

Title: Collection of Tan Chin Tuan Private Papers Made Available for Research

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Reporter: Hasleen Bachik

Translated by: Nurul Nabilah and Kirsten Law



Collection of historical papers: Head of Library of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Mr. Pitt Kwan Wah (right), showing the 83 boxes of documents belonging to the late Tan Sri (Dr) Tan Chin Tuan to board members of the **Tan Chin Tuan Foundation** – Mr Chew Kwee San (left) and Ms Chew Gek Hiang (in blue) during the handover ceremony of the private papers at ISEAS yesterday.

In his life, he held an important position in a bank. However, Tan Sri (Dr) Tan Chin Tuan who led and built the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC) from 1966 to 1983 into one of the largest banks at that time, was always concerned about the lives of the less privileged and the disadvantaged.

“The apparent injustice in this case has so troubled me that I feel I should try to help this man, although he is a complete stranger to me. I would be prepared to pay for counsel to appeal on his behalf against the sentence,” read a letter from Mr Tan to the law firm, Allen & Gledhill, dated 11 October 1972.

The man in question was Mr Wong Lai Fatt, who had been sentenced to four years of imprisonment for stabbing a man and killing him, in defending his wife from being raped. Mr Wong later succeeded in his appeal and was subsequently released.

The collection of documents that was kept by Mr Tan’s family and the **Tan Chin Tuan Foundation** are now valuable resources for intellectuals and academic scholars who wish to research on Mr Tan’s personal life, as well as the history of Singapore’s economy in the early 1950s.

In his opening speech at the handover ceremony of the private papers of Tan Sri (Dr) Tan Chin Tuan, Director of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Mr Tan Chin Tiong said, “These private collections housed at ISEAS Library are meticulously documented, digitised and preserved so that they will be accessible to scholars and academics for research purposes.”

“The availability of these papers has enabled the publication of several biographies...”

ISEAS received its first collection of private papers from Mr Tan Cheng Lock’s estate. In 1971, more contributions of private documents were received from prominent people in the region.

Thus far, ISEAS has 22 collection of private papers including those from Mr S. Rajaratnam, Mr Lim Kim San, Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman, Professor Syed Hussein Alatas, and Tun Sir Henry Lee Hau Shik.

The Tan Chin Tuan collection covers 14 shelf metres – equivalent to about seven per cent of the 200 shelf metres of private papers held at ISEAS Library.

The private papers revealed interesting facts about Mr Tan’s personality, his work ethics, keen business acumen and his generosity.

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Koleksi dokumen Tan Chin Tuan jadi bahan berharga bagi penyelidikan

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Main Image:



Semasa Hayatnya Beliau Memegang Jawatan Penting Di Bank. Namun, Tan Sri Dr Tan Chin Tuan Yang Menerajui Dan Membangunkan Bank Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (Ocbc) Dari 1966 Hingga 1983 Sehingga Ia Menjadi Antara Bank Terbesar Ketika Itu Tetap Prihatin Tentang Nasib Golongan Kurang Berkemampuan Dan Yang Dizalimi.

“Kezaliman Yang Ketara Dalam Kes Ini Telah Begitu Merisaukan Saya Sehingga Saya Rasa Perlu Cuba Membantu Lelaki Miskin Ini, Walaupun Beliau Langsung Tidak Saya Kenali. Saya Bersedia Membayar Khidmat Peguam Bagi Merayu Bagi Pihaknya Terhadap Hukuman Itu,” Bunyi Surat Catatan Encik Tan Kepada Firma Guaman Allen & Glenhill Bertarikh 11 Oktober 1972.

Lelaki Berkenaan ialah Encik Wong Lai Fatt Yang Telah Dihukum Penjara Empat Tahun Kerana Cuba Mempertahan Isterinya Daripada Dirogol.

Encik Wong Kemudian Berjaya Dalam Rayuannya Lalu Dibebaskan.

Koleksi Dokumen Yang Selama Ini Disimpan Oleh Keluarga Encik Tan Dan Yayasan Tan Chin Tuan Kini Menjadi Bahan Berharga Bagi Cendekiawan Dan Ahli Akademik Yang Mahu Menyelidiki Keperibadian Encik Tan Serta Sejarah Ekonomi Singapura Seawal 1950-An.

Dalam Majlis Penyerahan Dokumen Privat Tan Sri Dr Tan Chin Tuan Kepada Perpustakaan Iseas Anjuran Institut Iseas-Yusof Ishak Dan Yayasan Tan Chin Tuan Di Iseas Semalam, Pengarah Iseas, Encik Tan Chin Tiong, Semasa Menyampaikan Kata Alu-Aluan, Berkata: “Koleksi Peribadi Yang Ditempatkan Di Perpustakaan Iseas Ini Telah Didokumenkan Dengan Penuh Teliti Dalam Bentuk Digital Dan Dipelihara Agar Ia Boleh Diakses Oleh Cendekiawan Dan Ahli Akademik Bagi Tujuan Penyelidikan.

“Dengan Adanya Kertas Ini Ia Membolehkan Penerbitan Beberapa Biografi...”

Iseas Mula Menerima Dokumen Privat Pertama Daripada Estet Encik Tan Cheng Lock.

Pada 1971 Ia Disusuli Pula Dengan Sumbangan Dokumen Privat Oleh Orang Kenamaan Yang Memainkan Peranan Penting Di Rantau Ini Dalam Bidang Politik, Ekonomi Atau Sosial.

Setakat Ini, Iseas Mempunyai 22 Koleksi Dokumen Peribadi Yang Antara Lain Termasuk Daripada Encik S. Rajaratnam, Encik Lim Kim San, Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman, Profesor Syed Hussein Alatas Dan Tun Sir Henry Lee Hau Shik.

Koleksi Encik Tan Meliputi Rak Berukuran 14 Meter Bersamaan 7 Peratus Daripada Rak 200 Meter Kertas Privet Yang Terdapat Dalam Perpustakaan Iseas.

Dokumen Encik Tan Memberikan Sekilas Keperibadiannya, Etika Kerjanya, Kepintaran Perniagaannya Dan Kemurahan Hatinya.

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Author:

HASLEEN BACHIK