

WELCOME ADDRESS
BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR TONG HSIEN-HUI
AT THE NUSS CHINESE NEW YEAR LOHEI DINNER
2 MARCH 2026, MONDAY AT 7PM
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL

NUS Pro-Chancellors – **Mr Chan Sek Keong, Mr Po’ad Mattar, Mrs Theresa Foo**
Chairman, Board of Trustees and NUS Honorary Member – **Mr Hsieh Fu Hua**
President (Academic Affairs) and Provost – **Professor Aaron Thean**
NUS Honorary Members – **Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Professor Wang**
Gungwu, Mr Wong Ngit Liong
NUS Senior Management
Fellow NUS Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening, and a warm welcome to this year’s NUS Lohei Dinner. This is an event I look forward to every year as it allows us to celebrate a reunion with our friends from NUS in a less formal and more convivial setting.

The Lunar New Year is not just about reunion but also about renewal, and for NUS, this is an opportunity to renew our solemn responsibility to NUS as not just a social club but a strategic alumni partner whose role is to strengthen engagement, deepen loyalty and ultimately convert this affinity into meaningful support for the University.

Over the past year, we have continued to grow our collaboration with NUS across multiple programs. I would like to acknowledge the support of **Ms Ovidia Lim** and her team at OAR who have helped to facilitate many of these engagements.

The NUS–NUS Mentorship Programme, led on our side by **Mr Eugene Tan**, is now in its 13th year, with 170 mentors and 212 mentees. It continues to connect members with students and young alumni to foster inter-generational exchange, in a period when such guidance is becoming more critical.

In the early part of this year, we welcomed **Professor Bernard Tan, Senior Vice Provost**, to share with our members how NUS was approaching the threat of AI to higher education and converting it into an opportunity. This gave our

members the confidence that NUS, inspite of its many remarkable achievements, is not resting on its laurels and is sensitive to rapid developments in adjacent sectors that may impact its current model of operation.

The NUSS Visiting Professorship Lecture Series continues to allow overseas professors to be invited to NUS to work with faculties in specific areas. The culmination of their visit is usually a public lecture hosted by NUSS. We look forward to the next lecture on the 19 March by **Professor Richard Goossens**, a specialist on the convergence of health and technology, who will speak on “Healthcare Beyond Sick Care”.

We are also excited about our upcoming collaboration on The Ridge, which will allow greater interaction between visitors to NUS and NUSS. We hope to be able to enhance the experience of visitors to NUS through facilities and services that NUSS can provide. I would like to acknowledge the effort of my predecessor, **Mr Edward Tay**, and our advisor, **Mr Johnny Tan**, who worked tirelessly with **Mr Koh Yan Leng** and his team to make this collaboration happen.

As you walked into the lobby earlier, you may have noticed that the static donors wall has been replaced by two LED screens featuring more dynamic content. With the support of **Professor Tan Eng Chye** and **Mr Edi Fung**, we were able to convert the walls to make the generosity of donors more visible, with the hope that visible generosity will encourage more generosity!

At the 10th Celebration of Love & Giving two weeks ago, we officially unveiled the LED Video Wall with **Professor Tan Eng Chye**. It features a commemorative video on the left and a digital Benefactors’ Roll on the right. We hope that this Roll of donors will continue to grow in the coming years to help benefit more students.

Since 2013, NUSS has pledged \$250,000 annually to the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund. Over the years and through the vision and foresight of a trio of tireless fundraisers, **Mr Johnny Tan**, **Mr Yeo Keng Joon** and **Mr Seah Cheng San**, this one-off donation has evolved to become a seed donation to catalyse similar fundraising efforts across the University. It is our pleasure this year to renew this

commitment to NUS and hope that it will lead to greater fundraising activities in the coming year.

This evening, as we gather for Lohei, let the traditional toss symbolise aspirations rising higher and higher and may it mark another year of strong partnership and shared progress between NUSS and NUS.

May I wish all of you and your families a healthy, prosperous and joyful year ahead.

马到成功，步步高升，恭喜发财!