

WELCOME ADDRESS
BY, NUSS PRESIDENT, MR TONG HSIEN-HUI
AT NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT & CONFERMENT OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
THURSDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2024, 7:00 PM
DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

NUS Pro Chancellors Mr Po'ad Mattar and Mr Chan Sek Keong
Chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees, Mr Hsieh Fu Hua,
NUSS Honorary Member, Prof Wang Gungwu
NUSS Past Presidents
New Members to the NUSS Family
Fellow NUSS Members

A very good evening. On behalf of the NUSS Management Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this New Members' Night.

Tonight, we gather for two important reasons. Firstly, to welcome the newest members to the NUSS family. Secondly, to confer the distinct honour of the NUSS Honorary Membership upon Mr Hsieh Fu Hua.

The Honorary Membership represents the highest recognition NUSS can bestow on an individual and is awarded to those who have exemplified outstanding leadership and made significant contributions to NUSS, NUS and the wider community. Past recipients include political leaders like Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mr Goh Chok Tong, as well as industry and university leaders like Professor Wang Gungwu, Mr Wong Ngit Liong, Professor Lim Pin and Professor Tan Chorh Chuan.

Mr Hsieh Fu Hua is a distinguished leader whose vision and dedication have greatly enhanced our alma mater as Chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees. Beyond his notable career in financial services, he is a passionate advocate for philanthropy, education, and the arts — embodying the values that NUSS holds dear.

To our new members, you are joining a vibrant community that is more than just a club. I often liken NUSS to a person. To build a rounded personality, you need to achieve a balance between the body, mind and soul.

Similarly, NUSS seeks to achieve a similar balance. The body of the Society is represented by our physical infrastructure. Our sporting facilities, including the swimming pool and gym are very popular with members. Most sports have interest groups within NUSS that we call sections. These include the Tennis section, Billiards section and Pickleball section, etc. Even without dedicated physical facilities, our golf section is one of the most active at NUSS!

Running our own F&B outlets is also important. There are a total of 10 F&B outlets and bars across our three Guild Houses that serve as key platforms to allow members to meet, socialise and relax. These also enable us to run activities like wine and whiskey pairing dinners, St Patrick's Day celebrations, and, most recently we held an Oktoberfest celebration right here at this Guild Hall. At the end of November, we will be closing our 70th Anniversary celebrations with an NUSS Day Carnival, with DPM Heng Swee Keat as the Guest of Honour.

The mind of the Society is built around our deep commitment to the intellectual engagement and continuous learning of our members. Notably, this year we have welcomed Dato' Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Menteri Besar of Johor, to deliver our 70th Anniversary Lecture on cross strait relations, and Prof Uri Gneezy from UC San Diego who spoke on crafting incentives to influence behaviour. In November, we look forward to welcoming Mdm Halimah Yacob as a guest speaker at our Commentary Dialogue, where she will touch on matters relating to social progress and cohesion. There are also a number of talks and courses that are held all throughout the year and I encourage you to participate if you can.

We are mindful that just focusing on the body and mind will not be meaningful without a soul. Our soul is embodied within our initiatives to raise funds for needy students and giving an avenue for members to participate in cultural interest groups and community care projects. In January, we held the "Plant-it-forward Challenge," where \$1000 was donated for every tree planted, raising \$70,000. More recently, the NUSS Charity Golf Tournament raised \$777,000, where all funds raised went to the NUSS 70th Anniversary Bursary to benefit needy NUS students.

Like our sports sections, our cultural sections are equally active, including DanceSport, DramaWorks, choir, music and many more. Should you be keen to sign up to join any of the cultural or sports sections, I believe the convenors are at the dinner tonight and can address any questions you may have.

In closing, I extend my deepest appreciation to Mr Hsieh Fu Hua for joining us tonight. His presence continues to strengthen the bond between NUSS and the broader NUS community, and we are grateful for his commitment to the future of education in Singapore.

I would also like to welcome all our new members to the NUSS family and may tonight be the start of many fulfilling experiences, enriching friendships, and shared successes. Have a wonderful evening ahead.

NUSS HONORARY MEMBER – MR HSIEH FU HUA

Citation for Mr Hsieh Fu Hua

Delivered by Mr Nakoorsha Abdul Kadir

Good evening,
NUS Pro Chancellors Mr Po'ad Mattar and Mr Chan Sek Keong
Chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees, Mr Hsieh Fu Hua,
NUSS Honorary Member, Prof Wang Gungwu
NUSS President Mr Tong Hsien-Hui,
NUSS Past Presidents,
New Members to the NUSS Family
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Tonight, we gather to honour Mr Hsieh Fu Hua with the conferment of Honorary Membership, celebrating his exceptional contributions and leadership.

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Fu Hua, Chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees, on being awarded the Distinguished Service Order at this year's National Day Awards 2024. This prestigious honour recognises his outstanding contributions to Singapore across various sectors, including education, healthcare, and the arts.

An NUS alumnus, Fu Hua has served as Chairman of the NUS Board since 2017, guiding the University's strategic efforts towards global leadership. Under his stewardship, NUS has introduced impactful initiatives to better prepare graduates for the future, enhance research, and strengthen industry collaboration. His commitment to ensuring sound governance is evident through his focus on succession planning for leadership roles and fostering a proactive approach to risk management.

As Chairman of the National University Health System (NUHS) Board since 2019, Fu Hua has also supported efforts to improve community health and innovation.

Beyond NUS and NUHS, Fu Hua is involved in numerous organisations, including chairing boards such as WWF Singapore and Eastspring Investments. He is also a key advocate for social services and the arts, championing mental health and philanthropic efforts for numerous causes.

His leadership has had an impact on multiple sectors, and NUS is honoured to have Fu Hua as our Honorary Member, recognising his lasting contributions to both the University community and Singapore at large.

Thank you.