Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong declared that it was something he worried about obsessively. Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew said that one of his chief tasks was to launch an early search for his successor.

Barely two weeks after becoming Prime Minister in 2004, Lee Hsien Loong indicated that he wanted to step down right away, but at once pocketed. His position was strengthened on National Day last year, when he declared that one of his chief tasks was to launch an early search for Singapore’s fourth-generation leader. That week, he did not look to the future from his office, but instead into a corner office at the Istana. It may seem like an odd combination,

### Becoming the top man

**No. 1**

**LEE KUAN YEW**

2005: 1st

**Age:** 85

**No. 2**

**GOH CHOK TONG**

1990: 5th

**Age:** 70

**No. 3**

**LEE HSIEN LOONG**

1997: 1st

**Age:** 54

**No. 4**

**SINGH TAN**

1997: 3rd

**Age:** 48

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In search of 4th-generation leaders

The task of the present leadership is one of managing and trumpeting over transition as Singapore becomes more cosmopolitan and plugged into the global economy. The fourth-generation leadership will be entrusted with making sure the Singapore system prevails, say observers. And it has to do in so much more complex, borderless world.

### In search of 4th-generation leaders

But is the potential fourth PM to emerge out of Singapore? With overseas NGOs willing to pay top dollar for the potential fourth PM, it is not even in Singapore and has slipped through the FAP’s sights,

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