

Our Story Over 80 Years

Since 1935, our entrepreneurial spirit, focus on long-term value creation, and unwavering commitment to do what is right for our customers, have made UOB a leading bank in Asia. Our timeline captures the corporate milestones of our 80-year history.



Our Beginning

1935

Amid the uncertainties of the Great Depression, a group of seven businessmen led by Datuk Wee Kheng Chiang (first row, fifth from left) founded a bank to serve the merchant community in Singapore.

1930s

1935 (6 August)

United Chinese Bank (UCB) is incorporated



1935 (1 October)

UCB begins operations at Bonham building



1956

Introduces coin banks for children

1958

Drives 1st mobile branch

1959

Opens 1st UCB branch at Beach Road

1960s

1962

1st bank to focus on women as customers

1965

UCB is renamed United Overseas Bank



Opens 1st overseas branch in Hong Kong

1971

Acquires majority stake in Chung Khiaw Bank (CKB)

Opens Tokyo Branch

Reveals iconic five-bar logo



1973

Acquires Lee Wah Bank

1970s - 1990s

1974

UOB Group begins operating from its new 30-storey building which stood on the same site as Bonham Building (the current UOB Plaza 2)



1975

Opens London branch

1977

Opens New York agency

1978

UOB Bullion Limited commences operations and introduces Gold Certificates

1980

Opens Singapore's 1st ATM offering 24-hour banking

Opens Los Angeles agency

1982

Holds inaugural UOB Painting of the Year competition



1983

Opens Seoul representative office

1984

Opens Beijing representative office

Acquires majority interest in Far Eastern Bank

1985

Expands into Sydney and Xiamen

1986

Expands into Vancouver

1987

Acquires majority interest in Industrial & Commercial Bank

1988

1st local bank to launch Visa cards



1st bank to launch Singapore's only credit card for ladies

1992

1st Singapore bank to set up office in Vietnam

Sets up Taipei representative office

1993

1st bank in Singapore to launch automated Cash Deposit Machine



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2000s - 2010s

1994

Expands into Yangon

1995

Celebrates 60th anniversary and official opening of UOB Plaza 1



1997

UOB Malaysia merges with CKB Malaysia

1998

Opens Shanghai branch

1999

Acquires Westmont Bank in the Philippines

Acquires Radanasin Bank in Thailand

2001

Acquires Overseas Union Bank

2004

Acquires 96.1% in Bank of Asia Public Company in Thailand

2005

Increases controlling stake of PT Bank Buana in Indonesia to 61.1%

2007

Launches 1st UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk



the UOB Heartbeat

2009

Opens Mumbai branch

2010

Merges PT Bank UOB Indonesia with PT Bank UOB Buana

2011

1st bank in Singapore to establish a Foreign Direct Investment Advisory Unit to support our clients' regional expansion



2015

Receives Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for 11th consecutive year and SG50 Arts Patron Award

Opens the UOB Southeast Asia Gallery at National Gallery Singapore which houses the world's largest collection of modern Southeast Asian art



Introduces UOB Mighty – 1st mobile app outside of the US to enable contactless payments with tokenised security



2015

2013

1st bank in Singapore to offer retail customers online access to gold and silver savings accounts

2014

Named Most Admired ASEAN Enterprise for ASEAN Centricity by ASEAN Business Advisory Council

1st Asian bank to obtain a Eurex General Clearing Membership

Completes full acquisition of Far Eastern Bank

Officially opens Yangon branch, adding to UOB's unparalleled Southeast Asian network



UOB turns 80

