

RP DEAL

Bank Asia Ltd, where he was an executive director.

There, he managed several initial public offers, mergers and acquisitions during his eight years with the investment banking arm.

After earning his Bachelor of Economics (Honours) degree from Monash University in Australia, he began his career at the Ministry of Finance in 1988 and served as a deputy director before leaving in 1992.

He has also held director positions in over 30 companies, including SP PowerGrid Limited, Banyan Investments, Alliance Merchant Bank Berhad and Hong Lim Fund Investments. Mr Phoon also served as a director on the MediaCorp Board from June 2002 to January 2004.

As Mr Phoon prepares to leave Temasek, the focus will now be on his successor, the current co-CIO and senior managing director Tow Heng Tan. He will be Temasek's third CIO in less than a year.

Not much is known about the 51-year-old, who has an extensive business career of over three decades in industries such as management consultancy, investment banking and stock-broking.

Prior to joining Temasek in 2002, Mr Tow was senior director of Business Development at DBS Vickers Securities (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

Whatever the changes that may result from Mr Phoon's departure, one thing is certain — the *Newsweek* interview that he gave Ms Kolesnikov-Jessop may not be the last of its kind from a senior Temasek officer.

As the once-secretive investment company continues to "demystify" itself and set itself apart from other sovereign funds — government-owned investment companies with an appetite for private investments — more interviews with influential publications cannot be ruled out.

TWO MORE QUIT

Two more high-profile senior investment executives have resigned from Temasek Holdings.

Both Mr Frank Tang, a senior managing director for China investments in Temasek's Hong Kong office, and Mr Terry Hu, a managing director of investments who works with Mr Tang in Hong Kong, will be leaving the company.

Mr Tang is setting up a China-dedicated private equity fund while it is still unclear as to where Mr Hu is headed. According to the *Wall Street Journal* on Friday, Mr Tang said he intends to "narrow my focus and concentrate on backing emerging champions in China".

In a statement released on Friday night, Temasek said it was open to opportunities to work with former staff in their new capacities.

Why S'pore can't run this route

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WHEN two seemingly fit young men — a national triathlete and an army captain — each collapse and die and the end of a long-distance race, some look to an obvious solution: Make medical screening of participants compulsory.

And why not, given Italy's record with this approach?

Since a regulation was passed in 1982 requiring anyone above 12 years of age to be screened beforehand, the number of sports-related deaths in that country has plunged 89 per cent — a remarkable statistic, admits Dr Benedict Tan, head of Singapore's Sports Safety Committee.

But it is not a road that Singapore can afford to go all the way down.

On Friday, the 12-member committee, after two months of intensive research, recommended that professional and national athletes be required to undergo medical screening. It stopped short, however, of making such tests mandatory for all participants of marathon and triathlon participants — although the authorities are looking into getting organisers to provide health insurance coverage.

The committee was set up in July following the death of triathlete Thaddeus Cheong, 17, at a Southeast Asian Games trial. Then on Aug 26, army captain Ho Si Qiu died after completing the 21-km Singapore Bay Run.

Dr Tan, who is with Changi General Hospital's Sport Medicine Division, noted that compared to America or European countries, Singapore has "a higher proportion of novices taking part in high impact sports like marathons and triathlons".

As such, "the chief safety officer for such events should come up with a comprehensive support plan", he said.

The committee's recommendations call for, among other things, organisers to take

SAFETY AT SUNDAY'S TRIATHLON

It will be the first event held following the committee's announcements of its recommendations. And come this Sunday at East Coast Park, a series of safety measures have been put in place for the 400 over participants at the Asia's First Women's Triathlon.

These include two automated external defibrillators, two ambulances, 10 lifeguards, six nurses, two doctors, 36 canoeists, three jet skis and one powerboat on standby.

While health screening was not mandatory, every participant had to sign an indemnity form declaring they were fit to take on the gruelling 1500m swim, 40km bike and 10km run.

Organising director Christine Tan added: "Our medical partners, KK Hospital, have helped us draw up a comprehensive support plan for the event. All the stops are in place to provide a safe environment for the ladies to compete."

into account skills levels and risks, and to have sufficient automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on hand.

But Italy's comprehensive screening programme may not suit Singapore. Such tests can cost between \$400 and \$800. Dr Tan said: "While the Italian model is effective, the high cost involved has prevented us from replicating the exact model here."

Rather, Singapore will take the "middle ground" of targetting the higher risk population.

"People whose families have a record of heart failure are encouraged to screen. So are the people who take part in intensive competitions like the marathon or triathlon," he said, while emphasising that the rate of sports-related fatalities has not gone up.

The committee has recommended that sports facilities provide cardiovascular screening of all new members.

At gyms like Planet Fitness, medical

screening is not mandatory although there is a fitness consultation process that measures strength and agility.

S-League clubs and basketball team Singapore Slingers already practise compulsory medical screening, as do the S-League Prime League and National Football Academy age group teams. Also required to be screened are Singapore Sports School students enrolling for the first time and anyone going for lifeguard and Outward Bound courses.

Screening aside, the committee's 95-page report had a slew of other recommendations for event organisers and facility operators. A number are already in practice.

There are 477 Singapore Sports Council (SSC) staff trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of AEDs stationed at all SSC facilities.

Just last month at the Toa Payoh Sports Hall, 61-year-old Koh Ser Kiong collapsed after his weekly badminton game. He was revived by the trained staff on site.

Said SSC chief executive Oon Jin Teik: "The guidelines have always been there. We're just taking a multi-prong approach to the situation now."

But at the end of the day, the weekend warrior's health is his own responsibility. Singapore Athletic Association president Loh Lin Kok said: "While the deaths have caused a lot of concern, we cannot over react ... People should know what is good for them ... (that) 10km is the right distance for them, instead of being ambitious and doing the full 42km."

Indeed, the committee's recommendations emphasise public education.

With sports participation growing, Parliament Secretary for Community Development, Youth and Sports Teo Ser Luck, said: "Organisers should create awareness for safety. We're currently looking into working out incentive programmes for them to roll out a comprehensive health cover."

Not just the economy or the money

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Singapore's appeal to foreigners, the arts student said: "Singapore seems to be built not for us, but for foreigners and tourists. Is this land, Singapore, a place for the rich?"

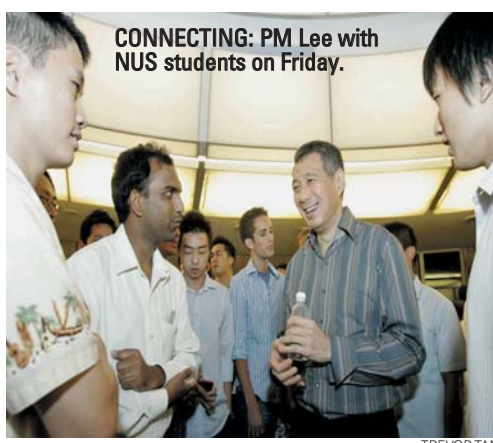
Mr Lee replied that the Republic "cannot be a place for the rich". If it were, the Government "would lose elections because there are not enough rich people", he added candidly.

"Singapore has to be a place where the vast majority of Singaporeans will enjoy a high quality of life and be able to have jobs," said the Prime Minister.

But it was not just Singaporeans who were concerned about achieving a high quality of life.

One student who hails from Yangzhou remarked how Singapore's land constraints mean that it "can't promise the American dream".

She said: "The salaries of many of my friends (back home) are not as high as what I can get here



CONNECTING: PM Lee with NUS students on Friday.

TREVOR TAN

but they can own a car."

Another student from China wondered how Singapore would cope with more immigrants, given its high population density.

Mr Lee explained that as a city, Singapore has its constraints. And while not everyone could own a car, the Government's priority is to ensure an efficient transport system.

In his wide-ranging speech, Mr Lee touched on the developments in the region — focusing on bilateral relations with Indonesia and Malaysia — and challenges ahead.

While the outlook was bright for the next two decades, with measures in place to tackle the widening income gap, Mr Lee said the two key challenges beyond that would be "our sense of nationhood and identity" and the quality of national leadership.

THE VOICES THAT ALSO MATTER
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**RAMADAN
FAST
TIMES**

**SATURDAY
BREAK FAST
7.02PM**

**SUNDAY
START FAST
5.28AM**

**BREAK FAST
7.01PM**

**MONDAY
START FAST
5.27AM**