



Even till the end, he ran his own race

Datuk Tan Chin Nam

TAN & TAN DEVELOPMENTS BHD AND IGB GROUP FOUNDER (1926 - 2018)

Datuk Tan Chin Nam passed away this year at the ripe old age of 92. He was the patriarch of the Tan family, which founded two of Malaysia's biggest private property developers — Tan & Tan Development Bhd and IGB Group.

Together with his brother, the late Datuk Tan Kim Yeow, Chin Nam co-founded IGB Corp in 1964 and Tan & Tan in 1971.

The brothers did not start out in the property sector but in trading. They set up Wah Seong (Malaya) Trading Co Sdn Bhd in 1955, which was involved in the distribution of rice, sugar and Rothmans cigarettes.

It was not until 1959 that Chin Nam made his first foray into property development through an alliance with Ang Toon Chew of Petaling Garden Bhd.

Chin Nam was the key player in shaping Tan & Tan, and Kim Yeow, IGB. Although Chin Nam retired from the

corporate scene in the early 1990s, he remained a major shareholder of both companies.

Before his retirement, he oversaw the development of Renaissance Kuala Lumpur Hotel, Mid Valley Megamall and The Gardens.

Chin Nam's property development ambitions were not confined to Malaysia. In Australia, he was involved in the restoration and redevelopment of Queen Victoria Building and Capital Theatre in Sydney, as well as Como Hotel in Melbourne.

Besides his property empire, his other passions in life were horse racing and chess.

At 70, he retired from active involvement in the family business and passed the baton to the second generation of the Tan clan.

His daughter Lei Cheng and son Boon Lee were put in control of Tan & Tan, while IGB Corp was put under Datuk Seri Robert Tan Chung Meng, Kim Yeow's son. — By Esther Lee