

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR JOHNNY TAN  
AT CELEBRATORY DINNER  
21 SEPTEMBER 2011, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE  
DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL**

Fellow Members

Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Welcome**

A very good evening to all of you, and thank you so much for joining us.

Tonight is a special moment for three reasons.

First, we come together to celebrate the achievements of some of our members who are recipients of this year's National Day Awards;

Second, we welcome some of our seniors who have become Life Members of our Society;

Third, we want to recognise and show our appreciation to our partners, sponsors as well as members of our various Organising Committees who have contributed to the success of our Society's fundraising and community care events in recent months.

**Congratulations to NDA Recipients**

So, to our National Day Awards recipients, I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to all of you for having gone beyond the call of duty to serve our community and nation.

We are indeed proud to have you as part of the NUSS family, and I hope that your actions and accomplishments will inspire more to step forward and give back to our society.

**Welcome Life Members**

Next, let us welcome our new Life Members who have been with NUSS for the past 25 years. The Management Committee and I would like to thank you for the support you have given to our Society all these years – NUSS would not have become what it is today without members like yourself.

## **Recent Significant Events in NUSS**

We have come a long way ....

It has been an exhilarating and fulfilling journey for NUSS thus far; and I would like to take a few moments just to highlight some of the key events which took place in the past few months.

## **Conferment of NUSS Honorary Membership on Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Celebration of NUS UTown Founding Benefactors**

1. On 29 July, we marked another significant milestone in NUSS history when we conferred the Society's highest honour, the NUSS Honorary Membership, on Mr Lee Kuan Yew, in recognition of his visionary and transformative leadership and invaluable contributions to Singapore.
2. At the joint conferment and celebratory dinner with NUS, Mr Lee also presented tokens of appreciation to the founding benefactors of the new NUS University Town (UTown).
3. I have been advised by NUS that the founding benefactors have collectively contributed some \$40 million to the UTown; and the donations, together with a 1.5 times matching from the government, will enable the University to recruit additional professors and teaching staff as well as provide scholarships and bursaries to needy students admitted to the Residential Colleges at the UTown.
4. It was certainly a momentous event and I would like to convey our appreciation to members of the joint Organising Committee, co-chaired by Dr Joshua Kuma and Mr Holman Chin, for their dedications and efforts in making this possible.

## **Unveiling of Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall**

5. On this note, I am pleased to report that NUSS is also doing its part and has succeeded in raising more than one million dollars for the recently established NUSS Endowment Fund for UTown Student Advancement. The funds raised will go towards providing financial assistance to needy students enrolled for studies at the UTown.
6. I would like to take this opportunity to express our utmost gratitude once again to Drs Della Lee and Lee Seng Gee, who responded generously to our fundraising efforts with their munificent gift of \$1 million. As a gesture of our deep

appreciation for their generosity, we renamed this guild hall, the **Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall on 13 July.**

7. Although we had fulfilled our pledge of \$1 million to the University, we will continue to grow the Fund to help ensure that no deserving student will be denied a place at the UTown.

#### **NUSS 25<sup>th</sup> Glorious Golf and Dinner**

8. Our NUSS Golf Section did just that when it raised over \$270,000 towards the Fund at a golf tournament at Sentosa Golf Club on 26 July to commemorate the Section's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With the 1.5 times matching from the government, more than \$600,000 was raised towards the Fund.
9. I thank all our golfers and sponsors for their strong support, and acknowledge the wonderful effort put in by our Organising Committee Chairperson Mr Joseph Ng and members of his Committee which made the event a great success.

#### **NUSS Choir Fundraising Concert**

10. Also doing its part for our alma mater and medical research, our NUSS Choir staged a charity concert, *September Reigns*, at the Esplanade Concert Hall on 7 September to support research in NUS, on Alzheimer's disease and dementia prevention.
11. The concert which featured performances by the NUSS Choir and special guest appearance by Dick Lee was warmly received by the audience of more than 1,000 members and guests.
12. Over \$130,000 was raised from this event. The Choir will continue to raise funds for this worthy cause over the coming few years and we hope the research will lead to a significant medical breakthrough in the not-too-distant future.
13. I would like to thank sponsors and members for their generous contributions, and also record our sincere appreciation to Dr Maurine Tsakok, our Choir Convenor, Mr Darius Lim, our Music Director, as well as members of the Organising Committee and NUSS Choir for putting up such a spectacular performance in support of the worthy cause.

#### **NUSS Groceries on Wheels and Community Outreach Activities**

14. The Society also extended a helping hand to the wider community when our NUSS Community Care Sub-committee, led by Chairperson Mr Archie Ong, organised yet another successful NUSS Groceries On Wheels event on the morning of 23 July.

15. Thanks to donations from members, sponsors and well-wishers as well as help from some 400 volunteers, more than 2,000 bags containing essential grocery items were delivered to needy households in the North West District. The event was flagged off by the Mayor of North West District, Dr Teo Ho Pin.
16. Although setting a record was not our primary objective, we are nonetheless pleased that in the process we set a new record in the *Singapore Book of Records* of having the 'Largest Grocery Distribution Social Service'. So, congratulations to members of the Community Care Sub-Committee and all our volunteers – you have done NUSS proud!
17. The Community Care Sub-Committee also organises regular visits to homes of the intellectually infirmed, destitute and elderly such as Sunlove Home and Villa Francis Home of the Aged to bring cheer to the residents.
18. In fact, we have our very own gig band, the *Silverstone*, made up of some senior members of NUSS including two of our past Presidents Mr Lai Kim Seng and Mr Lim Soo Hwee, who performed regularly at these Homes. If you have not caught any of their performances, I encourage you to join us at our upcoming visits to the Homes and be marvelled by their talents.

### **Closing**

19. Well, I think I have spoken long enough ... and I just want to conclude by acknowledging the efforts of our Fundraising Chairperson, Dr Fong Poh Him.
20. Dr Fong has been instrumental in raising funds for our NUSS endowment fund and alumni development and on behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank Dr Fong for the good work that he has done for us.
21. If you wish to make any further contributions to NUS through NUSS, please feel free to approach Dr Fong who will be more than happy to receive you.
22. Last but not least, my thanks also go out to our Secretariat, Operational and F&B team who have worked hard to make this and all the past events successful.
23. I wish you all an enjoyable evening .... Bon Appetit!