

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **CHANGES IN APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT SECRETARIES**

1 With effect from 1 Oct 2009, two new Permanent Secretaries (Mrs Ow Foong Pheng and Mr Loh Khum Yean) will be appointed while four Permanent Secretaries will see changes to their portfolios.

2 After 34 years of distinguished service in the public sector, Mr Teo Ming Kian, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Permanent Secretary (National Research and Development), Prime Minister's Office, will retire from the Administrative Service on 1 Oct 2009. He will be re-employed and reappointed as Permanent Secretary (National Research and Development), Prime Minister's Office and also appointed as Advisor (Special Projects), Ministry of Finance.

3 Details of the other changes are as follows:

- a. Mr Peter Ong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, will be appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance. He will take over from Mr Teo Ming Kian as Chairman, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore and Chairman, Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority;
- b. Ms Chan Lai Fung, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Law, will be appointed concurrently as Permanent Secretary (Finance Performance), Ministry of Finance;
- c. Mr Ravi Menon, Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, will be appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- d. Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Chief Executive Officer, Jurong Town Corporation, will be appointed Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- e. Mr Leo Yip, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower and Chairman, Economic Development Board, will relinquish his appointment as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower to be full-time Chairman, Economic Development Board; and

- f. Mr Loh Khum Yean, Deputy Secretary (Industry), Ministry of Trade and Industry will be appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower.

## Background

### **Mr Teo Ming Kian [张铭坚]**

Mr Teo Ming Kian, 57, a Colombo Plan scholar, holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) degree in Mechanical Engineering from Monash University, as well as a Master of Science in Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr Teo joined the Singapore Armed Forces in 1975 as a Defence Engineer and the Defence Engineering and Scientific Service of the Ministry of Defence in 1978. He was absorbed into the Administrative Service in 1989. He was appointed Second Permanent Secretary (Defence) in 1991 and re-designated as Permanent Secretary (Defence Development) in 1992.

Mr Teo was appointed Permanent Secretary of the then Ministry of Communications in 1995. Mr Teo ensured that Changi Airport remained competitive in the global market, by amongst others, concluding Singapore's first open-sky agreement with the United States. He also spearheaded several key policies such as the vehicle tax restructuring and Electronic Road Pricing system as well as liberalising the telecommunication sector to bring about cost effective transportation and communication services to enhance our economic competitiveness and Singaporeans' quality of life.

In 1999, Mr Teo was seconded to the then National Science and Technology Board (subsequently renamed A\*STAR) as its Executive Chairman where he led the Technopreneurship 21 programme and initiated The Enterprise Challenge to encourage experimentation and adoption of new ideas and the Pro-Enterprise Panel to reduce red-tape in the Public Service. Mr Teo was instrumental in transforming Singapore into a leading Science and Technology hub.

In 2001, Mr Teo was seconded to the Economic Development Board and served as its Executive Chairman until 2006. He was instrumental in shaping the Singapore's economy into an innovation-driven global hub for both manufacturing and services. He also spearheaded the development of new growth areas such as interactive and digital media, environmental and water technologies, alternative energy and education; as well as extending our geographical coverage to attract companies, big and small from Asia Pacific and Middle East.

In 2005, Mr Teo was appointed Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and in 2006, he became Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Permanent Secretary (National Research and Development), Prime Minister's Office. He also served as the Chairman of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) and the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA). Mr Teo put in place a strategic framework for MOF to develop policies that bring about a more robust fiscal system, growth with opportunities for all, and a high performance government. For example, he played an instrumental role in policies like Workfare, enhancement of CPF interest rates, the framework for spending of investment returns from past

reserves, and the Resilience Package. He also instituted various measures which contributed significantly to Singapore's top global ranking in the ease of doing business and tax competitiveness. In addition, he initiated several innovative policies, such as providing incentives to encourage pervasive innovation and R&D in our economy.

Mr Teo is a strong advocate of leveraging on synergy and innovation, and a champion of a Whole-of-Government approach to public administration. He has tirelessly worked to strengthen Singapore as a knowledge-based, innovation-driven and vibrant entrepreneurial economy. For his contributions, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 2008.

### **Mr Peter Ong [王文辉]**

Mr Peter Ong, 48, graduated with a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) degree from the University of Adelaide on a Colombo Plan Scholarship. He also holds a Master in Business Administration from Stanford University.

Mr Ong spent the early part of his career in the Administrative Service in the Ministry of Communications and Information and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. In 1993, on his return from postgraduate study, he was appointed Deputy Dean of the Civil Service College. He held this position till 1995 when he was appointed a Deputy Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 1996, Mr Ong was appointed Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry. He was seconded to Temasek Holdings as its Executive Vice-President from 1998 to 2000.

Mr Ong was appointed Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence in 2001. A year later, he became the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport before becoming the Permanent Secretary of Trade and Industry in 2005. He became Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance in 2008, concurrently.

### **Ms Chan Lai Fung [陈丽芬]**

Ms Chan Lai Fung, 45, graduated with a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) degree from Monash University on a Colombo Plan Scholarship.

She started her career in the Administrative Service in the Ministry of Communications and Information in 1987 and held positions in the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance. In 1998, Ms Chan was posted to the Public Service Division, Prime Minister's Office, where she served in various positions including Head of the then Scenario Planning Office and Director of the Institute of Policy Development.

In 2002, Ms Chan was appointed Deputy Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and became Deputy Secretary (Trade), Ministry of Trade and Industry in 2004. Ms Chan was appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Law in 2006.

## **Mr Ravi Menon**

Mr Ravi Menon, 45, holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) degree in Economics from the National University of Singapore and a Master in Public Administration from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Mr Menon started his career in the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) in 1987 as a Central Banking Officer and became its Assistant Managing Director in 2002. He spent a year at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel, Switzerland, as a member of the Secretariat to the Financial Stability Forum, established in 1999 by G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to promote global financial stability.

He was seconded to the Ministry of Finance in 2003 where he was appointed Deputy Secretary (Policy). He joined the Administrative Service in 2005.

In 2007, Mr Menon was appointed Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry.

## **Mrs Ow Foong Pheng [吴凤萍]**

Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, 45, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Political Science, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University. An Overseas Merit Scholar, Mrs Ow also holds a Master of Science in Management from Stanford University.

Mrs Ow started her career in the Administrative Service in the Ministry of Education. She subsequently served in several ministries, including National Development, Finance, and Defence. In 2001, she became the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and in 2004, she became Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Manpower. She was appointed Chief Executive Officer, Jurong Town Corporation in 2006.

## **Mr Leo Yip [叶成昌]**

Mr Leo Yip, 45, joined the Singapore Police Force in 1982 on a Singapore Police Force Overseas Scholarship. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics from Cambridge University. He obtained a Master in Business Administration from Warwick University and a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Mr Yip served in various capacities in the Singapore Police Force, including Head, Intelligence Division, Criminal Investigation Department, Commander, Clementi Police Division, Director (Planning and Organisation) and Director (Operations). Mr Yip was Principal Private Secretary to then Senior Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew from 2000 to 2002. He was absorbed into the Administrative Service in 2002 and appointed Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Manpower in the same year. Mr Yip was appointed concurrently as Chief Executive, Singapore Workforce Development Agency in 2003. In 2005, Mr Yip was appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower. He was concurrently appointed Chairman, Economic Development Board in July 2009.

**Mr Loh Khum Yean [罗锦贤]**

Mr Loh Khum Yean, 44, graduated with a Bachelor of Economics degree from Hitotsubashi University under a Singapore Government Scholarship. Mr Loh also holds a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Mr Loh started his career in the Administrative Service in the Ministry of Communications. He subsequently served in the Ministries of Trade and Industry and the Public Service Division, Prime Minister's Office, before his appointment as Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance in 2002. Mr Loh led SPRING Singapore as its Chief Executive for five years from 2003 to 2008 before he was appointed Deputy Secretary (Industry), Ministry of Trade and Industry.

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