



VS.



**Are there differences between Eastern and Western cultural values? The answer, according to recent surveys, seems to be “yes, but...”. Although the recent survey substantial differences in Eastern and Western attitudes towards social harmony , authority , and education, they also showed that the people of some Asian counties are more “Western” in their attitudes.**

**For Examples, when people from different Asian countries were asked about the importance of freedom of expression, a value which most Western expatriates hold in high regards, most saw it as a low priority. However, the people of Hong Kong , Japan and the Philippines disagreed with their Asian counterparts and rated freedom of expression as an important value in their daily lives. Moreover, when asked about the importance of individual rights, both Westerns and Asians rated this value higher than any other Asian country. Thus, the survey seems to suggest that there is a growing body of “global ” values which people from countries around the worlds are beginning to share.**

## Questions for discussion:

1. **What are some of the differences you've noticed between Westerners and Japanese?**
2. **Are the issue of privacy and personal space important to you?**
3. **What are some aspects of your culture that you feel should change?**
4. **Is cultural change a good or a bad thing?**
5. **Are you worried that the increasing popularity of the English language in Japan will have a negative effect on your culture?**
6. **Do you think it's better to live in a homogeneous or heterogeneous culture?**
7. **Would you consider living with your boyfriend/ girl friend before marriage? Why or why not?**
8. **Do you think filial piety is functional in today's world?**