

The Straits Times  
Tuesday, 15.11.2005 (pg. H6)



**A RARE CREATURE:** The late Mr Tan Chin Tuan was a businessman who was as much loved as he was respected.

### **From junior clerk to corporate chieftain**

- 1908:** Born in Singapore and educated at Anglo-Chinese School
- 1925:** Became a junior clerk with the Chinese Commercial Bank (CCB)
- 1932:** Became assistant manager of CCB before CCB merged with Ho Hong Bank and Oversea-Chinese Bank to form Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC)
- 1933:** Made bank manager of OCBC
- 1939:** Became managing director of Eastern Realty, an OCBC subsidiary. Over the years, he also became chairman of several big names in local business such as Raffles Hotel, Fraser and Neave, Malayan Breweries, Robinsons, Straits Trading, Great Eastern Life and Wearne Brothers
- 1939-1941:** Served as Municipal Commissioner of Singapore
- 1942:** Became youngest managing director in banking history when he was appointed joint MD of OCBC at age 34
- 1948-1955:** Served as a member of the Singapore Executive Council; senior member and subsequently deputy president of the Singapore Legislative Council
- 1966:** Took over sole control of OCBC as chairman and managing director
- 1969:** Decorated Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his public service; also conferred the title of 'Tan Sri' by the Malaysian king Yang Di Pertuan Agong

**1983:** Retired as OCBC chairman and made honorary life president

**1983 to 1986:** Chairman of the Singapore Turf Club

**1991:** Conferred honorary doctor of law degree by National University of Singapore

**1992:** Retired as chairman of GE Life and Straits Trading