

The Hon Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS, JP
Chief Secretary for Administration
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Mrs Carrie Lam joined the Hong Kong Government as an Administrative Officer upon graduation from the University of Hong Kong in 1980. Whilst in the government service, she attended a one-year Diploma Course in Development Studies in the University of Cambridge in 1981-82 and received a Fulbright Fellowship on attachment to a US federal agency for several months in 1988.

During the early part of her career, Mrs Lam served in various bureaux and departments covering medical and health, district administration and security and worked on two special assignments relating to Hong Kong's electoral arrangements and the securities market. In the 1990s, she spent almost seven years in the Finance Bureau, involved in budgetary planning, expenditure control and the government's capital works programme, initially as Principal Assistant Secretary and subsequently as Deputy Secretary for the Treasury. She was appointed the Director of Social Welfare in August 2000, managing a HK\$30 billion welfare portfolio. Her three-year tenure as the Director of Social Welfare coincided with a period of high unemployment and severe fiscal deficits in Hong Kong, highlighting the need for ensuring the financial sustainability of a social security safety net for the disadvantaged. During the outbreak of SARS in Hong Kong in early 2003, Mrs Lam together with three other senior civil servants in their personal capacity, set up the We Care Education Fund, raising over HK\$80 million to meet the long term education needs of children whose parents have died of SARS.

In November 2003, Mrs Lam was appointed Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands), and held the position of Chairman of the Town Planning Board. In September 2004, she took up the position of Director-General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London. As head of this overseas office based in London, she was responsible for promoting Hong Kong's trade and economic interests in the United Kingdom and 16 Central and Eastern European countries.

On 8 March 2006, Mrs Lam returned to Hong Kong and took up the position as Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs. As part of her sports portfolio, she took part in Hong Kong's preparation for co-hosting the 2008 Beijing Olympics and Paralympics Equestrian Events. She was also responsible for cultural policy and helped mapped out plans for the West Kowloon Cultural District.

On 1 July 2007, she left the civil service and was appointed a Principal Official in the Third Term of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, taking up the position of Secretary for Development. In her five-year tenure as Secretary for Development, she pressed ahead with various initiatives in pursuit of diversified, balanced and sustainable development, or what is termed “progressive development” by the Chief Executive. These initiatives included a new heritage conservation policy with the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme and Conserving Central being two of the highlights; a new Urban Renewal Strategy aiming at putting people first; a range of new building legislation and support schemes such as the Operation Building Bright to ensure building safety; policy measures to promote green buildings, and the creation of Hong Kong’s first Zero Carbon Building; a new policy to revitalize Hong Kong’s industrial buildings leading to Energising Kowloon East aiming at creating another CBD in Hong Kong; harbourfront enhancement, strengthening of urban design, greening and tree management and efforts to build up a quality construction industry in Hong Kong. In recognition of her achievements as Secretary for Development, she has been awarded Honorary Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers, Property Person of the Year in the RICS Hong Kong Property Awards 2012, Honorary Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Honorary Fellow Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists, and Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

On 1 July 2012, Mrs Lam was appointed Chief Secretary for Administration in the Fourth Term of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. In recognition of her career achievements and contributions to the community, she was conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Social Sciences by Lingnan University and Officier de la Légion d’Honneur by the French Government in 2013 and 2015 respectively.
