

WELCOME ADDRESS
BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR TONG HSIEN-HUI
AT THE NUSS LO HEI DINNER
4 FEBRUARY 2025, TUESDAY, AT 7.15PM
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL

Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong

Madam Tan Choo Leng

NUS Pro Chancellors, Mr Chan Sek Keong and Mrs Theresa Foo

Chairman of the NUS Board of Trustees and NUSS Honorary Member, Mr Hsieh Fu Hua

NUS President and NUSS Honorary Member, Prof Tan Eng Chye

Members of the NUS Board of Trustees, Justice Judith Prakash, Mr Bahren Shaari

NUSS Honorary Members

Esteemed Members of the NUS Senior Management Team

Fellow NUSS Members

Good evening and a very Happy Lunar New Year to everyone! The NUSS Lo Hei Dinner has become almost a tradition that allows us to celebrate this festive occasion with our friends from NUS and I would like to thank you all for taking the time to join us tonight.

As many of you will know, NUSS celebrated its 70th Anniversary last year with a slew of activities and events. Even as we celebrated this milestone in our history, we wanted to ensure that we continue to give back to the NUS community in a meaningful way. One of the key pillars of our success is the bond between NUSS and NUS. This strong relationship has empowered us to support impactful programmes that help to enrich the NUS community.

NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme

Last year, we worked with NUS to enhance the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme. Now in its 12th cycle, we have introduced Associate Mentors to complement our experienced mentors so as to offer different perspectives to the 223 mentees paired with the 124 mentors this academic year. Over the years, this programme has positively impacted the lives of nearly 1,800 mentees, helping them to bridge the gap between university life and the professional world.

NUSS Bursary Fund

We also undertook special fundraising campaigns to continue to support needy NUS students through the NUSS Bursary Fund.

Early last year, we launched our 70th Anniversary celebrations with a "Plant-It-Forward Challenge" where for every \$1,000 donation, a tree was planted, and we raised \$70,000. Later in the year, the NUSS 70th Anniversary Charity Golf tournament, raised \$777,000, the highest amount ever for an NUSS Charity Golf event.

Supporting the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund

We remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund. Since 2013, NUSS has pledged \$250,000 annually, to serve as a catalyst for the NUS community's fundraising efforts. This initiative not only uplifts underprivileged students but also fosters collective giving among alumni and broadens the base of support for NUS. Over the years, this contribution has inspired other fundraising drives within the NUS community, raising \$34.5 million (before government matching) as of 31 December 2024.

Tonight, we are proud to fulfil this pledge once again with a donation of \$250,000 for 2025. These funds provide vital support to students from lower-income backgrounds, helping them access education and essential resources, thereby fostering equality and empowering future generations.

Before I end, I would like to thank Prof Tan Eng Chye and his team's unwavering support of NUSS over the years. Just as the year of the Snake signifies evolution, may the relationship between NUSS and NUS continue to evolve while we remain united in purpose to benefit all our stakeholders.

I would once again like to wish you all a Happy Lunar New Year and a great evening ahead!