Teo Chee Hean was appointed Deputy Prime Minister on 1 April 2009. Since May 2011, he has served as Coordinating Minister for National Security, Minister for Home Affairs, and Minister in charge of the Civil Service. He also oversees the National Population and Talent Division and the National Climate Change Secretariat.

In the first phase of his career, he served in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

In December 1992, he left the SAF to seek public office and was elected as a Member of Parliament in a by-election in the Marine Parade Group Representation Constituency (GRC). He was re-elected to Parliament four times in the Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC.

He was awarded the President's Scholarship and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Scholarship in 1973. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) in Electrical Engineering and Management Science from the University of Manchester in 1976. He subsequently attained a Master of Science (with distinction) in Computing Science in 1977 at the Imperial College in London, and a Master's in Public Administration at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1986, where he was named a Littauer Fellow.