

MEDIA RELEASE

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**NUSS TO HOST COMMENTARY DIALOGUE WITH FORMER PRESIDENT
MADAM HALIMAH YACOB AS GUEST OF HONOUR**

7 November 2024 – The National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) will host a dialogue session for the *Commentary on Singapore* on 7 November 2024, Thursday. The event will feature former President Madam Halimah Yacob as the Guest of Honour and will be moderated by Dr Gillian Koh, the editor of the three-volume series.

The *Commentary on Singapore*, which officially debuted in May 2024, marks a significant milestone in NUSS' enduring commitment to intellectual discourse. As Singapore's largest graduate alumni society, with a membership of over 15,000, NUSS has been a leading force in fostering political and intellectual development for more than seven decades. The *Commentary*, first published in 1968, stands as Singapore's longest-running intellectual journal, dedicated to providing non-partisan, constructive insights on national issues and encouraging informed debates.

The release of the three-volume edition of the *Commentary on Singapore*, coincides with NUSS 70th Anniversary, features essays from volumes published between 2010 and 2019. This series provides in-depth analyses on a broad spectrum of topics, including foreign policy, governance, leadership, economy, environment, population, culture, identity, and society. It includes contributions from eminent thought leaders such as Professor Tommy Koh and Professor Kishore Mahbubani, offering valuable perspectives on Singapore's development and future trajectory.

Dr Gillian Koh, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and an Outstanding Member of NUSS, brings extensive expertise to the role of moderator. Dr Koh's distinguished career includes leading surveys on political attitudes, contributing to the Asian Barometer Survey, and studying national identity and social resilience. Her extensive experience and dedication to intellectual inquiry make her an ideal choice to moderate this compelling discussion. Associate Professor Victor R. Savage, who served as editor before 2013, and Dr Gillian Koh, who has led the editorial team since 2016, have both played crucial roles in maintaining the publication's quality and relevance.

The launch of the *Commentary* series not only celebrates NUSS' past achievements but also charts a path for addressing future challenges. By facilitating meaningful dialogue and the exchange of ideas, this event underscores our commitment to being at the forefront of intellectual discourse and contributing to the betterment of our society.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE SOCIETY (NUSS)

NUSS is the premier graduate alumni society of the National University of Singapore (NUS), with around 15,000 members from NUS and other accredited universities. Established in 1954 as the University of Malaya Society, it became the University of Singapore Society in 1962 before adopting its current name in 1981.

NUSS fosters a lifelong connection with NUS and the broader graduate community, offering members access to a vast network through its three Guild Houses in Kent Ridge, Suntec City, and Mandalay Road. It provides opportunities for networking, professional development, and access to premium social, recreational, and dining facilities.

Committed to intellectual discourse and social engagement, NUSS enriches Singapore's intellectual and social fabric through its extensive events and publications.

For more information on NUSS, please visit www.nuss.org.sg.

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History of *Commentary*

First published in 1968, *Commentary* is Singapore's longest-running intellectual journal, reflecting NUSS' commitment to non-partisan, constructive analysis of national issues. Created to address a media gap, it aligns with NUSS' mission to influence Singapore's political and intellectual development positively. The inaugural edition featured articles by Kwa Chong Guan and S. Jayakumar, sparking significant debate.

NUSS aims to promote the interests of NUS and its members, fostering engagement and enhancing Singapore's social and cultural fabric through its publications.

Over the decades, *Commentary* has navigated various editorial changes, maintaining its non-partisan stance despite controversies. Revitalised in 1973 by Gopal Baratham and later influenced by editors like Kirpal Singh, it expanded its scope to include diverse perspectives. Recent special issues have explored themes such as tertiary education corporatisation and overseas Singaporeans' views.

Commentary remains NUSS' flagship publication, adapting to contemporary issues and promoting thoughtful debate.

The Latest Publication – *Commentary on Singapore*

The *Commentary on Singapore* is a three-volume series edited by Dr Gillian Koh, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies and NUSS member, and co-published with World Scientific Publishing (WSPC). This series, available in hardcover, paperback, and e-book formats, compiles selected articles from *Commentary* issues between 2010 and 2019.

Featuring insights from Singaporean thought leaders, the series addresses key topics such as public policy, economic and social development, foreign policy, environmental sustainability, the arts, and culture. The volumes are titled:

- **Volume 1: Foreign Policy, Governance and Leadership**
- **Volume 2: Economy, Environment and Population**
- **Volume 3: Culture, Identity and Society**

Each volume includes contributions from notable scholars, practitioners, thought leaders offering a comprehensive examination of Singapore's geopolitical shifts, economic challenges, and cultural transformations.

Link to the *Commentary on Singapore*: <https://www.nuss.org.sg/commentary-on-singapore/>