

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR DAVID HO
AT NUSS PROFESSORSHIP LECTURE 2013
18 FEBRUARY 2013, MONDAY
7PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

Good evening, maybe I should say Gong Xi Fa Cai. I am very glad that all of you would turn up on this auspicious week when we celebrate Chinese New Year.

Professor Wolfgang Lutz, NUSS Professorship Lecturer for 2012
Professor Brenda Yeoh, Dean, NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Fellow NUSS members
Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

NUSS Professorship was created in the year 2001 and it is an effort for us to interact with the public, our alumni and the University. We invite eminent professors from around the world to deliver hot button topics that are relevant to the University and the public. This year, of course, we are very lucky to have Professor Lutz with us. The topic is just right. The timing is uncanny and we have no hands in that. I think it is all done by the University. So somebody asked me, "Why is the Lecture conducted at such an opportune timing just after the demonstration at Hong Lim Park?" I replied that we did not plan it and that it was the University which had the creativity to understand that this is a very important topic. So, please do not blame us.

On a more serious note, over the years we have had various professors from University of Chicago to University of Manchester. And I think, this year, our Austrian guest is a very eminent professor, a Wittgenstein Prize-winner and an expert in an area very close to our hearts.

When I was a young man, someone told me to "stop at two". I did not know whether that was right or wrong and I came to believe that was not so right. But I did not "stop at two" of course; I went on to have four. Today we are going to hear from an expert who said that the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) at replacement level of the old population may not be what it is today; there are so many other issues. So 30 years ago, China stopped at one, Singapore stopped at two, because the economy could not sustain it. Today, they come and tell us, if you do not have enough, we are in trouble. I do not know whether 30 years later, if this is going to be right or wrong. So we are going to hear from the expert.

So without wasting much time, I would like to invite Professor Gavin Jones, who is the moderator this evening, and an expert in this area from Australia on demographic studies. And in his own way, he will introduce Professor Lutz.

Thank you very much.