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東南亞人物叢刊

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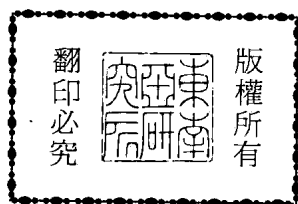
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## **WHO'S WHO IN SOUTH EAST ASIA – A PREFACE**

**Prof. Sung Chek Mei** PH. D.

**(A) January 1969**

The Compilation of a WHO'S WHO IN SOUTH EAST ASIA has been part of our research programme. Since the first issue of our SOUTH EAST ASIA JOURNAL in January 1965, notices had been sent out to solicit information, which will be compiled and published accordingly.

To compile a Who's Who requires a lot of courage and perseverance for the success of such monumental task. One must always sincerely, clearly, objectively, and perspectively present the social back-ground, personal characters, achievement, as well as contribution to their communities, and every person is so listed that their real image might be projected vividly before the readers. The effect will then truly be lasting for the generation-to-come. As for harmonizing mutual effections between different people and to promote better understanding of mankind in the world, this work aims to offer its share of good-will, especially in classifying historical data of South East Asia. WHO'S WHO IN SOUTH EAST ASIA is the joint venture of many scholars. It takes genuine cooperation, and contributors strived to keep in line with the "Editorial Principle". Those concerned also gave their fair support whenever needed. These are the main factors leading to the successful publication.

For research work of South East Asia, our Who's Who is only a first attempt. In order to publish each year a large volume of such general reference, like most giant publishing houses of the world, there is still the need of much hard work and group effort.

## (B) August 1978

Biography forms an important field of Chinese literature. It is rich in content and useful for scholarly investigation. All great works with lasting influence by eminent historians usually concentrate on human persons. The main task of history and biography is to imprint on our mind the past and present outstanding individuals, their life, their achievement, their through as well as their mark in the society. Human nature is endowed with an instinctive attachment and reminiscence to the past; hence it is common to have been interest towards biography of Prominent men. By the same reason, in making known those historical giants, one might elevate the respect for personal dignity human values. It also would provide the dynamicism to attend a higher ideal and perfection in life. One should, therefore, pay special attention to biographic literature in terms of educational significance and social progress.

Lytton STRACHEY, forerunner of Inward Biography School, wrote two great works, *QUEEN VICTORIA* and *EMINENT VICTORIANS*, With scrupulous objectivity, he expanded on the factual life of them all. His skilful employment of reference to diaries, letters, and other documents sheds much light on their personal life. Thus his works are acknowledged as exciting classics. This Inward Biography shattered the psychological idol-worship and reoriented towards esthetic projection. It advocates discreet selection and compilation of actual facts. It emphasizes harmony of lines and colors without any tinge on the real persons. Inward biographists only seek to bare the authentic reality, play down on one, and would not easily criticize anybody. They prefer the readers to form their own opinion and to perceive their own insight. This, too, is taken as one of the cardinal principle of psychography.

Those chosen by modern psychographers are persons of social significance and not merely shallow figures. It is a

presentation of facts, not sentimental description. Through their eyes wisdom, deep comprehension becomes possible unto the life of each and every character. And a better understanding might be obtained also on their historical background. Biography writing is personal activity; hence both theory and method of narration should also be improved in time.

At the present era of great importance, there are many typical characters in South East Asia worthy to be noted. So that their epical achievements and shining ideas might live in the biographic literature to inspire human dignity and lighten the beacon of life. Chinese emigrants in South East Asia, according to available records, have had a long history and cordial affinity with local natives. Their dedication and perseverance, unabated by manual labour, have contributed much to local development and economic prosperity. Many of them, through personal ingenuity and ethic, became established leaders and successful tycoons of their respective communities. Everywhere they are remembered with high esteem as well as beloved by the society. At the crossroad of present-day evolution, innumerable outstanding Chinese in different places join the modern national development. They uphold the idea of "Share Profit-Success" in rendering social services and communal welfare. All these are in need of data gathering and processing in order to preserve the historical truth. And this ought to bear profound meaning in the education of future generation.

There is an old saying: "foresight by learning from the past" and "total knowledge through in-depth study". Personal success or failure and the up-and-down of any epoch may obtain precious inspiration from biography and history. Time creates outstanding persons and outstanding persons mould the time. In the footsteps of past pioneers and for the advancement of future generation, biographers and historians alike are yearning for the sight of prominent personalities. So that one may assure the fruitful progress of South East Asia and the world at large, to pave the way of a bright future for mankind in a new era of prosperity.

WHO'S WHO IN SOUTH EAST ASIA is an important book. We will try to continue its edition with the help of scholars from different places. The historical materials published are excellent reference for South East Asia research. From biography to process of contemporary history is the main target of our common effort. I do sincerely hope for the liberal comments from learned persons and the generous support of social eminents to render the early completion of this monumental project.

**Sung Chek Mei**

**President  
South East Asia Research Institute**

**August 1978**

## **PREFACE TO THE BIOGRAPHY OF LIEM SIOE LIONG (A)**

**Prof. Wang Gungwu**

The economic achievements of the Chinese in South East Asia have often attracted a mixture of admiration and envy, but much less attention has been paid to their ways of life and their history. As a result, many facts about these Chinese have been allowed to sink into oblivion. This is particularly true of biographical records of individual Chinese. By the time one of these successful Chinese becomes an eminent figure we find that it has become very difficult to gather materials about his rise from rags to riches. To start collecting data at that time for his biography is probably too late.

There are several reasons for such difficulties. The Chinese had settled in either foreign countries or in colonies under European or American rule. In such places, there were no official agencies interested in preserving documents about the Chinese. Nor were there organisations which systematically collected official and personal papers, newspaper clippings and other records. Biographical data were therefore not valued until and unless some Chinese became prominent figures. Other reasons for the lack of biographical materials are the traditional Chinese virtues of modesty and respect for confidentiality, especially in the formative stage of a career in commerce or industry. Business was established on the basis of verbal commitment rather than written contracts, thus leaving little trace of past transactions. By the time the successful person has become prominent in the community there would be hardly any reliable background material about his earlier struggles and triumphs.



It is against this background that the biography of Mr. Liem Sioe Liong compiled by Professor Sung Chek-mei is an important contribution. Professor Sung made great efforts in building up a collection of materials about Mr. Liem, including documents and anecdotes about him in Indonesia, South East Asia and other places in the world. The publication underlines an important new trend among those of Chinese descent today calling for the collection and compilation of materials about Chinese in different fields at an earlier stage of their lives. The new consciousness of the need for reliable data will enable us to compile different types of history of the pioneering Chinese in South East Asia, and encourage the writing of fuller accounts about distinguished individuals. Mr. Liem established his business in Indonesia and was able to extend his achievements to more than ten countries beyond Indonesia. This is particularly outstanding. Those who appreciate the history of the Chinese abroad must be gratified to see Professor Sung's rich collection of materials about Mr. Liem in this initial attempt at biography. I am hopeful that more Chinese who love history will follow Professor Sung's footsteps in compiling biographies of such prominent personalities.

**Wang Gungwu**

**September 1988**

## **PREFACE TO THE BIOGRAPHY OF LIEM SIOE LIONG (B)**

**Prof. Chiou Sin Min**

After reading the first three chapters of *The CAREER OF MR. LIEM SIOE LIONG — A PROMINENT ENTREPRENEUR IN CONTEMPORARY INDONESIA*, I felt as if I am reading the history, geography, and economic development of Indonesia, and Mr. Liem is just one of the thousands of merchant. But when I continued to read the other chapters, I found out that it is about Mr. Liem who became the leader of the thousands of merchant, as he hoped that Indonesia would develop into a modern welfare state. This is a special approach in writing a biography.

Prof. Sung Chek Mei had published various books on the well-known men and women of South-East Asia and *GREAT WRITERS IN WORLD LITERATURE* etc., about 400 of them. He had collected 400 different materials and written 400 papers about these famous people. I considered that Prof. Sung is a good and experienced writer in the world of biography.

Prof. Sung used a historical approach that is “Times and circumstances create hero and hero create times and circumstances”. These are inter-related with particular reference to Soeharto and the circumstances in Indonesia. Prof. Sung mentioned that Mr. Liem Sioe Liong is able to seize the opportunity and become a successful businessman in Indonesia.

Forty-two years ago, I visited Mr. Tan Kah Kee ( 陳嘉庚 ) in Singapore. He told me a true story about Mr. Lee Kong Chin ( 李光前 ). He said that Mr. Lee was an international businessman who earned a lot of money and knew how to spend his money wisely for social welfare, education etc., and founded “Lee’s foundation”. He also said that Mr. Lee was a successful Merchant. Mr. Liem Sioe Liong now is one of the Prominent entrepreneur in the world. From this biography, we Learnt that Mr. Liem Sioe Liong also knew how to make plenty of money and spend them on charity and he also helped towards the development of Indonesia into a wealthy, healthy, happy, peaceful and modern welfare state.

**Chiou Sin Min**

**May 1988 Singapore**

**THE CAREER OF MR. LIEM SIOE LIONG**  
**— A PROMINENT ENTREPRENEUR IN**  
**CONTEMPORARY INDONESIA**

P R E F A C E

**Prof. Sung Chek Mei**

In the contemporary history of the overseas Chinese in Indonesia, Mr. Liem Sioe Liong is recognized as one of the prominent Chinese entrepreneurs. Even in the economic history of the Chinese in South East Asia, Mr. Liem also plays an important part.

In its June 1983 issue, the American journal BULLION introduced Mr. Liem being amongst the top twelve bankers in the world; Henceforward he became well known in international business circle.

Mr. Liem came from an agrarian family, Being away from the Chinese mainland, he started up his business out of nothing in Indonesia with a great success. From being a hawker to becoming a tycoon, and from doing a family business to dealing with international business, Mr. Liem represented a successful example of entrepreneur/ creating ventures from scratch.

Like every typical business executive, Mr. Liem was energetic, sensible, rapid to make decisions with a sharp vision and a strong will. On the other hand, he possessed the quality of the traditional Chinese intellectual following the Confucian ethics. So he got a reputation among his peer business group, and won deference from his subordinates.

In order to let Mr. Liem known properly, the author tried his best to present a real picture of him, based on all relevant and available information. How Mr. Liem did establish his ventures and make a good success is explored. His personality of dealing with people in the multiracial and multicultural Southeast Asian community is described. Through this volume, one is able to grasp the reality of overseas Chinese business and its development.

Since 1954 the author have published few books e.g. GREAT WRITERS IN THE WORLD, WHO'S WHO IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, WHO'S WHO IN INDONESIA, WHO'S WHO IN THE MODERN WORLD, which consist of more than 430 articles on the biographies of more than 350 figures who once served either as president, king, or prime minister or cabinet member, among others. AN EMINENT ENTREPRENEUR IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD — MR. LIEM SIOE LIONG is the author's inceptive attempt to center on some specific person.

This book, different from the traditional writing style as seen in the form of chapters and sections, pinpoints significant features and gives critical analyses in simple and readable way so as to inspire readers to have an empathy. It will be beneficial to all who read the book.

This book has a nature of advice. The author wishes it comparable to that in the criteria of "Advice, How-to and Miscellaneous" as used in NEW YORK TIMES or INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL for recommendation of best seller books.

In the West, as people become aware of the fact that the economic well-being to a great extent hinges on the quality of the creation of entrepreneurs, books on entrepreneurial heroes merit much more attention than before. The same should be paid in the Asian business community. As new concepts frequently stems from leading people of all fields, the new spirit of enterprise will spring from the legends

of business tycoons. It is worth considering to encourage such sort of publications.

I am very grateful, among others to whom I am in debt, to Dr. Wang Gungwu, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Hong Kong; and to Prof. Chiou Sin Min ( both outstanding Historians ); for their kindness to present the significant prologues to this book.

Insufficiency of information causes limitations to the completion of this volume. The faults that remain are mine alone.

**Sung Chek Mei**

**May 1988**

# Who's Who in South East Asia

THE CAREER OF MR. LIEM SIOE LIONG  
— A PROMINENT ENTREPRENEUR IN  
CONTEMPORARY INDONESIA

BY

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HONG KONG

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# 東南亞人物叢刊

編撰凡例

① 本叢刊以撰述東南亞傑出人物，成功立業及其立身處世之道，足資楷模；流芳久遠，激勵來茲；且於現代東南亞史料的整理有所裨益為旨趣。

② 本叢刊係採分集編撰方式，每個國家自成一單元為原則。刊錄對象，包括各民族各階層人物。凡有豐富資料，且具重大影響者即撰述個人傳記專著。

③ 撰述內容，以出身經歷、卓越成就，對社會有重大貢獻，而立德、立功、立言者為主。凡逸事、日記、書信等具其價值者，皆可刊入。期能做到簡而不漏，繁而不誕；深入簡出，傳真求是。可當勵志類讀物，也可作為專門研究參考書。成書時代不同，所載內容各異。編撰續集時，則作必要的增訂。

④ 編撰工作艱鉅，尚祈有心人士熱誠匡助，世之博雅君子有以指正；俾益臻完善，是所盼幸。



# 東南亞人物叢刊序

## 一

東南亞人物叢刊的編撰，爲我們研究工作計劃之一。一九六五年元月，「東南亞學報」創刊時，即廣爲進行。

編撰一部人物誌，要有極大勇氣與能耐精神，始可完成的一種艱鉅工作。我們須將每個人物的時代背景、人格修養、事業成就及其對社會的貢獻，真實地、客觀地、謹嚴地，加以記述。讓他們的精神面貌，呈現在世人眼前，產生深遠影響，得以流芳久遠。而對溝通各民族間的感情，與促進互相諒解；且於東南亞現代史料的整理，盼能有所裨益。

東南亞人物叢刊，是東南亞各地學者專家的集體創作，貴在精誠合作；須要人力與物力的配合，編者與作者依照「編撰凡例」，努力去作；有關人士予以支持，這些都是成功的重要因素。