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ISSUE **316**

Bimonthly

Ipoh Boutique Hotels Making its Mark

By Tan Mei Kuan and Chris Teh



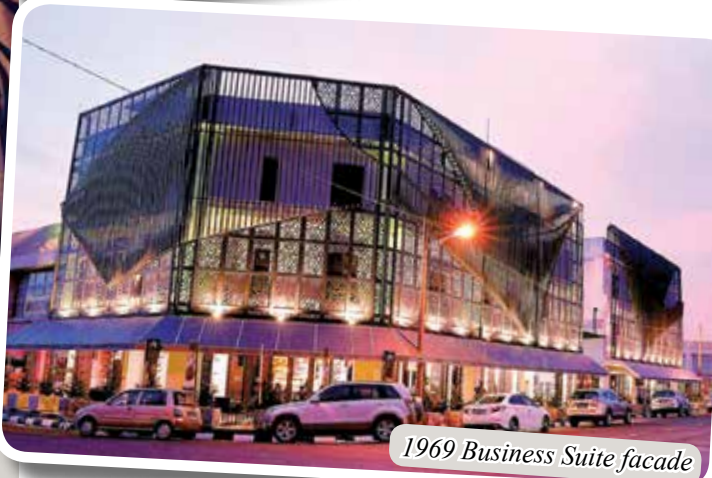
Happy 8 Retreat Patio Cabin (note the wall painting on old zinc roofing)



Ban Loong Hotel facade



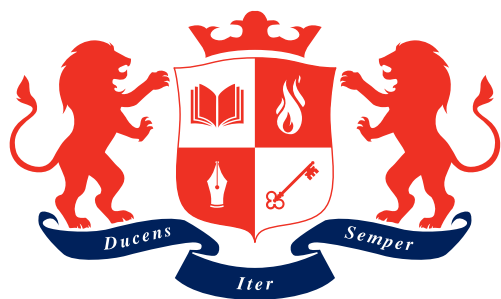
Indra Hotel overview



1969 Business Suite facade

Ipoh Echo checked out some of the most unique boutique hotels in Ipoh, most of which are recent additions to the accommodation scene, to find out how the love for their hometown drives their respective brand story and vision creating a stay that is second to none. You do not want to miss out!

FULL STORY ON PAGES **2 & 6**



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Defining a Quality Boutique Hotel

Ban Loong Hotel

Ban Loong Hotel is a painstaking restoration work of a 104-year-old heritage building hailing from 1915 in Old Town by the Loh family team as the ancestral home has witnessed five generations of the Lohs to date.

In the olden days, the Loh family operated many types of business at the 20' x 120' shop, dealing with weighing machines, tin, hat making, iron galvanising and hardware among others under the name, Ban Loong Hardware.

"The restoration works started in 2015. We managed to preserve the original 104-year-old timber beams installed together with brick walls and salvage the 80-year-old signboard. The engineering solution applied was by erecting another complete steel structure within the historic pre-war building to strengthen it, thus creating a shop within a shop. This would take the burden off the existing 104-year-old brick structure and reduce the settlement of the building," explained 48-year-old **Loh Ban Ho**, the fourth generation of the Loh family also an engineer.

As for the foundation of the building, the family decided to use raft foundation or ship foundation, in order to avoid pilings within the heritage zone as neighbouring pre-war buildings could be shattered by the vibration of piling.

The family team was led by Ban Ho's father, Michael Loh Yoon Khoo who grew up in this building.

According to Ban Ho, the most meaningful way to preserve the building is to convert it into a boutique hotel. It is aimed to bring back the glory days of Ban Loong Shop and at the same time allow the future generation to learn the rich history of Ipoh.

"Every quality boutique hotel has its own uniqueness. As for our heritage boutique hotel, it's got to be the way the restoration work was done. We have very reasonable rates so much so that some visitors nickname it as 'the best value for money hotel in the world'. Judging from the interior design and facilities we offer, we are definitely on par with some



Loh Ban Ho with a family photo depicting the first two generations of Lohs



Interior of one of the rooms

big names in town. Open for business in 2017, we have managed to obtain rating of 9.0 from Booking.com, which is a great achievement for our little hotel," he enthused.

Plus, the restoration project has been shortlisted in the Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards (MCIEA) 2019 by Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB). The Institution of Engineers Malaysia was the first to conduct a technical talk on this restoration work in September 2017.

Here are his thoughts on the boutique hotel industry: "Boutique hotels are definitely the trend in the western countries but they are priced really high. In Malaysia, this trend is definitely here to stay because tourists can experience 5-star hotels everywhere in the world but not a boutique hotel."

It is located at 51, Jalan Bandar Timah (Leech Street), 30000 Ipoh. For more info, visit the Ban Loong Hotel Facebook page or its website at: www.banloonghotel.com

1969 Business Suites

A fusion of the nostalgic and modern chic, 1969 Business Suites is one of the first boutique hotels focusing on communicating two-fold principles – architectural identity while accentuating the luxury and quality of services offered. It was unveiled officially in June 2018.

The row of traditional shophouses at Bandar Botani was recrafted into a classy 42-bedroom hotel serving both leisure travellers and business executives looking for homey comfort and convenience of a luxury hotel at affordable prices.

With its logo representing the iconic Ipoh Tree (Epu Tree), the space is brimming with gold, black and earthy tones to reflect the affluent ethos of modern architectural style and create nostalgic ambience.

Datin Kelly Yang, CEO of 1969 Business Suites told Ipoh Echo, "The co-founders and I are Ipohites and proud of our heritage. Which is why without any doubt Ipoh is our preferred choice to create our first boutique hotel. The exclusivity and individuality of a boutique hotel are key combinations compared to a conventional hotel."

Upon entrance, one would not miss the glistening masterpiece listed in the Malaysia Book of Records in 2018 as the biggest backdrop display made of one-cent coins measuring 5.7 metres in length and 2.6 metres in height.

"The standard of quality and personalised services are among the important factors in creating the distinctive overall experience. For instance, 1969 Business Suites is crafted with a story to tell. From our 1 cent mural to our rustic metal and earthy tones, it epitomises the nostalgic era of the 60s in Ipoh. The idea of the 1 cent mural came about when the co-founders and I were reminiscing about the good old days when our 1 cent coins were still usable," she recalled.

"Hence the thought of collecting these coins, displaying them and leaving a legacy for our future generations to come. It is also a message to the current and younger generations to appreciate what we have in front of us, especially our elderly parents and our loved ones," she added.

The culinary experience here features CawanMu which serves Malaysian signature savoury favourites in addition to its gourmet bakery and sandwich bar. There is also a gym studio.

"The boutique hotel industry is growing in prominence in Ipoh. They are branded as lifestyle products which display unique features in terms of architectural design, interior decor and customised, polished quality service to guests and customers. At 1969 Business Suites, we wish to see strangers coming in as our guests and leaving as friends, this I believe boutique hotels like us are able to offer," she concluded.

Find 1969 Business Suites at 2, Jalan Lapangan Siber 9, Bandar Cyber 31350 Ipoh. Interested readers can call **05 313 1969** or check out its website: www.1969businesssuites.com.my



Lobby with the 1 cent mural



One of its duplex rooms

... continued on page 6

RELIGIOUS CREDENTIALS

Mustafa Akyol, whose book “Islam without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty” is banned in Malaysia, said no government had the right to define what is “true Islam”



Mujahid Yusof Rawa

Putrajaya, in spite of being under a new administration, old habits inherited from the decadent Barisan Nasional government are still prevalent. They are being actively pursued by the Pakatan Harapan government although it has promised a change for the better following General Election 14 on May 9, 2018. Muslim experts around the globe are up in arms over its refusal to do away with restrictions imposed on foreign Islamic speakers.

Mustafa Akyol, a prominent US-based Turkish academic whose lecture in 2017 in Kuala Lumpur was summarily cancelled by the authorities. And to add salt to wound, he was detained for giving a talk without “religious credentials”. The excuse by Putrajaya was it wanted to contain “deviant” teachings that could “confuse the ummah”. This showed that not much has changed under the new Malaysian leadership.

“The Malaysian authorities still assume that they, and they alone, have the right to define what is ‘right Islam and what is deviant Islam’”.

“I wish to ask who gives the Malaysian government the authority to define Islam?” asked Akyol, an advocate of free speech in Muslim countries who frequently criticised both the Islamists and secularists in his home

country of Turkey.

Minister in charge of Islamic affairs Mujahid Yusof Rawa defended the home ministry’s move to vet all foreign missionaries including Muslims, saying the authorities wanted to make sure that their belief systems were not eroded and were in conformity with standard Malaysian requirements.

Home Minister Muhyiddin Yassin earlier said that foreign Muslim and non-Muslim speakers would be monitored to ensure they did not spread deviant teachings.

“Whoever comes here, regardless of the form of talks, will be monitored,” Muhyiddin had said.

The statement drew rebuke from US-based Muslim academic, Nader Hashemi, who has frequently addressed Malaysian audiences on Islamic topics.

“The vetting of speakers who come to Malaysia to discuss issues of religion suggests that authoritarianism is alive and well in Malaysia and that freedom and full democracy remain an illusion,” said Hashemi, head of the Centre for Middle East Studies at the University of Denver.

Akyol, whose book “Islam without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty” is banned in Malaysia, said no government had the right to define what is “true Islam” as this would mean reducing religion to the “interests and whims

of politicians”.

“With that logic, Iran can ban Sunni Islam as ‘deviant’, as Saudis can similarly ban Shia Islam and non-Wahhabi Sunnism. Or India can ban Islam saying that, according to its Hindu beliefs, all Islam is ‘deviant’”, Akyol added.

He said even during the height of the Muslim empire, political leaders had no authority over religion.

“Even caliphs did not have that authority. Islam, rather, was defined by diverse communities of scholars, believers, and evolving traditions,” he said.

“The truth that we must accept is that Islam is not owned by any government because it comes from an authority that is higher than all governments.

“The rightful duty of these governments is to know their limits, protect the rights and freedoms of their citizens, and allow their societies to freely practise their religious persuasions and have intellectual discussions about them,” Akyol said.

In 2017, Akyol’s Malaysian lecture tour organised by the Islamic Renaissance Front, drew protests from conservative Muslim groups and Islamic authorities. They were at odds with the scholar, fearing for the sanctity of the religion as a differing version of the Sunni-based belief is being preached and enunciated.

He was arrested at



Mustafa Akyol

KLIA as he was preparing to board a flight to Rome, hours after the Federal Territory Islamic Affairs Department forced his lecture on the topic of apostasy to be called off.

The irony is there are several so-called religious zealots (ustazs, ustazahs and tuan gurus) who would impart their understanding of Islam during Friday prayers

at mosques and routine prayers at suraus. Their interpretations may be skewed, cleverly hidden under lengthy Quranic verses, as few among the congregation speak or understand the Arabic language. And more often than not they are spared the inconvenience of having their credentials checked.

It is worrying but that is the truth of the matter. After all, who, in the right frame of mind, would want to vet what these Islamic experts have to say in order to ascertain their credibility.

EYE HEALTH – Visual Migraine

Ipoh Echo’s EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about VISUAL MIGRAINE.

Visual Migraines can be frightening. While doing your work, you suddenly begin to see blurred wavy coloured areas as if looking through shattered glass followed by a dull headache over one eye. You pass it off as having been on the computer for too many hours. However, the symptoms continue to worsen making you finally go in for an eye check. After a thorough eye examination, you are eventually told that you have just experienced an ocular (eye) migraine which is more precisely termed as “ophthalmic migraine”.



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

SYMPTOMS



It can present with a variety of symptoms. Typically it starts as a small, enlarging blurred area (scotoma) in your central vision. This blurred central area of vision usually is accompanied by a surrounding bright light that flashes or flickers (scintillations). In some people, they may assume a wavy pattern of light or zigzag lines surrounding a dark central area of vision. The blurred area then usually enlarges to move outwards across the entire field of vision. It may be quite frightening to the person concerned. Some people have described it as a “fireworks display” in the eye. The whole migraine episode

may end in a few minutes but may last up to 30 minutes. The headache that may or may not follow this “firework display” may last from hours to days.

WHY IT OCCURS

These migraine processes are related to changes in blood flow in the brain (visual cortex). The blood vessels in the brain go into spasm and cause all the symptoms. Initially there is reduction in blood flow in the vessels, and then later an increase in blood flow in the vessels due to the blood vessels dilating. The vessels therefore get over-filled and this causes the throbbing or “pounding” headache.

TRIGGER FACTORS

There are certain trigger factors that may be responsible for initiating the ocular migraine. These trigger factors may range anything from exposure to stress, fatigue, bright lights, hormonal changes, medication or certain foods containing tyramine or phenylalanine (e.g., cheese, chocolate) and alcohol intake.

IMPLICATIONS

Generally, ocular migraines are considered harmless and cause no permanent visual or brain damage and do not require treatment. However, it can be bothersome to an individual especially for patients who suffer from more prolonged problems as a result of ocular migraine.

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT OCCURS

Since the vision temporarily gets affected significantly during the ocular migraine attack, it is important to take certain precautions if you are doing something like driving or operating machinery. If you are driving, pull to the side of the road until the attack passes and your vision becomes normal again. Do not move or drive until the ocular migraine resolves.

GET YOUR EYES CHECKED TO BE SURE

Before you presume that you have ocular migraine, always consult an eye doctor should you have such vision symptoms to make sure that you are not suffering from something more serious. When in doubt, get your eyes checked by an eye-care professional.

For more information, call Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah (05-5455582) or email gillyeyecentre@dr.com

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Useless politicians and pseudo-religious leaders must resign



On October 24, the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah, urged mosque committee members and religious speakers to resign, if they harboured political agendas and ambitions that threaten the sanctity of mosques.

The Perlis mufti, the Pahang mufti and the Perak mufti have all waded into the political arena. They should heed the Sultan's advice.

Perlis mufti Dr Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin, said that justice is for all, but Malaysia is only for the Malays. These words do not invite harmony but only cause anger and division. He also said that purchasing Muslim made goods, will boost the economic standing of Muslim entrepreneurs. Perhaps, he has forgotten that improving performance would help.

The Pahang mufti, Abdul Rahman Osman, started a firestorm when he said that the DAP was kafir harbi, for objecting to the Private Member's Bill on Syariah Court amendments

which was tabled by PAS president Hadi Awang. When the public reacted with outrage, because Abdul Rahman said kafir harbi should be killed, he back-tracked and said he was misquoted.

Conversely, it would be great if pseudo-religious leaders lurking in parliament, would also resign.

Religion is a vital component of any decent society, but when religion and politics are allowed to mix, sparks will fly. Religious leaders can act as the nation's conscience, by condemning violence and racism, but they should not be allowed to represent us in Parliament and pretend that they are acting on behalf of God.

By all means, have faith. Keep our faith and practise our faith, but both politicians and religious leaders have freely used religion to break this nation apart. They expect companies, such as restaurants, hotels and supermarkets, to alter their regulations, and force others to adopt practices

which people of one particular faith feel are important.

Prime minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, once erroneously declared that Malaysia is an Islamic nation, and from that day onwards, it has been difficult to disentangle Malaysia from this constitutional mess. Malaysia is not an Islamic nation. Only peninsular Malaysia has Islam as its official religion.

In rebuilding Malaysia, we must not think of ourselves just as Muslims, non-Muslims, Malays or non-Malays, but identify ourselves as part of the Malaysian community.

Islam invites its followers to exercise their intellect and utilise their knowledge (*'ilm*), whilst embracing a socio-political and moral outlook, to attain the ultimate truth (*haqq*). Muslim thinkers adopted different paths to attain this goal. Knowledge is not simply information. Islam has never maintained that only theology is useful and the empirical sciences are useless or harmful.

Today, we find that semi-literate clerics or religious preachers, who are politicians, are keen to keep ordinary Muslims in the dark and keep them ignorant. This blind faith prevents ordinary people from opposing unjust rule and resist the clerics.

This blind, unquestioning faith resulted in the decline of Muslims in politics and

the economy. Today, in large segments of Muslim society, both the common man and many clerics suffer from this malady.

Instead of the acquisition of knowledge, Muslims adopt the unhealthy attitude of blind faith, and a failure to question what they are told. This has discouraged both assimilation with other races and cultures, and the dissemination of empirical knowledge because the clerics say that this will weaken their faith.

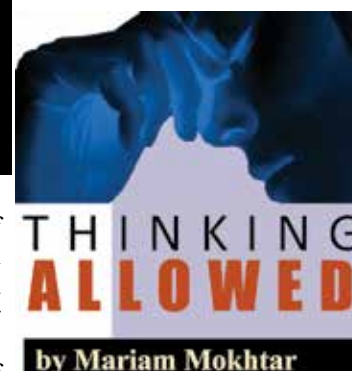
The Sultan also admonished various NGOs for introducing programmes on the mosque premises, which tarnished the image of the mosque. He mentioned an NGO called Gerakan Pembela Ummah (Ummah) which had organised the "Buy Muslim-Made First" (BMF) campaign at the An-Nur Mosque, at Batu 8 in Ulu Kinta.

The BMF is a daft idea. This is not the way to promote businesses.

So, was the BMF campaign organised because a group of disgruntled Muslim businessmen and manufacturers could not compete with their non-Muslim counterparts?

Why call for BMF when all the Muslims need to do is improve their performance, their delivery, their sales pitch, their customer relations, their pricing and their after-sales service.

A successful product



fills a niche in the market. Most people buy a certain product because it is good, is reasonably priced, is effective and is readily available.

Will the BMF campaign ensure that consumers have access to an alternative product of the same quality if non-Muslim made products are to be boycotted?

What is the basis of the boycott? Is it to control the market? Is it to control consumer purchasing? Is it just business rivalry? Or is it just another exercise in division and rule?

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Education

MAMAPRENEUR in Education 2019

By Joelyn Jonathan

The MAMAPRENEUR in Education 2019 was held at the Perak Youth Hub at Kinta River Walk, Ipoh. The event was organised by the Private Education Entrepreneur Association of Malaysia (PEEAM) as an initiative to empower women and mothers who are looking forward to starting a business.

The President of Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA) Datin Rosalina Mary Ooi Poh Gaik and the Chief Operating Officer of Kedios Berhad, Chan Wen Dee were two of the guest speakers during the event.



According to organising chairman, Ramen Khoo Kok Liang,

MAMAPRENEUR acts as an effort to inspire all mothers to grow and

expand their business. "Our objective is to support and provide

these mothers with entrepreneurial skills, knowledge and leadership. We would also want to bring business and career opportunities to these mothers, especially in the education field."

During the session by Datin Rosalina, she shared her belief about how education is not just about studying but comes in many different forms.

"Women all around the world should break the chain and be free," she said.

The event then concluded with a profile report check for RM20.

SeeFoon Gets Mad about Ramen in Old Town

I love noodles. It's my Achilles heel. No amount of willpower or determination can keep me from guzzling noodles if it's staring me in the face and taunting me. Even if it means blowing my low-carb regime.

Which brings me to being mad about **Mad Ramen Bar**.

This newly-opened restaurant in the thick of old town right opposite Plan B has all the makings of a carb lover's paradise. Ramen in all its guises served in various broths and topped with a large selection of condiments and garnishes are the stars of the show here.

Don't look for sushi or sashimi here. Look instead for freshly pan-fried **Yaki Gyoza**, homemade pork and cabbage dumplings with grapefruit ponzu dipping sauce **RM11.80 for 5 pcs.** They also have a deep-fried version called **Age Gyoza** served with a Sriracha mayo for **RM9.80**

Don't look for French fries here. Look instead for **Porky Fries**, thin strips of pork luncheon meat appearing on my table looking for all the world like sweet potato fries (which I thought they were) until I took the first bite. All my childhood memories of Ma Ling or Spam luncheon meat came flooding back and I was transported. Umami strips of meat, slightly crisped on the outside and tender on the inside. Great as a snack to go with their speciality Craft beers while waiting for your meal; **RM10.80.**

Other nibblers or appetizers included the **Takoyaki Balls**, a very special rice-batter ball filled with bits of octopus, laced with Japanese sweet sauce and topped with Bonito flakes. You must be very careful biting into this ball as it arrives piping hot and can certainly burn your tongue; **RM7.80 for 5 pieces.**



Takoyaki Balls

While still on appetizers, we had a platter of their **Yakitori skewers**, ranging from Australian beef slice, pork belly, chicken, button and king oyster mushroom, bacon enoki and mixed vegetable. There is a two skewer per order minimum with prices ranging from **RM3.80** to **RM5.80** each and a **Mad Ramen platter** of one of everything for **RM28.80**. Dipping sauce is not necessary as each skewer is well seasoned.

Then we moved onto the Ramen. The menu lists items under the heading of **Tonkotsu Ramen** and **Hokkaido Ramen**. Tonkotsu Ramen is distinguished by its robust pork broth, simmered over 8 hours for a thick creamy result, definitely a labour of love! This ramen is a speciality dish from Fukuoka, Kyushu Island.



Mad Ramen platter

From the Tonkotsu menu, we had the **Black Tonkotsu**, black garlic (extremely beneficial for health) and black sesame broth served with pork Chashu (a special roast pork) black fungus, braised egg and spring onions; **RM19.80.**

This was followed by the **Pork Rib Black Shoyu**, another robust broth with Black Shoyu, a huge braised pork rib, black fungus, braised egg and spring onions. The rib (ask for gloves to eat) was fall-off-the-bone tender and the broth divine. Definitely THE signature and must-have

dish here; **RM21.80.**

Then one of my group suggested we sample the Hokkaido style Ramen, which he said was lighter and not as satiating. The **Shio Ramen**, one from the Hokkaido ramen series, a salt-based soup in chicken and vegetable broth with light and refreshing notes. With Ramen, pork Chashu, wakame, nori, braised egg, corn bamboo shoots and spring onions. Definitely lighter but equally umami; **RM16.80.**

On a previous occasion, I sampled their **Chili Miso Ramen**, served with the same condiments as the Shio ramen except that the Chili Miso lent a piquancy to the broth which I found delightful. And if the Scoville unit is not enough for you, you can always add the readily available sprinkle which they'll be happy to supply; **RM16.80.**

Mad Ramen is a full bar, and their drinks menu is worth investigating. Their Craft Beers are certainly special



Black Tonkotsu



ON IPOH
FOOD



By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen
seefoon@ipohecho.com.my
For more info go to www.ipohfooddiva.my

Pictures by Yugin



Sake Bomb

as is their **house Draft from Suntory**, with a price of **RM18.80** per glass and **RM78.80 for a set of 5.**

Worth having fun with is their **Sake Bomb** (they have an extensive range of Sakes) where you get a shot of sake and a beer. The shot of sake is placed on 2 chopsticks across the top of the beer mug and with whoops and much banging on the table, the shot of sake is encouraged to drop into the mug of beer. For those who fail, they'll just have to buy another round!

MAD RAMEN BAR

3 Jalan Panglima,
30000 Ipoh.

Tel: 05 210 8866

Opening hours: weekdays
12pm-3pm; 5.30pm-
10.30pm (5.30pm-12am Thu
& Fri)

Weekend - Saturday (12pm-12am), Sunday
(12pm-10.30pm)

Day off: Tuesday



Porky Fries

Happy 8 Cafe and Retreat

Established in 2013, Happy 8 owned and operated by **Tan Kai Lek** is an art piece in itself. Wood with all its myriad guises is used in its natural beauty or polished to a high sheen, exposing the natural grain. Handcrafted furniture and artefacts, murals on walls, combined with clever use of junkyard discards (think old zinc roofing as a canvas for interesting paintings) create a magical atmosphere, an almost 'Alice in Wonderland' feel and touch.

"There is an obvious difference between local and international tourists," Tan said. Elaborating on why he chose to run a boutique hotel, he added, "For instance, if there is a Balinese-style hotel in Ipoh, local tourists will certainly be attracted to what it can offer. That is because they have not seen authentic Balinese-style hotels in the first place. The same cannot be applied to international tourists. Let's say that these tourists are from Australia. They can always go to our neighbouring country to experience a true Balinese-style hotel."

"The issue about Ipoh is that there are tons of marketable tourism elements available but tourists do not know how to find them," Tan lamented. "This is because some Ipohites barely even understand enough of Ipoh's rich history."

"I chose to run this art stay, as a standard I set for myself, because I would like to give customers a different experience, whilst telling them a story," he explained. "Conventional hotels do not appeal in the long run. There may be 5-star hotels around but those are



Tent Cabin 303



Patio Cabin 207

catered to individuals who are on a business trip."

Asked on what defines a quality boutique hotel, Tan stressed that one should be representative of Ipoh.

"Present-day tourists really know how to enjoy a trip filled with different experiences," he added. "That also means they would like to know about the history of the place they are staying at. Vacation today is no longer only about food and entertainment."

"If a hotel does not have a signature style that can

capture the eyes and hearts of tourists, they will rapidly lose interest," Tan highlighted. "A boutique hotel should have elements of what the locals can relate to."

Asked on the status of Ipoh's boutique hotel industry, Tan expressed that there is a high market demand for it.

"The most attractive element about Ipoh is its slow-paced life," he mentioned. "That in itself is a value that most Ipohites overlook and underappreciate, which can be an excellent selling point in the hotel and tourism industry not only in Ipoh but also to tourists worldwide."

Concluding his take, Tan said, "With Happy 8, I offer not only privacy to customers that need it but also relaxation and reflection from the fast-paced world."

For more information or bookings, go to their website www.thehappy8.com.my or call **05 242 3188**. The hotel is located at this address: No 46, Market Street, 30000 Ipoh.

Indra Hotel

Established circa February 2016, Indra Hotel is a family business owned by the Chin's, featuring a crossover between simplicity and vintage-style decorations.

"The trend now is that tourists get to snap Instagram-worthy photos," mentioned **Gwen Chin**, general manager of Indra Hotel. "This is why our investments focused primarily on decorations."

Explaining why the family chose to operate a boutique hotel in Ipoh, the 28-year-old said, "My father, Chin Kok Keong who owns the hotel, wanted to manage the business within family members only. It is much easier that way. If it was a conventional hotel, the decision-making process will be lengthy instead because individuals other than family will be involved and the common understanding is usually hard to attain."

Elaborating further, she stated, "Besides that, there is much more motivation for me to oversee my very own family business. The fact that my father invested in expanding the hotel into a boutique-style hotel inspired me to not only maintain the business but also to improve it."

"Also, owners of any business play an important role in upholding a good impression," Gwen stressed. "This is why I tend to customer feedback as soon as possible. That reflects back to my dependability as a hotel manager."

Asked on what defines a quality boutique hotel, she opined that cleanliness always comes first before anything else, apart from having its own speciality.

"It does not matter what style a hotel is. Clean and pristine looking premises dominate the overall impression in a hotel," Gwen explained. "One can invest heavily on beautiful decorations and offer top-notch customer service, but if the place is dirty, the impression will drop tremendously."

Worth noting about Indra Hotel is its multipurpose hall, which is perhaps one of the few boutique hotels in Ipoh to have one.

"The hall can fit a maximum of 150 individuals at a time," Gwen said. "It's considered the signature element of Indra Hotel. We also offer catering services if the hall is booked for dinner purposes."

Running a hotel is definitely not an easy one. The hotel operates 24 hours and some customers check in late at night.

"I'm really lucky because my residence is just around the corner. If there are any emergencies in the hotel, I can always stand-by to deal with any problems,"

she highlighted. "Furthermore, there are 45 rooms in our hotel. The rapid turnover of customers per day means necessary rapid cleaning of rooms between check-in and check-out."

Gwen felt that the boutique hotel industry in Ipoh is increasingly thriving.

"Boutique hotels have been a trend for the past couple of years or so. The thing about tourists is that they are looking for new and exciting elements in their trips," she said. "As a lover of vacation myself, I understand that the overall impression and a different kind of experience matter most to present-day tourism."

Gwen added, "This is part of the reason why I support the notion of operating a boutique hotel. In my case, Indra Hotel being my family business is much easier to manage than a conventional hotel and a good choice for investment."

Go to their website www.indrahotelpoh.com or call **05 549 1333** for more information or booking purposes. The hotel is located at this address: No 29, Lengkok Tasek Timur 1A, Pusat Perdagangan Tasek Indra, 31400 Ipoh.

So next time you have visitors, book them into these boutique hotels and let them experience some different elements in what is creating the buzz in Ipoh.



Multipurpose Hall



Executive Suite



Lobby

Heritage

What! No Heritage Hotels

By Ian Anderson

With this issue of the Echo's cover page featuring boutique hotels, I turned my mind to Ipoh's heritage hotels. What heritage hotels? I do not think we have any! Sure, there is one that carries the name but it is nothing like a heritage building. It is just too young! There was a time when the FMS, founded in 1906, could have qualified. The building is there, it is no longer a hotel and bar having been transformed into something very modern. The 1917 Station Hotel could also have qualified until the hostelry finally closed, after staggering along as second-rate accommodation for some years. Having said that, successive Governments have promised that the hotel will be reinstated. Empty promises it seems! Consequently, I have to turn my thoughts to what

we used to have and what is there now. Does anyone remember the Mayfair Hotel?

The Mayfair once stood along Cowan Street near the intersection with Leong Sin Nam Street, which was half the length it is today; the Eastern end from Leong Sin Nam Street to Greenhill did not exist. To put the photograph in perspective, the three boys in the picture were by the curbside just in front of Wah Nam Coffee Shop.

The hotel in its previous guise had once been a generously sized bungalow, possibly the home of a British expatriate before Merdeka. As a hotel, it was a popular place with out-of-town visitors, whose only alternative at the same sort of price and facilities was the Station Hotel in Old Town. Like its KTM competitor, the Mayfair sported large comfortable

rooms and a good restaurant that served quality food at the right price. The restaurant was particularly popular with local people for family get-togethers and festive celebrations.

Having been a private house with gardens bordered by hedgerows formed from hibiscus bushes, providing a picturesque border to the establishment when in bloom; a border of bright crimson blooms. Behind the hedge, there were fruit trees, some of which may be seen in the top left of the photograph. These trees were a target for small boys who would simply wander into the hotel grounds and help themselves to whatever fruit they could reach. Star fruit was a popular choice as they were easier to reach than most.

Katherine Wong, who kindly donated the



The Mayfair on Cowan Street c1960

photograph in this article, has great memories of the hotel. She remembers:

"We went to Mayfair Park to play and also for the starfruits, hibiscus flower, catching spiders among the bushes. It was gruesome indeed. The two boys in the photograph (left and centre) are my brothers. The other boy was a friend from Brewster Road."

But like several old buildings in Ipoh, the hotel

had a downside. It was said to be haunted. Two deaths occurred there. In 1951, two terrorists threw a bomb into the kitchen and killed Foo Chee Eng who was making tea for some Europeans in the dining room. On another occasion, it is said that a man hanged himself in the hotel.

The Mayfair Hotel was demolished in the name of development at the latter end of the 1960s to

make way for the extension to Leong Sin Nam Street, today Foh San, Ming Court and Yoke Fook Moon, the three hugely popular dim sum restaurants are located. But what about hotels, is there anything in that area that we can call old? Sadly, no! The best we have is the Hotel Excelsior, built in the 1970s, and we really cannot call that heritage, can we?

We thank Ken Chan for much of the detail of the Mayfair Hotel.

Film Review

A Horror that Awaits: "Pusaka"

By Jo Lynn Chong

Following the recent release of "Pusaka" in cinemas in line with Halloween, which fell on Thursday, October 31, Ipoh Echo brings to you a movie review of this Malaysian horror flick directed by Razaisyam Rashid.

Whilst the film revolves around the narrative of Inspector Nuar solving the case of the strange imprisonment of a pair of twins, Balqis and Qistina, several eerie elements encased in this cinematic gem successfully catches the eye of many horror-lovers.

First and foremost, the inclusion of twins already proves spine-chilling. To make matters worse, there are two pairs in this story. One pair being Balqis and Qistina and the other being Inspector Nuar and his twin sister. The subtle usage of this element could emphasise that there is more to this case than meets the eye, taking into consideration the belief that twins are interdependent of each other, suggesting that their fates could be interconnected and inexplicably "passed on" to each other.

Also, the wide usage

of demonic possessions tugs at the heartstrings, prompting us to rethink our preconceived notions pertaining to the supernatural world. As Islam plays a huge role in this chiller-diller, encounters with the Jinn (supernatural creatures in Islamic mythology) do not come as a surprise.

With numerous grotesque scenes of possessions, "Pusaka" does not fail to keep the hairs on the back of your neck tingling. Violent convulsions, levitations, distorted body movements, abnormal strength and people speaking in different voices are all vividly portrayed. Further coupled with an unpredictable, overwhelming sensation that steadily keeps the audience thoroughly disturbed, these horrendous sights are definitely not for those with a weak heart.

The scene of a possessed mother molesting her own daughter also interestingly highlights sensitive themes of sexual lust, possibly accentuating the belief that immoral sexual acts are associated with the devil.

The film introduces



us to the abandoned house where the twins were held captive, the place where all horror ultimately stems from, right at the start. We see ominous symbols on the walls and a dark silhouette of a young girl which continues to appear as the visible form of the demonic Jinn that toys with the characters throughout the investigation. This young girl ghost with long hair character may come off as cliché, but the

bizarre lighting and sound effects work like magic to effectively bring out the masterly talent of this well-known ghoul.

Initially, through Balqis' account of what happened to her and Qistina, Inspector Nuar concludes that the twins were locked up by their paternal grandmother, Opah, in an attempt to starve them to death so that the remaining inheritance from their late father

(Opah's son) could be passed on to Opah and the family of her other son, Megat Haikal.

The mystery deepens as the disturbances persist following the arrest of Opah. What seemed to be a case of haunting by the vengeful soul of the dead Qistina morphs into something fundamentally more terrifying and unnerving than one can even imagine.

Black magic, despite the public sensitivity towards it, is deeply entrenched in this film. Red shrines, symbols, charms such as the keris (a traditional Malay dagger) charms and incantations are also heavily featured, sustaining the element of dark horror in this seemingly ordinary scary film. Eventually, these blasphemous objects are used as clues to solve the case.

The many jump scares are skilfully executed, almost managing to send your pulse to a stop every single time. I assure you, the painful uneasiness that arises before each scare and the shocking anxiety that lingers after are more than sufficient to stir a gruelling pot of emotions that leave you gulping

for fresh air. If you are prepared to have yourself shocked with scene after scene of horrible dark figures, then I do urge you to watch this chiller-diller! Moreover, incorporating a psychological approach in the climax, Rashid pushes you to your cognitive limit by revealing that the person who is often deemed noble can, sometimes, incidentally turn out to be the sinful culprit, suggesting that good and evil exists in every one of us and it is up to us to decide which side to express. It could also be interpreted as an internal struggle, implying that there is not always a clear cut to what is good or bad.

The presence of smartphones and cars makes this horror story all the more terrifying and believable as it conveys the idea that even science is unable to explain what happened to the people in the story, almost hinting that demonic possessions occur even in the modern-day.

Honestly speaking, this movie managed to scare the wits out of me and I would encourage all those in the mood for something terrifying to go and watch this thrilling film.

Community.

Nothing Lasts Forever

By Jo Lynn Chong

As L. Frank Baum once said, "Everything has to come to an end, sometime."

Lau, 62, first ventured into the electrical home appliances business 34 years ago. After learning some tricks of the trade, he and his wife opened their own shop, LY Chun Sales & Service, in 1995, catering for customers who want to purchase or service Panasonic electrical home appliances.

Fast forward to the present day, Lau's business faces competition from merchandise chain shops and online businesses. The wave of E-commerce has led to the faltering of lots of businesses, including Lau's.

"Lots of people would rather buy online than to go to a shop and what's more, people will buy new appliances instead of sending their old ones to be serviced, which is more



money-saving," a middle-aged customer, who wished to remain anonymous, exclaimed.

The shop will eventually close when Lau and his wife retire as their children will not be taking over the shop. "It's safe to say that this business is becoming very difficult," said Lau's wife. "We encourage our children to pursue other career fields with better job prospects."

"Actually, there is a lack of young skilled workers in this field here

in Ipoh. They either go to Penang or Kuala Lumpur where they feel they can earn more," the couple asserted.

Time is running out

For three decades, Liew Hock Leong has been practising his craft of repairing timepieces. His shop in Persiaran Silibin Utara is adorned with classic grandfather clocks that emanate an alluring kind of sentimentality and warmth.

Gifted with deft



fingers and a great eye for detail, the watchmaker works steadily, all day long in the tropical heat.

"We'll no longer be able to have our Black Forest cuckoo clock fixed whenever it malfunctions once Liew's shop closes. We bought the cuckoo clock in Germany approximately 20 years ago, and after going to so many clock shops, we finally found someone who was able to repair it," Christel, a 52-year-old customer lamented.

Although his business is still going strong, Liew too faces threats of having to close down as a successor is nowhere to be found. "Youngsters do not want to work here, as the working hours are long and the pay is low," said Liew.

Fixing watches and clocks requires great amounts of patience and attention to detail. Besides, how many young people would be willing to work in a place without air conditioning these days?

Small scale retailers, photographic processing and printing industries are other businesses that are gradually diminishing in importance. Having been brutally substituted by 21st-century inventions, taken over by millennial minds, what can we say, but to accept that we have entered a world of new expectations, of which we can neither fathom nor appreciate the extent.

Perhaps we have to remember that what we live in is a world of perpetual change and that wherever we go, we will find ourselves up against the invincible pull of technology and lured in by the comfort that it offers.

"Thirty or so years ago, these shops thrived; 30 years from now, they'll be gone. Today, as of now, we bear witness to a turning point in time, a peripeteia that has yet to unfold," said an Ipohite.



Overwhelming Response for Dance Championship

By Mei Kuan

One of the most exciting dance events in Malaysia, the Perak International Dance Championship (PIDC 2019) unfolded at the ballroom of Syeun Hotel on Saturday, October 26. It was helmed by Veroy

Ng, the director of The Dance Lab also current Malaysia professional Latin Champion as the organising chairman.

PIDC 2019 attracted more than 250 dancers from over 15 countries and all over Malaysia. Equally

star-studded was its lineup of world-renowned international adjudicators from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Spain, Croatia, Bulgaria, Russia, China, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and local dance experts.



Top winners of Professional Open Latin

The morning and afternoon sessions of the dance competition covered various categories – professionals, amateurs, novices, juveniles, synchronized, solo, beginners and show dance for various age groups.

Attended by over 360, the evening gala dinner began with an opening dance by the professional and amateur dancers, followed by the opening speeches by the organising

chairman, Veroy Ng and the president of Malaysia Ballroom Dance Council, Dato' Dr Geoffrey Tan.

The main highlight of the evening competition featured the professional open and amateur open categories. Marcin Wojtkowiak and Dominika Rucinska (Poland) emerged as the champion for the Professional Open Latin while Diego Arias and Ekaterina Ermolina (Spain) were

crowned champion for the Professional Open Ballroom.

This yearly dance championship event in Ipoh aims to promote and build more interest in Latin and ballroom dance. Interested readers can contact The Dance Lab at +6016-4413839 (Veroy Ng) or email to thedancelabmalaysia@gmail.com. The centre is located at 1A Jalan Pasir Puteh, 31650 Ipoh.



Top winners of Professional Open Ballroom

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Community

Change a Child's Life

By Mei Kuan

A total of RM60,000 was raised in the "I Love You, Change a Child's Life: Charity Run and Food Bazaar" by Pertubuhan Pengurusan Pusat Jagaan 1 Malaysia, Perak (PPPJ1M) also known as Society for the Management of 1Malaysia Care Centre.

A total of 400 runners participated in the 5-km run while its food bazaar featured over 70 stalls. It was held in the morning of Sunday, October 27 at the home along Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan.

"An annual event, the original objective of the charity run and food bazaar for this year was to collect funds to buy a new van for the use of our PPPJ1M children. Good news is, two days before the event, a generous donor known as Mr Kuan contributed a new van to our orphanage.

We express our utmost gratitude to Mr Kuan. Thus, funds collected from this event will go towards settling the old van bank loan while the rest will go to the children's education fund and to cover next year's operating cost of our home," explained Choong Kam Hoong, the Chairman of PPPJ1M Home.

The theme "I Love You, Change a Child's Life" reflected the hope that with everyone's support, one can change a child's life for a better tomorrow.

"All funds collected will be used for our PPPJ1M children. Everyone should care for and love them. It is part of everyone's responsibility, not just us as caretakers. Currently, we have 33 children staying in our PPPJ1M Home with the

youngest being two years old and the eldest is 19 years old," he added.

Established in 2012, the orphanage's monthly expenses is around RM25,600 and it is in need of constant support to cover the operating cost. It houses orphans and children from single families who are poor.

Those who wish to lend a helping hand can just come over to the PPPJ1M Home located at 152 Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan, Taman Ipoh, 31400 Ipoh. The office is open from 10am to 6pm. One can also call the home at **05 546 9577**.

For more updates, readers can visit its Facebook page (www.fb.com/pppj1mhome) or website www.1malaysiahome.com



Connexion

By Joachim Ng

Flush politics down the drain

"Until today no action has been taken." So wrote a Taman Ipoh resident about the state of our drains. From when until today? "Years and years of unsatisfactory administration," he lamented in a complaint to Ipoh Echo last month.

The complainant asked a politician to "explain why we faithful taxpayers pay our Assessment Tax dutifully every year when the City Council is so very lax in fulfilling our rightful benefits. How can any resident in such circumstances be dependent on the political party elected to fulfil our basic needs?"

This is a key phrase: "dependent on the political party." Our system of governance has made us dependent on politicians for everything, from cleaning our drains to draining our brains. We agreed to a system that cave communities would look down on, as they ran their own show with every household clutter having at least one rep in the neighbourhood government.

But the modern representative system has taken on such distortion that you, as a ratepayer partially funding the city's expenditure, have become powerless. The system does not provide for non-politically elected neighbourhood reps to be part of the governmental structure.

Unattended clogged drains are just one symptom of systemic failure; Klebang residents will remember that early this year potholed roads were left unrectified for months. It's much the same all over Malaysia. For years, road users have expressed frustration at the tortoise-slow repairs to potholes and depressed stretches that trap deep pools of rain water. Fatal accidents due purely to apathetic maintenance have been the tragic consequence.

Especially glaring are the reported cases of wanton neglect of public parks as well as parklands crafted by property developers in cities and handed over to local authorities. And is it a Mission Impossible job to clear the roadsides and green patches of litter?

Yes it is indeed Mission Impossible. When a governance system makes everyone dependent on the politicians and their political parties, it creates a state of rigor mortis or body stiffness. If HQ decides even the smallest things, after a while nobody takes initiative and drains stay clogged.

Fifteen years ago, the Commonwealth Foundation in its guidebook on practising inclusive governance recommended that citizens be allowed to play an active role. On World Cleanup Day last September, 70 residents of Kampung Pengkalan Gate in Ipoh volunteered to flush the dirty drains. Their cooperative action shows that residents can handle local maintenance – all it takes is to grant them empowerment through non-political neighbourhood committees as part of the city government structure.



A Gift With a Ray of Hope

By Chris Teh

With the festive season around the corner, Ray of Hope long known for its cafe serving delicious specials is currently promoting Christmas cookies and baked goods as part of their fundraising.

Ray of Hope, a centre of training for individuals with learning disabilities in Bercham, with the motto "Every Life Counts, Every Person Matters", originally started in 2001 at Buntong and later relocated to Bercham in 2003. The centre had taken more than 200 students via educational training.

"Our training involves self-awareness which helps students to think and integrate into the society," said Datin Mary Lim-Yong, chairperson of Ray of Hope in a media session on Wednesday, October 30.



"We also give emotional and psychological help to them whenever needed."

She added that there is no chance for independent living for students if only life skills are taught. "To suit today's increasing industrial demand, we added training into pre-vocational and vocational

sectors," Datin Mary added. "Every young adult with learning disabilities has the potential to be a wage earner as well."

She also mentioned that parents of challenged individuals are inadequately educated about the nature of their children's behaviour.

"I will not deny that the stigma still exists within society. Some parents are scared to disclose the fact that they have children with learning challenges," Datin Mary said. "But it's high time they step out of the shadows. With the right approach and care, these children and young adults can live a life like normal individuals do."

"We appreciate donations as support for the organisation," she mentioned. "It depends on students' days of attendance at the training centre but there is always room for negotiation."

The Cafe at Ray of Hope serves as both a training ground for their students as well as an income stream for the centre and during festive seasons the gift-giving season, the public can



show their support by purchasing from the Cafe.

- Biscotti @ RM18 per box (6 for RM100)
- Walnut Chocolate Chip Cookies @ RM25 per jar
- Cranberry White Chocolate Cookies @ RM24 per jar
- Shortbread Plain @ RM23 per jar
- Gingerbread Man Cookie @ RM3.50 per piece (RM3.20 per piece when bought at 10 pieces and above, RM3 per piece when bought at 50 pieces and above)

For more information, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rohi-poh or drop by their centre in Bercham!

RAY OF HOPE

24 & 26, Persiaran Bercham Selatan 31, Taman Sri Kurau, 31400 Ipoh.

Operation hours: 9am to 5pm daily; closed on Sundays & observed public holidays

Community

Fairy Tale Wedding

It was a scene straight out of a movie set. Zaha Wedding Planner did a marvellous job of Suraya Elland Yusoff's garden creating a fairyland of lights, hydrangeas, roses and baby's breath and jasmine in the tents. A raised dais completely bedecked with huge blooms, tents with air-conditioning going full blast, and guests in their glittering best gathered to celebrate Suraya's daughter Sophia Khan to Dan McLean, an entrepreneur like Sophia. Dan a graduate from the University of Loughborough is a Civil Engineer.



VIP guests, aside from the Who's Who of Ipoh, included Tengku Idris (Tengku Temenggong Johore), Datuk and Datin P.S. Gill, Datuk Ahmad Fuad and Datin Nadzley and Datuk Ishak Ismail.

A second ceremony was held at St Regis in Langkawi where the couple repeated their vows.

Conservation

400-hectares of Forest Reserve at Stake



Excavator teeth marks on the damaged slope. This is new damage to the government public road. According to Orang Asli witnesses, the excavator carved out the slope to widen the road, when it was being brought up the mountain. Pic by Roz Hussin.



Orang Asli Tok Batin and other village elders, leading a "Bersawat" ritual, to communicate with the spirits of their ancestors, acknowledging the decimation of their Ancestral Burial Grounds, due to the land clearing by developers. Pic by Roz Hussin.



Aerial view of the hydro site, which is part of the Orang Asli burial ground that is now destroyed. The damaged / excavated skeletons are now nowhere to be found. Pic by David Loh.

By Chan Yuen-Li

About 60 Orang Asli from six villages in the Ulu Geruntum area namely Kampung Sungai Kapor, Kampung Sat, Kampung Ulu Keping, Kampung Empang Main, Kampung Poh and Kampung Ulu Geruntum came together recently with representatives from four NGOs to voice their objections against the destruction of the natural forest.

The Orang Asli communities have been

involved in a legal battle to stop a mini hydroelectric project that encroaches upon their ancestral lands. "We oppose the hydro project because it has cleared 63 hectares of our land without our consent. We love our rivers, our forests and our ancestral burial grounds. My family's graves have been bulldozed."

"The government has said that we do not have any rights on this land because it is a forest reserve. We have given

many letters to various government departments. And they tell us that they are investigating. But in the meantime, work has continued — bulldozing here and there," said Uda Tiah a/l Bah Adim, one of the plaintiffs in the case.

The villagers held a humble ceremony to honour the graves of their ancestors which were allegedly destroyed by the mini-hydro project. "This ceremony is to explain the situation to the spirits of the departed who were disturbed by this project. We believe that their spirits also have a right to be at peace in the jungle where they were laid. When the project first started the villagers reported that there were disturbances. There has not been any ceremony before this to bring them peace," said Mahat Anak Cina, one of the villagers.

The four NGOs attending the event — Green Earth Movement Society of Malaysia (GEMS), Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM), Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (KUASA)

and Pertubuhan Alam Sekitar Sejahtera Malaysia (GRASS) — highlighted another imminent threat to this community. 400-hectare of permanent forest reserve in Kledang Saiong and Bukit Kinta where these villages are situated have been approved for conversion into monoculture "forest farms" or "ladang hutan". In these farms, the natural forest will be clear-felled to plant timber latex clone (TLC). This project is part of a scheme to develop 56,503 hectares or more than 5.6% of the total Permanent Forest Reserve in the state of Perak into monoculture plantations with no change of the Permanent Forest Reserve (PRF) status.

According to SAM's field researcher Meor Razak, "The policy on promoting the development of monoculture farms in the PRF area needs to be abolished. Generally, the justification and the main reason for the State Authority's approval of a monoculture farm development project is

because the PRF area has been identified as poor forests or degraded forests. A certain area of PRF in Malaysia becomes poor or degraded is not due to natural factors but due to human factors, especially illegal trespassing and exploration activities. Furthermore, poor forests can be improved through forestry rehabilitation techniques," he added.

"We, the Orang Asli, do not understand the term "poor forests". We do not consider these forests poor. We do not consider ourselves poor as the forest provides everything we need. We are rich in our way of life, rich in our culture and our beliefs. The people who are poor are the people who have created these shortsighted policies," said Pesenang a/p Bah Singgong, one of the villagers.

The groups all voiced their concern at the loss of biodiversity, contamination of water catchment, massive carbon footprint and the human cost to the Orang Asli communities that

these projects will create. They collectively called upon the state and federal governments to rethink the policy of developing monoculture plantations in permanent forest reserves when there are viable alternatives such as utilizing old tin mining land which Perak has in abundance.

Please support the villagers and NGOs by writing to:

- DATO' SERI AHMAD FAIZAL BIN DATO' AZUMU Menteri Besar Perak parlimentoftambun@gmail.com
- SANDREA NG SHY CHING State Assemblyman Teja adun.teja@gmail.com
- DATO' NOLEE ASHILIN M. RADZI State Assemblyman Tualang Sekah nolee. radzi@gmail.com
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Pic by Roz Hussin





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Nostalgia

Boutique Hotels of Old

By Ian Anderson

The last time I looked at a website for Ipoh hotels I discovered that it claimed that there were 632 places to stay within easy reach of Ipoh Town and well over 120 such places within the city. Many of these were described as Boutique Hotels, defined as “a small stylish hotel, typically one situated in a fashionable urban location”. Now I have no idea how many Ipoh hotels actually match this definition today, but there is no doubt that in years gone by, you can be sure there were none in Ipoh. The nearest we had was the *Rumah Tumpangan* (Boarding House). Most of these were in one place, Hale Street. Indeed there were so many of these establishments there that the locals renamed it Hotel Street.

The boarding houses conducted their business in individual shophouses, converted into small cubicles, called private

rooms, to fit in as many beds as possible. Three toilet cubicles on each floor were fitted with doors barely 30in high so that passers-by could easily view the heads and feet of participants; these shared between the clientele. In the 1950s and 60s, these places were very popular with out-station Malaysian visitors who, in the main, travelled here by train, for business or pleasure. Coolies from the tin mines could also afford to stay the night as such accommodation was very cheap.

For visitors who could afford a better place to lay their head at night, there were other hotels. Civil Servants had the Government Rest House, while for others there was always the FMS Hotel and Bar, The Majestic Hotel, The Mayfair Hotel, and The Park Hotel. Later entries to the hotel scene included the Fair Park Hotel, the Cowan, the



Abandoned and forgotten, 2013 (courtesy of 22 Hale Street)

Excelsior and more.

But back to the old *Rumah Tumpangan*. One by one they disappeared, as a different standard of cheap accommodation arrived in Ipoh. The old boarding-house style was taken over by new ideas and development. By 2003, there was only one such establishment left! Just by chance, my wife and I took an evening stroll along Hale Street as a way to enjoy the peace of an almost deserted Old Town. Suddenly we came across the only shophouse in the street that still had its lights on. A signboard above the door proclaimed it to be the Kam Kong Hotel.

Peering through the steel gate we could see a dimly-lit counter. Then, a



1988 Government licence

weak voice came out of the gloom demanding to know what we wanted. On replying that we were just looking around, we were invited into the mysteries of an original boarding house. Perhaps he thought we wanted the two-hour rate!

Behind the desk was an elderly, gaunt Chinese man who was in charge of the accommodation. On discovering that we wanted no more than to explore, he kindly took us on a guided tour of the facilities. The steep, rickety staircase was almost dark, dimly lit by

a single, fly-spotted bulb. At the top was a landing and corridor to the rooms. A room consisted of a cubicle just big enough for a single bed and a small cabinet. It was windowless. The walls were paper-thin with 3-feet wire grilles at the top, to provide ventilation. An old fan wheezed and groaned on the ceiling in an effort to circulate the humid air. Bedding was a sheet over a plastic-covered mattress with a pillow and folded blanket. The rate he told us was RM18 a night.

Unfortunately, he

would not allow us to take photographs and the only souvenir I manage to get was a quick snap of the 1988 Licence Plate. I did not dare to ask if he had renewed it since then.

Today, the very last vestige of Ipoh's *Rumah Tumpangan*, Ipoh's original boutique hotel, is the hotel signboard, still in place. It remains, despite the massive renovation that included the building into the 22 Hale Street complex. For that, we must thank Puan Sri Dato' Sandra Lee, who kept the old facade to give us a little nostalgia from those days gone by.



The name stands proud in 2019



Selama

– Hidden Paradise

By Rosli Mansor

Do you know that there is a waterfall in Selama whose beauty matches that of the Kooi Waterfall at Royal Belum State Park? This was one of the many hidden gems unveiled during the recent three-day Selama Fam Trip 2019 organised by the Selama District Council in collaboration with Tourism Perak.

It was attended by over 50 participants representing various media, tourism and governmental agencies. Kicking off the tour at Selama located at the north of Perak was the Selama Rafting Cruise @ Selama River.

Rafting at Selama River was all about adrenaline thrill as we manoeuvred the boat for 3km with class-3 rapids due to the light rain.

Then, we were introduced to the SME products made by the residents at Rural Transformation Centre (RTC) Seputeh where plenty of crafts and local nosh awaited. We got to taste the pickled meat with sticky rice and *kelulut* (stingless bees) honey from Felda Ijok among others.

Lata Putih Waterfall

Happening on the second day was an early morning car ride to Lata Putih along Jalan Sumpitan Kampung Masjid at Ijok followed by a 353m hike which took almost 30 minutes. We were rewarded handsomely with a magnificent waterfall as its mist from the water hitting the ground from a height of 40m created a miniature rainbow.

Soursop and Lobster

We were brought to Haji Ismail Soursop Farm brimming with soursop and longan trees to enjoy some fresh, nutritious juice at its orchard of hundreds of hectares. Next, we dropped by the organic lobster farming enterprise run by locals where we tried our hands at catching some lobsters out of the tens of thousands at Kolam Udang Air Bukit Ijok.

Pak Din Komando Keris Gallery

Pak Din Komando Keris Gallery was one of the highlights on the final day where we witnessed firsthand the skills of Pak Din in crafting the sheath of the *keris* (traditional dagger) from *serian batu* wood which is touted to grow only in Larut, Taiping.

Over 100 *keris* and *parang panjang* (long knife) were displayed, each with their own story and historical significance.

Equally unique is the Sungai Atas Sungai (River Above A River) Bridge built by the British soldiers around 1936. It used to be a water channel for agricultural and mining purposes. It flows into the Gigantic Well in Kampung Bagan Baru, another British technological relic.

A stone's throw away from the Gigantic Well is the Raja Bersiong Fort in Kampung Kota Raja Bersiong. According to history, the fort was built as a hideout for Raja Bersiong, the fourth *raja* (ruler) descending from Merong Mahawangsa who escaped from Baling, Kedah. His subjects at the time despised Raja Bersiong due to his horrible habit of feasting on human blood.

Towards the end of the trip, we went to Lata Tebing Tinggi waterfall which is a ten-minute drive from Rantau Panjang town. A paradise for nature lovers, its crystal clear water deserves a second visit.

Come and discover these hidden gems in Selama!



HAPPENINGS

Only pay RM30 for chargeable events/seminars announcements. You get 3 media avenues for the price of one: • Print (circulation 100,000) • Website (over 1 million hits per month – verifiable) • Facebook (Free public events are published FREE)

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05 543 9411; 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.

ARTS AND CULTURE

CHARITY BALLET CONCERT 'SWAN LAKE'. NOVEMBER 17 (Sunday), 8pm at RTM Auditorium. A fundraising event for the Perak Palliative Care Society. One-night performance only. For enquiries, call Dance Centre 05 545 9480; Facebook or Instagram: *Dance Centre, Ipoh* for updates.

KINTA VALLEY SYMPHONIC SOCIETY (KVSS) PRESENTS MOVIE PARADISO. NOVEMBER 24 (Sunday), 3pm at Auditorium Perakfm, Jabatan Penyiaran Malaysia Perak. "Movie Paradiso" is an orchestral musical journey that weaves through various movie themes. Don't miss out the opportunity to listen to the tunes of movie classics, both modern and of yesteryear! Entry by donation: RM80, RM50 & RM30. Contact 012 523 1037 (Lee Meng Meng) to obtain your tickets or visit Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Kvwo2010/> for further details.

IPOH FINE ARTS SOCIETY – 'GANJAM'. NOVEMBER 29 (Friday), 8.30pm at Auditorium RTM Perak, Jalan Mahadi Musa, Ipoh. Presenting Sutra Foundation's stunning production, a spectacular Odissi performance by the Sutra Dance Theatre. For invites and enquiries, contact (Ipoh Fine Arts Society) Sunthary 05 254 5185 (office hours), Shanti Lingam 016 532 1087, Tholasee Manoharan 016 527 2959 or Kamini Kumar 012 500 1421.

CAREER

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI PETRONAS CORPORATE CAREER EXPOSURE (CCE) 2019. NOVEMBER 16-17 at Chancellor Complex, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, 32610 Seri Iskandar, Perak. Themed "Unlock True Potential with UTP", CCE will bring together the country's most popular graduate employers under one roof, creating a platform that offers the best internship and full-time work opportunities for top talents. Participating companies will be able to increase their visibility on campus, build their recruitment image and market their company as an employer of choice. For further information on the event, contact Ahmad Firdaus Mohd Amran 012 734 0950 or email: firdaus.utpcce@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

PUBLIC FORUM: MINDFUL-SPA, SELF-COMPASSION & MINDFULNESS. NOVEMBER 16 (Saturday), 3pm-5pm at Bro. Liborius Auditorium, 6th Floor, Hospital Fatimah, Ipoh. In collaboration with Malaysia Association for Mindfulness Practice and Research, organised by Befrienders Ipoh and Hospital Fatimah. To register, send a WhatsApp message with your full name to 017 519 4752/016 521 7230.

SHOW OFF YOUR CAT! NON-PEDIGREE CAT COMPETITION. NOVEMBER 17 (Sunday), 9.30am-1.30pm at Tesco Extra Bercham. 'Natural Beauty', 'Most Photogenic', 'Best Dressed' and 'Owner Pet Look-Alike' categories and other fun activities for the public. Registration fee: RM30 per category. For registration, enquiry, terms & conditions: 011 2063 0103 (Fazila) or 016 252 5566 (Winnie). Email: noahsarkipoh@yahoo.com. Facebook: *noahsarkipoh*.

PSPA HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA @ IPOH CAR FREE DAY. NOVEMBER 24 (Sunday), 7.30am-10am at Jalan Raja DiHilir, Ipoh. Dancing, music, goodies & prizes, singing, superstar costume contests, holiday rides and booths. Let's come and join in!

ORANGE THE WORLD CHARITY RUN. NOVEMBER 24 (Sunday), 7am at the Indian Recreation Club. Organised by Good Shepherd Services (GSS), the Run is expected to draw about 500 participants comprising children and adults. The Men Open, Women Open, Men Junior/Senior Veteran & Women Junior/Senior Veteran categories will be a 5km run. This Run kicks off a 16-day activism campaign, 'The Orange the World (OTW) Campaign – Say "No" to Violence Against Women and Children', which includes public awareness talks, signature campaigns and public events to raise awareness on the issue of gender-based violence. For more information or to register, contact 010 930 9965 or 05 242 0388 (Kelvin).

YOUNG GENERATION SOCIETY PERAK (GENY) EQ LEADERSHIP CAMP. DECEMBER 13-15 at Sufes Campsite, Tapah. The camp is a 3-day experiential and life-transforming event. Participants will learn through structured self-awareness sessions and fun activities. Emotional resilience is an outcome of camp lessons learnt. Participants need to be at least 14 years old, physically and medically fit. Camp slots is limited to 30 participants only. Closing date is November 16. Contact Mabel 012 534 0063 for registration. GenY is an NGO dedicated to educating and empowering young people.

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON MENTAL HEALTH will be conducted at the Ipoh Adventist Community Services Center. This programme has helped many to optimize their brains and has equipped others to help loved ones recover from mental health illness, with proven results. It runs for 2 hours, every Saturday afternoon for 8 weeks, from July through August. For further details, WhatsApp us at 016 400 0271.

NEDLEY DEPRESSION & ANXIETY RECOVERY PROGRAM™ will be run by the Ipoh Adventist Community Services to equip those who are struggling with anxiety disorder or depression, or those desiring to assist loved ones with mental health disorders. This programme can help improve EQ and help students achieve peak mental performance. For further info, WhatsApp 016 595 0829 or 016 400 0271.

Kechara Earth Project. LET'S RECYCLE FOR GREENER EARTH. EVERY 4TH SUNDAY of the month, 9.30am-11.30am in front of Ipoh Garden Post Office, Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan, Ipoh Garden, 31400 Ipoh. Carton boxes, paper, metal/aluminium, electronic equipment, plastics, light bulbs, batteries and used clothes. Funds are channeled towards Kechara Food Bank that serves the urban poor and underprivileged community in Ipoh. For more details, contact: 016 532 8309 (Mr So) or 012 522 3200 (Ms Yee Mun).

FREE REALITY-BASED STREET DEFENSE WORKSHOP. Organised by Urban Street Defense's Centre for all NGOs and Women's Groups in Ipoh. Workshop covers what to do when you are attacked, defend against various real life attack scenarios and more. Call 016 538 4562 to book a FREE session. Booking confirmation on a first come, first served basis.

REPORT BULLYING. All schools in Malaysia have an Anti-bullying Guideline. Anti-bullying hotline: Talian Aduan Disiplin 1800-88-4774 or email adudisiplin@moe.gov.my. You can also call 15999 Childline to report bullying.

To Advertise /Collaborate

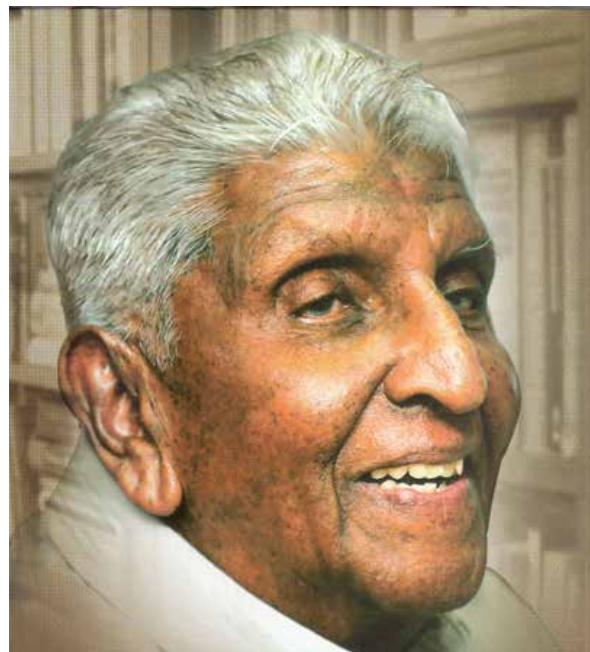


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Tribute

N.S. Selvamany:
A Much-loved Teacher

Datuk Seri Dr N.S. Selvamany, a passionate teacher and school principal, passed away in the early morning of October 29 at his residence at Anderson Drive, Ipoh.

Datuk Seri Dr N.S. Selvamany is more than a teacher to most people who knew him. He began his teaching career in 1952 after having studied at the Raffles College, Singapore for four years (1947-1952) majoring in Economics. Selvamany's career started at the Anderson School, Ipoh. He taught for more than 20 years at Anderson and as a pioneer, he had produced many prominent students. A significant number of his students held some important positions in the public and private sectors. Among them are Tan Sri

Sallehuddin Mohamad, Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, Datuk Seri Khalid Hussein, Tan Sri Dr. Wan Zahid Mohd Noordin, Datuk Ismail Mohammad, Datuk Percy Muttiah, Raja Puan Sri Noora Ashikin Raja Abdullah, Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh Hamzah, Tan Sri Tajol Rosli, Tun Eusoff Chin, and a long list of other important figures. These important people had played a vital role in shaping our national policies and helped to build our nation into what it is today.

A role model and a benchmark for all those who knew him, his uniqueness is, he never forgets any of his students, friends or relatives' names. He knew not the difference in race and religion, everyone was

seen as a person. He did not let the difference of races or religion determine any of his decisions. Widely regarded as one of the most influential people in the country.

As a student, he started in the Government English School, now known as SMK Sultan Yusof which was founded by Selvamany's grandfather, K. Malaiperumal Pillay who had started the school in his own house in Batu Gajah in 1907; in order that all, regardless of their race and religion, would be able to receive an education.

The Tokoh Guru Nasional 1997 always reminded people that we are in a multi-racial country and people must learn to live with each other and enjoy the richness together. He often quotes that - live with love and goodwill, respect the laws of this country and uphold our independence for the sake of this country, one flag, one heart, one nation.

For the family and indeed for many of his close friends, Selvamany's death has left a void which will be difficult to fill. Now I wonder, will there be another Selvamany in the quest for sincere unity for all who will embody the sincerity, grace and greatness? Datuk Seri Dr N.S. Selvamany, we will miss you – always!

S. Sundralingam
Ex-Hon. Secretary,
National Union of the
Teaching Profession
(NUTP) Perak

Dogs for Adoption

Don't shop, adopt. Spread love. Leave no pets behind.



Age: 3-month-old puppy
Gender: female
Breed: small, pedigree mix
Temperament: active, gentle and friendly

Age: 7 months old
Gender: Female (spayed)
Breed: medium, pedigree mix
Temperament: active, gentle and friendly

Contact: Vivien Lian 014 332 3859



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.

In Response to the Claims about Gunung Lanno

Kinta Valley Watch have raised these points:

1. It was said that Gunung Lanno has been authorised for quarrying.
(1) Does the authorised quarry zone include limestone caves? If it isn't, how would quarry companies bear the damages to the caves and environment?
(2) Recorded quarry sites in the legislation are amenable. **Quarrying activities are to be ceased and moved away from the area if valuable discoveries such as fossils, unique biodiversity or rare species are found in the quarry sites.**

2. It is said that exploration activities in Gunung Lanno is unsafe. In fact, outdoor activities are reasonable and relatively safe through sufficient preparation, safety measures and suitable equipment. On the contrary, **quarry blasting threatened lives and the surroundings as stated in the news reports over the years.**

"Rockfall in quarry kills man operating excavator"

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/07/01/man-buried-under-tonnes-of-rock-in-quarry-incident#POtVmv14u06AxR7i.99>

"Flying rocks from quarry blasting"

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/community/2007/08/10/flying-rocks-from-quarry-blasting>

"Factory workers hit by flying stones from quarry blasts"

<https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/community/2015/01/30/living-in-fear-factory-workers-hit-by-flying-stones-from-quarry-blasts#MXpREO1S1ZPLHosG.99>

"One killed in quarry site explosion"

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2013/07/20/one-killed-in-quarry-site-explosion>

"Slimy and oily water' flowing into pipes"

<https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2019/05/21/slimy-and-oily-water-flowing-into-pipes#Yg7xDh6S1F6ae4Zg.99>

3. **There have been many detailed and thorough research conducted by local and foreign research centres on Gunung Lanno all proven that the caves hold rich and unique records on history, culture, religion, paleontology, weather and the list goes on.** These hold the identity and characteristics of Kinta's nature which make good ecotourism potential. Below are some of the research works on Gunung Lanno:

(1) Speleological Expedition – Gunung Lanno

<https://austria-forum.org/web-books/en/gununglanno00de2001isds>

(2) Gunung Lanno

<https://tinyurl.com/yyavnuqc>

(3) Proceedings: engineering geology planning for sustainable development

<https://tinyurl.com/yxqacf5y>

(4) Sacred Darkness: A Global Perspective on the Ritual use of Caves

<https://tinyurl.com/y5a6qzme>

4. Among 36 caves of Gunung Lanno, out of 20 longest natural caves in Peninsular Malaysia, 7 of them are in Gunung Lanno; 100,000-year-old fossil has been discovered in Gua Naga Mas in Gunung Lanno; Writings on the walls are believed to be from Orang Asli and Communist Party of Malaya; There is a 100-year-old tin mining history in Gua Gatsch, Gunung Lanno; Gua Puncak has the second largest chamber in Peninsula Malaysia; Gua Air and few other caves are underground water caves, which all are uncommon in Malaysia.

5. With all the reports and evidence supporting the irrecoverable value of Gunung Lanno, we request an answer for the authorisation of Gunung Lanno as a quarry zone.

6. **Tonnes of research conducted on Gunung Lanno were completed about 20 years ago, did the decision to make Gunung Lanno the quarrying zone accomplished according to any of the research?**

7. Has any thorough survey conducted on the caves of Gunung Lanno before the issuance of quarry permit? **Has there been any research work done by the authority to prove that Gunung Lanno is ideal for quarrying?**

8. Gua Gatsch, the only cave in Malaysia with hundred years old worth of tin mining history which its eastern entrance has already been blasted off in the process of quarrying. **Why would the authority allow quarrying and why would the company proceed with quarrying knowing that the said cave holds an important position in the history of Malaysia?**

9. According to the **National Heritage Act 2005 (Act 645)** (<https://tinyurl.com/y5t29a77>)

No. 47 Discovery of Object, (1):

"Any person who discovers any object which he has reason to believe has cultural heritage significance shall immediately notify the Commissioner, any authorized officer or the District Officer of the district where the object was discovered, and where practicable, deliver the object to the Commissioner, authorized officer or the District Officer who shall give a written acknowledgement thereof . . ."

No. 48 Proprietary right in the object, (1):

Any object discovered after the date of the coming into operation of this Act shall be the absolute property of the Federal Government provided that where the object is discovered on an alienated land, compensation may be paid to the owner of the land.

10. It is now known that Gua Gatsch of Gunung Lanno claimed the national heritage status with its 100-year-old tin mining history, **what would be the next step? Will quarrying still be proceeding?**

11. Last but not least, **we would like to clarify that we hold no objection towards limestone quarrying**, only if the following is fulfilled:

(1) **Limestone hills are dedicated to public use whereas rock blasting is to serve the private interest. Public interest should be the priority where the quarry industry and quarry association meet to work towards preserving caves with irrecoverable values by referring to the research reports.**

For example, Lafarge has been conducting conservation works on Gunung Kanthan to preserve cave biodiversity. This is a great example where a balance is achieved between industrial development and biodiversity conservation. (<https://tinyurl.com/y3ayqcf2>)

(2) **The company should exercise its corporate social responsibility by listening to the community** where a safe and healthy environment is to be taken into account in the process of profit maximization. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_social_responsibility)

(3) Limestone hills are non-renewable plus Kinta Valley is the only zone with the largest limestone karst area in Peninsula. To make limestone extraction possible without the need for rock blasting, **the industry shall turn to subsurface limestone quarrying, which has been proven to be achievable by quarry companies in Tasek, Kampar and Batang Padang.**

(4) **Thorough surveys are to be conducted in the caves before authorisation for quarrying. The survey reports are to be shared with the community** followed by identification for quarrying activities.

(5) **We are asking that Perak government to cease all the quarrying activities in Gunung Lanno, to inspect quarry license of the projects in the Lanno zone, to conduct a thorough survey on Gunung Lanno and to gazette Gunung Lanno under Lembah Kinta Geopark for eco-tourism.** This is the voice of the community and we expect our voice will be heard.

Two of the reports which highlighted the significance of Gunung Lanno:

"Gazette hills to protect them for perpetuity"

<https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2019/07/25/gazette-hills-to-protect-them-for-perpetuity>

"Gunung Lanno — a natural heritage that needs to be preserved"

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/life/2019/07/07/gunung-lanno-a-natural-heritage-that-needs-to-be-preserved/1769108>

Kinta Valley Watch

Anti-illegal Betting Campaign

- Perak Turf Club will be launching its Anti-Illegal Betting Campaign (AIBC) on November 16-17.
- The horse racing industry supports the livelihood of thousands of Malaysian citizens – jockeys, horse trainers, veterinarians and other employees of turf clubs – as well as those in related equine businesses which supply horse fodder, horse-racing equipment, saddlery and riding gear, and equine medicine and health products.
- The licensed turf clubs in Malaysia typically pay very high duties and taxes on their gross revenue – an average of 12.4% in addition to the income tax rate of 28% on profits earned.
- However, for many years now, the racing industry has been plagued by the increasingly rampant unlawful activities of illegal bookmakers. These illegal operators secretly conduct their illegal activities on-site at the turf club premises as well as use sophisticated computerized and online systems to lure betting customers away from the legal betting counters of the licensed turf clubs.
- Hence, these illegal bookmakers steal millions of ringgit in betting revenues from the licensed turf clubs by enticing betting customers away to their nefarious online betting platforms and illegal bookmaking activities.
- The loss of betting revenues due to illegal bookmaking activities is extremely huge, estimated to be at least several billion ringgit per year.
- With the loss of betting revenues attributed to the activities of these illegal bookmakers, consequently, the Malaysian Government is also deprived of millions of ringgit in gaming taxes and duties which would otherwise be paid on the betting revenues stolen from the licensed turf clubs.

- As we all know, illegal bookmakers pay no taxes at all.
- Perak Turf Club has taken the initiative to launch the AIBC with the following objectives:
 - To caution and discourage our betting customers from betting with illegal bookmakers as it is an offence under the law.
 - To inform our betting customers of the harsher penalties imposed by the soon to be legislated new laws which punish not just illegal bookmakers and their runners but also those who bet with them.
 - To highlight the risks of betting with such illegal bookmakers; these risks include betting disputes, not being paid their winnings as well as being prosecuted for unlawful betting.
 - To reinforce the message that it is always safer and better "to bet legally & win happily."
- As part of Perak Turf Club's efforts to curb illegal bookmaking activities, it has installed a camera surveillance system (CCTV) with extensive coverage in its betting halls to monitor and deter illegal bookmaking and betting activities.
- Perak Turf Club hopes that the AIBC will complement the efforts of the Police Di Raja Malaysia and other enforcement authorities in clamping down on the activities of illegal bookmakers.
- Unless the unlawful activities of illegal bookmakers are effectively curbed, the business of the licensed turf clubs and the livelihood of thousands of Malaysian citizens in the racing industry will face a very bleak and precarious future.

Perak Turf Club

History

Planting Empire, Cultivating Subjects

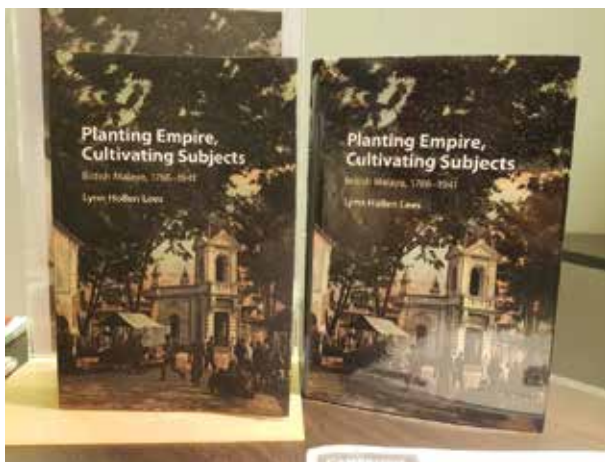
By Mei Kuan

Professor Emerita Lynn Hollen Lees gave an illustrated talk based on her book, "Planting Empire, Cultivating Subjects: British Malaya, 1786-1941" during the Bicara Warisan (Heritage Discourse) hosted by Perak Heritage Society. It was held on Wednesday, October 23 at MU Hotel.

The 78-year-old Lynn, who co-founded the Perak Oral History project, explained to Ipoh Echo, "I spent a long time thinking about that title. My book is about British colonial rule and the way that the British governed Malaya. I deal, in the book, with plantations



and towns. I'm interested in the attitudes of the



people living in British Malaya toward the British and I argue that British rule produced particular kinds of British subjects. The title is a play on words that has to do with

agriculture. The empire is planted on the ground when the British came and they did it via agriculture: the sugar and the rubber. In order to make the people into British subjects, you

have to cultivate them. What they were doing was trying to cultivate subjects who would be loyal, obedient and not object."

Lynn is a Professor of History Emerita at the University of Pennsylvania and a past president of the Urban History Association. She has written extensively on cities and social history in Europe and elsewhere.

What keeps her doing what she is doing? "I love learning about things and I love studying Malaysia," she enthused.

Lynn donated five copies of her book to various public and academic libraries via

a presentation ceremony towards the end of the enlightening session.

The hardcover copy (priced at RM325) was published in 2018 while the paperback came out just recently. The hardcopy can be ordered through gerakbudayapenang.com while the paperback will be made available at the site once in stock.

Meanwhile, Perak Heritage Society is a non-profit NGO with a vision to record, document and care for the outstanding natural, cultural and industrial heritage of Perak for the benefit of the people and visitors, now and in the future.

Sport

Perak Bison Emerged Champion

By Luqman Hakim



The Sepak Takraw League (STL) Premier came to an end on Sunday, November 3 after Perak Bison grabbed the champions title at Stadium Indera Mulia, Ipoh.

Perak Bison took home a trophy and a cash prize of RM50,000 after defeating Penang Black Panthers by 21-17, 21-19.

Playing in their homeland stadium, Perak Bison brought in Meor Zulfikar Mat Amin, Asraaf Abd Hadi and Amirul Ramdhan in the first half and Natthawut Naewprom from Thailand in the second half.

Penang Black Panthers front-liners were Said Ezwan, Zulhusni Basri and Azlan Alias.

Coming in at second place, ATM Guardians walked away with a cash prize of RM30,000 while their manager Mejar Tajul Hisyam Mamat was awarded as Best Team Manager while Aswadi Abdullah was announced as the Best Team Coach.

Johor Tigris came in third and won a cash prize of RM20,000.

The top five teams of the STL 2019, namely, Perak Bison, ATM Guardians, Johor Tigris, Penang Black Panthers and Kelantan Warriors will be competing at

upcoming STL Champions Cup together with Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, China and the Philippines.

The STL Champions Cup will be held at Pinewood Iskandar Malaysia Studio, Johor from December 22 to 28.



Junior Blast Water Polo Tournament



In conjunction with the National Sports month, a Junior Blast Water Polo Tournament was held from October 26 to 27 at the Tuanku Zara Aquatic Centre. The tournament was organised by the KuRenang Swimming Academy (KRSA).

The tournament was divided into three categories, under 13, under 15 and the master category which was participated by those above 30 years of age.

According to the organising chairman, Clara Chung there were more than 20 teams from within and outside the country. Initially, there were only six teams that partook in the under 13 and under 15 category. However, the tournament managed to grab the attention from countries such as Singapore and Thailand.

"As for the Master category, there were four teams namely Ipoh KRSA, Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM), Singapore and Kuala Lumpur," she said.

She then added that KRSA believes that by organising such tournaments, it creates a platform for the younger generation to build their talent in this sport.

"The sole purpose of organising such tournaments is to explore and discover more young talents as this sport is given the least attention in Malaysia.

"The organisers hope that in the near future, Malaysia would have the opportunity to compete with countries from South East Asia in water-polo," she added.

Clara and the KRSA committee thanked all sponsors for their continuous support in making this tournament a success. She also extended her gratitude to the National Sports Council (MSN) and Perak Water-polo Club (PWC) for providing technical support throughout the competition and Auspole for being the main sponsor.

"Junior Blast Water Polo would be a yearly tournament," Clara emphasised.

KRSA is a new organisation that was introduced six months ago. The coach and trainers of this organisation are ex-water-polo players from Malaysia and Singapore. For further information about the organisation, they may be found on Facebook at KuRenang Swimming Academy.



Upcoming National Horse Show 2019

By Mei Kuan

The much-awaited National Horse Show is coming back bigger than ever in Ipoh featuring four days of equestrian sports in multiple disciplines, live demonstrations, newly-introduced displays, welfare initiative and plenty of family-oriented carnival entertainment to boot.

Hosted by the PRTC Equestrian Club of the Perak Turf Club, this major event on the local equestrian sports calendar will unfold on Thursday, November 28 till Sunday, December 1 at the equestrian grounds along Jalan Kelab Golf with free admission for all

from 8am to 6pm.

Set to kick off the annual celebration are the equestrian competitions, such as the EAM Young Riders Showjumping Qualifier and Chairman's Cup among others followed by events of show jumping, dressage, arena cross country and the crowd favourite, equine fancy dress.

This year will also see the introduction of competitive horseback and ground archery. Be sure to catch all the action from top riders and contestants from all over Malaysia and abroad as they take centre stage!

Equally not-to-be-missed are the thrilling

canine demo by Royal Malaysia Police K9 Unit and enlightening farriery demo by highly skilled equine foot care professionals. There will be entertainment galore with something for everyone from carriage rides, pony rides, rock climbing, face painting, sand art to magic show with a food fair waiting around the corner for your feasting pleasure.

Adding to the joy will be the presence of underprivileged children from local welfare homes as special guests to the show.

For more updates, call 05 254 0505 or visit the Perak Turf Club Facebook page. Have you marked your calendar yet?

Activities:

Pony & Carriage Rides
Face Tatoo & Painting
Sand Art
Rock Climbing
Magic Show
Show Jumping
Dressage
Arena X-Country Event
Magical Keychain

PESTA KUDA 2019 NATIONAL HORSE SHOW 2019

28TH NOVEMBER TO 1ST DECEMBER
8.00 AM - 6.00 PM



FREE
ADMISSION



Upcoming PSPA Holiday Extravaganza

Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA), a not-for-profit organisation established in 1996, is participating in the Ipoh Car Free Day on November 24, which coincides with the school holidays.

In the spirit of JOY through performing arts, this event starting from 7.30am to 10am along Jalan Raja Dihilir, will showcase our rich, diverse and multi ethnic's performing arts through a display of dances, singing, music, character modelling, etc. There will also be the sale of commercial products such as dry food and beverage, gifts and souvenirs associated with this holiday theme.

Prizes will be accorded for Holiday Booth Display Contest and Super STAR Costume Contest (open to the public).

The highlight of this extravaganza will be the 'One Million Stars' parade, officiated by Duli Yang Maha Mulia Raja Permaisuri Perak Darul Ridzuan, Tuanku Zara Salim, followed by prize giving to winners of respective contests as well as the distribution of goodies to the public.

The 'One Million Stars to End Violence' project is a collaboration between PSPA and other NGOs namely, Soroptimist International Ipoh (SI), Perak Women for Women Society (PWW), in conjunction with 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women'. Malaysia achieved One Million (1,000,000) Stars in October 2019!

This colourful holiday extravaganza comprising of some 30 participating groups/organisations in addition to the regular participants at the monthly Car Free Day amidst a carnival atmosphere is expected to draw a crowd of many thousands as well as various media coverage. This will be a fun-filled Sunday morning not to be missed!



Awareness of Violence Against Women and Children

The issue of gender, women and children violence is very close to the Good Shepherd Services (GSS). GSS position is very firm in that all girls reserve the honour and rights to enjoy all aspects of human rights. This includes the opportunity to expand their potential to the fullest.

Every year from November 25 to December 10, GSS conducts the Orange the World (OTW) Campaign – Say "No" to Violence Against Women and Children. This 16-day activism campaign which includes public awareness talks, signature campaigns and public events forms part of their advocacy efforts to raise awareness on the issue of gender-based violence. This international campaign starts with the International for Elimination of Violence against Women which falls on November 25 and ends on December 10 with International Human Rights Day.

The theme for this year's campaign is 'Orange The World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!'

will be held in Ipoh to commemorate the recent establishment of our Community Service Centre in Buntong.

To kick-off this campaign and to raise public awareness about the issue of violence experienced by women and children, we will be organising an Orange The World Charity Run on November 24 (Sunday) at 7am. This morning Run will start and finish at the Indian Recreation Club. The Run is expected to draw about 500 participants comprising children and adults. In this respect, we are collaborating with the various primary and secondary schools in and around the vicinity to promote participation in the Run. The school children will complete in the 3km run.

The Men Open, Women Open, Men Junior/Senior Veteran & Women Junior/Senior Veteran categories will be a 5km run.

For more information or to register, contact 010 930 9965 or 05 242 0388 (Kelvin).

