

Dear Sietar members and supporters,

We would like to start this addition of the newsletter with a big thanks to all of the individuals who sent in their proposals for the Fifth SIETAR India Conference "From Internationalization to Intercultural Competence." The quality of the proposals and diversity of topics for presentation demonstrates a level of excellence that is truly inspiring. The organizing committee is thrilled to see so many esteemed professionals in the intercultural space showing so much commitment to the field. Below you will find reminders, conference updates, and to continue our effort to explore and share what is happening in our industry - an editorial by our board member Jill Sheldekar.

REMINDERS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: As we are updating our database, we request you to please complete and send in the Membership Form with your Annual Renewal Fee or New Membership fee as applicable. The form is available at www.sietarindia.org. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate contact us at sietarindia@gmail.com.

SIETAR INDIA ON LINKED IN: Remember to connect with on Linked In to keep up to date with the latest news and events. We are in the initial stages of creating an active page. We need your support in joining to encourage discussions and more frequent activity. Click [HERE](#) to join.

UPDATES

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: Registration for the next SIETAR India Conference will officially open online on September 15, 2012. Complete details about how to register will be provided as well as information regarding pre-conference workshops, the conference agenda, conference fees and details about the location in Mumbai.

LEARNING EVENTS: Sietar Bangalore's LE in May was an opportunity for Sietar enthusiasts and newcomers to connect. Brian Schroeder facilitated the discussion on ethics and professionalism in the intercultural field. His design was absolutely brilliant as he got the gathering to share insights around a few pithy sayings such as "First do no harm!" The spirited discussions that ensued just prove how much we Interculturalists are in need of a forum to connect and exchange. Keep an eye out for announcements for future learning events - coming soon in PUNE and DELHI!

EDITORIAL - Article Review

Michael Blanding's "Collaborating Across Cultures" by Jill Sheldekar

The other day I happened upon a fascinating article about "cultural metacognition" and the research of Professor Roy Y.J. Chua, at the Organizational Behavior unit at Harvard Business School. My heart nearly skipped a beat when I learned that he and his team have been exploring the relationship between effective collaboration amongst people from different cultures and its ability to inspire innovation and creativity. We as interculturalists know that "Learning to work with people from other cultures in order to collaborate creatively is a vital skill in today's business environment," as said by Roy Y.J. Chua in the article. Beyond countless examples of blunders by companies created by a lack of intercultural awareness... and the historical accounts of when innovation was borne out of a clash of cultures - what other evidence do we have to show how intercultural collaborations can really add value to companies? Chua explores this question using a combination of surveys and experimental research focusing on cultural metacognition - a term that refers to a person's reflective thinking about his or her cultural assumptions. As I can in no way do justice to this 1,500 word article in this editorial, I encourage you to read it on HBS's Working Knowledge website, entitled "Collaborating Across Cultures" by Michael Blanding. It is definitely worth a read - both the article and the comments that follow.

If you would like to contribute an editorial to the SIETAR India newsletter please contact us at sietarindia@gmail.com.

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