INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE

Protocol: is a code prescribing adherence to correct etiquette and procedures:

These are the basic protocols to be observed anywhere in the world :

- Remembering and pronouncing people's names correctly
- Using appropriate rank and titles when required
- Knowing the local variables of time and punctuality
- Creating the right impression with suitable dress
- Practicing behavior that demonstrates concern for others, tact and discretion and knowledge of what constitutes good manners and ethics locally
- Communicating with intercultural sensitivity, verbally and non verbally
- Giving and receiving gifts and favors appropriate to local traditions
- Enjoying social events while conscious of local customs relative to food and drink, such as regarding prohibitions, the use of utensils, dining out and entertaining, and seating arrangements

A true cosmopolitan is well informed about the nuances of protocol, so as not to offend his or her international counterpart.

Ask yourself following questions :

- ✓ What do you know about the country/city (major hsitorical events/ heros/ basic geography/ politics/ economy/ sports/ culture (writers/ painters/ musicians)
- ✓ What topics should you avoid (taboos)
- ✓ Find out common interests that you might share with your foreign counterpart outside work (maybe you share a similar passion for wine ? etc)
- ✓ Are you willing to learn the local language