

OPENING ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDWARD S TAY
AT THE LAUNCH OF NUSS' 70TH ANNIVERSARY
(PLANT-IT-FORWARD CHALLENGE)
27 JANUARY 2024, SATURDAY, 9 AM
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL

President, National University of Singapore, Professor Tan Eng Chye

Esteemed Guests from NUS

Donors and Fellow members of NUSS

NUSS Management Committee members

Ladies and Gentleman

First and foremost, I express my gratitude for Prof Tan's presence at today's event. Thank you for joining us in the tree planting ceremony for the Plant-It Forward Challenge, signifying the commencement of NUSS' 70th-Anniversary celebrations.

This event marks the launch of the NUSS 70th Anniversary Celebrations and is held in support of NUS's Plant-It-Forward Challenge. Later today, Greenfest@NUSS - Community Studio awaits, providing interactive workshops, enlightening talks, and captivating exhibitions, all directed towards shaping a greener tomorrow.

Our goal is to raise funds for the NUSS 70th Anniversary Bursary, specifically targeting the Enhanced Financial Aid Scheme for NUS undergraduates facing financial difficulties. This initiative, steered by my predecessor Mr. Johnny Tan, involves planting a tree on campus for every \$1,000 donation, contributing to

NUS' sustainability efforts. The raised funds will go to the NUS Enhanced Financial Aid Scheme (EFAS), ensuring that no student is denied education due to financial constraints. This marks the beginning of our 70th-Anniversary celebrations.

Thanks to the concerted efforts and generosity of our NUSS members and friends, we managed to raise \$70,000. This milestone holds dual significance, emphasizing our dedication to supporting deserving NUS undergraduates and underscoring our commitment to sustainability. For every \$1,000 donated, a tree will be planted on the NUS campus, symbolizing our celebration of NUSS' legacy in nurturing graduates and our unwavering commitment to a greener future.

Our commitment to the NUS student community extends well fundraising. The NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme, now in its 11th cycle, has evolved from a modest offering to a campus-wide resource for all NUS undergraduates. The success of this program is a testament to the dedication of mentors within our NUSS community, generously contributing their time and expertise to shape the future leaders emerging from NUS.

Additionally, our annual pledge of \$250,000 towards the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund has been instrumental in supporting numerous financially challenged NUS students, reaffirming our commitment to giving back.

To our esteemed donors contributing to the NUSS 70th Anniversary Bursary, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your generous contributions not only help us create a greener campus but also nurture the potential of future generations.

Finally, I would like to thank NUS OCI and DVO for their support towards this event. I would also like to recognise the organising chairperson, Daniel Chia for all his hard work towards this event.

Thank you.