



Albert Winsemius

The late Dr. Albert Winsemius was a Dutch economist and long-time Chief Economic Advisor to the Singapore Government from 1961 to 1984. He worked closely with Singapore's first generation leaders including Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Dr. Goh Keng Swee and Mr. Hon Sui Sen. As architect of Singapore's economic policies in the early days.

He played a major role in shaping Singapore's national economic development strategy. He led the United Nations Survey Mission to Singapore and presented a 10-year development plan to transform Singapore from an entrepot trading port into a centre of manufacturing and industrialisation.

He is largely credited by Mr. Lee Kuan Yew for laying the foundations for Singapore's economic progress and prosperity. In a letter to his family, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew wrote: *"It was Singapore's good fortune that he [Winsemius] took a deep and personal interest in Singapore's development. Singapore and I personally are indebted to him for the time, energy and development he gave to Singapore. I am proud to have known him and to have been his friend."*

As an architect of Singapore's economic policies in the early days, Dr. Albert Winsemius and late Mr. Lee Kuan Yew developed close relations over the years. Their friendly relationship symbolizes the very close ties and connections between Singapore and the Netherlands.

For his contributions to Singapore's economic development, Winsemius was conferred several honours. In 1967, Yusof Ishak, the first President of Singapore, awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal. In 1970, he was conferred an honorary degree by the National University of Singapore. In 1976, he received the National Trades Union Congress' May Day Gold Medal of Honour.