

# LTA ex-senior director in \$1.2m graft case

## CEO and project director at one of Singapore's major construction groups among the accused

Prominent Singaporean businessmen Pek Lian Guan and Pay Teow Heng of Tiong Seng Holdings have been accused of bribing former Land Transport Authority deputy group director Henry Foo Yung Thye in order to advance their company's business interests.

Pek, 55, is currently chief executive officer and executive director of Tiong Seng Holdings, a home-grown construction and property developer that handled projects such as The St Regis Singapore and Resorts World Sentosa.

He joined Tiong Seng Contractors, a Tiong Seng Holdings subsidiary, in 1990. He was its managing director at the time of the alleged offences.

Pek is also the vice-chairman of the Singapore Business Federation and holds directorships at the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall Company.

Pay, 52, who is director of Tiong Seng Contractors, joined the firm as a project engineer in 1992 and was promoted to project manager a year later. He was listed as a project director at Tiong Seng Holdings in the company's latest annual report. Pay manages the tender process for projects and oversees construction projects by Tiong Seng Contractors.

The board of Tiong Seng Holdings said yesterday that both Pek and Pay will give up their executive roles in the company from July 31. Pek will remain as adviser to the group, while Pay will be operational consultant to Tiong Seng Civil Engineering. The board said these roles may be reassessed when appropriate.

Others accused in Foo's graft case include Chinese national Cai Jungang, 56, who was director of Tritech Engineering & Testing (Singapore) at the time of the alleged offence. Cai has been in-



Henry Foo Yung Thye, a former deputy group director of the Land Transport Authority (LTA), had a gambling habit and had chalked up debts. He was charged yesterday with corruption involving \$1.24 million in loans from contractors and sub-contractors of LTA. Foo also allegedly cheated his colleagues at the LTA into extending him loans, by dishonestly concealing from them that the loans were intended to service his gambling habit and debts. He faces a total of 36 charges, and his bail has been set at \$250,000.

PHOTO: SCREENGAB FROM LTA/YOUTUBE



Singaporean Pek Lian Guan



Singaporean Pay Teow Heng



China national Cai Jungang



Korean Ro Sung-young



Korean Kim Young-gyu



Singaporean Zhang Xihu

involved in research and development projects that were funded by government agencies and related to underground space utilisation and development in Singapore.

Korean nationals Ro Sung-young, 48, and Kim Young-gyu, 51, are project manager and project director respectively at Daewoo Engineering & Construction, which has handled projects related to the

MRT in Singapore as well as condominium projects.

Little public information can be found on Singaporean Zhang Xihu, 52, who was identified in court documents as the director of MEPT Engineering, a home-grown company specialising in tunnelling and metro line-related projects.

**Charmaine Ng**



Singaporean Chen Xuguang (left) was charged in relation to offences involving payments from China Railway Tunnel Group.

ST PHOTOS: WONG KWAI CHOW

## He allegedly received loans from firms to further their business interest with agency

**Charmaine Ng**

A former deputy group director of the Land Transport Authority (LTA) was yesterday charged with corruption involving \$1.24 million in loans from contractors and sub-contractors.

Henry Foo Yung Thye, 46, who had a gambling habit and had chalked up debts, allegedly obtained gratification in the form of loans from contractors and sub-contractors of the LTA between 2014 and last year.

Some time early last year, the Singaporean also allegedly attempted to obtain gratification in the form of a loan of around \$30,000 from a sub-contractor of the LTA in order to advance its business interest with the agency.

Foo also allegedly cheated his colleagues at the LTA into extending him loans totalling about \$726,500 between 2008 and last year, by dishonestly concealing from them that the loans were intended to service his gambling habit and debts.

In total, he faces 36 charges. His bail has been set at \$250,000.

Six individuals and a company which provided Foo with the loans to advance their business interests were also charged yesterday.

The individuals are: Chinese national Cai Jungang, 56, director of Tritech Engineering & Testing (Singapore); Singaporean Zhang Xihu, 52, director of MEPT Engineering; Singaporean Pay Teow Heng, 52, director of Tiong Seng Contractors; Singaporean Pek Lian Guan, 55, managing director of Tiong Seng Contractors; South Korean national Ro Sung-young, 48, project manager of Daewoo Engineering & Construction; and South Korean national Kim Young-gyu, 51, project director of Daewoo Engineering & Construction.

They were each offered bail, with the lowest set at \$25,000 for Kim and the highest at \$200,000

each for Pek and Pay.

China Railway Tunnel Group's Singapore branch (CRTG) was also charged with three counts of corruptly giving gratification in the form of loans of about \$220,000 to Foo as an inducement to advance the company's business interest with the LTA.

Another person was also charged over offences involving the payments from CRTG. Singaporean Chen Xuguang, 53, was director of Tong Sheng Construction & Trading when he allegedly abetted the falsification of Tong Sheng invoices as a sub-contractor of CRTG. He was offered bail of \$10,000.

The board of Tiong Seng Holdings said in a Singapore Exchange announcement yesterday that both Pek and Pay will relinquish their current executive roles in the company from July 31.

Pek will remain as adviser to the group, while Pay will be operational consultant to Tiong Seng Civil Engineering for a year. The board also said it will re-assess this arrangement "where appropriate in due course".

Anyone who is convicted of a corruption offence can be fined up to \$100,000 or jailed for up to five years, or both. If the offence is related to a matter or contract with the Government or a public body, the maximum jail term for each offence can be increased to seven years in jail. Those who are convicted of cheating or the falsification of accounts can be fined and jailed for up to 10 years.

In response to media queries, LTA said Foo is a former employee, but did not say when he left.

"As the case is now before court, we are unable to comment on the matter," a spokesman added.

Foo was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in 2013, when he was director of the Thomson-East Coast MRT line.

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