

Brief CV: Tan Kong Yam



Professor Tan Kong Yam is presently professor of economics at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and the Director of the Asia Competitiveness Institute at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of NUS. He is also a board member of Changi Airport Group and CRCT of CapitaLand Group.

From 1985-88, he was the chief assistant to Dr Goh Keng Swee, the former deputy Prime Minister of Singapore invited by Mr Deng Xiaoping to advise China on economic development strategy. From June 2002 to June 2005, he was a senior economist at the World Bank office in Beijing. In 2004, he was a member of the World Bank expert group on the eleventh five year plan (2006-2010) for the State Council in China. The expert group provided analysis and policy recommendations to the Chinese government. Prior to that, he was the chief economist of the Singapore government (1999-2002).

He has taught in the mayor program in NTU for over 10 years. His students are mayors and senior government officials from China doing their MPA program in Singapore. He has taught over 6,000 officials, businessmen and entrepreneurs from China in various MPA and EMBA programs over the past 20 years. He has also travelled extensively in China and has visited all the 31 provinces, including over 200 cities, small towns and poor villages across the country.

He is a graduate of Princeton (1975-79, class of 1931 scholar, Paul Volcker Thesis prize) and Stanford University (1980-83), where he completed his Master and PhD in three years. He has also worked at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, World Bank and the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

His research interests are in international trade and finance, economic and business trends in the Asia Pacific region and economic reforms in China. He has published ten books and numerous articles. He served as board member at the Singapore Central Provident Fund Board (1984-96) and the National Productivity Board (1989-90). He has also consulted for many organizations including Temasek, GIC, Citigroup, IBM, ATT, BP, ABN-AMRO, Mobil, Ikea, Bank of China, China Construction Bank, People's Bank of China, EDB.