"Give back to alma maters"

Lee Kuan Yew says former students play key role in helping local varsities succeed

By Li Xueling

RETURN to teach, mentor or donate.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew yesterday underscored the impor-
tance of former students giving back to their alma
mater by stepping forward to support new initiatives.

He was speaking last night after being conferred
honorary membership by the National University
of Singapore Society (NUSS), a graduate club, in
recognition of his contributions to the nation.

He has been conferring his honorary membership from society president
Johnny Tan (left photo: Raffles DB)

Mr Lee said that alma maters are critical to the success and survival of
universities, and he hoped Singapore's universities would "continue
their success and prosperity, and put us in a position to be
one of the top three universities in the world".

"The universities are the heart and soul of the nation. They are
important in moulding the future leaders of the nation."

He noted that students often learned life skills in their alma maters
and that it was important for the nation to support it.

Mr Lee said the university's role had changed over the years.

"There used to be a sense of pride in going to university.
But now, with education no longer being the only path to success,
there is a greater emphasis on employability and skills,
"Mr Lee added.

He said that former students can also play a role in supporting
their alma maters.

"It is important for former students to support their alma maters,
whether financially or by volunteering their time and expertise.

The former students can also act as ambassadors for their alma maters,
"Mr Lee said.

He noted that the University of Cambridge's alumnus, Sir Tim
Brown, was a former student of the university who had
made significant contributions.

"The former students can also play a role in supporting the
universities in different ways, such as by providing
scholarships or funding research projects.

Mr Lee said that the goal was to create a culture of giving back to
the alma maters.

"I hope that former students will look back and
realize the importance of their alma maters
and give back in whatever way they can.

Mr Lee also said that universities should be places
where students can learn and grow.

"Our universities should provide a stimulating and challenging
environment for students to develop their full potential,
"Mr Lee said.

He said that universities should also provide opportunities for
students to engage with the wider community.

"Our universities should provide opportunities for students
of all backgrounds to come together and share ideas,
"Mr Lee said.

He said that the country needs to continue
supporting its universities.

"I hope that our universities will continue to
excel and produce world-class scholars and
leaders,
"Mr Lee said.

He said that the contributions of former students
will be remembered and celebrated.

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remembered and celebrated,
"Mr Lee said.

He said that the nation should be proud of its
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"I hope that the nation will be proud of its universities,
"Mr Lee said.

He said that the nation should be grateful for the contributions
of former students.

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