Widely credited as being Singapore’s founding father, Mr Lee transformed Singapore from a British colony into an independent nation that is today one of the most developed countries in the world.

In 1959, Mr Lee Kuan Yew became Singapore’s Prime Minister. From the beginning, Mr Lee faced numerous problems that stemmed from the fact that Singapore is a country with limited natural resources. These however did not deter him from implementing measure after measure aimed at transforming Singapore into a first world economy. As Mr Lee himself had admitted, at the time, he and his colleagues “knew little about how to govern, or how to solve our many economic and social problems” and that there were times when the situation “looked hopeless”. Against this backdrop, Mr Lee and his colleagues simply buckled down and set to work. His philosophy was simple – “to change an unfair and unjust society for the better”.

Among his many endeavours, he encouraged foreign investment, developed the necessary infrastructure, ensured racial harmony and eliminated corruption. In his three decades as Prime Minister, Singapore achieved a per capita income in East Asia next only to Japan’s and emerged as a financial hub in the region. He recognised that as Singapore lacked natural resources, her people were her greatest asset. His vision of a nation was one with educated citizens and trained and skilled workers capable of initiative and able to excel and to forge a good future for themselves. Thus, he always placed particular emphasis on education and its vital role in nation building.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew himself studied at Raffles Institution. When he stepped into RI in 1936, only the top 150 students from all government primary schools were admitted each year. In a speech that he gave at an Old Rafflesian Association dinner in 1997, he observed that the distinguishing characteristics of RI were merit and achievement. He said that it does not matter who your father is, what race you are, what religion you have. What matters is whether you meet the entry standards that show that you can run at the pace of the best.

His only daughter, Dr Lee Wei Ling, is also an alumna of RI, having received her pre-university education there and his only grand-daughter, Li Xiuqi, as well as daughter-in-law Lee Suet Fern, completed their secondary education at RGS.

It is true that every man leaves a legacy through the way he had lived and the children he leaves behind. Just as Mr Lee is the architect of modern Singapore, we Singaporeans, are his legacy and we must continue to honour his vision and unite our strengths and abilities.
to take Singapore to even greater heights.

With his passing, Singapore has lost a truly great man. While Mr Lee may have had his detractors, his actions reflected what he determined as being for the good of the country and her people. Throughout his life, he showed great vision, great integrity, resolute determination and a sense of duty.

May Mr Lee Kuan Yew rest in peace.

Visit http://www.rememberingleekuanyew.sg for more information on Mr Lee Kuan Yew (leave an online tribute, find out about the 18 community sites where you can go to pen your tributes and more).