

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **TWO PERMANENT SECRETARIES RETIRE**

Two Permanent Secretaries will be retiring from the Administrative Service with effect from 1 October 2006. They are:-

- a. Mr Lim Siong Guan, 59, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance. He will retire after 37 years of distinguished service; and
- b. Mr Kishore Mahbubani, 57, who is currently on secondment to the National University of Singapore as Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He will retire after 35 years of distinguished service.

2 Mr Lim Siong Guan will continue to contribute to the public sector after his retirement. He will be appointed Chairman, Economic Development Board with effect from 1 October 2006. Mr Mahbubani will continue as Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy after his retirement.

3 Mr Teo Ming Kian, who is currently the 2<sup>nd</sup> Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, will relinquish his appointment as Chairman, Economic Development Board to be full-time Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance with effect from 1 October 2006. He will take over from Mr Lim Siong Guan as Chairman, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore and Chairman, Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority with effect from the same date. Mr Teo will continue concurrently as Permanent Secretary (National Research and Development), Prime Minister's Office.

4 Details on the career histories of Mr Lim and Mr Mahbubani are given below.

### **Mr Lim Siong Guan**

5 Mr Lim Siong Guan joined the Civil Service as an Engineer in the Public Works Department in 1969 after obtaining an Honours degree in

Mechanical Engineering from the University of Adelaide on a Colombo Plan-cum-President's Scholarship.

6 Mr Lim was absorbed into the Administrative Service in 1975. He held the appointment of Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew from 1978 to 1981 and was Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence from 1981 to 1994. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1991 for his significant contributions to defence and security and in building up a strong and credible SAF.

7 Mr Lim was Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office from 1994 to 1998 and Head of Civil Service/Permanent Secretary (Prime Minister's Office)(Special Duties) from 1999 to 2005. He was instrumental in establishing and championing the PS21 (*Public Service for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*) movement which transformed the public service into one which is forward-looking and adaptable to changes. He also instituted various other service-wide policies and initiatives to attract and develop top talent and make the Civil Service more competitive.

8 As Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education from 1997 to 1999, Mr Lim was a principal architect of the *Thinking Schools, Learning Nation* programme which transformed education in Singapore. He also introduced many initiatives to better develop those in the education service, including recognition of outstanding teachers through the *President's Award for Teachers*.

9 As Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance since 1998, Mr Lim has transformed the government financial management system. Through various initiatives, such as the *Block Budget* and *Best Sourcing* frameworks, he has pushed public agencies to drive for excellence and derive best value for money. He was also instrumental in initiating the E-Government movement to make transactions with the Government more convenient and accessible.

10 Mr Lim was awarded the Order of Nila Utama First Class in 2006 for his visionary leadership and extensive contributions to the Singapore Public Service.

### **Mr Kishore Mahbubani**

11 Mr Kishore Mahbubani joined the Administrative Service in 1971 after obtaining an Honours degree in Philosophy from the University of Singapore on a President's Scholarship. He obtained a Master of Arts in Philosophy from Dalhousie University, Canada in 1976.

12 During his 33-year career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) from 1971 to 2004, Mr Mahbubani has held several key appointments. They included the appointments of Permanent Secretary, MFA from 1993 to 1998 and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 1984 to 1989 and 1998 to 2004.

13 As Permanent Secretary of MFA, Mr Mahbubani significantly shaped and raised the professionalism of the Singapore Foreign Service. He was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 1998 for his outstanding contributions to the development of Singapore's foreign policy.

14 As Permanent Representative to the United Nations, he was instrumental in overseeing Singapore's election to the UN Security Council, and Singapore's term on the Council, from 2000-2001. Singapore was recognised as an effective, able and conscientious Council member and a leader in efforts to reform the working methods of the Council.

15 As a diplomat, Mr Mahbubani developed a reputation as an intellectual who speaks his mind. His reputation as a thinker and scholar of international affairs has enriched MFA and the domestic intellectual scene. His personal distinction and considerable international reputation as one of Singapore's foremost public intellectuals has also raised the international profile of Singapore and our diplomats.

16 Mr Mahbubani was the first Dean of the Civil Service College from 1992 to 1994. He played a key role in building the capability of the College as a key institution providing developmental milestone training for senior public officers.

17 Mr Mahbubani was appointed Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) in the National University of Singapore in 2004. Since the launch of the school, Mr Mahbubani has positioned it to become a leading public policy school in Asia. Under his leadership, LKYSPP has moved ahead to attract a diverse pool of talented faculty and students. The School has also brought in scholars and renowned speakers to share their views, thereby advancing scholarship in public policy and deepening knowledge of the critical challenges in this area.

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