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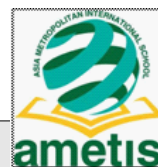
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THE KIDDIE DILEMMA

By Susan Ho



With today's rising costs of living, raising a child becomes particularly onerous and most childbearing couples find themselves in positions where both parents need to work to support the family and the child's education. Especially when there are no grandparents around to lend a helping hand. This is when kindergartens and nurseries come into the picture.

In Ipoh, parents have a plethora of these day-care centres, kindergartens and nurseries to choose from. Which one to pick for one's precious child is the dilemma that most parents face. Ipoh Echo carried out a survey of some of these as a guide for parents.

Continued on page 2

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Price, Security, Educational Focus and Location Play a Big Role in Decision Making

Nowadays, you can always find a colourful painted building at most corners of Ipoh whether along the main roads or in a housing area. It is not easy to apply for a licence to open a kindergarten or nursery, especially when it comes to having one on the main road.

The safety of the children always comes first. Centres like these will have to fill in some forms from MBI, get a permit from the fire station and education department, then have an inspection on whether it is a suitable place to open a centre. Operators have to go through certification, social welfare department and have a basic course on child care or *Kursus Asas Asuhan Kanak-Kanak* (KAAK) certificate.

Most of the centres are equipped with CCTV in every corner, together with a guard to ensure the safety of the children. Teachers are qualified from Persatuan Tadika Malaysia or have attended courses from Kurikulum Standard Prasekolah Kebangsaan. Children from 18 months up to 6 years old are sent to such centres. There could be 10 to 25 students in a class, accompanied and led by two teachers.

Some centres offer only a half-day programme while others offer a whole-day course which involves children attending the day care programme. These are usually for those whose parents are only available to take them home after work. In the day care programme, children get to rest, watch TV, do some extra activities and take a shower before their parents arrive at the school gates.

Ipoh International School Early Years Centre (IISEYC), located in two locations at Tenby Schools in Bandar Meru Raya, which caters to children aged 3+ to 7 (must be toilet-trained), and Jalan Tun Dr Ismail, which caters to children aged 2+ to 6 (must be toilet-trained). The centre at Jalan Tun Dr Ismail is housed in a bungalow amidst large spacious grounds with shady trees. The centre provides hands on classes offering a holistic Early Years Programme. Two teachers to a class of 15 to 25 children ensures close individual attention that enables each to develop at his or her own pace. For four hours a day, they have music, PE, outdoor play and also language classes. The semester begins in September. The centre offers an after-school enrichment programme (which is optional) for the 2+ to 6-year-olds with structured activities in the afternoons. Parents can pick up their children at 3.30pm or 5.30pm. Fees range from RM2000 to RM2600 a term (3 terms a year). Fees for after-school enrichment is separate from regular school fees.



Ipoh International School Early Years Centre

Tadika KinderJoy organises exciting, energetic events such as Sports Day and Graduation Concerts. They aim to educate children on the importance of self-confidence and good values. They strive to provide a balanced and rounded education experience. They believe in equality in both work and play to give the children fond memories of their early childhood days. When you enter the classrooms after work hours, you can smell the cleanliness and the smell of Dettol. They clean the classrooms thoroughly and also teach the children how to keep themselves clean. The children are trained to wash their hands before and after meals, playtime outdoors and indoors. There are basins in every classroom and every child has their own hand towel, with their names embroidered on it to avoid confusion. Their fee structure for children aged 18 months to 2 years old in the playgroup is from RM5400 for three semesters.

Fees for full day school care for children of 3 years and up range from RM700 a month and above. Children attend classes at 8.15am to 12.15pm. Those who stay on for day care would be there until 5.30pm.

Taska La Petite caters to 2-year-olds and above. Homemade *halal* breakfast, lunch and high tea are provided. They also provide holiday packages such as music lessons and music movements. They have public performances yearly, with parents' involvement for outings with the children. Price ranges from RM450-650 per month. Their enhancement classes include smart reading, music and math classes. They have been in this industry for 20 years, giving services to parents and kids. They keep good communication between parents and teachers to know the progress of the children and make home visits frequently. They also have a toddler day care facility taking care of children from 11 months onwards.

To stay ahead of competition, **Tadika & Taska M.M.S.B** offers a different palette of educational options. They have e-learning, with students learning from a screen and other activities like robotic classes, where children learn to build things. They also have music classes using percussion instruments and their charges also cook in a little kitchen where they learn how to make sandwiches, banana pancakes and other food with the help of their teachers. There are also gardening lessons where they learn to pull out weeds, grow corn, lady's fingers and other vegetables in the mini garden. Extra activities on Saturdays include swimming in the pool and playing in the playground or sandpit. Their prices range from RM360 a month for half a day packages to RM520 for day care services.

Pusat Jagaan Kids Choice Educare Centre, established in 2007 in Canning Garden, uses the Montessori teaching and flash card method. Montessori teachings are



characterized by an emphasis on independence, freedom within limits, and respect for a child's natural development. Children are given freedom to move within the classroom and choose an activity from within a prescribed range of options. They have a nursery, kindergarten and a day care. They take in children from ages 11 months and up. Classes start at 8am and end at 12pm for half-day packages. Children have an option of staying back until 5.30pm for the full-day package. They provide transportation to and from school for an extra charge. They do whatever that is best for the children to assist in their emotional and intellectual development.. Prices range from RM200 up to RM400 per month.

Besides the regular kindergartens, there are many Christian-based kindergartens in Ipoh too. The first one I stumbled upon was **Tadika L.E.O.W.** which stands for *Love, Enrich, Obey and Wisdom*. They use the FUNGATES system which was originally from Alor Setar. FUNGATES means fun, unique, nurturing, genuine, accomplished, timely, empowering and systematic. Their teaching involves telling bible stories and they have interesting books, interactive cards with CDs for students to practise at home. Teachers, both Christians and non-Christians, have 7 to 8 days training every year at the Fungates Superflow Foundation. From each fee collected RM2 goes to organizations such as the Dialysis Centre, special schools, soup kitchens and they would donate food to areas with the poor and needy.

Mariaville is another Christian faith-based school. With a price of RM180 and above, they cater for 4 to 6 year olds. Food is not provided and children bring their own meals and snacks. Teachers are degree or diploma holders with training from the national preschool curriculum.

They have a total of 25 students in a class accompanied by two teachers. There are 14 classes in the school. Classes start from 8.15am to 12.15pm. They give education to the children to be prepared for Standard 1. They have both sand and water play in their area. They hold outings such as making their own pizzas at Pizza Hut, making burgers at McDonalds and also visits to fire stations for safety education.

Started in 1980, Mariaville's profits go to the Good Shepherd Sisters, which in turn funds PKGS (Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd). The school is guarded and has a raised fencing for safety of the children. For security reasons, each parent has to present a card which indicates that they are there to pick up their child. No one else will be given the power to take their child without permission or presenting the card. They follow the Good Shepherd mission in running the school which includes the commitment to reach out with compassion and respect, empowering each person to wholeness and full potential.

Overall all schools are prepared to give the child the necessary care in the event of an accident. In my opinion, it is always safer for a child to stay in a kindergarten or day care than to stay at home alone, unattended. With all the qualified kindergartens in town, parents can trust the centres with their children while they work.

Ipoh International School Early Years Centre (IISEYC)

(1) 47 Jalan Tun Dr Ismail
(2) Tenby Schools, Bandar Meru Raya
05 253 2500 www.tenby.edu.my

Taska La Petite

2 Jalan Lapan, Housing Trust.
05 255 9792

Tadika KinderJoy

221 Jalan Raja Permaisuri Bainun.
05 253 5182 / 255 2282 / 255 1282

Tadika L.E.O.W

88 Jalan Haji Eusoff, Housing Trust.
016 544 5888

Mariaville Nursery and Kindergarten

9 Jalan Francois (off Jalan Tambun).
05 545 4344

Tadika & Taska M.M.S.B

22 & 22A Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah.
05 254 6685

Pusat Jagaan Kids Choice Educare Centre

41 Pekeliling Tasek, Taman Ipoh.
012 388 3778



Tadika KinderJoy

IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk

By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

A VICTORY FOR ALL MALAYSIANS

We are strongest when we embrace diversity and meritocracy, and not otherwise. Unfortunately, not many of my "nationalistic" Malay friends see things this way...

Like many Malaysians I stayed till late at night on Sunday, May 25 glued to the television cheering for our badminton team, as it battled Japan in the Thomas Cup Men's Final. The last time Malaysia won the Cup was in 1992 when the country hosted the tournament in Kuala Lumpur. Backed by a vociferous home crowd the Malaysian team, led by the Sidek brothers, wrested the title defeating Indonesia 3-2 in a nail-biting final.

The 26th edition of badminton's equivalent of tennis's Davis Cup and football's World Cup was held in New Delhi, India along with the Uber Cup, the world women's team championship.

The Thomas Cup was the brainchild of Sir George Alan Thomas, a top-notch badminton player from England who dominated the sport in the early 1900s. He presented the Thomas Cup to the then International Badminton Federation (now Badminton World Federation) in 1939.

The 28-inch high and 16-inch wide silver trophy cost Sir George Thomas USD40,000 (USD500,000 today). The first tournament, planned for 1941-42, was derailed due to the outbreak of the Second World War. Sir George's dream of a world-class tournament was finally realised in 1948-1949 when ten nations played in three qualifying zones – Pan America, Europe and Pacific. Malaya (Malaysia then) was the only participating team from the Pacific zone. In the inter-zone finals at Glasgow, Scotland, Malaya defeated United States of America 6-3 to lift the Cup for the first time.

The most successful Thomas Cup campaigner is Indonesia who won the title 13 times. China captured the Cup 10 times, Malaysia won it five times while Japan became the only team to wrest the title from the three major campaigners.

Although our players were second best to the Japanese in New Delhi, there is still cause for celebration. The defeat did not create a huge dent in our reputation. The fact



that the 7-man team, led by World No. 1 singles player, Datuk Lee Chong Wei, scratch pairs of Tan Boon Heong/Hoon Thien How and Goh V Shem/Tan Wee Kiong, second singles Chong Wei Feng and third singles Darien Liew, played their hearts out fighting for every point against a determined Japanese team, speaks volumes of our boys' determination.

Even the erratic Darien Liew saw it fit to lift his game a notch higher knowing well that the odds were stacked against him. It took the world-ranked Takuma Ueda three sets to subdue Darien in the deciding match. The seven players who represented Malaysia were Chinese, I mean Malaysian Chinese.

The team's success in reaching the finals of a hotly contested tournament had given much joy to the nation, currently besieged by racial bigotry and nonsensical mutterings by right-wing groups such as Perkasa and Isma and Umno's mouthpiece, Utusan Malaysia. Their persistence in branding Chinese-born Malaysians as "pendatang" (trespassers) and playing the racial card to drive a wedge in our very fragile racial relationship is most disturbing, to say the least.

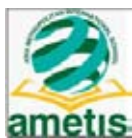
Although I was raised in the kampong amongst my Malay brethren, I never consider my Chinese and Indian friends as "pendatang". Some of my very best friends then were Chinese and Indians and we still are, despite the passage of time.

My 11-year sojourn in a mission school, singing hymns during my formative years, did not make me a Christian. I am sad that the situation has come to this, in spite of claims that Malaysia is a moderate Muslim country.

We are strongest when we embrace diversity and meritocracy, and not otherwise. Unfortunately, not many of my "nationalistic" Malay friends see things this way.

The seven so-called "trespassers" had showed peace and fun loving Malaysians that we can rise above petty politics and divisive views of those who believe that Malaysia belongs to one race from one religious community.

Advertorial



Educating Forward – Helping to develop your child's numeracy skills

On a basic level everyone needs to be able to count, subtract, multiply and divide. Mathematics is all around us. It is present in various forms from the symmetry on the wings of a butterfly to the number and formation of petals on a flower; nature uses maths as building blocks and we see it throughout the physical world. Whenever we pick up a phone, manage money, travel, play sports, dance, listen to music, meet new friends, unintentionally, in all these things, maths is involved. As teachers we have a responsibility to help learners develop an appreciation and enjoyment of mathematics, which is achieved through a variety of experiences and not just learnt through a textbook.

"Learners need to be made aware that mathematics provides a powerful means of communication." – WH Cockcroft 'Mathematics Counts'

Parents can help their child by practising mathematical skills at home

Parents are in a unique situation and often do a lot of mathematics at home without realizing it. Everyday activities such as cooking, shopping and DIY jobs can provide opportunities for a range of mathematical skills including estimating, measuring and use of money. Children gain important experience of mathematics if parents involve their children in all these experiences. Research has shown when parents take the time to engage children in thinking and talking about mathematics they are providing an important key for unlocking their child's future success.

Here are some ways parents can help develop their child's understanding of mathematics:

- While shopping, count the food items as they are placed in the trolley or unpacked at home. Ask children to estimate items: which are the same, which are more or less than, for example, a litre of milk or soft drink.
- Collect and count objects such as toys, shells, and flowers from the garden.
- Count days on a calendar.
- Read books that involves counting.
- Play matching number games with playing cards, dominoes and dice.
- With your child, find numbers around you, for example house numbers, street numbers, and calendars. Look at and say or count the numbers on car number plates, signs, calendars, newspapers, shopping catalogues, speed signs, house numbers or telephone numbers on the phone.
- Estimate lengths and work out distances between places using a road map.
- Identify and explain visual patterns on clothing, wrapping paper, crockery, cards and furniture. Recognizing and making patterns are important maths skills for exploring numbers, shapes and symmetry.

"Confidence in numbers is an essential part of any child's early learning. Not only does it help them with day to day problem solving and practical tasks but it also gives them the building blocks to acquire the later mathematical skills valued by the world of industry and higher education."

– Miriam Rosen, Ofsted Inspector (Office for Standards in Education U.K.)

At Asia Metropolitan International School (AMETIS), we believe in providing learners with a sound foundation in the Three 'R's- Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic. If a child is unable to read, he or she is unable to access the curriculum and this can and does inhibit learning. Just as a child cannot hope to succeed without basic standards in reading and writing, basic mathematics is also an essential prerequisite for an effective education and future.

Enrolment is now open for primary and secondary classes. Please call **05 290 5888** or **019 388 3349** for enquiries, or visit us at www.ametis.edu.my.

EYE HEALTH PREGNANCY AND THE EYES

Ipo Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about the EYES IN PREGNANCY.

A woman having a baby on board does more than just increase her belly! Pregnancy obviously results in many physiological changes to a woman's body including the eyes. Let's take a look at some of the normal physiological changes that occur in a pregnant woman's eyes that may cause the following to happen:



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

DECREASED CONTACT LENS TOLERANCE

If you are a contact lens wearer and become pregnant, do not be surprised if you find that the contact lenses that you have been wearing for umpteen years become difficult to wear comfortably during pregnancy. This is because the cornea (the outermost transparent part of the eye) becomes swollen (oedematous). The swollen cornea therefore becomes thicker with a change in the curvature of the cornea. This usually occurs in the third trimester of pregnancy.

Contact lens wear therefore becomes uncomfortable and some pregnant women may have to abandon wearing their contact lenses temporarily. The eyes also become more dry and this further aggravates the intolerance to contact lens wear often pushing the expectant mother to start wearing her glasses.

The sensation that you are not seeing as clearly as you normally do with your regular contact lenses or spectacles may be the other symptom caused by the swelling of the cornea. It is important not rush off to make a new pair of spectacles during this time as things will usually revert to normal after delivery. This is also NOT the time to go and do Lasik, which is a contraindication during pregnancy.

Some pregnant women have difficulties in accommodation of the eyes and so have some difficulty in reading. Fortunately this is a short-lived problem!

EYE PRESSURE – EFFECTS ON GLAUCOMA PATIENTS

The eye pressure in a pregnant woman reduces due to the hormonal changes. This is certainly good news for patients who suffer from glaucoma! The hormonal changes increase the aqueous (fluid in the eye) outflow and partly decreases the rigidity of the sclera (the wall of the eyeball). The reduction in eye pressure may last for several weeks after delivery and of course helps in glaucoma patients.

If you suffer from glaucoma, do not be surprised if the eye doctor adjusts your glaucoma medication or eye drops to control the eye pressure. Unfortunately, this beneficial effect does not last very long after delivery.

CHANGES IN SKIN AROUND THE EYE

The skin around the eyes and cheeks usually get hyperpigmented and this is called *chloasma* (picture on the right). It may also occur on the forehead and nose. This is sometimes referred to as "mask of pregnancy". It is nothing but a hyperpigmentation of the skin that occurs on the face due to hormonal changes.

The other thing that may happen in some pregnant women is a droopy eyelid in one eye. This is called *ptosis*. The muscle of the eyelid called the *levator aponeurosis* may develop defects due to pockets of fluid collection. This may cause the eyelid to droop. As with other effects of pregnancy, it will resolve after a few weeks of delivery.



For more information, call Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah **05 545 5582** or email gillyeyecentre@dr.com.

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A Mother's Work



Behind every strong and determined woman is another woman: her mother. When two women were thrown into the headlines recently, their most striking remarks were to attribute their strength of character and resilience to their mothers. Citing their upbringing, they said that they were indebted to their mothers for moulding their characters and for supporting them in their chosen fields. Without the guiding hand of their mothers, these women would not have been able to achieve their goals.

The backgrounds of these two women could not have been more different. Although both created news sensations, one lives in Malaysia, whilst the other is in England.

Young, intelligent and passionate about what they do, these two should be an inspiration to all Malaysian women. Their chosen fields couldn't be more different; one has decided to enter politics, the other has excelled as a cook.

On 16 May, 32-year-old Catherine Chin Wan Ping Coombes, who was originally from Ipoh, became the tenth winner of the UK MasterChef Championship 2014. She beat off her rivals Luke Owen and Jack Lucas after a tense, eight-week cooking competition.

The dishes which convinced the judges to award her the title were all inspired by her Malaysian upbringing. Her starter was one of her favourites. It is her version of wonton dumpling soup, which is based on her mother's pork and liver soup. She transformed the humble nasi lemak into an upmarket version with quail's eggs and edible flowers, whilst her dessert was a coconut and vanilla pannacotta with pineapple and mango trimmings.

Catherine, a housewife and mother of an 18-month-old daughter, lives in Bath with her husband Andrew, a website designer, whom she met when he was travelling in Malaysia on his gap-year.

More remarkable is that as a child, Catherine had been banned from the kitchen by her mother, but only started to learn to cook, when she came to England, in her 20s, to study at university. Being homesick for her mother's cooking meant that she was forced to learn to cook so she could enjoy the dishes, just the way her mother had prepared them.

She said, "My mum is a fantastic cook but it was only when I came to England to go to university that I started to cook for myself. I craved my mum's food and the only way I could have it was to make it myself. Her way of showing her children how much she loved us was to cook amazing food."

Catherine would contact her mother, 65-year-old Siew Thoe Lau, using Skype, to improve her cooking skills, but she also faced challenges; "My mum doesn't write down recipes, so she would just say to me these are the ingredients but she would never tell me the proper amounts so I would have to work it out for myself."

On winning the UK MasterChef, Catherine compared the emotion of winning, to the time she gave birth to her daughter and said that it was "something you don't get to experience a lot; pure joy, pure bliss, that feels incredible."

She attributes her success and her victory to her mother and said, "My mother will be really proud, I'm sure," and jokingly added, "She still won't let me in her kitchen."

The other woman whose mother had a strong influence on her future aspirations is Dyana Sofya Mohd Daud who, at the time of writing, is the Democratic Action Party (DAP) Teluk Intan candidate for the upcoming by-election.

A lawyer by profession, the 26-year-old Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) graduate, said that her candidacy would help highlight the concerns of the youth in society, give women a stronger voice and also, help present a

multi-racial presence in politics.

As she grew up, Dyana observed her mother's political involvement, her charitable work, and the dedication and loyalty she had to her party. She said that all of these helped to inspire her to be involved in politics and to serve the public.

Although Dyana is a member of the DAP, her mother, 59-year-old Yammy Samat, is an Umno-Baru member. She described her mother's involvement in Umno-Baru and her charitable work, as important precursors in shaping her own career. Yammy joined a political party, when she was 18 years old and was the Ipoh division secretary between 1976 and 1980, of the old Umno.

Dyana has brushed aside a barrage of criticism and attempts at character assassination, and said that she has learnt much from her mother about being strong in the face of adversity.

She said, "I owe who I am today to my family and to my mother, to hard work and to the personal decisions which I have made along my life."

Two women. Two career paths. One inspiration: their mother!



THINKING ALLOWED

by Mariam Mokhtar



CHILD HEALTH

Dr Shan Narayanan
Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

Genetics

Genetics is interesting and puzzling. In this article we continue to look at the various terminologies:

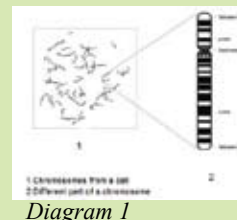


Diagram 1

KARYOTYPE, AUTOSOME, SEX CHROMOSOMES

Our body is made up of numerous cells with many different cell types like muscle, kidney, skin, etc. Each cell contains 46 chromosomes. Each chromosome can be identified by its relative size and location of the centromere, a constriction in the chromosome.



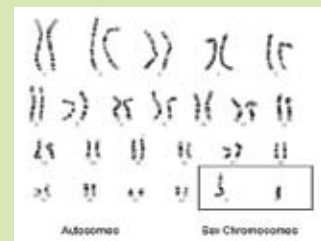
The chromosomes come in pairs. The 46 chromosomes, make up 23 pairs. In each pair one chromosome comes from the father and the other from the mother.

The arrangement of chromosome in one cell according to its size is called Karyotype. This is created by photography.

The first 22 pairs (that is, Nos. 1 to 22) of chromosomes are called 'autosomes'. They decide our appearance and instruct cells to carry out the bodily functions.

The last pair, the 23rd is called the 'sex chromosomes'.

A part of it decides the sex of the individual and the rest carries other information. Males have one X chromosome and one Y chromosome. Females have two X chromosomes.



Male Karyotype

ALLELES AND LOCUS

From the previous article we know that a gene is a stretch of DNA in the chromosome. As chromosomes are in a pair, genes are also in pairs (except in the sex chromosome). The gene pairs are a set of instructions that tell the cell how to make a specific product called protein.

Each gene may have different forms. Alleles are the different form of the same gene. An individual has two alleles of a gene (as genes are in pairs).

An individual may be homozygous or heterozygous for a gene. A homozygous individual has two identical allele for the gene.

Locus is the position of the gene in the chromosome. Alleles and locus are illustrated in the diagram above (Diagram 2).

GENOTYPE & PHENOTYPE

At a specific locus there is an allele in each of the two chromosomes. In the above diagram the first pair of chromosome has identical allele at a specific locus (homozygous). The second pair of chromosome have different alleles at a specific locus (heterozygous).

The two allele together are called genotype. As gene determines our traits, there are different genotypes for different traits. The traits being physical, behavioural and predisposition to medical condition.

The observable traits such as height, colour of eyes, blood group, severity of inherited medical condition, temperament, etc., are called phenotype.

An example:

For our blood group there are three alleles, namely A, B and O.

Genotype	Phenotype
A/A, A/O	Group A
B/B, B/O	Group B
O/O	Group O
A/B	Group AB

This explains why a couple, one with blood group A (genotype : A/O) and the other with blood group B (genotype B/O) can have a child with blood group O (Genotype O/O).

The next article will be about patterns of Inheritance: Autosomal dominant, Autosomal recessive and X-linked.

For more information, call Dr Shan's clinic at Hospital Fatimah 05-546 1345 or email shaniea02@gmail.com.

SeeFoon's 'Musings on Food' will be back in the next issue.

Nosh News

By SeeFoon & Susan



Deen Burger Bakar

Pictures of burgers from a particular stall have been circulating on Facebook recently. Deen Burger Bakar, located at GP Food Court in First Garden and Kampung Manjoi have attracted a lot of youths with their signature 12-storey high beef or chicken tower burger.

Calven Chik and Nurul Faiszah are partners of Deen Burger Bakar. Calven Chik is a food lover and he enjoys travelling in search of good food. He came across Burger Bakar in Tampin one day and thought that the burgers were different than other burger stalls. They served juicy and tender beef patties at an affordable price. After enquiring about the business opportunity, he then went to Tampin for training before opening this stall.

From all the comments and suggestions from friends, I decided to drive to First Garden to give it a try. I ordered the Tasty and Mozzarella Burger. In approximately 10 minutes, my dinner was served. The burgers were grilled using charcoal. The drive to First Garden was worth the time.

After my meal, Calven was making an 8-storey tower chicken burger for a group of customers. I had the chance to witness the process of stacking up the tower. First, he fried the chicken chops to perfection, stacked them up a piece at a time, applying sauce in between. After the 5th layer, he had to apply some sticks to support the burger and keep it in place. He then explained that it was much harder to stack up chicken burgers than beef patties due to the unevenness of the chicken chops. It is hard work and a

big challenge to stack up a 12-storey tower. It takes a lot of patience because it takes a longer time to grill chicken or beef patties to stack up perfectly for tower burgers.

Calven mentions that he is also surprised to see people who could finish a tower burger on their own. He wouldn't be able to finish a burger with that many patties at one go no matter how big an eater he is.

Deen Burger Bakar offers Cheese Burger, Buzz Burger, Boil Burger, Black Pepper Burger, Deli Burger, Tasty Burger, U.F.O Burger, Mozzarella Burger, Double Trouble Burger and Tower Burger in either Beef or Chicken. They even offer meatballs. The burger comes with a sausage and a can of soft drink at additional RM2. Add-ons such as French Fries, Patties and toppings are available at additional charges.



Kg. Manjoi at the Pejabat Tanah turning
6pm - 11pm
Closed every Tuesday

GP Food Court 1st Garden
6pm - 11pm
Closed every Friday

UOB Wine Tasting

UOB Bank hosted a wine tasting recently at its Privilege Banking premises featuring wines from Prestigious Wines Sdn Bhd where owner Jimmy Wee gave an interesting talk to members of the Ipoh Wine and Food Society (IWFS). Wines featured were French, Italian and two light and fruity German wines which are hard to find in Ipoh. Prices for the wines ranged from RM68 to RM190. A particular favourite amongst those present was the Amarone Della Valpolicella. President of IWFS Lee Nyit Fee was thrilled that UOB was taking the initiative to host this function and congratulated Catherine Chan Suit Ling, VP and Team Head of UOB's Privilege Banking, Ipoh, encouraging her to continue to make this a regular affair.

Check out Prestigious Wines at: prestigiouswines@com.my
Jummy Wee 016 202 4264

Taiwanese Snack Item Gains Favour in Ipoh



They've been popping up all over Malaysia and Scallop-Q, a Taiwan-based brand which started in 2011, is gaining favour amongst snackers in Ipoh. Now in Aeon Kinta City, Scallop-Q serves grilled large scallops from Hokkaido, Japan. With a total of 11 flavours like Thai sauce, Teriyaki, Wasabi pepper, American black pepper, sea salt, etc., one is spoilt for choice. However, at RM5.80 per stick with 4-5 pieces of scallops each, its a great snack to nibble on but certainly too expensive for a full meal.

Tittle Tattle Houzz

Tittle Tattle Houzz is a place of sheer whimsy. The creative genius behind it is Genie Hor, a graphic designer who returned to Ipoh after more than 13 years in Kuala Lumpur and missing Ipoh, decided to return and open Tittle Tattle Houzz in March this year.

Genie then poured her love of eating and cooking and her design background into her project. She has been cooking for years since her college days and she challenged herself to create a place to share the goodness of her home cooked food, together with her mom's great baking, for others to enjoy.

Here at Tittle Tattle Houzz every piece of furniture, wall enhancements is designed to engage, and enthrall. From the wall to measure your height where you can write in your name and date the measurement was taken, to unique sofas, and chairs, wall decorations and interior which were created by old scrap that would make you go "wow". Old wooden pallets are recycled into coffee tables and storage units and the air-conditioning units are all wrapped in newsprint. Decal Butterflies adorn the walls, a symbol of great meaning to Genie, reminding her that even the ugliest insects metamorphose into beautiful butterflies, an analogy she uses for people.



TT Houzz has a homely theme. It is a place for you to have a meal with your loved ones, with drink while having a heart-to-heart chat with friends. You could also enjoy something sweet with kids or read a book with your coffee. It's mainly a place to relax and enjoy a good plate of pasta cooked just right (al dente), a pie or a sweet treat.

The specialty desserts of the cafe are the Tiramisu and Carrot Cake. As for savoury, it would be their home cook style pastas, homemade bread and anything with bacon. Everything they serve is healthily homemade, using fresh ingredients, without any processed or pre-cooked ingredients. Their menu changes every other week and special meals are served every weekend.

TT Houzz is run by Genie's family. On weekdays, her parents and her youngest sister helps her in the cafe. On weekends, she will have her two elder sisters and a friend to help around. TT Houzz operates on Tuesdays to Sundays, 11am to 5pm.

Tittle Tattle Houzz

17, Jalan Medan Ipoh 3, Bandar Baru Medan.

05-5439672

<https://www.facebook.com/tittletattlehouzz>



HAWKER FOOD

VWSL & Wern Sze Gill

Aker Restaurant Sdn Bhd

If one is not familiar with this area (Taman Mas), one could easily miss this food court. Hidden behind bamboo plants, even the name does not suggest a food court. This longish building houses quite a number of food stalls and just like any modern food court has a 'high tech' system to order drinks.

Some of the food that can be found here are:

- Curry Mee has a generous serving of ingredients, comprising: chicken, char siew, tofu pok, cockles, ju pei (pork skin) – RM4.50
- Chicken Rice with a big bowl of decent soup to go

with it – RM3.70

- Chee Cheong Fun – RM2.80, and with curry ju pei – RM3.80
- Fried Koay Teow has enough wok hei (smoking flavour) – RM4
- Hor Hee – RM3.80 (sell wholesale too)
- Wat Tan Hor has wok hei too – RM5
- Wonton Mee – RM3.30 and RM4.20 with char siew; wontons have a generous filling
- Pan Mee – RM3.30
- Coffee – RM1.50 (hot) and RM1.80 (cold)
- Leong Sui – RM1.50



Plot 1-4, Lebuhr Sg Pari, Taman Mas, 31400 Ipoh.
Opens from 7am till midnight everyday.

Community

Special Treat for Mothers

Kinta EcoCity organised a special Mother's Day event at its Grand Retreats 2 in Bandar Sri Klebang recently. The objective was to thank all mothers for the sacrifices that they have made for their loved ones.

Instead of buying mothers a bouquet of flowers or taking them out for a meal, Kinta Properties gave all mothers a chance to win two sets of necklaces with pendants through a lucky draw. "I am happy to win a diamond necklace and a pendant on this special day," said a very excited Wong Lai Teng, 43, to Ipoh Echo. She received her prize from the General Manager of Kinta Properties, Lim Kam Foo.

The highlights of the half-day event were the sales of street snacks, priced at only RM1 a plate, and the glitzy arts and crafts bazaar. There were 28 booths in all, 13 selling snacks and 15 selling art pieces. They were spread evenly around the fair ground.

Visitors to the fair, numbering in excess of a thousand, entertained themselves to nail-painting, sand art and snacks put in place by the organisers. It was a fun-filled day for mothers and their broods, prompting some to remain till the very end.

Ameira



Englishman Meets Time Twin in Ipoh

Richard Avis, 39, is a Management Consultant in London and is conducting a unique project which is to meet people born on December 1, 1974, his birthday. He has visited 14 countries in four continents in search of his 'Time Twins' and to date has met 35 people with different ways of life.

His last visit was to Indonesia and from there he arrived at KL and while in KL he was contacted by Sunny Choo from Ipoh who was born on the same day.

Richard came to Ipoh to meet Sunny who is an entrepreneur and has been in Ipoh for a few days and found it to be a wonderful place. Richard added that "Although Ipoh is a large city, it retains a small town feel and the people here are very kind and friendly. Some of the best food I have eaten on my travels has been in the old town and at the wonderful night markets. Sunny has shown me round some of the cultural sights including the cave temples that illustrate the rich cultural heritage of the city, which I think is more impressive than anything in KL. It was interesting to see people of different races mingling freely which is difficult to see in other countries. In my home town people are not as friendly."

Richard is fascinated by the cave temples, each of them having their unique architecture, paintings and statues. This is the first time he has seen this and visited Buddhist temples during Wesak Day and surprised that it is a public holiday.

He found the Birch Clock Tower interesting and tried to make out the people who were portrayed in the paintings and why they were selected. I doubt many of us have thought of this. He went on the Heritage Trail, Polo Ground, Night markets, Gunung Lang and Kinta Riverfront Walk and Kampung Kacang Putih.

However, I pointed out to Richard that he has only eaten Chinese food and he should also taste Indian and Malay cuisine. He should also visit Hindu temples, churches, mosques. This would make his visit complete.

Richard said that when he approached 40 he began to think about what he had done with his life, and how different his life might be if he had been born somewhere else. He wondered how other people born on the same day as him lived their lives. He has already found some similar values and ideas across cultures. "Many people see their lives as being determined in some way, regardless of whether they are Muslim,



Christian, Hindu or atheist."

Richard is writing a book about his experiences and the lives of the 'Time Twins' he has met. His journey is also the subject of a documentary. He has used websites, emails, letters, media appearances and even a sign to find his 'Time Twins'.

Information and videos about his project can be found at www.timetwins.info. If you have any thoughts about the project or know someone born on December 1, 1974 please get in touch with Ricahrd at: Richard@timetwins.info.

AJ

"Kindness Spreads Everywhere"

Groups of members from Taekwondo Association of Kinta District spent their holidays doing charity. The theme is "Kindness spreads everywhere". It was co-organised by Martial Arts Taekwondo Academy, Success Taekwondo Academy and Century Taekwondo Academy. Using a bus and almost ten cars, around 80 members including the instructors and students were led by Mr Chong Seek Chi organising chairman and director of the Educational Department in Taekwondo Association of Kinta District.

The consultant of Taekwondo Association of Kinta District, Mr Low Guo Nan threw himself into this activity as well. Daily items amounting to a total of RM7576 which was raised was shared among nine charitable organizations.

The president of Taekwondo Association of Kinta District, Mr Khoo Bu Leong said that this charity work is held annually to benefit the less fortunate and the needy. Mr Khoo said, "the kindness of parents and students were shown through their eager participation. Our students were so kind that they were willing to communicate happily with the old folks or disabled."

Chan Ze Yu

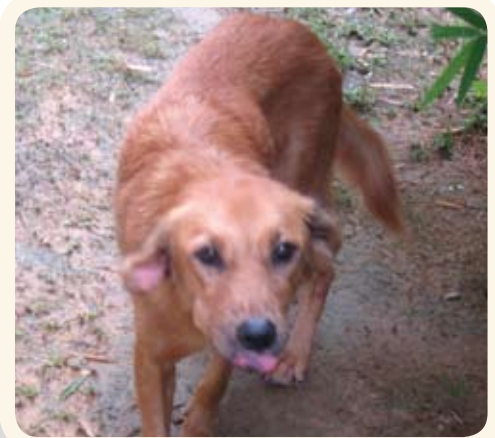


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Contact: Claudia
012 359 0476
(Noah's Ark Ipoh & ISPCA)

Arts & Culture



Sepaloh Art Centre

Founders of Sepaloh Art Centre, Pojoo Sim and Peggy Lim, opened doors to their first exhibition titled 'Faces of Ipoh' on April 27. All photographs exhibited in Faces of Ipoh are by Chong See Yau of Valpixels photography and Jeremy Choy of rice | photo.

The exhibition is about the people of Ipoh itself, more than a hundred of them, opening up about their lifestyles, dreams and aspirations. Despite coming from multiple walks of life, beliefs and age groups, a common theme among them is their love and hopes for Ipoh. You can see all kinds of people with different backgrounds. It is not surprising to find familiar faces as you stroll along the halls.

This exhibition gives the people of Ipoh a chance to voice their thoughts and express the changes they would like to see in Ipoh in the years to come. This exhibition was open throughout the whole month of May.

Sepaloh Art Centre is located two doors away from Lim Kopi.

Susan Ho

Sepaloh Art Centre
16 Jalan Sultan Iskandar, 30000 Ipoh.
Tel: 016 205 5020
Email: sayhello@sepalohgallery.com



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From One Parent To Another: Learning for a Future, not a Past

"Fireman? OK let's go with the fireman outfit." My son agrees with a big toothy grin.



It struck me that choosing a costume for my 1-year-old was going to be much easier than educating him for a future. Will firemen still exist then? How about doctors? Should I prepare him for a professional or vocational career? At the rate the world is changing, I cannot anticipate a future 5 years from now, let alone 20 years into the future. So how should we prepare our children for a world we cannot predict?

Here is where conventional wisdom must be challenged; cramming our children with facts, preparing them for professions we assume will guarantee employment will only prepare them to survive in our past. Today many doctors refer to online websites for medical advice and accountants depend on software to manage their books. Our children's future, will be incredibly different.

The ideal futuristic educational package is widely debated and complicated, but I will discuss two areas at the heart of many parents and how the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme at *Fairview International Schools achieve them.



Firstly, our children must possess a vast array of skills, a toolbox for life so they will always have options. Sadly, skills development programmes are often incomplete; skills are often learnt as a by-product of another lesson or limited to a set of "core" skills. In the IB programmes taught at *Fairview International Schools, a comprehensive set of skills ranging from thinking, social, communication, self-management, research, leadership and affective skills have been carefully mapped to every class so that these abilities are taught both explicitly in workshops and implicitly during subject lessons.

Secondly, our children must grow to be internationally minded global citizens who are able to recognize their responsibility towards our world and act with integrity to create a more peaceful and harmonious future. The building of ethically minded individuals cannot be accomplished with weekly moral classes or fragmented campaigns that remind us to behave well only to be ignored as soon as we leave the room. The IB programmes are guided by a set of 10 Learner Profiles, teaching students to be "open-minded" and "principled". They are meaningfully woven into the fabric of each class so that the concept of poverty for example is taught in the same lesson as being "reflective" or the concept of gene mutation can be taught alongside the learner profile "caring", so that students act with empathy, compassion and respect.

An IB class is unique. Where most educational systems teach knowledge, skills and values in 3 separate classes, an IB class intentionally, systematically and skillfully fuses the three so that learning, skills development and character growth happen together in a meaningful way. The answer to our children's future lies not in our ability to teach our children what to think but why and how to think.

Dr Vincent Chian is currently the IB Diploma Director of Fairview International School. A former medical doctor working in psychiatry he now spends his time championing emotional and effective development in education. This article is the second of a 6-part series.

* Fairview International School currently has 4 IB World Schools across Malaysia; KL, Subang, JB and Penang. Fairview Ipoh will be an international school, with enrollment open for August 2014. For more information, call 05 313 6888 or email to enquiries_ipoh@fairview.edu.my.

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Education

Yuk Choy's English Week



S MJK Yuk Choy, Ipoh English Week was launched by the school Principal Mr Chan Hen Huan recently. He urged the students to place importance on improving their English by reading more English books in his speech.

At the launch, Racheal Lee and Ho Min Hwei sang a song entitled 'Love Story', Danielle Lin Xuan En read a poem entitled, 'The River' by Valerie Bloom, Kee Jian An spoke on "The advantages and disadvantages of television" and Ling Chee Yang sang 'Beat It' by Michael Jackson. Various activities were held during the English Week such as a poster drawing competition, crossword puzzles, Inter Class English Language Corner competition and short story writing competition.

News



Photography Extravaganza

Gunung Lang was again the focus of shutter bugs when over 400 photographers, both amateurs and professionals, gathered for the annual Gempak Version 5 2014 recently.

The programme, organised by one of Ipoh's leading photographers, Nassry Mardee, 34, or more popularly known as Cikgu E, was commendable, as it not only fostered closer ties among photographers but was also a likeable platform for information sharing.

Cikgu E, the manager of Kedai Kamera E-Poh, one of the main sponsors of the programme thanked Koloni Karyawan Amanjaya (PORT) and Tourism Perak for jointly organising the event. "Our objective of bringing together photographers from within and without Perak has been achieved," said Nassry to reporters. The response was most encouraging, as there were participants from Kelantan, Penang, Selangor and Johor on the list.

"We plan on setting up a photography society called, 'Persatuan Seni Foto Perak' in the near future. Hopefully, it'll receive the support of everyone, especially PORT and the Perak state government. This society can help the younger generation to develop their skills," Nassry added.

Some 30 teenage girls were picked to model during the photography session. The theme, 'White Jasmine', provided an English feel to the gathering.

Chairman of PORT, Dato' Zainol Fadzi Haji Paharudin, who officiated at the launching of the programme shared the sentiments and aspirations of Nassry. "I'll propose to the Board of Directors a state-level photography competition be introduced to source for fresh talents. A competition of such nature will help to promote Perak indirectly," he remarked.

Well known photographer, Eddie Putra Noordin, 47, was also on hand to enliven the programme providing tips to the budding photographers on ways to improve their skills. Eddie agreed that it was difficult to achieve success in the field of photography without determination and drive. "Above all, always be humble and polite," he told the participants.

Yob Dabai, Azizul Rahim, Manja Foto and Shahrul Aliza were some of the reputable photographers present to lend credence to the event.

RM

KPJ ISH Celebrates Nurses' Day



KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital celebrated Nurses Day with many activities including a food fair and jumble sale recently. The proceeds from this effort was channeled to charitable organisations and one of it is Rumah Warga Tua Anning, Ipoh, a shelter for the poor and homeless.

The celebration continued with cake-cutting ceremony in all wards. President of KPJ Healthcare Berhad who is also the Chairman of KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital, Tn Hj Amiruddin Abdul Satar graced the cake cutting ceremony together with nurses and patients. Besides a lucky draw, a treasure hunt was organised for five days beginning with a focus to further create the awareness on the hospital's policy and procedure in a fun way.

International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated around the world on May 12 each year, to mark the contributions of nurses to society at large; and the theme for 2014 is **Nurses: A Force for Change – A Vital Resource for Health.**

General Dzahir Says Adieu

After serving two years and five months as Commander of the Ipoh-based 2nd Malaysian Infantry Brigade, newly promoted Major-General Dato' Md Dzahir Abd Rashid handed over duties to newly promoted Brigadier-General Abdul Rahman.

The handing-over ceremony was held at the parade grounds of Headquarters 2nd Malaysian Infantry Brigade, Jalan Hospital Ipoh on Monday, May 12. There to witness the handing and taking over of duty was General Officer Commanding 2nd Infantry Division, Major-General Dato' Mohammad Sukri.

Major-General Dato' Md Dzahir Abd Rashid is being posted to the Ministry of Defence assuming the post of Asisten Panglima Bahagian Pasukan Simpanan or Commander of the Army Reserved Force effective May 14.

"I took over command of the formation on January 13, 2012. I experienced many ups and downs while helming the brigade," said Md Dzahir to Ipoh Echo. "No matter what, I held on to my guiding principle, that's to give my best regardless of the circumstances."

Dzahir congratulated the in-coming commander for his recent promotion and wished him the very best. "I am leaving you a good team of officers to assist you in your decision-making process," he enjoined.

He thanked the media for giving him ample coverage during his tenure as the brigade commander.

Ameira



You Wings Set to Fly

You Wings, formerly known as Flying Fox, is set to take off in late June but not from Ipoh's Sultan Azlan Shah Airport but from Bayan Lepas International Airport, Penang instead. The locally-conceptualised airline has gone into a smart partnership with one of Indonesia's largest airlines, Sriwijaya Air to serve the Penang-Medan route and later the Kuala Trengganu-Medan sector.

The original Ipoh-Medan route will be incorporated once works on repairing the Ipoh airport runway are completed. Sriwijaya Air's fleet of Boeing 737-300s will be used to ply the Penang-Medan and Kuala Trengganu-Medan routes and later expanding to Bangladesh and Southern China. The Ipoh airport, at the moment, can only take the lighter propeller-driven passenger planes of which You Wings is seriously considering acquiring as an interim measure.

You Wings took the liberty to kick start its business venture by taking some 41 tour operators from Medan on a familiarisation tour of Ipoh recently. The tour was fully sponsored by Ipoh's tourist fraternity which included Hospital Pantai, Sunway's Lost World of Tambun, Symphony Suites Hotel, Casuarina @ Meru and the Malaysian Association of Tour Agents (Perak).

The agents were taken on a visit of the many touristic destinations within the city, among them the iconic cave temples, pomelo orchards, kampong kacang puteh, railway station, heritage buildings and the Lost World of Tambun.

They were then feted at Symphony Suites Hotel hosted by You Wings and graced by Dato' Nolee Ashilin Dato' Mohd Radzi, the Executive Councillor for Tourism, Health and Culture. Gifts and mementoes were exchanged during the dinner event, which was attended by some 150 guests, mainly local tourism industrial players.

Tseng Jian Erwin, the spokesman for the Medan tour operators was optimistic that efforts to attract visitors from Medan to Ipoh would be fruitful so long as a viable entry point is in existence. "You may not get the desired number via Penang," he reasoned.

"Medical tourism is the most favourable sector you need to exploit. The rest is largely on a needs basis."

The state government has to seriously consider Erwin's views, as he was forthright with his thoughts based on his experience dealing with Medanese visiting Penang and Kuala Lumpur for their medical appointments.



FZB

News

Campaign Against Middlemen

A campaign targeted at middlemen in the fruit and vegetable business was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Malaysia. The launching ceremony was held at the Rural Transformation Centre (RTC) in Gopeng recently and was officiated by Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob. The objective of the campaign was to help fishermen and farmers to rid themselves of profit-seeking middlemen.

"I am unable to say that middlemen could be totally eradicated. We can't force farmers and fishermen to choose alternatives offered by the government because some are more comfortable dealing with these middlemen," said Ismail Sabri in his opening remarks.

"It'll take time. But we have six years to achieve our target of 50 per cent. This year's target is 10 per cent and it is more towards creating awareness on the disadvantages of being overly-dependent on middlemen," he added.

According to the minister, initiatives that have been planned by the ministry included financing amounting to RM80 million through Agrobank and another RM40



million under the Tabung Ekonomi Kumpulan Usaha Niaga (TEKUN) loan scheme.

Some 800 lorries from various departments and agencies will be made available for the distribution and marketing of seasonal fruits throughout the country. Contract farming will be another major initiative put in place to reduce the scourge of middlemen.

"The programme will include the cultivation of vegetables and fruits, involving 1000 hectares and 587 participants from the permanent food park farm and the

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Department of Agriculture's cluster projects," said Ismail Sabri.

Over a thousand participants from 12 government and quasi-government agencies took part in a march past to herald the start of the campaign.

Present to witness the ceremony were the Chairman of Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) Tan Sri Badruddin Amiruldin and Dato' Hamidah Osman, the National Chairperson of TEKUN.

Luqman

Living with Dementia



The Rotary Club of Ipoh organised a one and a half day seminar cum workshop titled, Living with Dementia: A Training Workshop for Caregivers of Person with Dementia. It was organised with Dementia Society Ipoh and Eisai. The workshop was targeted at caregivers of patients with dementia and attended by 27 participants. The main objective of this workshop was to provide practical information on caring for patients with Dementia, develop essential care-giving skills on how to handle difficult behaviour and widen coping strategies of caregivers to manage their distress.

The workshop was held at the Dementia Day Care centre. It was an interactive, 2-way workshop with role play followed by questions and answers. At the end of the seminar, participants were given questionnaires to fill out to get feedback. This is the first session and two follow-up sessions are planned to consolidate the training.

Mega Book Sale

The Perak State Public Library held a mega book sale within its premises during a recent weekend. Public response, however, was not too encouraging. The 3-day event, beginning on Friday, May 23 till Sunday, May 25, was not on books sale alone, said assistant librarian,

Wirda Lisa. The objective, she said, was on cultivating the reading habit in the public.

Activities held in conjunction with the programme were also aimed at creating awareness and forging closer ties among library-goers. They included motivational talks, writers' forum, ICT workshop, information-hunting and cooking demonstrations by local cooking talents.

The mega book sale was aptly named, "Kembali Lagi @ Library" and was jointly organised by the state government. It brought together 16 distributors, publishers and retailers of books and magazines. Among them were Karangkrak, Pustaka Bina Jaya, Yamani Angle, Shyia Biz, MHZ Knowledge, Pekan Ilmu Pub, Al Ameen Serve, Farana Books, MPH Bookstores, Popular, Pustaka Hijrah, Idealicon, ITBM, Izzat Publication, Dawama, and Ally Distributors.

Books were sold at an attractive discount of 20% to 40%. Some were sold for as low as RM1 each.

Many Ipohites had missed an opportunity to buy these cheap books. One rather disappointed visitor opined that publicity was sorely lacking. "I am sure they can do better by promoting the event via the many media channels."

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LETTERS

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Rubbish Mars Ipoh's Murals

I recently visited the murals in Ipoh, in the back lane off Jalan Datuk Onn Jaafar. I found the paintings very interesting, covering a good selection of Malaysian culture, people and lifestyle.

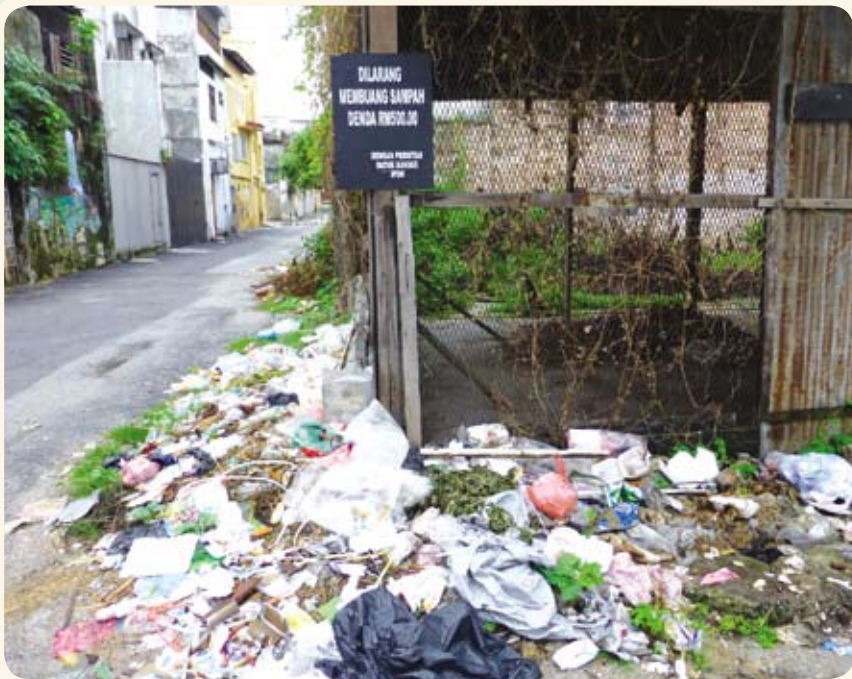
However, I was shocked by the amount of rubbish in the lane. Considering the murals are so well known now and are a tourist attraction, featuring on many blogs both locally and internationally, it is an embarrassment to see the rubbish. The worst area was the rubbish dump below the two "no dumping" signs at the old wooden building.

Maybe Malaysians don't notice the rubbish so much, as it is a way of life in Malaysia, but foreign tourists would be appalled.

I know it is a back lane and therefore not a well used road, but there is no excuse for this disgraceful mess. There were one or two scrawny cats around the dump, and I can imagine at night there will be rats as well.

Come on Ipoh, clean up this mess and take pride in your tourist attractions!

Liz Price
KL



Civil Society Leadership in Ipoh

I refer to the editorial by G. Sivapragasam (Ipoh Echo Issue 189).

I agree that society has changed. No longer is society willing to accept everything and anything that is thrown at them. The advent of the internet has made it possible for members of the public to criticise the powers-that-be and to protest with a certain degree of impunity, afforded by their anonymity. But this is not enough. Such protests are like water off a duck's back to politicians.

Political parties are about power and attaining government (and holding it once attained) and ultimately pursuing their party agenda which may not be in the public's interest. In the quest for power the interests of the rakyat is harped on by all sides, especially during election campaigns but, as we all know, that is election hot air. When the election is over party interests come to the forefront once again.

In short, political parties do not do what is best for the country but what will keep it in power or help it to attain power. Any benefits to the rakyat are incidental and secondary to the party's agenda.

To protest anonymously on the internet is futile. The rakyat must do more than that. Hence, the need for a strong civil society as suggested by G. Sivapragasam. Haris Ibrahim (of the People's Parliament fame) has been spouting the need for such a civil society for a while and has formed an organisation to advance society's interests. From all accounts his organisation has caught the imagination of Malaysians in the Klang Valley. However, it has not yet caught the imagination of Malaysians in the Kinta Valley, unless of course there is no imagination to speak of. But seriously, I feel it's a lack of leadership that is the problem.

I am surprised that NGOs like IRATA and Ipoh City Watch have not played a role in at least helping Haris Ibrahim to build up civil society in the Kinta Valley. But again, this boils down to leadership. At the end of the day we get the government we deserve.

Having read many editorials by G. Sivapragasam, I noticed that he has shown consistent interest in promoting civil society and civic mindedness. His views are perceptive, sensible, practical and often enlightened. I feel he is the right person to offer leadership to the civil society movement he encourages.

Perhaps, readers of Ipoh Echo and the people of Ipoh, in general, should respond (writing to Ipoh Echo is one way) and draft G. Sivapragasam into the civil society leadership – at least for the Kinta Valley, if not the whole of Perak.

I, for one, will certainly cast my vote for him.

Markus Multatuli

They Were Being Sexist

The woeful disregard for women reared its ugly head during a campaign rally at the recently concluded Teluk Intan by-election.

The predominantly male crowd which gathered at the venue was captivated by Dyana's physical appearance so much so that most of the speeches for the night were centered on Dyana's beauty, which were meant to ridicule her.

This whole issue points to another discriminating attack on women. Why is it, in a supposedly advanced society like ours, men seem to have only one notion of women? Is it due to their ignorance or is it just pure male chauvinism? Do these men read, or keep in touch with progress achieved by women? Or are they still living in caves? Was it arrogance or immaturity which contributed to their behaviour during the rally?

Based on information received, most of these men were actually 'little boys' who were still wet behind their ears. The presence of a woman, who was young, confident, courageous and educated, was too difficult a thing to accept. These 'little boys' probably had never met a lady of such stature, so they behaved in the only way they knew.

There were grown men at the rally who did not know how to behave. Grown men who did not know how to respect women. They live in a world where they believe that women are inferior to them. They were just being sexist.

The presence of a truly courageous and confident woman was a situation they cannot comprehend and hence, behaved the way they did.

Regardless of what was said and done at the rally, it is the beginning of a bright future for a courageous and intelligent young woman. Carry on in your path, revel on the title bestowed upon you, 'Princess Dyana'.

Winning the by-election has nothing to do with the fairer sex or the stronger sex but has much to do with improving people's livelihood.

Sumathi Sivamany
Vice President
Perak Women for Women Society

No legal Right of Inheritance for "Second Wives" of Malaysian Non-Muslims

I have been reading the series, "In The Name Of My Father's Estate" created by Mr Peter Lee of Rockwills Company. I assume the story & characters in the series are fictional & this series has been appearing regularly on page 3 of the Ipoh ECHO newspaper. I now feel compelled to write to you as the story created by Mr Peter Lee has been continuing for quite sometime now with no final solution or conclusion and it may mislead Ipoh ECHO readers into thinking that "second wives" have right of inheritance to the estate/properties of their "husbands" when in fact, they (second wives) are not recognised legally by our civil courts. This is due to the fact that polygamy is illegal for non-Muslims in our country. Non-Muslim men may be charged in court & prosecuted if there is evidence of them practising polygamy. Therefore the story of the fights between the characters, Connie Lee (the second wife), Patricia Lee (first wife) & her children over the estate of the deceased Mr Lee should not have been created by Peter Lee as Connie actually has no legal right but the writer (Peter Lee) seems to be ignorant of this fact.

It is also a fact that a widow can only claim her right of inheritance to her husband's estate if she can produce a valid marriage certificate. Marriages through customary rites (such as traditional Chinese wedding rituals/tea ceremony) are not recognised legally unless the marriage is registered and with a marriage certificate (which can only be issued to one wife).

I suggest you study our country's intestacy law and read up on the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 which govern non-Muslim marriages before you continue confusing your readers (and potential clients of Rockwills) with this series or any other future articles in Ipoh Echo.

A concerned reader,
Toh Beng Hong

Peter Lee's reply:

Thank you for your feedback.

In my earlier episode 4 & 5, I have mentioned that both the marriages of Mrs Patricia Lee and Connie to Lee Sr were under customary rites before March 1, 1982. As such, any customary marriages before March 1, 1982, are considered valid and deemed registered in accordance with S. 4 (1) of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 (Act 164). This is also supported by the Six Widow's case (Re the estate of Choo Eng Choon, deceased; Choo Ang Chee v Neo Chan Neo, Mah Inn Neo and Neo Soo Neo (1908). This is a case where the Supreme Court had to decide on whether polygamy marriages of a Chinese man prior to March 1, 1982 was recognised. The Supreme Court held 'yes' so long as there is evidence of the marriage going through the Chinese customs. Therefore, Mrs Patricia Lee and Connie are entitled to Lee's estate.

Even though my story is fictional but the Estate Planning facts presented have always been based on my extensive research on the relevant laws related to estate planning and inheritance and case laws in Malaysia. There is no intention to mislead the public with any wrong information contained in my articles. Due to the length of the series of articles (as it is now on the 29th episode), readers may have forgotten the earlier contents. I certainly welcome suggestions, feedback and criticism to improve on the quality of the articles.

Personality

Rahim at Ease with His Responsibilities

by Angain

Former Secretary of Ipoh City Council, Dato' Haji Abdul Rahim bin Md Ariff is falling back on his 30 years experience at Ipoh City Council to manage Taiping Municipal Council the way he deems fit. In this exclusive interview with Ipoh Echo the newly-minted Council President unveils his plans for a better Taiping, a heritage town noted for its many firsts.

Ipoh Echo: With over 30 years experience in managing a local council what are the challenges you face in helming the Taiping Municipal Council?

The main challenge is perfecting the municipal council's delivery system to better serve the people of Taiping. We try to provide the best services in spite of the many constraints and I feel we have done a pretty good job. There are over 1000 reports lodged over the period of five months compared to over a 1000 reports lodged in a month at Ipoh City Council. The Taiping Municipal Council staffs have done an excellent job. As to whether my experience with Ipoh City Council would help, that's a definite yes. After all, similar laws are in force in all local councils throughout the country. And having worked in Ipoh for over 30 years, I find it easier to apply them here in Taiping. I got going the very first day on the job. Taiping is much smaller than Ipoh having just one third of Ipoh's population. Hence, it's a lot easier to tackle the challenges.

Ipoh Echo: Taiping is noted for its tourism potential, especially in ecology and heritage. How do you plan on exploiting and maximising these two sectors in order to realise the goals and aspirations of the state government and that of Taiping folks?

Yes, Taiping is blessed. It has many tourism products that are the envy of other countries and cities around the world. We have the sea at Kuala Sepetang. We have a lake and we have two hills, Bukit Merah and Bukit Larut nearby. Not forgetting, heritage buildings that are over 100 years old. We have it all. These tourism products have been marketed before but over the past few years, they have been marketed very aggressively. This is largely due to financial assistance from the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA), and one of the biggest beneficiaries is the Taiping Zoo. I notice how proud Taiping folks are of their heritage. Recently, when officiating Earth Day, they indicated their keenness in conserving their town's heritage. We'll focus on heritage preservation by implementing recommendations made through studies. Among our long-term strategies include a heritage trail, very much similar to the one in Ipoh, and a rain tree walk in front of Hotel Flemington. The state government has promised to build a botanical garden. A 60-acre site, within the 200-acre plus Lake Gardens, has been identified for the project.

Ipoh Echo: Ipohites, generally are more vocal when it comes to voicing their dissatisfactions with the local council as opposed to Taiping folks who are rather compliant. Is this a plus point or does it offer you a different kind of challenge entirely?

I am of the opinion that if you complain less, you're contented. The disruption in municipal services in Taiping is not much of an issue, as services like rubbish collection and drain maintenance have been functioning very well. Of course, since Taiping has a high precipitation average, flash flood is an everyday occurrence. Nevertheless, we have very few complaints. The people, however, have plenty of avenues to voice their dissatisfactions like e-aduan and the media. Incidentally, the municipal obtained a 4-star rating from the government recently. We are placed 16th out of 166 municipalities rated nationwide. The evaluation criteria cover people's expectations, delivery system, council's services and so on. We scored a credible 82 per cent. Based on that, I feel the municipal has done exceptionally well.

Ipoh Echo: Taiping has many popular tourism products, namely Taiping Zoo and Lake Gardens. What are your plans to ensure that these icons remain popular,



attractive and at par or better than the best in the world?

The upkeep and development of these products require a lot of money and this is our major setback. However, I am thankful that with the federal government supporting us through the NCIA, so long as we have the backing, Taiping will do fine. If we look at numbers, these places are growing in popularity. Last year over 700,000 people visited Taiping Zoo compared to over 800,000 with Zoo Negara. The NCIA is actively packaging day trips from Penang. With Taiping being a mere 40 minutes away and thanks to the second Penang Bridge, we are witnessing an influx of tourists from Penang visiting our town. On weekends, especially in Kuala Sepetang, there are dozens of tour busses off-loading visitors keen on seeing the thriving mangrove swamps and to patronise the many seafood restaurants.

Ipoh Echo: Taiping is fast becoming a traffic-congested town, as the number of vehicles in the streets is on the rise. What are your long-term plans to overcome this problem?

Frankly, traffic congestion is not a major issue at the moment. We have done a traffic-flow study with the help of local consultants. That study is ongoing but we appreciate the town folks' concerns with vehicular traffic. Development in Taiping, however, is concentrated more towards Kamunting and not in the town centre. This is done to minimise impact caused by vehicle movements.

Ipoh Echo: The former mayor of Ipoh, Dato' Roshidi Hashim has demonstrated that a close rapport with the media and the people goes a long way when it comes to winning the hearts and minds of the populace. Do you subscribe to this belief? If you do, how do you intend on making it work to your favour?

Of course, I certainly subscribe to the belief. It is important to be media friendly. In fact, one of the first things I did upon assuming the post of President was to have a media get-together. We had breakfast with local media representatives and I then unveiled my plans and vision of the Municipal. I have plans for a Dataran Warisan (heritage square) like the one opposite the Ipoh railway station. Thankfully, the Prime Minister has approved a RM2.5 million funding for the project. I will certainly emulate Dato' Roshidi and maintain a healthy relationship with the media. It is important because they are the bridge that connects us to the masses.

Ipoh Echo: Plenty of thoughts have been put into developing Taiping and making it more attractive to tourists. With these developments there is a risk that Taiping may lose its rustic and provincial charms. Is this good or bad?

Developments create economic opportunities for Taiping's business community. The hospitality industry is booming and new hotels are mushrooming of late. I look at it on the positive side. These activities help make the town and the Council richer. With additional money the Council is able to improve its services and build better infrastructures. However, we have to exercise caution in order to maintain Taiping's image as a heritage town. The skyline, for example, is controlled. No buildings over 10 storeys are allowed to be built in the town centre. Other efforts too are put in place to maintain the integrity. It is important that we strike a balance between modernising Taiping and maintaining its rustic charms.

Ipoh Echo: Last but not least, hockey remains dear to your heart. Do you have plans to revive the sport in Taiping, as the town has produced many hockey greats?

Hockey has always been one of the more popular sports in Taiping. However, it is not our priority at the moment. The reason is simple we lack the resources to develop the game. It is the government's policy to have an artificial hockey pitch in every district. There is one in Ipoh, Kuala Kangsar and even Manjung. Taiping has yet to have one. The nearest we have now is a half-artificial pitch at Sekolah Sultan Azlan Shah. I'll be working hard to acquire one soon.

Announcements

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05-255 2181; 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.

Junior Medical Camp, Friday June 6, 10am to 3pm at Xpand Me, 20 Tingkat Taman Ipoh 11, Ipoh Garden South, Ipoh (behind Pizza Hut Ipoh Garden South). Find out what a medical doctor would learn in the first two years in the medical school. Let our Specialist Doctor give you an overview, fun facts about your body and its foes and friends. Contact: Vincent Leong **015 526 8128**.

Seminar on Islamic Family Law organised by Perak Women for Women Society (PWW) in collaboration with the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG), Sunday **June 8** from 8.30am to 5pm at Impiana Hotel, Ipoh. For details and registration, call Racheal of PWW at **05 546 9715**.

Setrap Puja by the Kechara Ipoh Study Group, Sundays June 1 (English) & June 15 (Chinese), 2pm to 5pm at 73A (1st Floor), Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan, Ipoh Garden, Ipoh. For more information, contact: Mr So **016 532 8309** or Yee Mun **012 522 3200**.

Korean Ladies Shalom Master Chorale Fundraising Concert in aid of IpohBug, a non-profit youth organization, Friday **June 20** at Kinta Riverfront Hotel, Ipoh. Popular songs include Granada, Nessun Dorma, Arirang, etc. Call William **012 518 8361** or Edwin **017 591 0753** for details.

'The Art of Chairing Meetings' organised by YMCA of Ipoh Toastmasters Club, Saturday June 21, 2.30pm to 5pm at YMCA Ipoh (first floor). For details, contact: Cheah TK **017 487 3980**, Ramesh Victor **016 566 2866** or Pak Peter **019 574 3572**.

10th Malaysia Festival of The Mind jointly organised by the Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement (MMLM), Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, June 21 & 22 (Saturday & Sunday), 10am to 5pm

at Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Jalan Universiti, Bandar Barat, 31900 Kampar, Perak. An opportunity to explore and develop your brain to the fullest, featuring exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations, consultation on mind related matters, games and public talks. Open to the public and admission is free on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, contact: Wei See/Jamaliah **05 468 8888**. Email: mmlm@utar.edu.my. Website: www.utar.edu.my/mmlm.

A Musical and Dance Journey with Two Ancient Civilizations, June 22, 7pm to 9pm at The Ceylonese Association of Perak (Cultural Hall), Jalan Tun Perak, Ipoh. The Ipoh Fine Arts Society presents performances by The Chinese Orchestra Simson and The Nritya Jothi School of Dance. Entrance: Rm10/- for Dinner and Performance. For enquiries contact: **016 527 2959** or **012 524 0104**.

Fifth Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Perak Grand Prix Chess Championship 2014 5th Leg (Final) (National rated), Sunday June 22 at Syuen Hotel Ipoh. Sponsored by Kuala Lumpur Kepong Bhd. Organised by: Persatuan CaturNegeri Perak (PCNP) & Dato' Arthur Tan Chess Centre (DATCC). For details, visit: <http://perakchess.blogspot.com/>.

Fatimah Challenge: I FEEL GOOD Programme, Saturday June 28, 2pm at Hospital Fatimah, Conference Room, 4th Floor. Contact Customer Service: **05 545 5777** Ext 214.

Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner & Show organised by Perak Malayalee Association, Saturday July 19 at Kinta Riverfront Hotel. For details and reservations, call Mrs Sakuntala Nair Rajadurai **017 579 8062** or Mr A. Gopalan Nair **012 450 2620**.

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Entertainment

Opinion

Zombie Escape

Leo Club of Ipoh Unity (O) organised the first Zombie Escape at Eco Park, Seri Botani Ipoh recently. The tagline of the event was “Nothin’ Gets Your Heart Racing Like... ZOMBIE ESCAPE, Can You Survive?” The main sponsor for the event, Laser Battle provided backdrop and advertising materials.

A total of 120 participants aged 16 to 30, registered for Zombie Escape. Some participants even travelled from Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor for this event. The game consisted of 60 survivors and 60 zombies.

The game of Zombie Escape started with the team of survivors escaping from zombies. They had to solve clues and unlock the safe box in the shortest time to win a game. The role of the zombie however, is to eliminate survivors by getting their life flags. The team with the most kill count wins.

The 1st prize winning survivors of six shared their cash prize of RM1050, Kinta Riverfront hotel complimentary rooms, Bread Espresso Dessert vouchers and The Voice Ipoh RM100 cash vouchers. Smaller cash prizes were given to runner ups.

Vincent Tan Inn Shen, the organizing chairperson said that the purpose to hold the event was to remind people to enjoy the outdoors with their family and friends more. This activity was to keep people away from their electronic devices and enjoy nature.

Laser Battle and LEO Club are looking at long-term partnerships in the future.

Susan Ho



Ipoh, My Adopted Hometown!

Iam not surprised when I read that the USA News considers Ipoh as one of the nine most affordable cities in the world to live in. Being born and bred in Penang, I had wanted to return to Penang but I was asked to take over a practice in Ipoh. I had few relatives or friends in Ipoh then and I had limited command of Cantonese.

When I moved to Ipoh in the early eighties, the town was rather boring. There were no supermarkets, playgrounds or even decent cinemas. The Ipoh pretty girls had already moved to Kuala Lumpur, not that it really mattered, as I was already happily married! Membership in some of the clubs was still affordable. Playing golf was among the cheapest in Ipoh.

Houses in Ipoh remain affordable until the last few years. Yet they are at least 30-50% cheaper than corresponding houses in KL or Penang. Food still remains cheap and delicious, so much so that these outlets would be overcrowded during the festive season when many Ipohites return home. It has excellent medical facilities whose charges are lower than in KL and Penang.

In spite of its population of about 400,000, it never feels congested or disorganised. There are few tall buildings. Traffic jams are unheard of. Most of us are able to return home to see our families and enjoy a home-cooked lunch during the hour-long break. There is never any water shortage and only the occasional blackout. The haze is usually bearable even when unhealthy levels are reported in other parts of the country. Since the last ten years, several shopping malls and cineplexes have been built. New restaurants, some with fine dining, have introduced new cuisines.

Ipoh also enjoys a strategic location. It is only about two and a half hours drive by the highway to Kuala Lumpur and less than two hours to Penang. The new electric trains provide another convenient link with KL and soon to Penang. Another 90 minute-drive can take us for vacation in Cameron Highlands or the beach resorts in Lumut and Pangkor. The only transport lacking is by air as the only airline landing in Ipoh is Firefly from Singapore.

While Ipoh has many good schools, it is certainly not the best city for young people looking for higher education or challenging careers. Many of our young people have gravitated to the Klang Valley if not abroad. However, the exasperating traffic jams in KL and the crowded streets in Penang are not conducive for a quiet living. Ipoh is however the best city to bring up young children and to retire with a relaxing and affordable lifestyle. Cemetery plots are still among the cheapest, ranging from just RM500 for a Christian burial plot. At my age, I am less concerned on the leasehold title of my house than the price of the cemetery land!

Dr Teoh Soong Kee

