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ISSUE **198**

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IPOH'S ROTHMAN'S CORNER

● Page 3



UPSR – A Lesson in Cheating

● Page 4



Nosh News

Not Your Ordinary Bath

● Page 5



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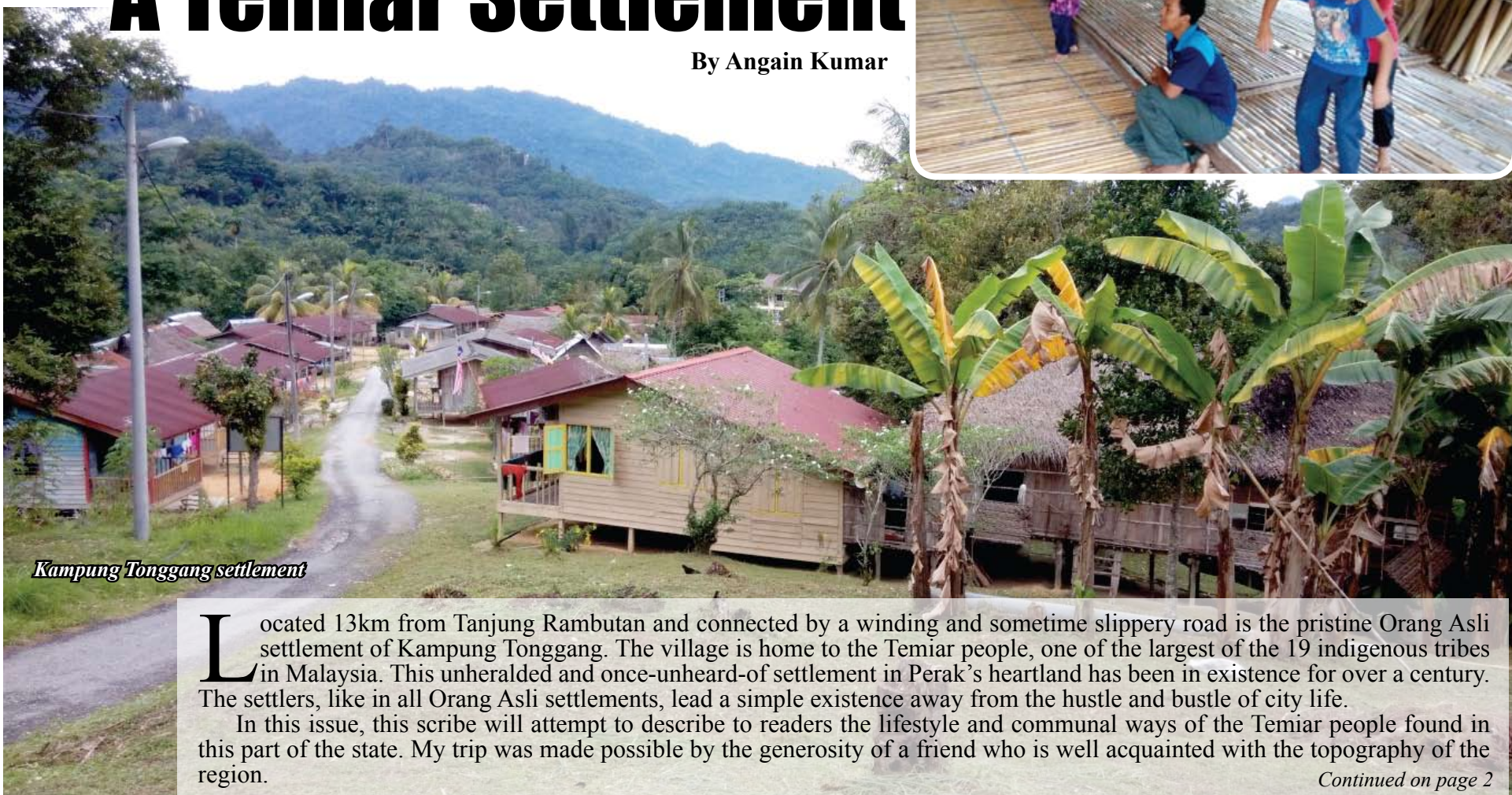
Tonggang

A Temiar Settlement

By Angain Kumar



Communal bamboo house



Kampung Tonggang settlement

Located 13km from Tanjung Rambutan and connected by a winding and sometime slippery road is the pristine Orang Asli settlement of Kampung Tonggang. The village is home to the Temiar people, one of the largest of the 19 indigenous tribes in Malaysia. This unheralded and once-unheard-of settlement in Perak's heartland has been in existence for over a century. The settlers, like in all Orang Asli settlements, lead a simple existence away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

In this issue, this scribe will attempt to describe to readers the lifestyle and communal ways of the Temiar people found in this part of the state. My trip was made possible by the generosity of a friend who is well acquainted with the topography of the region.

Continued on page 2



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Origins of Tonggang

I was greeted upon arrival by the wife of the village chief (*penghulu*), Kamisahuri. A cheery lady in her early forties, Kamisahuri is a typical Temiar woman, resolute yet resourceful. She took it upon herself to be my guide and companion for the day, appreciating the significance and the impact someone from the news media would have on her people.

Before taking me on a guided tour around the settlement, Kamisahuri related to me how Kampung Tonggang got its name.

The word *tonggang* means 'to pour' in Malay. Legend has it that the name came about due to the location's proximity to a water source or *mata air*. People back then, for reasons of expedience, would live close to water sources. Since the shape and look of the spouting water resembles a pouring action, the name *tonggang* took hold.

Language

Most of the villagers speak the native Temiar language, a sub-branch of the Mon-Khmer lingua franca of the Austro-Asiatic aboriginal stock whose people inhabit the Indo-Chinese regions and down the Malay Peninsula. The language differs from conventional Malay. However, the villagers can speak Malay fluently.

Tonggang is relatively small. It is divided into three parts connected by tarred tracks. Many of the villagers live in wooden and bamboo houses on stilts with palm-thatched roofs over their heads, except for a few who own brick houses. Most, if not all, houses are equipped with the basic amenities such as gas and electricity. The road to the village was recently constructed by the state government, as part of an ongoing Orang Asli development project. A multi-purpose hall was included for good measure.

Livelihood

Farming is the main occupation of the villagers while some still resort to foraging in the nearby jungles for their necessities. However, a large number of youths have found jobs at construction sites, factories and oil palm estates. Thus, the quality of life of some have improved over time. These individuals can afford to own television sets while some are able to purchase motorcycles for their personal use. The establishment of a pre-school, a primary school and a religious school completes the demographics of Tonggang.

Communal Spirit

Kamisahuri explained the working ethics of her people. Everyone regards one another as their family member. The communal spirit is at its highest during weddings and festivities. Unlike the city where events such as these tend to be individualistic, over in Tonggang everything is done collectively by the villagers.

During weddings they would share the responsibility of cooking, decorating, inviting and so forth. All works are done without much fanfare and without a price tag. It is a shared responsibility undertaken by all and sundry. Religious activities too are conducted in a similar manner.

When asked whether Temiar youngsters should choose to live their lives in the village or move out to the city, she answered with an air of optimism in her tone. "Well, if they choose to leave they must be able to handle themselves well outside of the community. It should be for the better and not otherwise. They should understand that they carry the identity of the Temiar people with them when they're out there," she opined.

Conservation Efforts

Efforts are currently underway to conserve the Orang Asli settlement as well as the rainforest surrounding it. The project is being managed by Fuze Ecoteer, a private company which promotes eco-tourism as a revenue earner. It offers homestay packages for volunteers who pay to stay and interact with the Temiar community. These volunteers, the majority coming from English-speaking countries, in return teach Temiar children English, a quid pro quo of sorts.

I spoke to Sri Rao, a rainforest researcher who is heading the conservation efforts in the area. His focus now is to develop research, conservation and the educational elements for the local folks. Sri is collecting data on the forest surrounding Tonggang in an attempt to initiate conservation efforts. The research, however, is in the preliminary stages and there is still much to be done before a proposal can be made to seek funding channels.



Community centre



Volunteers: Michael and Johanna



Important women folk of the village

Blowpipe Making

He stressed that it is important to retain the traditions, culture and arts of the Orang Asli. He mentioned the making of blowpipes, as an example. In the entire village, there is only one man, fondly known as Pak Long, who is into this fast-dying art.

The process of making a blowpipe is extraordinary whether for ornamental or for practical usage. Imagine, it takes almost 6 to 8 weeks to make one. Pak Long has to first look for the perfect bamboo stalk that is at least 6ft long and the hollow has to be perfectly even. It is difficult to find one in the wild, so he has to get two identical stalks and fit them together making sure that the hollow is straight, even and has no gaps in between. This takes an enormous amount of skill and patience, something which many of us are lacking.

Next the bamboo must be dried slowly before certain artistic motifs are carved onto it. These carvings have specific meaning to the villagers. The dart is then made out of a species of palm tree and a weight is added to one

end of it to keep it stable. The poison used for the dart comes from the sap of the Ipoh tree which is enough to kill a man. A dart fired from a blowpipe can easily travel upwards of 50m.

Community Centre Mooted

In their ongoing efforts to conserve the traditional ways of the Temiar people, the company has acquired two buildings in the kampong and plans are underway to open a community centre to act as a base for Fuze Ecoteer.

"We lack presence in the village because we have to commute daily to the village. We require a permanent base to maintain our presence and to promote our conservation efforts," said Sri.

The community centre will be used as an educational hub equipped with computers and Internet facility. Classes to improve environmental awareness will also be conducted there. However, funds are still in short supply.

"We require approximately RM25,000 to keep the community centre and base up and running. The multi-purpose hall, incidentally, has no running water and electricity. To make matters worse, the septic tank has sunk. We have to get it repaired first before making our other plans. Fuze Ecoteer provides some funding but it's insufficient. Money is still an issue here," he lamented.

Volunteer Experience

When I was at the community hall where English lessons were going on, I took the opportunity to talk to some of the volunteers.

Michael, from Germany has travelled extensively in South-East Asia. He chose Tonggang because he liked the jungle atmosphere it provided. He enjoyed the homestay package and was appreciative of the hospitality shown by his hosts.

"It is great to be welcomed by the community. It's something different from what we get in Europe. It took me some time getting used to sleeping on a bamboo floor but it's definitely an experience in itself," he said.

When asked what stood out most in her sojourn at Tonggang, Johanna, from the Netherlands, could only think of one. "What stands out most is the whole package. What the people here have to offer is simply fantastic. The food is exquisite. We had rice, fish, meat and potatoes, a striking change from the usual but still very pleasant to the palate."

Pak Long's blowpipe was her other favourite. She got a chance to try out shooting the darts at a target and loved it. "Too bad that this traditional art is fast disappearing," she mourned.

For more information on the activities organised by Fuze Ecoteer and the volunteer programme, visit www.ecoteerresponsibletravel.com. For those wishing to help out with the building of the community centre, contact Sri Rao at sri@ecoteerresponsibletravel.com or call him at 012 648 1284.



Activities organised by Ecoteer for the village children



IPOHecho

• From the Editor's Desk
By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

IPOH'S ROTHMAN'S CORNER

Mention Rothman's Corner and it brings back fond memories of the country's first racing circuit at Batu Tiga in Selangor. It was opened in 1968 and the winner of the first ever Malaysian Grand Prix was Hengkie Iriawan from Indonesia.

Batu Tiga Circuit was venue for the Superbike World Championship and the Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix from 1990 to 1997. It was closed for a brief period in 1977 after an accident that killed six minors. It became redundant after 1997. In 2003 it was sold off by the Selangor state government to a developer who turned the 143-acre site into a housing estate.

The circuit had a 3.96-km track with 14 sharp turns of which the Rothman's Corner was the most famous or infamous, depending to whom you speak to. The majority of today's kids, however, do not know much about Rothman's Corner, although they might have heard of it from their parents.

I was one of the many spectators who positioned ourselves at a vantage point overlooking the said corner during the motorcycle grand prix of 1995. If you wish for action, the Rothman's Corner was the place to be then. On that fateful day a number of high-powered bikes crashed into the barriers after spinning out of control due to a wet track. It was mayhem, something which most had come to see.

So that was the infamous Rothman's Corner of Batu Tiga. But has anyone heard of Ipoh's own Rothman's Corner? The Ipoh version may not be as prominent as the original Rothman's Corner but its notoriety is as bad or even worse. It is not within a racing circuit but at a busy road junction where Wisma Taiko is located. It is at the point where Jalan Kompleks Islam merges with Jalan S.P. Seenivasagam and where a 10-storey hotel



is fast taking shape.

Of late the corner has witnessed many accidents involving cars and motorcycles, especially during peak hours. Once while having a drink on the verandah of the Royal Ipoh Club, overlooking Ipoh Padang, I saw a nasty accident which caused a pile-up.

Motorists from Jalan Kompleks Islam are well advised to be on high alert when turning into Jalan S.P. Seenivasagam. Speeding cars from their right may not make way for them. I have had several close calls in the past when negotiating this bend. The fact that construction works take a chunk of the road is mind-boggling, to say the least.

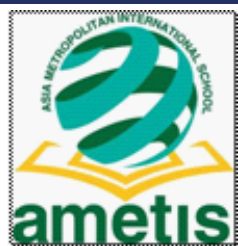
Who do we fault, the contractors doing the works or the people responsible

for allowing the building project to proceed? It does not take a rocket scientist to identify the culprit or culprits. The blame falls squarely on the authorities for allowing this to happen in the first place. Obviously, these people, who are supposed to protect the *rakyat*, do not really care whether you and I are maimed or killed.

If greed is the buzzword then we are in for a nasty shock. A terrible accident is waiting to happen and when it happens, finger-pointing, a favourite game among Malaysians, will begin in earnest.

Meanwhile, the musical chairs game continues with the loser(s) waiting to be hammered. Ipoh's Rothman's Corner awaits its victims.

Advertorial



Green is the colour at AMETIS!

Here we are - living on a planet, calling it mother earth but not showing the respect due to a mother. We are without doubt doing a good job tearing the environment apart and handing over a world practically unlivable to the next generation. And we proudly think we are doing our children a favour.

Governments have to be serious and take measures to protect and preserve the environment. Every individual must do his/her part without the thought that I am fighting a lone battle. To start something, we need to be united and feel the power of one. If everyone thinks that they are fighting the green battle alone and abandons it, then there isn't any battle at all. The war is lost even before it starts. We are the ONE!

Recycling has been promoted so much that there is the impression that recycling can solve all problems. There is only so much material we actually want to and can re-use. We have to watch what goes into the bin because it eventually ends up in the landfills that have direct contact with earth especially ground water. We must stop putting food waste into the bin. One would be amazed at what goes into the bin - leftover or unfinished food, and even packets of curry! What is supposed to be dry waste now becomes wet and chemical reaction takes place in the landfill. And yet we complain that the garbage truck is smelly and liquid waste drips all over the route of the garbage truck. What else can we expect? You and I are responsible for it.

How many of us know how to dispose of dead batteries, fluorescent tubes and bulbs? At the moment it ends up in the bin and heads to the same landfill. In fact, the fluorescent tubes cannot even fit in the bin and gets crushed either in the bin or in the garbage truck. And yet we believe we are doing things right!

The government has been talking about garbage separation at source. This is a huge effort that requires a paradigm shift in the people's mindset. However there has been no significant progress in this area so far. We can at least start by educating the people and getting the local authorities to change the way garbage is collected.

At Ametis we have taken our own small steps towards being environmentally friendly. In time to come Ametis will look at bigger things like rainwater harvesting, natural light utilization, solar panels, and many more initiatives.

Enrolment is now open for primary and secondary classes. Please call 05-2413141 or 019-3883349 for enquiries, or visit us at www.ametis.edu.my.



EYE HEALTH

In conjunction with **WORLD SIGHT DAY**, Ipoh Echo talks to Consultant Ophthalmologist Dr S.S. GILL on prevention of visual impairment.

Visual impairment is any kind of vision loss to the extent that even with conventional forms of correction or treatment, the person's vision remains poor. Being visually impaired can be frightening,

especially when it affects those who once had good vision.

World Health Organization facts:

- About 285 million people are visually impaired worldwide:
 - 39 million are blind and
 - 246 million have low vision (severe or moderate visual impairment)
- preventable cause are as high as 80% of the total global visual impairment burden.
- About 90% of the world's visually impaired people live in developing countries.
- An estimated 19 million children are visually impaired worldwide.
- Globally, uncorrected refractive errors are the main cause of visual impairment.
- Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness.
- 65% of visually impaired, and 82% of blind people are over 50 years of age, although this age group comprises only 20% of the world population.

What Causes Visual Impairment?

CATARACT or the clouding of the eye's lens prevents light from passing through to the retina causing cloudy vision. Cataracts may cause gradual vision loss which sometimes may not be noticeable to the patient until they have had an accident of some sort. Cataracts usually affect people in their 50s, 60s and 70s, but may appear earlier too. Many of my patients who present early are golfers and sports people who do not **always wear good sunglasses** when they are out in the sun. Cataract surgery easily restores vision in these cases.

If you have **diabetes mellitus**, make sure you are screened regularly for **DIABETIC RETINOPATHY** - a condition where the tiny blood vessels in the retina (inside of eye) are damaged due to diabetes. A diabetic having no blurring vision does not mean he or she has no diabetic eye problems. By the time blurring vision occurs, the eye condition is often serious.

GLAUCOMA is another blinding condition where an increase in eye pressure damages the optic nerve. Early detection by screening is crucial or the vision will gradually deteriorate over time to a **small tunnel vision**, and eventually blindness. **INJURY** is another common cause for vision loss. Apart from windscreen injuries, accidents like getting hit with a **hockey ball** or a **shuttlecock**, or a child's eye pierced with **sharp toy** are common. "Avoid buying toys with sharp edges and prevent children from playing with chopsticks or pencils. **Macular degeneration** is another serious eye problem that causes progressive loss of central vision, causing difficulty in reading or watching TV with vision becoming distorted.

Preventing Visual Impairment

Diseases like glaucoma **needs to be detected early** and treated or damage is irreversible. "If you have underlying health problems like diabetes and hypertension, do get your eyes examined regularly and comply with prescription medication to prevent vision loss," says Dr Gill.

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



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

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UPSR – A Lesson in Cheating

The integrity of our education system is at stake. If we are to continue having the best education system in the world, the systemic leakage of examination papers must be stopped. The recent leaks are a shocking breach of security. They affect the credibility of our examination system and they will diminish the value of the grades awarded to the children.

On April 1, 2012 (April Fool's Day), *The Star* reported that Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin had dismissed his critics and said that Malaysia was ranked 14th among 142 countries, and second in Asean for quality education. The report said that Malaysian students received a better standard of education than their peers in America, Britain and Germany.

In mid-September 2014, our education system came under severe threat. After they had sat their English papers, the students were told that the exam had been cancelled. Worse news followed. The Science paper, which was scheduled for the morning of Thursday September 11, had to be postponed to September 30, as questions from the paper had been posted on social media websites. The students were also told they would have to sit the previously compromised English exam, on September 30.

Various students and teachers were approached for their comments about this latest scandal. Many confided that the leak of examination papers is not a new occurrence. If they are to be believed, the claim that leaks happen on an annual basis must be treated seriously.

According to one retired teacher, "Malaysians have the habit of attending to the current emergency without making plans to prevent a recurrence. It is not just the integrity of the exam system which is at stake, the repeated leaks point to the integrity of the ministry."

The Home Minister, Ahmad Zahi Hamidi, appeared to discount the involvement of syndicates in the exam leaks. Several individuals were reportedly detained and Zahid said, "...from information obtained by the police, they are involved in the education field at the primary school level. Based on this information, it (leaks) involves only individuals, but possibly with networking among them."

Zahid warned that more arrests would follow and that the police were trying to ascertain if the people who had been arrested, had also been responsible for the leaks, in previous years.

By September 20 (when this article was written), statements had been recorded from 18 people, and 12 arrests had been made. The captured included 10 teachers, an insurance agent and an engineer.

Parents, their children and teachers, are very concerned about the effect of the leaked exam papers. One parent said, "What did previous year's investigations reveal? At which stage were the papers leaked? Who was responsible?"

Another concerned mother said, "Someone is making money out of this scandal. If anyone is caught, I would not be surprised if the big fish are allowed to escape. It just shows the gaping holes in security and how a lack of enforcement allows cheating to occur on a widespread scale. Not just this year, but in previous years."

One student was worried that some students, with access to the leaked questions, had an unfair advantage. She said that she and her peers had been traumatised by the leaks. "We worked hard towards the UPSR. Preparing and sitting for the exams is already stressful. Having to take it again places more pressure on us. It feels like one exam after another without any breaks."

One teacher said, "If there was a grade comparison of their exam results with their daily work, some pupils may be suspected of having cheated and then failed, because of the leaks. Is that fair?"

On September 20, Hashim Adnan, the president of The National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) said that it would not assist any of its members found guilty of leaking the recent UPSR examination papers. He said, "Here in NUTP, we have our stand, those found

guilty are guilty."

One parent said, "If only the NUTP would extend their reach and demand that someone in authority is made accountable, and held responsible. Only then will we know that the authorities are serious."

A cynical primary school teacher said, "By the end of September, the leak would have been forgotten. For now, investigations will be carried out, to satisfy the parents and the angry public. The various ministers and the police will appear to be taking action. Next year, expect more of the same."

His friend said, "The leaks are embarrassing. There are many weak points, which are possibly interrelated. The teachers who drafted the questions, the printers, the people in the ministry. This year's leak was very obvious. It is so sad that we may mistrust the student who has achieved a string of As."



CHILD HEALTH

Dr Shan Narayanan
Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

In the past one year, I have been writing mainly on medical issues in children. Beginning this month, I will be focusing on Developmental and Behavioural issues in Children. In this article I introduce, briefly, two topics, Speech and Language Delay/Disorder and School Refusal. I will write in detail in coming articles.

SPEECH & LANGUAGE DELAY AND DISORDER

Speech is the sound of the actual spoken language. It involves articulation and phonology, voice and fluency.

Articulation is the making of sounds. Phonology is the sound system of the language and the rule of sound sequences that make up words. Voice is the quality, pitch or loudness of the sound. Fluency is the rate and rhythm of the flow of speech.

Language is used to communicate. It is a system of verbal, written and gestured symbols that enables communication. Language can be divided into content (meaning of message), form (grammar and syntax) and use (use of both verbal and non-verbal language).

Speech and Language develop in a sequence. When the sequence is right but late, it is called delay. When the sequence is abnormal, it is then called disorder.

About 5% of preschool children have some form of speech and language delay. When there are concerns of a child's speech and language, parents should consult a Paediatrician and a Speech and Language Pathologist. As a support to parents and caregivers, we are organising the following workshop:

FACILITATING SPEECH & LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

By Ms Farah Azlina Mohd Alkaf, Speech & Language Pathologist

Date & Time: 8th November 2014 from 2pm to 6pm

Venue: Conference Room, Hospital Fatimah

Fees: RM80 per person or RM140 per couple

Contact: Ms Santha 05 546 1345

SCHOOL REFUSAL

School attendance is mandated by law. School refusal is a behavioural disorder. It is characterised by a child's refusal to go to school on a regular basis or has problems staying in school due to emotional distress.

The prevalence of school refusal in western countries is about 1 to 5% of school aged children.

School refusal behaviour can be due to:

- Avoidance of fear/anxiety producing situation at school.
- Presence of underlying anxiety disorder, depression, sleep disorder, panic disorder or separation anxiety
- Bullying
- Attention seeking from parents or others important to the student.
- Avoiding lessons, presentation and tests.

When children refuse school, immediate attention is necessary to avoid negative academic, social and psychological consequences to the child and his family.

As a support to Parents, Caregivers and Teachers we are organising the following seminar:

SCHOOL REFUSAL

By Mr David Hong, Family Therapist

Date & Time: 5th November 2014, 7pm to 9.30pm

Venue: Conference Room Hospital Fatimah

Fee: Free. Contact: Ms Susan Lim 05 545 5777

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



**THINKING
ALLOWED**

by Mariam Mokhtar



MUSINGS ON FOOD

By **SeeFoon Chan-Koppen**
seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

SeeFoon goes in search of the definitive salad



Every now and again, sitting at the Ipoh Echo office, I find myself at a loss for what to eat at lunchtime and feel the nudging of my taste buds for something wholesome, fresh and light. Asking around the office for what's good, what's new, I stumbled upon **Basileuo Salad**, a relative newcomer to the restaurant scene quite close to the Echo office in Greentown and in fact almost within walking distance.

Proprietor Chan Kin Mei, explained the concept behind Basileuo and also the significance of the rather complex name which in my mild myopia I had read to be *Basilico*, meaning basil in Italian. Apparently she is a huge salad lover, a passion shared by her husband and together they decided to dedicate a whole cafe to serving salads and also baked potatoes, a specialty of the house using a special oven just for roasting potatoes. This oven can be seen perched on the counter when you enter the cafe where a few potatoes are baking in the lower part with a few warming on the upper deck. This is what makes the oven special – the ability to bake and keep warm at the same time in one cute little oven.

The name is a biblical one meaning 'to exercise the highest influence' or 'to reign' as in kingly power, an aspiration which the couple hopes to achieve in converting more Ipohites to the love for salad and to set up a chain of baked potato stalls throughout Malaysia.

The Basileuo Palette, Salad Toppings, Dressings and Hearty Add-ons, as it says on their menu, is the most extensive list I've ever seen and a glance at their salad counter with its colourful array of options is dazzling indeed. This is not your usual salad bar with the often desultory bits of lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes but a humongous array of 46 ingredients to choose from.

These include: orange, honeydew, green apple, guava, mango, grapes, *edamame* or green soya, green peas, tofu, coral grass, black jelly, wood fungus, olive, chickpeas, sweetcorn,



kidney beans, cherry tomato, French bean, lotus root, purple cabbage, celery, turnip, beetroot, pea sprout, carrot, sweet pea, cucumber, white and red onion, capsicum, boiled egg, crab stick, young corn, water chestnut and enoki/shimeji mushroom. Two sizes are available **Junior size** with simple greens and 5 ingredients (**RM7**) and **Mixed Greens** with 5 ingredients (**RM9**). For the **regular size**, one can have a choice of 10 ingredients with simple and mixed greens at **RM12-15**. The addition of what they call **Hearty Add-on** is another option for another RM3-4.50. These include: Turkey Ham, Smoked Duck, Homemade Chicken Patty, Homemade Beef Patty and Smoked Salmon.

Premium ingredients, for which an extra charge of RM2 applies for each, include: Cashew Nut, Almond Flakes, Chia Seed, Sunflower Seed, Pumpkin Seed, Sesame Seed, Dried Cranberry, Dried Black Currant, Raisins and Feta Cheese complete the mind boggling selection.

After choosing the ingredients for the salad, one has now to turn one's mind to the choice of dressing which presents another quandary as there are so many to choose from, each one more delectable than the next and all concocted by Kin Mei herself. Tossing up whether to have the Basileuo Vinaigrette, Balsamic Vinaigrette, Classic Caesar, Hot Wasabi, Japanese Sesame, Miso, Pesto, Raspberry Vinaigrette, Tangy Peach, Tzatziki Yogurt, Fresh Cranberry Yogurt or Spicy Thai can create quite a headache. My personal recommendations? **Raspberry Vinaigrette, Spicy Thai and Japanese Sesame.**

Naturally their baked potatoes are a must-have. Soft and fluffy on the inside with the skin gently crisped on the outside, these russet potatoes are topped with a sauce which changes every day and is listed on the board near the cashier. The day I was there the potato came with a mushroom sauce topped with mock bacon which is turkey ham done to a crisp, lending a delectable crunch to the soft potato. This is a meal in itself as the potatoes are large – RM8.

Despite Kin Mei's wish to convert Ipohites to salads, she has had to succumb to popular tastes and now has a good range of pastas, sandwiches, wraps and a few stews to satisfy most taste buds. And the one most delectable item I will recommend here is her **Hot Chocolate**, served in a choice of Dark, Milk or Hazelnut chocolate, a generous chunk of Belgian chocolate on a stick which you slowly stir into the hot milk in the mug. Heavenly at **RM13.50**.



Basileuo Salad (Pork Free)

3 Persiaran Greentown, Greentown Business Centre
Business Hours: 11am-9pm closed Mondays
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Nosh News



By SeeFoon

Not Your Ordinary Bath

Ipohites had an unusual treat at the **Lost World of Tambun** when more than 30 of them were given a bath in the Kepura Cave. Not your ordinary bath with soap and water but a sound bath, vibrating every cell in their bodies as they floated on a cloud of musical resonance created by Anne Huxtable, a sound healer of extraordinary talent.

For those who missed Anne at Kepura Cave, another magical experience is in store, this time in the **Banjaran Hotspring Retreat** where an even more elaborate sound 'Bath' will be held in their meditation cave followed by a creative **3-course candlelit dinner at The Pomelo restaurant**.



Some of the instruments

Western science has proven what ancient traditions have known for centuries: sound has the power to heal. Holistic medical doctors like Dr Andrew Weil have integrated it into their practice for years and within the last three decades, the resurgence of various forms of sound healing has produced remarkable results. Sound, both as pure tones and as music, has been found to positively affect an astonishing array of physiologi-

cal and psychological parameters. Among these are the equalization of brain waves, increasing the depth of breathing, slowing heart-beat and pulse, lowering blood pressure, reducing muscle tension, raising body temperature, increasing circulation and endorphin production, boosting immune function, improving memory and learning, decreasing clerical error, increasing endurance and productivity, strengthening digestion, decreasing depression and many other ailments and conditions.

Using a range of crystal singing bowls, chimes, tuning forks, xylophone and voice, Anne brought her audience to blissful states of relaxation recently as she played the various instruments in a solo concert lending extra power and magic with her voice, not in singing but in a technique called toning. Dr Shan Narayanan, a pediatrician who was there, noticed the large fish in the aquarium in the cave which had been swimming around as normal before the sound bath, were all completely still during and after the sound bath.

Anne, an Australian and resident of Ipoh, has only recently returned from further studying sound therapy at the Globe Sound and Consciousness Institute in San Francisco and harmonic overtone singing in Australia. Her sound healing work includes toning, playing crystal singing bowls and using tuning forks. Soon at the Banjaran Hot Springs Retreat.

Take advantage of this rare occasion now.

Limited seats! October 3, 6pm: RM180++ per person.

For booking reservation contact: The Banjaran Hot Springs Retreat at 05 210 7777.



ANNE HUXTABLE



Community

Occupational Safety in Schools



The National Council for Safety and Health recently organised an awareness programme specifically for students at SMK Jelapang. The programme was a joint effort by several government agencies among which were the state safety and health department and the state education department. The objective was to address safety and health issues in schools besides creating awareness in teachers and students and measures to take when an accident or an emergency occurs.

According to Dato' Hj Shamsuddin Abu Hassan, the Executive Councillor for Consumer Affairs, Human Resources and Non-governmental Organisations, education is central to enhancing the nation's economic and social stature.

"Efforts to promote occupational safety and health should begin in schools. Their success, however, relies on the cooperation of parents, teachers and students. By having this awareness programme, we hope the people concerned will appreciate the importance of maintaining a safe and healthy working environment," said Shamsuddin in his opening remarks.

Accidents frequently happen in school laboratories, at workplaces and at workshops. The conduct of these awareness programmes will help reduce the occurrence of these incidences.

Over 500 people attended the programme which culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Sekolah Kebangsaan Haji Mahmud, Chemor and LaFarge Cement Factory. The school was chosen as a participant in Lafarge's introductory occupational safety and health management programme.

Yvette

The "Yang Lain-Lain" Roadshow



In conjunction with the recent 51st Malaysia Day celebration, a Sabah-themed roadshow titled "Yang Lain-lain" (Others) was held to commemorate the union of East and West Malaysia.

The show, presented by Sabah's Long Pasia artistes, was divided into three parts. They were drawings by Lait Lakung, traditional dances and songs by Ruth Baru and Pangiran Selutan and traditional handicrafts of the Lun Dayeh community.

The debut event, held on September 10 and 11 at the Tiny ArtSpace located along Lorong Panglima (Concubine Lane), provided Perakeans with a colourful insight about their counterparts from Sarawak.

Show coordinator, Ong Boon Keong, 54, of Lightup Borneo said the reasons behind the roadshow were twofold – to create awareness amongst urban folks of the existence of aboriginal people from the interiors of Sarawak and the problems they face.

"I hope the show would encourage people, especially those with certain expertise, to join us in our quest to help the people of Borneo. We've made much inroads since our society's formation in 2012, making three micro-hydro generators for the rural masses," he said.

Pride of Workmanship Awards

In recognition for services rendered and the dedication of nursing staff of rural health centres, Rotary Club of Greentown presented 12 nurses with the *Pride of Workmanship Awards* at the Greentown Polyclinic, Ipoh recently.

The objectives of the award are to recognise all professions as worthy of respect; to provide employers an opportunity to recognise employees who display the qualities worthy of an award; to encourage favourable employer-employee relationships and a sense of community pride in individual achievement.

The 12 recipients of this year's award are Siti Alawiah Syed Lope, Fadilah Kechik, Sabariah Hussin, Gnanmah Sehappan, Rageswary Supermaniam, Teoh Gaik Sim, Noormawati Barkawi, Noraini Taharin, Ng Sock Kiang, Maria Mathelena, Sharifah Zaida Syed Saedon and Zawiah Hatib.

Guest-of-Honour, Dato' Aminuddin bin Hj Hanafiah, state assemblyman for Hulu Kinta, whose mother was a nurse once, congratulated the awardees. At the same time, he reminded them not to rest on their laurels but to do even better. "I urge other non-governmental organisations to follow in the footsteps of Rotary Club of Greentown, by servicing the community in their own capacity."

Dr S. Elangovan, Assistant District Health Officer for Kinta, in his speech, welcomed the collaboration of non-governmental organisations to work closely with government agencies to form smart partnerships.

Rotary International is the largest and oldest service organisation in the world with over a million members worldwide. There are 75 Rotary Clubs in Malaysia. Rotary Club of Greentown is one of five in Ipoh.

Emily



Trip to Melaka

A 3-day 4-night trip to Melaka was recently organised for the Handicapped and Disabled home in Gunung Rapat, Ipoh. Seventeen handicapped and disabled inmates with six volunteers enjoyed the fellowship amongst themselves while visiting the River Cruise, Planetarium, Duck Tour, Menara Taming Sari and the crocodile farm. The organising chairman Manin Singh said the purpose of this trip was to give the inmates a break from their daily tasks of making baskets and envelopes and to boost their moral while demonstrating that society cares for them. All inmates were enthusiastic after the trip and wished that more could be organised as it fostered closeness amongst themselves.



Similar shows would be held in Malacca and Kuala Lumpur forthwith. He hoped the public would support activities organised by Lightup Borneo.

Chairman of Formadat, a non-governmental organisation dedicated to bringing education and development to the Lun Dayeh community, Pangiran Selutan, added that the aboriginal people were grateful for whatever Lightup Borneo had done. They not only "light-up" the rural areas but brought much-needed developments to the community by building bridges and roads.

"After many years of empty promises we've learnt not to expect too much from the government. However, due to Lightup Borneo's efforts, our living conditions have taken a definitive turn for the better. We're grateful to the society for having done so much for us without asking anything in return," he exclaimed.

Lightup Borneo is a civil society group that works at bringing electricity to the Borneo interiors by building micro-hydro generators.

Yvette

Property

The Haven forms JMC to promote harmonious living

Maintenance has always been a problem for most development projects in Malaysia. Without proper management and maintenance, a good project could fail after vacant possession by the respective owners. In accordance with the Building and Common Property (Maintenance and Management) Act, 2007 (Act 633), developers have a 12-month period to set up a Joint Management Committee (JMC), together with representatives elected from among unit owners.

The Haven Lakeside Residences will be forming the JMC on October 4, within the 12-month deadline, as the completion of the Tower Banyan and Cycas was on November 28, 2013.

Chairman of its development company The Haven Sdn Bhd, Peter Chan, is adamant that the problems associated with management and maintenance, that has plagued many a condominium residences in Malaysia, will not be allowed to affect The Haven.

With ample experience in property management in Malaysia, responsibly managing Subang Galaxy in Selangor and the low-cost Permai Lake View Apartment in Ipoh, Perak, Peter Chan believes that a successfully managed condominium will need the co-operation of all stakeholders, including both developer and unit owners, so that maintenance fees are collected on time, services are delivered within expectations and the sinking fund is prudently used.



Subang Galaxy

"In some developments, there might be owners who go overboard with their demands and if their demands are not met, they will then go the next step to influence other owners to form 'groupings' or 'committees' to undermine the work of the management. That is why the law says that we need to have a JMC and all grievances should be channelled to this body. Otherwise there will be a free-for-all, and the overall harmony and resident wellbeing will be affected," Chan cautioned.

To ensure that the upcoming JMC will be conducting its affairs with transparency, Chan has gone even further to extend an invitation to Gen. (R) Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Mohd. Zahidi bin Hj. Zainuddin, a highly-respected figure in Perak and Malaysia, as well as an owner-resident, to be nominated as the first Chairman of the upcoming JMC.

"We want the owner-residents to have confidence in the way we manage and we want public figures with vast experience to come on board so that we can serve the larger majority with fairness rather than to give in to the demands of the minority who may not have had the benefit of experience, especially in condominium living," added Chan.

Gen. (R) Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Mohd. Zahidi bin Hj. Zainuddin is a member of Dewan Negara Perak, Director of Yayasan Sultan Azlan Shah and Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja Perak Darul Ridzuan. He is also Chairman of Affin Holdings Berhad and Genting Plantations Berhad; as well as a Director of Genting Malaysia Berhad, Cahya Mata Sarawak Berhad and Bintulu Port Holdings Berhad.

Peter Chan said: "I am excited about Tan Sri Zahidi's future role in the JMC and I am confident that his stature, wealth of knowledge on strategic planning and corporate governance will help the JMC to function with greater efficiency."

Forming an effective JMC is not an easy task in Malaysia. The working committee members are volunteers who sacrifice their time and effort, yet do not usually get recognition in return. While on the flip side, there may be some unit owners with ulterior motives, who will strategize to be elected to the committee. If unsuitable candidates are voted in, the development may head for a most trying time. With the incorporation of *The Haven's* JMC helmed by both Tan Sri Zahidi and Chan, the management and maintenance of *The Haven* should be less burdensome than most.

To be effective, the elected JMC will need to have the full discretion and authority to manage and to ensure that the maintenance and sinking funds are prudently managed. *The Haven* maintenance and sinking fund currently has over RM1.6 million in its coffers.



Gen Tan Sri Mohd. Zahidi (Rtd)



Tan Sri Megat Najmuddin

To the credit of the development, although they could charge a fee for the management of *The Haven*, all monies collected from unit owners have been placed into the owners' maintenance and sinking funds, without the developer charging any fee.

Owning and staying in a condominium unit differs from that of a house. Hence owners must be made aware that any committee formed within the community by owners or residents other than the properly constituted JMC is disruptive and undesirable and may even be against regulations and the law.

Additionally, The Haven Sdn Bhd has also appointed Tan Sri Dato' Seri Megat Najmuddin bin Dato' Seri Dr Hj. Megat Khas as an independent director to its Board.

Announcing this development, Peter Chan added, "It is with great honour and pleasure that we welcome Tan Sri Megat as our board member. With his experience

and qualifications, I am fully confident that he will be able to help us harness the company's strengths and steer it to greater heights. He is a man of integrity whom I fully respect.

Of notable significance is the many important corporate governance positions that he holds, including President of the Malaysian Institute of Corporate Governance; member of UMNO Malaysia Disciplinary Committee; Institute of Integrity Malaysia; Transparency International Malaysia (TIM); and member on the Advisory Board of Malaysia Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). With such important positions where corporate governance is concerned, Tan Sri Megat will lend a lot more strength and build further trust among those within our organisation."

Tan Sri Megat is the Chairman on the Board of Directors of eight



Permai Lake View



The Haven Lakeside Residences

companies, both listed and non-listed, namely: Tradewinds Corporation which owns 10 hotels nationwide, including Hilton Hotel PJ and Kuching, Hotel Istana; Asian Pac Holdings Berhad; Bass Consulting Sdn Bhd; Budaya Hikmat Sdn Bhd; Formis Resources Berhad; Maju Perak Holdings Berhad; SEG International Berhad; Spark Manshop Sdn Bhd and Blondal Services & Sales Sdn Bhd; besides being a board member with the national oil company, Petronas.

Speaking to Ipoh Echo on his new role, Tan Sri Megat said, "I am delighted with the opportunity to work with Peter, a friend I have known for over forty years, when we shared the same hostel while at university in Singapore in the late 1960s. Peter is a man of vision, integrity and talent. His project, The Haven, has brought changes to the landscape of Ipoh properties. As you know, The Haven boasts a beautiful location and is surrounded by nature's splendour. The units are also very well-designed and of top quality. I am very proud to be involved in the project and believe that we will continue to find success in future undertakings."

Meanwhile, we can clearly see the commitment, ability and care of the Developer in their two other projects in Malaysia, namely, Permai Lake View Ipoh and Subang Galaxy Selangor. The management of these two developments has been exemplary and they make good examples for all to emulate.

Emily

Business

MICCI Annual Luncheon 2014

The Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MICCI) Perak branch had its annual luncheon at the Impiana Hotel, Ipoh recently.

The get-together was aimed at strengthening ties between members of the Chambers and to address issues that are affecting industries in the country today.

Chairman of the MICCI Perak branch, Dato' Lim Si Boon, took the opportunity to highlight a few issues that are affecting the productivity and efficiency of businesses.

"We're lacking in the infrastructure aspect. Even though Unifi is available in certain areas in Perak, it doesn't cover most industrial estates and business centres in Ipoh, Taiping and Manjung.

"Furthermore, transportation infrastructure affects the productivity of the industries. The KL-bound ETS service is doing extremely well and has brought us more tourists, but it's at the expense of cargo transportation. Even with a larger capacity, cargo train frequency has not increased. With the right infrastructure system, I believe Perak doors could be opened to the world and businesses can and will be more productive," he remarked.

Lim urged both the private and public sectors to work closer to turn Perak into a more vibrant and dynamic business location.

Executive Councillor for Health and Non-Islamic Affairs, Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon added that Perak is a state with many opportunities. The state government had managed to bring in an estimated RM840 million worth of investments in the first half of this year. He concurred with Lim's assertion that cooperation between the private and public sectors was needed to bring Perak's economy to another level.

Present at the luncheon was the Chairperson of Air Asia X and former Minister of Industry and International Trading, Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz.

Incidentally, MICCI Perak celebrates its 102th Anniversary this year. It was established in 1911 under the chairmanship of W.R.H. Chappel of Messrs Osborne and Chappel.



Yvette

Community

Free Haircuts and Hairdos

The Perak Skill Academy organised a free haircut session for residents of the Ipoh Spastic Day Care Centre recently. The event was part of the academy's corporate social responsibility programme aimed at helping the poor, the needy and the handicapped within the community.

According to Khaljaks Khalil, director of the academy, the event was also to create awareness on the importance of helping the less fortunate. "This community-orientated programme is a module to train our students by giving them the opportunity to use their skills for the betterment of society. We'll take our students to other day-care centres for a similar purpose," he told Ipoh Echo.

Norhayati Ngah, 23, a resident of the centre, was elated to have her hair groomed by a trained hairstylist. "I'm grateful to the academy for giving us a free haircut and a new hairdo, something which is beyond our reach," she exclaimed.

Caretaker Nur Hasmah Hazmah (Kak Mah), was very appreciative of the academy's efforts in cheering up the centre's residents. "After 26 years in existence this is the first time we received such a treatment, and free too. Some were reluctant to join in but soon warmed to the students' hospitality," she said.

Established in 1988, the Ipoh Spastic Day Care Centre provides day-care services to less fortunate children and those with physical and mental disabilities.

RM



Dogs Tortured to Death

Cruelty to animals is a bane of our society. We often hear and see dogs and cats being flayed for no apparent reasons other than them being a "nuisance". How bad could these animals be? They, just like us, are on Mother Earth for a reason. It is so heart-wrenching to see man's best friends being beaten and mistreated.

Ipoh Echo received an email from a concerned Ipohite recently about two dogs being tortured to death. The incidents took place in Buntong and Tasek. We contacted

Elaine, an animal activist, who was present at the scene where one of the dogs was beaten to death with a wooden stick.

According to Elaine, she and a friend were travelling around the industrial area of Tasek when they came across three puppies in front of a factory. They decided to take them to an animal shelter.

"We came back the following day to look for the puppies but found that one was missing. After a brief search, we found it near a dead male dog. The puppy looked frightened. When we approached it, it kept on howling and yelping," she said.

The dead dog was lying on its side with a stick beside it. Before leaving the scene, she took a few pictures and informed City Council of her finding. "I am shocked and angry at whoever was



World Animal Day

Noah's Ark Ipoh will be celebrating World Animal Day on Saturday **October 4**. There will be a food fair with a carnival atmosphere at the padang opposite RHB bank in Ipoh Garden South from 9am till 1pm.

Graced by YB Dato' Rusnah, the food fair will be special with local aunties and friends showcasing their talents and sharing their special secret recipes such as kampong rice, homemade chicken curry, potato buns, designer cupcakes, sweet potato cakes, *nonya kuih*, savouries of all kinds and special *nasi lemak* to name but a few.

Two Englishmen will be selling homemade burgers with special toppings and Noah's Ark Ipoh's very own Claudia, who is a German expat, will be selling schnitzel and *kartoffelsalat*. Michaelangelo's, Burps and Giggles and My Home Recipe will also be donating food for sale on this day. There will also be a booth hosted by celebrity chef David Tan whose recently published cookbook has been flying off the shelves of bookstores in Ipoh as well as the rest of Malaysia. Besides food there will be bric-a-brac for sale as well as NAI T-shirts.

There will be something for all ages with music, dancing and a clown performance. A talented emcee who can sing in 9 languages will sing special request songs. Depending on the registration there will be a best behaved neutered local dog parade judged by Dato' Dr Wenddi Anne Chong.

Apart from raising funds towards their treat/spay and neuter of our stray animals Noah's Ark Ipoh wishes to highlight the plight of the abandoned and cruelty to our stray animals. Any money raised will be directed to the rescue, treatment, neutering and adoption of the animals.

World Animal Day was started in 1931 to celebrate all animal life forms. It was a way of highlighting endangered species and it has been celebrated since.

For further information please contact:

Malika Ramiah Oates 017 575 1556

Ms Jeya Jeyaratnam 012 5386 366

Dr Ranjit 019 556 8292



Looking for Loving Homes

German Shepard, male, around 4 years old. Left at the shelter. Who would like to give this boy a loving home. Only for experienced dog person. Not easy to approach. Needs time to trust. He really needs a home. Shelters are not homes.



Goldie – 3 to 4 years old and very friendly. Vaccinated and neutered. Wishes to grow old in a loving home. The shelter is okay for a short while but not until the end of life. Who would like to take her home?

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

responsible for this barbaric act. Why take it out on an innocent animal? Don't they have feelings?" she lamented.

The other case took place in Buntong where a canine was similarly killed for no rhyme or reason. The poor dog was splashed with acid and had suffered an agonising death.

Ipoh Echo urge members of the public to report to Ricky from the Ipoh Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) at **016 550 6915** or to Dr Ranjit of Noah's Ark at **019 556 8292** should they come across animal-abuse cases in their neighbourhood.

Yvette

Community

Promoting Unity and Harmony



To celebrate the 51st Malaysia Day, the state organised a *Kayuhan Merdeka* programme to celebrate as well as to promote unity amongst Malaysians. The cycling programme held on the eve of Malaysia Day, covered a distance of 15km, starting and ending at Dataran Bandaraya Ipoh (Ipoh City Square).

The cycling feat, led by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, saw over a thousand cyclists, both locals and foreign, partaking in the event. The programme was designed to remind Perakans of the importance of unity and the meaning of Malaysia Day.

Raja Di Hilir Perak, Raja Dzulkarnain Sultan Idris Shah, was present at the flagging-off ceremony to lend his support.

Rosdailah Zahari, 28, from Ipoh, had this to say, "I love this kind of celebration because it makes you feel wanted and also united as Malaysians." Mohd Shamsul Mohd Zam, 26, from Selangor, added that the Malaysia Day should be remembered and celebrated by all. "The 1Malaysia spirit is felt during the celebration. This effort of maintaining peace and harmony amongst the races would bring us together regardless

Memory Walk Achieves Its Objectives

Dementia Society Perak, in collaboration with Universiti Kuala Lumpur (and Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak), organised a charity walk named Memory Walk recently. The event coincided with World Alzheimer's Day.

It began at UniKL and ended at the campus itself, covering a distance of 5km. Public response was most encouraging, as over 2000 took part in the event which was flagged off by Dato' Shahrul Zaman Yahaya, Executive Councillor for Youth, Sports, Communications and Multimedia.

"I am impressed with the huge number of participants in this year's walk. I believe this activity not only teaches us about Dementia but helps bring us closer. The state government will continue to support such activities," he told Ipoh Echo.

Chairperson of the Dementia Society Perak, Associate Professor Dr Esther G. Ebenezer, said that the event had helped create awareness on the seriousness of Dementia as a disease and not as a symptom of aging.

"People who are at first ignorant about the sickness are now beginning to pay attention on personal behaviours that could lead to Dementia, such as frequent forgetfulness or drastic changes in personality," she said.

She recounted ways to prevent the disease such as exercising and maintaining a healthy and balanced diet. She warned the public not to take minor strokes, should they happen, lightly, as they could lead to Dementia if left untreated.

Free health checks were given for participants wishing to know their body conditions and whether they were at risk of contracting the disease.

Yvette



CHALLENGE COURSE & TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Malaysia's finest green development, The Haven, is now host to an interesting range of outdoor recreational and team building activities, promising you a healthy and refreshing experience with nature amid the ancient rainforest and 200-million-year-old limestone formations.

On-site activities within the resort's natural landscape of more than 20 acres include the Challenge Course, Team Building Programmes and Via Ferrata, one of only two in Malaysia!

For more information about The Haven Outdoor Adventures, kindly call +605.220.9000 / 1700-8-1700-0 or email: reservations@bestwesternhaven.com.my

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Website: www.bestwesternhaven.com.my | www.thehavenresorts.com



of the occasion," he added.

After the cycling event ended, a number of performances by local artistes were staged to entertain the public.

The celebration ended on a high note with the lighting of fireworks to mark the arrival of Malaysia Day. It culminated with the handing over of the Jalur Gemilang by the Menteri Besar to the Mayor, a symbolic reminder to Ipoh City Council to continue in its efforts to serve the *rakyat*.

RM



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G.L. Tan, 54 years old



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email: contactus@bioresonancetherapy.com.my



Aqua Matrix 2014



The Siamese fighting fish competition, the highlight of the recent Aqua Matrix Programme 2014, was recognised as the competition with the largest number of entries ever by the Malaysian Book of Records. The number stood at 1002, surpassing the previous record of 900.

The Aqua Matrix Programme 2014 was a joint effort by the Department of Fisheries Perak and Ipoh-based Pretty Aquatics and Pets Company. It was held at the courtyard of the Aeon Ipoh Store (formerly Jusco), Kinta City Ipoh from September 12 to 14.

Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Dato' Mohd Radzi, in her opening remarks thanked those involved in the ornamental fish industry for their efforts in augmenting Perak's economy.

"We suffered a 52-percent drop in ornamental fish exports between 2012 and 2013 due to the ban by EU on the exportation of gold and Koi fish. The ban had affected the state's economy to a degree. I believe this programme can provide alternatives and opportunities to all parties involved in the industry," she remarked.

The state, said Nolee, had been supportive of measures taken to boost the fishing industry and reaffirmed her commitment to make the Aqua Matrix Programme an annual affair befitting its stature as the premier ornamental fish exhibition in the state.

Present at the opening ceremony on Saturday, September 13, were the Director of the Department of Fisheries Perak, Dr Bah Piyan Tan and Dr Marzuki Hashim, Director of Aquaculture Development with the Ministry of Fisheries Malaysia.

Luqman

A Retail Store for The Young

The PARK (Port Angkatan Ruang Kreatif) Retail and Store is a newly established retail store that sells local products such as apparel, shoes and handicrafts. The business, started by a young Ipoh entrepreneur, is beginning to make its mark in Ipoh.

Located at Kinta Riverfront Hotel, Ipoh its target segment is the young and trendy who are interested in local fashions and arts.

According to the Executive Councillor for Public Utilities, Infrastructure, Energy and Water, Dato' Zainol Fadzi Paharuddin, the business is a joint venture with P.O.R.T (People of Remarkable Talents), an agency created by the state government to source and nurture young talents in Perak.

"The agency is pleased to be in partnership with Amirul Ashraf Mokhtar or 'O'oi' in setting up this retail business. It is assuring to know that there are talented youngsters who are capable of creating a local brand that is well received by the public," he said.

"PARK is not just a retail store but also a platform for Perak youths to exhibit their talents in art, fashion and others. These healthy pursuits have the support of the state government," Zainol added.

Founder and co-owner of PARK Retail and Store, Amirul Ashraf Mokhtar told Ipoh Echo that he was grateful of the state government's support and promised to provide more opportunities for young Perakeans to display their products at his outlet.

"We've about 120 participants, local and from other states, who'll be exhibiting and selling their collections at the retail store. We hope that PARK would soon develop into a renowned retail store like other established ones in the market," he said.

Luqman



A New Flight Route

Low-cost airline, Firefly took steps to upgrade their services by opening the long-awaited Ipoh-Johor Bahru flight route. Operating at Ipoh's Sultan Azlan Shah Airport, the new route augments Firefly's long-standing Ipoh-Singapore route introduced in 2012.

Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohd Radzi told reporters that she was confident the new route would be readily accepted by the public thus helping to boost the tourism sector in Perak. She believed the effort by Firefly could help the state government realise its objective of bringing five million tourists to Perak by the end of 2014.

"The aircraft is almost full and this is a positive sign" she said at the launching ceremony of the new flight route on Monday, September 15 at the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport, Ipoh.

Present at the ceremony was the Director of Tourism Malaysia (Perak), Ibrahim Seddiqi Talib and Firefly's Marketing Executive, Audrey Yu.

The Ipoh-Johor Bahru route will operate four times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Audrey said that Firefly in conjunction with the launching, offered a promotional fare of RM59 for a one-way ticket for the Ipoh-Johor Bahru route. Members of the public had till September 28 to book the promotional tickets for flights lasting till October 24 next year.



"Firefly is also offering an automated check-in service for customers. They need not queue up in front of the counter to check in for their flight. This will help speed things up," she added.

Tang Yen Kim, 45, an Ipoh businesswoman, is currently studying at a private institution in Johor Bahru. She told reporters that the Ipoh-Johor Bahru flight was not only convenient but also a time-saver. "I'm delighted that Firefly has decided to include this new route in its schedule. Before this I'd to take a bus or the train to Johor Bahru. It's so tedious," she exclaimed.

Kamilah Ahmad Shaharuddin, 79, from Parit told Ipoh Echo that the new route had given her a reason to travel to Johor Bahru. "I was reluctant to travel because of the distance and the time taken. But with this new route in place I have no reason not to go. I believe other senior citizens, as well as the general public, would benefit from this new route," she said.

She hoped Firefly would provide wheelchairs for the less mobile passengers, as being practised by other major airlines.

RM



News

Advances in Dengue & Zoonotic Diseases

More than 100 participants, including medical students, attended the 'Seminar on Recent Advances In Dengue And Zoonotic Diseases' (diseases that spread between animals and humans), organised by the Faculty of Medicine, University Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine, Perak, which was held at Tower Regency Hotel recently. Professor Dr B. Chinniah, Organising Chairman, said that this theme was chosen to reduce the prevalence of the scourge of dengue and zoonotic diseases that affect all mankind. In conjunction with prevention, appropriate screening and early detection can help in reducing mortality and morbidity associated with these diseases.

Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, Chairman State Health Committee, who officially opened the seminar said that the two diseases being discussed are causing significant threat, not only to public health, but also to the economy as a whole. The first documented major outbreak of dengue in the country occurred in Penang in 1962. As of June this year 53,246 cases were reported with 147 deaths compared to 1792 cases within the same period in 2013. The number of deaths has increased from five deaths in 2013 to 147 deaths in 2014. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 50 to 100 million dengue infections occur yearly, causing 22,000 deaths. The best way to reduce mosquitoes is to clear away the places where mosquitoes lay eggs. *Aedes aegypti* breeds primarily in man-made containers like earthenware jars, flower pots and animal water containers. A large part of the efforts to control or eliminate the menace of dengue lies with the community. Malaysia is still safe from the Ebola Virus with no cases reported as yet.

Some of the important topics discussed were 'Improvement in Early detection of Dengue'; 'Role of Dengue Vaccination'; 'Why is it difficult to develop a dengue vaccination?' and 'Zoonotic diseases from zoo animals to humans'.

Jeyaraj



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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.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month "PINK OCTOBER" at Kinta Medical Centre with exclusive "Pink Package". From October 1 till 31. Call 05 242 5333 or email: info@kintamedicalcentre.com for more info or to schedule an appointment.

Public Forum: Stress and Depression in the Workplace in conjunction with World Mental Health Day 2014, Saturday October 11, 2pm at Conference Room, 4th Floor, Hospital Fatimah, Ipoh. For further information, contact: 05 5455 777 Ext. 276.

Open Dialogue on 'Health and Breast Screening' on Saturday October 11, 12.30pm at Conference Room, Kinta Medical Centre. Join Dr Ganesan for an informal dialogue. Door gifts, lucky draws and refreshments will be provided. Call 05 242 5333 or email: info@kintamedicalcentre.com for more info.

Public Forum: Doctors' Day and World Mental Health Celebrations, Saturday October 11, 2pm to 4pm at Dewan Anugerah, 5th Floor, KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital. Contact Pn Aziera or Ms Sarah Toh 05 240 8777 Ext. 8111 for registration and enquiries.

Blood Donation Campaign: A Gift of Life, Sunday October 12, 9am to 12pm at Church of St Michael, Ipoh. For further information, contact: 05 5455 777 Ext. 276.

GP Symposium: Children with Special Needs (for doctors only), Sunday October 12, 7.30pm at Potpourri House, Ipoh (behind Heritage Hotel). For further information, contact: 05 5455 777 Ext. 276.

Cancer Awareness Walk jointly organised by the Perak Health Department, Malaysian Medical Association (Perak Branch) and Thoracic Association of Malaysia. Sunday, October 12 from 7am to 1pm. Activities include morning walk, aerobics, health screening, cooking demonstrations and "walk-in-her-shoes" competition. For details call Pn Harthini of Perak Health Department at 05 249 0356.

World Arthritis Day 2014 organised by Hospital Raja Bainun Ipoh. Saturday, October 18 from 8.30am to 12pm at Red Crescent Hall, Jalan Kompleks Sukan, Ipoh. Exhibition and overviews on arthritis, osteoarthritis and gout. Free knee ultrasound only 10 slots available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Admission: Free. For details call Yee Kok Kaye at 012 521 8794.

Nature Camp for Children organised by The Malaysian Nature Society (Perak Chapter) at Taman Herba, Papan over a weekend on October 25 & 26. Activities include jungle trekking, bird watching, water ecology, nature, recycling, etc. Open to all children between 9 to 12 years old. Registration closes on Monday, October 13. For details call Lee Yuat Wah at 017 577 5641 or email leeyuatwah@yahoo.com.

Sukhavana Meditation Monastery. A Sanghika Dana on Sunday October 26 at a Buddhist monastery situated at Bercham Cave, Lebuhraya Bercham Selatan 1. The event will start with free breakfast for all at 7.15am, followed by pindapata (alms round), offering of requisites & food to the Sangha and Dhamma talk. The event will end at 11.00am with free lunch for all guests. For details, contact Tan Swee Lian 016 536 4301, William Teh 012 552 6372 or Tioh Hee Yock 012 512 6203.

Public Forum for Parents: 1. School Refusal: A Really... "stubborn habit" and a "serious" problem & 2. Building Resilient Family – Parenting in the 21st Century... So what works? Wednesday November 5, 7pm at Conference Room, 4th Floor, Hospital Fatimah Ipoh. By David Hong, Director, The Delta Clinic / Family & Couple Therapist. For further information, contact: 05 5455 777 Ext. 276.

Conditions at Swimming Pool

Conditions at the Ipoh City Council swimming pool complex are getting from bad to worse. Both the men and women toilets are literally out of commission, for want of a better word. Toilet bowls are broken while some do not function. The doors of the cubicles are missing or could not be shut tight; and above all, the smell of the toilets reek to high heaven. It will put off anyone using them and on weekends and public holidays there are many users.

The pathways to the pools are in a poor state. Broken tiles and potholes make walking difficult, especially for kids and old folks.

Numerous complaints have been made to the Council by concerned Ipohites but they seem to fall on deaf ears. These problems are not new, as similar observations were made by Ipoh Echo in the past.

Come on, Ipoh City Council you can't dismiss these problems for reasons of insufficient funds. Maintaining the integrity of the swimming complex and its facilities is your responsibility to Ipohites.

Please do something before we become the laughing stock of the state and the nation.

Yvette



Young Perak

Graduation Cum Concert

Dressed smartly in their graduation gowns and mortarboards, 107 six-year-olds marked an important milestone in life at their kindergarten graduation. Themed “Friends Forever”, the Tadika KinderJoy graduation ceremony-cum-concert recently at Dewan Leong Wan Chin, Ipoh paid tribute to the school’s principal and teachers, as well as parents.

Witnessed by families and friends, the kids, from both Chinese and English-medium classes, walked up confidently on stage to receive their certificates from guest-of-honour, Aznan bin Haji Alias, the Perak Education Department Head of Special and Private Education Sector.

In his speech, he complimented Tadika KinderJoy for achieving a high standard of early childhood education, thus gaining the department’s recognition as a Model Kindergarten in Perak. “I wish to congratulate the school and parents who have supported and co-operated with the Ministry of Education in all programmes and activities that are related to pre-school education.”



At this 18th graduation concert, Tadika KinderJoy also presented their former students with the “High Achiever Award” for outstanding achievement in academic and co-curricular activities in primary school.

Alumna Evelyn Chye Zi Qing, now a Year Two student at SJK(C) Ave Maria Convent, Ipoh, received the Honourable Mention Award in the Malaysia-ASEAN Science and Math Olympiad 2014. Her friend, Lam Shiao Rue, also a former Tadika KinderJoy pupil and now studying in the same school, received first prize in a recent English action song competition. A total of 16 alumni were presented with the “High Achiever Award”.

Once the formalities were over, dressed in colourful costumes, class by class, the graduates performed to an appreciative audience consisting of proud teachers, family and friends. The children, who will embark on their primary education next year, sang and danced their hearts out to the delight of those who attended the ceremony.

Emily

Kinderland Graduation Concert

Tadika and Taska Kinderland held its 29th Graduation Concert recently at its premises in Jalan Woodward, Ipoh. The theme was, “Let the Good Times Roll”. Over 140 children took part dancing, singing and delivering speeches in Bahasa Malaysia, English and Mandarin on stage.

Executive Director of Crestar Education (M) Sdn Bhd and franchisor of Kinderland, Arthur Ng, graced the occasion along with some 700 guests, mostly parents and well-wishers.

The concert was an impressive affair, especially the keyboard ensemble and handbell presentation by the K1 and K2 students. They were greeted with loud applause and a standing ovation. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of cash awards to former Kinderland students who scored straight As in last year’s UPSR examination.

Principal Angela Toh, told Ipoh Echo that the objective of the concert was to encourage children to shed their shyness and instil in them self-confidence. “Activities like these could better develop a child’s mental capacity rather than just concentrating on classroom lessons,” she reasoned.

Yvette



An Enchanting Evening of Music



Renowned Sam Tet Brass Band staged a splendid performance at the Sam Tet School hall, Ipoh recently. Over a thousand attended the show which was graced by Dato’ Dr Majumder, Rev Father Stephen Liew, Sam Tet Chairman of the Board of Governors, principal of Sam Tet School, Lau Swee Mun and guest composers Mitsuo Nonami from Japan and Tang Chin Hoe.

The Sam Tet Brass Band is essentially a marching band established in February 1973. It plays a complete range of wind and percussion instruments. The band consists of 65 members and is currently led by Ng Wai Kin, a student of the school. It has gained much popularity over the years and today is regarded as one of the premier school bands in Perak.

The Saturday performance was aptly named “Harmonious Enchantment” befitting the band’s stature and popularity. Some of the musical numbers played during the evening show were ‘Beyond the Riverband’, ‘Eline Kleine’, ‘Abba Gold’ and local favourites, ‘Rasa Sayang’ and ‘Ulek Mayang’.

And present to conduct the musical outfit throughout the evening were Lam Chee Choong, a former Sam Tet student and current music director of the band and student Foong Chen Kit. Both are accomplished musicians in their own right.

The primary objective of the concert was to upgrade the quality of the musical instruments. It was an eventful evening as the audience got to witness a first class live performance and the school got what it wanted in terms of funding. Some RM100,000 was collected through donations and fund drives.

A combined concert with an established musical ensemble from Japan is scheduled for December. This will be the climax of the brass band’s busy year.

RM

My Say

By Jerry Francis



Arrest: A Concern to All Journalists

The recent arrest of a Penang-based journalist, Susan Loone, is worrying me. As a veteran journalist, I begin to wonder what sort of impact or implication the arrest will have on the future of journalism in Malaysia.

The journalist was arrested and subjected to several hours of grilling by the police before she was released on police bail. She is being investigated under Section 4 (1) (c) of the 1948 Sedition Act when she quoted Penang State Executive Councillor and chairman of the "illegal" Voluntary Patrol Unit (PPS), Mr Phee Boon Poh, who was detained after celebrating Merdeka Day, as being treated like "a criminal."

Has Ms Loone committed an offence by doing her job? She had merely reported what she was told – which every journalist does in the course of their daily work.

Is the arrest also intended to pass a message to journalists in general? This is among some of the questions that are disturbing me. Furthermore, I am perturbed by the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), National Press Club and other journalists' organizations for keeping completely mum on the arrest. Do they condone it?

So far only the Centre for Independent Journalism has condemned the arrest and described it as "appalling". Its director Sonia Randhawa said in a statement that it was a classic case of shooting the messenger as Ms Loone was detained for reporting what somebody else has said.

According to Randhawa, the arrest also goes against Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's claim of commitment to free debate and discussion.

I remember a similar case in 2008. A journalist, Tan Hoon Cheng, also in Penang, was detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA). She had reported a speech made by a leader of a political party, which was deemed as seditious. No action was taken by the police against the politician, but Ms Tan was detained.

Her detention drew a lot of protest from the public, including politicians and journalists. Subsequently, the then Home Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar came up with an absurd explanation that Ms Tan was detained for her "own safety". And, the following day she was released.

Reflecting on my years of active reporting, I began to wonder how I had survived without running afoul of the authorities even when the security situation in Perak was very sensitive. I had intensively covered security operations during the "Turbulent Years in Perak" from 1973 to 1989, during which time I was frequently reminded of the ISA.

Fortunately, the police was not as sensitive as they are now, or perhaps there was then, none of the NGOs whose only objective is to lodge police reports by the number. Otherwise, I would have been in and out of police stations and courts as some of my reports could have been considered as offensive.

Having taking into consideration the current situation, I wonder whether I should continue to do what I have been doing – expressing my views on various issues.

I am still into writing not to "cari makan", but because I believe I can still contribute towards the betterment of the community in Perak. In doing so, I have often been described as one who finds pleasure in hitting on the Ipoh City Council.

My response to such critics has been, and will always be, that I harbour no grudges against the city council, its Mayor, councillors or employees. It is just my responsibility to the rakyat as a journalist, to highlight the shortcomings of the city council.

Therefore, since early 1990 I have been raising various issues, and as well as forwarding suggestions, not just to the city council, but also to government agencies and the private sector, in my desire to see good governance. The views and suggestions expressed are without malice or hidden agenda. They are meant to be "feedback" to the relevant authorities.

At times, it is difficult for me to draw a line between offensive and non-offensive. I fear that one day my views and suggestions can be construed as anti establishment or racial by certain NGOs.

Since a journalist can get into so much trouble by just quoting someone, where do I stand when most of the time I express my own views and suggestions?

As such, if I am to continue writing as an independent journalist, I will probably have to do so with great constraints and confine myself to just quoting those "in the corridors of power" or statements issued by the authorities.

Otherwise, should one of my columns be considered as offensive by some NGOs and police reports are lodged, I cannot expect any protection coming from the NUJ or from any press organization as I am no longer a member. I will have to face it on my own. So is there any future for me to continue?

Remember "**Journalism is not a crime**"!

(The views expressed by the writer are his own and not necessarily that of Ipoh Echo.)

LETTERS

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

Are our Councillors Doing their jobs?

In January this year, new councillors and those who were re-appointed were sworn in to serve the people. A few days after the swearing-in ceremony, I asked MBI a couple of times for the list of councillors and their zones and was told that it was not ready. Recently, K. Sagadevan, Secretary, Lim Garden Residents Committee found that the councillor for Zone 8, which comprises Lim Garden and Merdeka Garden, is Ong Chee Keng. He arranged for a meeting with the councillor and a few of the residents. During the meeting Ong assured them that he would work with the residents to solve their problems. It would have been better if Ong had taken his own initiative to meet the residents. After all he volunteered to do the job.

I conducted a small survey to find out whether residents know their new councillors and if he/she had visited them. I also attended a few public forums to gather information. In fact all of the persons I enquired said that they do not know who their councillor is and have not met him/her.

After eight months of appointment, the residents still do not know who their councillor is. At the swearing-in ceremony, many of the councillors said that their main aim is to serve the people and solve their problems. They also said that they would organise 'meet the people' sessions. How are they going to do this when they have not visited their respective zones.

Since the councillors were not elected by the residents they do not know who is appointed as councillor to their zone. It is the duty of the councillor to introduce himself to the residents of his zone. The councillors must set up a service centre in their zones or hold weekly meet-the-residents sessions and listen to their complaints.

A couple of years ago members of several civil society NGOs in Ipoh carried out a survey on MBI councillors to help ratepayers understand the roles and functions of city councillors, raise awareness on local government and transparency of councillors and local government. Their findings highlighted three glaring facts:

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

However, there are a few dedicated councillors and one of them is Dato' Daniel Tay Kwan Hui who was councillor for Zone 8. When he was appointed as councillor, he called for a meeting with representatives in the Zone. He divided the zone into four sub-divisions and visited each division with MBI officers and representatives from the area. He visited the problem areas and most of the problems were solved. He was easily contactable. However, some of the residents were not happy with him

A Fee for Picking Rubbish?

Sometime ago Ipoh City Council's staff came on their rubbish-pick-up rounds in my housing estate after being missing-in-action for a good two months. Obviously, the rubbish collection area was not a sight to behold with filth spilling all over the place.

One of the team members approached my house and asked my mother for some water. My mother brought two 500ml mineral water bottles for the team's consumption. Little did she expect the response from him.

"Bukan ini air lah, ini air lah" rubbing the tip of his index finger with that of his thumb indicating the dollar sign. The lady was taken aback. Being someone who was against corruption, she ignored his demand.

"Macam ini, lain kali kita tak mahu ambil sampah dari 'you' punya rumah lah", said the guy. Were they there to collect rubbish or money?

It was a sad day, indeed. And it took place just before Malaysia Day. What happened to the time when Malaysians woke up with this thought in mind, "I work for the betterment of the nation."

We have progressed as a nation. However, the moral values of some have degenerated for the worse.

Soccer Whizkid

because he did not play an active role during the massive flooding.

The councillors must be made responsible to ensure that the basic services like garbage collection, grass cutting and drainage cleaning are carried out regularly in their zones.

MBI has a monthly full board meeting at the end of each month. I suggest that MBI hold a mid-monthly meeting with the councillors in the presence of the residents. During this meeting the councillors must submit a report on the activities being carried out in their zones. The residents must be allowed to participate in the discussion. This would ensure that the councillors are doing their job.

In March 2013, it was reported in the media that Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said that the state government is fed up with constant complaints about bread and butter issues and warned local councillors to either "shape up" or "ship out".

Since most of the councillors are political appointees, they are ignorant of their duties. A handbook must be prepared and given to each councillor on their responsibilities. The councillors must be accountable to the Mayor and an Annual Report Card must be prepared for each councillor.

A. Jeyaraj

Sport

First Medal in Lifesaving for Malaysia

The *Life Saving Society of Malaysia* (LSSM) has brought glory to the country by emerging with a Silver Medal at the Lifesaving World Championships in Montpellier, Paris, France recently. The pair of Geh Cheow Chien from Penang and Wong Jun Jie from Ipoh came in second in the LINE THROW event with a time of 10.34 secs behind Team Australia with the time of 10.28 secs with Team Poland trailing in third place at 10.45 secs.

This is a historical win as it is the first medal in any international lifesaving championships for Malaysia and Perak should be especially proud of its Jun Jie as part of the winning team.

From September 17 till 28 this year, the fastest, strongest and the fittest lifesavers gathered in Montpellier, for RESCUE 2014. Over 3000 competitors from 46 countries competed for the right to become World Champion and also competing to improve their lifesaving skills. Held every two years, LSSM sent one men's and one women's team to this year's prestigious event.



As the only Asian country to obtain a medal (Silver) in this competition for pool events and the first time Malaysia has a Silver medal in World Life Saving, LSSM is working to register the win under the Malaysia Book of Records.

Lifesaving Sport is the perfect combination between swimming and first aid. Originally from Australia, this is a sport in its own right that is characterised by the diversity of its events. Some of



them take place in the pool while others are at sea with or without a boat. From swimming to kayaking, individual path to the relay, the obstacle course for towing models, everything is specially designed to fight against drowning.

With the win of the Silver Medal, it is hoped that the sport can gain wider acceptance in the country, especially in the school environment, and to prevent incidents of drowning in urban and rural communities. The team of 12, comprising four officials: Lim Chee Gay, Wong Wai Wai, Caroline Chan Choi Mee and Leong Siew Foong; and eight participants: Geh Cheow Chien, Wong Jun Jie, Yam Tze Jing, Lim Beng Liang, Mandy Yeap Mun Xin and Lim Ping Ru, hopes to see more people enrolling in lifesaving courses.

For enquiries email: ttgeh@yahoo.com or call: 019 445 5166.

SeeFoon

Johor School is Hockey Champion

The International Hockey Tournament 2014, held at Stadium Azlan Shah, Ipoh from September 11 to 13, concluded on a bright note. Twenty two teams from 16 schools from all over the country took part in the 9-a-side tournament. The tournament was organised by Raja Perempuan School, Ipoh (RPS) for the second year running.

Sekolah Sukan Tunku Mahkota Ibrahim, Johor (SSTMI), bagged the champion trophy beating Universiti Teknologi Mara 2-1 in a thrilling final. Trengganu B took third spot defeating Project Alpha 2-0.

Best Player Award was won by Nur Syahira Mohd Yazid of SSTMI. Mashitah Khalid from Project Alpha was adjudged the best goalkeeper while RPS Bravo B took home the Fair Play award.

Director of Majlis Sukan Negeri Perak (Perak Sports Council), Haji Musa Dun, gave away the trophies and awards. He told reporters that the Council would help schools to organise competitions such as this from time to time. The primary objective, he said was to source for new sporting talents.

Principal of RPS, Juahir Mohd Hassan said that by organising the tournament, the school was a step closer in realising its aim of being nominated a cluster school.

"One of the requirements is to organise a high-impact sport or social activity. We took the challenge and have never looked back," she enthused.

Luqman



Book Review

By Chelvi Murugiah

Life Ever Dawning

Life Ever Dawning is an autobiography of Reverend Brother Dato' Vincent Corkery, FSC (first edition, 2014). This book, much influenced by his unquestionable faith in God, is a simple read requiring simple thoughts.

The title, 'Life Ever Dawning' is apparently the concurring notion of Brother Vincent's reminder that life is a new dawn each passing day in each one's life.

An acknowledgement that sums up the purpose of this autobiography, mirrors Brother Vincent's pursuit of his scholarly and missionary zeal that took him away from his native Ireland to many countries across the world and finally, to the shores of Malaysia, seemingly, his second home.

Coming from a traditional Catholic community, the influence to join the priesthood, seminary or other religious congregation seemed a "greater adventure" to living in a farm, I suppose.

Much of his personal and professional development is evident during his years of service in St Michael's Institution, Ipoh. Many chapters in the book underline the leading role he played in regard to improving learning, teaching, class and school administration and his pragmatic style in dealing with local authorities, such as, the Ministry of Education, Police and other government officials.

Overall, it's a warm and inspiring autobiography detailing the dedication and endearing legacy of Brother Vincent's mission as a LaSallian Brother. For a man of few words, this book must be a definitive bold move to share his life story. The book provides a reflection of his personality, revealing his inner faith and relational life.

Just as he states, "I was not interested in faults or failings, my focus was on telling the good news". The writing is light, and the choice of words reflects an intention to highlight the bright side of issues.

My instinctive conclusion would be that Brother Vincent (taking the lyrics of Celine

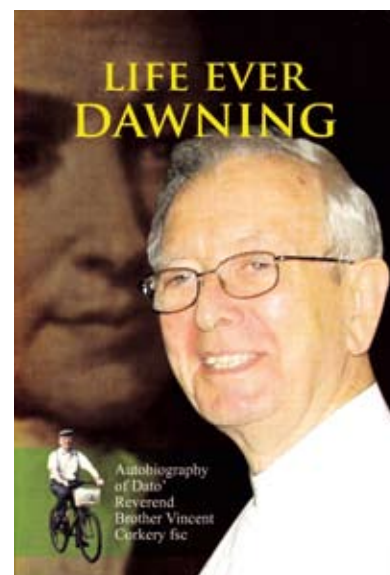
Dion's song, "Immortal"), had found his dream and the sense that every ounce of him needed to see it through.

The Biographical Timeline, details Vincent's life path as in a textbook, factual. The Memories and Tributes by former students and colleagues of SMI, touched by his presence as teacher, mentor and advisor, are prominent personalities, in their own right.

So in the true "Michaelian spirit" (some level of bias is in order, as both of my sons are from La Salle and they studied at SMI) I would gladly say, "Go grab the book to support the legacy of a humble Mat Salleh who, according to my son, Nahulan, is a quiet man who has a distinct calm vibe and exudes a brother-like persona. He proudly proclaimed that the LaSallian schools are the best in Ipoh and he was fortunate to be a part of it.

I believe this has a lot to do with Vincent's commitment to his cause.

Printed and bound in Malaysia, this book was published by the St Michael's Institution Alumni Association Klang Valley.



Life Ever Dawning, in soft cover, is priced at RM30 a piece. The book is sold at La Salle Centre, St Michael's Institution, Ipoh. For details call Brother Vincent at 012 562 8361.

Education

Workshop for School Teachers

More than 140 Mandarin teachers from 80 secondary schools around Malaysia attended a 'Bengkel Pemantapan Pedagogi Bahasa Cina Sekolah Menengah' workshop at UTAR Perak Campus recently.

Jointly-organised by UTAR and the Taiwan Education Centre in Malaysia, the two-day educational workshop was also supported by the Perak Education Department and UTAR Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS).

During the opening ceremony, Perak State Education Department's Penolong Pengarah Bahasa Cina Lim Song Khan reminded the participants that, being educators, they have the responsibility to help and inspire students.

Feng Chia University Vice President Dr Chiu Chuang-Chien said, "I believe that behind every great

student, there is always a great teacher. Over the years, the Malaysian students in Feng Chia University have shown outstanding performance and I am really glad to meet their teachers here today." He added that both Feng

Chia University and UTAR are sister universities and both sides are actively carrying out student exchange programmes. "In the future, we wish that there will be exchange among academics from both universities to enhance research, teaching and learning experiences," he added. UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik concurred and said, "Teachers have the responsibility to grow and guide students in learning."

Lending significance to the workshop was the presence of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia Director of the Education Division Chu To-Ming who thanked the organisers for their efforts in organising such educational workshops. "The Taiwan Education Centre in Malaysia also provides information such as scholarships in Taiwan universities and activities such as conducting the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL)," he said.

Others guests at the opening ceremony were UTAR Council Member Hew Fen Yee, Taiwan Education Centre in Malaysia Chief Executive Officer Beh Chew Nam, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Deputy Assistant Director of the Education Division Canny Liao, ICS Dean Associate Professor Dr Chong Siou Wei, Director of Division of Community and International Networking Assoc Professor Dr Tan Sin Leng as well as other Penolong Pengarah Bahasa Cina from Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Pahang, Selangor and Malacca.

Certificates were also presented to the participants by UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Professor Dr Ewe Hong Tat during the closing of the workshop.



A Partnership for Learning



Sunway College Ipoh plans on going into a partnership with Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) for the betterment of its students. As an initial step in realising this noble aim, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ENU recently. The momentous event took place at the Lost World Hotel, Sunway City Ipoh.

The MoU will allow the exchange of information between the two institutions of higher learning which will lead to the provision of opportunities for the college's students to complete their courses without having to leave Ipoh.

According to the Chief Executive of Sunway College Ipoh, Cheng Mien Wee, Sunway College is a relatively young institution. The partnership, she said, would enable it to learn from well-established education institutions such as ENU.

"This's the beginning of an enduring relationship between the two institutions. I am certain it'll have a positive impact on our students and provide them the opportunities they so desire," she told reporters.

The general consensus is that the collaboration with ENU will help improve the standard and quality of courses offered by Sunway College, Ipoh.

Assistant Dean of The Business School of ENU, Professor Sandra Watson, said that ENU would offer two programmes, namely Business Management and Accounting, to Sunway College Ipoh as starters.

"We've already signed memorandums with a few universities in Kuala Lumpur. The benefits of such partnerships are obvious, students can acquire more knowledge and adapt better in various situations," she said.

On that particular day, Sunway College Ipoh celebrated its 10th anniversary and conducted its 5th graduation ceremony. Students completing diploma-level courses such as accountancy, marketing, business, graphics, interior designing and arts received their parchments from Puan Sri Dr Susan Cheah, the Executive Member of Sunway Group.

Incidentally, the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, through the Principal's Scholarship



programme, has disbursed a total of RM165,830 in the form of scholarships to 13 schools in the state.

Yvette



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