

Looking ahead

A project with Chinese students, starting a business game with people from another country, different culture and a different language. I have a couple of preconceptions about this project. I hope my preconceptions become positive thoughts instead of the negative thoughts and that I will see the opportunities in working with another culture.

I expect from cooperation with another culture a lot of inaudibility in the communication and the do's and don'ts, the expressions in our communication. Also, I expect that cooperation with another culture give me more insights in the opportunities of study and working abroad.

I know that there time difference between The Netherlands and China is. I think that it is possible that the time difference may cause a lack of motivation and concentration

My image about the Chinese culture is that they are very respectful, enterprising persons, cooperating people and result-oriented. I hope this gives me the opportunity of building up new friendships on the longer term.

Beside this, from my perspective I think that Chinese people are working very hard for their salary and that they spend a lot of money and take a lot of pictures when they are on a holiday. I have already seen this in my internship Spain, Valencia.

My expectation about encountering in the cooperation with the students from China is that they would like to have the lead during the project. And it is very difficult to understand the communication and expressions from each other in English.

Reflection

In cooperation with Chinese students, we had to teak the lead for our own “fictive” company named Ice lcy. I worked in a group of four: 2 Chinese students and 2 Dutch students.

My preconceptions were that during the cooperation the students from China would like to take the lead during the project. Beside this, my preconceptions were that Chines students are not very well at communicating in English. Also, I expected that the do’s and don’ts in communication were very different. I have learned that in China they have over 130 languages.

Because there was no teammate who took the lead, I said that we had to “break the ice”, at that moment I was taking the lead. With this expression, I would like to say that it was very uncomfortable at the beginning of our own team meeting. To “break the ice” we told each other about our study and personal life.

But I actually encountered – during the business game and presentation from Koen and Marno – that in the Chinese culture the students can cooperate well and this is more important than taking the lead.

After this business week, I have learned to work together and making decisions with people from another culture from another perspective. Beside this, I have learned that taking the lead very normal is in the Dutch culture in contrast to the Chinese culture. Also, I have learned – and that was my expectations about the difference in culture – that it is very difficult to understand the communication and expressions from each other in English. Also in the Chinese culture, people will always say to a project “Yes” instead of “No”.

I can conclude – on my CE-professionalization skills – that it is very valuable to exchange the way of working, ideas, perceptions and cleverness from the Chinese students. With my Chines teammate in English called Grace, by the way Chinese people have a Chinese- and English name because people from abroad can’t read their Chinese name, I made a new friendship.

It was a superb experience.