

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY
NUSS PRESIDENT MR TONG HSIEN-HUI,
AT THE NUSS-NUS MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME AY2024/2025: WELCOME DINNER
8 OCTOBER 2024, FRIDAY, 7:00 PM,
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL**

Associate Professor Ho Han Kiat, Dean of Students – Office of Student Affairs

Fellow NUSS Members,

Mentors and Mentees

Good evening and welcome to the start of the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme for Academic Year 2024/2025. It is wonderful to see such strong participation, with 124 mentors and 223 mentees embarking on this meaningful journey together.

As we begin the 12th cycle of this programme, I am proud to reflect on its steady growth since its inception in 2012. With around 600 mentors and 1,800 mentees having benefited from this platform, it stands as a testament to our shared dedication to nurturing the next generation of NUS graduates and equipping them for the future.

One of the greatest strengths of the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme is the diversity of industries represented by our mentors. From healthcare, finance, and law to emerging areas like sustainability and ecotourism, you'll find experienced professionals ready to guide you. This variety ensures that, whatever your career goals, you'll receive valuable insights and tailored guidance.

Through this programme, we strive to achieve three key objectives. First, **Holistic Development**, where students gain valuable insights from seasoned professionals, broadening their perspectives beyond the classroom. Second, **Career Readiness**, by helping students transition smoothly from university to the workplace, honing their communication, leadership, and interpersonal skills. And finally, **Networking**, as we foster meaningful connections that link mentees to the wider graduate community, building a strong foundation for future opportunities.

This mentorship programme is just one of the many ways NUS fosters a lifelong relationship with NUS and the wider graduate community. We believe in the power of mentorship to not only guide students in their future careers but also to make them professionals capable of navigating the complexities of today's dynamic world.

To our mentors, I want to extend my gratitude for your generosity and dedication. You play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our graduates, and your commitment to giving back is inspiring.

To our mentees, this is a unique opportunity to learn, exchange ideas, and build meaningful connections. Engage fully, be curious, and share your perspectives. The relationships you form and the insights you gain through this program can have a lasting impact on both your personal and professional journey.

In closing, I would like to thank Associate Professor Ho Han Kiat and the NUS Office of Student Affairs for their invaluable support and partnership. I would also like to thank Jeffrey Khoo, Chairman of the NUS Alumni Development Subcommittee, and his committee, as well as the NUS Secretariat for working hard to put this programme together.

As we begin this new cycle, I look forward to witnessing the positive impact we will continue to make together. Let's inspire and empower the next generation of leaders.

Thank you, and I wish everyone an enriching and fulfilling mentorship journey ahead.