

Our menifesto:

Four Seas is inspired by the famous Chinese saying: “四海之内皆兄弟 – si hai ji nei chie xiong di” - within the four seas, all men are brothers.

The Four Seas Menifesto was conceived as a response to my concern, that as a country, we are increasingly identifying ourselves primarily in racial and religious terms – ignoring, as Amartya Sen puts it: “the relevance of other ways in which people see themselves, through class, gender, profession, language, literature, science, music, morals or politics ...”

Race and religion should not matter so much. So long as we are “good people” - we are all brothers and sisters to each other. In the Four Seas Story below, “a good person” is defined as someone who is reverent, who does not do anything amiss, who is respectful towards others, and who is observant of the Confucian rites (which teaches a person to be a gentleman).

Four Seas aims to connect people, through various projects like the “Jom Makan Project” in 2011, by emphasizing on our common humanity and our desire to be “good people”.

EAT WELL, LIVE BRAVE, HAVE FUN!

HOW THE PHRASE “WITHIN THE FOUR SEAS, ALL MEN ARE BROTHERS” CAME ABOUT:

During the Spring and Autumn Period (770 B.C. -476 B.C.), Confucius had a student named Si Ma Niu. According to the legend, Si Ma Niu is the brother of Huan Tui, a famous doctor in the Song territory. Huan Tui was involved in an attempt to overthrow the throne and had to flee with his family when the attempt failed.

Si Ma Niu fled to the Lu territory and became a student of Confucius. Si Ma Niu was very unhappy with the wrongdoing of his brother and declared that Huan Tui was no longer his brother.

*One day, Si Ma Niu appeared worried saying, "All men have brothers, I alone have none." Tsu Hsia said: "I have heard it said: Life and death are a matter of destiny. Wealth and honour depend on heaven. The gentleman is reverent and does nothing amiss, is respectful towards others and observant of the rites, and all within the Four Seas# are his brothers. What need is there for the gentleman to worry about not having any brothers?"

The saying: "Within the four seas, all men are brothers" comes from this story.

- Quoted from the Analects by Confucius.

#There are four seas around China, and to the Chinese, it refers to their known world.