

Celebrating World Blood Donor Day 2009 in Singapore

More than 10,000 regular blood donors and their families had a fun filled day at the Singapore Jurong Bird Park to celebrate World Blood Donor Day 2009. The family day serves as a congregation opportunity for blood donors to come together and be recognised for their contribution to the community. They were treated to bird shows; have fun and game at the carnival; and have their pictures with the blood buddy who is the all time favourite.

At the same time, more than 1,600 champion donors were honoured at ceremonies to mark their milestone achievement of multiples of 25 blood donations. To mark the 60th anniversary celebration of the Singapore Red Cross, a 'Medal for life' was presented to Mr James Law, a 62 year old retiree who started his first donation when he was in his 20s, for having donated more than 200 units of blood. In addition, 53 bloodmobile organisers who have collected more than 200 units of blood a year were presented with merit and gold awards in recognition of their contribution to the national blood programme.

In appreciation of the life saving gift received from blood donors, 3 recipients: 17 year old Firdaus and Sulaiman, both leukaemia survivors and 27 year old Karthick, a national serviceman who survived serve burnt from an aircraft crash accident, share their stories and struggle with their illness and gave their heartfelt thanks of gratitude to the donors present at the recognition ceremonies.

To conclude the celebration, a half day scientific symposium was held at the Bloodbank@HSA. Two eminent experts, one in the field of biomedical ethics, Prof Alastair Campbell and one in organ transplant, Prof A. Vathsala spoke on the contemporary ethics, issues and challenges involving voluntary blood and organ donations.

