

For immediate reporting

**LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT THE AGENCY FOR SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH (A*STAR)**

1. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) today announced leadership changes at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Mr Beh Kian Teik will be appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (Designate) at 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.

2. Mr Frederick Chew has served as Chief Executive Officer of A*STAR since April 2019 and was instrumental in advancing the strategic transformation of A*STAR. He significantly strengthened A*STAR's innovation and enterprise capabilities and effort to translate basic research to generate better economic, health and societal impact for Singapore and beyond. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Chew spearheaded A*STAR's COVID-19 taskforce's contributions to Singapore's pandemic response. Among others, these included the development of local diagnostics test kits, setting up of a centralised COVID-19 testing facility, and modelling of droplets dispersion in public spaces to support safe re-opening.

3. Under Mr Chew's leadership, A*STAR established several national research and innovation platforms, including the National Robotics Programme, the Digital Health Accelerator and Diagnostics Development Hub. Mr Chew also oversaw the setting up of the Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology's (SIMTech) innovation factory to provide a new platform for supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in their design and manufacture of market-ready products.

4. In his concurrent appointment as Chief of the Science & Technology Policy and Plans Office (S&TPPO), 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.

Appointment of CEO, A*STAR

5. Mr Beh Kian Teik will be appointed the Chief Executive Officer (Designate) at A*STAR from 1 October 2024 to 7 November 2024, and Chief Executive Officer at A*STAR from 8 November 2024. Mr Beh will also be appointed as a Board Member of A*STAR from 8 November 2024. He has been

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the Chief Executive Officer of the National Research Foundation (NRF) since August 2022. At NRF, Mr Beh played a key role in shaping the goals and priorities of the Research Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2025 plans, and oversaw the implementation of key programmes. He also sharpened the focus on keeping Singapore's basic research at the cutting edge through NRF's Foundational Research Capability studies.

6. Notably, he worked closely with A*STAR, the National University of Singapore (NUS), the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and economic agencies to further strengthen translational research and value creation. These included major new initiatives such as the National Gallium Nitride (GaN) Technology Centre, and National Semiconductor Translation and Innovation Centre (NSTIC). In addition, Mr Beh's efforts helped address gaps in Singapore's biotech ecosystem. He championed initiatives to enhance venture financing, strengthen the translational pipeline, and nurture an entrepreneurial mindset. Mr Beh also expanded NRF's international research partnerships including the United Kingdom, France and China.

7. Prior to his appointment at NRF, Mr Beh held various roles at the Singapore Economic Development Board and A*STAR.

In Appreciation

8. Mr Gabriel Lim, Permanent Secretary (Policy) for MTI said, "I would like to express MTI's deep appreciation to Frederick for his leadership and invaluable contributions to A*STAR. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours. I would also like to welcome Kian Teik back to the MTI family. I am confident that he will build on Frederick's excellent work, and propel A*STAR forward in its next phase of growth."

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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For media queries, please contact:

Pakhrin Tan
Senior Assistant Director, Communications and Engagement Division
Email: Pakhrin_Tan@mti.gov.sg

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Annex A: Photo of Mr Frederick Chew



Mr Frederick Chew was appointed CEO of A*STAR on 1 April 2019. Prior to the appointment, he was the Deputy Secretary (Technology) at the Ministry of Defence and has held various other key positions in MINDEF and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

Annex B: Photo of Mr Beh Kian Teik



Photo credit: NRF Singapore

Mr Beh Kian Teik is currently the CEO of NRF where he is responsible for reviewing, developing, and implementing the national research, innovation and enterprise (RIE) strategies and governance frameworks. Prior to joining the NRF, Mr Beh was Executive Vice President at EDB, where he oversaw the set-up of EDB's New Ventures Group, advancing Singapore's corporate venturing ecosystem and establishing the pioneer cohort of corporate ventures. He also held key management positions leading EDB's Industry Identification and Incubation, Strategic and Corporate Planning, Europe Operations, Biomedical Sciences, and was EDB's first Chief Digital Officer spearheading the Board's efforts to be digital-ready.