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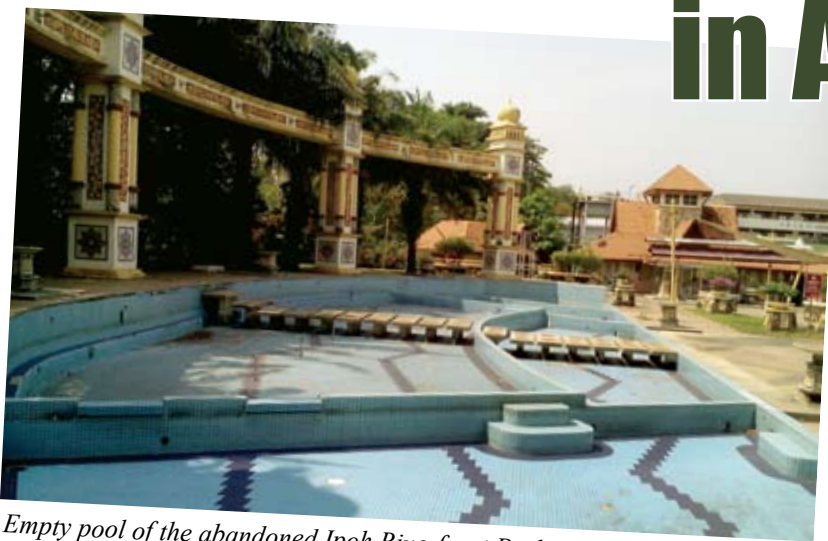
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ISSUE **219**

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# IPOH'S PUBLIC PARKS in Appalling Disrepair

By Jerry Francis



Empty pool of the abandoned Ipoh Riverfront Park

Ipoh which in its heyday was known as one of Malaysia's cleanest and beautiful cities, is now gaining a reputation as a dirty one with most public parks in states of appalling dereliction and disrepair. Through the years, poor maintenance is slowly but surely deteriorating the condition of the four once beautiful public parks in the city. One needs to just visit these public parks to see the condition. Why, and what is wrong with the Ipoh City Council that the condition of these public parks – Taman D.R.Seenivasagam, Ipoh Riverfront Park, Gunung Lang Recreation Park and Sultan Abdul Aziz Recreation Park – are continuing to decline?

*Continued on page 2*



Sultan Abdul Aziz Recreation Park – murky stream filled with undergrowth and litter



Gunung Lang Recreation Park – only the beams remain of the once beautiful gazebos

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## “Maintenance” means more than keeping clean. “Repair” needs to be uttered in the same breath.



*Ipoh Riverfront Park - damaged vase on the left*

It cannot be the result of shortage of funds or manpower. In fact so much funds and manpower had been channelled to these public parks for redevelopment and facelift that the current condition of Taman D.R. Seenivasagam, Ipoh Riverfront Park, Gunung Lang Recreation Park and Sultan Abdul Aziz Recreation Park is a disgrace and inexcusable.

The only assumption that I can think of is that the council employees who had been tasked with the responsibility of looking after the “taman” are not dedicated to maintaining them. They failed to understand what “maintenance” means, it is not just keeping a site clean. It includes “repair” which must be uttered in the same breath.

The millions of ringgit spent to develop the parks only made the parks beautiful as long as they were new. After a couple of years all beautiful features began to fall apart – fountains and facilities stopped functioning, ornamental flower-pots damaged and plants withered and floors cracked.

### **Taman D.R. Seenivasagam**

Take for instance the Taman D.R. Seenivasagam, set up by the People’s Progressive Party when it was in control of the Ipoh Municipal Council and was acclaimed as the best premier family park in the country.

The then municipal council had ensured that the park was well looked after and maintained. Daily, its employees, who were smartly dressed in orange tunics and blue trousers, were on duty at the park. The municipal councillor in-charge was also frequently seen at the park.

Those park attendants were not just looking after the park, they were there to ensure the safety of the visitors and to direct the traffic. There were many facilities for children. The Ipohites who had grown up in the city in the 70s, can attest to the wonderful and memorable times they had in the park during their growing up days.

Looking at the park now, most of the attractions have gone. The Japanese Garden, which was constructed with assistance and guidance of experts from the Japanese twin city of Fukuoka, has lost its beauty.

The boating facilities in the artificial lake had also stopped. Even though there are still a lot of fish in the lake, there appears to be no more excitement from visitors, particularly children, to feed them.

### **Ipoh Riverfront Park**

The redevelopment of the Ipoh Riverfront Park, located beside Sungai Kinta and along



*Ipoh Riverfront Park – a once beautiful fountain lies derelict and forlorn*



*Mini waterfall in the Japanese Garden which no longer operates*



*Japanese Garden – beautifully designed but poorly maintained*



*Ipoh Riverfront Park – missing commemorative plaque on the rock*

Jalan Sultan Iskandar Shah in the centre of the city, is a glaring waste of public funds.

Hardly after four years of spending RM4.4 million, which transformed the once “People’s Park” into a spectacular garden of grandeur, it has become a dying park. The project was completed in 2010. It was uniquely designed and developed with great emphasis on Islamic motifs and patterns both in the structures and on the ground.

After a short glorious existence, the park now appears to be abandoned. All the efforts and emphasis as well as ratepayers’ money that were pumped into planning the structures and landscapes were all for nothing.

*Continued on page 6*



IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk  
By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

## GETTING OUT OF HAND

*Janaki's encounter with Council's enforcement officers was numerous. Each time her peanuts, snacks and motor cycle would be confiscated and she had to pay a fine to retrieve them...*

The Janaki *kacang puteh* episode would have been a mere footnote in Ipoh City Council's annals had it not been for social media. The attempt by one youngster at publicising what he perceived as the Council's high-handed treatment of illegal traders went viral and got more than what the youth thought possible.

The response by Ipoh City Council was swift considering past reactions to similar infringements, which I term as knee-jerk. This time around, it caught the attention of newly-minted mayor, Dato' Zamri Man and Council Secretary, Zakuan Zakaria, as they were placed in a very awkward situation.

A media conference was arranged three days after the incident took place and was held within the premise of Ipoh's General Hospital. The "misadventure" happened on Friday, 7 while the media conference was called on Monday, August 10.

The intervening period, although an eternity by all reckonings, was swift by Ipoh City Council's standards. Had it been a simple illegal-trader-caught-trading incident, no one would have bothered. The snapshot of Janaki clutching on "for dear life" to a bag of crackers, with enforcement officers looking on menacingly, had the whole nation crying for Ipoh City Council's blood. It was an epitome of the adage, "A picture is worth a thousand words". And that one snapshot sent the council into overdrive.

This is what I gathered of the protagonist. Selvajanaki Subramaniam, 41, like many other Ipohites in her mold, is a single mother. She lives in Taman Impian, Menglembu and ekes out a living selling *kacang puteh* to feed her family of three kids aged between 6 to 14 years old. Her husband, an Indian national, left her when the going got tough – a classic case of abandonment so prevalent among many unfortunate Malaysian women who fell for the charms of foreigners in PM Najib's "Land of Endless Possibilities".

Janaki has no other ways of getting food to the table other than resorting to the back-breaking business closely associated with her community – selling *kacang puteh*. Well, there is no shame in selling these crunchy and tasty nuts, a highly sought-after item by aficionados, especially those who want something to go with their drinks and food. I am no exception. Royal Ipoh Club's longtime barman, M. Thanasegaran (Segar) will vouch for me.



Her encounters with the Council's enforcement officers were numerous. Each time her peanuts, snacks and motor cycle would be confiscated and she had to pay a fine to retrieve them. She had enough. On that fateful day she was raring for a fight should the officers come to seize her prized possessions. The officers came and a tug-of-war ensued – she on one end of her motorcycle and the officers on the other end. In the melee, her nuts and snacks got strewn on to the road. The action was recorded by the youngster who happened to be there. And the rest is history.

The episode is just the tip of the iceberg. Illegal trading is as old as Ipoh itself. The late Ismail Shah Bodin, when he was mayor, found a practical solution by locating them in designated areas. Ismail would go around town incognito to see things for himself. The problem of unlicensed hawkers was resolved but over time it resurfaced with much vengeance.

Public places, where access to the public is easy, will be overwhelmed by illegal traders in no time. The much-sought-after locations are the Ipoh Railway Station, General Hospital, Polo Ground and the Medan Kidd bus terminal. However, ever since Janaki's "tragedy", the

General Hospital is now hawker-free. Surprisingly, Ipoh Railway Station is also devoid of illegal traders following Ipoh Echo's headline, "Gateway to Ipoh or Obstacle Course?" The Council has found it prudent to station enforcement officers at the station.

Getting a permit to trade is not difficult but the conditions attached deter many from applying. They have to be mobile and the most restrictive is the area they are assigned to. A licensed *kacang puteh* seller at the railway station is assigned to Taman Botani. She refuses to budge. The old-timer at Ipoh central post office has been in the business for over 15 years and has no intention of moving out, come what may.

The problem is getting out of hand but is a solution insight? I will not bet on one. No, not at this juncture when the country's economy is nose-diving, exacerbated by a free-falling ringgit. Poor perception of the nation's leadership is one major cause.

## News

### MICCI Perak Meets with Police Chief



The Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MICCI)'s Branch Chairman, Dato' Lim Si Boon, some committee members as well as some members from the Joint Action Security Committee (JASCO), KL met up with the Chief Police Officer Perak, CP Dato' Hj. Osman B. Hj. Salleh and his senior officers at his office on Wednesday, August 12.

Dato' Hj. Osman directly tackled the issues that had been submitted earlier by the branch. On the possibility of getting the necessary assistance from the police to conduct background checks on potential employees for companies, Dato' Hj. Osman suggested that the vetting procedures be carried out for critical positions only in view of their current manpower constraints.

The Chairman then informed the meeting that there were clusters of expatriates in certain areas in Ipoh and it would be good to see more frequent police patrols to ease the expatriates' concern over their security. In reply Dato' Hj. Osman stated that it would be advisable for industrial and residential areas to install better security systems to complement the efforts of the police. Zakaria from JASCO added that the setting up of an auxiliary police organisation would greatly assist in crime-prone industrial areas.

The Chairman added that it would be good to organise a security forum for the Japanese community in Ipoh which represents one of the larger group of expatriates. Another important issue highlighted, was the detrimental effects of rumours which found their way expeditiously in the social media network. Dato' Hj. Osman advised that such rumours should not be believed in the first place but instead requested members to get onto the police facebook to verify such incidences.

SAC Goh Kok Liang, Head of Crime Investigation, then reported on the latest statistics on property and violent crimes for 2014 and 2015. On the whole the first half of 2015 reflected a general decrease in both types of crime. Also more cases were solved successfully in 2015 compared to the same period in 2014.

At the close of the meeting, Dato' Hj. Osman suggested that future dialogue sessions like this should be held at least twice a year to foster a better rapport between the police and the MICCI as well as facilitate a better exchange of information and feedback. Both sides then extended their thanks and appreciation for a fruitful session.

## EYE HEALTH – PSORIASIS & THE EYES

*Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about EYE PROBLEMS related to PSORIASIS.*



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

**P**SORIASIS is a skin condition that is common resulting in the skin cells rapidly proliferating on the skin surface. So what's so special about this skin condition? Well, for a start, psoriasis is an autoimmune disease. This actually means that the body's own immune system can attack various organs including the eyes, to cause troublesome problems. Patients with psoriasis also have a higher risk of heart attacks and joint inflammation (psoriatic arthritis).

### WHAT HAPPENS IN PSORIASIS

Firstly, in psoriasis the immune system in the body overreacts resulting in too rapid a skin cell proliferation that accumulates on the skin surface. This accumulated skin eventually forms thick scaly skin patches that may become itchy, red and dry.

Psoriasis may affect the eyes in two ways, i.e., either **LOCALLY** if it affects the eyelid skin or as a **GENERALISED** autoimmune problem that simultaneously affects the deeper tissues of the eyes.



### EYE PROBLEMS DUE TO FACIAL SKIN or EYELID PSORIASIS

Psoriasis may affect the facial skin or even the skin of the eyelids. This can pose local problems to the eyes as follows:

1. The eyelids become scaly and these scales may flake off to enter the eye causing local irritation, redness, eye itchiness and secondary infection.
2. Eyelid margins may become inflamed and painful.
3. Eyelid margins may become distorted due to chronic inflammation and thus alter the tear film to worsen a dry eye condition.

### EYE PROBLEMS DUE TO THE AUTOIMMUNE ASPECT OF PSORIASIS

This is the more serious complication of psoriasis because of the autoimmune aspect related to it. When we say autoimmune, it means that the immune system of our bodies begins to attack its' own normal tissues which in this case are the eyes! The eye inflammation causes:

- a. UVEITIS: Inflammation of the uveal tissue (brown/pigmented part) in the eye
- b. Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca: Dry Eyes & Conjunctival (clear part of eye) inflammation
- c. Scleritis: Inflammation of the white of the eye.
- d. Glaucoma: High eye pressure resulting that can cause blindness if uncontrolled.

#### a) UVEITIS

This is the inflammation of the brown or pigmented part of the eye. The eye becomes red, painful, sensitive to light (photophobia), with tearing and blurring vision to a lesser or greater extent. The condition will need to be checked by an eye doctor as uveitis can only be diagnosed using special eye examination equipment. The uveitis will need to be treated correctly as it can lead to permanent loss of vision!

#### b) DRY EYE SYNDROME (Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca)

Dryness affects a fair number of people with Psoriasis. The conjunctiva (the clear part of the eye covering the white part of the eye) becomes inflamed. The eyes' tear glands become affected and do not produce enough tears. Hence the patient suffers from symptoms of dry eyes like grittiness, itchiness, burning sensation and reflex tearing.

For more information, call Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah  
**05 545 5582** or email [gilleycentre@dr.com](mailto:gilleycentre@dr.com).



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# The Busy Cook's Cheats



**D**o you feel guilty when you cheat at cooking? Of course not! You're a working mother and time is precious. With GST and increasing prices, you cannot afford to eat out, as often as you used to. The whole family likes western food, but eating in restaurants is expensive.

You love to entertain, and show-off your western culinary skills, so what do you do? Cheat in the kitchen of course! Life is too precious and too short, so stop making pizza dough from scratch, or creamy soup from its basic ingredients, and start cheating. Just buy the basics, then put your feet up and relax.

Perhaps, you are averse to the word cheating. Just tell yourself that you are saving time, and money. Once in a while, cheating helps, and there is no need to feel guilty.

Another way of looking at cheating in the kitchen is that, in reality, it is a way to cook quick and easy dishes. There should be no compromise in quality, as only the best ready-made ingredients should be bought.

Below are some of my commonly used cheats. Western style dishes are easier to cheat at. Perhaps, readers can share their top tips at cheating in the kitchen.

## Canned goods

A can of chopped tomatoes and a cup of freeze-dried onions make the perfect base for homemade tomato-sauce. The sauce can be used as pizza topping or as a Neapolitan sauce, for pasta. Just add slices of cold meat, and grated cheese for the pizza topping. Add minced meat and some herbs to the Neapolitan, to turn it into a simple Bolognese sauce.

Another variant is to use the Bolognese sauce to make lasagne. If you were to add a can of kidney beans and cumin, chilli powder and coriander to the sauce, it becomes a dish of chilli beans or chilli con carne.

Canned chick peas, blended with some sesame oil, tastes as good as the real hummus made with tahini paste.

A can of good quality mushroom soup can be made to look like you slaved over the cooker hob for hours. Open the can and pour contents into a pan, throw in a handful of chopped button mushrooms. Reserve a few thin slices for garnish. Serve with a dash of freshly ground black pepper, a sprinkle of freshly chopped parsley and a swirl of cream to complete the dish.

Drain a can of tuna, flake the fish and mix with some cream cheese, and real cream (optional), add a dash of dried chilli flakes. A simple can of tuna can be served-up as a fish pâté with breadsticks or crackers.

Cup cakes and doughnuts

Want to impress the children at tea-time, but too lazy to bake a special cake? No problem. Buy some ready made cupcakes, or doughnuts, then decorate them with your own icing to give it that home-made touch.

## Desserts

Too lazy to make your own bread and butter pudding? Easy, just slice some tea-bread, and make the same way as you would a normal bread pudding. The mixed spice and dried fruit is already incorporated in the tea-bread.

An easy-tropical trifle is no hassle. Slice some bananas and mango, to line a deep bowl. Roughly break a ready made swiss roll and scatter over the top of the fruit, top with a layer of custard and whipped cream. Use a potato peeler to make chocolates shavings, for decoration.

Having people for dinner? Easy individual cheat's cheesecakes are simple to make. Layer the bottom of a glass tumbler with some coarsely chopped digestive biscuits and pour a mixture of blended lemon juice, condensed milk and cream over this. Looks and tastes just like a cheesecake, despite there being no cream cheese in the dish.

## Cheat's pizza

Too lazy to make the pizza dough? Just use some stale french bread, slice into two, horizontally, then drizzle with some homemade Neapolitan sauce, and top with

sliced peppers, mushrooms, cold meat and grated, or cubed cheddar or mozzarella cheese. If you don't have any french bread at home, just use pitta bread. It tastes just as good.

## Mother-in-law's delight

The mother-in-law is coming over for tea and you need to impress her with some tea time favourites, but can't be bothered to put in that extra effort. Moreover, your baking skills don't amount to much.

Easy. Just buy a pack of ready made scones (you'll need to find a bakery that makes scones) and 'de-stress' them. 'De-stressing' means taking the rolling pin to lightly bash the tops of the perfect looking scones to make them look, like you made them yourself.

Throw some flour haphazardly on the kitchen table, and on the front of your apron to complete the look of having slaved away, for her.

Want to really impress her further? Empty a jar of good quality strawberry jam, especially those containing thick chunks of strawberry, into a suitable container with your own home-made jam label, and pretend you made it yourself. Friends say, it works, and their mother-in-laws have never been a problem, ever since!



**THINKING ALLOWED**

by Mariam Mokhtar



## CHILD HEALTH

**Dr Shan Narayanan**  
Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

### Parenting: A Journey

**H**i Readers, the Child Health write up continues, taking a different direction. Child Health does not only involve the child, it involves the parents, very much so.

My next series of articles will alternate between parenting and common medical problems in children. We do not attend compulsory courses on how to be a parent (how to be a dad or mum). There is no right or wrong way of parenting. Most of us follow how our parents brought us up and learn through experience. Culture, upbringing and an individual's personality strongly influences parenting style. A high-quality parent-child relationship is critical for healthy development.

Parenting practices around the world share three major goals:

- ensuring children's health and safety,
  - preparing children for life as productive adults and
  - transmitting cultural values.
- (The American Psychological Association)
- In practical terms, these goals translate into the following:
- Being a good role model.
  - Ensuring safety of our child.
  - Interacting with our child.
  - Providing order and consistency.
  - Discipline.
  - Monitoring their activity and friendship.

Parenting my children was and is a journey. I was blessed with two lovely boys, three years apart. I was 32 when my eldest son arrived. Everything was so new. A family member decided to get me a parenting book as a guide. Along with it was a card that had a baby's picture with a crown and the words "king of the home". I just laughed only to realise with time that the baby was actually the "king". His needs had to be addressed first before endeavouring any other activity.

I used to observe him, while he was sleeping, to ensure he was breathing. At times, it would appear like he was not breathing, I will poke him gently to "get him to breathe". He will start crying and screaming. Obviously, I got scolded for having woken him up.

Many more things were new to me. There were many questions on how to parent him, what to do etc.

I relied on my intuition, that as a parent, my role was to care for him and to guide him to be a responsible individual. Thus it requires interaction and leadership.

As an infant, toddler and preschooler, there was much interaction through storytelling. Every story was fun and had a moral value in it. The leadership was with me, to ensure they followed rules and were disciplined as they enjoyed their childhood.

As they became teenagers, the interaction became more testing. Naturally, teenagers want to be individuals and make their own decisions. Thus the process of "letting go" begins and giving them limited leadership.

Now, as young men I have left it to them to make their own life decisions and being available for guidance when needed.

The only constant in life is change. Same in parenting, the parent child relationship changes as the child grows. We as parents have to keep up with time, flexible but firm to ensure our children are brought up as responsible and productive adults.

For more information, call Dr Shan's clinic at Hospital Fatimah 05 546 1345 or email [shanica02@gmail.com](mailto:shanica02@gmail.com).





## ON IPOH FOOD

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



# SeeFoon puts in the elbow grease at Healy Mac's new Sports Bar

One normally doesn't expect good food in a pub, let alone a Sports Bar. It's usually desultory finger food or stodgy fare. But things are different at Healy Mac's where they have been serving yumilicious roasted pork knuckles, great tasting pizzas and other hearty fare ever since they opened three years ago.

Healy Mac's has now added leisure activities to their palette of offerings and in addition to exercising your elbows in raising your glass, you now have a choice of playing pool or a game of electronic darts where a little more elbow grease is called for. In fact you can even compete with your Darts pals on the other side of the globe.

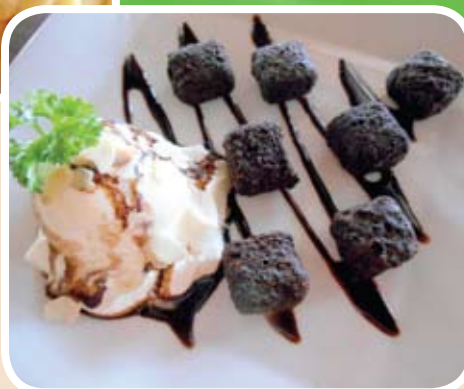
All this elbowing is now available in the newly-opened Healy Mac's Sports Bar which is right next door to its eponymous big brother. And while you're quaffing your beer, sipping your wine, or nursing your spirit(s), crack your head at deciding between the new items on the menu which Head Chef Litha Letchimanan has put together.

I had written glowingly on their existing menu when they first opened (IE150) but the new additions are equally tempting. Before we even looked at the new dishes, titbits which are every bar fly's favourites, appeared at the table. Designed to whip up a thirst for even more drinking, the traditional French fries had been one-upped by **sweet potato fries** – thin slivers of sweet potato fried the traditional way and tasting even better than the usual ones – **RM12** – followed by a plate of delectably crispy *ikan bilis* with chilli and onions – **RM16** (listed as **Spicy Anchovies**). Order a mixed collection of sweet potato and regular fries or mix them up with onion rings. Other bar snacks include **Fried Calamari** and even **Chicken Varuval** and **Lamb Vindaloo** for those hankering for some spice.

Chef Litha came to explain all the new dishes starting with the **Vegetable Moussaka**, a dish of Greek origin, made with eggplant, capsicum, redolent with thyme and tarragon and topped with a béchamel sauce. Delightful at **RM20**.

**Braised Pork Belly** in Bordelaise sauce was tender, melt-in-mouth chunks of pork belly served with mashed potatoes and broccoli – **RM45**, while the **Lamb Tagine**, a traditional Moroccan dish of braised lamb served on a bed of fragrant saffron/turmeric rice was embellished with slivered almonds. The lamb was aromatically flavoured with Chef Litha's homemade blend of the classic Middle Eastern spice mix, the **Ras-el-hanout** a mixture of nutmeg, coriander, cumin, cinnamon, cardamom, paprika and others not unlike our Garam Masala but with distinctively middle eastern nuances – **RM40**.

**Classic BLT** (bacon, lettuce and tomato) was given a makeover as a wrap instead of the usual sandwich and was voted by our group as one of the best small meals of the day – **RM21**. Another item which won favour in our midst was the **Bangers and**



**Mash**, the classic English/Scottish/Irish comfort food except that in this instance, the banger was an imported Hungarian Pork sausage

which accounted for the price of **RM36**. It was indeed a hearty meal as the banger was very tasty, unlike the bland stuff that pass for sausages in other establishments. Topped with onions and a Dijon and whole grain mustard sauce, and served with peas, this dish would certainly fill out your ribs.

The pièce de résistance was yet to come in the form of dessert. As readers of my column would have gathered by now, I am inclined towards all things savoury and desserts just don't turn me on. But I have to say I was most impressed with their **Brownie Bites**, the most sinfully delectable bite I have ever put into my mouth. Rich regular brownies are cut into bite-sized pieces, battered, then fried and served with vanilla ice cream and drizzled with chocolate sauce. It's what I would call a 'heart attack' in a bite!! Absolutely worth the risk at **RM16**.

Do check out **Healy Mac's Sports Bar**. The menu is the same in Healy Mac's Bar and Restaurant next door. They even share toilet facilities.

**Healy Mac's Irish Bar & Restaurant and Healy Mac's Sports Bar**  
#2 Ground Floor, Persiaran Greentown 4,  
Greentown Avenue, 30450 Ipoh.  
Tel: 05 249 3627  
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## Nosh News



## Nasi Lemak Kukus Warung Sungai Tapah

**N**asi lemak has been one of Malaysia's signature food equally loved by locals and tourists. Fans of *Nasi Lemak* in Ipoh now have a new venue at Nasi Lemak Kukus Warung Sungai Tapah to experience this iconic dish.

Customers are welcome to try their plain *Nasi Lemak* (Rice, sambal, boiled egg and anchovies) or add in supplementary dishes such as innards, Chicken Rendang, Cockles Sambal and many more. The price for basic *Nasi Lemak* starts at RM2.50 and will increase depending on your side dishes.

Aside from their famous *Nasi Lemak*, the restaurant also serves several other meals for your breakfast such as Ipoh's signature Kuey Teow Kicap (Soy sauce) served with either fishball soup or curry. RM4 and up.

An assortment of fried rice and noodles are also available at the restaurant and fans of light breakfast can try their Kaya Toast (RM1.30 per set) and like any other Malaysian breakfast-restaurant, a glass of Teh Tarik (RM1.30) is a great choice to wash the meal down.

Open everyday from 6.30am till noon, Nasi Lemak Kukus Warung Sungai Tapah is located at Jalan Cempaka, Sungai Tapah, Manjoi, 30020 Ipoh (opposite the mosque).



Ili Aqilah



Continued from page 2...

It is probably a haven for drug addicts now – not safe even to take a walk in the park in the day time.

We can only look and wonder what will it eventually become: will all the beautiful structures be just allowed to decay and collapse? If so, it will not take long, already many of the items are missing, including the commemoration plaque embedded on a huge boulder.



Barren look of Dataran KTM

### Gunung Lang Recreation Park

Just on the outskirts of the city along Jalan Kuala Kangsar is the unique Gunung Lang Recreational Park, which has an artificial waterfall that can be seen from the North-South Expressway.

The main attraction of the park is the once-beautiful garden that befits a palace. It is located on the opposite side of a lake surrounded by limestone hills and approachable only by a short boat ride. About RM11 million was spent on the park so that it could be a premier family recreation spot for city folk and a tourist attraction.

However, despite the time and money spent on the project, the park still fails to achieve its desired objective after two decades.

Many visitors, who took the short boat ride to the 1.6ha park, had nothing good to say about the park except their disappointments. Withered plants, damaged pots, damaged gazebos and cracked floors are everywhere. Even the aviaries were empty and damaged. The two ostriches and about 10 deer in a common enclosure are in a pathetic condition. The animals appear to be undernourished and lacking in any kind of veterinary care.

The only facilities worth mentioning are a cluster of traditional wooden kampong houses and two newly-built toilets.

What intrigues me is how such a beautiful public park located in the front yard of the department responsible for the upkeep, Ipoh City Council's Landscape and Recreation Department, could be so poorly maintained?

### Sultan Abdul Aziz Recreation Park

The Sultan Abdul Aziz Recreation Park, better known as the "Polo Ground" among the locals, appears to be the last of the family parks in the city that still continues to attract hundreds of people daily.

However, local folk fear that the popular park may soon lose its allure due to poor maintenance – similar to what has happened to other parks in the city.

The Sultan Abdul Aziz Recreation Park, located along Jalan Brash off Jalan Raja DiHilir, is popular with city folk who converge on it in the mornings and evenings for their daily exercise – walking, jogging around the track or using the outdoor fitness



Gunung Lang Recreation Park – a scenic view of the lake

facilities and reflexology path.

There is also a well-equipped playground and a large field in the centre of the park, where children can fly kites, skate or play games. The park offers lush greenery and panoramic views of its surroundings with gazebos along a small stream that pours into a water retention pond.

It was well maintained at one time as even the late Sultan Azlan Shah would frequently take his morning walk in the park.

However, the park is slowly but surely losing its glow. Poor maintenance by the Ipoh City Council is beginning to show. Some equipment of the outdoor fitness facilities is either damaged or missing.

The once scenic stream of clear water is now murky and filled with undergrowth and litter. One cannot stay under the gazebos for long without being bothered by mosquitoes – one can only hope that they are not Aedes mosquitoes.

The hawkers are also contributing to the poor maintenance of the park. They have taken over several parking bays along the fringe of the park, despite receiving innumerable complaints from members of the public.

As a result, the environment in the park is denigrated and ruined by the ugly sight of hawkers flogging their wares, attracting flies and rodents.

If the city council continues with its poor maintenance, the city's latest attraction – Dataran KTM in front of the iconic railway station, will be another victim as it has become a pesta ground for the city folks.

It is no longer a beautification project as it was intended to be. The ground is becoming bare and the concrete floor cracked as a large crowd gather at the site each night.

One wonders how long before its main attraction, the fountain with synchronised and multi coloured lights, can last?

## Conservation

# Save Gua Tambun's Ancient Rock Art

In April 2014, I revisited Gua Tambun and conducted a preliminary Heritage Impact Assessment in order to identify all strands of threats that may compromise the integrity of this precious archaeological site. That was my second visit to Gua Tambun since 2008 and the results of my assessment were saddening:

1. The physical landscape settings of the cave are severely destroyed due to the illegal digging and quarrying.
2. The wall paintings are highly exposed to sun, rain and water, causing the premature deterioration and discolouration.
3. The cave is highly vandalized by graffiti and some old depictions have been superimposed by modern graffiti..."

### And the list goes on.

Since then, I occasionally read from the news regarding the call for a petition to the authorities to save the Gua Tambun Rock Art. The responses from general public and the authorities, however, were fairly sporadic.

In June 2015, I decided to kickstart a heritage campaign – Gua Tambun Heritage Awareness Project (GTHAP) – to save the Tambun Rock Art through local conservation effort. It is the very first local community-driven heritage project launched in Gua Tambun in collaboration with Centre for Global Archaeological Research of Universiti Sains Malaysia. The project aims to promote public heritage awareness and incorporate public efforts in the conservation and long-term management of Gua Tambun. It also hopes to connect the local people and general public to Tambun's prehistoric past and help conserve this cultural heritage for the people of Malaysia and the world. Under the initiatives of GTHAP, we envision the following:

1. To establish a Gua Tambun Prehistoric Rock Art Trail or Gua Tambun Heritage Walk, managed by local volunteers and local heritage guides.
2. To establish a local Tambun Heritage Watch.
3. To conduct heritage workshops at local level to encourage the local involvement as a means to empower the local community in the future delivery of the conservation and management planning of Gua Tambun.

To date, we have launched two community heritage walks in Gua Tambun and we hope to organise this at least once a week or once in every fortnight in the near future. In



Community heritage walk to Gua Tambun



the next few weeks, we are going to establish a Tambun Heritage Watch, formed by local volunteers. Short training through workshops will be given to the volunteers to enable them to become local heritage guides.

Since the commencement of the project, GTHAP has been well received and we appreciated the support from many local NGOs and institutions, including Ipoh's community newspaper, Ipoh Echo, Perak Heritage Society (PHS), Incitement Ipoh, Sunway College, Ipoh (SCI), Ipoh City Watch (ICW) and the Perak Women for Women Society (PWW).

For Ipohites who are interested to be part of us, please like and follow us on Facebook – Gua Tambun Heritage Awareness Project #GTHAP. You can find all information about this project on our Facebook page and we will keep you posted on the upcoming activities in Gua Tambun.

We are currently working on establishing a digital photo archive of Gua Tambun, and if any Ipohites would like to share with us the old photos of Gua Tambun, please contact us at +604 653 3357 or drop us an email at [tambunrockart@gmail.com](mailto:tambunrockart@gmail.com).

"Every effort matters and let's work together to save the Tambun Rock Art."

This is not just a bold statement! This is a message that needs to be heard.

So, join us today!

Hsiao-Mei Goh



## 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.

## Suggestion Lauded

I welcome the suggestion of the Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak, Tan Sri Richard Malanium, that wildlife offenders should be jailed rather than fined, which is ineffective. Malanium recommended stiffer fines and mandatory jail terms for offences such as the killing of protected wildlife species and illegal logging during a workshop on Environmental Protection in Sabah recently.

The learned judge has assured that his office will work closely with the relevant agencies to amend specific legislations to make it mandatory for wildlife offenders be given stiffer punishments.

I hope our federal wildlife enforcement authorities will take note of the development in East Malaysia and take the necessary measures to ensure offenders are not let off the hook due to inherent weakness in our prosecution procedures. There is a lack of seriousness among our enforcement officers and the Judiciary with regard to wildlife trade offences despite international condemnation.

The public feel that the authorities are not doing enough to prosecute offenders while the courts are perceived as being too lenient with these criminals. Perhaps the authorities are unaware of the effects of illegal wildlife trade on biodiversity. Due to this, many offenders are getting away with just a slap on their wrist.

As suggested by the Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak, there is a need to create awareness among judges and magistrates on the seriousness of illegal wildlife trade and its impact on biodiversity. Guidelines on effective sentencing should be at the disposal of judges and magistrates. The courts should view illegal wildlife trade and the killing of protected animals seriously and their judgments should reflect this.

According to a report by the World Wildlife Fund, the global wildlife population has decreased by 52 per cent between 1970 and 2014. Human activities have been identified as the major contributor to this loss.

Our wildlife species will continue to decline if we fail to take drastic measures to stop illegal wildlife activities. Some of our endangered animals are being pushed towards extinction by traffickers who take advantage of poor enforcement and prosecution.

S. Param

## Heritage Taiping

Taiping was declared a heritage town at the Perak State Executive Committee meeting (No: 1348) on September 8, 1999.

Taiping is "a town of many firsts". However, out of the 33 "firsts", only a handful are listed as heritage, pursuant to the National Heritage Act 2005. Among them are the All Saints Church, Taiping Museum, Taiping Jail, Kota Long Jaafar, Kota Ngah Ibrahim, Taiping Public Library and the Land and District Office. The rest are not similarly considered, as the integrity of the properties is in doubt.

Much more needs to be done by the Taiping Municipal Council in order for the town to be recognised by UNESCO.

Therefore, the sentence, "this UNESCO-declared heritage town" as mentioned in your cover story, "Taiping All Set to Woo Tourists" (Ipoh Echo Issue 218) is not very accurate.

The first newspapers in the Malay States were printed in Taiping in 1890's beginning with Malay weekly, Seri Perak and followed by Perak Varthamani, Perak Pioneer, Native States Adviser, Jajahan Malaya and Thajobamani. Taiping Press (later renamed Perak Pioneer Press) was the publisher of all these papers.

With the birth of Malay press, Taiping became the intellectual hub of the Malay-reading public in the Malay States.

## Lorries Parked in Housing Estate



Residents living in Jalan Chin Yin Fatt in Fair Park are worried about the lorries parked in front of their houses at night. Spokesman for the residents, who did not want to be named, said that the lorries are parked in the vacant land in front of the houses from about 6.30pm to 7.30am daily. This has been happening from the beginning of 2014. The residents are afraid to confront the lorry drivers who park the lorries and go away. The residents have to bear with the noise and exhaust smell.

While I was talking to the spokesman, within a few minutes a man came on a motor bike. He is also staying in the neighbourhood and knew the complainant. As soon as he came he said he had found another place to park the lorries and they would not be parked there anymore. This meeting took place about a year ago and the lorries are still parked there and the complainant reminded me of the problem.

After rain, the area where the lorries are parked becomes soggy and waterlogged. The lorries are parked close to the sandy bank of Sungai Senam and the residents are worried that the weight of the lorries would cause the bank to collapse.

The problem has been reported to MBI, but no action has been taken. Residents do not know how long they have to live with this problem.

A. Jeyaraj



## "Prevention Is Always Better Than Cure." "Shedding Light Therapy"

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Banyan Spa, 40, Jalan Raja Dihilir, 30350 Ipoh Perak.



The predecessor of Taiping Public Library (other than being the premises of Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China) was "an excellent Reading and Recreation Room for Officers of Government" constructed in 1882.

Through the Order in Council No.17/1895 (Book Registration) required one copy of book printed in the state of Perak to be deposited to British Museum in London and a copy to the Perak Government Museum in Taiping. The Taiping Goal established in 1879 also housed the Government Printing Office.

Taiping is blessed with the establishment of early premier schools such as King Edward V11 (1882), Taiping Convent (1899), Lady Treacher Girl School (1889) and St George's Institution (1915).

Mohd Taib Mohamed  
President Perak Heritage Society

## Job Vacancy

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## Happenings

### Ipoh Echo to bring you Star Studded Coverage of F1 Weekend in Singapore

Ipoh Echo is thrilled to be invited to cover one of the most exciting events in Singapore. Two of our Echo reporters will be at the star-studded F1 weekend, Saturday and Sunday September 19 and 20.

Undoubtedly the most vibrant, sexiest and most elite F1 destination, Amber Lounge Singapore will bring a full-throttled action-packed weekend for guests in celebration of Singapore's milestone 50th birthday. Composed of haute couture fashion, explosive and energizing live performances by international performers and six party rocking international DJ sets that will fuel two nights of nonstop partying (September 19 and 20), Amber Lounge Singapore is THE place to be during the Singapore Grand Prix weekend.

The inaugural Chi Chi von Tang SS16 collection will launch on Saturday September 19 on the glittering opening night of Amber Lounge Singapore. International models will strut their stuff in stunning Chi Chi pieces in front of a star-studded crowd of A-list celebrities, F1 fraternity, and the Singaporean social elite, and will also be adorned in exquisite diamond jewelry by World of Diamonds. Unique to Amber Lounge, the models will also be accompanied by hunky Formula 1 drivers wearing breathtaking suits by Ted Baker from their AW15 collection.

To book tickets and tables, visit: <http://www.amber-lounge.com/content/book-tickets> or contact: [singapore@amber-lounge.com](mailto:singapore@amber-lounge.com).

Look out for the October 1 issue of Ipoh Echo for all the minute by minute coverage of the exciting events.



## Community

### Mosque-Cleaning Trio

It all began seven months ago when Annas Jaffy, Muhammad Jaffy and Hizamuddin Alidin decided to go around Peninsular Malaysia to clean as many mosques as possible for free. Their cleaning mission is about to end when they arrived in Perak recently.

"The first mosque we cleaned was Sultan Salahudin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque in Shah Alam on January 24 and by August 17, we've cleaned some 120 mosques, in total," said Annas to Ipoh Echo.

With no help or funding from anyone, the trio, from Sabak Bernam, began their journey on foot, pushing two trolleys packed with bags tagged with the national and Selangor flags. The boys related their experiences when met at Sultan Idris Shah II Mosque, Ipoh on Monday, August 17.

"One of the most unforgettable moments we had was when we had only RM20 in our pockets. We didn't spend on lodging, as we slept in the mosques. But we needed money to buy necessities like food and drinks to survive. All of a sudden we received RM100 from the imam of the mosque. It dawned on me that when you do something good, God will help you," said Annas.

Although the boys wanted to go on foot throughout the journey, they received so much help from the public, including policemen.

"The police insisted that we keep them updated to avoid unnecessary accidents. For example, when we were about to walk from Taiping to Kuala Kangsar, they advised us take public transport, as the road was unsafe. We later met someone who offered to drive us to Kuala Kangsar, instead."

Before cleaning a mosque, the boys would first seek the permission of the mosque committee. Once approval was given they would first clean the toilets, clear the garbage, clean the windows and walls and finally the general area. The objective was to create awareness in the community that keeping a mosque clean was everyone's responsibility.

After Perak, the boys will return to Selangor thus ending stage one of their odyssey. They plan on visiting East Malaysia and Brunei next year to continue with stage two of their mission.

"Thanks to social media, more people are getting interested in what we're doing. Our Facebook followers from Sabah and Sarawak are asking us to visit their states.



God willing, we'll visit them next year," said Annas.

Readers keen on knowing the latest regarding the trio can visit their Facebook page at "Ibnu Battuta Adwt".

Ili Aqilah

### Breastfeeding Awareness Week 2015

KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital celebrated breastfeeding week by organising an awareness campaign at hospital level from August 3 to 8.

Juggling a new baby and developing a good breastfeeding routine can be stressful. Hence the week of breastfeeding awareness campaign to assist mothers and mothers-to-be will help to keep stress levels as low as possible and make the breastfeeding experience a positive one for both mother and baby.

Lactation nurses from the Maternity Ward took time to educate mothers and mothers-to-be throughout the week on the importance, benefits, challenges and the correct and comfortable way of breastfeeding, with demonstrations on baby bath and baby massage.

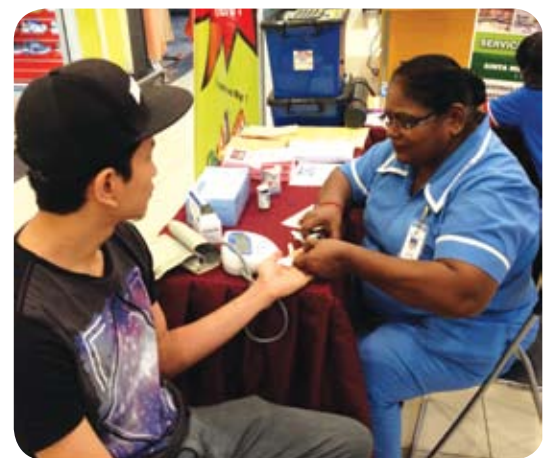
Fathers and fathers-to-be were also encouraged to be part of the process by providing mental and emotional support to their spouses.

On top of these educational tips, do's and don'ts on breastfeeding, KPJ Ipoh Dietary Unit also involved themselves in providing some healthy diet recipes and good eating habits for breastfeeding mothers.



### Health Awareness Campaign

Kinta Medical Centre organised a Health Awareness Campaign at Ipoh Tesco Station 18 on August 18 and 19. The objective of the campaign was to create better health awareness amongst the general public as well as to create greater understanding towards "prevention is better than cure". In addition, the hospital provided free height and weight measurements, blood pressure, blood glucose tests and body mass index.



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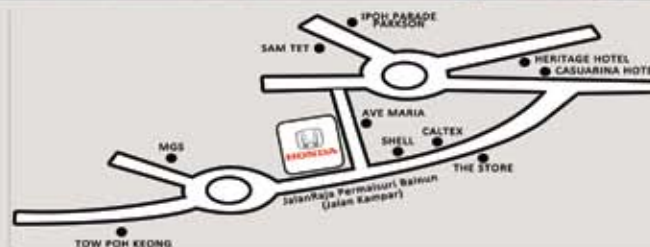
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## Community

### Stop Hunger in Perak

The “Stop Hunger Now” event was held recently at the Sunway Lost World Hotel. It was a part of the on-going Sunway’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme to reach out to the poor and the needy in Perak.

More than 150 Sunway employees packed at least 25,000 packages of nutritious meals by hand for distribution to the Orang Asli villages of Kg Sekam, Tapah, Kg Chang, Bidor, Kg Air Bah Lawin, Gerik, Kg Sg Lawin Selatan and Gerik via the Sahabat Orang Asli Project.

The volunteers formed assembly lines to pack the highly nutritious meals consisting of rice, soya, vegetables, flavourings and 21 essential vitamins and minerals. Each pack contained six servings. Each serving costs RM1 to produce. Packing was done by members of the Sunway Staff Club and the Sunway Social Club.

“The initiative is in line with Sunway Group’s CSR philosophy and is one of our biggest volunteer efforts involving 390 employees from the central, southern and northern regions to pack a total of 120,000 meals,” said the Sunway Group’s group brand marketing and communication assistant general manager, Bernard Paul, who hosted the event.

“Last year, we packed 100,000 meals for more than 1000 individuals at various Sunway outlets throughout Peninsular Malaysia. This year, we’ll beat that record by packing 120,000 meals nationwide,” he added.

“Stop Hunger Now” is a USA-based movement which delivers food and life-saving aids to the world’s most vulnerable people with the aim of ending global hunger in this lifetime. Sunway supports this effort and does so by aiding and feeding the less fortunate communities in the country.



Nantini

### Face Change and Dance Show



As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility project initiated by KMC’s Executive Director, Mr Adrian Fu, the Foo Yet Kai Foundation, Kinta Medical Centre and Tobacco Free World Team sponsored 200+ tickets for children from nine orphanage homes to watch the ‘Face Change & Dance Show’ at Shen Jai High School.

The children enjoyed watching the show creating sweet memories and providing a spark in their otherwise spartan lives.



### Han Chin Pet Soo

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





## Community

# Helping The Homeless

Mark Batterson, a well-known American pastor and author said, "When God blesses you financially, don't raise your standard of living but raise your standard of giving."

This scribe met with two groups of warm-hearted Ipohites who are passionate about helping the poor especially those at the extreme end of the social spectrum. Their earthly mission to help these poor souls with the basic necessities is what keeps them apart from the rest. Nothing can be so noble as to provide these homeless people, who live off the streets, with a square meal so they need not have to beg or go on empty stomachs. The two groups are:

## Pay It Forward Ipoh (PIFI)

Started on April 10, PIFI is a project undertaken by some caring Ipoh youths who are concerned for the safety and well-being of the homeless in the city. Relying entirely on public donations, PIFI distributes food packs, drinks and toiletries to the homeless every Saturday.

One of its co-founders, known only as Nas, who was once homeless himself, is thankful for the donations the group receives and the people who volunteer their time to



help out.

"I used to do this alone. But now, I am glad that more people are joining in. Hopefully, one day I'll find a permanent solution to help the homeless," said Nas.

On August 15, Healy Mac's Irish Bar and Restaurant, Ipoh donated 30 packets of their delicious Aglio Olio pasta. The food was distributed to the homeless in the streets of Old Town by volunteers.

Interested readers keen on supporting PIFI can visit their Facebook page, "Pay It Forward Ipoh" or make cash donations at Tian Mi Mi at Medan Selera Stadium Perak. For more information, call 011 1278 7268 or 019 645 6745.



## Lighthouse Hope Society (LHS)

Founded in 2006 by the Canning Garden Methodist Church, Lighthouse Hope Society (LHS) has been serving meals and providing medical assistance to the homeless who also suffer from drug addiction. The organisation provides vocational training so they can return to mainstream society.

According to the President of LHS, Dr S.S Gill, all of this would not be possible without the support from the 'Vineyard Keepers' who cook and clean their operations centre, medical doctors, hairdressers and meal servers who have dedicated their invaluable time, efforts and prayers in performing this "labour of love".

"We're very grateful to receive assistance and support from the Welfare Department, Labour Department, the Sultan Azlan Shah Foundation, Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad, Yayasan Teratai along with other corporate and individual donors whose contributions have kept us going these many years," said Dr Gill.

LHS is now located at No. 4, Jalan Koo Chong Kong in Old Town. It is open every day of the week. Interested readers who want to be a part of LHS can visit the centre personally or contact its manager, Richard Lee at 012 505 7048.

Ili Aqilah

## Yang TU Yang NI

# The Friendliest Airport in the World

The worst airport in the world must be Khartoum, at least it was when I was there at the height of the Sudan Civil War.

The second worst airport in the world is Beijing. It's a huge soulless place.

These are only my opinions.

But ask any frequent flyer and most will tell you Changi is the best. The organisations that award such accolades seem to think so too. It's clean, efficient and user-friendly. The proposed new terminal comes with a jungle, walking trails, waterfalls, leeches and Tarzan.

Of course I don't know what they plan to have but it wouldn't surprise me. The Singapore kiasu spirit tends to make them overkill.

But is Changi really the best airport? It's clean and efficient, your luggage is waiting for you by the time you exit, there's a cultivated politeness with the staff. If that ticks all the boxes with you then it probably is. And by the looks of it people seem to like that sort of thing that's why Changi consistently wins 'best airport'.

To me a good airport is one that is clean and efficient yes but most of all it must exude warmth. It must make you feel that the staff are there to wave you off, bid you a safe journey and look forward to your return. And on landing they are there to welcome you, noticing that you have been away too long this time.

It must be 'human'.

No there's no airport like that that I know of. The closest I have to that is the Ipoh Aerodrome ('aerodrome' an unfashionable word these days) aka Sultan Azlan Shah Airport.

Because the aerodrome is literally downtown you can take a Sunday drive to it. As you come to a stop at the parking booth a smile greets you and you hear "Leong Mun" (it used to be "Yat Mun") from Romeo – that's what he calls himself. He apologises for the 100 per cent hike, joking that we need to contribute to the government's coffers. Bet you if I were Indian he would have said "Rende Velli" or "Dua Ringgit" if I were Malay. He was not drilled in this you can tell. It's just his natural friendly way.

The X-ray machine is operated by two veteran police. I noticed that all the police are sergeants or corporals with long colourful service ribbons on their chests.

They are so friendly they engage you in polite conversation. I learned that Corporal Nura lives down the road from me in Tambun. You do not have the young bored and often indifferent policeman you meet in, say, the big airports. And I noticed that they speak fluent English, which is a big plus for those visitors who do not speak Malay. Again this



is something the young policemen in KLIA or Paya Lebar are not comfortable with – speaking English. I think this is a generational thing. There are no long queues at the check-in counters. The girls chat with you like an old friend even if it is the second time she has seen you.

And where in the world do you have the Operations Manager take you into his office and print a schedule for you? When flights to Medan first began there were no printed schedules and the airline did not have personnel at the airport so Roslan, the Operations Manager, helped me out.

The restaurant serves honest fare without the pretensions and prices to boot you find in bigger airports. They do try to serve 'fashionable' coffees though, quite good although the servings are a little small. Azali (call me Zali) behind the counter is always smiling and ever so eager to please unlike the tired looking parrots at 'big bucks coffee' who mouth

pleasantries robotically.

The immigration officers are polite and welcoming. Similarly the customs officers – firm and efficient but always with a ready smile. You don't get the feeling they are there to 'get you' as in some airports.

And when you come out from customs, free Malay Mail is there for you; but ironically the local rag, which professes to promote Ipoh is not. Visitors would be interested I would have thought.

Ipoh Aerodrome is so laid back . . . Alas some shortcomings come with the territory.

There is no aerobridge to your plane for a start. You have to wait a bit for your baggage. There is no wifi (Why ah Roslan?), the toilets are frequently wet. Maybe we can be the first place in Malaysia to introduce "wet" and "dry" toilets so that those who do not wash will not be inconvenienced – a win win situation mah. And how I wish there is a Duty Free – even a mini one.

Taking all this into consideration, weighing the pros and cons, etcetera etcetera . . . and after an extensive poll of one . . . (drum roll)

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me give you the friendliest airport in the world – the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport!

But that's only my opinion and I am from TR.

Yin  
(The man from TR)



## News

## POPCON ASIA 2015

### Local boys win 'Doodle Art' category

Held at the Jakarta Convention Centre, Jakarta, "Popcon Asia 2015" saw two talented Perak-born artists, Abu Huzaifah Saharuddin and Mior Abdul Muneer Mior Muhammad, who represented Malaysia, win three awards at the two-day animation contest which was held from August 7 to 9.

"It's unbelievable. We dedicated this win to Ipoh-based People of Remarkable Talent or PORT for supporting and having faith in us," said Abu Huzaifah to reporters after being adjudged winner in the 'Doodle Art' category.

Joining the competition along with Abu Huzaifah, 27, and Mior Abdul Muneer, 27, were Adi Imran Mohamed Nazri @ Adi Nazri, 31, and Mior Azhar Mior Said, 32.

"We'd like to express our gratitude to PORT and the Perak state government for giving us a chance to compete. This will definitely encourage other artists and sketchers to pursue their dreams in this field," added Abu.

"What we've achieved is proof that Malaysia has what it takes to compete at international level. We hope more Malaysians will join the creative industry and compete," said Mior to Ipoh Echo.

Cartoonist, Adi Imran Mohamed Nazri won first place in the "Comic Jump Street" category beating contestants from Indonesia, Singapore and Philippines.

"I was nervous at first but continued nonetheless because of the support from my friends," said Adi who is also the president of Malaysia Comic Association.

RM



## Malayan Emergency Monument and Gallery

The Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA) Malayan Emergency Monument and Gallery at Sungei Siput Estate, Sg Siput was officiated by the Minister of Tourism and Culture, Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz on Saturday, August 15.

Heads of plantation groups, namely National Land Finance Co-operative Society Limited, United Plantation Berhad, Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad, Sime Darby Plantations Sdn Bhd and the High Commissioners of Britain, Australia, New Zealand and India were present to grace the occasion.

The primary objective of the monument and gallery is to honour planters, miners, police personnel, British, Commonwealth and Malaysian troops who rallied to support a fledgling Malaya, and then Malaysia, against communist terrorism and, in the course, made the ultimate sacrifice. The other reason is to preserve the said site which is of significance to the nation's troubled past. The gallery displays historical information, records and photographs on the Malayan Emergency



(1948 – 1960) for public viewing.

According to the Chairman of MPOA (Perak), R. Sivalingam, his association with the consent of the National Land Finance Co-operative Society Limited, initiated the construction of the monument and gallery at the Sungai Siput Estate, formerly known as the Phin Soon Estate. It is at the very spot where the British estate manager was shot by guerrillas of the Malayan Communist Party on June 16, 1948. The assassination led to the proclamation of a state of emergency throughout the country by the colonial government on June 18, 1948.

"Hopefully, the monument and gallery will be a useful source of information on the Malayan Emergency for both the public and tourists," said Sivalingam.

Sivalingam singled out local historian, Harchand Singh Bedi for his untiring efforts in ensuring the materialisation of the idea and concept. "We wish to record our sincere thanks and appreciation to Harchand Singh Bedi for his invaluable assistance in the project, from start to finish," he remarked.

Nantini

## Announcements

Announcements must be sent by fax: **05 255 2181**; or email: [announcements@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:announcements@ipohecho.com.my), by the 9<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Perak Masters 10km Run 2015** will be held at Stadium Indra Mulia on Sunday, **September 6**. A fee will be charged for all participants. Closing date: Thursday, August 20. Race kits collection: September 4 and 5 from 9 am to 7 pm at Stadium Indra Mulia. Open to Malaysians only. Contact TC: **016 215 3830** or Sherley: **017 578 4973** or Rita: **017 557 7680** or Sam: **012 5889829** for details and registration forms.

**Family Link Programme for caregivers of persons with Schizophrenia. September 11**, 3pm-5pm at Mentari Simee (Behind Main Building, Klinik Kesihatan Simee). This programme is a 4-session workshop run by the Department of Psychiatry, HRPB. The sessions are FREE. If interested, contact **05 543 9467/9479 (Ext 13)** for more information and registration.

**PCSH Antenatal Seminar, September 12 (Session 1) and September 26 (Session 2)**, 2pm-5pm at Conference Room, Perak Community Specialist Hospital, Ipoh. RM10 per couple (for both sessions). Register before September 8 to receive your goodie bags and stand a chance to win a lucky draw prize. Registration forms available at PCSH Reception and Obstetrician & Gynaecologist Clinic; or call: **05 241 9000 (Ext 110)** or **017 387 4794** (Shireen).

**Sunway College Ipoh is proud to host a CAT (Certified Accounting Technician) Day on September 19 (Saturday)** from 10am to 4pm at its campus, in association with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Malaysia. Targeting Principle of Accounts subject SPM 2015 students, the exclusive event will consist of a workshop and talks on Professional Accounting. Call **05 545 4398** (Information & Communication Dept.) for details and reservation as seats are limited.

**In conjunction with the International Month of Peace, Soka Gakkai Malaysia, Perak Branch (SGM-Perak) is hosting a '10km Run for Peace' (RFP)**, a non-competitive event targeting 4000 runners on **September 20** at the Kompleks Sukan dan Belia in Ipoh.

**Hockey Carnival on Grass, Saturday September 26**, 8.30am-5.30pm at Anderson

School field. Thirty (30) teams are expected to take part in 3 categories: (a) Mens' ppen < 40: open 6-a-side; (b) Mens' veteran > 40: open 6-a- side; and (c) Ladies open (including girls' schools): 7-a-side. There will be cash prizes for each category. Entrance fee RM200. Registration before September 15. For further enquiries call **012 501 6979**.

**Public Forum on Good Mental Health in conjunction of World Mental Health Day 10/10/2015. October 12**, 9am-1pm at 4th Floor, Kompleks Aktiviti Harian. Organised by Department of Psychiatry, HRPB and State Health Education Department. Touching on various topics like Overview of Mental Disorders, Self-harm and Suicide, How to say No to negative thoughts and many more! The forum is FREE. For more information, contact **05 208 7436** (Psychiatric Outpatient).

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

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

**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**.



## Education

## SMI Charity Night 2015



St Michael's Institution's annual charity night was held on Tuesday, August 18 at its school hall.

The night of entertainment began with the screening of the top five short films of the Michaelian Talent Show titled, "13 Years a Michaelian", "The One Kid You Don't Know About", "Boys will be Boys", "White Coffee Love" and "Perfection Desired".

"This showcases the talent of the students in our first-ever video clips competition. They're not professionals yet they've produced something on par with the real ones. It takes a lot of patience," said Madam Chan Nyook Ying, principal of SMI, to Ipoh Echo.

Miss Saras, a staff member with Salvation Army Girls Home, who attended with 14 primary and secondary school kids, told Ipoh Echo that the children were very happy to be there.

"By the way they clap their hands showed that they really enjoyed the show. We look forward to similar activities in the future because it helps to bring them into society as they don't have a proper functioning family," said George, a houseparent from the Salvation Army Boys Home. He had with him 25 boys from the Home.

More performances, such as an electrifying cello and electric guitar fusion gig, solo singing and live band performance, followed after dinner. The hall was decked with rotating multi-coloured LED spotlight and fairyland-like fogs providing a very festive mood.

Among those present were Dato' Brother Vincent Corkery, former Brother Director of SMI, Joseph Michael Lee, Chairman of the Parent-Teacher Association, parents, teachers and students.

Over 85 residents from Salvation Army Girls Home, Salvation Army Boys Home, Anning Home in Ampang, Jelapang Old Folks Home and Praise Home were invited. "This is the biggest number so far. We expect more next year so the whole hall can be filled up," said Peter Khiew, a member of the school teaching staff.

Mei Kuan

## Property

## Hua Yang Berhad Launches Inaugural MyHome Project

Hua Yang Berhad (Hua Yang or the Group), a leading property developer in the affordable housing market, launched the first phase of its Seri Andaman homes.

Pn Hajah Rohani binti Omar, Deputy Director General of the National Housing Department was present to officiate the launch, which also marked the Group's first property offerings under the Government's MyHome Scheme, an initiative to help Malaysians own their first home. To qualify for MyHome Scheme, interested buyers must fulfil certain criteria set by the Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government.

Seri Andaman is located within the dynamic and fast-growing Bandar Universiti Seri Iskandar (BUSI), which is the Group's premier 777-acre township in Perak. The first phase of Seri Andaman consists of 186 units of 22' x 65' single storey terrace homes with a built-up area of 850 sq ft (square feet). Each unit comes with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, which are ideal for small and mid-sized families.

The price per unit of these leasehold units range from RM180,000 to RM200,000. From the 186 units, 56 units are Bumiputera lots while 130 units are non-Bumiputera lots. There is also an additional 5% discount for Bumiputera lots.

Seri Andaman homes are also conveniently located close to a myriad of urban amenities. These include a drive-through restaurant, a police station, a wet market, a bus station terminal as well as schools, banks and government facilities. TESCO Superstore and an upcoming Mydin hypermarket are also in close proximity to the development.

Tony Ng, Assistant General Manager of Hua Yang said, "As a developer of affordable homes, Hua Yang is delighted to be able to contribute to the government's initiative to help Malaysians own their first home. We are able to leverage on our expertise to ensure that the homes we have built for the MyHome Scheme is able to enrich the lives of its occupants while at the same time appreciate in value," he added.

"We are confident that Seri Andaman will be well received. Its location within our thriving education township, where Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) are located, provide for an ideal place to live, work, study and play," Ng concluded.

For further information, please contact Agro-Mod Industries Sdn Bhd sales office at 05 371 1162.



## Japanese Cultural Day

A Japanese legend says that if you fold one thousand paper cranes, you would be granted a wish. Against a hanging backdrop of the iconic Mount Fuji, pieced together using over a thousand paper cranes, SMK Anderson's first-ever Japanese Cultural Day was held on Saturday, August 22 at the school hall. It was a lively affair.

The teaching of Japanese as a foreign language in the school began in 2013. "This year, the Ministry of Education and The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur sent a Japanese native, Madam Okubo Sachiko to teach Japanese language in this school together alongside me for a year. Together, we came up with this idea," Loh Kok Hoong, the teacher-in-charge explained told Ipoh Echo.

After the opening ceremony, the principal, Zahidi Abd Ghani accompanied the guests-of-honour, Shoichi Toyoda, Director of The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur and North Kinta District Education Officer Hj Hasni Hashim to the exhibition cum workshop site which displayed *ikebana* (Japanese art of flower arrangement), *chakai* (Japanese tea ceremony), *origami* (Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes) and pottery. Plus, there were competitions for calligraphy and story reading for Andersonians and the more than 100 invited students from as far as Penang.

"Origami doesn't involve use of scissors and glue, we just need to fold and assemble. Today we're teaching the kids to fold a top," said Goh from the Perak Malaysian-Japanese Friendship Society to Ipoh Echo. Goh has been dabbling in the craft for the past three decades for the purpose of display and charity besides being her hobby.

On the pottery front, Sook Peng from The Living Art Ceramics when asked the reason behind her passion said, "From a piece of clay, I build the shape, add colours and fire it in the kiln. When the completed work emerges, the joy it brings is immeasurable." She has been involved in the art since 2000 and was teaching the eager students the basic technique of making a cylinder vase with natural clay for that



day.

The ikebana display brought this comment from Fatin, a Form 2 student from Sekolah Menengah Sains Kepala Batas, Penang, "The best part is we could bring back the flower arrangement and pottery that we created."

The memorable day also saw Imai Thubasa playing the sanshin (an Okinawan musical instrument) and then the guitar accompanying the audience in a singalong Japanese song entitled, 'Tomorrow will Come'.

As the half-day event drew to a close, I caught sight of the *tanabata* decoration of coloured papers in rectangular strips fluttering from bamboo branches. On each was printed the students' wishes. One said, "I wish I can go to Japan one day". I too hope for the same.

Mei Kuan



## Property

# Nazri Officiates at Launch

“Amazing, wonderful, outstanding, stunning, pristine and gorgeous were some of the superlatives said by people upon seeing the Haven at its site,” said Peter Chan, Managing Director and CEO of The Haven Sdn Bhd during the opening ceremony of The Haven Luxury Resort Hotel Suites on Friday, August 14 at Lake Garden Tower Cypas.

“To protect the environment we avoid cutting down trees or blasting the hills. We harvested all available energy resources to reduce carbon footprint, created special pits to decompose waste matter for use as fertilisers, prohibited the use of artificial and chemical sprays, designed high and wide windows and iron-grilled doors with multiple-hole punctures to allow air flow, thus reducing the use of air-conditioners,” he remarked at the site which has been certified by geologists as predating the Palaeozoic period.

One hundred and fifty units of hotel suites, with sizes ranging from 868 sq ft to 2072 sq ft and operated by Best Western International, were officially opened by Dato’ Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Tourism and Culture. The occasion was formalised by a tree-planting ceremony followed by the signing of a wall plaque.

“I really love this place. I can imagine what it was before. It must have just been a neglected part of Perak. Out of nothing, you’ve created something, especially for my state of Perak. I am very much overwhelmed,” said Nazri in his speech. He lauded The Haven’s timely launch which complemented the economic blueprint of the state while encouraging tourism to Ipoh.

The momentous event was made more colourful by cultural dance performances staged by the state dance troupe, Selendang Perak. The show culminated in a sing-along of The Haven theme song composed by Peter Chan himself.

Present at the launch were Dato’ Mirza Mohammad Taiyab, Director-General of Tourism Malaysia; Madam Chong Yoke Har, Deputy Director-General of Tourism Malaysia; Datuk Rashidi Hasbullah, Deputy Secretary-General (Tourism); Dato’ Nolee Ashilin Mohammed Radzi, Executive Councillor for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Multimedia and Communications; Haji Ibrahim Seddiqi Talib, Director of Tourism Malaysia (Perak); Olivier Berrivin, Managing Director of International Operations –Asia of Best Western International Asia; Hj Sabini Tijan, President of KTM; Dato’ Roshidi Hashim, Non-Executive Chairman of the Board of Leweko Resources Berhad and Tan Sri Lee Oi Hean, CEO and Executive Director of Kuala Lumpur Kepong

Berhad.

The Haven has won over 30 prestigious resort awards, both locally and internationally, including the Best Green Development, Asia’s Best Resort Residences, Luxury Retreat of The Year and the overall global award winner.

In conjunction with the ceremony, a familiarisation tour hosted by The Haven, in collaboration with Tourism Malaysia and Keretapi Tanah Melayu, was held from Thursday, August 13 to Saturday, August 15. The tour was tailor-made for media representatives to savour the touristic sights of Perak. Nazri had identified The Haven as the base for future Tourism Ministry-sponsored familiarisation trips to Perak.



Mei Kuan

## Child-Pro Night

Children Provision Charity 2015 is an initiative designed by the Rotaract Club of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS and the Department of Management and Humanities of UTP. Its aim is to give assistance, aid and care to children with monetary support for education and providing for their basic daily needs. The funds are raised through several events, which include Child-Pro Fair, Child-Pro Charity Run, Child-Pro Treasure Hunt and Child-Pro Night.

Child-Pro Night with the theme of ‘Glow in the Dark’, emphasizes helping children to face challenges positively regardless of their current circumstances and show that they can shine from within and be the beacon of hope to guide and inspire others.

Scheduled for 27th November 2015, Child-Pro Night is seeking sponsors for the concomitant activities that will be held along with the main event. For more information:

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChildProUTP>

Contact person: Lok Poh Moon

Phone: 016-5669733

Email: pohmoon95@hotmail.com

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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

## Opinion

# Considerations for Choosing a Profession

The educational system in Malaysia is fundamentally flawed in the sense that students are streamlined into Science or Arts basing on the students' LCE results. That is how they separate out the smart ones from the less smart.

The smarter ones go to Science and the not so smart ones go to Arts.

So the Science graduates become engineers, doctors, scientists while the Art's students take up accountancy, business admin and so forth. However, at the end of the day when they graduate and take up their respective professions, you look up the corporation hierarchy and there are the Arts guys right at the top, overseeing and bossing the lower rung of engineers and technologists etc.

How is it that the less smart students are now calling the shots and running the show while the smart ones are the mere foot soldiers?

Shouldn't the smart be ruling the less smart and not the other way round?

Ah, something for you to ponder.

How do you advise students today what their future profession should be when we are living in a dynamic world whereby new job functions are created daily. For instance 30 years ago we did not have web developers or data warehousing specialists and a myriad number of new careers.

With this new information I would advise students how to choose a very safe route to take.

I would ask the student to name the common denominator that is associated with successful people. This answer would lay the foundation to lead everyone to their

rightful profession.

The answer is: The ability to exploit one's potential. For example, a singer recognizes his good voice and exploits it.

A business man, without an education can be successful because he exploits his business acumen.

A teacher can be successful because he exploits his ability to reach out and teach others and so forth. So in essence, ask the person what his natural inclinations are and what he is passionate about because these would provide the clues that would help him find the profession that harmonizes with his natural potentials, which he is more likely to pursue with unrelenting passion and determination.

My advice to all those failures who continue to moan and groan over their wrong choice of profession is to change and do something they like. Of course, there are a few who continue to complain that they have been misled and not prepared to make a change.

Success should not be equated entirely with wealth which should not be the only obsession in one's life. True wealth is of the heart, not the size of the wallet.

We should not aspire for wealth and work not only to be rich. Strive instead for happiness, to be loved and to love and more importantly, to acquire peace of mind and serenity.

Koon Yew Yin



## Tourism

# Perak Mosque Trail Package

The Perak Mosque Trail Package launched by Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, is expected to be a hit with local and foreign tourists.

The package takes tourists to eight mosques of historical significance within the state. They are the Ubudiah Mosque, Kuala Kangsar; Ihsaniah Iskandariah Mosque, Kg Kuala Dal Padang Rengas; Dato' Panglima Kinta Mosque, Ipoh; India Muslim Mosque, Ipoh; Kampung Paloh Mosque, Ipoh; Pakistani Mosque, Ipoh; Sultan Idris Shah II Mosque, Ipoh; and the Muhammadiyah Mosque, Ipoh. Most of the mosques are located within the city limits thus making travelling and communicating easy for package holders.

"Selection of mosques' is based on their historical and heritage values, design and their contributions to the local Muslim community," said Zambry to reporters after officiating Tourism Perak's new office and logo recently.

Executive Councillor for Tourism, Culture, Multimedia and Communications, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohamed Radzi and Mohd Kamil Shafie, chairman of Tourism Perak Management Berhad were present at the ceremony which was held at Tourism Perak's new office at Jalan Teh Hawa, Ipoh (nearby former Tune Hotel).

"Perak received the highest number of domestic tourists in 2014 with a total of 7.1 million visitors," said the MB. "Therefore, there's a need to build more hotels, especially the 4-star type," he added.

Last year some 16 hotels were built throughout the state. Zambry hoped more would be established to cater for the demand.



Local tour operator, Aidil Travel and Tours Sdn Bhd undertakes to manage the mosque trail tour by offering an affordable 3D/2N package to buyers.

On a related matter, Nolee told Ipoh Echo that her office, through Tourism Perak Management Berhad, has embarked on a plan to attract Muslim tourists, especially those from the Middle East and China.

RM

## Destination Perak

"Some people look for a beautiful place, others make a place beautiful" is one inspiring saying imprinted on the glass walls of the office of Destination Perak. The catchy phrase caught the attention of the Ipoh Echo team when they attended the agency's Adifitri open house on Thursday, August 13. Destination Perak's new office is located at Level 11 of the Perak Techno-Trade Centre, Jelapang.

A cursory tour of the facility saw snippets of information on Perak, from the Royal Museum of Kuala Kangsar to the Banjaran Hotsprings, displayed at strategic spots. The open-concept office has a seating capacity for 40 staff members.

After enjoying an array of traditional Malay dishes consisting of *pulut kuning*, *ketupat palas*, *lemang*, *rendang*, *kuih limas* and *soto* (soup composed of broth, meat and vegetables) the Ipoh Echo team took the opportunity to have an exclusive one-on-one with the agency's head honchos.

Destination Perak, which undertakes the promotion and marketing of Perak as an attractive tourist destination, is a subsidiary company of the State Development Corporation. Established in April 2014, it works with various interested parties in the tourism industry, both public and private, to bring in tourists into the state.

While efforts at improving and developing tourist infrastructures are underway, Destination Perak liaises with tour operators, bus companies, ticketing agents and event planners to promote tourism-related activities with the view of increasing tourist arrivals in Perak.

It offers information on exciting places to visit and interesting things to see and do in the state. Their online portal provides booking services and tour packages for



visitors' convenience (<http://destinationperak.travel/>).

"Our aim is to optimise all resources and synergise them to enhance the tourism industry," said Abdul Raheem Mohamad, the chief executive officer, to Ipoh Echo.

Md Sallehuddin Abu Hanifah, advisor, alluded to the pristine Belum Forest with its abundance of hornbills as his favourite spot in Perak. The agency hopes to make Belum a UNESCO-declared site in four years' time.

Mei Kuan

## Malaysia Wins Goodwill Games

Eight years of bonding borne out of the annual Malaysia-Thailand Goodwill Games saw another successful round of games, hosted by Malaysia this time around.

With a congenial theme, "Endless Celebrations and Friendship", the Malaysia-Thailand Goodwill Games 2015 was held in Ipoh from Thursday, August 13 to Saturday, August 15. It was a collaborative effort by two ministries – Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia and Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Thailand.

Participants from both nations, numbering in excess of 300, partook in 13 games held at various locations within the city, namely Lost World of Tambun, Ampang Superbowl at Ipoh Parade and D.R. Seenivasagam Park.

Malaysia won 16 out of 22 sporting activities held and thus was adjudged the overall winner.

Among the team games played were golf, football, sepak takraw, tennis and badminton while the leisure games included treasure hunt, fruits-peeling and waiters race.

Besides providing an avenue for government and tourism officials from both countries to unwind on the courts and playing fields, the games is also aimed at boosting the tourism industry.

"The Goodwill Games has been planned to provide you the opportunity to see the various tourist attractions, as well to enjoy the sporting and recreational facilities available here," said Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture when officiating at the event.

In his closing speech, Nazri remarked, "We welcomed 1.3 million Thai tourists



last year. This makes Thailand the fifth most important tourist market." He expressed his desire to achieve 2 million tourist arrivals from Thailand soon.

Nazri complimented the participants for their sportsmanship, teamwork and solidarity and hoped they had a joyous time in Ipoh.

Asyiqeen



## Arts and Culture

# Malay Proverbs by Hyrul Anuar

An exhibition entitled, 'The Visual Series of Malay Proverbs' was held at Yasmin, Sekeping Kong Heng from August 15 to 16. The exhibition was the first for Hyrul Anuar, an energetic but humble artist from Sabak Bernam, Selangor.

It all started when his worried father went out to find jobs for him. Hyrul felt touched, especially when their relationship wasn't smooth sailing. However, as time went by their relationship became better.

Hyrul knew his father was proud of his achievements.

"When I was younger, I was often belted by my father for stealing his money to go to cyber cafes. He felt I was wasting my time playing video games but I went there to learn how to use a computer," he told Ipoh Echo.

Unlike other youngsters who grew up with him, Hyrul was more interested in the world of art. After graduating from high school, he enrolled in the National Art Culture and Heritage Academy (ASWARA) and was working with one of the top advertising companies in the world, Leo Burnett (Kuala Lumpur). From there, Hyrul created colourful campaigns such as 'The Sparkle Project' and 'Galaxy Wonderland' for Samsung. He represented Malaysia at Adfest Asia Pacific Advertising Festival where he won both of the Young Lotus Competition prizes.

His impressive resume does not end there. In 2014, Hyrul was invited to join Fabrica;



United Colors of Benetton's Communication Research Centre for an internship in Italy. While there he felt terribly homesick and expressed his feelings through digital art.

"Language barrier was one of the many problems why I couldn't blend in with the locals. I often found myself alone with my phone, missing my family. Two months before I finished my internship, I decided to interpret some Malay proverbs such as 'Mendukung Biawak Hidup' (Carrying The Lizard which means doing something useless) and expressed it through technology. My leader found out about it and encouraged me to do more," said Hyrul.

Among the visitors who attended the event were students of Ave Maria Convent School, Ipoh. He encouraged them to follow their dreams, "Do what you love. Don't let your parents decide your future. But at the same time, respect them and seek their advice," he said.

Interested readers who missed the exhibition can call Nicole Chin at 012 235 9164 or check out the official Facebook page of Yasmin, Sekeping Kong Heng for more information.

Ili Aqilah

## A Musical Kaleidoscope: Bach to Yiruma



Quoting German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, "without music, life would be a mistake", the Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA) continues to wow the audience with their 9th international ensemble aptly titled, 'A night of Musical Kaleidoscope: From Bach to Yiruma' at the Tenby Schools Ipoh Auditorium on Saturday, August 15.

The audience was mesmerised as the musicians played Vivaldi's all-time favourite, 'The Four Seasons Violin Concerto', Bach's famous 'Air on G' and 'Brandenburg Concerto', the exotic Bizet's 'Carmen Fantasy' to the heart-warming Yiruma's 'River Flows Into You' and many more.

Directed by renowned Malaysian conductor and a clarinetist Eugene Pook, twelve talented international artistes from Canada, Singapore, Netherlands and Malaysia charmed the audience with their musical skills.

What made this year's ensemble different from other years' was the special appearance and performance by Andrew Simon, a clarinet soloist from USA, which included John Corigliano's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra, a piece by the award winning composer under whom he studied.

As a tribute to the Sultan of Perak for his patronage, PSPA also organised the Royal Performance at the Grand Ballroom of Syeun Hotel, Ipoh on Thursday, August 20. The show was attended by HRH Sultan Nazrin Muizzudin Shah, state dignitaries and the upper crust of Ipoh's society.

"It is with this heart filled with gratitude and appreciation that your humble servant welcomes Your Royal Highness to this Royal Performance of the PSPA International Ensemble 2015, dedicated to Tuanku on behalf of the members of PSPA," said Datin Rosalina Ooi-Thong, President of PSPA in her opening remarks.



The ensemble did a repeat performance. Against a backdrop of changing landscapes and seasons, the musicians gave a superlative performance, enrapturing the audience with their virtuosity.

The artistes on stage that night were Christina Zhou (violin), Ooi Khai Ern (violin), Gabriel Lee (violin), Lim Jae Sern (violin), Benjamin Wong (viola), Andrew Filmer (viola), Roeland Duine (cello), Lee Kett Chuan (cello) and Liew Soon Yee (double bass), Jeremy Samolesky (Piano), Alina Windell (flute) and Andrew Simon.

Ili Aqilah





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## Sport

# Merdeka Junior Tennis Tournament 2015

In conjunction with the 58th Merdeka Day celebration, a tennis tournament, specifically for kids aged 16 years and below, was organised. The matches were held at the tennis courts of Ipoh City Hall, the Youth and Sports Department Perak and YMCA Ipoh.

Held for the second consecutive year, the tournament is the brainchild of six local tennis coaches led by Anto James from Coach Anto Academy. The six felt that Perak, unlike states in the south, has very limited exposure to competitive tennis and as such the state has little to show in terms of tennis talents.

They took it upon themselves to bring the game to the state via a tournament for kids. The idea resulted in the Merdeka tournament which is into its second edition. Matches were held for two days running on Saturday, August 22 to Sunday, August 23.

Some 88 youthful players from Perak, Penang and

Kedah participated in five categories for boys and girls. Winners walked away with medals, tennis rackets and certificates.

Nur Siti Eissya, 15, winner of the Girl's Under-16 singles title told Ipoh Echo, "I've won many tournaments but winning this tournament is an achievement in itself." She expressed her desire to represent the nation in world-class tournaments one day.

Normala Abdul Rashid, Head of the Sports Management and Development Division of Majlis Sukan Negeri (MSN) Perak and Dato' Ahmad Jaafar, President of Perak Lawn Tennis Association gave away prizes to the winners.

The tournament was sanctioned by Perak Lawn Tennis Association and sponsored by Head while courts' fees were paid for by MSN Perak.

Asyiqeen



# Muhibbah Challenge Trophy 2015

The annual KPJ Ipoh 3 on 3 Perak Muhibbah Challenge Trophy 2015 will be held on Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20 at the Master Badminton Club, Ipoh.

Started in 2006, the 10th tournament is jointly organised by KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital and Winner Sports Enterprise. The 9th edition last year attracted a total of 543 participants from 181 teams.

Like previous years, the nine categories contested are: Open Mixed, Novice Mixed, Men's Novice, Ladies' Novice, Men's Junior Veteran, Men's Senior Veteran, Ladies' Junior Veteran, Ladies' Senior Veteran and Veteran Mixed.

The tournament is aimed at providing opportunities for Perakeans, of all races, to show their badminton prowess with muhibbah (goodwill) as the theme.

"The catch is, if you have three different races in your team, I'll give you a 5-point start," announced Hj Ahmad Nasiruddin Harun, the organising chairman during the press conference recently, held at the Master Badminton Club.

Present were members of the multi-ethnic committee, which included Hj Asmadi, CEO of KPJ; Sugunaram, chief umpire; Lee Boon Chye, head of medical team; Henry Liew Kheag Thow and Chong Kim Seng, co-owners of Winner Sports Enterprise.

The tournament is open to Perakeans only. Players from other states are allowed to participate on invitation by the Organising Committee. Incidentally, the closing date for submission of entries was on Saturday, August 29.

Mei Kuan



# Raintown Half Marathon 2015



Non-governmental organisation, Persatuan Kebajikan Masyarakat and the Taiping Municipal Council jointly organised the first-ever Raintown Half Marathon 2015 on Sunday, August 23. The name "Raintown" was in obvious reference to Taiping's distinction as the wettest town in Malaysia. The 21-km course began and ended at the iconic Taiping Esplanade.

Response was overwhelming as nearly 6000 participants took part in this inaugural running competition. Foreign participants come mostly from Kenya, Japan, China, Thailand and Singapore. They were very much impressed by the scenic landscapes of this once bustling tin-mining town. The part of the route which was most admired by runners and spectators alike was the one that traversed the picturesque Lake Gardens. It was breathtakingly beautiful, especially during that part of the day when the sun was still mid-way in the horizon.

"Taiping is known for its lush green and mist-shrouded hills. Besides the upcoming heritage trail that consists of over 30 historical sites, this half-marathon is most timely

as it'll help boost the town's tourism sector," Datuk Seri Mohammed Nazri Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Tourism and Culture, told reporters after the prize-giving ceremony. The minister felt that the event deserved to be included in the nation's tourism calendar.

Mwenda Muthoni from Kenya won the Men's Open Category completing the 21-km course in 1 hr 8 mins 58 secs. Second runner-up was another Kenyan, Rutto John Kipkorir while local runner, Rani ak Ranai took third spot. In the Women's Open Category the top 15 winners, surprisingly, were Malaysians. Chew Lay Ling took top honours completing the course in 1 hr 22 mins 12 secs. Julius Kimtai Rotich from Kenya won the Men's Veteran Category while Women's Veteran Category was won by Malaysian Toh Hui Sung.

All winners received medals, certificates and cash awards presented to them by the minister. Taiping Municipal Council President, Dato' Abdul Rahim Md Ariff was present throughout the morning event, which was warmly received by Taiping folks.

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