The Topics for Visiting Bialystok University of Technology, Poland

The Traditional Chinese Culture in Asia: The Stories of Five Blessings

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Outline

1. Introduction
2. People and Society in Asia
3. Personal Perspectives of Five Blessings by Micro Analysis
4. Social Perspectives of Five Blessings by Macro Analysis
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1. Introduction

- Prior to World War I, no government and private sectors collected data to compute Gross National Product (GNP), and Simon Kuznets changed all that. With work that began in the 1930s and stretched over decades, Kuznets broke it down by industry, by final product, and by use. Then, he received the 1971 Nobel Prize for his measurement in National Income Accounting. However, many people feel it is a poor measure of a nation's standard of living. For example, GNP counts some production that does not add to the quality of life; GNP ignores the role of leisure in the quality of life; GNP ignores production in the underground economy; uneven income distribution my affect well-being (Leeds, Allmen and Schiming, 2006). Therefore, we need to find better indexes for describing welfare of human behaviors.

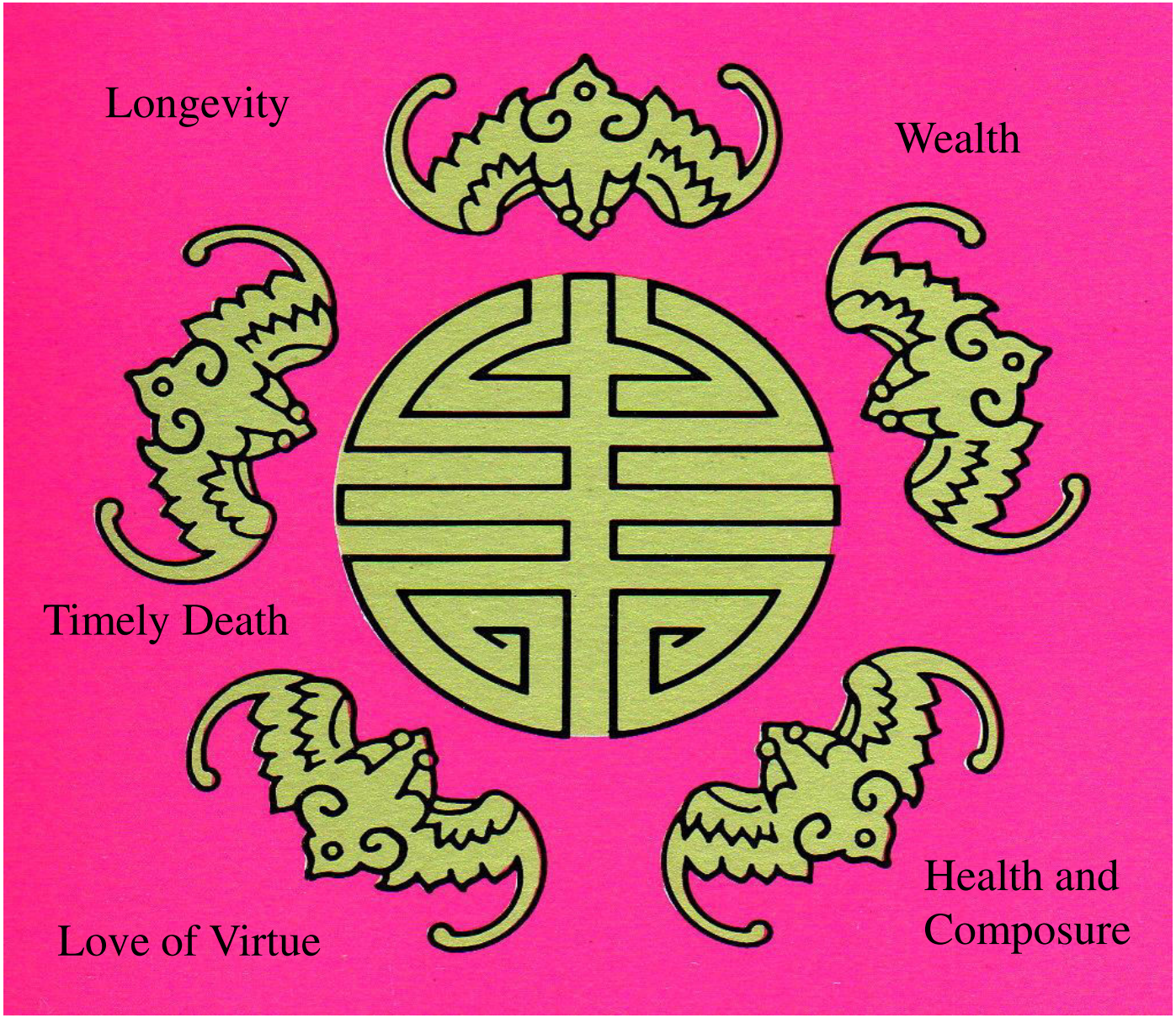
1. Introduction

- Joseph Stalin (1878-1953) and Mao Zedong (1893-1976) controlled the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China with planned economic development, who combined the ideas from Karl Marx and Vladimir I. Lenin to develop industry and agriculture, but in practice the one-sided emphasis on giving priority to the development of heavy industry, agriculture, and light industry. However, they did not calculus the valuations from services and the contributions from "Non Government Organization" and "Non Profit Organization". Many people also feel it is a poor measure of a nation's standard of living.

- Bhutan has famously adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness (GNH) rather than GNP. The limitations of GNP are as a measure of well-being. The GNH was coined in 1972 by Bhutan's King, who developed a sophisticated survey instrument to measure the population's general level of well-being.

- Today, I would like to present some ideas about the traditional Chinese culture: five blessings, also known as the "Five Happiness" or "Five Good Fortunes", which refer to longevity, wealth, health and composure, love of virtue, and the desire to die a natural death in old age (or timely death).

Figure 1 Five Blessings in the Traditional Chinese Culture



2. People and Society in Asia (11/51)

2.1 China

2.2 Taiwan

2.3 Hong Kong

2.4 Macau

2.5 South Korea

2.6 North Korea

2.7 Japan

2.8 Thailand

2.9 Malaysia

2.10 Singapore

2.11 Vietnam

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Asian_countries_by_population.

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Baku
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KAZAKHSTAN
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Krasnoyarsk
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Macau
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Guangzhou
C H I N A
East China Sea
Okinawa
(West) Pacific Ocean
Luzon
PHILIPINES
Manila
Cebu
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South China Sea
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Ulaan Baatar
MONGOLIA
Gobi Desert
Taklimakan Desert
Tibetan Plateau
Himalaya Mts
Balkhash Lake
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Hanoi
LAOS
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THAILAND
Bangkok
CAM-BODIA
VIETNAM
Hue
Nha Trang
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Phuket
Penang
Medan
Kuala Lumpur
M A L A Y S I A
Bandar Seri Begawan
BRUNEI
SINGAPORE
Sumatra (Sumatera)
Palembang
I N D O N E S I A
Jakarta
Bali
Java
Sulawesi (Celebes)
Borneo
E. TIMOR
Dili
AUSTRALIA
Timor Sea
Arafura Sea
Gulf of Carpentaria
Darwin
Tanimbar Is.
Aru Is.
Kai Is.
Banda Sea
Ceram Sea
Halmahera
Molucca Sea
Celebes Sea
Sulu Sea
Tarakan
Brunei
Sibu
Kuching
Pontianak
Java Sea
Bangka
Belitung
Karimata Is.
Natuna Is.
Anambas Is.
Gulf of Thailand
Andaman Sea
Bay of Bengal
Arabian Sea
(North) Indian Ocean
(South) Indian Ocean
Colombo
SRI LANKA
Male
MALDIVES
Abu Dhabi
Muscat
OMAN
Tehran
Esfahan
IRAN
Bandar Abbas
Asgabat
TURKENISTAN
UZBEKISTAN
Aral Sea
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Table 1 the People of Asia Countries (11/51)

Countries	Ethnic Groups				
China (2014) 1,367,980,000	Han Chinese 91.6%	Zhuang 1.3%	other (includes Hui, Manchu, Uighur, Miao, Yi, Tujia, Tibetan, Mongol, Dong, Buyei, Yao, Bai, Korean, Hani, Li, Kazakh, Dai and other nationalities) 7.1%		
Taiwan (2014) 23,410,280	Taiwanese (including Hakka) 84%	mainland Chinese 14%	indigenous 2%		
Hong Kong (2014) 7,234,800	Chinese 93.1%	Indonesian 1.9%		Filipino 1.9%	other 3%
Macau (2014) 631,000	Chinese 92.4%	Portuguese 0.6%	mixed 1.1%	other 5.9% (includes Macanese - mixed Portuguese and Asian ancestry)	
South Korea (2014) 50,423,955	homogeneous (except for about 20,000 Chinese)				

Table 1 (Continued)

Countries	Ethnic Groups					
North Korea 25,027,000	racially homogeneous; there is a small Chinese community and a few ethnic Japanese					
Japan 127,090,000	Japanese 98.5%	Koreans 0.5%	Chinese 0.4%		others 0.6%	
Thailand 64,871,000	Thai 95.9%	Burmese 2%	other 1.3%		unspecified 0.9%	
Malaysia 30,405,400	Malay 50.1%	Chinese 22.6%	indigenous 11.8%	Indian 6.7%	others 0.7%	non-citizens 8.2%
Singapore 5,469,700	Chinese 74.2%	Malay 13.3%		Indian 9.2%		others 3.3%
Vietnam 93,421,835	Kinh(Viet) 85.7%	Tay 1.9%		Thai 1.8%		others 10.6

Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population.

Table 2 the Religions of Asia Countries

Country	Religions (%)					
China (2010)	folk religion 21.9%	Buddhist 18.2%	Christian 5.1%	Muslim 1.8%	other 0.7%	unaffiliated 52.2%
Taiwan	mixture of Buddhist and Taoist 93%				Christian 4.5%	other 2.5%
Hong Kong	eclectic mixture of local religions 90%				Christian 10%	
Macau (1997)	Buddhist 50%		Roman Catholic 15%		none or other 35%	
South Korea	Buddhist 24.2%	Christian 31.6% (Protestant 24%, Roman Catholic 7.6%)			other 0.9%	none 43.3%

Table 2 (Continued)

Country	Religions (%)					
North Korea	traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, some Christian and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way)					
Japan (2005)	Shintoism 83.9%		Buddhism 71.4%		Christianity 2%	other 7.8%
Thailand (2010)	Buddhist (official) 93.6%		Muslim 4.9%	Christian 1.2%	other 0.2%	none 0.1%
Malaysia (2010)	Muslim (official) 61.3%	Buddhist 19.8%	Christian 9.2%	Hindu 6.3%	other Chinese religions 1.3%	Other 2.2%
Singapore (2010)	Buddhist 33.9%	Christian 18.1%	Muslim 14.3%	Taoist 11.3%	Hindu 5.2%	none 16.4%
Vietnam (1999)	Buddhist 9.3%	Catholic 6.7%	Hoa Hao 1.5%	Cao Dai 1.1%	other 0.6%	none 80.8%

Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.

3. Personal Perspectives of Five Blessings by Micro Analysis

- According to the traditional Chinese culture, three destinies are congenital, including longevity, wealth, health and composure.
- Most people may have long life but whom with poor economic status or poor health; they may be rich but whom with short life or poor health. It is very difficult for people to have these three things completely.
- Love of virtue is come from postnatal environment, particularly from education. If people can make their contributions to other people or all society, then they can improve their destiny and let them have a lot of benefits, including extending their life, becoming rich, and getting better health.
- Finally, people can expect their future to have a natural or timely death, and like as the falling leaves of the tree. In the Chinese philosophy, everything would become to a natural and perfect situation in the whole life.
- Therefore, the key point is love of virtue that we can do.

4. Social Perspectives of Five Blessings by Macro Analysis

4.1 Longevity

4.2 Wealth

4.3 Health and Composure

4.4 Love of Virtue: Good Behaviour

4.5 Timely (Natural) Death or Happy Ending at Whole Life

4.1 Longevity

- The life expectancy contains the average number of years to be lived by a group of people born in the same year, if mortality at each age remains constant in the future.
- The entry includes total population as well as the male and female components.
- Life expectancy at birth is a measure of overall quality of life in a country and summarizes the mortality at all ages.
- It can also be thought of as indicating the potential return on investment in human capital and is necessary for the calculation of various actuarial measures.

Table 3 Life Expectancy and Median Age of Asia Countries in 2014

Countries	Life Expectancy (Years)			Median Age (Years)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
China	75.2	73.1	77.4	36.7	35.8	37.5
Taiwan	79.8	76.7	83.2	39.2	38.5	39.9
Hong Kong	82.8	80.2	85.7	43.2	42.8	43.4
Macau	84.5	81.5	87.6	37.7	38.3	37.3
South Korea	79.8	76.7	83.1	40.2	38.7	41.6
North Korea	69.8	66.0	73.9	33.4	31.8	35.0
Japan	84.5	81.1	88.0	46.1	44.8	47.5
Thailand	74.1	71	77.5	36.2	35.3	37.2
Malaysia	74.5	71.7	77.5	27.7	27.4	27.9
Singapore	84.4	81.9	87.1	33.8	33.7	33.9
Vietnam	72.9	70.4	75.7	29.2	28.1	30.2

Source:

1. https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.
2. http://www.indexmundi.com/taiwan/life_expectancy_at_birth.html.

4.2 Wealth

- Wealth is the abundance of valuable resources or material possessions. In economics, wealth in a commonly applied accounting sense is the net worth of a person, household, or nation, that is, the value of all assets owned net of all liabilities owed at a point in time.
- For national wealth as measured in the national accounts, the net liabilities are those owed to the rest of the world. The term may also be used more broadly as referring to the productive capacity of a society or as a contrast to poverty. Analytical emphasis may be on its determinants or distribution.
- GNP is a macroeconomic measure of the total productivity of a nation's permanent residents, including consumption of goods, investments, government expenditures, and net exports by permanent residents.

Table 4 the Economy Indexes of Asia Countries in 2013

Country	GDP-per capita (PPP) (US $)	GDP – real growth rate (%)	GNS (%)	Gini Index	Unemployment Rate (%)	Inflation Rate (%)
China	9,800	7.7	50.0	47.3	4.1	2.6
Taiwan	39,600	2.2	31.3	34.2	4.1	1.1
Hong Kong	52,700	2.9	28.6	53.7	3.1	4.4
Macau	88,700	11.9	-	35.0	1.8	5.5
South Korea	33,200	2.8	31.9	31.1	3.2	1.1
North Korea	1,800*	1.3	-	-	-	-
Japan	37,100	2	22.1	37.6	4.1	0.2
Thailand	9,900	2.9	30.8	39.4	0.7	2.2
Malaysia	17,500	4.7	32.3	46.2	3.1	2.2
Singapore	62,400	4.1	44.6	46.3	1.9	2.4
Vietnam	4,000	5.3	38.4	37.6	1.3	6.8

Note: (1) The GNS is gross national saving of GDP.
(2) The Gini Index presents the distribution of family income.
(3) The economy indexes of North Korea in 2011.
Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.

Table 5 the International Rankings of World Happiness Report in 2013

Country	Ranking	Happiness	Change in happiness from 2005-07 to 2010-2012
China	After 85	4.978	0.257
Taiwan	42	6.221	0.032
Hong Kong	64	5.523	0.012
Macau	After 85	-	-
South Korea	41	6.267	0.728
North Korea	After 85	-	-
Japan	43	6.064	-0.303
Malaysia	56	5.760	-0.377
Singapore	30	6.546	-0.094
Thailand	36	6.371	0.527
Vietnam	63	5.533	0.173

Note: On a scale running from 0 to 10, people in over 150 countries, surveyed by Gallup over the period 2010-12, reveal a population-weighted average score of 5.1 (out of 10). Six key variables explain three-quarters of the variation in annual national average scores over time and among countries. These six factors include: real GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, perceived freedom to make life choices, freedom from corruption, and generosity.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Happiness_Report.

4.3 Health and Composure

4.3.1 Healthcare in China

4.3.2 Healthcare in Taiwan

4.3.3 Healthcare in Hong Kong

4.3.4 Healthcare in Macau

4.3.5 Healthcare in South Korea

4.3.6 Healthcare in North Korea

4.3.7 Healthcare in Japan

4.3.8 Healthcare in Thailand

4.3.9 Healthcare in Malaysia

4.3.10 Healthcare in Singapore

4.3.11 Healthcare in Vietnam

Table 6 Health Resource and Mortality in Asia Countries

Country	Health expenditures of GDP (%)	Hospital bed density	Birth rate	Infant mortality rate	Maternal mortality rate	Death rate
China	5.2	3.8	12.17	14.79	37	7.44
Taiwan	6.6	6.3	8.55	4.49	6.5	6.97
Hong Kong	5.2	5.1	9.38	2.73	1.4	6.93
Macau	-	-	8.98	3.13	-	4.1
South Korea	7.2	10.3	8.26	3.93	16	6.63
North Korea	-	13.2	14.51	24.5	81	9.18
Japan	9.3	13.7	8.07	2.13	5	9.38
Thailand	4.1	2.1	11.26	9.86	48	7.72
Malaysia	3.6	1.8	20.06	13.69	29	5
Singapore	4.6	2.7	8.1	2.53	3	3.42
Vietnam	6.8	2.2	16.26	18.99	59	5.93

Note:

1. Hospital bed density: this entry provides the number of hospital beds per 1,000 people in 2011.
2. Dependency ratios are a measure of the age structure of a population in 2009.
3. Birth rate: This entry gives the average annual number of births during a year per 1,000 persons in the population at midyear; also known as crude birth rate in 2014.
4. Infant mortality rate: This entry gives the number of deaths of infants under one year old in a given year per 1,000 live births in the same year. This rate is often used as an indicator of the level of health in a country in 2014.
5. Maternal mortality rate: The maternal mortality rate (MMR) is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management in 2010.
6. Death rate: This entry gives the average annual number of deaths during a year per 1,000 populations at midyear; also known as crude death rate in 2014.

Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.

4.4 Love of Virtue: Good Behaviour

- Long time ago, Emperor Wu (464-549) proudly told to Bodhidharma: I made a lot of temples, copied the classics, and help many monks, how much I have accumulated merits? Dharma bluntly replied: there is no merit.
- How to create positive externality? such as religions, charity, and education.
- How to decrease negative externality? such as improving environment and decreasing the pollution.
- Common resource management and global warm.
- Adam Smith (1723-1790) concerned the issues of long-term welfare economy, but John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946) preferred the roles of short-term policies. However, we need to consider the sustainable development of current and future.

Table 7 Literacy Level and Education Expenditures in Asia Countries

Countries	Literacy Level (%)			School Life Expectancy (Years)			Education Expenditures (%) of GDP
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
China	95.1	97.5	92.7	13	13	13	NA
Taiwan (2012)	98.2	99.6	96.8	12	12	12	4.6% (2010)
Hong Kong (2002)	93.5	96.9	89.6	16	15	15	3.5% (2012)
Macau (2011)	95.6	97.8	93.7	14	15	14	2.7% (2011)
South Korea (2002)	97.9	99.2	96.6	17	18	16	5% (2009)
North Korea (2008)	100	100	100	-	-	-	NA
Japan (2011)	99.0	99.0	99.0	15	15	15	3.8% (2011)
Thailand (2009)	93.5	95.6	91.5	13	13	13	5.8% (2011)
Malaysia (2010)	93.1	95.4	90.7	13	13	13	5.9% (2011)
Singapore (2010)	95.9	98.0	93.8	-	-	-	3% (2013)
Vietnam (2011)	93.4	95.4	91.4	-	-	-	6.3% (2010)

Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.

Table 8 Production and Consumption of Electricity and Crude Oil in Asia Countries

Countries	Electricity (million KWH)				Crude oil-Production	
	Rank	Production	Rank	Consumption	Rank	(bbl/day)
China (2013)	1	5,398,000	1	5,322,000	4	4,197,000
Taiwan (2011)	17	252,200	15	242,200	76	21,680
Hong Kong (2013)	59	39,970	52	44,210	180	0
Macau (2013)	166	413.7	121	4,291	192	0
South Korea (2011)	11	485,100	11	449,500	185	0
North Korea (2010)	73	21,040	73	17,620	183	0
Japan (2012)	5	936,200	5	859,700	46	135,500
Thailand (2012)	24	173,300	23	169,400	30	574,000
Malaysia (2012)	31	118,000	30	112,000	29	642,700
Singapore (2013)	53	47,950	53	43,230	78	20,170
Vietnam (2012)	32	117,000	32	104,000	33	363,500

Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.

4.5Timely (Natural) Death or Happy Ending at Whole Life

- 4.5.1 The Suicide Rates in Asia

According to data from the World Health Organization, in which a country's rank is determined by its total rate deaths officially recorded as suicides in the most recent available year, last updated in 2011 as shown in Table 7.

- 4.5.2 The Hospice in Asia

Palliative care is an approach which improves quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.

Table 9 The Suicides Rates in Asia (per 100,000 people per year)

Country	Rank	Male	Female	Average	Year
China	57	7.6	8.07	7.9 (0.0079%)	2006
Taiwan	24	20.5	9.7	15.1 (0.0151%)	2011
Hong Kong	32	16.2	8.8	12.3 (0.0123%)	2011
Macau	-	-	-	-	-
South Korea	3	39.8	17.3	28.5 (0.0285%)	2013
North Korea	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	6	28.3	10.1	19.1 (0.0191%)	2009
Thailand	66	9.5	2.7	6.1 (0.0061%)	2011
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore	48	13.3	7.3	10.3 (0.0103%)	2012
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_suicide_rate

Table 10 Palliative Care Development in Asia

Country	Started Developing	Date
South Korea	1	1965-1969
Japan	2	1970-1974
Hong Kong	3	1980-1984
Singapore	4	1985-1999
China	4	1985-1999
Taiwan	5	1990-1994
Malaysia	5	1990-1994
Thailand	6	1995-1999
Macau	7	2000-2006

Source: http://www.hkag.org/Conference/EOL%20APRC%20conference/ppt/06%20Plenary%20Session/Dr%20Wang_Asia%20hospice%20care%20present%20201309.pdf.

5. Conclusion

- The human behavior can be described as the calculus in the mathematical study. The differential calculus concerns the rates of change and slopes of curves, and the integral calculus concerns the accumulation of quantities and the areas under and between curves.
- The former presents that people need to try to do some practices, and step by step to modify it. Then, they can find the optimal rate of change or the best slope of curve. The latter presents that people cumulated their past process path (achievement) and got their final results.
- Nobody can make the decision where they born. We need to learn the empathy and sympathy, and concern more human beings. Then, we can know, understand, help, love each other, and make more contributions for people. It can improve our health and composure, let our wealth increase, happy to live long, and have a peaceful timely death. God bless you all!

Your suggestions are warmly welcome ！