

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDDIE LEE
NUSS CELEBRATORY DINNER
16 NOVEMBER 2017, THURSDAY
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

1. Address the audience

- A very good evening to the recipients of the National Day Awards 2017, past NUSS Presidents, fellow colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen.
- Thank you for joining us at the NUSS Celebratory Dinner 2017, an annual event where we gather to celebrate and recognise various forms of merit and service to Singapore made by NUSS members.

2. Congratulate members who are recipients of the National Day Awards (NDA) 2017

- The National Day Awards (NDA) honours individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation every year. This year, we have a total of 47 NUSS members who have been identified as NDA recipients. This is a significant increase from the 27 NUSS members who were recipients of the NDA last year.
- On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to all of them.
- It is indeed inspiring to know that more and more of our members have selflessly gone beyond their call of duty to contribute to public service. I hope that their accomplishment will serve as a strong motivation to the rest of us to also do our best to give back to our community.

3. Initiatives and Events at NUSS

- NUSS is indeed privileged to have so many remarkable individuals among us thus reinforcing our position as a premium club made up of outstanding and distinguished graduates ready to contribute not just to the Society but to the nation.
- As we celebrate the achievements of our members today, it is only fitting that I share with you some of the initiatives and events which allow us to contribute not just to supporting NUS and the educational system in Singapore but also reach out to the wider community and serve our nation's interests. This spirit of giving and contributing far beyond the Society itself, we hope, will encourage members to value-add to the nation and support its development in the near future.

(a) Supporting NUS and the Education System in Singapore

- Over the years, NUSS has worked closely with NUS to support its educational initiatives and create a good landscape for undergraduates to learn, regardless of their backgrounds.
- Our NUSS-NUS Mentorship programme, which started in AY2012/13, provides a platform for NUS students to network with NUSS members and to learn more about how to reach their respective career goals. The programme has empowered our younger generation in their academic pursuits and help them prepare better for the working world.
- Since 2013, NUSS has supported the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund through an annual pledge of \$250,000. The fund has provided much assistance to less privileged students and helped them to pursue their studies, regardless of their financial backgrounds.
- NUSS aims to continue working with our alma mater to strengthen learning opportunities for the younger generation and mould them for the future of the nation.

(b) Contributing to Singapore's political and intellectual development

- The Society regularly organises Presidential, Ministerial and Political Dialogues to not only keep members informed on the political and intellectual landscape but to engage them on crucial issues affecting the nation.
- Till date this year, we were very privileged to have hosted 7 distinguished and well-qualified speakers/experts.
- Some of which include the Ministerial Dialogue with Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence, who shared with us on Singapore's higher education landscape and its five-year plan. Presidential Dialogue with H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, who discussed the trade and investment opportunities and prospects of possible collaborations between Afghanistan-Singapore with us, as well as a Professorship Lecture with inaugural NUSS Professor, Professor Lim Chwee Teck who highlighted the advancement of medical technologies and how this could revolutionise the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses not just in Singapore but globally.

(c) Giving back to the underprivileged community in Singapore

- The Society also believes strongly in reaching out to the underprivileged Singaporeans and helping them to better their lives.
- This year, we were proud to raise more than \$20,000 for the TODAY Enable Fund at the National Day Golf Tournament, which went to help individuals with special needs.

- In addition, we also organised the Weaving Hope 2: Charity Carpet Auction where half of its proceeds of more than \$40,000 was raised to fund various outreach projects for the underprivileged community.
- Beyond organising fund-raising events, our members regularly participate in Home Visits to spread joy to the elderly and less fortunate.
- These efforts had not only allowed us to promote a society of caring graduates, it also helped us build an inclusive society in Singapore.

4. Thank you.

- I'm delighted that over the years, our efforts to raise awareness on critical issues affecting Singapore have empowered our members to play a more active role in contributing to the common good of the nation and I trust as we celebrate the achievements of the NDA awardees tonight, we can look forward to more remarkable contributions!
- Thank you and wishing everyone a great evening ahead!