

NUS President's State of the University address

Our world is fast changing and NUS needs to make full use of the window of opportunities to impel the university forward and scale new heights in a changed world. To achieve this, NUS President Tan Chorh Chuan said the University would need to continue to recruit and retain top talent, transform the NUS education and build upon its excellent progress in research to make it world-class.

Delivering his State of the University Address on 30 October 2009 at the University Cultural Centre Theatre, Prof Tan spoke on the implications of the fundamental changes in the world economy and financial system after the global financial crisis for NUS. He also highlighted Asia's ascent on the world stage and the need for the University to build on its expertise as a well-connected hub by offering a new and integrative understanding of Asia.

Speaking on the implications of the changed world, Prof Tan noted that NUS will have to make three strategic adjustments in the areas of research and institutional development: intensifying efforts to make NUS a pre-eminent knowledge hub in Asia; increasing the University's agility to be more responsive to

change; and thirdly, boosting NUS' standing as a global university by extending its global reach.

To achieve an integrated understanding of the key issues in Asia, NUS will focus on advancing more integrative research by building five integrative research clusters. In the area of Asia studies, Prof Tan said: **"The new NUS Global Asia Institute set up in September this year will provide the platform for integrative Asia-studies (and) an initial set of research themes has been defined following extensive consultations."** He added that a critical output of GAI will be **finding solutions to real-world problems.**

An Integrative Sustainability Solutions Cluster will also be established to create powerful synergies among the NUS research groups and centres working in the area of environmental sustainability. To meet the breadth of expertise required for such an approach, the University will be drawing on existing staff across NUS and recruiting top-notch faculty. To-date, besides the research clusters in Asia Studies and Sustainability, NUS has embarked on building



SCALING NEW HEIGHTS IN A CHANGED WORLD: Prof Tan Chorh Chuan delivering his SOU address to a packed theatre at the University Cultural Centre.