

## The Straits Times

[www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com)

Dec 19, 2009

# Tan Kee Yong is new Cabinet Secretary



New Cabinet Secretary Tan Kee Yong, 52, has held key posts in various agencies.

A NEW Cabinet Secretary has been named to take over from Mr Lau Wah Ming, who is retiring after 40 years in the civil service.

Mr Tan Kee Yong, 52, will take up the post on Dec 28, the same day he becomes Secretary to the Prime Minister, a post which is also currently held by Mr Lau.

Mr Lau, 64, joined the public service in 1969 on his return from New Zealand, where he studied engineering on a Colombo Plan scholarship.

His first posting was to the Economic Development Board, where he was attached to the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research, a precursor of today's Spring Singapore.

Over the next 10 years, he was also posted to the Ministry of Finance and the Defence Ministry.

In 1979, Mr Lau joined the Ministry of Education (MOE) as director of administration. He was in a group of 12 hand-picked by then-Deputy Prime Minister Goh Keng Swee to revamp the education system.

He subsequently held several key government positions, including director of infrastructure at the Ministry of National Development (MND), where he oversaw the introduction of town councils in Housing Board estates in the 1980s.

On stepping down, Mr Lau said: 'I am honoured to have served in many ministries and have the opportunity to contribute in a whole spectrum of policy and admin work.'

The father of two also said that he is looking forward to spending quality time with his two granddaughters, one of whom is three years old and the other five months old.

He plans to fill his days by continuing with his church work and volunteering at the Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled, where he is honorary board chairman.

His successor as Cabinet Secretary, Mr Tan, has spent 28 years in the Administrative Service.

He has a mathematics degree from the University of London and a masters in public administration from Harvard University.

Mr Tan has held key posts in various government agencies, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Public Service Commission.

Prior to his posting in the Prime Minister's Office, he was deputy secretary (services) at the Education Ministry, and chief executive of the Singapore Land Authority.

In Singapore, the Cabinet Secretary has traditionally also been the civil servant appointed by the Prime Minister to chair the Electoral Boundaries Review Committee as and when it is appointed.

Mr Lau chaired the committee that was appointed ahead of the General Election in 2006.

**CASSANDRA CHEW**