

# Introduction

In the past, meteorology was a subject that was difficult to access in Singapore. No courses were offered in the universities here, and books on the subject were comparatively few. Today, by contrast, the Internet has made available an abundance of information that is easily accessible to anyone anywhere. Many websites, books, lectures and papers from scientific journals can now be accessed.

However, till now no in-depth book specifically focusing on the weather of Singapore has been published. Although our students learn about the monsoons and some basic weather facts in school, much about the weather here is still a mystery to the layman. This book has therefore been written for the Singaporean public who might want to understand more about Singapore's weather and climate. This book is not meant to serve as a basic text on meteorology, and only such basic meteorology as is necessary for the reader to understand the topics in the book has been included. A list of recommended texts has been provided at the back of this book for those interested in knowing more.



*Study of the sky and clouds over Pasir Ris and the Strait. Watercolour on paper.*

This book is divided into three sections. The first describes Singapore's climate and monsoon seasons, and also takes a look at weather observation and forecasting. The second looks at different types of clouds while the third discusses local weather phenomena such as thunderstorms, waterspouts and various optical effects.

Weather watching can be done by any and every person, and often one need not go to any special location to observe various phenomena; all one needs is a good view of the sky. It should be noted that many of the photographs in this book were taken from the same few locations, and – since this is a book on the weather of Singapore – most of the photographs featured were taken in Singapore.

We hope that this book will help readers appreciate the fascination of a subject that is in fact complex and not easy to understand, but which is also part of our natural heritage and influences the lives of Singaporeans in many ways.

