

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDDIE LEE
NUSS CELEBRATORY DINNER
7 NOVEMBER 2018, WEDNESDAY
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

1. Address the Audience

- A very good evening to NUS Board of Trustees Chairman, Mr Hsieh Fu-Hua, also our Honorary Member, recipients of the National Day Awards 2018, past NUSS Presidents, fellow colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen.
- Thank you for joining us at the NUSS Celebratory Dinner, 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) 2018

- The National Day Awards (NDA) honours individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation every year. This year, we have a total of 46 NUSS members who received the National Day awards.
- On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to all of you, the award recipients.
- 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.
- The NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme is another collaborative programme with our alma mater which started in 2012. The programme provides a platform for students to seek advice and learn from NUSS members on post-graduation opportunities and possibilities. In FY2017/2018, a total of 118 NUS students and 84 mentors have joined this programme. 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 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 many distinguished and well-qualified speakers/experts.
- Some of which include the **Ministerial Dialogue with Dr Vivian Balakrishnan**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who shared with us on Singapore's place in a disruptive world; as well as the **NUSS Professorship Lectures** by award-winning and visiting professor, **Professor Marlon Boarnet** who is ranked among the top twenty-five most cited U.S. planning scholars for the past three years, as well as visiting professor **Professor Bao Zhenan**, one of the most high profile professors in the international materials and chemical engineering communities.

(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.
- In July this year, the golf section raised close to \$600,000 towards the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund, which went to help NUS undergraduates with financial needs. They have outdone themselves this time, having organised numerous fundraising golf tournaments in the last few years, each time steadily increasing its funds raised.

- Beyond organising fund-raising events, our members regularly participate in Home Visits to spread joy to the elderly and less fortunate.
- These efforts have not only allowed us to promote a society of caring graduates, it also helped us build an inclusive society in Singapore.

(d) New Membership Engagement Initiatives

- This year, we have set up a new Sub-Committee, the **Membership Experience Sub-Committee** to boost the long-term value of the Society's membership through the development of meaningful and engaging initiatives, along with enhancing the experiences of our members at the Guild Houses.
- The Sub-Committee aims to shape a vibrant business ecosystem for members through multiple networking initiatives with various business chambers and overseas business mission trips. To recognise and honour our members who have been long-time supporters of the Society, the Sub-Committee initiated the Members' Jubilee Night. In September, close to 140 members came together to celebrate their 20th and 25th year anniversary milestone. The event also included members who received their life member status this year.

(e) Progression of Mandalay Road Guild House

- Since receiving the strong support from our members at the Annual General Meeting to proceed with the establishment of the new Guild House at 2 Mandalay Road, the Mandalay Road Guild House Task Force and the Secretariat have made positive progress towards having our new Guild House up and running.
- I am pleased to announce that NUSS has signed the tenancy agreement with Singapore Land Authority and we have commenced outfitting works on 1st October. Our team has worked fervently, and aim to have our soft launch in January 2019. We look forward to your support and patronage when the new Mandalay Guild House is completed.

4. Thank You.

- I trust as we celebrate the achievements of the National Day Award recipients tonight, we can look forward to more remarkable contributions from you towards our nation, and hopefully, towards NUSS.
- Thank you and wishing everyone a great evening ahead!