

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDDIE LEE**  
**NUSS CELEBRATORY DINNER**  
**24 OCTOBER 2019, THURSDAY**  
**KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

**1. Address the Audience**

- Good evening, **NUSS Advisory Panel member – Mr Gerard Ee**, past NUSS Presidents, fellow Management Committee members, National Day award recipients, friends.
- Thank you for joining us on this happy occasion, the NUSS Celebratory Dinner, which we organise annually to recognise and celebrate the national achievements and contributions by our NUSS members.

**2. Background on the National Day Award recipients**

- The National Day Award honours individuals who have made significant contributions towards Singapore. This year, we have a total of 61 NUSS members who were recognised in the National Day Awards.
- On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you who have received the award.
- It is encouraging to see so many of our members are actively involved in the community and have selflessly contributed beyond their call of duty towards and for some, your long and loyal service to the nation.
- I hope that your accomplishments will serve as an inspiration for the rest of us to also do our best to give back to the community.

**3. Initiatives and Events at NUSS**

- NUSS is indeed privileged to have so many remarkable individuals among us. This reinforces our position as a foremost graduate society that is willing to contribute not only towards its Society, but also to the nation.
- As we celebrate the achievements of this year's National Day Award recipients, I would like to take the opportunity to recount some of the initiatives and events that allow us to support NUS, our alma mater, and the wider community. It is my hope that this spirit of giving and contributing beyond the Society will inspire members to have the desire to contribute towards our nation's development and growth.

**(a) Supporting NUS and the Education System in Singapore**

- NUSS has consistently worked closely with NUS over the years to lend support for their educational initiatives and to create a good landscape for undergraduates to learn, regardless of their backgrounds.
- The NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme is a collaborative initiative that started in 2012, and still going strong till this day. This programme provides a platform to link students seeking advice on post-graduation opportunities and possibilities with NUSS members who are seasoned in their field of expertise.
- A total of 250 mentees and 159 mentors signed up for the AY2019/20 mentorship programme.
- In addition, on top of NUSS' annual pledge of \$250,000 towards the Alumni Bursary Fund, during the opening of Mandalay Guild House, we announced that the Society will aim to contribute beyond our usual pledge in 2020. We hope that our efforts will benefit more NUS students from disadvantaged backgrounds by helping them complete their studies without financial burden.

**(b) Contributing to Singapore's political and intellectual development**

- The Society regularly organises Ministerial and intellectual Dialogue sessions to keep members abreast and engaged on the latest trends and poignant issues that are affecting the nation and beyond our borders. We have been very privileged to have many distinguished and well-qualified speakers who agreed to speak and share their knowledge with us.
- Our speakers include Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry – Mr Chan Chun Sing, who shared with us on how Singapore can continue to navigate through challenges and build a stronger economy amidst an uncertain global landscape. Just three nights ago, at our NUSS Professorship Lecture, we had the opportunity to have NUSS Professor, Professor Ralph Müller - Professor of Biomechanics at the Department of Health Sciences and Technology at ETH Zurich, one of the world's leading universities in Science and Technology, here share with us his research on the importance of mechanical loading of the bone, and how individual bone cells can sense vibrational forces derived from exercise, in turn strengthening the bones from diseases such as osteoporosis.

**(c) Giving back to the underprivileged community in Singapore**

- The Society also believes strongly in reaching out to the underprivileged Singaporeans and helping them to better their lives.
- In addition to the organisation of various fundraising golf tournaments over the years, our members also regularly participate in home visits to spread joy to the elderly and less fortunate.
- We are also actively involved in volunteering in NUS' annual Day of Service event. This year, many of our NUSS members and staff spent their Saturday morning accompanying

residents from MacPherson Constituency on a grocery shopping trip at Suntec City's Giant Hypermarket to purchase groceries and necessities. It was a great time spent bonding with the elderly residents.

- These efforts not only allow us to promote a society of caring graduates, but also remind us to build an inclusive society in Singapore.

#### **4. Thank You.**

- As we honour the achievements made during tonight's celebratory dinner, let this inspire you to make contributions – be it small or big, towards our nation.
- Thank you and have a great evening ahead!