



## Mr Tan Soo Khoon BBA Hons 1971

Former Member and Speaker of Parliament  
Managing Director, Crystal Time (S) Pte Ltd

Mr Tan Soo Khoon is a former People's Action Party Member of Parliament and Speaker of the House. He was first elected to Parliament in 1976 at the age of 27 and served through 7 terms (30 years). In 1984 he was elected Deputy Speaker and in 1989 he became Speaker till 2002 when he returned to the backbench until his retirement from politics in 2006. During his stint as the Speaker, he was also President of AIPO (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation) for 3 terms.

As Speaker he is remembered for his fairness to both sides of the House, allowing members of both the ruling party and the opposition to speak their minds. As a backbencher he is also remembered for his incisive speeches and sense of humor which he injected into his speeches. His notes to fellow MPs would be signed off "The Watchman", a take on his private business and his role as Speaker. When he stepped down as Speaker after 13 years, Mr Tan, with his brutal honesty and openness immediately made it known that as a backbencher, he could still "shake the House". Many of his speeches provided witty, pointed, even scathing, criticisms about certain government policies and expenditures, such as the extravagance of certain public buildings and the rising cost of public transportation. He wowed many with his well-researched, frank and sharp speeches on many issues of the day such as the burden of the GST increases on the poor and the rising cost of living.

In a tribute by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2006, he said of Tan Soo Khoon, “He makes very good speeches in Parliament. Sometimes, he draws blood... Sometimes he has offended ministers, but he has spoken his mind.”

Mr Tan helms his family business, watch distributorship Crystal Time, and also serves on the board of several publicly-listed companies. He is the Honorary President and Advisor of the Singapore Clock and Watch Trade Association. Since 2007 he has been serving as Singapore’s Non-Resident Ambassador to the Czech Republic.