

## About the Author

TAN TA SEN is the President, International Zheng He Society and also the Director, Cheng Ho Cultural Museum. He is currently setting up a second museum, Peranakan Museum in Malacca. He has many interests: apart from being an antique collector, he has also participated in the conservation and preservation of ancient heritage towns and buildings, especially in Singapore and Malacca.

Dr Tan graduated from Nanyang University in 1960. Upon graduation he was offered an Indonesian scholarship to pursue Malay and Indonesian studies at the University of Indonesia, Jakarta. He graduated with B.A. and Drs degrees in Indonesian Studies and a Ph.D. in History.

After returning from Indonesia in 1965, Dr Tan taught at the Ngee Ann College as Senior Lecturer, and was later attached to the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies as a researcher and Nanyang University as Assistant Professor. He is multilingual being proficient in many languages, including Sanskrit, Arabic, Malay, Indonesian, Javanese (both modern and classical), Batak, Dutch, English and Chinese (both modern and classical). The current book's multi-disciplinary approach reflects his diverse academic training. He has published a dozen books and numerous articles in English, Malay/Indonesian and Chinese.