Cultural Awareness and Business Etiquette Around the World

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Global Economy and Engineering

- Global economy requires aerospace and other engineers to understand cultural diversity and work effectively in multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-disciplinary teams.

- Teamwork is becoming increasingly necessary to mobilize and apply information and knowledge. New occupations are arising, virtual team leaders are required to integrate and coordinate work of geographically far-flung co-workers with diverse engineering practices.
International Aerospace Companies

- **The Boeing Company**
  Global reach includes customers in 145 countries, employees in 60 countries and operations in 26 states.

- **GE Aircraft Company**
  With 34,000 employees in 86 countries, it is the world's leading provider of aircraft and aeroderivative propulsion systems and services.
Lockheed Martin
It has more than 250 government and industry partnerships in 30 countries. In its globally inclusive approach to doing business, Lockheed Martin’s goals are to establish and maintain enduring international partnerships with advanced technology companies around the world, and be seen as their international partner of choice.

Pratt & Whitney
It employs 30,000 people world-wide.
Employment Trends

- Demand for highly skilled technical and engineering talent will grow in accordance with technology demand worldwide.

- Growing world economy and an increasing global marketplace for U.S. goods, especially aeronautical and astronautical technology and products. Commercial aircraft orders will be increasing as world economy recovers, and demand for new communication satellites, space infrastructure and information technologies will continue to be strong.
Aerospace Trends

- Growing global competition as technology advances spread worldwide, but dependence on worldwide market will also grow as consumers and industrial organizations search for best and least expensive quality products in marketplace. This will be particularly true in space as more nations develop space systems but become more dependent upon each other for technology, [human resources], launch opportunities and operational systems.

- Continuation of corporate mergers and acquisitions, driven by global competitiveness and need to posture each industrial organization against an uncertain future.
Business Etiquette
Around the World

- Greetings and Introductions
  - Forms of Address
  - Use of Business Cards

- Meetings and Appointments
  - Business Lunch or Business Dinner

- Negotiating and Getting Job Done

- Entertainment and Gift Giving

- Email, Telephone, Letters and Memorandum

Styles of Communication
Engineering Practices Abroad

Do American Engineers Work Differently from Engineers in Other Countries?

YES!

In many countries, hierarchy, titles, determine how the work is done.

Working Hours

Human Interactions

Work ethics

Verbal and Written Communication
Greetings

Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands?
- In Germany, always shake hands, firmly but briefly.
- In Japan you may greet with a hand shake, but the bow is the traditional Japanese greeting.
- In Italy, Mexico, Latin America and in Spain, women may kiss on both cheeks after knowing you awhile.

Forms of Address
- Never Use First Names and Don’t Suggest to be Called by Yours.
- In Germany, always use professional titles after Mr. or Mrs. In Mexico use “Ingeniero” followed by last name to address a male engineer.
Business Cards

In Japan business cards are extremely important. Present your card with both hands. When you receive a business card spend several seconds studying it and do not write on it or put in your pocket in the presence of the giver.

In many parts of the Middle East, you should never use your left hand when giving your business card.

Print your business card in English on one side, and in the language of your host on the other.

Learn the protocol of giving business cards.
First names are reserved for family and closer acquaintances.

Professional titles are a very important part of Mexican business protocol. Doctors, professors, engineers, lawyers, CPAs, and architects are always addressed by their professional titles.

Use professional title followed by a surname, e.g. "Ingeniero Fernandez", "Doctora Gonzalez". Always use a title when addressing someone, and use the form "usted", which means "you".
In Mexico

Anyone without a professional title should be addressed by a courtesy title such as "Mr.", "Mrs." or "Miss" followed by a surname. If you don't know someone's last name, just use the courtesy title.

- Mr. = "Señor = Sr."
- Mrs. = "Señora = Sra."
- Miss = "Señorita = Srita."
- For a lady, use "Señorita" if you don't know her marital status.

Mexicans have two surnames that consist of their father's last name followed by their mother's surname. "Sr. Raul Martinez Castro"
First names are reserved for family members and close friends. It's not uncommon for colleagues who have worked together for years not to know of each other's first names.

For those without professional titles, or if you're unsure, use a courtesy title, followed by a surname.

- Mr. = "Herr"
- Mrs. (or Ms.) = "Frau"
In Germany

- German business culture is extremely hierarchical, so be sure that you learn and use the professional titles of those you expect to encounter.
- Professionals of any kind will expect to be referred to as "Herr" or "Frau", followed by the correct occupational title.
- An individual with a Ph.D. should be addressed as "Herr (or Frau) Doctor Professor."
In France

- When speaking French, use the "vous" form until you are asked to use "tu."
- French business culture is intensely hierarchical, so be sure to learn and use the titles of everyone you plan to encounter. In many offices, first names are not used.
- "Madame" is a basic title of courtesy for all women, as is "Monsieur" for men.
- The French will sometimes introduce themselves by first saying their surname, followed by their first name; if both sound like first names, be sure to ask.
In Russia

- It is appropriate, when meeting someone, to simply state your family name without any additional greeting.

- Learn the titles of everyone you plan to encounter, as these distinctions are very important in this culture.

- Russians have three names. The first name is a given name, while the last name is the father's family name. The middle name is known as a patronymic; for a man, it ends with the suffixes "vich" or ovich" meaning "son of." For a woman, the patronymic ends with "a" or "ova" which means "daughter of."
Doing Business in Japan

- First names are reserved for family and close friends.
- Don't invite others to call you by your first name.
- Even if you are on a first name basis with a Japanese colleague, it may be appropriate to use his or her last name in the presence of colleagues, to avoid causing any embarrassment.
- Use courtesy titles such as "Mr.", "Ms.", or the suffix "san", in addition to last names.
"San", an honorific attached to a person's last name, is not to be used when referring to your spouse or children. Also, it is not used to refer to someone in your company when talking with someone outside it. This is because it is considered bad manners to elevate people of your own group when speaking with "outsiders.

The Japanese often use professional titles in the place of actual names, as an acknowledgment of a person's status.
Working Abroad

- International Short-term Assignments from your American Company
- Applying Directly to Companies Abroad
  - Internet
  - Networking with International Colleagues at AIAA Conferences
  - Getting Involved with AIAA TCs
  - Expatriate Programs
Importance of Learning Foreign Language

“*You can buy in any language, but to sell you have to speak their language*”

Language can be obstacle in business. Just because someone speaks English, one should remember it never is spoken nor understood quite same way as in U.S.A.
Passport to Success

- As aerospace companies continue to internationalize, the world is becoming smaller.

- *If you have to work abroad*.....

- Learn the language, the culture, the business protocol and professional practices of your host country.

- Respect for the local customs and cultural sensitivity will ensure your success.
Useful References

- *Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands: How to Do Business in 60 Countries*

- *Japan Business: The Portable Encyclopedia for Doing Business With Japan*

- *Mind Your Manners: Managing Business Cultures in Europe*
  by John Mole, Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 1996