



Dr Koh Poh Koon

MBBS (S'pore), MMed (Surg), MRCSEd, FRCSE (Gen), FAMS (Gen Surg)

Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Manpower
Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment

Dr Koh Poh Koon is Senior Minister of State for Manpower, and Sustainability and the Environment. Dr Koh was re-elected as a Member of Parliament for Tampines GRC on 10 July 2020, having served as a Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC since 2015.

At the Ministry of Manpower, Dr Koh oversees employment standards and safeguards, which underpin fair and progressive workplaces for employees and employers. Dr Koh is also focused on strengthening policies and protections for vulnerable workers, including migrant and platform workers. Prior to his appointment at the Ministry of Manpower, Dr Koh was Deputy Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress, where he worked closely with union leaders and the Labour Movement network to implement the Industry Transformation Maps and better prepare workers for jobs in key growth sectors. Dr Koh continues to play an instrumental role in Singapore's tripartite landscape and champions the Progressive Wage Model for lower-wage workers.

At the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Koh is responsible for securing Singapore's food supply and ensuring that food sold in Singapore is safe for consumption. He also oversees the transformation of the agri-food industry into one that is highly productive, climate-resilient and sustainable by leveraging technology and innovation. Dr Koh also guides the coordination of whole-of-government efforts to combat marine litter and protect Singapore's coastlines from the threat of sea level rise through the implementation of Singapore's coastal protection plans.

Prior to his current appointments, he held various positions at the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Ministry of National Development.

Before joining politics, Dr Koh held academic appointments as Clinical Lecturer in the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore, Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School and Adjunct Clinician Scientist with the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN), a key institution under the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*Star). Dr Koh also served as a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon in Singapore General Hospital and was the Director of the Colorectal Cancer Molecular Genetics Research Laboratory as well as the founding Director of the Colorectal Cancer Genomic Health Service.

Dr Koh started his own private practice in 2011 at Capstone Colorectal Surgery Centre in Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre. In 2012, he partnered Fortis Healthcare Singapore to set up the first dedicated colorectal diseases hospital in Southeast Asia, the Fortis Colorectal hospital.

Dr Koh is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Singapore Armed Forces, having served as the Commanding Officer of a Combat Service Support Battalion and subsequently as Deputy Brigade Commander. He graduated in 2009 from the Singapore Armed Forces Command and Staff College, where he emerged as the Top Graduate of the 10th National Service Command and Staff Course.

He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, National University of Singapore in 1996 and obtained his Fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) as well as the Academy of Medicine (Singapore) in 2005. He received colorectal surgical training in Edinburgh, UK (2002) and completed his Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, USA (2006).