

Is Health Tourism Possible?

• Page 3



Shock Waves Disturb Tranquility of Lumut Naval Base

• Page 4



Molecular gastronomy comes to Ipoh

• Page 5

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Where there's a Will there's a Way

By Emily Lowe



Amidst the many uncertainties in life, death is something that nobody can escape. As the saying goes, "Where there's life, there's death." In this day and age, death is no longer a taboo topic. Morbid as it may seem, these days, people make plans for their eventual death to ease the responsibility for their loved ones after they are gone.

But how many of us plan for the smooth distribution of wealth to our beneficiaries upon our demise? To date, unclaimed monies and frozen assets in Malaysia amount to over RM60 billion. Procrastination is one of the main reasons why most of us still do not have a will drawn up.

Ipoh Echo spoke to Peter Lee, an estate planner of Rockwills in Ipoh, about will and estate planning. Peter has more than ten years of experience in this field.

Continued on page 2



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Dying Intestate or Dying Without a Will

Dying intestate means that the person who has died did not leave a will. When this happens, there is a legal process to follow before any asset can be transferred. Assets, unlike insurance and Employees Provident Fund (EPF), cannot be nominated. Automatic inheritance is also not possible.

Under the Distribution Act 1958 (amended 1997), the lawful beneficiaries, through written consent, agree to appoint an administrator, who would then apply for a Letter of Administration (LA) through the High Court. Two administrators have to be appointed if minor beneficiaries are involved.

For estates with a gross value not exceeding RM2 million with properties, an application is made to the District Land Administrator for a Distribution Order whereas for an estate consisting of not more than RM600,000 of movables only, an application to Amanah Raya Berhad is made.

But this is only the first step. Additionally, two sureties are required by the High Court to provide security for the administration of the estate, unless an exemption is granted by the High Court. This combined security shall be equivalent to the gross estate value.

According to the law, when there is no will, wealth is distributed according to this formula: a quarter to the spouse, a quarter to the parent(s) and half to the child(ren).

Or if the parents are no longer around, one-third goes to the spouse and two-thirds to the child(ren). In this instance, the deaths of the parents have to be proven through their Death Certificates, which could be a hassle if they passed away many years ago. A lawyer would then have to be engaged to extract the certificates from the National Registration Department.

What is a Will?

A will is a revocable declaration of intention regarding the distribution of our assets to our loved ones upon our demise. Although there are people who draw up their own will, the questions one has to ask are:

- Is this a valid and functional will?
- Are my instructions in the will clear for my executor to understand and carry out?
- Does it achieve my objectives?
- How can I ensure that there is no tampering to my will upon my demise?

If there is any doubt to even one of these questions above, it is better to engage a professional estate planner or a lawyer who has the know-how to close all these loopholes.

Muslims also can have a will done, appoint executor(s) and/or guardian(s) in the will. Muslims can give one-third of their estate to non-heirs under Islamic law and the remaining two-thirds inherited by Faraid heirs.

A Muslim may choose to distribute all his assets to the Faraid heirs or to particular Faraid heirs only with the consent of all Faraid heirs or to the Faraid heirs equally, again with the consent of all Faraid heirs.

Upon a Muslim’s demise, the appointed executor will simultaneously apply for the Sijil Faraid through the Syariah court for Faraid distribution and the Grant of Probate from the High Court.

Appointing an Executor

Under the law, only one executor is required to be appointed in the will. However, through experience, Peter Lee advises that at least two be appointed, arranged according to priority, in the event that the first executor is unwilling or unable to carry out the duties. A testator is allowed to appoint up to four executors.

For the substitute executors of separate wills of a husband and wife, it would be better to have the same person appointed, in the event of a common disaster. If different people were appointed, these two parties would have to work together and at the same pace to execute the two wills.

The executor is someone who is at least 21 years of age and trustworthy in the eyes of the testator. His (or her) role would be to apply for the Grant of Probate from the High Court in the event of the testator’s death. He (or she) may need to engage a lawyer to do so.

Once the probate is obtained, the executor, who is entitled to claim up to a maximum of 5% to the value of the estate, subject to approval of the High Court, for all his (or her) troubles, will obtain a court order to collect assets, such as savings from the bank, shares, mutual funds, unit trusts and land titles from the Land Office.

The executor will then put up a notification in the newspapers to creditors, if any, and only proceed with the distribution of net wealth according to the conditions inside the will, after a lapse of two months and all debts owed by the estate repaid. If the executor fails to settle a debt, such as personal income tax owed to the Inland Revenue Department after the wealth is distributed, he may have to bear it himself.

In the event that the beneficiaries are below 21 years of age, a guardian has to be appointed to care for the children. Similar to the appointment of an administrator(s) or executor(s), the guardian has to be carefully chosen because he or she will be the substitute parent. Although anyone above the age of 21 and capable of taking care of children can be a guardian, you would want someone whom the child already has a close relationship with.

Beneficiaries below 18 years old cannot receive assets. Under such circumstances, the executors would usually automatically become the trustees, and hold in trust for the estate.

The question is, what if the trustee passes away before his responsibility is over? In such a scenario, the executor of the trustee’s estate will also have to take responsibility of the trust. This execution of the executor’s will, underlines the crucial need to appoint a corporate trustee instead of an individual executor.

Appointing a Corporate Trustee

While the appointed executor is usually the spouse or sibling, it is advisable to appoint a licensed corporate trustee because it is perpetual, accountable, transparent and has the expertise in the execution of wills. A corporate trustee would be the custodian of all the assets of the estate and would perform the duties of an executor in accordance with the law and wishes of the testator as stated in the will. The appointment of a corporate trustee provides certainty.



Distribution of assets according to Distribution Act 1958

| INTESTATE LEAVING SURVIVING | ENTITLEMENT |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Spouse only (no parent/issue) | Spouse – whole estate |
| Issue only (no parent/spouse) | Issue – whole estate |
| Parent(s) only (no spouse/issue) | Parent(s) – whole estate |
| Spouse & Parent(s) (no issue) | Spouse – 1/2 Parent(s) – 1/2 |
| Spouse & Issue (no parent) | Spouse – 1/3 Issue – 2/3 |
| Parent(s) & Issue (no spouse) | Parent(s) – 1/3 Issue – 2/3 |
| Parent(s), Spouse & Issue | Parent(s) – 1/4 Spouse – 1/4 Issue – 1/2 |

The following person(s) are entitled in accordance to priority when an intestate died without leaving a surviving spouse, child or parent :-

1. Brothers and sisters and aunts
2. Grandparents
3. Uncles
4. Great grandparents
5. Great uncles and aunts
6. Government



On the other hand, an individual is mortal, may not know what to do and may not have the time or the energy to carry out his role. It is a tedious task and many are not aware of their responsibilities. Learning the process of will execution along the way, they take more time than necessary in getting the will executed and wealth distributed.

In many cases, the next of kin have no knowledge about the existence of a will or that they had been appointed as the executor or do not know where the will is kept. An unprotected will is just as good as having no will at all.

When a corporate trustee is appointed, usually the testator is given an asset inventory book to list down all his assets which he will keep himself, and custody cards, one for the testator himself and one for his executor.

Therefore, the executor knows whom to contact in the event of the demise of the testator.

Testamentary Trust

In layman’s term, this is a condition stipulated inside the will when beneficiaries are minors or have special needs.

With the objective of progressive distribution of wealth and the preservation of assets, stated under this condition include the amount of monies to be paid out as living expenses, for medical care and education every month, and for the duration of this condition. For example, until the youngest child attains the age of 18 or for a lifetime, in the case of a beneficiary with special needs.

The appointment of caregiver and/or guardian is also stated here.

Size Doesn’t Matter

There is a misconception that only the wealthy need to have a will drawn up. In estate planning, the size of it is immaterial, unless one totally has nothing. The average adult would have at least some savings in the bank, jewellery, a car, a house, shares in their business and also some small investments such as stocks and unit trusts.

As such, it is better to plan the distribution of these in the will for assets to be passed down smoothly to the next of kin. But in cases of special needs of dependents and minors, it is best to set up a living trust (inter vivos).

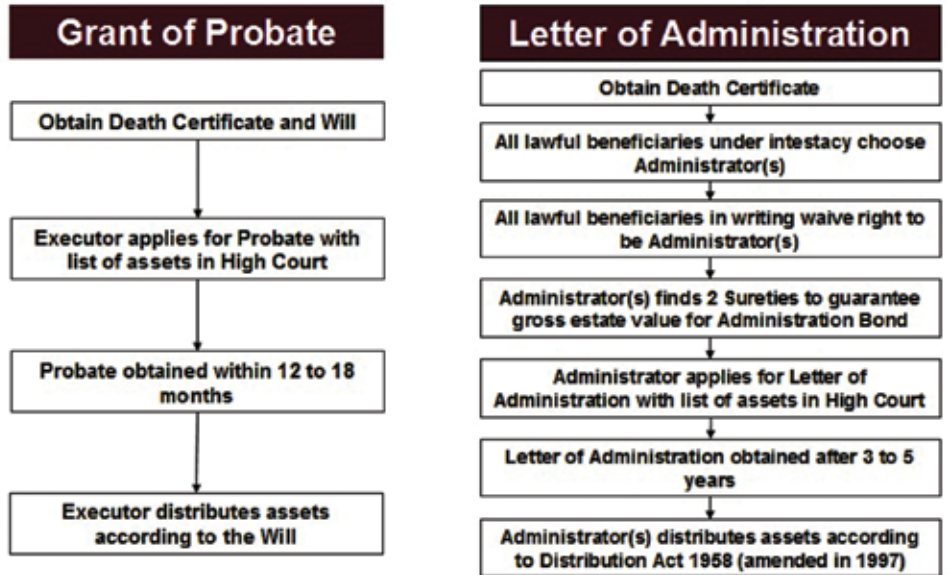
A living trust (inter vivos) is where the creator of the trust, called a Settlor parks his assets in the trust (which is managed by a trustee, usually a corporate trustee) during his lifetime. With such a trust, the immediate financial and medical needs of his beneficiary will be taken cared of for the period of the trust. A trust would have the advantage of being useful in the event of the Settlor’s disability, as he may be the sole beneficiary during his lifetime. It can even be used in the event of the Settlor’s disappearance where assets are used for the dependents and children.

To Delay Is Human But to Will Is Divine

Those who would like to read about the importance of a will in real life scenarios can do so from Peter Lee’s book, “To Delay Is Human But To Will Is Divine”, written in an easy-to-read manner and light-hearted tone. It is available at the Ipoh Echo office, MPH Online, selected Popular bookstores, and Peter Lee’s office at No. 108 (2nd Floor), Jalan Raja Ekram, 30450 Ipoh. It is sold at RM28 a copy.

Peter Lee also writes a monthly column in Ipoh Echo. His series, “In The Name Of My Father’s Estate”, illustrates the importance of the will in a captivating family drama.

Grant of Probate (with will) vs. Letter of Administration (without will)



• From the Editor's Desk
By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

IS HEALTH TOURISM POSSIBLE?

The issue is not geographical disposition but rather the dearth of promotional activities to put Ipoh on the health tourism map...

This is the burning question in the minds of Ipohites, who are being constantly reminded by, you know who, that the city is ready for health tourism, given its first-class medical facilities and infrastructure. Even when a ding-dong battle was going on between the stakeholders and the airport authority, which nearly derailed efforts to revive the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport, the optimism was simply too good to dismiss.

It prompted one very enthusiastic locally-established airline to consider buses to ferry passengers between Bayan Lepas Airport in Penang and Ipoh when the airport runway was declared unusable due to sinkholes. This is one bad experience which Ipohites have come to terms with, as the Azlan Shah Airport is indeed an enigma on the verge of becoming a white elephant.

The Ipoh-Medan route is considered lucrative as that is where the money is. Flying in and flying out wealthy Medanese for medical screening and medical check-ups has been the mainstay of airlines plying the Medan-Penang route. It's no denying that cities like Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Malacca have been riding on the crest of health tourism for a number of years, making huge profits in return.

Ipoh, for reasons of expedience, has been left out in the cold without any relief in sight. The singular excuse that is making the rounds is that Ipoh is located in between Kuala Lumpur and Penang and, therefore, visitors prefer to give it a miss. The existence of a 'nonfunctional airport' accentuates the problem.

The reason is largely fictional, as the issue is not geographical disposition but rather the dearth of promotional activities to put Ipoh on the health tourism map. Both the public and the private sectors are equally at fault. It is a chicken-and-egg thing, as neither side knows when and where to start. The impasse has been dragging on far too long and the opportunity cost missed is enormous.

Perak Tourism Association led by its president, Hj Odzman Kadir, took upon itself to undo the wrong by calling for a meeting of stakeholders. The aim was simple – to



find a workable solution to the problem. The initiative was timely as the Ipoh airport has been operable since November last year. Three airlines are presently using the facility as their gateway to destinations outside of Ipoh.

"Time and tide wait for no man" as the saying goes. Something needs to be done and done fast. Each passing day adds on to the loss. How long can the state suffer when Dato' Nolee Ashilin, the Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture, had proudly proclaimed that breaching the 5-million visitors target in 2015 was never a problem? Was it an idle boast or an assumption? I shall leave that to conjecture.

The 'round-table meeting' at Syeun Hotel on Tuesday, March 24 was attended by some 40 representatives from airlines, hospitals, hotels, tour agencies and operators, Tourism Perak and the state government. The forum could not have been better. It was, undoubtedly, an opportune moment to discuss health tourism in

detail and to find ways to break the deadlock.

As I have said, it is improper to blame the state government or the private sector for inaction as both parties are equally at fault – the state government for procrastinating while the private sector for hesitating. Two of the five private hospitals in Ipoh had taken steps to attract clients in Medan. One fell flat on its face while the other succeeded. Therefore, it is not something impossible.

There should be a coordinated effort in promoting Ipoh as a preferred health-tourism destination. Private hospitals in Penang work as a team making forage abroad to attract clients. A similar model could be established here but someone needs to give it a nudge. And the one with the right credentials is Tourism Perak, as it has the resources and the capacity to make things tick.

A Medan trade exposition in April is in the pipeline. Tourism Perak is making a move and this is definitely a good sign. The only problem is whether the interested parties are prepared to take on the challenge.

EYE HEALTH

EYE MAKE-UP, DO's & DONT's

In our continuing series on Eye Health, Fatimah Hospital's Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S. S. GILL talks to us about EYE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH EYE MAKE-UP.

Almost every woman would have used some form of eye make-up sometime or the other. Be it mascara, eyeliner or anti-wrinkle cream, the trend to use them is only increasing by the day and it is a rarity to find any young woman today without at least having eyeliner on.

There is nothing wrong with having eye make-up or cosmetics but every woman (and some men too these days!) should be aware of certain precautions to observe when using eye make-up. Every now and then I get some lady coming in to my consultation with a recurring eye infection that eventually can be traced to a contaminated eyeliner. So ladies, here are some pointers:

> EYE INFECTIONS

Conjunctivitis or pink eye is commonly associated with recurring eye infections. This occurs more so if you had been using the eyeliner or make-up when the eye infection had developed. Chances are the eyeliner would have been contaminated and organisms would have grown on it. The cap of the eyeliner often would have picked up some sebaceous secretions from skin and mucus from the eyes with the bugs on it. Discard old eye liners after a bout of eye infection.

> CONTACT LENS WEARERS

Should you be a contact lens wearer, make sure that you put them on before putting on any eye make-up. Do try and avoid heavy make-up but if this is an absolutely must, apply them carefully and do not let any get into the eyes. Eyeliners especially are especially prone to getting into the eye when it mixes with the oily sebaceous secretions from the eyelid margins, so do take it easy when applying! Eyeliners should be applied outside the lash line and not on the inner margins of the eyelids. Always ensure that you wash off any creams or powders from your hands before handling the lenses and inserting them into your eyes.

> CHECK LABELS OF EYE MAKE-UP

When buying eye creams and eye make-up, ensure that you check for the ingredients found within by checking the label on it. Should you be one of those people who are prone to skin allergies, be especially careful about purchasing eye creams as the skin around the eyes is very sensitive.

> SHARING EYE MAKE-UP

Avoid sharing eye make-up. This is a no-no, even if it's your own sister or best friend! Sharing eye make-up exposes you to eye infections especially if the person you are sharing with is lax about eye hygiene and make-up care.

> OLD EYE MAKE-UP

Avoid using eyeliners that are more than six months old and avoid using expired products. All eye make-up should be removed before you retire for the night. This is because, the make-up can often get mixed-up with the oily secretions around the eyelid and seep into the eyes. This can cause infections.

So ladies, beauty may be important to you but do practice good eye make-up habits to protect your eyes and keep them beautiful and also healthy!



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

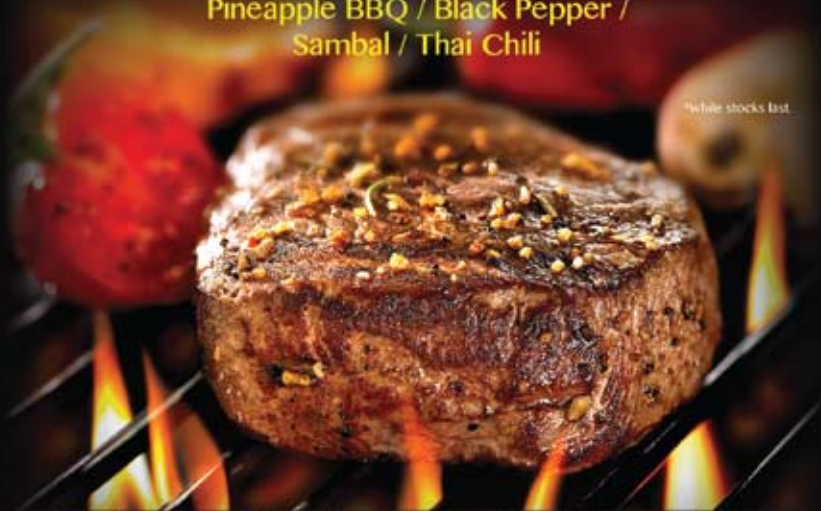


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For more information, call Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah
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Shock Waves Disturb Tranquility of Lumut Naval Base

The tranquillity of the Lumut naval base was shattered when the chattering classes in the naval community were horrified to learn about a corruption scandal, involving several Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) personnel. Many people were shocked that it was many years before it was exposed.

In a report by the Malay Mail online, the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) said that the scandal was just the tip of the iceberg and that more officers will be investigated. He added that one of the suspects had used the 'Ali Baba' method to supply goods to the RMN.

It also alleged that one person was using assumed names in the procurement process. The MACC source said, "The navy deals with about 2500 companies. But we are now focusing our investigations on 20 to 30 of these companies. We believe the individual is controlling them."

The MACC will also be checking the involvement of other companies in this scandal.

The navy purchases materials to keep its fleet in good order. The process involves vast numbers of transactions, on a daily basis, and costs the nation millions of ringgit. In the initial stages of the MACC investigation, the five navy personnel who were arrested included at least one female RMN officer.

Despite holding middle-rank positions, these navy staff enjoyed the lifestyles of high-earners. They were from the procurement section of the navy and ranged from 20 to 50-year-olds.

It is also believed that the navy suspects worked together with the civilian suspects, as in a syndicate. The cost of certain goods would be marked up and the navy staff would receive kickbacks in cash and bank deposits.

The syndicate was suspected of operating at various levels and the MACC will investigate higher up the chain of command.

Intelligence reports unmasked the activities of the syndicates involved in the procurement of goods. The unashamed greed and displays of unexplained wealth, including expensive watches, land transactions, luxury cars, unmasked the conspirators.

The civilians being investigated were officials of the companies which were supplying goods to the navy.

With a budget of around RM300 million, the temptation to siphon off some of this money into personal coffers, proved too great for some navy personnel.

The Malay Mail reported that over the past five years, millions of ringgit had changed hands between suppliers and members of the fleet supply depot. The MACC alleges that around RM48 million has been misappropriated.

In an interview with the paper, Retired First Admiral Mohamad Imran Abdul Hamid, who once served at the Lumut naval base, said that the procurement department, called Depot Bekalan Armada (Fleet Supply Depot), operated a three-tier procurement system, depending on the cost of the item.

When he became MP for Lumut, on his retirement from service, Mohamad Imran urged the government to tighten the naval procurement system, to prevent unscrupulous staff from manipulating the prices of the goods.

The Fleet Supply Depot comprised a commanding officer and his deputy. Below them were the material controllers (MC), who are responsible for sending out requests for goods, using one of the three procurement methods.

The MP for Lumut alleged that one particular item had been sold to the navy at six times its normal price. So, RM180,000 was paid for an item worth RM30,000.

He has suggested measures to prevent navy staff and suppliers from forming close working relationships, and advocated the regular transfer of navy staff to other sections. He also alleged that certain officers were able to exert undue influence, on the procurement process.

The MACC claimed that the corrupt activities had been in operation for five to ten years. What happened to the checks and balances which would have thwarted the efforts of unscrupulous staff members? Do these need an overhaul? Is the *rakyat* being fleeced again?

How regularly does the MACC scrutinise this particular area of procurement, in other armed forces departments?

Did the annual Auditor-General's report not show any discrepancy?



by Mariam Mokhtar

It was reported that the illegal activities, in Lumut, only emerged after a crackdown by the MACC, last year, against Customs officials who had been involved in smuggling. An inside source claims otherwise. They say that the corruption was unearthed because rival naval personnel were envious of the activities and multi million ringgit perks, of the syndicates and so decided to snitch on them. The rivals had no thought of loyalty to the King, country or the *rakyat*!

CHILD HEALTH

Dr Shan Narayanan
Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

The month of April is Autism Awareness Month. Thus it is only appropriate to discuss this condition that continues to be a puzzle.

What is ASD

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is characterised by:

- Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts;
- Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities;
- Symptoms must be present in the early developmental period usually recognised in the first two years of life;
- Symptoms cause clinically significant impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of current functioning.

What are the signs and symptoms of ASD?

Symptoms of ASD vary from one child to the next, but in general, they fall into two areas:

- Social impairment, including difficulties with social communication
- Repetitive and stereotyped behaviours.

Children with ASD do not follow typical patterns when developing social and communication skills. Parents are usually the first to notice unusual behaviours in their child. Often, certain behaviours become more noticeable when comparing children of the same age. They may also have associated sensory issues, sleep problems and seizures.

What is the cause of ASD?

Scientists don't know the exact causes of ASD, but research suggests that both genes and environment play important roles. In USA it is estimated that 1 in 68 (March 2014) children have ASD. In Malaysia, the prevalence is about 1 in 625 children.

How is ASD diagnosed?

ASD is diagnosed in two stages:

Stage 1

Screening for Autism at 18 months and 3 years during well child check up. Children who are suspected of having ASD are referred to the paediatrician for further assessment.

Stage 2

A comprehensive assessment by a child development team that includes a paediatrician, speech therapist, occupational therapist and a psychologist. A diagnosis is then made.

How to help the child with ASD?

ASD is a disorder and not a disease thus there is no cure. However it can be managed well. As soon as a diagnosis is made, the child is sent for Early Intervention. Early Intervention involves speech therapy, occupational therapy and teaching activities at the proper developmental level for the child in a small group. The teaching is reinforced repeatedly. Parents are also trained on how to deal with their child. During school years an appropriate school based programme is used. Some of the children with ASD can school in mainstream schools.

When the child is taught appropriately, it reduces ASD symptoms and increases their ability to grow and learn skills.

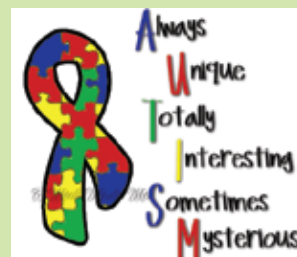
What is the long term?

The long haul is with the parents and the family. Parents need support and training on how to deal with a child with Autism. It can be physically and emotionally exhaustive thus support groups play an important role.

The long term outcome of the child depends on the severity of the ASD and the training and support the child receives.

In conjunction with the Autism Awareness Month, Hospital Fatimah is organising a **Symposium on Autism Spectrum Disorder for Doctors** on 12 April 2015 in Syeyn Hotel.

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



MUSINGS ON IPOH FOOD

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



SeeFoon is Blown Away Molecule by Molecule

Molecular what? was the typical reaction I received when I rang around my friends and asked if they'd like to join in for Ipoh's first 'Molecular' dinner. Chef Simon Lee of **Citrus Wine and Dine** has been quietly experimenting behind the scenes both in his Citrus kitchen as well as his test kitchen at home. The result of his efforts is nothing short of mind-blowing.

Of course if you're a steak and potatoes or *Gai Si Hor Fun* person, then molecular gastronomy is not for you. But if you have a passion for food and an insatiable curiosity with a palate open to new taste titillations, then the recent dinner at Citrus will leave you agog with excitement.

'Molecular gastronomy' is usually used to describe the study of how food changes when it cooks. Molecular gastronomists use special techniques, ingredients and cooking principles to encourage certain chemical reactions to occur. These reactions, in turn, produce startling new flavours and textures.

But whatever you call it, scientifically advanced cooking has enabled chefs to present plates that are fun, surprising and theatrical, and create better flavours. And this is precisely what Chef Simon presented to a small group of us recently, who gathered together to sample his gastronomic efforts.

Popular molecular gastronomy techniques employed by modern chefs include frothing and foaming, dehydration, spherification, and sous vide and these were the techniques that Simon used in presenting his 13-course menu.

We began with an **oyster shooter** served in a test tube, a fresh Kumamoto oyster floating in flecks of real gold leaf in Sauvignon Blanc. This went down a treat as we anticipated the next course, the **Smoked Fresh Oyster with Yuzu dressing**.

A refrain from the song 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes' came to mind as the cold smoke that wafted out from the glass bell jar as I lifted the cover, hit my senses. The bed of coriander seeds on which the bell jar sat had somehow infused the oyster with its fragrance and together the scent, smoke and the delectable taste of the smoked oyster had us on tenterhooks of expectation on what was coming next.

The **Confit of Atlantic Cod** cooked sous vide (a popular technique that involves sealing food in an airtight plastic bag and cooking it in a water bath for several hours on low heat allowing food to retain its moisture and flavour) looked ordinary enough on the plate with citrus rind surrounding it. Until they came around and poured in a liquid which created a bubbling froth of cold smoke releasing the citrus aromas. And the dish was transformed.



Forrest of Mushroom



Tofu with Ikura was Coconut Pannacotta topped with strawberry pearls (again using spherification) with the 'soya' sauce' provided by coconut palm sugar or Gula Melaka and the **Raw Quail Egg shooter** was coconut jelly with a mango sphere. That is how whimsical and playful molecular cuisine can be.

The raving can go on but alas space limits the amount I can write. Suffice for me to mention just a few more unusual items like the edible soil served with their **Crab Meat Cannelloni**, made from dehydrated olives; the **Edible Plastic Bag** which was a delightful palate cleanser, had quite a few guests hesitating as it was just a small plastic bag holding coloured beads and served on a chopstick (see top pic). When encouraged by Simon, we put it into our mouths and a burst of citrus flavours put aside all doubts and some at my table even applauded. Simon assured everyone that the plastic bag was totally edible, having made it himself out of potato starch and soy lecithin and the beads inside merely citrus flavoured sugar pellets.

It is exciting and indeed very encouraging that Ipoh now has cuisine of a stature that can rival any of the big cities. Simon has won a slew of culinary awards in his former capacity working in the kitchens of major international hotels. After returning to his hometown of Ipoh, he, together with his wife Erica, have developed **Citrus Wine and Dine** into a much sought after western restaurant of note. However, it is very encouraging to see that Simon is not content to rest on his laurels and his constant search for perfection is bringing him to new heights. His experimentation into the field of molecular gastronomy is certainly paying off as witnessed by this first dinner in molecular cuisine. Keep experimenting Simon, Ipoh loves you.

Diners wishing to try Simon's molecular cuisine will need to give him two weeks advance notice and gather a minimum of 10 people. It took him two and a half days to prepare this menu and two weeks to gather all the necessary ingredients some of which come from abroad. Our dinner as described here was RM350 per person.

Citrus Wine and Dine
38-42 Laluan Ipoh Perdana,
Taman Ipoh Perdana, Ipoh.
TEL: 05 545 1010 or 012 527 1210 (Erica)
Business Hours: 11.30am-3pm; 6.30pm-11pm
Closed Mondays
GPS 4° 37.231 N 101° 8.162 E

Sight, smell and taste, the essence of molecular cuisine.

The same alchemy followed with the **Hokkaido Scallop and Prawn**, a Tataki of Hokkaido Scallop and quick char Sashimi King Prawn with Ume and Rosemary mint, both umami ocean fresh, enlivened with the merest hint of searing.

By this time, some of us had gone to heaven. Each succeeding course after this revealed a series of 'oohs' and 'ahhs' from around my table. The **Forest of Mushroom**, a combination of Foie Gras Terrine and Pate served with 40 second **Green Tea Sponge** (see bottom left pic) was a feast for the eyes, palate and lest we forget our smell as it was served with a platter of Rosemary cold smoke, placed in the centre of the table. The Green Tea Sponge was fascinating as it looked exactly like some of the sponges or moss one would find in the wild, yet melts in the mouth.

The whole menu almost defies description. I can only hope that the pictures on this page will give the readers an idea of the breadth and depth of this culinary experience. I will continue to highlight some of the more delightful, whimsical and downright playful items on the rest of this extensive menu. Suffice to say, nothing is as it looks. All tastes are intensified, using special techniques and special ingredients to create theatrical works of culinary art that seduce both the taste buds and all of one's senses.

So the strawberry in the first glass of the **strawberry champagne cocktail** was not a 'real' strawberry but a concentrated extract of strawberry using an interesting technique of spherification, which involves making liquid-filled beads that, to use the words of a writer at Gourmet magazine, "explode in the mouth with a pleasingly juicy pop". This technique was used to its fullest in the dessert which had the unusual listing as Tuna Tartare, Tofu with Ikura and Raw Quail Egg Shooter which had us scratching our heads: savoury dessert we wondered?

It turned out that the **Tuna Tartare** was compressed cubes of watermelon topped with a mango sphere;

Community

PPCS Charity Fair Raises Funds

A great sense of community was felt at the Perak Palliative Care Society's (PPCS) charity food fair. Patrons and supporters were generous in buying food coupons to acquire all the famed food delicacies of Ipoh. A lively crowd sustained a great cause.

The fair was held at the care centre along Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Ipoh. There was a wide variety of food to tempt visitors ranging from cakes, jellies, noodles, vegetables and fruits. Coupons were used to purchase items at the fair.

"This charity food fair is our biggest event. We try our best to organise it every year," said volunteer Lim Lay Har to Ipoh Echo.

Food was not the only item available; clothes, accessories and books were also sold to the public. Patchwork crafts made by the centre's patchwork gang were on sale. The gang consists of craft-addicts who support PPCS's efforts in giving free services to the terminally-ill patients of the centre.

The Perak Palliative Care Society provides comfort and relief of symptoms to people with life threatening illness irrespective of age, race or religion. Established in 1995, the Home Care Programme focuses on terminally ill people. A team of doctors, nurses and trained volunteers provide medical equipment on loan.

"We've our own medical and support machines for cancer and kidney patients and those with critical health problems. All they need to do to avail themselves of the use of these machines is to register with the centre and we'll do everything we can to help them," Lim added.

PPCS is a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping those in need. The services provided are free. They offer bereavement support as well as advice on nursing care and pain control. However, medication, nursing and dressing fees would be borne by the patients.



The centre welcomes volunteers, especially those who are passionate about caring for the terminally ill. They will undergo a special training programme to prepare them for the tasks ahead.

Readers wishing for more information on PPCS's activities can visit its official website www.ppcs.org.my or call the centre at 605 5464 732. Email admin@ppcs.org.my.

Ili Aqilah and Pamela



Baba Nyonya Festival Taiping 2015

The Baba Nyonya Festival Taiping 2015, held in conjunction with Malaysia Fest 2015 and jointly organised by the Taiping Heritage Society and Taiping Tourist Association, was held at the Perdana Hotel, Taiping recently to a sold-out crowd of over 400 people.

The festival began with a Peranakan Exhibition showcasing artefacts, fashion, food and lifestyle of the Baba and Nyonya in the early days, followed by the Best Nyonya Dish with contestants displaying their creatively-prepared Nyonya dishes.

The judges led by Chef Ricky Ng, Toh Puan Norisha and Helen Ong had a difficult time deciding the winners. First place went to Cheah Khai Weh (Acar Salt Fish), second to Tan Ah Meng (Nyonya Serai Prawn) and third to Rose Gabriel (Sambal Terong Peranakan).

In the evening, the guests were served an authentic Peranakan dinner specially prepared by Chef Ricky Ng, an award-winning chef and author of 14 cookbooks. Salbiah Mohamed, the Adun of Temenggor, representing Dato' Nolee Ashilin, Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture, officiated the event. During dinner, guests

were entertained by a Baba Nyonya dance troupe from Melaka.

Highlight for the evening was the Nyonya Queen contest. Twenty ladies, dressed in intricately-embroidered kebaya and colourful sarongs with accessories inherited from their mothers and grandmothers and beautifully-beaded shoes on their petite feet, took to the stage. The panel of judges comprising Vinna Lim (Mrs Qi Pao Malaysia 2014), Steven Ong (Nyonya Kebaya designer) and Helen Ong (food and travel writer) took time to pick out the winners.

The Nyonya Queen Taiping 2015 title went to Christine Tham who was awarded a bouquet, certificate, cash and a large hamper. First and second runners-up, Sabrina Vun and Khor Poh Geok, received cash and a certificate each.

It was an eventful occasion filled with good food, camaraderie and fellowship. The fast disappearing Baba Nyonya culture must be preserved for our future generation and holding an event such as this is a step in the right direction.

Yeap Thean Eng

Nurturing the Culture of Peace

Global Women's Peace Network Malaysia with the cooperation of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development organised the 6th Peace Loving Convention at Syeun Hotel, Ipoh recently. Running on the theme, 'Family Nurturing Culture of Peace', the hall was filled to the brim as early as 8am with over 400 eager university students and guests, some hailing from Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Sarawak.

The exciting morning started off with a presentation by Sudesh Balasubramaniam, the Deputy President of Universal Peace Federation Malaysia titled, 'Five Life Goals'.

"According to a study done by Harvard Business School, it says that most of us don't have goals but those who do, achieve more. And when the goals are written down, they have greater success at achieving what has been written down," he posited.

In her welcoming speech, Senator Datuk Doris S. Brodie, the President of Global Women's Peace Network Malaysia, was delighted to see such a big crowd present. The event proceeded with the congratulatory remarks from Dr Yoo Chong Young, the International Senior Advisor of GWPB and Kula Segaran, MP for Ipoh Barat respectively. The former ended his inspiring speech with a spirited "Ipoh Women Boleh" while the latter enlightened the audience on how getting rid of ego would encourage peace.

The convention was officiated by Dato' Yean Yoke Heng, representative of the Minister of Tourism and Culture, Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz with a gong-hitting ceremony.

The next speaker was Assoc Prof Dr Harlina Halizah Siraj, the co-founder of Mothers of Malaysians Initiav who gave a precious take-home message of how "As human beings, we might not be able to avoid negative feelings and emotions towards someone, something or some situation, but as a civilised community, we must never translate those emotions into negative behaviours and conduct".

Meanwhile, Dato' Dr Amar Singh, the Head of the Pediatric Department of Hospital RPB Ipoh, stressed on the importance of offering children supportive environments that gives them opportunities to grow yet allowing them to be who they want to be, hopefully with God in their hearts.



Dr Robert Kittel, Director of Education of Universal Peace Federation Asia spoke on the topic 'Principles of Peace'. "Without sacrifice, love is not love," he stressed.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Puan Halida Mohd Ali, President of Perak Women for Women Society. Her mind-broadening speech was a wake-up call on the importance of breaking the chain of violence against women.

The event drew to a close with a heart-warming singing performance by Dr and Mrs Yoo Chong Young.

Mei Kuan

Community

Soroptimist Ipoh – Making It Happen

Looking around the hall, how could one not be excited to see 100 like-minded passionate women from 30 NGOs gathered in Syeun Hotel on the March 7 at 3pm, to celebrate International Women's Day.

Running on the theme #MakeItHappen, the affair was organised by Soroptimist International Ipoh (SI Ipoh) which began with a fun-filled ice-breaking session led by Jeyamalar Jeyaratnam, a Past President of the Ipoh branch. Jeya, one of whose coaching specialties is running laughter workshops, had the group whooping, cackling and doing antics that reduced some to heaps of laughter. Laughter and cheers permeated through the air and everyone joined in with gusto.

President of Soroptimist International Ipoh, Jean Chai continued the fun with her opening speech with the witty line "Don't feel guilty if you cannot pronounce (our organisation's name), it took me 6 months!", drawing further laughter and making everyone present warm up to her instantly. She provided a brief introduction on SI Ipoh as the largest women's organisation in the world. Its members are recruited on a voluntary basis and together they share one aim: to improve the lives of women and children through programmes and projects leading to social and economic empowerment. "We are not a charitable organisation. We do not believe in giving fish. We believe in empowering women and children and teaching them to fish."

The first speaker of the day was Datin Mary Yeoh, the inspiring founder of Ray Of Hope. Clad in a delicate purple baju kebaya, she shared her knowledge and experience in her soulful speech, touching the hearts of those present. When asked about the single most precious advice which she would like to share with the women out there, she told Ipoh Echo, "Get your vertical relationship right with God and your horizontal relation with man will be."

The MC of the day, Sumathi then called upon Puan Sri Dato' Sandra Lee to share her amazing journey in starting Persatuan Daybreak which provides vocational training for people with physical disabilities. In her power-packed yet eye-opening speech, she explained that in voluntary work, we are gaining as much as we give.

The final speaker was Miss Jenny Pong Seow Chin, the epitome of a true fighter. Despite braving continuous physical and emotional hardships which would have broken most people, she exudes a positive disposition and lives her life to the fullest. Through her motivating talk, she enlightened everyone on the importance of life. Among those inspired was Linda, who came to the celebration independently. "A lot of us must know that what we have been given right now is a blessing," she told Ipoh Echo.

After the presentation of souvenirs to the speakers and light refreshments, there was a sharing session for attendees to learn from one another. Representatives from Noah's Ark Ipoh, Perak Women For Women Society (PWW), Dapur Jalanan Ipoh and Persatuan Pink Champion Perak respectively took the opportunity to share their causes.

"I would like to inform all ladies this: when breast cancer is detected early, the chances of survival is high. Do perform regular breast self-exam. If you find any changes and are unsure of anything please consult a doctor immediately," said Puan Mardianah Yusof, the President of Persatuan Pink Champion, to Ipoh Echo.

The celebration ended on a high note at 5pm with everyone joining in the vibrant



'Break the Chain' dance from the One Billion Rising campaign.

Judging from the comments as Ipoh Echo solicited feedback from the attendees, the event and presentations left some indelible impressions.

From past president Khoo Kuan Hwa, "Reading about Jenny Pong and how she overcame her plight in life was very encouraging but listening to her in person at this event was totally inspiring. Her extremely positive attitude and very high EQ was obviously what pulls her through her incredibly difficult circumstances battling disability, poverty and a myriad of health problems. She came through as genuinely above her many problems and happy enough to be able to even joke about her physical disabilities which has left her without legs! What struck me is the power of our own minds in the management of life's problems and that we can be happy in any circumstance if we put our mind to it!"

The other 2 speakers Puan Sri Dato Sandra and Datin Mary were also very inspiring. Puan Sri's passion for improving the lives of the underprivileged is incredibly amazing as she has put in decades of hard work through the very successful Daybreak and she is a giant in NGO work. Datin Mary's passion for the welfare of the children of Ray of Hope is equally commendable as it has touched and improved many lives."

Pui San Lim: "It is truly an honour to meet women from all walks of life who do volunteer work in their chosen areas. Together they have done so much and can do so much more. Their passion, energy and willpower is especially inspiring! I really hope that the younger generation will continue with the work."

Lanka Devi, immediate Past President: "It was a social congregation of NGO social workers who are already doing tremendous service in their own fields and clubs. They came not just to socialise and celebrate but to satisfy their curiosity. To see and to learn from one another so that their own NGOs can grow, develop and sustain even further. They returned energised and renewed in the knowledge that they too were doing noble deeds, however small and that which makes a difference to another life. They left hoping to make changes to society so that all may live together as one. It was a curious mixture of cultures and religions. Many useful contacts were made and found for future networking. I believe that to a certain extent the objectives of SI Ipoh in conducting this event has been achieved. One simple example is when individuals approached me to take them to Ray of Hope for a meal. This benefits not only another NGO but we too get to see what they do and how they operate. All NGOs have and are learning. Datin Mary Yeoh's gentle speech was indeed inspiring and so moving that I sobbed within me when I heard of the problems in society and how we all can touch lives and make a difference in our own little ways and deeds."

Malika from an animal rescue and shelter group, Noah's Ark, really opened the eyes and minds of many people. She enlightened the audience on the plight of animals with such passion that it actually made people sit up and say "yes, this is also indirect service to mankind".

Jeyamalar Jeyaratnam, Founding Past President: "It was a privilege to have 3 inspiring speakers at our event. Jenny exudes immense love and positivity. In spite of her disabilities she never hesitates to encourage all those who live in hopelessness. Her courage, her words of wisdom allows people to recognise their perceived impossibilities and helps them step out with courage and faith."

SFCK and Mei Kuan



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News

A Lesson in Diplomacy

Beside the mission to strengthen existing relationships between Malaysia and China, the Perak Media and Sports Club managed to elicit interest in Perak from the Chinese. This was accomplished after a brief visit to Beijing recently.

Flyers and booklets on Perak's touristic destinations were distributed freely to visitors to the Great Wall of China. Datuk Akmar Hisham Mokhes, the Prime Minister's press secretary and club adviser, could not have been more pleased with the attempt.

"We walked the Great Wall for nearly 4km, as a form of remembrance for the victims of the ill-fated Flight MH370. We're pleasantly surprised how welcoming the locals were. Many spoke dearly about Malaysia and hoped to visit the country, especially Perak, sometime," he told Ipoh Echo.

"Malaysia is not a strange place for the locals, as most of them know our country, especially after the MH370 tragedy," he added.

Club members paid a visit to three mosques in Beijing, including the oldest, Nan Dou Ya, where they donated copies of the Quran and texted Yassin verses. At the Malaysian Embassy they were greeted by the Defence Adviser, First Admiral Zualkafly Ahmad and a group of Malaysian students studying in the Chinese capital.

Zualkafly Ahmad complimented the efforts by the media club in making the trip.



"Our relationship with China has been established since 40 years ago following Tun Razak's visit in 1975. I hope goodwill between both nations will remain the same or better," he posited.

The week-long visit had provided club members with a better perspective of bilateral relationships already in existence. It was, by all accounts, a valuable lesson in diplomacy for the Malaysians.

RM

Chill FM Launched



After four months in operation, Chill FM had its official launch at PORT (People of Remarkable Talent) along Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Ipoh recently.

Chill FM is an Ipoh-based online radio station that plays a wide range of songs and music for its 10,000-odd listeners daily. Apart from broadcasting live from its studio, Chill FM does field broadcasting when covering events around the state.

Executive Councillor for Youth, Sports, Communication and Multimedia, Dato' Shahrul Zaman Yahya, who officiated at the ceremony, applauded Chill FM for playing an active part in the creative industry.

"Local talents and young entrepreneurs now have a platform to pursue and achieve their dreams, thanks to Chill FM's initiative. Hopefully, it'll have a positive impact on listeners. I too hope the station will continue to support the local art scene," said Shahrul in his opening remarks.

Chill FM recently aired Cartoon Town (Pekan Kartun) the second edition held at Kellie Castle, Super Ahad Rock and MOSH Fest. It hopes to host more events in the future.

Readers can tune-in to Chill FM through its website www.chillfm.my or download Chill FM via Google Play Store.

Ili Aqilah

Chinese-Muslim Exhibition

The Pangkor-Sanya Chinese Muslim exhibition, at the Perak State Library, had its launching ceremony on the Thursday, March 12. The library's foyer was a hive of activities with school students, guests and media representatives, as this was the first of its kind in Perak.

It showcased the historical linkage between Chinese Muslims from Sanya City of Hainan Island and Pangkor Island of Perak.

Proudly quoting the saying, "*tuntutlah ilmu sampai ke negara China*" ("we must seek knowledge") Puan Salbiah Mohamed the Chairperson of the Perak Public Library Board, in her opening remarks, expressed her gratitude to the organisers and those present.

Clad in a beautiful shade of purple, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Dato' Mohammed Radzi, the Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture, hoped that the exhibition, which coincided with the school holidays, would help promote tourism in Perak and also in Sanya, China. Present at the event were Chairman of Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam China, Dr Yusuf Liu Baojun and Chief Executive Officer of K-Perak, Mohd Nazaruddin Mohd Yusoff.

The launch coincided with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Perak State Library and K-Perak in developing e-library and e-learning.

The exhibition featured craftworks with a blend of Islamic and Chinese traditions, old Muslim coins found in China some dating back to over 500 years ago, Arabic calligraphic works in traditional Chinese style, Chinese-Muslim artefacts and a number of Chinese publications on Islam.

Mei Kuan



Han Chin Pet Soo

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



News

Perak Water Board RM10 Million Profit



Menteri Besar and Chairman of the Perak Water Board, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir chaired a meeting of the board recently and made the following announcement after the meeting.

Revenue from the sale of water, he said, had increased from RM299.70 million at year-end December 31, 2013 to RM309.84 at year-end December 31, 2014, a difference of RM10.14 million.

The total estimated net profit before tax rose to RM24.62 million from RM97.12 million in Financial Year 2013 to RM121.73 million in Financial Year 2014, an increase of 25.3 per cent.

The consumption rate of water has increased from 304.79 million litres at December 31, 2013 to 313.21 million litres at December 31, 2014.

The number of account-holders too has increased from 710,267 at December 31, 2013 to 726,929 at December 31, 2014. This represents an increase of 2.3 per cent.

During eight years of the provision of subsidies for the poor in the state, the Perak Water Board has spent a sum of RM5,806,295. A total of 11,064 families have benefited from the scheme as at March 12, 2015.

Nantini

Healing The Nation

Perak Academy hosted the much-awaited dinner talk by Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz at Syeun Hotel, Ipoh recently. The title of Tunku's thought-provoking talk was "Healing the Nation".

Guest of honour HRH Raja DiHilir Perak, Raja Iskandar Dzulkarnain ibni Almarhum Sultan Idris A'fifullah Shah graced the occasion. Dato' Dr Ramanathan Ramiah, the master of ceremonies, kept the 150-odd diners delighted by his witty comments and wisecracks throughout the evening.

The event began with the welcome address by the Acting Chairman of Perak Academy Dr Adib Vincent

Tung bin Abdullah who conveyed the academy's gratitude to the speaker for consenting to deliver his lecture despite his heavy schedule.

As the co-founder of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), columnist, author and trustee in many foundations, the affable and dashing prince from the Negeri Sembilan royal house displayed such eloquence and good play of words in delivering his lecture.

He began by expressing his affection for the silver state and shared his enduring recollections of his past. Tunku defined the word "nation" and what it means for a nation to be in "good health".

He elaborated at length on the intentions of our founding fathers and the framers of the nation's Constitution. Tunku highlighted one key feature that the healing process requires – leadership.

"I hope and pray that eventually we'll have enough morally-upright believers in the spirit of Merdeka in our institutions," he surmised.

His talk stirred up some meaningful responses from the floor during the question and answer session. Tunku's answers, however, were pretty measured. It was obvious that he did not want to ruffle feathers, as the questions were rather sensitive and also ill-timed. He qualified by politely saying, "I'll discuss that with you later."

Mei Kuan



UTAR 20th Convocation

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) held its 20th Convocation at the stately Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik in UTAR Perak Campus, Kampar from March 14 to 15. A total of 2379 graduands received their convocation scrolls over a two-day period, graduating from 73 programmes comprising 57 Bachelor (Honours) degree, 13 Master's degree and three PhDs.

The Convocation also celebrated the academic accomplishments of the pioneer batches of graduates from the Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Business Administration (Corporate Management) from the Faculty of Business and Finance, Bachelor of Science (Honours) Agricultural Science from the Faculty of Science, and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Early Childhood Studies from the Faculty of Creative Industries.

Of the 2,379 graduands, five received their PhDs, 45 received their Master's degree and 27 received their First Class Honours Degree/Honours Degree with Distinction while the rest received their Bachelor Honours with Merit and Bachelor Honours degree.

Anisha Joanne a/p Chandrasegaran, who graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology with Distinction said that she has always been interested in the human mind and behaviour, plans to do her Master's overseas, thanked her mother for her unconditional sacrifices; and her lecturers and tutors for their invaluable advice and guidance. Having fulfilled the requirements of a first class honours, Anisha would be exempted from the repayment of her PTPTN loan.

Another graduate, Wong Thean Keat, who is attached to UMW Toyota, managed to overcome the odds to complete his part time Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) with Second Class Upper said, "time management is the key to success for most part time students, determination is just as important to ensure that you finish what you have started."

UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik, who declared open the Convocation, congratulated the graduating students on their achievements. He motivated the graduates to be far-sighted people by quoting the famous saying of an American entrepreneur, Harvey Mackey saying, "A great accomplishment shouldn't be the end of the road, just the starting point for the next leap forward. Today's convocation is not the end but the beginning of a new journey for you. Learning is a never-ending process and you will continue to pick up skills at work or during studies. If working is what you desire, my advice to you would be to cultivate adaptability, be open to new ideas, be flexible enough to work through challenging issues, and be able to cope when things do not go as planned."

With the addition of 2379 graduates from this 20th Convocation, the number of the University's alumni now stands at 38,277 since its inaugural convocation in 2005.



Entertainment

A Treat for Jazz Lovers



Don't miss your final chance to see 2V1G performing live in Malaysia. And it is happening right here in Ipoh at Sepaloh Art Centre on Friday, April 17.

Formed in 2007, 2V1G was an experimental band consisting of two vocalists (2V) Winnie Ho and Regine Tai, and Roger Wang, the solo guitarist (1G). In 2008, 2V1G gained international recognition when they recorded their first independent Chinese audiophile music. Over 30,000 copies of the self-titled album has been sold so far.

After its debut album, 2V1G underwent some changes in 2012. The band is currently managed by Poppop Music and it has recruited a new soloist, Serena Chong.

Winnie Ho is no stranger in the world of Jazz. She released a full-length album, 'The Jazzy Sounds of Teresa Hang' which became a sensational bestseller.

Together with Roger Wang, a finger-style guitarist from Sabah, 2V1G will entertain their fans and guests with English and Chinese classics from the 70s, 80s and 90s and a selection from their three albums, including their latest, 'Tempting Heart'.

The 'Tempting Heart Tour' begins in April 2015. This is the band's second visit to Malaysia. Besides Ipoh, 2V1G is also performing in Penang and Kuala Lumpur. They will perform in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, subsequently.

According to Poppop Music, the outfit will disband after completion of the tour. For jazz lovers out there this is your last chance to see the trio in its entirety.

Call Leslie Ho at 012 208 3790 to book your tickets which is priced at RM78 a piece.

Ili Aqilah

Angin Kencang Acoustic Session



An acoustic session by Noh Salleh was held at Khizanat's Ruang recently. Noh performed a repertoire of songs from his latest album entitled, *Angin Kencang*.

Noh Salleh, a talented musician from Miri, came to Kuala Lumpur to pursue his passion in music. He was part of a band called, Hujan and the rest is history. With pure talent and dedication, Noh Salleh has proven that dreams do come true.

"My parents weren't my biggest fans when I first started. In fact, during the first three years with Hujan my father kept asking me to join his line of work. It went that way for a while until he saw my performance at Anugerah Industri Muzik (AIM) with Azlan from Azlan and The Typewriter. After performing, I received a congratulatory text from him. Only then I realised that I'd made them proud," recalled Noh when recounting the story to the audience.

It was his eldest brother who introduced him to the world of music and Noh could not thank him enough.

As fans waited for him to start strumming the guitar, guests were told to celebrate Khizanat's second anniversary first. A thank-you speech by Khizanat's management team followed after the birthday song.

The session finally started with Noh singing one song after another. Unlike any other performance, Noh chatted and joked with his fans. His wittiness clearly charmed the audience who were mostly college students and youths.

Those who keen on buying *Angin Kencang* can do so by visiting Khizanat, located at 57A, Jalan Dato Onn Jaafar, 30300 Ipoh, or access their Instagram @khizanat for more information on local art products.

Ili Aqilah

Documentary on Semai Community

'My First Blowpipe' a documentary on the uniqueness of the indigenous Semai community in Perak will be produced by the National Film Development Corporation (Finas).

A ceremony to formally launch the cinematic production was held at the Kandu Resort in Gopeng recently. It was officiated by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

The documentary, featuring the Semai community of Perak, is expected to attract foreign tourists to the Tempurung Valley, which will be developed into a major tourism product of the state.

According to Executive Producer Rashid Esa, the 45-minute film is being produced with the assistance of the Mah Meri Cultural Village and Platinum Unik Sdn Bhd.

Filming, which began in late March and will be completed by mid-April, will involve 30 production crew members and locals living in that area. The location of the shoot will be in and around Ulu Geroh in Gopeng, as the Orang Asli village is a premier tourist spot in Perak.

"Computer-generated imagery is estimated to cost over RM200,000. Since the documentary is targeted at an international audience, the Semai's lifestyle, culture and their unique relationship with nature will be highlighted," said Rashid.

Zamry expressed his gratitude to the National Film Development Corporation and Rashid Esa for their efforts in promoting Perak in a different way. He hoped the documentary would have an impact on the state's tourism industry.

Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohd Radzi, who was present at the launch, thanked the MB for his support to publicise the film. "The documentary exemplifies the on-going efforts by the state government in enhancing the tourism sector," she remarked.

Nantini



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.

Y's Men's Club of Ipoh Blood Donation Drive, Sunday **April 5**, 10am to 5pm at AEON Kinta City Shopping Centre, 1st Floor, No. 2 Jalan Teh Lean Swee, Ipoh. To commemorate the centenary celebrations of YMCA of Ipoh. Come in full force to donate your blood. For enquiries: Mr K. Letchimanan **012 538 1939**.

'Festival of India in Malaysia 2015' Photography Exhibition from **April 17 to 24**, 10am-10pm at Rayan Cultural Centre, Jalan Tun Razak (Connolly Road). Curated specifically for Malaysia, it features photographs and panels from Chola temples, which are part of UNESCO's list of heritage sites. For further details of this and other programmes call: Sutha **010 399 9073** or Mahen **015 597 6481**. (See page 15 for the story.)

Noah's Ark Ipoh Charity Dinner ('Heart for Animals'), Saturday **April 25**, 7.30pm at the Dome Restaurant, Meru Valley Golf & Country Resort. Buffet dinner, vegetarian food included. Fun-filled evening with laughter and entertainment. For reservation and sale, contact: Malika **017 575 1556**, Claudia **012 359 0476**, Clinic JR Vet **014 908 6456** or Katharina **017 683 0400**.

Charity Lunch organised by Mother Teresa's Reading Shelter, Sunday **April 26**, 11am-2pm at Church of Our Lady of Lourdes Hall, Silibin Road. For tickets call Ms Adlen **05 241 0751**.

Events for Parkinson's and Down Syndrome, Sunday **May 17**, 7am to 1pm at Potpourri House (behind Heritage Hotel), No. 2 Jalan Woodward, 30350 Ipoh. (i) Pet Event (for dogs only) – 10am-noon; (ii) Charity Cycling; (iii) Food & Fun Fair – 9am-1pm. Jointly organised by Perak Parkinson's Association and Ipoh Down Syndrome Centre. Contacts: Terry Wong **05 545 5610**, **011 1640 8406** or Samuel Ng **012 557 1682**.

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

Books

Phoenix Rising

The launch of the book “Phoenix Rising, Pioneering Chinese Women of Malaysia” authored by Dr Ho Tak Ming took place recently at Symphony Suites Hotel, Ipoh.

The afternoon event started with speeches by Chan Kok Keong, Acting Chairman of Perak Academy and Dr Azizah binti Johor, representative of Dato’ Dr Mah Hang Soon, Executive Councillor for Health, Transportation and Non-Islamic Affairs.

In conjunction with the book launch, there was also a lecture entitled, “Cities and Success: Becoming a Modern Woman in British Malaya” by Professor Lynn Hollen Lees from the University of Pennsylvania, who wrote the foreword to Dr Ho’s book.

“The stories of the pioneering women in Dr Ho’s book, regardless whether they’re Chinese, Indians or Malays, are also part of our life stories because they encompass and they encapsulate all the universal themes of motherhood, struggle, hard work, fortitude and most of all, endurance,” said Kok Keong in his opening remarks.

Guest of honour, Puan Sri Dato’ Sandra Lee hoped that the younger generation would follow the examples set by these pioneering women in the book and become pioneers in their own rights. She also acknowledged some of today’s pioneering women, women who have spent their lives in making a difference, be it in helping others or blazing trails in their respective fields. These included Datin Mary Yeoh, Chairman of Ray of Hope; Datin Sri Su Karmal for her involvement in various charities and the Perak Palliative Care; Sister Helena – the Director of Good Shepherd Centre; Datuk Chong Phaik Kee, the former Director of Social Welfare Services; pioneer members who helped her develop Daybreak to where it is today, Ellen Yoong and Nancy Teoh; Datin Mina Foong – owner of Body Shop in Malaysia and our own home-grown international movie star, Datuk Michelle Yeoh who has single-handedly put Ipoh on the world map.

“Phoenix Rising, Pioneering Chinese Women of Malaysia” is the fifth book by Dr Ho which honours strong and successful Chinese women whose contributions were often kept out of the historical records.

Its historical account tells the stories of these unsung heroines who soared to great heights during adversities, just like the phoenix. In his return speech, Dr Ho thanked



Perak Academy for hosting the function, members of the press and everyone present for making this occasion a celebration of women.

“I want to find out about my heritage,” the unassuming and gentle general practitioner told Ipoh Echo when asked what drew him to this genre.

For young aspiring writers who wish to follow in his footsteps, he had this to say, “If they can, why not? But it takes time. They must have patience because writing and researching take a very long time.”

The softcover book is priced at RM70 and is available at all major bookstores in the country. You can purchase it at Perak Academy, Ipoh through Wai Kheng: 016 551 8172.

Mei Kuan

Iversen – Architect of Ipoh & Modern Malaysia

The much-anticipated soft launch of the book entitled, “Iversen – Architect of Ipoh and Modern Malaya” written by the great architect’s daughter, Ruth Iversen Rollitt, was held on Sunday, March 22 at the Sarang Paloh Event Hall, Ipoh.

The event was organised by Areca Books, Penang with the tacit support of Perak Heritage Society. It was attended by nearly a hundred guests consisting of professionals, laymen, students and members of the press.

Khoo Salma, President of Penang Heritage Trust, was the emcee. Renowned writer and sometime historian, Abdur-Razzaq Lubis officiated at the launch. In his opening remarks Razzaq spoke on the importance of protecting our heritage, be it buildings or culture or traditions, as they reflect and identify our past.

Perhaps more than any other architect of his generation, Berthel Michael Iversen introduced modern architecture to Malaya. Arriving in Malaya in 1928, the young Danish architect worked for KL-based Booty & Edwards and then Keys & Dowdeswell before moving to Ipoh.

From his award-winning Federal House to the landmark Loke Yew Building, Iversen’s buildings have remained icons of Malaysia’s modernist architecture. He designed over 38 cinemas for the Shaw Brothers and the Cathay Organisation. In Ipoh, he was involved in the building of the Grand Hotel, Mercantile Bank, the Lam Looking Bazaar, Ipoh Swimming Club and the Lido cinema, to name a few. His legacy and works are recorded in this delightful and readable book by his beloved daughter.

Ruth, expressed her delight at the overwhelming response and described the protagonist as “a wonderful father and a good husband to my mother” in her speech. The audience was given a preview of the book and the golden opportunity of getting their copies signed by the author.



When asked on the hardest thing about writing her first book, Miss Ruth replied, “It wasn’t hard because I loved it so much. I got so much help to turn it into a book because, as I’ve said earlier, my love for my father was so great. Moreover, I’ve all the materials, letters, photographs and sketches. I just have to put them together. So it’s a joy.”

And this is her advice for aspiring writers, “Patience and a good team to help.”

The hardcover book is priced at RM120 and is available at all major bookstores throughout the country.

Mei Kuan

Tourism

Perak Food Trail Booklet

The 19th Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) Fair was held on Friday, March 13 and ended on Sunday, March 15. The launching of the Perak Food Trail booklet was done simultaneously with the opening ceremony of the fair which was held at Ipoh Parade.

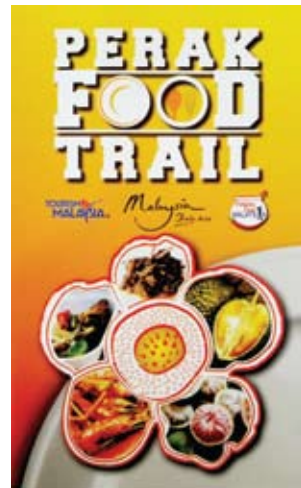
In her speech, Dato’ Nolee Ashilin Dato’ Mohammed Radzi, Executive Councillor for Tourism and Culture encouraged Ipohites to visit the Royal Belum State Park and other touristic spots such as Gua Tempurung.

The latest Perak Food Trail booklet features 14 new restaurants promoting a total of 89 eateries in various districts such as Kinta, Kampar, Batang Padang, Hilir Perak, Manjung, Kerian, Kuala Kangsar, Larut-Matang, Selama and Hulu Perak.

Besides highlighting Perak as a food-lovers’ paradise, the booklet touches on our diverse cultures and attractions.

Tourism Malaysia (Perak) Director, Ibrahim Siddiqi Talib told reporters that free copies of the booklet are available at the Perak Tourist Information Centre and at participating restaurants throughout the state.

Mei Kuan



Food for Thought

By Chelvi Murugiah

"Woman once made equal to man becomes his superior."—Socrates

I cannot claim for certain that this quote is by Socrates. (Born 469 BC died 399 BC Greek philosopher and logician.) Assuming that the quote is his, I can't help but wonder, "Are we seeing factual evidence of the very people, amongst other worldly intellectuals and philosophers, influencing gender inequality in their communities as early as the BC era?" Many of us know Socrates method of argumentation, so let's try and figure him out using his style, termed today as Socrates questioning.

What was the Greek economy like in the BC era? Were communities clearly defined by gender? Did the Greek Gods dominate the lifestyle of the society and the roles they played within? What was Socrates implying with this quote and to whom? Ever wonder if Socrates could be wrong? After all, the fact remains he was only human. In sheer curiosity, "What are superior women like?" Does the quote imply that women are known to be a "threat" to men when equal? What reference can be made to "equal" in this context?

Literature states that Socrates was accused of corrupting the youth and their morality, to what extent I'm unsure. Little is known of his life except for what is recorded by his students, including Plato. He is described as short and ugly, and he himself would make jokes about his appearance. His wife was the angry Xanthippe. Apparently, he made many enemies due to his non-conforming 'strange' character. Ironically, Socrates met his end at the hands of his fellow countrymen who found him guilty of impiety and sentenced him to death by drinking poison.

What seems unique and strange is that it is possible to reflect on this quote in the present 21st century. Nations around the world continue to be confronted with gender discrimination issues, from child marriages, sexual harassment, to rape, abortions, domestic violence and divorce. Men caught for rape have mindsets that are astoundingly unsound, they perceive women deserve it. Does the society question

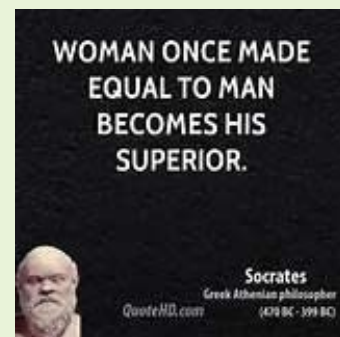
why these men think the way they do, towards women? The solutions might be lying right in there. If women educated themselves and became self dependent financially, does that make them superior to men?

There seems to be too many wise men out there and not enough room for wise women. Thus, laws are 'man-made', medical procedures are 'man-made' to manage a woman's reproductive system, religions give preference to men more than women, along with admonitions on being dutiful and obedient. Most world governments and corporations are led by men. Wars are called for by men and the list goes on...

In the 21st century, women, either individually or through non-governmental organisations, continue to rally for equal rights and equal salary. Why? Well, there is a saying, "Only winners write history."

Every day we are conditioned in a multitude of ways to being that 'ideal' man or woman. In my opinion, it's tough on both genders. As a mother of two sons, I hope I have brought my beloved sons up, through my daily actions to see women as equal to men. We create our own realities and this message goes out to you Socrates, "This one time, I am of the opinion your quote is emotive and loaded." I'm sensing your 'angry' wife had a lot to do with it.

Ideas that are old, deep, and different to the default mindset are definitely worth exploring.



Chelvi can be contacted at: chelvim@sunway.edu.my.

Lifestyle

Gourmet & Wine Connoisseurs of Ipoh

"In vino veritas." —Pliny, Roman naturalist (A.D. 23-79), *In wine there is truth*



"Wine is the intellectual part of a meal while meat is the material."

—Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870)

Chan Yew Mun, Chan Nam, Caroline Wong, Leslie Loke, Wong Wei Hong, Andrew Soong and two Honorary Advisers, See Foon Chan-Koppen and Dato' Richard Small.

Pamella

Consider membership – inquiries welcome, contact Doreen Kam: doreenkam@gmail.com or 016 555 9496.

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18. Break the Code, Greentown Business Centre. Tel: 05-2420484
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21. Ibis Styles Ipoh, 18 Jln Chung On Siew. Tel: 05-2406888
22. Daybreak, Lot 75242 Jalan Pulai, RPT Pengkalan Pegoh. Tel: 05-3235908/09
23. Banyan Beauty, 40 Jln Raja Dihilir. Tel: 05-2426866/012-5073866
24. Ipoh Echo's office



"Penicillin cures, but wine makes people happy."—Alexander Fleming

Gourmet and wine connoisseurs of Ipoh united under the flagship of the International Wine and Food Society recently. Our no longer sleepy village, Ipoh, is one of the 136 branches spreading over 33 countries with over 6000 members.

A great evening was had by diverse individuals who share a passion for good food and wine. A magical mix of eclectic and eccentric personalities almost out shone the gourmet wine menu.

An AGM was held wherein the original slate of the committee under the able leadership of President Lee Nyitt Fee and Vice President Ginla Foo was unanimously voted in. Others include Honorary Secretary Doreen Kam, Honorary Treasurer Leong Keng Yuen with committee members comprising Datuk Dr Foong Weng Sum, Dato'



Han Chin Pet Soo

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



Education

A Practical Study Tour



Imerys Minerals Malaysia Sdn Bhd Perak has been hosting visits by university students to its work site at Simpang Pulai since 2011. The latest to take advantage of this on-going programme was third-year students from the School of Materials and Mineral Resources Engineering, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). The students visited the company's quarry recently as part of their study tour.

Mohd Yazid bin Mohd Dan, the company's quarry and crushing line manager told Ipoh Echo that his duty was to explain to the students the working of industrial equipment and the importance of keeping them in running condition. He also touched on the expectations of operators from fresh graduates.

Lecturer Dr Suhaina Ismail said that USM is the only university offering a programme related to the mining industry in the country. The programme prepares graduates for employment in the mining sector as quarry or mineral processing engineers.

Student Muhammad Fitri Mohd Akhir, 22, said that knowledge gained during the visit was essential as it complemented those acquired in classrooms. What he saw and experienced in the field was an eye-opener. "It brings a whole new perspective regarding challenges a young engineer would face in the working world."

Another student, Noor Zuriati Shahirah Zubir, 22, felt that the visit was beneficial as it provided a broader outlook of the demands one would expect from companies like their host. "We learn about skills, demands and work ethics while allowing us the opportunity to put into practice what we've learned at the university."

Nantini

Lending a Hand

A charity concert named "Helping Hands" was held at Sekolah Menengah Teknik, Ipoh. It was organised by the Raja Perempuan School (RPS) Interact Club and the Pre-university Students' Club.

The programme started with an opening speech by Edwin Siebel, the VIP of the day followed by a welcoming speech by RPS principal, Hajah Juahir Mohd Hassan. Guests were then entertained to dances and songs performed by students of Raja Perempuan School, Methodist Girls School and others.

The crowd went wild when VD2D took the stage. VD2D is a dance group consisting of talented youngsters. Their 15-minute show was greeted with screams and chants from the excited crowd. Other shows included a solo performance by a student from MGS, Apple and Jayden Magic Show, Beat Box by Michael Lu and dances by D'Artiz Studio.

A cheque and certificate presentation ceremony was the highlight of the event. Certificates of appreciation were given to all performers and to the schools involved.

Thousands of Malaysians were affected by floods that hit the nation in December last year. Donations, in all forms, were given to the victims but they were still insufficient. This altruistic effort by RPS will definitely make an impact.

Ili Aqilah



Sports cum Family Day

Kinderland held its annual Sports Carnival cum Family Day recently at the centre's compound located at Jalan Woodward. The primary objective of the carnival was to bond parents and their children in order to enhance the appreciation of sports among children.

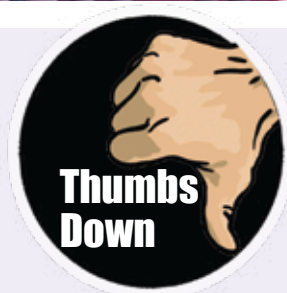
The morning began with an opening speech in three different languages. Some 130 children from 2 to 6 years of old participated in a series of sporting events such as island hopping, kangaroo hop, bridge crossing and ball dribbling. There was also a pom-pom dance by the kids.

Joy and pride were written all over the parents' faces as they saw their young ones overcoming challenges which tested their gross and fine motor skills. Parents and siblings were not left out as they took part in games such as balloon bursting, piggy-back race and can transfer. Green House emerged as the winning house. Dr Susan King, one of the parents, gave out prizes to the winners.

Ed



Accumulating Rubbish an Eyesore



An empty and neglected shoplot along Jalan Sultan Yussuf, Ipoh has been used as an illegal dumpsite by the uncaring, causing concerns for neighbours.

The site has not only blighted the landscape but is a den for drug addicts. Waste ranging from construction debris, food, bottles, cans, etc. has been accumulating in the run-down building. It is posing a serious health threat to those living and working nearby.

Ipoh City Council has warned and fined the owner yet nothing has been done to clear the rubbish.

"This is unbecoming," said a property owner to Ipoh Echo. He hoped the Council would act on his complaint, given the gravity of the situation.

Ed

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.

Speed Bumps Needed

Speed bumps are often requested because they are perceived as a quick and effective solution to speeding. They are intended to be uncomfortable to drive over if they are crossed at higher speeds. It's an effort to slow traffic and increase safety for some of the residents and students on busy streets.

I don't know if this is just me, or if it happens to others but I have a difficult time crossing roads. The reason is, there's so much going on, in so many different directions, that I can't process it all and either end up running across too early and having cars beep and screech to a halt to avoid hitting me, or I become too scared to cross and miss chances when the road is clear. It's harder for me at T-junctions if I am crossing a road with heavy traffic. It's so dangerous.

Can I request for City Council to install speed bumps on this street, Jalan Chung Thye Phin near the T-junction? Speed bumps on this road at close intervals are justified since there are schools on one side, residences on the other and a hospital as well. It would be really helpful if people know they cannot go fast down the street.

At night, especially if it is raining or foggy, one has to be extra careful.

So, does anyone else ever get distracted or overwhelmed by roads and the amount of traffic? Or is it just me?

Selena Yee

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Corrections

Residents Suffer in Silence

The pictures featured in page 10 of issue 208, under the heading 'Residents Suffer in Silence' were incorrect. The correct pictures are featured below.



The Gulf Launch

The information printed in issue 208 were inaccurate. Hence, Ipoh Echo has reprinted the article below with amendments. The mistakes are regretted.

The Chinese New Year marked an important milestone for Kanglian Development Sdn Bhd with the official launch of their latest high-end development project, The Gulf, at Panorama Lapangan Perdana.

The Gulf project is an exquisite development consisting of 135 unit freehold homes within a gated and guarded environment built on an approximate land space of 13.5 acres.

The 135 home units are exquisitely crafted into 3-storey semi-detached houses (Rafia Villa), 2-storey terrace houses (Muraya Link) and a handful of 2-storey bungalows.

The Muraya Link homes are designed to be 'double frontage', creating a visually pleasing experience from both main road and jogging path allowing residents to come home to two different views.

For the Rafia Villa homes, space is the main attraction. The villa features an open-plan living and dining area making flexibility of space and accessibility to the outdoor terrace and dry kitchen on either sides easily.

The Gulf stands out from most landed property developments because of its 'condominium' facilities provided to residents which include clubhouse facilities, jogging track and a park.

With green living and safety in mind, Kanglian Development's main focus is on providing the residents a healthy and safe environment. At The Gulf, residents will come home to a place with green wall on a perimeter of controlled access.

Some of their high-end security features include AES wireless GSM Intercom System for the checking and verifying of visitors, High Definition CCTV in respective areas, photoelectric detector on the perimeter fencing and guard tour system to monitor security guards on patrol.

For more information on this project, please call +605 546 1300, +6012 664 7593 or +6012 666 7593. You can also visit the show houses at Lapangan Perdana 32, Panorama Lapangan Perdana, 31650 Ipoh, Perak.

Vhyshnawi



Happenings

Festival of India in Malaysia 2015



The Festival of India in Malaysia 2015 is organised by the High Commission of India and Indian Cultural Centre Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with the 2015 Malaysian Year of Festivals, to showcase the best of Indian arts and culture to local audiences. The festival which has 50 events will take place in the Klang Valley, Ipoh, Penang, and other major towns.

The programme runs from mid-March to June, and includes folk dances, bhangra, classical performances, photo exhibitions, Islamic art, calligraphy exhibitions, food fairs and film showcases.

The inaugural show in Ipoh, on March 14, was a performance by renowned Kalakshetra Academy, a bharathanatyam ballet, Kannappar Kuravanji, led by academy director Dr Priyadarshini. The ballet tells the story of a hunter-prince who finds salvation through faith. Presented in classical and colloquial Tamil, the dance represents the aspiration of the soul to merge with the divine.

Transcript of the performance was displayed on big screens on either side of the stage. This made it easy for the audience to follow and appreciate the ballet.

His Excellency Mr T.S. Tirumurti, Indian High Commissioner who officiated the event said that the Indian Cultural Centre was started five years ago to showcase India's rich heritage and promote multi-layered cultural exchange between the peoples of India and Malaysia. The theme of the programme is Culture of the Heart and will bring some of the best aspects of Indian arts and culture here.

The second programme was Bharathanatyam



performance, on March 20, by Alarmel Valli who has evolved a distinctive dance style that is noted for being classical and traditional. The theme of her dance was Scent of Earth, tribute to nature. Since her renderings were in Tamil, the audience could understand and enjoy. She was accompanied by a live orchestra which is not common in this country.

The forthcoming programme is a photography exhibition curated specifically for Malaysia which will be held at Rayan Cultural Centre, Jalan Tun Razak (Connolly Road) from April 17 to 24. It features photographs and panels from Chola temples, which are part of UNESCO's list of heritage sites. These famous houses of worship are described as "Great Living Chola Temples" of the Chola Empire which stretched over all of south India and the neighbouring islands. The site includes three great 11th- and 12th-century temples. The exhibition includes photos of Chennai City which offers a perspective on the people, customs, quirks and life of Chennai city.

For further details of the programmes call: Sutha 010 399 9073 or Mahen 015 597 6481.

Jeyaraj

Han Chin Pet Soo



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News

Telecommunication Fraud

Telecommunication fraud is increasing dramatically each year resulting in huge financial losses to victims. However, people are more aware these days and are coming forward to report such incidents.

Lee Yon Seng, 58, had to deal with arrears in payment of his phone bills amounting to RM1324.95. This was despite him having terminated the phone service provided by Telekom Malaysia (TM).

During a media brief by Mohd Rawi Abdullah, chief of the Perak Barisan Nasional Public Services and Complaints Centre at his Canning Garden office on Thursday, March 12, Rawi alluded to two classic cases.

Lee Yon Seng, 58, had terminated telephone service registered under his company, Yin Fat Enterprise, when his company wound up in 2011. Two years later Lee received a letter saying that he owed the national telecommunication company RM1324.95.

"I've already paid all my dues. This bill does not belong to me. They told me it was for a different account under my name. I was shocked," said Lee.

"It was a different company name but the line was registered under my name. Obviously, someone was using my name to cheat. Not wanting to be blacklisted, I paid the bill. I hope TM will investigate and don't come after me for more money because it's not my account," Lee protested.

According to Rawi, many such incidents had happened in the past where previous owners' names had appeared on applications for telephone lines by businesses, legal and illegal, including ah-longs (loan sharks). "Police should be able to detect these wrongdoers," he said.

The second victim, Wong Kok Yew, was forced to pay for two mobile internet packages offered by another telco.



"I subscribed to Package A but wanted to switch to Package B. I called up the telco and told the officer of my intention. However, when I went to the office to check I found that Package A had not been cancelled although Package B had been activated. I was then billed for both packages," said Wong.

"The matter was referred to the said company. The answer given was that the company had not received any request to terminate Package A," said Rawi. "Let's hope the telcos would act responsibly and stop giving excuses. It'll only tarnish their reputation," he added.

Nantini

A Belated CNY Party 2015

Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health celebrated its annual Chinese New Year party at its centre recently. The facility, a halfway home for women with psychosocial disabilities, is located about 2km from Ipoh's theme park, the Lost World of Tambun.

The evening's programme began with a keynote address by the society's president, Dato' Dr M. Majumder. This was followed by solo singing by residents of the home; their efforts were admirable. They were accompanied by Mr and Mrs Chin who played on the Yamaha keyboard.

A classical Chinese dance called 'The Year of Happiness' was performed by the residents along with AFS volunteer Ms Lin from Belgium. The dance featured a blend of fans and umbrellas performed in true

Chinese tradition.

Among the VIPs present were Dato' Seri Azlanii Selvamany, Hj Ayob Hj Zainal the representative of the Adun for Ulu Kinta and Halida Mohd Ali, President of Perak Women for Women Society.

There was a surprise birthday cake for Dato' Dr M. Majumder to celebrate her birthday which fell on March 8.

The finale was the tossing of Yee Sang to welcome the New Year. The mixed-pickled delicacy was tossed high to animated shouts of "Lou Hey" meaning moving upwards with joy and laughter.

Vice president, S. Sundraligam, in his closing address, thanked all guests, donors and well-wishers who had contributed to the success of the party.

Ed



Ipoh Watch

Making Ipoh a Liveable City

The revamped and rebranded Ipoh City Watch (ICW) was officially launched by Dato' Hj Samsudin Abu Hassan, Executive Councillor for Consumer Affairs, Human Resources, Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations on Friday, January 23.

Its president, Associate Professor Dr Richard Ng said with the new committee members, ICW would be the voice of Ipohites in raising issues that affect their city.

"It's a tall order but our vision is to make Ipoh the most liveable city in Malaysia. We'll help protect the rights of ratepayers to have a clean, safe and healthy environment. We'll stand up for the rights to be provided with all amenities as stipulated in the by-laws of the Local Government Act 1976," he told Ipoh Echo.

Richard Ng took over as the new ICW president for the period of 2015-2016 when he was elected during the EGM held last November. The mandate given comes with a huge responsibility. The committee members will continue with what was set out by the founding members of ICW in November 2002. The only difference is the approach used and the higher expectations of the people.

"We'll use the three E's approach – Engage, Explain, Educate. That's to meet and talk to the people, explain to them what's right and what's wrong and to create awareness on doing their part to keep Ipoh clean and safe. Our target is to conduct our walkabout at all 22 zones in the city," said Richard.

"We want our representatives from all of the city's 22 zones to highlight issues plaguing their areas, true to the slogan, 'Our City, Our Responsibility'. We can then bring these up to the relevant authorities for action," he stressed.

"Most importantly, we want to build bridges with the Ipoh City Council. It is a challenge, as we are often perceived as an Opposition group."

According to the academician, the biggest challenge for ICW would be to educate the people. "They always think that the cleanliness and the safety of the city are the responsibility of the local and state governments. If everyone had played their roles, Ipoh would be so much cleaner. Engaging the city councillors is another challenge since many are not willing to work with us," he lamented.

"Non-governmental organisations are going to be the third force that can enhance



their responsibility. They should start engaging with us rather than consider us as troublemakers."

Between November 2014 and March this year, ICW has held six gotong-royong, anti-dengue campaigns and walkabouts to raise awareness on cleanliness. "We've visited Jelapang, Buntong, Lim Garden, Taman Merdeka and Tambun," he said.

It has organised several public forums, including one on GST and stray animals. "We plan to have a forum on solid waste management in May where we'll invite experts to talk," he said.

Apart from the cleanliness issue, another concern of ICW is safety. There were several snatch thefts and robberies reported by residents before Chinese New Year.

"During the previous mayor's time, he installed a number of CCTVs in the city. We want to know the number

and whether they're still functioning," he said, adding that a city that was clean and safe would also help boost property prices.

"The number of street lights should also be increased, especially in areas that are frequented by drug addicts. Pedestrian walkways should be improved in the city as it would encourage people to walk and lead a healthy lifestyle," he reasoned.

The society currently has some 50 members and is looking to add more professionals to the group. The members are very active on the ground identifying problems that need to be tackled by the relevant agencies.

Ipoh City Watch

Heritage

Pinji Festival Murals Unveiled

Colourful murals reflecting the day-to-day life of Pinjians, past and present, adorned the wall along Jalan Sultan in Pasir Pinji, providing an aesthetic visual to passers-by. They are a labour of love of a voluntary team led by artist Eric Lai Wai Kean and the brainchild of Howard Lee Chuan How, Adun for Pasir Pinji.

The stunning artworks took six days to complete (March 16-21). Incidentally, Eric Lai is instrumental in drawing some of the many murals around Ipoh. According to Howard, more drawings depicting Pasir Pinji's lifestyle would be up soon.

One of the highlights of this lengthy piece is the illustration of the rare Pinji rhino, the one-horned rhinoceros which was a favourite among hunters during the British colonial days. This rhino breed was specific to Pasir Pinji, hence its name. However, this fact is not well-known among the locals. It is hoped that through this painting, awareness could be raised and interest be instilled leading to the realisation of the importance of history.

"The idea is to actually use this as a platform for people to come to realisation that if we don't place importance on recording history, whether oral, social or historical, it would be forgotten," said Howard to Ipoh Echo.

The artwork is a part of the bigger Pinji Festival, to be held from May 1 to 3. Running on the theme of "self-sustainability", the upcoming Pinji Fest is packed with activities aimed at rebranding Pasir Pinji and stimulating the local microeconomic ecology.

The historical, social and economic contributions of decades-old businesses to the social fabric that is Pasir Pinji would be highlighted as well. For instance, there are plans to use an abandoned soy sauce factory built in 1953 as an art studio, outdoor cinema and gallery.

Wageningen University, Netherlands has agreed to send its associate professors and Master's degree students to Pasir Pinji to conduct an oral history project. "It'll be dubbed a 'Culinary Heritage Tourism' with the aim of promoting Pasir Pinji as a culinary tourism destination," said the energetic lawmaker.

Besides the artistic, cultural, social and historical rationale, there is also an economic rationale behind the organisation of the Pinji Fest. "When you've something to draw people's interest, people will come and when they come, there'll be trickle-down economic effects. For instance, when you come here at lunchtime, you want to come and makan (eat), as well. Especially, when one of the key themes behind what we are doing here is makan (food)," he enthused.

"This is the idea of the people here. When you go to the pasar (market) you hear their grievances, difficulties and complaints. Behind these complaints is the source why this is happening. It boils down to economics and the lack of geological self-esteem," Howard concluded.

Mei Kuan

Sport

VolleyBall Excellence

The Perak Amateur Volleyball Association and the Kinta Volleyball Association jointly organised a fundraising dinner recently at the Ipoh City and Country Club. The objective was to raise funds for their associations' efforts on promoting the game of volleyball in Perak and Kinta District, respectively.

Guests were entertained by a cultural dance performance, a live band and video presentations. Going by the theme, 'Perak State: Towards Volleyball Excellence', it is hoped that the game will get the recognition it deserves and subsequently bring glory to the state.

To date the Perak Amateur Volleyball Association has hosted 11 national-level volleyball championships. The association has six district affiliations. Other than producing players of calibre for Malaysia, the association has also produced many respectable technical officials, referees and coaches.

The Kinta Volleyball Association, on the other hand, is the newest volleyball association in Perak. It was formed in 2014 to cater to the needs of volleyball players in Kinta District.

The highlights of the night were the recognition of 12 senior members, committee members, coaches and affiliates of the state association who had contributed towards the development of volleyball and the announcement regarding the approval of Kinta Volleyball Association as a sport body by the Malaysia Sports Commissioner. Guest of honour, Dato' Shahrul Zaman Yahaya then launched the Perak State Volleyball Development Fund.

Shahrul Zaman, in his opening remarks, expressed his wish of making Perak "a sport-crazy state". During the mock cheque presentation ceremony he surprised everyone by making a personal donation of RM5000 making the grand total a sum of RM10,000 in all.

Mei Kuan

