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June 16-30, 2013

PP 14252/10/2012(031136)

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Kampar – Malaysia's First University Town

By James Gough

Just ten years ago when anyone mentioned Kampar, the only images that came to mind were claypot chicken rice, Kampar chicken biscuits and the hills that run parallel on the east side to the main street of town. Flash forward ten years and a new image leaps into awareness. Kampar is UTAR or University Tunku Abdul Rahman with its wide and spacious campus grounds, a wide expanse of lake with young student cyclists whizzing past every few minutes. But this is not the original Kampar of memory but Bandar Baru Kampar or Kampar New Town located north of the old town. *Continued on page 2*



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Collapse of Tin Brought New Life to Kampar

Bandar Baru Kampar or Kampar New Town was the result of the collapse of the tin industry in Malaysia in 1985. Located to the north of Kampar town, it was started by Tan Sri Hew See Tong, 82, a former tin miner and former MP of Kampar from 1995 till 2008.

Hew, who lived all his life in Kampar, felt it was his 'duty and responsibility to do something' for his hometown, Kampar. When his own mining operations ground to a halt in 1989, Hew used his ex-mining land to the north of Kampar to venture into housing and industrial development, giving birth to the creation of Kampar New Town from a sandy yet scenic landscape.

New Economic Activities

At an interview with Ipoh Echo held at the Grand Kampar Hotel, Hew elaborated that his initial initiative attracted electronic companies to his new location. Though the companies are no longer here "their technology had become outdated", it was the start of a new economic activity which spurred property development and became a catalyst for the Kampar of today.

However, it was Hew's initiative to successfully encourage Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TARC) to set up a branch at Kampar, that was the cornerstone that has made Kampar what it has become today, a University Town.

Hew's original offer to the management of TARC was the use of five shop lots with a RM1 rental per year and a donation of 20Ha of his ex-mining land as a permanent site for the college. Hew also garnered the support of then MCA President Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik. Hence on May 2003, TAR College was officially opened in Kampar.

The subsequent setting up of the main campus of University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) located in Kampar was also facilitated by Hew. Engaging the assistance of former Menteri's Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli as well as MCA leader Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan, the Perak State Government subsequently granted UTAR a 520-ha piece of ex-mining land to build its campus.

Excellent Study Environment

UTAR was officially opened in June 2007 and is located in a scenic location flanked by placid lakes and picturesque mountains.

Its campus houses five faculties which include the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Business and Finance, Engineering and Green Technology, Information and Communication Technology and Faculty of Science. It also has facilities such as a gymnasium, basketball court, volleyball court for sports and extracurricular activities.

A walk through the campus starting from its Block A, Heritage Building, via the walkway which follows the edge of the lake links the subsequent blocks and provides a panoramic vista for the visitor to view how former mining ponds are integrated together with the landscape and buildings creating a very conducive environment for studying and youth activities.

Similarly the students' accommodation located across the lake are within cycling distance and bicycle traffic tends to increase before and after classes and during meal times at New Town.

Journalism student Lena Toon who is currently interning with Ipoh Echo till August, described the overall study environment as quiet, comfortable and conducive. Toon who lives in Ipoh commutes by bus on weekends and like the majority of students, cycles to class.

Extra-curricular activities are plentiful with Wushu being particularly well attended. Its Club President, Lecturer Lee How Chinh admitted that his students' passion for the sport made it the most active club for two straight years and contributed three of five participants at the Asian University games in Laos last year.

An early evening visit to Kampar New Town



Tan Sri Hew See Tong

revealed the hordes of students literally flock to the town centre mostly on bicycles for their evening meal while at the field across, other youths were still playing Frisbee. Notably too at New Town were the outlets of Old Town White Coffee, McDonald's, Domino's Pizza as well as K-Box Karaoke and even a gym and skating rink all within the centre.

Spin off Services

Besides property development which was created to provide accommodation and commercial services, other services here include retail shops, a supermarket, restaurants, hotels and bicycle shops.

According to Hew, TARC has 2000 students while UTAR currently has over 14,000 students and is increasing on average 10 per cent each year. UTAR has a capacity for over 20,000 students and Hew anticipates UTAR's population to increase to 18,000 by the year 2018.

An issue about insufficient accommodation was heard during UTAR Kampar's recent second convocation day held at its 4000 capacity Tun Ling Liong Sik grand hall. The event was held over three days in order to accommodate the students to share their proud achievement with their parents.

Kampar's main hotel is the 155-room Grand Kampar Hotel centrally located in New Town though there are several budget hotels located in the town.

Room for Improvement

Hew, when asked if he had done his duty and responsibility, acknowledged that "yes, Kampar has been revived".

He elaborated that assuming the 14,000 students that were living in Kampar spent an estimate of RM14 million per month, based on RM1000 per month expenditure, the town would be flush with RM168 million per year just from tertiary education.

Adding that there was still a lot of room for improvement Hew highlighted the recent opening of the Westlake International School within the same locality as UTAR which provides students the opportunity for a globalized environment.

The international school which started this year offers the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) curriculum that is recognised worldwide. The current enrolment is over 100 students but has a capacity to accommodate 3000 students ultimately.

Hew shared his other planning projects over the next five years which includes service apartments for short-term stays (1-2 months) for visitors, a condominium for overseas students and their families and a 5-acre Kampar Walk close to Westlake.

Kampar's Heritage Tourism

Another area for economic activity says Hew, is tourism. Hew who has been involved with the tin industry all his life, has created a tin museum depicting the various aspects of early mining activity.

Hew's vision for tourism could be put to the test. Moving through Kampar's main road are several Chinese clan houses, a post office and a hospital. The 100-year-old Chinese temple is still there as is the Catholic Sacred Heart Church at the end of the road just past the Merdeka clock tower built to commemorate Malaysia's independence day.

What was equally amazing was one of the houses on the main road belonged to Imam Prang Jabarumun, the Assistant Penghulu of Gopeng, a Mandailing' who in the 1890s played midwife to the birth of Kampar originally called Mambang di Awan (fairy in the clouds).

In the book 'Kinta Valley' by Khoo Salma Nasution and Abdur Razzaq Lubis "Imam Prang Jabarumun, upon discovering a very rich tin field had been discovered at Mambang di-awan, demanded that Kinta District Officer JBM Leech follow him immediately to lay out the township".

Leech acknowledging the site to be valuable selected a township site and named it Kampar after a little stream close by. For Leech, Mambang di-Awan was too long a name for a Chinese mining village.

Leech later in 1891 described the progress of Kampar 'from the most backward to one of the most prosperous'. He added that "it has grown from a cluster of huts into a large and flourishing mining village with 154 shops which had been laid out with the usual blocks of ten 20 ft building lots".

These shoplots still exist on the main street and would make a good heritage tourism product for Kampar.

Apparently Hew is right again. There is still a lot of room for improvement.



Westlake International School



IPOH **echo**From the Editor's Desk
by Fathol Zaman BukhariWell Done **TNB***I did not expect such a miracle to happen, not in this trying moment. I thought the national power supplier would take a lifetime to react. How wrong could I have been?*

It is not too comforting to know that the humblest thing is often being relegated to some empty recesses of our mind. We seldom give basic necessities such as water and electricity much attention unless they affect your routine and lives.

Perception is a strong tool that nullifies your thoughts however discerning one may be. I don't wish to sound philosophical but what I am trying to proffer is how we have taken things for granted simply because of the assumption that they don't necessarily work in our favour.

Take the service provided by our monopolistic power supplier, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) whose predecessor was the less gargantuan National Electricity Board of yesteryear. Nobody would give a hoot if told that there is more to TNB other than its bold lettering emblazoned on electric poles and on the doors of sub-stations in your neighbourhood.

Like many others I have come to regard TNB as an insatiable government-linked company whose only interest is to squeeze as much from the long-suffering public. Reports of hidden charges under some very innocuous headings in the monthly bill are rife. There have been instances when the public have stopped short of taking to the streets to protest against these inconsistencies.

The lopsided agreement in favour of the 11 Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in the country is a case in point. It is a well-known fact that these entities are being heavily subsidised by the government to a tune of about RM2 billion annually.

Support of these IPPs, to put it bluntly, is at the expense of PETRONAS, Tenaga Nasional Berhad and Malaysian consumers. One of the entities has a Return on Investment (ROI) of almost 48 per cent when a ROI of 12 per cent is considered justifiable. The inequity is staggering, to say the least. But that is not what I am about to highlight in this editorial of mine.

It was one of those hazy weekends when you have little to do but to remain glued to the television watching some rough and tumble games coming to life on the giant LED screen. I was no exception. The object of my interest that fateful day was a final between



two top-notch rugby clubs Down Under.

It was almost 7pm. The sky was heavily overcast punctuated by lightning and thunder. One lightning flash came crashing from the sky and exploded in front of my house. The TV screen and the lights went off. The next-door neighbour's house, however, was not affected and so were the rest in the vicinity.

My damage control drills came into effect. I never thought of calling TNB for assistance. The first person that came to mind was the contractor who fixed the electric fittings in my house. I called him and he was in front of my gate almost an hour later.

The lightning bolt had spiked two of the three external fuses on my 3-phase electrical board. Only one was functioning.

He had them replaced and supply was restored soon after. Before he left he told me that TNB is equipped for such an emergency. The number to call is TNB Careline 15454.

It did not bother me much until I received my bill. The amount was well below my anticipated figure. I decided to call the number to check. A recorded voice on the other end answered. After the onerous, "Press 1 for Bahasa Malaysia, Press 2 for English" followed by another number for default reporting, I was directed to an operator who answered in crisp and clear English. I told her of my problem. She said someone would return my call soon. Sure enough someone did call. It was the local TNB response team.

True to form, the van with the team stopped by my house an hour after I made the call to TNB Careline. The damaged electric meter with the wrong reading was duly replaced.

I was stumped. Honestly, I did not expect such a miracle to happen, not in this trying moment. I thought the national power supplier would take a lifetime to react. How wrong could I have been?

So the next time something goes wrong with your power supply, don't hesitate to call 15454. You can even text a message or send an email. That is customer service for you. I feel Ipoh City Council should learn a thing or two from TNB.

EYE HEALTH- CORNEAL ABRASIONS- Part 2

Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr. S.S. GILL talking to us about CORNEAL ABRASIONS.



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

A scratch injury to the clear part of the eye or cornea is common in both kids and adults. It usually occurs when some sand or dust enters the eye. In the last issue, Dr. Gill talked about the causes and symptoms of corneal abrasions. In this issue, he speaks more about treatment and prevention methods.

TREATMENT

Corneal abrasions usually begin with a sensation that something foreign has entered the eye. Should this happen to you or your child, ensure that you DO NOT RUB THE EYE.

Some immediate steps that you can take are as follows:

- **FLUSH OUT THE EYE:** Place clean water or saline into a little round cup and place it over your eye to wash out the foreign body. Most of the time, this will solve the problem.
- **GET YOUR CHILD TO BLINK HIS EYE:** If the child is tearing profusely, this is good as the tears itself will often wash off the offending agent.
- **IF YOU NOTICE SOMETHING STUCK TO THE CORNEA:** Do not attempt to remove this by yourself as this may lead to further damage to the cornea by way of an infection or at worse, a corneal ulcer. Seek professional help in this case so that the foreign body can be removed without damage to the eye or introducing unnecessary infection.

If you have a simple antibiotic eye drop (without steroid) at home, you can instil them in the eye. Then pad the eye to keep it from blinking, as blinking may cause more pain especially to a child. This will help make it more comfortable for the patient while waiting to be seen by the doctor.

After removal of the foreign particle, there may be a gritty or scratchy feeling in the affected eye for a day or two depending on whether the abrasion is large or small. You will often be given antibiotic eye drops along with some analgesics if you are unable to tolerate the pain. Sometimes, your doctor may prescribe a sedative for a restful night's sleep especially if the discomfort is very troubling.

PREVENTION

If you are a contact lens wearer, do not wear your contact lenses until the corneal abrasion has healed well. Your eye doctor will advise you when you will be able to resume wearing them.

Do wear eye safety goggles whenever you work with tools or drills, participate in high speed sports activities such as squash, badminton or hockey, handle any chemicals, or when working in a garden surrounded by thorny bushes and shrubs.

Prevention is better than cure. It is best to avoid getting injured instead of trying to get well after an injury.

Corneal abrasions only cause trouble if they get secondarily infected and end up as corneal ulcerations which can lead to blindness if not treated early. Should you suffer from any symptoms that are prolonged, do seek professional eye treatment.

**In The Name Of My Father's Estate**

Episode 18

by Peter Lee

As Dave (Lawyer) had completed the discussion on gathering of Lee Sr's estate with the Administrators namely, John, Michele (children of the first family) and Connie (2nd wife of Lee Sr), he told the Administrators to inform all the beneficiaries to be ready in a week's time to sign all documents with regard to the filing of the Letter of Administration (L.A.). He further said "We will start this application in Malaysia first. As for overseas assets, it is best to apply separate L.A.s in those countries. So, please confirm with me in the next meeting whether all three of you will be willing to travel to these countries to get the job done. Otherwise, we will most likely have to appoint legal firms or trustee companies in these countries to act as the administrators on your behalf which requires the consent of all the beneficiaries."



Michele asked, "Dave, could you refresh our memories on the documents which all the beneficiaries have to sign?" Dave replied, "It would be the consent letter to the appointment of the Administrators to be signed by all beneficiaries. Then, those beneficiaries who are not appointed as Administrators must sign the renunciation letter giving up their rights to this appointment. Subsequently, an affidavit must be signed by all the Administrators." Connie then asked, "Can all my three minor children sign these documents?" In reply Dave said, "Only parents or guardians can sign for their minor children. As such, you will have to sign on their behalf." Dave then added, "Please also bring along the death certificate of Lee Sr and his parents as well." All the Administrators looked surprised and John said, "Dave, to give you the death certificate of my father is not a problem but it would be a problem producing my grandparents' death certificates as they died so long ago. By the way, I can't understand why the application for L.A. requires my grandparents' death certificates since the distribution of my father's estate is split into one third (1/3) for his spouse and two thirds (2/3) for the children according to the Distribution Act."

In response, Dave said, "John, you are right on this but according to the Distribution Act, if your grandparents were still alive then they would be entitled to one quarter (1/4) of your father's estate whereas the other quarter (1/4) will go to your father's spouses and half (1/2) to his children. Therefore, in order to eliminate that one quarter (1/4) entitlement to your grandparents because they are no longer around, you have to prove by way of their death certificates. I suggest that you can try extracting a copy from the national registration department or give me the authority as your lawyer to do so." John then said to Dave, "I think it's best you do the extraction to save us all the hassle. Then he turned to Michele and Connie asking them for their opinion in which both the ladies also consented to by nodding. John further probed "What is the next option if we still can't produce the death certificates of my grandparents?" Dave replied "Well, we will then have to see whether the High Court allows our application for L.A. without your grandparents' death certificates. I presumed we must at that point of time prove to them that we have exhausted all our avenues in search of these death certificates. Otherwise, the last resort would be applying for a presumption of death certificate from the High Court.

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 can be reached at: 012-5078825/ 05-2554853 or excelsecms@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.wills-trust.com.my>. His Book "To Delay is Human but to Will is Divine" (96 pages, RM28) is available at his office: 108 (2nd Floor), Jalan Raja Ekram, 30450 Ipoh; Rashi Mini Market (019-510 6284), 37 Jalan Perajurit, Ipoh Garden East; Ipoh Echo and at all major bookstores.

For more information, call Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah (05-545 5582) or email gilleyecentre@dr.com.

PUBLISHER

Ipoh Echo Sdn Bhd
(Regd No 687483 T)

A-G-1, No. 1 Persiaran
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PRINTER

Konway Industries Sdn Bhd
Plot 78, Lebuhraya
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Just Another Day in Ipoh



At around 2pm one Friday, Amy decided to go to the car park at the Old Catholic Centre in Ipoh to leave a bag in her car. She slung the bag over the shoulder on which she was carrying her handbag, and left her office.

Nothing seemed amiss as she stepped off the pavement onto the slip road – a young man was walking along the road, another was sitting in his car. As a motorbike sped past, driven by a man in a black T-shirt, with a pillion-rider, wearing a green T-shirt, Amy continued on her way.

With people milling about, Amy felt safe. The area had recently seen a rise in theft and two women from nearby offices had been robbed at knifepoint, after work.

At the car park, Amy unlocked the rear passenger door and slid the bag off her shoulder to place in the car. As she removed the bigger bag, she felt a gentle tug on the strap of her handbag. She also heard someone mumbling. Amy turned around to find herself staring at the blade of a knife, held by a young boy, who appeared to be Malay. He was clad in dark trousers and a green T-shirt. He also wore a helmet.

He tugged again at her handbag. This time he barked, “Bagi saya wang!” He wrenched the handbag off Amy’s shoulder and ran away. The speed of the attack left Amy stunned and motionless.

Before she went to lodge a police report, Amy cancelled her credit cards and handphone. At the Sungai Senam police station (crimes in this particular area are covered by this police station), Amy noticed a young Malay girl waiting to report a theft. They swapped stories.

The Malay girl said that she had been in the Ladies’ toilet of the Ipoh Parade, around noon, when a young Malay-looking boy in a black T-shirt held her at knifepoint and demanded money. When she told him that she had none, he seized her handphone.

Having completed the police report, Amy was told to see the ‘A’ team. This meant a trip across town to the “A” team office, which is near the Ipoh Railway Station. The Malay girl whom Amy met earlier, was waiting to be seen.

As the Inspector whom Amy should have seen was busy, she had to discuss her ordeal with a policewoman. Amy asked about the necessity of making two reports, and was told that the preliminary report at Sungai Senam was only a brief report, the one compiled by the “A” team would be more detailed.

Amy requested a copy of the detailed police report, but was told that the report is “tak sah” (not valid) unless it was paid for. For unspecified reasons, the policewoman could not give Amy a receipt for her own copy of the police report, but advised Amy that she could obtain a copy from any police station.

reports, was unavailable, so nobody could print one.

Amy said, “The mind simply boggles at the way reports are handled. I had to go to three police stations or visit the police station three times just to make a report and get a report.

“Why do we need to make two reports? No wonder the police do not have enough people on the streets when they spend their time doing reports.”

She claimed that she has never seen a policeman in the Greentown/ Syuen Hotel/Excelsior Hotel area, which is reportedly high in crime. Many of her colleagues know of someone who has been robbed. One girl was pushed into a drain and her handbag snatched.

The previous day, the policewoman at the “A” team in Ipoh told Amy, “There are patrols but these guys are very smart. They attack only when the police patrol has passed.”

Amy wonders about the effectiveness of police cars and said, “They are just alerting these criminals to their presence or absence. I also have never seen police walking around the area. It looks like our police are only seen at roadblocks or on lonely roads near where I live, preying on poor motorcyclists”.

This is Amy’s second experience of being robbed. Her first was when her handbag was snatched in front of the Creative Music Academy, opposite Jusco and a police pondok. She is worried about the escalating crime, and does not think that the barriers which have been erected specially to deter snatch thieves are of any use.

She has a suggestion, “How difficult is it to use a policewoman as a decoy? The barriers won’t stop them. The money would have been better spent beefing up the police force.”

Many people will empathise with Amy. Despite her frustration and anger, Amy was pleased to note that the policemen were very nice to her. They showed concern that she wanted to have a printout of the report, “especially when she had to pay for it, too”.

It seems obvious that a victim of a crime would need a copy of a police report for several reasons. First: to keep a record of what happened. Second: a copy is needed to make an insurance claim. Third: if there was a breakthrough in the case, the thieves were caught or the items in Amy’s handbag were recovered, the report serves as proof of ownership.

Many newspaper reports claim that crime has decreased. If making a police report is a hassle and people decide against making them, many crimes may go unreported and the false figures would indicate an apparent decrease in crime.

(Names have been changed to protect the innocent.)



THINKING ALLOWED

by Mariam Mokhtar

The following morning, Amy went to the local police station, to obtain a copy of the police report. She was told that she should have obtained it the previous day, after making the report. Having heard Amy’s explanation, the policewoman on duty phoned the Sungai Senam police station for help with printing a copy of Amy’s report.

After paying RM2, Amy was issued with a receipt but she could still not get a printout because the clerical staff, who printed these reports, only works during office hours. Furthermore, the officer-in-charge who had access to the system and knew how to print the

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.

“Phishing Attacks: How Vulnerable Are We?” A talk by Mr Jayaseelan Vejayan, Assistant Director and Head Information and Communications Technology Division, Quest International University Perak (QUIP). Wednesday, **June 19** commencing 3pm. Lecture Room 4 (Level 3), Applied Sciences Building, QUIP. For details call Ms Sarah Stephenie: 05-249 0500 Ext 256 or Email: sarah.stephenie@quip.edu.my.

Perak MILO-MBI-MSN Hockey 6 and 7-a-side Tournament organised by Ipoh City Hockey Association in conjunction with Ipoh City Day, **June 22-23** at Ipoh Padang and Stadium Azlan Shah. Call Jaswant at 012-565 6647 for more details.

SMJK Poi Lam Military Band Concert, **June 22**, 7.15pm at Wisma Chin Woo, Jalan Hussein, Ipoh. To raise funds to buy new musical instruments. Entrance is by donations. For more information, visit www.plband.org/ticket.html or call 012-554 0512 (Meng Yong) or 012-560 8724 (Anne).

SMJK Poi Lam Military Band Fund-raising Concert, Saturday, **June 22** commencing 7.15pm. Wisma Chin Woo, Jalan Hussein, Ipoh. Entrance by donations. For details call Meng Yong: 012-554 0512 or Anne: 012-560 8724 or visit www.plband.org/ticket.html.

Paintings by Local Talents Chow Ngan Moi and Lee Ben Thong entitled, “Comprehension Of The Soul” will be on display till **June 23** at the Lim Ko Pi Gallery, 10 Jalan Sultan Iskandar. It will be opened daily from 10am to 5pm, except on Monday. Organised by Nothing Special Arts and Antiques.

St Mike’s Policy Dinner No 7. Topic: “The State of Constitutional Democracy in Malaysia” A talk by Dr Abdul Aziz Bari, formerly Professor of Law at the International Islamic University of Malaysia. Saturday, **June 29** commencing 7pm. St Mike’s Bistro Restaurant, No. 5 Jalan Sultan Idris Shah, 30000 Ipoh. For details and reservations call 05-225 2850 or 016-593 3068 or email: stmikes.ussb@gmail.com.

“My Days In The Sun” book written by Mark Yoi Sun Soo. A book launch organised by Perak Academy and Areca Books, Penang will be held at Symphony Suites, Ipoh. Friday, **July 5** commencing 3pm. For details and reservations call Perak Academy: 05-547 8949 or Wai Kheng: 016-551 8172 or email: contact@perakacademy.com.

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RAMESH KUMAR



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MUSINGS ON FOOD



By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Ginla Chew

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

Mention banana leaf curry in Ipoh and most aficionados who appreciate the hot fiery tastes of this South Indian meal will unanimously opt for **Samy's**. However, the journey from Ipoh town can be a tad far for some, but for serious foodies, the trek there is worth every kilometre.

Samy's Restaurant does have a following. Go there on a weekday lunchtime and the place is packed to the gills with office workers and people waiting in line for take away. On weekends and public holidays, golfers and families are a common sight.

The restaurant has been around for 50 years, and is now run by the son who has grown the business to the point where there is now a new extension next door and where before one had to wait for a seat, there is now ample seating at long tables where sharing tables is a convivial thing to do.

This is a place for banana leaves so you won't see any plates around. Most people here will eat with their hands but for the squeamish types like me they do supply

Banana Leaf 'Institution'



selection every day, and on the day I went it was a mixed vegetable dhal with carrots and long beans, dry potato curry and always a cucumber, onion salad. This was accompanied by a **Rasam**, a sourish cup of well spiced 'soup' which is meant to stimulate appetite and aid digestion.

Samy's has one of the largest selection of wet and dry curries I have ever tasted (and I have been tasting them for over a period of 10 years). And some of the most exotic items too, not to be found in other places in town. This is the only banana leaf restaurant to offer **Duck** RM12 and **Turkey Curry** RM15 per portion. It is also the only place where I've been to where they serve **Kambing Kepala** or fresh Lamb's Head Curry RM14. Being an offal lover, I was delighted to find **Kambing Perut** or **Lamb Innards Curry** RM14 as well as **Kambing Hati** or **Lamb's Liver** RM14.

They also distinguish between regular **Chicken Curry** RM6 and **Kampong (free range) Chicken Curry** RM8, the latter cooked in the *Varuval* style – dry, more robust and more fiery. The same applies to their mutton. Regular **Mutton (frozen) Curry** goes for RM8 per portion while the **Kampong Mutton** (fresh) is RM15 per portion. I personally prefer the kampong mutton which is stronger in taste and fresh from the market, not frozen like the regular mutton which is from Australia or New Zealand.

Now that I have mentioned all the meat dishes, let me move on to the fish which is equally tempting. The regular **Fish Curry** for one piece of mackerel is RM6 which comes with some brinjal and ladies fingers. They also have a choice of **fried fish**. Their **Prawn Curry** goes for RM12 but it is their **Crab Curry** that is the piece de résistance.

The crab curry sells out very quickly and its no wonder. Big fresh flower crabs at RM15 each come with



a thick curry gravy which is absolutely delectable. This is one curry that I always look forward to and even if the crabs sell out, I'll plead for some of that scrumptious gravy to go with my rice.

Samy's opens early for breakfast where **Thosai**, **Roti Canai**, **Vadai**, **Curry Puffs**, **Appam** and other Indian breads are available. Eating **Thosai** here is a delightful experience where they give you a variety of **chutneys and dips**. My favourites were the **Coconut Chutney** and the **Ikan Bilis Sambal**. They also provide you with a dhal and tomato chutney unlike some other places I've been to where you're lucky if they still have the Coconut Chutney left and you're left with an onion sambal and watery dhal. Needless to say, all this is washed down with **Teh Tarik**, thick black tea made with evaporated and condensed milk.

Samy's Restaurant

70 Main Road, Chemor

Tel: 05-201 4066

Business Hours: 7am-9.30pm, closed Mondays every fortnight.

GPS: 4° 43.171'N, 101° 7.275'E



forks and spoons. First they place the banana leaf in front of you and promptly bring the rice which they'll serve you by the ladle, and replenish when requested. Then comes the **poppadom** which are large crispy crackers made from chickpea flour. Again, they're generous with these so you can ask for more as you nibble while waiting for the other curries to come. Next come the vegetables, a rotating

HAWKER FOOD



GP Food Court (First Garden)

Jalan Ng Song Teik, First Garden.

Opens from 6am to midnight everyday.

By VWSL

Gone are the days when food stalls were stationed under huge rain or cherry trees (except for dai shu keok) and along back lanes of shops. We now have modern covered food courts like Golden Point (GP) that opened in late 2009 and operates from 6am to midnight everyday. On the upper level is Frank Fitness Centre; it is apt that after a good workout one can come down and have a scrumptious meal.

There is a multitude of Chinese fare like: Penang Fried Kuey Teow, Singapore Fried Noodles, Hock Kee Bak Kut Teh, Western food, Fish Head Noodles, Curry Fish Head, (Pik Lan) Seafood Fried Rice, Claypot Chicken Rice, Pan Mee, Prawn Mee, Chee Cheong Fun, Sizzling Lo Shi Fun or Yee Mee from Sweet Heart and of course, the signature Pau Langkap. Try the 'lemak' Curry Mee – RM4.20 and delicious Rojak – RM4, all from the same stall, the al dente Heng Kee Wonton Mee Bercham – RM4. 'Something Special' has homemade noodles either with plain sauce or curry (for a change try the wild boar curry) – RM4-4.50. Suntei Sushi has a wide variety of sushi.

Mee Goreng, Mee Rebus, Roti Canai, etc. will satisfy those craving Indian food. Su Nasi Kandar serves spicy and flavourful rice and curry dishes from RM4.80 for

rice, chicken curry, vegetables & **poppadom**; fish cutlets are RM1.50 and there is also chicken varuval (dry), mutton and different vegetables.

Some stalls open at night from 7pm onwards include Pinang Lobak, Satay, BBQ Fish, Popiah, etc. Pizza buffs can have thin-crust Chicken Supreme Pizza at Elro's Deli Pizza Australiana; RM13.80 for regular and RM19.80 for large.

There is also a good selection of fruit juices and desserts available and a must-try is **Wan Tou Long** (yellow jelly) – RM2.30. The Fresh Fruit stall sells *sengkuang*, mango, guava, etc. from RM1 to RM2.

GP First Garden has not less than 35 food stalls and has something for everyone.



News Roundup

8th ASEAN Conference on Primary Health Care



The 8th ASEAN Conference on Primary Health Care organised by the Perak Medical Practitioners' Society was held at Kinta Riverfront Hotel recently. The theme for the conference, which is held every two years, was 'Surviving the Transformation'.

In his opening address Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Director General of Health, outlined the history of the Malaysian Health Care system from the sixties to the present. He explained about the Transformation of Malaysian Health Care System. He informed that basically Malaysia has two health-care systems, the public and the private sectors. Currently there are about 8000 General Practitioners in the country. The aim of the new system is to integrate both under the new iCare system. He explained the important aspects of the proposed system and said that the blueprint will be out only in 2015. Currently 4.6 per cent of GDP is spent on health care.

Information technology has made patients more knowledgeable about their illnesses and they ask relevant questions of the doctor. With globalisation, our competency is benchmarked against international standards. Heart patients are sent to Narayana Hospital in India where surgery costs only RM10,000. The hospital provides a guarantee that if there were complications the additional treatment would be free and surgery costs would be waived.

In his welcome address Dato' Dr K. Chandran, Organising Chairman said the Conference was to improve the participants current knowledge and management of various common diseases. Interesting topics such as 'Venturing in Aesthetic Medicine', 'Principal and Practice in Anti-aging and Regenerative Medicine', 'Surviving the Transformation', 'Medical Ethics' and others were discussed.

JR

Wong's Tea-Party with Young Voters

Canning State Assemblyman Wong Kah Woh who was recently re-elected during the 13th General Election, held a tea gathering with the young voters in his constituency. The gathering titled, "Tea Time with Kah Woh" was organised to meet up with his new and young first-time voters.

According to Wong the goal of the gathering was to get to know the young voters in a relaxed and informal environment. Acknowledging that his first realisation of the young voters in his constituency was on polling day at Mariaville polling station, he posted the invitations on his facebook page, stating that the event had limited space and invited those interested to register their participation on his page. The invite garnered 30 participants with ages ranging from 22-30 years.

Wong's opening address thanked the voters for their support and subsequently provided an overview of the Party's cause, the political overview of the state of Perak and the recent general election issues as well as to get to know their elected representative.

Wong was pleasantly surprised to discover that the participants were all politically inclined and posed politically pertinent questions such as what were Pakatan Rakyat's aspirations for Perak, about Anwar Ibrahim and the recent general election issues. Generally they indicated that they would be ready for the next election.

For Wong, based on the discussions, he was able to gauge the aspirations of the



young voters and he was happy to have organised the gathering. Wong has plans to organise similar sessions with other age groups.

JAG

Perak's First Roller Coaster

Perakeans are in for a treat as there is a new roller coaster in town called the Lupe's Adventure. Built at a cost of RM4 million, the roller coaster is the latest addition at the Lost World of Tambun's amusement park and the first of its kind in Perak. Calvin Ho, General Manager of Lost World, wants this to be the first of many more to come for the amusement park. He hopes visitors will enjoy the thrill of the ride.

Lupe's Adventure, at 25 feet above ground, travels up to 20 mph with two 360° loops featured. It is designed to give riders an exhilarating experience with the hills as the backdrop.

Newer facilities will be featured yearly thus giving park visitors a different experience each time they return. For more information on Lupe's Adventure visit: www.sunwaylostworldoftambun.com or its Facebook: www.facebook.com/lostworldoftambun.

RM



Yayasan Bina Upaya's New CEO



Dato' Ismail Safian (above pic right) was appointed the new CEO of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBUDR) by the foundation's Board of Directors.

With over 24 years of experience in management behind him, the new CEO will put it to good use to improve the image of YBU, especially its role as an agency to eradicate poverty and caring for the under-privileged and the marginalised, regardless of their ethnicity.

Ismail was grateful for the trust shown to him and will try his best to bring YBU to another level.

"Management is not something new to me, as I was involved with managing a number of agencies before this," he said. Incidentally, Ismail has been involved with the foundation since its formation in 2009.

Ismail met reporters at the foundation's office soon after his appointment recently.

RM

Community

Fun, Fun, Fun, Edufun Party

Music was blaring full blast and a huge scrumptious cake waited in the wings to be cut. Judging by the elated looks on the faces of the kids as they 'hip hopped' and gyrated in a performance to impress the few adults present, they were having a whale of a time showing off their talents; to the extent that they did not want to leave the dance floor even for food. The fact that they were all having such a great time, the average passerby at these low-cost flats in Buntong would think it was a fancy birthday party.

In fact, what was happening was the Edufun party for underprivileged kids from broken and problematic homes. Organised and funded by Soroptimist International Ipoh (SII), the occasion was to provide an avenue to take these children away from the stresses of their mundane routine and stressful home environment and give them an opportunity to have fun.

This they had in megadoses, with games led by Louis Sebastian, followed by lunch and culminating in the cutting of one of the biggest cakes the kids had ever seen and tucking into food that were some of the biggest treats in their young lives. Most of them, for example, had never seen a strawberry, let alone taste one which they did on the day of the party.

Guests comprising Mr Raj Kumar from Damacai, Dr Shan (paediatrician from Fatimah Hospital), Dr Sharifah Halimah (President of Perak Women for Women Society) and social worker Mrs M Jeyakumar joined in the fun; aided and abetted by committee members which included past presidents Khoo Kuan Hwa, Jeyamalar Jeyaratnam and current President Lanka Devi.

SII set up the Edufun Centre last year to help change the lives of young disadvantaged children who either do not have opportunities for education and/or come from broken families. They identified an area in Buntong, Ipoh made up of a few blocks of old low-cost flats which SII committee members noticed had many young children of school-going age roaming about when they should have been at school. They subsequently discovered that many of these children's parents were themselves illiterate and could not afford the school fees, cost of books, etc. or saw it more important that their children helped out with work at home. Many of them looked malnourished and withdrawn.

From an initial daily attendance of 4-5 children, presently about 20 children are attending regularly on a daily basis, where a full time teacher, Madam Salome teaches them the three Rs and gives them their daily tea which though modest, consisting of Milo, biscuits and an egg, is eagerly anticipated by the children as some of them are malnourished.

As an example, Kamala (not her real name), a 9-year-old girl whose father is unknown and mother suffers from mental illness, has shown progress in her studies and outlook since coming to the Centre. Her eldest sister, who works in a carwash, supports the family and Kamala at her tender age has to perform the household chores including cooking for the family. Initially her mother had been unhappy with her attending the



Centre but Kamala has worked doubly hard to complete her household chores to be able to attend the Centre by 2pm, and as she has expressed, because she "wants to learn how to read and write more".

President of SII Lanka Devi had this to say about Kamala, "I can't help but feel that the Centre is like a safe haven to her where she can be a child and enjoy the other activities like puzzles, jigsaws and singing with other children."

As such, the Edufun Centre is SII's most important project to date. SII hopes that with better education and by providing a happy and safe environment to come under the right influence, the children will have an opportunity to change the situations that have put their families at a disadvantage since prior generations.

Soroptimist International Ipoh is one of 15 clubs in Malaysia while Soroptimist International is present in 124 countries and has 3000 clubs with over 86,000 members. It is a worldwide service organisation for women committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

SI Ipoh and the Edufun Centre welcome members of the public to contribute their time, services or monetary donations to ensure the success of this Centre.

For more information, contact:

Lanka 012-519 0189 or email: lanka_rk@yahoo.com

Jean 012-588 2313 or email: jean.chai@yahoo.com

Kuan 012-501 9250 or email: khoosbb@yahoo.com.

Walking for a Cause

The time has come for Ragu Rajamani and his two daughters, Nithya Rubhini and Nithya Darshini, to embark on their Merdeka Walk once again this year. This time round the difference is, his son Surya, 8, will be joining them.

The idea of the walk was initiated by Rubhini, 14, to show her love for the country. Ragu, 38, gave his tacit support and was joined in by his other daughter, Nithya Darshini, 11.

The foursome will start their Merdeka walk this year on August 5 and hope to finish before the Hari Raya celebration at the end of the month. The walk will cover a staggering 1329 km, crossing a total of 63 cities, starting from Johor Bahru all the way to Perlis. A celebratory lucky draw will be held on September 1 at Dewan Orang Ramai, Taman Meru, Jelapang at 7.30pm.

Short on funding, Ragu hopes to get sponsors to aid him in his endeavour. The cost will cover expenses needed for logistics such as shoes, medicine, accommodation, board and so on.

Those interested in lending a helping hand can call Ragu personally at 014-600 3118 or visit his Facebook page: Walkfor Merdeka.

Lena



Honda Day



Honda dealer Ban Hoe Seng Ipoh recently held an event 'Love Your Honda Day' where customers and their families were treated to activities such as painting your own T-shirt, photo sessions, colouring competitions and games.

The event is held regularly and Ban Hoe Seng customers are treated to a meal and a bonus insight of Ban Hoe Seng's Yeoh-Lim-Chew Family Gallery.

The Gallery with a comprehensive display of family photos is the initiative of Ban Hoe Seng Manager, Ignatius Chew and features some of Ipoh's most prestigious families one of whom is Malaysia's international superstar Tan Sri Michelle Yeoh.

According to Chew the visitors showed a keen interest in the gallery and are generally surprised at the rich history of the Ipoh families.

JAG

News Roundup

Agency to Help Debtors

Despite being in existence since 2006, many people are still unaware of Agensi Kaunseling dan Pengurusan Kredit (Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency) or simply, AKPK. This Bank Negara agency started out as an avenue to help people who are heavily in debt to get back on their feet by assisting in restructuring their borrowings.

The agency hopes to empower consumers with financial knowledge and to make prudent financial management a way of life for everyone.

During a briefing session in Ipoh recently, AKPK Chief Executive Officer, Koid Swee Lian shared with representatives from Ipoh-based financial institutions and members of the press, AKPK's objectives and how their counsellors can help people who are in debt take charge of their finances once again.

Currently, there are three trained counsellors in Ipoh who can cater to the different communities. Providing one-to-one counselling, some of the initial questions they need answered would be the income of the debtor, expenses, financial assets and debt(s).

Based on this background information, the counsellor will identify expenses and ways to save money. He will then tailor a debt management programme, negotiating with multiple lenders if necessary. Once this schedule is accepted by the lenders, the one monthly repayment amount should not be difficult to meet, as it is always within the repayment capacity of the debtor.

Easy as this may sound, there are certain criteria that a person has to meet prior to enrolment into the debt management programme. Open only to individuals, they must have a positive net disposable income, have a cumulative debt not exceeding RM2 million and only from credit providers approved by Bank Negara Malaysia, not under advanced litigation or bankrupt.

The main challenge would be for the individual to be proactive in turning around his or her lifestyle and scale it down as much as possible.

To date, more than 200,000 people have come forward to AKPK for financial counselling and out of this almost 90,000 have enrolled in its debt management programme. So far, 3412 people have exited the programme, successfully clearing their debt with total outstanding of RM130.86 million.

There are many factors that contribute to mounting debts. They include poor financial planning, high medical expenses, loss of job and slowdown or failure in business. Many also get caught in credit card debt, personal loans, hire purchases and housing loans without fully understanding the impact of the high interest rate charged.

Those who would like to empower themselves with personal financial knowledge can do so by logging on to AKPK's online learning portal: <http://power.akpk.org.my/>.

On the other hand, anyone who is faced with a personal financial crisis and finds himself at his wits' end should seek advice from AKPK. Services offered by the agency are free of charge.

Emily

Agensi Kaunseling Dan Pengurusan Kredit
(Credit Counselling And Debt Management Agency)
Address: Unit B-2-1, Greentown Square,
Jalan Dato' Seri Ahmad Said, 30450 Ipoh, Perak.
Office hours: 8.30am - 5.30pm (Monday to Friday)
Toll free: 1-800-88-2575 Website: <http://www.akpk.org.my>



Symphony Suites' Soft Opening

Symphony Suites, which started operations on May 10, held a soft opening ceremony recently at its function hall. The ceremony was attended by members of the press along with tourism players and members of the Board of Directors of the hotel.

General Manager, Steven Ang, started the event by highlighting the specialties and facilities of the hotel. One of the unique features of Symphony Suites is that it is the only hotel in Ipoh that offers suites, with private living room separated from the bedroom to allow more privacy for its guests in the Deluxe Suites, which also have two TVs and two bathrooms.

Out of the total of 96 rooms, 18 of them are Standard Suites, 68 are Deluxe Suites, 8 are Executive Suites and two are Penthouses.

Hotel guests, according to Ang, will enjoy beautiful views of limestone caves and temples, which are within easy reach of the hotel. It also offers transport for its guests to travel to and from the airport.

Lena



Community

A Mockery to the Efficiency of Ipoh City Council

Are these pictures a sign of inefficiency of the Ipoh City Council, or a mockery of its slogan "Ipoh Clean, Green and Developing"? Look at the piles of uncollected wastes, mainly leftover foods from the night food-stalls, beside Dataran MBI – on the front yard of the city council's complex.

For several hours on May 31, the refuse contained in black plastic bags were blocking parking bays and some with their foul smelling contents scattered on the road.

Motorists, driving around to look for parking space in the busy Greentown Commercial Centre, were seen shaking their heads in disgust at the sight of the uncollected wastes.

Yes, there may be a valid reason for the failure of collecting the wastes on that particular day, but did it need to take several hours for the city council to come up with a contingency action to remove them, especially when it was just a stone's throw away?

What will ratepayers and visitors think when about a week ago, in conjunction with the City Day's celebration, City Council gave recognition to about 10 per cent of its workforce for their hard work.

During the presentation of the awards, State Local Government Committee chairman Datuk Saarani Mohamad congratulated all recipients for a job well done.

"The purpose of handing out the awards is to give due recognition to excellent workers in the council. I hope that the recipients will maintain or improve their work standards and set an example for their colleagues," he said.

Of course, many of those recipients deserve the awards. They are the "unsung heroes". It is a pity that such failure to collect the wastes quickly would reflect on them and the city council as a whole.

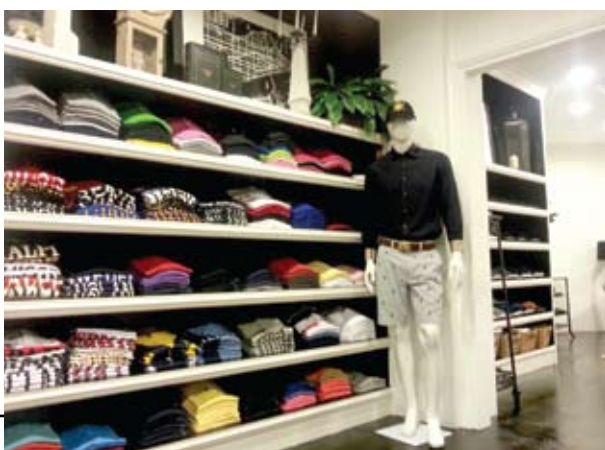
Jerry Francis



ADVERTORIAL

by Emily

Branded Items at Affordable Prices



Brand-conscious Ipohites need not worry about breaking the bank when there are outlets like Branded Collection House around. Established four years ago with its first outlet in Ipoh Garden East and relocating to Ipoh Garden Plaza in Ipoh Garden South a year later, the company now has three outlets; namely House of Ladies, House of Bags and House of Men, all within a stone's throw away of each other in the complex.

The company's outlets feature a variety of branded items, mainly American, ranging from Ralph Lauren to Calvin Klein, DKNY, Abercrombie & Fitch, Burberry, Tommy Hilfiger, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Hollister and up-and-coming Tony Burch. Customers can enjoy these branded merchandises without burning a hole in their pockets.

As a retailer of a collection of branded merchandise, shoppers at any of the three Branded Collection House outlets can enjoy a vast collection of brands and designs. Shoppers who make a collective purchase of RM1500 in a single day are eligible for a rebate card and enjoy a two per cent cash rebate on subsequent purchases. Cash vouchers are issued every six months, which can be used on purchases at any of the three outlets.



House of Ladies

This is the first outlet by Branded Collection House. It offers branded apparel suitable for teens to adults. Its range of clothes, especially dresses, blouses and pants, is extensive. Besides clothes, merchandises offered here, albeit

in a more limited range, are lingerie, shoes, accessories and perfume.

House of Men

This is the company's second outlet. Priced from below RM100, shoppers can find men's T-shirts, shirts, polo shirts, shorts, long pants and jeans. Men's shoes are also sold here.

House of Bags

An extension from House of Ladies and the company's latest outlet, this is where handbags, clutches, wristlets and long purses, mostly made from genuine leather, are sold. Other items offered include women's watches, sunglasses and fashion accessories.

The inventories of all three shops are replenished on a weekly basis in order to cater to the demands of shoppers. Regulars know there is always something new to look forward to.

Providing a comfortable shopping environment, families love to shop at Branded Collection House as they have the time and space to go through the merchandises slowly with the assistance of friendly sales personnel. Gift-wrapping service is also provided to customers at no additional charge.

For more information call or visit us at:

Shop Lot 9, No. 39 Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah Utara, Taman Ipoh Selatan, 31400 Ipoh, Perak.
Tel: 05-547 9551, 05-549 7551 or 05-548 9551

www.facebook.com/brandedcollectionhousemy

Branded
Collection House

Tun Razak Library Must Use English

I am impressed by the recently renovated Tun Razak Library. This is a well-planned project by MBI.

The children's section has been completely redone. It is very colourful and has an artificial tree in the centre, under which children can sit and read. The chairs and tables are placed around the sides of the room creating ample space for movement. The bird in the tree chirps when hands are clapped from a particular spot. There are PCs with internet connection. New song books for preschool children have been ordered. There is a storytelling corner. Games like Scrabble and Monopoly and others are available. There is a TV for toddlers to watch. On Saturdays this section is well patronised by parents and children; however during weekdays it is virtually empty.

During the three-month renovation of the ground floor, books on the other floors have been rearranged. Previously books were kept on different floors according to language, namely, English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil. Now books in all languages are grouped under subjects, for example fiction books in all languages are on the same floor. The shelves are colour coded for each language and Red is for English books. This is a good concept; however readers are complaining that they have to go to different floors to get their books. On weekdays, the lending and reference sections are deserted.

The reading section is well patronised by senior citizens. A survey must be done among the regular visitors to find out what magazines they would like to read. A form could be made available for readers to propose books to be purchased.

As one of the essential services provided by MBI to have an educated and literate population, the library must be opened at least six days a week and closed only on Mondays as was done previously. The library must be opened on Sundays to enable parents to bring their children and would also be convenient for working people. There is no point in providing facilities which are difficult to use.

The signages are only in Malay; they must be in English as well. If the government wants to enhance proficiency of the English language they need to use it. The importance of English needs no elaboration.

PAGE (Parents Action Group for Education) which promotes the teaching of English can work together with the library and conduct activities to promote the use of English. We have to start somewhere to prop up English language skills.

Let us work together and create awareness in reading among Ipohites.

A. Jeyaraj

Thumbs Up



ADVERTORIAL



Human Resource Management Training

MIHRM was established in 1975 as Malaysia's first professional body supporting the practice of Human Resource Management. Being the leading and independent body for Human Resource Management in Malaysia, MIHRM has successfully trained more than 20,000 competent HR professionals and practitioners in both the private and public sectors.

MIHRM provides a wide array of professional training courses, public programmes, consultation and support for organisations and individuals. This has placed MIHRM at the forefront of the industry as the sole authority on human resource management in the country. This is consistent with its reputation as the only professional body authorised to certify HR Practitioners in Malaysia.

MIHRM is also affiliated to the World Federation of People Management Association (USA) and Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management (APFHRM) and other reputable regional human resource management associations.

MIHRM's products and services are gaining prominence and stature. To meet this robust demand, MIHRM has embarked on a strategic campaign by building business partnerships with reputable training organisations throughout Peninsular Malaysia, as well as in Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei. Aimed at the state of Perak, MIHRM has entered into a business partnership with Allways People Sdn Bhd which is helmed by Mr S. Asohan. Allways People Sdn Bhd in turn is working in collaboration with Ipoh Echo, Ipoh's progressive community newspaper.

MIHRM products and services vary from professional certificate programmes, in-house and public trainings, consultancy services, Malaysia HR Awards, seminars and conferences. MIHRM offers Certified HR Professional (CAHRP) for HR professionals who have attained competence in handling various industrial experiences with a track record in delivering cost effective HR consultancy services. In-house and public training programmes cover a wide aspect in full spectrum of Human Resource Management Functions, Leadership, Organisational Behaviour, Training and Development and not forgetting, general management. The training programmes are conducted by certified and highly reputable HR professionals who have extensive experience and knowledge in their respective domains.

MIHRM organises the annual prestigious Malaysia HR Awards, which is strongly supported and endorsed by the human resource community, with the Honourable Minister of Human Resources as patron. Recently, we organised the National Coaching Conference in collaboration with ICF Malaysia. We will also be hosting the National HR Conference "Managing Talent Across Borders" with Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, Kuala Lumpur on June 17 and 18.

For more details or to register for this conference, email: president@mihrm.com, or call 03-7955 6536.

Come join MIHRM and embark on a fruitful and rewarding career in the Human Resource profession!

Sport

Junior Tennis Tournament

Ipoh Bug Junior Tennis League held their Junior Tennis Tournament on the first weekend of the recent school holidays.

The tournament which was held at MBI's tennis courts attracted 50 participants made up of 36 boys and 14 girls. The competition catered for the Under-10 and Under-14 categories.

The format of play was standard where the winners qualified to meet their next opponent. The twist here was that those who did not qualify went on to meet those with similar scores and were also eligible for a prize called the 'Plate Event winners'.

Tournament organiser Anthony Lourdes explained that the purpose of this strategy was to ensure the students could play more games. As for the player sitting out a match they were seen umpiring "so they will know the in's and out's of the game," said Anthony.



Tournament organiser Anthony Lourdes described the event as also a family and community event. He explained that in this competition almost everyone helped out. The parents helped with the attendance, tallying of scores and getting ready for the next match while the children helped with the umpiring.

Not surprisingly the general comment overall was a good tournament and great weekend.

JAG

Anniversary Hockey Tournament



Ipoh City Hockey Association (ICHA) in collaboration with MBI, Perak Sports Council and Nestle Malaysia will be hosting the 25th edition of the MILO-MBI-MNS 2013 Perak Youth Hockey tournament.

The national tournament will be held from June 22-23 and is part of Ipoh's 25th Anniversary celebrations. The venues for the games will be at Ipoh Padang and Stadium Azlan Shah.

The competition is for both boys and girls in the U12, U15 and U18 categories.

The organisers anticipate 150 teams to participate in the event. Currently four teams from FTO Hockey Club Singapore have already confirmed their participation in the Under-12 boys and girls category.

Present during the launch was Ipoh Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim, Perak Hockey Association President Dato' Abdul Rahim Mohd Ariff, ICHA President Gurjeet Singh and MILO's Sports Marketing Manager Ng Ping Loong.

Roshidi in his address thanked the Perak Hockey Association and sponsor MILO for their commitment in organising this annual event which has helped to produce a lot of hockey talent of international standard.

JAG

Education

PAGE – Opportunities for Learning in English

PAGE (Parent Action Group for Education), Ipoh Chapter has succeeded in influencing the government to permit PPSMI (Teaching of Maths and Science in English) as an option until 2016. However, Dato' Dr Anwar Hassan, Co-ordinator PAGE, informed a meeting of parents recently that they did not succeed in getting Government approval to their various requests on issues around education as highlighted by parents.

He stressed that future direction is in our hands and we should not let anyone mess around with our children's education. In this regard a presentation was organised on the 'Just English' programme.

Tang Kok Keong, Business Development Manager, Educational Assessment and Testing Services (EATS) explained that the Just English E-Learning Programme has been introduced to private and semi-government schools and tuition centres. These are structured English language programmes to improve the student's command of English.

Tang said that EATS arranges for students to sit for the International Competition and Assessment for Schools Exams (ICAS) which are conducted once a year by University of New South Wales, Australia worldwide. Exams are conducted for English, Science, Maths and other subjects. The fee is RM30 per subject. The exam compares student's performance at international level.

Mithran, an Education Strategist from Parent Alert spoke on a home self-tutorial programme of core school subjects in the Malaysian school curriculum. Currently 180 schools are participating in this programme.

The aim of PAGE is to introduce to parents the educational opportunities that are available for their children. It is sad to note that only about 20 parents attended.

A. Jeyaraj



Tourism

Ipoh's First International Waiters Race

Newly appointed State Executive Councillor for Health, Tourism and Culture, Nolee Ashilin Dato' Mohammed Radzi hoped that the inaugural Ipoh International Waiters Race would attract many participants. She said this during a press conference held at the Perak State Secretariat Building recently.

The International Waiters Race originated in France over a century ago and this is the first time that the race will be held in Ipoh on Saturday, June 29 at the Taman D.R. Seenivasagam.

Participants from cities such as Guangzhou, Medan, Hat Yai and Singapore are expected to take part. The race is divided into three categories namely, Classic Tray (open to individual professionals), Sportive Tray (open to quick service waiters and students from hospitality schools and colleges) and Fun Tray (open to the public in the form of a relay team consisting of 2 men and 2 women each). To ensure better control, the number of participants will be capped at a maximum of 250 only.

Fun activities such as ice carving, fruit carving and mock-tail competitions will be held after the prize-giving ceremony. Those interested can visit www.ipohwaitersrace.org for more information.

On a related matter, Nolee hopes to improve on the existing assets of Ipoh and Perak in order to attract more tourists to the state. This includes the upgrading of accessibility between tourist spots and hotels, signage and information dissemination.



She too hopes that a substantial number of the 26 million visitors anticipated for the upcoming Visit Malaysia 2014 will visit Perak.

Tourism Perak will organise a seminar soon to get the right input from all stakeholders.

Lena

New Strategy to Promote Perak

Tourism Malaysia (Perak) will employ a new strategy to promote Perak in a big way. It plans to repackage and rebrand the touristic products currently available so they will be more visible to visitors, foreign and local.

Newly-appointed Tourism Malaysia (Perak) Director, Ahmad Kamarudin Yusoff (pic far right)



said this at a media briefing recently. "The state's rich cultural heritage should be highlighted in tandem with its numerous tourist attractions," he said. "And with Visit Malaysia Year 2014 just around the corner, the time is most appropriate."

Internet will be the medium to enhance the promotional efforts of Tourism Malaysia (Perak). "To achieve this Internet usage, penetration rate should be improved in order to disseminate information to locals. Information is already available on websites and are sufficient for foreigners but they need to be updated frequently," he added. "In this context, the collaboration of travel agencies is necessary."

The agency organised a fishing trip for media representatives and tour operators to Pulau Sembilan recently. Before that was a bicycle ride along a heritage trail in Ipoh. Both received wide media coverage. These activities will be incorporated into a tour package soon for sale to domestic and foreign tourists alike. Tourism Malaysia, according to Kamaruddin, had just finished shooting stills all over Perak. The pictures will be used for promotional purposes.

Kamarudin hoped his overseas experiences will be of use to improve the tourism industry and by extension, the local economy. Present at the briefing was the CEO of Tourism Perak, Hj Musa Dun, the President of Perak Tourism Association, Hj Odzman Abd Kadir and major players in the state tourism industry.

RM

Lifestyle

Wine Fiesta

Ipoh's wine connoisseurs congregated recently for a wine tasting event held at Jeff's Cellar at The Banjaran. The event was part of Straits Wine Company's 'Malaysia Wine Road Trip' in collaboration with TLLS Sdn Bhd Ipoh to enable wine lovers to discover new varieties of wine.

This year's event, the second in two years, featured 39 varieties of wines from six countries whose tasting booths were manned by the winemakers themselves or their representatives.

The event was well attended by members of Ipoh's International Wine and Food Society (IWFS) who made up 50 per cent of the over 120 wine tasting guests.

According to Ipoh IWFS Vice President and Cellar Master, Lee Nyit Fee, a wine tasting event is the perfect opportunity to try out new wines in the market without having to purchase a full bottle.

Good wine is subjective per individual taste and a wine tasting event enables the connoisseur to taste the product and engage the winemaker personally to enquire on how its wine was produced including queries on the type of grapes used.

JAG



My Say

By Jerry Francis



Is Our City 'Pedestrian Friendly'?



Nearly 600 pedestrians were killed in road accidents annually for the last three years in the country, most of them children and senior citizens. According to the federal police, this figure accounts for 10 per cent of the traffic accident fatalities.

Over 70 per cent of these pedestrian casualties happened because people did not use the facilities provided or crossed roads at wrong places. Pedestrians are therefore advised by the police to always use pedestrian bridges, pathways and crossings.

But, what have the police done towards ensuring there are sufficient pedestrian pathways and crossings in the towns and cities in the country. The police can make a difference as they sit on most of the traffic advisory committees in the local authorities.

Let us examine our city, Ipoh, which has a high population of senior citizens. Is it 'pedestrian friendly'? Personally, I do not think so.

Of course, there are pedestrian bridges and crossings in the city centre. The pedestrian bridges are too steep for senior citizens and people with disabilities to climb up and down, while the pavements at the crossings and along the streets are without ramps to facilitate elderly and wheelchair-bound persons to get onto the pavements. While in many places, there are no pathways and pavements.

And, despite the existence of by-laws in the city forbidding obstructions along pavements and five-foot ways, they are rampant. Often pedestrians need to get down from the pavements and five-foot ways onto the roads in busy streets because they are obstructed by some structure or goods, thus risking life and limb.

Pavements are also poorly maintained. There are gaping holes caused by loose and missing interlocking bricks that can cause pedestrians to trip over and injure themselves.

Making matters worse, there are even damaged manhole covers on the pavements. A few of these corroded metal covers are located along the busy Jalan Dato Onn Jaafar.

It will be only a matter of time before a pedestrian steps on one of them and falls into the manhole (see picture). Please, city council, look into these hazards to pedestrians immediately.

Much as I dislike criticizing the authorities, I also dislike seeing negligence on the part of the authorities. Is the city council not liable should a pedestrian get hurt due to its negligence?

The Mayor and city councilors, should in one of their 'turun padang', take a walk around the city centre and see for themselves whether our city can be considered 'pedestrian friendly'.

If I may suggest, since the Kinta River bisects the commercial sectors of the Old Town and New Town of the city, the city council could perhaps consider constructing covered pedestrian walkways at the bridges along Jalan Sultan Idris Shah and Jalan Sultan Iskandar Shah for protection from rain and sun. It will encourage more people to walk between the two sectors.



Actual photograph

Key Handing

We are most pleased to announce that Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC) has been issued for Tower Acacia on 23rd May 2013.



Actual photograph

Young Perak

Main Convent Helps to Save the Environment

SMK Convent Ipoh held a Go Green project to reduce, reuse and recycle the school's discarded waste. This Go Green project which lasted for a month, was organised by the school's Interact Club, supervised by the principal Puan Nalini, teacher advisor Miss Koghiwaliti and aided by the club's Vice President Hooi Zi Mun and Publicity Director Sangeeta Kaur.

In this collaboration of students and teachers, by distributing cardboard boxes to each and every class as a makeshift recycling bin, the Interact Club managed to collect a large sum of recyclable items which comprised mostly of paper, tin cans and plastic bottles. The students of SMK Convent did their part by discarding their empty plastic bottles, aluminum tin cans, pieces of scrap paper and drink cartons into these boxes instead of just throwing them all into the waste paper basket which would then be sent to a landfill and left to decay. A quiz was also held to get the students to not only join this project but to enjoy and have fun doing it.

Not only did they help bring awareness to the students by having quizzes and recycling their waste, the Interact Club decided to reuse some of the recycled items, such as the hard cardboard back of a test pad and discarded plain paper, by turning



them into notebooks which will be sold to students and teachers. The money collected from the sale of the notebooks will then be donated to the school. The other recyclable items will be sold and the money collected will be donated to the school to buy recycling bins.

Their aim for this project was to not only to enlighten the students of SMK Convent but to also reach out to the people of Ipoh to care for the environment. With the public's support and cooperation to reduce, reuse and recycle unwanted things, Ipoh can become a more eco-friendly place.



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