

The Honorable Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister, Singapore

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was enlisted in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in 1971 as a national serviceman. He signed on as a regular officer after winning an SAF Overseas Scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge in England. He graduated from Cambridge in 1974 with first class honors in Mathematics and a Diploma in Computer Science, and subsequently in 1980 obtained a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University as a Mason Fellow.

Mr. Lee attended the Field Artillery Officers' Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1974. He attended the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas from June 1978 to June 1979, graduating with honors.

In the SAF, Mr. Lee's appointments include being platoon commander in a field artillery target acquisition battalion, battery commander and logistics officer in mortar battalions, and commanding officer of a 155 mm gun howitzer battalion. Subsequently Mr. Lee served on the (army) General Staff as the Assistant Chief of General Staff for Operations and Chief of the General Staff. In 1983, he helped the SAF to set up a joint staff to oversee all three services, as the first Director of the Joint Operations and Planning Directorate. He also participated in developing the concept of Total Defense, the idea that Singapore's security depends not just on military defense by the armed forces, but also civil defense, economic strength, social cohesion and psychological resilience.

Mr. Lee held the rank of Brigadier-General when he left the SAF in 1984 to enter politics. He was elected Member of Parliament and has been re-elected five times.

Mr. Lee was sworn in as Singapore's third Prime Minister in August 2004. Before that, he had been Deputy Prime Minister for 14 years, responsible for economic and civil service matters. He had also held Ministerial appointments in Trade and Industry, Defense, and Finance. In the economic and civil service matters, he has pursued policies to promote growth, by fostering a pro-market business climate and light taxes. Mr. Lee has also been Chairmen of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), where he liberalized the financial sector and shifted the emphasis from one-size-fits-all regulation towards a lighter supervisory touch.

As Prime Minister, Mr. Lee has launched policies to build a competitive economy and an inclusive society. He has introduced new programs to upgrade the education system, invest in R&D and infrastructure, and transform the city and living environment. Mr. Lee's Government is also strengthening Singapore's social safety nets. Significant measures include the Workfare Incentive Scheme, which is a negative income tax to encourage and reward older, low-income workers, and Community Care (ComCare), and endowment fund to support a wide range of welfare and social programs targeted at the poor.