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Navigating Across Cultures

Interactive sessions tailored to each organization Practical tips for addressing key cultural differences that can trip up most teams

Managing a complex project with members working from different locations is challenging enough. When a mix of cultures is involved, misunderstandings and mistaken assumptions can quickly derail even the most talented team.

Each highly-interactive session is mapped to the predominant cultures of each team. Participants learn how to address the cultural differences that have the greatest impact on team collaboration, using small-group activities, case studies and large-group discussions.

Topics typically include:

- Understanding stereotypes: Understanding how we see other cultures, how other cultures see us, and how generalizations can help, and hurt, collaboration
- Key cultural differences that affect teamwork: Examples
 include decision-making, information flow, need for detail, notions
 of time, importance of hierarchy, employee/manager
 relationships, importance of team vs. individuals, motivation, and
 rewards and recognition
- Creating team communication norms: Developing important principles governing team communications, including use of virtual collaboration tools, frequency and format of meetings, use of email, writing and sharing documents, and progress reporting
- Relationship-building: Learning how cultural differences affect the cultivation of trust and creation of social relationships
- Surfacing issues and handling conflict: Agreeing on methods and venues for resolving issues and dealing with conflict

If your team is struggling to work through cultural differences that inhibit collaboration, give us a call or drop us an email to find out how we can design a session customized to address your unique challenges.