

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT
MR EDWARD S TAY AT NATIONAL DAY AWARDS CELEBRATORY DINNER
26 OCTOBER 2022, WEDNESDAY
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

Chief Health Scientist and NUSS Honorary Member, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, DUBC

Justice of the Court of Appeal, The Honourable Justice Andrew Pang Boon Leong, PJG

NUSS Past Presidents, Mr. Lim Soo Hwee and Mr. Eddie Lee Choy Peng,

Fellow Management Committee members

National Day Award Recipients

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening. The NUSS National Day Awards Celebratory Dinner is organised annually to celebrate the national achievements by our NUSS members. We could not do this for the past two years due to COVID-19. We are gratified to be able to celebrate this happy occasion again.

1. Background

The National Day Awards honour individuals who have made significant contributions towards Singapore. This year, 80 NUSS members were recognised. Among them are Professor Tan, and NUSS Past President, Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, who were awarded the Distinguished Service Order and Justice Phang, who was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. Sadly, Ambassador Pillai is unable to be with us tonight due to his health condition.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to congratulate all of you.

NUSS is privileged to have so many accomplished individuals among our members. I hope that your contributions will serve as an inspiration for the rest of us to do more to give back to the community.

2. Programmes and Initiatives

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of NUSS's initiatives that support NUS, our alma mater, and the wider community.

- **NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme**

The NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme is a partnership between NUSS and NUS that started in 2012. The programme connects NUS undergraduates seeking career advice and guidance, with the rich experience of our NUSS members. This year, we have matched 153 Mentors with 250 Mentees.

- **NUS Alumni Bursary Fund**

In 2013, NUSS pledged to donate up to \$250,000 a year to NUS to fund bursaries for needy students. This pledge seed funded the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund, or ABF, campaign. With the support of other alumni groups, the ABF campaign has a total endowment of \$29 million.

This year, NUSS raised \$705,000 for a charity golf event for the ABF Campaign. This is the highest amount we have raised since 2011 and This amount will go towards a newly launched NUSS Bursary.

- **Giving back to the underprivileged**

NUSS also seeks to reach out to underprivileged Singaporeans outside of NUS.

In conjunction with the recent annual NUS Cares initiative, many of our members and guests volunteered to organise activities and spent quality time with our two adopted charities – Children’s Wishing Well and Dover Park Hospice.

Not only do such efforts help develop a society of caring graduates, they serve as a constant reminder for us to build an inclusive society.

- **Intellectual dialogues**

The Society regularly welcomes esteemed speakers, both local and overseas, to share their insights at lectures dialogue sessions. The sessions help keep members engaged on the latest trends and issues that matter most to them. Our speakers include Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and former Prime Ministers Lee Kuan Yee and Goh Chok Tong. We were even privileged to have former President of Afghanistan, Mr. Ashraf Ghani, speak at NUSS.

At a fireside chat earlier this year, NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye shared with us on the future of learning. We look forward to the next instalment on 9 November where he will speak lifelong learning among graduates.

3. Conclusion

As we honour the achievements among us at this celebratory dinner, let us all be inspired to contribute more – be it small or big, towards our nation.

Thank you and have a great evening ahead!