

## About the Author

Dato' Dr OOI KEE BENG is the Executive Director of Penang Institute. He was the Deputy Director (2011–17) of Singapore's ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, where he had been a fellow since 2004. Born and raised in Penang, he received his PhD in Sinology from Stockholm University, where he was attached for 22 years.

He received the Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri (DSPN, Order of the Defender of the State) award from the Governor of Penang in July 2017, which carries the title "Dato'".

He is the founder-editor of the popular magazine *Penang Monthly* (Penang Institute) and the policy briefs *ISSUES* (Penang Institute) and *ISEAS Perspective* (ISEAS, Singapore). He is also editor of *Trends in Southeast Asia* (ISEAS) and *Sojourn* (ISEAS), and a long-time columnist for *The Edge*, Malaysia.

His book, *The Reluctant Politician: Tun Dr Ismail and His Time* (2006), won the 'Award of Excellence for Best Writing Published in Book Form on Any Aspect of Asia (Non-Fiction)'. His *Continent, Coast, Ocean: Dynamics of Regionalism in Eastern Asia*, co-edited with Ding Choo Ming, was named 'Top Academic Work' in 2008 by the ASEAN Book Publishers Association (ABPA).

Some of his other noted works include *The Eurasian Core and Its Edges: Dialogues with Wang Gungwu on the History of the World*; *Young and Malay: Growing Up in Multicultural Malaysia*; *Yusof Ishak: A Man of Many Firsts*; *In Lieu of Ideology: An Intellectual Biography of Goh Keng Swee*; *Lim Kit Siang: Defying the Odds*; and *The Right to Differ: A Biographical Sketch of Lim Kit Siang*.

He lectured for several years in the 1990s at Stockholm University on 'History of China'; 'General Knowledge of China'; and 'Chinese Philosophy'. He was Lecturing Adjunct Associate Professor for the NUS Southeast Asian Studies Programme's MA Course, 'Country Studies: Malaysia'—Term 2 (2009, 2010 & 2011) and Lecturing Visiting Associate Professor at the Department of Public and Social Administration, City University of Hong Kong.

He was Sweden's representative to the First World Wushu Championships in Beijing in 1991, and to the European Wushu Championships in London in 1992 where he won the Silver Medal. His translations of Chinese war manuals such as *Sunzi's Art of War*, *Wuzi's Art of War* and *Weiliaozi's Art of War* are the first from Classical Chinese into Swedish. Some of these are used by the Stockholm Military Academy for officer training.

He is also a trained mediator and member of the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC).