

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR JOHNNY TAN  
AT THE NUSS APPRECIATION DINNER  
8 APRIL 2011, FRIDAY  
7.00 PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, GUILD HALL**

**Mr. Wong Ngit Liong, Chairman, NUS Board of Trustees and Mrs. Wong  
Members of NUSS Advisory Panel  
Fellow members  
Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen**

**WELCOME**

A very good evening to all and welcome to the **NUSS Appreciation Dinner 2011**.

We are indeed privileged to have so many distinguished members and guests with us this evening and **on behalf of the Management Committee**, I thank you for joining us and gracing this happy occasion.

**DISTINGUISHED AND OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARDS, LONG SERVICE AWARDS**

Tonight, we gather to recognize the contributions and celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of some of our long standing members. In particular, we will be presenting the **NUSS Distinguished and Outstanding members Awards** to three of our members who have made significant and lasting contributions to NUSS and the wider community. I shall leave it to the Chairman of the Judging Panel, **Mr. Gerard Ee** to elaborate more on these awards and announce the winners later on. Our Vice President, **Mr. David Ho** will deliver the citations for the award recipients right after the announcements.

**This is the second year** where the Society presents these special Awards to members and I hope the achievements of our members will help inspire more to step forward to serve NUSS and society at large.

This evening, we will also be presenting the **NUSS Long Service Awards** to members who have served in the Society's committees continuously for five years or 10 years. These members have so generously devoted their time and talent to serve NUSS and we are **thankful to them** for their contributions to help bring the Society to where it is today.

We should all be **proud** of what we have collectively built and it is indeed my privilege to work alongside many of you.

Since we started some 57 years ago, **NUSS has never stood still**. We are mindful of the need to stay relevant and always look outwards to the challenges of the bigger world and respond to those challenges. On this note, I would like to spend a couple of minutes to reflect on **three aspects of our development** that, in my opinion, are crucial to the overall well-being of the Society.

1. **First, the BODY of NUSS** ... Today we have 4 impressive guild houses, each of distinct character complementary facilities mix .... Our various project committees have worked very hard over the past few years to give members these excellent facilities that we can all be proud of. And I want to record my appreciation to all members of the project committees. One of the tasks we need to embark on in the near future is to look at possible alternative plan for our city guild house.
2. **Second, the MIND of NUSS** ... We have been actively promoting intellectual discourse among our members so as to grow as a more **responsive thinking graduate society** ..... We regularly invite ministers, prominent political and business leaders as well as ambassadors to speak on **wide ranging intellectual stimulating topics**. Our members have benefited greatly through these dialogues and I want to thank our **Intellectual Pursuit Subcom** for spearheading some of these initiatives. We will continue to do more in the coming year.

3. **Third, the SOUL of NUSS** ... Having a strong body and an intellectual mind but without a healthy soul will have little meaning in life. Our **Cultural Subcom** has been very active in promoting the awareness and appreciation of both visual and performing arts. We have our very own NUSS Arts Circle, NUSS Choir, Dancesport, Music Section and Book Club just to name a few. We have many passionate members who are willing to help promote work-life balance and I encourage you to join their activities to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Moving forward, we need to continue to nurture the body, mind and soul for **greater holistic development and renewal of NUSS**.

**NUSS is very blessed.** We are blessed because we have many **committed members** like yourself who are prepared to serve and contribute to our Society. We are blessed because our members are generally **friendly and are supportive** of the Society (so we are, relatively speaking – trouble free!). And we are blessed because we have a very **supportive alma mater** – NUS and we have been enjoying very strong partnership with the University over the years.

So we must continue to build upon our strength and at the same time, explore more avenues where NUSS can leverage on its position to play a greater role in the area of **corporate social responsibilities**.

Our **Community Care Subcom** has been doing an excellent job in reaching out to the elderly and the less fortunate and I must say I am personally very touched by the things that they have been doing.

And we are also reaching out to the **younger graduate community** thru' our social networking platform. We created an **online job portal** to assist our younger graduate members to seek job opportunities and regularly organize **career networking events** to help connect our members

with industry players and potential employers. Our last off-site event at Clarke Quay last month was a big sellout.

And as part of our mission to foster a lifelong relationship with our University, we have embarked on initiatives aimed at promoting the interest and development of NUS by way of **financial endowments for educational purpose and synergistic partnership** to strength bonds between our graduate community and NUS. As you may already know, we launched last year the **NUSS Medal for Outstanding Achievement** which aims to encourage undergraduates to go beyond academic excellence and pursue a well-rounded education. We also collaborated with the NUS School of Design and Environment to establish the **NUSS Scholarship for MEM**. This is part of our CSR to help **increase awareness and further the studies of environmental challenges**.

This year, with the planned opening of the **University Town**, we will be embarking on two fundraising initiatives to help raise funds to support needy students studying at the UTown.

1. **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Section Golf Tournament**
2. **NUSS Choir Fundraising Concert**

I look forward to your continued support and hope to see you at these events.

On this note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank **our benefactors** (many of whom are with us this evening) for their generous contributions to the NUSS Kent Ridge Fund. Your support will go a long way to help fulfill our pledge to support NUS & NUSS collaborative programmes for our graduate community.

Finally, I want to thank our **secretarial and operations staff** who have worked hard to make this event possible.

With that, I wish you all an enjoyable evening.