

For The University Leadership Programme For Japanese Universities

Welcome Remarks by Prof Tan Eng Chye, NUS Provost

24 Jan 2017, 6.30 pm
At The University Club

Distinguished Professors from across Universities in Japan
Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports Science and Technology,
and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
Colleagues and friends

Good evening.

On behalf of the National University of Singapore, I would like to bid a very warm welcome to our colleagues and friends from Japan. It is our pleasure and privilege to welcome you to Singapore, and to our campus here at NUS. I enjoyed meeting with you earlier today.

[Note: Participants would have just toured University Town prior to dinner]

I also trust that you had an enjoyable and immersive walking tour of University Town, or UTown as we call it. UTown opened its doors in August 2011, and it is an extension of the main Kent Ridge campus where we are now. With UTown, NUS had the opportunity to design and pioneer a unique residential college educational model of integrated living and learning on campus, a first in Singapore's higher education landscape. This is one example of the many educational innovations at NUS, where we seek to try new things and scale new heights while creating a vibrant and rich campus ecosystem. UTown combines the social and intellectual experience of campus living with a rigorous multidisciplinary academic programme. The infrastructure setup offers a conducive environment for mutual interaction, exchange of ideas and peer group learning, within the classroom and beyond.

Looking at the world today, I believe we all agree that life in the 21st century is challenging, fraught with rapid change and uncertainty. There is much complexity, competition and change. Higher education, a sector built on many fine traditions, will not be spared. Universities will

have to alert to how the global economy, industry and world order are evolving, and to be nimble and responsive to the shifting trends, so as to stay relevant and to add value to society. Most importantly, Universities must not lose sight of the singular focus on quality and excellence. On a more upbeat note, these are exciting times for us in Asia. The gravity of the world is shifting towards Asia and Asia is growing in preeminence in every field, whether it be in economics, industry, commerce, academia or the arts. Universities in Asia can distinguish ourselves by drawing upon the profound cultural heritage, ethics and diversity of Asia.

Over the next two days, we have put together a programme to share with you the educational, research and entrepreneurial innovations at NUS. Our hope is not only to share what NUS has implemented, but more importantly to be able to create a platform where we can mutually learn from experiences from your universities as well. Japan is home to many of the finest universities in Asia; Japanese firms are well known and respected internationally for being at the forefront of design, quality, precision, innovation and technology, supported by the research and training by your universities. It is a fascinating eco-system you have in Japan between universities, industry and enterprise NUS is thus very privileged to have you, senior leaders from a group of distinguished Japanese universities, with us in NUS this week, and we look forward to a very fruitful and productive time together.

Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to all of you, and I hope you will also have some time to enjoy the sights, sounds and food in Singapore. Have a pleasant evening. Thank you.