

Prime Minister of Australia visits

The Honourable Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia, announced the creation of a new Australian international scholarship programme "The Australia Awards" at the University Cultural Centre on 13 November 2009. The Awards were inspired by the original Colombo Plan which over the years, have benefitted more than 40,000 young people from across Asia.

In his earlier remarks at the event, NUS President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan spoke on the long-standing alliance between Singapore and Australia. He said: "With a long history of warm and strong partnership, Singapore and Australia share much common ground, not the least of which is a belief in the power of education to transform and shape the world and to build cross-cultural

understanding. As a global university, NUS shares this belief strongly. We draw inspiration and ideas from bold initiatives that have been launched in Australian educational institutions."

Accompanying the Prime Minister on his visit to NUS was his wife, Ms Thérèse Rein, the Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, His Excellency Douglas Chester and Mrs Lynette Chester.

Prime Minister Rudd was in Singapore to participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit 2009, an international forum that brought together more than 800 of the world's top business leaders to Singapore to meet with leaders of some of the Pacific Rim's most powerful nations. ■



SUPPORTING INTERCONNECTIVITY THROUGH EDUCATION: The Honourable Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia, addressing the audience at the University Cultural Centre.

During his address at NUS, which was attended by some 20 international and local media, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd commended the University. He said: "It is a University of remarkable quality, with outstanding international links and a great reputation for cooperation and entrepreneurial drive."

He noted that Australia saw this quality in the international student exchange programmes between NUS and eight Australian universities, as well as in the joint degree programmes offered with some of the world's top institutions, including his alma mater, the Australian National University. He added: "Your hosting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities also demonstrates your very real commitment to cooperative research and teaching, to the benefit of all."



PRESENTATION OF MEMENTO: NUS President Tan Chorh Chuan (left) presenting a token of appreciation to The Honourable Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia.