

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDDIE LEE
NUSS SUB-COMMITTEE APPRECIATION DINNER 2018
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE
19 APRIL 2018, THURSDAY, 7PM**

1. Address the audience

Management Committee
Sub-Committee members
Ladies and Gentlemen

2. Introduction

Good evening and a very warm welcome to the **Sub-Committee Appreciation Dinner**. We are hosting this dinner to acknowledge and express our appreciation towards you, our valued sub-committee members who have contributed tirelessly towards the Society in one way or another.

Later this evening, we will be presenting **Long Service Awards** to Sub-Committee members who have served the Society for five years and more consecutively. Thank you for your passion and hard work over the years; tonight's dinner is dedicated to all of you.

3. Looking back in 2017

2017 was yet another fruitful year as we continued to engage our members through a range of activities:

Intellectual events such as

Ministerial Dialogues – We had Dialogue sessions with the President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and the Minister for Education (Higher Education & Skills) and Second Minister for Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung.

Meet-the-Ambassador Dialogues with His Excellency Thomas Kupfer, the Ambassador of Switzerland and His Excellency Ngurah Swajaya, Ambassador of Indonesia;

As some of you may be aware, NUSS established the NUSS Professorship with an endowment of \$1.5 million to fund eminent professors from different disciplines to share their knowledge with the NUS community and the general public. This Professorship is part of NUSS' efforts to contribute to the development of meaningful interactions with its alma mater through academic pursuits. Between last year to the 1st quarter this year, we had 5 **NUSS Professorship Lectures** with:

Award winning and the inaugural NUSS Professor, Professor Lim Chwee Teck (Deputy Head, Department of Biomedical Engineering and listed in the "Seven Singaporean Scientists to Watch" by Asian Scientists and the Asian Scientist 100)

NUSS Visiting Professors Professor Stephen Hawkins (an expert on rocky shores from the University of South Hampton);

Professor Timothy Colton (Chair of the Dept of Government at Harvard University);

Professor Marlon Boarnet, Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis at the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California, and

Professor Bao Zhenan, award winning researcher and the K.K. Lee Professor of Chemical Engineering at Stanford University.

Our Community Care Sub-committee also organised:

Festive luncheons with the elderly from homes and centres

Participating in NUS Day of Service where we brought 40 underprivileged families out for grocery shopping, and

Regular visits to homes for the elderly and infirmed

And we held successful Social events such as:

New Year's Eve Countdown Party where we got together with members and guests as one big family to welcome the New Year.

We also have an active calendar of Sections-driven sports activities such as:

Badminton, Balut, Billiards, Bowling, Bridge, Cycling, Darts, Golf, Running, Soccer, Squash, Table tennis and Tennis, These 13 sections got together to celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie through an inter section Games Day and a Sports & Recreation Night just last Saturday in this same hall.

Section-driven Cultural events such as:

Choir, Dramaworks, Dancesports and Music. These cultural sections put up annual concerts and productions and regular jam nights, bringing their love for their interests to greater heights.

Together, we have close to 2,000 section members in the various sports and cultural activities. These activities have allowed us to forge stronger bonds with our members and grow together as a community, and you can look forward to more exciting events in the coming years.

In the past year, we have also focused on enhancing membership experience and increasing engagement with our members.

In order to facilitate the needs of our members better, the **Membership Experience Sub-Committee** was formed to enhance members' experience at NUSS through meaningful and engaging initiatives. In the past year, the Sub-Committee had rolled out a flurry of events such as the Children's Day Celebration, our first NUSS Ladies' Night and the Induction to Mini Guilds, many of which were very well-received.

The Membership Experience Sub-Committee has also recently set up a **Business Networking Group**. The Group will look into organising structured networking sessions such as the overseas Business Mission trips to Bangkok, Phnom Penh and Hanoi to help NUSS members grow their business and facilitate referrals.

Last year, the Alumni Development and University Relations (ADUR) Sub-Committee set up the **Youth Guild** to reach out and engage NUSS members who are 35 years and below, as well as NUSSU and NUS undergraduates. Currently, the Sub-Committee has been busy planning for the Youth Fiesta, which would comprise a series of fun activities and programmes from 30 April and 1 June.

To enhance our membership experience, we have also expanded on our **Reciprocal Clubs** privileges with other graduate associations around the world. Thanks to the hard work of our ADUR Sub-Committee, our members can now enjoy access to more Reciprocal Clubs around the world when they travel overseas.

Not forgetting our Membership Marketing Sub-Committee, who has helped to enhance our membership value through **strategic collaborations with partners**. Our partnership with True Fitness was first launched on 1 September 2016. Due to its high usage and positive feedback from members, we have increased the number of passes and access to their outlets. We have also partnered dnata so our members can access its premium airport lounges in Changi Airport Terminals 1 and 3. Due to its impressive take-up rate since its launch in 2016, NUSS has extended its contract with dnata for another 2 years so that our members can enjoy the comfort of the premium lounges during their travels.

In addition, last year we also held an extremely successful membership recruitment campaign called the **Rights Issue**, which brought in over 1,200 new members. Many of you have played a part in referring your friends and relatives to NUSS, and I would like to thank you for your support in injecting new blood into our Society.

These are just some examples of the many initiatives the Society has implemented to improve its membership value. Thank you for your dedication in value-adding to the Society, and ensuring that we remain the graduate club of choice.

4. Looking forward to 2018

While we are extremely pleased with last year's achievements, we must not rest on our laurels. Rather, we should strive to introduce more initiatives and continue to value add to our members. This year will be another exciting one for us.

We have identified a suitable property for our **third Guild House** at 2 Mandalay Road and will be seeking members' approval to support our proposed option at the upcoming **Annual General Meeting**. I've been there to survey the premise and it is a beautiful government property just a 3-minute bus ride from Novena MRT station. I urge you to check out the property during our Open House this Saturday, 21 April. We hope with a better understanding of the site, we will be able to receive your warm support to proceed with the establishment of the new Guild House at our upcoming Annual General Meeting on 26 April!

In addition to this, spearheaded by our Information Technology Sub-Committee, we will be looking to launch a new **Club Management System** and revive the **Graduate Network** this year. Due to our expanding membership base, this new system will greatly aid our operations while the Graduate Network will create a virtual platform to foster an inclusive and more connected graduate community.

5. Take-away and thank you

The above programmes and initiatives would not have been possible without your continued dedication and contribution to NUSS. Once again, thank you for your warm support and may we strive to reach greater heights together in the coming years!

Thank you.