



Working With An Intercultural Church

Marc Chan

LOTE Churches

LOTE – Language Other Than English

100+ Churches & Congregations:

1/3 from Burmese Background (Chin and Karen)

Chinese (Cantonese & Mandarin)

Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino, Samoan

Arabic, Indian, Romanian, Nepali

Cambodian, Iranian, Slavic, Spanish

Indonesian, Sudanese, Hungarian, etc



Chin - 32

- Melbourne Chin Church
Constituent Church - Altona North
- Victoria Chin Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Croydon
- Chin Christian Church Melbourne
Constituent Church - Croydon
- Lutuv Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Kellor Park
- Kechin Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Footscray
- Grace Baptist Church of Melbourne
Constituent Church - Sunshine North
- Zotung Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Sunshine
- Kingsville Zotung Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Kingsville
- Victorian Matu Christian Church
Constituent Church - West Footscray
- Lai Christian Church Melbourne
Constituent Church - Mitcham
- Chin Baptist Church Pakenham
Constituent Church - Pakenham

- Melbourne Mizo Church
Constituent Church - Ringwood East
- Australia Zotung Church
Constituent Church - Sunshine
- Australia Zophei Church
Constituent Church - Braybrook
- Zomi Mission Church
Constituent Church - Lilydale
- Zomi Baptist Church Victoria
Constituent Church - Warranwood
- Melbourne Immanuel Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Heathmont
- Australian Gospel Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Kilsyth South
- Mere Christian Church of Victoria
Faith Community - Sunshine North
- Falam Baptist Church Melbourne
Faith Community - Werribee
- Victoria Gospel Baptist Church
Faith Community - Melton South
- Shalom Church of Melbourne
Faith Community - Sunshine West

- Victorian New Creation Church
Faith Community - Ringwood East
- Matu Immanuel Church
Faith Community - Sunshine
- Gospel Baptist Church Melbourne
Faith Community - Ringwood
- Melbourne Siyin Burmese Mission Church
Faith Community - Derrimut
- Chin Baptist Church
Faith Community - Sunshine
- Melbourne Thadou Christian Church
Faith Community - Hoppers Crossing
- Melbourne Matu Baptist Church
Faith Community - St Albans
- Melbourne Agape Baptist Church
Faith Community - Knox
- Gospel Baptist Church Australia
Faith Community - Mitcham
- Kilsyth Baptist Church
Congregation - Kilsyth South

Chinese (Cantonese) - 8

- Grace Baptist Community Church
Constituent Church - Notting Hill
- Eastern Chinese Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Rowville
- Melbourne Chinese Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Kew
- Central Chinese Baptist Church
Constituent Church - North Melbourne
- Balwyn Baptist Church
Congregation - Surrey Hills
- Templestowe Baptist Church
Congregation - Doncaster East
- Crossway Baptist Church
Congregation - Burwood
- Syndal Baptist Church
Congregation - Glen Waverley

Chinese (Mandarin) - 9

- Northcote Chinese Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Northcote
- Melbourne Chinese Baptist Church
Congregation - Kew
- Western New Community Baptist Church
Congregation - St Albans
- NewHope Baptist Church
Congregation - Blackburn North
- Syndal Baptist Church
Congregation - Glen Waverley
- Templestowe Baptist Church
Congregation - Doncaster East
- Crossway Baptist Church
Congregation - Burwood
- Central Chinese Baptist Church
Congregation - North Melbourne
- Eastern Chinese Baptist Church
Congregation - Rowville

Filipino - 4

- Faith Christian Community Church
Constituent Church - Derrimut
- Hope of Life Community Church Sunshine
Constituent Church - Sunshine
- Arise City Church
Constituent Church - Dandenong
- Hope of Life Community Church Cranbourne
Constituent Church - Cranbourne

Indonesian - 3

- Emmanuel Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Melbourne
- Indonesian Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Dandenong
- Crossway Baptist Church
Congregation - Burwood

Korean - 6

- Geelong Korean Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Manifold Heights
- Bentleigh & Korean Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Bentleigh
- City Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Carlton
- Melbourne Bangjoo Church Inc.
Faith Community - Murrumbeena
- Syndal Baptist Church
Congregation - Glen Waverley
- Crossway Baptist Church
Congregation - Burwood

Vietnamese - 6

- Brimbank New Life Baptist Church
Constituent Church - St Albans
- Channel of Peace Church
Faith Community - Braybrook
- Sunshine Vietnamese Baptist Church
Faith Community - Sunshine
- Reservoir Vietnamese Baptist Church
Faith Community - Reservoir
- Syndal Baptist Church
Congregation - Glen Waverley
- Kew Baptist Church
Congregation - Kew

Karen - 9

- Westgate Karen Baptist Community Church
Constituent Church - Yarraville
- Kangaroo Flat Karen Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Kangaroo Flat
- Melbourne Karen Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Hoppers Crossing
- Pwo Karen Baptist Church Victoria
Constituent Church - Newport
- Noble Park Karen Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Noble Park
- Ebenezer Karen Baptist Church
Faith Community - Corio
- Werribee Karen Baptist Church
Faith Community - Werribee
- Cloverdale Baptist Church
Faith Community - Corio
- Croydon Hills Baptist Church
Congregation - Croydon Hills
- Bendigo Baptist Church
Congregation - Junortoun

Samoan - 6

- Samoan Baptist Church Dandenong
Constituent Church - Noble Park
- Samoan Victory Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Clyde North
- Hosanna Faith Christian Church
Constituent Church - Cranbourne
- The Terminal
Constituent Church - Lyndhurst
- Darebin Samoan Baptist Fellowship
Faith Community - Thomastown
- New Vision Baptist Church
Misional Community - Hampton Park

Arabic - 1

- Arabic Baptist Church
Constituent Church - St Albans

Sri Lankan - 1

- Compassion Christian Church
Constituent Church - Wheelers Hill

Hungarian - 1

- The First Hungarian Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Noble Park

Slavic - 1

- Malvern Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Malvern East



- Constituent Church
- Congregation
- Faith/Missional Community

Romanian - 2

- Grace Romanian Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Rowville
- Western Melbourne Romanian Baptist Church
Constituent Church - Flemington
- Narre Warren Baptist Church
Congregation - Narre Warren North

Spanish - 2

- Tottenham Bilingual Baptist Church (Evangelica)
Constituent Church - Footscray West
- Narre Warren Baptist Church
Congregation - Narre Warren North

Indian (Telugu) - 2

- Glen Eira Christian Community Church
Constituent Church - Ormond
- Hawthorn West Baptist Church
Congregation - Hawthorn

Persian - 1

- NewHope Baptist Church
Congregation - Blackburn North

Khmer - 1

- Box Hill Baptist Church
Congregation - Box Hill

Swahili - 1

- Wodonga District Baptist Church
Congregation - Wodonga

Slovakian - 1

- Kingsville Baptist Church
Congregation - Kingsville

South Sudanese - 1

- Doveton Baptist Church
Congregation - Doveton

Tamil - 1

- Dandenong Baptist Church
Congregation - Dandenong

LOTE Churches



together *on mission*

MIS?

INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

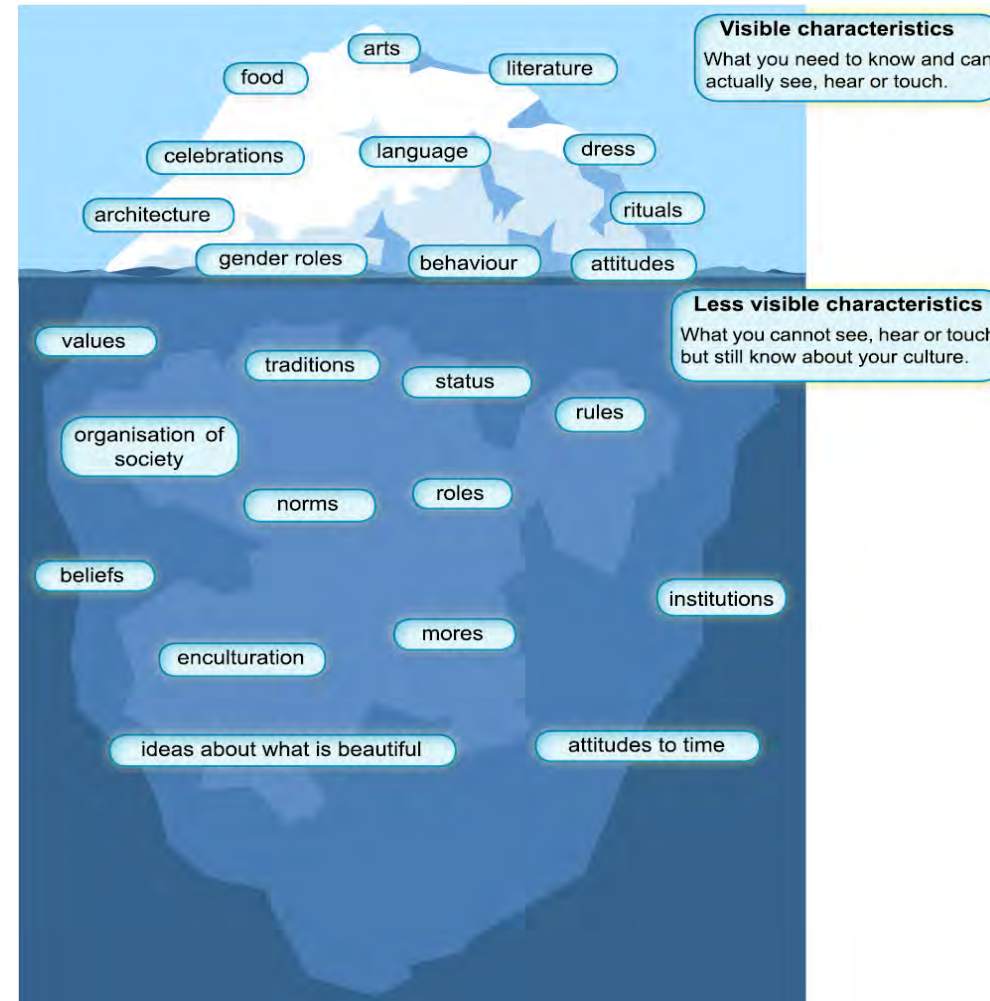


Intercultural Understanding

Iceberg of Culture

Only 1/10 of an iceberg can be seen above the water

The other 9/10 is below water and cannot be seen



Intercultural Understanding

Each of us belongs to a culture that gives us messages about what is normal, appropriate, and expected.

What is common to one group may seem strange, counterintuitive, or wrong to another.

What you see on the surface may mask differences below the surface



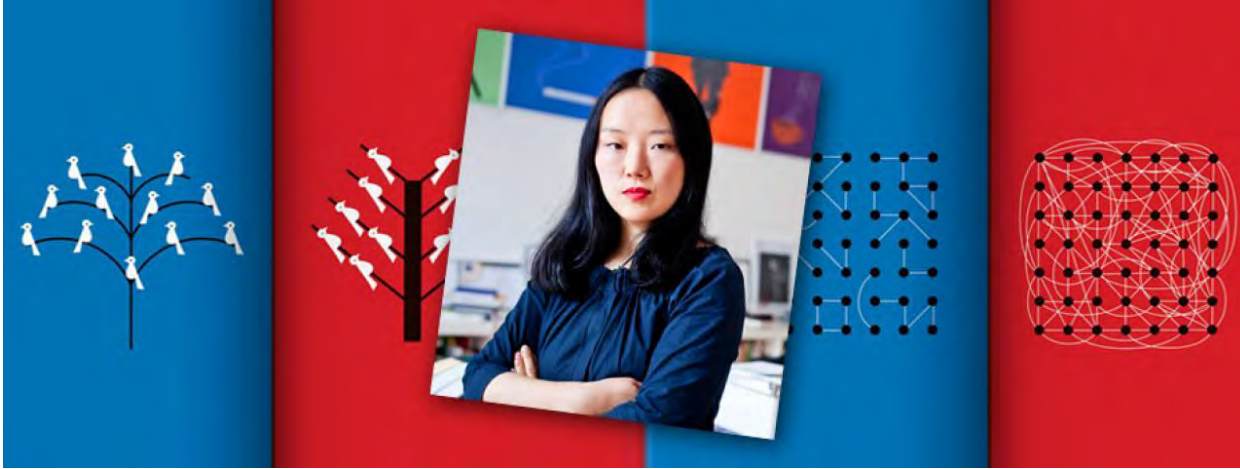
Intercultural Understanding

Communication

What the British say	What the British mean	What others understand
I hear what you say	I disagree and do not want to discuss it further	He accepts my point of view
With the greatest respect...	I think you are an idiot	He is listening to me
That's not bad	that's good	That's poor
That is a very brave proposal	You are insane	He thinks I have courage
Quite good	A bit disappointing	Quite good
I would suggest...	Do it or be prepared to justify yourself	Think about the idea, but do what you like
Oh, incidentally/ by the way	The primary purpose of our discussion is...	That is not very important
I was a bit disappointed that	I am annoyed that	It doesn't really matter



Intercultural Understanding



With Western customs depicted on a blue background and Eastern on red, the series succinctly captures different perceptions and attitudes through a single image: in Yang Liu's vision, the complexities of self expression, problem-solving, and memory-making become a path between two points, a set of footprints confronting an obstacle, and a single eye versus a camera.

<https://shanghai.nyu.edu/news/east-meets-west-artist-captures-cultural-differences>



together *on mission*

Anger



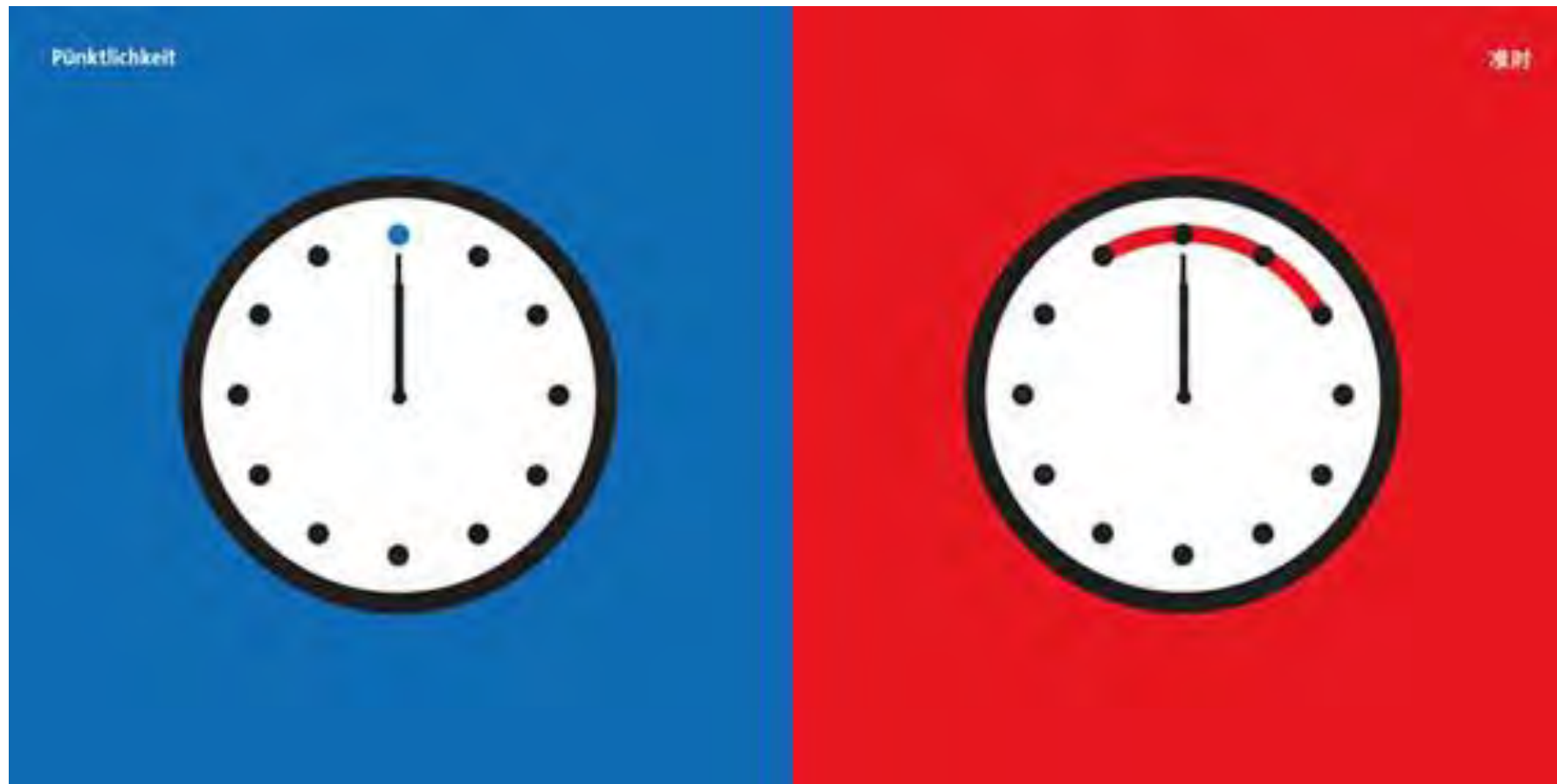
对待愤怒



ANGER



together *on mission*

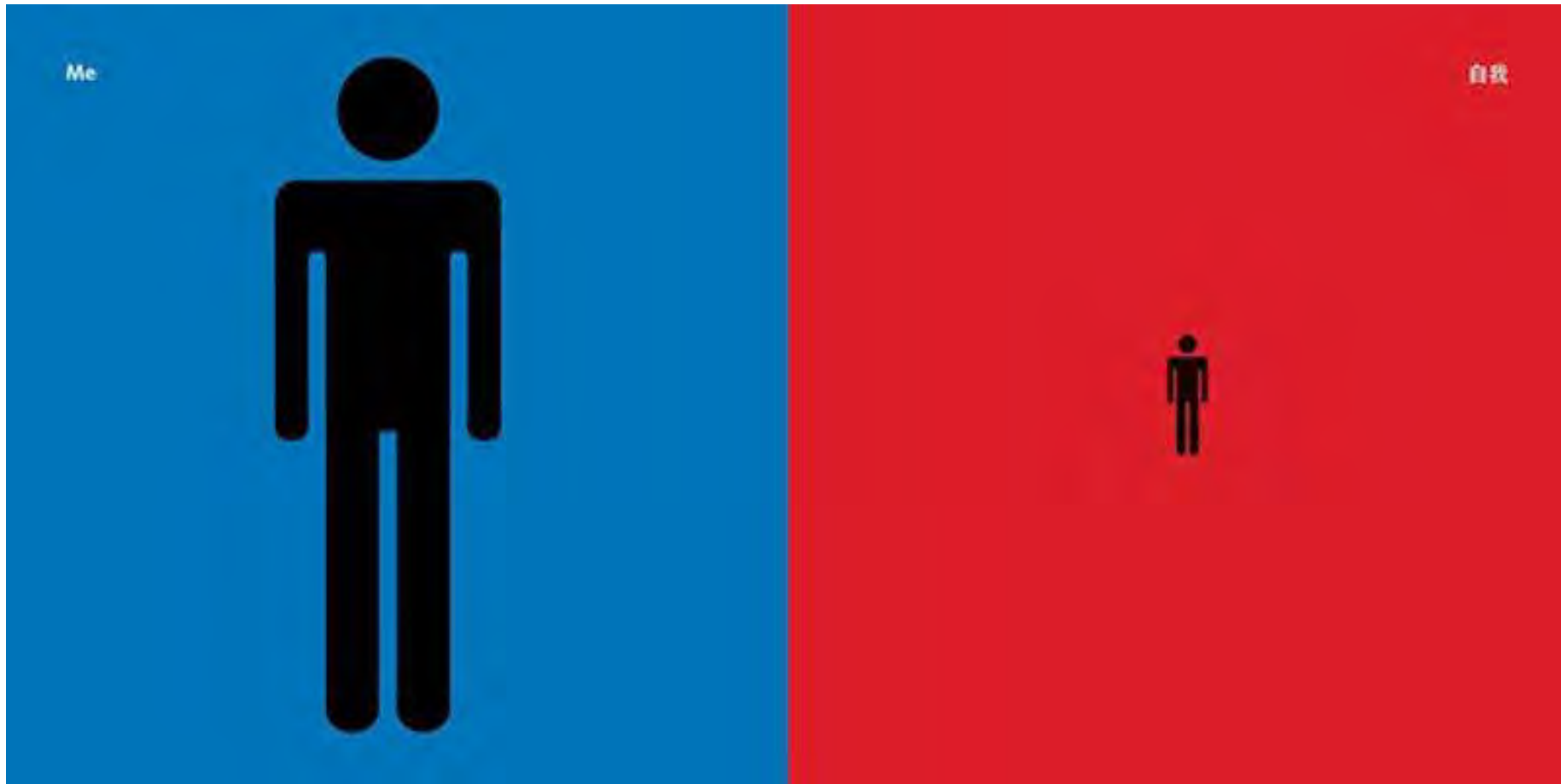


PUNCTUALITY

We run on “Asian time”



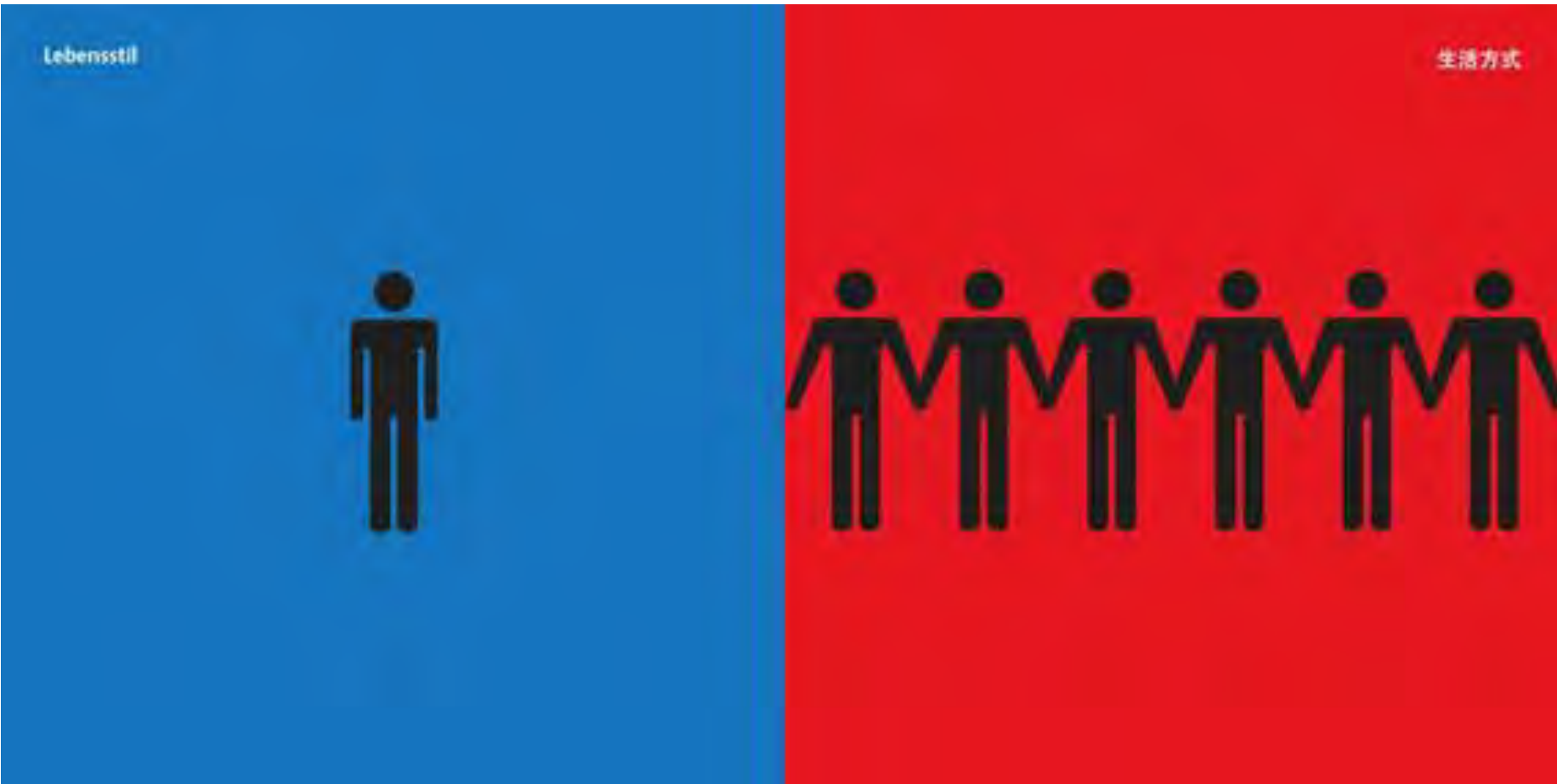
together *on mission*



ME

Westerners think in terms of me, me, me. Most Asians think of themselves as part of a larger sum.



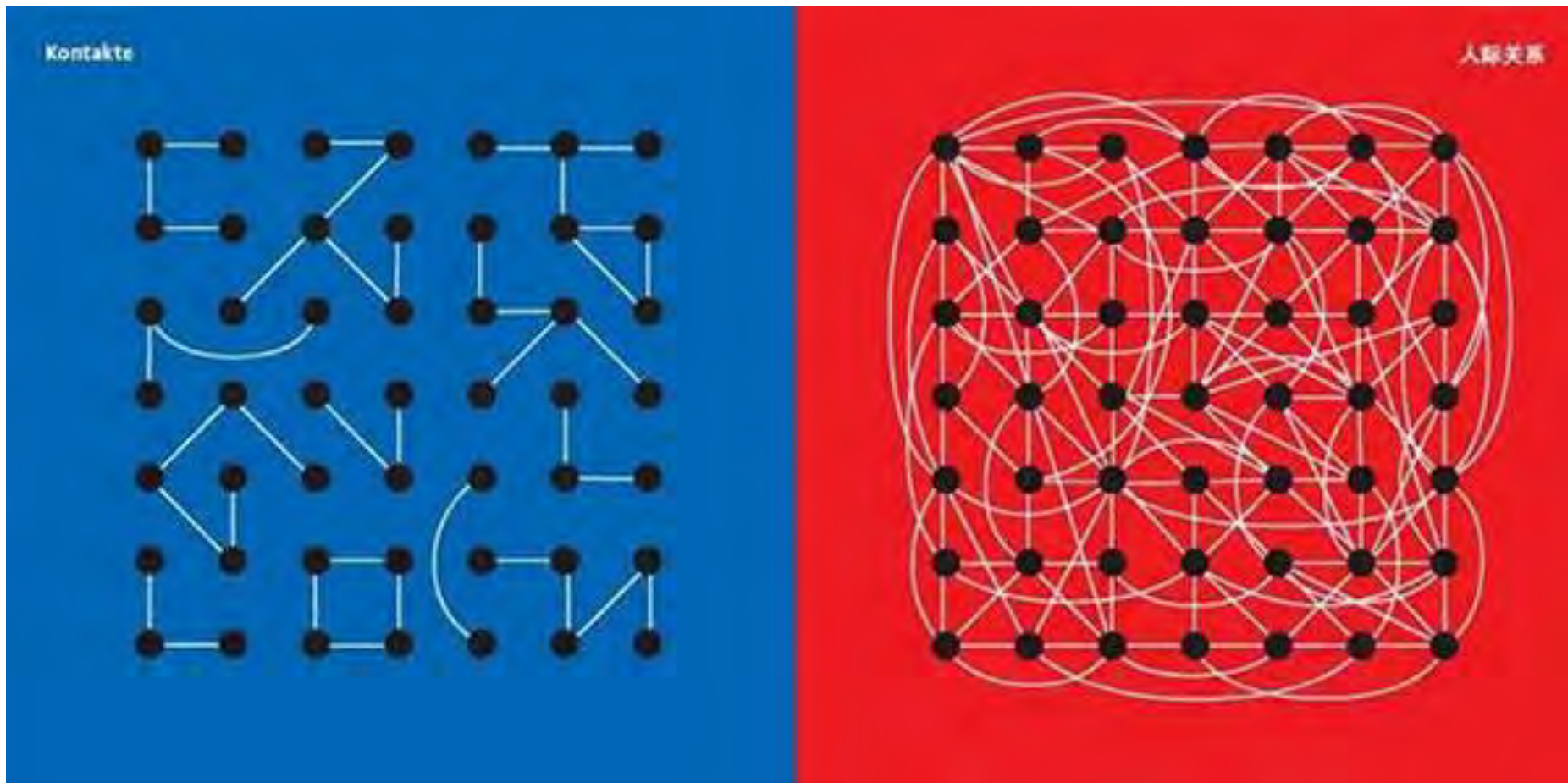


WAY OF LIFE

Westerners assert a lot more independence than Easterners. While traveling, Westerners will travel solo or in small groups. Most Asians travel in large groups.



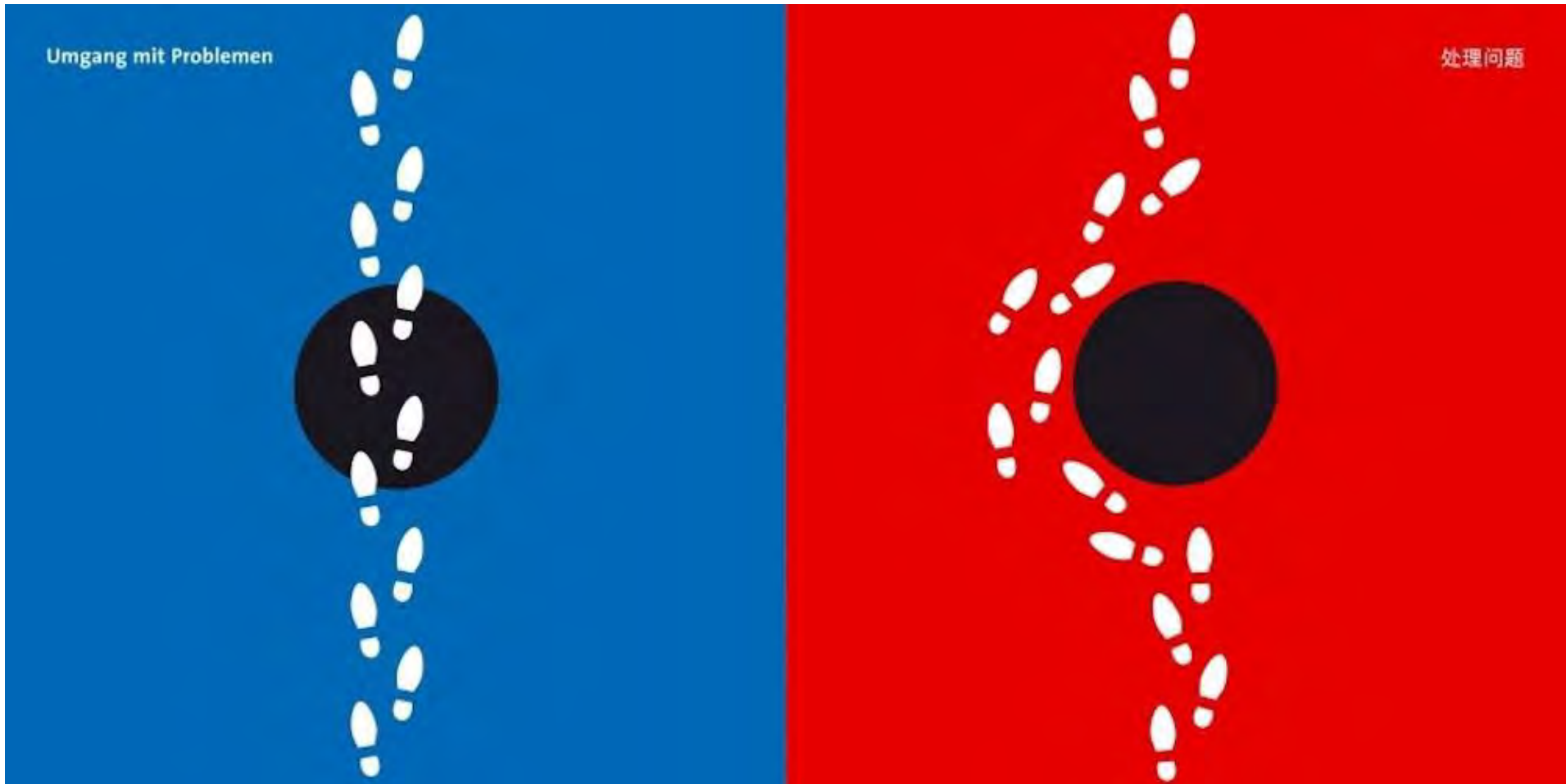
together *on mission*



MAKING CONTACTS

Westerners tend to have very linear relationships, whereas Asians tend to have more circular relationships.

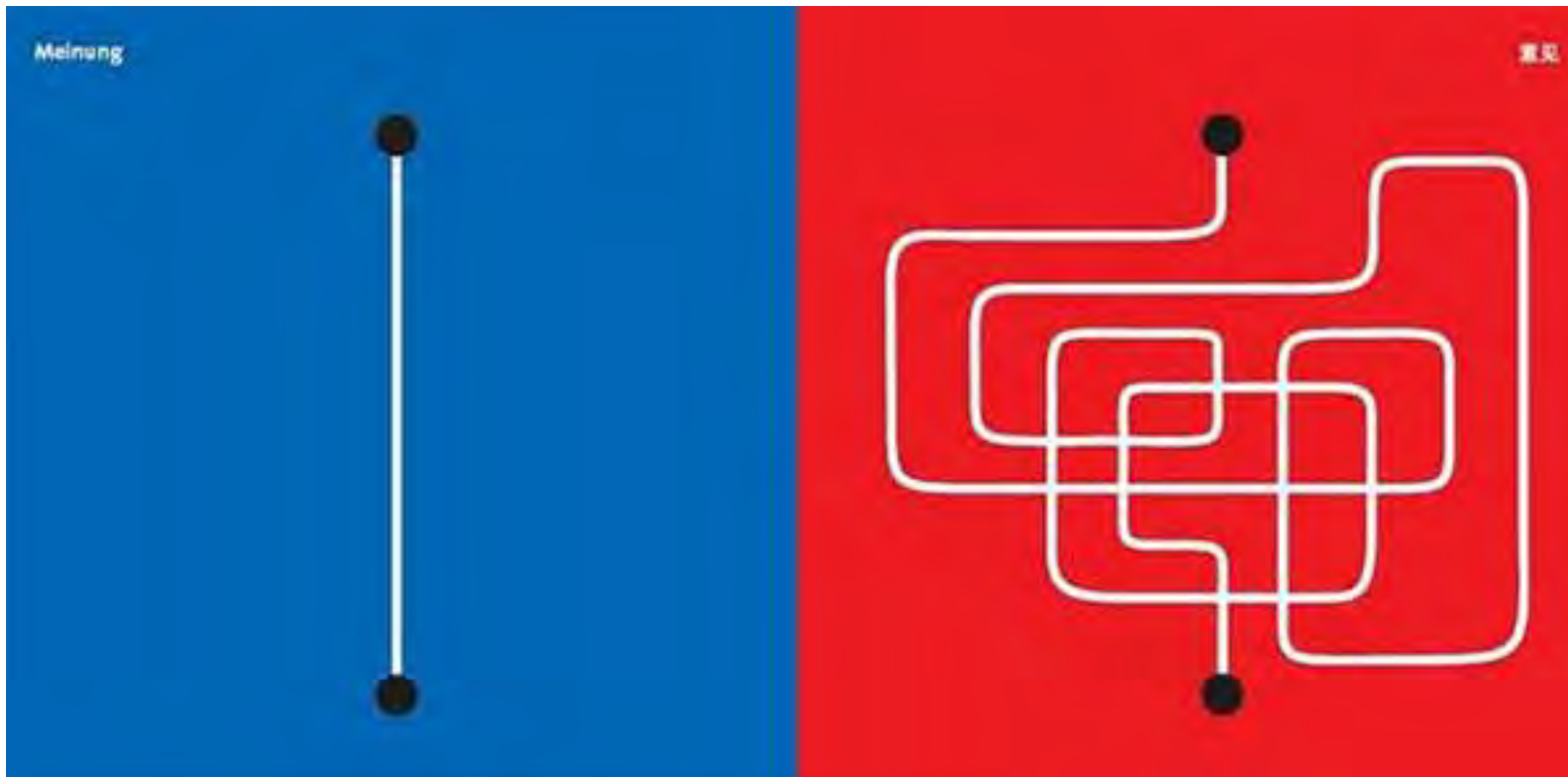




HANDLING OF PROBLEMS

Westerners tend to take the most direct approach to problem solving. Problem solving in Asia is a bit more complex. Often the most direct approach is ignored.

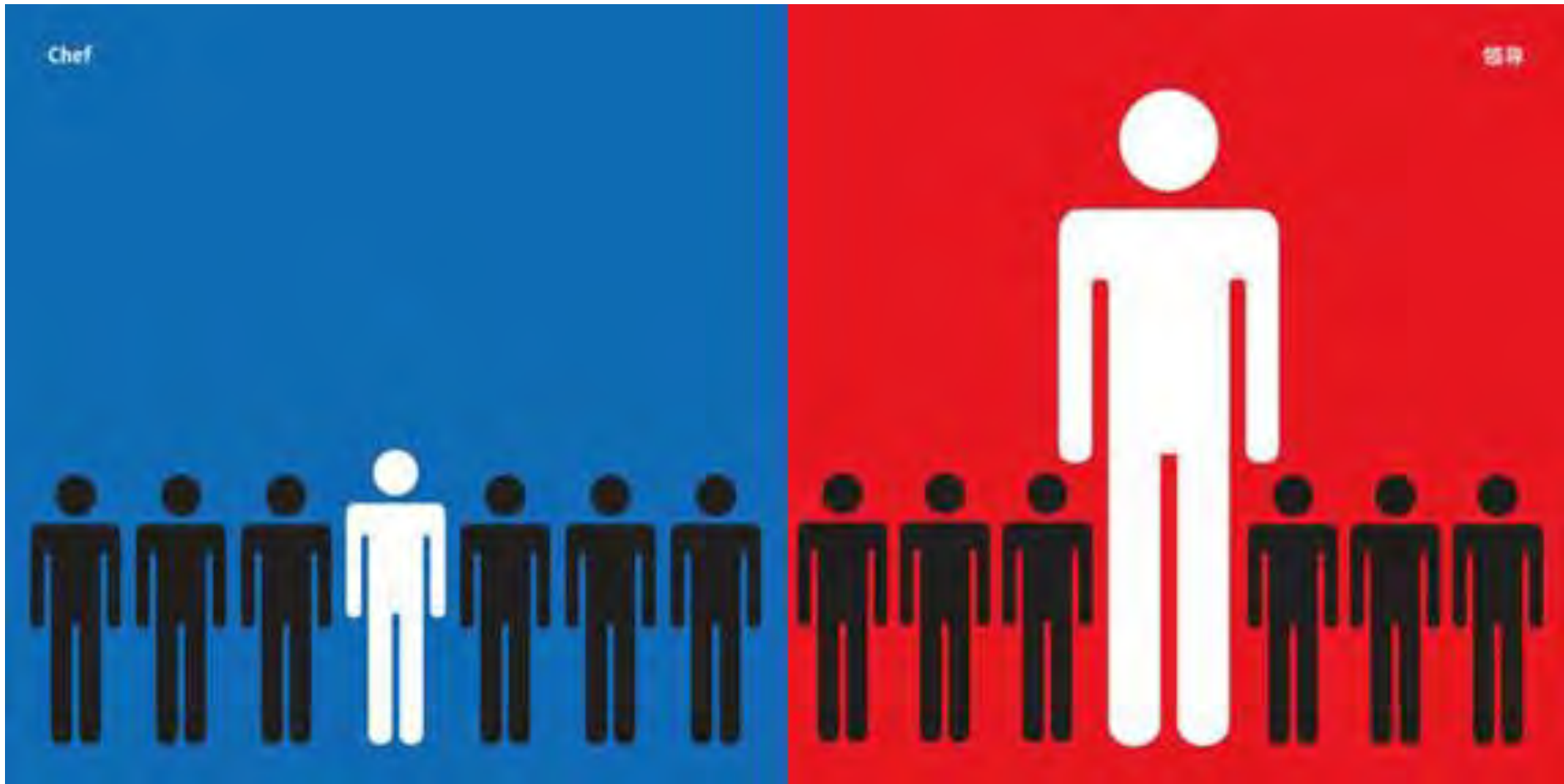




OPINION AND FEEDBACK

Most Asians will avoid confrontation as much as possible.





THE BOSS

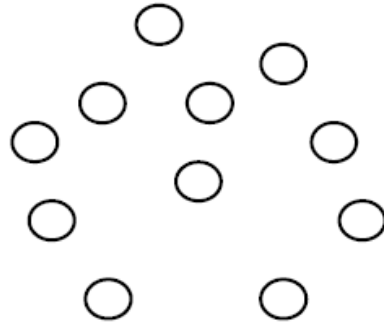
The boss is like God in Asia



together *on mission*

Intercultural Understanding

In **multicultural communities**, we live alongside one another.

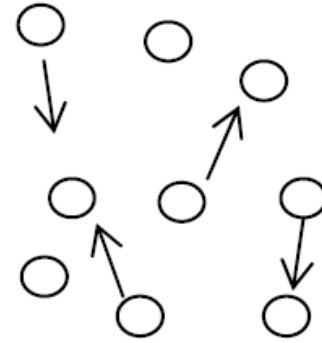


We value tolerance, and celebrate one another's culturally distinctive cuisine, dress, music, dance, and related outward expressions of culture. It usually requires only superficial and polite social interaction.



Intercultural Understanding

In **cross-cultural communities**, there is some reaching across boundaries.

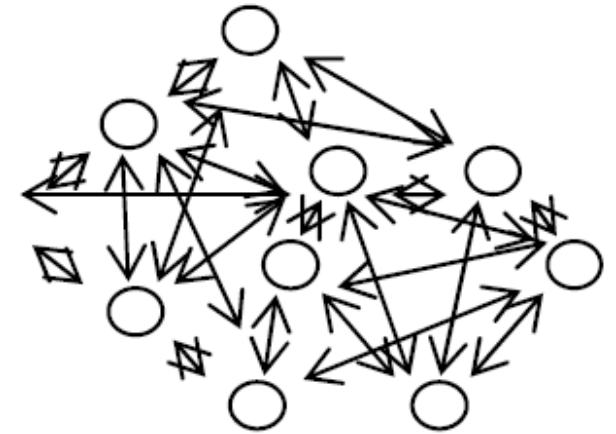


We try to build bridges of relationship between our cultural communities by sharing, listening, learning, and being open to changing. It usually requires intentionality, and programs of education and community-building.



Intercultural Understanding

In **intercultural communities**, there is comprehensive mutuality, reciprocity, and equality.



Our social structures and everyday interactions are defined by justice, mutuality, respect, equality, understanding, acceptance, freedom, diversity, peace-making, and celebration.



Cultural Differences

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to dealing with conflict when culture is involved – there is a need to get down to the 9/10 of the iceberg below the surface.



Cultural Differences

Initially, misunderstanding and our wish for them to be like us, has led to many of those Churches feeling that they do not belong. They felt neglected and separate from the rest of the family of Churches.



Issues LOTE Churches face

- Language – English is still problem
- Background – not used to concepts like compliance, Insurance
- Leadership – not highly educated or trained
- Governance – very complex, decision making not easy



What can we do?

- Not easy for them to talk to different people – difficult to determine whom to talk to. They prefer one contact who can direct them to the right person.



What can we do?

- Not easy for them to understand what it is all about – there is a need to simplify communication when dealing with LOTE Churches.



What can we do?

- It is not possible to hold a seminar / conference providing all the required information and expect them to understand how it works. It has to be in small steps – with time in between to allow the information to be absorbed.



What can we do?

What has worked for me?

- Identify 2 / 3 persons of influence within a community.
- Get to know them well, really well – including members of their family.
- Help / Support them in their Churches.



What can we do?

What has worked for me?

- Get the Churches to do what is required to comply – eg. Governance, Safe Church Policy
- As a result of this, most of the times, they will be doing the communication for us.



What can we do?

What has worked for me?

- Keep repeating requirements – eg. At most meetings I have with leaders, I will talk about the Safe Church Policy
- Patience – it is a marathon, not a sprint.



What can we do?





together *on mission*