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**A**  
**10-Billion-Dollar**  
**Thief** — ”





**T**welve past Nine in the morning on December 10, 2008, a man in black glasses, white sweat shirt, blue gym slacks, and slippers walked out of Taipei Prison with a pack of bag. A bunch of reporters had been waiting for him for a while. As soon as he recognized the reporters, he bowed 3 times and kneeled down saying, “I want to thank the society and International Bills Finance Corporation ( 國際票券公司 , hereinafter, IBFC) for giving me a chance to live a free life again. I have hidden no money and have explained the money flow to the prosecutor.” All of a sudden, he knocked his head on the ground and said in a sob,

“I also hope Manager Wang Qing-Xiang’ s ( 王慶祥 ) family can forgive my fault.” Later, he jumped into a black van and disappeared into the traffic on the highway.

This newly-released inmate was the famous 10-billion-dollar thief, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren ( 楊瑞仁 ).

民國 84 年 10 月 14 日，台北地檢署 84 年度偵字第 17339 號等案件，以竊盜、詐欺、偽造文書及炒作股票等罪名起訴被告楊瑞仁等 26 人。被告楊瑞仁偽造 14 家公司開立之國票商業本票出售給台灣銀行，詐領款項炒作股票。於 83 年 9 月至 84 年 8 月間，共偽造面額新台幣 ( 下同 ) 387 億 5500 萬元商業本票，實際向台灣銀行詐得 98 億 161 萬 4259 元 ( 3 億 272 萬 美元 )。起訴後經臺北地方法院以 84 年度訴字第 2643 號案件判處被告楊瑞仁 13 年有期徒刑，併科罰金 3 億元。本案偵查檢察官為杜英達。



**Mr. Yang Rui-Ren**

Photo from October 19, 2016 United Daily News

Mr. Yang Rui-Ren (楊瑞仁) was born in 1965 in Sanchong city of Taipei County (renamed as Sanchong District of New Taipei City in 2010). His father was a pastor and didn't wed his mother. He has 2 siblings and had graduated from Taipei Business Vocational School (renamed as National Taipei University of Business in 2014). He started to work in IBFC in 1988 as a transaction clerk. He later was transferred to Banchao Branch. In 1993, under recommendation of manager Wang Qing-Xiang (王慶祥), he was promoted as transaction dealer. His colleagues described him as a person who was charming, witty and humorous, easy to talk to, and generous. Even though only being a lower level dealer, he carried a cell phone and travelled by car, which was rare for a dealer of his level at the time.



# International Bills Finance Corporation



**ICBC**

Photo from October 14, 2010 Solomon203 , Wiki



**City Bank of Taipei**

Photo from December 13, 2010 Solomon203 , Wiki



**Taiwan Cooperative Bank**

Photo from June 18, 2010 Solomon203 , Wiki

On January 15 of 1977, International Chinese Business Commercial Bank (中國國際商銀), City Bank of Taipei (台北銀行), Taiwan Cooperative Bank (合作金庫), and Central Investment Company (中央投資公司) jointly founded the second bills finance company in Taiwan, the International Bills Finance Corporation (國際票券公司). IBFC was listed in 1986 and was the first listed bills finance company in Taiwan.

# “The stealing

Mr. Yang Rui-Ren (楊瑞仁) was fascinated with manipulation of stocks. He loaned money from fund providers to invest in the stock market. In August, 1994, he lost a dozen million NT dollars. His mother therefore sold 2 houses for him to pay the debt but he was still deeply in trouble. He then turned to the firm he worked in to dig up more money.

Starting from September 1994, he stole blank commercial papers in the company storage. Taking advantage of negligent safekeeping of other colleagues, he stole A-level stamp of vice manager Chen Chun-De (陳淳德) and B-level stamp of group leader Wang Heng-Hui (王恒謙), and used them on the insurer column of the blank commercial papers without authorization. He then used company stamps under his possession on the back of the blank commercial papers without authorization. He forged 10 banks' stamps and used them on the mandate paying agent column of the blank commercial papers. He proceeded to forge stamps of 14 renowned companies and their presidents and used them on the drawer column of the blank commercial papers. So far, he had finished forging fake commercial papers.

Next, it was time to create reasons to use these commercial papers. He forged untrue transaction invoices in the company computer system after and before working hours, in violation of internal rules. After printing those invoices, he deleted the transaction records in the computer.



Photo from August 09, 1995 United Daily News

With forged transaction invoices and commercial papers, he then sold them to the Bank of Taiwan's Department of Trust (臺灣銀行信託部). Bank of Taiwan thus was obligated to wire money into IBFC's check accounts. To avoid the exposure of the wrongdoings, he used 11 nominal accounts to forge re-purchase transactions and facsimiled invoices to IBFC. IBFC then fraudulently believed that money wired by the Bank of Taiwan (臺灣銀行) were for re-purchase transactions. Upon receiving money from the Bank of Taiwan, he sold those re-purchase bills to IBFC by using nominal accounts. IBFC then wired money to nominal accounts. In this way, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren surprisingly and successfully stole money out from IBFC.

As of August 4, 1995, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren had forged commercial papers amounting to 38 billion and 755 million NT dollars (i.e. 1.2 billion and 918 million US dollars). Deducting repetitive transactions, he actually fraud 9.8 billion 1.61 million and 42.59 hundred NT dollars (i.e. 326 million and 721 thousand US dollars). After he was arrested, there were still unpaid forged commercial papers adding up to 10.2 billion and 20 million NT dollars (i.e. 341 million US dollars).

By stealing, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren not only cleared his debts but also accumulated enormous fund for him to further manipulate stocks.



# ① accidental finding



In August 1995, investigators from the Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice initiated investigation on illegal stock manipulation of Gaoxingchang Company (高興昌公司). Investigators discovered that Mr. Yang Rui-Ren (楊瑞仁) and Mr. Zheng Nan-Xing (鄭楠興) conspired to manipulate stock prices of the company by utilizing over 100 nominal accounts to buy and sell stocks. From November 1994 to March 1995, they escalated stock price from 26.3 NT dollars to 56 NT dollars per share.

While combing out the fund flow Mr. Yang Rui-Ren used for stock manipulation, investigators accidentally found that he actually stole the money from IBFC.

On August 3, 1995, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren was subpoenaed by Prosecutor Du Ying-Da (杜英達) and was detained on the same day. Although he confessed the detailed process of forging documents, he didn't disclose where the money went.

Upon his confession, Prosecutor Du realized that Yang's colleague Mr. Zhuang Ming-Zheng (莊明政) had ever discovered Yang's wrongdoings. And yet, Yang offered 15 million NT dollars (i.e. 500 thousand US dollars) bribe to Zhuang to keep his mouth shut. Money did make even the dead to get up to work. Zhuang not only kept quiet for Yang, but also became an accomplice to forge untrue transaction invoices through IBFC's computer system and deleted them all after printing. With Zhuang's assistance, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren kept on his daring stealing.

Yang's fiancée Ms. Wen Yi-Jun (溫怡君) knowingly received 32 million NT dollars (i.e. 1.07 million US dollars) from Mr. Yang Rui-Ren. Later, she bought a house in Taipei. After Yang's was detained, she immediately wired 10.76 million NT dollars (i.e. 360 thousand US dollars.) to the United States in an attempt to hide criminal proceeds.



中華民國八十八年八月六日 星期三

第3版

新新聞

3日上午 有人已先 預知出事

**調局追查誰在大賣國票股票**

郁慕明召開全國金融會議 質疑蔡榮光組自願票款救濟

據報蔡榮光「自願票款救濟」一事，引起各界不滿。據悉，蔡榮光組在未經充分徵詢意見的情況下，擅自決定此一方案，且金額龐大，達新台幣一百億元。此一方案不僅未經充分徵詢意見，且金額龐大，達新台幣一百億元。此一方案不僅未經充分徵詢意見，且金額龐大，達新台幣一百億元。

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Photo from August 06, 1995 United Daily News



# The indictment



On November 14, 1995, Prosecutor Du Ying-Da ( 杜英達 ) indicted 26 defendants for burglary, forfeiting documents and stamps, manipulating stocks, knowingly receiving criminal proceeds, embezzlement, and tampering evidence. Prosecutor Du especially condemned Mr. Yang Rui-Ren ( 楊瑞仁 ) for devastating the stock market, IBFC, and domestic financial order, just to satisfy his personal greed. Therefore, Prosecutor Du asked the court to sentence Yang to 12 years' incarceration.

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# The trial

In the court house, only Mr. Yang Rui-Ren and Mr. Zhuang Ming-Zheng ( 莊明政 ) pleaded guilty, and other defendants denied all charges. On August 13, 1986, Judge found 20 defendants guilty as charged, 3 defendants not guilty. Judge sentenced Mr. Yang Rui-Ren to 13 years' incarceration and fined 3 billion NT dollars; Mr. Zhuang Ming-Zheng ( 莊明政 ) to 3 years' incarceration. Other defendants were sentenced to times between 3 months to 22 months.

After several appeals and reverse, Taiwan High Court finally ruled in March 26, 1999 and sentenced Mr. Yang Rui-Ren to 13 years' incarceration and added depriving civil rights for 10 years. Mr. Yang Rui-Ren served his time in Taipei Prison starting from April 23, 1999.



# The man in “ShawShank prison

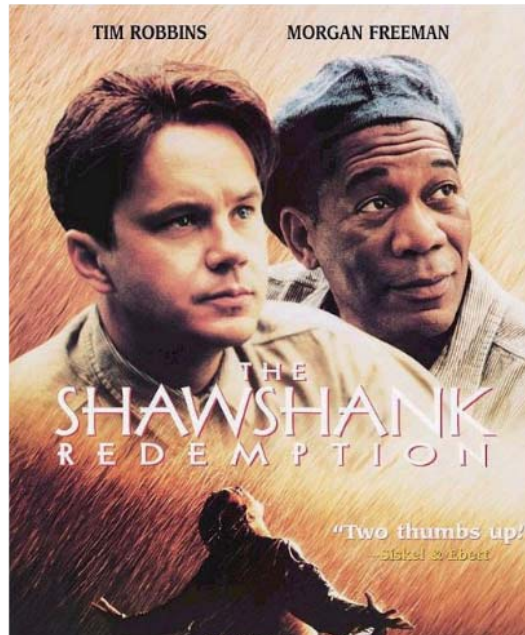


Photo from July 01, 2008 Internet Movie Poster Awards , Wiki

While serving his time in jail, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren obeyed rules, stayed low-key, and behaved like nobody could notice. However, he still harbored his rich dream. In his cell, he relentlessly studied in finance and stock related books. He had prepared well to engage in money game again.

However, he needed a hand to pass his order of stock purchases to the outside world. Thus, he first bribed correctional officers Mr. Wang Zhi-Hong ( 王 志 宏 ), Mr. Yen Xiao-Ren ( 嚴 孝 仁 ), and Mr. Ding Ren-Wei ( 丁 任 偉 ) as his curriers to bring out uncensored letters to his younger sister, Ms. Yang Shiu-Hui ( 楊

淑惠 ). He directed his sister in the letters on stocks transactions and handing bribery to the abovementioned three officers.

Mr. Wang Zhi-Hong even worked as Mr. Yang' s assistant to receive transaction orders just outside Yang' s cell and to make orders outside the jail with a public phone. Mr. Yang Rui-Ren promised to share 10 % of the profit with Wang and to shoulder loss himself if any. The under table deal went on from April 1997 to December 1999.



Photo from editors

Mr. Yang Rui-Ren ( 楊瑞仁 ) also ordered Mr. Yen Xiao-Ren ( 嚴孝仁 ) to deliver letters to lawyer Wang Cong-Ming ( 王聰明 ), the defense counsel of Yang' s fiancée Ms. Wen Yi-Jun ( 溫怡君 ), with directions to establish a petroleum company.

Mr. Yang Rui-Ren was indicted in April 29, 2000 by Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office for violation of Anti-Corruption Law and was finally sentenced to 4 year' incarceration with fine of 3 million NT dollars. His sister, Ms. Yang Shiu-Hui ( 楊淑惠 ), was sentenced to 18 months incarceration with 4 years' probation. Other correctional officers were sentenced to 6 years' incarceration.

Yang' s mother, after this sentencing, stopped visiting Yang in jail.

Benefit from 2007 Criminal Commutation Act, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren enjoyed a deduction of his total imprisonment and only served 13 years in jail. However, a young man, after spending 13 years in prison, had reached his middle age.

Mr. Yang Rui-Ren, just like the leading character Andy Dufresne in the movie, "The ShawShank Redemption" , was an intelligent inmate and could remotely controlled criminal activities outside the jail. His attempt to gain wealth while in jail resulted in 4 more years' incarceration. He was also removed from Taipei Prison to Tainan Prison and stayed in a single cell for quite a long time.

# The nearly-broke IBFC ❷



**Wang Qing-Xiang's corpse**

Photo from December 10, 2008 TVBS

Back to IBFC. When investigators found out about Yang' s stealing on August 3, 1995, IBFC was informed in the next day and immediately contacted Bank of Taiwan (臺灣銀行) for detailed confirmation. After clearance, IBFC still had 10.22 billion NT dollars (i.e. 341 million US dollars) warranty liability to Bank of Taiwan. When the news broke out on August 5, 1999, the stock market slid drastically and IBFC faced a bank run for 26 billion NT dollars (i.e. 867 million US dollars) within just one business day. On August 7, 1995, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank urgently called on a meeting and asked five banks to aid IBFC.

On August 9, manager Wang Qing-Xiang (王慶祥) of IBFC, the person who promoted Mr. Yang Rui-Ren, couldn' t bear the pressure and jumped off from the IBFC headquarter building, suffering an immediate death. Mr. Wang' s suicide crushed a little of Yang' s defense. When Mr. Yang Rui-Ren learned the news, he couldn' t help but burst out crying. Later he handed out his fiancée' s house for prosecutor to confiscate.



IBFC was a listed company and should announce its mid-year report by the end of August pursuant to the Security Law. If the net value of the company was estimated lower than 5 NT dollars per share according to the mid-year report, IBFC would become full-cash delivery stock. Now the controversy was how to acknowledge the money lost in the stealing incident. Even though Prosecutor confiscated crime proceeds estimated up to 2.4 billion NT dollars (i.e. 80 million US dollars). IBFC still had 7.8 billion NT dollars debt.

IBFC therefore requested the Ministry of Finance to acknowledge the loss in five consecutive accounting years to avoid off listing. However, the Ministry of Finance inquired opinion from the Ministry of Economic Affairs;

the latter explained and responded that loss occurred from internal control flaw was not extraordinary loss regulated under the Business Accounting Law. IBFC thus rewrote mid-year report and acknowledged all its losses in this incident. In the rewritten report, the net value of IBFC was 8.35 NT dollars per share and just nearly became full-cash delivery stock.

In 1996, IBFC reduced its capital by 30% to compensate the loss caused by this incident. Later IBFC increased its capital by issuing new stocks at 60 % of current market price. IBFC finally managed to survive.

# “The **consequences**

The case devastated IBFC, wrecked the stock market, and ruined the financial order at the time. It caused four government officials to be punished including Mr. Chen Mu-Zai, the director of Financial Bureau of the Ministry of Finance; Mrs. Zhang Xiu-Lian, the deputy director of Financial Bureau of the Ministry of Finance; and Mr. Peng Huai-Nan and Mr. Qiu Zheng-Xiong, the vice presidents of the Central Bank.

Member Wang Qing-Feng and Zhai Zong-Quan of the Control Yuan initiated an investigation upon the case and proposed corrective measures in 2000 to Taipei Prison for disciplinary matter regarding corrective officers accepting bribery from Mr. Yang Rui-Ren ( 楊瑞仁 ).

To avoid another blank commercial paper fraud, Taiwan Bills Depository and Clearance Corporation was established in August 2003 and began operating in April 2004. The Corporation is responsible for collectively safekeeping of bills and will periodically crosscheck with depository banks and clearance banks to make sure the records in different parties are correct.

# The **compensation**”

Under the stress of being rejected of his probation application and the effort of Prosecutor Liu Cheng-Wu ( 劉承武 ) of the Execution Department of Taipei District Prosecutors Office, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren ( 楊瑞仁 ) finally made a compensation plan with IBFC. Yang promised IBFC to pay back 4 billion NT dollars (i.e. 133 million US dollars) within six years after release and the remaining 6 billion NT dollars (i.e. 200 million US dollars) debt was open to further negotiation. He intended to set up an internet company for E-commerce to earn money.

However, after 13 years' imprisonment and with such notorious reputation, it was difficult for him to start afresh. He had to change his name to Mr. Yang Bo-Zhi ( 楊博智 ) in January of 2012 to get a job in a law firm. One third of his salary will be deducted every month to pay off his debt to IBFC. Nevertheless, this was obviously a lot less than what he promised in his settlement with IBFC.

Meanwhile, with a simple math calculation, Mr. Yang Rui-Ren stole almost 10 billion NT dollars from IBFC, he used up 8 billion NT dollars to purchase stocks of Gaoxingchang Company ( 高興昌公司 ) and paid 0.3 billion NT dollars in interest. The whereabouts of the remaining 1.8 billion NT dollars are still a mystery. Mr. Yang Rui-Ren insisted that he didn't hide any penny, but apparently the public never bought his story.

# The **never-ending** story of **Yang**



**Mr. Yang Rui-Ren**  
Photo from October 18, 2016  
Apple Daily

In October of 2016, when investigating the illegality of purchase of Xpec Entertainment Company ( 樂陞科技股份有限公司 ), Prosecutor of Taipei District Prosecutors Office accidentally discovered that Mr. Yang Rui-Ren used a nickname “Anthony” to manipulate stock price of the company. Prosecutor had raided Yang’s residence and Yang was soon indicted for manipulation stock prices in January of 2017.

Mr. Yang Rui-Ren once answered reporter’s question and said, “If I had a chance to choose again, still I choose to steal money from the company. Only this time I will hide the money overseas.”

Yang was designated to a cell number of “1314” in prison, and the number rhymed with Chinese “a lifetime” which means eternity. Was this a coincident or a fate of Yang to stay in jail eternally? Time will tell.



# A contrast between East and West”

When Taiwan was shaken by Yang’ s stealing, the other side of the world was also in turmoil.

Starting from January 16, 1995, Nicholas Leeson, trader in Singapore Subsidiary of Barings Bank of the United Kingdom, invested in derivatives and choose to short straddle. However, an earthquake occurred in Kobe of Japan on January 17 of 1995 crumbled stock markets in Asia. Leeson’ s investment was ruined. To compensate for his loss, he tried high risk leverage trading again but failed. He ultimately made the bank lose 1.4 billion US dollars and caused this 200-year-old bank closed.

Leeson fled to Germany and was caught later. He was extradited to Singapore and sentenced to 6.5 years. In the end, he was released in 1999.

Leeson committed the world-shaking crime at the age of 28; whereas Mr. Yang Rui-Ren ( 楊 瑞 仁 ) committed a similar crime at the age of 29. Both cases burst out in 1995. Yang made a record high for individual fraud in financial cases in Taiwan. Leeson also made a record of wrecking a bank by only one person.

One person does change world, doesn’ t it?

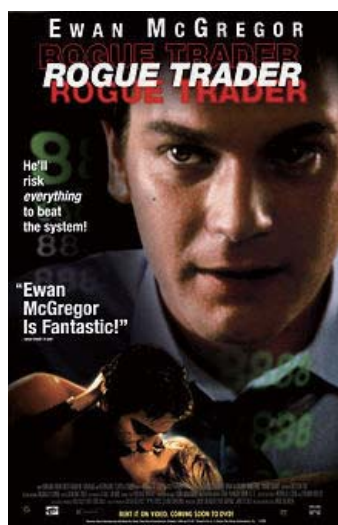


Photo from Wiki



## QUOTE FROM PROSECUTOR

Du Yin-Da

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*To my recollection, I once faced a dilemma in this case's investigation. Since the Bank of Taiwan suffered great deal of loss and the International Bills Company may go bankrupt, the Ministry of Finance asked me to help solve the problem by returning the confiscated promissory notes forged by Defendant Yang. It was quite a risk to do so before indictment. However, when a case like this happened and the economic order would be in peril, a prosecutor should take every factor into account and tried to make the best interest choice for the public.*



CTS-6557 吉利二號





Tamsui River , Taipei  
Photo from Yang An-Sheng