

# THE GRADUATE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE SOCIETY SINCE 1962

**NUSS**  
The Graduate Club

## WITH HER HEART

NUSS Patron, President Halimah Yacob, hopes to foster a stronger spirit of giving



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Studying at NUS has been the perfect complement to my diverse international academic experiences. After studying and working in India, the US, and the UK, Singapore provides a unique gateway to Asian society and politics. Under the direction of the department's renowned faculty, I have been able to pursue varied research interests related to identity, and rising powers, as well as explore new areas of research at the crossroads of political thought, behavioural psychology, and international relations. Opportunities to attend summer school, and conduct fieldwork abroad have also helped me gain invaluable experience and develop essential skills. The intellectually and culturally diverse graduate student community has enriched my academic experience and provided me with lifelong friendships.

**MANALI**  
Current PhD student in  
Political Science

I am a Senior Specialist for school geography at the Ministry of Education, Singapore. For a while, my colleagues and I had been promoting the use of geospatial technologies. More recently, we started re-designing the way young students develop spatial thinking. The Master of Science in Applied Geographic Information Systems had equipped me with useful skills in spatial data mining, remote sensing and computer programming. My understanding of key topics in geographic information science, such as data quality and spatial cognition has also grown much. I look forward to apply these skills and knowledge, in creating the next generation geography curriculum.

**JOSEF TAN HUA HUI**

Senior Specialist, Geography Unit, Curriculum Planning and Development Division, Ministry of Education  
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dear fellow members*

Over the years, the NUSS leadership has continually taken active steps to ensure a healthy and balanced renewal of the Management Committee (MC), encouraging younger members to step forward and persuading experienced members to stay on to ensure smooth transitions. This is a fine balance for us to strike – and a very important one too – as we continue to inject new blood while ensuring there is continuity in our direction and planning.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Mr Ng Teck Wee and Mr Seah Meng Hwee Jeremy to the 2018/2019 MC. Mr Ng and Mr Seah were elected, along with six other serving members, at the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 26 April. Both have served in various NUSS Sub-Committees. We look forward to their contributions in the coming years and thank the other six members for their continued dedication to leading NUSS.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr Yip Kum Fei and Dr Lim Wie Ming, who have stepped down from the MC. We are grateful for their wise counsel and leadership during their tenure in the MC and hope they will continue to serve the Society in other roles.

Another major development was the strong endorsement given by members at the AGM to proceed with the establishment of a new Guild House at 2 Mandalay Road. Members can look forward to new facilities and programmes when the Guild House is completed at the end of the year.

As we plan ahead for the new MC term, we would also like to take a few moments to reflect on the contributions of two of our former Presidents, Mr Kumar Lal and Mr Ernest Wong, who sadly passed away in February and April respectively. We remain deeply indebted to both men for their wise leadership and invaluable contributions to NUSS in its early days.

Also in this issue is our special feature on the Society's Patron, President Halimah Yacob. We thank Madam Halimah for graciously accepting our invitation to share with members her wishes for NUSS.

We have done reasonably well over the past few months. Let us all continue to work together to enhance the value of NUSS through a wider range of membership benefits. I look forward to your continued support and a more exciting NUSS in the second half of the year!

*Yours sincerely*



*Eddie Lee  
President*





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# THE GRADUATE

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In The Graduate Apr-Jun 2018 issue, in the article "Welcoming New Members to NUSS", we wrongly stated that the new NUSS Guild House at 2 Mandalay Road is about 70,800 square feet. The property is over 7,600 square feet.



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# WHAT MAKES A FUTURE CITY?

*Professor Marlon Boarnet on the role of experimental data in building smart, healthy and liveable cities.*

**F**orget about flying cars and towering skyscrapers. The way Professor Marlon Boarnet sees it, cities of the future will resemble visions from the past.

He referred to the Futurama exhibit at the 1939 New York World's Fair, which depicted a utopia realised by automobiles. "There was no congestion. We imagined that the utopia would not require public governance of any sort. We were wrong," said Prof Boarnet from the University of Southern California (USC).

"I think we have an opportunity to get a little closer to that utopia. That utopia is the very messy prospect of collective governance... working hand in hand with the new technology to make steps forward," he added.

Prof Boarnet chairs the Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis at USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. He was a visiting professor at the NUS School of Design and Environment from 2017 to 2018.

He delivered the first NUSS Professorship Lecture of the year, titled "The city as an experiment – how smart cities and big data can allow urban planners to experiment and innovate", at the Kent Ridge Guild House on 15

March 2018. The Q&A session was moderated by NUS Associate Professor Yu Shi-Ming, who heads the Department of Real Estate at the NUS School of Design and Environment.

Prof Boarnet believes that technology helps urban planners do their jobs better. He gave the example of a project in Los Angeles, where urban planners conducted a survey of a residential estate to study commuter habits after the opening of a new rail line. Until recently, participants were asked to manually log every trip they made, be it via walking, private car or train. The data collected was sparse and not very accurate.

Thanks to new technologies, Prof Boarnet and his team issued participants pedometers and GPS devices to measure physical activity. The team was able to set aside a specific study area, with experimental and control groups. As a result, they managed to collect accurate and useful data for urban planning strategies.

"Our whole intention was to pilot test experimental evaluation (of data) that, with smartphone and GPS technology, will be made ubiquitously possible. This technique is growing more popular with agencies worldwide," Prof Boarnet said.

Private markets can also play a role in making smart cities more efficient. Ride-hailing apps are immensely popular, but it is not in their interest to combat congestion and pollution, he said. Only time will tell if the government will offer private ride-hailing firms incentives to

meet public objectives.

Vanessa Lee, a public servant, found Prof Boarnet's insights on gentrification after the construction of the rail line in Los Angeles interesting. "It's hard to see gentrification in the local context," she said, referring to Singapore's ethnic quota policy for public housing and efforts to maintain affordable housing, so that low-income residents are not priced out of growing neighbourhoods, which may lead to income or even ethnic segregation.

"Home ownership is 90 per cent here. We don't move out if they open a new MRT station. We celebrate with a bottle of wine. Prof Boarnet brought a different perspective and broadened my horizons," said Aaron Lim, a first-year NUS real estate student.

Launched in 1996, the NUSS Professorship Lecture uses an endowment of \$1.5 million to fund talks by eminent professors from various disciplines. The series is a platform for intellectual discourse among NUSS members, the NUS community and general public. ■



TECHNOLOGY REDUCES THE TENSION BETWEEN TOP DOWN (MASTER PLANNING) AND BOTTOM UP (ORGANIC) PRACTICES IN THE URBAN PLANNING FIELD, SAID PROF BOARNET



# WEARABLE TECH GETS AN UPGRADE

*Electronic materials with the flexibility of skin can pave the way for the next generation of wearable devices, said NUS Professor Bao Zhenan.*

In as little as 10 years from now, you may be able to tell the way your friend or spouse is feeling by simply looking at them.

This is made possible by skin-like technology, where electronic devices loaded with a network of sensors have the durability and flexibility of our skin, enabling the devices to be comfortably worn or even implanted in our bodies. Such devices help give us real-time information about us and our surroundings.

Beyond revolutionising the nature of wearable devices, skin-inspired organic electronic materials can also “radically alter the way we interact with one another and with the world around us,” said Professor Bao Zhenan, NUS Professor and visiting professor with the NUS Department of Materials Science and Engineering and Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

She was speaking at the second NUS Professorship Lecture of the year, held at Kent Ridge Guild House on 29 March.

According to Prof Bao, wearable technology has seen greater adoption in recent years, but it hasn’t been entirely smooth.

“Current wearable devices have limited abilities. Statistics have shown that roughly 50 per

cent of wearers stop using their devices after three months. In such short periods, very little useful information can be gained. This is why improvements in the wearability of the technology are needed,” added Prof Bao, who is also K K Lee Professor of Chemical Engineering at Stanford University and a member of the United States’ National Academy of Engineering.

The challenge facing manufacturers is that electronics are currently made from silicon, which makes them hard and prone to breakage. This prompted Prof Bao and her research team to look to our skin and its flexible properties in designing the next generation of electronic devices. “We need materials that can be as soft as our tissue, and skin tissue is much softer than silicon,” she explained.

Besides elasticity, other properties of our skin that Prof Bao’s researchers look to mimic include its ability to heal itself, as well as its skill at gathering signals from external stimuli and translating that into information that can be read by our brains, such as temperature.

The result of her team’s tests was bodyNET, which can be worn as a malleable, wearable suit that conforms to the body and its movements, or implanted in the

skin or brain. It has the ability to gather data on our body and its functions, and in so doing predict symptoms that may arise in the near future. This opens up new possibilities, such as mapping our brains to detect vital signs in our bodies to better track our health.

bodyNET can also gauge and inform us of the emotions of others who are wearing the device, helping us develop more awareness and empathy. It allows us to communicate more effectively with those around us as well as our surroundings in ways beyond our existing five senses, enabling us to be “more human,” said Prof Bao.

Beyond bodyNET, the potential for application of skin-inspired electronics is endless, she added. Its unparalleled ductility and stretchability make the material useful in robotics, consumer electronics and even driverless cars.

NUS members and NUS students at the lecture voiced excitement for this technology.

“I liked hearing about the preventive potential of the technology. Having a skin-like wearable device that can tell you if you’ve had too much sugar, for example, can help you take steps to prevent diabetes,” said member Kingsley Neo. ■



ACCORDING TO PROF BAO (LEFT), THE FUTURE OF WEARABLES IS ONE WHERE DEVICES CAN HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND OURSELVES

# SMALL STATE, BIG FRIENDSHIPS

*Experts, including Ambassador-at-Large Tommy Koh, weighed in on Singapore's relationships with other countries.*

Singapore's unique approach to diplomacy allows it to thrive in a rules-based world. Thus, it should not be afraid to be a sovereign player, even when its interests are not aligned with what the big powers think. Above all, while building meaningful ties with global powers is important, the city-state should not neglect its friends in the region.

These were insights shared at the Commentary Appreciation and Dialogue, held at the Kent Ridge Guild House on 27 March 2018. The dialogue centred on NUSS' latest *Commentary* publication, titled "The Little Nation That Can: Singapore's Foreign Relations and Diplomacy", in which contributors gave their thoughts on Singapore's foreign policies and how the city-state can remain relevant in an uncertain world.

The dialogue was well-attended by foreign dignitaries, diplomats and the public, and moderated by Dr Gillian Koh, Deputy Director (Research) at the Institute of Policy Studies, NUS.

Professor Tommy Koh, Singapore's

Ambassador-at-Large, opened the dialogue with an astute summary of the country's diplomatic approach.

He noted that the world today, while imperfect, was unlike ancient civilisations where the rule of force prevailed. "But it is also a fact that great powers will, from time to time, defy the rule of law and resort to force to implement their important security objectives," Prof Koh said.

For a small country like Singapore, defence and diplomacy are two sides of the same coin. "You need a credible defence capacity to deter aggression against you, and skilled diplomats to make friends. We are on very good terms with all the great powers, but not aligned to any of them," he shared. This allows Singapore to act in its own interests. For instance, the United States withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal in 2017, heralding an era of protectionism. But Singapore is one of 11 signatories of the renegotiated pact, called the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, Prof Koh said.

Closer to home, Singapore has a long-lasting friendship with China. Ms Lee Huay Leng, who heads the Singapore Press Holdings' Chinese Media Group, reflected on the changing nature of this friendship.

She was previously based in Beijing.

In 2004, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, who was then Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, made a controversial trip to Taiwan. China openly criticised the trip and cancelled all diplomatic meetings with Singapore.

Fast forward to 2016, when Hong Kong authorities seized nine Terrex vehicles belonging to the SAF. Analysts said the move signalled China's unhappiness over the city-state's training of national servicemen in Taiwan. But Singapore was not directly criticised, and meetings went on as usual. "Everything went on, at least on a superficial level. We are faced with a very different China now after 12 years," Ms Lee reflected.

Keeping this in mind, Ms Lee said that Singapore could take the opportunity to be a more vocal partner. "Our ministers should go there and make ourselves heard in China, because the assumption is that Singapore is a Chinese nation like them, which it is not," she explained.

Despite friendships with major powers, the panellists agreed that promoting a peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia was Singapore's top priority. This involves working well with the leaders of other countries.

"We will live with any government that comes into office. That's one of the basic principles of foreign policy," said Mr K Kesavapany, who was Singapore High Commissioner to Malaysia from 1997 to 2002.

NUSS members Aloysius Lim and Sriya Muralidharan found the dialogue enlightening. "I wish more young people would attend such events... It's good to know what goes on behind the scenes," Mr Lim said.

Ms Muralidharan said: "The panellists helped me understand and appreciate Singapore's engagement rules with China. Even though Singapore has a majority Chinese population, it's fascinating that the two countries are very different." ■



AT THE END OF THE DIALOGUE, NUSS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENTED PROF KOH WITH A CAKE, TO CELEBRATE HIS 50 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE



# STAYING RELEVANT IN THE AGE OF DISRUPTION

*Dr Vivian Balakrishnan shares how Singapore can ride the wave of technological revolution.*



AT THE DIALOGUE, DR BALAKRISHNAN EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR SINGAPORE TO EMBRACE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AND OPEN ITS DOORS TO FREE TRADE TO THRIVE IN A DISRUPTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The emergence of new technologies is disrupting and transforming our lives, from societal norms to economic practices.

To thrive in such an environment, Singapore needs to embrace technological advancements, and open its doors to free trade and opportunities for local companies. “Don’t build walls and don’t insulate our people from competition,” said Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister-in-Charge of the Smart Nation initiative.

Dr Balakrishnan was speaking at a Ministerial Dialogue at Kent Ridge Guild House’s Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall on 4 April 2018, which was attended by close to 200 NUSS members and guests.

Focusing on Singapore’s place in a disruptive world, Dr Balakrishnan took NUSS members back in time with an overview of technological advancements – from the agricultural revolution 8,000 to 10,000 years ago and invention

of gunpowder, to the technological prowess of the colonial maritime powers and our current digital age and technological advancements.

However, Dr Balakrishnan said that Singapore was lulled somewhat by early technology successes, which has resulted in countries like China overtaking Singapore in certain areas, such as consumer payment. “We need to press the reset button,” he added. “And we are going to step on the accelerator.”

An example of accelerating technology development is FAST (Fast and Secure Transfers), a system introduced by the government in 2017 to facilitate money transfers between bank accounts without the need for account details. Dr Balakrishnan said the government will later this year roll out “transfers between companies on the same platform”.

With these advances comes the need to educate Singaporeans on how to thrive in the digital age, where new skills are needed to cope

with technological demands and the changing nature of work, such as switching from manual to automated processes. “The digital revolution is the real risk to jobs,” added Dr Balakrishnan. Enter SkillsFuture, a national movement that provides Singaporeans with opportunities to pick up various skills, including digital literacy, through initiatives like SkillsFuture for Digital Workplace.

In a Q&A session moderated by Mr Jeffrey Khoo, NUSS Management Committee member and Chairperson of the Intellectual Pursuit Sub-Committee, Dr Balakrishnan also shared that as Singapore focuses on accelerating technological progress, the people need not be overly concerned about how disruptive technologies might be used to harm Singapore. He said: “As an open society, we will always be susceptible to external messages that may lead to divisions in our society.” The key question, he said, is what preventive steps can be taken to protect Singapore, without unnecessarily suppressing free speech.

Another point raised was that while Singapore is making strides in technology, many elderly Singaporeans still have difficulty with smartphones. The solution, Dr Balakrishnan said, lies in improving designs to cater for multilingual usage and ensuring through policy that everyone – regardless of background – has access to and benefits from tech gadgets.

Overall, attendees appreciated Dr Balakrishnan’s candour and insights. NUSS member, Dr S K Ganesan, said the Minister presented a cogent description of Singapore’s standing in relation to the emergence of new technologies. “It was beneficial when he outlined some of the measures that the government is taking,” he said. ■

# THE ROAD TO A NEW HOME

*Members voted to approve the establishment of NUSS' third Guild House at 2 Mandalay Road.*

THIS PAGE, FROM TOP:  
NUSS MEMBERS CASTING  
THEIR VOTES; THE NEWLY  
FORMED MC 2018/2019

FACING PAGE: MEMBERS  
TOOK THE CHANCE  
TO MINGLE WITH ONE  
ANOTHER DURING THE  
AGM'S DINNER RECEPTION



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is considered the Society's most significant event of the year, where important decisions about the direction of NUSS are discussed. This year's AGM, held on 26 April at Kent Ridge Guild House and attended by more than 300 members, was no different.

Foremost on the agenda was the approval of the \$3 million budget required to set up NUSS' third Guild House at 2 Mandalay Road.

The site was once the home of a hospital superintendent during Singapore's colonial days. It was shortlisted by the project committee in January for its excellent location

in central Singapore, with over 3,000 NUSS members' homes situated within a 6km radius from the property. It can be conveniently reached by bus or train, with Novena MRT station located just a 10- to 15-minute walk away.

Furthermore, the two-storey, black-and-white colonial bungalow boasts rustic charm, with lots of greenery and open spaces.

At the AGM, the Management Committee (MC) unveiled plans for this 50,000 sq ft property, which included purpose-built facilities like a music/fitness studio and kitchen studio, as well as fresh and unique dining options. New initiatives, such as a wider range of lifelong learning

courses and lifestyle programmes for families and events geared towards younger members, are also expected to be launched here.

Some of the proposed facilities were presented during the AGM's dinner reception, where a virtual reality booth showcasing the Guild House's interiors was set up for members to view.

Prior to the AGM, members were invited to tour the Mandalay Road property during an Open House on 21 April. Those who dropped by had largely positive reviews of the site, and many of them turned up at the AGM to cast their vote in support of the resolution.

At the end of the night, the







resolution to establish the Guild House was carried with 76 per cent of members who were present voting in its favour.

“I was among the members who dropped by the Open House. I found it a fantastic location, so I came here today to make sure I put my vote in. I’m glad we voted in favour of it, and from the looks of it, the MC has great ideas on the use of the space. I’m looking forward to what we can do with it,” said NUSS member Wong Hsien Loong.

Members also voted to elect the new MC for 2018/2019. Out of the current members, six were re-elected, while two members, Mr Yip Kum Fei and Dr Lim Wie Ming,

chose to step down. Meanwhile, new members Mr Seah Meng Hwee Jeremy and Mr Ng Teck Wee were voted in.

On his appointment, Mr Seah said he was very honoured to have been elected. In joining the MC, he foresees himself taking on a mentorship role towards those in the NUS community. “Having been in the corporate line in the last 30 years, I have a lot of experience to share with the young, and am well placed to serve as a mentor to graduates.”

Meanwhile, Mr Ng emphasised his dedication to the Society, saying: “I’m confident of working together with fellow MC colleagues to improve our ageing infrastructure,

increase revenue through greater support from organisations, and to plan better and more meaningful events for our community.”

Wrapping up the meeting, NUSS President Eddie Lee thanked members for providing their views and ideas, and expressed his gratitude to Mr Yip and Dr Lim for their contributions.

“Your strong support to NUSS over the years is deeply appreciated not just by me, but also by many others in the committee as well as our members,” he said.

Mr Lee also thanked the auditors, legal advisers and Secretariat for their strong teamwork, commitment, contributions and support. ■



**EDDIE LEE CHOY PENG**

PRESIDENT

SOCIETY'S REPRESENTATIVE & BOARD MEMBER

■ PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

**NUSS**  
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**2018 / 2019**



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SOCIETY'S REPRESENTATIVE

■ FEEDBACK UNIT (REACH)



**MOHAN BALAGOPAL**

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■ SPORTS & RECREATION

SOCIETY'S REPRESENTATIVE

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■ MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE



**JOHNNY TAN KHOON HUI**

CHAIRPERSON

■ STRATEGY

■ SPECIAL PROJECTS



**EUGENE TAN ZHI ZHONG**

CHAIRPERSON

■ ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT &  
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS



**NG TECK WEE**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

■ ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT &  
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

■ CULTURAL

SOCIETY'S REPRESENTATIVE

■ ALUMNI INTERNATIONAL  
SINGAPORE (AIS)





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# BUILDING THE INDONESIA OF TOMORROW

*Indonesia's Industry Minister speaks about why his country is gearing up for Industry 4.0.*

Over the past decade, Indonesia has leapfrogged many other economies in terms of speed of growth.

Among the G20 countries, its growth has averaged at around 5.6 per cent in the last 10 years, making it the third-fastest-growing economy after China and India. The country jumped five spots to 36 in the recent Global Competitiveness Index conducted by the World Economic Forum, putting it ahead of fellow Southeast Asian countries Vietnam and the Philippines.

Speaking to about 150 NUSS members and their guests at a Ministerial Dialogue session held on 9 May at Kent Ridge Guild House, Indonesia's Industry Minister Airlangga Hartarto revealed that while the country is pleased with its performance, it also understands that more needs to be done to boost its competitiveness.

It is in view of this that the country launched its Making Indonesia 4.0 road map in April. This plan aims to leverage advanced technologies to revamp the nation's high-demand sectors, such as the food and beverage, textiles, automotive, electronics and chemical industries.

The country plans to attract foreign investment, establish an innovation ecosystem, upgrade human capital and incentivise investment in technology, among other initiatives.

"What we would like to achieve

with Industry 4.0 is to revive our manufacturing sector, improve our net exports, strengthen our financials, and of course at a later stage, enhance investments, as well as build robust economic growth and create jobs," said Mr Airlangga.

He added that Indonesia is poised to develop rapidly, and that the government is confident in its new project, pointing to a number of factors for this. The country is enjoying what the minister called a "demographic bonus", where a large proportion of its population is active in its workforce. Over the years, the government has also invested in its infrastructure, with 865km of roads built in the last three years alone, and an electrification ratio that currently stands at 95 per cent.

And trust in the current government is higher than in any other country. The minister revealed that in a poll of OECD countries conducted in 2017 by management consulting firm Gallup, 80 per cent of Indonesians said they trusted their government, landing the country in the number one spot.

If successful, Making Indonesia 4.0 will boost the country's year-on-year GDP growth rate from the

current 5.07 per cent to roughly 6 to 7 per cent between 2018 and 2030.

Mr Airlangga assured the audience that foreign companies looking to expand into Indonesia will find it much easier to do so than before. "The mindset (of our government today) is different. Indonesia has undergone reformation ... and President Jokowi has a much more business friendly outlook (compared with previous administrations)," he said.

Mr Airlangga expressed hope that Singapore could play a significant role in this new industrialisation effort. "In a digital economy, market is important, and Indonesia's vast market provides plenty of opportunities for Singapore."

NUSS members who attended the event found the dialogue informative. Ms Grace Tang, who co-owns a local blockchain company, said: "I was able to understand more about where Indonesia is heading and the changes they intend to make. Indonesia is definitely a market that our company wants to aim for. It has huge potential, and now that I understand better where its government stands, I know how to tap into this market." ■







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# NUSS REM

## MR KUMAR LAL

The Society was deeply grieved by the passing of Mr Kumar Lal on 22 February 2018. Mr Kumar, who passed at the age of 94, was NUSS Vice President from 1970 to 1971, and President from 1980 to 1982.

As a valuable and much cherished member of the Society, Mr Kumar had made numerous significant contributions to help shape NUSS in its early days. One of his key accomplishments was helping NUSS raise the funds necessary for the construction of the Kent Ridge Guild House in the 1980s. Kent Ridge was then a strategic location as the Society had wanted to build a home for graduates on land provided by NUS.

However, the Society soon found itself struggling to finance the project, as the budget swelled from \$800,000 to \$4 million and finally \$5.5 million.

As President, Mr Kumar made the bold decision to raise NUSS' entrance

fee from \$15 to \$1,000. To encourage membership despite the fee increase, he took great pains to convince the public that the Society was serious about its vision to build the Guild House and bring the graduate community together. Led by Mr Kumar's firm conviction and strong persuasion skills, NUSS eventually recruited a total of 1,700 members and raised \$1.7 million, thus successfully covering the cost of its new home.

Kent Ridge Guild House was completed in 1984, and since then, it has helped NUSS build a deeper relationship with NUS, by providing a platform for graduates to attend meaningful programmes while networking with one another.

"We are deeply grateful to Mr Kumar for his invaluable foresight, vision and guidance, which not only gave NUSS a home that it still uses today, but also raised the stature and prestige of the Society," said NUSS President Eddie Lee. ■

MR KUMAR LAL (FRONT ROW, SECOND FROM RIGHT) WITH PAST PRESIDENTS AND NUSS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT THE PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCH IN 2007





# EMBERS...

## MR ERNEST WONG

It was with profound sadness that NUSS bade farewell to its former President, Mr Ernest Wong, on 2 April 2018.

Among his many contributions, Mr Wong, who passed at 80 years old, led the Society through great change, including two crucial transitions. As President from 1971 to 1973, he steered the then University of Singapore Society through a challenging time when it was suddenly forced to move from Dalvey Estate to Evans Road. The new site badly needed renovation, but the Society did not have sufficient funds and doubted it would be able to pull off the repairs in time.

Ever the determined and resourceful leader, Mr Wong urged members to tap their connections to help procure material and manpower resources so the renovations could be successfully completed within a month.

Mr Wong returned to steward the Society from 1982 to 1985 – a

momentous period when he had to oversee the building of the Kent Ridge Guild House. Again, it was his resolve and boldness that led him to take a leap of faith in signing the contract for the construction of NUSS' new home. The Guild House eventually brought in a steady flow of new members into the Society, cementing NUSS' position as the graduate club of choice.

After he stepped down as President, Mr Wong remained active as a member of the Management Committee and in various Sub-Committees, offering his advice whenever needed. In recognition of his remarkable contributions over the years, Mr Wong was conferred the NUSS Outstanding Member Award in April 2011.

"We owe Mr Wong a debt of gratitude for his wisdom and leadership. His fighting spirit and belief in never caving in to adverse situations are qualities we will all remember him by," said NUSS President Eddie Lee. ■

MR ERNEST WONG (THIRD FROM RIGHT) RECEIVING HIS OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD IN APRIL 2011, WITH THEN NUSS PRESIDENT JOHNNY TAN, THEN NUSS VICE PRESIDENT DAVID HO AND ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS, THE LATE MR WONG AH LONG, AND MR GERARD EE



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# PRESIDENT, PATRON & community champion

*New NUSS Patron and Singapore's President, Madam Halimah Yacob, shares her vision for a more caring graduate community.*







**MADAM HALIMAH  
YACOB**

*Sworn in as  
Singapore's 8<sup>th</sup>  
President on  
14 September,  
2017*

*9<sup>th</sup> Speaker of  
Parliament from  
January 2013  
to August 2017*

***Credentials***

**1978:** Bachelor of  
Laws (Honours)  
(LLB), National  
University of  
Singapore

**1981:** Called to  
the Singapore Bar

**2001:** Master of  
Laws, National  
University  
of Singapore

**2016:** Conferred  
honorary Doctor  
of Laws by the  
National University  
of Singapore

**AS AN ALUMNA OF NUS, WHAT  
MOTIVATED YOU TO ACCEPT OUR  
INVITATION TO BE PATRON OF NUSS?**

**Mdm Halimah:** NUS has provided me with a well-rounded university education and shaped me into who I am today. I have many fond memories of the university. Therefore, when approached to be Patron of NUSS, it was not a difficult decision. It is a position that allows me to reach out to fellow graduates and explore how best we can support the university in creating initiatives and programmes to benefit fellow alumni. It is also a platform for us to do good together.

**YOU MENTIONED IN A MEDIA  
INTERVIEW THAT YOU “OWE AN  
OBLIGATION, DUTY TO SINGAPORE  
AND SINGAPOREANS”. HOW DO  
YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE THIS AS  
PATRON OF NUSS?**

**Mdm Halimah:** NUSS has a good record of reaching out to the wider community of Singaporeans, especially the underprivileged. So I hope to continue this culture of service, together with members of the Society, as we develop programmes for the alumni.

We are where we are because of the support from those around us, so we owe an obligation to also help others who may be less fortunate than us. My vision for the Society as its Patron is to foster a stronger spirit of giving to help the underprivileged.

*“My vision for  
the Society as  
its Patron is to  
foster a stronger  
spirit of giving  
to help the  
underprivileged.”*

**WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER HOPES  
AND PLANS FOR THE SOCIETY?**

**Mdm Halimah:** NUSS has played a vital role in the development of the graduate community over the years. As its Patron, I hope to continue to reach out to more graduates and strengthen our ties with our alma mater, NUS, and within the Society.

Fostering a strong graduate community is something I would like to encourage. Being part of the graduate community, I have enjoyed staying in touch with my friends from university. Such close bonds facilitate good exchange of ideas and experiences and allow us to stay connected with our alma mater.

**NUS AND NUSS ARE NATURAL  
PARTNERS GIVEN THEIR COMMON  
INTERESTS, SUCH AS FOSTERING A  
LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
GRADUATE COMMUNITY. HOW DO  
YOU SEE THIS STRENGTHENING OUR  
EDUCATION LANDSCAPE?**

**Mdm Halimah:** The relationship between NUS and NUSS is a strategic one because together, we can work on joint initiatives that meet the needs of our ever-evolving society. A key initiative is in lifelong learning. Through education, individuals and Singapore can remain competitive in the changing global landscape. NUSS' efforts to reach out to graduates will complement this effort in cultivating an appreciation for lifelong learning and equipping Singaporeans for the challenges of the future.

## ON A MISSION TO BOOST TIES

**NG TECK WEE**  
*Newly elected  
Management  
Committee (MC)  
2018/2019 member*

*Deputy Chairperson,  
Alumni Development  
& University  
Relations (ADUR)  
Sub-Committee*

*Deputy Chairperson,  
Cultural  
Sub-Committee*

*Society Representative,  
Alumni International  
Singapore*

*Member, Toastmasters  
International*

**Credentials**  
LLM (International  
Business Law), City  
University London (Final Yr)

MSc (Finance), The City  
University of New York

BSc (Statistics), National  
University of Singapore

Served on Intellectual  
Pursuit (IP) Sub-Committee  
from 2014 to 2018

### WHAT HE HOPES TO ACHIEVE AS AN MC MEMBER.

"I'd like to help the MC expand our membership base by attracting younger members. I'd also like to provide a different perspective and energy to build on an already very robust foundation."

### HOW HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE IP SUB-COMMITTEE WILL BE USEFUL IN HIS NEW ROLES.

"IP events leverage the branding of NUSS on a regional stage as an alumni society of choice, through working with professionals and organising interactive forums and events for members. In future, I hope to strengthen our membership base through cross-border networking opportunities with other tertiary institutions. I also hope to leverage my two years' experience as a mentor under the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme to boost ADUR and Alumni International Singapore programmes, to optimise opportunities for members."

### HIS GOALS AS DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE ADUR AND CULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEES.

"To lead by example and keep the relationships within the Sub-Committees tight. I also hope to inject a positive drive and esprit de corps into the teams. Additionally, I want to help organise events that members can remember for years to come."

### WHAT HE WANTS TO SEE NUSS ACHIEVE.

"I hope it becomes a Society that is well connected globally and one where every member finds value in staying engaged. Younger members should see that NUSS can help them develop their professional network while being a place for their families to spend time socially. It should also be a home for seniors, where they can develop friendships through meaningful activities."

### WHAT MAKES NUSS A GREAT PLACE.

"It is a wonderful place with well-managed facilities for members of all ages. In fact, I hope to champion a drive to help members realise the full value of their memberships because NUSS is more than just delicious food and exciting activities!" ■





## GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

**JEREMY SEAH MENG HWE**

*Newly elected MC*

*2018/2019 member*

*Chairperson,  
Active-Ageing &  
Lifelong Learning  
Sub-Committee*

*Deputy Chairperson,  
Food & Beverage  
(F&B) Sub-Committee*

### **Credentials**

B Eng (Electrical),  
National University  
of Singapore

Served on S-Connect  
Sub-Committee from  
2010 to 2015; and  
Active-Ageing & Lifelong  
Learning Sub-Committee  
from 2016 to 2017

*People is a new section  
featuring our inspiring  
members. If you have an  
interesting story to share  
or know any members who  
do, drop us an email at  
thegraduate@nuss.org.sg*

### **WHY HE DECIDED TO SERVE AS AN MC MEMBER.**

"I believe that volunteering is about learning and helping others – and I have a desire to give back to NUSS. As a new MC member, I want to offer a different viewpoint, apply my skills, meet like-minded people – and have fun while at it!"

### **HIS PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT AT THE S-CONNECT, AND ACTIVE-AGEING & LIFELONG LEARNING SUB-COMMITTEES.**

"I helped develop the NUSS short courses under the National Silver Academy. From 12 courses in July 2017, there are now 27 courses in July 2018. I was also part of the team that organised the NUSS ALL Day in April for over 600 guests. We received good feedback; everyone loved the atmosphere!"

### **HIS GOALS AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE ACTIVE-AGEING & LIFELONG LEARNING SUB-COMMITTEE.**

"I plan to create more opportunities for members to remain physically, mentally and socially active, and meet more people. I also want to help create an environment where our members can learn in a casual setting and share their skills with others."

### **HOW HIS F&B EXPERIENCE WILL COME IN HANDY FOR HIS NEW ROLE IN THE F&B SUB-COMMITTEE.**

"At work, I oversee staff and budgets, create marketing plans and ensure the best customer experience. During busy periods, I also take orders and serve customers. These have instilled in me the joy of working with people and trained me to stay calm in tense situations – all of which are skills that are useful for leading the Sub-Committee."

### **WHAT'S KEY FOR NUSS MOVING FORWARD.**

"Staying relevant is important to retain members and attract new ones. For instance, NUSS can strive to personalise experiences through getting to know members' likes and dislikes. We have to especially listen to and understand the young people better. In short, we must innovate, learn, be curious and be willing to change." ■



**NUSS**  
The Graduate Club

# 07

## EVENTS

### 26 JUL *Summer Slam*

Want to experience the beauty of other languages and cultures? Join us for an evening of songs from around the world, where you will get to sing along and bop to tunes from countries like Germany, Japan and Spain!



### 27 JUL *Malam Peranakan*

Indulge in an evening of Peranakan food and culture, as you feast on delicacies served "Tok Panjang" style and enjoy live music and performances by Gunong Sayang Association. There will also be a bazaar selling Peranakan clothing and accessories – an added bonus for the shopaholics among us!



### 28 JUL *DanceSport 6<sup>th</sup> Line Dance Jam*

Flaunt your best moves at this lively event, and enjoy an afternoon of workshops and lunch with other dance enthusiasts like yourself. Be sure to come dressed to the theme of "50 Shades of Red"!





**NUSS**  
The Graduate Club

**08**

**EVENTS**

**A**

**U**

**G**



**17 AUG**

### *National Day Golf Tournament*

Test your golf skills at this annual tournament, to be held at The Singapore Island Country Club's Bukit Course. After hitting the green, enjoy a satisfying dinner spread at Kent Ridge Guild House. This event is open to both members and guests, so feel free to bring your golfing buddies along!





**NUSS**  
The Graduate Club**09****EVENTS****S****E****P****1 SEP*****Learning Journey: Farm Trail***

Looking for an authentic and local farm experience? Join Uncle William Ho – popularly known as “The Quail Man of Lim Chu Kang” and a former Singapore Tourism Board farm tour guide – on this learning journey, where you can get up close and personal with animals!



ALL INFORMATION STATED IN THIS SECTION IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING. FOR UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT [NUSS.ORG.SG](http://NUSS.ORG.SG)



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**3<sup>RD</sup> NUSS OVERSEAS BUSINESS STUDY MISSION TRIP TO HANOI, VIETNAM**  
**12-15 MARCH 2018**

---

***Business mission accomplished***

Regarded among the world's fastest-growing economies, Vietnam is powered by increasing exports of manufactured goods and services as well a retail sales growth of over 10 per cent. It has thus attracted many investors from around the world.

To better understand the business opportunities available in Vietnam, NUSS led 20 members on a business study mission trip to Hanoi, where they were able to interact directly with the country's government, academic and industry leaders. The trip also brought members to companies such as Vietcombank, FPT and KPMG, providing them with platforms to develop business contacts and the know-how to establish or expand businesses, while also strengthening the bond among members who are interested in doing business overseas.

Delegates found the trip informative and useful and expressed their desire to have more study trips. Gerard Francis De Silva, Head of Group Corporate Affairs, Hong Leong Group Singapore, said, "[This trip was] very insightful especially in the area of tourism. The Vietnam Administration of Tourism Senior Management provided detailed information that was relevant and useful."

Patrick Lum Kok Keong, Director of Japa Services Pte Ltd, added: "As a business delegation, the trip to Hanoi was cost-effective, useful and fun, with all its objectives achieved. NUSS' organisation and management of the trip was excellent and I eagerly look forward to such trips with them in future."

Look out for future business study mission trips on [www.nuss.org.sg](http://www.nuss.org.sg).



# ST PATRICK'S SOCIAL NIGHT 14 & 15 MARCH 2018, THE BAR, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

In celebration of the patron saint of Ireland, a full house of NUSS members gathered to wine and dine amid entertainment provided by Jerry & the Neu Faces and The Craic Horse on 14 and 15 March, respectively. Menu highlights included the Traditional Irish Shepherd's Pie and Irish Meat Platter as well as Guinness and Jameson whiskies.



# SINGAPORE TENNIS ASSOCIATION INTER-CLUB SINGLES LEAGUE MARCH-APRIL 2018, VARIOUS VENUES

The NUSS Tennis Section sent two teams to participate in the Inter-Club Singles League (C and D Divisions) organised by the Singapore Tennis Association. Although both teams did not make it past the knock-out stage, they appreciated and enjoyed the camaraderie, competitive spirit and sportsmanship, as they pitted their skills against players from other clubs.



## ADVERTISEMENT

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- **Karate** for Juniors
- **Swimming** for Juniors
- **Tennis** for Juniors

## Swimming | Tennis

For registration and enquiries, please contact **Kee Wei** at **6586 3739** or email [keewei@nuss.org.sg](mailto:keewei@nuss.org.sg)

## Badminton | Ballet | Karate

For registration and enquiries, please contact **Gaby Leong** at **6586 3744** or email [gabyleong@nuss.org.sg](mailto:gabyleong@nuss.org.sg)



## NUSS-NUS MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME: MID-YEAR GATHERING 20 MARCH 2018, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

### *An enriching experience*

Co-organised with the NUS Office of Student Affairs, this annual get-together allowed past and current cohorts of mentors and mentees to network and share experiences. The event attracted over 50 participants, and featured opening addresses by Eugene Tan, Chairperson of the Alumni Development and University Relations Sub-Committee, and Associate Professor Vivian Ng, Vice-Dean of Students from the NUS Office of Student Affairs. A panel discussion was led by two NUSS mentors and two alumni from the NUS University Scholars Programme, who shared about their work and life experiences and took questions from the audience.



## SAKE APPRECIATION EVENING 22 MARCH 2018, THE SCHOLAR RESTAURANT, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

### *For the “sake” of a good time*

Sake lovers enjoyed an evening savouring high-quality rice wines such as Sho Chiku Bai brews and Mio sparkling sake, paired with delectable canapés featuring black pepper beef tenderloin, stewed Shanghai ramen with king prawn and Japanese *mochi*, while learning about the history and culture of sake from Seiki Wakasugi, Vice President of Takara Shuzo Singapore. The event was jointly organised by NUSS and Maybev.



## BI-MONTHLY RIDES WITH THE CYCLING SECTION 24 MARCH 2018, VARIOUS LOCATIONS

On 24 March, enthusiastic members gathered for a ride around the Thomson, Yishun and Seletar area, while basking in the sights along the journey. The route started and ended at Casuarina Road (Old Upper Thomson Road). The Cycling Section dedicates two Saturdays each month to cycle together. Join the NUSS Cycling Section Facebook group to find out more about or participate in these rides. Members who are not part of the NUSS Cycling Section are also welcome!



## PYTHON FOR BUSY EXECUTIVES 7 APRIL 2018, INNER CHAMBER, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Python is a powerful and versatile programming language used in fields like web applications and data science. At this five-hour workshop led by trainer Eric Hong, participants learnt important programming concepts such as data structures, loops and object-oriented principles, and how to create clean and clear code. Eric Hong is an engineer, educator and founder of [integratedots.com](http://integratedots.com), with more than 15 years of experience leading American multinational corporations.



### ADVERTISEMENT

July - December 2018

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To find out more, visit [www.nuss.org.sg](http://www.nuss.org.sg) or contact Mr Shia Wei Ming at 6586 7043 or [events@nuss.org.sg](mailto:events@nuss.org.sg).

**NUSS**  
The Graduate Club

As part of  
**Silver** NATIONAL  
ACADEMY







## INTER-SECTION GAMES & SPORTS AND RECREATION NIGHT 2018 7 APRIL 2018, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE & SINGAPOREBOWLING @ RIFLE RANGE

### *Sporting fun*

The Sports Section organised a fun and exciting tournament for its members to cultivate the spirit of sportsmanship and create an opportunity to try out new sports. Seventy participants took part in the various events, which were held at the SingaporeBowling @ Rifle Range and Kent Ridge Guild House. The camaraderie was evident at the bowling tournament, where participants pitted their skills at knocking down pins. Another highlight was the darts competition, which drew overwhelming interest from members.

The high spirits continued into the evening at the Sports & Recreation Night. A “Beauty and a Beach” theme saw many among the turnout of 170 decked out in colourful attire. A scrumptious buffet dinner was served after addresses by Organising Chairman, Chong Hoong Sang, and Chairperson for the Sports & Recreation Sub-Committee, Mohan Balagopal. The highlight of the evening was the prize presentation where the Tennis Section snagged the Section of the Year award for active participation in inter-club and national level competitions, as well as overseas games. The Social Mahjong Section bagged the Encouragement Award for its rapid membership expansion within its inaugural year in 2017.





### SENIOR AND FRIENDS GOLF OUTING

12-13 APRIL 2018, THE ELS CLUB DESARU COAST & HORIZON HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

#### *Par-tee on the green*

About 30 senior golfers and their friends met on 12 April at Kent Ridge Guild House for a 2D1N golf trip to Johor. The first stop was The Els Club Desaru Coast, where members and their friends played at the challenging but luxurious Valley Course, while taking in the undulating landscapes punctuated by white, sandy bunkers. That evening, the group went out to experience the nightlife at Bukit Indah, a popular shopping and food enclave. The next morning, they made their way to Horizon Hills Golf and Country Club and were greeted by slick greens and serene paspalum fairways. The course's second hole was a tricky par 5, providing a good challenge for players of all levels. The afternoon ended on a high note with a delicious lunch and prize-giving ceremony, where Mr Ng Boon Hong was announced as the champion of the Seniors Division. The runner-up prize went to Mr Lim Soo Hwee.

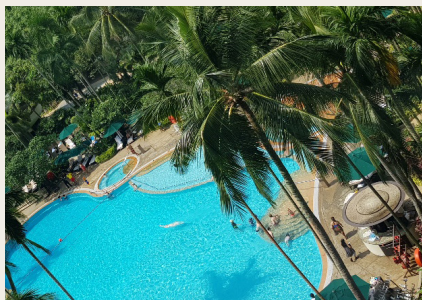
## A SHANGRI-LUXE WEEKEND

A staycation at one of Singapore's most luxurious hotels is all you need to feel refreshed and renewed.

Lush green flora, plush rooms and scrumptious meals awaited Tan Hwi Ying and her best friend when they checked into Shangri-La Hotel Singapore over the Good Friday weekend.

For two whole days, they indulged in the hotel's facilities and lavish breakfasts, and enjoyed the palatial atmosphere and stunning views. "The vast space and beautiful garden made the hotel feel like a resort. Our stay felt like a real vacation!" said Hwi Ying, who felt rejuvenated after her stay. She and her best friend also took part in a complimentary Easter egg hunt, which was organised as part of Shangri-La Hotel's Good Friday promotions.

Hwi Ying was the winner of a contest on Facebook held by NUSS at the end of last year, where NUSS members were asked to share their favourite experiences with the Society. Her prize? A 2D1N stay at Shangri-La Hotel. Her winning entry can be found in the Jan-Mar 2018 issue of *The Graduate*.





SPECIALLY FOR NUSS MEMBERS

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- Free access to Health Club facilities (except tennis court and spa facilities)
- Complimentary unlimited high-speed internet access within the hotel
- A private balcony

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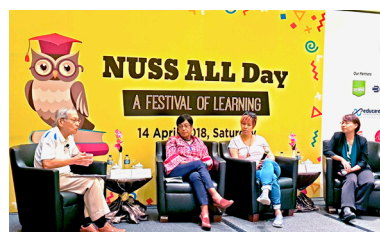
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## NUSS ALL DAY – A FESTIVAL OF LEARNING

14 APRIL 2018, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE



### *Learning for life*

What does lifelong learning actually mean? That was what over 600 members and guests who dropped by Kent Ridge Guild House for the inaugural NUSS ALL Day – A Festival of Learning came to discover. This one-day event featured dialogue sessions with experts on active ageing and early childhood sectors, as well as a range of workshops, including brain-based learning and how to play the ukulele. The festival was organised with support from LearnSG Seed Fund, whose goal and tagline is “Every Day, A Learning Day”.

Members particularly enjoyed the dialogue session on The Silver Years – The Best Years of Our Lives, where panel members Dr Kanwaljit Soin of the Women’s Initiative for Ageing Successfully, Eleanor Yap of Ageless Online and Helen Yong of the Singapore Association of Mental Health spoke about how one can live positively and age gracefully.

NUSS member Christina Tham said: “The dialogue definitely helped put ageing in perspective for us. Dr Soin helped us to see old as ‘gold’, rather than thinking of ourselves as seniors or aged. I fully agree with her that it’s the lucky ones who get to grow old. And if we seniors can see this, I think it’ll take away a lot of unhappiness, and we can enjoy getting older.”

Meanwhile, participants who attended the Brain-Based Learning workshop found it very informative and useful. Another member, Alan Choo, who was there with his family including his daughter and two sons, said: “As parents, we found the techniques and skills taught in the workshop very applicable to us and our children. These include training your brain to have better memory and the ability to learn new things. We were taught why multitasking doesn’t work as well as we think it does, and that by giving a specific task our full attention, we are better able to learn and perform.”

On whether she would like to see more of such events planned for members like herself, Susilawati Surya, who also attended the Brain-based Learning workshop, said: “Yes, definitely! This event was very well planned out, and this workshop in particular was very informative and engaging. My Saturday was certainly well spent!”



**NUSS SUB-COMMITTEE APPRECIATION DINNER 2018**  
19 APRIL 2018, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

*Showing gratitude*

It was the perfect opportunity to say thank you to members of the NUSS Sub-Committees, whose time and expertise have helped drive the growth and standing of the Society. The dinner kicked off with a welcome speech by NUSS President, Mr Eddie Lee, who highlighted the events and initiatives of 2017, such as the newly formed Membership Experience Sub-Committee. A fabulous sit-down feast followed, with entertainment by the Khairi Bro Band and a slideshow retrospective of activities the respective Sub-Committees had organised. The evening ended amid cheers, as Long Service Awards were presented to members who have served for five years or more.



**GLENMORANGIE WHISKY PAIRING DINNER**  
23 APRIL 2018, THE BISTRO, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

*Whisky talk*

Led by Moët Hennessy Diageo brand ambassador, Chong Wai Keng, this four-course dinner featured six labels by the renowned producer of single malt Scotch whiskey. The event also included a quiz, during which three participants each won a bottle of Glenmorangie Bacalta Private Edition.





## GRAD JAM NIGHT BY REBANA & THE SILVERSTONES 6 & 27 APRIL 2018, THE CHILL-LAB, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

### *Jam session*

NUSS members had a memorable experience at the recent Grad Jam Night, where they were kept on their feet as they danced to tunes belted out by bands Rebana and The Silverstones. Rebana – formed just last December by four friends – kept everyone reminiscing of yesteryears while bopping along to a wide assortment of catchy retro hits. The Silverstones, a familiar name at NUS Guild Houses, charmed the crowd with their repertoire of hit songs and unique blend of instruments like the ukulele, acoustic guitar and violin.

## BREAKFAST DIALOGUES 27 APRIL 2018, FUNCTION ROOMS, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

### *Awfully insightful*

Kicking off the Breakfast Dialogues series, Ms Lyn Lee, founder of Awfully Chocolate, spoke to an audience of over 40 attendees about her experiences and challenges as an entrepreneur, and how she came to be where she is today. In her dialogue, titled “Innovation and Global Competitiveness”, Ms Lee also highlighted how graduates can follow their passion and turn their dreams into thriving businesses. Jointly organised by NUS and the NUS Office of Alumni Relations, the series caters to NUS members and NUS alumni aged 40 years old and below.







### YOUTH FIESTA: NETWORKING SESSION 30 APRIL 2018, GUILD AND COLLEGE ROOMS, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

#### *Networking for younger members*

Twenty-four members gathered for an evening of great company – the first in a series of Youth Fiesta events for members aged 35 years and below. The evening began with a structured networking session, followed by simple games that promoted teamwork and encouraged interactions among members. While the session was casual and simple, it got members talking to one another and building new relationships. The event was an endeavour by NUS to reach out to and engage its younger members.

### NUS 5D/4N GOLF TRIP TO SIEM REAP 10-14 MAY 2018

#### *Golf with a side of sightseeing*

Twenty-nine Golf Section members and guests took to the green at the Siem Booyoung Country Club and Angkor Golf Resort while taking in the scenic landscape of Siem Reap. As a respite from all the swinging and batting, the group was also whisked away to stunning attractions such as Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that embodies the might of the Khmer civilisation during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Other activities included cruising along Tonle Sap Lake, dropping by a floating village and visiting monuments such as the Rolous temples and Neak Pean island. Participants also enjoyed five-star accommodation and amenities at Angkor Palace Resort.





## NUSS BADMINTON CLOSED TEAM TOURNAMENT 2018

19 MAY 2018, MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Sixty players took to the courts at this annual event to battle it out and come out on top. This year, the tournament featured only Doubles events to promote camaraderie among Badminton Section members and other NUSS members. After a strong showing, team Black Panther clinched the winning title for the year! Team leader Ms Lim Seh Kuan expressed joy over the win: "With a strong team spirit and a never-say-die attitude, we fought relentlessly for every point to stay ahead of the game." If you fancy some smashing and flicking, don't forget to sign up for the tournament next year!



## BOTANICAL STUDY & MODERN CALLIGRAPHY

19 MAY 2018, THE CHILL-LAB, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Beauty is everywhere in our lives, and participants at this workshop found it through delicate botanicals and elegant calligraphy. Guided by Trudy Zhang from Poptsie Paper Co, members learnt how to create lovely keepsakes and heartfelt pieces of art for their loved ones!



## DANCESPORT NIGHT AND MERRYMAKING MAY

17 APRIL & 26 MAY 2018, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

### *Dancing the night away*

Members and guests of NUSS' DanceSport Section had plenty of opportunities to dance and exchange fancy footwork as they convened for not just one but two social events! Each evening began with a hearty sit-down dinner, followed by rounds of dancing to light-hearted tunes and up-tempo beats. As the event came to a close, the crowd needed little persuasion to show off their own moves as many waltzed and cha cha-ed the night away on the dance floor.





## LIFELONG SELF CARE: A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IN YOUR HANDS

24 MARCH & 26 MAY 2018, THE ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

If stress is keeping you up at night, consider meditation or getting a massage. Participants at each session were taught a Triple Path Meditative Exercise, which unblocks the *qi* points in the body to bring about a sense of relaxation, as well as a Self-Massage with Acupressure Exercise to boost *qi* energy flow and blood circulation for improved mental calmness. The workshops were led by Chan Siok Fong, a healthcare *qigong* practitioner for over 25 years.



## A DASH, A STAIN, A MEETING

9 APRIL-1 JUNE 2018, NUSS ART GALLERY

Through their distinctly different aesthetics, artists Leow Wei Li and Susanna Tan aimed to reveal the metaphors of human mortality and metaphysical qualities of paint at this exhibition. Ms Leow, through her "Pink Wounds" series, explored her passion for and relationship with paint, and pondered on its metaphysical qualities. Ms Tan drew from experiences of disappointment, regret and loss for her series, titled "Seeing Flowers Through A Mist", which reflected on death and demise. Both also collaborated on an artwork that showcased their paradoxical approaches to the use of paint.



## TORUK – THE FIRST FLIGHT

24 MAY 2018, SINGAPORE INDOOR STADIUM

### *An evening of excitement*

The vibrant world of *Avatar* (2009) came to life onstage in a whirlwind of death-defying acrobatics from Cirque du Soleil. Two lucky winners of a giveaway contest held by NUSS on its Facebook page each received a pair of tickets to the show.

All NUSS members could purchase tickets at a 15 per cent discount thanks to a collaboration with Mediacorp VizPro, the show's local promoter.

Members from NUSS' Marketing (Membership) team were also invited to attend the media conference and visit the cast backstage. They spoke to performers who shared the unique challenges of portraying the Na'vi: "As acrobats, we are usually picky about perfecting our movements, [but for Toruk] we have to adopt a more organic way of moving."

Ms Hwee Peng Khng, one of the winners of NUSS' giveaway contest, said: "[Toruk] was magical and [I] loved the audience participation."





## 9-DAY MONGOLIA ADVENTURE – A LAND OF GENGHIS KHAN 27 MAY-4 JUNE 2018

### Getting to know Mongolia

Close to 20 NUSS members toured Mongolia where they were treated to breathtaking grassland scenery and a once-in-a-lifetime experience of the nomadic lifestyle. Members enjoyed nights in Mongolian ger tents and hiked through sand dunes while learning how to ride a horse and camel. To learn more about the epic journey in Mongolia, keep your eyes peeled for next issue's Travel story where one member shares his experiences.



#### ADVERTISEMENT



## The Magazine for NUSS Members

*The Graduate*, published quarterly, provides its well-versed readers with up-to-date local and global viewpoints on topics ranging from culture to education, politics, technology, leisure and lifestyle.

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Sink your teeth into The Scholar's Gold Leaf Charcoal Snow Skin Mooncake with White Lotus Paste and Champagne Chocolate Truffle or the Mini Snow Skin Mooncake with Green Tea Paste and Pomegranate Chocolate Truffle. Traditional baked favourites like the Mooncake with White Lotus Paste and Melon Seeds are also available.

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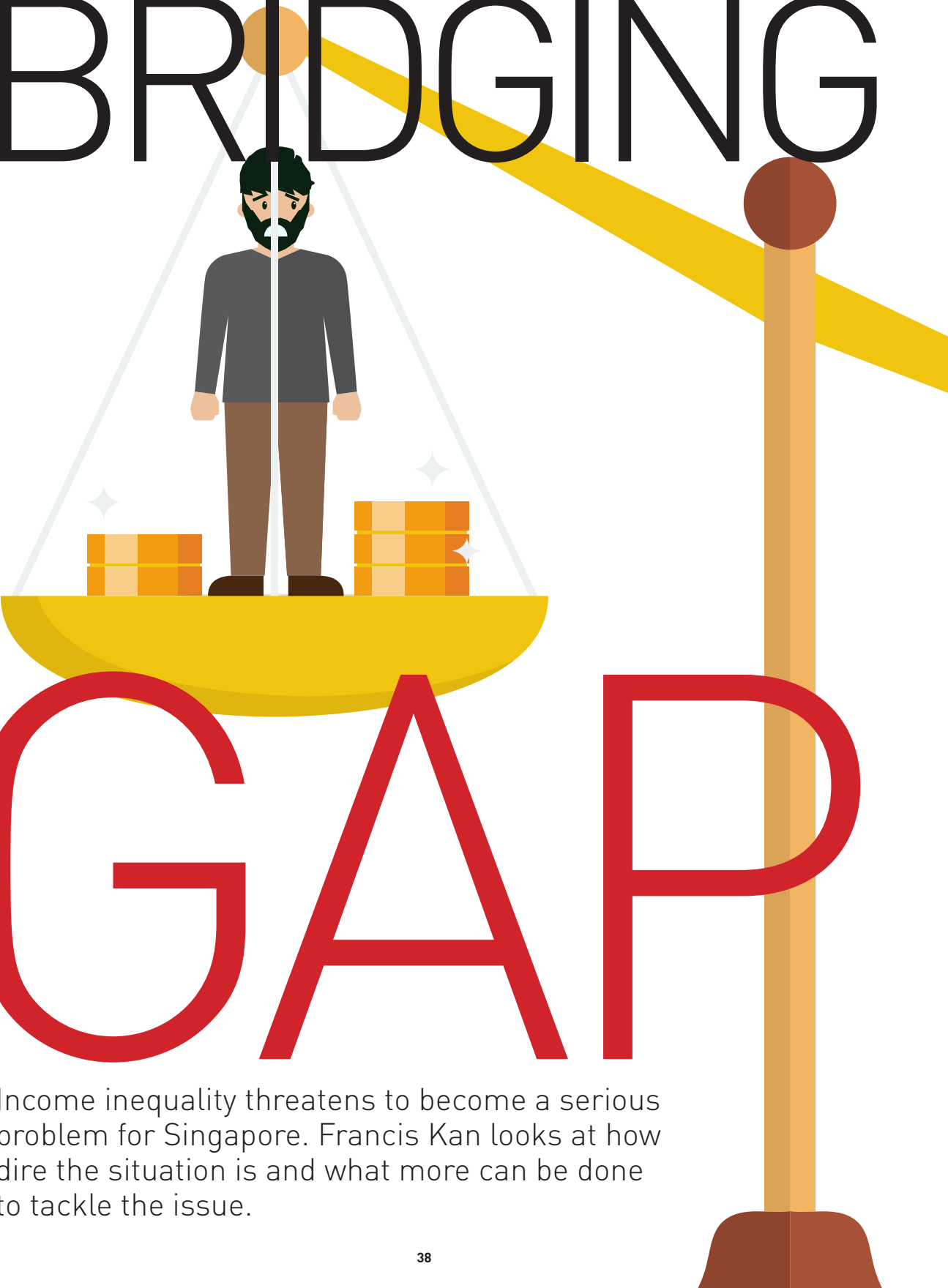
### SRI LANKAN CRAB

Spice up special occasions with this Singaporean favourite available in six styles, including Wok-baked Black Pepper Sri Lankan Crab; Wok-baked Sri Lankan Crab with Salted Egg Yolk; Steamed Sri Lankan Crab with Egg White and Hua Tiao Wine; and Stewed Sri Lankan Crab with Rice Vermicelli in XO Sauce. Must-tries are the Signature Chilli Sri Lankan Crab and Signature Chilled Sri Lankan Crab in Teochew Style.

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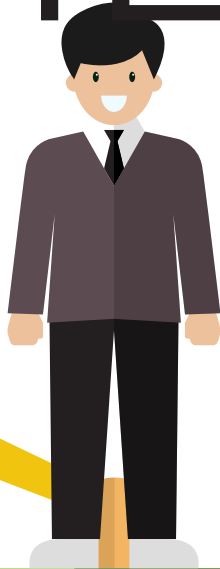
# BRIDGING GAP

An illustration featuring a man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and brown trousers, standing on a yellow platform. The platform is part of a large, stylized scale. The scale's beam is yellow and tilted downwards to the right, with a brown circular weight at its end. The scale is supported by a brown pillar. On the platform, there are two stacks of gold coins, each with a small white star above it. The background is white.

Income inequality threatens to become a serious problem for Singapore. Francis Kan looks at how dire the situation is and what more can be done to tackle the issue.



## THE



Her two-room flat in Yishun is sparse but neat. The only obvious luxury is a flat screen television that sits in the living room. Cindy, a single-mother, shares a single bed with her 12-year-old daughter. She's one of the luckier ones. After having lived in a rental flat for a few years, she was able to afford a new unit with the help of grants from the government.

Yet, she feels that her situation hasn't improved much since moving here three years ago. She lost her full-time job as a clerk at a local shipping company after taking too much time off to attend to her daughter. She now works part-time at a fast food outlet.

Her biggest worry is her child, who is taking her PSLE examinations this year but has been failing at all her subjects except mother tongue. "I don't have money to send her to tuition, and because I work shifts I can't be at home to make sure she does her homework," said the 37-year-old, who dropped out of school after Secondary 3.

While she receives financial assistance from the government to help with expenses such as school fees and textbooks, she feels it's not enough to make ends meet. Nor does she feel she has the time or energy to take up retraining through programmes like SkillsFuture.

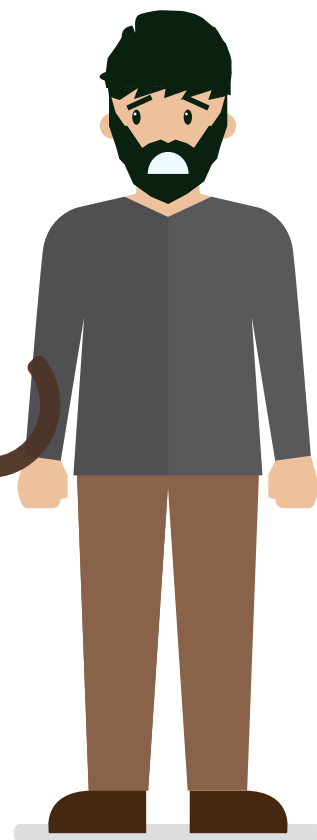
#### A LACK OF CLARITY

Cindy is one example of those who have ended up on the wrong end



*“For the short-term and disproportionate impact they have, ad-hoc packages aren’t cheap. Are our well-intended ad-hoc transfers drawing resources and attention away from dealing with challenges in a more sustained and structured manner?”*

Kuik Shiao-Yin,  
Nominated Member of Parliament  
and Co-Founder of The Thought Collective



of Singapore’s growing income inequality gap, a topic that has received much attention in the media recently. Social activists and government ministers alike have called for more to be done to tackle the issue.

Yet how bad exactly is income inequality in Singapore? Due to the lack of data, accurate measurements of inequality and poverty are hard to come by. Income inequality is commonly expressed by the Gini coefficient, which is the ratio of the highest to lowest incomes in a society and expressed as a number between zero and one.

Singapore’s Gini coefficient has risen fairly quickly over the last 20 years, and has hovered for some time above 0.4, the level that

the UN-Habitat describes as “the international alert line for income inequality”. That said, the number dipped to 0.458 in 2016, its lowest level in a decade.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency’s “The World Factbook Country Comparison: Distribution of Family Income-Gini Index”, Singapore is ranked among the most unequal countries among wealthy nations, coming second only after Hong Kong. Yet the Gini coefficient cannot be directly compared across countries, as there is no international standard for its calculation. The number of people considered poor in Singapore is also hard to determine because there is no official poverty line.

What is clear is that incomes



of the less well-off are growing at a slower rate than their wealthier counterparts. The bottom 50 per cent of Singapore households saw their real incomes grow by between 2.1 per cent and 3.6 per cent for each household member last year, a Department of Statistics report released in February showed. This compares to an increase of between 3.7 per cent and 4.5 per cent for the next 40 per cent of households.

While the data gathered to date is not conclusive about the extent of the problem, experts agree that growing inequality could result in a host of serious social and economic problems for the city-state.

“Inequality remains a concern not so much because of what the Gini coefficients capture, but concerns about entrenchment of poverty, slow-down in upward social mobility, possible wage stagnation, job loss among the middle class and the high cost of living,” said Dr Tan Ern Ser, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore.

The growing income disparity is also widening the class divide in Singapore. An Institute of Policy Studies survey on social capital released in December last year found that the sharpest social divide in Singapore is now based on class, rather than race or religion.

#### **A NEED FOR FRESH IDEAS**

The issue has become a top priority for the government. In May, Education Minister Ong Ye Kung said in Parliament that tackling inequality is a national priority, noting that social stratification

is threatening the country’s cohesiveness. He said that the government would seek out fresh ideas and invited suggestions from the public on how to close the gap.

At present, there are already a slew of public and private-sector assistance schemes for the lower income group. For instance, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)’s ComCare initiative provided some \$130 million worth of assistance to 39,200 low-income households in 2016. This included short to long-term financial support, as well as childcare, student fee care and kindergarten financial assistance.

The National Council of Social Service, a statutory board under MSF, also provides assistance to social service organisations in Singapore to enhance their capabilities. Meanwhile, this year’s Budget unveiled measures to enhance employment support for lower to middle income groups.

#### **SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**

Despite existing programmes, observers argued that bolder measures were needed to bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots.

Dr Tan said that improving the skills of lower income workers and providing them with decent-paying jobs was one way to help families break out of the “poverty cycle” and give their children a better chance of moving up the socioeconomic ladder.

“We need to find some ways of ensuring that children who

are brought into this world do not enter a condition characterised by deprivation in terms of economic, social and cultural capital. And if it so happens they do end up in such conditions, the state and community would have to ensure that they do not remain deprived,” Dr Tan added.

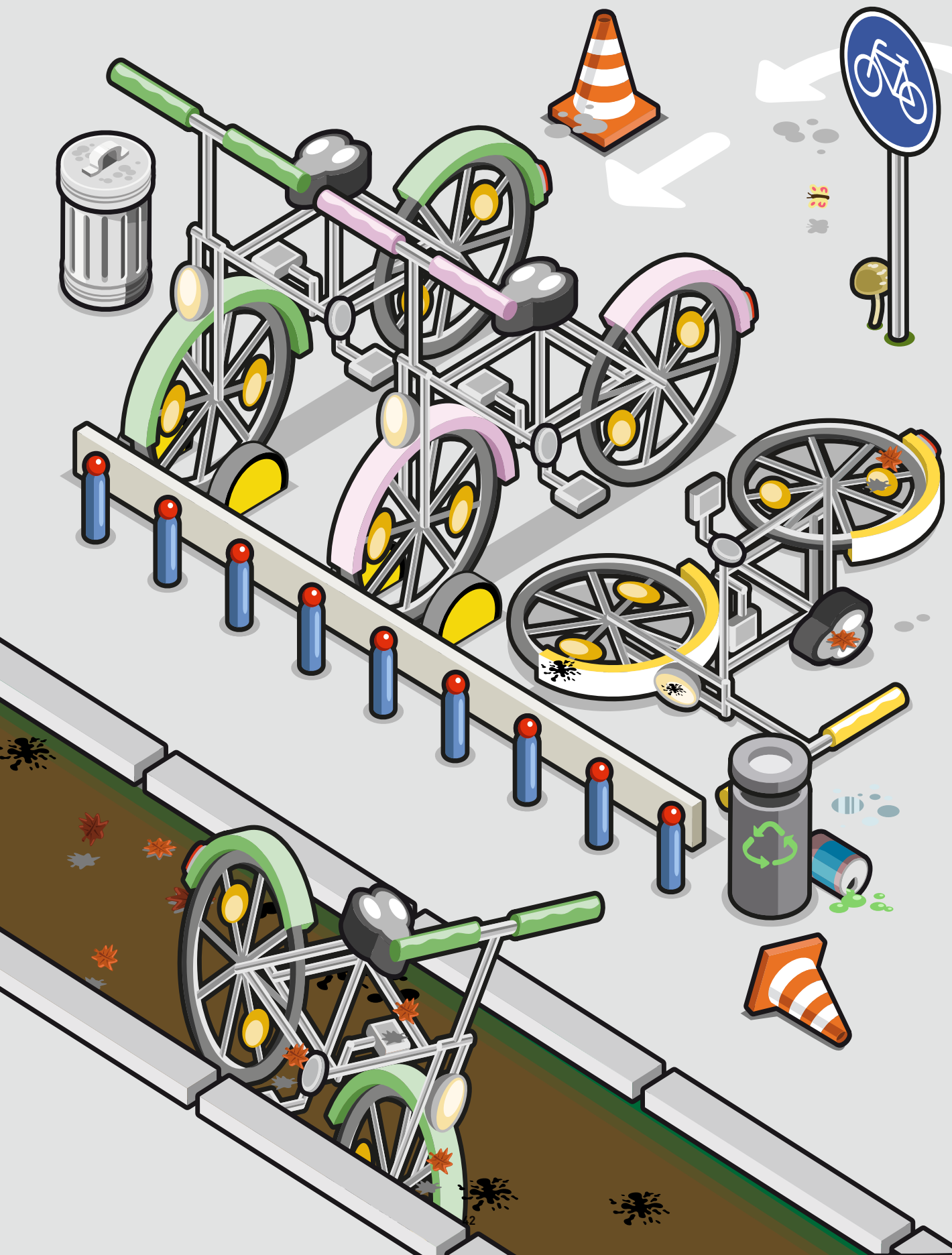
Kuik Shiao-Yin, co-founder of social enterprise group The Thought Collective, urged the government to divert greater resources to helping the underprivileged and tackling inequality.

Ms Kuik, who is also a Nominated Member of Parliament, said that the government should take advantage of its surpluses – which hit \$9.6 billion for the fiscal year 2017 – to fund social programmes that can help the poor in a significant and long-term manner; as opposed to one-off measures like the SG Bonus to be paid to all Singaporeans this year.

“For the short-term and disproportionate impact they have, ad-hoc packages aren’t cheap. Are our well-intended ad-hoc transfers drawing resources and attention away from dealing with challenges in a more sustained and structured manner?” she questioned in a speech made in Parliament in March.

With the government having made tackling inequality one of its top priorities, more action to deal with the problem could be at hand.

Yet, till a long-lasting solution is found, Cindy and those like her will have to deal with the reality of living as a poor person in Singapore. She said: “I want my daughter to do better in life, but there is not much I can do on my own.” ■





# ARE WE CIVIC-MINDED ENOUGH?

After more than 50 years of nation-building and having attained First World status economically, are Singaporeans more gracious compared to 10 years ago? KC Soh explores our level of civic-mindedness.

**B**ike-sharing started in Singapore over a year ago. Very quickly it proved a hit, and ridership reached one million users in the first year alone for oBike, one of the earliest operators in Singapore. Mobike, another bike-sharing outfit, reported more than 10 million trips by users since the company launched in Singapore last March.

Just as quickly, however, photos on social media showed bicycles parked indiscriminately. Some were vandalised, with broken locks, pedals or chains. A couple was even caught dumping rental bikes in a canal. For many Singaporeans, these incidents are another addition to a long litany of inconsiderate behaviour.

Despite measures and steps taken to deter people from abusing rental bikes – like putting in place a credit

scoring system – such behaviour still persists.

In an informal straw poll conducted for this feature, about half of the 15 professionals interviewed felt that civic-mindedness in Singapore has not improved over the last 10 years.

“Our infrastructure may have improved,” said Ms Delphine Sng, a ceramicist who retired from a career in bank compliance, “but the software – the mindset of the people – has not really caught up with the physical environment.”

Briton Ms Emma Robertson-Chia, a graphic designer and permanent resident for more than 20 years, said: “What has always struck me is that people care quite a bit about their homes and families, but the second they step out of their front door, that space is not their responsibility.” Ms Robertson-Chia

cited dog owners who do not pick up after their pets in public as an example.

NUS alumnus Mr Thomas Choo echoed Ms Robertson-Chia’s sentiments. “People just don’t display enough civic-mindedness to keep public toilets as clean as they would at home,” said the internet entrepreneur.

The way veteran journalist Mr Conrad Raj sees it, Singaporeans are less civic-minded today than they were some 20 to 30 years ago. “Just look at the litter on our sidewalks.”

## A PHILOSOPHY OF ECONOMIC PRAGMATISM

How do we explain such non-civic behaviour? Dr William Wan, General Secretary of the Singapore Kindness Movement (SKM) – a non-government organisation (NGO) that encourages people to



*“What has always struck me is that people care quite a bit about their homes and families, but the second they step out of their front door, that space is not their responsibility.”*

Ms Emma Robertson-Chia,  
Graphic designer

show and share acts of kindness – believes that Singaporeans in general pursue economic success at the expense of civic-mindedness.

This is the philosophy of economic pragmatism, according to Dr Špela Močnik, a sociologist at the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design.

There is “little room for developing a sense of connectedness and camaraderie that would not be defined in economic terms,” said Dr Močnik. “To thrive and survive in competitive and fast-paced urban environments, individuals often find themselves seeing others as a means to an end rather than fellow citizens to whom they are connected in more profound ways.”

The reason for this? It may well be the country’s efficient infrastructure. According to Dr Wan, Singaporeans “feel less of a need to participate in the civic side of life together and believe that most things will be taken care of”. “We may be victims of our own success,” he said.

#### STARTING THEM YOUNG

Value systems typically start at home, and families play a crucial role in forming their children’s mindset and habits. In other words, if parents sow the seeds of civic-mindedness in the hearts and minds of their young children now, it will create a future where people are more responsible, without the false sense of entitlement that now appears to be pervasive.

The easiest way is to lead by example, as children learn more from what they see adults do rather than what they hear from adults

or think they do. Parents can start with little things like recycling and not littering, and incorporate civic-mindedness into the family’s lifestyle. Then slowly work with children through larger, more important practices such as offering their seats to a pregnant woman or an elderly person on the train, or cleaning up after themselves in restaurants.

The government, too, recognises its part in youth education. In 1998, the Ministry of Education implemented the Community Involvement Programme (CIP) to instil civic responsibility in our school children through volunteer work. In 2012, the CIP was reframed as Values In Action (VIA) to place a stronger emphasis on developing desired values through community involvement.

Both the CIP and VIA aim for civic-minded values to be absorbed naturally at a young, receptive age, so that being kind and thoughtful can become second nature and form part of one’s identity.

The SKM also partners with various organisations in the public and private sectors “to grow the kindness presence in society,” said Dr Wan. The NGO educates young students through various communication channels such as its quarterly publication *Kindsville Times*. It is also active on social media platforms like Facebook, where it regularly posts stories about kind Singaporeans, and YouTube with “Singa and the Kindness Cubbies” – a series which centres around the adventures of Singa, a cheerful lion, and his cubbie friends.

These initiatives should resonate with those who believe that inculcating civic values from a young age is key. “This is so that our society can grow as a whole to become more gracious,” said Mr Thomas Choo. “[But] it will take place [only] during the lifetime of the next generation of Singaporeans.”



## SIGNS OF CHANGE

The hope is that we may not have to wait till the next generation for a more gracious society. In fact, there are already encouraging signs of a growing mindset of civic-mindedness.

For banker Mrs Constance Goh, the acts of kindness exhibited during the wake for the late former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew – such as Singaporeans handing out drinks to those waiting in long queues to pay their last respects – are heartwarming and show that Singaporeans do have a softer, more caring side.

NUS undergraduate, Ms Tan Su, also thinks that Singaporeans are more considerate now. “I’ve seen improvement in our behaviour at train stations; in the past, people did not automatically stand to one side of escalators,” she said. “People are also more proactive in offering their seats to those in need.”

There are also signs of more awareness among government agencies and businesses. For example, the National Environment Agency (NEA) has partnered with food court and fast food operators to implement tray-return systems, to encourage courtesy and graciousness. But some Singaporeans feel that progress is slow. Cynics might point out the inconvenient truth that with our philosophy of economic pragmatism, such campaigns may need to be sweetened with incentives, such as giving diners a refund when they return their trays.

However, Mrs Kimberley-Husar Chua, a Singaporean who has been living in Europe for more than 30 years and visits Singapore regularly, has observed that “these days more people clear their own trays at hawker centres and at fast food restaurants.”

Whether the result of a maturing collective psyche, education or social proof – where people imitate

socially accepted behaviours – these encouraging trends in everyday behaviour are signs of change towards a more civic-minded society.

## A MORE HUMANISTIC TOUCH

Dr Močnik believes “a more humanistic touch to our world view can lead to a society where people do not compete for lunches but share them instead”.

Indeed, Dr Wan is heartened to note that “people of kindred spirit are organising their own ground-up movements on civic causes they are passionate about.”

Examples include Transient Workers Count 2, which assists low-wage migrant workers in difficulty, and Willing Hearts, a soup kitchen run by volunteers who prepare, cook and

deliver 5,000 daily meals to needy beneficiaries. The kitchen attracts up to 250 daily volunteers.

A dyed-in-the-wool optimist, Dr Wan believes that Singapore will inevitably grow in civic-mindedness. He anchors his

belief “primarily in our young people, who are among the most active incubators of ground-up movements”.

Undergraduate Ms Tan Su, who is co-leading a green initiative at her faculty at NUS to reduce plastic cup use, summed it up this way: “In the bigger, global picture, what we do here will have a small impact. But one step at a time.” ■

*“A more humanistic touch to our world view can lead to a society where people do not compete for lunches but share them instead.”*

Dr Špela Mocnik,  
Sociologist,  
Lee Kuan Yew Centre  
for Innovative Cities,  
Singapore University of  
Technology and Design



# GETTING ABOUT





# REAL FAKE NEWS

The threats posed by fake news have been growing in recent years. How should we respond? Janice Lin finds out.

**D**uring the run-up to the United States presidential election in 2016, a conspiracy theory linking then candidate Hillary Clinton to a child-trafficking ring operating through a Washington, D.C. pizzeria, Comet Ping Pong, went viral on multiple online platforms.

The theory, known as Pizzagate, was first published a week before the election on online platforms reddit and 4chan, before snowballing across Twitter, Instagram, and other online channels. It finally reached a climax on 4 December 2016, when a man walked into Comet Ping Pong and fired shots in the restaurant, causing panic in the neighbourhood.

While no casualties were reported, the incident demonstrated the many threats that viral fake news on social media can pose. Besides driving mass threats against multiple innocent individuals and sparking a shooting that could have claimed lives, it likely also had an effect on voter decisions. Though Pizzagate was categorically debunked by multiple fact-checking websites, established news organisations and, later, the shooter himself, a December 2016 poll by *The Economist* found 17 per cent of Clinton voters and 46 per cent of Trump voters still believed its claims,

indicating a breakdown of trust in information from established sources.

## (DIS)INFORMATION AGE

The damaging effects caused by incidents like Pizzagate has thrust the issue of fake news under the spotlight in recent years. It is closely linked to the increasing prevalence of social media, which encourages and even fuels the sharing and dissemination of stories that are often unsubstantiated, unverified and untrue. A report by market research firm Statista showed that in the US, 42 per cent of traffic for fake news in 2017 was generated via social media.

In Singapore, a March 2018 poll by government feedback unit REACH revealed that 70 per cent of residents have come across online news that they felt was “not fully accurate”, and that the bulk of this news was shared with them on WhatsApp and Facebook.

Ms Alice Koh, an undergraduate at a local university, said: “On average, I receive news articles from what I consider dubious sources, such as health scares that are questionable, at least once a week, usually from a family member.”

There are generally two types of fake news generated today. The first are untruths propagated



by individuals or organisations, whether foreign or domestic, with the purpose of interfering with a country's affairs. The second are those circulated by individuals or organisations that create sensational content in order to gain financial profit from webpage clicks and views.

While Singapore has yet to experience the kind of effect that fake news has had in the US, it has seen its share of news sites that bill themselves as reputable but have been found otherwise – one of the most noteworthy being The Real Singapore, whose owners were in 2016 found guilty of fabricating articles to foment anti-foreigner sentiments in Singapore to earn advertising revenue.

Fake news damages public trust

and confidence in our institutions, threatens both journalistic integrity and democracy, and in some situations, can have serious social and political consequences.

Rumours like those that targeted Mrs Clinton “(undermine) public trust towards democracy and systematically influence populations to become less trusting of mainstream, established news networks”, said Dr Shashi Jayakumar, who heads the Centre of Excellence for National Security at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), in his written submission to the Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods. The Committee was convened by Parliament in March to take a hard

look at the issue of fake news and the ways Singapore can safeguard itself from its harmful effects.

There is evidence that this trust is slowly being eroded. In the 2018 Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report, 42 per cent of Americans indicated that they trusted the media, down 5 per cent from just a year ago. This figure was at 52 per cent for Singapore, declining 2 per cent from the previous year.

### STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE

When asked what the Singapore government could do to stem the tide of disinformation, Institute of Policy Studies' Senior Research Fellow Carol Soon said Singapore does have a fairly comprehensive set of laws that regulates speech both offline and online. This includes legislation such as the Sedition Act, Penal Code and the Internet Code of Practice.

“These laws do address online speech and guard against mistruths and speech that, among others, attempts to incite animosity among different groups in society,” she said.

But they are not perfect, and gaps exist. In particular, they do not take into account the virality with which online falsehoods are spread, said experts who spoke at the Select Committee. For one, even if a news website were told to take down a particular article, the medium by which these untruths are spread means that information still remains in cyberspace, and there is no ensuring that those who come across it are made aware that it is false.

There is thus a need to strengthen existing regulations or come up with new ones, but experts acknowledge that any new law needs to be carefully calibrated. Any legislation that is passed should effectively curtail disinformation, yet not stifle the freedom of speech and debate that is at the core of a democratic society.





“Good legislation should tackle the problem, yet not be too prescriptive or prohibitive,” said Dr Soon.

Additionally, not all forms of speech are equally worthy of protection, argued National University of Singapore law don, Professor Thio Li-ann, in her written submission to the Select Committee. Untruths created with the deliberate intention of misleading the public and turning groups of society against one another can “harm and threaten public order”, detract from open, rational and responsible public debate and undermine democracy. There is thus a case for legislation against such forms of online speech.

## HIGH- VERSUS LOW-BREACH FALSEHOODS

One way to ensure the right type of speech is being targeted is to distinguish between “low-breach” and “high-breach” online falsehoods, said Dr Soon. The former would be news like that of the “roof collapse” at Punggol Waterway Terrace. This piece of news first showed up as an online article on alternative news site All Singapore Stuff in November 2016 and was later refuted by residents in the area to be an optical illusion.

“This incident can objectively be considered ‘low breach’; the only thing it possibly can cause is anxiety, and the relevant stakeholders can also easily and quietly step in to correct the falsehood,” said Dr Soon.

What’s more, allowing people to debunk falsehoods promotes active citizenry by getting people involved in critically examining and investigating the news that they read.

On the other hand, “high-breach” falsehoods are those that have the potential to wreak havoc in the social fabric, such as news pieces that are racially charged or intentionally provoke negative sentiments against a specific group of people.

The distinction between high-breach and low-breach falsehoods is important because “we may not actually want to correct all kinds of falsehoods”, explained Dr Soon. “Instead, what we would want to do is allow people who are involved to debunk falsehoods themselves.”

## LOOKING BEYOND LEGISLATION

Experts agree there is also value in looking beyond enacting legislation when tackling the issue of deliberate online falsehoods. For one, depending solely on legislation may lead to over-reliance among citizens on the authorities to help them discern truth from fiction.

There needs to be non-legislative measures to complement legislative ones, said experts. A number of suggestions were floated during the Committee hearings, including one that called on technology companies like Google and Facebook to regulate hate speech on their own.

“Tech companies know their internal workings best, and they have at their disposal their own tools to counter falsehoods,” said Dr Soon. “They need to be more cognisant, take a more proactive role and be more mindful of who their users are and what they’re doing.”

Speakers at the Committee hearings also proposed setting up an independent fact-checking body that debunks inaccurate information online. Dr Michael Raska, a defence and strategic studies specialist at RSIS, recommended taking a leaf from the Czech Republic’s book, by having an independent body not only monitor what is being reported, but also track new sites’ sources of funding and

their ties to fake news organisations.

Other experts stressed the importance of strengthening media literacy in information consumers, arguing that it is a stronger bulwark against fake news, with longer-term efficacy. Various programmes have previously been introduced in efforts to cultivate this.

For example, the National Library Board’s S.U.R.E. campaign promotes information searching and discernment through workshops on fake news and how to research and evaluate information. Its website offers a large pool of resources related to media literacy, ranging from videos, articles and infographics to quizzes and an extensive glossary on important terms and concepts.

“Media literacy increases competency and makes for a public that is more sceptical in a healthy way,” said Dr Soon. “It gives media consumers a set of tools to help them when they encounter falsehoods, and this skill set can also be transferred in different contexts.”

Information consumers “must be

vigilant and responsible when they go online”, she added. “Practise basic habits like not just reading headlines, and be sure to check sources and do a quick Google search to see if other sources are available.”

## NOT GOING AWAY SOON

The problem of fake news is not about to go away any time soon, so long as we have a functioning internet and enough users in the social media space. But by calibrating an appropriate response to the issue, we can go some way in mitigating its threats. ■

*“Good legislation should tackle the problem, yet not be too prescriptive or prohibitive.”*

Dr Carol Soon, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies

# DOING BUSINESS OVERSEAS

Having the ability to understand and adapt to different cultures and etiquettes is crucial when going global, says Janice Lin.





**C**onducting business abroad is not just about knowing the numbers and selling your product. Often, it is more about building relationships with others and creating trust with partners and clients.

Understanding the unwritten rules of behaviour in a particular country is becoming ever more important in an increasingly interconnected business atmosphere. "Observing the cultural norms helps to break the ice sometimes and facilitate faster and smoother business transactions," said NUSS member Sandra Kwok, who is a business consultant for a global financial services firm.

Conversely, not adhering to certain important norms can make you come across as naïve or, worse, offensive, and lead to miscommunication and unnecessary misunderstanding.

## ACCEPTABLE IN ONE, BUT NOT IN ANOTHER

Observing social norms can sometimes be difficult, as they tend to differ from country to country, and what is considered acceptable in one country can sometimes be unwelcome in another.

For example, in the West, standing too close to a business associate is often considered rude and an invasion of personal space, said Mr Jeffrey Nah, an NUSS member who owns a venture capital and business advisory firm. "But if you were to stand too far from a business partner in Asia, you could be seen as trying to 'build a barrier' between yourself and the other person."

Also, in regional countries like Thailand and Vietnam, doing

business is as much personal as it is professional, something that is quite different from how it is done in Singapore.

"Trust is important across all cultures, but gaining that trust differs from culture to culture. In some regional countries, one is both a friend and a business associate – a stark contrast from Singapore, where the lines between business and friendship are well drawn out," said NUSS member Ian Yeo, whose job as a relationship manager for a German bank takes him all over Southeast Asia.

Clients may want to talk about things like their children, their personal lives or interests first, before getting right down to business, and you risk offending the other party if you choose not to participate.

Making small talk is an important part of the discussion process in many parts of Asia, as this is one way that people get to know one another, said Mr Nah. Relationships are extremely important, and clients will want to know who they are dealing with before making any serious decisions. Negotiations can thus appear to lack momentum, but this does not necessarily mean there is no progress. Things are just moving in a different rhythm than they would if one were doing business in the West.

"It's all to do with the Asian approach to trust. In the West and in Singapore, trust is more black and white, but in the rest of Asia, it's all shades of grey," said Mr Nah.

Establishing business ties is thus much like a courtship, added Mr Nah. "There needs to be chemistry between two parties. It's all about making friends with the other, then talking business. It's a more drawn-out process."

## DO YOUR HOMEWORK, BUT SENSITIVITY IS KEY

When asked how they understood what was acceptable and what was not, all three NUSS members said a lot can be learnt by simply doing your research and speaking with locals or people who are familiar with the local way of doing things.

"Reading up or checking with colleagues who have been there, local colleagues or even tour guides prior to your trip can go a long way in helping you navigate a new business environment and avoid misunderstandings," said Ms Kwok.

Practising sensitivity in all situations is also essential, said Mr Nah.

"Look at what's not spoken, such as body language. In Asia, especially, where people tend to be far less confrontational, if someone doesn't like you, he or she would not say it directly to you."

While this may not be easy if you are new to the game, Mr Yeo admitted it is something that gets easier with experience. "I learnt these cultural norms by interacting more frequently with my foreign counterparts. It requires an unlearning of the Singaporean way of doing business, which tends to be more cut and dried."

The key is to go in with an open mind. "It's one thing to know the culture from what you've read or been told, but quite another to really understand it," says Mr Nah. "You can't come in with your own perspective, you need to drop it and 'be' them, and this means being receptive to their ways and putting yourself in their shoes." ■

Gain first-hand exposure to cultures and business environments abroad with NUSS' Overseas Business Study Mission Trips. To find out more, visit [nuss.org.sg](http://nuss.org.sg).

# SAFETY CHECK

In light of the controversy surrounding the misuse of Facebook data, Janice Lin looks at how you can use the social network safely.





It is hard to ignore what's been happening with Facebook. The massive data breach in March 2018 involving political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, where the data of about 50 million Facebook users was inappropriately mined and used to influence voter opinion in the United States and United Kingdom, has caused many to become wary of the social network and delete their accounts.

A recent survey of 1,000 Americans by technology research group Tech.pinions found that one in 10 took down their accounts following the scandal.

But should you be doing the same?

Erasing your account will certainly reduce the chances of some malicious nefarious third party accessing your personal data. But is it the smartest option, especially if you use Facebook as a convenient way to keep in contact with friends and family, particularly those living far away? And what if your friends still use functions like Events and Calendar to organise group activities that involve you?

What's more, if you use Facebook login to access apps like Spotify and Instagram, deleting your profile may mean losing access to these accounts. Some apps may allow you to change your login to your email address or Twitter handle, but you will not be able to do so with others like Spotify.

#### **HOW TO REMAIN ON FACEBOOK SAFELY**

You can still retain your account without compromising on your security – it comes down to minimising the amount of personal information you provide on Facebook. Here's how:

#### **TURN OFF QUESTIONABLE THIRD-PARTY APPS**

All of us have at various points allowed third-party apps to gain access to our Facebook accounts without a second thought about how our data gets used or where it goes.

It is worth noting that the Cambridge Analytica scandal began with a seemingly innocuous app called "thisisyourdigitallife", which claimed it could predict users' personalities. If it is not an app you recognise, such as Airbnb or Pinterest, it is best to disable access altogether.

#### **RESTRICT AD PREFERENCES**

This prevents advertisers from targeting ads at you based on your personal information, such as your occupation or relationship status. While you're at it, you may also want to limit the amount of personal information you have in your "About Me" section, including your email address, contact number and work history.

#### **TURN OFF LOCATION SERVICES IN MOBILE**

This is one of the most sensitive data that you can provide to third-party services, as it allows them to know information like where you live and work and even the places you frequent – data that is invaluable to advertisers.

Facebook can be a useful tool to keep in touch with friends, and it's a great platform for news and entertainment. But like all tools, it needs to be used wisely. Reducing its ability to gather your data is one way you can play a more active role in determining what Facebook knows about you, so you can enjoy using the social network on your own terms. ■

## **PROTECT YOURSELF**

#### **TO DISABLE APP ACCESS ON FACEBOOK:**

- Go to "Settings" and select "Apps and Websites".
- Select "View and Edit" for each individual app to adjust what information they can access from your account. You can also remove apps to revoke their access – which will mean you cannot log in to them using your Facebook account.

#### **TO RESTRICT ADVERTISER ACCESS ON FACEBOOK:**

- Go to "Ads" in your "Settings" page.
- Under "Your Interests", remove interests you do not want to see ads for.
- Remove the personal information advertisers can access in the "Your Information" section. You can also remove the categories – which may range from your mobile device model to your political views – that advertisers can use to target you.

For more information on protecting your data and developing media literacy, the Media Literacy Council has resources available on their official site ([medialiteracycouncil.sg](http://medialiteracycouncil.sg)). The Council also organises the annual Safer Internet Day, which features events and new resources like handbooks.

Seniors who wish to learn more about social media and how to stay safe can enrol in the Be A Social Media Savvy Senior course with NUSS. Visit [nuss.org.sg](http://nuss.org.sg) for more details.



### Why did you embark on this trip?

I learnt that the Automobile Association of Singapore was organising a trip covering more than 16,000km across 40 cities, seven Chinese provinces, five lakes and three plateaus (among others). I signed up because I knew immediately that this was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime auto adventure!

### How did the journey start?

We started with a convoy of 12 cars and about 30 people from Singapore to Ipoh and Thailand. In Thailand, we visited places like Hat Yai, Hua Hin and Tak. Then we crossed into Laos and had a meal in Boten town, before driving eight hours to the Chinese border town

of Mohan and staying in Jinghong city. By this time, we were already seven days into the trip. The rest of the convoy – eight hired cars and 15 people – joined us in Kunming for the China leg.

### You spent 36 days in China, covering 12,000km. Can you share some highlights?

I covered most of the western parts of China which foreigners hardly visit and where you will find beautiful mountain landscapes, and winding roads hugging mountains, including the 24- and 72-bend roads along the Sichuan-Tibet Highway.

As I have seen Mt Everest from the Nepal side, I wanted to experience it from the Everest

Base Camp on the Tibet side of the Himalayas. We left our hotel in the wee hours of the morning to see the sunrise at Mt Everest. On the way to the Everest Base Camp, I also got to see Hukou waterfall, China's second largest waterfall and the only yellow waterfall in the world.

Another unforgettable place was at Tibet's Yamdrok Lake, which is over 72km long with a total area of 638km<sup>2</sup>. I couldn't help but 'ooh' and 'aah' at the sight of this freshwater lake, which is one of Tibet's three largest sacred lakes and surrounded by snow-capped mountains. I was just as awed when I visited Namtso Lake, which translates to Heaven Lake and is as charmingly blue as the sky.

# ROAD TO ADVENTURE





### Your most memorable drive?

On the way to Nyingchi from Bome in Tibet, we briefly entered Guizhou province in China. There, we zigzagged through the famous 24-bend road to Lancang River Valley and Nujiang River Grand Canyon. Then we had to navigate through 72 bends along Nujiang River at an altitude of 3,100m to 4,651m.

Faced with these challenging roads, we decided to go our separate ways in navigating these bends as it would be too dangerous to follow a convoy with the constant flow of incoming trucks and fast vehicles. This drive was a reminder to us that this was no ordinary trip but an exhilarating auto adventure – not for the faint-hearted!

### Anything unexpected happened on the trip?

While in Xinjiang – an autonomous territory in northwest China – we faced road blocks quite often and also noticed that gas stations were surrounded by barbed wire and one must have a permit to fill petrol! Despite having a permit, our local guides had to haggle with the police and military officers guarding the stations.

It didn't help that we were there during the week of the Chinese Communist Party meeting, so there were many other restrictions, such as no access to messaging platforms like Gmail and WhatsApp. While we were on our way to Loulan Museum, the local police – who were surprised

to see foreign cars – pulled us over and escorted us back to our hotel, to ensure that we do not get into or create any trouble.


### Would you recommend NUSS members to go on a similar trip?

Of course! If such a trip is organised again, our more adventurous members should grab the opportunity for an adventure of a lifetime.

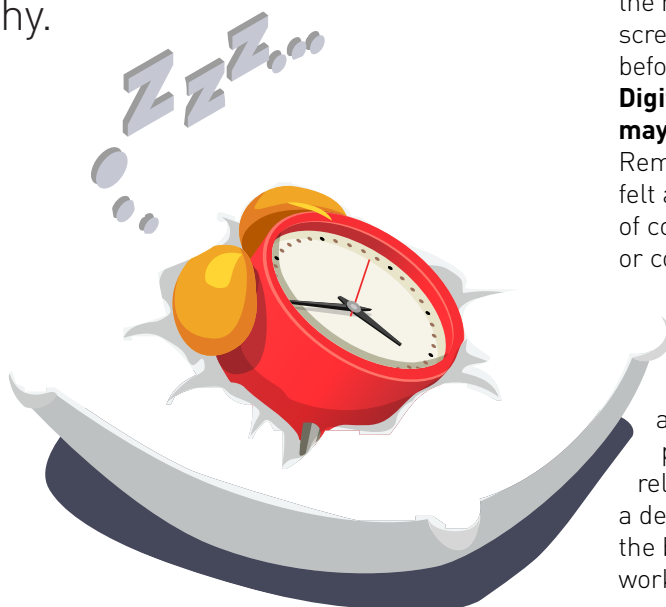
Mr Nair is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He is also a board member of the Investor Relations Professional Association of Singapore, and chairman and director of International Friendship Enterprise, a social and investment enterprise in Japan. Mr Nair is an active NUSS member and volunteers his time on the NUSS Editorial Panel.

From September to November 2017, NUSS member Mr Basskaran Nair, who is a travel enthusiast, went on a 43-day road trip around Asia, covering countries like Thailand, Laos and China. We spoke to him to find out about his experiences and memorable moments.  
By Reena Nathan.

# SWITCH OFF, UNPLUG, RECHARGE!

An illustration showing seven stylized human figures in various poses, all holding and looking at mobile devices like smartphones or tablets. They are scattered around the large text 'UNPLUG,'.

When you begin to feel not so much like you own your devices, but that your devices own you, it's time for a digital detox. Patricia Bazzard shares four good reasons why.



## *Start enjoying better quality of sleep*

Reading from light-emitting devices near bedtime suppresses the hormone melatonin that helps you fall sleep. This delays your body clock, with the knock-on effect of making you feel tired the next morning. Ideally, avoid screen time at least an hour before you go to bed.

### **Digital fatigue? The answer may be simplicity itself.**

Remember the pleasure you felt as a child, owning a good set of colour pencils, some paper or colouring book – the sense of creative anticipation?

You can relive that – indulge in a mindfulness colouring book for adults and some top-notch colour pencils, to get yourself relaxed at night. Focusing on a design, finding joy in choosing the best colours and seeing your work come to vibrant life can be very therapeutic.





### *Take a break from being on call 24/7*

In today's digital world it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the need to be responsive. Worse still if you work with people who expect you to be on call round-the-clock. Chances are, you'll feel on alert all the time without even realising it, and the effect can be draining.

**Avoid burnout, put yourself first.** Carve out quiet time for yourself during your week. Identify an hour when you're least likely to be called upon, and use it not only to go digital-free but also to do something positive for yourself, such as fitting in a yoga class or reflexology session. If you can, establish clear boundaries and let people know. For example, inform them that you will not respond during specific periods after work hours as you have other commitments. Be fair but firm, stick to the plan, and make good on your promise.

## HEALTH



### *Reclaim the ability to focus*

Soundbites, clickbait, hashtags, tweets... everything is designed to grab our attention for brief moments. Too much of this trains us to tune out from anything that requires a longer attention span and more complex thought.

**Find an alternative.** Recalibrate your ability to focus by spending time on activities that exercise your senses and analytical skills. Develop a new cooking skill like baking or cake decorating, learn a martial art, try painting or sculpting, go for long walks in nature.... just don't be tempted to post it on social media!

### *Escape a hidden source of anxiety*

Do you find yourself constantly checking your social media, or feeling bored and anxious without a device on hand?

Marketing professor Adam Alter, the author of *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked*, reminds us that Steve Jobs never allowed his own kids access to an iPad... because it was designed to be addictive.

**Reliant on your gadget? You don't have to be.** Instead of scrolling or playing Candy Crush while travelling on the train, challenge yourself to a memory game or come up with the funniest or most poetic description of what you see, smell or hear around you. If you must hold something in your hand, read a book. Re-engage with your senses and your own creativity.



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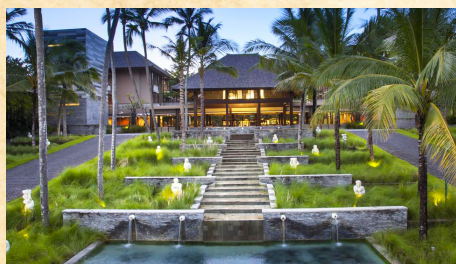
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<b>The Scholar Chinese Restaurant</b>	Lunch: Mon to Fri & eve of PH – 12pm to 3pm Sat, Sun & PH – 11.30am to 3pm Dinner: Sun to Thu & PH – 6pm to 10pm Fri to Sat & eve of PH – 6pm to 10.30pm
<b>Café on the Ridge</b>	Sun to Thu & PH – 12pm to 10pm Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 12pm to 10.30pm Breakfast is available from 9am to 11am on weekends and public holidays Mon to Fri (except PH) – Closed from 3pm to 6pm
<b>The Ridge Bar</b>	Sun to Thu & PH – 11am to 12am Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 11am to 2am
<b>The Chill-Lab</b>	Daily (including eve of PH & PH) – 4pm to 12am
<b>The Right Note Karaoke Lounge</b>	Mon to Thu – 1pm to 12am Fri & eve of PH – 1pm to 2am Sat – 12pm to 2am Sun & PH – 12pm to 12am
<b>Jackpot Room</b>	Daily (including eve of PH & PH) – 11am to 11pm (last change of notes/redemption tickets at 10.30pm)
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	Daily – 7am to 10pm <i>Closed every Wed from 9.30am to 11.30am (for cleaning)</i>
<b>Fitness Centre/ Aerobics Room</b>	Daily – 7am to 10pm
<b>Ridge Reading Room</b>	Mon to Fri & eve of PH – 9am to 9pm Sat, Sun & PH – 9am to 10pm
<b>Children's Playroom</b>	Daily – 9am to 10pm

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**SPORTS** [sports@nuss.org.sg](mailto:sports@nuss.org.sg)  
**EVENTS** [events@nuss.org.sg](mailto:events@nuss.org.sg)  
**BANQUET SERVICES** [agnesphua@nuss.org.sg](mailto:agnesphua@nuss.org.sg)

## REGULAR HAPPENINGS @ NUSS

<b>BADMINTON</b>	Tuesdays, Wednesdays @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH: 2pm – 4pm Sundays @ KRGH: 3pm – 6pm Contact Gaby at <a href="mailto:gaby@nuss.org.sg">gaby@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>BALUT</b>	Every last Wednesday @ KRGH: 7pm – 11pm Contact Ronnie at <a href="mailto:ronnieyoo@nuss.org.sg">ronnieyoo@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>BILLIARDS</b>	Mondays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Thursdays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Contact Jaz at <a href="mailto:jazchua@nuss.org.sg">jazchua@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>BOWLING</b>	Monthly competitions @ Superbowl SAFRA Mount Faber Contact Gaby at <a href="mailto:gaby@nuss.org.sg">gaby@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>CYCLING</b>	Various venues Contact Kee Wei at <a href="mailto:keewei@nuss.org.sg">keewei@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>GOLF</b>	Monthly Medals @ various venues Contact Kelly at <a href="mailto:kellykoh@nuss.org.sg">kellykoh@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>RUNNING</b>	Wednesdays @ KRGH: 7pm Sundays @ various places: 6.30am Contact Kee Wei at <a href="mailto:keewei@nuss.org.sg">keewei@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>SOCCER</b>	Various venues Contact Ronnie at <a href="mailto:ronnieyoo@nuss.org.sg">ronnieyoo@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>SQUASH</b>	Mondays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Thursdays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH 4pm – 6pm Contact Ronnie at <a href="mailto:ronnieyoo@nuss.org.sg">ronnieyoo@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>TABLE-TENNIS</b>	Tuesdays @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm Thursdays @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH: 2pm – 6pm Contact Kelly at <a href="mailto:kellykoh@nuss.org.sg">kellykoh@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>TENNIS</b>	Wednesdays & Fridays @ KRGH: 5pm – 10pm Sundays @ KRGH: 2pm – 7pm Contact Kee Wei at <a href="mailto:keewei@nuss.org.sg">keewei@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>CHOIR</b>	Thursdays @ KRGH: 7.30pm – 10pm Contact Jaz at <a href="mailto:jazchua@nuss.org.sg">jazchua@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>KIDS' CLUB</b>	Regular activities @ various venues Contact Gaby at <a href="mailto:gaby@nuss.org.sg">gaby@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>TUESDAY CONNECTIONS</b>	Tuesdays @ KRGH: 10.30am – 6pm Regular activities at various venues Contact Kelly at <a href="mailto:kellykoh@nuss.org.sg">kellykoh@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>DANCESPORT</b>	Tuesdays @ KRGH: 7.30pm – 11pm Contact Jaz at <a href="mailto:jazchua@nuss.org.sg">jazchua@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>TOASTMASTERS CLUB</b>	Every 4th Thursday @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm Contact Gaby at <a href="mailto:gaby@nuss.org.sg">gaby@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>MUSIC</b>	Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Jaz at <a href="mailto:jazchua@nuss.org.sg">jazchua@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>DRAMAWORKS</b>	Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Jaz at <a href="mailto:jazchua@nuss.org.sg">jazchua@nuss.org.sg</a>
<b>ARTS CONNECTIONS</b>	Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Jaz at <a href="mailto:jazchua@nuss.org.sg">jazchua@nuss.org.sg</a>

For more information and registration details, please contact the respective personnel.

## OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

NUSS members enjoy reciprocity with graduate associations around the world. For more information, please email [mship@nuss.org.sg](mailto:mship@nuss.org.sg)

**Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association** – Bangkok, Thailand  
**Hong Kong University Alumni Association** – Hong Kong  
**Persatuan Alumni Universiti Malaya** – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**The Graduate Union of the University of Melbourne** – Melbourne, Australia  
**The Royal Northern and University Club** – Aberdeen, United Kingdom  
**The University Club of Western Australia** – Perth, Australia  
**The University Women's Club** – London, United Kingdom  
**The Yale Club of New York City** – New York, United States of America  
**University Club of Denver** – Colorado, United States of America  
**University Club of Montreal** – Quebec, Canada  
**University House, Australian National University** – Canberra, Australia  
**University of Saint Paul** – Minnesota, United States of America  
**University of San Francisco** – California, United States of America

**What is your favourite mooncake flavour?** Tell us, and stand to win a box of mooncakes from The Scholar worth at least \$46!

Visit our Facebook page and choose your must-have flavour from the following three mooncake choices. Tell us why it is your favourite in the comments, and one lucky winner scores a box of mooncakes!



**The Scholar Gold Leaf Charcoal Skin with Champagne Chocolate Truffle and White Lotus Paste**



**Snow Skin Single Yolk with Macadamia Nuts and White Lotus Paste**



**Traditional Baked Mooncake with Single Yolk and Melon Seeds in White Lotus Paste**

The contest runs from 11 to 26 August 2018, 11.59pm, and is open to NUSS members only. The contest entry should include only one option out of the three listed. The winner will be chosen and notified via Facebook. The winner will receive a box of mooncakes worth at least \$46, in their choice of flavour. Terms and conditions apply.



[instagram.com/nussociety](https://www.instagram.com/nussociety)



[facebook.com/NUSSociety](https://www.facebook.com/NUSSociety)

## LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS

In *The Graduate* Apr-Jun 2018, we asked members to share with us what makes their NUSS membership so meaningful. Lucky winners received a Peking Duck dish from The Scholar.

**I can't live  
without  
NUSS  
because**

*"I can't live without NUSS because it is the choice venue to go to whenever family and friends ask me to organise social gatherings. I can't imagine agonising over finding a 1-stop venue where we can: 1. e[N]gage in sports. 2. [U]nplug ourselves to live music. 3. [S]ing to our hearts' content. 4. [S]avour dim sum for lunch and a Teochew porridge buffet for dinner."*

**He Bing Ye Gregory**

*"Nostalgic, Unique, Scrumptious, Satisfying. It's NUSS."*

**Neo Kai Hong Kelvin**

*"I can't live without NUSS because... it is a NUSSesity! I hoNUSStly love the delicious Peking Duck, which I devour every time I'm at The Scholar. I also am grateful that I can maintain my fitNUSS at the gym after all the good food! Lastly, NUSS has witNUSSed me grow up. I have many fond memories celebrating birthdays and anniversaries here. Thank you NUSS!"*

**Wong Mae Ying Melodie Claire**

**WE WELCOME  
YOUR FEEDBACK**

Give us your feedback and suggestions on *The Graduate*. Please include your full name and membership number and email your feedback to [secretariat@nuss.org.sg](mailto:secretariat@nuss.org.sg)



**NUSS**  
The Graduate Club

# BUSINESS CONNECT



## VISION

A Thriving Business Ecosystem  
for NUSS Members.



## MISSION & OBJECTIVE

To shape a vibrant business ecosystem  
for members where they can forge global  
connections and explore new opportunities.



## About NUSS Business Connect

NUSS Business Connect is a platform where members forge new connections with other like-minded individuals by keeping abreast of the latest global business trends and opportunities.

### Section's activities:

- NUSS Networking Nights with Business Chambers and Trade Associations
- Salon Nights with Movers and Shakers
- Thematic Business Workshops and Clinics
- Exclusive Events by Partners
- Overseas Business Missions



## Section and Activities Fees

Enjoy special rates for networking nights, events and overseas business missions by joining us as a section member!

### Section fee: \$88/year

- Events: \$25 (section member), \$50 (non-section member)
- Clinics/Workshops: \$20 (section member), \$30 (non-section member)

Members who register as a section member this year will enjoy waiver of the section fee for 2018.

Section fee will apply with effect from 1 January 2019 onwards.



## Calendar of Events 2018

### June 2018

Networking Night with Italian Chamber of Commerce in Singapore - Deepening Networks for Asia-Europe Business Cooperation

### July 2018

Networking Night with Vietnam Singapore

### August 2018

Workshop on 'Mergers & Acquisitions in Emerging Markets'

### September 2018

Networking with British Chamber of Commerce Singapore

### October 2018

Overseas Business Mission to Philippines

### November 2018

Connect ASEAN Business Forum

To register or find out more, please contact [carmelaang@nuss.org.sg](mailto:carmelaang@nuss.org.sg).

**NUSS**  
The Graduate Club

# Go GREEN with us at NUSS!

**Opt** for e-copies of The Graduate magazine at  
<http://www.nuss.org.sg/forms/the-graduate-e-copy/>

