



BIOGRAPHY

S. Pushpanathan

Mr S. Pushpanathan was appointed by the ASEAN Coordinating Council as the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of ASEAN for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) on 15 December 2008. At 47 years old, he is youngest and the first professionally recruited DSG in the history of ASEAN.



He is responsible for coordinating the establishment of a highly competitive and regionally and globally integrated ASEAN Single Market and Production Base with equitable development as the objective of the AEC by 2015. This involves creating an AEC where there will be free flow of goods, services, investment and skilled labour and freer flow of capital. He is also responsible for implementing the AEC Blueprint adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in 2007, which is a comprehensive and coherent master plan for building the Community. He oversees the forging of comprehensive economic partnerships and free trade agreements with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, and in coordinating East Asia-wide economic integration initiatives involving ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. Furthermore, he directs the establishment and operations of the Macroeconomic and Finance Surveillance Office in the ASEAN Secretariat, which will undertake regional surveillance in the areas of macroeconomics, finance, investment and trade, and support the surveillance requirements for the US\$120 billion Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation.

Prior to being appointed as DSG AEC, he held several senior positions in the ASEAN Secretariat, including Principal Director of the Bureau for Economic Integration and Finance; Director of Plus Three and External Relations; and Special Assistant to Secretary-General of ASEAN. He possesses wide-ranging expertise and experience in handling regional and international issues covering trade, economic, finance, external relations to political and security cooperation. He joined the ASEAN Secretariat in February 1996.

In his last position as Principal Director, he provided leadership for the conceptualisation and drafting of the AEC Blueprint. He served as a resource person for the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group, which presented a set of far-reaching recommendations for the future of ASEAN-China strategic partnership to the ASEAN-China Summit in 2005. He also served in an advisory capacity to the foreign ministries of Lao PDR and Malaysia for the substantive preparations for the ASEAN and related Summits in 2004 in Vientiane and 2005 in Kuala Lumpur respectively. Furthermore, he spearheaded in the ASEAN Secretariat the establishment and development of the ASEAN Plus Three Unit dealing with ASEAN's relations with China, Japan and South Korea, and the Specialised Projects Unit dealing with combating transnational crimes.

He received his first degree in Economics and Political Science from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1988 and a Master Degree in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS, in 1994. He was an Associate with the Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo, Japan in 2006 undertaking research on East Asia Community through a Japan Foundation fellowship.

His hobbies include reading, writing and sports. He writes regularly on regional and international issues, which are carried in newspapers and journals.

He is married with three children.

1 May 2009