Bill Tan's interest in horses started when he was studying in Australia. His fascination with their breeding and conformation, led to a lifetime hobby of studying their lines of breeding. He has fond memories of their first horse, "Regal Mate", co-owned with his parents, in Singapore who won 11 times (one in class 2 and 10 in class 1). For over 20 years they raced many horses not only in the MRA Circuit (Singapore/Malaysia) but also in Australia and Europe. Their best horse, "Regal Tan" won the Perak Derby and Singapore Derby in the same year. Their racing stable, Goodman Stable was managed by Bill Tan for his family. This was the period in the 1970s and 1980s, where there were eight main stables vying to win Cups in the MRA circuit: Auric, Shaw, Chen, Gold, Redcap, Choo Kok Leong and Chong Kok Lim.

Over the years Bill Tan had served in the racing administration of the racing industry, and also as a committee member in the Singapore Turf Club from 1984 to 1987. Though retired from active service in 1988, he is still an ordinary member in the Penang Turf Club. All this time, He has kept his interest in the racing and breeding worldwide which he finds very refreshing to his mind. He has also taken a stake through TOAST Racing Trust and has a tremendous time following the horse of TOAST Trust No. 16, "Smoking Joe".

Presently he is working in Timor Leste in rehabilitating a traditional coffee estate.

