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## A WORD OF CAUTION

Some readers may feel uncomfortable with some aspects of the guide, such as the way we have portrayed the foreign advisor in the scenario below. The discomfort is normal and healthy, likely a sign that the reader has already begun to develop an awareness

of sensitive situations within the new environment. Although our characterizations are typical of many, they are by no means universal. In recognizing the uniqueness of every individual and the dangers of generalizing, our examples are meant to be illustrative.

### *First Encounter: A Scenario* ♦ ♦ ♦

(The scenario below was written by Ivan G. Somlai, a Canadian living in Nepal. The dialogue is written in a standard font, the thoughts in italics.)

#### Day 1

Foreign Advisor: *Well, I should give him a call to let him know I've arrived. Perhaps the meeting can be finished a few days early. If we move on it I could get a couple of days in Singapore. God knows I deserve a break after all this traveling.*  
Hello. Is this JAG-DISH NEW-PANE?

Receptionist: *What pronunciation!* Where are you calling from, please?

Foreign Advisor: What do you mean? From my hotel, of course.

Receptionist: *What do you mean, what do you mean ... they all say that when I try to be polite.* What is your good name, please?

Foreign Advisor: They're all good, ha! ha! Tell him it's William Parker.

Receptionist: May I know what company you're with?

Foreign Advisor: Well, not the one I'd like to be with here in the hotel, ha! ha!  
Just a joke. I'm from Hurricane Hydro.