

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDWARD TAY
AT THE HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CONFERMENT CUM SUB-COMMITTEE APPRECIATION DINNER
11 APRIL 2022, AT 7.15PM
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL**

Good evening

NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye;

NUSS Honorary Members, Professor Lim Lin, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan and Mr. Wong Ngit
Liong;

Colleagues on the Management Committee Sub-Committees;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the **Honorary Membership Conferment cum Sub-Committee Appreciation
Dinner.**

Thanks to the easing of the Covid-19 measures, we are able to organise this dinner after a break of 3 years. This dinner is organised annually to express NUSS's gratitude to the members who have contributed their time and expertise by serving on NUSS's committees. We will also be awarding Long Service Awards who have dedicated their time to NUSS's committees for 5 years or more.

This evening, we are also gratified to be conferring NUSS Honorary Membership on the NUS President, Professor Tan Eng Chye. Eng Chye's Honorary Membership is testimony to the close relationship between NUSS and our alma mater, NUS over the years. Among our Honorary Members are three of Eng Chye's predecessors, Professor Lim Pin, Professor Shih Choon Fong and Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, two of whom are here with us today.

Like most other organisations, NUSS experienced numerous challenges since the onset of Covid-19 in 2020. Many of our activities had to be put on hold. At the same time, NUSS managed to navigate these challenges to move numerous activities online and work around the restrictions to organise other activities. We are thankful to the Sub-Committee members for their support.

I will touch on some of the highlights for 2021.

The **Alumni Development Sub-Committee** worked with the NUS Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music on its eighth instalment of Beyond the Score: 'Simple Gifts and Springs of Transcendence' on 25 November 2021. This was the first time Beyond the Score was held online, with a fundraising aspect. The concert, livestreamed on our YouTube Channel, raised over \$400,000, exceeding the initial target of \$250,000. The proceeds helped establish several bursaries which will assist NUS undergraduates in financial need. The NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme welcomed a total of 116 mentors and 186 mentees for the 2021/2022 academic year.

The **Community Care & Cultural Sub-Committee** actively supported NUSS' two adopted charities – Dover Park Hospice (DPH) and Children's Wishing Well (CWW), through various activities in 2021. Most notably, in conjunction with the NUS Day of Service on 4 September, volunteers delivered special care packs and bento lunch sets to 44 beneficiaries and their caregivers under DPH. Another group chaperoned 15 child beneficiaries from CWW on an educational visit to the NUS Food Science & Technology Lab.

Our newest Sub-Committee, the **Communities of Practice Sub-Committee** hit the ground running by organising a series of online and on-site talks targeted towards professionals in the Human Resource industry. In June 2021, the Sub-Committee organised a Virtual Career Fair featuring HR directors from various multi-national companies and members tuned in to find out about possible career opportunities. This Sub-Committee is also in the process of forming another Community of Practice, more details of which will be released over the next few weeks.

Our **Digital Transformation Sub-Committee** kept busy at work to deliver the Club Management System to improve the efficiency of the Society's operations. In 2021, the NUSS mobile application was launched to serve as a virtual membership card as well as an additional platform for members to update their personal profiles and check their Statements of Accounts on the go.

The Intellectual Pursuit & Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee organised various online and on-site talks and dialogue sessions. The key dialogue sessions included:

- The NUSS Professorship Lecture with Professor Manu Kapur on The Future of Learning;
- Silicon Valley Tech Series: Tech Current and Forward Trends; and
- NUHS Medical Series: Medical conditions that effect mobility and ways to combat these medical problems.

Looking ahead

As the nation gradually eases on its COVID-19 restrictions, our Society has slowly reinstated some of its activities. Our Section Nights have resumed, with social distancing measures in

place, and the NUSS Choir recently held their Choir Performance at Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall on 19 March. Live music performances have also resumed at our Bars at Kent Ridge and Suntec City Guild Houses.

I'm sure many of us are looking forward to more sports and recreational activities to come, as these the activities that enable us to forge closer bonds with one another and grow as a community. To name a few, sports tournaments and inter-club competitions, and more performance by the Choir, DramaWorks and Music Sections.

On a final note, NUSS will organise a series of fund-raising events, starting from a Charity Golf Tournament organised by the NUSS Golf Section, to raise a minimum sum of \$250,000 towards a new endowed bursary to be launched, namely the NUSS Bursary.

I had previously announced that Mr. Roy Higgs will be leaving us after 8 years with NUSS. I am grateful to Roy for contemplating, as far back as 4 years ago, the issue of succession which working with the Exco to appoint a potential successor, Ms. Clara Tan, first as Chief Financial Officer and now as the Chief Executive Officer (Designate). Thank you, Roy for your dedicated 8 years to NUSS.

Once again to the Sub-Committees, thank you for your continued dedication and contribution to NUSS. Without your help, the programmes and initiatives mentioned earlier would not have been possible.

With your help, let's strive for a better year for NUSS!

Thank you and have a wonderful evening ahead