

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR DAVID HO  
AT MEET-THE-AMBASSADOR SERIES WITH  
THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SINGAPORE  
8 OCTOBER 2012, MONDAY  
7PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

Your Excellency Antony Phillipson, the British High Commissioner to Singapore  
Fellow MC Members  
Fellow NUSS Members  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening and a very warm welcome to all of you for taking time to join us this evening.

The High Commissioner told me that he is always very busy. And I said yes, all ambassadors are expected to be busy. So we do appreciate that he could schedule this evening with us.

The Meet-the-Ambassador Series is a forum where NUSS invites various ambassadors to share their views with us freely. This is a closed-door session so we can be open and speak our hearts out. At this platform, we have had the US Ambassador and the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore and many others where we have very cordial relationships.

When we talk about the UK in Southeast Asia: the view from Singapore, we know that the topic has actually two parts to it. The UK in Southeast Asia - they have been here for nearly 200 years and I do not think we need any introduction about how they have developed the whole region over the centuries and how the UK government has assisted us in a lot of situations.

The British government has been very visible in trying to shift its focus away from the traditional markets in Europe and North America. It tries to drive other markets in the world and most of these markets are in Asia. Therefore, we can be very certain that the British companies and government have paid a lot of attention to countries in Southeast Asia.

Big multinational companies have set up their businesses in Asia, and they hope to use Singapore as a platform to grow the businesses. Likewise, Singapore is using UK as a platform to reach out to Europe. This synergistic approach is something we hope to develop further.

As for the view from Singapore, two things came to my mind. Of recent times, we are very pleased that Prince William and Duchess Catherine visited us and it was a very successful visit. Likewise, the British High Commissioner hosted the Singapore Olympic team at his residence before the team left for the Olympics in London and it was very well done. I thought it warmed the relations between the two countries.

Tonight, we will look forward to His Excellency Antony Phillipson to explain to us the rationale behind what the British government is doing, and a further discussion on how Singapore and the UK can complement each other in various ways and sectors, be it transport, technology or creative services and in particular, education.

Thank you and have an enjoyable evening.