

WIN 2 - The Integration Journey

Cultural Competence

Host:

Studies show that people who excel at cultural competence possess four key attributes:

An ability to adapt quickly to new situations or people, managing their attitudes towards other cultures with respect, and understanding the culture within themselves.

An interest in becoming knowledgeable about other countries, taking charge of their own learning plan and finding reliable sources of information.

An open attitude towards intercultural communication and developing new relationships with people of other cultures. Reflecting. Seeking feedback. And knowing how to cope with cultural surprises that may come up - unexpected behaviour caused by a different viewpoint.

And expertise in strategizing. Knowing exactly why becoming culturally competent benefits them personally and professionally, and focusing on achieving their goal in an organized, systematic fashion.

What does this mean for you as an individual? Let's end this lesson with the words of His Highness the Aga Khan, who said: "What is required goes beyond mere tolerance or sympathy or sensitivity - emotions which can often be willed into existence by a generous soul. True cultural sensitivity is something far more rigorous, and even more intellectual than that. It implies a readiness to study and to learn across cultural barriers; an ability to see others as they see themselves."