



*"We may have all come on different ships,  
but we're in the same boat now."*

- Martin Luther King Jr., Social activist, Peace Prize Laureate(1929 - 1968)

There are several national day celebrations this month. Starting with the "Canadian Day" (1st July), followed by the "Independence Day" for the Americans (4th July), then the "Bastille Day" for the French (14th July.) This year, Muslims around the world will also celebrate Eid-Al-Adha (feast of sacrifice) on the 30th/31st.

Even though these events occur every year, things will be different this year. Despite the easing of lockdown, everyone is apprehensive about the effect and aftermath of the pandemic outbreak (strictly speaking, the outbreak is not over yet.) Changing consumer behaviour, racial tensions, and economic fall-outs are affecting societies in developed, emerging, and underdeveloped countries.

Suddenly, the world looks like a scene from the “Perfect Storm,” except that the plot has many ships sailing in the rough open sea. Captains of nations need to navigate their ships in the extreme weather. The ultimate goal is to reach a safe harbour for one’s vessel and crews. Stamina, vision, courage, trust and respect will be called upon from all hands on deck for the treacherous voyage. It is the litmus test for a nation. Hopefully, the quote from Martin Luther King Jr. can inspire unity amongst us. We are a part of humanity – we are all in the same boat together!



## A Journey A Month...

### Your Story. Our Story. The Human Story.

Eighteen years ago, I returned to my birth region and moved to Singapore. Often, friends would ask me what is like returning to my Asian root? In the beginning, I always had to explain where is Singapore, talked about its political system, its business-friendly economy, etc. Now, I no longer need to go through the text-book explanation because almost everybody I meet already knows about Singapore.



Yes, in the last decade, Singapore has gained world recognition as one of the most admired economies and the best-managed countries in the 21st century. The glamour of its F1 city circuit and the avant-garde airport terminal have been featured on television programmes, and scenes of city-state appear in international films. So, what would I want to share with my friends about Singapore today?

For those versed in the history of South East Asia, we knew it is a region built by migrants. I, for one, am a 3rd generation Chinese; my grandparents migrated from China and settled in the region in the early 1900s. Strictly speaking, Singapore, similar to its ASEAN neighbours is a migrant country; the success of Singapore is the efforts of its forebears, many of whom from lands beyond the island city.





In recent days, I have been following the daily reporting of Covid-19 cases in Singapore. Besides the numbers, I am intrigued by how Singapore handles the outbreak amongst its migrant workers because most of the cases are from the workers' community. Instead of dispatching the workers back to their home countries, Singapore's government has assumed full responsibility. Affected migrant workers are given proper healthcare, and social support unmatched that of their homes, and many Singaporeans have also stepped forward to provide social and financial support to the workers.

In a crisis, we see the best and the worst of human nature. Here, we see the respects and care of a human for another fellow human. While the country continues its quest for economic success, handling the pandemic crisis shows that the Singapore people have "hearts." This is a touching episode of the Singapore story I hope to share with friends outside the country. I also hope my Singaporean friends will take pride in this virtue more than any material things and economic success the country has achieved.

The video clip below is one of the three-part video series by a group of talented Singapore musicians (The Teng Ensemble). It spotlights the critical role of migrants in Singapore, and the group aims to promote a more inclusive society for the community. Take a look at the clip; it is a part of Singapore's story:



Singapore is not the only country. If we look around the world today, there are very few developed nations that have not been built by migrants. Australia, the USA, Canada, etc. are all migrant nations. In fact, we each can trace an ancestor in our family who was once a migrant.

The question is: ***When did the migration take place?***

Our genetic footprints showed that we (Homo sapiens) are of species with common ancestors. Humans migrated out of Africa some 60,000 years ago and spread across the globe. Check out the map of “Human Migration” by National Geographic’s Genographic project below. We will soon realise that every one of us is a descendant of a migrant and thus genetically a family member of one another at some point in time.



With that in mind, perhaps we can be more welcoming and inclusive to those new to our community. For some time ago, just like the migrant workers, one of our forebears was a foreigner who decided to venture into a new land, searching for a better life. After all, the new “foreigner” is a member of our family, sharing the same gene of a common ancestry around 60,000 years ago. *To ponder...*



For those who would like to know more about the talented group of Singapore musicians behind the thoughtful video clip above, please click the links below:

[\*The Evolution of Adele: 2007 - 2015 \(East-West Instrumental Cover\)\*](#)

[\*The Teng Ensemble Youtube Channel\*](#)

*We, at TransCultural Group (TCG), are determined to play our parts in making the world a better place, and we have teamed up with the Cultural Intelligence Centre, U.S.A to bring their well-researched and designed CQ assessment tools to our clients in the Asia Pacific.*

*We are passionate about building bridges and breaking down walls. Please join us in our journey,*

***Beyond Boundaries - Crossing Cultures***



## The world is fascinating, simply because differences exist...

Spread the words, share the vision, do our part!



**Keng Keng Tan**  
Founder & CEO  
TransCultural Group  
[kengkeng@transculturalgroup.com](mailto:kengkeng@transculturalgroup.com)  
[www.transculturalgroup.com](http://www.transculturalgroup.com)

*Thanks for signing up for our newsletter. If you find it interesting, please join us to spread our effort - together let's make our world a better place.*

If you have not signed up for our newsletter but have received this through a friend, you can sign up by clicking on the button:

Free Monthly Newsletter

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please click "[Unsubscribe from Newsletter](#)".

**About TransCultural Group:** TransCultural Group (TCG) is a premier consulting firm that provides high quality learning programmes, including workshops and customised cultural experiences to those in



search of traditions, values and excellence. The company is founded to provide an exclusive and unparalleled learning environment for the development of thoughtful leaders (and youths) worldwide, beyond time, space and cultural boundaries. [www.transculturalgroup.com](http://www.transculturalgroup.com).

A typical TCG's workshop will start with a CQ assessment (either CQ Pro for Professionals, or CQ for Youth for students) as the first step, followed by discussion and interactive sessions to understand how they may further increase their cultural intelligence. If you are interested in TCG's programmes, please reach out to us: [contact@transculturalgroup.com](mailto:contact@transculturalgroup.com).