

GES1038 Tutorial 1, Group 4:

Ngee Ann Kong Si & Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan

Done by: Adeline Tan, Yang Zikun



Content

1. Background
2. Involvements
 - a. In Charity
 - b. Contributions in Education
 - c. Burial Ground

Focus: 1819-1950

Background



Teochews

- From Chaozhou Prefecture in Guangdong, China
- In the 19th century, the Teochews mainly engaged in gambier and pepper industry as traders, planters, plantation labourers, opium and liquor farmers.
- Notable Teochews: Seah Eu Chin, Tan Yeok Nee and Tan Seng Poh
- Power Base: Wak Hai Cheng Bio Temple on Philip Street (Yueh Hai Ching) built in 1820s



Seah Eu Chin



Ngee Ann Kong Si

- Charitable foundation located in Singapore and governed by the Ngee Ann Kongsi Ordinance of 1933.
- Kongsi, means “company” in Chinese
- Founded in 1845 by Seah Eu Chin
- Aims:
 1. To promote and observe rites, customs and religious beliefs of the Teochews in Singapore
 2. To look after the welfare of poor Teochew immigrants.

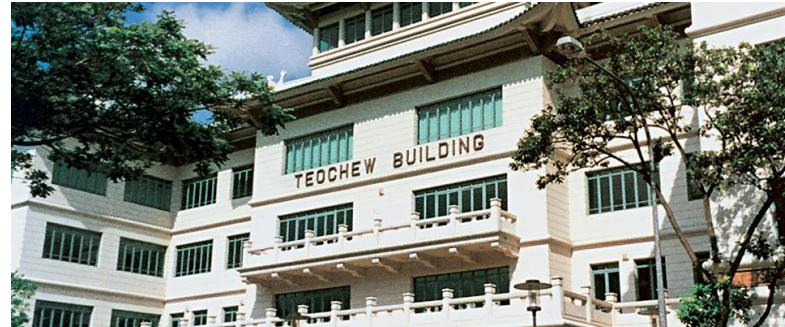


義安公司
THE NGEE ANN KONGSI



Ngee Ann Kong Si

- One of the first few Teochew clan associations established in Singapore.
- It was set up within Yueh Hai Ching Temple, a national monument of Singapore. Now a nonprofit organization, Ngee Ann Kongsi contributes to Singaporean society through educational and other charitable projects.





Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan

- Chinese: 潮州八邑會館
- A Teochew clan association in Singapore.
- *Poit Ip*, means eight districts in the Teochew dialect, stood for the eight Teochew districts in the province of Guangdong, China.
- *Huay Kuan* means "clan association".
- Formed in 1929, in the aftermath of serious disagreements between the old-guard within the Kongsì and the young Teochews (Kongsì: dominated by the Seah family and the descendants of the 12 clans)
 - On 12 December 1928, a temporary committee convened a meeting at the Tuan Mong School in preparation of the formation of the Huay Kuan. On 20 March 1929, British colonial authorities exempted the Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan from registration, and it was formally established.



新加坡潮州八邑会馆
TEOCHEW POIT IP HUAY KUAN

2

Involvements



Charity

- In 1936, the Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan raised a total of **\$15,413** for the purpose of strengthening a dyke in Chaozhou.
- It also set up a Relief Fund Committee of the Teochew Pang (association).
- By 1940, the Teochew community raised a total of \$472,900 for its relief fund.
- Locally, the Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan donated to foundations such as the Nanyang University Foundation, National Defence Foundation, Cultural Foundation and Chinese Development Assistance Council Foundation. The Ngee Ann Kong Si annually contributes a generous portion of their net income towards the welfare activities of the Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan.





Education

- In 1940, The Ngee Ann Kongsì set up Ngee Ann Girls School to encourage education for girls
- In 1953, it took over the management of Tuan Mong School.
- Provided bursaries to students in the schools it supervised.
- From the 1960s, as the demand for tertiary education rose, The Ngee Ann Kongsì gave scholarships and bursaries to the Teochews who attended those institutions.





Burial Grounds

- Had a **Teochew Funeral Parlour**
- Located at 10 Ubi Road 4 and is open to members of the Teochew community as well as the general public who wish to perform funeral rites for their departed relatives.
- Constructed in 1989 at a cost of \$2 million
- Kongsì bought many large parcels of land in less-populated areas of the city to be used as burial grounds, with the exception of Tai Shan Ting cemetery on Orchard Road where Ngee Ann City now stands.
- Over the years, many of these cemeteries have been cleared by the government for development. The unclaimed remains of some 34,000 burials from the exhumed cemeteries were cremated and stored at the **Teochew Memorial Park**, set up by the *kongsì* in Yishun.





Cultural Activities

- At the Mid Autumn Festival, a party is held with Teochew mooncakes and Teochew "Kongfu" tea and Teochew opera.
- Since 1992, Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan has held several Teochew Week on themes like Teochew history, folklores and culture, Teochew food and songs etc. It also held a series of talks on Chinese folklores, Chinese migration history and introduction to opera performance. It conducted cultural activities such as workshop on Chinese dance, martial arts, Chinese painting and calligraphy competition. These classes are often free or subsidised and open to public.
- It also takes part in the annual **Singapore Chinggay parade** which involves a parade of dance and mobile floats. It organises an annual Teochew art exhibition and holds performances by the associations' teenage and children's drama groups, young people's drama group and male chorus.

