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Singapore Broadcasting Corporation

By

Poh Joo Tuang
SINGAPORE BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Singapore

COUNTRY REPORT

Broadcasting in Singapore began with the setting up of the first broadcasting station at Caldecott Hill in 1935 by a private commercial enterprise. The station was acquired by the government in 1940. On February 1, 1980, the former Radio Television Singapore (RTS) was converted to a statutory board called the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC).

SBC is responsible for operating Singapore's radio and television services. It acts internationally as the national authority or representative of Singapore of matters relating to broadcasting.

Since radio transmission commenced on June 1, 1936, there has been no break in operation. SBC currently operates six radio networks broadcasting programmes which reflect and cater to the multi-racial composition of Singapore. The details and transmission times of these channels are as follows:-

i) Radio I (English service) 0600-2400 hours (18 hours)
ii) Radio II (Malay service) 0445-2400 hours (19 1/4 hours)
iii) Radio III (Chinese service) 0600-2400 hours (18 hours)
v) Radio IV (Tamil service) 0500-2100 hours (16 hours)
v) Radio V (Chinese service) 2100-2400 hours (3 hours)
vi) Radio VI (Classical/Cultural service) 0600-2400 hours (18 hours) and
vii) Radio 10 (Pop music service) (24 hours)
Television was introduced in Singapore on February 15, 1963, with a pilot monochrome service of 1 1/2 hours duration daily on one channel. A second channel was started in November of the same year. On August 1, 1974, colour television was introduced in Singapore using the 625-line PAL colour system. SBC currently transmits mainly English and Malay programmes on Channel 5, and Chinese and Indian (Tamil) programmes on Channel 8. A teletext service, the SBC text, began operations as a pilot project on August 1, 1983. A third television network, Channel 12, was inaugurated on January 31, 1984. It televises international and cultural programmes of high quality mainly in English.

The SBC Enterprises Pte Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of SBC, was established on August 1, 1986. The subsidiary company took over the commercial operations functions of the corporation including sale of air-time and production of TV commercials.

The sound archives of the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation, which employs 35 persons, is divided into 6 sections:-
1) The Audio Tape Library
2) The Film/Video Tape Library
3) The Gramophone Record Library
4) The Programme Traffic Unit
5) The Reference and Transcription Unit and
6) The CA Archive Library

Computerized cataloguing of the Gramophone Record Library was initiated in 1988. This will give radio presenters on-line access to the available stock in the library. The Reference and
Transcription Unit also took steps to link with SILAS (Singapore Integrated Library Automated System) through its dial-up service. Once fully established, SBC staff will have access to the national library database.

POH JOO TUANG
Supervisor
Audio Tape Library
**LIBRARIES**

- **Audio Tape Library**
  - Supervisor: Mr. Poh Joo Tuang
  - 3 Resource Officers
  - 1 Typist
  - Audio tapes, cartridges, Transcription discs & Tapes
  - Total Collection: 80,000

- **Film/Video Tape Library**
  - Supervisor: Miss Sarminah Tamsir
  - 3 Resource Officers
  - 1 Typist
  - Films, VHS tapes, Betamax
  - Total Collection: 23,700

- **Gramophone Record Library**
  - Supervisor: Miss Goh Sock Meng
  - 9 Resource Officers
  - 1 Typist
  - Records, Compact Discs, Cassette
  - Total Collection: 152,800

- **Programme Traffic Unit**
  - Supervisor: Mr. Robert Ban
  - 4 Resource Officers
  - 1 Typist
  - 2 Library Attendant
  - Total Collection: 23,000
  - VHS tapes, Betamax, U-Matic, Video cartridges

- **Reference & Transcription Unit**
  - Resource Librarian: Miss Khoo Gim Soon
  - 7 Resource Officers
  - 1 CO
  - 1 Typist
  - Total Collection: 13,000
  - Audio tapes, Cartridges, Films, Current Affairs Division

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