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ISSUE **215**

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Playing
With
Figures



● Page 3

Wild Children
or Irresponsible
Parents?



● Page 4

All about
Waste
Management



● Page 7 & 8



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Sabah Quake: Who is at "fault"?

By Dr David Menier

Since 1960, more than 50 earthquakes have occurred in and around Sabah according to United States Geological Survey (USGS) quake data. Average magnitude of earthquakes in the region is above 4.0 in the seismicity scale (also called Richter scale) with a maximum of 10.0.

Friday's (June 5) earthquake, which struck an area close to Ranau, near the foot of the picturesque Mount Kinabalu, claimed the lives of more than 10 people including school children.

The number of aftershocks have continued with the worst tremor measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale being felt for the first time, in the heart of Kota Kinabalu on June 23. The number of tremors since the 5.9-magnitude earthquake has now hit 90.

Continued on page 2



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The BIG question: Can Peninsular Malaysia be hit?

The Ranau quake was a result of a slip along active fault lines due to accumulated strain created by movement of continental plates. A series of faults occurring onshore Borneo and offshore are sensitive to continental plate motions. Northwest Borneo accumulates strain in the subsurface because of the northward movement of the Australian plate and the Philippines plate moving westward, geologists say.

Rejuvenation of Old Fault Lines

Research conducted by geologists David Menier and Manoj Mathew of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, uncovered indicators of vertical crustal movements during fieldwork in Sabah last year, 40km south of the epicentre of Friday's quake.

The researchers discovered that these motions, controlled by active fault lines oriented Northeast-Southwest, created uplift of topography over the past 500,000 years and continues to date in the southern part of Ranau, from Keningau plain till Tenom plain. In an article submitted to a peer-reviewed journal, they had anticipated active surface movements as a result of rejuvenation of old fault lines on the basis of their analysis.

Earthquakes lead to the formation of fractures below the surface of the upper crust into which surface runoff water can penetrate and cause landslides. Monsoon rains wash soils down the hillsides and the risk of landslides due to slope instability by the Sabah quake is still a possibility that cannot be disregarded, according to them.

Are there any recurrences expected and why?

Aftershocks can usually occur over the entire fault rupture zone for a few days after the main shock because strain can be transferred further along the displaced fault. Depending on the underlying structural configuration, strain from the main shock may disturb a number of neighbouring faults within the affected volume resulting in aftershocks.

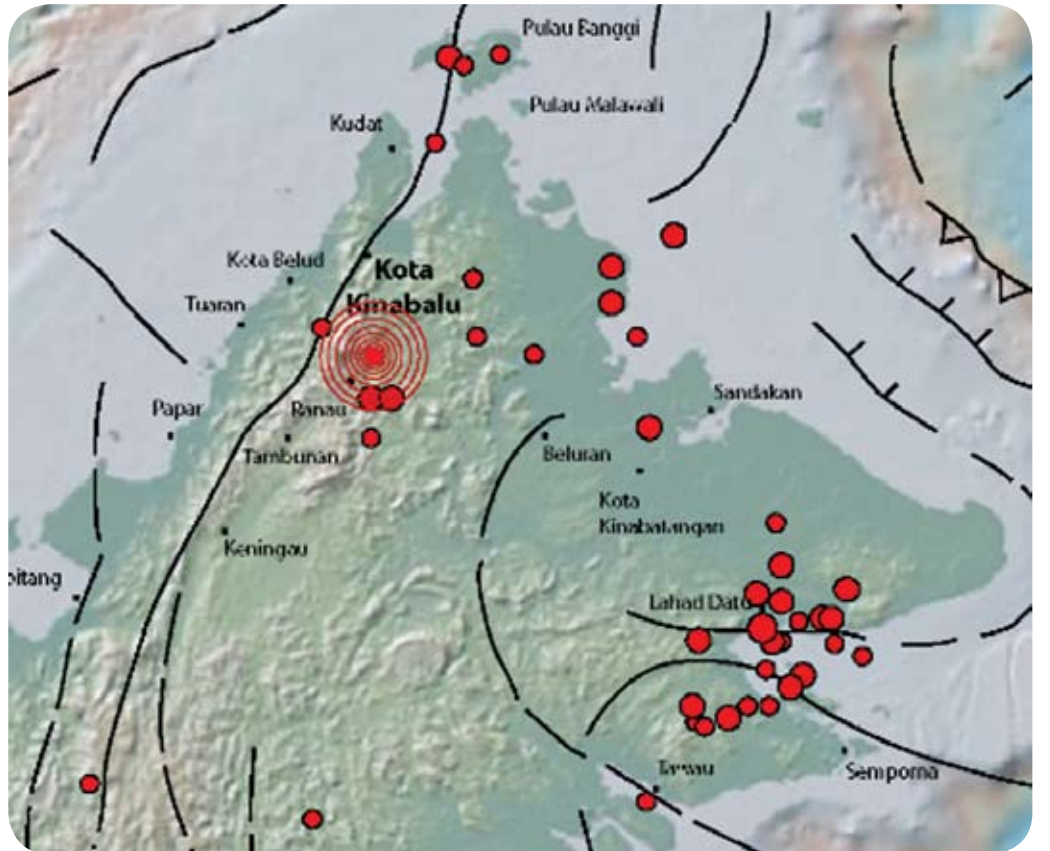
Seismic waves

In the event of an earthquake, accumulated strain energy is released as seismic waves that travel through the layers of the earth and away from the epicentre. Generally, there are two major types of seismic waves. Firstly, the fastest type of waves called Body waves (P and S waves) which travel through the interior of the earth and are first to arrive at a seismic station. Secondly, surface waves which travel along the earth's surface and are almost entirely responsible for the catastrophe associated with earthquakes.

Is there any relation between man-made activities to the quake?

Human activity that alter the stresses and strains on the earth's crust may produce few minor tremors. According to a report by the United States Geological Survey, induced seismicity due to human activity are a relatively new phenomenon. Some man-made activities that may cause tremors include construction of artificial reservoirs and lakes, underground disposal of waste liquids from oil and gas wells and mineral industry through subsurface injection, extensive mining, among others. All these activities can increase the stress along an existing fault line causing it to reactivate.

With the available technology and data compiled, can we predict when the next earthquake may strike in Sabah and Mount Kinabalu?



Seismologists and geologists, over the years, have been working towards designing a reliable technique to predict earthquakes. The closest that scientists got to forecasting quakes are statistical estimations using data of past and present earthquakes which, unfortunately, do not provide precise predictions. Previously, the first recorded earthquake in Ranau area was in 1966 with magnitude 5.3 on the Richter scale, another one in 1991 measuring 5.2 and the most recent quake measuring 6.0. Statistically, these three quakes occurred in 25 year intervals between each. Geologists and geomorphologists can provide information regarding tectonically stable/unstable zones and evidences of active fault lines and their relative movements. Based on these information, fault maps can be prepared and potential geohazard sites may be delineated. However, predicting the exact location and timing of fault rupture and quake magnitude is a difficult task. Nonetheless, the accurate prediction of the recent Nepal quake by scientists offer a glimmer of hope for quake prediction research.

Will the next round of earthquakes become more severe, exceeding 6 on the Richter scale?

As mentioned in the previous reply, precisely determining position, timing and quake magnitude is challenging and complicated. Nevertheless, Sabah has experienced more than 50 earthquakes since 1960, and statistically, the average magnitude is 4.0 in the seismicity scale.

Is it true that other areas in the peninsula, that is, Kuala Lumpur, Bukit Tinggi (Pahang) and Manjung (Perak) are also exposed to earthquake, as reported in the media?

Compressional forces due to the northward movement of the Australian plate and the Philippines plate moving westward mainly affects parts of Borneo. Peninsular Malaysia is generally a sheltered zone and although it has experienced tremors in the past, these are minor vibrations following strong earthquakes in neighbouring Indonesia.

Rejuvenated fault lines – Is it normal and what are the main causes?

A fault is a break in the earth's crust along which movement can take place resulting in an earthquake. Faults may be small and localised or can stretch thousands of miles. Faults are related to the movement of Earth's tectonic plates. Rocks on either side of the fault move past each other at rates which are too slow for us to notice. Sometimes, due to friction, the fault holds the rocks together in such a way that they do not move past each other. Subsequently, stress builds up until the rocks slip, suddenly causing a quake. This phenomenon is termed fault reactivation or rejuvenation of older faults. Depending on the underlying structural configuration, strain from the quake may disturb a number of neighbouring faults within the affected volume resulting in aftershocks.



• From the Editor's Desk
By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

PLAYING WITH FIGURES

Ipoh's annual chargeable rate, at 16.5 per cent of property value, is the second highest in the country. Only Kuching hovers over us at 24 per cent...

I have all along thought that assessment rates house and property owners pay at the beginning of the year are being determined by local authorities based on a number of factors. Prevailing property value being *numero uno* while location, affordability and economic situation being complementary. But you cannot simply raise the rates based on your better judgment, can you?

This seems to be the case with Ipoh City Council who has notified residents of Taman Cempaka and Taman Desa Cempaka that a hike in assessment rates is in the offing. Notices have been sent to nearly 10,000 households in both housing estates warning them of the new rates, which will take effect beginning July 1.

While the law is explicit about the rights of local authorities to raise taxes Ipoh City Council should not make an arbitrary decision without prior consultation with the affected parties. Granted that the last property valuation was made in 1980s and nothing has been done since, the suddenness of the whole exercise is baffling.

It could not have come at a worse time. The obnoxious Goods and Services Tax is barely three months old. Price of petrol has gone up by ten cents and the country is bracing for a possible economic backlash, which will impact Malaysians in no small way. We are already beginning to feel the effect of our shrinking ringgit, which is now traded at almost three ringgit to a Singapore dollar.

The country's economic fundamentals, although being touted as "heavenly" by Idris Jala, the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, are definitely not good. That is why our ringgit is nose-diving into the abyss. Conditions may be far worse than the 1990s financial crisis when many small businesses went belly up and the ringgit had to be pegged at RM3.80 to the American dollar. Not wanting to be a doomsayer, I can only speculate. It is like looking into the crystal ball – an opaque ball which does not tell me much.

Ipoh's annual chargeable rate, at 16.5 per cent of property value, is the second highest in the country. Only Kuching hovers over us at 24 per cent. Yet the apologists from among us believe that the rate is reasonable as a half point increment was only made last year. The 16.5 per cent is peanuts, they said implying that it was perfectly right for the Council to raise the annual rate as the increase was negligible.

I was in Taman Cempaka recently and met with the disgruntled residents. Their problem is real. They were literally up in arms and had pleaded with the Adun for Canning, Wong Kah Woh to help them untangle the mess. The proposed rates are not uniform as they are supposed to because the value of their properties has been marked up to reflect true market



value at this point in time.

Although the annual 16.5 percentage rate remains it makes little sense when divided with the estimated property value. One resident's house is valued at RM30960 when its current value is only RM2700. The poor chap now has to pay RM5108.40 compared to his current figure of RM445.50, an almost 12-fold increase. This is madness. Can't they count?

A provision is made in Local Government Act 1976 for those who dispute the proposed property value to challenge its validity; they have to write in personally to the Council within ten days upon receipt of the notice. Wong Kah Woh is

taking up the case with the Council.

In 2004 a proposed reduction of the annual chargeable rate from 16 to 10 percent was made, however properties were to be assessed at market value. This got shot down as it would mean an increase in assessment rates by between 20 to 30 percent. A similar scenario is being played out here. This time around annual rate remains at 16.5 percent but property value is to be estimated not at market value but the Council's better judgment. So you have people paying different rates for different categories of properties. This is daylight robbery.

In a written statement to the media, the mayor revealed that 16,409 notices were issued to property owners in Tanjong Rambutan, Taman Perpaduan, Tambun and Taman Cempaka. The revaluation exercise involved 19,193 households in 67 housing schemes and estates. The reasons given were varied, changes in land value and status being the major considerations. But it was silent on the timing and the need to re-evaluate. May be the Council is in dire need of funds to make Ipoh the most "livable city in the country". As a rate-payer, I am preparing myself for the worst.

Well, *bubur lambuk* is still being distributed free of charge. I shall soon join the queue.



EYE HEALTH – EYE STRAIN (Part 2)

In our continuing series on Eye Health, Consultant Ophthalmologist Dr S.S. GILL talks to us further about EYE STRAIN.



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

Eye Strain is again being addressed here due to popular demand. People have asked me to elaborate further and so here are some more details on how to reduce eye strain. Well, the key is to firstly be aware about what can precipitate eye strain. Seemingly innocent activities like the excessive usage of smartphones even though one may be having fun with playing games or surfing the internet, can result in eye strain because of the sheer number of hours of staring at the device.

Our eyes are in actual fact biologically not designed to stare at a computer screen or mobile device all day long. If we were out 'hunting' and 'gathering' as we were made out to be, our eyes would get their natural break from intensive close-range staring that many people do in today's modern age. All the staring at computers and smartphones for long hours at each time means "we are getting our eyes to do something they were not meant to do!" Unfortunately for our eyes, we do live in a world surrounded by gadgets that demand this kind of staring activity.

WOMEN

Interestingly, both men and women suffer from eye strain although women are reporting more eye problems associated with their screen time than men. This is possibly because women are more prone to dry eyes than men. It is not really known why women experience the dry-eye syndrome more than men do, but it has been linked to the fact that hormones do play a part in tear production. The hormonal changes that occur in peri-menopausal (just around the time when menopause begins) and of course menopause itself can explain why older women are more susceptible to dry eyes, which is contributing factor towards eye strain.

AVOID:

- Prolonged digital media use.
- Reading for long hours.
- Watching television for long periods.
- Driving long distances without breaks.
- Sewing and knitting for long hours.
- Poor lighting.
- Poor seating position in front of your PC monitor.



It is good to remember that our eyes are in their most relaxed state when looking into the distance. This is where the 20-20-20 rule is helpful when practised. For every 20 minutes of doing concentrated near-work, look 20 feet into distance for at least 20 seconds. This deliberate activity relaxes the ciliary muscles used for near accommodation, thus reducing eye stress. Remember to consciously take quick and regular breaks to relax your eyes whenever you are going to be working long hours on concentrated near-work. You can also shut your eyes for about 20 seconds every now and again (that is if your boss allows you!)

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

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Wild Children or Irresponsible Parents?

Most people would take their children to the park for some healthy exercise, but other parents seem to treat the shopping aisles and open spaces in shopping complexes as the playground for their children.

Screaming children and toddlers who run around, knocking into other people, do not contribute to a quiet shopping experience. Few people would dare to discipline these children, because the parents would be offended and start a slanging match with the complainer.

So, why do parents exercise poor control, when they go shopping with their children?

On June 15, it was reported, in the mainstream media, that the right hand of fifteen-month old Mohd Akfar Daniel Freedy was severed, when it was trapped in an escalator. His parents were shopping on the second floor of the complex, and the toddler had wandered off, unbeknownst to them.

The security guards heard the child's screams at the bottom of escalator, on the first floor, but rescue workers were unable to recover his hand, which was trapped in the mechanisms of the escalator. By the time, they retrieved his severed hand, it was too late for reattachment.

In April, a six-year-old girl, Nurhayada Sofia squeezed into the gap between the top of an escalator and the balcony wall. The moving escalator rail, carried her forwards, before she plunged five stories to her death. Her mother had been preoccupied by an argument with her father. He had phoned Nurhayada's mother to enquire as to their whereabouts, because they had gone shopping without telling him.

Both these incidents happened in a shopping complex, where plenty of people were milling around. It took the children mere seconds to escape from their parents, but the consequences of their parent's inattention, will last forever.

In 2007, 8-year-old Nurin Jazlin Jazimin asked her mother if she could go to a nearby night market to buy some hair accessories. Her mother assumed that Nurin would take her younger sister to walk the short distance to the pasar.

A person, or persons unknown, abducted Nurin and dumped her body in a sports holdall on the five-footway, outside a shop, a month later. She had been raped and an aubergine and cucumber stuffed into her rectum. Her killers are still free.

How can a parent ensure their child's safety, especially when they are shopping? Below are some common sense tips, to protect young children and teenagers.

- Tell your child not to talk to strangers, even if they offer sweets or a present.
- Tell your child that he must not go off with an adult, however nice they might be and even when they say they are friends of the child's parents.
- Tell your child that he should tell you about conversations with strangers.
- Tell them who to approach, if they are lost. They must only approach a policeman, a security guard, another adult with children or the person working in the shop.
- If possible, place your name and telephone number on a card which the child can carry at all times, or make the child memorise these details.
- You must always be vigilant and keep the children in your sight, at all times.
- Make sure you hold his hand all the time, or, put reins on your child, so that he has the freedom to move, but is tethered to you at all times.
- Ensure that if your child is out, he is with a responsible adult, who knows how to deal with children. Some adults do not realise that young children cannot gauge dangers.
- Make sure that the child knows where to go, if you become separated. A possible meeting point is the information desk, if the child is old enough to know how to go there.
- Make sure you dress your child in bright colours to make him stand out from the crowd. Some people attach a helium balloon to the child's hand, so that they can see the location of the child, if they get separated.
- If your child has to go to the toilet, make sure you accompany him. Do not let him go to the toilet on his own.
- Always hold onto your child's hand, if you are on an

escalator and steady them, especially when they are about to step on, or off, the escalator.

- Never allow your child to enter a lift, on his own



by Mariam Mokhtar



CHILD HEALTH

Dr Shan Narayanan

Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

Physical Abuse of Children

Physical abuse of children is defined as non-accidental trauma or physical injury caused by punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning or otherwise harming a child.

Physical abuse is the most visible form of child maltreatment. In many occasions physical abuse results from inappropriate or excessive physical discipline.

The abuser, who may be a caregiver or parent, insists that their actions are merely to make children learn to behave, that is, discipline. However, there is a big difference between using physical punishment to discipline and physical abuse. The point of disciplining children is to teach them right from wrong, not to make them live in fear.

In physical abuse, the following elements are present:

- Using fear to control behaviour.
Those who physically abuse believe their children need to fear them to behave.
- Unpredictability
Children do not know what is going to set off their parents/caregiver. There are no clear rules to follow.
- Lashing out in anger
Those who physically abuse lash out in anger and desire to control. The angrier the parent/caregiver, the more intense is the abuse.

The following are risk factors for child abuse including physical abuse:

- domestic violence
- alcohol and drug abuse by caregiver/parent
- parent/caregiver with mental illness
- lack of parenting skills
- parents/caregivers who lack support
- highly stressed parents/caregivers.

The warning signs of physical abuse are:

- Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises or cuts.
- Is always watchful and 'on alert', as if waiting for something bad to happen.
- Injuries appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt.
- Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home.
- Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries.

Signs and symptoms of physical abuse are as follows:

- Physical indicators that should raise suspicion for physical abuse include the following:
- Injury pattern inconsistent with the history provided.
- Multiple injuries/multiple types of injuries.
- Injuries at various stages of healing.
- Poor hygiene.
- Presence of injuries highly suggestive of abuse including loop marks; forced immersion burn pattern; and classic abusive head trauma findings of subdural hematoma, retina hemorrhage and skeletal injuries.

The child who is abused, requires medical care and/or surgical care depending on the injury. The Welfare Department is informed and a police report is made by the attending doctor. The health and welfare authorities work together to ensure safety of the child and look into ways to provide the families with support they may require. If there is evidence of foul play, the police will pursue legal action.

In my next article, I will focus on *Child Sexual Abuse* and preventing child abuse.

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



Bruises inflicted by a belt

MUSINGS ON IPOH FOOD

By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

Pics by VWSL



SeeFoon Goes *Halal* for Ramadan



Over the years of living in Ipoh, I have often heard of **Caterbest Restaurant** in Bercham as a shining example of Halal Chinese food but somehow it never made it to my list of 'to try' places. Recently however, a Muslim visitor was lamenting to me about the fact that while Ipoh is awash with great food, there are very few places to enjoy Halal Chinese/local dishes.

Which was what prompted me to visit Caterbest, very conveniently located on the main road of Bercham. The restaurant has two levels and the evening I was there, a party was happily breaking fast upstairs while down below, all the tables were full with families doing the same in air conditioned comfort.

Caterbest is one of those old fashioned restaurants that is fast disappearing in today's fast food or specialised restaurant scene. This is one place where you can drop in for a **Wat Dan Hor** (broad flat rice noodles cooked in a velvety soupy sauce with vegetables, chicken and floating bits of egg white) **RM6** for a medium portion; a **chicken chop** in a choice of mushroom or black pepper sauce **RM15**; a **lamb chop RM36** or a **New Zealand steak RM38**. Or if a full meal is on the cards, then there is a wide choice.



The evening I was there we had their **Curry Fish Head** which is listed as a House Specialty. The gravy was well blended, flavourful, mild with ladies fingers, *Tao Pok* (beancurd puffs) and curry leaves and the fish head pieces were very fresh. **RM18 small and RM36 large**. What I particularly loved was their **Kerabu Pucuk Paku**, blanched jungle fern served cold with a dressing of spicy *sambal belacan* paste with hints of coconut. **RM9 small; RM18 large**.

Their **Inchikabin Chicken** deserves mention,

well marinated chunks of chicken (I always ask for the drumstick or wing portions as I find the breast meat too dry) deep fried to a well done but still juicy tenderness and topped with good quality *keropok* or prawn crackers. **RM18 small and RM36 Large**. This was followed by their **Asam Prawns**, very fresh large sea prawns in a tangy tamarind sauce, laced with onions and spices. **RM20 small; RM40 large**. Other cooking styles for the prawns include Nestum or the Butter Prawns, the latter comes smothered in a nest of fine slivers of something (I have never discovered the chef's secret for this recipe which I suspect is milk powder) interlaced with curry leaves.

All in all Caterbest is a great restaurant for a reasonably priced meal. With prices having gone up the way they have, a meal here for 5 or 6 people need not cost more than RM100. And with good tasting and quality food to boot. And the best news is: they also cater. Hence the name!

Restoran Caterbest (Halal)

74 & 74A Jalan Bercham

Taman Seri Dermawan, 31400 Ipoh.

Tel: 05 547 8622. Wong Swee Kok 012 510 8022

Business Hours: 11am-3pm; 6pm-11pm

Nosh News



Pt Grande

Tucked away amidst the many boutiques in Ipoh Garden South is a cafe that specialises in pasta, tea and desserts called **Pt Grande**. 'Pt' stands for 'Pasta & Taste Sensation'. On the day the Ipoh Echo foodies went, their set lunch was sandwich, pasta or grilled chicken, with soup of the day which happened to be broccoli. Prices ranging from RM21.80 to RM25.80.

Try their pasta, Al Pesto, Seafood with White Wine and Squid Ink, to name but a few. The Al Pesto came with a sprinkling of pine nuts and the Squid Ink was not only al dente but also very flavourful. All for RM19.90 to RM25.90.

The menu is sectioned into: Risottos, Pan Grills, Appetizers and Desserts. Also try the Mushroom Risotto, which was nice and creamy, Grilled Salmon and Grilled Chicken, both came with a pattie of broccoli and sweet potato. For dessert, there is creme brulee and a variety of cakes like the Red Velvet Cheesecake, the double chocolate and others.

Pt Grande is at 37 Lorong Taman Ipoh 2, Taman Ipoh Selatan, 31400 Ipoh, and opens from 11.30am to 2.30pm, and 6pm to 8.30pm, and closes on Tuesdays. Tel.: 05 545 4688.

VWSL



7Sky Cafe



Fans of *halal* fusion and western food in Ipoh have a new place to discover. 7Sky Cafe at Mydin Meru Ipoh is serving homemade meals made by the chef himself. Located next to the bowling arcade, customers can sample a variety of set menus with some individual items as low as RM2.50.

The cafe's signature SevenSky Club sandwich (RM12.90) is a combination of homemade wholemeal bread, eggs, beef, salad, tomatoes and a side of French fries. Another crowd favourite is the home-made meatballs with coffee sauce, good at RM8.

Head chef, Fauzi Norizman is no stranger in the food & beverage industry. His experience working at hotels and restaurants previously has helped him and his team prepare food that tastes as good as it

looks.

"I have always loved the food industry. Seeing people enjoying my cooking is my pleasure," said the young chef.

For pasta lovers, there are four different types of spaghetti to try; Meatball, Bolognese, Carbonara and Aglio Olio, starting from RM10.90-RM12.90.

Exclusively during Ramadan, customers are welcome to try the menu sets; Chicken



Chop (RM20.90), Lamb Chop (RM25.90), Chicken Chop & Butter Rice (RM22.90), Salmon Grill (RM28.90) and Spaghetti Bolognese (RM20.90). All sets will come with Chicken Vol-Au-Vent (Appetizer), Chocolate Brownies with Ice Cream and Caramel sauce for dessert and a glass of drink-of-the-day.

7Sky Cafe is open everyday from 10am-10pm. Visit the humble cafe at 2nd floor, Mydin Wholesale Hyper, PT229142, Jalan Meru Bestari 2, Bandar Meru Raya, 30020 Ipoh. For bookings and reservation, call John 017 290 9995 or Mrs Ina 017 485 4498.

Ili Aqilah

Community

A Fitting Hari Raya Gift

“Thank you, Doctor. I never thought I’d be able to see again.” Those were the words of gratitude uttered by Rukiah Shahbudin, 62, who had thought that her hopes of seeing again were gone. Rukiah Shahbudin, or more fondly known as Kak Kiah, is one of the lucky few who obtained free medical treatment thanks to Dr S.S. Gill from Hospital Fatimah, Ipoh.

Consultant Eye Surgeon, Dr S.S. Gill said that he initially feared the poor lady would never see again as her condition was serious. “Both of her eyes are blinded. After an initial check-up, I noticed that the combination of hypermature cataract and glaucoma were the reasons behind her affected sight,” he reasoned.

Cataract, according to Dr Gill, is the blurring of the crystalline lens which happens naturally. Cataract is the layer which obstructs the flow of light through the eye lens while glaucoma is the progressive damage of the optic nerves.

Glaucoma is known as “the silent thief of sight”, which impacts the optic nerves, the “main cable” which carries visual information from the eyes to the brain. A patient would lose his or her sight gradually over a period of time.

“Both of these conditions happened simultaneously and as such, treatment would be more difficult and complicated. The success rate of the surgery is unpredictable,” he added.

Kak Kiah is classified in the group of people with physical disabilities. She hails from Kampung Batu Satu, Malim Nawar. The loss of her eyesight, two years ago, resulted in her being shunned by her relatives who had come to consider her a burden.

“At that time, only my relatives and neighbours provided the encouragement for me to live on. I accepted my fate because everything is being determined by God. If possible, I don’t want to live in a welfare home. But what am I to do when my own siblings won’t accept me in my state.”

“I don’t expect to regain full vision after the surgery. I am very grateful even if it’s just one eye. There’s nothing else I could say except to thank Dr Gill and Hospital Fatimah for their generosity.”

Kak Kiah underwent a series of check-ups. The first was done on March 26. A month later she

was admitted into the ward for three days two nights from Tuesday, April 28 to Friday, May 1 to undergo surgery.

According to Dr Gill, both of her eyes were in critical state as the cataract was so hard and thick. It prevented light from reaching the back of the eyes. “The chance of success was only 50-50.

What I could do was to try my best along with ENT Resident Consultant Surgeon, Dr Loh Seck Poh, also from Hospital Fatimah.”

“The surgery time to remove the cataract from her right eye doubled from the usual. We took 15-20 minutes. However, we did not feel the strain as we did it with diligence and patience in order to help Kak Kiah see again,” he said.

On Thursday, April 30, Kak Kiah’s anxiety ended when her eye bandages were finally removed. Seeing the lady smile moved Dr Gill no end.

“While removing her bandages, I could only leave it to God. Like I have mentioned previously, her hope was little. But when she looked and smiled at me, I knew she was seeing again. This is a perfect Hari Raya gift for Kak Kiah. Her wish to meet with her family members would come through.”

“As a doctor, satisfaction comes from seeing our patients recover. This is the most precious gift in my career. On behalf of Hospital Fatimah, I’d like to thank Ipoh Echo’s editor, Fathol Zaman Bukhari and reporter, Rosli Mansor for their efforts in highlighting the lady’s plight and bringing her to me. We always assist the poor and the needy, as we empathise with their fate. They should be given a chance to be happy in this short life,” Dr Gill reasoned.

A check with Ahmad Sukri Abdul Samad, the Senior Supervisor of Rumah Kenangan Taiping, a welfare home in Taiping, revealed that Kak Kiah is back to her joyous self but misses her kampung a lot.

“We’ll do our best to grant her wish of celebrating Hari Raya at her kampung. She wants to have a look at her little house, which she left two years ago,” said the supervisor.

RM



Breaking Fast with the Needy

Sixty six children from Nurul Iman and Nurul Huda welfare homes were invited to a breaking-of-fast dinner at Impiana Hotel, Ipoh on Thursday, June 18. The hotel organised this benevolent event on the first day of Ramadan under its Corporate Social Responsibility programme for the community. Most of these unfortunate children are either orphaned or abandoned. Some have even been abused.

In between meals, Kelab Media Perak, gave away goodie bags and freebies to the children making it a memorable and eventful occasion for the young guests.

“We hope the gifts will help lessen the hardship these poor kids endure during the auspicious month of Ramadan. We’ve been doing this for years now and will continue to do so,” said Was Asrudi Wan Hasan, president of the media club.

UMNO Tambun deputy chief, Dato’ Azizul Kama Abd Aziz, officiated at the event and congratulated Impiana Hotel for its goodwill. The hotel had earlier distributed some 2000 packets of *bubur lambuk* (porridge) to the public.

During the dinner, Peter Padman, the general manager of Impiana Hotel, launched the ‘Sabah Earthquake Relief Fund’. The fund is to help the families of those who had lost their lives and properties in the recent earthquakes that shook Mount Kinabalu. Eighteen, mostly mountaineers, perished in the tragedy which struck the Ranau region on the morning of Friday, June 5.

Ili Aqilah



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10. Barbeza, Bandar Baru Medan Ipoh. Tel: 012-5205877
11. Impiana Hotel Ipoh, Jln Raja Dr Nazrin Shah. Tel: 05-2555555
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13. D'Eastern Hotel, Jln Sultan Idris Shah. Tel: 05-2543936
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15. Meru Valley Golf Club members' desk
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17. Sunway College Ipoh, Psrn SCI 2/2, Sunway City Ipoh. Tel: 05-5454398
18. Break the Code, Greentown Business Centre. Tel: 05-2420484
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21. Ibis Styles Ipoh, 18 Jln Chung On Siew. Tel: 05-2406888
22. Daybreak, Lot 75242 Jalan Pulai, RPT Pengkalan Pegoh. Tel: 05-3235908/09
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Community

Media Representatives Feted

Ipoh-based TAJ International College treated some 40 media representatives to dinner at Restoran Simpang Tiga, Greentown recently.

There to host the event were Dato' Sri Haji Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture who was on a working visit to Perak and Puan Tina Dato' Sri Haji Tajuddin, Chief Executive Officer of TAJ College, academicians and college officials.

The objective of the get-together was a show of appreciation to the media for their coverage of the college throughout the year. It was also to foster closer ties with the local news agencies.

Bearing the theme, 'TIC Media Friends' the gathering provided an opportunity for attendees to get to know one another better. They all had a great time while enjoying authentic Minang food.

Nantini



Recycling Programme in Jelapang

Ipoh City Watch, Rukun Tetangga Jelapang and the Perak Solid Waste Management and Public Cleanliness Corporation (SWCorp), jointly organised a composting cum recycling programme recently at Jelapang Tambahan, Ipoh.

The programme was aimed at teaching residents, ways to turn organic waste into fertiliser and to salvage recyclables from garbage. The ultimate aim is to create a caring society that keeps the environment clean through garbage separation and recycling.

The programme was in line with ICW's vision of making Ipoh the most liveable city in Malaysia. President of ICW, Professor Dr Richard Ng, together with its members, used the three "E" approach namely, Engage, Explain and Educate to help turn Ipoh City into a clean city once more.

The home-waste composting project was to encourage

residents to convert their leftover food, either during preparation or after eating, into compost that can be used as fertiliser for their gardens. Besides composting residents were also taught to separate their garbage so they can be reused.

The objective, according to Victor Chew, Secretary of ICW, was to encourage residents to keep their environment clean and safe.

"Members are recruited from the local community and would be given training to conduct activities related to the issue," said Victor.

The recycling programme in Jelapang Tambahan involved 250 houses. It had successfully recovered 1670.8kg of recyclables, which included plastic (236kg), metal (782.8kg) and paper (652kg). A total of 1670.8kg of solid waste was salvaged from the village dumpsite.

Nantini

VACANCIES

A Training & Development Co. is looking for individuals to man its new Centre in Ipoh.

1. A Centre Manager.
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2. Facilitators for the Mathematics & English Reading Programmes.
3. A full-time cleaner, preferably a female under 50 yrs. of age.
4. A security guard (part-time)

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Ipoh Watch

Solid Waste Management in Perak

Ipoh was declared a city on May 27, 1988 with the Ipoh City Council or Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI) headed by a 'Datuk Bandar' or mayor administering an area size of 643 sq km and a population of about 720,000 people. It is divided into 23 zones each headed by an appointed councillor and assisted by two officers from MBI, who are normally residents of the zones. With the slogan 'Ipoh Bersih Hijau dan Membangun' it strives to make Ipoh a liveable city.

In April 2014, Ipoh was ranked by the US News as one of the nine best places to retire in the world. It declared Ipoh as the world's third most affordable city after Vietnam and Thailand.

However, many Ipohites are also unhappy with the services rendered by MBI, especially those related to garbage, uncut grass and unclean drains. Residents fear the spread of dengue, as a result. Many have voiced their complaints through MBI's hotline and Whatsapp while some brought their predicament to their respective councillors and the media.

Mayor Dato' Harun Rawi recently announced that Ipoh City Council had received 6310 complaints from the public on various issues for the first quarter of this year. Of this 1263 complaints were on illegal dumpsites, farm wastes and dirty drains. The mayor too announced that 5179 or 82.4% of the complaints had been acted upon. On behalf of Ipoh City Watch, I wish to congratulate the mayor and MBI for having achieved their Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of minimum 80% set.

However, we are not sure if the 1629 illegal dumpsites identified at end 2014 have been reduced. This is not to say MBI has not taken action. Some of the problems lie with the perpetrators. MBI should also look into its KPI for enforcement to ensure that the perpetrators are caught and punished to deter others from doing the same.

Having a fixed schedule for garbage collection will help reduce the illegal dumpsites. The Council should also provide garbage bins to residents or enforce a ruling to have residents and business premises to provide their own. Rating by MBI and the health department on eateries should consider garbage disposal and separation of solid waste as criteria.

According to Solid Waste Corporation, each resident generates about 0.7kg solid waste per day. Thus the amount of solid waste generated by the 720,000 Ipohites is about

504,000kg. Based on the recycle rate of about 10%, about 453,600kg x 30 or 13,608 tonnes of solid waste produced each month will end up at illegal dumpsites or the only landfill in Ulu Johan.

Managing the disposal of solid waste by MBI is no easy task, as it involves technical, financial, institutional, economic and social constraints. Thus it is not surprising to see that the number illegal dumpsites will continue to rise until and unless the solid waste is managed properly and people start to change their perception on garbage separation and recycling.

Privatisation of solid waste looks imminent in Perak, one of the two states in the Northern region besides Penang, which has not accepted the terms

and conditions stipulated in the agreement to have E-Idaman, the concession company appointed to manage solid waste in Perak. The concessionaire will be monitored by Perak SWCorp pursuant to the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 (Act 672) which was gazetted on August 30, 2007 and enforced on September 1, 2011.

Under the agreement, E-Idaman will take over the solid waste management responsibility from all 15 local councils in Perak. It includes the collection and disposal of garbage, grass cutting, cleaning of drains and providing garbage bins to all residents.

As President of Ipoh City Watch, I am urging the state government to hasten the negotiation process so that Ipohites and Perakeans can enjoy a cleaner and efficient disposal of solid waste.

I visited Langkawi two months ago to see how E-Idaman keeps the island clean. It was so different. I could hardly find any illegal dumpsites. Garbage bins were seen almost every 50m in the town centre. Local councils in Perak can continue playing other roles more effectively developing each area, reduce crime, improve transportation and business opportunity and increase employment rate. These are variables that make Melbourne the most liveable city in the world and Ipoh can achieve that status too in years to come.

Ipoh City Watch is developing a community recycling model involving 250 houses in Jelapang Tambahan with the cooperation of Rukun Tetangga Jelapang and assisted by Perak SWCorp. The project, which began in April, has produced very encouraging results. Some 1376kg or 12.3% garbage has been salvaged from landfill and illegal dumpsites within a period of nine weeks. The success of this model will be shared with other communities so that by 2020 we can help recycle at least 22% of the garbage nationwide.

Dr Richard Ng

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.

Proposal to MBI Regarding Strays

In and around Ipoh there are many independent animal rescuers taking care of stray cats and dogs. They are trapping, treating, feeding and most importantly they are neutering them to stop the breeding process. These stray animals are then managed by the community feeders and they become community strays.

With dogs especially we find that complaints to MBI often result in the dogs being caught and taken elsewhere. In their effort to catch the nuisance dog the 'managed dog' gets caught too.

Noah's Ark Ipoh Animal welfare practices TNR (trap/neuter/Release) and has been doing this since 2005. Neutered dogs are normally docile so they are easily caught. If MBI catches these managed dogs it defeats the purpose of our NGO's continuous and difficult task to raise funds specifically for TNR. Noah's Ark has come up with the idea that neutered dogs can be identified with a standard green fluorescent dog collar.

A proposal to MBI counsel secretary Tuan Mohd Zakuan Zakaria has been made asking him to refrain from catching these 'managed' dogs. These collared dogs are easily seen from a distance.

Noah's Ark Ipoh Animal Welfare

To contact Noah's Ark, call: Malika Ramiah Oates 017 575 1556 or Dr Ranjit Mendhir Kaur 019 556 8292.



Inculcating a Reading Culture

The month of July has been declared a reading month. Those with a penchant for reading look forward enthusiastically to acquire more reading materials to enhance their knowledge.

Reading is an enriching exercise for both mind and heart. The fundamental value of reading is to satisfy intellectual and spiritual demands while enhancing cultural awareness. Reading causes thinking and the thinking process begins with ideas says Francis Darek.

Horace Mann wrote "A house without books is like a house without windows." Books open various windows of the mind and provides us with new insights. Each book takes us on a journey exploring new ideas, realities and solutions to problems encountered.

Parents should play a model role in inculcating good reading habits. The sparks of curiosity ignited at a tender age will blossom into a life long passion for reading and quest for knowledge. By cultivating the reading habit, one can acquire knowledge and increase one's self esteem while enjoying the pleasure of language. The lack of a reading habit suggests poverty of thought and culture.

It is interesting to note that in terms of reading, Malaysia ranked 58 out of 64 countries. In comparison Singapore ranked third.

The reading habit must be inculcated by example and not programmes. It should be adopted organically not mechanically. It is a form of culture and art; not science. Reading should not be portrayed as something mundane, boring or a waste of time. Aside from parents, schools too have an obligation to develop reading habits and build a concrete reading culture among students. The school curriculum must be designed and shaped towards good reading habits.

The time is ripe for changes and mindset. The current invasion and implementation of our Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025 must emphasise effective reading skills. We cannot change the people around us, but we can change the people that we choose to be around. We need a society with a thirst for knowledge.

"The hearts of men are their books. Events are their tutors. Great actions are their eloquence" says Thomas Macaulay. Our minds are like a garden (BOOKS). Our thoughts are our seeds (READING MATERIALS). To reap a good fruitful harvest (KNOWLEDGE) reading is essential. Books are a more reliable source of information. Reading can take place anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances.

R. James Ratnam
Educationist and Social Activist
President Love and Welfare Society Kinta

Ramadhan & Festival

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All images used are for illustrative purposes only



iSpeak
A. Jeyaraj

Parking Fee Hike of 100%

I have been parking my car in the basement car park in Greentown Business Centre for the past few years. The entrance is along Persiaran Greentown 4 and is operated by Greentown Parking Sdn Bhd. The hourly parking fee was RM1 for first and subsequent hours and RM4 for parking for the whole day.

From July 1 the new rates are RM2 for the first hour and RM1 for subsequent hours up to a maximum of RM6 for parking for the whole day. When customers who park their cars daily enquired of the hike, the reply was, "People who park here are rich and can afford it." There is no justification for a 100 per cent increase for first hour and 50 per cent increase for the whole day. There has been no change in the infrastructure. Probably the workers must be earning the minimum wage. If the management has to pay GST, then the hike must be 6 per cent and a receipt must be issued reflecting cost of GST. The management has responsibility to justify the reason for the hefty hike.

In fact over the years the fee must be reduced because the Management would have paid up their capital expenditure and now they have to bear operational costs only. In spite of the price hike, motorists' still park at their own risk, meaning no additional security is provided.

Frequently I read in the papers about enforcement officers fining owners of businesses who have unduly increased their prices. Who is responsible to check and fine people who raise parking fees indiscriminately?

There are many other premises, like hotels and empty parking lots in the city where the fees may have been raised. I request readers to come forward and write to Ipoh Echo of other places that have hiked prices.

If the hikes in other places are known, we can compile a list and write to the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operative and Consumerism and Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (FOMCA) to take action. If the public have 'tidak apa' attitude and willing to pay, then nothing can be done.



While writing this I am also thinking why the price of food in roadside stalls and restaurants have also been upped indiscriminately. I wonder why consumer associations are not taking any action.

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Property

The Haven Bintan Resort

Multi-award regional developer, The Haven Sdn Bhd unveiled plans for an outstanding yet environmentally-friendly development following its success here in Ipoh. The new project named, The Haven Bintan Resort was made public on Saturday, June 27 at Bintan, Indonesia.

This upcoming development, consisting of a hotel, a convention centre, condotels, villas, shops and retail outlets, will see the rise of eight of the tallest, largest and most exclusive towers in the entire Riau Islands Province. It will face the South China Sea where eight countries form the periphery and eight mighty rivers flow into it.



“We bring a concept that not only enables visitors to relax within a beautiful, calm, exclusive and pristine location but also a chance to invest and yield multi-fold returns from their investments in the years to come.

“The Haven Bintan makes it ideal as a second home for people from not only Singapore and Indonesia, but from the rest of Asia and the Middle-East as well,” said Peter Chan, CEO of The Haven.

The design of The Haven, in Bintan, crafted by DP Architects, is designed to be iconic and offers 360 degree view of the surroundings – the most breathtaking vista in this region.

In the past year, The Haven Ipoh has garnered international acclaims such as Asian’s Best Resort Residence and World Luxury Hotel awards. The Haven Brand distinguishes itself in luxury and in its catering to all, both young and old and to all three generations – children, parents and grandparents.

For more information on The Haven Bintan, visit The Haven website at www.thehavenresorts.com or email them: mgt@thehaven.com.my or call 605 546 6666.

Community

Help for Nepal Quake Victims

Quoting Anne Frank, ‘No one has ever become poor by giving’, Meru Valley Resort Bhd (MVRB) together with Kinta Properties Holdings Sdn Bhd (KPH) donated RM10,000 each to help the struggling Nepalese who suffered from the earthquake that hit Nepal on April 25.

The tragedy has destroyed a major part of Kathmandu, where it took more than 4000 lives and left many homeless. This devastating earthquake has raised concern around the world, and donations has been sent through various channels. One of these, Soroptimist International Ipoh (SI Ipoh), a service organisation focussed on empowerment for women and children, has taken the initiative to raise funds to help the affected victims.

The mock-cheque ceremony was held at MRVB function hall on June 17, where Ms Chong Wai Lin (KPH representative) and Ms Florence Foo (MRVB representative) each handed over a RM10,000 cheque to SI Ipoh president, Jean Chai and immediate past President Lanka Sinniah.

“We were delighted to receive such donations from corporations like KPH and MRVB. All donations made through SI will be 100% utilised for the victims of the Nepal Earthquake without administrative costs as all the helpers are volunteers,” said Jean Chai.

MRVB’s staff and SI Ipoh committee members were also at the event showing support for the good deed after which they were treated to a delicious buffet lunch courtesy of MVRB.



Ili Aqilah

Ramadan Round-up

Ili Aqilah

Some Ramadan Bazaars to Explore

Call it Pasar, Bazar or PaRam, Pasar Ramadhan is one of the best things about the holy fasting month. Assorted Malay kueh, Cendol, ABC and Mixed Rice are several items you can find at the bazaar. Ipoh Echo had a chance to visit several.

Stadium

One of the biggest bazaars in Ipoh is located at Stadium Indera Mulia’s parking lot. With more than 50 stalls with various types of dishes, you will have a hard time deciding what to get. The star of this bazaar? Azhafiz Enterprise that sells fresh soya bean drinks and juices. Instead of adding ice that could water down the taste, they opted for a new approach. What sets this stall apart from any other is that the juices are frozen first in a stainless steel container before being sold to customers.

Pasar Ramadhan Stadium Indera Mulia (starts at 4pm), Persiaran Bulan, 31400 Ipoh.



Manjoi

Spring Rolls, or Popiah is one of the favourite local savoury dishes. Many sell their own version and interpretation of Popiah but not all are guaranteed to taste good. At Pasar Ramadhan Manjoi, SM Nur’s popiah is one of the crowd’s favourites. Working from his motorcycle, customers will start queuing as soon as he parks his customised vehicle, all wanting to be the first to buy his popiah.

Pasar Ramadhan Manjoi starts at 3pm and is located along Jalan Alang Ishak and Jalan Sri Tanjung at Kg Sungai Tapah Seberang.



Taman Jati

The famous Pasar Ramadhan at Taman Jati is known for selling cooked meals, fresh fruits, firecrackers and its signature stall, Pak Iqbal’s Cendol (coconut milk with sweet palm sugar and small greenish bites made from rice flour and pandan leaf). Pak Iqbal and his wife have been selling their famous cendol for more than 5 years and show no signs of stopping. During non-fasting months, you can find him almost everyday outside Taman Meru’s mosque, selling a variety of cendol such as red bean cendol, glutinous rice cendol and many more.

Pasar Ramadhan Taman Jati, (Starts at 4pm) Jalan jati, Taman Jati, 30020 Ipoh.

Medan Silibin

If we could guess what the crowd’s favourite is at Pasar Ramadhan Silibin, it has got to be *Ayam Percik* (grilled marinated chicken with spices and coconut milk) and *Ayam Golek* (grilled chicken)! There are more than 10 stalls selling Ayam Golek and Percik and they are usually packed with customers who don’t mind waiting for the chicken to be cooked to perfection. Besides chickens, the bazaar also sells satay, mixed rice and Malay kueh.

Pasar Ramadhan Silibin (Starts at 4pm) Jalan Silibin, Taman Alkaff, 30100 Ipoh.



Book Review

A Doc's Life

50 Years of Medical Memories

Dr Teoh Seng Kee has spent five decades in the medical profession. Teoh was educated at Penang Free School, Penang. In 1965 he was awarded a Colombo Plan scholarship to do medicine at the Grant Medical College, Bombay, India.

After graduation in 1970, Teoh returned and served in Penang and Perlis. He did his postgraduate training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at University Hospital Kuala Lumpur. In 1979 he resigned as a lecturer and became a private consultant in Ipoh.

His professional experiences were not limited to the labour room alone, as he got himself involved in medico-social problems, health campaigns, environmental and consumer issues. While at University Hospital Kuala Lumpur he participated actively in the Malaysian Medical Association and the O & G Society, organising clinical meetings, conferences and was on the Ministry of Health joint committees.

'A Doc's Life' is a recollection of Teoh's professional experiences told in his down-to-earth manner with anecdotes gleaned from his work in the clinics. Most are laced with humour, which readers could easily relate to whether they are medically-inclined or not.

Here are some of the accolades he received from his colleagues from the medical fraternity:

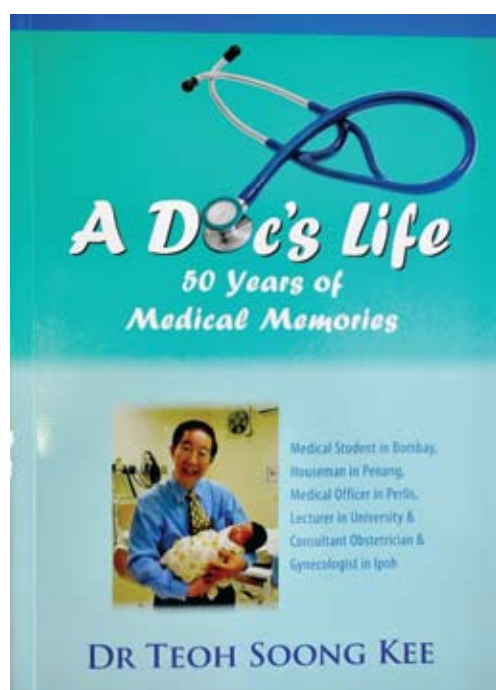
"Dr Teoh has been more than a good doctor as he forayed beyond the frontiers of medicine into the broader world of life as it impacted health. SK has led a long meaningful life for the community as a good doctor and a good citizen." – Dato' Seri Dr T.P. Devaraj (former President Malaysian Medical Association).

"He is a wonderful teacher, teaching us how to face life in difficult times, with courage, humility and humour. SK, you are my friend, brother and a teacher for life." – Dato' Dr Fadzli Cheah, Medical Director, Ipoh Specialist Hospital.

"As you have a great writing style and a good story teller, we look forward to receive the story of your professional life (with juicy stories of babies/women issues)." – Dr Tan Yew Oo, Consultant Oncologist, Singapore.

'A Doc's Life' is presently available at Dr Teoh's clinic at Ipoh Specialist Hospital, Ipoh. It will be sold at major bookstores soon. Those keen on getting a copy can call Teoh at **012 530 1515** or email him at: teohskee@hotmail.com. The 130-page softcover is priced at RM15 a copy. Proceeds will be donated to charity.

Ed



Performing arts stalwart chosen for prestigious US fellowship

The producer and director of a successful local musical "Shiny Black Gold", Datin Rosalina Ooi-Thong (pic), has been selected to participate in this year's New Leadership Fellows Programme of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) in the United States.

She is the only foreigner selected for the prestigious programme. The rest of the 25 participants of the Washington, DC-based APAP are Americans, who have wide experience in the performing arts as well as leading various educational programmes.

Ooi-Thong, who is the president of the Perak Society of Performing Arts, is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dance, London, and University of Durham.

She has dedicated her life to the teaching, development and promotion of performing arts in Malaysia.

Her 2011's "Shiny Black Gold" which portrayed the life and hardship of the pioneer tin mining community in Malaysia had even driven some members of the audience to tears.

"I am greatly surprised for being chosen to participate in the APAP's programme," she said before leaving for Los Angeles.

"It will give me a great opportunity to gain a lot of experience and meet the fellow presenters."

She is attending a five-day summer intensive programme at the University of Southern California beginning Saturday. It will be followed by ongoing peer-based mentoring annual gatherings at the APAP/NYC conference in New York City.

The participants will then continuously engage in an online resource and discussion platform.

"This programme is not simply for those who want to do their job better – though that is an inevitable result – but for those who seek to transform the world through their work as an arts leader," said Mario Garcia Durham, president and CEO of APAP, in a press statement.

The APAP, which has 1,500 members worldwide, has for more than 50 years committed to leadership development in the changing ecology of the performing arts industry, providing avenues for members to expand and strengthen their leadership skills. – June 5, 2015.

Jerry Francis

— Malaysian Insider

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/citynews/ipoh/article/performing-arts-stalwart-chosen-for-prestigious-us-fellowship#sthash.UX6HKIRk.dpbs>



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.

Blood Donation: A Gift of Life, Saturday **July 4**, 9am-12pm at Main Lobby, Hospital Fatimah, Ipoh.

Move On 2015 Charity Night – 'A light of love, a beam of life' organised by Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman's Community Service Society (UTAR-CSS), Saturday **July 4**, 7pm-11pm at Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik. The aim of this night is to raise funds for the Yayasan Dialysis Pendidikan Akhlak Perak, a non-profit organisation that offers palliative care to patients suffering from kidney diseases. The society also aims to donate at least two dialysis machines to the Moral Uplifting Dialysis Centre. Incorporates the elements of singing, dancing and acting. Ticket entrance is RM18 per person. For more information, email moveon.utar@gmail.com or contact: Mr Tan Jia Bin **017 465 3219** or Ms Wong Jing Xiang: **016 341 3211**.

Healthy Meditation, **July 4**, 2pm to 3pm. An 83-year-old healthy Chi En practitioner will share knowledge on her method. Free of Charge. Conducted in Cantonese only.

2) Wu Hoa 8 Style Taiji Class, Saturday **July 4**, 3.30pm to 5pm. One free Wu Hao 8 style Taiji class. Conducted in English only. Limited space. First come first served. Venue: Xpand Me, 20A Tingkat Tamam 11, Taman Ipoh Selatan, 31400 Ipoh. Those interested please sms name and no. of persons attending to Leong **016 526 8128**.

Violence Against Women and Women's Rights, talk organised by Perak Women for Women Society (PWW) on Saturday, **July 4** at 409, 6 pm to 7.30 pm at Lorong Anandoo, Buntong, Ipoh (behind Buntong Market). Refreshments will be provided. Call PWW at **05 546 9715** to register.

World Milal Choir, Tuesday **July 7**, 12.30pm to 2pm at Wesley Methodist Church Ipoh, 121 Jalan Lahat, Ipoh. The group consists of about 20 musicians and 80 singers. Free admission.

Public Forum: Advances in Arthroplasty Surgery by Dr Cheong Min Lee, Consultant Orthopaedic & Trauma Surgeon, Saturday **July 11**, 2pm at Conference Room, 4th Floor, Hospital Fatimah, Ipoh. Entrance is free. For more information, call: **05 545 5777 ext. 276**.

Incitement Ipoh is having their 4th event on July 11 at the Sepaloh Art Centre, starting from 7.30pm onwards. The theme of the event is 'Authentic Self' and will feature renowned speakers such as Alexandra Wong, Cheah Kar Fei and Adrien Fu. For more information of Incitement Ipoh, check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/incitementipoh.

Pertubuhan Sri Dayananda Saraswati, Ipoh is organizing a weekend camp on (Saturday & Sunday) **July 11 & 12**, 9.30 am-8.45pm at 33 Jalan Mohanlal, Lim Garden, Ipoh. All are welcome to take this opportunity to understand 'The Way and View of Life'. For further information contact: Eswari **012 576 7877** or Shanthi **012 683 1173**.

SMK Methodist (ACS) Ipoh will be celebrating its 120th anniversary with two events, a Festival Of Performing Arts and a Food & Fun Fair from the **July 24 to 26**, themed "Bringing, People, Food, Arts and Culture Together". To raise funds to provide a monthly stipend for poor students and to maintain and conserve the school's historical main building. Includes black box performances such as a 3-man reggae band, Latin dancing and workshops on stand up comedy and improvisation on stage. The highlight is a show choir performance featuring several Ipoh based soloists such as Marianne Poh. Tickets are priced at RM10 a book while tickets for the Festival of Performing Arts are priced at RM30, RM60 & RM100. For further enquiries or bookings, contact Yee Kei at **012 288 3137** after 2pm or Ms Jayanthi at **012 211 0690**.

Pet Fiesta, August 1 & 2 at PHL Convention Centre, Menglembu, Ipoh. Malaysia's largest Pet Expo! Contact: **03 7832 3931**, Website: www.petfiesta.com.my. Facebook: [mypetfiesta](https://www.facebook.com/mypetfiesta).

YMCA of Ipoh Toastmasters Club Mission provides a supporting and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth. The group meets every **2nd & 4th Wednesday** at 7.45pm at 211 Jalan Raja Musa Aziz (Anderson Road), 30300 Ipoh. Contacts: Ramesh Victor 016 566 2866, May Foo **017 466 0943** or Nur Aida **013 346 9490**.

Performances of Traditional Songs and Dance every Friday every week from March 25 at 8.00pm (except fasting month). Held at Kompleks Jabatan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Negeri Perak, Jalan Caldwell, Off Jalan Raja DiHilir, Ipoh. Come and experience dances like Dikir Fusion, Nego (Kelantan), Joget Kete Lembu, Tangtung, Kollatum, Joget Malaysia and traditional music. Free admission. For enquiries, contact: Puan Nor Fairus Binti Alias **018 958 9049**.

The Dementia Day-care Centre is open daily from 9am till 3pm. The centre also holds support group meetings every **2nd Saturday and Monday of each month**. All carers who have love ones with dementia and others are welcome to attend. These are sharing sessions. For more details kindly call April at **05 241 1691** before 3pm.

Lest We Forget



Introduction

Often we forget the things we should remember and remember the things we should forget. War memorial stands as a lasting testament committed to reminding citizens about those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we may live in peace and harmony.

Ipoh Echo spoke to those who took up arms and fought on our side during the two

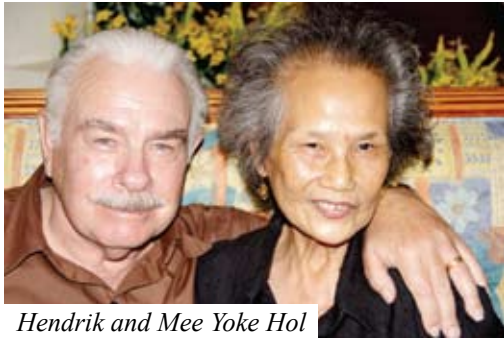
Location: Taiping

Since 2007 members of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association of Incorporated Australian States (NMBVAA) have been visiting the Kamunting Road Christian Cemetery every year to pay their respect to the 28 Australian servicemen who lay buried there. The brave men died defending our fledgling nation against Communism. The veterans, mostly in their 70s, placed red poppies atop the gravestone of the dearly departed as a token of remembrance.

Hendrik Willem Hol was with the Australian infantry regiment who, along with local troops, fought the communist terrorists. He was a dedicated soldier and was proud to serve for his nation. Although the job required him to be on foreign soil, it didn't bother him. His focus was on helping Malaya win the war. That was until he met Mee Yoke, an Ipohite.

"She was the prettiest girl I've ever set eyes on. Until today, I can't take my eyes off her," said Hendrik in jest while looking at his wife of 50 years, Mee Yoke Hol.

"I can still remember how handsome he looked on our wedding day. It was a difficult time, getting married during the war but it was worth it," said Mee Yoke. Their wedding



Hendrik and Mee Yoke Hol



was a simple ceremony but done in military style, which both remember vividly.

They live in Portland, Victoria and are blessed with three sons. Her niece lives in Ipoh while her two sisters are in Kuala Lumpur.

Ipoh Echo met John Kenny, 69, after the service at the Kamunting Christian Cemetery, Taiping. It was his first memorial service in Malaysia. John was asked for his opinion on wars.

John opined that wars are bad. They create problems and resentment, as killing someone is never justifiable. "War is bad because innocent people die. They volunteered to go to war but they still die. We need to solve problems without going to war. People can only say that war is good when they can prove that there is no loss on the winning side. But history proves them wrong. The winning side too suffers. Nobody gains anything from wars," said John.



John Kenny

Location: Ipoh

The cenotaph in front of iconic Ipoh Railway Station stood tall on Friday, June 12. The morning service included a first-ever fly-over by a plane from Executive Jet Aviation Sdn Bhd Ipoh piloted by Chief Dr Dorai. Malaysian heroine, Sybil Kathigasu, recipient of the George Medal was remembered 67 years after her death on June, 4, 1948 at the age of 48. Her great grand niece, Miss Elaine Daly laid a wreath.

Ipoh Echo spoke to Dato' R. Thambipillay, the President of Wira Association Malaysia who has done so much, from tracing the two missing tablets on the original cenotaph and, subsequently, adding two new ones to the new cenotaph. Thambipillay was also responsible for revitalising the Gurkha cemetery in Kem Syed Putra, Tambun.

"I was involved in the Malayan Emergency serving in the police force. Besides having experienced hardships in the jungles, I've witnessed tragedies affecting both civilians and service personnel. I was lucky to have survived. Therefore, it's only proper that I do something to remember those who were killed in the line of duty. I began with Batu Gajah then Tambun and finally the Ipoh cenotaph."

On Saturday, June 13, the well-manicured Gurkha cemetery within Kem Syed Putra, Tambun was a hive of activity. The memorial service began at 10.30am. It too featured a fly-over for the very first time.

Ipoh Echo did an exclusive interview with Professor Dr Colin Wendell-Smith, 88. A Brit and currently living in Tasmania, Colin was a medical doctor serving the British Army during the Emergency. This was his first memorial service in Malaysia. He was a guest of Ken McNeil, the Tasmania-based Aussie veteran. "I lead a happy life. The saddest bit was last year when my wife died. We have known each other for 70 years and been married for 63 years."



Location: Batu Gajah

The memorial service at God's Little Acre, Batu Gajah took place on the morning of Saturday, June 13. This annual remembrance ceremony is fixed on the second Saturday of June every year.

God's Little Acre was a run down and neglected cemetery until Dato' R. Thambipillay, a retired Superintendent of Police, discovered it and gave it a fresh 'lease of life'. Thambipillay started the annual memorial service in 1980 when he was OCPD of Batu Gajah.



The service is attended by foreign dignitaries representing the countries of those who gave their lives for the defence of the country.

Interred here, besides army and police personnel, are civilians, tin miners and planters who were killed during the Malayan Emergency (1948 to 1960).



Dato' R. Thambipillay



Prof. Dr Colin Wendell-Smith



Conclusion

Each location bears its own significance, characteristics and sentiments. As one stands in front of the monument, one should be mindful of this continuum of history and the peace we, the present generation, enjoy. The sacrifices of these veterans should remain etched in our memory. Lest we forget.

Ipoh Echo Team

Sport

New Badminton Complex

Badminton enthusiasts in Ipoh will soon have a new venue to train and test their skills as YMCA Ipoh is on a mission to build a mammoth 10-court badminton complex along Jalan Raja Musa Aziz, Ipoh.



The facility, named Tan SriLeeLoySengBadminton Complex, is among YMCA Ipoh's efforts to encourage Ipohites to take up sports and lead a healthy lifestyle.

"The late Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng was a prominent public figure. He contributed a lot to Ipoh's developments. Naming the courts after the philanthropist is a good way to remember the man,"

said Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, a state executive councillor.

Together with Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, one of Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng's sons, Dr Mah officiated at the ground-breaking ceremony held at the construction site on Friday, June 12. One of YMCA Ipoh's directors, Dato' Daniel Tay was in attendance.

"The estimated cost to build the arena is RM1.9mil. Thanks to the Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Foundation which donated RM1mil, we'll begin construction and hope to complete early next year," said Dato' Daniel.

Dr Mah announced that the Perak state government would donate RM10,000 to the project and hoped the public would also play their part by contributing. YMCA Ipoh plans to organise charity events to raise funds.

"As this will be a public venue, I hope we'll get to see new badminton talents who can represent our country and became champions like Datuk Lee Chong Wei," said Dr Mah.

Readers keen on making donations can visit YMCA Ipoh at 211, Jalan Raja Musa Aziz, Ipoh to do their part for the sport.

Ili Aqilah

Community

Sky's Not the Limit

"The sky is not the limit, go beyond it," said Datuk Mohammad Nor Khalid or Lat when asked about his definition of limitless. The man behind the world renowned comic novel, 'The Kampung Boy' began sketching and drawing at the age of 13 and was an accomplished cartoonist by 17. Lat was among the three invited to speak at Incitement Ipoh's talk on the subject 'Limitless' held at Sepaloh Art Centre on Friday, June 12.

Lat wanted to be a musician largely due to the influence of pervasive British popular culture of the mid-1960s. But he had a huge responsibility to shoulder, so he started working soon after leaving school, initially as a cub reporter and then as a cartoonist with The Straits Times (forerunner of NST). It did not, however, stop him from pursuing his love for music.

"I enrolled in a piano class for kids. I wanted to learn how to play John Lennon's 'Imagine'. Soon after mastering the song, I quit. Not because I didn't want to learn more but I had a family to support," said Nor Khalid to the 100-odd audience.

Although he enjoyed writing, he felt that God had better things for him to do. Lat continued with his sketches and cartoons which eventually led to the production of his debut comic novel, 'Kampung Boy'. The book soon became an international success.

Dato' Nor Khalid considers himself a retired cartoonist but his insatiable thirst for knowledge and perfection will prod him further. As for now, Lat takes life as it comes while enjoying his love for music with much gusto.

The second speaker was the founder of Ipoh Bug, William Chang whose objective was to create space for sport lovers to interact. What started as a place for Ipoh's sport enthusiasts to meet has now expanded to other towns and suburbs such as Kampar, Alor Setar, Bukit Beruntung, Penang and Malacca.

For William, limitless was about focusing on achieving one's dreams and that was how he started Ipoh Bug. He used his childhood experiences as lessons to teach and groom youngsters to become better.

"We were in Myanmar a few years ago and were saddened by the conditions of the playing fields and sporting facilities. We met Aung San Suu Kyi. She welcomed us and hoped we would come again to help her people," said William.



The final speaker was Chan Oga, a dyslexic who found her true calling. Chan believed she was an evil person in her previous life. Karma, she pointed, was the reason behind her many hardships. She had to struggle and worked extra hard in school. It was difficult but her determination to succeed edged her on. At 19 she was diagnosed with dyslexia. Instead of wallowing in sorrow, Chan accepted her fate and decided to go beyond limits.

"I am a hard-core Kiasu (eager to win regardless). Although it's bad, my kiasuness makes me passionate in my work," said Chan. During her practicum teaching in Banting, Selangor she inspired her students to raise RM33,000 for the school and won a trip to Sydney, Australia.

"I was lucky to live in Subang Jaya where opportunities for dyslexic people are aplenty. But I pity the less fortunate who don't have the same. Hence I aim to build a school for gifted and special children," she exclaimed.

Incitement Ipoh will host another talk entitled, 'Authentic Self' on Saturday, July 11 at the same venue. Interested readers can visit Sepaloh Art Centre's Facebook page for details.

Ili Aqilah

Happenings

LIVING VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAMME (for children aged 8-14 years)



Venue : **BANYAN SPA**

No.40 Jalan Raja Dihilir, 30350 Ipoh, Perak

This programme will be held on Sundays from 2pm-4pm, starting on 5th July 2015 and ending on 16th August 2015. The dates of the programme and the modules that will be covered are as follows:

- Week 1 : 5th July 2015 — Peace
- Week 2 : 12th July 2015 — Respect
- Week 3 : 19th July 2015 — No class (Hari Raya holidays)
- Week 4 : 26th July 2015 — Love
- Week 5 : 2nd August 2015 — Tolerance
- Week 6 : 9th August 2015 — Happiness
- Week 7 : 16th August 2015 — Responsibility

What is this Living Values Education Programme?

Living Values is a partnership among educators around the world. The programme is supported by UNESCO and sponsored by the Spanish Committee of UNICEF and the Brahma Kumaris, in consultation with the Education Cluster of UNICEF, New York. Living Values is part of the global movement for a Culture of Peace in the framework of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

Living Values has been implemented in over 8000 sites in 83 countries. The Living Values series of five books was awarded Learning Magazine's Teachers' Choice Award for 2002.

Results of the programme include:

- Increased student-teacher respect
- Improved cooperation and ability to resolve conflicts
- Increased motivation to learn
- Decreased aggression as respect and caring increase

Parents/guardians who wish to register their children (aged 8-14 years) for this programme, please contact Ms Denis/Ms May at **05 242 6866** or **012 507 3866**. Registration is free.

Organised by
FAMILY WELLNESS CLUB
Ipoh, Perak
In collaboration with
BRAHMA KUMARIS
MALAYSIA



The long awaited Big Bad Wolf sale is coming back! It will be held on July 10 till 20, from 10am to 10pm at PHL Convention Centre, Menglembu, Ipoh.

Not only will it provide books at 75%-95% off, RM10 vouchers will be given for every RM150 spent at the sale! What's more...NO GST will be charged on all books. So don't miss this opportunity. Most importantly, don't forget your luggage bags!

Education

Beyond Limits

Just like a budding seed that is relentlessly growing to reach for the sky, Fairview International School Ipoh held its first ever Honours Day on Friday, June 19 at the Syeun Hotel Grand Ballroom. Standing firmly on the belief that learning has no limits, the event filled with glitter and grandeur, ran on the theme 'Beyond Limits'.

Parents could be seen smiling affectionately at their children's antics as the young ones were awarded in three categories: Exemplary Performances, Most Improved Award and Outstanding Performance Award. Subsequently, the sheer delight of being with their children were written on their faces as the talents of the students of 4 to 14 years of age unfolded.

The student representative, Woo Wai Kee from Grade 8, shared his experience of life in the school in his speech. "When we first came to this school, we felt that we have entered a new world beyond our imagination," he said.

Professor R. Gopinathan, the Principal of Fairview Ipoh in his speech said, "Firstly, I must congratulate the parents of Ipoh." He then went on to laud their unique character.

When asked on his opinion on what makes a good student, Dr Vincent Chian, the IB Diploma Programme Director explained to Ipoh Echo, "I believe in a concept called the self-regulated learner. That means that I can decide what I want to learn. I have the skills to learn what I want to learn. And I have the self-drive which I can create that drive without to be told."

Meanwhile, Mr Daniel Chian, the Chairman of the Council of Governors, told Ipoh



Echo, "What we hope to bring about is a difference in each and every kid with an ability to be self-reliant and independent. That they do something because they believe in doing it and they want to do it rather than being told. And that makes a lot of difference because a self-motivated child is far better than 100 hours of private tuition!"

Another highlight of the evening was the heart-warming moment which saw the children presenting gifts to the invited orphans from Pertubuhan Kebajikan Harapan Baru, Ipoh. The school posted the wish list of these orphans at the school and the Fairview students, together with their parents, volunteered to grant the wish of their less fortunate peers.

Madam Leong, a beaming grandmother in the audience, who has two grandchildren, Danica and Avyrl studying in Fairview beginning this year, told Ipoh Echo, "Both of them learn a lot and are happy in Fairview. Plus the teachers are very caring!"

Indeed, it was a memorable evening for everyone.

Mei Kuan

A Tale of Tyranny Healed by the Elixir of Romance and Resurrection

A jealous King Leontes of Sicilia wrongly accuses his queen of adultery and orders that the baby daughter born to them be cast away in the dangerous forests of neighbouring Bohemia. The King realises the error of his judgement too late. The daughter is lost, presumed dead, and the queen too (apparently) dies of trauma when she hears of the death of her only son, Mamillus. Then begins a miraculous reversal of fortunes as the long-lost daughter resurfaces to be married with the crown prince of Bohemia. This is followed by the mother of all miracles when Queen Hermione is resurrected from hibernation to be reunited with a now contrite and much chastened King Leontes.

The Sixth Formers of Tenby Schools Ipoh have once again brought Shakespeare to life on the school stage in the Kinta Valley. Since the inception of the Sixth Form in January 2010, the Shakespearean drama tradition at Tenby has continued to dazzle and delight school audiences in this city where the drama tradition is splendidly sustained by three leading schools – SMK St Michael, Ipoh, SMK Methodist (ACS) Ipoh and Tenby Schools Ipoh.

"Shakespearean drama is our forte at our sixth form," explains Shamina Ashiqin Gul who directs this year's rendition of 'The Winter's Tale'. "It is a compulsory requirement for all sixth formers at our school. For six months, we have a most rewarding and thrilling experience of play reading, rehearsals and animated discussions on how best to choreograph and present the story."

The original Shakespearean text is carefully studied before being revised and rendered in modern English.

"We seek to align the play with the Ministry of Education's emphasis on edifying moral values," comments Mr Louis Rozario Doss who has been one of Malaysia's most ardent theatre specialists. "Shakespearean plays may not be fully presentable in the raw for Malaysian secondary schools. There is very often a lot of what we would describe



as 'adult' content in Shakespeare."

Among the Shakespearean plays Louis has adapted for Malaysian schools are 'Macbeth', 'The Merchant of Venice', 'As You Like It', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Julius Caesar' and 'The Winter's Tale'. The scripts are all in digitalized version

and are available on Kindle Books. Louis himself was a product of the school stage during his days as student and later Principal of SMK St Michael, Ipoh (1998-2005). He is currently the head of the Sixth Form at Tenby Schools Ipoh.

The romance of the play is beautifully captured in the acting of Bryan Yong (Prince Florizel) and Mahalia Chong (Princess Perdita). With their delightful blend of sweet words, graceful dances and the music created by Sean Chin, the cold, wintry world of Sicilia is banished and we revel in a pastoral world of shepherd folk in the midst of birdsong, heather and green meadows.

"The play is like the blessing of rain on a dry, sterile desert. We feel the need for a ritual cleansing after King Leontes' calamitous slander on Queen Hermione," reflects Jasdeep Singh (King Leontes). "Jealousy and mistrust poison the atmosphere and are finally washed away by a tidal wave of truth, justice and reconciliation."

'The Winter's Tale' will be performed at various schools in the Kinta Valley in June-August 2015. For more details, email louis@tenby.edu.my or call 010 390 5011.

Harjinder Singh Seggu



Han Chin Pet Soo

To book a tour, go online to: <http://www.ipohworld.org/reservation/> or scan the QR code.



Education

A Kindergarten for the Handicapped

Her Royal Highness Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim officiated the opening of Taska Semangat Maju, Ipoh recently. The uniqueness of this kindergarten is it is the only one in Perak that provides teaching and caring services for mentally-handicapped children. The facility is located within Sekolah Semangat Maju in Kampung Tawas, Ipoh.

Present during the launch were Datin Seri DiRaja Saripah Zulkifli, wife of Perak Menteri Besar, Dato' Rusnah Kassim Executive Councillor for Women Affairs, Family Development and Welfare and Dato' Dr Yeoh Beng San, President of the Perak Association for the Intellectually Disabled and Su Beng Hock, the organising chairman.

Taska Semangat Maju was established in 2014. Besides the provision of early intervention programmes, it also functions as a daycare centre for mentally-handicapped children under 4 years old.

The primary objective of the kindergarten is to cater for an ideal learning environment for the growth and development of such children so they can learn to be independent and be of use to the community.

"Today is a historic day for the school, as this is the first official visit by our Permaisuri to our humble premise. We're indeed proud and overwhelmed by Her Royal Highness's presence despite her busy schedule," said Dr Yeoh in his opening remarks.

The facility, said Dr Yeoh, was completed at the end of 2013. It has been beautifully



crafted with a pleasant interior to provide a clean, bright and healthy environment for special-needs children.

Those wanting more details on Taska Semangat Maju can call 05 547 0186.

Nantini

It's a Record!

"Last year we did the longest calligraphy and we got into the Malaysia Book of Records for the first time. Our second record is in conjunction with the Dragon Boat Festival. Instead of having it in the sea, we are converting the school field into one with a dragon and more," said Mr Lau Swee Mun, the principal of SMJK Sam Tet to Ipoh Echo while standing in the middle of the field which was dotted with rows of tables wrapped in blue-coloured paper, resembling the sea.

"This is something beyond classroom education. Through this, students would not only be able to learn about the culture, they could learn teamwork as well. Plus, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," the principal of the school since December 2011 added. The practice started in the beginning of May.

The largest participation in a *zongzi* and *ketupat*-making event took place on Monday, June 15. A total of 2015 rice dumplings and ketupat were completed in 30 minutes through the labour of love of 90 parents, 144 teachers and 1781 students (Form 1 to Form 6) of various races.

Guest of honour, Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, the Executive Councillor for Health, Transportation and Non-Islamic Affairs presented the certificate from the Malaysia Book of Records to the Cluster School of Excellence.

"I am glad and excited. This is my first time, hence it is very meaningful for me," Alice Chai, an Upper 6 student and a member of the working committee, told Ipoh



Echo when asked for her comments on that historic morning.

"I am proud to be a part of the committee to coordinate things," said Yin Khar Shin, a classmate of Alice.

Mei Kuan

Recognition for the Talented

Four graduates from Methodist Girls' School (MGS) Ipoh were awarded Merit Scholarship by Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) while another graduate was awarded the Sin Chew scholarship during a ceremony held at the school hall recently.

The five were Ho Lee Ann, Tan Yik Chi, Liew Rae-Jean, Angel Zhi-Wei Lee and Chew Li Yan. MGS's principal, Datin Mungit Kaur was thrilled when she received the news.

"We're very proud of the girls. It marks a new milestone in the history of MGS as the news came one week after MGS was recognised as a Cluster School. As the principal, I hope their achievement will inspire students and teachers to strive for academic excellence," she said.

The five young scholars were first identified by Direct Academia International (DAI), a human capital development hub, as part of their talent-scouting programme.

Shannon Lee, the Managing Director of DAI said that one of the reasons why students find problem in excelling is because their talents are not recognised and paired with a higher education or career pathway, in which they are confident.

"Our role is to ensure that talented students are acknowledged and given an opportunity at acquiring quality education regardless of their race, religion or background," he remarked.

Reuben Chan, the Marketing Manager of MCKL stressed that providing financial support and recognition for students would relieve them of financial burden and motivate them to aim higher.

"I feel grateful and will work hard to maintain this scholarship," said Lee Ann, one of the recipients, to Ipoh Echo.

Mei Kuan



Teaching Kids Through Creative Arts



Tenby Early Years Centre, Ipoh held its annual school production recently at Leong Wan Chin's Hall along Jalan Raja Permaisuri Bainun.

The theme selected for the colourful event was 'Seasons of the World' where students performed and danced according to the four seasons – winter, spring, summer and autumn. Despite their youth, the performers did their best to put up a show, thanks to the support and encouragement of the audience.

Puvanes Mahendran, an official from the Tenby Early Years Centre, congratulated both pupils and teachers for their untiring efforts.

"It takes courage and patience to train young kids. Seeing the performances today, I couldn't be more proud of my charges," said Puvanes to Ipoh Echo.

Tenby Early Years Centre is dedicated to grooming young kids focussing on the development of the whole child – within and without the classroom. Children are taught to learn through a fun and imaginative approach that includes creative arts.

Ili Aqilah

Education

Tenby's Shining Example

A recent letter posted on Facebook by a mother of one student in Tenby Year 6 caught my eye recently. It is a shining example for all teachers to emulate. Living in a world where we are obsessed with material success and a school system where academic excellence is prized over and above the values and qualities that make us human, this letter exemplifies how caring teachers can make a difference in young and impressionable lives. Dated June 9, this letter should go viral!

"Dear Year 6,

Soon you will receive the results of your Checkpoint tests. Before you see your results, there is something very important for you to know.

The tests do not assess all of what makes each of you exceptional and unique.

The people that mark these tests don't know that some of you love to act, or sing, or make origami. They have no idea if you are good at drawing or can teach others how to use a computer program. They have not seen the way that some of you can dance with grace or speak confidently in assembly. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them when they are sad, or you held a class job, have been prefect, monitor or student councillor. They do not know that you participate in CCAs, help out at home or how you play with your little brother, sister or cousins. They do not know that you are caring, thoughtful and how hard you try every day. Because these things cannot be tested.

The Checkpoint scores will tell you how you did on those three days, but they will not tell you everything. They can't tell you that you have improved on something that you once found difficult. They can't tell you how hard you've worked all year to get better. They won't know if you had a bad day because you were nervous, and they can't tell you how to make the next steps in your learning.

So remember it's just a test, and it won't reveal all of the wonderful things that make you an individual.

All our best wishes, now and in the future,

Mr Lowery & Mrs Kumar"

SFCK

'Against All Odds' by Senator Bathmavathi

Sixth formers and the Indian students of SMK Seri Keledang, Menglembu had a treat when Senator Bathmavathi Krishnan gave a motivational talk entitled, 'Against All Odds' to enrich their lives after leaving school. She shared her experiences and how she was able to rise above her disabilities.

Bathmavathi met with an accident in 1975 when she was a student at the University of Malaya and has been using a wheelchair since. Despite her disability she managed to complete her studies and graduate with a B.A. (Hons) in 1978 and furthered her studies in Library Science at the Loughborough University of Technology, U.K. from 1981 to 1983. She started her career working as a librarian at the University of Malaya Library from 1979 to 2004. She was appointed a Senator to the Upper House of the Parliament of Malaysia in November 2013.

School principal Mr Sit Wai Yin expressed his sincerest appreciation to Yang Berhormat for her time and willingness to share valuable life experiences with the students. She generously contributed RM5000 for the development of the school.



Flying Colours in Cambridge Proficiency Exam



Neoh Lean Wen and Edward Foo Yu Cheng were among four students from Ipoh Learning and Training Institute (iLTI) who passed with flying colours in the Cambridge Proficiency English (CPE) examination, C2.

The examination was based on the Common European Framework Reference or the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE Level 5). Incidentally, only 37 per cent of English teachers in Malaysia are able to get a pass in C2 while the number in C1 is negligible.

The two boys along with 157 students who took the University of Cambridge ESOL examination at the end of last year received the prestigious Cambridge certificates at the 14th Cambridge certificate presentation ceremony recently.

Executive Councillor Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, representing the Minister of Transport, Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, officiated at the event.

"English is a language of opportunity; it is not only a language of math, science, technology, engineering and medicine but also a language of trade, commerce and industry. Undeniably, the borderless global community has acknowledged and recognised English as the lingua franca of conferences, seminars and meetings," said Mah in his opening address.

The iLTI has been one of the more reputable language institutes in Ipoh. In fact, Mah's son, Mah Song Wei attended iLTI to improve his English. "My son did remarkably well in every Cambridge exam and, most significantly, he achieved Grade A in the CPE exam in 2003 when he was 15," added Mah.

Principal Thomas Kok congratulated Neoh and Foo for the achievement. "I am extremely proud of these two Form 3 students who scored grade A in CPE," said Thomas. Along with him were the founders of iLTI, Dato' Richard Small and Chon Yoong Kim.

Ili Aqilah

Property

Exposition with a Difference

This year's Malaysia Property Exposition (MAPEX 2015) in Perak was held over three days at Ipoh Parade. It was reputed to be the largest property exposition in the state and the first ever in a shopping mall.

This year's event had the most number of participants with 35 developers, 6 property sales agencies and one banking institution, taking up 51 booths. It showcased a total of 6266 units of properties with a sale value of RM4.5 billion.

Properties in Cameron Highlands, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Malacca and Penang were also on display.

According to REHDA (Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association) Perak Branch Chairman, Tony Khoo Boon Chuan, MAPEX is the leading property sales event in Perak and Malaysia accessible to both consumers and business professionals.

"REHDA anticipated sales to slow down by 30 per cent, as evidenced by market performance for the last few quarters. The Perak house price index rose from 116.6 per cent in the third quarter of 2013 to 218.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2014," said Tony.

"Property prices in Perak have doubled since 2009. House prices are increasing 8.6 per cent annually while the average household income has increased by 5.4 per cent. This means house prices have increased faster than income, which leaves an affordability gap," Tony added.

Executive Councillor, Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, who represented the Menteri Besar, officiated at the launch. In his speech he urged developers to build properties that could meet the housing needs of Perakans, especially the lower-income group.

"We want to see each family owning a house. The state will strive to realise this dream, as it's part of our goal in achieving zero-squatter status," said Mah.

Nantini



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