

For immediate reporting

**LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT THE AGENCY FOR SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH AND COMPETITION AND CONSUMER
COMMISSION OF SINGAPORE**

1. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) today announced leadership changes at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS). These changes will take effect from 1 October 2023.

A*STAR

2. Chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) Ms Chan Lai Fung will be retiring from the Singapore Public Service. Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Chief Health Scientist and Executive Director, MOH Office for Healthcare Transformation, will be appointed Chairman of A*STAR and will take over from Ms Chan with effect from 1 October 2023.

Ms Chan Lai Fung, 陈丽芬

3. Ms Chan was appointed Chairman of A*STAR on 1 April 2019. Under her leadership, A*STAR has played a pivotal role in supporting research and innovation in Singapore, partnering companies and advancing science in areas such as food security, biotech, human potential, manufacturing, and sustainability. Under her charge, A*STAR has steadily increased its support for local enterprises and start-ups.



For example, the Innovation Factory@SIMTech was established in partnership with Enterprise Singapore, to support local start-ups in product innovation and development. A*STAR also continued to anchor companies in Singapore through significant public-private partnerships in sectors such as microelectronics. To support Singapore's sustainability goals, A*STAR worked with JTC and other partners to deliver tools such as Green Compass™ for companies to better manage their carbon emissions, energy and water consumption, and waste.

4. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Ms Chan oversaw A*STAR's contributions in delivering timely solutions for Singapore, ranging from diagnostics to environmental modelling, reusable masks, and automation support for vaccine delivery. Importantly, she has played a key role in growing

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and nurturing the pipeline of scientific talent in A*STAR and Singapore, and facilitated our homegrown scientists contributing across the entire Research, Innovation and Enterprise ecosystem. At the organisational level, she emphasised strong performance management systems, people development and mentorship. Ms Chan was a champion for enhancing workplace culture, furthering an inclusive work environment and promoting diversity in the workplace.

5. For her sterling contributions to A*STAR and the Public Service, Ms Chan was awarded the Public Administration Silver Medal in 2002, the Public Administration Gold Medal in 2009, and the Meritorious Service Medal during the 2020 National Day Awards.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, 陈祝全

6. Professor Tan was appointed as the inaugural Chief Health Scientist and concurrently, Executive Director of the MOH Office for Healthcare Transformation with effect from 1 January 2018. Recently in 2022, he was appointed as the Chair of the Healthier SG Implementation Office.



7. Professor Tan's other appointments include the Chairman of the Research Innovation & Enterprise Human Health & Potential Executive Committee and Committee of Government Scientific Advisors; Advisor to the NUS President; and Board member of Monetary Authority of Singapore, National Research Foundation Board and National Gallery Singapore. He had also served as the President of National University of Singapore (NUS) from 2008 to 2017 and the Deputy Chairman of A*STAR from 2004 to 2017.

8. Professor Tan is a key leader in Singapore's Biomedical Sciences Initiative since its inception in 2000, and was awarded the National Science and Technology Medal in 2008. He also received the Distinguished Service Order in 2022 and the Public Service Star (COVID-19) in 2023.

CCCS

9. Chief Executive of CCCS Ms Sia Aik Kor will step down from her appointment with effect from 1 April 2024. Mr Alvin Koh Meng Sing, Chief Legal

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Officer and Divisional Director, Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will succeed Ms Sia as Chief Executive and will be appointed as Chief Executive-designate from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024. Mr Koh will concurrently be appointed as a board member of CCCS from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027.

Ms Sia Aik Kor, 佘奕可

10. Ms Sia was appointed Chief Executive of CCCS in 2019, where she played a key role in transforming the organisation's competition and consumer protection strategies. She made significant contributions to the enforcement of the Competition Act 2004 as well as the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act 2003 during her tenure.



11. On the competition front, she led CCCS to extend its strong track record of enforcement against anti-competitive conduct to ensure competitive and well-functioning markets in Singapore. These include the CCCS's issuance of several infringement decisions for price fixing and bid-rigging as well as the securing of commitments from various parties to keep markets open and contestable. Under her leadership, CCCS also conducted a market study into e-commerce platforms which led to an update of CCCS's guidelines, providing greater clarity on the application of the Competition Act in the digital space.

12. On the consumer protection front, Ms Sia led CCCS to successfully apply to the State Courts for injunction against errant suppliers in the beauty and wellness/health lifestyle sector to stop their unfair trade practices which include the making of false and misleading claims. In addition, under her leadership, CCCS published its first consumer protection guidelines on price transparency and another guide on fair trading practices for the renovation industry.

13. Ms Sia also enhanced Singapore's standing in the international competition and consumer protection community. Under her leadership, CCCS became a member of the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network and was the Co-Chair of the Agency Effectiveness Working Group of the International Competition Network. CCCS also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with two of its partners, the Philippine Competition Commission and the China's State Administration for Market Regulation.

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Mr Alvin Koh Meng Sing, 高明新

14. Mr Koh has been in the public service for over 20 years, and assumed the appointment of Chief Legal Officer and Divisional Director, MOM in 2019. In MOM, Mr Koh led the legal team on a number of key functions, including prosecution, policy advisory, work injury compensation adjudication and enforcement in technical areas such as Workplace Safety and Health.



15. The MOM legal team consistently partners policy teams to deliver important policy changes such as the upcoming Workplace Fairness legislation and Platform Workers legislation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Koh addressed all legal issues faced by MOM, including issues arising at the foreign migrant dormitories, work passes, POFMA and judicial reviews arising from urgent measures imposed.

16. Mr Koh has extensive experience ranging from government procurement, white collar crime, foreign manpower, tax law, labour relations and competition law. Prior to his current role, Mr Koh was the founding Chief Legal Officer at the Ministry of Finance (MOF), and his earlier appointments include being the Chief Legal Officer at the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS), a Justices' Law Clerk to the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court, and Director (Legal & Enforcement) at the then-Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS). In 2020, Mr Koh was also made a fellow of the Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship.

In Appreciation

17. Mr Gabriel Lim, Permanent Secretary (Policy) for MTI said, "I would like to express MTI's deep appreciation for Lai Fung and Aik Kor's invaluable contributions and strong leadership to A*STAR and CCCS respectively over the past few years. I would also like to welcome Chorh Chuan and Alvin to the MTI family. I am confident that they will build on the excellent work of their predecessors and propel A*STAR and CCCS forward in its next phase of growth."

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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