

Donald Tsang

Dr Donald Tsang has been the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China since 21 June 2005. He was re-elected on 25 March 2007 as the third-term Chief Executive, and was formally appointed by the Central People's Government on 2 April 2007.

Dr Tsang became the Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) on 1 May 2001. He was the leading Principal Official to support the Chief Executive in administering Hong Kong and to advise him on matters of policy.

On 1 July 2002, Dr Tsang left the civil service and joined the team of Principal Officials under a new accountability system of government. He continued to occupy the position of the Chief Secretary for Administration until his resignation on 25 May 2005 to stand for election as Chief Executive.

Before becoming Chief Secretary, Dr Tsang was Financial Secretary in the HKSARG. During his six-year tenure as Financial Secretary, Dr Tsang steered Hong Kong through the Asian financial crisis that swept across the region in 1997 and 1998. He later masterminded rigorous reforms to enhance the local financial infrastructure.

Dr Tsang joined the Civil Service in January 1967 and has held many positions in the Administration dealing with local administration, finance, trade and policies relating to the return of Hong Kong to China. In 1977, Dr Tsang was attached to the Asian Development Bank in Manila for a year and worked on water supply and railway development projects in the Philippines and Bangladesh.

As Deputy Secretary of the General Duties Branch between 1985 and 1989, he was responsible for the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. Between 1989 and 1991, Dr Tsang was the Director of Administration. He was responsible for overseeing the effective functioning of the Government Secretariat. Dr Tsang became the Director-General of Trade between 1991 and 1993, and was responsible for all facets of trade negotiation and administration affecting Hong Kong. In May 1993, he was promoted to Secretary for the Treasury, responsible for the overall resource allocation, the taxation systems and the cost effectiveness of the Hong Kong government.

In September 1995, Dr Tsang was appointed Financial Secretary, the first Chinese to hold the position after 150 years of British incumbents. He became the first Financial Secretary in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on 1 July 1997. He received the Grand Bauhinia Medal from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in June 2002 and a knighthood (KBE) from the British Sovereign in June 1997 for his distinguished service to Hong Kong.

Dr Tsang was educated in Hong Kong, holding a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University. He has received honorary doctorates from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the University of Hong Kong.

Dr Tsang is married with two sons. His hobbies include hiking, swimming and birdwatching.