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## **Press Release**

### **New Permanent Secretaries for Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and the National Climate Change Secretariat**

With effect from 1 July 2010, Lieutenant-General (LG) Desmond Kuek Bak Chye, former Chief of Defence Force, will be appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. Mr Tan Yong Soon, current Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources will be appointed Permanent Secretary (National Climate Change), Prime Minister's Office.

The National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) is a dedicated agency set up to coordinate Singapore's climate change-related policies. It will build up and sustain Singapore's institutional knowledge of climate change issues, prepare and ready Singapore for climate change challenges, as well as ensure our compliance with international agreements. The NCCS which is currently located in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will now come under the Prime Minister's Office to reflect the broad scope and inter-agency nature of policy matters to be co-ordinated and to better support the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change (IMCCC) chaired by Senior Minister S. Jayakumar.

## Background

### **Mr Tan Yong Soon**

Mr Tan Yong Soon, 55, joined the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in 1974 on being awarded an SAF Overseas Scholarship. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Engineering from Cambridge University in 1977. Mr Tan obtained an MBA degree from the National University of Singapore in 1987 and a Masters degree in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1988.

Whilst in the SAF/MINDEF, Mr Tan held various appointments which include Director (Policy) and Deputy Secretary (Policy). He was appointed as Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister in 1995 and was absorbed into the Administrative Service in 1996. In 1997, he was appointed Deputy Secretary (Revenue) in the Ministry of Finance, and in 1998, Deputy Secretary (Policy) in the same Ministry. Mr Tan was the Chief Executive Officer, Urban Redevelopment Authority, from 2001 till 2003. He was appointed Permanent Secretary (Environment and Water Resources) in 2004.

### **LG Desmond Kuek Bak Chye**

LG Desmond Kuek, 46, joined the Singapore Armed Forces in December 1981 on being awarded an SAF Overseas Scholarship. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Engineering Science from Oxford University in 1985. He received a Master of Arts degree from Oxford University in 1989 and a Masters degree in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1998.

LG Kuek was absorbed into the Administrative Service in 1993 and remained in the SAF. He has held various command and staff appointments in the course of his military career, including Commander of 3rd Division, Director of Joint Intelligence Directorate and Chief of Army. He was the Chief of Defence Force from March 2007 to March 2010. LG Kuek was on an advanced management programme in IMD, Switzerland, and will be returning to the Administrative Service and assuming the appointment of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources on 1 July 2010.

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