

## High Commissioner Singapore - Zainal Arif Mantaha

After practising law from 1989 to 1991, Zainal Arif Mantaha joined the Singapore Foreign Service in May 1991. During the course of his long foreign service career, he has served in different capacities and on different dossiers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore and overseas.

In the Ministry, he had been assigned to cover diverse regions ranging from Latin America, Africa, Middle East, to South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific, as well as Europe.

Overseas, he had served in the Singapore missions in Bonn (December 1993 to March 1997), New York (March 2000 to August 2001), and London (June 2006 to September 2010). From July 2015 to July 2021, Zainal served as Singapore's Ambassador to the French Republic, with concurrent accreditation to the Portuguese Republic.

Outside of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from September 2001 to October 2004, Zainal was seconded to the Asia-Europe Foundation, where he served as Director for the People-to-People Exchange Programme. In that capacity, he conceived and implemented programmes to foster links among students, youth, and young leaders from Asia and Europe.

From January to November 2013, he was seconded to the Singapore Civil Service College as Diplomat-in-Residence, where he contributed to increasing understanding of Singapore's foreign policy and international issues across the Singapore Civil Service.

In 2014, he obtained the International Diploma in Public Administration from the French École Nationale d'Administration (National School of Administration).

Zainal arrived in South Africa on 11 September 2021 and presented his credentials as High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to the Republic of South Africa to President Cyril Ramaphosa on 12 October 2021. Out of Pretoria, Zainal is also concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia, Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Eswatini, High Commissioner to the Republic of Botswana, and High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Zainal is married to Jennifer Cheng, a former intellectual property lawyer. They have no children.

