A Workshop for Enhancing Cross-Cultural Relationships
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WHAT IS CULTURAL COMPETENCY?

- The desire & ability to engage with members of a given culture in a mutually meaningful way.
THAT SEEMS SIMPLE...THERE MUST BE SOMETHING MORE TO IT...

3 Keys to Cultural Competency

• Preparation
• Cross-Cultural Communication
• Debriefing & Reflecting
PREPARATION

READINGS
- Cultural
- Historical
- Contemporary
- Philosophical
- Economic
- Political

BOOK CLUBS!!!!!
KNOWING YOURSELF

- Your culture
- Your cross-cultural relationships
- Norms, expectations, and mores at home and abroad
- Essentialism vs. Relativism
- Open hands, hearts, & minds
CONVERSATIONS (PRE-ARRIVAL)

WITH TEAM & HOSTS:

- Expectations
- Schedules
- Transportation
- Food
- Accommodations
- Attire
- Gender Roles/Dynamics
CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

- Successful Cross-Cultural Dialogue
- Risk
- Respect
- Embracing, not tolerating
- Patience
- Culture Shock
DIALOGUE IS TALKING WITH, NOT AT, ONE ANOTHER...

- Asking questions
- Listening for understanding
- Learning from differences and similarities
- Sharing experiences
CROSS-CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

- Asking questions
- Listening for understanding
- Processing new information
- Cognitive dissonance
TAKING RISKS

- Showing interest
- Respect
- Making mistakes gracefully, and recovering fully
- Allowing others to do the same
- Touching (physically & spiritually)
It’s not all about us.
It’s not all about them.
Assumptions aside...
Friends for life
Enrichment
Life-changing for all
Make the most of it for all
Coming Home

- Debriefing
- One week after
- One month after
- Keeping the dialogue alive at home and abroad
- Small groups
- Whole groups
- Internet communication
Keeping In Touch

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• It is as important and meaningful for them as it is for us. Keep it going!
THEN END!