



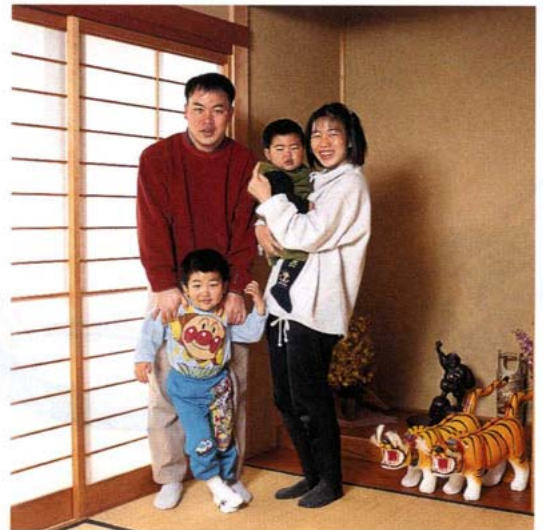
All In The Family

Photographer Uwe Ommert spent four years travelling the globe shooting the book *1000 Families*. In the following pages we've selected some images from our own part of the world, Asia. While some differences are obvious, a more careful study reveals that the things in life that really matter — the unconditional love of a mother, or the mischievous smirk on a young boy's face — are what bind us all.

THE ALBUM OF PLANET EARTH

Uwe Ommers shares with us here his "family album of planet Earth" concept. Overwhelming in its magnitude, this four-year project is truly extraordinary. Stopping in more than 130 countries in all corners of the world, Ommers carefully selected the families which best reflected each society's traditions and social conditions. Many of the portraits have appeared in exhibitions and magazines during the course of the project; now that the work is finished, Taschen has published the results in one volume entitled *1000 Families*.

Ommers chose to photograph the families against a white background and with identical lighting. All the traditional elements of a documentary photograph are removed, leaving only the people themselves. The result is astonishing.



Ürgüp 厄古普,
Turkey 土耳其

Muammer is the village mayor. Like the rest of his constituency, he works in the fields. He has also imported five Dutch cows, but he's a bit disappointed by their milk yield, which has dropped since they first got here. "They're probably having trouble adapting to the climate, which isn't very 'Dutch'."

Muammer是一名村長，他與村內其他村民一樣，以耕種為生。他亦購入來自荷蘭的乳牛，但這項投資的回報——牛奶，卻不太理想，牠們抵埗後的產奶量下跌了。他說：「這可能是牠們不太適應這兒的氣候，誠然，土耳其的氣候與荷蘭完全不同。」



Lahore 拉合爾,
Pakistan 巴基斯坦

"I work all the time. When I do have a free moment, I visit my elderly parents. They worked hard to educate me," says Muhammad Ashraf Munir. He has ambitious plans for his son: "I want him to be an officer in the air force. He is very bright and hard-working for his age."

Muhammad Ashraf Munir對我們說：「我一天到晚都在工作，只要有一刻餘暇，我就會探望年邁的雙親，他們辛苦撫育我成人，我應該盡孝道。」他對兒子亦寄予厚望，他說：「我希望他加入空軍，他年紀小小，卻表現出眾，而且很勤力。」



Kyoto 京都,
Japan 日本

Takashi has what any Japanese man would consider the dream profession: he works on a golf course. "Unfortunately my business is management and I don't really have time to play," he says sadly.

Takashi幹著日本男士夢寐以求的工作——他是高爾夫球場的職員。他卻無奈地說：「可惜我是隸屬管理部門，根本沒有時間來一局。」

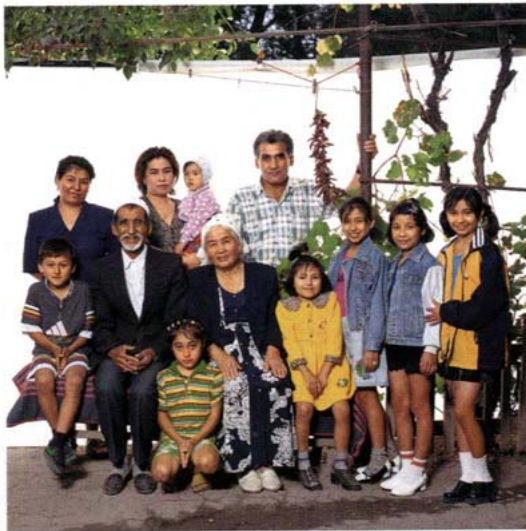


Chiang Dao 清道,
Thailand 泰國

Palong means "bird of paradise", and is also the name of their tribe.

The reason is easy to see when you look at the women's colourful clothing. Grandfather (right), on the other hand, closely follows the latest fashion. The three generations live on their own farm produce.

「Palong」解作「雀鳥天堂」，亦是圖中這支部族的名稱，只要看看這些女士的衣裳，不難聯想到以上兩者的關係。相反，老爺爺（右）的服飾卻更貼近今日的潮流。爺孫三代就是依靠他們的農作物過活。



Part travel journal, part scrapbook, *Transit*, also published by Taschen, traces the four-year, 250,000-kilometre journey of Uwe Ommer during the making of *1000 Families*. Naturally, a voyage of such epic proportions bears its fair share of anecdotes, adventures, mishaps, and souvenirs, and *Transit* traces the experience through stories and images. From closed borders and broken bridges to late rainy seasons, curious customs officers, thieves, coups d'état, raging fevers, and a far from "unbreakable" Land Rover, Ommer found truth in the maxim "just about everything that can go wrong, will."



Almaty 阿拉木圖,
Kazakhstan 哈薩克斯坦

Jumakhun and Nurbanum were deported from Xinjiang Uygur (China) 1958, and during the Communist era worked for the railways and as a knitter, respectively. Their son Addushkur is a studio photographer. Times are hard: "These days everybody's got a disposable camera," he laments.

Jumakhun及Nurbanum來自中國新疆維吾爾，在中國生活時，他們分別在鐵路公司及針織廠工作，1958年，他們離開中國前往哈薩克定居。他們的兒子Addushkur是影樓攝影師，不過日子過得並不富裕，他幽幽地說：「現在人人都用即棄相機了。」



Kaligram,
Bangladesh 孟加拉

A military electrician, and recently married, Mohammed is making the most of his leave to take a walk with his wife and mother. He insisted on carrying his baby for the photo.

Mohammed是軍隊裏的電氣技師，他正值新婚，放假的時候他總是陪伴妻子與母親散步。他堅持抱著他的孩子拍照。



Teheran 德黑蘭,
Iran 伊朗

Hossin is a station-master, and so he naturally likes taking his family on the train. We met them during the pilgrimage they were making to the tomb of Imam Reza in Mashhad, in the east of the country.

Hossin是火車站站長，理所當然地火車是他與家人出門最常用的交通工具。我們相遇時，他們正打算到位於伊朗東部馬什哈德的伊瑪目萊扎陵墓朝聖。



Pokhara 波卡拉,
Nepal 尼泊爾

Ram Chandra and Santi have been married for 13 years, have five daughters and have finally given up any hope of having a boy. He is a construction worker, while she looks after the house and their girls.

Ram Chandra與Santi結婚13年，育有五名女兒，最後決定放棄添丁的念頭。他是一名建築工人，她則留守家中打理家務及照顧孩子。