

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT, MR TONG HSIEN-HUI  
AT THE NUSS 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHARITY GOLF 2024  
7PM, SENTOSA GOLF CLUB, GRAND SALON BALLROOM**

**23 AUGUST 2024, FRIDAY**

**Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education**

**Professor Aaron Thean, NUS Provost and Deputy President**

**Mr Seah Cheng San, Chairperson, Alumni Student Advancement Committee (ASAC),**

**Mr Joseph Ng, NUSS Golf Convenor and NUSS 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Charity Golf 2024**

**Organising Chairperson**

**NUSS Past Presidents, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good evening and a very warm welcome to all. It is a great honour to stand before you as we gather for the NUSS 70th Anniversary Charity Golf Dinner. We were aiming to raise \$700,000 through this event, and the final amount raised will be revealed later this evening.

Firstly, I would like to extend my gratitude to our Guest of Honour, Minister Chan Chun Sing, for gracing us with his presence. Minister Chan has been a dedicated advocate for education, leading numerous initiatives to enhance the accessibility and quality of education for all. As he aptly stated at the International Summit on the Teaching Profession in April 2024, "Education is at an inflexion point," highlighting the importance of "nurturing students' humanity, as well as their ability to connect and bridge differences."

This philosophy resonates deeply with the values of NUSS and the objectives of the NUSS Bursary Fund, which together with the NUSS Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement seeks firstly to bridge socioeconomic gaps to ensure that every student, regardless of their background, has an equal opportunity to succeed, and secondly to recognise achievements of students beyond the academic.

2024 is a significant year for NUSS as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary with the theme, "70 Years of Enduring Ties and Building Legacies." Throughout the year, we will host a range of events, including charitable initiatives, intellectual engagements, and celebratory gatherings, highlighting the strength and shared values of our community.

We kicked off our celebration with the "Plant-It-Forward Challenge" on 27 January 2024, emphasising our commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement. For every \$1,000 donation, a tree was planted, and we raised \$70,000 for the NUSS Bursary Fund.

On the 18 September, we will welcome YAB Dato' Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Menteri Besar of Johor to deliver the NUSS Lecture where he will discuss plans for the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone and his vision for Johor-Singapore relations. On the 7 November, Madam Halimah Yacob will be the guest speaker at our Commentary Dialogue together with editor, Dr Gillian Koh. For those who may not be aware, the NUSS *Commentary* is Singapore's oldest academic journal and was first published in 1968.

The culmination of our 70th Anniversary celebrations will be the NUSS Day also in November and held at our Kent Ridge Guild House. This festive extravaganza promises a day filled with fun, laughter, and camaraderie, featuring activities and games for all ages, along with delightful culinary experiences. It will be a joyous celebration of life, friendships, and the vibrant spirit of our community.

For over seven decades, NUSS has been the foremost graduate alumni society, providing platforms for socialising, networking, and exchanging ideas through various recreational, academic, political, social, and cultural activities. We continuously strive to cultivate a more gracious social and cultural environment while evolving to meet the needs of our members and the broader community.

One of the most significant manifestations of this commitment is the NUSS Bursary Fund. This bursary was launched through the raising of \$641K at the NUSS Charity Golf event in 2022.

Funds raised from the NUSS 70th Anniversary Charity Golf 2024 will benefit the NUSS Bursary Fund. This initiative is dedicated to enhancing educational access and promoting social equity by helping students from lower-income backgrounds with tuition-free education and essential resources. By aligning with meritocratic principles and fostering equal opportunity, we aim to ensure all students have a fair chance to succeed and are inspired to give back to their communities. The NUSS Bursary represents our belief in the transformative power of

education and our dedication to nurturing future leaders who will make impactful contributions to society.

Our Golf Section has been pivotal to our philanthropic efforts, steadfastly supporting and advancing our mission. Special thanks to our Golf Convenor, Mr Joseph Ng, and fellow member Mr Yeo Keng Joon, whose tireless efforts in canvassing donations for affordable education have been truly commendable. My thanks also to all in the Section and Secretariat who have helped make this happen.

Finally, I would also like to thank all contributors, partners, and participants for your unwavering support and generosity. Your contribution is invaluable and will make a real difference in the lives of many students.

Please enjoy the rest of the evening, and here's to many years of establishing connections and building lasting heritage.

Thank you.