

**WELCOME SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDWARD S TAY
AT THE NUSS LO HEI DINNER
14 FEBRUARY 2024, WEDNESDAY, 7PM
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL**

NUS Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Po'ad Mattar and Mdm. Alia Gan

Chairman, NUS Board of Trustees, Mr. Hsieh Fu Hua

President, NUS, Prof. Tan Eng Chye

NUSS Honorary Members,

Prof. Lim Pin

Prof. Tan Chor Chuan and Dr. Evelyn Lee

Mr. Wong Ngit Liong & Mrs. Wong Siew Hoon

NUSS Distinguished Members,

Amb. Ong Keng Yong & Mrs. Irene Ong

The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong & Prof. Phang Sock Yong

NUSS Chair Professor Lim Chwee Teck

NUSS Past Presidents, Mr. Lim Soo Hwee, Mr. Lai Kim Seng, Mr. Chandra Mohan and Ms. Susan De' Silva, Mr. Johnny Tan, and Mr. Eddie Lee.

NUS Senior Management, Alumni Advisory Board Colleagues, NUSS Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

A very warm welcome to our NUSS Annual Lo Hei Dinner 2024.

70th Anniversary Celebrations

The year 2024 marks the 70th Anniversary of NUSS. Our celebrations were launched by our inaugural event, in support of the NUS Plant It Forward Challenge. The NUS Plant It Forward Challenge is an initiative steered at the NUS level by one of my predecessors, Mr. Johnny Tan and comprises a donation drive supporting NUS' Enhanced Financial Aid Scheme (EFAS) and NUS' sustainability challenge. For each \$1,000 donated towards EFAS, a tree will be planted on the NUS Campus. I would be preaching to the choir if I were to extoll the virtues of EFAS, with the prime architects, Mr. Hsieh Fu Hua and Prof. Tan Eng Chye, present among us. To summarise for our guests, EFAS ensures that the students in the 30th percentile in terms of per capita income enjoy tuition free education. While those in the 10th percentile also enjoy both an annual allowance of \$4k as well a grant of \$10 for campus housing and overseas exchange programmes. There can be no meritocracy without equality of opportunity and I am proud that our alma mater puts this mantra into practice.

I am therefore also proud that NUSS will maintain its strong support for EFAS –our 70th Anniversary Celebrations, in particular, the support for the Plant-It-Forward as well as a charity golf event, will be hoping to raise \$1 million towards the NUSS 70th Anniversary Bursary.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Daniel Chia for his work towards organising the inaugural event and raising more than \$70K towards this cause just on day one alone. I would also like to thank Mr. Joseph Ng and Mr. Yeo Keng Joon for their continued dedication to raising donations for this cause over the years.

In addition to the Plant-It-Forward event, our 70th Anniversary Celebrations will include the NUSS Lecture led by Mr. Soh Yi Da and Mr Nakoorsha Abdul Kadir and the NUSS Family Day and NUSS Year End Celebrations, both led by Mr. Vincent Rasa Benedict.

Distinguished and Outstanding Members

Last year, we were privileged to recognise 2 members with the Distinguished Member Award, namely Senior Judge of the High Court and retired Vice-President of the Court of Appeal, The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang and retired Ambassador and retired Dean of the NUS LKY School of Public Policy, Prof. Kishore Mahbubani. We were also privileged to recognise 3 Outstanding Members, namely, my predecessor Mr. Lai Kim Seng, Mr. Joseph Ng and Mr. Yeo Keng Joon.

NUSS-NUS Mentorship

Another area in which NUSS is proud to partner with NUS is our NUSS-NUS Mentorship scheme. Through this scheme, we aim to make the rich experience of our NUSS members available to undergraduates, hoping that this will give the undergraduates an edge when they enter the workforce. For this Academic year (2023/24), we are proud to pair 134 mentors with 249 undergraduate mentees.

Conclusion

I would like to end off by thanking our partners from NUS, President Prof. Tan Eng Chye, Chief Alumni Officer, Ms. Ovidia Lim-Rajaram and her predecessor, Mr. Bernard Toh, Vice President Development Mr. Edi Fung and Vice President Campus Infrastructure, Mr. Koh Yan Leng and their respective offices for the kind support you have extended to NUSS over the years.

With that, I wish all of you a Happy Chinese New Year and 恭贺新禧, 心想事成.