

# 华商

CHINESE ENTERPRISE

MCI (P) 162/03/2016 | 第三期 · ISSUE 3/2016 | \$5.00 (incl. GST)

08

商团与部长对话会：  
商团可以引领行业转型

19

Innovate and transform  
to stay relevant





# REMEMBERING TEO TONG WAH

By: Fiona Hu

The first in a series which remembers Chamber personalities who have contributed indelibly to the capability and achievements of the Chamber, and demonstrated the resilience of the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit, in their own remarkable ways.



Mr Teo (Second from right) in an exchange with Mr Lee Hsien Loong in 2001, who was then Minister for Prime Minister's Office, at SCCCI's 51st council's installation ceremony.

Teo Tong Wah was one of the stalwarts of the SCCCI I remember well. Many mourned his untimely passing on April 6 2007, when he lost his battle to cancer at the age of 62.

Mr Teo was a person who was completely committed to his work at the Chamber, despite being preoccupied with his own business in the property field. He turned up at the Chamber many times a week, not merely to attend meetings but to see to every small detail of the work, whether it be in the renovation project for the Chamber, reviewing tenders, or looking through calculations to ensure their accuracy in order to safeguard the Chamber's interests. Throughout it all, he went about his work quietly and unassumingly, and never clamoured for the limelight.

During his years of service at the Chamber, Mr Teo was instrumental in helping the Chamber to complete several meaningful and influential projects. These included: the

establishment of a professional and effective Secretariat for the Chamber, the redevelopment of Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall into a historical monument and national education centre; and the development of the Samsung Hub office building in the financial district. All of these projects had tremendously enhanced the capability and achievements of the Chamber.

Every one of us who has had the privilege to work with Mr Teo would unanimously agree that he was totally selfless and driven. Highly intelligent and resourceful, he was a wizard with figures. He was also razor-sharp and had a great eye for detail. Above all, he was always firm but fair and demonstrated great integrity.

Speaking to Tan Chee Peng, who worked directly under Mr Teo in the property area, he was quick to describe Mr Teo as being totally responsible as a boss and whose "actions spoke louder than words". "I really learnt a lot from Mr Teo. He was very dedicated

to the Chamber's work although he had his own company to run, and he would come down once in every 2-3 days to scrutinise every detail of the renovation works." He added: "I really respect Mr Teo. He had a very sharp mind and always knew how to ask the right questions. He taught me how to analyse figures and make the right calculations for tax payments and other matters. Often, he would even come down on Saturday afternoons to hold meetings with me." Such was his dedication.

Former Secretary-General Lim Sah Soon also spoke of Mr Teo with the greatest respect. "He was sharp, thorough and far-sighted as a mastermind behind several SCCCI projects such as the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall and Samsung Hub. He gave me the trust and confidence in the execution and accomplishment of several challenging tasks and projects at SCCCI. He was indeed a good and trusted helping hand to then President Kwek Leng Joo. He is exemplary as a selfless and dedicated leader who made a great difference to SCCCI."

His passing, nine years ago, was a tremendous loss to all who knew him, worked with him, and learnt from his counsel.

