



Working with Indian Scientists in India

Course Description

The English author Rudyard Kipling states in "The Ballad of East and West" "OH, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.....". For those who have traveled and worked in India, will most likely agree with him after their first, second and maybe third trip to India. However, with a little reflection on history, some study and an open mind, this need not be the case. This course is designed to help "flatten" the learning curve for those preparing (or returning!) to travel and work with Indian Scientists in India. It is based on the experiences of the instructors over the course of numerous trips to India undertaken in the last couple of years. The goal is, (as much as possible) to get you past initial disorientation every Western experiences when visiting India for the first (couple) of times and help you become as productive and comfortable working with your Indian colleagues in India as quickly as possible.

Target Audience

Any Western Scientist, who travels, or plans to travel, and work with Indian Scientists in India.

Course Outline

1. Background- Louise and Dave's Excellent Adventure in India
2. East is East and West is West
 - 2.1. Why history is important
 - 2.2. Position versus possession
 - 2.3. Views on technology: "Sir, we always have peoples"
 - 2.4. Indian Music as a Metaphor for the Way Indians Scientists Work
3. More Than Culture
 - 3.1. Yes, No and other problems
 - 3.2. The importance of relationship
 - 3.3. The conversation without conversation
 - 3.4. What silence means
4. Men versus Women
5. Getting There and Back
6. Health and Safety
7. If We Had Known then What We Know Now-Personal Reflections
 - 7.1. Pictures
 - 7.2. Video
 - 7.3. Stories, tips and avoidances
8. References
 - 8.1. "Speaking of India" by Craig Sorti
 - 8.2. "The Art of Crossing Cultures" by Craig Sorti
 - 8.3. "The East India Company: Trade and Conquest from 1600" by Anthony Wild
 - 8.4. "The Story of India" with Michael Wood, PBS Home Video DVD