

OPENING ADDRESS BY NUSS VICE-PRESIDENT  
MR EDWARD TAY  
NUSS COMMENTARY APPRECIATION AND DIALOGUE 2016  
31 AUGUST 2016, WEDNESDAY  
DELLA AND SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

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**Our panelists, Ms Bernise Ang, Ms Irene Ng, Ms Melissa Kwee, Mr John Gee and Mr Veerappan Swaminathan , moderator for the Dialogue and editor of Commentary Volume 25, Dr Gillian Koh**

**Fellow NUSS MC Members, NUS alumni, Friends**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good evening and welcome to NUSS Commentary Appreciation and Dialogue 2016.

First, allow me to thank our contributors and editor of the Commentary Volume 25 – Singapore: A Democracy of Deeds and Problem-Solving, for not only sparing their time tonight, but also dedicating tremendous effort and incorporating their insightful thoughts into the publication.

Our late founding leader, Mr S Rajaratnam, said 45 years ago, that Singapore should be “a democracy of deeds, not of words”. This particular phrase encapsulated his views on one of his deepest political preoccupations: the sort of democracy and society that Singapore should strive for. Commentary Volume 25 elaborates on Mr Rajaratnam’s notion and touches on the importance for Singaporeans to contribute back to society in various ways.

Tonight we will begin a discussion on social advocacy and how this can help to advance the welfare of Singaporeans. Our panel speakers come from various established backgrounds and have extensive knowledge in their respective fields including behavioural insights research and systems analysis, Southeast Asian Studies, Social Advocacy and Public Policies. The session will be moderated by Dr Gillian Koh, editor of this year’s Commentary Volume 25 and also Deputy Director of Research at the Institute of Policy Studies. Dr Koh is no stranger to social issues and policy-making, with civil society and its development as one of her research areas.

I would like to remind members, alumni and friends that this is a closed door session. You are free to ask difficult questions but kindly maintain decorum.

We look forward to an engaging evening with our panelists and moderator, Dr Gillian Koh.

Thank you.