

# Beneficiaries urge more to donate blood

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**SINGAPORE** – Diagnosed with thalassaemia at the age of three, Mr Goh Chun Hui's childhood was marked by frequent stays to the hospital for blood transfusions — almost once every two months — popping numerous vitamins daily and battling fatigue.

The blood disease, a severe form of anaemia, affects his ability to produce normal haemoglobin in the blood, said the fair-skinned 28-year-old, who was born with the condition thalassaemia major. To remove excessive iron levels in the blood from blood transfusions, Mr Goh underwent desferal infusions of regular injections and was hooked up to a small pump overnight — a “painful and initially scary experience”. His mother learnt how to administer injections from professional nurses.

“The doctors and nurses had to

hold me down (at the hospital) at night, I was screaming and shouting. It was a terrifying experience,” said Mr Goh, who eventually administered the injections himself.

Now, he takes daily tablets instead, and goes for transfusions every three weeks. To Mr Goh, these blood donations are lifesaving and a beacon of hope. “Without (donors) I wouldn't be standing here talking ... (Their blood) is able to keep me going, to live on,” he said.

National blood-donor recruiter Singapore Red Cross said 109,190 units of blood were used last year, and blood usage will continue to rise by 3 to 5 per cent annually to 220,000 units by 2030.

Singapore needs 350 units of blood every day to meet its blood transfusion needs, added secretary general Benjamin William. “We risk a decline in blood supply as blood donors mature and are more susceptible to health problems ...



**Mr Goh Chun Hui (top) has a blood disease called thalassaemia; Mr Takalah Tan (above) had an accident that left him with blood clots in his brain. He also lost one third of his body's blood. Both men are beneficiaries of blood donations.**

PHOTOS: ERNEST CHUA

(But) we expect an increase in the demand for blood, as the elderly develop health complications that require blood transfusions,” he said.

Together with the Health Sciences Authority, the Singapore Red Cross launched the International Missing Type Campaign yesterday. During the week-long campaign, organisations and individuals remove their As, Os and Bs (letters that make up the blood group system) from their websites, social-media profiles and branding.

Mr Goh, an administrator at a real estate firm, noted that his friends began to donate blood after learning about his condition.

Another beneficiary of blood donation is Mr Takalah Tan, 46, who was involved in a motorcycle accident on May 24, 1994. Before the accident, he was an avid sportsman who participated in triathlons, and was a fresh graduate with good career prospects. Then one night, his motorcycle's handlebar scratched against the side of a car. The impact flung him onto the curb.

The accident blinded him in one eye, tore away his left nostril, fractured his right leg and shattered his face. He had blood clots in his brain

and lost one third of his body's blood. He also contracted permanent amnesia. The incident changed his life markedly. He drifted apart from some friends, and his relationship with his family was strained, as they would become impatient with him.

Despite furthering his studies — a Master of Public Health with respect to brain injury, and a post-graduate diploma in education — Mr Tan bounced from job to job, doing administrative work mainly and teaching occasionally while juggling his work in motivational speaking.

Notwithstanding these challenges, Mr Tan finds time once every three months to donate blood. Initially, he felt obliged to “repay” the large amount of blood he had been given, but he realised quickly that he wanted to “make a difference”. Adding that it is all too easy for people to choose not to donate, as it is “none of their business”, Mr Tan urged schools to inculcate blood donation as a lifelong habit. “We have to communicate to the community to come forward and donate ... People will need an available supply ready at all times, (in case) of unforeseen (instances) or in a crisis ... It's never enough.”

## Dry weather conditions to persist in coming weeks

**SINGAPORE** – The island will continue to face dry weather conditions in the next two weeks, and daily maximum temperatures could reach between 32°C and 33°C on most days, and hit 34°C on a few days.

Short-duration thundery showers can also be expected on three or five days in the next fortnight, mostly in the late morning and early afternoon. Thundery showers with gusty winds due to Sumatra squalls may occur in the morning on one or two days, the Meteorological Service Singapore (MSS) said in its fortnightly outlook yesterday.

Due to the dry weather conditions the island has been experiencing in

# 41.2mm

**TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THIS MONTH ABOUT 72% BELOW THE LONG-TERM MEAN OF 148.9MM FOR AUGUST**

recent weeks, rainfall for this month is likely to be “significantly below normal”.

The total rainfall recorded for the first half of this month was 41.2mm, about 72 per cent below the long-term mean of 148.9mm for August.

According to the MSS, the past two weeks saw Singapore experiencing a few warm days, and the highest daily maximum temperature was 35.4°C, which was recorded on Aug 10 in the northern part of the island.

The mean monthly temperature recorded during this period was 28.9°C, about 1°C warmer than the long-term August mean temperature.

Despite the dry weather conditions in the past fortnight, there was some respite in the form of thundery showers, which affected a few areas on some days, mainly in the late morning and early afternoon. The heaviest rain fell over the Choa Chu Kang area on Aug 11, where a total of 65.6mm of rainfall was recorded. Earlier on Aug 3, a Sumatra squall that moved across Singapore in the pre-dawn hours brought strong gusts of wind of up to 86.1kmh around the West Coast areas.

In the first half of this month, the highest rainfall of 56mm — 39 per cent below average — was recorded around Serangoon. Rainfall was lowest around Jurong West where 4mm, or 95 per cent below average, was recorded, the MSS added.

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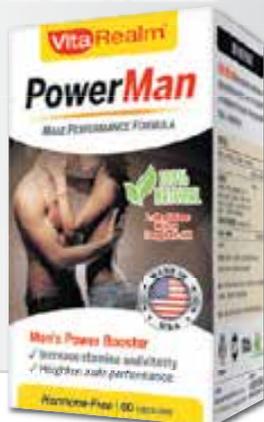
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# Drive change and get effective results

Tap the minds of top global business leaders at the Singapore Management Festival

BY NICOLETTE ONG

Want to get an edge in business and stay ahead of your competitors? Don't miss the Singapore Management Festival (SMF).

As Singapore's iconic management festival, SMF celebrates the finest and best in management. The theme of this year's festival is Leaders of The Future — Passion. Purpose. Performance.

“My job as a leader is not to be a genius. It's to be a genius creator.”

**Mr Kevin Gaskell**  
BUSINESS MAVERICK  
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It emphasises the importance of getting life in the right order: Passion must first be engendered to give the workforce a greater sense of purpose to reach peak performance.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TEAM

One of the highlights is the presentation by Mr Kevin Gaskell, which is titled Creating Geniuses Out Of People: Leadership In Action.

The business maverick and executive coach has driven three of the world's top brands — Porsche, Lamborghini and BMW — to new levels of success.

With a belief that “winning is about building a team, not a company”, Mr Gaskell focuses on harnessing the talents of employees to develop a passionate team.

He believes in creating a culture where everyone is invited to contribute and be part of the company's success.



Meet the who's who of the business world at the Singapore Management Festival.

Mr Gaskell will share how businesses can outperform in difficult markets and build a world-class company that can adapt and grow in a manpower-lean economy, such as Singapore.

## REDEFINING YOUR MINDSET

Another keynote to look out for is Professor Gordon Hewitt's Rethinking The Fundamentals In A New Game World.

As an authority on strategy and global competition, Prof Hewitt believes that “passion and purpose are dysfunctional if they are directed at being more efficient at the wrong game”.



Professor Gordon Hewitt sharing his business acumen. PHOTOS: SIM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For organisations to succeed, it is not simply about improving operational efficiency. It's about finding your “new game thinking” to achieve competitive relevance as well as discovering customers' unmet and unarticulated needs and value.

Sign up for a spot at the SMF, which is held at SIM Headquarters (461 Clementi Road) from Sept 29 to Oct 1.

FOR ENQUIRIES, EMAIL [FESTIVAL@SIM.EDU.SG](mailto:FESTIVAL@SIM.EDU.SG) OR VISIT [FESTIVAL.SIM.EDU.SG](http://FESTIVAL.SIM.EDU.SG)

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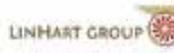
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