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Former OCBC Chairman Tan Chin Tuan passes away

Tan Chin Tan, former chairman of OCBC, passed away yesterday. He was 98.

One of the pioneers of OCBC, Mr Tan was responsible for its solid growth until his retirement from the helm 22 years ago. Upon his retirement, he was made the Honorary Life President of the bank.

OCBC spokesman Gao Jing Jing said that the management and staff at OCBC are saddened by his passing.

She said, "Having devoted more than 50 years of his career to the OCBC group, he will always be remembered as one of Singapore's greatest bankers."

Mr Tan joined the Chinese Commercial Bank as a clerk when he was 17. He was promoted to Managing Director of OCBC in 1942 and became its Chairman in 1966.

After the war, he became a member of the Singapore Advisory Council formed by the British Military Administration to help in the rehabilitation of Singapore. From 1951 onwards, he was appointed the Deputy President of the Legislative Council, a position equivalent to that of the deputy governor of Singapore.

In March this year, he donated S\$29 million to the National University of Singapore. The donation, the largest received by NUS to date, would contribute towards the promotion of tertiary education and research, and also help facilitate exchange with the University of Malaya.

NUS President Prof Shih Choon Fong was grateful for the generous contribution. This generous gift, he added, holds special and historical significance for the NUS centennial celebrations.

In memory of Mr Tan's contributions to tertiary education, the administrative wing of the newly completed University Hall will be named the Tan Chin Tuan Wing.

(File picture of former OCBC chairman Tan Chin Tuan)
