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Anson calls for SAR continuity

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Chief Secretary Anson Chan Fang On-sang has called for continuity in the upper echelon of the Special Administrative Region government.

She said yesterday it would be better if there was no major reshuffle among the senior officials named by Tung Chee-hwa.

Citing her experience in the Civil Service Branch, Mrs Chan said changes in jobs often had a flow-on effect on other posts. Mrs Chan again rejected speculation she was on bad terms with Mr Tung, whom she described as a "nice guy". "We have absolutely no problem," she said. It was natural for officials to have to adjust to a new boss, she said. "Many of us have served for different governors before and we are able to adjust and work with them."

Mrs Chan, who has been criticised as "too British", was optimistic about dealing with mainland officials.

"After July 1, we will be

part of one country, like a family. I don't think we will have difficulty."

Mrs Chan said she and Financial Secretary Sir Donald Tsang Yam-kuen would farewell Governor Chris Patten before he boarded the Royal Yacht Britannia on July 1.

She said she had been most impressed with Mr Patten's "quick wittedness" and eloquence, particular at Legco meetings.

"He's also a good boss and never blamed officials for making mistakes."