



*Children's Bridge*

International Adoption  
Consultants

## **INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION: EVALUATING YOUR OPTIONS**

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One of the most difficult aspects of choosing a country to work with for you adoption is not getting answers but rather knowing the questions to ask. Here are some questions to ask about the various countries you are evaluating that can help you shorten the learning curve in understanding the process by which different countries operate their adoption programs.

- Experience. How many families from my province have successfully adopted from this country? How many have tried but have not been successful?
- What is the age of a child I could be proposed? What is the minimum and maximum age ranges of infants?
- Are there age restrictions of the adoptive parents? Minimum? Maximum?
- Are there marital status restrictions? (i.e. Do they allow for previous divorce? Common law? Single?)
- What is the general reported physical and mental health of the children from this country? Does this vary by area or orphanage?
- What is the disease prevalence of HIV, Hep B, Hep C, Tuberculosis, syphilis, fetal alcohol syndrome or any other commonly reported diseases?
- Will the child resemble me/us? Will it be obvious that he or she joined our family through adoption? Is this a factor in our decision?
- How will our family and friends feel about a child from this race and culture joining our family?
- How do I/we feel about this country and culture in general? How do we feel about becoming a part of this culture through our child(ren)?
- How long will the process take from start to finish with this country? Is the time frame fairly predictable?
- Where is the adoption finalized? Here or in the child's country?
- How often are delays experienced? Waiting for a proposal? After the proposal has been received? A need to extend the length of the trip to the child's country?
- Is an experienced escort or guide available for our adoption trip?
- Do we travel on our own or in a group?
- Is there a reputable agency or facilitator available to give us hand holding, guidance and support and make all of our arrangements? If not, who will help us and keep us informed?
- What pre and post adoptive support services are available in working with this country? Agency? General?
- What cultural and heritage support services are available? Agency? General support?
- Will we be competing with other families for any given child?
- How does the matching process work?
- Can I request the gender of my child? How certain will it be that my request is granted?
- What is the involvement of birth parents in this country with respect to adoption? In termination of their parental rights?
- Why are children generally available for international adoption? (i.e. poverty, laws, etc.)
- What is the profile of a typical birth mother/birth family?
- What type of pre-natal diet and medical care was she/he likely to have received?
- Are the procedures in working with this country reported to be above board? (i.e. no corruption is anticipated)
- What is the certainty of outcome in working with this country? What will my stress level be during the process?
- What is the cost? When is the money payable? What does it include? Are there any extra charges? Can these charges change during the process? How can I pay for my adoption?