

A Message

FROM THE PRESIDENT

22 February 2019

Dear Colleagues, Alumni and Friends

I hope that you had a good festive break. I would like to share with you some of the latest developments at the University:

NUS Pro-Chancellors

After two decades of dedicated service to the University, Dr Cheong Siew Keong and Mr Ngiam Tong Dow have retired as NUS Pro-Chancellors last month. Mr Ngiam and Dr Cheong were appointed in 1999 and 2000 respectively, and have presided over numerous Commencement ceremonies and supported us at many University events. Mr Stephen Lee Ching Yen, who was appointed Pro-Chancellor in 2015, had earlier stepped down in 2018 to assume a new appointment at another local university.

Mr Ngiam held a sterling 40-year career in public service as Permanent Secretary in various ministries including Finance, Trade and Industry and National Development, and was conferred the Distinguished Service Order in 1999. Mr Ngiam was actively involved in education and advisory roles at NUS: he was an Adjunct Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy from 2005 to 2017, and also served as Chairman of the NUS Centennial Campaign Advisory Board in 2003. Dr Cheong was formerly Chairman of the Finance Committee of the University of Singapore Council in 1975 before becoming Chairman of the Council from 1992 to 2000. He also served as a Member of the Council of Presidential Advisors from 1992 to 2008. Dr Cheong was awarded the Public Service Star in 1980 and conferred an Honorary Doctor of Letters by NUS in 1982.

NUS is privileged to have had both Mr Ngiam and Dr Cheong as our Pro-Chancellors for almost 20 years, and Mr Lee for three years. We send our deepest appreciation to the three gentlemen for their unwavering support and selfless contributions to the University.

We are pleased to announce that three new NUS Pro-Chancellors – Mrs Theresa Foo, Mr Teo Siong Seng and Mr Gautam Banerjee – have been appointed by NUS Chancellor and Singapore President Madam Halimah Yacob. Their appointments were effective from 1 January 2019.

Mrs Theresa Foo currently serves as the Chairman of Singapore Business Federation Foundation. She works closely with the business community to build an inclusive Singapore by encouraging, enabling and enhancing the contributions of businesses

to the social, vocational and educational upliftment of Singaporeans in need of assistance. Mrs Foo has made history twice in her 35-year banking career – she was the first female vice president in Bank of America’s Singapore operations in 1977, and subsequently in 1994, she became Standard Chartered Bank’s first Asian female chief executive. She now makes history again by being the first female NUS Pro-Chancellor. An ardent supporter of the arts, Mrs Foo’s dedication to promoting the arts in Singapore was recognised when she was named Champion of the Arts in 2001.

Mr Teo Siong Seng is Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation and Managing Director of Pacific International Lines (Pte) Ltd, one of the largest shipowners and containership operators in Southeast Asia. He is also Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of PIL’s listed subsidiary, Singamas Container Holdings Ltd, Hong Kong. Mr Teo’s other appointments include the Honorary President of Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Honorary Consul of The United Republic of Tanzania to Singapore, Director of Business China, Enterprise Singapore and a Member of the Future Economy Council. He was also a former Nominated Member of Parliament.

Mr Gautam Banerjee is Chairman of the asset management firm Blackstone Singapore. He also serves as an independent director on a number of boards including Singapore Airlines Limited and Singapore Telecommunications Limited. His other appointments include Chairman of raiSE, Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise, a term trustee of SINDA and a member of the Legal Service Commission. He is currently a member of the Yale-NUS College Governing Board. Mr Banerjee was previously with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Singapore, India and East Asia for 30 years. He was a former Nominated Member of Parliament and had also served as a member of the Economic Strategies Committee chaired by Singapore’s Minister of Finance.

Mrs Foo, Mr Teo and Mr Banerjee will join current Pro-Chancellors Mr Poad Mattar and Mr Chan Sek Keong in the University’s Chancellery. Please join me in welcoming Mrs Foo, Mr Teo and Mr Banerjee as NUS’ new Pro-Chancellors.

Deputy President (Innovation & Enterprise)

I am pleased to announce that Professor Freddy Boey, Senior Vice President (Graduate Education & Research Translation) will become Deputy President (Innovation & Enterprise) from 1 April 2019. Freddy will be responsible for the University’s initiatives and activities in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship and research translation, as well as graduate studies. He will assume leadership of NUS Enterprise when Dr Lily Chan, CEO of NUS Enterprise, steps down at the end of March.

As SVP (GE & RT), Freddy has oversight over all graduate education initiatives as well as the Industry Liaison Office. He launched the Graduate Research Innovation Programme within a short timeframe to rapidly increase NUS’ research translation efforts. He has also been instrumental in setting up the NUS Materials Research Lab, as well as our collaboration with Tianjin University in the TJU-NUS Joint Institute in Fuzhou.

Freddy is known to many of us as a translational research champion and a highly successful academic and entrepreneur who has helped to raise Singapore’s profile

globally as a hub for medical device innovation. He holds more than 100 patents and is the founder of several spin-offs.

I look forward to Freddy's enhanced contributions in his new, expanded leadership role. I am confident that the University's research translation, entrepreneurial initiatives as well as graduate studies will grow under his management.

I would like to extend our deep gratitude and appreciation to Dr Lily Chan, who has led NUS Enterprise with great dedication for the last 13 years. Lily, who joined NUS in 2006, will continue on in an advisory capacity from 1 April 2019.

During her tenure as CEO of NUS Enterprise, Lily transformed the University's enterprise division into one of the most admired and respected higher education entrepreneurial ecosystems. She has nurtured hundreds of entrepreneurs and start-ups, designing a comprehensive support platform that has extended off-campus and overseas.

Under Lily's stewardship, the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) programme grew steadily from its initial location in Silicon Valley to 12 current locations across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. NOC alumni have also founded over 370 companies during this time. She established numerous co-working spaces, ideation and validation programmes, as well as support services benefitting more than 200 companies annually. BLOCK71, an ecosystem builder and global connector, has expanded beyond Singapore to six other locations in the US, China, and Indonesia.

Lily also played a key role in developing Innovfest Unbound into Southeast Asia's largest innovation festival, and in formulating the NUS proposal which resulted in the founding of the Global Innovation Alliance, a key recommendation in Singapore's 2016 Committee on the Future Economy report.

Please join me in thanking Dr Lily Chan for her many contributions to NUS and Singapore, and welcoming Prof Freddy Boey as our Deputy President (Innovation & Enterprise).

More information is available at [NUS News](#).

NUS Open Day

I am happy to share that this year's Open Day will take place at University Town on Saturday, 9 March 2019. The NUS Open Day is a special showcase of our outstanding educational and experiential offerings by our faculties, schools, NUS Students' Union, student interest groups and clubs as well as student-related units for prospective students and their families. I am particularly proud of the breadth and depth of NUS' offerings at the event, which cover undergraduate, graduate as well as adult learning programmes.

I send my encouragement and thanks to our many colleagues and students who are working hard to ensure that our visitors will be warmly welcomed, and that they will have easy access to the information they need and the professors and senior students they would like to meet.

My colleagues and I strive to ensure that our students receive a top-quality education that supports their areas of interest, and prepares them for their future careers. An NUS education is one that goes beyond degrees; it is a holistic

experience that is aimed at inspiring our community to work together in a spirit of innovation and enterprise for a better Singapore, and ultimately, a better world.

With best wishes,

Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science '85)
NUS President