

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR JOHNNY TAN
AT THE POST-GENERAL ELECTION DIALOGUE AT NUSS
26 MAY 2011, THURSDAY
7PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, GUILD HALL**

His Excellency Doug Chester, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore
Professor Wang Gungwu, Chairman of LKYSPP and East Asian Institute, and Mrs Wang
Members of NUSS Advisory Panel
Distinguished Speakers
Fellow NUSS Members
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening and a very warm welcome to our **NUSS** Kent Ridge Guild House.

Speaking after the recent general election, the **Prime Minister** described **GE2011** as a **watershed election**. I believe most Singaporeans would agree with his assessment.

Indeed Singapore politics would never be the same as it was. **GE 2011** saw the **highest number of contested seats** since independence – 82 out of 87 seats and many Singaporeans voted for the first time.

And for the first time in Singapore's election history, political parties were allowed to use **social media** to reach out to voters. We also witnessed political parties fielding **the largest number of younger candidates**, with 12 candidates aged 29 and below. And in the words of the **Prime Minister**, Singapore has entered a new phase in its political development.

Introduce the Speakers

This evening, we are indeed honoured and privileged to have with us **seven promising young politicians**, who will share with us their views and experiences on the recent General Election; and perhaps also the motivations driving them to be a part of **our nation's new political landscape**.

I shall introduce them (alphabetical order): **Mr Gerald Giam, Ms Ho Soak Harn, Mr Benjamin Pwee, Ms Nicole Seah, Mr Harminder Pal Singh, Dr Vincent Wijesingha and Mr Alex Yam.**

On behalf of NUSS, I would like to thank all the speakers for taking the time to join us this evening.

Unlike last November's Pre-Election Political Dialogue where we heard representatives from major political parties speak on **what their parties stood for** and the **hot button issues** that were in the minds of most Singaporeans, this time, the speakers have accepted our invitation in their **personal capacity**.

I hope you the audience will not only **gain new insights** but also **draw inspirations** from the experiences of our young politicians.

NUSS – A Non-Partisan and Apolitical Society

As the largest graduate society, NUSS is committed to its mission of contributing positively to Singapore's political and intellectual development by actively promoting intellectual discourse among our graduate members.

NUSS is non-partisan and is uniquely positioned to provide a **neutral platform** to host dialogues of this nature. **This is a closed-door session** – i.e. no press is invited and only NUSS members and invited guests are permitted to attend.

Introduce the Moderator

We are also privileged to have **Dr Lam Peng Er** to be our panel moderator this evening.

Dr Lam obtained his PhD from **Columbia University** and is a political scientist. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the **East Asian Institute**. **Dr Lam** has published widely, especially on Singapore and Japan. He was also a member of the **Roundtable and the Advisory Panel** to the Government Parliamentary Committee for Defence and Foreign Affairs from 1996 to 2006.

I am confident **Dr Lam's** knowledge and insights will **add significant depth** to tonight's discussion and without further ado, I now invite **Dr. Lam** to come on stage to moderate the discussion.

Thank you, and Dr. Lam please ...