

LEE
KUAN
YEOW

1923-2015





16 Sept, 1923: Born to middle-class, English-educated family at 92 Kampong Java Road . Lee's father was a store keeper and depot manager for the Shell Oil Company.



1935

- Came in first in Telok Kurau English School in an island-wide exam and won a place in Raffles Institution, where he met future wife Kwa Geok Choo in 1939. He previously attended two Chinese-medium schools.

Lee's classmates in 1941



1941 to 1945: The Japanese Occupation of Singapore put Lee's education on hold. He escaped the Sook Ching massacre by asking to leave Jalan Besar Stadium to collect his belongings.



1946

- Began law school at the London School of Economics but moved to Cambridge University the next year, when Kwa joined him. They married secretly on Dec 23, 1947.



1948: Lee married his wife, Ms Kwa Geok Choo, at Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare while he was studying there. They had a three children from their marriage.



1950: Lee returned to Singapore from his studies at the University of Cambridge, England with his wife, Ms Kwa Geok Choo. Lee started work as a lawyer at Laycock & Ong.



1954: Lee co-founded the People's Action Party to participate in the 1955 Legislative Assembly elections. Lee was Secretary General. Toh Chin Chye was Chairman of the Party. Goh Keng Swee , Lee and Toh met regularly at Lee's home on 38 Oxley Road and were soon joined by others.



1959: PAP won landslide victory. Lee was elected as Singapore's first prime minister. He was aged 36 and one of the world's youngest prime ministers.



1965: Lee was informed by Malaysia that Singapore had to leave the Federation of Malaysia. This was after riots between Chinese and Malay communities broke out in 1964 over Malay rights and other issues.

May 1, 1965



1959 - 2015: Singapore continually restructured its economy from a labor-intensive economy to knowledge-based and skill-based one. This won for Singapore much respect and it became a model for countries such as China, Russia and other Third World countries.



1970: Lee Kuan Yew went to Britain and met Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Thatcher told Lee, “I like to think that once you learnt it from Britain. And now we are re-learning it from you”.



1976: Lee led a two-week goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China. It led to improved ties and trade links between China and Singapore.



1979: Lee Kuan Yew launched the first Speak Mandarin Campaign to encourage the use of Mandarin over the use of Chinese dialects. This was to promote the national Bilingual education policy.



1990: Resignation as Prime Minister on 26 Nov, 1990 to President Wee Kim Wee at the Istana. This made Lee the longest serving Prime Minister in history

Lee, with US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. 2009.



2009: In October, US President Barack Obama welcomed Lee to the White House, calling him a “legendary figure of Asia in the 20th and 21st centuries”,



1963 and 2013: The Green City. Lee Kuan Yew planted a *mempat* tree to start an island wide tree-planting campaign. Five decades later, he returned to Farrer circus to plant a rain tree.



2015

- Mr Lee Kuan Yew dies aged 91 at 3.18am on March 23.

Thank you for being a Founding Father of Modern Singapore

"I have no regrets. I have spent my life, so much of it, building up this country. There's nothing more that I need to do. At the end of the day, what have I got? A successful Singapore. What have I given up? My life – Lee Kuan Yew, (1923-2015)

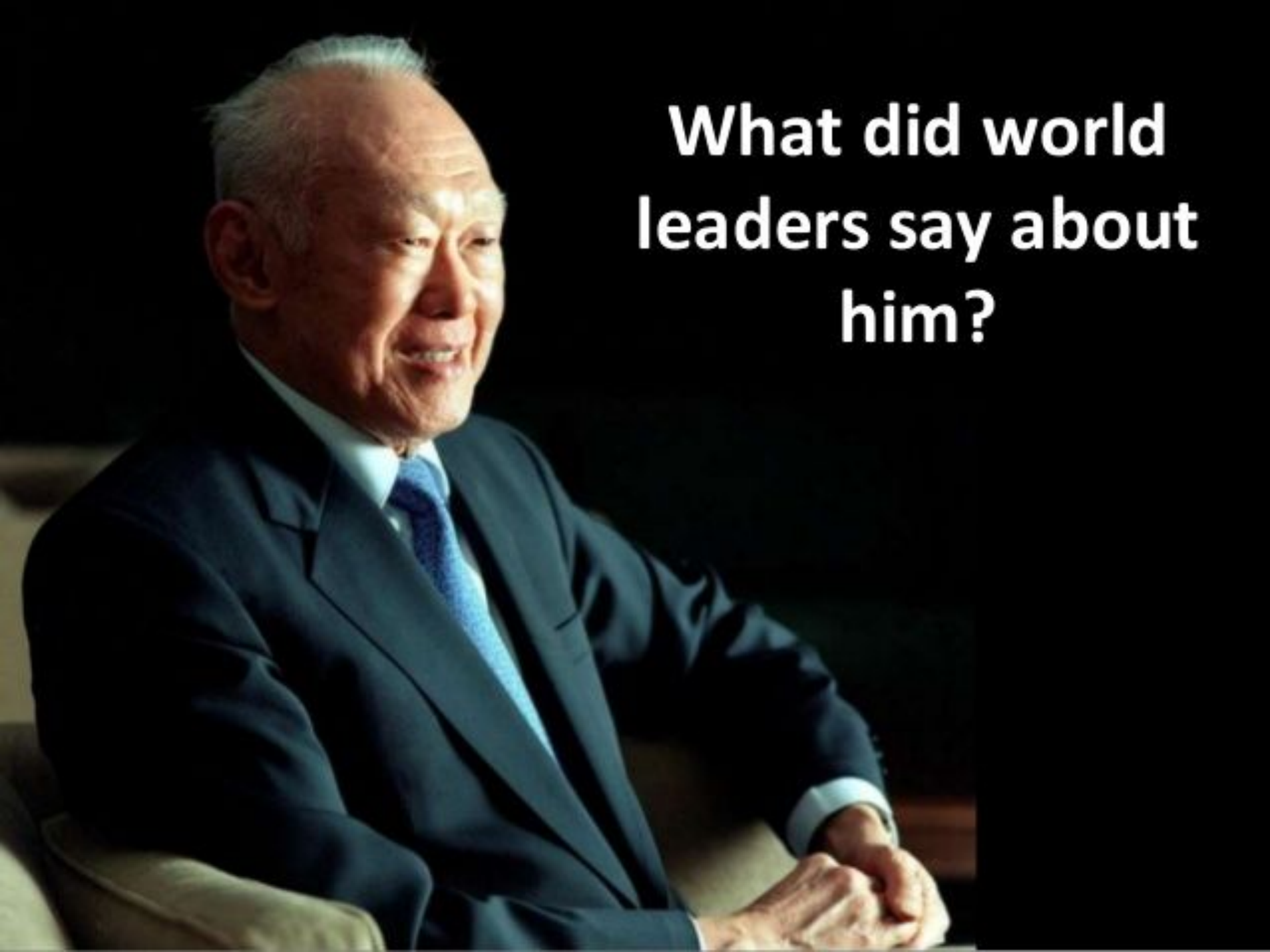


Lee Hsion Loong, his eldest son is the current Prime Minister of Singapore



Lee Hsion Yang, his younger son is the current Chief Executive Officer of SingTel company





**What did world
leaders say about
him?**

A photograph of President Barack Obama and Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister of Singapore, sitting in ornate chairs in the Oval Office. They are both smiling and engaged in conversation. President Obama is on the right, wearing a dark suit and a striped tie. Lee Kuan Yew is on the left, wearing a dark suit and a solid blue tie. A large, dark, rectangular object, possibly a television or a piece of art, is visible in the background between them. The room has classical architectural details, including columns and a fireplace.

**“...will be
remembered for
generations to
come as the
father of modern
Singapore...”**

**President of the United States of America
Mr Barack Obama**



“...was always a friend to Britain...and many British Prime Ministers benefited from his wise advice, including me.”

**Prime Minister of the
United Kingdom
Mr David Cameron**



“ ... old friend of the Chinese people.”

President of the People's Republic of China
Mr Xi Jinping



"My definition of an educated man is a man who never stops learning and wants to learn."

“

*I have never ceased to be a student.
I have never ceased to learn.*

”

Mr Lee Kuan Yew
Speech at the Seminar on 'Education and Nation-building', 27 December 1966



Lee Kuan Yew's achievements have been the subject of much global discussion since his recent death. But one aspect of his success has been little mentioned: the investments that he, and his successors, made in education. His strategy, he would often remark, was "to develop Singapore's only available natural resource, its people".





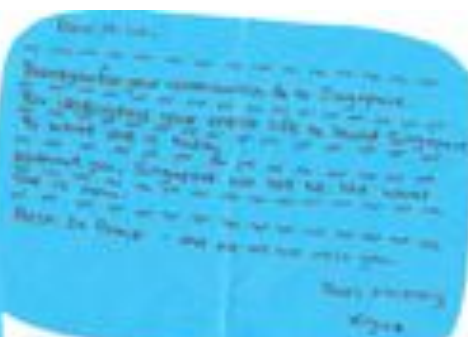
Villagers in Adam Park washing clothes near a well. In the early 1960s, people who lived in kampungs had to draw water from common wells. In an effort to improve standards of living across Singapore, Mr Lee ensured that homes had access to taps from which potable water flowed. -- ST FILE PHOTO



NOV 23, 1959 (above): Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew (centre) leading a mass drive to spring-clean the city for the National Loyalty Week in December. -- ST FILE PHOTO

Singapore's education system is relentlessly forward-looking. From adopting bilingualism with English (in addition to the mother tongue of Mandarin, Malay or Tamil), to its focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Stem), Singapore anticipated many of the key education strategies being adopted by today's policymakers.





Tributes from Sec 2
Zhonghuarians

LEE KUAN TEW
Thank you for being an amazing teacher. You have helped me so much and I will always remember you. I hope you are happy and healthy. Love, Lee Kuan Tew