

**OPENING ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDWARD S TAY
AT THE NATIONAL DAY AWARDS CELEBRATORY DINNER
7PM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE
23 MAY 2023, TUESDAY**

University Professor and NUSS Honorary Member, Professor Wang Gungwu,
Chief Medical Health Scientist and NUSS Honorary Member, Professor Tan Chorh
Chuan, BBM (Covid-19)

Other National Day Award Recipients.

NUSS Past Presidents, Mr Anwarul Haque, Mr Lai Kim Seng and Mr Eddie Lee Choy
Peng,

Fellow Management Committee members,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good evening and welcome to our National Day Awards celebratory dinner. Tonight, we gather to honour and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our members, as well as to recognise outstanding contributions made by members in Singapore's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic through the National Awards (COVID-19). It is gratifying that we congratulate for the second time, our Honorary Member, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, who on National Day 2023, received the Distinguished Service Order and later that year, the Public Service Star (COVID-19). Incidentally, this is the second time Prof Tan is being honoured for his role in fighting diseases. In the aftermath of the SARS epidemic, Chorh Chuan received his first Public Service Star, then for his front-line role in fighting SARS.

1. Background

The National Day Awards honour individuals who have made significant contributions towards Singapore. Congratulations to the 206 NUSS members recognised in the National Day Awards (2020 and 2021) and the National Awards (COVID-19). Your dedication in bettering the nation, as well as selflessness during those challenging times is truly commendable, and NUSS is fortunate to have such accomplished individuals among its members.

2. Programmes and Initiatives

As a graduate society, one of our primary objectives is to contribute not only to our Society, but also to our nation. Beyond these awards, NUSS has actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at giving back to society and our alma mater, the National University of Singapore (NUS).

- **NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme**

Firstly, our NUSS-NUS mentorship programme, which began in 2012, has provided a valuable platform for NUS undergraduates seeking career advice and guidance. By connecting them with NUSS members that possess the relevant work experience, we empower the next generation to navigate their own professional journey with confidence.

- **NUS Alumni Bursary Fund**

Secondly, we make regular contributions to the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund (ABF) campaign. Since its launch in 2013, with seed funding by NUSS, we have pledged to donate up to \$250,000 per year. Till today, the ABF has helped countless NUS students pursue their educational aspirations by aiding in financial assistance.

In 2022, our charity golf event raised a staggering \$716,000 for the ABF Campaign, the highest amount ever raised. This included a matching contribution of \$100,000 from the Tote Board. The amount was channelled towards the establishment of the NUSS Bursary. This accomplishment exemplifies the generosity and unwavering support of our members.

- **Giving back to the underprivileged**

Furthermore, our Community Care & Cultural Sub-Committee has tirelessly organised and participated in outreach events that benefit the less fortunate, with a special focus on our two adopted charities, Dover Park Hospice and Children's Wishing Well.

Through these initiatives, we have extended compassion and support to those who need it most, in hope of making a tangible difference in their lives.

- **Intellectual dialogues**

Lastly, our Society continually strives to keep our members engaged and informed by organising intellectual dialogue sessions with speakers and industry experts. We regularly invite eminent speakers, both local and overseas, to share their insights on the latest trends and issues that matter most to our members.

Just last month, we had the privilege of hosting Professor Tan Tian Yuan, who is a Shaw Professor of Chinese from the University of Oxford. In that Professorship Lecture, he shared about how cultural context shapes our reading experience and reception to literary works. Sessions such as these have enriched our members' knowledge and broadened their perspectives.

3. Conclusion

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all our members for their contributions, and unwavering commitment to our Society, community, and nation. Your acts of service have made a positive impact on the lives of many.

Let us be inspired to continue contributing and doing good for our community and nation.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the evening!