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1997 expert gets top GIS position

By FRANCIS LI and DANIEL CHUNG

Mr John Chan, a Government specialist on 1997 affairs, will become a principal architect of the official information and publicity machinery from February.

Mr Chan, 42, currently the Deputy Secretary (General Duties) and a member of the Land Commission, has been named the next Director of Information Services in a major Government reshuffle.

Mr Chan was deeply involved in the Sino-British talks, collating and co-ordinating relevant information for use by the British side.

Mr Chan's post in the General Duties Branch and membership in the Land Commission will be taken over by Mr Donald Tsang, the Deputy Director of Trade.

In a statement yesterday, the Government also announced that the incumbent GIS director, Miss Cheung Man-ye, will return to head Radio and Television Hong-kong in January.

Miss Cheung, 38, has been seconded to GIS from RTHK



Mr Chan

since September 1983.

She will replace Mr Stuart Wilkinson, presently the Director of Broadcasting, who will retire on November 30.

Mr Wilkinson, 57, was first seconded to RTHK as Deputy Director of Broadcasting in November 1978 from the British Broadcasting Corp.

There has been recent controversy surrounding a proposal to transform RTHK into a BBC-style independent



Miss Cheung

body and Miss Cheung may have a tough time administering a department shrouded in uncertainty.

"It is a real hot seat," Miss Cheung admitted yesterday, but declined to discuss it further.

Miss Cheung worked her way up the ladder at RTHK, starting as a programme officer in 1972.

Miss Cheung said Mr Chan was the "best man" to take over her job.

The Secretary for Administrative Services and Information, Mr Peter Tsao, yesterday noted that Mr Chan had once been his deputy in the Trade Department and said he welcomed the appointment of such a capable man in the information department.

Mr Chan yesterday said he believed his working experience in the General Duties Branch and the Land Commission would be of great help in his new job.

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Top job

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Mr Chan became deputy secretary for General Duties in February last year.

Mr Tsang, 41, said last night he had still to become acquainted with the nature of his new job.

"I have been working for the Government for more than 18 years; to me this is just one of many reshuffles," he said.

Mr Tsang's post in the Trade Department will be filled by Mr Paul Wong, the present Deputy Director of Industry.

Also as part of the reshuffle, Mr Chau Tak-hay, the Deputy Secretary (Health and Welfare) will join the City and New Territories Administration as Deputy Regional Secretary (Hongkong and Kowloon).

Mr Chau will replace Mr Mayer Ng, who has been allowed to retire at 46.

A principal assistant secretary in the Health and Welfare Branch, Mr Nigel [Name obscured], will be promoted to deputy secretary to replace Mr Chau.