

**WELCOME ADDRESS
BY NUSS PRESIDENT, MR TONG HSIEN-HUI
AT NUSS DAY
SATURDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2024
DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

**Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat,
Fellow NUSS Members
Families and Friends**

A very good afternoon to all of you and I am really happy to have you here with us today to celebrate NUSS Day.

We are honoured to have Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat as guest of honour for today's celebration. DPM is of course no stranger to NUSS having played a major role in our activities since 2012, starting with the inaugural Ministerial Dialogue to participating in our Groceries-On-Wheels community care initiative. We are grateful that he has been able to join us today to open the NUSS Day.

As we look back on this milestone year for the Society, we are reminded of NUSS' rich legacy and its evolving role in shaping Singapore's intellectual and social landscape. Allow me to walk you through the key highlights of our 70th Anniversary celebrations.

Launch of the NUSS 70th Anniversary & Plant-It-Forward – 27 January

We kicked off the launch of our 70th Anniversary celebrations with a Plant-It-Forward Challenge, where, in partnership with NUS and the Office of Alumni Relations, we planted a tree for every \$1,000 donated. This effort raised \$70,000 for the NUSS Bursary Fund, a fund to support needy students.

NUSS Professorship Lecture – 11 July

In July, we welcomed Professor Uri Gneezy from UC San Diego, one of the most cited researchers in the world, to deliver our Professorship Lecture. Prof Gneezy, a behavioural economist, spoke on how to structure and craft incentives to maximise their impact. He also sold his book, which he signed on the day, with all proceeds going to the NUSS Bursary Fund.

NUSS 70th Anniversary Charity Golf – 23 August

In August, the NUSS Golf Section, led by Joseph Ng, organised the 70th Anniversary Charity Golf event that raised an impressive \$777,000 for the NUSS Bursary Fund. This is the largest amount raised at our Charity Golf events. Minister Chan Chun Sing was present as we handed the cheque over to NUS.

NUSS 70th Anniversary Lecture – 18 September

The NUSS 70th Anniversary Lecture was delivered by Dato' Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Menteri Besar of Johor. His lecture and subsequent dialogue with the members allowed us to better understand his plans for the state of Johor as well as his views on cross-border relations and the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone. He was inevitably pressed on the issue of the VEP and his commitment that evening appeared to have translated into a more flexible enforcement of the original policy. I would like to thank Mr Soh Yi Da, Chairman of our Intellectual Pursuit Sub-Committee, for leading the lecture.

NUSS Commentary Dialogue – 7 November

Earlier this month, we had the privilege of hosting Madam Halimah Yacob at the *Commentary* Dialogue, alongside Dr Gillian Koh, editor of *Commentary on Singapore*. For those of you that may not know this, the NUSS Commentary has been published since 1968 and it is Singapore's oldest academic publication. This year, we launched a three-book compilation of the best articles from the last 5 years, focused on the social, economic and cultural development of Singapore. Madam Halimah's insightful discussion on social progress and cohesion was a powerful affirmation of our commitment to building a more inclusive and harmonious society.

NUSS Day: A Festive Finale

Today's NUSS Day, marks the close of an exciting year of celebrations. It will feature an array of carnival activities and delightful F&B offerings, bringing together members and friends culminating in the annual Christmas Tree light-up this evening.

NUSS: A Balance of Body, Mind, and Soul

I like to compare NUSS to a living being with a body, mind and soul. The body is represented by our physical infrastructure, such as our sports facilities and F&B outlets, and all the activities they facilitate that bring members together. The mind is reflected in our intellectual pursuits, such as lectures and dialogues that help to stimulate the intellectual awareness of our members and encourage continuous learning. The soul is

nurtured through our initiatives that help develop cultural awareness and encourage giving back to those less privileged within the broader Singapore community.

Over the last seven decades, NUSS has grown in all three areas. We will continue to maintain a balance between developments in these areas and use the celebrations in the past year as a springboard to bigger and better things in the decades to come, fulfilling our mission to support NUS and the broader Singapore community.

Thank you, and I hope you enjoy the festivities ahead.