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City Parks' Ponds Restocked

Hockey Hub Ipoh Growing in Strength and Stature

by James Gough



The recently-concluded Sultan Azlan Shah Cup (SASC) International Hockey Tournament, the 22nd in the series, was considered the best ever edition of the annual game. This was proudly declared by tournament organiser, Dato' Hj Abdul Rahim Md Ariff. Due to its significance, this international hockey tournament, the longest running invitational tournament in the world has been featured in the International Hockey Federation's (IHF) annual calendar of events putting Ipoh on the world Hockey map.

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“The organisation is world class in all aspects” – Gary Marsh, IHF Tournament Director

The invitational, the brainchild of HRH Sultan Azlan Shah, was intended to provide the home team an opportunity to play with world-class hockey teams following the country's fall from grace in the early 1980s. The tournament, limited to 7 top-ranked teams in the world, made its debut in 1983.

This year's tournament was held from March 9 till 17. Six teams, Australia, Korea, New Zealand, India, Pakistan and Malaysia were in Ipoh to wrest the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.

Without doubt the Malaysian team this year played a more spirited game compared to previous years. But that was not the reason for Rahim's happiness. His joy was to witness and hear the infectious cheers of the crowd who filled the Azlan Shah Hockey Stadium to support the national team. The scenario was repeated for the whole duration of the tournament, especially when Malaysia was on the field.

The invitational is normally held during the mid-year school holidays to enable students and families to watch the matches. No entrance fee is levied and the attendance has been fairly good, increasing as the event progresses. The crowd is a mixed bag of locals and foreigners. The majority of the locals are from within Perak with a sprinkling of outsiders. However, foreign fans are made up of team officials and their “Imported” supporters.

Since the Asia Cup will be held in Ipoh in August, the SASC was pushed forward to March. The week-long tournament was held at Stadium Azlan Shah, Ipoh with a seating capacity of 12,000. The home team's sterling performance was the reason why the stadium was packed every other evening. They were the main draw.



Gary Marsh

Malaysia, ranked 13th, won their opening match against South Korea, ranked 8th with a slim 3-2 margin. The home team normally wins or draws in the preliminary rounds only to lose when the going gets tough. This raises the ire of fans who would then tag the team as “Jagoh Kampong” (village champion) the moment they begin to fumble. However, this was not the case this time around. They came out on top once again in their second game against New Zealand (ranked 6th) beating the Kiwis 2-1. The crowd on the second day was much larger considering it was a Sunday night.

On the third day when Malaysia faced World No. 2, Australia, the stadium was filled to the brim. The fans were out in force to provide the much needed support considering that Australia had earlier beaten India 4-3 and steamrolled Pakistan 6-0.

Our Malaysian boys played their hearts out. Their determination saw them holding the mighty Aussies to a 1-1 draw. The equalising goal was scored by a Malaysian forward 44 seconds before the air horn was sounded. Immediately, vuvuzelas blared and drums pounded throughout the stadium. The atmosphere was ecstatic.

Malaysia's next two games ended in a draw, 2-2 with Pakistan a similar 2-2 with India. The two draws paved the way to a much anticipated final with Australia, the other finalist.

Electrifying Final

The stadium was packed to overflowing. To accommodate those who could not get in, a huge LED screen was erected in the car park where, according to Rahim, close to 2000 had gathered to watch the game.

The VIPs present during the final included members of the Royal family. HRH Sultan Azlan Shah who was indisposed, did not attend the tournament like previous years. But it was reported that he had followed every match on TV along with his grandchildren.

The Royal entourage was well represented that night. They included HRH Raja Muda Perak Raja Nazrin Shah, Raja Puan Besar Perak Tuanku Zara Salim, daughter YTM Raja Eleena and the wife of the late Raja Ashman Shah YTM Dato' Seri Noraini Jane. Menteri Besar Dato Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir was there too.

When Malaysia opened account in the 4th minute through Faizal Saari, the entire stadium erupted. Unfortunately, Australia equalised in the 29th minute and took the lead a minute later.

Malaysia drew level in the 49th minute. But with barely 4 seconds left before the final whistle, Australia scored to claim the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup with a 3-2 win over Malaysia.

The final match, as with all the earlier games, was fast and exciting. The Malaysian team this year played with a new found vitality. They took the challenge seriously and fans were on the edge for the entire 70 minutes of each match. This was unlike before as the tempo would



Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

taper off with time.

Perhaps the team's new found strength and spirit are attributable to Malaysia's new hockey coach, South African Paul Michael Revington. Or perhaps it was due to the foreign teams fielding their junior players while Malaysia fielded a mixed bag of junior and senior players throughout the tournament.

Whatever the reasons were, the enthusiasm displayed on the blue turf had a tremendous impact on fans' turnout and TV viewers. Astro, the official broadcaster for the tournament, recorded a viewers' average of 340,000 each time Malaysia took to the field. This figure is normally seen during finals of the European football leagues.

Hockey Courses

The coaches and umpires courses were held simultaneously during the tournament. The courses, held at the Raja Ashman Shah AHF-MHC Academy adjacent to the stadium, saw an enrolment of 36 from 11 Asian countries.

This year the academy focused on the AHF (Asian Hockey Federation) Level 2 Coaching Course and AHF Umpiring Course. The courses were held during the tournament, as the games were recorded and used for study and observation. The academy, which is acknowledged by AHF as a centre for Asian hockey, was started in 2011. Its objective is to train and prepare coaches, umpires and technical officials to manage competitions in the participants' countries.

Mr Gary Marsh, the Tournament Director appointed by the International Hockey Federation (IHF) to oversee this year's competition described the organisation as superb. “It's world class, in all aspects,” he exclaimed. “The competitive team spirit shown by all the participating teams was excellent despite this being an invitational tournament,” he told Ipoh Echo.

Marsh further described the entire Ipoh set up, namely the tournament's facilities, the academy and the courses offered as fantastic and being essential for the development of the sport in the country. What further impressed Marsh was the fanatical home fans. “They came with their entire families and this added to the atmosphere of the game. It was friendly and I loved every minute of it.”

Asia Cup

In August (August 24 to September 1) Ipoh will play host to another international-class hockey tournament, the 9th Men's Asia Cup.

Eight teams, including Malaysia, will be participating. The event will be treated as a World Cup qualifying tournament. All participating nations will be fielding their first team and Malaysia can expect a gruelling fight to the finish.

According to Rahim, the IHF has recently expanded the World Cup Tournament to accommodate 16 teams instead of 12 previously. With this expansion it is hoped that Malaysia will make the cut.

When asked whether the home team was preparing for the World Cup, Coach Paul Revington's reply was crisp. “My most important assignment is to help Malaysia win the Asia Cup so we can qualify for the 2014 World Cup in the Hague next year.”

Alluding to the final against Australia, Revington was truly amazed by the team's fighting spirit. “If we remain consistent and embrace the challenge, we'll forge ahead. Hopefully, this is a harbinger of good things to come. And once we start running, we'll be unstoppable,” he remarked.

2014 Tournament

Due to the fixtures of the World Cup in May 2014, the 23rd edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah International Hockey Tournament next year is tentatively slated in the March-April timeframe.

Fans can expect a very exciting outing because the teams participating would have qualified for the World Cup. They would use the tournament as a testing ground for their teams.

It appears that only after 22 tournaments that Ipoh's home-grown product is finally getting the recognition it is due. Considering that it is a permanent feature in Ipoh's calendar of events, perhaps we should try to package the tournament for sports buffs, both local and foreign.

Towards this end, the efforts of Ipoh City Council, Tourism Perak and that of the Perak Hockey Association should be galvanised for the benefit of all. Haji Musa Dun, CEO of Tourism Perak, is receptive of the idea and has given his stamp of approval.



Paul Revington



Champions Australia

IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk

by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

Of Heroes and Villains

Conflicting reports coming from the troubled spots in Lahad Datu had armchair analysts making all sorts of comments, some discreet and some very malicious.

The Lahad Datu incursion by a band of armed men claiming to be soldiers of the displaced Sulu Sultanate caught the whole nation by surprise. The standoff began when Agbimuddin Kiram, one of the claimants to the Sulu Sultanate, landed with at least 101 of his followers in the village of Tanduo in Lahad Datu District on February 11. They had arrived from the nearby islands in Southern Philippines by boats like their forefathers had done before them.

Kiram's singular intention was clear. He wanted to exert his claim over Sabah, which he and a couple of his relatives have been pursuing, without much success, since the formation of Malaysia in September 1963.

Incidentally, the heirs of the Sultan of Sulu receive a RM5300 cheque yearly from the Malaysian Embassy in Manila. The money is considered as cessation payment pursuant to the 1878 Agreement between the British and the Sulu Sultanate.

The heirs, however, term the payment as "rent" and, therefore, have every right to ask for an increase or an abrogation of the agreement in its entirety.

It has been almost seven weeks now and the standoff between remnants of Kiram's followers and the Malaysian security forces has not diminished in size and significance. Conflicting reports coming from the troubled spots in Lahad Datu had armchair analysts making all sorts of comments, some discreet and some very malicious.

I do not wish to add on to the exchanges although I find some of the comments completely off-tangent. Talks of a political conspiracy and of Anwar Ibrahim having a hand in the conflict are simply incredulous. The lengths some would go to ruffle feathers of those on both sides of the political divide is mind-boggling. They would do anything for a "fistful of dollars (ringgits)".

Nothing beats experience, they say. Being someone who had served in this part of the country, not as a paper-pushing desk clerk at some nondescript government office in the Sabah heartland, but as a rifle-toting soldier on the shores of Kudat, the island of Bangi and Tawau in the late 1960s to early 1970s, I speak with a measure of accuracy and authority.

Let me start by saying that the borders of Sabah, especially the parts that face Southern Philippines, are very porous. People living in these border regions, like others in a similar situation, criss-cross each other's territory as they please.

When I was stationed in Kudat and Dogoton on Bangi Island my primary task was to prevent the smuggling of contraband goods from the Philippines from reaching Sabah shores. My other responsibility was to secure the areas where we were stationed.

The task of securing was achievable but not smuggling. It was like a delicate balancing act. The islanders simply rode by in their motorised kumpits without so much as stopping to be checked. I gave up and the Marine Police took on the job. How successful they had been I never got to ask.

The intruders, now termed as terrorists, are being hunted down. And at the time of reporting, some five battalions, army and Police, are in the vicinity to keep tabs on what remains of the "Royal Security Forces of the Sultanate of Sulu and North Borneo". Casualties and losses stand at 62 dead, 11 injured and 79 captured on the side of the



terrorists while security forces suffered 11 dead and 16 injured. As in the case of land battles, the worst off are the people caught in between. Six civilians were killed.

Incentives to boost security forces' morale were announced, post haste. And the one which many ex-soldiers like me cried foul was salary adjustments for both Officers and Other Ranks. Army corporals and sergeants will enjoy an increment in their pay scale from Grades 17 and 18 to Grades 22 and 23, respectively. Officers of the ranks of captain to colonel will now be placed in Grades 42 to 52 bands. This is a hefty jump from the previous. I should have remained but that is another issue.

Opposition leader Tian Chua of Parti Keadilan Rakyat has been hounded for making a callous remark. He said those killed in Lahad Datu as "mati katak" (died in vain). This term may sound offensive to some but when we were fighting the communists at the height of the Second Emergency (1975 to 1989) so many of us "mati katak". I can quote many incidents where soldiers and police personnel were killed without a fight, mostly in ambushes.

The winding Klian Intan-Keroh (Pengkalan Hulu) Road had witnessed many deadly ambushes sprung by the terrorists. In early 1975 a Police Field Force section

on its way to collect rations in Keroh was fired upon. The entire section was wiped out. The same year a platoon of soldiers was caught in another ambush in Lapang Nenereng. Eight lives were lost. My soldier bled to death on top of a hill deep in the Gubir jungles of Kedah. He stepped on a booby trap. The poor chap could not be evacuated, as it was nighttime and the helicopter could not land.

These brave men "mati katak" but no one protested or made police reports on our behalf. Neither did we get a pay revision for our troubles. What luck!

EYE HEALTH



World Glaucoma Week

In conjunction with the recent World Glaucoma Week 2013, Ipoh Echo talks to Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr. S.S. Gill about this "SILENT THIEF OF SIGHT".



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



What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that result in progressive damage of the optic nerve (the "main cable" that carries visual information from the eye to the brain). If glaucoma is not treated, it **permanently damages vision** in the affected eye(s) and results in **blindness**. It is often, but not always, associated with increased pressure of the fluid in the eye (aqueous humour).

Glaucoma has been nicknamed the "silent thief of sight" because the vision loss normally occurs gradually over a long period

of time **without significant symptoms** until you eventually lose significant vision. In other words, it means that one **will only notice poor vision when the disease is serious** and the **damage to the optic nerve** is advanced.

Worldwide, glaucoma is the **second leading cause of blindness** after cataracts. Glaucoma affects **one in 200 people aged fifty and younger**, and one in 10 over the age of eighty. As many as **6 million people are blind** in both eyes from glaucoma today. Most of these people were once **unaware** they had this disease until they lost **significant vision** in one or both eyes.

One reason why a person **may not realise** that he or she is losing vision is because the vision loss involves the **peripheral part** of a person's vision. This peripheral vision loss is the reason why it **goes unnoticed by the patient until the very late stage** when the **central vision starts being affected**. Rarely, in some patients there may be symptoms of slight eye discomfort, mild headache and haloes around lights.

Any person who is 40 years and above should go for **glaucoma screening**. More so, if you have a **family history of glaucoma** and have never been screened for glaucoma yourself, you should go for an **eye check** as soon as you can. Don't wait for vision problems before you do. It may be too late.

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History

A Malaysian Hero

The Perak Academy held its monthly lecture on March 22 at the Ipoh Specialist Hospital. The talk, "Remembering Dr Wu Lien Teh, a Malaysian Hero" was given by Clement Liang, Treasurer of Dr Wu Lien Teh Society. Around forty attended the talk and they included the daughter (and her daughter) of the younger brother, and the granddaughter of the eldest sister of Dr Wu Lien Teh. Dr Wu Lien Teh was famous for his epic work in controlling the plague epidemic in Northern China in the early 1900s. He was decorated by the Emperor of China and was also responsible for the



modernisation of medical services in China. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1935.

Although born in Penang, he returned to Ipoh at the age of sixty and continued a quiet practice till his death at the age of eighty. He was also responsible for raising funds for the Perak Library in 1950. There is a road named after him in Ipoh Garden.

Dr SK Teoh

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Perak MP Spearheads Cost Cutting

When the Defence Minister, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also the MP for Bagan Datoh in Perak, rallied Malaysians to unite against a common enemy, he was not disappointed. Last month Tony Fernandez, the CEO of AirAsia, the budget airline, answered the call of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to help defend Sabah against an armed incursion of Suluk invaders.

The MOD needed to deploy extra soldiers, quickly, to boost the security forces in Sabah. Fernandez came to the rescue and rescheduled the airline's tight timetable, so he could divert a few Airbus aircraft, to fly to Lahad Datu.

Despite mounting criticism that he had deliberately inconvenienced commercial and fare-paying travellers, Fernandez was adamant that serving one's country was of paramount importance.

A pilot who refused to be named said, "I was proud to play a role in national security and ferry our troops to defend Sabah. I hope the flight was comfortable and with minimal delays."

His call was echoed by a member of the cabin crew who said, "The men were very disciplined on board, unlike some fare-paying passengers. It was a pleasure to serve them, although some were disappointed with the choice of food sold on board."

Fernandez had twice twittered to an irate public, "Flights are rearranged today as we are helping the army transfer staff to East Malaysia. Pls be patient," and later, he said, "As mentioned please be patient with some flight arrangements on flights as we are helping the army".

Switchboard operators and check-out staff at AirAsia counters faced a barrage of complaints from furious passengers because of postponements and cancellations. They were concerned about compensation and refunds, but claimed that their concerns were ignored.

The patriotic Fernandez was praised by security chiefs, for his efforts in promoting national security. The flights carried at least two battalions of soldiers so that the more cumbersome military aircraft could be deployed to transport heavy artillery, tanks, lorries and supplies to Sabah's east coast.

Zahid had waved off the first of the battalions at the Low Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT) and was pleased with the trial run of transporting soldiers by commercial airline. He was satisfied with the rapid response of AirAsia and at the cost savings made by the MOD.

As a consequence, he has proposed that AirAsia be utilised for further troop movements and that some AirAsia planes be painted in military camouflage colours. Various defence officials have made additional requests – the cabin crew would be allowed to retain their short skirts and figure hugging uniforms, to boost troop morale but they would have to wear camouflage and not the current red uniforms.

Unconfirmed sources allege that the test run by AirAsia prompted Zahid to set up a special committee to look into ways to reduce spending. Several proposals to tighten the government belt were presented to Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak in an attempt to avoid future austerity measures.

Zahid's proposals initially caused a stir in government circles but his background as a banker persuaded Najib that these measures would convince the rakyat of the government's seriousness in tackling the budget deficit.

Political insiders have alleged that ministers and senior state officials were delighted to spearhead these spending cuts. One proposal involved a ban on all government servants using the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines (MAS); in future they would fly AirAsia, if the routes were served by the budget carrier.



THINKING ALLOWED

• by Mariam Mokhtar

A senior civil servant said, "If our law-makers were to use AirAsia, its management might be induced to improve their services, as MPs want to make best use of their time. It would also help our politicians and civil servants empathise with the public."

One junior official said, on condition of anonymity, "Millions of ringgits would be shaved off the ministerial budget. Our annual expenditure for overseas assignments is wasted on

excess luggage charges incurred by officials and the shopping of their spouses and the bloated entourage.

"In future, if MAS was the only option available, no official will be upgraded. With more of the expensive seats available for legitimate fare-paying passengers, the revenue for MAS would increase.

"On AirAsia, officials will only be allowed one piece of luggage at the taxpayer's expense."

Another committee member examining the cuts said, "We also looked at reducing at the size of the entourage. Accompanying spouses will be banned, as they are a distraction. All officials will travel exclusively by economy class with MAS.

"Officials on overseas assignments would share a room, and use only budget hotels like Tunes. Heads of Departments or Pengarahs may be upgraded to a 'bed-and-breakfast'.

"Airline employees or Malaysian High Commission or Embassy staff will not be allowed to meet the government servant on arrival, or see him off at departure, as it wastes valuable working time. The head of the overseas mission, will be entitled to use the national car, the Proton, as it will show our pride in our local car industry".

According to this civil servant, the same vehicle proposal has been outlined for Cabinet ministers and state officials. "Imported foreign cars will be auctioned off and only the Proton will be used. No outriders will be allowed for ministers, and the Agung will be allowed one outrider.

"Ministerial spouses and children will not get preferential treatment. Where possible, the use of public transport will be encouraged. If ministers use their cars and get stuck in the traffic jams, so be it. It is time our politicians get a grip on the transport woes of the rakyat. They can only do so if they were to experience the same suffering as the taxpayers".

According to a source in the PM's Department (PMD) and the offices of Menteris Besar throughout Malaysia, the initial resistance to these measures was overcome when senior politicians agreed that the benefits outweigh the minor discomforts that they would have to endure.

My Say

By Jerry Francis



Danger on the Streets of Ipoh

Are the exposed electrical wires at the base of the metal street lamp-posts (see pics) around Ipoh City safe to be touched?

This question is always on my mind whenever I come across them while walking along the busy streets and in some cases close to schools. There are not just one or two, there are a number – some with the covers missing, while others with the wires jutting out as the covers are loosely held.

I get jittery each time I pass such exposed wires ever since I saw three buffaloes electrocuted in Silibin area some years ago. I am also reminded of the case where a 10-year-old boy was electrocuted when he accidentally fell and touched an exposed high-voltage wire on a lamp post at a playground near his house in Shah Alam last year.

My concern is what happens if someone, particularly children, unwittingly touched the wires while walking along the pavements.

Can the relevant authority give an assurance that such exposed wires are safe? If not, such negligence should be quickly looked into before mishaps occur.



MUSINGS ON FOOD



By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Ginla Foo

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

As for the nostalgia of my two years living in Japan. I can still recall as vividly as if it were yesterday, my first en-counter (pun intended) with sushi, perched at the traditional counter, watching the chef deftly slicing up the various fish, and when our order finally arrived, I was totally blown away by the spectacle. The fish head with its mouth still flapping and the gills moving, the central bone revealed and artistically displayed with the fish meat slices arrayed on either side, was beckoning to be eaten. No sashimi could be fresher than that my friends told me, egging me on and cajoling me to use my chopsticks on the still pulsating fish slices, dipping into the wasabi and soya sauce and popping it into my mouth.

Well it took me a few minutes to summon up enough courage to do that, never having eaten raw fish in my entire young life (20 something then) but what a big step that was. Since then, as the saying goes, "I've come a long way baby" eating as much sushi and sashimi as I can lay my hands on and always trying to reproduce that quintessential freshness of that first Japanese experience of the still breathing fish. These days, with the plethora of Japanese sushi places popping up all over, I find myself eschewing sushi restaurants, finding most places 'wannabes', with little respect for the fine tradition of craftsmanship that sushi chefs in Japan undergo years of training to achieve.

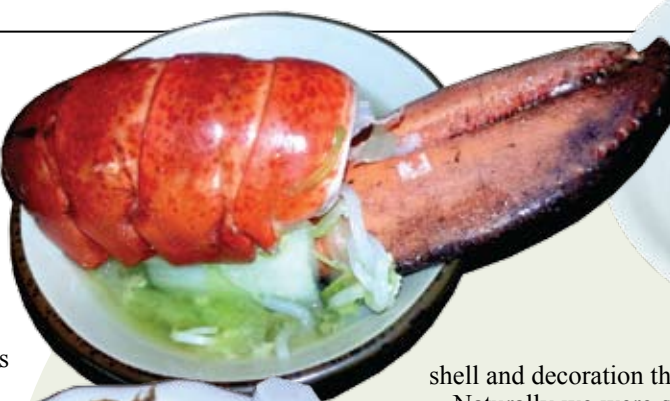
Sushi Zento strives to be different, prepared to stand out from the crowd with a large and varied menu and specialty fish, air flown from Japan and USA every Tuesday and Friday. With Chan Nam and Dato' Chan Yew Mun who are avid fans of Japanese cuisine, we descended on Zento one lunch time and taking one of their three smaller private rooms (one large for 20 pax and two smaller ones for 8-10), we proceeded to order up a storm given that the menu was so interesting and inviting.

I still remember the words of Dato' Chan Yew Mun at the wedding of an Ipohite when he praised the qualities of Ipoh 'boys' repeatedly calling them kind, considerate and generous to a fault and these are the exact words I would use to describe my host Chan Nam especially when the bill came to a grand total of RM850.

But then when the bill of fare included a **whole live lobster** served two ways, first as sashimi, each slice, umami freshness and perfection in every bite, followed by a broth (*Nabe*) made from the head, shell and claws, its understandable that the bill would be so high. Lobster RM220 medium RM240 large.

Lest I put my readers off with the prices I just quoted, let me assure you that there is a good meal to be had for much, much less. There is the usual carousel from which one can pick the **revolving plates of sushi and tidbits** which vary from RM1.80 for the egg sushi to the most expensive of RM7.80 for the **seaweed, jelly fish and clams or whelks**. The quality of these are good and highly popular.

SeeFoon walks down memory lane at Festival Walk



shell and decoration than actual meat but nevertheless most impressive.

Naturally we were still hungry as we were ten people around the table so it was time to have the **Buta Kakuni Stewed Berkshire pork belly** with sauce RM18, tender morsels braised to perfection, not unlike the Chinese 'Dong Po Yoke'. It was so good we had to have two portions.

For those on a budget and who love Japanese food, I would certainly recommend their **Ramen**, apparently one of the signature dishes of the house. The **Kyushu Ramen** comes in a robust pork broth which the manager assures me has been coaxed from pork bones overnight, the noodles still chewy on the bite, with slices of barbecued pork, a perfectly cooked half-boiled egg with the yolk still runny and topped with fish paste slices. Other combinations are available and makes for a satisfying meal on its own – RM18-20.

The last to come was the **Nabe** made from the lobster shells and claws. This was a hearty broth with the two claws which we shared amongst ourselves, with leeks and scallions lending additional flavour to the broth. A satisfying ending to a great meal.

Sushi Zento

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RECIPE



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SILKY SMOOTH TAUFU WITH MINCED MEAT

by Pauline Chang

Ingredients:

- Soft Taufu 1pc
- Minced Meat / Chicken 150g
- Red Chili 1pc shredded
- Spring Onions / Celery for garnishing
- Garlic 4 pips, chopped
- Angel Oyster Sauce 2 tablespoons
- Angel Light Soy Sauce 1 tablespoon
- Chicken Stock / Water 1 1/2 cups
- Salt, Sugar, Pepper to taste
- Sesame Oil 1 tablespoon
- Cooking Wine (optional) some
- Cooking Oil 2 tablespoons

Method:

1. Cut open the box used to seal up the soft taufu (White).
2. Place the taufu gently on a clean towel to absorb the excess water.
3. Transfer the soft taufu onto a heatproof dish.
4. Heat up oil in a pan to fry chopped up garlic till aromatic.
5. Add in minced meat to stir fry.
6. Add in water, Angel Oyster Sauce and Angel Light Soy Sauce.
7. Add in sugar, pepper to taste.
8. Add in thickening, sesame oil, cooking wine.
9. Gently ladle the gravy onto the soft taufu on the dish.
10. Serve hot with rice.



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Or one could opt for one of the sets which are priced from RM35 to RM58. These would consist of minimum **six dishes of soup, rice, main course of meat or fish, fruit, steamed egg or chawan mushi, and a salad**. The RM58 set has an extra dish with both raw fish and meat.

On the day of our lunch, we had as appetizers, the **fried white bait** RM15 and **fried baby shrimps** RM10, both crispy and utterly delectable. A **fresh salad topped with soft shell crab and salmon skin** at RM20 followed by a plate of **salmon belly sashimi** RM35 kept the hunger pangs at bay. Then the magnificent **lobster sashimi** arrived, more

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.

Zambry Warns Councillors to “Shape up” or “Ship out”

I refer to the news item “Ratepayers want prompt action” (NST Streets Northern, March 16).

It was reported that Menteri Besar Dato’ Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said that the state government is fed up with constant complaints about bread and butter issues and warned local councillors to either “shape up” or “ship out”.

Last year, members of several civil society NGOs in Ipoh carried out a survey on MBI councillors to help ratepayers understand the roles and functions of city councillors, raise awareness on local government, enhance good governance and transparency.

The initial intention was to conduct a survey amongst all 23 MBI councillors, soliciting their response to a questionnaire with five simple questions.

Two important questions were: ‘Why do you want to be a councillor?’ and ‘How often do you meet residents in your zone?’

It is regrettable that all councillors decided not to respond, citing reasons which were unacceptable. They said that they were only answerable to their political party and not obliged to reply to NGOs. Instead of contacting us, they expressed their opinion in the daily Nanyang Siang Pau.

We then decided to approach our ratepayers for their views. A modified simple questionnaire with a ‘Yes/No’ answer was prepared and our findings on three important questions were:

- 81% of residents do not know who their councillor is.
- 92% of the residents have not seen their councillor in their area over the past twelve months.
- 83% of the residents are not satisfied with the performance of their councillors.

There are also a few dedicated councillors and one of them is Dato’ Daniel Tay, councillor for Lim Garden and Merdeka Garden. He visits the places that need maintenance and organises meetings between residents and MBI staff. However, some residents were not happy because he did not play an active role during the

massive flooding.

The findings were handed over to MB, Dato’ Dr Mah Hang Soon, the Mayor and Exco Members. There was no reply. We doubt whether our authorities read letters sent to them by the ratepayers who are their paymasters. They are not aware of the real situation on the ground.

We highlighted that the present system of appointing councillors is a failure and councillors have very little interaction with the residents.

We suggested other options to replace the failed system, namely:

1. Councillors be elected.
2. Do away with councillors who act as middlemen and cut cost.
3. MBI can appoint Special Officers to accept/act on complaints from the public
4. MBI to hold sub-committee meetings at night so that the public can attend and participate in the discussions on various issues.
5. MBI to hold public hearings on new plans/projects and get feedback from the public before implementation.

Empty talk without concrete action plan is a waste of time.

A. Jeyaraj

[GASRA (Gabungan Solidarity Perak)

LLG Cultural Development Centre

Ipoh City Watch

Perak Consumers Association

Mafrel Perak

Lim Garden Residents’ Committee

Ikram Perak

Tamil Foundation]

Eco Adventure

Earth Hour in Gopeng

Nomad Adventure Sdn Bhd held an Earth Hour event on March 23 at their Earth Camp premises at Kg Chulek Gopeng.

Earth Hour is a global climate awareness program to encourage households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for an hour. This year’s Earth Hour was scheduled on March 23, from 8.30pm to 9.30pm local time.

This year was also Nomad Adventure’s 10th year as a pioneer of whitewater rafting in Gopeng “so we felt it was apt to organise a day to give back to society and nature” said Chan Yuen Li, Founder and Managing Director of Nomad Adventure.

The campaign attracted 100 participants who also took part in a fundraising event. Part of the proceeds from the fundraising event was donated to WWF-Malaysia while each participant’s entry fee contributed towards the participation of 40 underprivileged children.

The day’s activities included “Lights off! Celebrate in candlelight” from 8.30pm till 10pm with a drum circle, a non-amplified music session by singers Dzamira Dzafri and Hannah Nawi and a pantomime by the students from Poi Lam Global Virtual Classroom led by Veronica Woo.

The unplugged Candlelight jam session was so much fun Earth Hour stretched till 10.30pm.

Singer Hannah Nawi had the mainly young crowd singing current popular songs while Poi Lam’s story telling pantomime invited audience participation by mimicking the sounds of progress from water and wind to industry and noisy traffic.

Earlier the participants tried out Nomad’s new Zip Line Tour – a series of six adrenalin-pumping flying fox rides through a unique limestone jungle, a 2.5-km route



where participants investigate at their own pace the kampung’s environment, mountain biking workshop and free drumming to name a few.

After the Kampung Kenduri dinner, catered from the residents of Kg Chulek, a workshop was held with each team making a pledge to protect Mother Earth such as Don’t Waste Water and Save Electricity.

JAG

News Roundup

Military Community Volunteering Day

The Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) will organise Military Community Volunteering Day (MCVD) Activities throughout the nation on April 6 and 7. This was announced by Brig Gen Dato’ Dzahir bin Abdul Rashid, Commander 2nd Malaysian Infantry Brigade, to the media at the brigade headquarters on Tuesday, March 26.

The MCVD programme will be launched in Kuantan by Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak. Simultaneous launching will be held in 39 camps throughout the country.

In Perak the programme will be held at two locations – Taiping at the Esplanade and in Ipoh at Kem Syed Putra, Tambun. Mayor Dato’ Roshidi Hashim will officiate in Ipoh while State Secretary Dato’ Abdul Puhat Mat Nayan, will officiate in Taiping.

The theme is “Tentera dan Rakyat Sentiasa Bersama” (Army and People are Always Together). Activities in the pipeline include a weapons and equipment exhibition, free medical and dental check-ups, sporting activities, Pipes and Drums and brass band displays, aerobics and others.

Members of the public wishing to register as army volunteers (Wataniah) can do so on these two days. The qualification for entry is 3 SPM credits. Bring along your identity cards.

JAG





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News Roundup

City Parks' Ponds Restocked

The theft of ornamental fish from the Japanese Garden pond within Taman DR (D.R. Seenivasagam Park) was highlighted during the recent launch of the Ipoh International Waiters Race 2013. Taking note of the loss, Dato' Lee Seng Hee of Team Keris Bhd came forward, to not only replace the "stolen" fish at Taman DR but to release 500 new fish into the Taman Rekreasi Sultan Abdul Aziz (Polo Ground) pond.

There will be some 30 varieties of Koi, ranging from those with colourful scales to those without scales. The fish, at about 12cm in length, can grow to about 100cm in five years.

Two years ago, Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim had forked out his own money to buy 2000 ornamental fish and had them released into Taman DR's Japanese Garden pond. The objective was to strengthen ties with Fukuoka, Ipoh's twin city. However, irresponsible

visitors to the park have stolen the fish.

Roshidi thanked Lee for his generosity. Team Keris Bhd, incidentally, is actively involved in beautifying Ipoh through its "1000 Parks Project". The mayor warned those who intend on doing the unthinkable, to stay away from the two ponds. "Those caught stealing will be charged under Section 379 of the Penal Code," he told reporters.

Lee presented the mayor with a special shirt printed with the Kohaku Koi fish, named M Legend. He urged the public to feed the fish with proper fish pellets, not just any food.

A similar fish-releasing programme will be organised at Gunung Lang next month. Lee suggested that City Council declare a one-day environmental day for Ipohites to appreciate the beauty of the city. The mayor was receptive to the suggestion.



Roshidi later presented a mock cheque for the sum of RM11,111.11 to SAC Zulkapli bin Ahmad for the Lahad Datu Heroes' Fund. The sum donated came from MBI Councillors' Club, MBI Senior Officers' Club, MBI Sports Club, MBI Cooperative Ltd, Puspanita and personal contributions.

Emily



Husni Visits MBI

Second Finance Minister Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah dropped by the Ipoh City Council recently. He visited the environmental, health, town planning and engineering departments to "see things" for himself. This was in conjunction with his executive talk to officers of the Council which followed soon after.

Husni was glad to note the progress of the Ipoh City Council thus far. He praised the Council for the prompt completion of the *Perak Urban Transformation Centre* (UTC) in downtown Ipoh. The deadline given was seven weeks but it was completed in six.

MBI is now the second largest city council in terms of development planning applications from investors, after DBKL. It has replaced Penang from the number two spot.

"Thus, Ipoh has the potential to be even more developed and vibrant," said Husni to reporters.

Emily

New Police Volunteers



Perak Chief Police Officer DCP Dato' Pahlawan Mohd Shukri Dahlan met with 793 new recruits of the *Police Volunteer Reserve* (PVR) at the Federal Reserve Unit camp in Sg. Senam recently.

The volunteers, according to the CPO, have the same responsibilities as regular police personnel. They have been assisting the Police with crime prevention. But from this year onwards, they will have additional duties.

Some of the additional duties are:

Perak Volunteer Squad. A squad of sixty volunteers dispersed in four police districts. They will visit crowded places on weekends, to interact with the public, and collect information from them.

Volunteers on Buses. They will make rounds along public bus routes on weekdays, stopping at bus stands and terminals.

Police Contingent Celebrates Police Day

The Perak Police Contingent observed its 206th Police Day celebration on a modest scale. A parade was held at the Federal Reserve Unit camp in Sg Senam, Ipoh on Monday, March 25. The theme for this year was, "Community Well-Being Our Commitment". Police Day is celebrated annually on March 25 to remember the deeds of police personnel who sacrifice for the peace and security of the nation.

The parade, mounted by police personnel, was inspected by the state CID chief SAC 1 Dato' Pahlawan Mohd. Dzuraiddi Ibrahim. He stood in for the state police chief, DCP Dato' Pahlawan Mohd. Shukri Dahlan.

Dzuraiddi delivered a speech by Inspector-General of Police, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Ismail Omar, who commended on the bravery of police personnel in "Ops Daulat" in Sabah. He then presented certificates of commendation and letters of appreciation to members of the police force and the public, respectively. The certificates and letters were a form of recognition for their contributions to the Police Force.

Dzuraiddi said that the Perak Contingent will be supplied with 135 units of scramblers in April. The bikes will be used for crime prevention in selected hot spots in



all districts in the state.

He announced that personnel from the State Contingent Headquarters and the Ipoh Police District Headquarters here have collected a sum of RM27,427.20 for the "Ops Daulat" fund. Total amount collected, including public donations, is RM132,262.20. It will be forwarded to Bukit Aman.

Emily

Mayor Fetes News Bureau Chiefs

Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim's efforts in winning over the media are paying dividends, judging from the response by bureau chiefs in Ipoh. His latest attempt involved a hi-tea get-together at a seafood restaurant in Greentown. His choice of the eatery in Ipoh's business district was a pleasant surprise to the invitees, as few had expected it to happen.

The afternoon tea on Friday, March 22 was organised with a difference. Roshidi's off-the-cuff welcoming speech is normally peppered with humour aimed at putting the guests at ease. This time around, however, he had other things in mind. The presence of a well-dressed Malay gentleman and his equally striking wife was obvious.

The couple were duly introduced by the mayor. The gentleman was Encik Kamaruddin Hj Ismail, a former staff of the Perak Information Department. Kamaruddin retired from his post as a supervisor at the Ipoh-based department in 2010 after serving 42 years in the federal agency. He started as a projectionist in 1968.

Kamaruddin's presence was for a reason. He was nominated the city's most exemplary resident (Wargakota Ipoh Contoh), a recognition accorded to Ipohites for their voluntary contributions towards the betterment of the city. Kamaruddin won praises for his voluntary works in keeping his residential area in Gunung Rapat clean. He was presented with a wristwatch by Roshidi.

The mayor took the opportunity to highlight issues relating to rubbish collection and illegal dumpsites. An average of about 500 metric tons of waste are collected daily in the city. "It costs the Council RM40,000 a day to dispose of the rubbish," he remarked.

On the issue of illegal dumpsites, a total of 12,000 sites were cleared in 2012. Close monitoring, gotong royong and posting of signages are some of the methods employed to keep these sites from proliferating. He implored upon Ipohites to be more civic-minded and to help the Council keep the city rubbish-free.

Ed



Pairing with Traffic Cops. Volunteers pairing with traffic policemen to assist in traffic control in commercial areas.

The Perak Police Contingent plans to increase the efficiency and deployment of volunteers. In the pipeline is to have them serve at their neighbourhood police stations because they have a better understanding of the local areas.

The other is to improve the working relationship between regular police and the volunteers. Input from the public is welcomed.

Incidentally, the quota of PVR personnel in Perak has been increased from 282 last year to 1575 this year. This is part of the National Key Result Area's initiatives.

Emily

Arts & Culture

A First in Perak

Ipoh-based Indian music and cultural dance school, *Swaralaya Sangeetha Kalalayam*, now has its very own building. The school, specialising in Indian fine arts classes, is the first of its kind in Perak – a proud distinction jealously guarded by its founders. It is located in First Garden, Ipoh.

Dato' S. Veerasingam, the special advisor to Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, officiated at the opening recently. With him were MIC Youth leader, Sivaraj and Ipoh Fine Arts President, Mrs Shanti. In attendance were students of the school and their parents.

The first half of the programme saw some very energetic display of rhythmic yoga followed by dances, vocal and violin recitals performed by the school's students. Ms Panbarasi, a lecturer at the Ungku Omar Polytechnic, Ipoh, who was instrumental in setting up the training school, thanked her mother, Mrs Sarojini, for her guidance, encouragement and support in her acknowledgement speech.

She went on to describe how apathetic the local Indian music and cultural scene has been and the hardships she had undergone as a budding artiste. She hoped the well-heeled from among the Indian community will rise to the occasion and help, in whatever ways possible, to overcome the lingering apathy, resolve problems and stop the erosion of the community's traditional values.

The "Kalalayam", she enthused, would be a convenient platform for aspiring students to hone their skills in Indian cultural music and dances. "It's a dream come true, of sorts" she added.

Swaralaya Sangeetha Kalalayam was founded in 2006. The school conducts vocal training, dancing and recitals classes. It also teaches students to play musical instruments such as violin, tabla, mridangam, dholak and bhajan. Yoga classes are also available. Those wishing to know more about the school can contact Ms Panbarasi at **010-566 2395** for details.

Kani



Community

Windfall for Single Mothers

The Perak Women's Affairs Department will establish links with respective community colleges in the state for the benefit of single mothers. By doing so, training opportunities offered by the colleges will be made available for potential candidates.

This is one way to make the hard-working and industrious from among the group to be self-reliant and productive. The link-up will also enable them to hone their business skills since the colleges provide courses in commerce.

"For starters, a course in baking will be introduced at the Batu Gajah Community College," said Dato' Hamidah Osman, Executive Councillor for Women's Affairs to Ipoh Echo when met after a cheque-presentation ceremony held at the multi-purpose hall of the State Secretariat Building, Ipoh recently.

Seven mock cheques with a total sum of RM67,000 were presented to seven associations representing single mothers in the state. The money will be used to fund the associations' activities.

Prior to the ceremony the audience, comprising of members of the seven associations,

Birch Clock Tower Needs Proper Maintenance



The newly renovated *Birch Clock Tower* still has no signage and the receptacle in the pedestal in which there was a plaque contains stagnant water; ideal place for breeding mosquitoes.

Half-opened newspapers were lying around the compound. Since there are no benches, it looks like people are placing the newspapers on the ground to sit. This must be happening at night. There are no dustbins in the area. There is the usual garbage like plastic bottles and bags strewn all around.

The plants in the flower bed are not being maintained and growth is uneven. Weeds are growing in the specially planted carpet grass and if they are not weeded soon, they would choke the carpet grass. Action must be taken immediately before it is too late.

The restoration work done on the main structure is not professional. A lay person can see the poor workmanship. One of the lamp posts next to the main steps has been missing for a long time. The lamp post next to it is also missing.

On the positive side the clock shows the correct time. As one of Ipoh's most famous landmarks, it is imperative that, having spent money on its restoration, proper maintenance is carried out.

A. Jeyaraj



were briefed on ways to improve their economic well-being. Hamidah firmly believed that given the chance these women can prosper.

"What they lack is opportunity," she remarked.

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Young Perak

Hard Work Pays Dividends

"Iam pleased with my results and hope I can maintain them for the subsequent semesters," said Hafizul Shazan Mohamed Shah, 21, to Ipoh Echo at an excellence award-giving ceremony held at the Menteri Besar's residence recently. Hafizul is a student at Kolej-Poly Tech Mara (KPTM) Ipoh, having obtained a Diploma in Multimedia at the college.

The ceremony was in recognition of those who had done exceptionally well in their course examinations.

Hafizul thanked both his parents for their unwavering support. "They're my source of inspiration," said the youth who aspires to take up a career in animation. "I too wish to thank my lecturers for their assistance and guidance."

Adam Dean Ng Amar Ng, 21, one of the other awardees, was equally eager about his career prospects. Adam did a Diploma in Management course at the same college. He was top of his class and was duly recognised for his achievement.

The youngest of three siblings, Adam's recipe for success is to simply concentrate on his course work and be attentive during classes. "That's my only methodology besides discussing matters with my lecturers," he added.

Menteri Besar of Perak's wife, Datin Seri DiRaja Saripah Zulkifli, gave away the awards to the winners.

RM



SMI's Double Presentation

St Michael's school's stage presentation this year comes in a double package. Entitled "Night of Double Joy", it will be staged from April 12 to 14 and will feature the drama "The Lion King" after which will be the "Talentine 2013" competition.

"The presentation is part of the school's dynamic tradition to unravel the diversity of the students' stage talents, culture and diversity," said SMI Senior Principal Loh Wei Seng.

The drama "The Lion King" this year will be directed by Ms Corrinne Mah. The story is about King Mufasa (the Lion King) teaching his son Simba the responsibilities of being a king. However, Mufasa's younger brother Scar is jealous for not being able to succeed Mufasa and so the plot thickens. Great storyline, colourful costumes and fantastic makeup not to mention a SMI tradition for drama. Be sure to catch the show.

SMI's Talentine 2013 will commence after the drama and will adopt the "Idol" format with participants having to perform for three nights by singing or offering different presentations. The audience too will be allowed to participate by voting for their favourite performers. The results will be announced at the end of each night. It is something different but should be lots of fun.

Tickets are priced at RM20 and RM50 and proceeds will go towards the school's maintenance fund. 'Old boys' (in town or outstation) can get their tickets from the school office or call **05-254 0418**.

JAG



UTAR Holds its 16th Convocation



Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) held its 16th convocation recently at Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik at its Perak campus in Kampar.

There were 1508 students graduating from 55 programmes that comprised 45 Bachelor (Honours), nine Master and one PhD programmes. These included the pioneer batch of graduates from five programmes: Master of Philosophy (Business and Finance), Master of Science (Project Management), Bachelor of Science (Hons) Architecture, Bachelor of Corporate Communication (Hons), and Bachelor of Media and Creative Studies (Hons).

There were two postgraduate students Koh Siong Lee and Mok Siew Ying receiving PhD in Engineering and 21 postgraduate students receiving Master degrees.

Invited as guests-of-honour in the three sessions of convocation held over the two days were: Dato' Ir (Dr) Teo Chiang Kok, Director of See Hoy Chan Holdings Group, Yang Berhormat Mulia Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, Chief Executive Officer of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad.

The convocation ceremonies were declared open by UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik while UTAR President Ir Professor Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik presented the graduands for the award of their respective degrees and also the Book Prizes and Award Recipients.

Dato' Ir (Dr) Teo, advised the graduating students to always have faith in themselves. He said, "Life will not be smooth sailing all the time. When you are faced with challenges, you have to meet them head on and positively."

"The learning process in life does not end with your graduation. There is a bounty of knowledge out there that you can acquire throughout your life. Life itself is a learning curve. So do not shy away from acquiring new knowledge and skills to better yourself and hopefully also benefit others in the process," said Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, urging the students to be the driver in a knowledge-based society.

Tan Sri Lee motivated the graduating students to be determined persons by quoting the famous saying of the 16th US President, Abraham Lincoln, "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to success is more important than any other."

With the addition of 1508 graduates from its 16th convocation, the University's alumni now stands at 30,415 since the inaugural convocation in 2005.

Sport

First Master Swim Event

Kinta Roadrunners Ipoh (KRI) recently organised the first ever Master Swim Event in Ipoh.

The event was held at the Kinta Swimming Club and was a time-trial competition where each competitor had to swim 1km. The Kinta Swimming Club being a 50-metre pool, each competitor had to swim 20 lengths.

The competition was categorised into 11 age groups starting from 35 years till 60 and above. The response was very positive with 61 participants signing up for the event.

The Men's overall champion went to Mr Wong Kim Keong (15:23.01) while the Women's overall champion was won by Ms Chan Siew Chooi (23:07).

The oldest participant was Mr Liang Jian Guang, 73, who completed the swim in 26 minutes and 5 seconds.

KRI President Mr Chong Him Shoong said the reason for the Club to organise this new event was to promote swimming in Perak and to motivate adult swimmers to improve their swimming skills and fitness.

The sponsors for the event included Kinta Swimming Club, Speedo Malaysia, Brooks Malaysia and F&N.

JAG



Community

RM18,000 raised in Ride4Charity

1,800 cyclists took part in the *UTAR Ride4Charity* event and raised RM18,000 for the needy students in UTAR. The charity event was organised by UTAR Student Representative Council (SRC) with the objective to promote cycling as a green way of travelling and healthy recreational activity within campus, while raising funds for the UTAR Welfare Fund that supports needy students in the University. It was sponsored by cycling component manufacturers Shimano, Raleigh, Cat Eye and others.

"This is the first time that an event organised by SRC has participants as young as seven and the oldest is 75," said organising chairperson Ng V Jiet, adding that he and his team were happy and thankful for the overwhelming support from UTAR staff, students and the public. He added, "the sponsors have been really helpful and generous when they learned that this event is organised by students to help students in return."



UTAR Vice President (Student Development and Alumni Relations) Dr Teh Chee Seng flagged off the charity ride at the sports complex in the campus. The cycling route, through the rustic towns of Mambang Diawan and Temoh before coming back to the campus, was about 30 kilometres and it took the participants almost three hours to complete.

"We were glad to participate in the event and hope that UTAR can hold it annually," said retiree Sufian Arshad, 61. He and his wife Rubiah Mingan, 59, took part in the event. Amirah Mohamad Pudi, 17, from Batu Gajah, who shared the same thought, said, "We got to know about this exciting event via Facebook and my family and I decided to join in."

"This is not my first time joining such a cycling event. I am glad and am proud of myself," said 55-year-old Chuah Yew Lay from Ipoh, who uses a prosthetic right leg. He added that his condition had not hindered him in taking part in the event.

"If you want to make the world a better place to live in, you must have the feeling to give and to care for the less fortunate," said UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik at the closing ceremony. He thanked all parties involved for participating in the 'good, green and healthy' event which had successfully raised RM18,000 for the UTAR Welfare Fund.

After the speech, Professor Chuah proceeded to present souvenirs to the representatives of the three main sponsors. The *UTAR Ride4Charity* event wound up after the much-anticipated lucky draw session.

Orang Asli Village Receives Visitors



The Orang Asli settlers of Kampong Ayer Denak, Tronoh played hosts to members of Y's Men's Club Ipoh and the Perak Malayalee Association recently. The villagers, numbering some 600-odd, turned up in force to welcome their guests, who were on a tour to better acquaint themselves with the living conditions of the Orang Asli there.

Village chief, Tok Batin Ariff bin Ngah Omar was on hand to receive the visitors. They were then introduced to the village action committee made up of members of the community. The day-long programme ended with the handing over of food parcels to the visitors to the villagers.

It was an enlightening day for members of the two organisations. They plan to visit similar villages in Tapah and Chemor in the near future.

Ed

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.

Interfaith Understanding Dialogue 'Rituals in my Scripture: Relevant or Outdated?', April 1, 8pm at Chancellor Hall, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Bandar Seri Iskandar, Tronoh, Perak. Contact person: Haji Rahmat bin Abu Seman 05-368 8502 or 016-422 1418.

Perak Women for Women Society 10th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner (with guest artiste Dato' Sheila Majid), Saturday, April 6, 7pm to 10.30pm at Grand Valley Ballroom – Level 2, Kinta Riverfront Hotel & Suites, Jalan Lim Bo Seng, Ipoh. For tickets, call Ms Yip at 05-546 9715 or 012-521 2480.

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Validity Period: 11/10/2012 - 10/10/2013 Approved Plan No.: OSC(036-A)/B/1/9/138/12 Total Units: 96
Land Encumbrances: Malayan Banking Berhad Exp. Completion Date: Oct 2014 Land Tenure: Freehold
Price: Min RM 580,260 Max RM 738,800 Approving Authority: Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh

