

29 August 2024

## **Leadership Changes at the National Research Foundation, and Public Sector Science and Technology Policy and Plans Office**

Mr John Lim Hua Ern will be appointed as Chief Executive Officer (Designate) of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and Chief (Designate) of the Public Sector Science and Technology Policy and Plans Office (S&TPPO), at the Prime Minister's Office, with effect from 1 September 2024.

2 On 1 October 2024, Mr Lim will assume the roles of CEO of NRF and Chief, S&TPPO. He will relinquish his current role as Deputy Secretary (Opportunity & Resilience) at the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) on the same day.

3 Mr Beh Kian Teik the current CEO of NRF will be appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (Designate) at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) from 1 October 2024 to 7 November 2024 and succeed Mr Frederick Chew as Chief Executive Officer at A\*STAR from 8 November 2024.

4 Mr Frederick Chew the current Chief of S&TPPO will relinquish his role on 1 October 2024. Mr Chew set up a new Centre-of-Government unit in 2019 under the Prime Minister's Office to spearhead the building up of Science, Technology and Engineering (STE) capabilities across public agencies. In the area of STE planning, S&TPPO worked with agencies on Ministry Family Technology Plans, through which cross-cutting whole-of-government (WoG) STE needs and priorities such as Robotics and Automation were identified. In the area of programmes, S&TPPO partnered agencies to launch Centres of Excellence to pre-position public agencies for emerging technology areas, such as Electric Vehicles and Urban Planning & Design.

5 Under Mr Chew, S&TPPO also worked with agencies to implement modelling and simulation approaches to optimise built environment and energy-transport systems. In the area of STE workforce development, S&TPPO has worked with agencies to train and develop young engineers, particularly in the areas of systems engineering and architecting. Mr Chew also started the #SGTECHTEAM series of

workshops and forums to forge a tighter STE community throughout the public service.

## **In Appreciation**

6 Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Permanent Secretary for National Research and Development and S&TPPO, said, "Kian Teik has played an instrumental role in advancing our research and innovation ecosystem. He helped shape the goals, strategies and key thrusts of the Research Innovation and Enterprise 2025 plans. He strengthened the focus on keeping Singapore's basic research at the cutting edge through NRF's Foundational Research Capability studies. At the same time, he worked tirelessly with our institutions of higher learning, A\*STAR and economic agencies to further strengthen translational research and value creation. These included major new initiatives in semiconductor and microelectronics research and development, new approaches to address gaps in Singapore's biotech ecosystem and to enhance venture financing. In addition, Kian Teik actively championed close collaborations among institutions in Singapore, and with key international partners."

7 Professor Tan added, "On behalf of the National Research Foundation, I would like to express our deep appreciation to Kian Teik and Frederick for their many leadership contributions. Their efforts have advanced our research and translational capabilities, and significantly enhanced Singapore's overall research, innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem. In turn, these are positioning Singapore well to create and capture new opportunities for our economy and country. I extend my thanks to Kian Teik and Frederick for their contributions and warmly welcome John to NRF and S&TPPO."

## **Mr John Lim Hua Ern**

8 Mr John Lim is currently the Deputy Secretary (Opportunity & Resilience) at the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). He oversees policy formulation and the planning and delivery of programmes and social services that help vulnerable individuals and communities in Singapore. Since joining MSF in September 2016, Mr Lim has played a leading role in the development of policies and initiatives such as the Enabling Masterplan 2030, ComCare, MSF-funded residential home and shelter services, programmes and services for children and young persons at risk, and ComLink+ which was established to help lower-income families with children attain stability, self-reliance and social mobility.

9 Mr Lim was previously the Divisional Director of Higher Education at the Ministry of Education (MOE), overseeing policy formation and planning for post-secondary education offered through Singapore's autonomous universities, polytechnics, the Institute of Technical Education, and tertiary arts institutions. He was also responsible for policies and funding for academic research carried out by

the autonomous universities. While at MOE, he served as a member of the Governing Boards of five research centres of excellence, namely the Centre for Quantum Technologies, Cancer Science Institute, Earth Observatory of Singapore, Mechanobiology Institute, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering. He was also on the Governing Board of the Duke-NUS Medical School.

10 During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Lim led an MSF Taskforce set up to protect the safety and well-being of elderly residents in MSF's residential homes. The Taskforce was responsible for contingency planning, incident management, surveillance screening and the vaccination of elderly residents. He also chaired an inter-agency Taskforce to oversee payouts from The Courage Fund, to support about 8,000 households and families, 4,800 healthcare and frontline workers, and recognise around 40,000 healthcare and social services staff who stepped up with courage in our fight against COVID-19.

11 He chairs the Inter-Ministry Committee overseeing Singapore's compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and was a former Chair of the Inter-Ministry Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Before MSF and MOE, he also served in various capacities at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office (Public Service Division), and Monetary Authority of Singapore.

12 Mr Lim is a member of the Boards of the JTC Corporation, Agency for Integrated Care, and Gambling Regulatory Authority, as well as a Company Member of KidSTART Singapore Ltd. He also served previously as a member of the Charity Council and as a board member of the Building and Construction Authority.

13 Mr Lim graduated from Cornell University with Bachelor's degrees in Economics (magna cum laude) and Operations Research & Industrial Engineering (magna cum laude with honours). He earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was designated Arjay Miller Scholar. He has attended the Advanced Management Programme at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management.

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## **About National Research Foundation**

The National Research Foundation, Singapore (NRF), set up on 1 January 2006, is a department within the Prime Minister's Office. The NRF sets the national direction for research and development (R&D) by developing policies, plans and strategies for research, innovation and enterprise. It also funds strategic initiatives and builds up R&D capabilities by nurturing research talent.

Learn more about the NRF at [www.nrf.gov.sg](http://www.nrf.gov.sg)