

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDDIE LEE  
OFFICIAL OPENING OF MANDALAY GUILD HOUSE**

**6 AUGUST 2019, TUESDAY**

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore

NUSS Honorary Member Mr Wang Gungwu

Members of the NUSS Advisory Panel Mr S Dhanabalan, Mr Gerard Ee

Distinguished guests

Fellow NUSS members

Good Evening and a warm welcome to Mandalay Guild House!

On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank Madam President who is also Patron of NUSS, for gracing this major milestone of ours and officiating the opening of Mandalay Guild House.

Mandalay Guild House is the latest of the Society's three Guild Houses, and is located within the upcoming Health City Novena. With the lush greenery that surrounds this iconic black-and-white bungalow, it serves as a retreat from the busy city streets just a few minutes away.

As you would have seen in the video earlier, NUSS offers more than just facilities of a social club.

We aim to provide opportunities for graduates and working professionals to meet, learn and share new experiences.

Mandalay Guild House's strategic location is ideal for this. Over the past few months, we have rolled out a wide range of activities such as the Breakfast Dialogues, networking events, fitness classes and social activities.

Mandalay Guild House also offers many opportunities for members and their family and friends to catch up at The Restaurant and The Bar at Mandalay. The Restaurant serves hearty Colonial Hainanese cuisine – I highly recommend the Oxtail Stew, while The Bar offers a wide range of drinks.

I would like to thank the members of the Mandalay Guild House Project Task Force co-chaired by our two past Presidents, Mr Johnny Tan and Mr Lai Kim Seng for their dedication and hard work in overseeing the design and fitting-out of this Guild House as

well as the main contractor, SUNRAY Woodcraft Construction Pte Ltd for completing the project in the tight schedule given to them. Thank you Connie, Andrew and Alan.

Also not forgetting our CEO, Roy Higgs and his team for the many hours they put in.

The Society's mission is to foster a lifelong relationship with our alma mater and the wider graduate community.

One such initiative is the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme. Established in 2012, this programme provides opportunities for undergraduates to seek advice and counsel from NUSS members on matters such as post-graduation and career direction.

In line with the Society's continuous efforts to contribute to the academic pursuit of its alma mater, an endowment of \$1.5million was pledged in 1996 to establish the NUSS Professorship.

This endowment funds eminent professors from different and diverse disciplines to share their expertise and knowledge with the NUS community and members of the public.

I would like to thank Madam President for her advice and vision for NUSS to foster a stronger spirit of giving to help the underprivileged.

In 2010, the Society established the NUSS Groceries on Wheels project which aims to deliver basic necessities to the disadvantaged, low-income and homebound residents.

NUSS also organises regular visits to homes for the intellectually disabled and the elderly as part of its community outreach programme.

These visits are filled with laughter and joy as our members interact with the beneficiaries through live band performances and sing-along sessions.

The Society is also well aware of the needs of underprivileged students in NUS.

NUSS pledged \$1.6million towards the University of Singapore Student Loan Fund in 1989, and raised \$1.2million towards the NUSS Endowment Fund for UTown Student Advancement in 2011.

Since the inception of the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund (ABF in short) in 2014, NUSS has continued to contribute \$250,000 each year in our efforts to ensure that no deserving student is deprived of an education at NUS.

In conjunction with the official opening of Mandalay Guild House, I am happy to announce that NUSS will pledge beyond our usual annual gift of \$250,000 towards the

NUS ABF in 2020, through a fund raising golf tournament.

Our golf convenor, Mr Joseph Ng, has agreed to drive the event (no pun intended) and we hope to raise another \$250,000.

Through this and other partnerships with NUS, I am confident that the Society will continue to uphold our mission of fostering a lifelong relationship with our alma mater and the wider graduate community.

As we celebrate Singapore's National Day in three days, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy 54<sup>th</sup> National Day.

Thank you and I wish everyone an enjoyable and pleasant evening.