

NUS BIZAD RUN 2020 & LAUNCH OF NUS115
Speech by NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye
on Saturday, 11 January 2020 at NUS Business School

President of the Republic of Singapore and NUS Chancellor, Madam Halimah Yacob

Dean of NUS Business School, Professor Andrew Rose

President of the NUS Business School Alumni Association, Mr Tan Boon Chin

Chairperson of the Bizad Charity Run, Mr Chua Hung Meng

Distinguished guests

Students, colleagues and alumni

It is wonderful to join you this evening for the 2020 NUS Bizad Charity Run. Congratulations to everyone on a run well completed! I am delighted to see the NUS community, along with members of the public, turn up with such force today in support of charity. Our special thanks to NUS Chancellor, President Halimah Yacob, for gracing this occasion as Guest of Honour.

I am pleased to announce that your collective efforts today have raised over \$400,000 for charity – this sum is the highest amount ever in the history of this race! It is especially momentous as this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Bizad Charity Run, which has seen close to 11,500 participants since it began in 2010. That this event has been around for a decade is testament to our University's commitment to giving back to society. To date, the NUS Business School and Bizad community have raised over \$1.7 million in support of a wide range of causes, from empowering those with cerebral palsy, those who are physically disabled to mentoring at-risk youth, just to name a few.

The funds raised will aid a number of beneficiaries – they will enhance the quality of life for seniors through the Touch Community Services (Elderly Care), as well as help financially needy Business students through the NUS Business School Alumni Association Bursary Fund, NUS Business Student Support Fund, Lim Chin Memorial Fund, and Malaysian Community Bursary Fund.

The success of today's run augurs fresh, hopeful beginnings as we return reinvigorated to start a brand new year, and a new semester ahead. For NUS, 2020 is all the more significant because it marks the 115th year of our founding in 1905. Even as we look back on what we have achieved and the long way we have come since our humble beginnings as a medical school with only 23 students, we look forward to a bright and invigorating journey ahead, where our University can play an important role in shaping the future.

“Shaping the Future” is the theme of NUS115, which is very pertinent to the world we live in today. Disruptive technologies are bringing about a different ethos, and every sector from education to healthcare to finance and others is facing sweeping changes. How may we, as one of Asia's leading universities, remain competitive and continue to innovate and contribute to a better future for the community at large? To this end, we have inaugurated the NUS115 Distinguished Speaker Series, a quarterly event which will take place this year, where eminent speakers and renowned thought-leaders are invited to share their insights on topical issues and real-world concerns that would affect our lives. I hope you will have the opportunity to attend some of these talks and contribute to the conversation.

We are indeed privileged that our NUS Chancellor Madam Halimah Yacob is here with us today to launch NUS115 together, with a simple cake-cutting formality. I know all of you are probably tired after the energising run but please do join us in this little celebration before you leave.

One hundred and fifteen years ago, NUS was founded by the community, for the community. One hundred and fifteen years on, we will continue to embody that indomitable spirit of giving and tradition of excellence in all that we do, as we seek to serve society and innovate for a brighter future for Singapore and the world.

Thank you.