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Independent Private Schools

By Angain Kumar



There are a number of self-funded and managed independent private schools in and around Ipoh. Although they may be an irritant to the education authorities, due to their "seemingly uncompromising attitude in towing nationalistic lines", their existence is for a reason. They are being hailed by many, especially among the moneyed, as a suitable alternative for parents wanting a "balanced, liberal and unfettered" educational grounding for their children. Education, incidentally, is big business in Malaysia. And the proliferation of educational institutions is testimony to this transcending evolutionary trend.

In this second instalment on education, Ipoh Echo will highlight the integrity of three independent private schools, one managed by a Christian society and the other two, by Chinese entrepreneurs.

Continued on page 2

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Christian Values, Confucian Principles and Shanghai Educational System



Wesley Methodist School

Wesley Methodist School

Wesley Methodist School, Ipoh (WMSI) occupies the building that was formerly known as Methodist High School, Ipoh. Unlike its predecessor, which offered secondary education up to sixth form, WMSI provides both primary and secondary education from primary one to six and Forms one to five.

Being a Christian mission school, it seeks to inculcate Christian values in tandem with the school's motto, "Above and Beyond". It is unique, having been borne out of divine intuition and is largely modelled after the much sought-after Wesley Methodist School, Kuala Lumpur. The emphasis, besides mainstream education, is character development and discipline.

The syllabus offered here is *Kurikulum Bersepadu Sekolah Rendah* (KBSR) for primary students and *Kurikulum Bersepadu Sekolah Menengah* (KBSM) for secondary students. Apart from that, it too caters to students wanting to take Bible Knowledge, Mandarin and the Higher English Syllabus (Singapore). It observes a specific teaching module with small-group classes for those in need of such lessons.

Emphasis on English Language

According to Ms Chong Soo Mooi, headmistress of the primary section, most parents enrol their children in the school because it provides a more sensible approach to education.

Students' school works are constantly monitored and an open-door policy is adopted when it comes to the parents dealing with members of the teaching staff. Emphasis on English Language is the other contributing factor. "We don't believe in only academics. Education should not be confined to the classroom alone; it should include other aspects as well," she stressed.

The other aspects include extra-curricular activities and excursions. Uniformed bodies such as Girls and Boys Brigade, music and school projects are some of the extra-curricular activities on offer. A recent collaborative effort by the primary and secondary sections enabled the school to successfully stage 'The Sound of Music'. The play attracted much positive feedback from both parents and the public.

Facilities

A walk around the school reveals the many facilities it has to offer. They include laboratories, library, chapel, workshop and a drama room. The laboratories are specifically for physics, biology, chemistry and general science. Sporting facilities available are a basketball court and a playing field with a 400-metre tartan track to boot.

Testimonials from parents reinforce its claim as one of the leading private schools in Ipoh. Dr Jeffrey Rowlands commented, "It's fortunate that I transferred my daughter from a premier girls' school to Wesley Methodist. She now enjoys learning and is more creative in her work."

WMSI comes under the purview of the Methodist Council of Education, Malaysia. The council is responsible for the school's finances and administrative matters.

For enquiries, contact **05 254 5122** or **012 568 3738**. Wesley Methodist School Ipoh is located at 42 Jalan Silibin, 30100 Ipoh.

Poi Lam High School

Poi Lam High School, Lahat offers a mix of Malaysian and international syllabuses for students. They can choose to sit for the Unified Examination Independent Chinese Secondary Schools (UEC) or the *Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia* (SPM). The school also offers the newly-introduced *Pentaksiran Berasaskan Sekolah* (PBS) for its junior entrants. Students can also opt for the General Certificate of Education and the Senior Cambridge examinations.

According to Chan Weng Kwai, the human resources department chief, parents choose the school because of the programmes it offers. The school has recently obtained a 5-star rating from the Education Ministry and is working hard towards improving its delivery system.

ISO 9001 Certification

"We're aiming to obtain the ISO 9001 certification. Its attainment will bolster the confidence of the parents in the school," he added.

In line with its efforts to secure the certification, procedures and data management of the school are held under tight scrutiny in compliance with the Personal Data Protection Act.

Classrooms are fitted with close-circuit television system so the principal can keep a watch on teachers and students. The school adheres to the principles, virtues and teachings of Confucius. A large statue dedicated to the thinker is erected near the entrance to the school.

During my walkabout, I marvelled at the huge space the school sits on. Facilities available within the school blocks include computer and science laboratories, multi-purpose halls, covered basketball and badminton courts and two playing fields.

Impressive Hostel

One of the advantages of this school is that it caters to international students and those

from outside the state. It has an impressive hostel that can accommodate 400 students and is equipped with bunks, a study area, internet connectivity and air conditioning. The hostel is a suitable option for the 98 foreign students who come from as far as the United Kingdom, America, Canada and China.

Besides the usual co-curricular societies like scouts and St John Ambulance, Poi Lam has its own military band and a Chinese orchestra. According to Chan, there are dedicated hours where students are able to partake in activities outside the classroom. This, he said, was to enhance the student's development and produce an all-round individual.

For enquiries about the school, call **05 321 8120** or email to: poilam@poilam.edu.my. Its official website: www.poilam.edu.my.

Poi Lam High School is located at Lot 18274, Jalan Simpang Pulai, Pengkalan, 31500 Ipoh.



Poi Lam High School

Yuk Choy High School

Unlike its twin national school, Yuk Choy High School offers the Unified Examination Independent Chinese Secondary Schools (UEC). The system is divided into a 3-year Junior Course and a 3-year Senior Course. Students enrol in the Junior Course after their primary education. Lessons are conducted in Mandarin, except for Bahasa Malaysia and English. Those who do not have sufficient Mandarin skills are placed in remove classes to improve their proficiency in the language before proceeding with their secondary education.

Upon completion of the Junior Course, students have the choice to opt for separate streams namely, Science; Arts and Design; Commerce and Automotive. Students too have a choice to sit for their SPM examination but have to be tested for their Bahasa Malaysia and English language ability and obtain the consent of their parents.

Hostel and "Success Education"

Principal Soh Mun Sing briefed on the activities and facilities available at the school. It boasts an enrolment of 1448 students. There are the usual facilities like multimedia and science laboratories, an automotive workshop and hostel. The hostel can accommodate over 350 students and is equipped with a pantry area, recreational space, karaoke room, gym and a common study area. Most of the hostel occupants come from various parts of Malaysia. There are a handful of foreign students too.

Co-curriculum activities are similar to regular schools. Besides the usual uniformed bodies, the school too has a drum society, a cultural dance society, a Chinese orchestra and a wushu club. Recently it embarked on an education initiative known as, "Success Education". It is a concept borrowed from the Shanghai education system. The system standardises three aspects of schooling namely, management, teaching and discipline. It provides for a more efficient method in managing the students' education.

"The report by Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) highlighted the efficiency of schools in Shanghai. We decided to adopt the programme in order to obtain better results from the students," he added.

Yuk Choy High School is an attractive option for parents. The 6-year curriculum encompasses all teaching levels from lower secondary to pre-university. Using, the qualifications obtained from the 6-year internship, students can then choose to further their studies in local private or foreign universities.

As of the date of this article, the government has yet to recognise the UEC examinations for entry into public universities.

For details call **05 526 0963** or **05 526 7912**. The school's website: www.yukchoy.edu.my. Yuk Choy High School is located at Lot 14737, Jelapang, 30200 Ipoh.

(All three schools have refused to disclose their fee structures for obvious reasons).



Yuk Choy School

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From the Editor's Desk
By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

Ever wonder how one feels when being sent from pillar to post? That was how a member of a women's non-governmental organisation was treated when she sought permission from the authorities to organise a rally in the city recently.

An act of parliament was passed in 2012 to allow for peaceful assembly by the people to voice their dissent or to vent their dissatisfaction. The issue can be as mundane as inaction by a certain government agency or indifference over matters of public interest. The fact that a law has been enacted enabling Malaysians to "take to the streets" meant that "an assembly of five or more people is considered unlawful" as stipulated in Section 27 of the Police Act is no longer relevant.

The passing of the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012 (*Akta Perhimpunan Aman 2012*) is designed to regulate public protests in the country. The Act was drafted following the Bersih 2.0 rally and after the Government announced its intention to amend the Police Act. It was tabled in Parliament on November 22, 2011, passed by the Lower House on November 29, approved by the Senate on December 20 and became law on April 23, 2012. That was how efficient the process was but the Act has since been criticised by many as being a bit "undemocratic".

The Act prohibits those below the age of 15 from being a participant. It too bars a gathering within 50 metres of "prohibited places" such as hospitals, petrol stations, airports, railway stations, places of worship and schools. Those who fail to comply with the restrictions, upon conviction, can be fined up to RM10,000. All forms of street protest, however, are disallowed.

Although a police permit is no longer required, the organiser must notify the officer in charge of a police district (OCPD) at least 10 days before the gathering date. The OCPD will respond to the notification within five days outlining the restrictions imposed. The organiser may appeal to the Minister of Home Affairs if he or she is dissatisfied with the conditions and the minister must respond within two days from the date of application.

FROM PILLAR TO POST

Although a police permit is no longer required, the organiser must notify the officer in charge of a police district (OCPD) at least 10 days before the gathering date...



That sounds good on paper but try getting things done on the ground and you will sense the futility of it all.

The good lady submitted her society's application for an innocuous rally to denounce rape on women and girls a month before the designated date. But having received no response from the police she decided to be a little vocal. That was the beginning of her problem. An application to Ipoh City Council for use of the open space in front of the railway station was stonewalled for some inexplicable reasons. The council feared unfettered access would "cause grave damage to public property".

Her application to the police was not making much headway. An alternative site was suggested – in front of Ipoh Parade. She was politely told by the police to refrain from using the area around the shopping mall as it would disrupt traffic. The road in front of Sam Tet School, Ipoh is always clogged up, come rain or shine. It

was definitely a lame excuse.

Having no other recourse, the lady proceeded with her gathering on Saturday, August 23 at 3pm. And the rest is history.

No untoward incidents happened. Motorists hooted giving their approval to the ladies' assertion that "Rape is not sex but a crime". The only policing activities seen were a patrol car stopping by probably out of curiosity and an overzealous traffic cop issuing tickets to cars parked alongside the road.

Will the authorities ever learn? If we aspire to be a First World country we have to begin by respecting people's rights to dissent.

EYE HEALTH

Instilling Eye Drops Correctly

Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about how to instil eye drops correctly.



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

Most individuals would have had to instil eye drops or eye ointments into their eyes at some stage, more so if they suffer from dry eyes. Some patients may even have to instil 2 or sometimes 3 different kinds of eye drops as part of their daily routine because they suffer from more serious chronic eye conditions like glaucoma. Whatever the scenario is, knowing how to instil eye drops properly is actually more crucial than one may realise. Improper instilling of eye drops may result in contamination of the eye drops or worse still, the eye drops may not get into the eyes properly for it to work optimally. In such instances, a person may even end up losing their eyesight because it's as good as not having any treatment since the eye drops were never instilled correctly into the eye.

SOME POINTS TO NOTE:

1. HANDWASHING

Always wash your hands before handling any eye drops and your eyes. This will minimise the risk of the eye drops getting contaminated and your eyes picking up an infection.

2. AVOID TOUCHING EYE DROP NOZZLE

Never touch the eye drop nozzle with your fingers. The nozzle of the eye drop should also never be allowed to come into contact with the eyelashes, eyelids or the eyes during instillation. To ensure that there is no accidental contamination, keep the eye drop nozzle slightly away from the eyes when instilling eye drops.

3. METHOD OF INSTILLATION

Tilt your head back as though you are looking at the ceiling. Pull the lower eyelid downwards to form a pocket to "catch" the drop. Then squeeze one drop of the medication into the eye. Keep the eyelids shut continuously for about 2-3 minutes to minimise spillage onto the eyelids and also to minimise the amount of eye drops that eventually get drained into the nose and throat (through the nasolacrimal duct that runs from the eyes into the nose) – which is the reason why you can taste the eye drops in your mouth. Avoid blinking the eyes repeatedly as this just quickly forces the eye drops to move into the nose and throat.

4. DO NOT INSTILL SEVERAL EYE DROPS ALL AT ONCE

Avoid instilling several eye drops all at once. It is advisable to wait approximately 10 minutes between each different eye drop in order to prevent "washout" as the eye can only take so much in one instillation. Of course, the longer you wait between instillation of separate kinds of eye drops the better although this may not be the most practical.

5. STORE EYE DROPS WELL

Keep all eye drops in a cool place. Refrigerating them is helpful but not all eye drops can be stored that way. Always follow the manufacturers advice when storing eye drops. Do not continue to use expired eye drops. Write down the date of opening an eye drop on the cover so you will not forget.

6. DO NOT SHARE EYE DROPS

Never share eye drops with another person. Every eye drop is specific for an individual's eye condition. Sharing of eye drops increases the risk of contamination and cross-infection from one person to another.

7. GENERAL POINTERS

Keep all eye drops away from children and do not instil eye drops when you have contact lenses in your eyes unless instructed by the doctor. Always remove contact lenses first before instilling eye drops. Stop using an eye drop if you develop irritation or itchiness as you may be allergic to it. Seek professional help should this happen.



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From Parit to Paris

Nurul Hana Jamaludin pinched herself as she gazed at the Eiffel Tower, lit like a Christmas tree, against the night sky and said, "When I was a child, I wished that, one day, I would see the Eiffel Tower. I am blessed. My wish has come true."

The former South-East Asian rowing champion, whose family roots are in Parit, now lives with her parents and younger siblings in Ipoh. Hana likes travelling, pursuing outdoor activities, cooking, reading and experimenting with new recipes. At university, she studied the teaching of vocational courses, with particular emphasis on welding, and she now teaches art at a secondary school in Chemor.

Hana shares an adventurous streak and the desire to visit Europe, with her best friend, and travelling companion, Farha. Their motto is "Have *tudung*, will travel." Nowhere is too remote or difficult, to explore. Both have travelled widely, in South-East Asia, but this time, they set their sights on Europe.

Hana said, "We knew no one in Europe, but we have friends, who studied in London, whose stories enthralled us. The MAS promotions were attractive, so we had no hesitation in purchasing the tickets. We were so excited. Our wishes were about to be realised."

Their month of travelling was a test of their friendship and of their adaptability. They found that they could cope outside their comfort zone, budget effectively, and communicate in the non-English speaking parts of Europe. The two women showed courage, coping in an alien environment.

After three days in England, they decided to go shopping in London but made a detour to a railway station. Before they knew it, they were on Eurostar, bound for the continent. The promotional fare was too good to miss, but there was one snag. They did not have their toothbrushes or even a change of underwear. All they had were their passports and some money. They carried two pairs of trousers, which they had intended to exchange, at shops in London. Without any luggage, it was a good excuse to shop in Europe.

As the English and French countryside whizzed past them, Hana said, "Our European adventure is about to begin."

On arrival at the Gare du Nord, Hana said, "We were really blur. The European tour was done on impulse, so we had not yet done our research. We did not speak French. We could not read the signs. We only recognised the symbol for toilets."

"We arrived during the rush hour, with thousands of people running around. It was surreal, like being in a National Geographic



wildlife documentary, with herds of animals rushing past. It was a wonder, no one bumped into us. We received weird looks, with some people fixing their gazes on our *tudungs*." (Hana realised later, that there had been intense debate in France about Muslim headscarves.)

As it was getting dark, they could see the illuminated Eiffel Tower, above the buildings, but asking how to reach it, was difficult. "We asked for directions, in English, but the pedestrians and shopkeepers, ignored us. We didn't realise at the time, that the French hated to be addressed in English."

They finally reached their destination and forgot their earlier frustrations. "It is just a tower but it is both unique and beautiful. I love its design. It was built 125 years ago, and was supposed to stand for 20 years. I was surprised that there is a lift to reach the top," she added.

Hana lists interesting differences between London and Paris, but is intrigued because there appear to be more couples, including the elderly, holding hands in Paris. "Even the classic buildings exude an aura of romance. No wonder they call Paris, the City of Love," she said.

She thinks Londoners are more friendly than Parisians and insists that, on her next trip, she would speak Malay, when seeking information. "The maps are difficult to understand. The bus stops are all in French, so we are forced, to seek help. In the hop-on, hop-off bus, one bus driver barked at us, and said, in broken English, "When I speak, you listen. He was so rude!"

The Paris metro (underground), she called a big, public lavatory. "The stench of urine is so strong, that the image of this 'City of Love' immediately vanishes."

Their visits included the Notre Dame, Versailles, Musée d'Orsay, the Arc de Triomphe and the Place de la Concorde. She said, "I wish we had more time for the attractions, or even to sit at a Parisian cafe, drink coffee, and watch people."

After visiting Galeries Lafayette, and a trip to Longchamps to purchase a souvenir, she said, "This small Longchamp bag is cheaper than in Malaysia. I even treasure the paper bag it came in and took extra precautions, to protect this paper bag during the rest of the European tour. To my horror, it got crushed at a railway barrier, on our return to London!"

Hana has no qualms about flying with MAS and she is supportive of the attentive MAS cabin crew. Her advice to others contemplating a trip to Europe is to do ample research, visit as many museums as possible, wander through the countryside, see how litter is dealt with, speak to the locals, sample the cuisine, but most of all, learn from other cultures.

"Next time," she said, "I will visit The Louvre, for the Mona Lisa, and perhaps, go to Disneyland Paris."



THINKING ALLOWED

by Mariam Mokhtar



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MUSINGS ON FASCINATING PEOPLE



Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian – Corporate Giant and Gentleman Extraordinaire

By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen

For a giant in the corporate world, the CEO of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad (“KLK”) Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, who has every right to impose his presence wherever he goes, comes across as disarmingly modest.

A corporate icon that Ipoh can claim as its own, and hailed as a true-blue planter by many of his peers in the palm oil industry, Oi Hian is a gentle man who speaks softly, treads carefully but stands on his principles in guiding the homegrown KLK group to greater heights. Under Lee's stewardship, coupled with the solid foundation laid down by his late father Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng, KLK is a plantation giant and today is regarded by the corporate world as a blue chip company with a reputation for sturdy management and strong earnings, with interest in various industries all over the world.

Passion for Agriculture

His corporate achievements are manifold and anyone today can easily update themselves on all of them including being listed amongst the top 20 wealthiest families in Malaysia, by just going into the World Wide Web.

Oi Hian's passion for agriculture started from childhood. As a young boy, he would tag along when his father visited the rubber estates. After graduating from University of Malaya with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (First Class Honours) degree in 1974, Lee joined KLK as an executive in the marketing division for a year before furthering his studies at the Harvard Business School in Boston, Massachusetts. There, he obtained his Masters in Business Administration (MBA) in 1977.

A Legacy Continued

Oi Hian joined KLK in 1979 as Head of Production Control Division, was appointed the Managing Director in 1988 and eventually as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1993 when his father Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng, Founder Chairman of KLK passed away after a short illness.

After being mentored by his father for 15 years, Oi Hian continued to build on diversification programmes including moving from rubber into oil palm cultivation which he helped to launch with his father earlier. He made the landmark decision to venture into oil palm cultivation in Indonesia in 1994, first in Belitung Island then in Riau. Later acquisitions brought the Group's land bank to 250,000 ha and this is expected to grow further with forays into Papua New Guinea and Liberia.

As a result thereof, the Group's Indonesian plantations is approximately the same size as that of its Malaysian plantations. KLK's Indonesian operations are now a major contributor to the Group's profits.

KLK's investment in Indonesia is set to expand further with the setting up of its first oleochemical plant in Dumai. Oi Hian is credited for spearheading the venturing of the KLK Group into the oleochemicals business. Today the KLK Oleo Group has a global presence in Malaysia, China, Switzerland, Netherlands and Germany.

Being an advocate of good business ethics and best practices in corporate governance, Oi Hian relinquished his role as chairman in 2008 but remains as CEO of KLK till today.

Service and Awards

In spite of professional commitments, Oi Hian found time to serve the plantations industry and society in various capacities, namely in the Malaysian Palm Oil Council, the Malaysian Estate Owners' Association, the Malaysian Oil Palm Growers Council, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board and the Malaysian Cocoa Board. He is also Chairman of the Board of Governors of St Michael's Institution, Ipoh, his alma mater, and Board Member of the Royal Perak Golf Club Berhad.

His many awards are too numerous to be listed here. Two significant ones stand out. He was conferred the Honorary Doctor of Science degree in recognition of his significant contributions to the palm oil industry and for his active philanthropic role by Wawasan Open University and also the Palm Oil Industry Leadership Award 2012, by the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC).

The Private Man

Enough said about the Oi Hian the corporate giant. What of the man, the private person behind the success?

When asked what he considered his biggest achievements so far, he said, “My family, the closeness we have amongst my four children and my wife Sandra. That also includes my larger family of my siblings and my mother who is in her late 80s.”

“And professionally I am proud of the fact that I have helped to enhance what my father has built up,” he added.

Role Models

On the role models he has admired, he mentions the late Brother Paul who was headmaster of St Michael's Institution, his alma mater. “He was so full of love, compassion and was always ready to help others”, said Oi Hian. “And as for professional role models, I would say Tan Sri Robert Kuok and of course the main icon in my life, my father, Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng.”

“My father was strongly principled. I learnt from him that your word is your bond, and the values of honesty and integrity are deeply ingrained in me. Its a pity that these values are devalued today as the lust for money and material things has caused a decline in these basic values. I credit my wife Sandra for inculcating these values in our children and I apply these values in my organisation,” he affirmed.

“I also admired the amazing wisdom inherent in my father and his great interpersonal skills. He could handle difficult situations with ease and make all parties feel comfortable with the outcome. As a result he established deep and lasting friendships with many people. I don't think I can even come close to emulating my father but I do my best to remember the example he set for me during the short 15 years that I worked under his tutelage,” he added modestly.

“Let's Bring Back Basic Human Values”

Oi Hian laments the erosion of solid institutions like the Judicial and Educational systems in Malaysia, a phenomenon he has observed over time and often for the sake of expediency. “Malaysia is my home and I intend to continue living here. The decline of basic values in pursuit of material gain creates sadness in me and when this process is exacerbated by corruption not only throughout the bureaucracy but also often in the corridors of power, the decline of Malaysia's position on the world stage bodes ill for the future. We must shore up our institutions to bring back basic human values of integrity and honesty in order to reclaim our reputation in the eyes of the world.”

Wishes

On what he wishes for his children, three of whom work for KLK, Oi Hian has this to say, “I want my children to develop their own unique gifts. I apply no pressure on them and the fact that three of them work for KLK is of their

own volition. All I wish is for them to derive satisfaction from their work and to be happy in whatever they choose to do. They were all educated here in Chinese Government Schools, only leaving for the UK for A Levels after their Form 5. So their choosing to come back to work in Malaysia is very gratifying for me as a father.”

Advice for Young Entrepreneurs

As for advice to young entrepreneurs just starting out on their careers, Oi Hian advocates that they must have a deep interest and belief in what they do, have a detailed understanding of their business, be innovative, and most importantly to be persistent. They must also realise that sacrifices may need to be made along the way and that even in the face of failure, to take heart that they made the effort. He does, however, lament the trend amongst the younger generation to expect quick success and be the big boss without putting in the time to ‘get their feet wet’, learning from the bottom rung before moving up the corporate ladder.

Ipoh Echo wishes Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian much success in his stand for bringing back basic human values of integrity and honesty to his beloved country of Malaysia.

As for advocating putting in time and effort for young people to achieve their aspirations; listen up younger folks, here is a role model for you.



Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian with wife Sandra

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23. Banyan Beauty, 40 Jln Raja Dihilir. Tel: 05-2426866/012-5073866
24. Ipoh Echo's office



News

Council to Improve Food Court



Ipoh City Council and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture have taken steps to improve the conditions of the highly popular food court at Dataran Dato' Sagor in the city. The food court has been in existence for nearly 15 years and is well patronized by both Ipohites and non-IPohites.

To ensure the safety of the operators some 28 of them were told to move to a temporary site at Jalan Dato Maharaja Lela. This was to enable construction works to proceed unhindered. Works are presently ongoing.

Sarifah Daud, 53 (Kak Pah), operator of Stall No: 3, feels the renovation is timely as it will not only improve facilities but will also provide customers with a safe and comfortable environment.

"Before this, customers suffered much discomfort, especially during rainy days, due to poor and improper roofing. I am happy that the authorities have finally decided to take action after many complaints. Once upgrading is done more people will patronise the place," she said. Kak Pah wants the Council to install cooling fans, to be located at strategic sites, to enable customers to enjoy a better eating environment. "I am looking forward to completion day. A new-look food court is essential not only for the operators but for Ipohites on the whole," exclaimed Kak Pah.

AFS Bina Sdn Bhd is the contractor engaged to undertake the renovation works. The entire project is scheduled to complete in mid-November 2015.

RM

Police Officers Promoted

Four senior police officers were promoted to head the various sections within a newly formed department in the Perak Contingent Headquarters, Ipoh. They received their ranks during an informal ceremony held at the contingent headquarters recently.

According to the Perak Police Chief, Dato' Acryl Abdullah Sani, the promotion exercise was to increase the efficiency of Jabatan Pencegahan Jenayah dan Keselamatan Komuniti (Crime Prevention and Community Safety Department) which was established on July 25.

"The creation of this department is to ensure that all criminal cases within the community can be investigated and acted upon in a more systematic manner," he told reporters. "Staff for the department will be recruited and they'll attend an orientation course at Bukit Aman before filling up appointments."

The police chief then slipped on the Superintendent insignias on the shoulders of the four officers witnessed by ACP Sum Chang Keong, the Ipoh Police Chief. The



four were Supt Shamsiah Yusoff who will now head the Community Policing Department. Supt Roslan Zauniddin will head the Resources Coordination Centre. Supt Azlan Abu will lead the Data collection and Collation Centre while Supt Mohamed Rafiq Mohamed Mustafa will be in charge of land operations.

Luqman

Developing Good Aquaculture Practices

The Perak Department of Fisheries held a luncheon at Kinta Riverfront Hotel Ipoh, to celebrate Hari Raya and to reward staff for their services. Present at the function were the Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Dato' Ahamad Sabki bin Mohmood, Director of the Perak Department of Fisheries, Dr Bah Piyan Tan and the head of the Perak Fisheries Development and Technology Transfer Centre, Ridhuan Ramli.

Dr Bah Piyan, in his opening remarks, welcomed guests and staff to the luncheon. He thanked Dato' Ahamad for taking time off to be with them on the auspicious occasion. "We wish to thank Dato' Ahamad for his contributions to the fisheries industry of Malaysia. Without his expertise and efforts, we would not be able to develop with ease. The Perak chapter wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to him," Bah remarked.



A Festival of Lights

Ipoh Parade kicked off its Festival of Lights carnival with a bang by lighting up their state-of-the-art animated-graphic facade, a unique structure at the building's main entrance, bursting with a flurry of colours. The event saw several hundred people witnessing the show and participating in a number of interactive activities organised by Ipoh's premier shopping mall.

To mark the joyous occasion, balloons were distributed and released simultaneously, as the lights went on. The enthusiastic crowd hooted and cheered.

Ipoh Parade's Centre Manager, Chan Yu Yin, thanked his crew for working tirelessly around the clock to whip up this magnificent show. "We're glad that the carnival had the desired effect on people. It's amazing to see how far Ipoh Parade has come since its foundation was laid two decades ago. We wish to thank Ipohites for sticking with us through thick and thin. This is how we return the favour by creating memories that'll last a lifetime," he enjoined.

Guest of honour, Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, commented that the refurbishment of Ipoh Parade would bring in more economic opportunities as well as making it as one of Ipoh's must-visit shopping complexes.

Prior to the launch, Ipoh Parade kept the public entertained with stilt walkers, street magicians, fire eaters, games and gimmicks and a live musical performance by one of Korea's up-and-coming youth bands, AlphaBAT. The crowd was spoilt for choice.

Yvette



Victims of MH 17 Laid to Rest



His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Shah Muizzuddin Ibni Almahrum Sultan Azlan Shah accompanied by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir and state executive councillors were at the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport, Ipoh on the morning of Friday, August 22 to receive the bodies of three MH 17 victims.

It was a solemn moment for the Sultan, his entourage, relatives and members of the public who had gathered early to witness the arrival of the coffins with the deceased.

The three coffins, draped in the national flag, Jalur Gemilang, were off-loaded from a Royal Malaysian Air Force C-130 transport aircraft soon after it landed at the Ipoh airport around noon.

The three were chief stewardess Azrina Takob, 41, who hailed from Alor Star, Kedah. Her remains were buried at the Masjid Al Hidayah Muslim cemetery in Asam Kumbang, Taiping. Chong Yee Peng, 40, a stewardess, from First Garden, Ipoh was interred at the Paradise Memorial Park, Chemor. Passenger Noor Rahimmah Mohd Nor, 67, was buried at the Masjid Lama Muslim cemetery in Tambun. Rahimmah leaves a husband and a daughter while Azrina a husband and two kids.

The three were among the 25 identified Malaysian victims of the air tragedy that took the lives of 298. Malaysian Airline Flight MH 17 was shot down over war-torn Eastern Ukraine on July 17.

RM

The award-giving ceremony followed soon. Department staff who had excelled in their work and those who had served the department 30 years and above were duly rewarded with plaques and certificates.

During the press conference, held prior to the luncheon, Dato' Ahamad alluded to issues affecting the department. Of significance was the ban on the exportation of ornamental fishes, such as Koi and goldfish, to European Union markets and good aquaculture practices that should be developed and maintained.

"Department of Fisheries Malaysia is taking measures to ensure that good aquaculture is practised to guarantee quality fishes for the table. We'll conduct spot checks on fishes destined for EU markets to ensure that they meet existing standards, as the European Union countries are our biggest customers," he said.

Yvette

News



Marianis Celebrates

Marianis, the Italian restaurant located at De Garden, Ipoh, held its first anniversary recently. The objective was to celebrate the restaurant's birthday and to thank customers for their continued

support.

Over a hundred of the eatery's regular customers were entertained to food, wine and song, literally. They were served with a variety of Italian food such as pastas, pizzas and steaks. There was a free flow of wine, beer and soft drinks.

According to restaurant owner, Dato' Dr Wenddi Anne Chong, this is the first Italian restaurant that she and her partner, Kim Goo, had established in Ipoh. They picked the city because of its rich historical heritage and its people.

"When we first came here, it was to visit old friends. Later on, we decided to invest in a restaurant when we heard that Papa Riche was moving out. That's how Marianis got started. We're happy that we could provide good Italian food to Ipohites at an affordable price," she told Ipoh Echo.



Marianis serves a wide variety of savoury Italian cuisines, including one of its bestsellers, Aragosta All'Marianis (spicy lobster with garlic and olive oil), Stinco D'Agnello Al Forno (lamb shank) and its famous wood-fired oven pizzas.

Yvette

Business

Ipoh Shoe City Becoming a Reality

Not many are aware that Ipoh produces some top-quality footwear for both men and women. This is being amplified by the fact that shoemaking has long been regarded a cottage industry of lesser importance. It does not matter that a large number of family-owned shoemaking businesses thrive in the erstwhile slums of Lahat, Pengkalan and Tanah Merah, where the industry began over a century ago.

Efforts to form a cooperative had been made in the past and news of a dedicated site for the many independent shoemakers had been sounded before but it fell short on expectations.

The reasons are aplenty. The reluctance of the independently-minded makers to come out of their cocoons was what was holding the idea back.

However, after many false starts and innuendoes, the dream is beginning to take shape. A 3-acre site in Pengkalan Lahat has been identified as the future Ipoh Shoe City. The ambitious project once completed

will accommodate 120 shoe factories, 18 shop lots, a large exhibition centre measuring 100,000 sq feet and a hotel. It will be Ipoh's one-stop footwear centre of eminence.

The proposed project is being undertaken by DSG Shuez Sdn Bhd from Bukit Mertajam and is endorsed by the Perak state government. Phase One is scheduled for completion in 2017 at a cost of RM30 million. The estimated cost for the overall project is RM100 million and eventual completion is expected by 2020.

A signing ceremony to officially kick-start the project was made at Syuen Hotel, Ipoh on Monday, August 25. The agreement was between the Perak Footwear Industry Association and the developer, DSG Shuez City Sdn Bhd. It was witnessed by Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, who represented the Perak state government.

RM



Ipoh-based Company to Develop Projects in South Sulawesi

An Ipoh based company, BTN Power, will work in partnership with China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), a China state-owned enterprise, and Perusda Bantaeng, an Indonesian Government linked entity, to develop a vast tract of land in South Sulawesi.

They have inked a deal as a "Joint Master Developer" in turning a massive 3,000 hectares site at Bantaeng into an integrated industrial park to be supported by necessary infrastructure.

The agreement signing ceremony was hosted by the Malaysia-Makassar Cultural and Heritage Organisation (MMCHO) recently. It was witnessed by the Indonesian Ambassador, Mr Herman Prayitno, and president of MMCHO, Dato' Seri Rozaini Nawawi.

The agreements were signed between the Indonesian local land authority, Perusahaan Bantaeng, and the participating companies. They included PT. Baji Minasa Perusda Bantaeng, ADP Daya Prima (M) Sdn. Bhd., and PT Bantaeng Sigma Persada.

The estimated Gross Development Value (GDV) of the Bantaeng Industrial Park will reach RM30 billion upon completion in 15 years.

Since its inception, the Bantaeng Industrial Park has attracted and secured eight committed catalytic industrial manufacturers, primarily nickel pig iron smelters and its related services from China and Indonesia for land totaling 750 hectares with a total investment of RM9 billion and a workforce of 50,000.

A township with all the infrastructure and facilities will be built nearby to accommodate the increasing population.

The BTM-CMEC will together with the Indonesian also develop a riverfront resort, Royal Tallo Riverfront City Resort, in Makassar City. It is a tourism project aimed at attracting visitors from Middle East, Europe, China, Korea, Japan and ASEAN countries seeking an ecological and nature oriented option to Bali and Phuket.

The Group will invite Bumiputra contractors from Malaysia to participate in the existing infrastructure works in the industrial park.

Jerry Francis



CHILD HEALTH

Dr Shan Narayanan
Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

X-Linked Recessive Inheritance

The "sex chromosomes" are the X-chromosome and the Y-chromosome. Females have two X-chromosomes, and males have one X-chromosome and one Y-chromosome. Examples of X-linked recessive disorder are Haemophilia and Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase deficiency (G6PD deficiency).

The abnormal gene is located on the X-chromosome, and the risk for children depends on the gender of the affected parent. If the mother has the abnormal gene, there is a 50% risk for passing that gene onto her children with each pregnancy. This is illustrated in diagram 1.

If the father has the abnormal gene, all of his daughters will get the abnormal genes but none of his sons will have the abnormal gene. This is illustrated in the diagram 2.

Daughters who inherit the abnormal gene from either parent do not have the illness, thus they become carriers of the illness. Sons who inherit the abnormal gene from their mother will have the illness.

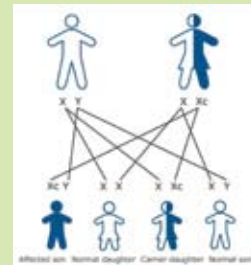


Diagram 1

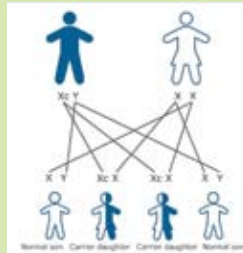


Diagram 2

Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency

Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase is an enzyme in the red blood cells. Enzymes are special proteins that bring about chemical changes in the body. Enzymes are found in many organs and cells in the body including mouth, stomach, intestinal fluids and blood. G6PD protects the red cells from destruction by chemicals following the intake of fava beans (diagram 3) and various medication (including the antibiotics, Co-Trimoxazole).

This deficiency is inherited in a sex-linked recessive manner. Thus males have the illness and females are carriers. The affected male inherits the abnormal gene from his carrier mother.

This deficiency is common among Africans, Mediterraneans and South East Asians. In Malaysia, it is common among the Chinese and Malay population.

All babies born in Malaysia are checked for G6PD deficiency. A simple blood test is performed on the baby's cord blood. If the baby is G6PD deficient, the parents are counselled and given the list of medication and food stuff to avoid. Some babies with G6PD deficiency may develop jaundice needing phototherapy.

Individuals with the G6PD deficiency lead a near normal life by avoiding the offending medication and foodstuff. What if the individual consumes the offending agent?

The chemical in the medication or food stuff will cause the unprotected red blood cells to break. This gives rise to sudden onset of anaemia and jaundice. As large numbers of red cells are broken down, there will be blood in the urine. The kidney is overloaded with the red cell breakdown products and may not function efficiently (kidney failure). In this situation, the affected individual will be hospitalised and treated. The treatment includes blood transfusion.

In conclusion, G6PD deficiency is a minor illness, complications can be prevented by avoiding the offending medication and foodstuff.

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

Community

A Candid Chat with Miss Perak 2014

I recently had the pleasure of spending some time in the company of our very own pageant winner Miss Perak 2014. This delightful young lady, Olivia Constance Nicholas was willing to take time out from her very busy schedule for a quick one on one chat with me. Right from the start, this beautiful young lady, was a picture of elegance and poise as she candidly shared her pageant experience and aspirations for the future with me.

Olivia firmly believes that joining a pageant is a good experience as the exposure from such events helps to build character. Thrilling as it may sound, beauty pageants are not just about looking pretty and strutting up and down a runway. There is so much more involved in participating in beauty pageants and the experience is clearly not for the faint hearted.

Olivia not only welcomed the challenges presented but also worked tirelessly to keep up with the expectations of the organisers. She kept her focus, by maintaining the mindset of a winner and this helped her get through some of the exhausting times. As a true champion, she held her head high, worked hard and triumphantly walked away with the title.

After her triumphant win and being crowned Miss Perak 2014, Olivia decided to take the next challenge presented and joined the Miss Malaysia Earth Pageant, where she successfully bagged another title, Miss Malaysia Earth-Water 2014.



Besides juggling all the different events she is expected to grace and appearances she is contracted to attending as the newly crowned Miss Perak and Miss Malaysia Earth-Water, Olivia is also a full time law student. This ambitious young beauty, understands the importance of education and no one can call her a beauty without brains. For Olivia, the next step after completing her law studies and serving her dues is to realise her ambition to preside as a magistrate. This beautiful young lady will certainly be a formidable personality in the future. She looks forward to the opportunity to help put the “bad guys” away, which she aspires to do without favour to anyone.

She gets her inspiration from her loving and dedicated parents who have worked tirelessly to ensure Olivia and her twin sister Olinda grow up to be fine upstanding citizens. Next to her loving parents, her twin Olinda is a huge part of Olivia’s life. These two sisters are so close that Olivia misses her terribly, whenever they are apart, as was the case during the recent pageant commitments. It was heart-warming to hear Olivia speak about their closeness and how the family lovingly and steadfastly supports each other. It’s no wonder, this beautiful lady has managed to achieve so much for one so young.

Serena

City Survival Skills for 500 Students

A total of 500 students from Forms 4 and 5 as well as teachers of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (P) Methodist (MGS) Ipoh, benefitted from a workshop recently on City Survival Skills. Conducted by Code Red Survival Academy Chairman, Captain Balasupramaniam and organised by Soroptimist International Ipoh (SI Ipoh), the half-day event was held in the school auditorium and received an enthusiastic reception from the audience with many staying behind and asking for more.

In light of the rising incidences of violence against women and the spate in the number of young girls and ladies becoming victims to all sorts of crimes especially in the city, SI Ipoh decided that it was time they did their best to reach out to as many girls as possible and teach them techniques on how to protect and defend themselves in the event of an attack on their safety.

Captain Balasupramaniam began by saying, “Survival is a living art and dying is not an option.” The attendees were taught to Take Control! And to make their day to day existence safer by strategizing it and to avoid unnecessary risks in the urban environment. Damage control was high on the agenda and the girls were taught to cope with any situation with confidence.

Not only was Captain Bala’s programme extremely useful, it was conducted in such a light, humorous and fun manner that the girls were in squeals of laughter at his presentation throughout the session. There were times when graphic pictures were shown to alert the girls of the dangers they may face. It was certainly an eye-opener for these innocent girls who went away better aware and alert to their surroundings.

Captain Bala covered a whole range of topics from home intruders prevention; break in survival; the art of escape and self-defence and rape survival. The girls were especially warned against too much exposure on Facebook, trusting people too much and cyber crimes. It was appalling for them to know how one can be easily deceived by sex predators or even get their drinks spiked.

Captain Bala’s famous words which left a deep impression on the hearts of many were: “Prepare and prevent, don’t repair and repent.”



MGS Principal, Datin Mungit Kaur, expressed her deepest gratitude to SI Ipoh President, Mrs Lanka Devi and her members for having sponsored this programme for her school and hoped for more in the years to come. The pupils too hoped that this programme could reach out to more girls from other schools.

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

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls.

Rallying for a Cause

Incidences of rape and abuse involving women and children are on a rise in the country. On an average, 3000 rape cases are reported yearly in Malaysia. That amounts to about eight cases a day – a woman or a girl is raped once every three hours.

The highly publicised gang rape of two teenage girls by 38 men in Kelantan in May was most unfortunate as among the perpetrators were a father and his two sons.



Then there was the recent case of a 69-year-old woman being forced upon by her own son-in-law! The list goes on.

It is becoming obvious that crime against women is increasing by the day. If and unless something substantive is done, the safety of women and children, especially girls, in Malaysia will be affected and it may have dire consequences on the country’s economy and outlook.

Realising the gravity of the problem and the necessity to protect the fairer sex, Perak Women for Women Society (PWW) decided to “take to the streets” to articulate its concern. Some 50 members and friends of the society gathered in front of Ipoh Parade, along Jalan Sultan Idris Shah on Saturday August 23 afternoon to demonstrate their displeasure.

Carrying placards and distributing leaflets and pink ribbons they held a noisy but peaceful demonstration. Motorists hooted as they passed signalling their approval and acceptance of the message. Curious passers-by stopped to enquire with some joining in to lend their support.

“The rally is initiated by a joint coalition of 10 women non-governmental organisations from all over Malaysia. It’s known as the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality or JAG, for short. We’re organising a Citizens’ Against Rape gathering on a nationwide basis today,” said the President of PWW, Puan Halida Mohd Ali, to Ipoh Echo.

Nationwide gatherings were held on the same day but at varying timings in Kuala Lumpur, Kota Kinabalu and Kota Marudi in Sarawak. It was supposed to be held on Friday, August 22 but had to make way for the National Day of Mourning for victims of MH 17.

The women dispersed around 4pm satisfied that their vociferous denunciation of rape and abuse against women and girls was heard.

Ed

Advertorial

Indra Pusaka Introduces Unique Architecture For Shop Offices

The launch of 66 units of 3-storey flexi shop offices by Indra Pusaka Sdn Bhd (IPSB) will further change the skyline of Pusat Perdagangan Tasek Indra located at the golden triangle of Bercham, Simee and Ipoh Garden.

Easily accessible from the North-South Expressway via the Bercham interchange, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah or Jalan Bercham and adjacent to Tesco Extra; Pusat Perdagangan Tasek Indra is slated to be an upcoming commercial hub of Ipoh. An array of basic amenities such as banks, schools, hotels, hypermarkets and hospitals are just a stone's throw away.

These Phase 3 shop offices are part of an integrated commercial development where among other upcoming properties will be the launching of a luxurious condominium project in 2015 and a value-added commercial complex in the pipeline.

Revolutionising the architecture of contemporary shop offices with unique double volume ceiling and mezzanine floor, these 3-storey flexi shop offices are ideal as specialty stores, F&B outlets, fashion boutiques, beauty salons or corporate offices.

Priced from RM1,108,000 for units measuring 22' x 70', these flexible and practical shop offices are expected to be completed in 2017. IPSB's flexible tagline extends even further; check out their flexible financing packaging which will be a boon for the discerning investor.



Indra Pusaka Sdn Bhd, a reliable and established property developer of more than 20 years in both residential and commercial developments, can be reached at 05 311 3263, 012 506 2288 or 017 330 3483.

Community

Youth Camp and Exchange

The Youth Camp and Exchange programme in Lions Club International is an exciting programme for youths designed for maximum experience that include staying with hosting families and getting first hand cultural exchange.

Ten Japanese and one Finnish Youth Exchange students arrived in Malaysia recently under District 308B2. Six Japanese and 1 Finnish student were hosted by families in Ipoh under Region 3 and 4 while the rest were hosted in Penang under Region 1 and 2. The students were taken to various places of interest, tasted different types of cuisines and witnessed the diverse and rich culture that is Malaysia. It was indeed an eye opening session for the Youth Exchange students who were exposed to the Malaysian culture and heritage for the first time. Though some found the smell of the durians repugnant, the brave ones tried, only to spit out later.

After a period of 11 days, it was time to leave. The District Chairperson for Youth Exchange organised a Farewell and Cultural Night for the students, hosting families, hosting clubs, invited guests and Lions. The Past District Governor, Tan Swee Kok was present to grace the occasion. Also present were the Region 4 Chairperson, Lion Lim Hong Lian, Zone 12 Chairperson, Lion Jimmy Leong and District Chairperson for Youth Exchange Region 5, Lion Royce Ng.

The support was overwhelming and the Japanese students sang *Rasa Sayang* and *Doraemon*. It was a night of camaraderie as the culture of the three countries blended and bonded. It was also a night where feelings of gratitude were expressed unashamedly and tears flowed freely. It was truly a night to remember.

Further information about the Youth Exchange can be obtained from <https://www.facebook.com/YCE308B2>.



Dance for a Better World

Ipoh Parade and d'Artiz Streetdance Studio jointly organised the "Give Chance a Dance" event within its premises recently. It consisted of two different dance competitions which were held on August 17 and 24, respectively.

The objective of the event was to promote dancing as a medium for a better world. The organisers donated the entire competition registration fees collected to Soroptimist International Ipoh, a non-governmental organisation who is providing needy children with educational and financial support at their local Edufun Centre.

"We want to promote a healthy lifestyle through dance especially among youths. Instead of being so immersed in the social media such as Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, why not try other meaningful activities? There's a much more exciting world out there," said Nicklaur Kok, the Director of d'Artiz Studio in his opening remarks.

Ipoh Parade manager, Chan Yu Yin, said that aspiring performers not only got to showcase their dancing talents but to appreciate the importance of community service, as well.

A total of 18 teams consisting of two or more participants, ranging in age between 9 to 35 years old, took part in the competition on August 17. The "Give Chance a Dance" event was officiated by Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, the Executive Councillor for Non-Islamic Affairs through his representative, Ipoh City Councillor Chan Soon Yip.

Yvette



Helping the Needy

The management of Chatime, Hou Mei Steamboat and Mustard Café donated goods worth RM3,500 to three welfare homes recently. The recipients were Anning Orphanage Ipoh, Praise Home and the Pertubuhan Kebajikan Kanak-Kanak Cacat Ipoh.

According to Managing Director, Jansen Lew, the aim was to help out these welfare homes in their moment of need. Most homes do not have enough to operate independently even with the donations they receive.

"It's our company's corporate social responsibility to society. We gave away in kind providing the homes with stationeries, books and products sold at our stalls. The amount came to RM3,500. Hopefully, it'll create an impact on those concerned," he told Ipoh Echo.

His company, said Jasen, would soon venture into the health food industry as people are becoming more health conscious nowadays.

Yvette



News

Brother Vincent's Book Launched

"In August, the world is complete," said Dato' Reverend Brother Vincent Corkery in his autobiography, "Life Ever Dawning".

Coincidentally, the book was launched in August by Chairman of the Board of Governors of St Michael's Institution (SMI), Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, who is an old boy of the school. A simple ceremony was held at SMI on Saturday, August 23 to mark the occasion. The book was initially launched at the St Michael's Institution Klang Valley alumni annual dinner in Petaling Jaya in April this year.

Appointed as Director of SMI from 1971 to 1976 and again from 1986 until his retirement at the age of 60 in 1988, Brother Vincent is, in the words of Tan Sri Lee, "the pillar and cornerstone of SMI as well as the Ipoh community", having spent 57 years of his life in Ipoh since arriving here on December 31, 1957. The 85-year-old has spent a total of 66 years in Malaysia.

Brother Vincent, who was overwhelmed by the turnout of guests at the event, likened it to a school reunion as it was attended mainly by former students and teachers of the school who came to pay tribute to a true icon of the school.

Reminiscing on his days as a struggling student, Major Dato' Salehuddin Abd Muttalib, now an executive chairman of his own company, said, "I am greatly indebted to Brother Vincent for being there for me during my formative years. He organised private tuition for my classmates and I every night at the school library for two years."

Giving total commitment to education, Brother Vincent, who started life as an Irish farm boy, said he made two great decisions in life: joining the La Sallian



Order and leaving Ireland. "Life certainly wouldn't be this challenging and enriching otherwise," he remarked.

"Life Ever Dawning" is published by St Michael's Institution Alumni Association Klang Valley. It is sold privately at RM30 per piece.

Readers interested in the book may contact Perak Academy at 05 241 3742 for details.

Emily

Pharmacy Card



When a patient goes to Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun for treatment, the doctor writes the medicine prescribed on a leaf from the Prescription Book. This is a flimsy piece of paper and the next collection date for medicine is written on the reverse side of the slip. This slip has to be used until the next appointment to collect medicine.

Patients undergoing treatment for glaucoma, high blood pressure and diabetes have to be on medication for a long time and only have appointments to see the doctor between six to nine months. During this period the patients must keep this slip of paper to collect medicine on subsequent collection dates written on the reverse side. Eventually the paper, unless carefully kept, would turn into tatters.

Recently, however, the pharmacy has issued a Farmasi Kad, made of manila paper, which is long lasting and easy to keep. The hospital must be congratulated for taking efforts to make life convenient for patients. The hospital is trying to improve its delivery system and when improvements are made, we should show our appreciation as recipients.

Meanwhile, the hospital must work out a system for keeping to the scheduled appointment times. Often the appointment time is totally chaotic and there are occasions when the patient has to spend the whole day in the hospital waiting to see the doctor.

A. Jeyaraj

A Potential Hazard for Motorists



The recently tarred stretch of road on the Ipoh-Lumut Highway is a potential hazard for road users. It begins roughly two kilometres from the Puncak-Jelapang Maju T-junction and ends just before the Jelapang end of the highway.

The resurfaced road has very obscure markings making it difficult for motorists to see them. The road was previously divided into three lanes, one on one side and two on the opposite. However, with no clear markings it creates confusion for road users.

It is a guessing game for motorists from both directions making overtaking extremely dangerous. Drivers have to swerve to avoid oncoming vehicles if they find themselves in the wrong lane. And there is no way of telling who is on the right side of the road and who is not.

The resurfaced road is not exactly an engineering marvel. Many parts of the stretch are uneven. One can easily lose control of one's car when it hits an uneven patch travelling at around 70kph, which is the speed limit of the area. Coupled with poor street lighting, night driving is definitely a no-no, especially for those with poor eyesight.

The Ipoh-Lumut Highway is an important link connecting Ipoh to Pusing, Ayer Tawar and Sitiawan. It also connects Jelapang to Meru Raya and the all-important Amanjaya Terminal.

Must the authorities wait for a major tragedy to happen before rectifying it?

Angain

Announcements

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05-255 2181; or email: announcements@ipohecho.com.my, by the 9th or 23rd of every month in order to meet deadlines. Announcements by phone will not be entertained. Ipoh Echo reserves the right to verify any announcement before it is published.

Brahma Kumaris Ipoh Public Talk: 'The Art Of Balancing Law With Love' by BK Shashi Prabha from Mount Abu, India on Tuesday **September 2**, 7.15pm at No. 1 Persiaran Kin Mee, Taman Kin Mee, Fair Park, Ipoh. Free admission. Booking essential: **05 547 6069** or email: bkipoh@gmail.com.

123 Ride 2014 – 1Malaysia Two Cities Three Rides. Organised by Malaysia Interaction Culture Association (MICA). **1. Taiping Heritage Fun Ride (Sep 13, 7.30am to 11.30am); 2. Ipoh City International Fun Ride (Sep 14, 7.30am to 11.30am); 3. Merdeka Night Ride (Sep 15, 9pm to 12am).** Contact: Hooi Teng **013 703 9319**. Register via www.mica.com.my. (See the story on page 11.)

Orchid Show by Perak Orchid Society and Orchid Society of Malaysia, September 16 to 24 at the Petronas Station on Tambun Road (opposite Tambun Inn). This show will have 40 classes of orchids and prizes. All orchid growers are welcome to participate and entries are free of charge. There will also be vendors selling orchids, bonsais and ornamental plants during this period. Contact: Robert Ang **012 417 1380**.

Sam Tet Brass Band proudly presents 'Harmonious Enchantment', Saturday September 20, 7.30pm at SMJK Sam Tet. For more information, contact: Huan Jen Ee **010 232 0655**, En Omar **019 577 9735**, Ng Wai Kin **012 404 3063** or Lam Chee Choong **010 464 0128**.

Tourism

Efforts to Promote Cycling



Tourism Perak and the Malaysia Interaction Culture Association (MICA) held a press conference at the State Secretariat Building, Ipoh, recently. The aim was to introduce cycling packages for tourists and activities to be held by both Tourism Perak and MICA.

According to the Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohd Radzi, Perak is promoting cycling packages for tourists. Among them are the Discover Perak Cycling and the 3D/2N Cycling to Lenggong Valley packages.

"We hope to put Perak on the world map as a destination for bicycle tourism. The heritage trails in Perak are likeable sites for such activities. We want both local and foreign cycling enthusiasts to appreciate the beauty of Perak. In doing so, we'll work closely with MICA to organise cycling activities," she told reporters.

Incidentally, some members of MICA took part in the Malaysia-Japan Interaction Culture Ride in Japan in July. They shared their experiences with the media. "We had an exciting experience in Japan. Not only did we succeed in promoting Perak as a cycling destination by introducing the cycling packages, we also brought back fresh ideas for consideration by Tourism Perak," said Camees Fong, the Secretary of MICA.

"We're proud to be given the opportunity to promote bicycle tourism on behalf of Perak Tourism. We hope to organise more cycling activities with the support of the state government in the near future," exclaimed Dr Kedios Ooh, the Navigator of MICA.

After its Japanese stint, MICA will organise the 123 Ride 2014 in conjunction with Malaysia Day. The title is derived from the combination of 1Malaysia, 2 major cities and 3 rides.

The first is the Taiping Heritage Fun Ride 2014 on September 13. Next, the Ipoh City International Fun Ride 2014 on September 14. And finally, the Merdeka Night Ride 2013 on September 15.

Yvette

A Discourse on Royal Belum

Getting to Perak's iconic rainforest may now be just a short flight away from Ipoh. A flight between Ipoh's Sultan Azlan Shah Airport and Grik's airstrip is possible now that the Ipoh Airport is declared fit for use by Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohd Radzi, the Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture during a media conference held at Syuen Hotel, Ipoh recently.

The conference was to formally announce the two-day Royal Belum Intellectual Discourse scheduled for on October 13 and 14 at Syuen Hotel, Ipoh. A purpose-made brochure for the discourse was the focus of the launch gimmick.

Organised by the Perak Tourism Association in collaboration with the Perak State Government, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Perak) and the Pulau Banding Foundation, the discourse's objective is to develop strategies to promote Royal Belum as a world renowned eco-tourism destination and to highlight products and potentially new research materials that Royal Belum has to offer.



According to Nolee Ashilin Mohd Radzi, the Perak government is preparing itself to receive foreign visitors with the reopening of the Ipoh airport. "The nine sinkholes, which had received wide media coverage, were in fact depressions which have been covered. The airport now is ready for use again. Safety is no longer an issue," she disclosed.

The state government, said Nolee, is considering several new flying routes

into and exiting Ipoh. And they include an Ipoh-Johor flight by Firefly and flights to Medan, Hong Kong and China.

"The discourse is only the first step in developing opportunities for Perak's tourism industry. We, and those involved in the industry, will continue to explore options because Perak is a state that is full of potentials. But before that is done, we'll be focusing on services that will help instil confidence in foreign tourists to come back," she insisted.

The two-day workshop will discuss and deliberate on four topics related to the Belum rainforest. They are, "Effective Promotion and Marketing", "Potential of Research in Royal Belum", "Readiness of Royal Belum" and "Addressing Security and Environmental Issues in Royal Belum".

The state government along with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Perak), the Pulau Banding Foundation and Syuen Hotel, Ipoh donated a sum in excess of RM60,000 to the organisers to ensure the success of the upcoming event.

President of the Perak Tourism Association, Haji Odzman Abdul Kadir received the donations on behalf of the organisers.

Yvette

My Say

By Jerry Francis



Fine the Local Authorities

The Perak Government's move to issue fines to local councils whenever Aedes breeding grounds are found in clogged drains and rubbish piles under their jurisdiction is commendable. It is about time that such action needs to be taken to ensure everyone, residents as well as local authorities, earnestly play their roles to fight the deadly dengue.

I have often raised the question as to who is to check the local authorities and fine them should they, through their own incompetency and negligence, allow Aedes mosquitoes to breed.

Therefore, the warning from State Health Committee chairman Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon to the local councils recently had momentarily elated me. "It is up to the councils how they want to deal with their respective contractors but we will direct the problem at them and fine them because all local matters come under their jurisdiction. We are looking into the feasibility of issuing fines to local councils, which of course, we do not like to do. But in view of the seriousness of the situation, we need to think out of the box," he said.

However, I have my doubts that the state government would seriously follow through with the warning, as Dr Mah is unlikely to "walk the talk" on the issue. Residents will continue to be the victims in the authorities' stepped-up efforts to combat dengue. Already the fine for breeding mosquitoes has increased to RM500.

There is no doubt that many private premises are still breeding grounds for mosquitoes, judging from the 1558 fines issued in the state to owners of premises this year. The question is how many Aedes mosquitoes could those private premises breed? Some larvae were probably found in discarded pots or containers by the health inspectors while visiting the premises.

But compare these to the clogged drains and the thousands of uncollected rubbish dumps in public places throughout the state; they are just the tip of the iceberg. The clogged drains and piles of rubbish created by inefficiency and negligence of the local councils are enormous breeding grounds for Aedes' mosquitoes. Topping these are the neglected vacant lands owned by government agencies, where various items which contain stagnant water, are found to be breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

A good example was the bases of the six ornamental concrete units right in the "front-yard" of the Ipoh City Council complex. They were filled with stagnant water and became breeding grounds for mosquitoes for quite some time.

Didn't the city council or its health department realise it, or did not care? It was only after this column highlighted the brownish stagnant water and litter thrown in



Stagnant water in the defunct fountain at Jalan CM Yussuf roundabout

the bases of these units in March that the city council filled them up with earth and plants.

Similarly, there are still many other places that need to be looked into and action taken if the health authorities are to be successful in their combat against dengue as they pose a bigger threat than the private premises.

It has to be a combined effort. The authorities need to rein in everyone, the local councils, government agencies and residents. Blaming the residents alone for their lack of assistance and fining them are not enough. The local authorities and agencies must also be equally held responsible.

Do not just adapt a policy of "do what I tell you, and do not do what I do". No doubt the local authorities are empowered to impose fines, but are they being fair and just when they themselves are committing the same offence?

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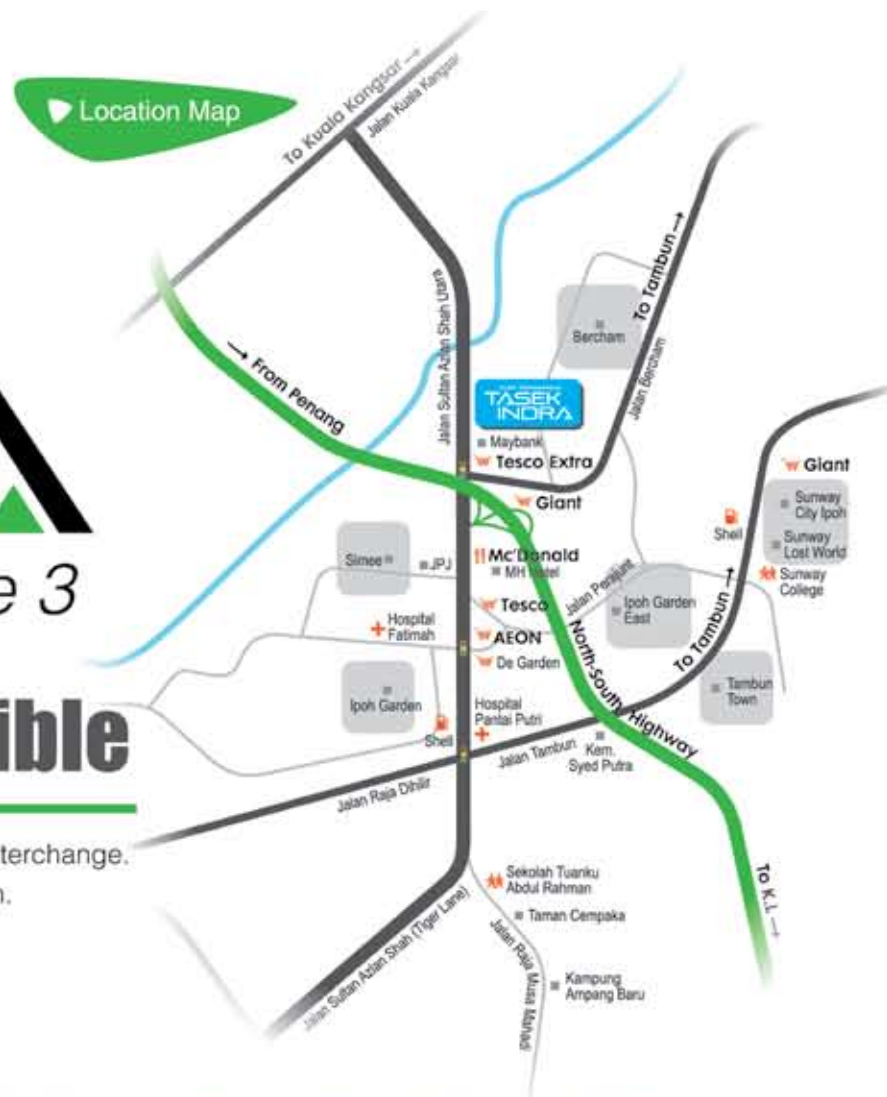
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