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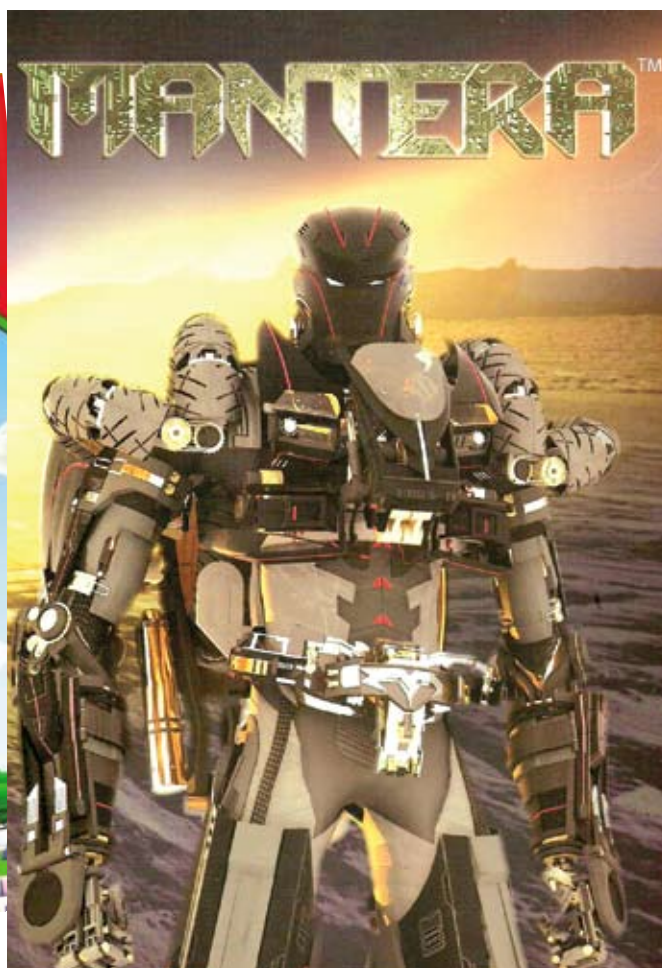


K-Perak Forging Ahead

by James Gough



Perak Boy



K-Perak, which was established in 2007 by the Perak State government to provide infrastructure and facilities to ensure the delivery of information and knowledge to all layers of society, has seen its five initiatives bear fruit. One of the companies in its multimedia arm, Spacetoons Media Hub, a joint venture between the Perak State government and Dubai based Spacetoons International, has recently signed co-production agreements with US company SD Entertainment of Los Angeles USA (the producer of *The Pink Panther Animated* series and *The Smurfs*), Cyber Group of France and Sabine of Canada (a top French/Canadian animation distributor and production company). The deal with SD Entertainment will be to produce 52x11-minute pre-school animation series with the title *Tiggy World* which is guaranteed to be broadcasted in the US.

Continued on page 2



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Five Knowledge Initiatives Creating Paradigm Shifts

K-Perak with the K abbreviated from the word Knowledge, has five knowledge initiatives or K-initiatives: K-Government, K-Workers, K-Infrastructure, K-Society and K-Economy. Its tagline 'From tin mines to MIND industries' focuses on Multimedia Content, IT Outsourcing (SSO/BPO), New Media and Data Centre, Research, Development and Design.

According to K-Perak's acting CEO En Saidon Puteh, going into its fifth year, the efforts of the company has begun to show results as evidenced by the recently signed co-production agreements mentioned in the foregoing page.

K-Government

Its K-Government initiative has resulted in the introduction of *Gerbang Mesra Rakyat* a people friendly gateway to enable online applications.

K-Infrastructure

Its K-Infrastructure initiative has seen an improved speed to access the state government portals while Internet penetration now covers 53.29% of all households in the state which "is above the national average," added Saidon.

However, it is the K-Worker, K-Society and K-Economy initiatives that have made new strides at restructuring society that can best be described as 'paradigm shifts'.

K-Society

The K-Society Initiative encourages people to use ICT in their everyday lives.

This is the kampong project where every kampong has their own website and portal where the communities



can communicate with each other. To achieve their goal, the K-Perak Team created a Facebook page www.facebook.com/webkampung and went round the state to train the Village Development Committees and village heads on how to use a computer.

The training was a basic 2-hour training teaching the villagers to create an e-mail and Facebook account whose administration was handed over the same day. According to Ms Norzalena Zakaria, the executive tasked to train and implement the initiative, the groundwork started last October and training was conducted since April this year.

There are over 2015 kampongs in the state of which training has been provided to 818 main kampongs and covers "even the Chinese and Indian villages". Once trained, villagers have posted information about their villages and made complaints about their villages direct to government agencies.

Although the implementation is extensive she admitted that there are still problems with the infrastructure. To create awareness and bring users to share their issues, a carnival is planned at Arena Square Batu Gajah for September 28-30 this year. Additionally, it is hoped that the private sector will come forward to participate in this project.

K-Worker

The K-Worker initiative is a training provider for government offices, which has extended its training to create a talent pool in the area of 3D application, office productivity, design, photography and digital forensics, or anything to do with ICT, since end 2007. It



(L-R) K-Perak Acting CEO, Saidon Puteh with Spacatoon Malaysia Chairman, Faye Weiss Al-Sabbagh

offers three to four courses per year.

Students are mainly SPM school leavers from community colleges who are provided vocational training in 3D animation using blender and open source software programs to create animation products. One of the products which is currently in production is *Perak Boy* slated to be a television serial.

Students taking this course have a wide scope of jobs to enter, related to design fields such as landscaping, fashion modeling and also film animation. Since its start four years ago, over 4000 students have walked through its doors.

K-Economy

The main role of the K-Economy initiative involves the product development and technology innovation of the creative multimedia industry and animation industry.

Of the five K-initiatives, K-Economy is the one that has shown the most dynamic results.

Currently there are six animation companies operating at K-Perak. Five are local companies and Spacatoons Media Hub, a joint venture between the Perak State government and Dubai based Spacatoons International. K-Perak's requirement stipulates that the companies must operate at their *Perak Trade and Technology Centre* (PTTC) and with the exception of Spacatoons, the training must

use open source free download software.

Home Grown Products – Perak Boy, Mantera and Tiggy World

Local company *Triple O Innovations*, despite using open source software, has come out with its own 3D product *Perak Boy* whose story line has him looking for the Perak Man. Slated to run as a local TV serial, it was created by *Triple O Innovation* CEO Kamaruzaman Jahidin but the majority of its

production work was done by its K-Worker students.

For Spacatoon Media Hub/SMH, since the start of their operations 4 years ago, they have produced five products one of which was a 3D live action movie *Mantera* screened at local cinemas late last year.

According to Spacatoon Malaysia Chairman Faye Weiss Al-Sabbagh, *Mantera* was a marketing tool to attract international recognition of the capabilities of the Ipoh production house.

Mantera took 3 years to make but its success is reflected in the recently signed co-production agreements with SD Entertainment who will also bring in their talent for the production and in doing so will train the local team, upgrade the studio and processes and provide an opportunity to understand the US work culture.

Tiggy World was created by Spacatoons Malaysia and has the International property rights for it. Hence it has created a line of spin-off merchandise such as toys, games and applications for education. Similarly, the deal with Cyber Group of France is targeted for preschool audiences and is a 39x11-minute edutainment series called *MIA* which will be broadcast worldwide.

Valuable Learning Experience

Al-Sabbagh is excited at these new ventures saying "it will be a good and valuable learning experience for all at the centre to understand the European and US style of work culture." Regarding the local work force, Al-Sabbagh described them as "now they are very good; earlier they were good but too fresh and inexperienced." He also described the method of learning a skill while working on a live project as being positive teaching strategy.

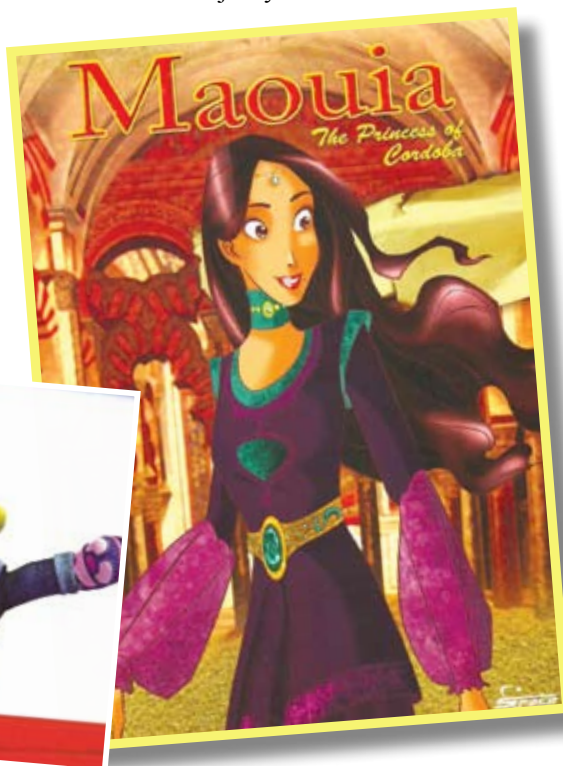
Spacatoons products cater to four categories of the market: 1) Preschool category: *Tiggy World*, 2) Girl Category: *Mouia*, 3) Boy Category: *Space Crater* and 4) Live CG Category: *Mantera*. Spacatoons Malaysia has also been approached by The Sanderson Group to set up a theme park in the Meru area using *Tiggy World* characters as the theme.

Putting Ipoh on Global Animation Map

During the interview Al-Sabbagh also announced that Spacatoons Malaysia will be expanding into the education business and will be developing an animation university in collaboration with University of Quebec offering two curriculums multimedia and lifestyle.

To be located at a 50-acre site at Meru, the university will cost RM229 million to build and is scheduled to be completed by end 2014. It will have an intake from 500 to 2500 students.

It appears that the initiatives of K-Perak have given birth to a new industry in Ipoh: Multimedia. If all the plans do materialise, it should put Ipoh on the global animation map. Hopefully all in the K-Community will be able to participate and partake of its benefits.



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From the Editor's Desk● by **Fathol Zaman Bukhari***The fixation with a balanced budget, therefore, is not for reasons of prudence but to abide by state government's guidelines...*

I wonder how many of us are aware that Ipoh City Council's budget for year 2013 and 2014 was tabled by the mayor on July 31. Yes, Ipoh's biennial budget has been tabled and Ipohites are clueless. Even we from the press remained uninformed till the very last moment.

The fax from the Council only mentioned a full-board meeting on the appointed date and nothing more. Was it deliberate? Was it an oversight? I have no way of telling, as odd things do happen from time to time.

Funny, an event of such significance took place without so much as a whimper from the Council. How could it happen? Well, whatever it was, it happened.

The press was issued a transcript of the mayor's budget speech and that to me was a revelation of gigantic proportions. It was in Bahasa Malaysia. My poor reporter had problem deciphering it let alone understand the meaning of the flowery language which was peppered with innuendos and salutations. It is the norm with departmental speeches where the need to acknowledge the *datuks* and *tan sris* in the crowd is so ingrained in the mindset. It is polite, they say.

Two phrases in the mayor's speech caught my eye. One was "*Mentransformasikan Kerajaan ke-arrah Mentransfromasikan Malaysia*" meaning "to transform the government towards transforming Malaysia". It is one mouthful. Ever since the Prime Minister came up with his "*Transformasi*" mumbo-jumbo, the whole nation has become so engrossed with the word "transformation", especially those in the public sector. On the whole, however, nothing has transformed as yet.

The other is "*Penyediaan Anggaran Bajet dwi tahunan 2013 dan 2014 ini telah dibuat berpandukan kepada garis panduan Kerajaan Negeri dimana bajet seimbang menjadi teras kepada bajet pihak berkuasa tempatan*" or "the drafting of the city's biennial budget 2013 and 2014 is based on the guidelines given by the state government where a balanced budget becomes the thrust of local councils' budgets." The fixation with a balanced budget, therefore, is not for reasons of prudence but to abide by state government's guidelines. How naive!

The mayor, as expected, announced a budget of RM151,985,000 for Year 2013 and RM155,200,000 for Year 2014. The budget is balanced because incomes for Year 2013 and Year 2014 are comparable to amount to be expended. It could not be simpler than that.

Incidentally, seventy per cent of the Council's revenues come from the annual assessment rates. Operational Expenses for 2013 are tagged at RM148,785,000 while



that of 2014 are estimated at RM151,700,000. The major bulk of the operational expenses, however, are for emoluments. For 2013, the sum is RM84 million while for 2014, the cost is RM87 million. More than half of the budget goes to paying the Council's burgeoning number of staff members – over 2,700 at the last count. So you now know where your hard-earned money goes to.

The budget will be passed without much fuss, as it has happened in the past. Do the councillors debate and question the management's wisdom in spending the Council's money or more appropriately, rate-payers' money? I don't think so.

How are we to know how much is being allocated for road repairs and maintenance? What about rubbish disposal, grass cutting and the clearing of monsoon drains? What about safety in the streets and crime-prone areas? Will enough CCTVs be installed and where will they be installed? Is there a need to organise dinners at upscale hotels and restaurants, and the inexplicable *lawatan sambil belajar*. Why this and why that? We have plenty to ask but how are we to ask when our views are never sought?

It will be a balanced budget as long as the Council does not spend more than what it gets. That is the whole crux of the matter. You spend what you get and nothing more. How the Council spends it is never questioned. If that is the premise, Ipoh City Council budget will remain balanced forever.

IN THE NAME OF MY FATHER'S ESTATE● by **Peter Lee**

Episode 8

After explaining to the Lee family about the gathering of movable assets such as money in bank accounts, Unit Trusts or Mutual Funds, public listed shares of companies in local and overseas bourses, Dave moved on to talk about immovable assets such as all properties. He asked for everyone's co-operation to list down the number of properties such as houses, shop lots, condominiums, apartments, vacant land, etc., which are either in Lee Sr's sole name or joint name with different family members. He further said, "It is also important to disclose these properties which are either located locally or overseas if there are any because every family member will be entitled to them under the Malaysian Distribution Act. At this point, Mrs Patricia Lee (1st Wife) asked, "Does that mean my husband's 50% share in properties, which are jointly owned with me, must be distributed to the other family members?" "Yes" was Dave's reply. Then Mrs Patricia Lee retorted "over my dead body will I allow that!" Dave further explained "OK, another way to receive your husband's 50% share in these properties would depend on the consent of the rest of the beneficiaries entitled to the estate."



Mrs Patricia Lee then looks at the rest of the family members in particular Connie (2nd Wife) and asked, "Do you all have any problem with the consent?" There was a sudden silence in the room. Some were looking at each other and then Connie said, "Let's see how many properties are involved and then we can discuss." "I would have guessed this response would come from you and for your information, I intend to have my husband's other 50% at all costs." Connie turned to Dave and said, "Don't you think we all have to follow the law in this matter?" Patricia Lee quickly retorted, "Wow! Did I hear another lawyer speaking?" Dave intervened and said, "Let's cool down and instead concentrate on listing down these, I would like to move on to the shares owned by Lee Sr. in all the Private Limited Companies. Please let me have the list of shares. I assume most of them are family owned." "John replied "Yes, all these companies are family owned. Is there any clash with the Distribution Act if all these Companies' Memorandums and Articles of Association (M & A) state that any transfer of shares must first be offered to the existing shareholders and the Board of Directors can refuse any transfer to a third party without giving reason?" "Generally, the Distribution Act will prevail but I think it's better you show me all your companies' M & A later." Dave replied. John went on, "What about those partnerships he has a stake in?" "Yes, do let me know also if he has any," replied Dave and further explained, "According to the Partnership Act, a partnership will be dissolved when one of the partners dies. However, the Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM) does allow the partnership to appoint new partners to replace the deceased partner so that it can continue their existence in business." Dave then said, "Before I end this meeting, please also let me know if there are any other assets that I have not highlighted which may be frozen. At the moment, I can think of items like cars, Safe Deposit Boxes and maybe club memberships."

To be continued...

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

EYE HEALTH – Ocular Migraine

Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about OCULAR (EYE) MIGRAINE.

You suddenly begin to see light flashes as if looking through shattered glass followed by a dull headache over one eye. You pass it off as having been on the computer for too many hours. However, the symptoms continue to worsen making you finally go in for an eye check. After a thorough eye examination you are eventually told that you have just experienced an ocular (eye) migraine which is more precisely termed as "ophthalmic migraine".



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

Ocular Migraine Symptoms

It can present with a variety of symptoms. Typically it starts as a small, enlarging dark area (scotoma) in your central vision (simulated photo on the left). This darkened central area of vision usually is accompanied by a surrounding bright light that flashes or flickers (scintillations). In some people, they may assume a wavy pattern of light or zig-zag lines surrounding a dark central area of vision.

The dark central area then usually enlarges to move across the entire field of vision (simulated picture on the right). It may be quite frightening to the person concerned. Some people have described it as a "fireworks display" in the eye. The whole migraine episode may end in a few minutes, but may last up to 30 minutes. The headache that may or may not follow this "firework display" may last from hours to days.

Why does this happen?

These migraine processes are related to changes in blood flow in the brain (visual cortex). The blood vessels in the brain go into spasm and cause all the symptoms. Initially there is reduction in blood flow in the vessels, and then later an increase in blood flow in the vessels due to the blood vessels dilating. The vessels therefore get over-filled and this causes the throbbing or "pounding" headache.

Trigger factors

There are certain trigger factors that may be responsible in initiating the ocular migraine. These trigger factors may range anything from exposure to stress, fatigue, bright lights, hormonal changes, medication or certain foods containing tyramine or phenylalanine (e.g., cheese, chocolate) and alcohol intake.

Are Ocular Migraines dangerous?

Generally, ocular migraines are considered harmless and cause no permanent visual or brain damage and does not require treatment. However, it can be bothersome to an individual especially for patients who suffer more prolonged painful episodes as a result of ocular migraine.

What do you do during the episode?

Since the vision temporarily gets affected significantly during the ocular migraine attack, it is important to take certain precautions if you are doing something like driving or operating machinery. If you are driving, pull to the side of the road until the attack passes and your vision becomes normal again. Do not move or drive until the ocular migraine resolves.

A point to note

Before you presume that you have ocular migraine, always consult an eye doctor should you have such vision symptoms to make sure that you are not suffering from something more serious like a detached retina or glaucoma since these conditions may result in permanent visual loss. When in doubt, get your eyes checked by an eye care professional.

Dr Gill will speak more on some available treatment options for ocular migraine in the next issue of Ipoh Echo.

Should you require further information, please contact Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah 05-5455582 or email: gillyecentre@dr.com.

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Nur Suryani: From Lahat to the London Olympics

Nur Suryani Mohamad Taibi, originally from Manjoi, has come a long way from the shooting range in Lahat, to represent Malaysia at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Away from the shooting range, the image of a serious person, deep in concentration, staring down the sights of a rifle, gives way to a young woman who is affable, accommodating, down-to-earth, with a delightful sense of humour.

When the Ipoh Echo caught up with 29-year-old Nur Suryani, she was up-beat about her debut at the Olympics: "When I first started shooting, all I wanted was to see how far I could progress. But to make it to the Olympics, was a dream come true."

"A few days after tests confirmed my pregnancy, I found that I had qualified for the Olympic Games. So, there was a double celebration."

Her first shooting event, on the day after the Olympics opening ceremony, was tough as she concedes: "I was up against the best in the world. To represent my country is a once in a lifetime achievement. Although I did not make it to the finals, I tried my best. I am satisfied with my performance. I hope to inspire other women in Malaysia."

Nur Suryani who is 47th in the world ranking for the 10-metre air rifle event, is also a Commonwealth Games gold medallist. She has a dizzying array of medals from various international shooting events, like the Guangzhou Asian Games and the World Cup in Sydney.

In November 2011, she won two gold medals in the Southeast Asian Games in the 10-metre air rifle and 50-metre three position rifle. She qualified in both these disciplines, for the 2012 Olympics, at the Asian Championships in Doha, Qatar two months later. Although her preferred event is the 50m rifle, the growth of her belly as her pregnancy advanced, made it difficult to shoot in the prone position.

Nur Suryani's road to success was not without controversy. Two months after qualifying, she was strongly urged to reconsider her Olympic participation. Some believed that her pregnancy would affect her performance. Others said she was selfish and that she was only endangering the health of her baby and herself.

Her detractors were silenced when doctors certified that she was fit to travel and to participate in the games. "I have to ignore the critics as I must be focused in what I do. I have worked hard to get where I am. On the whole, people have been most supportive."

Her dedication to the sport is endorsed by her manager, Muzli Mustakim. "Nur Suryani is very disciplined. She is a level-headed person and in spite of her condition, I am extremely pleased with her performance," said Muzli, who is also the honorary executive assistant secretary of the National Shooting Association of Malaysia.

Nur Suryani's husband accompanied her to London but she was disappointed that her father could not come. "I was fifteen when, with the encouragement of my father, I took up shooting. He said, 'Kalau nak bergaya, buat rifle; kalau nak relax dan senang, tembak guna pistol'". (If you want to be stylish, choose the rifle; if you want something more relaxing and easy, choose the pistol.) "I was only a youngster and I wanted to 'bergaya' – so I took up the rifle."

Her participation has caused a stir in the Olympics village with an unprecedented number of requests for interview, from the foreign media. "I am surprised by the publicity. I think I might have made history as the most pregnant woman to compete in the history of the Games".

Nur Suryani is the older of two girls, and attended the primary school Sekolah Manjoi-1. Her secondary school was the Sekolah Dr Megat Khas, the former Labrooy school. "I learnt at the Perak Shooting Association, near Bradken, in Lahat. I now train at the shooting range in Subang."

Nur Suryani is aware that she is a role model for women. "If you have confidence and the belief in yourself, you can do anything", she said. Her advice to school children with an interest in shooting, was to join the Police Cadets.

She portrays herself as a simple and easy person who can get along with most people: "But I choose my friends carefully."

Most of her Olympic gear (rifle, shooting jacket, spotting scope, pellets) was funded by the Malaysian government. Her shooting jacket, which was sourced



THINKING ALLOWED

• by Mariam Mokhtar

overseas, cost a whopping RM2,800.

Swimming forms part of her exercise regime. "Most people's hearts beat at 80 beats per minute. Athletes aim for 50-60 beats per minute. I shoot in between the beats. So it is important I keep fit. "I love food. If I go to the gym, I may burn 2,000 calories but then consume 5,000 calories of food afterwards. That is why

I prefer swimming to the gym.

She also mentioned the downside of swimming. "I used to swim daily until my bump got bigger. Now I garden. Although the water makes it easier to float, I feel like a Telly Tubby when I put on a swimsuit!" She maintains that she would resume shooting after childbirth.

"Definitely, I will carry on. I want to do my best to qualify for the next Olympics."

Now that the Olympics is over, Nur Suryani's next challenge, is that of naming her baby.

Ipoh Echo would like to congratulate Nur Suryani on her Olympic participation and wish her well with her first baby, a girl.

Advertorial

Meru Hills Bungalows

Meru Hills Bungalows is a serene sanctuary is nestled blissfully in the low hills of Meru, Ipoh. Encircled by Meru Heights, Puncak Meru and Meru Valley Golf Resort, Meru Hills Bungalows is a gated and guarded development with a choice of distinctive bungalow designs set in pleasantly landscaped hillside surroundings.

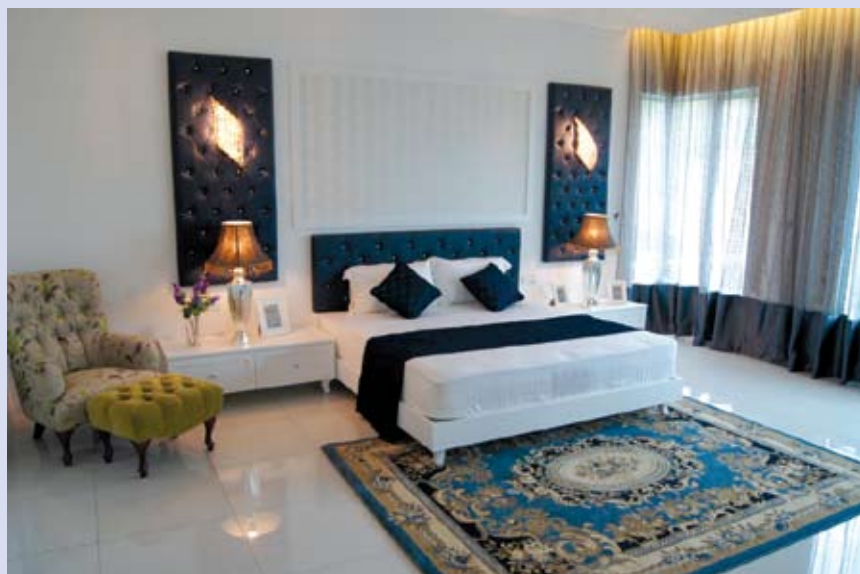
The elevation of Meru Hills Bungalows offers panoramic views of the lovely green mountain ranges of Ipoh in the distance. As morning sun rises, low clouds linger on the hilltops. Every so often, Meru Hills is immersed in a soothing mist after a light shower in the late afternoon. On the left it connects to the North-South Expressway while on the right it joins up with Ipoh-Lumut Highway. City centre is just 15 minutes away by car.

The key design objective is to achieve a harmony of style, comfort, functionality and space in a garden setting with three distinctive bungalow designs namely Type Alexandra with a build-up of 4,335 sq. ft, Type Brooklyn with 2,949 sq. ft and Type Chelsea with 3,124 sq. ft on land sizes averaging 10,000 sq. ft per unit.

Meru Hills Bungalows is the third development project by Para Development Sdn Bhd in Meru after the completion of nearby Meru 2B Business Center and Meru Hills Residential project made up of Double-Storey Link and Semi-Detached Houses.

Para Development Sdn Bhd is an Ipoh-based property developer that is currently undertaking the RM80 million East Eden Development Project located between Ipoh Garden East and Bercham in Ipoh.

For a personal tour of Show-Bungalows, please call **05-5282208** or **012-5027208**.



MUSINGS ON FOOD



By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Chris DiGiovanna

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

SeeFoon gets environmentally friendly

Nowadays, as a result of the popularity of the Ipoh Echo as 'The Voice of the Ipoh Community', my column appears to be widely read and perfect strangers come up to me at restaurants and eating places to either tell me that they have tried some of my recommendations, or to make some recommendations of their own.

My tailor Alan, while not a stranger to me, did just that recently when I went to him for some tailoring work. He pointed to a corner shop across the road (Ipoh Garden East past Citrus) and asked me if I had eaten there. Always on the alert for new culinary delights, I jumped at the opportunity and pumped him for more information.

Faux Sharks Fin

Alan quickly reeled off a list of dishes that this restaurant **Sam Poh** is famous for and one dish made me prick up my ears. Faux (as in fake) Sharks fin that tastes like the real McCoy. Now I have always loved Sharks fin...yes you greenies out there...I am admitting to this heinous crime... but lately owing to pressure from friends, friends' friends, and particularly, from friends' children, I have not been ordering this dish. It does not mean that I can shut off the hankerings, so when Alan mentioned **Faux Sharks fin**, I felt compelled to satisfy my taste buds.

Twelve of us descended on Sam Poh one Sunday evening to find it busy to overflowing. As I had taken the trouble to book earlier, we found ourselves on the pavement at an extra large table complete with (oh what a treat!) red table cloth.

Corkage Charged

A sign posted on the wall warned us that alcohol brought to the premises would be charged a corkage fee per bottle. After much to-ing and fro-ing we agreed on being charged a flat fee of RM20 for all the bottles we brought, for which we were rewarded with two large bottles of water, ice and glasses.

The dishes arrived in rapid succession. Starting with the **Fish Head curry**, grouper head cut into chunks in a mild very tasty 'lemak' curry sauce, smooth with ladies fingers, and other vegetables. RM34. This was followed by the '**Fatt Put**' a fried mashed taro basket filled to the brim with a mixture of vegetable – french beans, mushrooms, carrots. The yam basket was crisp on the bite and soft and smooth inside, the vegetables which are sauteed separately and then placed into the yam ring, were also crisp and full of 'wok hei' a sure sign of good Chinese stir fry. RM13.

The next dish to arrive was so scrumptious that we all unanimously voted to order a second portion. This was

a large **grilled squid**, the tentacles crisped at the edges, the body gently charred to release that inimitable grilled squid fragrance, topped with a mildly flavoured abalone sauce. Utterly delectable. RM22 per portion. **Egg plant with salted fish** came next, well braised, with hints of salted fish flavours, RM9.

Almost the real McCoy

Pork belly slices, fried crispy and topped with a sweetish teriyaki/barbecue sauce was a hit at the table especially with the westerners who were with us that night. RM15. Then came the reason I was there in the first place: the **Faux Sharks fin** which came braised with silky bean curd and oyster mushrooms. I was expecting some soggy strands of jelly passing off as sharks fin but I was delightfully surprised to discover some thickish, quite springy strands of look alikes that actually tasted almost like the real thing. The addition of black vinegar brought back memories of the bowls of the real stuff I used to eat in my pre-ecological days. A yummy ecological and economical substitute at RM12.

Another dish worthy of mention was the **braised pork leg** with pig's tendons. Hints of Shao Tsing Chinese rice wine permeated the succulent chunks of meat, bones, tendons and skin; velvety smooth, gliding down one's gullet with a slurp and a swallow. RM15.

The **Ham Dan** (salted egg) chicken was a tad on the salty side but nevertheless delectable, liberally coated with salted egg yolk that was more of a sauce than a batter. RM18. We finished our meal with one of the best **Hokkien fried noodles**, a dish I have not eaten in a very long time,



Singapore being the only place where I've ever had it (other than when my mother used to do it). What is special about these yellow noodles which arrived looking very

bland and anemic is the almost soupy consistency which in the best of traditions is usually fried with squid, pork belly and prawns and bean sprouts. The soupiness comes from prawn stock which lends its distinctive flavours to the whole dish. RM12.

All in, our bill for 12 people came to RM223 and as we left all groaning from the surfeit, we promised each other to return and do it all over again.

Sam Poh Restaurant

17 Persiaran Bandar Bahrun 16
Desa Tambun Indah
Tel.: 016 5516869
Elliza: 016 501 9345



HAWKER FOOD



By Wern Sze Gill

Claypot Yee Mee or Poh Chai Noodles

Claypot noodles, also known as **Yee Mee** or **Poh Chai Noodles**, are a type of crispy noodles made from wheat flour and palm oil. It somewhat resembles spaghetti in shape and texture, and has a unique tasty flavour. The **Yee Mee** noodles are commonly used in claypot cooking and warms you up on a chilly or rainy day.



Like most noodles, they can be cooked in soup or stir-fried. Their inherent flavour also creates a fragrant broth from boiling the noodles alone. As **Yee Mee** tends to soak up quite a bit of the gravy when cooked, it should be eaten immediately after it is cooked and is definitely not a dish you would want to takeaway. The noodles should also not be overcooked. The texture of the noodles should be soft but chewy.

Places to try in Ipoh:

Keay Teow Mee Stall @Tong Sui Kai
Row of night stalls next to Sam Tet School
Minced pork balls, fish balls, sliced fish cakes, cabbage, egg
RM4.50 with egg; RM4.00 without egg
Opens 5pm – 3.30am. Close on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Poh Chai Mee Stall

Restoran Jen Jen
22 Jalan Chew Sin Oon, Off Jalan Tokong
Egg, prawns, minced pork balls, enoki mushroom, choy sum, sprinkling of fried garlic - RM4 with egg; RM3.50 without egg
Opens for breakfast till about 11am.

Restoran F&B Station

24 Persiaran Greentown 10, Greentown Business Centre
Egg, prawns, fish balls, pork balls, vegetables.
RM3.80. Opens for breakfast and lunch.

Restoran Loi Fatt

15, Laluan Kledang Utara 11
Taman Wang, 31450 Ipoh
The yee mee served is fried and slightly crunchy, providing extra flavour to the broth
RM4.00. Opens for breakfast and lunch.

Hot and Spicy Chicken Feet

By Margarita Lee

Ingredients:

10 pairs of chicken feet

Ingredients (A)

2 Tbsp soya bean paste
20 dried chillies – roasted and coarsely blended

1 Tbsp red peppercorns (Szechwan pepper or Mah Lat) – roasted and coarsely blended
3-4 slices ginger
1 Tbsp minced garlic
1 tsp sesame oil

Ingredients (B)

1 Tbsp soy sauce
1 Tbsp rice wine
2 star anise

1 stick cinnamon
3 sprig of spring onion
1 Tbsp oyster sauce
300 ml water
Salt and sugar to taste
Cooking oil

Method:

- Place chicken feet into a pot of rapidly boiling salted water, blanch for 5 minutes and drain well.
- Heat oil in wok, deep fry chicken feet until golden brown. Remove the chicken feet from the oil and soak in a bowl of cold water for about an hour.

- Drain the chicken feet and set aside.
- Remove excess oil from wok and sauté (A) until aromatic.
- Add in chicken feet, ingredients (B) stir well and add water, simmer chicken feet with the lid
- on until tender. Stir occasionally.
- Remove lid and simmer chicken feet until sauce is reduced, add in the sesame oil, salt and sugar to taste.
- Serve hot.



Book Review

UMNO-NOMICS:
The Dark Side of the Budget by Teh Chi-Chang

What do we know about government spending? What are ‘contingent liabilities’? Are wastage, corruption and mismanagement eating up our financial resources? Ultimately, does the Budget provide for a good quality of life – a high standard of living at a reasonable cost - for all Malaysians? These are but a few of the pertinent and fundamental issues underlying the Budget which need explaining. UMNO-NOMICS is a book that strips the federal Budget down to the nitty-gritty, presenting its stark reality minus the mind-boggling jargon and embellishments.

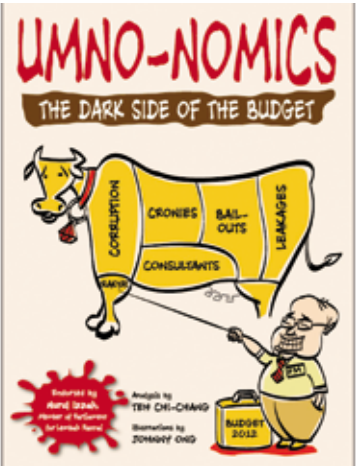
Author Teh Chi-Chang writes unequivocally and judiciously, giving us hard facts which are backed by research and analysis. Adding large doses of biting satire and wit is cartoonist Johnny Ong who breaks down the multifarious topics into rib-tickling illustrations. His succinct cartoons wickedly depict the unsavoury implications of uncontrolled spending and the repercussions of damaging policies.

Inevitably, comparisons of Barisan Nasional and Pakatan Rakyat fiscal and economic policies and practices are made. Whose are prudent and more inclusive and whose are reckless and benefit a select few? Teh’s objective is to keep us up to date with the current situation, hence empower us to make informed choices.

Chief Executive of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), Wan Saiful Wan Jan, in his foreword, says concisely, “Pakatan supporters must read this book so that they have more cogent arguments for their allegiance beyond ‘because Umno is wrong’. And those who support Umno or BN must read it to understand why the other side is so upset with them.”

Teh’s engaging writing style ‘speaks’ to the reader. Direct and explicit, he articulates the many complex issues coherently. Together with Johnny’s clever cartoons, an otherwise difficult subject is made easily digestible and comprehensible. An easy and enjoyable read best sums up this insightful book.

Ipoh-born Teh Chi-Chang holds the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation and degrees from the Universities of Warwick and Cambridge. He is currently the Executive Director of independent think-tank REFSA (Research for Social Advancement). He had spent 16 years in the corporate sector, including as a director of investment research and has headed Malaysia country-research teams. UMNO-NOMICS is the sequel to his 2009 best-seller The Budget: How the Government is Spending OUR Money. UMNO-NOMICS sells at RM35, inclusive of delivery, and is available at www.refsa.org, or email: admin@refsa.org to place your order. You can also purchase the book for RM29.50 at Rashi Mini Market (newsagent), No. 37 Jalan Perajurit, Ipoh Garden East, Ipoh.



Sport

Delicate Draw for Seladangs



Perak will be in for a rough ride in the upcoming Malaysia Cup. The Seladangs are in Group C along with Super League sides Negeri Sembilan, Felda United and FA Cup finalist, Sime Darby.

The obvious threat comes from Negeri Sembilan, who is the reigning Malaysia Cup champion. The Deers’ final position of sixth in the recently concluded Super League does not reflect their true credentials. Azraai Khor’s men are well-equipped in terms of experience and youth, with Super League top scorer Jean-Emmanuel Effa Owona leading their line upfront.

Sime Darby too had an impressive season that saw them marching all the way into the FA Cup final, before losing to eventual champion Kelantan in the final last May. The Premier League side boasts one of the hottest foreign signing, Patrick Ronaldinho the team’s leading campaigner. Felda United too cannot be taken lightly. E. Elavarasan’s boys were only narrowly defeated twice in the Super League earlier this year, with the scoreline being 2-1 in favour of Perak on both occasions.

Though their group matches appear delicate enough, a bigger challenge awaits them in the knockout round. The two teams that qualify from Group C will face off against two qualifiers from Group B, which is the official “Group of Death” with the likes of Kelantan, Terengganu, ATM and Kedah in it.

There is no denying that Perak will be in for a tough Malaysia Cup campaign. Not many feel they will go far. However, midfield maestro, Michal Kubala is optimistic.

“The team has been training hard. We’ll show our true form in the Malaysia Cup. Every game will be a hard game as there are no easy games in football,” he told Ipoh Echo.

Nevertheless, the Seladangs have made a positive move to bolster their squad. They have snapped up three Sabah players in the form of skipper Reithaudin Awang, Zuraindey Jumai and Fariss Azlan. Reithaudin is already well-known for his experience in defence while Zuraindey and Fariss will add more oomph to the side.

Jang Jung is likely to introduce several talents from the successful Perak President Squad into the senior team. Players like Kenny Pallraj and Nurridzuan Abu Hassan are likely to make the cut.

With Perak set to open their Malaysia Cup campaign against Sime Darby on Wednesday, August 22, the final preparation kicks off now. Inconsistency was a nagging issue throughout the Super League season. Jang Jung is keen to sort things out before the big day. With the inclusion of the new players, the squad is definitely capable of going far. That is my honest to goodness view.

Keesh

3 Storey Terrace House

Land Area : 20' x 70'

Built Up Area : 20' x 50'

No of Rooms : 13

Selling Price : **RM438,800**

Down Payment : **RM43,880**

Max 90% loan available.
Terms and Conditions apply.

Limited Units Available

Located 3 mins away from UTAR at Bandar Baru Kampar

TAMAN MAHSURI IMPIAN

KAMPAR RESIDENSI

金寶新景城

COST OF FURNISHING	RM
Beds (RM650 x 13 units)	8,450
Wardrobe & Study Table etc.	19,500
Air Cond (3 units)	3,500
Instant Hot Water System	9,100
Other	3,000
Total	43,550

62 units

Monthly Instalment	15 Years(RM)	20 Years(RM)	25 Years(RM)	30 Years(RM)
Expected Monthly Rental Receivable	4,550	4,550	4,550	4,550
LESS:-				
1. Monthly Installment	2,960	2,434	2,128	1,931
2. Maintenance & Security Charges	150	150	150	150
3. Management Fees	455	455	455	455
NET MONTHLY INCOME	985	1,511	1,817	2,014
NET ANNUAL INCOME (Net Monthly Income x 12 mths)	11,820	18,132	21,804	24,168
ANNUAL MARGIN OF INCOME ON CAPITAL (Net Annual Income / Capital RM87,430*)	13.52%	20.72%	24.94%	27.61%

Developer:

BENUA TEGAS SDN BHD

52, Jalan Sewa, Kampar Sawa, 31900 Kampar, Perak Darul Ridzuan. FAX 05-465 7788

www.variqa.com

05 466 7788 466 2788 016 531 8700

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News Roundup



Farewell Master Noel

Former Michaelian, teacher and hockey coach, Master Noel D'Oliveiro was given a grand Michaelian farewell at his funeral which took place on 30 July.

Master Noel, as he was popularly known, was the hockey coach at St Michael's Institution (SMI) whilst teaching there in the '70s.

A statement in the SMI blog site described Master Noel as "SMI Hockey Master, Produced world class hockey players from SMI".

Indeed under the guidance of Master Noel, SMI, in 1972, became the U-16 Champions of Ipoh District followed by Kinta District and subsequently State Champions. Two of his players Foo Keat Seong and Abdul Hadi subsequently played for the country.

On the morning of his funeral, the first order of the morning assembly at SMI was a 1-minute silence for its former teacher. That same afternoon before proceeding to St Michael's Church, Michaelian students lined up in salute to pay their last respects as the cortege passed by

his Alma Mater.

Similarly at the funeral mass, the SMI Military Band was in attendance and rendered the schools anthem and Auld Lang Syne while the school's Prefects gave a salute before departing from church.

Present at the funeral were several of his loving hockey players such as Foo Keat Seong, Christy Gomez and Rohan Marshall whilst Gerard Raj (Gerry), the school's first U-16 School Captain, gave the eulogy on his former coach.

Also noted in the assembly were former ACS Hockey Coach, Master Brian Foenander.

Undoubtedly the legacy left behind by Master Noel has gone beyond the boundaries of the school and has contributed greatly to the state and country.

JAG

Perak's Rafflesia on New Banknote



Bank Negara Malaysia issued a new series of banknotes on July 16. Themed 'Distinctively Malaysia', the latest banknotes series draws its inspiration from the country's diverse culture, heritage and nature.

Malaysia's lush tropical jungle, which is one of the world's oldest living rainforest, is home to a spectacular variety of flowering plants. Most iconic amongst them is the Rafflesia, the world's largest flower.

The RM10 note features the *Rafflesia azlanii*. It is indigenous to Peninsular Malaysia and was first discovered in the Royal Belum Forest Reserve of the state of Perak in 2003. To commemorate its discovery, this majestic flower was named after the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yusuff Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-Lah.

Liz Price

Workshops for NGOs

Representatives from some 70 NGOs from all over Perak attended a workshop organised by Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) at St Mike's Bistro and Restaurant, Ipoh recently.

This is the first of a series of workshops with the theme *Live Out Loud*. It consisted of two modules: *Guide to Writing Effective Proposals* and *Report Writing*.

The workshop is to cater to the needs of NGOs in the state, guiding them through the proper channels thus making them more effective and efficient. It is also to enhance the relationship between civil society organisations and the public sector.

Dato' Mohd Zahir Abd Khalid, Executive Councillor for Education, Higher Learning and ICT, launched the workshop. In his opening remarks he said, "Those in government should engage, listen and receive feedback from NGOs. This is part and parcel of the democratic institution of our country." He, therefore, acknowledged the fact that listening and responding to public demands is a prerequisite of good governance.

Chief Executive Officer of IDR, Dato' Seri Abdul Rahman Hashim plans to conduct another workshop before the year is over. He too acknowledged the role and importance of NGOs.

Institut Darul Ridzuan currently acts as the Secretariat of Perak Amanjaya Council of Civil Society. This workshop was the first step in implementing an independent Council of Civil Society in the state.

The day-long workshop ended with a experience-sharing session among participants. Each received a certificate of attendance.

Emily



Expression of Music

Indian music school, Swaralaya Sangeetha Kalalayam, organised a show entitled, "*Thenamutham*" (an expression of music) at the State Secretariat Building hall recently. Some 30 students of the school showcased their talents in performing the bharathanatyam classical dances.

The opening number was a welcoming dance by the students. They then put on a three-segment performance incorporating songs, music and dances. Guest of honour, Dato' S. Veerasingam presented gifts to five children from the Vallalar Anbu Illam orphanage who participated in the show. He thanked the organisers and the students for their

dedication.

The show was made possible through the efforts of teacher, Panbarasi Govindasamy. She got her inspiration from her strong musical background. With years of experience in classical music and dance, her passion for organising such a remarkable event comes easy.

Kani



Daybreak Centre Receives VIPs

Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Datuk Heng Seai Kei, visited Persatuan Daybreak in Pengkalan Pegoh recently. The centre provides vocational training for people with physical disabilities.

Heng was accompanied by Dato' P.K. Chong, Director of Social Welfare Department Perak. On hand to receive the entourage was Puan Sri Dato' Sandra Lee and committee members of Daybreak.

The deputy minister presented a wheelchair to

Denish Silva, a trainee who lost one of his legs during a recent road accident. The

possibility of setting up a pilot social-enterprise project involving socks manufacturing by trainees was also discussed. The realisation of this initiative will help enhance the capacity of Persatuan Daybreak.

Kani



Baby Hatch for all Hospitals

The introduction of a baby hatch by *KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital* has helped reduce incidences of baby dumping in the city. The hatch, introduced in December 2010, has received six babies so far. Their parents could not be traced as they were left in the hatch without any identification. Two have been sent to the state welfare department while the remaining four are still undergoing treatment at the hospital due to health complications.

Deputy Minister for Women, Family and Community Development, Senator Dato' Heng Seai Kie visited the hospital recently to see the hatch for herself. Speaking to reporters after a tour of the facility, she thanked KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital for undertaking the responsibility as part of its corporate social



responsibility. There are only two places in the whole country that offer such service. The other is *Pertubuhan dan Pengurusan Anak-anak Yatim Kuala Lumpur* (OrphanCARE)." The KL care centre, which was opened in April 2009, has saved 59 babies since its inception.

"It's our fervent hope that government hospitals would follow suit and provide such a service. Baby dumping is a growing menace and unless remedial steps are taken, the future may not be too rosy," she lamented. Her ministry is currently in discussion with the Health Ministry for a possible solution. A workshop to deliberate over the matter will be held in October.

The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry maintains 55 welfare centres throughout the country. These centres provide shelter for abandoned children. There are 56 *Nur Sejahtera clinics* around the country which provide similar services. Unwed mothers and those with kids out of wedlock can seek counsel from these clinics. The *Nur Sejahtera hotline* number is 15999.

Dato' Heng was accompanied by the Perak Welfare Department Director, Dato' Chong Phaik Kee and Dato' Dr Cheah Abdullah, Director of KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital.

RM

LETTERS

We reprint some of our reader's comments from our online paper. Go to <http://www.ipohecho.com.my/> to read more. The views expressed in these letters are not necessarily shared by the Editorial Board. We reserve the right to refuse or modify the letters we publish.

Formation of Association for Retirees

As far as I know there is no organisation in Ipoh to look after the interests of private sector retirees. The government pensioners have their own body to fight for their rights. After retirement the pensioner enjoys most of the benefits he received while working. Most importantly pensioners and their dependents get free healthcare.

On the other hand as soon as a private sector employee stops working, his ties with his employer are severed. He has to live rest of his life on his EPF and savings. Studies have shown that EPF only lasts from three to five years.

The government has announced the special payment of RM500 for government pensioners as an appreciation to civil servants. All Malaysians, above 55 years, did contribute to the current well-being of the country and the government

must take care of all of them – irrespective of whether they were former workers in the public sector or not. Raya gifts and other monies to take care of our '*Warga Mas'* (Golden Citizens) must be for all.

The cost of private healthcare is exorbitant which only those earning high incomes can afford. Cost of medicines are increasing and many retirees are not able to pay healthcare insurance premium. The savings is not enough to keep up with the increased cost of living. Most of the retirees have to depend on their children for financial support.

I feel that we retirees must form our own association and fight for our rights. While working we paid our taxes and during our golden years the government should look after our needs.

Those who are in favour please call me at Jeyaraj 012-4990856.

A. Jeyaraj

News Roundup

Malaysia Dongguan Association Dinner



In conjunction with its third anniversary, the *Malaysia Dongguan Association* organised a fundraising gala dinner along with the 7th Dato' Lye Siew Weng Trophy of Malaysia Open Cantonese Song Singing Contest. An installation ceremony of

the President and Board of Directors for 2012/2014 term was also held during the dinner function organised at the New She Lai Ton Restaurant, Ipoh recently.

Alex Chan Chin Chee, who represented Dato' Ong Ka Chuan, read out Ong's speech. He said that Malaysians are blessed to be multi-lingual, proficient in our mother tongue yet have no problems communicating with other races.

Chan announced an allocation of RM3000 to the association for the running of its activities. In addition, RM5000 was donated by an association of commerce from China. The Xiao-En Group from Penang was among the other donors.

The singing competition attracted 35 participants. The champion, Tham Wai Leong, received a cash prize of RM1200 and a trophy. First runner up, Pong Mee Lee, received RM800 while second runner up, Lee Loke Pheng, RM500.

Malaysia Dongguan Association, formed three years ago, aims to bridge, both commercially and culturally, Malaysia and China, promoting entrepreneurship among Malaysians and to facilitate them in linking up their businesses with counterparts in Dongguan, China. Membership to the association is open to young entrepreneurs who are looking to expand their business in China, particularly in Dongguan.

Emily

Parent-Student Get-Together

Over a thousand parents and students gathered at the Sri Subramaniam Temple, Gunung Cheroh recently for the *Kalvi Yaathirai* programme organised by the Ipoh Sri Murugan Centre. It was essentially a prayer session to seek Lord Muruga's blessing for the students' academic excellence.

Sri Murugan Centre, founded nearly three decades ago by Dato' Dr M. Thambirajah, provides educational guidance for underprivileged children in primary and secondary schools. The centre has grown in strength from four in 1983 to 103 today. Over the years it has helped some 21,000 students to graduate from both local and foreign universities.

The centre's coordinator, K. Nachemuthu stressed the importance of falling back on culture and religion to inculcate good values in Indian students. He thanked the parents for their continued support. Similar prayer sessions were also conducted at other centres in the country.

The event started with *Kalvi Yaagam*, a special prayer ceremony which was graced by the Adun of Manjoi, Dato' Haji Nazri bin Hj Ismail. Nazri later gave away presents to students who had done well in their studies. He expressed his admiration for the centre's success in motivating students. "A literate community can bring positive changes to the country," he remarked.

Kani



Visit by UK Girl Guides

Twelve Girl Guides from London and South East Region in the United Kingdom, and their four group leaders, visited *Persatuan Pemulihan Sultan Azlan Shah* in Bercham for a week recently. The reason for their visit was to build a Sensory Garden-cum-Play Therapy to benefit children with disabilities at the rehabilitation centre.

This Girl Guides Project 2012, which took two years of discussion and preparation, required RM22,000. British Girl Guides (UK) donated RM7,000, BAIDURI Perak gave RM5,000 while the remaining RM10,000 was from Tan Sri Tan Foundation.

The purpose of setting up the sensory garden, a disabled-friendly garden, is to enable children with disabilities to undergo therapy in a garden environment. This helps with their sensory integration, incorporating various sensory needs, including touch, visual, sound and smell.

Presently some 280 such children are treated at the Bercham centre. They come with a range of disabilities like learning difficulties, mild autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), global development delay, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. The children will benefit greatly from the various sensory inputs, which will stimulate them.

This project by the Girl Guides from UK followed the successful project carried out by a 19-member 177th Scout Group, Scouting Ireland, in 2008, who were at the centre to help set up a Sound and Sensory Room. The room greatly benefits children with severe disabilities, especially infants with cerebral palsy and severe limb paralysis.

Ten local Girl Guides from SM Convent, Ipoh, chaperoned by State Commissioner, Foong Poh Lin, and four committee members, visited the UK Girl Guides at the centre one afternoon. The two groups of guides engaged themselves in games and various activities.

The rehab centre welcomes assistance from NGOs and those wanting to help, as the children need all the assistance they can get to make them mobile and independent.

Emily



Know Your Councillor

The "Know Your MBI Councillor" campaign was initiated by several NGOs from Ipoh in March this year. The objectives of the campaign are to help ratepayers understand the roles and functions of city councillors, raise awareness on local government democracy, enhance good governance, competency, accountability and transparency of councillors and local government.

During a recent press conference, Cheng Heng Chung, spokesman for the group said that their initial intention was to conduct a survey amongst all 23 MBI councillors, soliciting their response to a questionnaire with five simple questions. The responses were to be compiled and made public.

It was regrettable that all the councillors decided not to respond to the survey, citing reasons which were totally absurd and unacceptable. They said that they are only answerable to their political party and not obliged to reply to NGOs, which was published in the daily *Nanyang Siang Pow*.

In view of this, the group decided to go to the ratepayers and get their views. A simple questionnaire with a Yes/No answer was prepared and the results show that the present system of appointing councillors is a failure and that councillors have very little interaction with the residents. Eighty-one per cent (81%) of those polled did not know who their councillor is. These findings will be sent to the MB, Exco Members and the Mayor.

As a consequence of the poll, the NGOs, comprising GASRA (Gabungan Solidarity Perak), LLG Cultural Development Centre, Ipoh City Watch, Perak Consumer Association, Lim Garden Residents' Committee, Tamil Foundation, Mafrel Perak and Ikram Perak, proposed that:

- Councillors be elected
- MBI appoint special officers to accept/act on complaints from the public;
- MBI hold sub-committee meetings at night so that the public can attend and participate in the discussions;
- MBI hold public hearings on new issues/projects and get feedback from the public before implementing them.

AJ



Kechara Buddhist Association brings joy to Joyful Home



Members of *Kechara Buddhist Association* spent a weekend painting the compound walls and cleaning the fish pond in the garden of *Joyful Home* which is a shelter for the abused, abandoned, orphans and under-privileged children in Jalan Ghazali Jawi, Greentown. The children were given school bags and held a drawing session. The members had lunch with the children.

Wun Wai Meng, Head of Study Group of the Association, said that instead of just giving donations they wanted to spend time with the children and make them know that they are part of society. The members will be visiting the home regularly.

Irene Morris who runs the home informed that the home was started in 2004 and there are 18 children, boys and girls, between the ages of five to sixteen and except for one, the rest are schooling. There is a full time cook and the home is maintained by the children. She runs the home with donations received from friends and well-wishers. She believes that God meets her needs and when she is short of funds someone turns up with a donation.

Those wishing to donate can contact Irene **016-5463089**.

AJ

Selamat Hari Raya aidilfitri

Maaf Zahir & Batin

From
The Management & Staff
YAYASAN BINA UPAYA DARUL RIDZUAN



Hairul Anwar Mohamed Noor
Chief Financial Officer

"Hari Raya Aidil Fitri greetings to all Muslims in Perak. My profound wish is that YBU's objectives of helping the poor and the marginalised have been achieved. Hopefully, this auspicious day will be celebrated and cherished by them, as they are very special to us".

Ghafarud-din Usulud-din
Head of Micro-Credit Division

"Wishing all Muslims in Malaysia Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Fitri Maaf Zahir dan Batin. Greetings and sincere wishes from me and staff of the Micro-Credit Division of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan. And while we celebrate spare a thought for the poor and the less fortunate from among us".



Megat Rosli Siding
Loan Recovery Unit

"To forgive is better than to be forgiven. Selamat Hari Raya Maaf Zahir dan Batin".

Thong Soon Cheong
Corporate Affairs

"Hari Raya Aidil Fitri greetings to all Muslims. May you all be blessed on this auspicious day".



YAYASAN BINA UPAYA DARUL RIDZUAN,
TINGKAT 2, D-2-1, GREENTOWN SQUARE,
JALAN DATO' SERI AHMAD SAID,
30450 IPOH,
PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN
www.yayasanbinaupaya.com

Funding for New Scheme

The state government has allocated RM10 million to Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) to fund the foundation's *Skim Rumah Insan Amanjaya* (SRIA). The newly-introduced housing-loan scheme is aimed at helping the poor own a house of their own.

"The money will enable YBU to build affordable houses for these groups of people, which is not only comfortable but also presentable," said Chief Minister Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir during the launch of the scheme at the State Secretariat hall recently.

"Race, religion and social background will not be the criteria for selection," said Zambry reiterating the state government's determination to eradicate poverty in line with the objectives of 1Malaysia and Perak Amanjaya.

The money will enable YBU to build houses for 180 poor families in Perak. Applicants must be between 18 to 60 years old and have a combined household income of less than RM3000 a month. Houses built under the new scheme are priced at RM50,000 each. They are single-storey houses measuring 20 x 40 feet with three rooms and two toilets. Loans taken on the house are interest-free and the repayment period is between 10 to 20 years.

At the launch, the Chief Minister gave replica keys to 10 owners of new houses under the scheme. M. Muniamah, 53, from Sitiawan was elated with her pricey possession. "I no longer have to live in rented houses. The scheme is definitely beneficial for people like me," she told Ipoh Echo.

Present at the launch were Dato' Saarani Mohamad, Chairman of YBU, and Khairul Azwan Harun, a member of the board of directors.

RM



Hari Raya Cheers for Zambry's 'Children'

It was a joyous moment for 110 children who were treated to a Hari Raya shopping spree at Aeon Station 18 in Pengkalan recently. The outing was made more meaningful with the presence of Chief Minister Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir and his wife, Datin Seri DiRaja Saripah Zulkifli. These special kids are 'adoptees' of the Chief Minister. They are from poor families of all races in the state.

Selection and screening is being done by Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) based on recommendations by schools and village heads. The foundation undertakes the responsibility of caring for these children once they are being 'adopted' by the Chief Minister.

"The programme is over three years old. The number has risen to 110 as of today. It'll increase as time progresses," said Zambry to reporters. "Given the kind of supervision and attention needed, they're able to develop along with the rest. This is apparent by the marked improvement in their studies and general performances," he added.

As a parting gift each kid received RM150 as "duit raya". Another RM120 was set aside for the purchase of Hari Raya clothing. They also received a KFC take-away pack from YBU.

Prathip Ravee, 13, from Parit felt privileged to be one of the adoptees. "I bought myself a computer which I saved from the monthly allowance given by the Chief Minister." On the whole, the programme has indeed benefited the poor and the marginalised in the state.

RM

Art and Culture

Debut for Perak Philharmonic



The Perak Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), managed by the Kinta Valley Symphonic Society (KVSS) is making its debut in a concert entitled "New World, New Beginnings" on 18 Aug 2012, Saturday at 8pm in Jubilee Hall, Royal Perak Golf Club, Ipoh.

Set up in 2011, the PPO, comprising a mix of hobby and professional musicians, mostly from Perak, is the first and only philharmonic orchestra in Perak. A total of 57 musicians will be performing at the concert which also features Fung Chern Hwei, based in New York as the violin soloist. Amongst its many objectives, the PPO aims to educate our community on classical music as well as to cultivate an interest and appreciation for it.

As KVSS is a not-for-profit society, it relies on the generosity and goodwill of donors, sponsors and supporters to sustain its activities and achieve its objectives.

The concert programme features Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, Overture; Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Violin Concerto; and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, The New World.

Tickets are available at Popular Bookstores, Creative Music Academy (05-547 9828) and PSPA (05-548 7814). For enquiries, call 010-565 0412.

Ramadan Roundup

BUKA PUASA TREAT FOR ORPHANS



Ipoh City Council organised a "buka puasa" treat for 50 children from Ar-Raudhah Baitul Mubaroqah Orphanage, Gunung Rapat. The event was held at Kinta Riverfront Hotel and Resort, Ipoh and was hosted by the Mayor, Dato' Roshidi Hashim. The orphans received "duit raya" from the Mayor.

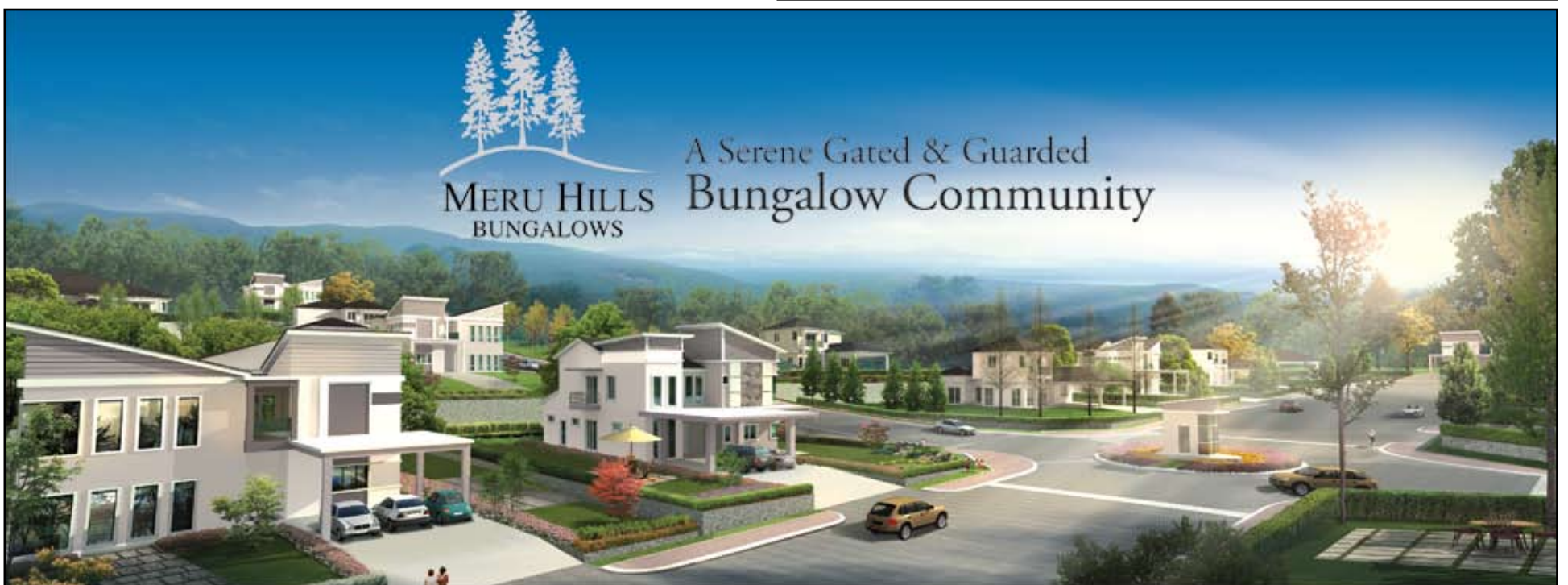
ANNOUNCEMENT

Menteri Besar's Hari Raya Open House. Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir will host a Hari Raya Open House at his official residence in Ipoh on **Sunday, August 19**. His residence will be open to the public from 10am till 5pm on the said date. Well-wishers are cordially invited to share the auspicious day with the Chief Minister and his family.

BUBUR LAMBUK FOR ALL



Tourism Perak came up with a novel idea to dispense *bubur lambuk* for all and sundry. The breakfast delicacy, a hit with most Muslims, was mass produced on the grounds of Stadium Indera Mulia, Ipoh on the evening of Thursday, August 9. The porridge was then packed into plastic containers and given to visitors and passers-by. Over 6,000 packs were prepared. Dato' Hamidah Osman and her staff then distributed the packs to passing motorists at the Ipoh PLUS toll gates.



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Fasa 1: Lot 1-1000 (Tempoh: 4 November 2013) • No. Pelan Konsultasi: M41/001/11/2/2013/0072 • Bilangan: 9 Lot • Harga Min: RM 1,343,830 • Maks: RM 1,343,830 • Bilangan: 11 Lot • Harga Min: RM 1,343,830 • Maks: RM 1,343,830 • Fasa 2: Lot 1001-2000 (Tempoh: 4 November 2013) • No. Pelan Konsultasi: M41/001/11/2/2013/0072 • Bilangan: 9 Lot • Harga Min: RM 1,343,830 • Maks: RM 1,343,830 • Fasa 3: Lot 2001-3000 (Tempoh: 4 November 2013) • No. Pelan Konsultasi: M41/001/11/2/2013/0072 • Bilangan: 9 Lot • Harga Min: RM 1,343,830 • Maks: RM 1,343,830

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