

IITG Mid Year Project Report

Name of Principle Investigator:

John Cabra

IITG Project Title (truncated)

2018-Buffalo State College-Cabra-MOOC for Myanmar: Creativity in Context

1) Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?

I am on target with my original timelines. Next week I leave for Myanmar with my team to begin interviews and videotaping interviewees. The content we generate will adapt to some degree my MOOC on Everyday Creativity to better fit the Burmese viewers. Prior to this trip, we were able to translate content to Burmese which a small set of new master teachers in Myanmar will read from a teleprompter. These master teachers are iconic figures in Myanmar. These teachers will replace some of the video content that myself and my MOOC co-author created. Our schedule for our two-week stay in Myanmar is finalized.

2) How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates? (You may also choose to detail issues regarding access to funds in the next three questions).

Since my original proposal seeking 20,000 was cut to 15,000, I had to pay out-of-pocket for some items. I anticipated this would happen to some degree because I submitted a proposal that I would be the one providing in-kind support. It would have been ideal to have more money available to pay for vendor services (e.g., translation, interpreter, logistics planning, videography, and video editing). But my two vendors are willing to accept what I can provide as they found this project too compelling not to accept. I also under-anticipated the cost of the airfare for a team of four. I own this oversight.

3) Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution, in particular any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.

The blocks were small. Initially, I could not convince procurement to have travel expenses directly reimbursed through my IITG account. Instead, they wanted my department to reimburse and then procurement would reimburse my department. Procurement's concern had to do with reassurances that travel would take place before June 2019. After I reassured them that all travel would occur in January 2019, procurement then sought an exception, which I did obtain.

4) What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might be helpful to other PI's?

I have an amazingly generous team. My two vendors have offered to donate some of their time and services to accommodate my budget loss of \$5000. After this assignment is complete, they offered to continue working with me on a volunteer basis to promote my study abroad program.

5) Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.

Fortunately, I did not encounter problems. I had shared my budget with my team and they appreciated the inclusion.