



Desmond Kuek

Head of Sustainable Finance Asia Pacific

Global Head of the Sustainable Finance Group

UBS Group Sustainability and Impact

Joined UBS in Feb 2019 as Divisional Vice Chairman, Global Wealth Management and is currently **Head of Sustainable Finance Asia Pacific**. He is concurrently the **Global Head of the Sustainable Finance Group**, a commercially focused, cross-divisional group that supports the implementation of sustainability and impact strategy relating to sustainable finance across the firm. In UBS Singapore, he also chairs the UBS Optimus Foundation and directs the management of the UBS' Singapore Program for Employability and Resilience (SUPER).

Prior to UBS, he helmed **SMRT Corporation Ltd** as **President and Group CEO** (2012-2018), where he steered its multi-modal transport businesses on a path of sustainable growth, system renewal and service quality; improving operational performance more than 10-fold during his tenure. He led the company on a reform of the rail financing framework with the Singapore Government; and its privatization through a Scheme of Arrangement in a deal affirmed by Asset Triple-A as 'Best Privatisation M&A'. In 2016, he was named 'Executive of the Year' by the Singapore Business Review.

Appointed by the President of Singapore as **Permanent Secretary** in the **Ministry of Environment and Water Resources** (2010-2012), he was responsible for policies to enhance national environmental sustainability and liveability, and led a whole-of-government project to enhance engagement and governance across the Singapore Public Service.

He was promoted to the highest rank of Lieutenant-General in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and served as Singapore's sixth **Chief of Defence Force** (2007-2010). Other key appointments include **Chief of Army** (2003-2007) and **Director of Joint Intelligence** (2000-2003). He led the SAF's transformation to a digital-enabled integrated force capability, strengthened its human and knowledge capital, and was responsible at the time for its highest number of multi-national military and humanitarian operations across the world.

Over the years, he has served on boards of International Enterprise Singapore, Housing and Development Board, Jurong Town Corporation, Defence Science and Technology Agency, Civil Service College and Singapore Technologies Engineering. He also held senior advisory positions at SAP (Asia Pacific, Japan), Toyota Tsusho (Asia Pacific), Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, and Nanyang Technological University's College of Engineering. In 2018, he founded Genium & Co, a leadership and organizational development consultancy incorporated in Singapore.

He holds a Master of Arts (Engineering Science) from Oxford University and a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University (majoring in Macro-economics and Statistics), is an alumnus of IMD Switzerland and the UK Army Staff College, and is a Distinguished Allied Leadership Graduate of the US Army Infantry School at Fort Benning. He also holds a Certificate in ESG Investing from CFA Institute.

In recognition of his exemplary public service, he was conferred the prestigious Meritorious Service Medal in 2009 and Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 2002 by the Singapore Government. He has also been bestowed top national awards by the governments of Brunei, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and United States of America for his significant contributions to bilateral defence ties.