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KAMPAR – From Tin Mines to Tertiary Education

By **JERRY FRANCIS**

Kampar, like most mining towns in the rich alluvial tin deposit region of the Kinta Valley, plunged into a depression when the international tin price collapsed in October, 1985. Several tin mines on which the town's economy largely depended, gradually ceased operation. Also affected were scores of supporting industries, such as foundries, hardware shops, machinery workshops and timber traders. As a result, thousands of workers lost their jobs. Without any alternative employment opportunity available, most of the young people left as immigrant workers to Japan, Taiwan, Europe and the United States and sent their hard earned money home to their dependants. Kampar founded in 1887, thus became like an old-folks and children's home. However, in just over two decades, Kampar has emerged from the tailings of the tin mines into a fast growing hub for tertiary education in Perak.

Continued on page 2

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A Miner's Vision

The revival of Kampar was possible largely because of the vision of a former veteran tin miner Tan Sri Hew See Tong, who gave a kiss of life to an otherwise dying mining town.

Hew, a miner since 1949, was an advisor for a number of years to the International Tin Council (ITC) in London, which was established in 1956 to manage a buffer stock to keep the tin price at a steady level until 1985 when its buffer manager could no longer maintain the price due to rising cost of production and an increase in production by non-member countries. As a result ITC collapsed and so did the tin mining industry in the country.

"After the tin mining industry collapsed, I managed to carry on until the drop of the tin price became unbearable", said the 79-year-old Hew at a casual interview in a coffee-shop.

New Township

On ceasing mining operations in 1989, he decided to diversify and use his ex-mining land just north of Kampar town for housing and industrial developments. And so, a new township – Bandar Baru Kampar, sprang out in the midst of the vast sandy landscape.

In 1990, he also decided to stand as a Barisan Nasional's candidate for the Kampar Parliamentary constituency, but was narrowly defeated. Subsequently, in 1995 he re-contested the seat and won, and continued to be the MP for Kampar for another two terms until 2008.

This gave some clout to his efforts. Hew's hope was to develop the new township to be a catalyst in bringing much development and growth to the region.

He started off by luring three foreign electronic companies to set up their operations in the new township and provide employment for about 7,000 workers.



Tan Sri Hew See Tong

Need for Progress

Despite some critics accusing him of having a personal agenda, the soft-spoken Hew crusaded on with his vision to bring progress and new hope to the residents of his birthplace. "I felt we needed to do something and so decided to make Kampar a hub of tertiary education", he said.

Hew then went on to persuade Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TARC) to set up a branch. His offer of five shop lots at a nominal rental of RM1 per year and a donation of 20.2ha of his ex-mining land for the college's permanent site was too good to refuse.

And with the support of Tun Dr. Ling Liong Sek (former MCA president), he managed to get TARC to come in and the branch campus was constructed and officially opened on May 18, 2003. Today, the branch campus, surrounded by beautiful scenery and lakes, offers outstanding facilities and resources that further promote excellent teaching and learning.

UTAR

Hew was also instrumental in getting the University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) to set up its main campus in the new township. It was with the help of two former Menteri Besars of Perak, Tan Sri Ramli Ngah and Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli, and an MCA leader Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan that a 520-ha piece of ex-

mining land surrounded by lush greenery and lakes was allocated by the Perak Government to UTAR.

The university was officially opened on June 1, 2007. UTAR has progressed steadily to be a comprehensive university providing "a diverse portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes with a niche in research and consultancy".

Future Developments

Under its second phase of development, UTAR is constructing a grand-hall with a capacity for 3,500 people and a number of lecture theatres. Currently, UTAR has an enrolment of 12,500 students and TARC has 2,100 students.

Bandar Baru Kampar has about 4,000 houses, 300 commercial buildings, two government schools, a large supermarket and a seven-storey hotel. Housing developments are still underway.

The Federal Government is proposing to build a satellite hospital in the township to cater to the residents of Lower Perak and MARA is planning to set up its university at nearby Gua Tempurung.

With plans for expansion by the two education institutions, the student population is expected to hit well above 20,000. Kampar is therefore primed to move further with the education sector as the main driving force of its economy.

Providing accommodation and essential needs of the students alone offers great prospects to the economic and commercial activities of the township as well as the old town. Already, restaurants, hotels, internet cafes and retail shops are among others thriving in the town.

Confidence in the eco-

nomie boom of Kampar is shown by the number of commercial banks (8) which have their branches in the town. With its population on the increase to well above 70,000, the sub-district was upgraded to a full district – the 10th in Perak last year.

Tourism Potential

Having seen Kampar turn around to become a hub of tertiary education is not sufficient for Hew to rest

Tempurung and the old tin dredge in Chendrong as among the tourist attractions.

As for his role towards tourism, Hew said he, together with some former miners, were working on setting up a gravel pump mines museum to be located in the township.

"We want to show the young generation and the generations to come, the contribution of the tin mining industry to the econo-

the delicacies. However the construction of the North-South Highway soon made the detour to Kampar too tedious and foodie visits dwindled. With the new focus on tourism, Kampar should soon see the full buses returning, making Kampar a full destination rather than a detour.

APOLOGY



The Ipoh Echo wishes to apologise to Sathasivam @ Siva (pic) for causing him any embarrassment or inconvenience when his picture was published in issue 102 page 11 of the Paper. The picture was intended to show him as one of the vendors working very diligently to deliver newspapers daily. Siva has been delivering newspapers to the Ipoh Echo office every day.



Main square of Bandar Baru Kampar

on his laurels. "My dream is to see Kampar become both a hub for tertiary education and a tourist destination.

"There is potential for tourism development in Kampar and its surroundings", he claimed. He pointed out the bird sanctuary in the area, Gua

my of the country as well as remind the residents of the town's heritage", he said.

The old town was once famous for its chicken clay-pot rice, chicken biscuits and fish-ball noodles. Bus-loads of tourists were known to make a bee-line to the town to savour

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Beautifully designed shophouses in Bandar Baru Kampar

From the Editor's Desk

• by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

Exposition

It is most disheartening to see how well-meaning intentions are being exploited for selfish reasons. The much heralded Wenzhou Brand-name and Quality Products Exposition and the Perak Agrofest 2010 bore witness to this flagrant display of self-serving profiteering.

The Wenzhou Exposition was held at Stadium Indera Mulia Ipoh from June 24 to 27 while the Perak Agrofest was held at Ladang Infoternak Sungai Siput (Utara) from August 5 to 8. The former was to showcase Wenzhou's quality products such as leather wares, furniture, machinery and apparel consistent with the lifting of trade restrictions between China and ASEAN nations. The Perak Agrofest, on the other hand, is an annual agricultural festival organised by the state government to honour the contributions

of farmers, fishermen and stock-breeders.

Opportunities

Although both promote different products, their aims are almost identical – to create economic activities in a confined space and provide a window of opportunity for both budding and seasoned entrepreneurs. The exposition will allow buyers and sellers to meet at an appointed place and create an atmosphere conducive to dialogue. The opportunity to interface with potential clients in a non-hostile environment is what the participants seek and cherish.

The Wenzhou Exposition was divided into two sections, one for the Chinese the other for the locals. Nearly 150 booths in the Chinese section were taken up by traders from Wenzhou. Local traders filled some 34 booths in the local section. Most

EXPOSITION OR IMPOSITION ?

Traders impose their will on organisers rather than the other way around. This is not progress...



of the products on show at the Chinese section were leather goods, furniture, machines, tools and apparel.

Secretive

In spite of the huge influx of visitors there did not seem to be much interaction between buyers and sellers. "They seem so secretive," complained one old timer. "I've been trying to get them to tell me more about their products but to no avail," he added. Was

this a cunning ploy to keep inquisitive visitors away? Could it be the language barrier? I have no way of telling. Judging from the mood, their presence was merely to fulfil an obligation – to be part and parcel of the show.

The objective of the trade exposition was to exhibit Wenzhou quality products which would then be manufactured in Perak for the world market. And since this was the major thrust of the exposition, the traders' lack of interest in retailing was only too obvious. Little wonder their presence at the stadium ended a day earlier on June 26 while the local traders remained till closure time on June 27.

Interestingly, there was much to see in the local section. I never real-



ised that there is a thriving chocolate-making factory near Sunway City in Tambun. It makes fanciful chocolate products for export to neighbouring countries.

Agrofest

It was a different ball game over at the Perak Agrofest in Sungai Siput. Traders paid between RM1,400 to RM1,600 to rent a booth for the four-day agriculture festival. At a typical festival of this nature, one would expect to see agriculture and aqua-culture products and livestock such as dairy cattle, sheep, goats and ducks on show. A mini-petting zoo is mandatory. But that was not the case. At least a third of the more than 600 booths were taken up by traders selling Thailand-made garments

and goods. They must be cashing in on the coming Ramadan month to make a quick buck.

The objective of the festival, that is: "to provide farmers, fishermen and stock-breeders an opportunity to promote and sell their products", was lost in the mayhem.

Profits

A straight-forward exposition has inadvertently become an imposition. Traders impose their will on the organisers. Profits, not promotion is the buzzword. This unfortunate development will have a negative impact on progress. And however much the organisers may want to disclaim the allegations of profiteering, the sad truth is there for all to see.

Yes! Your Mother's Will Is Valid but with a Thousand Apologies It Is Not Functional

• by Peter Lee

Occasionally, I have been asked by family members of the deceased to explain some of the contents in the will written by the deceased themselves or with the assistance of someone else. One of the wills shown to me left me no choice but to tell the son that 'Yes! Your mother's will is valid but with a thousand apologies it is not functional.' In this will there are two executors appointed jointly and it has 2 witnesses which makes the will valid. However, I discovered further that two of the joint executors appointed are the brothers of the deceased, one of whom is paralysed and bedridden. The other is now recovering from heart surgery. Both of them are in their 60s, illiterate and have also been depending on the financial assistance of the deceased.

The will further states in one paragraph that all the movable and immovable assets in the estate must be given to the deceased's three grandchildren aged 13, 10 and 8 equally without mentioning anything further. Apparently, during the lifetime of the deceased, she had been financing all the living expenses of the three grandchildren because the father of the children who is her son was incapable of caring for his children financially and also had a sour relationship with her. In addition, she also could not trust her husband either.

The first question to ask is how is this will going to function when the executors are in such poor health? Presuming that one of them recovers, then how is he going to take up the responsibility when the will states that two executors must act jointly and to replace them with another person would require the consent of all the beneficiaries of the deceased? Then there is the issue of distribution which states that all movable and immovable assets must be given to the three grandchildren. So, how are the grandchildren going to receive these assets when they are still minors knowing the fact that they need the money on a daily basis?

Assuming that you are in this position and still alive, you can avert or minimize this problem by choosing the right executors. You may not make a perfect choice but at least choose executors who are trustworthy, not too old and healthy. However, if you have a problem like the above, then it is strongly advisable to choose a trustee company like Rockwills Trustee Bhd. to be the estate's main executor because it has the expertise, impartiality, professionalism and perpetual existence. If all your grandchildren are still minors then it must be clearly written in the will how much money deriving from the movable assets such as bank a/c, investments in unit trusts and share market is required to finance their living, medical and education expenses on a monthly basis and when is it going to end? With regards to immovable assets such as landed properties, it is up to you to determine at what age your grandchildren are going to receive these assets. Anyone above 18 years old would be able to register themselves as owners of assets. Since all your assets are going to be frozen if you pass away, then you are strongly advised to set up a private trust such as an insurance trust to provide immediate funding for your grandchildren while the executor/s wait for the probate to unlock your assets.

Peter Lee is an Associate Estate Planning Practitioner (Wills & Trust) with Rockwills International Group. He is also an Islamic Estate Planner providing Wills & Trust services for Muslims. He is based in Ipoh and can be reached at: **012-5078825/05-2554853** or excelsec@streamyx.com.

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PUBLISHER

Ipoh Echo Sdn Bhd
(Regd No 687483 T)

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30450 Ipoh Perak Darul
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letters

MBI's Shameful 'ZOPFAN' A Big Let Down for Residents

At least four illegal companies and dumping grounds located along the foot of the hills in Rapat Setia Baru area are causing sleepless nights for residents. Although numerous verbal complaints have been made to MBI, the complaints have fallen on deaf ears. Residents here call these 'black' areas "MBI's very own ZOPFAN", the acronym for the Zone of Pollution, Fires and Noise.

Residents not only have to face constant dawn-till-dusk open burnings which create thick black smoke and vomit-creating smell but also noise from a toddy shop run illegally in a place meant for growing fruit trees (orchard).

Some of these illegal spots are within five to ten metres from the nearest houses. No one knows how these factories have been allowed to exist for more than thirty years in

housing estates in the first place. MBI should take the relevant actions before these illegal outposts cause further damage both to the environment and residents. Those residing in Taman Desa Rapat, Taman Pinggir Perdana, Taman Indah, Taman Harmoni or around Rapat Setia Baru know very well the culprits who do the open burnings or run the factories but they are helpless as countless verbal complaints to the MBI

have gone unanswered. So, nowadays, the disappointed residents simply pray for the Almighty's intervention as no one is willing to help them.

The only faithful Government department which responds to the residents' cries is the Fire and Rescue Department which dispatches firemen and engines within 30 minutes of calls being made to put out the black smoke-emitting fires.

The MBI always has the excuse that the officers in charge of that area are busy or on leave. Calls to the enforcement chief's office are always politely returned with typical "tuan sibuk dengan mesyuarat" or "tiada dalam bilik".

The vast area at the entrance of the foot of the hills is a haven for lorry operators, carpenters and masons who are very fond of disposing of their garbage and work-related waste as and when they like as no enforcement officers are ever seen in this area.

This area, which has literally become a short-cut dumping ground for these irresponsible contractors, equally attracts not only rats and snakes but also a large number of drug addicts who burn through the rubbish to collect metal pieces and other valuable items. They burn tyres, wires, wooden items and plastic causing thick black smoke to spread to the whole area. One can imagine the pain being felt by the residents. They are quite often down with sinusitis, flu and chest pains

as the air is polluted.

The children cannot play in the fields and those who have vegetable gardens cannot work in them because the smoke is unbearable and spread all over the area. People cannot even take any short, refreshing and peaceful naps in the afternoons nor watch television programmes peacefully because of the smoke. Even walking about is very much restricted.

Every morning car owners struggle to clean the thick soot which deposit on the cars. Housewives are greatly stressed out too. The floating dust settles on everything in the house. The presence of toddy shops are another nuisance.

How long should the residents suffer? How long will the illegal factory and farm owners adamantly staying put in those places continue to contaminate the environment and affect the residents' health?

The residents have never seen or met any MBI enforcement officers or its councillor in the area.

When it comes to the collecting of assessment, the MBI is forever ready but when complaints are made, no one in the 'corridors of power' hears anything. It is a big shame for MBI which is always boasting to be the best in the country. Datuk Bandar should visit in person to see the area and talk to the frustrated residents. Will he do that? The residents are waiting.

A Disappointed Resident

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SITI AWAN

Minimising Time

S.P. Bala, 49, of the Tamil Nesan's Ipoh bureau had his laptop and camera stolen from his office on the night of August 5.

He lodged a police report at the New Town police station but was told to go to the Old Town police station and report the incident to the A Team office.

When he got there, he was then told to go back and wait at his office for the police team A's arrival. He waited until 1.30 a.m. but there was no sign of the police, only a phone call informing him

that the team would come the following morning.

It appears from the above incident that the public is still being given the run-around and that measures to reduce the crime rate in Perak have not filtered down from the top.

S.P. Bala is not the only one to give an alternative version of their experiences with the police. And still we are told all is well and crime has gone down.

So, who and what, are we to believe?

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MUSINGS ON FOOD

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By See Foon Chan-Koppen

SeeFoon finds new Halal Restaurant

Move over Simpang Tiga, there's a new kid on the block

Having spent many years living in Malaysia and looking to replicate the taste and mouth feel of the Nasi Padang I grew up with in Singapore, I was delighted when Simpang Tiga opened up and I could indulge in all my childhood taste thrills. But as a huge restaurant, it comes with all the accompanying noise and bustle and can be quite distracting when you want to have a decent conversation.

Now recently I discovered a more intimate venue where the food tickles my fancy and hits all the right spots on my somewhat jaded and eclectic taste buds.

Rustic Ambience

Located at the rear of the new TKB building called 1 Casuarina, on Jalan Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah (old Gopeng Rd. for those who still haven't updated their memory banks) Pondok Padang can be hard to locate as the sign-posting is not prominent enough from the main road. Suffice to say that if you turned in to 1 Casuarina just after passing Impiana Hotel (the former Casuarina Hotel) on the left-hand side, you'll find Pondok Padang.

The entrance to the restaurant resembles a "pondok" or attap hut which creates a rustic kampong ambience. Situated on two storeys, the restaurant has 6 private rooms upstairs which can open up to



form a large room and an intimate seating on the ground floor.

The tables and chairs are from handmade bamboo imported from

Indonesia. Full air-conditioning assures one of comfortable dining although diners have the option of enjoying their meals indoor or outdoors, and service is prompt and friendly.

'Proof of Pudding'

An array of food behind glass greets you as you enter on your left and here you can select from the more than 30 items on offer. But as the saying goes, the 'proof of the pudding is in the eating' and no amount of intimacy and decor will suffice if the food is not up to par. Pondok Padang however lives up to its promise.

The outlet's operations manager, Robert Yeoh,

said four Indonesian chefs were specially engaged to prepare the dishes and delicacies. "Padang food is basically of Minangkabau origin and we specially hired the chefs from there to ensure that the taste is authentic", he added.

On the day I went, we were a group of 10 and we had sufficient numbers to warrant ordering a significant number of dishes so as to really taste a cross section of the food available. We all ordered freshly squeezed Umbra juice (a small green fruit that is probably from the mango family). I asked for mine without sugar which was a great idea as the others were grimacing over the syrupy taste of their drink.

two pieces; as was the *Kacang Goreng Tempeh*, fermented soya bean cake fried with peanuts and sambal – RM2.00.

The thick, tender chunks of white fleshed, *Ikan Ayam* or 'chicken fish', came with a chilli-sambal type of sauce that was quite mild and great for those seeking a less

the egg plant with red sambal and the bean sprouts with tofu.

The meal was rounded off with the addition of their green sambal, which is a combination of *petai*, green chillies and curry leaves, and their red sambal and of course the perennial standby, *sambal belacan*.



Ramadan Fare

For Ramadan, they are offering a Buka Puasa menu at RM30+ and from 9 p.m.-2 a.m., people can come and take home dishes for *Sahor* at a 30% discount. Seven menus will be offered during this time with a daily rotation over a week so diners can taste a variety of dishes and not be stuck with the same lot every evening.

First the Chicken...

First to arrive was the *Ayam Goreng Bumbu*, a deep-fried chicken smothered in crispy fried spice paste consisting primarily of garlic, tasty but a tad on the dry side – RM8.90. Another chicken dish that I much preferred which was extremely tasty was the *Ayam Gulai*, pieces of kampong chicken cooked in a thick turmeric coconut gravy – RM6.50.

Superlative Rendang

The *Beef Rendang* was superlative, tender pieces of beef blanketed in a rich, very 'lemak' thick dark sauce that had none of the sugariness of a lot of other local rendang that I have tasted – RM8.50. *Pergedil*, two patties of potato and meat then deep fried – the Indonesian hamburger – were tasty; RM3.00 for

fiery taste. *Gulai Sotong Sambat* is interesting. Whole squid stuffed with egg and tofu and cooked in a lemak gravy was one of my favourites.

Irresistible Fish Head

The piece de resistance of the meal had to be the *Gulai Kepala Ikan Merah*, red snapper head cooked in a coconut gravy. This is cooked ala minute and takes about 20 minutes. This arrived absolutely hot off-the-stove and the fish head was obviously freshly delivered from the market that morning..... with not the slightest hint of fishiness. Depending on the size of the fish head, the one we had that day was medium sized and costs RM35.

Vegetable accompaniments that we tried were the *Pucuk Paku* (jungle fern) in a coconut sauce,

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kampong tales • By Yusuf Martin



Conserving Culture

(The Kampar Tin Mining Museum)

In the autumn of 2011, Kampar, Perak, Malaysia, will finally receive its own splendidly unique museum dedicated to the preservation of its tin mining inheritance.

Following heritage initiatives of the tin museum in Selangor (Klang Tin Museum) and the Sungai Lembing Museum in Pahang (dedicated to the memory of tin mining in that area), the Kampar Tin Museum (Gravel Pump Mining) situated in the brand new town of Bandar Baru Kampar, is being created by an ex-Kampar MP – Tan Sri Hew See Tong – benefactor and patron to the new township – in line with Perak state's long reaching 'From Tin Mines to Mind Industries' initiative.

The long awaited tin museum, when completed, will seek to house reams of revealing and original photographs, illustrative paintings, vital tin mining artefacts and a host of information pertaining to the century and a half of tin mining in and around the Kampar area. The museum's main focus will be on gravel pump mining – one form of 'open-cast' tin mining, using pumped water to separate tin ore from the earth housing it in conjunction with a scaffold mounted sluice box.

To demonstrate the gravel pump process to visitors of the museum, there will be intriguing life-size working models of the operation. These models, already under construction, will be complete with running water as well as life-like models carefully crafted of concrete, assembled to represent both the workings and the tin miners engaged in the process of gravel pump mining, making the process abundantly clear for novice museum visitors.

The aim is to be informative to the museum's visitors and to assist in preserving the memory and heritage of tin mining. The museum intends to be a repository of knowledge about gravel pump tin mining and therefore an educational resource for schools, colleges and the nearby UTAR University, situated amidst the burgeoning new township of Bandar Baru Kampar.

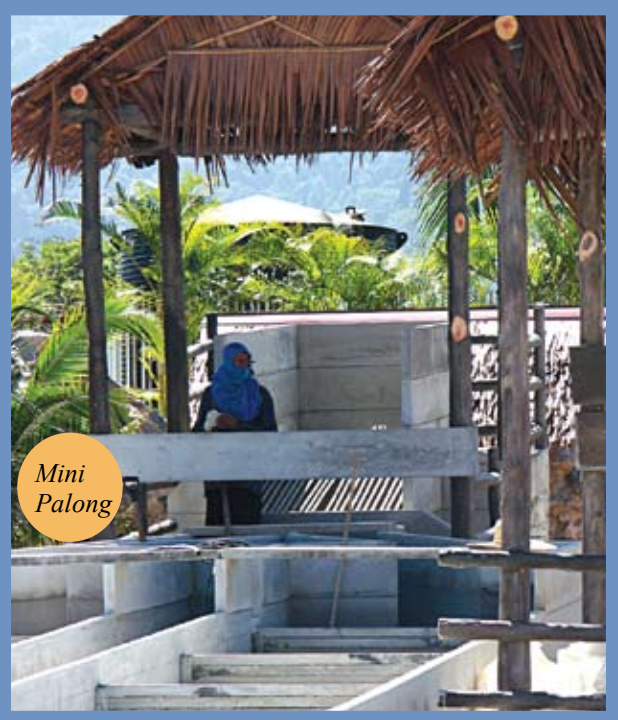
The museum and municipality of Bandar Baru are set against Malaysia's

undulating Titiwangsa mountain range. The town surroundings are graced by a host of lakes which are the result of that area's later-day tin mining industry. Kampar and Bandar Baru are preserved, thanks to the North/South Highway bypassing towns like Kampar.

In Kampar, antique buildings, dating back to the founding of that town, still adorn small streets with many local arts and crafts still found along the main thoroughfare or scattered along intriguing backstreets.

The small town

will be unable to do it" said Tan Sri Hew See Tong, when I asked him why start building a tin mining museum now. "Not ten years later, not five years...nobody can do it. Before we had over one hundred members, now when we get together we are only ten." The 'interested parties', those people concerned with tin and its heritage are now elderly. The decision to construct a museum needed to be made before it was too late. Tan Sri (see cover story), feared that younger generations may not have the same



Mini Palong

was originally named Mambang Di Awan (fairy in the clouds), after the mountain dominating the town's skyline, in whose shadow Kampar rests. Colonial District Officer J.B.M. Leech renamed the town Kampar, after the nearby Kampar River (Sungai Kampar) for, in true colonial style, Leech felt that Mambang Di Awan was too much of a mouthful to say.

"It's now or never, if we don't do it now we

interest in the preservation of their cultural heritage as the people who have been directly involved with tin and its production.

The tin mining museum is planned to open at the end of 2011. There is little doubt that the opening of the museum will be a major event, even in Kampar's remarkable history – it will be Kampar's first museum and the area's first museum dedicated solely to gravel pump tin mining.

Autism Support Association for Parents (ASAP)



Datin Grace Lee is to the right of Roland Hifler (centre). Extreme right is Michelle Cheng.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder or Autism is a development disorder. Children affected by this disorder have difficulty with communicating and interacting with others as their behaviour is rigid and they generally prefer a routine and repetitive behaviour.

Most times parents discover that their children are autistic after they start school and only realise the fact when their child is unable to cope with the basic school syllabus.

Parents with autistic children have come to realise that autism is a journey requiring much navigation. Realising their reality, a group of parents formed a support group, ASAP or the Autism Support Association for Parents to share experiences and resources. The association was registered last year in January 2009 with Datin Grace Lee as its patron. A year later in January 2010 the group started a school to provide academic education for children with autism.

According to ASAP adviser Ms Michelle Cheng, children with mild autism can achieve academically. Some of these children have special abilities (autistic savant) in music and art and if developed can enable them to earn a living. Not doing anything for these children will most likely lead to their inability to live independently when they grow up.

However their different styles towards learning make it difficult to adjust to the mainstream classroom. Hence the school was set up with a modified classroom and curriculum and teachers trained to deal with autistic children.

Currently the school has two teachers and three students. They need teachers as they intend to take in more students. No two students are ever the same as some disorders vary from mild to severe. The severe students need to learn living skills such as communication and how to interact with others and not just academic education. These children need to be taught the skills needed to adjust to the real world. Since every child is different the school as well as the teacher will actually grow with the children.

Of more importance though is the family's involvement and the parents' support group as the child spends more time at home. Through the association's awareness programmes to educate parents of the methods and therapies to help their children, the parents as well as the teachers feel empowered when performing their job at hand.

At the recently organised talk "Cognitive Education for the Autistic Child" by Roland Hifler, more than 80 participants attended. It was noted that 50% of the attendees were teachers from government schools while the rest were parents.

Hifler is a pedagogue and therapist graduate of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of Geneva University who has over ten years of clinical experience with autistic people. He is also the founder of an autistic children's programme authenticated by Geneva University. He has very generously donated his time to share his experiences with the local community.

JAG

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community

Kinta Heritage's Generous Offer



Garden Villa, a magnificent, beautifully preserved heritage building on No. 5 Jalan Dr. Nazrin Shah (Gopeng Road), was built in the Anglo-Malay architectural style by Eu Tong Sen in the early 1900s. Originally designed as an annex to Eu's nearby palatial residence Eu Chateau-Forest Lodge, the Garden Villa is now under lease to the Kinta Heritage Group who currently manages the building as community and exhibition space.

Garden Villa is open for use by any association or group involved in the promotion and preservation of Culture, Nature, History or Arts of Perak. Groups and associations may use Garden Villa to conduct talks, exhibitions, gatherings on a FREE OF CHARGE basis... for no more than 10 days at any given time. Commercial bodies may also make use of Garden Villa, although market rates will apply.

Anyone interested please call Magis at 05-2417055 to book on a first come first served basis. Email: kintaheritage@gmail.com.

Breaking Boundaries

A talk organised by the Perak Academy

Tradition and progress – can one exist alongside the other or are both mutually exclusive? This was the basis of an illuminating talk given by Dr. Muhammad Afifi al-Akiti, a Perakian that all Perakeans would be proud of.

Dr. Muhammad Afifi emphasised the importance of an equitable balance between progress, tradition and knowledge, both secular and scriptural. He quoted the University of Oxford motto of "Illuminato Dominus Mia" as a fine example of the balance



that can be achieved.

A first-ever Oxford don from Malaysia, Dr. Muhammad lectures in

Islamic Studies at the Faculty of Theology, Oxford's oldest faculty. Besides his excellent academic credentials, Dr Muhammad has a working knowledge of classical Arabic, Byzantine Greek, Medieval Latin, French and German. A stupendous achievement indeed for someone so young.

Beneath his unassuming countenance lies a great intellect and reservoir of knowledge that runs the gamut of the academic realm from lecturing, editorial work, scholarly articles and publications to

being a consultant on various BBC TV programmes on Islam. Schooled in a madrasah, this 34 year-old Batu Gajah who plays cricket applies his specialist knowledge of Islamic theology, philosophy and science in his pursuit of the dynamic relationship between science and religion, fides et ratio, in the medieval world.

Perakeans are proud to embrace this enlightened Anak Perak who has made his mark in the world and yet has both feet firmly on the ground!

VALERIE CHAN

Appeal for Help



A single mother, Chin Peck Yen, 40, appeals for assistance from well-meaning Ipohites to lessen the burden of raising her five children. Chin's husband, Chong Wei Yoon, 47, succumbed to injuries sustained after falling from his tractor recently. Since her husband's death Chin has been living a hand-to-mouth existence. She does odd jobs waiting and helping at hawker stalls in Pusing. Her meagre income of about RM200 a month can hardly support her family. The eldest, a 13 year-old boy is in secondary school while the youngest, a 5 year-old boy is in kindergarten. "It was fine when my husband was alive. But since his demise the future is really bleak for us", she told Ipoh Echo when approached. Chin was evicted from her rented house recently and now lives with her sister-in-law in Ladang Gunung Hijau, Pusing. Her plight was highlighted by the MCA Batu Gajah Deputy Division Chief, Dato' Lee Kon Yin. Those wishing to donate can deposit their money into Public Bank account: 3-1615316-31, in favour of MCA Perak Public Services and Complaints Bureau, or come personally to MCA Perak at: 90-92 Jalan Sultan Idris Shah, 31000 Ipoh.

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community

User-Friendly Pedestrian Walkways

MBI is upgrading many roads and pedestrian walkways in the city. The walkways along Jalan Dato' Onn Jaafar in front of the Store Department Store has been upgraded. The pedestrian walkway has been built with gradient when it meets cross roads to enable people to walk comfortably. Wheelchair-bound people can also use the walkway.

Railings have been installed in front of the Taxi Lane for passengers to queue up and it also provides safety especially for children, preventing them from running onto the road.

The sad part is MBI does not practice this good design in all locations. New pedestrian walkways were constructed along Jalan Tun Abdul Razak (Maxwell Road). Here the pedestrian walkway terminates at right angle to the road. Pedestrians have to walk up and down. The walkways have short spans and this is inconvenient especially for senior citizens. People were happy when the pedestrian walkway was constructed in this busy road but only to find out it is not user-friendly.

MBI must modify this and have a standard specification for construction of pedestrian walkways.

A. Jeyaraj

Toilet in the Centre of Little India



Traders in Little India are unhappy with the construction of a public toilet in the centre of the business area. The toilet is being built on the location of a memorial fountain. Siew Few Yuen, Proprietor of Ipoh Goldsmith Sdn Bhd said that MBI did not consult them on this. Another trader Amir Bacha of Malliga Fancy Store who had already made complaints in the Tamil press, wondered how MBI could do this?

It is customary for Indians and Chinese to offer prayers after opening the shop in the morning. Does MBI want them to offer prayers facing the toilet? And then for the rest of the day the traders have to face the toilet.

The traders are adamant that instead of giving explanations, excuses and justification, MBI must immediately demolish the toilet. The Prime Minister always says that his is a people friendly government and yet it appears that MBI does not adopt this policy. Unilateral decisions have been made without consultation of the people affected.

The traders are also partly to be blamed. Instead of each individual making a statement, they should get together and submit their proposal to MBI.

Knowing the poor track record of maintenance in Malaysia, the toilet will not be properly maintained and there will be a stench in the area. During Deepavali, Thaipusam and other Indian festivals when a large number of people will be using the toilet, the whole area will stink of urine.

The work on the project seems to have come to a standstill. When I visited the site during mid morning on a week day, no one was working. The whole area is fenced and people cannot see what is going on inside. MBI must inform the people there when the project will be completed including the final cost.

In future when MBI carries out this type of community projects it must hold public hearings to get input from the people.

A. Jeyaraj



Finally! The Electric Train Has Arrived

The much awaited Electric Train plying between Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur has finally pulled into the Ipoh's Railway Station. KTMB subsidiary Electric Train Services Sdn Bhd (ETS) which held a familiarization trip for VIP's, the media and guests two days before their official launch on August 12, received an overwhelming number of day trippers that a second train had to be called in to cater to all.

The round trip from Ipoh Railway Station to Kuala Lumpur started at 10:00 AM and had passengers back in Ipoh by 4:00 PM the same afternoon with lunch served on the platform of Kuala Lumpur Railway Station.

All of the passengers when interviewed commented that the ride was comfortable with most saying they had an afternoon nap before arriving in Ipoh.

Their only lament was the 'high' promotional price of RM30 per person explaining that a couple taking a round trip to KL would have to fork out RM120 when compared to a round trip to KL by bus which costs around RM80.

Dr. Aminuddin Adnan, ETS CEO said that the company would review the fare toward the end of the promotional 6 month period and announced that children under 12 years of age, the handicapped and senior citizens would be eligible for a 40% discount, while students get 20% discount.

Regarding the ticketing system which Ipohites had complained of being slow especially during peak periods Aminuddin stated that an improved ticketing system would be implemented for ETS this month. The new system would enable customers to book their tickets online and was eligible for discounts similar to budget airlines.

Aminuddin also stated ETS would review the demand for the service before adding additional trips. ETS had originally scheduled 16 return trips per day but subsequently reduced the number to 10 per day.

There will be four return trips to Kuala Lumpur and one right up to Seremban daily. Two of them are express services which leaves Ipoh at 4:00 AM and 2:00 PM with a travelling time between Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur of one hour and 50 minutes. The 2:00 PM train goes up to Seremban. The express services from KL Sentral are at 6:20 AM, and 6:48 PM.

The three transit services from Ipoh are scheduled at 5:30 AM, 11:15 AM and 6:30 PM; from KL Sentral at 8:30 AM, 2:00 PM and 9:00 PM. Travelling time is two hours and 15 minutes.

JAG

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news roundup

Jeyaratnam Campus



The Jeyaratnam campus was launched by Tan Sri Dato' Seri V. Jeyaratnam recently. In his welcome speech Jeyaratnam said that from its humble beginnings in 1982, Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah (YSIS) for the Disabled has grown to build its own campus at a cost of RM4.2 million which has been named after him.

The campus would provide skills training in both certificate and diploma levels and has a unique iconic structure. Its design is in the shape of a man in a wheelchair, the international logo for disability. The college would have all the facilities needed for a college-style, skills-training institute with hostels, lecture halls and other amenities.

He added that it would be difficult to raise funds especially in Ipoh since they have to go to the same organisations and people year after year which is unpleasant.

Dato' Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir who officially launched the Campus said the State Government recognises the good work done by (YSIS) and added that for a start he would donate RM100,000 on behalf of the state.

The ceremony included a march-past by the disabled and presentation of certificates to those who had completed caregivers training at the centre.

AJ

Promoting BAHASA MALAYSIA



Various efforts by individuals and groups are underway to promote the proper usage of Bahasa Malaysia, especially among the youth of today. One such attempt is by theatre group, Kelab Giat Budaya, through the staging of a play titled, "Izinkan Mimpi Berulang". The play was held at the Taman Budaya auditorium recently and was eagerly watched by an enthusiastic audience consisting mainly of college students from Ipoh.

The play focuses on Kak Rokiah, the protagonist, who champions the uplifting of Bahasa Malaysia which she inherits from her late father, a Malay nationalist. She faces insurmountable obstacles by way of an uncompromising generation of youths who is imbued with Western habits and ways of living. How she overcomes these difficulties becomes the central theme of the play.

The Department of Culture, Arts and Heritage Perak was instrumental in getting Kelab Giat Budaya started. Incidentally, the department is prepared to provide moral support, by way of a platform, to any theatre groups wishing to do so in the name of performing arts.

RM

Avoiding Blindness

The incidence of blindness among Malaysians is on the rise. According to a recent survey, some 0.4 per cent of the country's population suffers from some form of blindness. That means almost 110,000 Malaysians have problems with their eyesight.

In an effort to combat this scourge, the Rotary Club of Kinta has initiated actions to educate the public on the seriousness of the problem. "We have to target the source," said Dato' Dr. M. Subramaniam, the club's newly elected president during his opening address at the start of a seminar on eye-care for teachers and trainee teachers. The seminar held at Impiana Hotel Ipoh on Thursday, August 5, was attended by over 100 teachers from in and around Ipoh.



By the word "source" Subramaniam was referring to school kids. "Efforts at correcting eye defects are best done when the victims are still young," said Dato' Dr. Balaravi Pillai, the Head Consultant Ophthalmologist of Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh (Ipoh General Hospital). Dr. Balaravi warned the audience against falling for gimmicks such as the buy-one-get-one-free catchphrase favoured by many optical shops. "These so-called opticians are not trained and are no experts in eye care", he remarked. "You have to visit a government hospital to get expert advice and attention."

In a brief ceremony preceding the seminar, CIMB Bank Bhd, represented by its Greentown branch manager, Mr. S. Manivel Subramaniam donated RM101,200 to Rotary Club of Kinta to fund the club's community projects.

The bank has been actively pursuing its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme and has provided much financial assistance to the needy via social organisations like the Rotary Club of Kinta. Preventing blindness is one of the bank's favoured CSR initiatives.

FZB

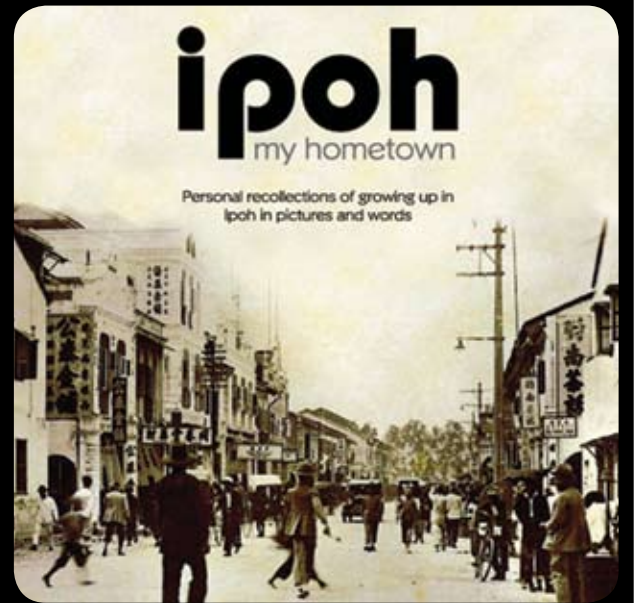
GUESTS from Fukuoka



For these ten Japanese students from Fukuoka their one-week stint in Ipoh was an eye-opener. They were here as guests of MBI since Fukuoka is Ipoh's twin city. Although their stay was short they took the opportunity to savour all they could about Malaysians, especially the lifestyle of Perakeans. "One experience we can never forget is the field trip we made to Batu Gajah, Taiping, Kuala Kangsar, Chemor and areas surrounding the city. We thoroughly enjoyed the outing and the local dishes we sampled were simply delicious", said Yoshimichi Kusake in flawless Bahasa Malaysia. Yoshimichi was the team's spokesman. The students were treated to dinner hosted by Dato' Abdul Rahim Mat Arif, Secretary of Ipoh City Council at the council building on Sunday, August 8. They were on their final leg of their visit to Ipoh.

RN

Special Announcement



Ipoh My Home Town

Based on his experience with building the IpohWorld database and blog at www.ipohworld.org and by popular demand from the large number of readers of the site, Ian Anderson has agreed to edit a new book entitled: "Ipoh My Home Town: Personal Reminiscences of Growing Up in Ipoh". An artist's impression of what the book may look like is shown here. Already he has gathered several articles and photographs from a range of people many of whom no longer live here, but more stories are needed to make this publication a success.

The oldest contributor so far was born in 1920 but anyone who was born before 1995 may submit articles and photographs via info@ipohworld.org and those whose submission(s) are published will receive a free book. The length of the articles should be between one and two typewritten pages (Times New Roman 12 or similar) and should be truthful memories of being a child in Ipoh. Where possible, relevant photographs should be provided with the articles.

As a guide to how your memories might be written down some of the donors have described the street or area they lived in and the people that lived there. Others have targeted life under the Japanese, the Emergency, cinemas and entertainment, childhood games and sports, while some have included the hawkers and traders who called in the street, the shophouse they lived in or life at school in Ipoh. The field is therefore wide open and whatever you remember about your childhood in Ipoh will be welcome.

Some more guidelines on the project may be found at <http://www.ipohworld.org/blog/?p=1878>.

By the way, Ian has a word of advice to those who are concerned about their grammar or spelling. You can stop worrying and start writing right now as Ian will put these little problems right before the book goes to the printers.

We look forward to reading the new book, but remember its success depends on your contribution, so please support this worthwhile effort to document Ipoh's history.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The family of the late
Julie Lowe Soon Leng
wishes to thank:

Rev. Father Lai and church members of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church, Ipoh, doctors and staff of UMMC (PJ), Ipoh General Hospital and Batu Gajah Palliative Care Unit, former colleagues of Ave Maria Convent Ipoh, friends and relatives for their kindness, love, care, support and invaluable assistance rendered during our recent bereavement.

sport

Century Ride a Success



Ipo once again became the focal point of cyclists from all over the world when it hosted Century Ride Malaysia 2010 – the fourth since its inception in 2007. They converged at the start point at Bt Kinding Resort, Tanjung Rambutan on Sunday morning, August 1.

The ride, covering a distance of 160 km (100 miles), took riders past scenic vistas, over undulating terrain and meandering rivers consistent with the geographical features in the Tg. Rambutan-Chemor-Sg. Siput-Kuala Kangsar hinterland. This cycling extravaganza was organised by Kelab Road Runners Ipoh (KRI).

“We’re proud that the first century ride was started here in Perak. Presently, this is the only competition of its kind in Malaysia and in the region”, said KRI President, Chong Him Shoong. “This event brings the world to our doorsteps.”

There had been a steady increase in participants from 300 in 2007 to 545 in 2009 and 603 this year. “Half of them are foreigners. They come from Europe, Japan and from the South East Asian region”, said Ernest Balasingam, the organising chairman.

sponsorships and hoped for more next year. “The state government plans to make Century Ride 2011 a calendar event”, said Choong. “This will give the boost it truly deserves.”

FZB



YB Zainol Fadzi with Ernest and Chong on his right

OPEN HOUSE at Bukit Kinding

An estimated crowd of about 500 people attended the “Open House Day” at Bukit Kinding Resort on August 8. The Balinese themed Resort is located just 15 minutes east of Ipoh in Tanjung Rambutan. It is strategically located within the developing townships of Bandar Baru Bercham, Klebang, Tasek and Chemor.

Officiated by Managing Director Mr. Edward Tan, the morning started off with a Lion Dance performance by the Yuk Choy School troupe. Following his opening speech, members & their guests were treated to a lunch buffet.

Check out www.kinding.com.my for more news and upcoming activities.

KS



Canadian Taekwon-Do Academy



Founder and principal of the Tien Lung Taekwon-Do Academy of Canada, Mr. Terry J. Wisniewski, paid a courtesy call to the Perak Menteri Besar, Dato’ Seri Zambry Abd Kadir, at his office recently. Wisniewski expressed his desire to work closely with the Taekwon-Do Association of Perak (ITF) on technical matters with a view of promoting the martial art between both associations and ultimately, Canada and Malaysia.

At the same meeting, Wisniewski introduced the three Taekwon-Do exponents from Perak who had been accepted by Tien Lung to undergo a one-year intensive training under the apprenticeship programme offered by the academy. They are Chen Woan Yunn Isabella, 26, Benedict Chong Tet Heung, 24, and Dinesh Jaganathan, 23.

“This is the first time we’re inviting participants from Malaysia and it so happens all of the nominees are from Perak”, said Wisniewski who runs five schools in Canada.

Wisniewski then presented Zambry with the official tracksuit of the Tien Lung Taekwon-Do Academy. Present at the meeting were executive councillor for youth, culture and sports, Dato’ Zainol Fadzi bin Haji Paharuddin and the vice presidents of the Perak Taekwon-Do Association, Wan Koon Seng and Kong Wai Chien.

WKS

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.

“Role of Media in Enhancing NGO’s Ability to Serve the Community” a seminar co-hosted by Perak Women for Women Society (PWW) and Ipoh City Watch (ICW). Date and Time: Sunday, August 22 commencing at 9 am. Venue: PWW Centre 52, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Ipoh. Admission: Free. For details please call Secretary PWW at **012-5212480** or Ms Chong (ICW) at **012-5089753**.

young perak

ACS Speech Day



The annual ACS Speech Day was held at the school auditorium on July 30. The event was graced and officiated by well-known actor, M. Manogaran of TV sitcom ‘Kopitiam’ fame. Mano, an Ipohite, is a former student of ACS. The occasion was to honour the achievements of past and present students of the school.

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letter from ulukinta



An uncle of mine used to jog the two kilometres to his favourite nasi lemak stall, wash two 'bungkus' of nasi lemak down with teh tarik, then telephone his son to fetch him home, in the car. That was his 'morning exercise'.

My friends promptly pay their monthly gym fees, but have yet to attend their fitness class. This is after new purchases of track suit, trainers, headband and other accessories to look good.

The above are classic examples of 'keep-fit' Malaysian style.

I am just as bad. At my first 'free trial' in the gym, all went well, until the instructor showing me how the gym equipment worked, asked me to do abdominal crunches on the exercise mat. The thought of wallowing in someone else's salty and sticky

sweat, on the glistening, smelly and damp mat, prompted a hurried exit. I never returned.

Soon after, I joined my children in their martial-arts class. It seemed pointless dropping them off and picking them up after an hour. So, I killed two birds with one stone, killed time and killed the urge to snack whilst waiting. I was happy; they were not. However, the possibility of sparring with me and kicking my butt seemed attractive. They reluctantly acquiesced.

I wasn't alone. Another mother joined because her children were in the class. An older lady, a grandmother, in her late sixties, also enrolled.

Anyone would think the instructor had difficulty controlling the younger children. No. He had trouble with the older women.

Courtesy, Courage and Discipline

We had an opinion about everything...from recipes, the children, work related issues, husbands, boy-friends, mutual friends... anything! It was fun – like being back at school.

"Sir", our young instructor, probably felt uncomfortable admonishing us. He warned the class, that we would do 10 push-ups and 10 laps around the training area, each time anyone chatted.

It worked. Everyone suffered and we became unpopular. But being older, we were the first to tire from the punishment. We quickly emerged as model, quiet, students.

Training with a wide age range, is stimulating, encouraging and a good way to keep fit whilst learning something new – the art of self-defence.

It is also good discipline and as I progressed, the mental and spiritual focus helped me free my mind of outside influences, helped me achieve my goals, relieve stress and manage anxiety. Most important was that I found a renewed confidence.

We trained in Sir's garden. The grass suffered but it was nice in the open air, with the surrounding trees and the backdrop of Ipoh's blue-green hills.

Best of all, we persevered and completed our successive gradings. Several months later, we received our certificates and belts.

We made "Sir" proud. His words of advice still ring in our ears, "The greatest warrior is the one who need never unsheathe his blade."

He told us that our hands and feet were our weapons and that we were never to use them to 'show off' or to get into a fight.

When faced with a confrontational situation, he told us to simply walk away. It is as Sun Tzu said in the 'Art of War': "To subdue the enemy without fighting is the greatest skill." It is about courtesy, courage and self-control. Soon after, we all parted company.

Recently, I was told that "Sir" had opened two martial-arts outlets: A taekwondo academy in Bandar Baru Medan and a muay thai academy in Tambun. We have yet to locate him and offer our congratulations.

Who is "Sir"?

He is none other than Bernard Radin, a Sarawakian of German-Iban parentage who has made Ipoh his home. He was once a problem child

picking fights with his peers. The commando instructors in Ulu Kinta became his mentors and confidantes. They moulded him into a martial arts success. He is a Malaysian champion, with medals and trophies from his triumphs, worldwide.

"Sir" may be grate-

ful to the commandos for giving him his self-respect. The community is grateful to "Sir" for helping 'troubled' children gain dignity and discipline through martial-arts. We are grateful to "Sir" for his sense of humour, his patience and placing his trust in us.

YAM

OUR 100th ISSUE ANNIVERSARY A BIG SUCCESS

Mayor Roshidi receiving commemorative plaque from Lim Si Boon



Ipoh Echo's 100th Issue Anniversary Party held at the Impiana Hotel was a rousing success.

Even at the last minute there were requests for seats. The guest of honour was the State Tourism Chairman, Dato' Hamidah Osman. Present were mayor Dato' Hj Roshidi Hashim, Commander 2nd Malaysian Infantry Brigade, Brig-Gen Dato' Pahlawan Zulkifli Mansor, Ipoh Echo's chairman, Lim Si Boon, and Ipoh Echo's founders and directors, Fathol Zaman Bukhari and G. Sivapragasam.

The 400-strong supporters were entertained by a galaxy of "home-grown talent", who performed cultural dances and sang in various languages in the spirit of 1Malaysia.

In her speech, Dato' Hamidah congratulated Ipoh Echo for its success and hoped it would continue to get the support of the residents of Ipoh.

For more pictures of the celebration, check out our website at: www.ipohecho.com.my.

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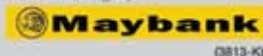
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community

A Timely Boost for ICW

Ipoh City Watch (ICW), for no apparent reasons, has virtually disappeared from the radar screen. This non-governmental organisation, formed in November 2002 by concerned Ipohites who wanted a body to represent them when confronting the authorities, has become a shadow of its former self. The organisation's primary objective was to enhance the living standards of residents. It also acted as a conduit for residents to voice their complaints, grouses, dissatisfaction etc to the powers-that-be – the Ipoh City Council. It was active for the first few years but waning interest coupled with inertia almost grounded the society for good. Attempts at reviving the NGO met with lukewarm responses as an effective leader was inexplicably absent.

The organisation was in the doldrums and, despite nudging by well-meaning individuals, no headway was made.

Lawyer Augustine Anthony was elected president of the society in March 2009. He was number six, a record of



sorts for within 7 years of formation there had been six changes in the society's hierarchy. Many had predicted that Augustine's tenure would go the same way as the rest. It did not happen. He had inherited a problem-riddled society high on goals but short on drive. In spite of his busy schedule, Augustine still found the time to conduct an audit and do a long-overdue spring cleaning. The society's accounts were updated and balanced. The membership list reviewed, rewritten and re-posted. Those lost in transition were recalled and reassured.

"A complete overhaul was necessary as lethargy has stymied the system," said Augustine to Ipoh Echo. "An infusion of new blood is imperative to make ICW tick." That was when fresh faces such as Ms Chong, Ram Naidu,

Steven Lee and Bah Tony came on the scene. The revival would have been meaningless if the members of the society were not appeased. "That's what prompted me to organise the fellowship dinner at Ipoh City and Country Club on Friday, July 30 after a failed first attempt."

The dinner was a rousing success. All 11 tables up for sale were hastily grabbed by members and well-wishers eager to give the new president a head start. The 100-odd revellers had a fun-filled night and while they dined, emcee Ram led them through a routine of belly dances and a spirited singing and musical rendition by a Michael Jackson impersonator and a Kenny G wannabe. In his closing remarks, Augustine stressed the importance of fellowship and team spirit. "We're like a football team. Each of us has a role to play. If one fumbles he or she can depend on the other for help."

The new team is not only committed but is also passionate. ICW is on the right track and its revival is most timely, as Ipohites brace for fresh challenges ahead.

FZB

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Taiko - Straits Developments Sdn. Bhd. held a Living Showcase of their development The Thompson – Flora Tropika Residences recently. In a tie-up with CIMB Preferred Customers Division and Ipoh Motors displaying the latest model of Mercedes-Benz ML and E-Class, more than 400 guests nibbled on posh nosh, drank red wine and oohed and aahed through the two model show-homes, one in a contemporary décor and the other in modern Chinese while a live quartet entertained. The develop-

Latest models Benz compliments showhouses



ment, consisting of 46 bungalows ranging from 6,900 sq. ft. - 8,100 sq. ft. will boast a super deluxe clubhouse with an infinity pool, Jacuzzi, gym and all mod-cons. Multi-layered

security promises peace of mind to the discerning few who can afford to live in Ipoh's most prestigious residential area. For more information: Eunice 012-507 5311.

PERAK MALAYALEE BUILDING



After being in existence for 46 years the Perak Malayalee Association (PMA) can now boast a more regal-looking headquarters of its own. Located on the top floor of a shop lot in Bandar Baru, Ipoh the building cost the association RM280,000 inclusive of renovation. "We now have a more conducive place to hold our activities," said K. Letchimanan, the asso-

ciation's president.

The opening ceremony was performed by Dato' S. Veerasingam, the advisor to MB Perak on Saturday, July 31 which coincided with PMA's 46th anniversary. A cake-cutting ceremony followed soon after.

Present to grace the occasion were the President of the All-Malaysian Malayalee Association, Tan Sri Ravindran Menon, Speaker of the Perak State Assembly, Dato'

R. Ganesan, Dato' Dr Balaravi, senior consultant ophthalmologist with General Hospital Ipoh and some 200 well-wishers from all over the country.

The national association plans to organise a lunch with the Prime Minister on Saturday, September 2, at the Malaysian Agro Exposition Park Serdang. For details on the event please call K. Letchimanan at: 012-5381939.

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