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Tea Cup'

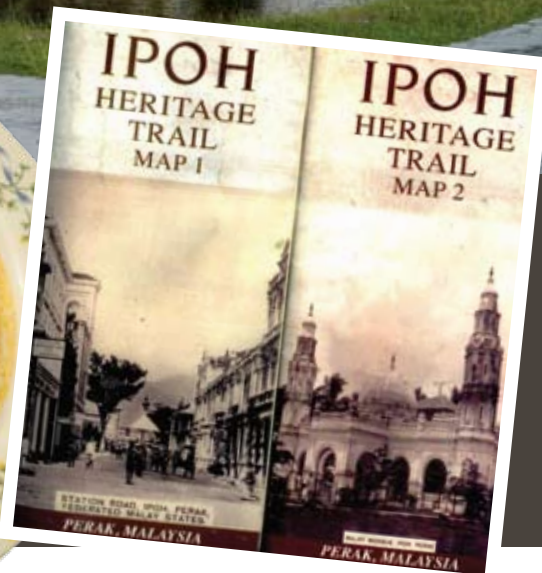
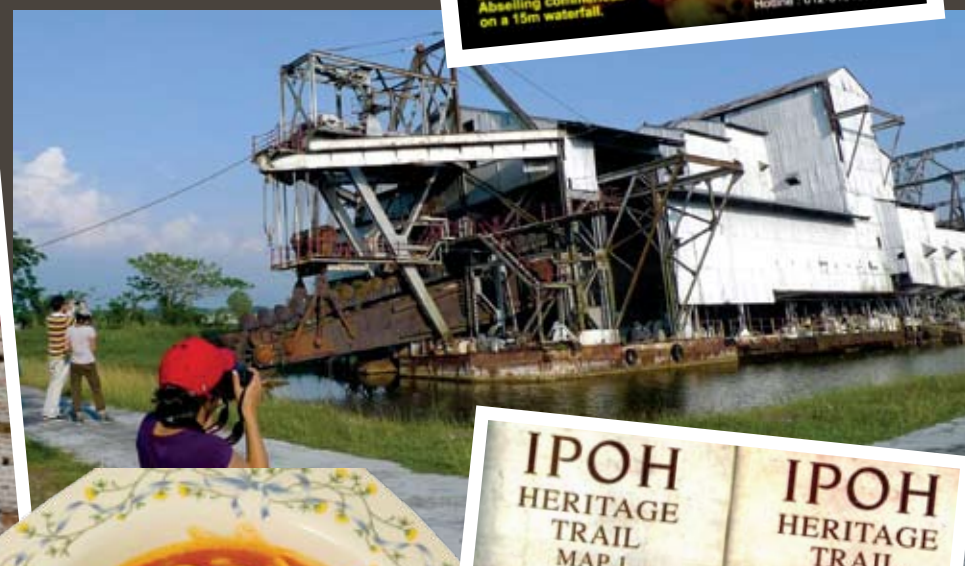
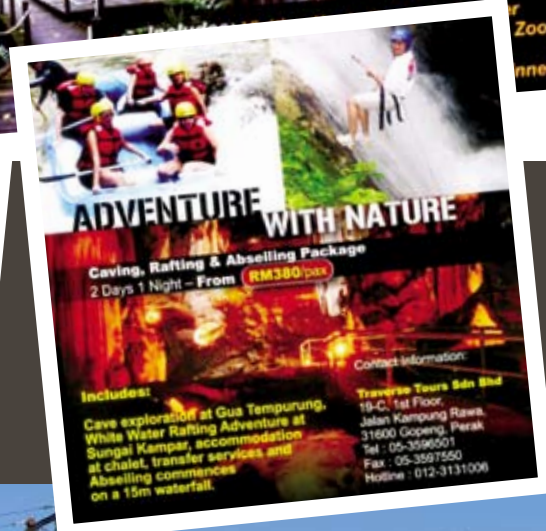
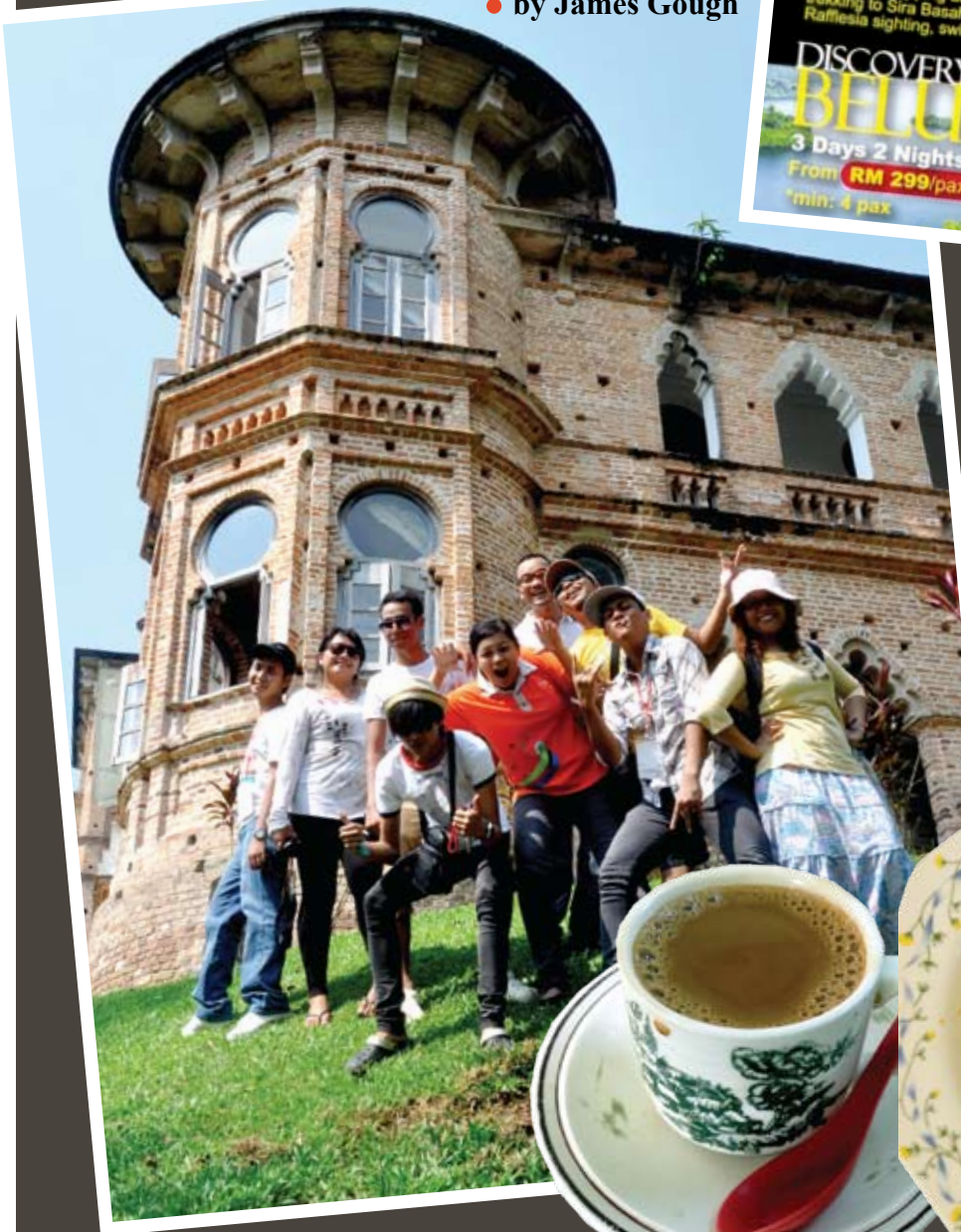
COMING!

Perak Tourism News
supplement will be out with
Issue 125 August 1.

*Exclusive news on tourism in
the state ahead of Visit Perak
Year 2012.*

AMBITIOUS TARGET FOR VISIT PERAK YEAR 2012

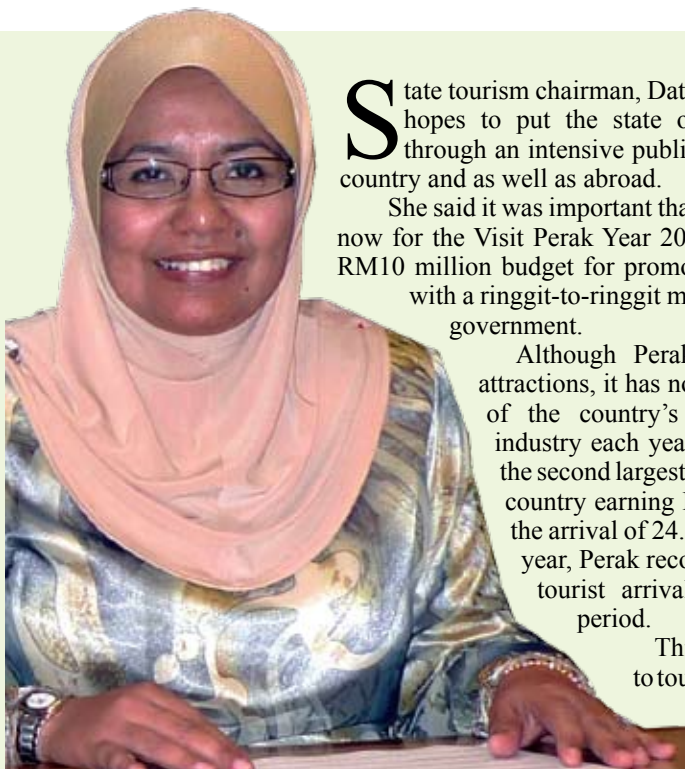
• by James Gough



Perak is to embark on an aggressive programme to promote tourism in the state. It has set a target for three million tourist arrivals under its Visit Perak Year 2012. The promotion, which lifted off this month, has a two-prong approach. One is to spruce up the various tourist attractions available in the state and the other is to draw up attractive tour packages to lure tourists to stay overnight.

Continued on page 2

Publicity Campaign to Put Perak on Tourism Map



State tourism chairman, Dato' Hamidah Othman, hopes to put the state on the tourism map through an intensive publicity campaign in the country and as well as abroad.

She said it was important that they start preparing now for the Visit Perak Year 2012. She is seeking a RM10 million budget for promotions from the state with a ringgit-to-ringgit match from the federal government.

Although Perak has many tourist attractions, it has not felt the full impact of the country's successful tourism industry each year. Though tourism is the second largest revenue earner in the country earning RM56.5 billion from the arrival of 24.6 million visitors last year, Perak recorded just 2.2 million tourist arrivals during the same period.

This is being attributed to tour agents from Penang and Kuala Lumpur for organising only day trips to the various tourist

attractions in the state, while local tour agents appear to be just interested in outbound tours.

As a result, the number of visitors to Perak has been experiencing a declining trend in the last three years. Perak therefore needs to offer attractive tour packages to lure tourists to stay longer.

Lure Tourists To Stay Longer

"Our goal for Visit Perak Year 2012 is to create 3 days-2 nights (3D2N) packages to allow visitors to the state to stay overnight," said Hamidah. According to her, getting visitors to stay overnight would have a spill-over effect for the industry players.

Generally, a visitor to Ipoh who is staying for a 2D1N package spends an average RM300 which covers accommodation, transport, food and shopping. Based on this simple formula and at 3 million visitors the spill over effect to the industry would be RM900 million.

However, Hamidah is planning to come out with 3D2N package stays. She has identified four packages to be worked on. They are Belum and Lenggong, Kuala Kangsar and Taiping, Pangkor and Manjung and Ipoh.

With just over five months to go, preparations for

the Visit Perak Year will start with a seminar to be attended by the stake holders and hoteliers.

Similarly, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abdul Kadir will also be holding briefings with representatives from all district councils and local authorities to prepare for events on district, federal and international levels.

Locals To Think Tourism And Do Tourism

"Visit Perak Year 2012 will involve the whole state," stressed Hamidah. "We need to create awareness throughout the state and have the local residents as well as local councils, to participate to have a Fiesta. We have to tickle the locals to think tourism and do tourism".

The theme for Visit Perak Year 2012 is "Green Tourism. Yours to Discover. Nature and Heritage" which is aligned to Tourism Malaysia's tagline "Go Green, Go Clean". Hamidah has budgeted RM7.5 million for promotions. Besides new brochures, it will include 14 billboards throughout the North-South Highway from Johor to Perlis with additional billboards at KLIA, LCCT and KL Sentral. Two LRT coaches will feature Visit Perak Year's wraparounds while aggressive promotions via the main-stream media will commence this month. Apart from these, road shows are also to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Singapore, Medan and Jakarta.

Hamidah also announced that the state was working with an outside agent to develop the inbound tourism market saying that the local agents were more interested in promoting outbound tourism.

Meanwhile, the state is preparing some new tourist attractions; among them an allocation of RM200,000 for the Kinta Nature Park in Batu Gajah and a RM300,000 allocation for upgrading Lorong Panglima (Concubine Lane) in Ipoh.

Others include steps taken to float the last tin dredge at Tanjung Tualang, converting a decommissioned Royal Malaysian Navy warship, KD Rahmat, at Lumut into a living museum with a hotel and floating restaurant, promoting the firefly colony at Kampong Dew near Taiping, more Heritage Trail Maps for Old Town Ipoh, and plans for Batu Gajah and Gopeng.

Lenggong Valley archaeological site, where remains and artefacts from the Palaeolithic (old Stone Age) and Neolithic (new Stone Age) were found as well as the skeleton of the 11,000 years old Perak Man will be featured strongly.

On Ipoh/Tin Heritage, Hamidah initiated a move to gazette the area from Ipoh to Batu Gajah, Kampar and Gopeng as a Tin World Heritage site. Perak Tourism is collaborating with National Heritage Department to gazette the area though she is now going for National Heritage Gazetting.

Meanwhile, the Malayan railways company (KTMB) has donated one of its three 'domed verandas' that protrude outward from the Ipoh Railway station to be used as a Tourist Information Counter and centre for the heritage walk where visitors would be briefed before setting out on their walk.

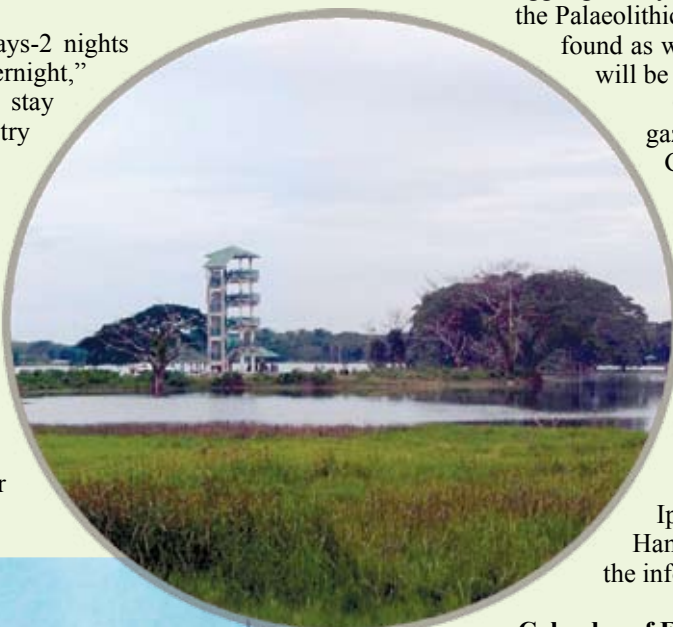
Ipoh Railway Station is the starting point of the Ipoh Heritage Walk every Saturday. According to Hamidah the Perak Tour Guides Association would operate the information centre when ready.

Calendar of Events

Perak Tourism too will be coming out with a Calendar of Events throughout next year with contributions from NGOs, associations and local government bodies. The calendar will be finalised by September and the printed copy out by October.

Other activities proposed by Hamidah include participation by commercial retailers to promote local products such as white coffee and even shoes, and promoting cycling to get around heritage trails.

On the overall preparations, Hamidah said that "generally we are ready. Our theme song and logo are ready while our promotions will start this month. Everything else should be completed by September as we plan to have a soft launch in October while the actual launch will be on January 1, 2012 after the New Year countdown."



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IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk

by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT A Necessary Evil

There are instances where owners have to pay more than what is usually billed. This has caused much misunderstanding, especially among those who are unfamiliar with regulations pertaining to assessment...

One inherent problem faced by property owners in Ipoh (and world-wide) is paying bills. They come with varying degrees of priority. There are bills which have to be settled immediately and there are those that provide some flexibility in payment. You have to pay your utility bills before the expiry dates mentioned unless you are prepared to live in darkness and without water to bathe or cook. Worse still, you may have to forego your favourite TV programmes. You can still tune in to the radio, as it can work on dry batteries but how far can you go without the luxury of tweeting and chatting online continuously? Modern amenities have increased our dependence on electricity without which we are as good as gone. And this is one fact we can neither dismiss nor deny.

One other bill-related problem which affects property owners in Ipoh annually is assessment. The common grouse among rate-payers is the 16 percentage levy formulated by City Council as the basis for the calculation of assessment of properties. Most are of the view that Ipoh's rate is the highest in the country. Residents of Petaling Jaya pay less, as their rate is not calculated at 16 per cent but 10 per cent! Why is Ipoh's rate so high?

Before I answer that let us see the quantum fixed by MBI on properties within the city:

- Mining land – 2 per cent.
- Agricultural land – 6 per cent.
- Properties on traditional kampong – 5 per cent.
- Properties in new village and planned village – 8 per cent.
- Industrial properties – 10 per cent.
- Flats/apartments/condominiums – 10 per cent.
- Properties in the city and housing estates – 16 per cent.

Most of us are in the 16 per cent bracket, less for the fortunate few who live in flats, apartments and condominiums. Their reason for a reduction, which was approved in 2010, is valid as they have to pay monthly maintenance fees to upkeep their properties.

The authority to fix the rate is with the state government, pursuant to Local Government Act 1976. The rates mentioned above, with the exception of those for flats/apartments/condominiums, have been in force since 1981. City Council has made several applications for an increase but was turned down each time.

The 16 per cent charged to house owners within city limits is 16 per cent of the annual rent obtainable from the property. Example, if the rent rate of your terrace house in Bercham is RM350 a month, the assessment rate you have to pay will be 16 per cent of RM350 x 12 months = RM672. The rate for empty land is calculated based on the



market value of the land.

In spite of the foregoing, there are instances where owners have to pay more than what is usually billed. This has caused much misunderstanding, especially among those who are unfamiliar with regulations pertaining to assessment. When owners develop their empty land or extend their properties they have to pay a different rate than they have previously. This is to be expected, as the aggregate value of their properties has increased, exponentially.

Illegal extension is a bane of the council. Many house owners prefer to make unauthorised extensions so as to avoid paying the council. "This is not wise," said Burhanuddin Maamor from the Department of Valuation and Property Management MBI at a media briefing recently. "The council adopts a conciliatory rather than a confrontational approach in dealing with the matter," he added. So there is still recourse to resolve your problem should you, unwittingly, contravene the council's by-laws. "Own up," Burhanuddin advised. "Don't hide."

The council charges a RM200 fee to process an extension application. A small sum to pay, considering the hefty fine imposed if you are caught breaking the law. The council is at liberty to destroy the extension and fine the owner for the infringement.

We ought to remember that over 70 per cent of the council's income comes from assessment. MBI needs the money to develop the city. Therefore, it is important that we pay our dues on time.

For those with queries on your annual assessment please visit the Department of Valuation and Property Management on the 4th Floor of the MBI building. Burhanuddin can be contacted at **05-2083318**. He is one affable officer unlike the impression most have of council's officers, especially those in positions of authority.

Business

The Haven Bags International Quality Award

The Haven Lakeside Residences, Tambun bagged the International Arch of Europe Award at its 25th International Quality Convention held in Frankfurt, Germany, on June 27. Dubbed the "Oscar of the Business World", the award recognises quality and excellence of companies that invest great effort in improving their products and services.

The Haven's David Yam received the award from President and CEO, Jose E. Prieto of Business Initiative Directions (BID), a leading private organisation awarding companies worldwide.

The citation says, "The Haven was named winner of the 2011 BID International Arch of Europe Award in Frankfurt, a trophy that BID presents to those companies from around the world that are dedicated to high standards of excellence and innovation in their practices and focus on quality first."

Malaysian companies previously awarded were Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Permodalan Nasional Berhad, and YTL Power Services Sdn Bhd.

Co-principal Peter Chan said it was an honour for the company to have been rewarded for its entrepreneurial achievements and also its role in quality and innovation, two key requirements for receiving the Business Initiative Directions Quality Award. He was humbled by the recognition considering that fellow winners were global companies from the Fortune 500 list.

They are Operadora VIPs, Wal-Mart, Turner Construction International LLC, Indian Oil Corporation, Tata Elxsi and Hong Yuen Electronics Ltd.



David Yam receiving the BID International Arch of Europe Award from President and CEO Jose E. Prieto, Frankfurt June 27

A Bridge For The Union Of Two Worlds by Peter Lee

Not long ago I came across an article which carried a story of an 11-year-old in Sabah who killed himself because he could not stand the poverty he was living in. He was found hanged from the ceiling of his house. Apparently, he could not endure the cruel teasing at school by classmates who likened the porridge he brought from home daily to that of dog vomit. Nadarajah was once a carpenter in the city. He suffered a stroke in year 2004. As a result, he lost his ability to work and provide for his family. His entire family now risk losing their home because they could not afford rental. Mariam suffers from renal failure and her crippling medical cost for 12 dialysis treatments is RM540 per month. Her father is always away from home and she is desperate for help. Lingam was paralysed since age 19 from a fall. He is now living on Social Welfare with a monthly allowance of RM150. His family depends on food donations. These sad stories tell us that the world of poverty has no sympathy and it is happening around us right now and there are many similar cases across the country. Therefore, is there hope for them?

Their hopes will always depend on the philanthropic world. The encouraging news is that there are more and more wealthy individuals nowadays who are willing to donate substantial amounts of their wealth to eradicate poverty. Some of these whom I have known personally are doing these good deeds without any publicity. However, I am sure there are many more out there who want to do the same thing but are looking for the right people or organisation to handle their money and pass it to their intended recipients while they are alive and continue to do so after they pass away. Many charities are connected to foundations but one can consider setting up a Charitable Trust where the Trust is in your name. The advantage of this is you don't require any approval from any authorities when it comes to setting it up because you will be the only authority approving this Trust. When setting up this Trust, you are called the "Settlor". You get to choose your "Trustee". In the case of continuity, then the choice of a "Trustee Company" like Rockwills Trustee Bhd is considered as most suitable because it provides expertise, impartiality and perpetuity. After you have chosen the Trustee, you can then choose your management committee whom you trust to provide sound advice to the Trustee on certain issues of donation if you are not around. Your management committee can have a minimum of 5 to a maximum of 7 members. However, if your instructions to the intended recipients are straight forward then you can leave it to the Trustee Company to execute your instructions. Then you must list down the choice of your recipients, the criteria of donation and the initial amount for funding. Finally, all this information must be stated in a legal document called the "Trust Deed" and this is the bridge for the union of two worlds to unlock the chain of poverty.

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. Website: <http://www.wills-trust.com.my>.



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Thinking **ALLOWED** • by Mariam Mokhtar

Two Women, Two Countries, One Goal

Ipoh's own Hollywood star, Bond-girl Michelle Yeoh, is tipped for an Oscar in the movie 'The Lady', about Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese pro-democracy leader, to be screened at the Venice Film Festival this August.

Suu Kyi, who heads her party, The National League for Democracy (NLD), is also a Nobel Peace laureate. At the 1990 general elections, the NLD scored an outright landslide victory.

It was Suu Kyi's personal sacrifice and her defence of human rights that has made her an iconic symbol for the Burmese people in their struggle for freedom.

Her father was Burma's independence hero, Aung San, who was assassinated in 1947, when Suu Kyi was just two years old. Suu Kyi spent her early years studying in Burma and India, and it was during her student years in Oxford University, that she met her husband, Michael Aris, the Tibet Scholar.

Struggle for Democracy

When she came home to Burma in 1988 to nurse her sick mother, she became involved in her nation's struggle for democracy. She witnessed the military regime quell the famous 8-8-88 uprising, by the Burmese people, when 5,000 demonstrators were killed.

The NLD was formed after the military coup in September 1988 and Suu Kyi was appointed its General Secretary. She travelled the country giving numerous speeches demanding freedom and democracy but attracted the attention of the authorities and her freedom was curtailed.

She spent over 15 years being incarcerated, most of it under house arrest under laws which allow for detention without charge or trial.

The NLD was triumphant in the general election of 1990 but victory was brushed aside by the military junta. The junta is still in power.

Mass Appeal Unabated

Last November, Suu Kyi was released from house arrest. The government-owned newspaper 'The New Light of Burma', which is published by the Ministry of Information, has said that the government's Ministry of Home Affairs warned Suu Kyi that her political activities were tantamount to breaking the law.

A report said, "If they really want to accept and practise democracy effectively, they are to stop such acts that can harm peace and stability and the rule of law as well as the unity among the people including monks and service personnel."

The military junta is fearful of the 66-year-old's influence and her ability to sway the crowds. Even after years of detention, Suu Kyi's mass appeal has not abated and international support for her is equally strong and popular.



Equally popular

Michelle Yeoh, our local heroine is no less popular in both Malaysian and international circles. Her action-thrillers, her Bond-girl role and her ability to perform the stunts in her movies have all added to her super-star status.

Her movies, 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon', the James Bond film 'Tomorrow Never Dies' and 'Memoirs of a Geisha', have achieved universal acclaim.

'The Lady'

Michelle paid a visit to Suu Kyi last December for the film which is directed by Luc Besson. 'The Lady' is a portrayal of the romance between Michael Aris and Suu Kyi, which is also shaped by political turmoil, her personal sacrifice and the suffering of her people. Scenes were shot in UK and France with the main shoot conducted in Thailand. The movie is slated to be released in October 2011.

Touched by the tenderness in the film, Michelle added: "More important for me is that people should know her story because unfortunately I think a lot of people have forgotten or don't really understand what was going on because it's been 20 years".

In the month of June, Malaysia saw turmoil: its own people have placed a demand for freedom of another kind; Freedom from dirty politics and dirty election practices.

Historic Irony

How ironic that Michelle Yeoh was banned from entering Burma and deported by the military junta. On her arrival in Burma on June 22, she was detained and despatched on the next flight out of Rangoon. A Burmese official was reported to have told Reuters that Michelle had been on the government blacklist.

Perhaps Malaysia and Burma have more in common than being ASEAN members; Two women, two countries, one type of struggle. One lives the life of hardship, the other portrays it. Make no mistake, there are other differences. It just depends how one looks at things.

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.

Pantai Hospital Ipoh Antenatal Classes. Saturday July 23, 2.00-6.30 p.m., Dahlia Utama, Level 4, Pantai Hospital Ipoh. Admission is free. Call: Ms Renuka/En Harith – 05-5405712/715.

Charity Food Fair 2011 by Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health. Sunday, July 24 at St John Ambulance Hall, Jalan Raja Musa Aziz from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Open to all. Call K. Letchimanan at 012-538 1939.

Ipoh Anglo-Chinese School Alumni Association Annual Reunion Dinner 2011, Saturday, August 6, 7.00 p.m. at Restaurant New She Lai Ton, Jalan Sultan Iskandar (Hugh Low St.), Ipoh. For dinner reservations, contact: 012-5001813 (Mr. S.Y. Lee), 012-5151116 (Mr. Looi), or 05-2531715 (Ms. Lim). For hotel reservations, contact: 012-5161548 (Mr. Guna) or 013-5218871 (Mr. Liew).

'Cars 2' – Sponsor a Child From a Home to Watch the Movie'. A service project by Soroptimist International of Ipoh. August 20, 11.00 a.m., TGV (Hall 2) at Kinta City Ipoh. Contact: Kuan – 012-5019250 or Jean – 012-5882313.

Ipoh Heritage Trail 1 & 2. Tourist guide K. Raja will now be charging RM20 per person. For enquiries, call 012-5242357 or email: k.raja8876@gmail.com.

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Creative Music Academy – 05-547 9828, 010-3888766, 010-3888733 or Witz – 012-5088818, PSPA – 05-5487814, 016-5334757; email: pspa2011fest@gmail.com.



Musings on Food

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Christian DiGiovanna

SeeFoon discovers that “Real Men Do Eat Quiche”

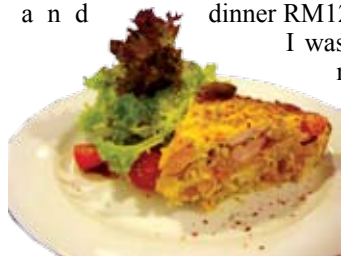
The title of this tongue-in-cheek book *Real Men Don't Eat Quiche*, by American Bruce Feirstein, a bestselling book in the 80s, satirizing stereotypes of masculinity, came to mind as I was tucking into Quiche recently at **Tammy's Kitchen** in Ipoh Garden East.

Tammy Tan, the enterprising proprietor and pastry chef, with her brother Robin Tan helming the kitchen, has created a small but comfortable cafe in this little neck of the woods on Hala Bandar Baru (take the road behind Jusco going towards Tambun, past Citrus on the right). Although the signboard is a tad difficult to read with its black lettering on red background, with the name Tammy's Kitchen, a visit to the cafe itself is worth the effort.

Homemade Quiche

As I mentioned right at the beginning, the **homemade Quiche** (a sort of open pie on a pastry shell) which is a meal in itself, is a heaven-sent thick chunk of melt-in-mouth pastry, eggs, cream, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions, cheese and very tasty sliced sausages and chicken ham. As I watched my friend Chris DiGiovanna, who often helps me out with the food shots, tuck into it with gusto and enjoyment, I couldn't help but think about the book that had given me a good chuckle in those days. The Quiche, which is one of the best I've tasted, sells out very quickly and is made fresh for both lunch and dinner RM12.90 per portion.

I was determined to sample as many of her dishes on the simple menu as possible and so I rounded up a group on two occasions to do just that. So here are my recommendations.



The **Chicken Pie** (weekends only) is quite small and can easily be eaten by one person RM6.50. Her **Cornish Pasty** (only 8 pieces a day and sells out quickly) is much larger, stuffed with carrots, potatoes, onions, chicken, fresh button mushrooms and is served with a salad – RM12.90. Both of these use short-crust pastry which gives them the crumbly texture which I love.

Western Dishes

We tasted the **Grilled Chicken Salad** which was unanimously voted by our group as excellent; morsels of grilled teriyaki-flavoured chicken pieces topping a crisp mixed salad with a subtle balsamic vinegar dressing – RM10. The **Seafood Pasta** (RM14.90) came with baby tomatoes and the **Creamy Mushroom Spaghetti** (RM12.90) was delicious. We also had a **Seafood Spaghetti** with pesto sauce which my dining companions enjoyed but I found, overly garlicky. While Tammy's spaghetti was more 'al dente' than most other cafes, I still found it softened for local taste buds and not quite to my purist Italian standards; nevertheless a good effort which will appeal to most local diners. With more than 23 different styles of pasta

available only on Fridays and weekends, is a wholesome portion with gravy served with a piece of garlic bread to soak up the sauce – RM16.50. For those into cheese and fish, there is the **Cheesy Salmon** which is an interesting fusion, quite delectable – RM14.50. The one anomaly on the menu which features all western-style dishes and which I found absolutely irresistible was the **Asam Seafood Rice**, made from their own secret recipe for the paste; a must-try for those who love a good *asam* taste.

Desserts and Pastries

A review of Tammy's Kitchen would not be complete without mention of their desserts and pastries. Highly recommended and top of my list is their **Tiramisu** which has to be one of the best I've ever tasted (RM12) followed by their **Banana Royale**, a tall wedge of sponge, cream and huge chunks of banana – RM7.50. Noteworthy and definitely worth dropping in for coffee are their **muffins** which vary between blueberry, banana walnut and cherry-chocolate. These are moist, crumbly and definitely worth the RM3.50 for each.

This is one restaurant that combines quality with value. Well worth visiting.



to choose from, diners are spoilt for choice.

For those into larger portions of meat, their **Australian Sirloin Steak** served with vegetables and french-fries was tender and great value at RM20.90. Their **Lamb Stew**, which is

HAWKER FOOD

Chee Yoke Fun



Chee Yoke Fun, or Chinese pork noodles, can be found easily in many Chinese coffee shops in Malaysia. It is a popular option for those who enjoy a wholesome bowl of soup noodles to kick start their morning, or for lunch.

The dish is usually served with minced pork patties, pork slices and liver. Some stalls offer additional pig's intestine, kidney, green leafy vegetables and crunchy fried pork fat (*chee yau char*) in their noodles.

Our recommendations:

Kedai Mi Cong Yin

39 Lebuhraya Taman Ipoh Selatan, Ipoh Garden South; 7.30 a.m.-2.00 p.m.
The Ferrari of all pork noodles in Ipoh! Very popular among the locals, especially during breakfast hours. Big bowl with generous serving of meat, liver and pork mince patties. RM6.00

Kedai Kopi Zun Seng Fatt

Jalan Bandar Timah, Old Town, Ipoh
Located just next to Kedai Kopi Thean Chun, or more popularly known as "Hall of Mirrors". Very flavourful broth with noodles served with slices of pork meat, liver, kidney and pork mince patties. RM4.00

New Hor Lok Restaurant

12, Persiaran Greenhill, New Town, Ipoh; 8.00 a.m.-1.30 p.m.
Another popular stall among Ipohites, where the cook is seen preparing up to 4 bowls at one go. Standard bowl served with meat, mince patties and liver. RM5.00

Kedai Kopi Kam Hor

89 Jalan Canning Estate, Ipoh Garden; 7.30 a.m.-2.00 p.m.
If you prefer vegetables in your bowl of noodles, then Kam Hor's version will whet your appetite. A standard bowl comes with slices of meat, mince patties, liver and *choy sum*. RM4.50

Kedai Makanan Mee Sun

2 Tingkat Taman Ipoh 6, Ipoh Garden South; 6.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m.
This stall is also quite popular and like Kam Hor, includes *choy sum* in its noodles, making the taste of the broth more clear and green in flavour. RM4.00

Tammy's Kitchen

17 Hala Bandar Baru Tambun 18, Desa Tambun Indah.
Tel: 017-4873728
Pork Free. Closed Tuesdays.



RECIPE

By Margarita Lee

Tofu and Green Apple Salad



Ingredients:

- 1 cup shredded green apple (soak in salt water for 5 minutes)
- 2 pieces firm tofu (cut into long strips, soak in salt water for 5 minutes)
- 1 tbsp lime or lemon juice
- 1 tbsp *bunga kantan* (torch ginger) – sliced finely
- 2 tbsp Thai chilli sauce
- 1 tbsp groundnuts (roasted and pounded)

Method:

1. Drain the green apple and tofu.
2. Heat oil in the wok, deep fry tofu till golden brown. Remove the tofu and set the strips on paper towel to absorb excess oil.
3. In a large bowl, combine shredded apple, tofu, Thai chilli sauce, lemon juice and *bunga kantan*, toss well.
4. Garnish with *bunga kantan* and pounded groundnuts.
5. Serve immediately.

news roundup

YBU Gets New CEO



The Chief Executive Officer of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU), Khairul Azwan Haron (pic left) handed over duties to Dato' Zainal Abidin Omar (pic right) effective July 4. The handing over ceremony was conducted at the foundation's Greentown Square office and was witnessed by Dato' Saarani Mohamad, Chairman of YBU.

The appointment of Dato' Zainal Abidin, according to Dato' Saarani, was based on recommendations made by the foundation's board of trustees. "Zainal has the experience and the capacity to helm the foundation," said Saarani in his opening remarks. He hoped that staff of YBU would give him the same support like what they had given to Khairul. "There is bound to be differences in the style of leadership of the new CEO as this is only to be expected," said the Chairman. "There won't be any major changes as the mission and objectives of YBU remain the same. The achievement of these goals is our primary concern," he added.

Khairul urged his former staff to continue with their responsibilities of helping the poor, the needy and the marginalised in tandem with the foundation's mission statement. He dismissed speculations that his untimely departure was attributable to some internal conflicts, imagined or otherwise. "I've no bone to pick with the MB or members of the board of directors," he stressed. "I am leaving so I can concentrate my time and energy on politics." Khairul, incidentally, is the Perak UMNO Youth cum Perak BN Youth chief. With the next general election drawing close, his political responsibilities take centre stage. "However, I am still a trustee of the foundation and will play my role, as required," he added.

The new CEO made his intentions clear. "I'll continue propagating YBU's mission and objectives making them achievable in the long-term," he said. In pursuing these definitive goals he is mindful of the Key Performance Index set in place by his bosses.

Dato' Zainal Abidin Omar was formerly the State Development Director. He is married to Datin Hajjah Nor Ainon Baharuddin. The couple has ten children.

The gathering then witnessed the unveiling of a coffee table book detailing the origin and growth of YBU to what it is today.

Ed

Enlightening The Rural Poor

A concerted effort to improve the living standard of the rural poor in Perak is being undertaken by BAIDURI (association of Perak Aduns' wives) helmed by the Menteri Besar's wife, Datin Seri Sharipah Zulkipili. The association's focus is on the field of education since enlightenment can ensure the survivability of these poor folks in the new economic era.



"Education is the basis for advancement in a competitive environment," said Sharipah at the launch of a student-adoption programme jointly organised by Yayasan Bina Upaya and BAIDURI at Sekolah Kebangsaan Suak Padi, Bota recently. The programme is targeted at children from poor rural backgrounds who will be sitting for their PMR and SPM examinations this year.

The method employed is in the form of motivational courses conducted for a period of three days each. Its objective is to provide the participants with the right frame of mind to face challenges head-on. Ten rural schools in each district have been identified and will stand to benefit from the programme which is funded by Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad. The company has allocated RM150,000 for the project.

Sharipah hoped that parents of participants would be equally motivated seeing that their charges are being cared for by the state.

RM

New GM of TOURISM PERAK



Ipoh Echo welcomes Mohamed Hisam bin Mohamad Yusof who is the new General Manager of Tourism Perak Management Bhd effective July 1. Many in the tourism industry would know Hisam as the COO from Aidil Travel & Tours Sdn Bhd.

Hisam, who hails from Taiping, had his early education at King Edward Institution, Taiping and did his tertiary education at UiTM majoring in Business Administration. Hisam, 40, started work in the banking industry before moving to the tourism industry several years ago.

On why he switched from his comfy post at a tour agency, Hisam explained that "I wanted a challenge. I am aware that this new post for me is VERY challenging but I feel that I am able to bring in more tourists to my State". Indeed with Visit Perak Year 2012 right around the corner that is a tall challenge. All the best Hisam.

JAG

Aid To Mission- and National-Type Schools



Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir gave financial aid to 18 mission- and 17 national-type schools in Perak. The aid, amounting to RM1 million, in all, was given to representatives of the schools during a simple ceremony held at the State Secretariat Building hall on July 5. It was for the first and second quarters of 2011. "The money will help ensure the implementation of the school's development programmes and projects. It's also a form of recognition by the state government for the role these schools play in educating the rakyat," said Zambry in his opening remarks.

The amount allotted is contingent upon the school's enrolment. Tarcisian Convent, Ipoh received RM43,714.69, the largest sum among the mission schools while SMK Ave Maria Convent got RM54,463.51, the largest among the national-type schools. Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon, state executive councillor for education was in attendance.

Ed

Recognising Youths' Contributions



Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir entertained representatives of youth organisations in Perak at his residence recently. The dinner was to honour those who had contributed to the development of youths in the state. Awards were given to winners of varying categories ranging from organisation to leadership to sportsmanship. In the organisation category 13 youth organisations vied for the coveted title of being the best organised and managed in the state while in the sports category, eight sporting bodies were nominated.

Dato' Zainol Padzi, state executive councillor for arts, youth and sports, expressed his desire to see keener participation among youngsters, especially in sports and social works. "Previously, the awards were meant for the three major races only. However, beginning this year, the

contest is opened to all races, especially the minorities," he told Ipoh Echo when met after dinner. "Those who have played a pivotal role in youth development need the recognition they truly deserve," he added.

RM

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Sport

Ipoh International Run 2011



The Ipoh International Run has gained much popularity, and judging from this year's response, this annual running event is here to stay. A total of 13,969 participants including 196 foreigners, the majority being Thais, Kenyans and Singaporeans (in that order), gathered in front of Stadium Indera Mulia, Ipoh on the morning of Sunday, July 3 to test their endurance.

Ipoh International Run 2011 is divided into 11 age divisions ranging from the Men's and Women's Open categories to the Boys' and Girls' junior categories. The distance also varies from the signature 21 km for the open categories to 5 km for the juniors. The number was the highest ever recorded since the run started 16 years ago. "The presence of Dato' Michelle Yeoh could be the motivating factor," said a bemused Dato' Roshidi Hashim to reporters. Last year the run attracted 12,500 entries. Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir, flagged off the runners and participated in the VIP category along with mayor Roshidi and a host of other VIPs.

As expected the Kenyans took top spots in both the Men's and Women's Open categories. Lilan Kennedy Kiproo completed the 21-km Half-Marathon in 1 hour 01 minute and 35 seconds to win the Men's Open title. Esther Wambui Karimi ran the same distance in 1 hour 10 minutes and 26 seconds to claim the Women's title. Lian Bee Hoon was the best Malaysian finisher in the Women's Open Category. She ran the 21-km course in 1 hour 42 minutes and 50 seconds and was placed tenth.

There were prizes for schools with the most number of participants. Sam Tet, Ipoh with 869 entries, won a landscape project package worth RM10,000 courtesy of City Council. Second placed Sekolah Raja Perempuan Ipoh with 660 entries won a similar package worth RM5,000 while third placed Sekolah Pasir Puteh with 541 entries, a RM3,000 deal.

Ed

Azry and Vivienne Triumph at Perak Amateur Golf Tournament



In a spectacular finale to the 56th Perak Men & Ladies Amateur Open 2011 held at Meru Valley Golf & Country Club in Ipoh, Mohammad Azry and Vivienne Chin grabbed the title in their respective categories.

Mohammad Azry from Kulim Golf Club beat Mohd Afif from Penang Golf Resort to win the men's amateur gross champion title, while Vivienne Chin from Malaysia Golf Association, took the women's crown.

The 3-day tournament held from June 24-26 saw a total of 71 players not only from across the country, but there were players who flew all the way from Singapore and Philippines.

The 16-year-old Azry (handicap 1), registered a gross score of 213, three under, swept pass Mohd Afif

Dottie Ardina from Philippines by 18 strokes to take the title on 212, 4 under (68-73-71). She is a 2-time amateur gross champion in Sabah winning the title when she was 12 and 13 years old.

"I am very happy and can't wait to go home to celebrate my achievement with my parents. I played well on the first day, leading by 13 strokes. I told myself to maintain the score and don't blow any hole for the next two days."

Dottie Ardina claimed second place, with a gross score of 230, while Amelia Yong from Singapore was third, two strokes adrift on 232 gross.

Jeremy Chan with a net score of 209 and Nur Dahiyah Damian with a net score of 208, emerged as men and ladies net champion respectively in this tournament.

who buckled under pressure to close with a gross score of 214, two under and was forced to settle for second placing. Coming close to third placing was Gavin Kyle Green who recorded a gross score of 216, par golf.

"I am very happy as this is the first time I won the title. I was two strokes behind the leader then and never expected to win. I told myself just treat it as a normal game and enjoy this beautiful course," said Azry, the champion.

Seventeen-year-old Vivienne Chin beat her rival

wellness

Swollen Inflamed Eyelids

In our continuing series on Eye Health, Fatimah Hospital's Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr. S.S. Gill talks to us about swollen red eyelids.



Dr. S.S. Gill
Resident
Consultant
Ophthalmologist,
Hospital Fatimah

Blepharitis is a condition that results in our eyelid margins becoming inflamed. It usually is chronic, causing irritation on and off and results in the eyelids becoming swollen, crusted and red.

It is similar in nature to chronic skin conditions like eczema except that blepharitis affects the eyelids and that too mainly the eyelid margins. Ladies especially find it a problem because it makes their eye makeup application difficult.

It is also annoying because it is often recurrent and chronic. When we describe an illness using the term 'chronic', it refers to the duration a person has been having the illness. It does not indicate how serious the condition is. Blepharitis is quite often chronic!

People with skin conditions such as rosacea or seborrheic dermatitis (like dandruff in the scalp) are more prone to blepharitis. The increased oil produced by the glands near the eyelid margins causes excess bacterial growth resulting in inflammation and redness. Another cause may be contact dermatitis due to allergies from a new makeup that you may have just started on.

Symptoms of blepharitis (inflamed eyelids) may include the following:

- * swollen and red eyelids
- * crusting on the eyelashes
- * gritty, burning or itching feeling in your eyes
- * eyelids sticking together
- * scaly or greasy eyelids
- * difficulty in wearing your contact lenses
- * blurred vision when the eyelid produces the oily secretions that get into the eye

How will it be treated?

If your practitioner has confirmed that you have blepharitis, then having good eyelid hygiene is even more important. Keep your eyelids clean and free from crusting of skin in order to reduce the risk of an infection.

Putting a warm moist compress by soaking a towel in hot water and then placing the warm towel over your eyelids for five to 10 minutes will often help. The water should not be scalding hot and the compress should feel comfortable on your skin. This often helps to loosen any crusting or flakes of skin. This can be done twice a day.

You can also clean your eyelids by using a small amount of baby shampoo diluted in warm water. Apply it with a cotton bud along the edge of your eyelid and rinse. Do not wear any eye makeup during this time as it could worsen your condition or slow down healing.

Depending on the cause, your practitioner may treat you with either antibiotic eye ointment or a mild steroid eye ointment to be used sparingly. This will need to be applied using a clean finger or a cotton bud taking care not to scratch your eye during application. If your symptoms are severe or other treatments don't work, your practitioner may prescribe oral antibiotics.

Blepharitis may be mistaken for other eye disorders, such as conjunctivitis or a sty or chalazion (small bump in the eyelid caused by a blockage of a tiny oil gland). Only your medical practitioner can properly diagnose blepharitis. If you suspect you have blepharitis, seek prompt medical attention.

For more information, contact **Gill Eye Specialist Centre** at **05-5455582**, email: gillyecentre@dr.com or visit www.fatimah.com.my.

KHAIRUL Resigns



Khairul Azwan Haron resigned as Perak football team manager effective July 5 citing the poor showing of the state team in the Super League as his reason for doing so. "One must be responsible for the team's failure," he said in a statement released to the press. "I am happy that Perak is placed sixth in the current standing. However, it's a little off the mark I've set for myself."

Khairul handed over his managerial responsibilities to Assistant Manager, Ahmad Shahrul Azhar. "I believe Ahmad can bring the team to the level expected. He's capable of preparing the team for the coming Malaysia Cup tournament," he added.

Khairul is also the Perak Football Association's honorary treasurer. "Although I am no longer involved in managing the team, I am still responsible for its finances. Therefore, I still have a role to play in the team's development and the development of football in Perak," he remarked.

FZB

news roundup

CIMB Community Link Gives Hope To The Disabled



In an effort to improve the livelihood of disabled children, CIMB Bank, under the Community Link Programme funded by CIMB Foundation, handed over a grant of RM49,771 to Ray of Hope charity home here recently.

The grant will be used to assist the Home's Sheltered Workshop Café Programme, to purchase electrical items, and furnish the kitchen with utensils that will help mass produce cookies and other food items to generate income for the Home.

Witnessed by CIMB Area Retail Manager, En. Harith Abdullah and Datuk Dr. Yeoh Beng San, the Home's Director, a mock cheque was presented by CIMB Ipoh Garden Branch Manager En. Mohd Sani Abbas to the Home's Chairman, Datin Mary Yeoh.

At the event, Dato' Mohd Shukri Hashim, execu-

tive Director, CIMB Group and Chief Executive Officer, CIMB Foundation commented that the main objective of CIMB Community Link Programme is to empower CIMB Bank's branch staff to work closely with the community in which they are located and make a meaningful contribution to society.

Shukri commented, "CIMB Foundation is non-profit organisation set up to implement CIMB Group's corporate social responsibility and philanthropic initiatives

aimed at empowering the community in a transparent, measurable and accountable way to enable them to stand on their own."

"Since 2007, CIMB foundation has funded a total of 517 Community Link projects amounting to more than RM25 million that covers three main areas namely, community development, sports and education," he added.

Meanwhile, Yeoh mentioned that the Ray of Hope is a non-profit multiracial home offering holistic, supplementary, vocational, educational and living skills to children with learning disabilities. With skills training the main criteria and with the support of their Community Link partner CIMB Bank, she hoped that the students will improve their survival skills further and set their sights for a brighter future.

Old Andersonians Not In Favour Of Hostel Takeover



Old Andersonians are not in favour of the North Kinta District Education Department's takeover of one of the three hostels at Anderson School.

President of Old Andersonians' Club (OAC) Datuk Dr. Anwar Hasssan said that the school has received a directive from the department of its intention to take over the building to be used as an office.

Dr. Anwar said in 1993 the department was allowed to use three blocks of the school building as its temporary office before moving to its own building. Instead of moving out, the department wants the hostel to be converted as their office. In fact it has taken part of the rugby field for a car park.

OAC is submitting a memorandum to the State Education Department requesting that its district education department comply with the original request and move out. About 90 students from the third hostel cannot be accommodated in the other two hostels which are already crammed.

AJ

obituary

Kristine Hooi Peng Yen passed away on July 6, 2011 in Singapore. She was 56 and had been battling with cancer for the last two years. Kristine was Dato' Yap Lim Sen's personal assistant. Born, bred and educated in Ipoh she was a true Ipohite.

I have known her for close to a decade. Gifted with a gentle nature, calm personality and a generous heart she was a fine human being.

Though not a political or social activist she was politically conscious and had a genuine feel for whatever that was wrong in society. I have often been surprised by her astute and down to earth perceptions.

Though not an active member of any of the social organisations in Ipoh she was an energetic supporter of every one of them. Rarely have I been to an event where I have not seen Kristine helping the organisers in some capacity or other.

Meeting her on occasions during her illness she never ceased to amaze me with her courage. Never a word of complaint and always in good spirits, her thoughts even then were not of herself but for others.

She will not only be missed by members of her family and friends but her passing is a loss to the various social circles that make Ipoh.

G. Sivapragasam

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Lost & Found

Doberman found at the Japanese Garden two weeks ago. The dog is being cared for at the Perak Turf Club. Can the worried owner please contact Ms Vanetha or Ms Lakshmi at: **05-2548084/2540505**.

Church's Annual Feast Day



The Church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help (OMPH) celebrated its feast day, which is celebrated on the third Saturday of June every year, on June 25.

The preached Novena for the nine days before the feast day focused on topics surrounding the 'Family' which was led by Redemptorist Mission Priests, Fr Paul Michael Kee and Fr Glenn DeCruz.

Fr Patrick Massang, the Vice Provincial of the Redemptorist Community, celebrated the feast day Mass with OMPH's Parish Priest Fr Phillip Lai.

The highlight of the celebration was the crowning of the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and a candle-light procession where float bearers carried the icon around the surrounding neighbourhood. Over 3,000 devotees participated.

JAG

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news roundup

Pig Farmers Sign "I Promise" Agreement



Pig farmers in Perak have agreed to sign the *Aku Janji* (I Promise) agreement whereby they would put in place enhanced standards of hygiene at their farms. Perak State health chairman Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon, who was present at the signing ceremony at the Veterinary Department in Ipoh, said that there are 131 licensed pig farmers in the state and 18 have already signed the Agreement. The Pig Farmers Association will get the signatures from the rest soon. Perak is the first state in the country to implement this system.

The purpose is to ensure that the highest standards of hygienic, environment-impacting practices are implemented and ensure safe pork is supplied to the consumers. Meat from dead pigs and "rubbish pork" (low-quality pork) will not be sold and enforcement officers from the department are to monitor the farms.

AJ

CUEPACS Wants Retirement Age To Be Raised

The Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (CUEPACS) wants the retirement age of civil servants to be raised to 60 years; its President Dato' Hj. Omar Osman said that Malaysians are physically fit and alert at that age and he would discuss this with Public Service Department (PSD). He was speaking during CUEPACS Perak AGM 2011 held in the Lands



and Minerals Office. He added that CUEPACS wants PSD to include its five new claims in the new Integrated Competency Development Programme (PROSPECT).

Omar said CUEPACS wants the minimum basic salary to be RM920. The cost of living is increasing and families are facing difficulty in managing their expenses. When queried whether the civil service is overstaffed with 1.2 million employees, Omar defended that it is not excessive.

During the AGM, the official website of CUEPACS Perak was launched and Omar officially opened the new office on the First Floor of the Forest Department.

AJ

Morning Enlightenment



The "Journey of Awakening" walk which started from Penang on May 22 reached Ipoh on the weekend of July 3.

The distance of the walk spans 850 km, from Penang to Johor Baru and is led by Rev Bema Doche Rinpoche the Abbot of Buddhist Johor Baru Centre and his two disciples. The walk is scheduled to end on December 31 at Johor.

The "Journey of Awakening" is initiated by Pure Karma Buddhist Centre and supported by Malaysian Interfaith Network (MIN), Muslim Youth Movement (ABIM) and Sri Sathya Sai Central Council of Malaysia (SAI).

The objective of the walk is to promote "Peace,

Interfaith Harmony and A Sustainable Environment" among the multi-racial and multi-faith Malaysians by creating awareness in our daily lives and managing life's challenges by embracing the Essence of Three Principles "Awakening, Realization and Enlightenment".

The walk in Ipoh started at 4.00 a.m. from Petronas Station, Gunung Lang, Kuala Kangsar Road and was concluded by 8.00 a.m. at Taman D.R. Seenivasagam. Over 130 devotees joined Rev Bema for the walk during which they prostrated 740 times or bowed 1 time after every 7 steps.

The assembly after the walk was graciously attended by Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon, State Exco for Non Islamic Affairs, En. Saidi Adnan from ABIM, Mr M. Krishnan (SAI Central Council of Malaysia) and Dr. John Gurusamy (MIN).

All of the speakers that morning spoke on promoting peace, harmony and preserving the environment for future generations.

The highlight of the program was the planting of 27 trees at 'International Peace Park' at a corner in Taman D.R. Seenivasagam to commemorate the event for sustainable environment. Earlier the organisers had released 108 birds.

Readers can follow the Journey updates by logging in to their page at <http://journeyawakening.wordpress.com>.

Tagore Opened Teachers Conference in Ipoh

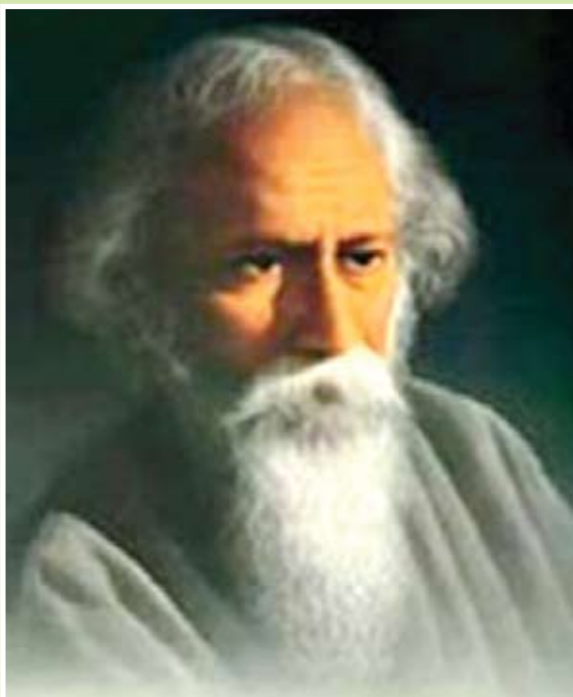
Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Malaya in 1927 is little known even amongst Tagore scholars. Tagore, a great Bengali poet who was the first Asian and non-European to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature for his poetic work *Geetanjali* in 1913, was introduced by Ms. Angela Faye Oon, Research Associate at the Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore who gave an insight on the purpose of his visit at the monthly talk organised by the Perak Academy.

Angela elaborated on Tagore's visit when he travelled from Singapore to Penang and on his way visited ten towns including Ipoh, Teluk Anson (Teluk Intan), Kuala Kangsar and Taiping in Perak. He arrived in Ipoh by train from Kuala Lumpur and a red carpet was laid on the platform of the station to receive him. While in Ipoh he addressed the teachers and opened their annual conference in the Town Hall on August 8, 1927. The hall was packed with teachers from throughout the country. He also visited Yuk Choy School.

The purpose of his visit was to raise funds for his university and was successful in receiving substantial cash. Wherever he went a receiving committee consisting of high-ranking people was set up to receive him. He gave talks to the Chinese and Indian communities. His talks were well attended by Asian and European communities. The newspapers gave wide coverage of the functions he attended.

His visit to Malaya is remembered by the foundation stone he laid on the Hu Yew Seah Building in Penang.

AJ



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LETTERS

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'Storm in an Ipoh Tea Cup'

My name is Stewart Hoo and, until this past April, I had been the president of the Royal Ipoh Club (RIC) for two consecutive years. This letter was prompted by the publishing of an article in Ipoh Echo issue 120 written by Fathol Zaman Bukhari outlining some of the events surrounding the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the RIC members.

As you might imagine, I was not pleased with what Fathol reported since it did little but cast a negative light on me and my committee's performance. I am writing to offer my views on what transpired at the AGM in the hopes of dispelling some misconceptions that readers may have gotten from the article.

Let me begin with the CCTV issue. CCTV was originally installed to curtail inappropriate behaviour by some members. As one might expect, those mostly affected by this system were members whose actions were what prompted the installation of the system to begin with and naturally, they were primarily the ones to initiate demands for its removal. At the 2010 AGM, a motion to remove the system was overwhelmingly defeated by a vote of 14 to 2. Thus, no action was taken to remove it.

The ROS matter which was brought up was not reported

accurately. The ROS (Registrar Of Societies) has, in fact, not initiated actions to de-register the club. In actual fact, ROS only sent a show-cause letter and the club's Management Committee has replied and is now awaiting an answer from ROS. There are reasons why this matter was brought up at the AGM which I choose not to detail here as it is not my intent to cause further embarrassment to the member(s) involved.

Regarding my inaction over a fracas involving a member of my committee, it was explained to the membership that this matter is under police investigation and since there had been no formal complaint filed by any members, the matter could not be referred to the disciplinary committee (DC).

One thing that was not mentioned by the reporter in the article was the behaviour and manner that was displayed by some of the members at the AGM. It was at times, reprehensible and mob-like, to say the least.

On a more positive note, some of the things achieved during my tenure as President were:

- I negotiated with Palmgold Corporation Bhd's owner to allow Royal Ipoh Club members to use their building at Jalan Datoh (next to Overseas Restaurant) as Royal Ipoh Club Sport Annex free of charge for the next thirty years with the entire building and facilities fully refurbished

and renovated.

- During my presidency, my committee recruited approximately 100 new members and collected new membership fees of RM7,500 per member.
- Palmgold Corporation Bhd also sponsored RM550,000 (Five-hundred and fifty-thousand) in CASH as a renovation fund for Royal Ipoh Club's main/existing clubhouse.
- The Idris Bar, Dining Room, Veranda, main entrance door and the ladies' and gents' washrooms were completely renovated.
- I introduced the ISO9001:2008 (Quality Management System) so that the club will be run by any management committee under the standard quality management system.

All in all I am very pleased with what was accomplished during my two years as President of RIC but, as is the case with any organisation, you can't make everyone happy all of the time. In my role as President it was my responsibility to ensure that the best interest of Royal Ipoh Club and the majority of its membership came first. I believe I have achieved this goal and made the club a better place for it.

Stewart Hoo

'Old Does Not Equal Heritage'

I have been waiting patiently for an explosion of comments against this article, but true to form we get the same few dedicated heritage buffs making their point, but where are those that matter?

There does not seem to be any opposition from the President and members of the Perak Heritage Society (PHS) nor the Kinta Heritage Group. Does that mean they agree with the article or they are "saving their powder" for "Letters to the Editor"?

Our position is quite clear. The article is appalling and misguided.

Ian Anderson
IpohWorld

Perak Dance Festival 2011



The Perak Dance festival organised by the Perak Society of Performing Arts that took place on July 1-2 was a very successful and exhilarating performance of non-stop beauty, energy and passion.

The Festival featured a wonderful variety of all forms of dance from classical ballet by the Singapore Dance Theatre to contemporary ballet from Bangkok City Ballet. There was contemporary Malay dance performed by ASWARA and Chinese traditional dance by SMJK Poi Lam both impressive visual feasts.

The opening item on the first night was by the energetic Titans Cheerleaders from Ave Maria Convent Ipoh followed by street dance by d'Artiz and hip hop by Danz people from Singapore, all performances of explosive energy. My favourite energy dance though was the performance by SMJK Poi Lam's modern dance club team called Devilz Crew. Dressed in basketball garb, theirs was a blazing explosion of high spirits across the stage.

Belly dancing by Susan Belly Dance Academy was seductive and captivating. Latin Dance by My Dancesport Studio with individual performances from Jeremie Gan was executed with fiery precision, ballet and Chua Phaik Tzhi from SMJK Ave Maria Convent Ipoh quite captured Michael Jackson's moves.

Was it too much for a dance festival? Apparently "it is the thing to do if you are initially introducing what dance is all about to a community for the first time" said Janek Schergen, the Artistic Director of the Singapore Dance Theatre. Similarly, Michael Yeap, founder of My Dancesport Studio, declared the festival as 'very successful'. "So much variety yet well arranged for a nice festival," he added.

For Datin Rosalina Ooi, PSPA's President, the success of the show was all due to the "passion for dance by all the participants".



Arts & Culture

By James Gough

Superlative Sitar

The recently held Sitar performance, SANGEET, was a wonderful musical experience.

Organised by Greentown Indian Cultural Society (GICS) together with the Indian Cultural Centre Kuala Lumpur, it featured a sitar performance by maestro, Ustad Mohksin Ali Khan, ranked as one of the best Sitarist in the world and his team from New Delhi, India.

Mohksin, 47, learned the sitar under his uncle Ustad Wazir Ali Khan and well-known musician-composer Pandit Partho Das. Mohksin's style now successfully blends the best of both his teachers in the renditions of his music.

The one *raga* played that night featured over 100 variations. The majority of the audience that night, when asked, stated they thoroughly enjoyed the show.

The show that night was held at the Multi Purpose Hall at the State Secretariat. Although admission was free, the attendance only half filled the hall.

According to GICS President, Subain Singam, the society's goal is to make Ipoh a place of performances for



Indian Music and Dance every month.

Their next event on Sunday 24 July is Ghazal which is Hindustani Classical Songs with a lot of wonderful & beautiful *ragas* (melodies) sung by Suman Devgan, one of the top Ghazal singers in the world. She will be accompanied by four top class musicians. All of the performers are from New Delhi.

Entrance again is free and held at the same venue. The event starts at 7.30 p.m. For enquiries, Subain Singam can be contacted at **012-5056049**.

Indeed the festival was fraught with obstacles. First the venue was changed at the last minute from the 300-seat Taman Budaya to the 1,000 seat state banquet hall. Then on the morning of the workshop, there were no lights or air-conditioning. "But dancers are a tough lot and when the going gets tough, the tough get going," chirped Rosalina.

Indeed the first night's performance had a lot of empty seats. The second night had more attendance as whole families came, perhaps from hearing of the stunning quality of the show. Well if there is another dance festival next year I will definitely be there.

Go online to www.ipohecho.com.my for the full photo gallery.



• Datin Rosalina with Janek Schergen

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Community

YOUNG PERAK

EAST MEETS EAST



History was made at the Gurduwara Sahib, Sitiawan recently when an Australian guy took a lady from a well-known Sikh family in Sitiawan as his lawful wedded wife. Kawaljit Kaur Sandhu, 32, daughter of Dr. Manjit Singh met Hayden W. Clark, 37, in Kota Kinabalu in 2006 when she was working with a power plant there.

Hayden works with a company dealing in industrial chemicals. His Kuala Lumpur-based company has branches in Sabah and Australia. Kawaljit Kaur is currently employed as a project manager in Kuala Lumpur.

"We had enough time to understand each other. It's only lately that we decided to get married. Hayden had embraced Sikhism and underwent the wedding ceremony according to Sikh customs," said the bride when met.

The couple got engaged in March this year after Hayden was converted at the same Sitiawan temple. He took the name, Inderraj Singh.

Inderraj Singh enjoyed every moment of the wedding ceremony and was so taken aback to see Kawaljit in her traditional wedding dress. "She looked gorgeous. I am lucky to have her as my wife," he exclaimed.

Hayden's parents, Mr and Mrs George Clark from Australia and the bride's relatives from India, Singapore and Australia were present to bless the newly-married couple.

SN

MANJUNG TRAINS
PERAK'S BOYS' BRIGADE

Manjung played host to Perak's first joint Boys' Brigade Basic and Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Training School. Unlike

previous years where members were sent to Penang for training, more than 100 members and officers from Ipoh, Manjung, Teluk Intan and even as far as Kulai, Johor gathered at the Ayer Tawar Chinese Methodist Church for the course recently. Over a period of three days, the participants underwent gruelling training activities to equip them with good leadership skills and guide them spiritually as well. Chong Chi Wei, 16, from Ipoh said of the tough nature of the camp, "I knew that this was not going to be easy when we were greeted with a 'welcoming gift' of 40 push-ups for being late." Other than drill, they attended classes on topics such as communication, planning, and presentation. At the end of the camp, all opined that they had gained invaluable experience and were proud to have completed the training. Perak State Commissioner, Tan Wee Tion, was present at the opening ceremony.

LYW

MGK Sports Day

It was a day of fun for the pupils of the Methodist Girls' Kindergarten at their recent Annual Sports Day. The event which was held in the Methodist Girls' Secondary School field was blessed and opened by Pastor Elaine Low of Canning Garden Methodist Church. Themed "1Malaysia", the boys and girls were decked in aptly designed T-shirts during the mass drill where they danced energetically to upbeat music. Later, they competed, class by class, in various sports events which



captured the Malaysian cultural drift. They played traditional games such as hopscotch, and had to don sarongs and clogs in obstacle races. Even the parents let their hair down in the Parents' Challenge in which they participated alongside their children. Chairman of the Kindergarten Management Committee, Leonard Lim presented prizes to the winners.

LYW

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My Say

By Jerry Francis



The proposal by the Perak Government to turn the “Old Town” sector of Ipoh into a heritage attraction to draw domestic and foreign tourists is perhaps the right “tonic” to rejuvenate the ailing business sector.

It is likely to inspire owners of old buildings in the sector to restore their premises to their original state and carry on with their trading. Thus, the heritage buildings will be preserved.

Since the collapse of the tin mining industry in the mid 80s, this part of the city centre has been severely affected as business activities tapered down, causing many premises to close.

Being the sector on which the city was founded, it has the largest concentration of impressive heritage buildings of Colonial, Islamic and Chinese architecture built at the turn of the last century. It is also a commercial hub of the city where most of the leading banks and old trading companies are located.

Among other heritage buildings are the Railway Station, Town Hall, High Court, mansions of old local chieftains and businessmen as well as the well-known Lorong Panglima or Concubine Lane – homes of mistresses of some of the rich miners at the height of Perak’s tin-producing days.

Describing the Old Town sector as “unique and historical”, State chairman for tourism, Dato’ Hamidah Osman, said the state government would undertake a study with various agencies, including the Ipoh City Council.

“We want to revive Old Town which was the heart of Ipoh at one time. We will look into the installation of



Photos by Ed Shahir

“OLD TOWN” Ipoh's To Lure Tourists

street lights and arches and upgrading of facilities, such as the Heritage Trail which has been in place,” she said.

The State government would also set up a tourist information centre at the railway station, which will be manned by multi-lingual experienced tour guides, as a value-added feature of the Old Town project.

The move is a clear indication that the state tourism committee has come up with a viable proposal to promote tourism in the city through history. It will also ultimately result in the beautification of the city.

The plan is to spruce up this sector, including revitalising the once beautiful garden in front of the railway station, which has become an important entry point of the city.

Such a project should get the full backing of the city council, business community and residents to ensure that it would be successfully implemented and sustained through proper maintenance.

This was why in May, last year, I posed the question – “Are We Ashamed of Ipoh’s Glorious Past?” My intention, then and now, is to promote our city for its history and heritage.

I suggested the four-word slogan “City That Tin Built” to be effectively used to promote the city as it sums up its history and heritage, reflecting the glorious past of an important centre of the tin mining industry, which had been

so significant in the economic development of the country and as the centre of the once world’s largest alluvial tin deposit area.

The slogan, which is unique, could also be easily and aggressively marketed to capture the imagination of the tourists and lure them to Ipoh and the Kinta Valley. Why this slogan has not been endorsed is beyond my comprehension.

How do we expect a slogan “Bersih, Hijau Dan Membangun” (Green, Clean and Developing) to attract tourists to the city? Perhaps we could learn from the success of Malacca, which has developed tourism around its slogan “Historical City”. Among its projects is “Jonker Street” that has transformed the old Chinatown into a successful heritage tourist spot with art galleries, souvenir shops, and eateries of various popular local cuisines and cakes.

I feel Ipoh too can successfully promote its history and its well-known delicious hawker food and iconic products. It can be one big living monument to the tin-mining industry, which would be educational as well as a tourist attraction. The theme of the city’s tourism projects should be a showcase of the tin-mining industry, the life of the pioneering tin-mining community, various mining methods and its heritage.

These should be supported by the establishment of a tin-mining museum, and preservation of its heritage such as the last dredge, mining towns such as Papan, and a gallery of leading pioneers of the tin-mining industry in the Kinta Valley – a history of which we should be proud. Only then can we expect the “Old Town” sector to recover from its present situation, where many of the business establishments are moving to new growth areas due to lack of activities and business opportunities.



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