

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDWARD S TAY
NUSS LO HEI DINNER
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE
2 FEBRUARY 2023, THURSDAY**

Pro-Chancellors of the National University of Singapore (NUS)

Mr Po'ad Matter and Mrs Po'ad

Retired Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong

Chairman, NUS Board of Trustees, Mr Hsieh Fu Hua

President, NUS, Professor Tan Eng Chye

Members of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board

Members of the NUS Senior Management

Honorary Members of the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS)

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan and Dr Evelyn Lee

Mr Wong Ngit Liong and Mrs Wong

Chairman, NUSS Advisory Panel, Mr S Dhanabalan and Mrs Dhanabalan

NUSS Past Presidents

Management Committee Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

A very Happy Chinese New Year to all of you. 兔年幸福安康!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to our Annual Lou Hei Dinner. This event could not be held for the last two years due to the Covid-19 restrictions and it is indeed gratifying to see everyone here.

The relationship between NUS and NUSS is one cherished by us and envied by the other alumni bodies in Singapore. This relationship has enabled NUSS to develop and support numerous programmes over the years.

NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme

The NUSS-NUS Mentorship Scheme, launched in 2012, is but one of these programmes. This scheme enables our NUS undergraduates to tap on the expertise of our NUSS members as Mentors. Previously, our Mentors were drawn from the ranks of our members having at least 10 years' experience. This year, we have introduced a new class of mentors, namely Associate Mentors, who are drawn from our members having at least five years' experience. Our Associate Mentors are able to share a perspective which may be more relevant to our undergraduates. Now in its 10th cycle, we have 157 mentors paired with 194 mentees this year.

NUS Alumni Bursary Fund

NUSS recognises NUS's commitment to ensure that no student is deprived of a university education because of poverty. Last year, Prof Tan Eng Chye announced a financial support scheme which accorded tuition fee education to students from households with a per capital income of \$1,000 or less and enhanced schemes to enable that students from households with a per capital income of \$690 or less to enjoy campus residency and exchange programmes

NUSS is gratified to be able to contribute in a small way towards this initiative.

The NUS Alumni Bursary Fund (ABF), was seed funded in 2013 by a pledge by NUSS to donate up to \$250,000 a year. I am pleased to announce that we will continue to fulfil this pledge with a \$250,000 donation this year and will present our cheque for this amount after my speech.

Last year, through the efforts of Mr Joseph Ng and our Golf Section, and the help of NUS's prolific fund raiser, Mr Yeo Keng Joon, we raised \$716,000 at our NUSS Charity Golf event. This amount will launch a new bursary to be named the NUSS Bursary. I would like to thank Joseph and Keng Joon for their strong support towards launching this bursary.

As we prepare to celebrate our 70th Anniversary next year, NUSS will maintain its efforts towards supporting the NUSS Bursary and the ABF.

NUS Cares

In support of NUS's NUS Cares programme, our members and friends spent a meaningful weekend last September with the beneficiaries of our two adopted charities - the Dover Park Hospice and the Children's Wishing Well. At the Dover Park Hospice Day Care Centre, our volunteers organised a mini fair with booths and workshops for the hospice's beneficiaries and their families. Another group of volunteers spent a day with our young friends from the Children's Wishing Well, introducing them to activities around our Kent Ridge Guild House. For many of the kids, it was their first time trying out games like darts and tennis.

Fireside Chat with NUS President

We are grateful to NUS President, Professor Tan Eng Chye, for conducting two fireside chats, one on the future of university education and another on lifelong learning. We were able to observe and feel his passion for ensuring the resilience of NUS graduates during and after their time at NUS. He has also kindly made NUS's module on Design Thinking available to our members. Thank you, Eng Chye for reminding us that it is never too old to learn.

Membership Campaign

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our recent membership campaign, #TimeforNUSS has recruited 900 new members.

Conclusion

Before I end, on behalf our Management Committee, I would like to thank Professor Tan Eng Chye and the Director of the NUS Office of Alumni Relations, Mr Bernard Toh for this kind support for our initiatives.

Once again, 恭喜发财 and 新年快乐.