

The Biography of Leong Mun Wai

Leong Mun Wai was Managing Director of OCBC Securities, Director of Merrill Lynch HK and Investment Officer of Government of Singapore Investment Corporation. At a time when one of our focus is on the national reserves – how much we have and how are they managed - Mun Wai's experience is particularly relevant.

At OCBC, Mun Wai was an industry leader in the local stockbroking industry where he led the company through multiple acquisitions and integration to become the top three stockbrokers in Singapore.

In 2009, he founded venture capital firm, Timbre Capital, to provide capital and business advice to local start-ups and SMEs. As a result, he has gained deep insights into the process that make start-ups successful. He look forward to applying his knowledge to develop a new venture ecosystem in Singapore to enable start-ups and SMEs to do better.

Mun Wai grew up in Chinatown where his father was a hawker and spent most of his childhood years with retired samsui women, hawkers, sailors and even opium-smokers as his neighbours. However even in poverty there was love and compassion with neighbours looking out for one another.

He is a firm believer in putting compassion at the centre of policy formulation and in giving every Singaporean a fair fighting chance. As a result, he is interested in pushing for a new economic strategy which offers more jobs and opportunities to the enterprising Singaporeans and lightens the financial burden of all Singaporeans to enable them to plan their lives and maximize their potential.

Through the encouragement of supportive parents, he did well enough to become a PSC Overseas Merit Scholar to Japan. In 1984, he graduated with a Bachelor of Economics from Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo. Later in 1992, he researched under the Sloan Fellowship Program of London Business School and was awarded a MSc Management. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst since 1988.

Married with three grown-up children, Mun Wai enjoys social gatherings, golf and keeping fit. He enjoys reading books in three different languages, English, Chinese and Japanese.