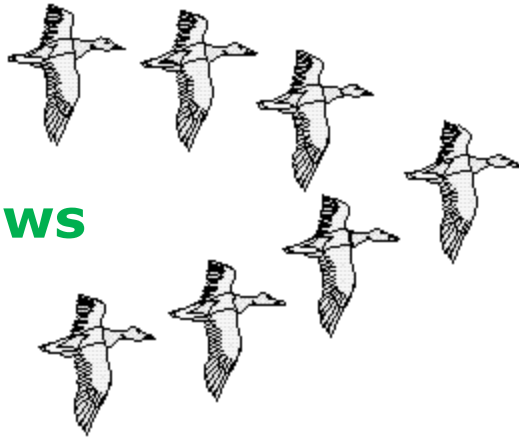


Beginner
**The Leader knows
the way....**



Toya: When you vote in a presidential election, does a candidate's character affect whether or not you vote for him?

Ota: Not really. I'm not interested in their private lives. I think we should focus on policy issues rather than character issues. I mean, adultery or a nasty temper shouldn't necessarily reflect poorly on their ability to do the job. In other words, every person has their positives and negatives, the bright and the dark sides.

Toya : Do you mean their character doesn't matter if their political vision is good enough to govern your country , the Philippines ?

Ota: Exactly. As long as the President , either a man or a woman, can improve our situation, I would support his candidacy. That's what voters expect.

Toya : I understand what you mean. I guess what really matters is that whatever country you're in, you should decide for yourself who to vote for.