

**Appreciation Dinner held in honour of
NTU President, Prof Su Guaning
30 June 2011 at Nanyang Auditorium**

A Tribute to Su Guaning

Salutations

Ministers

Your Excellencies

Dr & Mrs Tony Tan

Mr Koh Boon Hwee

Prof Su Guaning

Prof Bertil Andersson

Prof Freddy Boey

Ladies and Gentlemen

A Tribute from NUS

In introducing me, the MC has said that I represent NTU's main rival, NUS. I like that thought, although I doubt if I had been chosen for that reason. It was probably because I am a member of the Su Guaning fan club. I do, however, want to use this occasion to make a plea to NTU and NUS. I hope that the leaders of the two universities will agree that the relations between their universities should be based on cooperation and competition. They should cooperate where their interests coincide and compete where they do not. They should not let their competition become acrimonious or hostile. We should inspire each other. I was impressed by what Boon Hwee said a few minutes ago about the fact that 70% of the graduating class of 2010, gave something back to NTU. NUS should try to emulate NTU's achievement.

Su Guaning's Three Achievements

In accordance with my wife's wise advice, I want to share with you my three reasons for praising Su Guaning tonight. First, he has successfully led the expansion and transformation of NTU into a world

class research-intensive university, with special strengths in science and engineering. In recent years, the University has expanded to include a faculty of humanities and social sciences, and in two years, a medical school.

Second, he has substantially enhanced NTU's research capabilities, especially, in engineering. For example, NTU competed successfully for two of MOE's research centres of excellence awards. Prof Su has also succeeded in recruiting scientists of world repute, such as, Bertil Andersson and Jerry Sieh, to join the NTU faculty.

Third, with his bi-lingual and bi-cultural competencies, Prof Su has helped to make NTU's Chinese "mayors" programme a great success. Through this programme and in other ways he has helped to create a strong network of connections in China, for NTU and for Singapore.

In conclusion, let me say to my good friend, Su Guanling, that you have built upon the solid foundation left to you by Cham Tao Soon and taken NTU to a higher peak. You can look back on your legacy with pride and satisfaction. You have developed a bold vision for NTU's future. At the same time (I hope Bertil is listening to this), you have not forgotten NTU's past and you have sought to harness the Nantah spirit. I am confident that Bertil Andersson will, in turn, consolidate your achievements and take NTU to an even higher peak.

Thank you very much.

Tommy Koh
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