

**Speech by NUS President, Prof Tan Chorh Chuan**  
**NUS Alumni Awards Ceremony 2009**  
**Shaw Foundation Alumni House, 10 November 2009**

Senior Minister and Co-ordinating Minister for National Security, Professor S Jayakumar and Mrs Jayakumar

Chairman, Temasek Holdings, Mr S Dhanabalan and Mrs Dhanabalan

Chairman, NUS Board of Trustees, Mr Wong Ngit Liong and Mrs Wong  
Members of the NUS Board of Trustees

NUS Alumni Award Recipients

Distinguished Guests

Alumni, Colleagues and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

Tonight is a happy and special event. We gather to recognise the outstanding achievements of our NUS alumni and to celebrate their great contributions and impact in Singapore and globally.

People are the most valuable asset of our University. It is also through our people, that NUS creates important value for Singapore and for society.

At the University Awards ceremony in April, we recognised NUS faculty who excelled in education – dedicated individuals who have helped students discover their latent talents and unleashed the potential hidden within. They have done so by challenging our students intellectually and by encouraging them to move out of their comfort zone so as to grow as individuals. We also feted our outstanding researchers whose research and innovation are at the cutting edge in their fields.



Dear faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends, as part of the NUS community, we are in the same boat. We should take pride in the fact that our boat is in fine shape, and that we have forged ahead strongly despite stiff competition.

Today, NUS is highly respected around the world. We are among the leaders in Global Education - our students can choose from many academic pathways as well as unique educational programmes that give them a strong global experience. These range from student Exchange Programmes to joint-degrees with top universities overseas, to a year-abroad in one of 6 NUS Overseas Colleges.

NUS has also made dramatic advances in the quality and impact of our research and its application.

The compass for the NUS boat is set - to bring NUS to become a leading global university centred in Asia.

Our new University Town will help transform NUS' education by enabling students living in our Residential Colleges to learn together in small groups which explore important global issues with appropriate Asian perspectives. The first phase of University Town in 2011, will allow us to create a highly diverse and vibrant community – one which is global and Asian and highly multi-disciplinary.

At the same time, our three Research Centres of Excellence and the five integrative research clusters we are building will help NUS grow peaks which can be among the leaders in the world.

We will also endeavour to create value for the wider community through thought-leadership, innovation and deeper collaboration with the public and private sectors and with industry.

The waters the NUS boat is entering are uncharted and the seas choppy. But we sail with confidence because our boat is driven forward with great intensity by the talent, determination, boldness and creativity of our people – the members of the extended NUS community.

Tonight, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of our outstanding alumni. Tonight, I also invite our alumni to put the full force of their talent behind our university – to be a part of the wind in our sails. Driving NUS proudly forward, in uncharted waters, to become a leading global university.

Forever Alumni! NUS Forever!

Thank you.