

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS VICE-PRESIDENT II,
MR NAKOORSHA ABDUL KADIR
AT 'IN CONVERSATION WITH GEORGE YEO'
31 JANUARY 2024, WEDNESDAY
7PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

Our guest speaker, Mr George Yeo

Fellow Members, Ladies & Gentlemen

A warm and pleasant evening to all. Thank you for joining us at tonight's 'In Conversation with George Yeo.

Mr George Yeo is, of course, no stranger to us. He delivered our first NUSS Lecture in 1991. Our next two NUSS lectures in 2005 and 2014 were delivered by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. On the national front, Mr Yeo was a cabinet minister from 1991 to 2011. Notwithstanding his retirement from politics, he remains highly sought after. He was appointed Chancellor of the Nalanda University, a position which, as an indication of his ethical stature, he had no hesitation to relinquish on grounds of principle.

Yeo was involved in reviving the ancient Buddhist university, Nalanda University, in Bihar, India. He was chancellor of Nalanda University [22] and member of the University Governing Board,[23] and the governing board's International Advisory Panel. In November 2016, he resigned as the chancellor of Nalanda University accusing the Indian government of failing to maintain the University's autonomy.[24]

He is a member of the Hong Kong Economic Development Commission, a member of the Vatican's Council for the Economy (among the first lay persons

so appointed), a member of the Foundation Board of the World Economic Forum, the Nicolas Berggruen Institute's 21st Century Council and the International Advisory Board of IESE Business School.

This year marks a significant milestone for NUS as we proudly commemorate our 70th Anniversary! In celebration, we've crafted a diverse array of events, ranging from charitable endeavours to intellectual engagements and celebratory gatherings. Stay tuned for further details.

Without further ado, I now pass the floor to Mr George Yeo as he explores the intersections of history, politics, and philosophy.

Thank you.