn for relative rookies and advanced trainers alike. For registrations, contact www.youngsietar.org/registration.html

Thiagi workshop in India, Bangalore in August: A not to miss opportunity to participate in a workshop held by the world renowned Sivasailam Thiagi, at Bangalore under the aegis of C2C in the month of August. For further details contact guillaume@concept2competence.com

EDITORIALS & USEFUL LINKS

Testimonial of Aadil Fahim, hosted in Geneva, Illinois in 2007-08 with AFS Exchange Program, Delhi

"I feel happy that my exchange experience taught me my personal values and skills and how to build an interpersonal relationship while being sensitive towards various intercultural differences. It made me more globally aware. Like others, before my exchange year, I also wanted to pursue the career which is popular in India: be an Engineer. But during my exchange year, I was introduced to many options and explored my talents in various fields and because of that I ended up pursuing Journalism. We embrace lots of things during our exchange year and most of them are different from our own culture. The adaptation to a new culture and learning new ways can be seen negatively by those who have known only their own culture. For e.g. Indian exchange students after coming back to their home country ask for privacy and personal space which they never asked for before. Sometimes, these changes can be taken in a negative way by kith and kin, while some of them who have seen other cultures and are aware of it can comprehend."

Looking at India Through the Eyes of My French Students - by Sunita Nichani

Intercultural sessions with my French students discovering Indian culture over a semester of their engineering program in India was a mutually enriching experience. Here is what some of my students had to say. Pierre: "Living with my Indian host family, I learned that while in France, our parents prepare us for the future, in India, parents prepare their children's future by ensuring they make the right decisions". Lucie: "The Indian equivalent of our French greeting 'ça va?' is "Have you eaten?.. Food seems to play a very important role in India". You are on the right track, Lucie! Amitabh Bachchan, the Indian superstar affirms that food is the preferred love language of Indians in the Hindi advertisement where he features in order to endorse Daawat, a brand of India's iconic rice variety the basmati –Bon appétit! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhvT2-UneKE>

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