

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDWARD S TAY  
AT THE FIRESIDE CHAT WITH NUS PRESIDENT – CAN THE FUTURE BE SHAPED?  
20 MAY 2022, FRIDAY, 7PM  
DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

Professor Tan Eng Chye, President of the National University of Singapore and Honorary Member of the National University of Singapore Society,

Distinguished guests

Fellow Management Committee and NUSS members

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening and a very warm welcome to NUSS. Thank you for taking the time to attend this fireside chat.

NUSS is passionate about the interests and development of NUS. The Alumni Complex, comprising the Kent Ridge Guild House, and the Shaw Foundation Alumni House, was a joint effort between NUS and NUSS to build a place where alumni can call home. NUSS was also a driving force behind the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund, and we continue to support fundraising efforts towards the fund. This year, NUSS will be embarking on raising funds for a new bursary, to be named the NUSS Bursary.

It is gratifying that the President of the NUS, Professor Tan Eng Chye, has agreed to engage directly in a fireside chat like this one for a frank and open discourse on something close to our hearts - the future of higher education.

## **Introduction of the Speaker**

As President of NUS, Eng Chye, of course, needs no introduction. As a passionate and award-winning educator, he has initiated many programmes such as the Special Programme in Science, the University Scholars Programme, University Town Residential College Programme and Grade-free Year, just to name a few. Eng Chye's latest initiative - the enhanced financial support model is to my mind the most significant to date - all students from households with a per-capita income of \$1,000 or less pay no tuition fees. And it gets better. Students from households with a per-capita income of \$650 or less are given grants for living expenses, hostel life and even overseas exchange programmes. To put this in perspective, students from these households would not have dreamt of being able to pursue a semester overseas before this was launched.

Last month, in April, Eng Chye was conferred the NUSS Honorary Membership. This marks not only the close ties between NUS and NUSS but also recognises Eng Chye's support for NUSS and his inspiring leadership and contributions to the NUS community and Singapore.

## **About the Topic**

The accelerated rate of global change has often raised the question on the need to re-examine and overhaul our current models of higher learning in order to equip our graduates for the future.

Tonight's session will focus on diversity, equitable opportunities and social inclusion – key issues that graduates need to be cognisant of in order to navigate effectively – be it in a leadership role or as a team member.

Being an established educator, Eng Chye will also share his perspective on the key challenges in nurturing future graduates to be adaptable and resilient with the ability to contribute with strong impact in an interdisciplinary environment.

This will be the first of two talks we have planned with Eng Chye for this year. With Eng Chye's experience and expertise, I am confident that we will all gain a deeper understanding into the needs of Singapore's higher education system.

Lastly, I would like to thank our moderator for this evening's dialogue, Mr Soh Yi Da, my colleague on the NUS's Management Committee.

I wish you all an enriching evening ahead.

Thank you.