



ISSUE 85

November 1-15, 2009

or call: 05-2495937

PP 14252/10/2010(025567)

NEWS

HOW ONE **CAN WE** BE?

3



TOURISM: PERAK'S **PROMISING ECONOMIC SECTOR**

Six Cash Prizes to be won !!



THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS JUBILEE PARK

The IPOH echo Writer of the Year Competition Six Cash Prizes to be won !!

> 15 NOV 2009 **CLOSING DATE**

LAST CALL!!



It is easy for adults to misconstrue the actions of their children. When Nik Amir Azafiq was gazing at the sky amid hopes of becoming a pilot, he was admonished for being a daydreamer.

continued on page 2



Occupation: Student Hobbies: Swimming The quality I admire most: Courage **Ambition:** Pilot



IPOH ECHO NOVEMBER 1-15 2009

Your Community Newspaper

BOY FROM SITIAWAN MAKES GOOD

De-motivated children may simply have ideals and aspirations lying undiscovered, untapped and unleashed. Isn't it time that industry and the professions took an active role in stimulating and firing up our children for the future?

their professions. Many

overseas schools set aside

a session every fortnight

for such an exercise. The

professionals come from

various disciplines - engi-

neers (chemical, mechani-

cal, civil, petroleum, elec-

trical, marine), doctors,

architects, city/traffic/town

planners, nurses, survey-

ors, lawyers, film directors,

fashion designers, vet-

erinary doctors, dentists,

graphic artists, advertising

people, horticulturists, the

armed forces. All it takes

is a short talk and a chance

to field questions. Don't

tell me we lack interesting

professions and dedicated

professionals to inspire

I may be wrong but my

school activity,

visits

and enlighten our youth?

research tells me that only

some schools currently do

this, but it is an optional

universities or exhibitions.

I think it best if the person

whose job is highlighted,

comes to the school, rather

than the other way around.

From there, a follow up

after

comprising

e is like every other teenager. PlayStation and partying are in, but homework and householdchores are not. You know he's going out when the whole house smells like a perfume factory, and his hair assumes that tousled spiky appearance which looks unkempt but has taken him the best part of two hours to perfect.

His mother marvels at his creativity in the excuses to ponteng sekolah. If only he could channel this imagination in his essay writing, she laments. He easily lists the top three songs in the music charts or recall with accuracy the scene in a particular movie or what cheats to use, to win any PlaySation game. Such was his memory that she wished he could regurgitate facts for his subjects in a similar capacity.

Trying Time for Family

So why did he hate school? Was it his teachers? The extra-large classes? Was he bullied? Returning from school, he'd simply flop onto the sofa, watch television, snack endlessly. He might play football or cycle round the block. Most times, he'd simply stare at the sky.

Four years ago, this boy's mother was a figure of desperation. She transferred him to a private school. He was asked to audition for the schoolband because of his interest in music. He excelled on the sports field. His grades improved but the cost of private education was a burden – financially, emotionally and physically. Finally, he returned to his former school.

An endless round of private tuition was organized. He passed his PMR. When his school grades slid, his parents became frantic. The SPM examinations were approaching. Even the tutor was despondent.

It was a trying time for the whole family. He was shouted at. "Lazy." "Hopeless." "Useless." "Stop looking at the clouds." "If you were a girl, I'd marry you off." These were hurled at him.



Nik Amir Azafiq (2nd from the right), the youngest in his batch to graduate at 18

Nerves were on edge and relations were scarred.

Turning Point

A chance visit to the east coast, by air, with his father marked the turning point. He put more effort into his work. His parents prayed for the best. His tutor was hopeful.

The day of reckoning arrived. Yes, he had passed. His aim? To join a flying school.

More surprises were in store. His grandparents offered to contribute their savings towards the fees. The parents applied for additional funding. Finally he was accepted at the next intake of cadet pilots. That was two years ago.

Miraculous **Transformation**

For this boy from Sitiawan, the transformation was miraculous. Where he previously lacked concentration in his studies, he was now entirely focused. Gone was the schoolboy slouch, the baggy shorts, t-shirt and slippers. Parade drills in full uniform every morning improved posture and bearing. He was punctual and disciplined. His written work and assignments were handed promptly to the satisfaction of his lecturers. He diligently completed his two hundred flying hours. He was safety conscious and kept off cigarettes and drugs. Outdoor games and activities were a joy and welcome distraction from the very intense requirements of his course. His only complaint was that mess-food was monotonous and stodgy. He

got on well with the other cadets. They were on best behaviour when they ventured into town. Being at flying school was like a badge of honour for them.

Cherished Wings

Last August, and four years from when his mother related her harrowing story of her firstborn son, this boy finally received his cherished wings and Commercial Pilot's Licence from HM Aerospace FLying School in Langkawi. It was a very emotional time. He had achieved and accomplished much.

It is easy for adults to misconstrue the actions of their children. When this boy was gazing at the sky amid hopes of becoming a pilot, he was admonished for being a daydreamer.

Whilst his father slept soundly in his seat on the way to their east-coast break, this boy had, with quiet persistence, questioned the crew about flying. He received an invitation to the cockpit. He had marvelled at the scenery, the freedom and the dedication of the pilots. His mind was set. He was going to be a pilot.

There must be hundreds of children like this boy who may skip classes, seem demotivated and lacking in ambition, but actually, whose ideals and aspirations lie undiscovered, untapped and unleashed.

Industry Responsibilty

More people in industry should give talks in our secondary schools about visit to the factory, the hangar, the hospital, the laboratory or the site location of that particular profession could be arranged, should interest in that line of work be shown.

Work despite recession

This boy received his Commercial Pilot's Licence last August, during a recession hit world with a scarcity of job opportunities. However, I am pleased to report that he has successfully managed to secure employment with AirAsia as a trainee pilot.

Emboldened by this news, I have also been in touch with both the Ipoh and Langkawi flying schools and they are only too pleased to show potential students around their flying schools.

I understand that during Ramadhan, a helicopter

firm, Eurocopters (M) Sdn Bhd had a breaking of fast, in their hangar, for some orphans. It was a great time for the children to see the helicopters up close, be lectured on helicopters and the career of a pilot, in the hope that they may one day, aspire to be one.

Ipoh Firms to be **Proactive**

So, why can't firms in Ipoh be more proactive like this and why can't more schools take the initiative and invite people with interesting jobs to give talks? After all it is our children who will benefit and who knows, maybe some will excel in their chosen profession, and later return to their alma mater to further inspire the children of the future.

MARIAM MOKHTAR

ANNOUNCEMENT

CHARITY CONCERT

Perak Women for Women (PWW) and City Ballet Academy will organise a fund-raising charity concert entitled 'WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE' a ballet performance featuring 'Little Mermaid' and 'New York! New York' directed and choreographed by Datin Roslina Ooi, founder of City Ballet Academy.

one-stop service and information centre for women and children located at 52, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Ipoh. This centre will provide shelter for victims of domestic violence; a temporary refuge for children from broken homes, skill training and research materials.

call PWW at 05-5469715/012-5212480 or Witzi at

The concert will be held on Wednesday, 25th November 2009 at the State Banquet Hall, State Secretariat Building, Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang, Ipoh. Proceeds will go towards helping PWW set up a

Admission by donation only. For queries, please 012-5088818.

Prestavest Memorial Park Taiping 太平 Alor Setar 亚罗士打 Lot 8517, Jalan Taman Semarak, Pokok Assam, 34000 Taiping, Perak. Tel: 05-8076688, 05-8076868 Fax: 05-8066868 Email:pmpt@tm.net.my

Get your **FREE** copy of the Ipoh Echo from:

- 1. Ariff Store 40 Jalan Lee Kwee Foh Canning Garden
- 2. New Wing **Fook Merchant** 56 Jalan Lee Kwee Foh Canning Garden
- 3. Lourd Enterprise 7 Lorong Cecil Rae Canning Garden
- 4. Pasar Mini Manaf 17 Jalan S A Lingam Ipoh Garden South
- 5. Kedai K.S. Maran (beside Maybank) 212 Jalan Sultan Idris Shah
- 6. Pooran Enterprise 5 Jalan Dato Onn Jaafar
- (opp. Super Kinta) 7. Rasu Enterprise 271 Jalan Gunung Rapat Taman Ipoh Jaya.
- 8. **Newsvendor** (morning) In front of Simee Market
- 9. Chan Sam Lock Photo Studio 77-81. Jalan Sultan
- Idris, Ipoh. 10. S.Y. Dry Cleaning and Laundry, 1 Jln. Chung Thye Phin, Ipoh.

HOW ONE CAN WE BE?

Fathol Zaman Bukhari

Racial polarisation is so entrenched in our society. It's difficult to bridge the gap despite vocalising 1Malaysia to the fullest...

Back to Basics

The essence of 1Malaysia, as far as my simple mind comprehends, is about going back to basics. That is, thinking, acting and behaving as one entity – the Malaysian entity. In other words, we must think, act and behave as one, not two, not three, not four but one. But how one can we be when old habits persist despite the hype surrounding Prime Minister Najib's clarion call for solidarity through his effusive sloganeering of '1Malaysia. People First. Performance

Now. The Prime Minister addressed a full-capacity Stadium Perak on Sunday, October 18th broaching the subject of solidarity to an eager crowd who applauded his vision of 1Malaysia. His insistence that volunteerism be the basis for such show of support and enthusiasm would come to naught if the truth is told. Ipohites and Perakeans, for that matter, are a little reluctant when volunteering is required of them unless some form of reward is given – gratis, of course. This is the nature of things. There is definitely no free lunch. You pay I come. You no pay I don't come. That is the bottom line.



Rent A Crowd

So how could a stadium with a seating capacity of 40,000 be filled to the brim? Easy, just rent a crowd. Renting a crowd is not difficult so long as the asking price is acceptable to both the giver and the takers. So who is the giver and who are the takers? Of course the giver (or givers) is someone with the financial clout to provide the dough that is required. And the takers? You and I who are hard-up for cash to spend. The amount may vary from person to person. But how much can one expect to be a spectator? RM10 is tempting enough for a cash-strapped teenager to have a little fun in town. Obviously, you can't be persuaded to drive or come on your own with just RM10. So, free transport must be arranged or petrol provided, gratis.

How many buses, van, cars and motorbikes are needed to ferry 40,000 people to Stadium Perak? Not all, however, require transport. Only those in the outlying areas of the city need it. Say, 15,000 require transport. So how many buses have to be requisitioned?

If one bus could take 40, a fleet of 375 buses (or less if the drivers make repeated trips) is needed for the whole exercise. If it costs RM1,000 to hire one bus for a day the total sum the giver needs to fork out is RM375,000. That is for buses. What about vans, cars and motorbikes? The cost for transport alone may come to about RM500,000. Now add the RM10 to RM20 given as pocket and petrol money. You can now imagine the amount the giver had expended to rent a crowd on that fateful Sunday evening in October.

Allocation of Responsibilities

Money they say, is the root of all evil and it is money that got the standing crowd at Ipoh's premier football stadium that October night. A conservative estimate, according to a source, placed the figure at well over RM1 million (including the 'extras'). Yes, you need that much money to fulfil the Prime Minister's desire to speak on 1Malaysia. What happened to volunteerism and patriotism? They simply vanished into thin air.

Allocation of responsibilities was done with military precision. One government agency was tasked to requisition buses, another to spruce up the stadium, another the glitzy parade and dance



routines and another, publicity. One senior officer was given the enviable job of disbursing RM600,000 to the district officers to be given as pocket money to those attending the rally. Services of intermediaries are essential to organise this sell-out crowd.

Nothing was left to chance. The show was stage-managed right to the end.

1Malaysia Exhibition

On the morning of the mammoth rally, an exhibition of local crafts, food stuffs and wares, based on the concept of 1Malaysia, was held at Stadium Indera Mulia. Almost all of the booths were taken up by Malay traders. What happened to the Chinese, Indians and Orang Asli? What happened to the many 'multis' that was expounded by our political

leaders? What happened to the spirit of oneness, of solidarity and of patriotism? Looks like the only thing that comes in various hues and shapes is the bunting and banners that adorned the stadium walls.

The motley crowd that attended the opening ceremony consisted mainly of students and civil servants. You can guess what prompted them to be there in the first place.

A-G's Report

Racial polarisation is so entrenched in our society. It is difficult to bridge the gap despite vocalising 1Malaysia to the fullest.

Political pundits say that the young would show the way. I beg to differ. Our youngsters today haven't the ability to comprehend the type of unity in diversity of the old ways. For that I mourn.

The Auditor-General's Report 2008 had revealed the blatant financial mismanagement by states and federal agencies. Perak is no exception. I just wonder what will his report be on the state next year?

Will the miscreants be taken to task? I need not answer that.

The charade, meanwhile, continues uninterrupted.





PAN-WEST

Head Office - 23, Jalan U1/20 Seksyen U1, Kawasan Perindustrian Hicom Glenmarie, 40150 Shah Alam, Selangor. Tel: 03-5031 1388, Klang Valley - Tee To Green Showroom Tel: 03-5031 1788, Saujana Golf & Country Club Tel: 03-7846 1069, Pavilion Tel: 03-2144 3713, KGSAAS Tel: 03-5519 1520, Bangsar Shopping Centre Tel: 03-2094 1605, Danau Golf & Country Club Tel: 03-8925 5578, Staffield Country Resort Tel: 03-8766 0358, Kedah - Darulaman Golf & Country Club Tel: 04-917 0929, Penang - Penang Golf Resort Tel: 04-578 2018, Perak - Meru Valley Golf & Country Club Tel: 05-529 3332, Melaka - Kota Cemerlang Tel: 06-231 9016, Sarawak - Wisma Kueh Hock Kui Tel: 082-413 339, Sabah - Gaya Street Tel: 088-233 277, For more information, please email us at golf@pan-west.com or visit our website at www.pan-west.com

PUBLISHER Ipoh Echo Sdn Bhd (Regd No 687483 T)

No 1 Jalan Lasam 30450 Ipoh Perak Darul Ridzuan Tel: (605) 249 5936 Fax: (605) 255 2181 Email: james@ipohecho. com.my

EDITORIAL Fathol Zaman Bukhari G. Sivapragasam Wern Sze Gill

REPORTER James Gough

GRAPHIC DESIGN/ **PHOTOGRAPHY** Rosli Mansor Ahd Razali

MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION **MANAGER** Ramesh Kumar

WEB ADMINISTRATOR Kelvin Leong

PERMISSION AND RE-PRINTS

Materials in Ipoh Echo may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publisher

PRINTER Konway Industries Sdn Plot 78, Lebuhraya Kampong Jawa 11900 Bayan Baru, Pulau Pinang Tel: (604) 644 7507

USEFUL CONTACTS

Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) 05 2451 500

Ipoh General Hospital 05-253 3333

Ipoh Ambulance 05-522 2506 993 (emergency)

999 (emergency)

Ipoh Fire Brigade 05-547 4444/994 (emergency)

Perak Immigration Dept 05-5017100

Perak Water Board 05-254 6161

Ipoh City Council(Complaints) 05-255 1515

Perak Anti-Corruption Agency 05-253 1982

State Secretariat 05-253 1957

Railway Station 05-254 7987

Airport 05-312 0848

Registration Department 05-528 8805

Tenaga Nasional Berhad 05-253 2000

Lembaga Air Perak 1800-88-7788

Directory Service 103

Perak Women for **Women Society**

012-521 2480 012-505 0547 05-5469715 (office)

AA Ipoh 019-574 3572 017-350 8361

ONE-ON-ONE

TOURISM: PERAK'S PROMISING ECONOMIC SECTOR

ourism in Perak has always been a promising sector. It has a multitude of premium products such as Pangkor Island, Cameron Highlands, Belum Rain Forest and a Food Haven that is Ipoh.

This year too saw the introduction of daily direct flights to Singapore operated by Firefly Airlines and recently a 3 times per week flight to Medan Indonesia. Let's also not forget the 5 times per day KL-Ipoh train shuttle that takes 2 hours from KL Sentral to the centre of Ipoh.

Unlike bringing in new investors, no major investment is required for this industry as all infra structure is already in place. All that is required is a Vision, a Mission and the political will to galvanize the industry players and stakeholders to enable tourism to contribute towards the GDP of the state.

Realising its economic potential for the state, Ipoh Echo met with Dato' Hamidah Osman, Perak Senior Executive Councillor for Tourism, to get her plans for this sector.

Q: Do you have a Vision for the state?

A: Tourism is a promising economic sector for the state. Currently we have identified 10 main packages to promote. These are Bukit Merah, Orang Utan, Taiping Zoo, Kuala Sepetang Mangrove forest, the Royal Town of Kuala Kangsar, the limestone caves around Ipoh, the Herbal Park at Simpang Pulai, Gua Tempurung, Felda Klah at Sungkai and

Most of the products are nature based hence we have a new Vision in the tag line 'Perak Land of Grace: A Gateway to Nature'.

Generally our mission is to have more 3-day 2-night packages.

Q: Is there a master Plan for the tourism industry in the state?

A: We will be calling for a series of round table discussions in November. The round table topics would include Medical and Health Tourism, the Kinta Valley, i.e., Ipoh to Kampar and Perak overall.

B: Besides the government agencies and EPU (Economic Planning Unit) other participants would include the hoteliers, those involved with medical tourism, NGO's and private players e.g., the resort operators at Gopeng, would be invited to share their views.

C: The discussions must have a short term and long term plan. The points raised would then be discussed at state level for approval before January 2010. The approved plan would be listed for the coming 10 Malaysia Plan which is to be implemented effective June 2010.

Q: What are the Goals, action plans and strategies?

The round table discussions will set the goals or KPI's which all parties must work together to achieve. A new committee, JKTPNP or Jabatan Kuasa Tindakan Perlancungan Negeri Perak comprising Tourism Malaysia, Perak



Tourism, MTPN (Majlis Pelancungan Tindakan Negeri or State Tourist Promotion Council), State bodies, PBT's or Local Councils and the Hoteliers was set up in August to meet once a month to review progress.

There will be a revamp of the administrative procedure. Tourism Malaysia and Perak Tourism will focus on promotions and come out with the Calendar of Events while MTPN will be in charge of the infrastructure. Perak Tourism would also be tasked to audit and report on the infrastructure facilities such as roads, parking, toilets and the like.

Q: Clean towns with clean drains, tidy streets and outlets. Are the **District Councils roped** in to contribute towards the tourism effort?

The local District Councils will be responsible for all the products including cleanliness in

their area. Their role is to work with their local hoteliers and product operators to maintain the quality of their products. They will be required to propose proper signage and factor the costs in the 10th Malaysia Plan.

Q: Despite annual promotions, tourist arrivals to Perak have been stagnant for several years. What are the plans to improve tourist arrivals?

Our plan is to sell more 3D2N packages, e.g., Taiping, Kuala Sepetang Mangrove forest and Bukit Merah. Currently promotions have been stopped to realign the strategies. It would be ideal if the local agents took the initiative and came out with better packages whereby tourists came in using local agencies. The products are available so there must be a short and long term plan. In future each product or package should have a specific owner who should

follow along with the promotional fairs.

Q: Will there be an upgrade for our Tourist Counter Information (TIC)?

A: Currently we have 4 TIC's in Perak at Ipoh, Taiping, Kuala Kangsar and Pangkor. Perak Tourism has been asked to initiate a standard procedure for all the 4 TIC's to promote Perak products. The staff at these counters must speak at least English and be able to promote all of Perak's products irrespective of their locations. Even the brochures on the shelves have to be standardised.

Q: Is there a plan to promote Ipoh Old Town from the Railway Station to the Kinta River as a heritage product.

A: We do not mind having the relevant parties attend our round table discussions to propose their plans. However the proposal must bring benefits to the people and must have strong support from the public. If there is the support we will have to support the proposal.

Q: Is it true that there is a shortage of tourist guides?

Yes. There is a shortage. Currently the community colleges at Sungai Siput and Grik are offering tourism courses. We plan to extend the courses to include the tourism products in the state and then issue them with a tour guides license. The scripts for the various products must be standardized and will be ready before the middle of November.

JAMES GOUGH

SENIOR MEDICAL STUDENTS RETURN TO EARTHQUAKE DAMAGED UNIVERSITY

ost of the senior Medical students have decided to return to Padang in Indonesia to continue with their studies despite the Federal Government's efforts to help them enrol in local private colleges and universities.

The 323 students, 25 of whom are from Perak, were evacuated and flown back by RMAF's aircraft following the deadly earthquake that struck the West Sumatran province on September 30th. They are all studying at the Universitas Andalas (Unand) in Padang.

Many of them felt that they had been left in 'limbo' as the response from the local institutions of higher education to the Cabinet's decision to help them continue their studies locally had been slow.

Therefore, they could

not wait for details such as costs, and credit transfer and equivalency to be worked out with the eight medical colleges and universities, which have offered to accept them. They flew to Padang to meet the October 19th deadline issued by Unand for their

It was only after they had left for Padang that a closed-door meeting with the affected students and their parents was held at the Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang. As a result many of the students were not present at the meeting.

After the meeting, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said that the majority of the students had expressed wishes to continue their studies lo-

However, some of



the parents who attended the meeting claimed that it would cost more than the RM150,000 loan to be provided by the Higher Education Ministry for the students to switch to local colleges and universities and therefore it was better for the senior students to be back in Padang.

One of the Perak students, Justin Darren Raj, is satisfied that he had made the right decision to return to Padang.

The first thing he did after reporting to the university was to brief his mother in Ipoh of the situation

He said that the condition at Unand was not as bad as it was made out to be. Although the medical faculty was damaged, lectures are being conducted in another building.

Justin, 20, also found out that the house he is sharing with other Malaysian students had not been damaged by the earthquake.

"Of course, as a mother, I fear for his safety while in Padang since there is a prediction of another earthquake", commented his mother, Jane. "He has another three more years to complete his study.'

The recent earthquake was the second to be experienced by Justin. The first was in 2007.

JERRY FRANCIS

IPOH ECHO NOVEMBER 1-15, 2009 Your Community Newspaper

MUSINGS ON RETIREMENT LIVING

by See Foon Chan-Koppen seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

SeeFoon completes this series on retirement living with this third feature on Paul Osburn.



In the few short months In the new short methat British educationist

Paul Osburn has lived in

Ipoh under the Malaysia

My Second Home pro-

gramme, he has immersed

himself into the local com-

munity, keeping busy with

various activities. Paul

volunteers his experience

and expertise at the Ipoh

International School, is ac-

tive in a children's charity

organisation, and is an ac-

tive member of the Latin

life here in Ipoh – it keeps

me going and gives me

a sense of purpose in my

retirement years", says

Paul, adding that he was

never one for the laid-

back do-nothing kind of

Having lived a busy

lifestyle.

"I live a very active

choir in a local church.

home of a good friend in

Kuala Lumpur and Penang, says Paul, is a great place to visit but not to settle down in permanently. "I've visited these cities many times before. It seems even more hectic than London and everything moves at a very

In Ipoh, Paul currently lives in a cosy rented apartment, with a balcony that offers a panoramic view of wide open spaces encircled by the distant hills, "and I love the warmth here, in terms of the weather, and as well as the people".

Community Involvement

life in London in a long career as an educationist, Paul decided to live in Malaysia when he retired. Although friends encouraged him to choose a bigger, livelier city when he decided to live in Malaysia, Paul chose Ipoh because of the lifestyle it offered, and also because it was the London who had returned home to Malaysia.

frenetic pace there!"

At the International School,

he volunteers his time and expertise to train teachers, and help in the school's planning and management. His background in education and social services also makes him an excellent advisor and consultant in the Ray of Hope charity for children with learning disabilities where he contributes to the supervision of management and teaching activities.

"Once an educationist, always an educationist", says Paul, adding that it "runs in your blood" and is something which becomes



Paul Osburn...comfortably relaxing on his balcony

part and parcel of your

Meanwhile, Paul's love of music and singing is expressed through the St. Michael's church Latin choir of which he is a regular member.

He had initially wanted to come to Malaysia to teach at a language centre but surfing the web led him to the Malaysia My Second Home website and changed the course of his

Ipoh Great For Retirees

Paul enjoys discovering and savouring the variety of the food available in Ipoh. However, as an Englishman, breakfast is nevertheless still toast, marmalade and cereal to kick start the day.

"After that, anything

are one quarter the cost of medical care back home, when comparing the rates of private medical services. "Essentially, the facilities here are world-class.. and the affordability factor is simply amazing!"

Friendly people

"The people are friendly, the weather's great, the scenery is simply lovely and the cost of living is very affordable. It's a great place to live, and Malaysia is a fantastic base for inter-Asian holiday", enthuses Paul.

"Malaysia – and Ipoh

- is truly a hidden gem that needs a lot more promoting. The city is simply amazing - there is so much to offer and will especially appeal to those who are looking for a different kind of life than the one we live in the West and Europe in particular. And retirees who have left active careers behind can make very positive contributions to the community. There needs to be more of a concerted effort for Ipoh to attract retirees."

5

"I am proud to call Ipoh home now."

This article and those in issues 83 and 84 are adapted from 'Ipoh, Valley of Dreams', a publication supported by Ipoh Properties (MM2H) Sdn Bhd. For more information on the Malaysia My Second Home programme, please contact Ipoh Properties (MM2H) on 05-2434948.

Paul is also impressed by the easily accessible and professional medical serv-

ices here which he says

HAWKER FOOD

is fine", he says, adding

that there is a bit of home

in Malaysia as one can buy

Waitrose and Tesco items

in the local stores as well.

LIVING A FULFILLING LIFE IN IPOH

MEE REBUS/GORENG & PASEMBOR (INDIAN ROJAK)

f you've lived long enough in Ipoh, you may remember Pasembor at two padangs, that is, Greentown Padang and Ipoh Padang. Pasembor contains fried prawn & coconut dough fritters, bean curd, boiled potatoes, hard-boiled eggs, bean sprouts, and cucumber mixed with a sweet thick, spicy peanut sauce. Mee Rebus is made of yellow egg noodles, boiled, with a spicy slightly sweet curry-like gravy. The gravy is made from potatoes, curry powder, water, salted soybeans, dried shrimps, and peanuts. The dish is garnished with a hardboiled egg, calamansi limes, spring onions, Chinese celery, chillies, fried firm tofu (tau kua), fried shallots and bean sprouts. Mee Goreng is the same as Mee Rebus, except that the noodles are fried dry. A good accompanying dessert is cendol; so the two stalls can usually be found side-by-side. There is no rating for this review because they are all good in their own way.





HAPPENINGS

VALLEY ERU RESORT is organising a Craft and NGO exhibition fair on Sunday 22nd November 2009 from 4.30-7 p.m.

The fair is held in conjunction with the first Ipoh International Friendship Night dinner and show held at the Resort's Dome restaurant in the evening.

For the first time in Ipoh, more than 20 nongovernmental and not-forprofit organisations will showcase to the public under one roof, their objectives and activities, plus offer unique handicrafts for sale for their fundraising projects.

The objective of the exhibition is to provide not only locals, but foreigners from all over the world who have settled down in Ipoh, the opportunity to contribute towards the activities and organisations within the local community.

"As a start, there are many foreign families, who have settled down in Meru Valley Resort. This exhibition will provide them, as well as the local residents, the opportunity to get involved with these local organisations", says



Annette Murphy, one of the event's committee members, who resides in Meru Valley Resort.

Participating exhibitors include Persatuan Befrienders, Daybreak, Perak Malaysian Japanese Friendship Society, Perak Women for Women, Soroptimist International, NASAM, Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah, Perak Family Health Association, Perak Palliative Care Society, Perak Heritage Society, Perak Society of Performing Arts, the Ipoh Echo community paper and many more.

"The Perak Malaysian Japanese Friendship Society will be teaching origami at its counter, and the Mind Science society will feature some brain teasing tests", says committee member Datin Mina Ushiama, also a resident in Meru Valley Resort.

Exhibition is open to the public and visitors to the Resort will be given the opportunity to tour the Resort's show homes and amenities. There will be activities for children with a walkabout clown and free ice-cream will be given away at the fair. Tickets for the International Friendship Dinner held on the evening of 22nd November, are sold at RM60 or RM800 per VIP table which includes a bottlre of red wine,a goodie bag worth RM40, cultural performances and a bestdressed competition for the best national costume. The winner will receive a return flight ticket via Firefly Airlines to Singapore.

The Craft and NGO

For more information on the exhibition and the dinner, call 016-5364310 or 05-2434948.

PRICE NAME WHERE **COMMENTS** (RM) **ROJAK IPOH** 7 Jln Tun Sambanthan Pasembor gravy (Opp. the Ipoh is spicy and Mon-Sat 3.00 Padang), Old Town 11.00am-6.00pm less sweet. Mee for all goreng good. Mee rebus good. **CATHAY MEE** Restoran & Rumah All three are good Tumpangan Beauty STALL quality. All 3.50 11am-8pm Baru, 97 Jln Yang Kalsom, New Town **ROJAK GREEN** Medan Selera Pasembor spicy **TOWN** Greentown but a bit sweet. Mee Rebus Jalan Hospital (Opp. 9am-6.30pm Keropok is crisp. & Goreng: Uda Ocean) Mee rebus gravy 3.00 tasty and noodle Pasembor: texture good. Mee 3.50 (with goreng not spicy sotong) enough. RESTORAN Pasembor not Tesco Mee available. Mee **PELITA** No. 2, Jalan Jambu, Rebus/ Taman Teh Teng Goreng lacks zing. Goreng: Seng Mee Rebus OK. 3.00

Our next food review will be **POPIAH** Email your favourite recommendations to: food@ipohecho. LETTERS mail /email

We reprint some of our reader's comments from our online paper. Go to http://www.ipohecho.com.my/to read more. Why not subscribe online and get the Ipoh Echo in your email inbox and read the latest happenings in your community even before the paper arrives on your doorstep?

BRANDING IPOH

With reference to the article Branding Ipoh in IE No. 83, there was a list of limestone hills that should be saved. Yet some of these hills are being actively quarried – Kanthan, Rapat, Lanno, Terendum. Luckily the other hills listed seem to have been spared, at least for the time being.

Gunung Kanthan is particuarly important as Gua Kanthan is home to a trapdoor spider, Liphistius kanthan, that is endemic to that hill and known nowhere else in the world. If you look at Google Earth you can see that Kantan is already half covered by quarry scars.

Gunung Lanno is important as there are some 40 caves – 7 of those are amongst the longest 20 caves in the Peninsula. Gua Puncak is an important historical cultural site for its tin mining industry. The hill is also home to animals like the serow. Gunung Rapat has no major quarrying now. But it

does have more cave tem-

ples than any other hill in

the Kinta Valley. And some very interesting geological features, such as wangs, lakes and iron deposits.

The 1990 MNS Conservation Assessment report proposed that the hills in most need of protection include Kanthan, Datuk, Lang, Panjang and Rapat.

To echo Sivapragasam's words, let's hope that the authorities do take note and make some effort to save these valuable hills

Liz Price

FRIENDLY CITY

It is heart warming to read a write-up (IE No. 84) by another person of a dream I always share for Ipoh. A city that is clean environmentally and people friendly.

Amidst the cry to development for Ipoh City, I always believe that Ipoh need not opt for the rapid development of most modern cities but could take a path where aesthetics play a major role in making it unique and the most desired city to stay in Malaysia if not the world.

Ipoh is blessed with natural beauty set amidst the limestone hills, rivers, mountain ranges, tropical rainforests, mining ponds and quaint old buildings. Economic development can still come from such a city where tourism, health care and making Ipoh a choice

as a second home can all contribute to the economic growth of the city. I am not against industrial development, but let us choose the type of industries we want in Ipoh and also the source of power to run them. Ipoh has vast sources of hydroelectric power and so we must learn to use it! Industries and public as well as private transport must opt for it.

As the writer pointed out, many of our downtown areas of our city is underused. It is time planners and owners think of tearing apart streets and combining two parallel ones into a broad street with motorcycle lanes and pedestrian lanes and plenty of trees as one can find in major cities around the world. The local authorities must find the means to compensate owners and

start on large scale remodelling of the city centre!

Bold steps are needed and this is the test of the government! If the present government wants the support of the people of Kinta Valley, they must show us that they are willing to make bold moves for our future and our children's future. Make Ipoh the show piece city and you will win our votes.

Victor Chew October 18, 2009

TRANSPORT WOES (IE 83)

The last time I sat on the benches of this bus station, I found hundreds of bugs lodged in between the crevices of the benches. The managers of this station do not respect us as human beings.

Mico October 02, 2009

MBI IGNORED DEEPAVALI CELEBRATION

MBI put up a bill board in front of Tun Razak Library wishing Selamat Hari Raya; there were also banners in front of MBI office as well as along Jalan Maharajalela. I am not sure where else billboards and banners were put up.

However, for Deepavali MBI did not put up any banners or billboards.

Meanwhile, MB Dato'

Seri Dr. Zambry and the State Government have put up banners in strategic locations in the city wishing Happy Deepavali.

The Mayor being a busy man may not be aware of 1Malaysia concept or when Deepavali is celebrated. There are Indian councillors and what are they doing? Why did they not remind him? Are they only interested in collecting their allowances?

MBI collects taxes from all residents; but seems to be only interested in pleasing the Malays. If that is the case they should stop collecting tax from non Malays.

What is all the big talk of 1Malaysia when it was launched in Ipoh during Deepavali and MBI ignores one of the main festivals in the country?

The Mayor and the Indian councillors must apologise to the Hindus for hurting their feelings.

A. Jeyaraj October 22, 2009

WRITERS COMPETITION

The idea of such a competition is a good idea; however, I don't think the topic of Perak is particularly interesting or inspiring. If you're looking for talented writers, you should allow them to write about whatever they feel comfortable writing about. How else would you know their true talents?

Anonymous October 15, 2009

Thank you for your suggestion. The reason we ask for a topic on Perak is because we ARE the only English language paper and the voice of the Perak community. If you notice

on our home page, we state very clearly that we are the voice, OF, FOR and BY the community. There are only 12 pages of possible editorial space in our print version of the paper for articles and stories and as our paper is supported PURELY by advertising and the goodwill of certain philanthropists, that leaves about 8 pages available for editorial copy.

There is a plethora of magazines and national dailies providing stories and information on all kinds of topics of interest, that cater to a diverse readership with varied reading tastes. The Ipoh Echo strives to fill the gap by providing timely

information on events, happenings and featuring human interest stories on our unsung heroes, places and faces in Perak. Stories not covered by the mainstream media.

Hence the emphasis on stories about Perak in our competition.

As regards true talent, a good writer can write an interesting or perhaps riveting article on 'watching paint dry' or 'watching grass grow'!

It is merely a simple matter of switching your perspective and having a facility with words. We hope you will enter our writing competition

Editor October 16, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05-2552181; or email: announcements@ipohecho. com.my, by the 9th or 23rd of every month in order to meet deadlines. Announcements by phone will not be entertained. Ipoh Echo reserves the right to verify any announcement before it is published.

Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort, Batu Gajah. International Orchid Show 2009, 30th Oct - 1st Nov 2009, 10 a.m. - 7.00 p.m. Open to the public. Entrance free. For details call: 05-3667433 or go to: www.cwsgolf.com.my.

Perak Community Specialist Hospital (PCSH) Antenatal Class. Saturday, 7th November 2009, 2.00-5.00 p.m. at PCSH Conference Room (Level 1). Free admission, light refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Ms Tham at **05-2548918** / **2545594** (Ext. 179) or Ms Selena Yee at **012-5061515**.

Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia (ADFM) – Perak Branch organising a Memory Walk at: Taman Sultan Abdul Aziz (Polo Ground), Ipoh, on 8th November 2009, 8.30-11.00 a.m. Dress code: white T shirt. Gifts only limited to first 300 registered participants. Please call Korina – 016-5608147.

Pranic Healing, a 'no-touch, no-drug therapy' by Mdm Indra Ramamoorthy of Centre for Prana Yoga & Self Transformation, KL. Wednesday 11th November, 8.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. KAMI Wellness Centre, 4A Lebuh Perajurit 3/2, Taman Ipoh Boulevard Timur. Admission free.

NASAM (National Stroke Association of Malaysia) Food & Fun Fair to be held on Sunday15th November 2009 at: 8 Lorong Pinji, Off Jalan Pasir Puteh, Ipoh.Delicous food, handicrafts, jumble sales, and interesting games. For info contact Julianna at: 05-32110879. (9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

Toastmasters Club is organising a 'Basic Speechcraft Workshop' on 21st & 28th November 2009 (Saturdays), 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. at SMK Methodist (ACS) Ipoh, AVA Room 1. For further details call: Jacky Chong – **019-5730823** or May Foo – **017-4660943**.

ISPCA (Ipoh Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Perak) will be holding a Family Day Carnival on Sunday 22nd November 2009, 9.00 a.m. at SJK (C) Yuk Choy, 195 Jalan Iskandar Shah. There will be a Food Fair, Walk-a-Dog, Obedience show, Dog Fancy Dress Parade, and Children & Competition. For info contact: Dr Goh at 05-545 5933.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday evening from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at YMCA Ipoh. For more information call: Peter 019-5743572 or Matthew 017-3508361.



2 Storey Terrace Homes

Special Features

- Located in Bandar Baru Sri Klebng, a 650-acre mixed township development complete with shops, schools, parks & landscaped gardens
- Walking distance to new Poi Lam schools
- Alarm / Auto gate system
- All units facing North and South
- Family hall upstairs
- Free legal fees on transfer*
- Free stamp duty on transfer*

Show Village 2 Open daily from 10am – 6pm • Weekends / public holidays 10 am - 7pm www.sriklebang.com.my

Homes



Sri Klebang

NOSTALGIA

Tostalgia took me back to Jubilee Park. It has been almost 50 years since its bright lights beckoned to me. The painting at the entrance has faded and now looks shabby. It was early in the night and a light drizzle added to the general air of a place gone to seed, its memories buried with those who frequented the park, not even a trace of its former glory remained. There was only a small crowd, gathered around the main attractions of a snooker centre, gaming stalls and a stall selling noodles. Most of the stalls are closed and the surroundings look dingy.

During the fifties and early sixties Jubilee Park

THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS JUBILEE PARK

the whole family. An entrance fee of 20 cents was charged. The complex was owned by Shaw Brothers and comprised the Grand Theatre, Chinese Concert Hall and Jubilee Cabaret which were the main attractions.

Originally the place was used as an entertainment centre to raise money for China's flood victims. Shaw Brothers bought the land and built the Ipoh Amusement Park in 1932. It was renamed Jubilee Park in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of late King George VI in 1935. The original park consisted of wooden buildings and during the early fifties they were replaced by brick



attracted big crowds. The spectators applauded good dancers and the dance hostesses were mostly middleaged women.

Another great attraction was the Children's

Wheels', 'Dodgem Car and Bicycle rides'. There were also electronic games costing 20 cents per game. The Gaming Corner provided games such as darts, tin shy, rolling the ball as well as many others to entertain the adults. There was a long queue at the stalls waiting to try their luck.

Regular Boxing Tournaments were part of the attractions provided. This is where the infamous stripper Rose Chan garnered her reputation and gained a huge following.

The Jubilee Cabaret catered for wealthier clients and the patrons were mostly towkays and British Army personnel. A live band, whose members were mostly Goanese, provided music. The dances ranged from ronggeng, samba, rumba, waltz,

The main attraction Now

quickstep and jive. Dance coupons costing 42 cents per dance had to be purchased in booklets of five

The main attraction Now

was only contained thick black of gusts of wind would flutter

held for students.

The entrance fee for front seats in Grand Theatre for afternoon shows was 25 cents. The seats consisted of benches without back rests and one of the sides of the building

pieces. Once a week after-

noon dance sessions were

was only covered with a thick black cloth. During gusts of wind the cloth would flutter and light up the hall and the movie cannot be seen momentarily.

Such was the grandeur of Jubilee Park in its heyday. Today the tacky remains is all that is left of a glorious era of fun, laughter and great entertainment.

A. JEYARAJ



was the main entertainment centre in Ipoh and maybe the only place that provided nightlife recreation for buildings.

The Chinese Concert Hall and the Ronggeng Kiosk were open areas and Corner where a large number of boys and girls enjoyed 'The Wooden Merry-Go-Round, 'Ferris

ORCHID SHOW 2009



The winners L-R, Chiae Kit Hong, Tan Eng Tiek & Kumari Rajendran

The Perak Orchid Society, the oldest orchid society in the country (since 1966), has been holding Orchid Nite for more than 25 years. Deviating from their usual little show and dinner, this year, the society held

a 4-day orchid show at Dataran Ipoh and dinner at Ipoh City & Country Club (ICCC). Three hundred and nineteen plants were exhibited by 33 participants from Ipoh, Taiping, Cameron Highlands, Pahang, Selangor, Te-

rengganu, Sungai Petani and Singapore. The Rhynchostylis and Aerides section was well represented this season so it was no surprise that the Best Show Plant was a *Rhynchostylis* retusa, a beautifully grown specimen with 15 spikes, exhibited by Kumari Rajendran. Dendrobium farmeri with ten spikes of flowers, grown by Chiae Kit Hong, was runnerup. Dimorphorchis lowii, grown by Tan Eng Tiek, won the Best Malaysian Species.

Guest of Honour for the Orchid Nite, YB Dato' Hamidah Osman, Ahli Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Perak, said that she hoped there would be a place for orchids in Ipoh in the 10th Malaysia Plan. Dato' Dr. M. Majumdar, President of the Society, thanked the organisers, sponsors and vendors for their support. The prizes were presented to the winners at the dinner. There were also treasure hunt draws, lucky ticket draws and an auction to name two hybrid *Dendrobiums*.

Under the new committee, there will be monthly shows held on the third Sunday of each month in front of Ipoh Parade on a plot of land next to the DBI building.

VWSL



Rhynchostylis retusa

For more information about the Perak Orchid Society, email: bugplant24@yahoo. co.uk eucharisorkid@yahoo. com.sq ff5117@streamyx.com Also check out Perak Orchid Society's blog: perakorchidsoc.blogspot.com





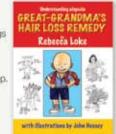
Drawings

by Khor Seow Ho

Engaging and vivid watercolour drawings of famous Malaysian street scenes by Ipoh-based artist Khor Seow Hooi.

Coffee-table hardback: Full colour. 60 pp. Khor Seow Hool.

Media Masters Publishing Sdn. Bhd. ISBN: 978-983-44300-0-9 RRP: RM88.00



Great-Grandma's Hair Loss Remedy

Inderstanding Alopecia

A heart-warming tale about how James, a boy who is completely bald, copes with his situation. A first in a planned series called 'Children's Concerns',

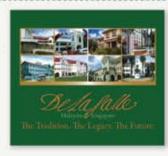
Children's Fiction. B/W. 56 pp. Rebecca Loke. Media Masters Publishing Sdn. Bhd. ISBN: 978-983-44300-1-6 RRP. RM22.00



Jungles Are Never Neutral

An extraordinary story of exile and survival. The diaries of Brother Patricius O'Donovan fsc.

War/History Journal, B/W, 136 pp. Media Masters Publishing Sdn. Bhd. ISBN: 981-08-1305-5 RRP: RM38.00



DeLaSalle. Malaysia & Singapore The Tradition. The Legacy. The Future.

A poignant, not to be missed keepsake in the private collection of all Lasallian old boys in Malaysia and Singapore.

Coffee-table hardback. Full colour. 168 pp. Ian Ward. Norma Miraflor, David Webb. Media Masters Publishing Sdn. Bhd. ISBN: 978-983-44300-2-3 RRP: RM200.00



Media Masters Publishing Sdn. 8hd
packer He
info@mediamasters.com.my
For more information, call 05-2434948

8

IPOH ECHO NOVEMBER 1-15 2009 Your Community Newspaper

DEEPAVALI ROUNDUP



Deepavali season saw stalls in Buntong and old Town's 'Little India' doing a brisk business selling cookies, kacang putih, decoration lights, fruits and traditional dresses.

DATO' G. RAJOO



About 500 people of all walks of life turned up for the Deepavali open house at the residence of former MIC Perak Chief, Datuk G. Rajoo at his residence in Lim Garden.

A wide range of local variety of food was served and music was provided by a local band and songs were rendered in Tamil, Malay and Chinese.

VIPs who attended included MB Datuk Seri Dr. Zambry, former MB Dato' Seri Mohd Tajol Rosli and Mayor Datuk Roshidi Hashim. Many other dignitaries from the State Government and MBI also attended.

APPEAL

National Stroke Association of Malaysia Needs Your Support

NASAM, National Stroke Association of Malaysia, is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation registered with the Registrar of Societies. They depend entirely on the generosity of the public to fund their activities which is to provide rehabilitation facilities to stroke survivors to improve their quality of life, as well as to create stroke awareness among the community.

NASAM Perak which is located at No. 9, Lorong Pinji, Ipoh, was established in 2004. There are eight volunteers working with the current group of approximately 40 stroke patients who pay a very nominal fee for their rehabilitation care. These fees are insufficient to cover the expenses incurred in running the centre which amounts to about RM8,000 per month.

They will be holding their annual fund-raising event, Food and Fun Fair, on 15th November 2009 (Sunday) at their centre. The fair will be from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. The public can help by either buying the Food and Fun Fair coupons, sponsor a stall or make donations. For further enquiries or information, please contact us at Tel. No. 05-3211089 or email: nasamperak@nasam.org.

DATO'S. VEERASINGAM

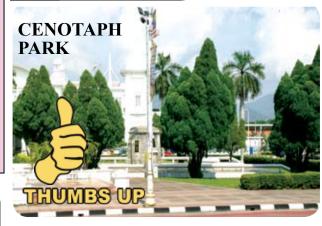


Dato' S. Veerasingam, Perak nominated State Executive Councillor for Indian Affairs, hosted a Deepavali lunch recently. Some of the VIPs who attended were Perak MB Dato' Seri Zambry and his wife, former MB of Perak Dato Seri Tajol Rosli, Gerakan Deputy President and Executive Councillor for Chinese Affairs, Dato' Chang Ko Yoon among others.



'Two little Indian boys' seen at Ramesh Kumar's Deepavali open house. In the spirit of muhibah and IMalaysia, Kelvin Leong (right) wore a dhoti to match his friend Sri Lingaswaran, for the occassion.

COMMUNITY NEWS



The park in front of the Railway Station is well maintained by MBI; the grass is regularly cut and the plants along the edge are properly trimmed.

The fallen leaves from the trees are removed. There are paved paths crisscrossing the park. The concrete walls are well taken care of. Dustbins are placed along the perimeter of the park.

The park is under utilised and can be improved to attract visitors. In the centre of the park is a specimen of the Ipoh Tree from which the name of the city is derived. There is a concrete plaque erected by Rotary International. The writings are blurred and must be restored.

The fountain is not working and must be made functional. Dustbins meant to be placed inside the park are scattered all over the place. They must be placed at strategic locations.

The main attraction of the park is the cenotaph which is a memorial for those who died in the two World Wars, Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation. Revival of wreath laying during Warrior's Day in memory of those who fought for us would create patriotism and attract tourists especially from overseas.

Perak Tourism must include this park in their brochures.

A. JEYARAJ



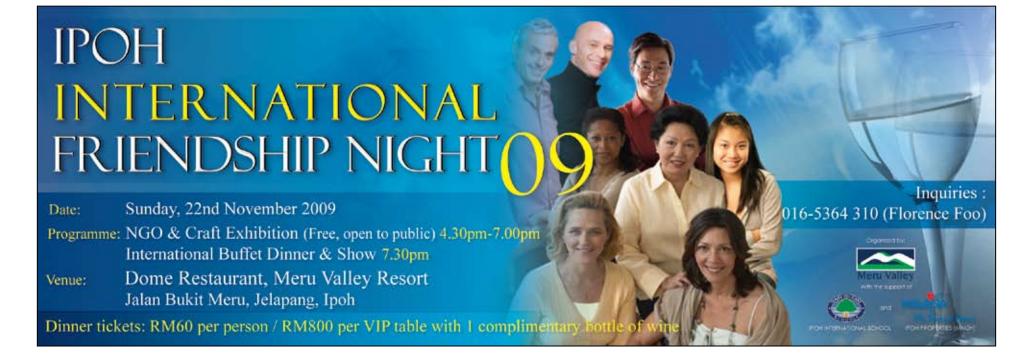
TOWN HALL – FLAKING PLASTER

The Town Hall was renovated about a year ago. The plastering on the wall facing Jalan Maharajalela is starting to peel off in a few places exposing the bricks. Also at the base of the wall a section of the panel has been removed exposing the burnt brick wall which is not plastered.

Standing in the porch, I noticed that the painting is coming off from a number of places in the building. Also there are many cracks clearly visible in the concrete on top of the building. I do not know how serious they are. A specialist must inspect the building and investigate why flaws are appearing in the recently renovated building. Action must be taken against the contractor for the sub standard work and the supervisor who approved the shoddy work.

We do not want a heritage building to collapse like the shop lots in Fair Park.

A. JEYARAJ



IPOH IN BRIEF More pics at ipohecho.com.my



ISH'S 1MALAYSIA RAYA AND



PJ ISH management together with Muslim and Hindu Consultants

organised a 1Malaysia Hari Raya and Deepavali gathering on 15th October 2009 at their conference

All Consultants as well as 500 staff attended the event. The buffet consisted of delicacies from both festivals and entertainment was provided by their own staff who sang both Deepavali and Hari Raya songs dressed in colourful traditional attire.

MAJLIS HARI RAYA -COSMOPOINT INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE TECHNOLOGY, IPOH



osmopoint International College of Technology (CICT), situated at Jalan Sultan Idris Ipoh, celebrated its Hari Raya open house with Darus Salam orphanage recently. The guest of honour, Chief Secretary from Yayasan Perak, Encik Farid Wasali said that Yayasan Perak has the intention to collaborate with CICT on the awarding of scholarships to the students of CICT in the near future.

Twenty six children from the Darus Salam orphanage were presented with Hari Raya gifts and 'duit raya' by Puan Noradela Dinyati, the principal of CICT, one of the foremost IT colleges in Ipoh. In Ipoh since 1995, CICT offers courses such as IT, Multimedia, Graphic, Secretarial, E-Business, Accounting and others. Students completing these courses can continue their further studies to obtain degrees from their parent college KLMU (Kuala Lumpur Metropolitan College).

A MAMMOTH GATHERING



Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, addressed a mammoth gathering at the Perak Stadium on Sunday, 18th October 2009. The theme was on 1Malaysia, his clarion call for unity among the races in the country. The 35,000-odd crowd chorused Najib's call for a one Malaysia as envisioned in his inaugural speech to the nation on assuming office as Prime Minister earlier this year. He said that 1Malaysia was not a rhetoric to cloud the rakyat's minds but an earnest attempt at fostering closer relationship among the various races in the country. The support of the rakyat was imperative for this bold idea of his to take root, he said.

MICCI BRANCH ANNUAL **LUNCHEON 2009**



ICCI Perak Branch netu its annual landred recently at the Impiana Casuarina Hotel. The Guestof-Honour was the Perak Menteri Besar, YAB Dato' Seri Dr Zambry B Hj Abdul Kadir. Also present was the newly elected MICCI President, Ms Irene Dorner.

Branch Chairman, Mr Lim Si Boon, in his address, touched on issues such as the Firefly direct flights to Singapore, the urgent need to have natural gas supplied to more industries in the Kinta Valley and the proposed visit by the Singapore Manufacturers' Association to Ipoh to explore investment possibilities.

Thereafter, Dato' Seri Dr Zambry, in his maiden speech stated that Perak's economy was projected to grow at an annual rate of 3.8%. Also he made reference to the daily Firefly services to Singapore which the State was presently endeavouring to increase to twice daily. On the infrastructural developments taking place in Perak he stated that the North-South highway had been widened for higher traffic volumes and on the port front, the Dindings River had been dredged to accommodate larger vessels.

He made reference to the proposed business mission visit by the Singapore Manufacturers' Association to Perak sometime in November 2009. He further added that the Sultan Azlan Shah airport would be undergoing renovations to the tune of RM120 million.

LANDMARK HOTEL



I poh City will add another hotel to its growing list come early 2012 with the completion of MH Tower, a mixed development hotel with commercial lots. The hotel is strategically located at the intersection of Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah Utara (Tasek Road) and the North South highway neighbouring McDonald's. Ipoh's Mayor Roshidi who officiated at the ground breaking ceremony declared that the hotel would be a "landmark gateway into Ipoh due to its location". Construction of the 21 storey MH Tower is being undertaken by Ipoh property group Kinta Saujana Sdn Bhd. This is their first venture into the hotel industry.

ADIL FITRI FEAST



DELOITTE IPOH BRINGS CHEER TO THE DISABLED IN PERAK



Over forty-five Deloitte Ipoh employees including accountants and tax consultants stepped away from their desks, computers and spreadsheets to turn their focus on making a difference in the lives of the needy recently.

The volunteers from the professional services firm were in high spirits as they organised the Children's Day celebration on a grand scale for the children in Persatuan Pemulihan Sultan Azlan Shah, a rehabilitation centre run by Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah, that caters for people and children with physical disabilities in Perak. This event entitled, 'Merdeka World Children's Day', was graced by the Datuk Bandar and dignitaries from the High Commissions and Embassies of Philippines, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and

During the visit, Deloitte Ipoh Branch Partner incharge, Dato' Gregory Wong presented a RM15,000 donation to Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah Chairman, Tan Sri Dato' Seri V. Jeyaratnam.

The Rehabilitation Centre provides free rehabilitation services such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy to people with disabilities irrespective of age, race or religion.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR ROTARY **KUALA KANGSAR**



The 7th Installation of the President and Board of Directors Year 2009-2010 of Kuala Kangsar Rotary Club took place at the Royal Perak Golf Club and the event was attended by some 300 Rotarians and friends. The Guests of Honour were Sultan Azlan Shah and Tuanku Bainun. During the dinner programme, Immediate Past President Dr. Kamalakshi Saminathan installed Selina Sim Soon Heng as the new President of the Club. President Selina introduced and installed her new Board of Directors.

During the function Max Choo, Area Manager of CIMB bank, presented a mock cheque for RM50,000 to the President as sponsorship for 'The Right To Sight' programme. In conjunction with the installation ceremony, a Charity Golf Tournament was organised and 90 golfers participated and winners in the various categories were presented with trophies. The guests were entertained to a Fashion Show and the models who participated were women living with cancer. There were also Ballet performances by students of Dance Centre.

Tpoh City Council hosted its annual Adil Fitri gathering at the council's swimming pool complex recently. The invitees ranged from civil servants to those from the private sectors and also members of the press. The setting was most conducive considering the ambiance and the spacious background. Besides the usual food and refreshments, lucky and raffle draws were incorporated to make the day more meaningful. Mayor Roshidi Hashim hosted the event and among the VIPs were Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, executive councillor for local governments and Perak CPO, DCP Dato' Pahlawan Zulkifli Abdullah.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LIONS RAYA TREAT



t was a day of song and dance for 28 young orphans in Kampung Manjoi when a pride of Lions came for a visit.

The children from the Nurul Iman home for orphaned and underprivileged kids had a double dose of Raya treat with the presence of celebrity Lions member, Baki Zainal, as well as up and rising songster, Azizi Zakaria.

"This is one project where we managed to gather Lions from the whole Kinta Valley", said Vice District Governor for District 308B2 (covering the state of Selangor to northern Perlis in Malaysia), Lion Hudson Hah.

"Today marks the second Lion's club visit to the Nurul Iman home in Kampung Manjoi, we hope to be able to do this every year."

The children played games and danced with Baki who played host to the event and later sang along to the famous Raya theme, 'Selamat Hari Raya' with Azizi as he performed.

"We appreciate anyone who would come to visit as the children enjoy social visits and the company of new faces", said caretaker Khairul Anuar.

"These visits are just as if not more important than the donations that come pouring in."

The children also received duit raya and goodie bags in addition to the rations such as school bags, stationery and other food items.

Entertainers

in hand for 8tv host, Baki Zainal, 28, and rising singer, Azizi Zakaria, 18. Baki is a champion for children with dyslexia and the environment while Azizi is an ambassador for the National Kidney

"As a child I was labelled stupid and slow when I had a difficult time learning in school", said Baki who suffered from dyslexia as a

not know of my condi-



MERDEKA WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY – SPECIAL CELEBRATION

The Sultan Idris Shah Foundation for the Disabled, Perak recently held a 'Merdeka World Children's Day Celebration at its premises, Pusat Pemulihan Sultan Azlan Shah, in Bercham, Ipoh.

The Foundation caters for people and children with physical disabilities and provides rehabilitation services so that the disabled may have a better quality of life.

The event was officiated by Ipoh Mayor Datuk Haji Roshidi Hj Hashim and attended by State Exco Member Dato' Hamidah Osman and State Director of the Social Welfare Department Ms Chong Phaik Kee.

Other notable VVIP's that morning were representatives from the Embassies and High Commissions of New Zealand, Australia, USA and the Philippines who



march past, raising the national flag and singing the national anthem and 1Malaysia song and reciting the Rukun Negara followed by performances by the children. Indeed one of its clients Teow Woei Kean performed a splendid



later presented the flags of their countries to the Foundation.

The joint Merdeka and World Children's Day Celebration was an opportunity for the children to showcase their abilities and allow them to experience national pride and patriotism.

It must be noted that 65% of the Foundation's clients are children and many have severe disabilities. Those that have had rehabilitation for several years provided performances together with the fun and festivities that morn-

The activities included a Merdeka Day Michael Jackson number which was testimony of the good work done by the foundation.

The participants were clients from 11 centres which the Foundation has throughout the state. The winner of the 'Design an Envelope' competition was also announced.

Foundation Chairman Tan Sri Dato' Sri V. Jeyaratnam described the morning perfectly when he said that the children had "painstakingly put together the mornings performances to the best of their abilities. We never look for perfection in all they do, for what they do, is the best they can do". **JAG**

SPORT

33rd PERAK CLOSED SQUASH **CHAMPIONSHIP 2009**

Potential Champions in the making

The 33rd Perak Closed Championships 2009 held at the MBI Sports Complex recently attracted 139 contestants; double the usual number due to the entry of 52 players from the Royal Malaysian

Navy.

The main events were

Name Division divided into Mens Division 1, 2 and 3 and Ladies Division 1. This year however saw 2 new categories being created: Under 13 Boys and Girls, which, according to Squash Racquet Association of Perak Chairman Loke Kah Voon was due to more young children taking up the game.

In the Mens Division 1 category the Champion was Choong Kam Hing, a 2007 SUKMA silver medalist and currently doing national training at Bukit Jalil. The first runner-up was Sajjad Ahmed who is currently State Coach.

In the Mens Division 2 the champion was Juna Bin Mohaini while the 1st runner-up was Azizul Bin Hamid. The 2nd and



5 year old Joanne Santhia

ior players some stiff competition.

According to Loke there are currently 40 juniors undergoing training and all show promise. Citing under-17 player Gurshan Singh, the 3rd runner-up in the Men's Division 2 as, "up and coming". Loke explained that "we have to start them young".

Loke's youngest trainee is 5-year old Joanne Santhia who surprisingly finished 3rd runner-up in the Girls Under 13 category; surprising because the squash racquet is almost as big as her. Loke



Squash medalist of the future. Standing in the centre is Gurshan Singh

3rd runners up was Mohd Razi Bin Abdullah and Gurshan Singh (under-17) respectively.

The Ladies Champion was Leong Yie Mun and 1st runner-up was Choy Siew Foong.

During the finals it was notable that in the men's category, the young men were giving the sendescribed her as the 'next Nicol David'.

Loke has set his sights towards the 2012 SUKMA Games. "We hope to field 4 boys and 4 girls and we hope to return with 2 gold medals."

With such an early start he should be able to meet his goal and possibly better it.

with a Heart

Civic duty and work seem to go along hand Foundation (NKF).

"The teachers did tion which did not allow

Azizi from Ulu Tiram had an aunt who had to wait twelve years before receiving a new kidney. "I watched how my aunt suffered through kidney dialysis and the way she bruised and swelled if she missed even a single treatment. I was very sad especially when she could never join us for family holidays", said Azizi whose witness of his aunt's suffering moved him to attach himself to NKF. Baki and

Azizi also frequently add

social visits to orphanages

and homes as they travel

around for work.

Baki

them to help me properly,

although I eventually man-

aged to overcome the con-

When Baki dis-

cov-

e r e d

he also

had a

nephew

afflict-

with

dyslexia, he

took it upon

himself to speak

up and inform the

public to prevent

derstanding and

discrimina-

tion against

children who dyslexic.

misun-

old

IKS

further

are

Eighteen-year

dition myself."

Grove, Kuala Kangsar Road, recently opened a Free Dental Clinic providing primary dental checkups, extractions and filling services.

ly opened by Venerable E. Indaratana and Dr. Yang Yit Min, the Honorary Adviser of AMATA Free Medical and Diabetic Centre which operates from Penang. The AMATA Centre also sponsored the medical supplies and equipment.

In conjunction with cal doctors, pharmacists,

FREE DENTAL CLINIC

the opening, a Health Camp nurses and clinical aswas organised to provide health related services such as blood glucose test and health and diet consultation.

Dhammadipa The Centre itself was opened a year ago and has been providing free medical services since then. The opening of the dental clinic is a further extension of its services in line with the objective to "provide medical care to relieve the physical suffering of the sick and needy".

The workforce at the centre is made up of medisistants who have volunteered their services free of charge. Medicines dispensed to patients too are free.

The costs to run the centre is supported entirely on donations from devotees and well wishers. On the Dental Clinic's opening day, many of the volunteers had come from Penang and Kuala Lumpur. In these modern times, it was heart warming to see so many of these volunteers sacrificing their weekend for a noble cause. **JAG**



The clinic was official-

KAMPONG TALES



Taybe it is a product Lof my aging, now that I am, evidently, too old to Rock and Roll, and hopefully too young to die. which has prompted my current urge for involvement in heritage conserv-

Perhaps it is some unconscious, and naive, belief that if I am involved with the preservation of this nation's heritage, then, at some point and in some bizarre way, I too might be preserved, conserved or in some other way frozen in amber for all time. Of course, that is a vain, ridiculously self-serving, thought, best left to my psychoanalyst to investigate and pushed to one side of this written ramble, nevertheless...

Over my accumulative years of living in Malaysia, I have become involved, in a quite miniscule way, with Malaysian, or to be more precise - Perakian,

HIJACKING HERITAGE

heritage conservation and preservation. Through the meeting of newly found chums – all eager beavers and far more knowledgeable than I, I have become aware of the despondent decay of small towns like Papan, and the wilful abandonment of buildings such as a war-time carbide factory and its last remaining brick chimney – thankfully too well built to be pulled down for scrap bricks.

Now my eyes are alert to the rapidly disappearing architectural landscape, around Perak. I have become acutely aware of the number of colonial buildings 'renovated' and 'converted' into more 'modern' buildings at the whim of 'caring' owners - hence destroying all that which was worth preserving. I see magnificent examples of colonial architecture left to rot in compounds, which rest amidst growing lalang grass and remain little cared for and others abandoned, crumbling, soon to be lost, forever.

On the other, marginally more hairy hand, I have seen attempts at the renovation of lacklustre shop houses. I have been present at the

inauguration of a small rural museum, and met a band of very concerned citizens who endeavour to preserve, conserve and save whatever possible, wherever possible, therefore swimming against the tide of public opinion that has yet to learn to take responsibility for both the present and the past. This, of course, is the very same public who seem blissfully unaware of the need to salvage and protect what already exists for future citizens, whose heritage we are but caretakers of.

It was, therefore, with disbelieving somewhat ears that I learned, from a trustworthy and reputable source, of misdemeanours and malicious skulduggery being committed within the very auspices of heritage, and far too close to home to be considered in any way comfortable.

Stories abound and stories travel. This one story, which crept to my unwary ears, unravelled to reveal what was transpiring while one particular building was being smartly renovated, and in other ways nicely preserved for our children, and our children's children. I mention this, with great thanks and felicitations to those involved in the renovation, and more so to those forking out the bucketfuls of cash for the conservation. However, while these worthy souls were saving, others were plundering, seemingly considering our heritage artefacts as mere booty.

As one team was earnestly engaged in putting aside our local heritage, another, less than salubrious team of individuals, very quietly were ransacking said building of its artefacts. These modern day vandals and dirty plunderers appear to value our heritage artefacts only at the most mundane level - that of their intrinsic monetary value, and fiscal worth. If any aesthetics were involved, it was the crass aesthetics of filthy moolah – these raiders totally blinded, no doubt, by thoughts of potential

These philistine barbarian robbers seem to have placed their personal comfort over the well-being of society. For these reverse Robin Hoods have purloined Perakian heritage artefacts, setting them

FORGET ME NOT ZONE

IPOH ECHO NOVEMBER 1-15, 2009

By YUSUF MARTIN

up on the internet, for sale to the highest bidder.

Obviously, as this is Perak, we are not talking about King Tutankhamen's treasure, or the spectacle of the Koh-I-Noor diamond, but simple everyday treasures, collected together to tell the story of Perak, and to demonstrate to future generations what life was like through the various stages of Perak's development

While one band of heroes struggle to ensure that the remains of the past are passed onto future Malaysians, others, having self interest upper most in their minds, are ensuring that artefacts are lost to the general public forever. I hope there may soon be a stemming of this artefact drain, and measures put in place protecting items of cultural worth. For there is little point in shoring up decaying architecture if we are allowing other, smaller, but no less important items,

ADVENTURE

by ISTA KYRA SHARMUGAM

ISTA CONTINUES HER EXPLORATION OF ECO-TOURIST SPOTS IN GOPENG

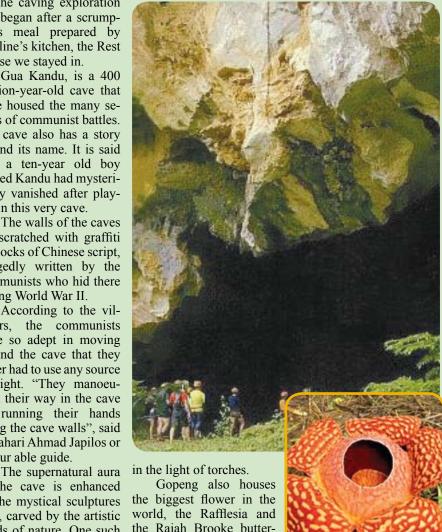
The caving exploration began after a scrumptious meal prepared by Adeline's kitchen, the Rest House we stayed in.

Gua Kandu, is a 400 million-year-old cave that once housed the many secrets of communist battles. The cave also has a story behind its name. It is said that a ten-year old boy named Kandu had mysteriously vanished after playing in this very cave.

The walls of the caves are scratched with graffiti in blocks of Chinese script, allegedly written by the communists who hid there during World War II.

According to the villagers, the communists were so adept in moving around the cave that they never had to use any source of light. "They manoeuvred their way in the cave by running their hands along the cave walls", said Jamahari Ahmad Japilos or 'J' our able guide.

of the cave is enhanced by the mystical sculptures in it, carved by the artistic hands of nature. One such sculpture bears an uncanny likeness to a giant rabbit's head. There is another sculpture that resembles a tiger's face. The cave is filled with unique crystal deposits that are luminous and are seen throughout



the Rajah Brooke butterfly colony. The Rafflesia flower found in these vicinities is not the same as those found in Sabah and Sarawak. These flowers do not emit any foul smell

the year. An experienced Orang Asli guide may show where the flowers bloom. The Rajah Brooke

Butterfly colony is also seen in great numbers in certain areas. These black and green beauties are also visible throughout the year.

GREAT EASTERN LIFE

ASSURANCE (MALAYSIA) BERHAD (93745-A)

Other attractions in this area include body surfing, waterfall abseiling, catching a glimpse of the flying foxes from Gua

Kandu, as well as visiting Orang Asli settlements. There are as many as six different companies, including Adeline's that offer a taste of Gopeng's natural treasures. You may experience the wonders of these settings with a minimum budget of RM200.

to be lost. 24hrs HOTLINE 1800-88-1638 paradise-remembrance.com We offer something few memorial parks do. Traditional Chinese Tang Dynasty architectural design concept. Professional andscape amidst 100% natural surroundings with tropical rain tree forest and water sources. Custom made niche compartments coupled with necessary

JOB

full insurance coverage &

purchase of bereavement

investment returns with

care products!*

Woh Peng Cheang Seah Haemodialysis Centre Lim Garden, Ipoh.

> Foreign Nurse Required Call- **012 5121 500**

MY SAY JERRY FRANCIS

t last, the Japanese A Garden in Taman D.R. Seenivasagam in Ipoh has been given a facelift. It was neglected by the Ipoh City Council for quite some time and was deteriorating.

I had been watching it for over a year and had been waiting for an opportunity to express my disappointment with the City Council for having allowed it.

The hut and the wooden and bamboo fence at the entrance had decayed and the pond was filled with weeds. The plants and grass around the pond were not properly maintained. Some litter was seen in the pond and between the plants.

Despite having tasked several workers with the responsibility of maintaining the taman, the City Council appeared to have failed to properly upkeep it and the facilities.

What would visitors from our twin city of Fukuoka in Japan think of us when they visit the once beautiful garden 'built according to the unique landscape structure

A FACELIFT FOR THE NEGLECTED JAPANESE GARDEN

of the Japanese garden' in their city with assistance from Japanese experts'. It was opened on June 30th, 1995

Last week, armed with a camera and with a determination to write about the deteriorating condition of Taman D.R. Seenivasagam, particularly the Japanese Garden, I paid a visit.

I must confess that I had gone there hoping to see the Japanese Garden being further deteriorated. However, much to my surprise I saw a garden which had been transformed into one that the city and its residents can now be proud

It was clean and the shrubs and flower plants were trimmed. All around the ponds were newly laid pebbles and turf grass.

A team of workers were diligently repairing the fence and watering the plants. From what I gathered, the City Council had privatised the maintenance of the 1.2 ha Japanese Garden.

Works to rehabilitate the Japanese Garden began over three months ago and was completed in time for a tree planting ceremony by our Datuk Bandar Datuk Haji Roshidi Hashim and his counterpart from Fukuoka Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida on October1st to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the declaration of Sister City.

The taman panded and developed.

In the 70s it became

There was piped music all around the park, as well as television sets installed at strategic locations.

Among the various facilities were a cafeteria, merry-go-round, train, dodgem cars, paddling pool, skating rink, and boating on an artificial lake. At one stage there was even a mini zoo, which included a big bear belonging to the Seenivasagam brothers.

Well-mannered tendants, dressed in orange tunic and blue pants, were on duty daily.

It was indeed a joy for parents to bring their young children to the park, especially in the evenings and on weekends and public holidays to spend some quality time with them.

The screams and laughter of children could be heard as they excitedly played around the park. Many of those who had

named after the People Progressive Party's (PPP) leader D.R. Seenivasagam after Coronation Park, which had become a drug addicts' haven, was ex-

the pride of Ipoh under the PPP's controlled Municipal

they had at the park.

graded to a city.

parents prefer the comfort

Marith Branent in the le

spent their childhood days in the city will certainly remember the enjoyable time

Even my four children, all adults now, can vouch for the memorable time they had at the park.

It is sad those screams and laughter are rarely heard in the park now. Most of the facilities have been dismantled as the park deteriorated after the PPP lost control of the Municipal Council and Ipoh was up-

And, parents are no longer keen to take their children to the park. Instead they spend the time with their children in the shopping complexes.

Why is the park no longer an attraction? Do of air-conditioned shopping complexes instead of healthy out-door activi-

Well, just look at it.

Most of the facilities have either being scrapped or poorly maintained.





Cambridge GCE A-Levels @ Tenby Ipoh



- Affordable fees
- Small classes, ensuring individual attention
- Fully registered University of Cambridge International Examinations
- Flexibility to choose subjects from Science, Business or Arts group
- A unique blend of college life within a larger international school
- Hostel facilities available for outstation students
- * Bridging Programme available before term begins in January

For further information please call: Tenby Schools Ipoh 28 Jalan Kelab Golf, 30350 Ipoh, Perak Tel: 605-253 8530 Fax: 605-242 9261 Email: ipoh@tenby.edu.my Course Commences January 2010

www.tenby.edu.my

lpoh · Penang · Setia Eco Park

A United World At Peace -Through Education Owned and Governed by the not-for-profit Siwu Education Trust