

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR JOHNNY TAN, NUSS PRESIDENT  
AT THE NUSS DIALOGUE WITH  
THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MR HENG SWEE KEAT  
12 APRIL 2012, 7PM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education

Fellow NUSS Members

Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening and a very warm welcome to the NUSS dialogue with Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat.

This dialogue is part of the NUSS Ministerial Dialogue Series aimed at providing a forum for our distinguished leaders to share their insights into and stimulate discussion on topical issues of long-term significance and relevance to Singapore and the region.

This dialogue underscores NUSS' continued commitment to promoting intellectual discourse among our members and contributing positively to Singapore's political and intellectual development.

Education is a vital part of our nation building. As Singapore progresses toward a Knowledge-based economy, it is imperative that our education system remains relevant to the changing needs of our increasingly globalised society.

As a young nation, Singapore has done exceptionally well in the last 40-50 years.

But it faces many challenges ahead. The Prime Minister and a number of Cabinet Ministers including Minister Heng himself have spoken extensively on those challenges during the recent budget debates and I shall not elaborate any further.

But the key questions remain as to ...

- how well prepared we are in tackling these challenges to ensure the future survival and continued success of Singapore?
- How can we best improve the quality of lives of our citizens?
- What kind of society do we want for ourselves, and for our future generation?

These are deep questions.

This evening, we are indeed privileged and honoured to have Minister Heng Swee Keat to share with us his sights into some of these issues and challenges.

Minister will speak on the topic of **“Modern Education and Developing a Singaporean Core”**.

Since his appointment as Minister for Education, Minister Heng has impressed many with some significant changes to our education system - chief among them being the increased focus on a student-centric, values-driven education.

I am sure you will not only gain new insights, but also draw inspirations from the perspectives of the Minister.

Without further ado, please join me in welcoming Minister Heng on stage to address us ...

Minister please. ...