

**MESSAGE FROM MR. HON SUI SEN,
MINISTER OF FINANCE SINGAPORE
AT THE OCBC CENTRE INAUGURATION, 1.10.1976**

In a special message published in the Straits Times, Nanyang Siang Pau and Sin Chew Jit Poh, Mr. Hon Sui Sen, Minister for Finance said,

“This monumental and highly sophisticated structure stands testimony to the architectural, engineering, contracting and artisan skills which have contributed towards its early and successful realization. Above all, however, it is a tribute to the vision and confidence of its chairman, Mr. Tan Chin Tuan, who was responsible for its original conception and assumed for so many years the heavy burden of its translation into concrete reality. To him also, therefore, I send my warmest congratulations on this occasion.

The building’s imposingly high elevation and yet solid-as-a-rock appearance make it a most fitting operational base for a bank which is rated among the largest in South-East Asia and has become more than just regionally known.

The growth of the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation since its earlier years has been a reflection of the growth of the Singapore economy. It accelerated particularly after Singapore’s rapid financial centre development from the late Nineteen Sixties. With the present progress in ASEAN economic cooperation, a spurt in growth among Pacific Basin Area countries, and economic and industrial needs waiting to be satisfied in West Asian countries, immense regional and international opportunities arise now for well established banking institutions to provide financial services to them. The Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation is therefore well poised for even greater expansion in both its scope and area of operations.”