

Speech by Prof Tan Eng Chye, NUS President
NUS Alumni Awards 2023
2 November 2023, 7.15 pm, Conrad Singapore Orchard

Mdm Halimah Yacob and Mr Mohamed Abdullah Alhabshee

Excellencies

Pro Chancellors

NUS Chairman and Trustees

Co-Chair and Members of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board

Alumni Award recipients

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to the NUS Alumni Awards 2023!

This is a very special evening for us. Once every two years, our University comes together to celebrate exceptional individuals in our alumni community.

Tonight, we have the honour of celebrating Madam Halimah Yacob, our 10th Chancellor and Honorary Graduate – and this evening's Eminent Alumni Award recipient – for her outstanding contributions to NUS and Singapore. You will have seen the recent news that Madam Halimah received the Order of Temasek (With High Distinction). This is the nation's highest civilian honour. We are pleased to add to her honours tonight.

We will also recognise another 34 alumni who have furthered our University's storied history of impact and excellence. Collectively, this evening's Alumni Awards recipients have not only found success in their respective fields, but elevated what it means to be an alumnus or alumna of our institution: their achievements have enriched culture, advanced science, deepened humanity, and have made society stronger and better.

This evening's award recipients are highly talented, outstanding individuals who have distinguished themselves across diverse sectors. We have with us tonight a former President of the Republic of Singapore; a Senior Judge of the Supreme Court; a former Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore; a former President of the UN Security Council; a former Assistant High

Commissioner (Operations) at UNHCR; a winner of the Cultural Medallion; the Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore; the Regional President of Applied Materials; and the High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya, who is also one of the nation's foremost champions of the Malay language and culture. Their contributions are too many to name, and the awards we bestow on these individuals this evening, are richly deserved.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge our Outstanding Young Alumni and Team (Alumni) Award winners. They give us such pride and hope for forthcoming generations. These alumni have dedicated themselves to some of the most pressing and important challenges of our time, including mental health support, sustainability, healthcare innovation, and society cohesion, among others. They have continued our tradition of developing graduates who are curious about the world and have a passion for building a better future. We know that they have bright futures ahead of them, and we look forward to watching their stories unfold.

That this diverse cohort of awardees are linked by their affiliation to NUS is a source of pride to us all. It is also an affirmation of the transformative power of an NUS education and the multiple pathways it offers for growth.

On behalf of the University, I extend my heartiest congratulations to this year's Award recipients. NUS is deeply proud of you; you have committed yourselves to leading lives of purpose and are an inspiration to your fellow alumni and students.

Before I close, I want to thank my fellow Awards Selection Committee members for their hard work and discernment in identifying our deserving awardees.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank everyone present tonight for supporting our award winners in their endeavours. Though there are 35 names being celebrated, we also celebrate the family members, friends and faculty members who have lent their love, support and guidance to our winners. This evening is for you as well.

Once again, please join me in congratulating Madam Halimah Yacob and all our award recipients.