



(Photo Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)

Lai Chung Han

Second Permanent Secretary (Education)
Ministry of Education

Mr Lai Chung Han was enlisted into the Singapore Armed Forces in January 1992 and was awarded the prestigious President's Scholarship and Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Scholarship. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) in Economics from Cambridge University, UK. Mr Lai was also awarded the SAF Overseas Postgraduate Scholarship (General Development) in 2006, and graduated with a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University, USA. He also graduated from the US Naval Staff College course, conducted at the US Naval War College.

Mr Lai's early days in the RSN were spent with the Missile Corvettes, first as a junior officer and later as the Executive Officer on-board RSS Valour. He subsequently assumed command of the Missile Corvette RSS Valiant in 2002-2004, during which the ship won the Fleet's People Excellence and Unit Excellence Awards. Upon completion of his postgraduate studies in Harvard, Mr Lai returned to command the Missile Corvette Squadron in July 2007. In April 2011, Mr Lai was appointed as the Fleet Commander following a tour in the Ministry of Defence Headquarters.

Mr Lai also held various staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence, including that of Head Long Term Planning Secretariat in the Office of the Chief of Defence Force, and Office Director in the Future Systems Directorate. He also held the appointment of Director (Policy) from December 2007 to October 2010. In August 2012, Mr Lai assumed the appointment of Deputy Secretary (Policy).

Mr Lai is currently a member of the Boards for ST Marine Ltd and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, as well as a member of the Board of Governors for Temasek Polytechnic.

Mr Lai was awarded the Public Administration Medal, Gold (Military) - Pingat Pentadbiran Awam, Emas (Tentera) in 2016.

Mr Lai was promoted to Rear Admiral (Two Stars) on 1 July 2014, and assumed the appointment of Chief of Navy on 1 August 2014. On 19 June 2017, Mr Lai joins the Ministry of Education as Second Permanent Secretary (Education).