

**For Immediate Reporting**

## **NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPOINTED AT THE ENERGY MARKET AUTHORITY**

1. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) today announced that Mr Puah Kok Keong, Deputy Secretary (Policy) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), will be appointed Chief Executive (CE) of Energy Market Authority (EMA) from 8 July 2024. He takes over from Mr Ngiam Shih Chun who will in turn assume the role of Deputy Secretary (Policy) at MHA.

### **Mr Puah Kok Keong [潘国强]**

2. Mr Puah has been the Deputy Secretary (Policy) at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) since August 2016. He oversees policy, planning, international cooperation, research & statistics, legal, and psychological services.



3. During Mr Puah's stint in MHA, he has overseen policy and legislative reviews in several areas including crime, drugs, rehabilitation, civil defence, immigration and registration, and racial and religious harmony. He led the review of Singapore's gambling regulations, which culminated in the consolidation of several gambling legislations under the new Gambling Control Act, and the restructuring of the Casino Regulatory Authority as the Gambling Regulatory Authority.

4. Mr Puah led the formulation and implementation of the plans for Home Team Transformation, which enhanced the Home Team's joint operations, joint capabilities, investments in science and technology, community partnerships and communications, training and people development. He was instrumental in driving MHA's international outreach efforts and partnerships. His leadership on this front has led to successful outcomes such as securing Singapore's membership on the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs.

5. Mr Puah also led a review of the roles of the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE), that resulted the rebranding of SCORE to Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG), expansion of YRSG's training and career support for ex-offenders, and the consolidation of SCORE's business enterprises under its subsidiary Yellow Ribbon Industries.

6. Mr Puah is no stranger to the energy sector, having been in the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Energy Division from 2006 to 2008.

**Mr Ngiam Shih Chun [严世俊]**

7. Mr Ngiam assumed the appointment of CE of EMA on 1 February 2018. Under his leadership, EMA took critical steps in the energy transition of Singapore's power sector, harnessing the "Four Switches" of solar, regional power grids, low-carbon alternatives and natural gas. These included the granting of Conditional Approvals for 4.2 GW of low-carbon electricity imports from the region, and the start of the nation's first electricity imports under the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project.



8. Mr Ngiam also oversaw the launch of the National Hydrogen Strategy, including a pathfinder project to develop a low- or zero-carbon ammonia solution for power generation and bunkering on Jurong Island.

9. During the global energy crunch in 2021 and 2022, Mr Ngiam led EMA to develop measures to ensure energy security and stabilise the electricity market, with initiatives such as Singapore's first Standby Liquefied Natural Gas Facility established within weeks. To bolster the power system's reliability, Mr Ngiam was also instrumental in the establishment of EMA's wholly owned subsidiary, Meranti Power, which has been commissioned to build fast-start generation capacity to better support any unforeseen shortfalls in electricity supply.

10. Following the energy crunch, Mr Ngiam has overseen the implementation of additional guardrails to strengthen Singapore's energy market structure and ensure that the market is well-positioned to support the energy transition. These efforts include the upcoming establishment of a central gas entity for the procurement and supply of gas to the power sector.

**In Appreciation**

11. Dr Beh Swan Gin, Permanent Secretary for Development, MTI said, "Shih Chun has provided strong and steady leadership and made invaluable contributions to Singapore's energy sector over the years. I would also like to

welcome Kok Keong to the MTI family and am confident that he will build on the excellent work of his predecessors and further propel EMA forward.”

**Ministry of Trade and Industry**  
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