

## TRIBUTE TO MY GREATEST TEACHER: MR CHONG YEAN SEONG

**BY: 1ST BATCH OF SBS STUDENT - TENG NGIEK LIAN**

I joined SBS in 1971 during its first intake of students. Time flies, 45 years have now passed.

Joining TAR College is perhaps the most significant event in my life. I was born in Dungun, a fishing village in Terengganu. Due to my family's financial condition, I left school to work at the age of 18. My mum, though illiterate, told me that if I wanted to break out of the-poverty trap, the only way is through obtaining a higher education. I have never forgotten her words.

My first job was as a school clerk, followed by an accounts clerk in a mining company. It was when I was working at a sawmill that I chanced upon a recruitment advertisement of TAR College for its first intake of SBS students. I applied to the college and had the fortune of being interviewed by Mr Chong Yeon Seong, the then SBS college's principal. I impressed upon Mr Chong my determination to study hard and desire to be qualified as an accountant. After Mr Chong decided to admit me, I asked Mr Chong for help to get me a part time job so that I can support myself in terms of living and study expenses. Mr Chong was so helpful that within a couple of days, he got me a part time job at an accounting firm.

After several months of study, I found it hard to cope with the demands of work and examinations of of ACCA, ACIS and the college's diploma, all of them were conducted every half yearly. I went to see Mr Chong for permission to sit for only one exam, i.e. ACCA, as my real goal



was to qualify as an accountant. After listening to my problem, Mr Chong told me something incredible, "if you sit for one exam and fail it , you will have nothing. If you were to sit for 3 exams, if you fail one, you will get two and if you fail two, you will have gotten one." He also added that if you found the subject you studied was difficult, you should reference your study pack on tougher examinations. By doing that, you would find the subject you were studying easier.

I took his advice, and guess what, not only did I pass both the ACCA and ACIS, I even came out winning First Place and Prize in the ACCA part II examination and a book prize in the ACIS examination.

Upon completing 2 years of the 3-year diploma course, I was surprised when Mr. Chong advised me to quit College as he had lined up two interviews for me as an accountant. Mr. Chong is a wise teacher, he told me I was capable of self-learning. I took his advice, quitted College and joined a subsidiary of the Malaysian Guthrie Group as a Branch Accountant, which had a positive impact to my life. While working full time, I self-studied and completed the professional examinations of ACCA and ICSA.

I owe Mr Chong in so many ways, from admission to TAR College, got me a part time job, removed my mental block and finally getting me a full time job. I can't say enough thanks to him. I believe I am not the only one benefitting from Mr Chong. I am aware he had helped many other students as well.

In 2012, gratifying the kindness and mentorship of Mr Chong, I set up a "TAR College YS Chong Student Loan Fund" with an initial donation of RM1 million and with a 1-1 matching grant of additional RM2 million. It is my gesture for being grateful to my greatest teacher, Mr. YS CHONG. Without Mr. CHONG, I might still be stuck in Jerantut, Pahang making a living as a book keeper.

My visit to TAR College in 2012 when YS Chong Student Loan was launched.

I am so happy to have an opportunity to pen my gratitude to Mr YS Chong in this memorable booklet. This great man who sacrificed so much of his life, silently helping so many people and he has never asked for anything in return. Mr Chong has set an example of what a good human being should be. Mr Chong is selfless, a rare bred, a great man by any measure.