

**OPENING ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT
MR TONG HSIEN-HUI
AT NUSS MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE “HOW CAN SINGAPORE STAY RELEVANT
IN A CHANGING WORLD?”
8 OCTOBER 2026, THURSDAY, 7PM
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE
DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL**

Ms Sim Ann, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Second Minister for Home Affairs,
Distinguished guests,
Fellow NUSS members and friends,

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to the NUSS Ministerial Dialogue.

Minister Sim, thank you for joining us tonight. We know how full your calendar is so we are grateful that you have made the time to engage the NUSS Community.

At NUSS, we believe that a university education does not end at graduation. Fostering thought leadership, intellectual discourse and lifelong learning is central to who we are. Tonight’s dialogue, organised by our Intellectual Pursuit Sub-Committee, reflects that commitment – bringing our members together with leaders and experts to exchange views on the issues that matter to Singapore.

Over the years, our Ministerial Dialogue series has given members a valued opportunity to engage our national leaders directly and candidly.

Tonight, we are pleased to continue this tradition with Minister Sim, as we take up a question that could hardly be more timely: *How can Singapore stay relevant in a changing world?*

We meet at a time of intensifying geopolitical contestation, rapid technological disruption and heightened economic volatility. The international order that has long supported openness, trade and cooperation – and from which a small, open economy like ours has benefited greatly – is being reshaped in profound ways.

For Singapore, this raises fundamental questions. How do we safeguard our interests and preserve our strategic agency? How do we renew the strengths that have kept us competitive? And how do we continue to seize opportunities for growth and prosperity in an increasingly uncertain world?

These are not questions for the Government alone. They concern all of us – as professionals, as employers, as parents and as citizens. As a community of graduates

working across business, the public service, research and the professions, our members have a real stake in the answers, and, I hope, a contribution to make to them.

Minister Sim, with responsibilities spanning both Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, you are well placed to help us understand how developments beyond our shores bear on our security and cohesion at home. We look forward to hearing your perspectives, and to a candid and engaging exchange with our members.

Thank you once again for being with us this evening and I would like to wish everyone a wonderful evening ahead