

**OPENING ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT  
MR TONG HSIEN-HUI  
AT THE CELEBRATORY DINNER 2024  
25 NOVEMBER 2024, MONDAY, 7PM  
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL**

**President of NUS, Prof Tan Eng Chye  
Chairman of Yellow Ribbon Singapore, Mr Phillip Tan  
National Day Award Recipients  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good evening,

It is an honour to welcome you to this Celebratory Dinner in recognition of our members who are recipients of this year's National Day Awards. This evening, we come together to celebrate your exceptional contribution to the Nation.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Yellow Ribbon Singapore and former member of the NUS Board of Trustees, on receiving the Distinguished Service Order, one of the highest national honours. With over two decades of dedication to the rehabilitation of ex-offenders and community service, Mr Tan's exemplary leadership has profoundly shaped countless lives and contributed significantly to society's betterment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge two members who were similarly conferred the Distinguished Service Order but were unable to join us this evening: Mr Hsieh Fu Hua, Chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees, and Ms Jennie Chua, Chairman of Vanguard Healthcare.

We also extend our congratulations to Professor Tan Eng Chye, President of NUS, and Mr Edward D'Silva, former Chairman of the Hygiene Council, for being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Professor Tan's visionary leadership has propelled NUS to global prominence, including achieving its first top-ten ranking in the QS World University Rankings. His transformative

contributions have advanced education, research, and enterprise, firmly establishing NUS as a world-class institution.

Mr D'Silva, former member of the NUS Board of Trustees and the NUS Alumni Advisory Board, was recognised for his unwavering commitment to improving public hygiene. From addressing littering to promoting tray returns and cleaner public toilets, his impactful leadership as the former Chairman of the Public Hygiene Council has elevated public awareness and community well-being.

On behalf of the Management Committee and everyone at NUSS, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you who were recipients of the National Day Awards. It is an honour to have you as part of our Society, and we are deeply inspired by your remarkable achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the things that NUSS has done over the past year.

As we celebrate our 70th Anniversary, we have also tried to do our part for society. Earlier this year, we ran the Plant-It-Forward Challenge, which together with the NUSS Charity Golf event, successfully raised \$850,000 for the NUSS Bursary Fund to support students in need.

On the intellectual front, the NUSS 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture was delivered by Dato Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Chief Minister of Johor. We also launched a compilation of our trademark publication, the Commentary, where Mdm Halimah Yacob was the Guest of Honour and engaged our members in a wide-ranging dialogue.

Our celebrations will culminate with NUSS Day on Saturday, with Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat as our Guest of Honour. It promises to be a day filled with fun and camaraderie that will close with the Christmas Tree light up. We warmly invite you and your family to join us.

Tonight's Celebratory Dinner perfectly embodies the values that NUSS holds dear, as we celebrate our members who reflect our enduring spirit of service, community, and excellence. While we honour our esteemed awardees for their impactful contributions, our 70th

Anniversary initiatives also highlight these values of giving back—not just to our Society, but to the broader community and nation, shaping the leaders of tomorrow. This connection underscores the significance of the National Day Awards and the collective impact our members have on society.

As we come together this evening, let us take pride in the remarkable achievements of our members, whose dedication continues to inspire and uplift. May this gathering remind us of the power of community, the importance of giving back, and the legacy we build together.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the evening.