Lost in Translation: Maximizing Your Asian Culture

Presented by the Asian Connections Affinity Group

Learning outcomes:

→ Help attendees maximize the key aspects of their culture to promote career growth through the exchange of life stories and experiences
→ Identify positive traits within Asian cultures and maximize their impact for career growth
→ Identify traits within Asian cultures that are viewed negatively in industry and minimize or remove their impact on careers
→ Learn about the impact of the cultural bias that Asian Americans face while exploring ways to become an ally and address them
Map of Asia
48 countries!

Lost In Translation:
Maximizing Your Asian Culture

Panelists

Le Si Qu
瞿乐诗 (Qú Lè Shī)
SWE Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Affinity Group Lead

Jennifer Chen Morikawa
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Sunita Gupta Lavin
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SWE Latinos Affinity Group Co-Lead

Yin Wai Vanessa Li
李妍慧
SWE Membership Committee Chair-Elect; SWE Asian Connections Affinity Group Advisor
Le Si Qu
瞿乐诗 (Qú Lè Shī)
→ Chinese American from New York City
→ First-generation college student
→ SWE Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Affinity Groups Lead
→ Design Engineer, United States Army

Jennifer Chen Morikawa
陳常莉
→ Taiwanese American
→ 2nd Generation (Generation X)
→ Married Japanese American / “Hawaiian”
→ Director, SWE Board of Directors
→ Senior Manufacturing Engineer & Business Planner at General Motors
Sunita Gupta Lavin

- Indian American
- Born in Canada
- Married an Irish/Czech American
- SWE Latinos Affinity Group Co-Lead
- Assistant Department Manager & Project Engineer

Yin Wai Vanessa Li

- Born and grew up in Hong Kong
- Immigrated to U.S. at 16
- SWE Membership Committee Chair-Elect
- SWE Asian Connections AG Advisor
- Process Leader, Novelis
Learning Summary and Final Tips

- Avoid generalizing because Asians are geographically diverse: cultures and traditions
- Build your support network
  - Leverage volunteer organizations to be safe environments to test out skills
- Combat Imposter Syndrome & Perfectionism
  - Change your mindset: focus on strengths, leverage others to fill the gap
  - Keep past recognitions/appreciations as reminders
- Use networking, delegating and mentoring to build your career
- Allow introverts time to collect their thoughts and give them opportunities to share in meetings
- Cordially collaborate with someone who repeated your idea

Resources

- Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us
- Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking
- How to be Heard: Secrets for Powerful Speaking and Listening
- WE20 Lost in Translation Video Recording: https://alltogether.swe.org/2021/04/demystifying-asian-culture/
- Asian Americans are a Very Diverse Group article: https://equitablegrowth.org/how-data-disaggregation-matters-for-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders/
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