

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

OOI KEE BENG was born and bred in Penang, and received his basic schooling at La Salle School, St Xavier's Institution and Methodist High School. His first career was in journalism, and he was attached to *The Star* and *The Straits Echo* in the mid-1970s.

His entire tertiary education was done at Stockholm University, with Public Administration (in the Swedish system) being his first degree. After several years studying Practical Philosophy, he concluded his academic studies with Chinese Philosophy and a doctorate in Sinology. He is now a Swedish citizen.

He is currently a Senior Fellow at Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), and a regular columnist for Singapore's *Today* newspaper.

His books include *Between Umno and a Hard Place: The Najib Razak Era Begins*; *Arrested Reform: The Undoing of Abdullah Badawi*; *March 8: Eclipsing May 13* (co-authored with Saravanamuttu and Lee); *Malaya's First Year at the United Nations* (co-compiled with Tawfik Ismail); *Lost in Transition: Malaysia under Abdullah*; *The Era of Transition: Malaysia after Mahathir*; *Chinese Strategists: Beyond Sun Zi's Art of War*; *The Reluctant Politician — Tun Dr Ismail and His Time*; and *Continent, Coast and Ocean: Dynamics of Regionalism in Eastern Asia* (co-edited with Ding Choo Ming).

The Reluctant Politician won the "Award of Excellence for Best Writing Published in Book Form on Any Aspect of Asia (Non-Fiction)" at the Asian Publishing Convention Awards 2008. *Continent, Coast, Ocean: Dynamics of Regionalism in Eastern Asia* was named "Top Co-published Academic Work" in 2008 by the ASEAN Book Publishers Association (ABPA).

He has also translated Chinese war manuals into Swedish, such as *Sun Zis krigskonst* and *Weiliaozi's krigskonst*.

He is Adjunct Associate Professor at the Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, and Visiting Associate Professor at the Department of Public and Social Administration, City University of Hong Kong. He is also the Editor of the *Penang Economic Monthly*, published by the Socio-Economic and Environmental Research Institute in Penang.