



Taxis: some company liveries (clockwise from lower left) Yellow-Top Cabs; Premier Taxis; ComfortDelGro; CityCab; TransCab Services; Smart; SMRT Taxis.

taking passengers to popular destinations for fixed fares. In 1970, there were an estimated 8,000 pirate taxi operators. However, most of these left the business during the 1970s with the formation of COMFORT (a transport co-operative established by the NATIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS), increases in diesel taxes, and more stringent regulation of the industry. In the late 1960s, non-transferable taxi licences were issued to individuals. However, new licences have been issued only to taxi companies since the 1970s.

A number of new companies were formed during the 1990s. By 2005, there were seven companies running a fleet of 21,800 air-conditioned, metered taxis in Singapore. The largest operator is ComfortDelGro, which had a fleet of more than 11,700 taxis in 2005. Others include SMRT Taxis, CityCab, Premier Taxis, Smart Automobile, TransCab Services and Yellow-Top Cabs.

Since September 1998, taxi fares have been deregulated, allowing operators to set fare rates according to market conditions. All taxis employ a standard flag-down rate, which covers the first kilometre of a journey. Thereafter, a meter is used to determine the fare according to distance travelled and time accrued. Additional surcharges apply during peak periods; between midnight and 6 a.m.; and for journeys from CHANGI AIRPORT. The LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY conducts periodic monitoring of the quality of service standards.

Almost all taxis are diesel-powered and carry a maximum of four passengers. Taxis can be hailed by the side of the road, except in the central business district, where they

can pick up or drop passengers off only at designated taxi stands.

**Tay, David P.C.** (1945–) Photographer and publisher. In 1982, David Tay Poey Cher became the first recipient of the CULTURAL MEDALLION for photography. He is known for his composition and unusual perspectives. He earned the Honorary Excellence Distinction from the International Federation of Photographic Art in 1981. The Royal Photographic Society, United Kingdom, awarded him a fellowship in 1987 and the Fenton Medal in 1999.

Tay has been president of the PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE since 1990 and was instrumental in relocating the society to its Selegie Arts Centre premises in 1995. He has been a member of the National Arts Council Arts Advisory Panel since 1992. Awarded the Public Service Medal in 1999, Tay is also the former chief executive officer of the Singapore Press Holdings Magazines group.

**Tay, Zoe** (1968–) Actress. Brought up on a pig farm in Lim Chu Kang, Zoe Tay (Zheng Huiyu) was educated at Yuan Ching Secondary School. She was a successful model before she was crowned champion in the inaugural Star Search talent competition in 1988. She then went into acting full-time. Her first appearance in a drama serial was in *Miaotiao Shu Nü* (My Fair Ladies) (1988). In 1990, she became the first local celebrity to be featured in Lux commercials. In the following year, she played a materialistic and malicious woman, Bobo, in *San Mian Xia Wa* (Pretty Faces). The role demonstrated her versatility, and the media labelled her 'the woman of a thousand faces'.

In 1999, Tay ventured onto the big screen, starring as herself in *Liang Po Po Chong Chu Jiang Hu* (Liang Po Po The Movie). She was lead actress in her second movie, *Haizi Shu* (The Tree) (2001).

Tay has consistently been voted one of the Top 10 Most Popular Female Artistes at the MEDIACORP Star Awards. She clinched

Best Actress Award in 1996 for her role in *Jin Zhentou* (Golden Pillow) (1995) and was nominated Best Actress at the 2000 Asian Television Awards. She was named LIANHE ZAOBAO's Favourite Asian Idol in 2003.

**Tay Bin Wee** (1926–2000) Theatre director. One of the founders of CHINESE THEATRE group Singapore Amateur Players (SAP), which later became ARTS THEATRE OF SINGAPORE. Tay Bin Wee co-directed Cao Yu's adaptation of Bai Jin's classic *Jia* (Family) for Chung Cheng High School Drama Society in 1954 and Xia Yan's *Fang Cao Tian Ya* (Fragrant Grass in Faraway Places) for the SAP in 1958. When he performed in the 1950s and early 1960s, he was well-known for portraying the antagonist. He acted in SAP's inaugural production, Cao Yu's *Ri Chu* (Sunrise) (1955) and SAP's production of Cao Yu's *Beijing Ren* (Peking Man) (1966). He also directed SAP's production of Henrik Ibsen's *The Doll House*.

In the 1980s, Tay was active in combined productions of Chinese drama groups staged for the SINGAPORE ARTS FESTIVAL, including *Xiao Bai Chuan* (The Little White Sailing Boat) (1982), *Wula Shijie* (Oola World) (1984), *Kafei Dian* (Kopitiam) (1986) and *Kabai Kabai* (1988). Tay was awarded the CULTURAL MEDALLION in 1988.

**Tay Buan Guan** Supermarket. This store was established in 1948 by entrepreneur Tay Leck Teck, who had already established a successful sundries business in JOO CHIAT before World War II. It was located in a cul-de-sac off Joo Chiat Road.

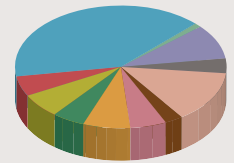
Tay Buan Guan was the first modern supermarket in the Joo Chiat area. It sold a range of imported goods, which drew the Peranakan, Eurasian and English-educated Chinese residents living in the area. The Tay Buan Guan Milk Bar on the same premises became well-known for its pastries.

Tay Boon Guan began to face competition in the 1970s and 1980s from larger shopping centres nearby such as Katong Shopping Centre and Parkway Parade, and was forced to close down. In early 2000, Tay Boon Guan's original building was demolished, and a condominium built in its place.

**Tay Chee Toh** (1941–) Artist. Painter and sculptor Tay Chee Toh was born in Johor and attended the NANYANG ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS in 1958–60. He was one of the founding members of the MODERN ART SOCIETY in 1964. Tay's early work was in batik, frequently using Dayak images from his 1965 visit to Sarawak. In the early 1980s he began working with three-dimensional forms: sculpture, mobiles and sculptural murals. He was one of the early winners of the UOB Painting of the Year Award, which was started in 1982.

In conjunction with his 2001 exhibition, *Body Lines*, Tay launched the Tay Chee

TAXATION: GOVERNMENT OPERATING REVENUE IN 2005



NOTE: Total government operating revenue was \$28,116.4 million. Source: Singapore Department of Statistics

Zoe Tay

