

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT, MR EDWARD S TAY
AT THE NUSS PROFESSORSHIP LECTURE WITH NUSS VISITING PROF LUAN SHENG
7PM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE
18 JULY 2023, TUESDAY**

1. Address the Audience

Professor Luan Sheng

NUSS Visiting Professor 2023;

Chancellor's Professor and Chair of the Department of Plant & Microbial Biology at the University of California, Berkeley

Professor Prakash Kumar

From the Department of Biological Sciences at the National University of Singapore

NUSS Management Committee members

Fellow NUSS members

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening and thank you all for joining us for tonight's NUSS Professorship Lecture.

A warm welcome to those who are attending the Professorship Lecture for the first time, and for those who have joined us before, welcome back. We appreciate your time and presence.

2. About the NUSS Professorship Lecture

As part of our Society's commitment towards fostering meaningful interactions with its alma mater through academic pursuit, NUSS established the NUSS Professorship in 1996 with an endowment of \$1.5 million. Over time years, NUSS has seen NUS appointing more than 20 NUSS Visiting Professors, including in 2017, its first full time NUSS Chair Professor.

The purpose of the NUSS Professorship Lecture is to facilitate knowledge sharing between esteemed Visiting Professors from various countries, the NUS community as well as the general public.

Tonight, I'm pleased to present and welcome our **NUSS Visiting Professor 2023, Professor Luan Sheng**. Prof Luan received his PhD and post-doctorate training from Harvard University in the 1990s, and he is currently a Chancellor's Professor and chair of the Department of Plant & Microbial Biology at the University of California, Berkeley.

Over the past 25 years, he has built an illustrious career as an academic and scientist in the field of plant stress biology. His scientific papers have garnered more than 23,000 citations, making him one of the world's most highly cited researchers in plant and animal science.

Our moderator for this evening is **Professor Prakash Kumar**, a plant molecular developmental biologist with the Department of Biological Sciences at the National University of Singapore. He is currently the Director of the Research Centre on Sustainable Urban Farming. He is also Singapore's national correspondent for the International Association for Plant Biotechnology.

3. Introduce the Session

As many of you may be aware, climate change is happening at a rapid pace, threatening our environment, agriculture and food security. Unfortunately, modern agriculture also heavily relies on chemical inputs, leading to environmental pollution and the worsening of climate change. Scientists have now embarked on a "green revolution" aimed at reducing the input of chemicals in crop production for more sustainable agriculture.

Professor Luan, a plant biologist, is dedicated to exploring the genetic foundation that enables plants to thrive in a nutrient-poor environment and facilitate the breeding of crops with improved nutrient use efficiency. By doing so, we can ultimately reduce the reliance of chemical fertilisers.

I hope that you will find this session an insightful one!

4. Thank You