

Mr. Tan Hock Soon

General Secretary, FDAWU



Tan Hock Soon is the General Secretary of Food, Drinks and Allied Workers' Union (FDAWU) since 2005. He leads a 35,000 strong union membership of workers from the industrial and services sectors of the hotel, retail and food manufacturing industries. Prior to becoming GS, he has served the FDAWU Executive Council as an Assistant General Secretary since 1993. The FDAWU is now the fourth largest Union affiliated to the NTUC in Singapore.

Tan Hock Soon promotes an environment that supports businesses and jobs for workers and strongly believes that this approach is always the best form of security for workers. The services sector was badly affected during the SARS period and more recently, by the economic downturn with drastic drops in tourist arrivals. As General Secretary, he led workers to accept cost cutting measures and embrace training, without much job losses. He also initiated like-minded hotels to come together to commit themselves to SPUR through the launch of an MOU for these hotels to upgrade the skills of their workers.

Tan Hock Soon now focuses his attention on the re-employment of mature workers. He encourages hoteliers to use simple equipment to lighten workers' load thereby reducing staff turnover and higher retention of mature workers. Tan Hock Soon creates collaborative and proactive industrial relations through creating mutual trust and regular dialogues with the union's management partners.

Tan Hock Soon is elected into the Central Committee of the Singapore National Trades Union Congress in 2007. He was a recipient of the Comrade of Labour Award by National Trades Union Congress in 2001. He is a member of the Tourism Industry Skills and Training Council (ISTC) since 2005 and is a Member on the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence (ACCORD) since 2009. He has also served as a Member of the REACH Supervisory Panel for the term 2006-2008.