

Lim Chong Yah

An Autobiography — Life Journey of a Singaporean Professor

By **Lim Chong Yah**

“Professor Lim Chong Yah was the most prominent academic of his generation and the key person behind the National Wages Council in Singapore. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in the early decades of Malaysia and Singapore. Professor Lim’s personal style, intimate and thought-provoking, makes it a great pleasure to read.”

Professor SU Guanng

President Emeritus, Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, NTU

“Overall, Prof Lim Chong Yah’s life is a varied and remarkable one marked by many notable pioneering contributions — especially in the area of economics — to the public and academic life of Singapore over many years. His autobiography is a rich, rewarding read.”

Professor Edwin THUMBOO

Emeritus Professor of English, National University of Singapore (NUS)
Former Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS

“Professor Lim’s contribution to economics has been immense both in academic literature and in using economics for nation building. In this very timely volume, he not only looks back on his academic life as a scholar, educator, and tertiary leader but also shares his views on what makes life so interesting and purposeful. This book is a ‘must read’ on the journey of a man who made a difference in life and for others.”

Professor Euston QUAH

Albert Winsemius Chair Professor of Economics & Then-Head, Division of Economics, NTU
President, Economic Society of Singapore
Editor, *Singapore Economic Review*

“Fascinating life of an 84-year-old Emeritus Professor that is filled with momentous events and personal revelations, leaving behind a rich and powerful legacy for future generations to come. His trouble-shooting role, both within the three universities where he worked, and the broader society where he lived, are particularly interesting and remarkable.”

Professor HOOI Den Huan

Associate Professor, Marketing and International Business Division,
Nanyang Business School, NTU
Then-Director, Nanyang Technopreneurship Center, NTU

Why are some nations rich and others poor? Why do the citizens of some countries lead a happy, prosperous life while others struggle in terrible want?

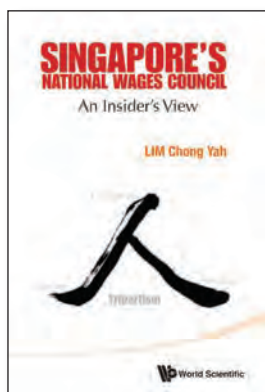
This book takes the reader through the eventful life journey of one of Singapore’s best known economists and educators, Professor Lim Chong Yah. Born in Malacca, the author planted tapioca to feed himself and his family, caught fish in paddy fields and was thrown in jail as a 10-year-old during the war. He fought to win a Commonwealth scholarship to get a decent education, met the love of his life at a Chinese New Year party, became a Professor at two of the best universities in Asia, and went on to write one the most widely-used economics textbooks of the time, *Elements of Economic Theory*.

At 84, Lim Chong Yah is as feisty, indomitable and curious as when he was a small, cheeky boy catching fighting fish in those paddy fields. And he still asks the fundamental question of how each of us can make a difference.

388pp | Jan 2017

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Singapore's National Wages Council

An Insider's View

By **Lim Chong Yah**

“Singapore’s wage policy and model of tripartite cooperation were key drivers in the successful industrialization of Singapore in the 1970s and 1980s. Professor Lim Chong Yah was in the driver’s seat of the National Wages Council for some 30 years since its formation in 1972. He shares his unique experience, thoughts and perspective of the issues and challenges facing the Singapore economy in its transformative years in this easy-to-read book.”

GOH Chok Tong

Emeritus Senior Minister, Singapore

Written by Emeritus Professor LIM Chong-Yah, Founding Chairman of the tripartite National Wages Council (NWC), this unique volume offers readers an insider’s view of the genesis and the evolution of the wage determination mechanism and system in Singapore under the aegis of the NWC. As a tripartite body dealing with wages, wage policies and wage-related matters and promoting Growth with Equity, the NWC played a critical role in transforming industrial relations in Singapore from the then confrontational approach to that of mutual understanding, *esprit de corps* and social co-partnership. Drawing from his 30-year experience as NWC Chairman (1972–2001), Singapore’s eminent Economics Professor shares with readers the important process and problems of seeking equitable wage increases through tripartite consensus based on a yearly national wage guideline system. The book also chronicles the role of the NWC in crisis management in 1974, 1985 and 1998, and in Economic Restructuring, 1979–1981. The structure and operation of this unique Singapore institution and the interesting problems of securing unanimity of support from the three tripartite partners are revealed in the book. Some important NWC personalities and their concerns and unique contributions are interestingly covered, anecdotally.

436pp | Dec 2013

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Published by **World Scientific**



Southeast Asia

The Long Road Ahead (3rd Edition)

By **Lim Chong Yah**

“This volume of work is ‘prolific’ with the comprehensiveness of the subtopics covered, reflecting Professor Lim’s scholarly career. The release of the third edition is also timely as the region ponders over the lessons learnt in the 1997 crisis and transitions out of the current one. The depth of this work alone makes it an outstanding contribution to existing literature, and an essential guide to scholars and students studying the Southeast Asian region.”

The Singapore Economic Review

504pp | May 2009

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