



Crossing cultural borders in the name of science

The Science Vale UK community shares scientific knowledge with partners around the world. While science itself is the common language of these exchanges and understood globally, cultural diversity can sometimes impede communications.

Prior to sending a delegation of senior staff to meet with colleagues in China, the Medical Research Council based on the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, engaged local consultancy **expatknowhow**, specialists in cultural relations – to take staff through a cross cultural briefing and ensure they were fully prepared for their visit. In addition to highlighting key cultural differences and advising on the subtle etiquette of conducting business in China, the briefing covered;

- Introduction to Chinese society & culture
- Communicating effectively in China
- Doing business successfully in China
- Essential, country-specific information
- General travel advice

The MRC delegation enjoyed a positive and rewarding cross-cultural meeting with their Chinese hosts.

“Having the briefing beforehand certainly helped remove any potential cultural barriers and paved the way for a very successful business session”

- Martin D. Fray (PhD) - Biological Resources Manager - MRC Harwell/Mary Lyon Centre.

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