

SAIFUDIN HAMJURI SAMSURI:
GEOPOLITICS

Mr Saifudin Hamjuri Samsuri read Social & Political Science at Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, UK (1990-93). A recipient of the prestigious Singapore Public Service Commission (PSC) Overseas Merit Scholarship, he served 15 years in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). In July 2015 he was awarded a second government scholarship to pursue the Master in Public Management at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS, and spent the Spring semester (Jan-May 2016) as a Lee Kuan Yew Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Saifudin's diplomatic experiences with the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) have been substantive and diverse. As a young foreign service office, he was responsible for Singapore's respective bilateral relations with all 54 African countries – literally from A (Angola) to Z (Zimbabwe) – and he visited several countries in the mid-1990s, including a South Africa that was only emerging from apartheid. He was then assigned to the Protocol Directorate to overlook policy matters on diplomatic privileges and immunity, state and official visits both incoming and outgoing, as well as national projects such as land reciprocity deals for diplomatic missions and the inaugural World Trade Organization (WTO) Conference in 1996. Knowledgeable on policy matters dealing with diplomacy and international relations, his forte remains in analysing policy issues across politics, security, economics and the social domains. Singapore's unique diplomatic signature has always been a "whole-of-government" approach to monitor key developments that have strategic implications for Singapore's development. Administering overseas Embassies, his postings included Vietnam, Cambodia and France (cross-accredited to Spain, Portugal and Israel).

Saifudin has served 10 years in the Civil Service College (CSC), the central learning institution for the Singapore Public Service. The CSC builds strategic capacity in governance, leadership, public administration and management. At the forefront of learning and development, the College leads the way in bringing digital learning to the entire Singapore public service, and plays a critical role in raising technology awareness and building digital capabilities. As Senior Researcher, then Principal Learning & Development Specialist, Saifudin leads teams that develop practitioner-oriented curriculum and programmes in order to prepare and equip Singapore's Public Service officers for highest service.

Saifudin speaks multiple languages: English, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia, French, Vietnamese, Mandarin, German and Khmer (Cambodian). A compassionate and empathetic individual, Saifudin is people-oriented and believes strongly in giving back to society. Saifudin firmly believes that reading and writing are essential to keeping humanity on a steady march to progress.