



March 2016

### Winning Loyalty with Asian HNW Families

Helping Families Face and Resolve Wealth and Business Issues



### A Global World for Wealth

"The rich of today are...different from the rich of yesterday...They are becoming a **transglobal community of peers** who have more in common with one another than with their countrymen back home."

Chrystia Freeland
The Rise of the New Global Elite
Atlantic Monthly, 2011



## Understanding the Asian HNW and UHNW Markets in Innovative Ways

Insights and research with important implications for deal flow with clients and centers of influence (COIs)

#### Impact on:

Strategies you use to build relationships and close deals

Strategies you use to connect with families on:

Wealth transfer issues

**Business succession** issues



# Winning Loyalty with Asian HNW Families

#### Top Reasons for Buying Life Insurance:

**Asian HNWIs** (Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines)

Asset Diversification
Estate Equalization
Estate Tax Planning
Family Legacy Planning
Family Security Planning
Debt Protection Planning
Business Continuity
US Tax/Beneficiary Planning



Source: The Universe of Life Products Is Growing: Reaching High Net Worth Clients. Emphasis magazine (Towers Watson), 2011.

#### The Problem

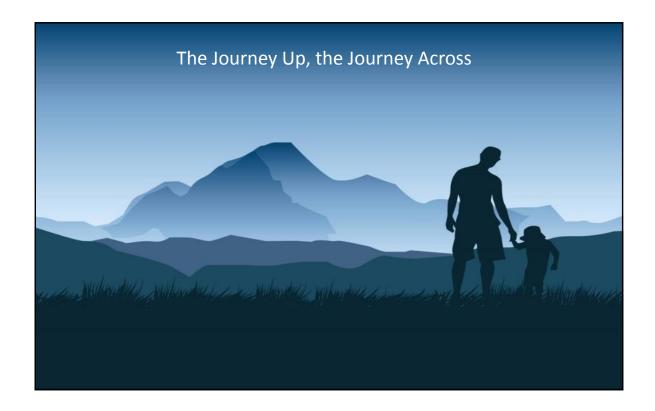
Family succession and legacy issues are naturally **private**, sometimes **painful Cultural** reasons not to disclose or discuss

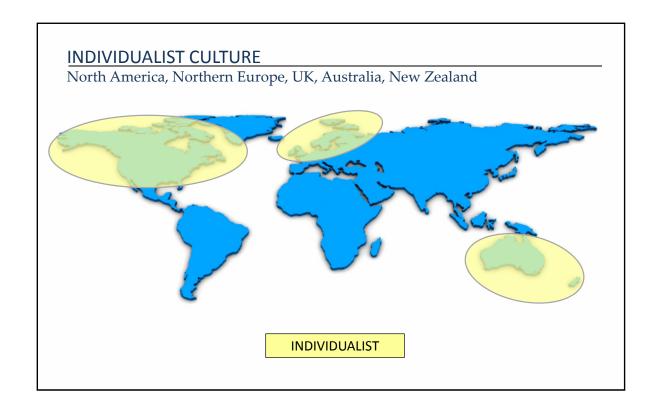
And yet,

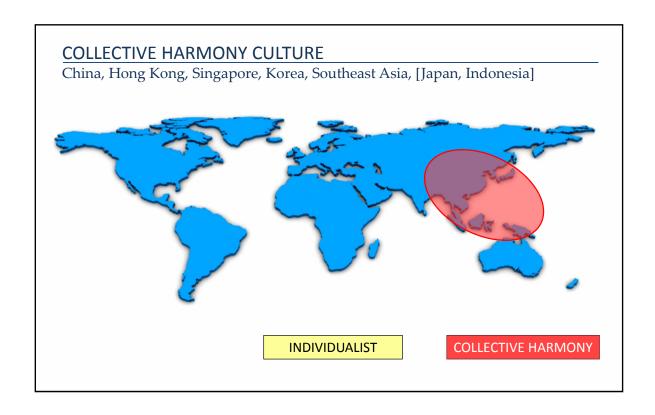
Discussing these issues would be **useful** when discussing life insurance planning **Western-centric** models and recommendations don't always work in other cultures

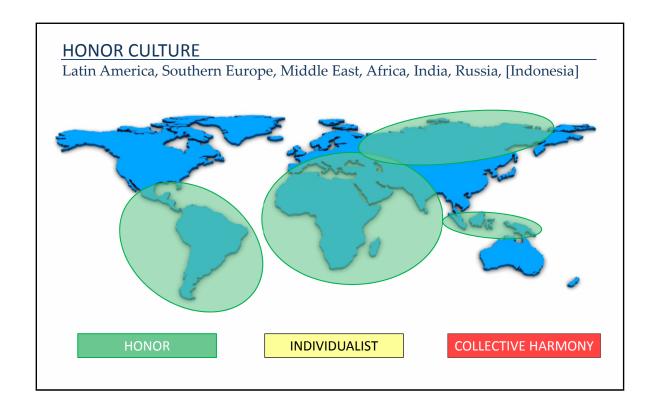
How can you provide services to your clients most effectively?

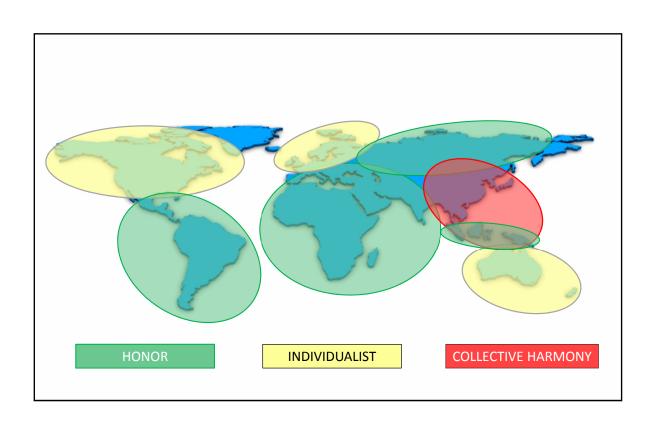












### The Three Culture Types

### HONOR

LatAm, Southern Europe, MidEast, Africa, India, Russia, [Indonesia]

Self-worth based on reputation, maintaining honor of family

Contending with unstable governments and rule of law

Structure is hierarchical, based on family relationship and birth order

Communication is somewhat ambiguous yet can be emotional

Trust is built on relationships, networks, personal tasks

#### **INDIVIDUALIST**

North America, Northern Europe, UK, Australia/NZ

Self-worth based on personal dignity

People are equal and have individual rights, above the family

Assertiveness, directness

Everyone should be heard in decision-making

Shared leadership is possible and encouraged within a family

Trust is built by what you do as an individual

#### **COLLECTIVE HARMONY**

China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, SE Asia, [Japan/Indonesia]

Self-worth is collectively determined and maintained (Face is to be preserved)

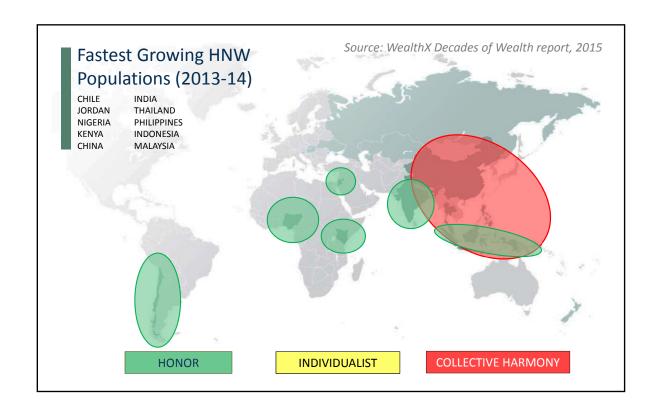
The family is the core

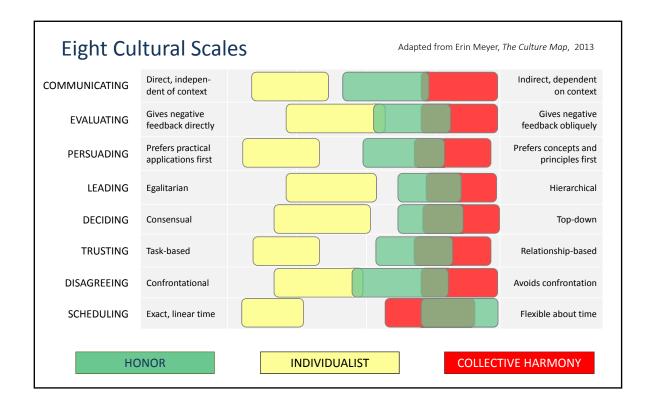
One should respect and fulfill one's place

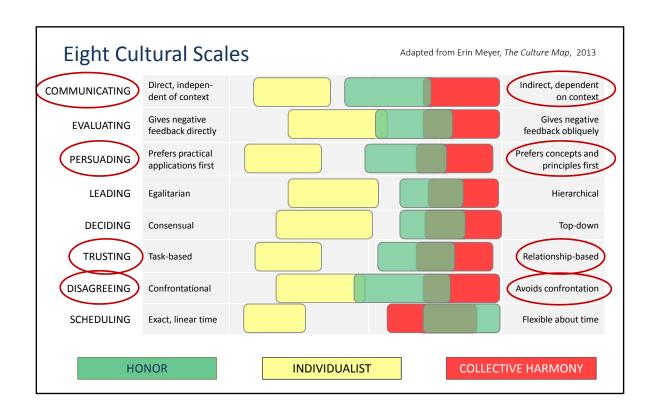
Issues should remain ambiguous and unspoken

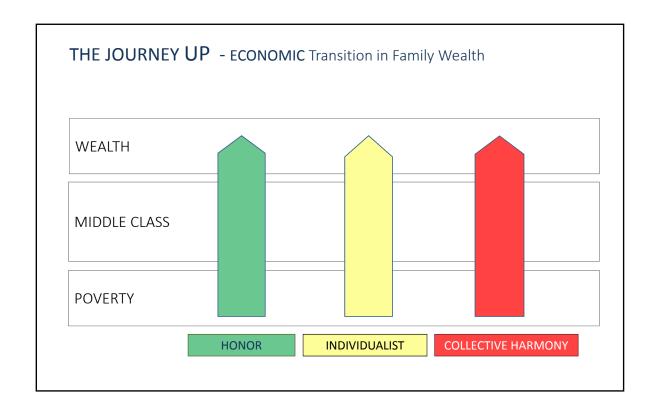
Decisions and relationships are hierarchical

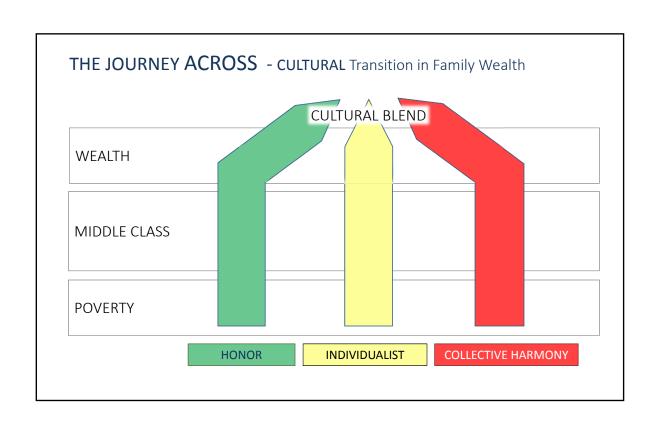
Trust is built on relationships













#### Legacy and Business Succession Issues

The **Challenges** (Harmony, Honor families):

"Single leadership" model - top-down

Need to preserve harmony (conflict avoidance)

Lack of transparency, limited communication

Limited trust outside the family/clan

Role fulfillment within the family very strong

**Gender** issues

Cross-cultural issues framed as generational issues

How will they discuss any of this with you?

# Winning Loyalty with Asian HNW Families

What You Can Do



## Take time to assess their cultural exposure and orientation

Inquire about education, training, global experience

Watch for cues

**Directness** vs indirectness

Speed of trust-building, reliance on relationship

Openness about family issues

Orientation to decision-making

Gender biases

What You Can Do



#### Focus on building trust

Accept that trust will take time to build

Clients may be relying on **relationship- building** more than you think

**Seek feedback** from the client's advisors on your relationship skills and actions

Building trust across generations may be **cross- cultural** - G2s and G3s likely to be more
Individualistic

# Winning Loyalty with Asian HNW Families

What You Can Do



## Focus on communication and decision styles

Accept that communication may be **indirect** and linked to **context**, **nonverbal** cues

Clients may be **sending you signals** more than you think

Take time to explain **concepts**, **principles** as well as the practical basis

Decision-making is **top-down** and likely to occur **outside the room** 

Communicating across generations may be cross-cultural (more Individualistic)

What You Can Do



### Focus on using stories and anecdotes

Narratives and stories allow **indirect** communication that also **saves face** 

"This may not apply to your situation, but..."

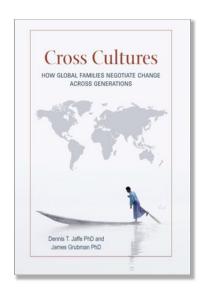
**Speak obliquely** about the issues in the example - discuss questions or comments that way

Watch to see if the client **refers to the story** in a future meeting, as confirmation

Progress may be indicated by the client making more direct reference to his/her own issues

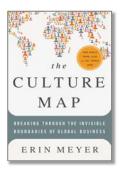
Proceed more patiently than you may think

### **Helpful Resources**











#### James Grubman PhD



Fellow: Family Firm Institute, Purposeful Planning Institute Member, STEP (Family Business, Mental Capacity Special Interest Groups)

Author, Strangers in Paradise: How Families Adapt to Wealth Across Generations and co-author with Dennis Jaffe, PhD, Cross Cultures: How Global Families Negotiate Change Across Generations (on Amazon.com)

Collaborator with Dennis Jaffe, PhD – author of *Good*Fortune: Building a Hundred Year Family Enterprise
and Releasing the Potential of the Rising Generation

Advisory Board – Legacy Academy of Hong Kong