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Openings and Opportunities in Perak 2016 and Beyond

by A. Jeyaraj

With Perak sandwiched between Klang Valley and Penang, the state faces stiff competition in terms of investment with most investors bypassing Perak. Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir came up with a bright idea to overcome this problem. He initiated Pangkor International Development Dialogue (PIDD) meetings, where investors from around the world are invited to Perak to see for themselves the opportunities available. This has borne fruit and foreign investors are now setting up businesses in Perak. To start the new year Ipoh Echo is presenting here in this issue, a summary of new, planned and existing projects in Perak.

Continued on page 2



Exciting Developments Both Short and Long Term Augur Well for Perak



MB Inc

MB Inc, was formed under the Menteri Besar Incorporated Enactment 1951 and drives progressive changes in Perak through its principal subsidiary, Amanjaya Holdings & Ventures, which oversees seven specialist companies, each responsible for a focused industry including Natural Resources, Properties, Renewable Energy, Infrastructure, Leisure & Hospitality, Utilities and Trading.

Sustainable Mineral Development

Mining has been revived and The Perak Mining Blueprint up to 2020 has been prepared. Mining activities are being undertaken in eight types of minerals that are of economic value. These include, tin, limestone, granite, construction sand, silica sand and silica rock, kaolin, clay, earth minerals and sericite.

Perak is the only place in Malaysia producing sericite. The sericite is upgraded in Selangor and used in the cosmetic industry.

In 2012, Perak produced 3,181 tonnes of tin-in-concentrate, accounting for 85% of Malaysia's total production of 3,725 tonnes with a production value of approximately RM200 million. Meanwhile, Perak is also a major producer of construction sand in the country with an output of 8.7 metric tons (30% of Malaysia's production) worth RM96.7 million.

Indian Ocean Garnet Sands Company Pvt Ltd (IOGS)

An MOU was signed between MB Inc and IOGS that underlines a strategic collaboration in the areas of extraction of minerals from sand via river dredging and the mining of minerals for export. The partnership will involve IOGS processing sand from Perak to extract commercially valuable minerals. The MOU will ensure that mining is conducted in a more sustainable and responsible manner, governed by the best practices, abiding by world-leading environmental standards and underlining a firm commitment to safety and health of employees and surrounding communities.



IOGS is a leader in mining, processing and export of Almandine Garnet, the only eco-friendly abrasive mineral in the world. IOGS exports to over 40 countries around the world with a volume of 60,000 metric tonnes per annum.

Renewable Energy

MB Inc is a shareholder in Perak Hydro Renewable Energy Corporation Sdn Bhd (PHREC) to develop, operate and maintain all small hydroelectric projects. A total of 25 small hydroelectric project proposals by PHREC have recently been approved for development.

Leisure & Hospitality

MB Inc is evaluating a number of proposed projects including development of theme parks and retirement homes among others.

Property Development

MB Inc is planning the development of 1,469 acres land in Bandar Tasik Amanjaya in Tronoh. A new integrated township will be built. When completed, Bandar Tasik Amanjaya will house residential, commercial and educational institutions, and is aimed at providing affordable homes to the people, generating business opportunities and employment for the people.

Advance Manufacturing Company Management Sdn Bhd (ADMANCO)

MB Inc will work with ADMANCO to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and local investments in the aerospace manufacturing sector with the development, promotion and maintenance of the proposed Green Asia Aerospace Technology Park (GAATP) in Seri Iskandar. The park is targeting to house some 135 companies and generate 10,000 jobs in the fields of aerospace manufacturing, assembly, raw material supply, support services, engineering consultancy and warehousing.

The park will be developed in five phases and is expected to generate revenue of RM200mil within the first two years, mainly from the sale of land in the integrated park and is expected to reach maturity within five years.

State Economic Development Corporation (SEDC)

SEDC is the key state agency entrusted to spearhead the economic development and socio-economic growth in Perak. Its primary goal is to spur continuous growth and elevate the living standards of the people.

Core businesses of SEDC are:

- Property Development
- Port and Logistics
- Hospitality and Tourism

– Property Development

The aim is to build affordable homes in the range of RM140,000 to RM300,000 in Ipoh and houses costing below RM150,000 in other towns. It was planned to build 2000 units in 2015 in both categories and construction is in progress and some are nearing completion. For 2016 it is planned to build 4000 units. The houses in Ipoh are in Meru Raya.

SEDC does not advertise the sale of the houses. Prospective buyers must apply through SEDC and allocation is based on salary and also whether it is a first home.

– Port and Logistics

A new port is being built in Bagan Datoh at a cost of RM9 billion. The work on the first phase costing RM3 billion will start this year. It would be a total port and when completed in about five years it would be able to handle containers, petrochemicals, edible and non-edible products and break bulk.

A railway line would be built from Teluk Intan to the port. Perak High Industrial Park, Bagan Datoh would be developed simultaneously to serve the port.

– Hospitality and Tourism

Meru Raya is to be turned into a tourism hub. Its first attraction, Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS), the first animation theme park in the region costing around RM450 million, is expected to be ready by March and is expected to attract 1.4 million visitors in its first year of operations of which locals would make up 80% and foreigners 20%.

The major part of the theme park will be indoor, air-conditioned, or under cover protected from the weather. The park will have Malaysia's tallest drop tower, a thrilling live car stunt show and many more designed for families and people of all ages. There will also be a variety of themed food and beverage and retail outlets throughout a 52-acre site.

Other tourist attractions in Meru Raya include Bulatan 18, an amphitheatre in front of Casuarina Hotel which is expected to be completed this year.

Projalma Sdn Bhd

Projalma is a reputable Civil Engineering Contractor specialising in high quality precast technology and are building their plant in Batu Gajah which is expected to be completed by January.

The Company has pioneered in the Precast Concrete Segmental Bridge construction industry in Malaysia and is the first contractor undertaking match casting for precast concrete segment.

Biocare Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd

The Biocare plant is under construction in Seri Iskandar. The BioCare Group produces BioCare Pharma (formulations), Aspen (Health Care & Disposable) and BioCare Medical Supplies.

Perak State Agricultural Development Corporation (Perak SADC)

Dato' Ahmad Rizal Bin Abdul Rahman, CEO of Perak SADC said that its role is to encourage and improve the development of the agricultural industry in Perak and boost the development of agro-related businesses. To avoid creating a welfare mentality, existing farmers and single mothers are encouraged to participate in the business.



From the Editor's Desk
By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

A FRACTURED RELATIONSHIP

The ugly incident says plenty about the sad state of our skewed racial relationship – a relationship borne out of desperation by a ruling party so fearful of losing power...

I stumbled on this Facebook posting rather by accident while reading my Whatsapp messages early this month. It was a text to me by a friend from my army chat group based in Kuala Lumpur. He too had come upon it by chance after his almost-ritualistic updating of messages in his Facebook account.

A lady doctor named Shalini from Pokok Asam, Taiping had recounted an incident which left her shocked and dishevelled. The unfortunate event took place one afternoon on Tuesday, December 29, 2015. By the way, Pokok Asam is located about 5km south of this scenic town once the administrative centre of Perak. Wikipedia has this to say about Pokok Asam:

"Pokok Assam is the second biggest satellite town in Taiping, after Kamunting, with its famous road-side fried chicken and mee rebus stalls.

It has a very active morning and night market that operates daily. The action around this small community centres on the market area. Pokok Assam is a "White Village" created during the Malayan Emergency in the 1950s."

Let me elaborate a little on the "white village" bit. White area and white village were names given to sectors and settlements that were free from Communist insurgency activities. The formation of new villages, under the Briggs Plan, was the brainchild of Lt-General Sir Harold Briggs who was the Director of Operations in 1950 of a tumultuous Malaya under threats from the outlawed Malayan Communist Party. It was during the early stages of the Malayan Emergency (1948 to 1960).

And Pokok Asam, being close to Ipoh, is all the more reason why I need to allude to this unfortunate incident. Shalini's Facebook posting goes like this:

She was driving home from work on Tuesday, December 29 when she stopped at a traffic light. An elderly Malay man, on a motorcycle, was attempting to do an illegal "u" turn at the traffic junction. He skidded and fell down. His machine fell on him and pinned him down. Shalini, instinctively, pulled over and went over to the guy's aid. By then passers-by had moved the man away from the accident site. His leg was crooked.



An open wound with his bone exposed indicated that it was a serious fracture requiring immediate medical attention. But what happened next was totally unexpected.

The lady doctor tried to talk to the injured *pak cik*. Before she could introduce herself the man rudely told her off saying, "*aku tak nak Keling datang dekat aku ke, tolong aku ke, banyak orang boleh tolong.*" (I don't want Indians near me or help me. There are others who can).

Shalini was undeterred. She stood by and called an ambulance instead. When the ambulance arrived she introduced herself to the medical assistant and told him what took place. Upon realising his mistake the *pak cik* became apologetic and sheepishly said, "*saya tak tau awak doctor!*" (I didn't know you're a doctor).

This ugly incident says plenty about the sad state of our skewed racial relationship – a relationship borne out of desperation by a ruling party so fearful of losing power to the Opposition. Six decades of being continuously at the helm has clouded the way the party thinks and acts. Its insistence on remaining in power comes with a price – a fractured relationship between Malaysians that has impacted the way the *rakyat* see and treat one another. Race has been used as a convenient tool to keep Malays, Chinese and Indians apart.

It will take many generations to overcome this problem of identity. If and unless it is being addressed in a holistic manner a solution will never be in sight – not now, not ever. In the meantime, more of this racially-insensitive episode will unfold to further disrupt and, perhaps, wreck the fragile dichotomy between races in this bountiful country.

Notwithstanding that, Shalini's actions were commendable. She never took things to heart despite being called *Keling*, a derogatory remark by any reckoning. Malaysians had rallied behind Shalini expressing their admiration for her professionalism. There are still many Malaysians who can think and act rationally. I am delighted.

In The Name of My Father's Estate

Episode 49 ● by Peter Lee

After gathering the list of assets in Lee Sr's estate from Dave (family lawyer), the Trust Company Representative (TCR) proceeded by first asking family members whether they have the Death Certificate of Lee Sr's parents because his parents will be entitled to a quarter of his estate if they were alive under Intestacy Law. Therefore, to eliminate their entitlement since they have passed away long ago, the Death Certificate is an important document for the application of Letter of Administration (L.A.). When all the family members confirmed that they do not have these Death Certificates, then TCR asked the family members whether any siblings of Lee Sr. are alive as they can obtain the Death Certificate of their parents. Their response was none of them were alive. Under such circumstances, TCR informed the family members that they would have to extract these Death Certificates from the National Registration Department (NRD) and this may require some time depending on how fast the department can search for it.



TCR further said "For your information, while we are waiting for the Death Certificates, I have instructed Dave to proceed with the application to the High Court to withdraw the names of the existing Administrators, namely John, Michelle and Connie and replace them with us since three of them have signed the renunciation letters renouncing their rights to be the Administrators of Lee Sr's estate. In the meantime, I would also like to proceed with the application for L.A. separately in overseas countries like Singapore, Australia and U.K. simultaneously where some of Lee Sr's bank accounts and shares in overseas bourses are located. By doing this, we could avoid the delay in extracting these assets overseas. However, for the application of L.A. overseas, I will appoint some of my associate legal firms in these respective countries to deal with it."

Some of the family members then queried TCR on how it works because they thought TCR is the sole Administrator of Lee Sr's estate. In reply, TCR said "What my Trust Company is going to do is to appoint these legal firms to act on our behalf for Lee Sr's estate. In other words, they will be submitting the L.A. for Lee Sr in their respective countries and upon receiving the L.A., then they will be authorised to collect all assets of the late Lee Sr on behalf of Lee Sr's estate. Thereafter, they have to transfer these assets such as money in the bank account and shares to us for distribution. I believe that appointing them to represent us would be ideal as they are more familiar with the distribution laws in their own respective countries. Even though they are doing the work, they will still need to liaise with us on the progress of application. As far as fees are concerned, I need to check with them as it will be in the currency of their respective countries. After TCR's explanation, Lee Sr's family members asked TCR to proceed with the application immediately.

To be continued...

Peter Lee wishes our readers a Happy New Year!

Peter Lee is an Associate Estate Planning Practitioner (Wills & Trust) with Rockwills International Group. He is also an Islamic Estate Planner providing Wills & Trust services for Muslims. He can be reached at: 012-5078825/ 05-2554853 or excelsccms@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.wills-trust.com.my>. His Book "To Delay is Human but to Will is Divine" (96 pages, RM28) is available at his office: 108 (2nd Floor), Jalan Raja Ekram, 30450 Ipoh; Rashi Mini Market (019-510 6284), 37 Jalan Perajurit, Ipoh Garden East; S.S. Mubarak, Jln Sultan Yussuf, Ipoh Echo and at all major bookstores.

EYE HEALTH - Get Some Sleep

Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us more about SLEEP deprivation.



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

Our eyes are at work throughout our waking hours and a good sleep is the only way to rejuvenate and refresh not only your body but also your eyes, "recharging" them for the day ahead. It's no secret that when you don't get enough sleep, your eyes become tired. Sleep is often taken lightly but in fact, it is no laughing matter. People these days are often on the run, having to meet various targets from day-to-day, to the point that they may not get enough sleep.

A deprivation of sleep reduces the ability of the eyes to revive, making them unable to work to their full potential. A shortage of sleep can also worsen symptoms of DRY EYE and a person may experience discomfort, light sensitivity, itching, redness, or even blurred vision sometimes. Another sleep deprivation effect on the eyes are MYOKIMIA which is that involuntary twitch that many suffer from these days that sometimes lasts for weeks.

We spend about one-third of our entire lifetime sleeping. This is not wasted time because from the moment we slip into sleep, a whole cascade of events takes place involving the brain, eyes, immune function, hormones, skin, respiratory system and digestive system.

When we sleep, we go through REM (Rapid Eye Movement) and NREM (Non-Rapid Eye Movement) sleep cycles. The alternating cycle repeats approximately every 90 minutes. NREM takes up about 75% of the total time for sleep and the other 25% is by REM sleep. You can recognise when a person goes into REM sleep when you see the eyes twitch, with quick movements back and forth under the shut eyelids. Both types of sleep are necessary for optimal health.

NREM SLEEP

When a person first falls asleep, he or she goes into the NREM sleep initially. Most of the restoration of the body and eyes occurs during this phase of sleep. The blood pressure drops, breathing slows down, muscles become relaxed, repair of the body including the eyes occurs and hormones like growth hormone is released.

REM SLEEP

Ninety minutes after NREM sleep, a person goes into REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep. Most but not all dreams occur in this phase. Our bodies become relaxed and the muscles are turned off. This is the time that there is provision of energy to the brain and body. REM sleep can last from 5 to 30 minutes. REM sleep rejuvenates a person.

Most adults would do well with 7 to 8 hours of sleep a night with an adequate number of NREM and REM phases. Rarely for some, they may only need as few as 5 hours or as many as 10 hours of sleep each day. Whatever it is, make sure you have enough sleep because it is the only time the body and the eyes get rest to undergo repair and detoxification. Even animals need sleep to rejuvenate!



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

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Find Ways to Stimulate Children, and Adults, to Read

The Perak State Library set a new Guinness World Record for the largest pyramid of paperbacks and hardback books. It was three metres high and was constructed from 70,247 books. The previous record holder was a Luxembourg bookstore chain, called Ernster, which constructed a pyramid of 63,377 books. Forty volunteers helped Perak win this record.

At a special ceremony to mark the occasion, on December 26, 2015, the director of the State library, Salbiah Mohamed, the Perak Raja Di-Hilir and his wife, the state Tourism, Arts and Culture Committee chairman, and the Ipoh mayor were present, when the Guinness World Records representative, Anna Lewis Orford, announced the library's success.

Last November, during the preparation work for this award, Salbiah said, "If (we are) successful, we will get international recognition."

The Perak library had been helped by Imagika Sdn Bhd, whose marketing manager C.K. Wong said, "Not only are we attempting to break a world record, we are also encouraging people to read." After the ceremony, Wong said that the books would be donated to village libraries, orphanages and children who were unable to afford them.

Many critics would say that this is just a publicity gimmick, and that stacking-up a large pile of books, will not in itself stimulate reading. One mother said, "I would rather the effort had been spent on finding creative ways to make children read, rather than this one-off publicity stunt. It is pathetic to think people will read, just because someone makes a stack of books."

Another mother said, "Why not decrease the price of books to make them more affordable? We are not a nation which is known to read. Find out why children and teenagers hate reading, then accept the challenge to overcome it."

A teenager said, "Television programmes are boring anyway, and as I cannot afford to buy online games, I prefer to read. I accept I am a rarity, but my friends tell me that they do not know of any interesting books to read. Teachers could provide those who hate reading, with a reading list of simple and enjoyable titles, to start their interest in books."

Another child said that being hospitalised for a few months, helped stimulate his interest in books. As he was forbidden to play electronic games in his ward, he was forced to read cartoon books that his mother gave him, and he has not looked back, since.

One 12-year-old said that his parents began reading to him when he was a two years old. Now, he is never without a book. He said, "I always carry a book with me. It does not have to be a heavy volume, but when we are stuck in a jam or the doctor's appointment is delayed, I always dive into my book, and I am never bored. My friends play games on their phones, but I think that is an annoying habit."

A young adult said, "I try and read a book before the film comes out, because in my experience, the books are better than the films. Sometimes, the plot is changed and does not follow the book. "My brother is the other way round. He says that he would rather wait for the film, because he is too lazy to read. He says it takes weeks to read the book, but a film is over within two hours."

Perhaps, the Perak library could collaborate with schools, and find ways to get more children to read. Some children are petrified about reading, because they think that their teacher may pick on them to read to the whole class, and they fear mispronouncing the words.

Another child said that he was afraid of giving the wrong opinion, when asked about the content of his book. Another said that he gets a headache when he reads. One girl said that after school, she had too many chores, helping her single mother, that she is too tired and has no time to read.

Local councillors could lobby their MPs to reduce the cost of books. Adult literary appreciation classes could be started, to encourage the elderly to participate in reading and literary criticism.

The deputy Prime Minister, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, urged Malaysians to write a book worthy of a Nobel laureate in literature.

Before that can happen, our teachers need to motivate children to appreciate books, not by stacking them into a large pile, but by physically reading the books. Parents could switch-off the television for a few hours before bedtime, and encourage reading.

As any writer will tell you, one can only write, after one has done a lot of reading; to explore styles, storylines, dialogue, plots, and the treatment of characters, language and scenes. So, before a Nobel laureate can be produced, we must instil a love of reading in our children.



THINKING ALLOWED

by Mariam Mokhtar



Dr Saravana K.

Consultant Physician, Gastroenterologist & Hepatologist

Digestive Health

Carcinoid Syndrome

Carcinoid tumours are slow-growing cancerous growths that usually occur in the ileum (the lower section of the small intestine), the appendix, and the rectum. These tumours secrete large amounts of normal body chemicals such as serotonin, bradykinin, histamine and prostaglandins. People who have high levels of these chemicals in their bodies may have carcinoid tumours. It can spread to other organs, including the liver, lungs, bone, lymph nodes and ovaries. They are classified by their location in the body in the following manner:

- **Localised:** the tumours appear in the appendix, small or large intestine, rectum or stomach, and have not spread from the original site.
- **Regional:** the cancer has moved from these sites to lymph nodes or nearby tissues.
- **Metastatic:** the cancer has spread to other sites in the body, far from the original location.

Patients who have carcinoid tumours may not have symptoms and thus may not be aware that they have the disease. Symptoms often develop only after the tumour has spread, and include the following:

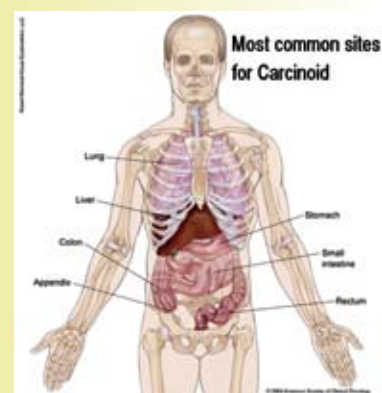
- flushing of the face and neck
- abnormal heartbeat
- abdominal pain
- diarrhoea
- weight loss

TESTS AND DIAGNOSIS

- Blood chemistry (which looks for substances in the blood that cause disease)
- 24-hour urine test, to check for higher levels of hormones that could indicate a carcinoid tumour
- **Imaging tests** to locate the primary carcinoid tumour and determine whether it has spread. CT scan of your abdomen, because most carcinoid tumours are found in the gastrointestinal tract. Other scans, such as MRI or nuclear medicine scans, may be helpful in certain cases

Treatments may include:

- **Surgery** to remove your cancer or most of your cancer may be an option.
- **Medications to block cancer cells from secreting chemicals.** Injections of the medications octreotide (Sandostatin) and lanreotide (Somatuline Depot) may reduce the signs and symptoms of carcinoid syndrome, including skin flushing and diarrhoea. Octreotide may also slow the growth of carcinoid tumours.
- **Biological therapy.** An injectable medication called interferon alfa, which stimulates the body's immune system to work better, is sometimes used to slow the growth of carcinoid tumours and to relieve symptoms.
- **Stopping blood supply to liver tumours.** In a procedure called hepatic artery embolization, a doctor inserts a catheter through a needle near your groin and threads it up to the main artery that carries blood to your liver (hepatic artery). The doctor injects particles designed to clog the hepatic artery, cutting off the blood supply to cancer cells that have spread to the liver. The healthy liver cells survive by relying on blood from other blood vessels.
- **Killing cancer cells in the liver with heat or cold.** Radiofrequency ablation delivers heat through a needle to the cancer cells in the liver, causing the cells to die. Cryotherapy is similar, but it works by freezing the tumour.
- **Chemotherapy.** Chemotherapy drugs may shrink carcinoid tumours.



Han Chin Pet Soo



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For more information call Saravana.K Gastroenterologist and Liver Specialist Clinic at Hospital Fatimah (05 548 7181) or email gastrosara@gmail.com.

ON IPOH FOOD

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



Nosh News with Seefoon

Restoran WAN LOI NOODLES



Their traditional 'pan mee' with the *ikan bilis* and minced meat is priced at RM5.30/6.30.

I can particularly recommend their 'Nam Yu' deep fried pork at RM5.80, delectable morsels of well marinated pork coated with a light batter, the 'nam yu' or preserved red bean curd paste permeating the meat with its fragrance.

Wan Loi closes around 5pm or when their food runs out whichever being earlier and every fortnight on the first and last week of the month they close on Thursday and Friday.

Wan Loi Noodles
29 Jalan S.A. Lingam
Taman Ipoh Selatan
Tel: 016 565 2422 or 016 520 3422



Raw Vegan Food Demo

Iphites were in for a treat when Gee Wong, 29, a raw food chef from **Peace of Green Rawsome Kitchen**, Hong Kong, gave an exclusive demonstration and sampling of raw vegan food on Sunday, January 10 at Weil Hotel.

Raw vegan food is uncooked, plant-based, organic, dairy-free, and gluten-free. This healthy trend began in California, America. According to Chef Gee, raw vegan food is easier to be broken down and absorbed by the body.

"Raw vegan food is not about achieving a slim figure and eating greens, it's about being a health-conscious person," said Gee. For instance, in preparing the raw sushi roll, cauliflower was used as an alternative for the usual rice. Equally delicious were the cultured coconut yogurt and tree nut cheese.

A graduate of Matthew Kenney Raw Food Academy USA, Gee gets her inspiration for her recipes from her trips to the wet market. Following is her advice for those who wish to give raw vegan dishes a try at home: "Make attempts, don't be afraid to be wrong, experiment always and remember that there's no limitation to raw food."

Hooi, a nutrition student, told Ipoh Echo, "I love everything I sampled today. Raw vegan food is healthier for families as nutrient is lost when food is cooked. However, we must prepare the recipe according to our health conditions."

Mei Kuan



Food Station Cafe Ipoh + House of Hair



Located at Taman Cempaka, **Food Station** is slowly gaining the attention from the crowds especially from youth with their unique and one-of-a-kind mocktails menu. After only two months of opening, the cafe has received a warm welcome from Ipoh-foodies and they are keen on doing better.

The highlights of this cafe are the Chicken Parmigiana (Chicken Chop Keju Labah Labah) that uses fresh chicken at RM8, Pandan Chicken Roll (RM6), assorted pastas such as Alfredo, Aglio Olio and Bolognese all at RM7 and also several options of rice accompanied with side dishes for only RM6.

However, the main attraction of this humble cafe are the assorted mocktails and custom beverages served in beakers and cylinders. Be sure to order Sexy Beach (RM5) or Virgin Berry Daiquiri (RM7) or Orange Vital Probiotic (RM6) when you visit the cafe.

Want to reserve tables at Food Station? Instead of calling them, try downloading their app and do it there. Yes, Food Station is the first cafe in Ipoh to have their own app

where customers can check out the menu, prices and also for making reservations. The head chef, Syed Aziz Syed Ahmad, 22, thanked the public for the positive feedback and response.

Another attraction about this cafe is customers can also head to the salon, **House of Hair**, located at the same place, run by Syed Aziz's brother, Syed Azizan, known as Janny, 23, who has been in the hair business for five years. With impressive experiences working for various reality shows such as Akademi Fantasia, Juara Lagu, Anugerah Bintang Popular Berita Harian (ABPBH) and the latest, Gegar Vaganza, customers of House of Hair are in for a treat! These young siblings are also part of Startup Futurist; a group of young entrepreneurs who are venturing in various business guided by a mentor who is not a stranger in the various industries.

Food Station Cafe Ipoh and House of Hair opens everyday from 2pm till 11pm. The cafe also donates 20% of their daily profit to feed the homeless around Ipoh. For more information on the cafe and salon, download their app; Food Station and House of Hair or check out their Facebook at Food Station Cafe Ipoh.

Ili Aqilah



Continued from page 2...



Tilapia and Shrimp Breeding Project

SADC signed MOUs with two European companies in Brussels for export of frozen tilapia fillet and shrimp in 2015. The project in Tasik Banding has started exporting to Europe, United States, Singapore and other countries. No final numbers have come in but the value of exports in 2015 was expected to be more than RM30 million.



Vegetables and Fruits

SADC has set up a farm in Simpang Pulai which produces cabbage, lettuce, strawberry and grapes. A contract has been signed with Giant Hypermarket for five years to supply the produce to them.

Gaharu Plantation

Gaharu trees are grown in 200 acres of land in Kuala Kangsar and Gaharu Tea is produced.

Turmeric Leaf/Kesum Leaf Chips

Single mothers are encouraged to grow these plants for making chips and drinks.

Perak Agro Marketing Sdn Bhd (Perak Agro)

PEGRO is a brand developed and introduced by SADC through its subsidiary, Perak



Agro Marketing Sdn Bhd (Perak Agro). Perak Agro acts as a 'marketing subsidiary' in promoting and marketing the products. PEGRO has a retail outlet in Silibin.

Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA)

NCIA is the authority responsible for development in the states of Kedah, Perak, Perlis and Penang. Despite many phone calls, this scribe could get no information on the projects in Perak. However, during the PIDD meeting held in October 2015, Datuk Redza Rafiq Abdul Razak, CEO, NCIA gave a presentation where the following information was gleaned.

Kamunting

When businesses moved out of Kamunting Industrial Estate a few years ago, the place was deserted. However, new industries are now moving in and occupying the empty factories.

Lumut and Pangkor

Redza spoke of new developments in Lumut and Pangkor but did not give details.

Flood Mitigation Projects

There are many flood prone areas in the state. Many places get flooded during heavy rain and monsoon season. Residential areas like Klebang, Pasir Pinji, Kampung Manjoi and Lim Garden are frequently flooded during heavy rain. Dato' Zainol Fadzi Paharudin, Committee Chairman, Infrastructure and Water said that Perak needs RM2.2 billion to carry out flood mitigation projects. This year Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) has been allocated RM350 million for flood mitigation projects.

In summary, while the information presented here took two months of painstaking research, only time will tell if all of these will be successful as the year progresses. Ipoh Echo wishes MB Inc smooth sailing in its efforts to effect progressive change in Perak and in attracting foreign investment into the state.



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.

A Mother's Plight

Indira Gandhi's case should have been decided as any other contentious family matter and should have been resolved a long ago. The principle of the best interest of the child should have been applied and custody, care and control of the minor children should have been granted to Indira.

What went wrong? Why is this mother being subjected to such mental anguish and agony? Didn't she follow the right procedure? After all, she was married under the civil law to Patmanathan and the children were conceived and born during this marriage. The marriage is not viable anymore, due to conversion of one spouse and a dissolution is sought. Dissolution of the marriage and custody should have been given as provided under civil law.

This is exactly what Indira wanted when she filed for her divorce and subsequent custody of her young children. Why was this mother not given the relief she pursued? Why is it so difficult for the courts to decide on this particular family matter when they have the jurisdiction to do so?

The youngest child, a baby girl was only a year old. The two teenage children were at an age where conversion and religion were something totally out of their understanding. Their interests and welfare should have been the utmost priority when deciding the issue of custody. Indira Gandhi as a non-Muslim and a party to a civil marriage rightfully went to the civil courts for remedy. Her rights have been vested to her as a citizen of this country. The recent Court of Appeal decision has decided otherwise. The conversion of one spouse to the marriage and the unilateral conversion of the infant and children have been considered out of context and Indira has been left in the lurch. It appears that Indira, a non-Muslim, has to go to the Syariah courts to seek relief. It is a known fact that non-Muslims cannot file proceedings in the Syariah court, as they have no locus to do so.

Indira has one more attempt to appeal to the Federal Court. The basic principles of law and family have been overlooked just because the issue of conversion has been given priority. Is it going to be another futile attempt for Indira and her lawyers? It is my humble hope that the apex court, where Indira will be appealing next, is more vigilant, righteous and compassionate in their final verdict.

Sumathi Sivamany
Vice President
Perak Women for Women Society (PWW)

Announcements

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

January 2016 Intake of Sunway College Ipoh is currently in-progress (terms & conditions apply). Extended Counselling (Weekends) is open throughout this month (except on Public Holidays) from 10am to 4pm. Scholarships are available (subject to actual SPM 2015 results). Contact **05 545 4398** (Information & Communication Dept.) for more information.

Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Chess Championship 2016 1st leg at SMJK Shing Chung, Sungai Siput on Sunday, January 31 from 8.30am to 5pm. The other legs will be tentatively as follows: Bagan Serai (Kolej Vokasional Kerian) – Sunday, February 21; Kampar (Grand Kampar Hotel) – Sunday, March 6; Tapah (SMK Buyong Adil) – Sunday, April 24; Ipoh (Quest University) – Sunday, May 8; and Ipoh (Grand Final) – Sunday, July 31.

Park jetty closed for renovation. Ipoh City Council (MBI) has closed the Gunung Lang Park jetty for up-grading works for a period of five months beginning Monday, October 26, 2015 to Saturday, March 26, 2016. The boat service in the lake operates as usual from a temporary jetty.

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 8pm (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 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**.

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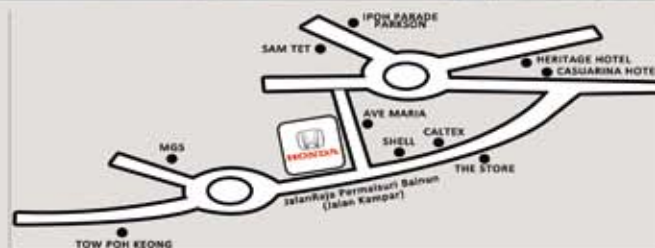


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**HONDA**

News

“To Sirs/Madams with Love”



Former students of NTPS, Jalan Pasir Puteh, honoured their teachers to a dinner at the Eurasia Café before the end of last year.

Annual dinners among alumni are very common but none can lay claim to organising one for their primary

school teachers who are already in their eighties. The 30 or so students who turned up for the hurriedly organised occasion are all retirees themselves in their sixties. Tears and cheers of joy flowed freely when the students and teachers met, some for the very first time after almost 50 years! Another surprise in store for the organizer was that some of the attendees, unknowingly to him, were from the same class way back in the late 50s and early 60s.

Everyone was so engrossed in catching up with each other that the MC had a difficult time controlling the crowd and gave up after a few attempts at restoring order before the start of dinner. In fact, he had to take a back seat for the rest of the night as everyone, teachers and students alike, took turns to introduce themselves as well as taking centre stage unannounced at the karaoke session.

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Email: anthaman90@yahoo.com

Among the distinguished attendees were Dato' A. Paramasivam, the newly-retired deputy CPO of Perak, Dato' Dr N. Raman, former Director of Hospital Bahagia, Dato' Lean Meng Seong, retired banker, Professor Dr Mohd. Jamil Basha, retired university lecturer, Ir. Oon Eng Hock, a consultant, several doctors and others, who are all former students of this school. They paid tribute to their all-time favourite teachers Mr Charlie Foo, Mr Yeoh Seng Choon, Mdm Joycelyn Aw, Mrs Kamala Ramanathan and Mrs Hew Chai Kee (who is immortalized in Lat's cartoon) by playing the song “To Sir, With Love” to these few dedicated and selfless teachers.

SH Ong

Media Night

Local media representatives were entertained to dinner on Wednesday, January 6 at the Presidential Suite, Kinta Riverfront Hotel and Suites, Ipoh. The Presidential Suite at Kinta Riverfront is also known as “the Royal Residence” by virtue of its reputation for having hosted Sultans, ministers, actors and actresses as well as businessmen and tycoons from abroad.

The dinner, organised and hosted by the hotel, was a form of gratitude to the media for its contributions in promoting Ipoh and the hospitality industry. Enjoying themselves were reporters and photographers from Ipoh Echo, The Star, The Sun, Harian Metro, New Straits Times Press, TV3, Berita Harian, China Press and Tamil Nesan, to name a few.

Guests were served cocktails and delicious food from the hotel's Food and Beverage outlets, namely Shinjuku Japanese Cuisine, Palong Coffee House, Great Miner Chinese Cuisine and Moon River Bar & Grill.

Nantini





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Business

MH Pinnacle – Reaching New Heights for Ipoh



Standing 29-storey tall on a 2.617-acre piece of land next to the North-South Expressway, MH Pinnacle is set to be, upon completion at the end of 2018, the tallest building in Ipoh and Perak.

The first block, named MB Inc Tower, would house the new office of MB Inc, 72 units of hotel rooms, 27 units of residences and 11 storeys of Grade A offices. The second block, known as Amanjaya Tower, contains another 146 units of residences targeted at the medium to high income group seeking a modern lifestyle.

One highlight is the Pinnacle Mall with its 36 units of premium shopping lots and a signature food outlet. It comes with a convention hall, swimming pool and gymnasium.

Running on a glass tower concept, the high rise is developed by Birchwood Sdn Bhd which is wholly owned by MH Avenue, a joint venture between MB Inc and local developer Man Hoe Holdings.

“MH Pinnacle would change the landscape and provide a new image for Bercham’s commercial area. It is the second development project of MB Inc after Ipoh SOHO,” said the President of Birchwood Sdn Bhd cum CEO of MB Inc, Dato’ Aminudin Hashim,

Education

English and IT Tuition for School Students



In an effort to make meaningful contributions and bring education to the less fortunate, UTAR collaborated with ECM Libra to organise an eight-month comprehensive English and IT Tuition Programme for primary school students from SJK (C) Thung Hon and SJK (C) Jeram in Kampar. The two schools were identified from the UTAR New Village Community Project.

Conducted since March 2015 by UTAR Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC), and ending with a closing ceremony at UTAR Kampar Campus on 21 November 2015, the programme was aimed to boost the school students’ English Language and IT proficiency and intensify their understanding of the subjects.

Invited to grace the closing ceremony were UTAR Vice President for Student Development and Alumni Relations Dr Teh Chee Seng, UTAR Faculty of Information and Communication Technology lecturer Dr Lau Phooi Yee, DSSC Head Hee Chwen Yee, Headmaster of SJK (C) Thung Hon Sam Chee Chong, representative of SJK (C) Jeram Hoi Jung Yhee, UTAR student volunteers, staff, school students, and parents.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Teh thanked ECM Libra for its generous contribution towards promoting education and mastery of languages, especially amongst the young. Meanwhile, the headmaster of SJK (C) Thung Hon concurred, “I would like to sincerely thank UTAR and ECM Libra for giving us such an ideal opportunity for our school students to learn the right basic knowledge of English and IT.”

The English Tuition programme focused primarily on the teaching of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to the school students. Apart from indoor learning, the students also engaged in interactive activities such as storytelling, grammar lessons, English language-related games, reading aloud, and singing action songs to motivate students’ interest in English. Meanwhile, the components of the IT Tuition programme were the indoor class training on some basic programming and animation skills. Both English and IT classes were conceptualised as an educational yet enjoyable platform to encourage students’ to be dynamic, creative, and innovative. Guided by the instructors and UTAR student volunteers from various faculties, the school students had a whale of a time with exciting language and IT classes.

The closing ceremony ended with Dr Teh presenting prizes to school students who had performed well in the final assessment as well as those who had shown great improvement in the programme.



during the groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, January 7 at Jalan Medan Ipoh 3.

“This is a landmark project for Ipoh which was formerly known as a dead town after sunset. Today it is becoming a vibrant city. Currently, the total number of high-rise buildings in Ipoh, whether in planning, under construction or completed, is 28,” said Menteri Besar Dato’ Seri DiRaja Dr Zambray Abd Kadir during the press conference.

Present at the ceremony were the State Secretary, Dato’ Seri Abdul Puhat Mat Nayan; the State Financial Officer, Dato’ Haji Mohd Ghazali bin Jalal; Mayor Dato’ Zamri bin Man; Executive Councillor for Women, Family, Community Welfare Development, Housing and Local Government, Dato’ Rusnah Kassim; Adun for Bercham, Cheong Chee Khing and directors of Birchwood Sdn Bhd, Cheng Heng Kuong and Wong Kim Fah.

With a gross development value of RM220 million, the office and residence units are currently open for sale. Interested readers can call **05 254 3482, 012 538 1032, 012 538 1055** or go visit its website, mhpinnacle.com for details.

Mei Kuan

Advance Wound Centre – Your Healing Starts Here...

An open wound is an injury involving an external or internal break in body tissue, usually involving the skin. Nearly everyone will experience an open wound at some point in their lives. Most open wounds are minor and can be treated at home, but wounds that won't heal need the attention of skilled professionals at The Advance Wound Centre.

Advance Wound Centre located at Gunung Rapat, Ipoh, is a professional wound care treatment centre run by experienced doctors with the latest scientific technology and techniques. An experienced team of doctors and nurses well versed in all areas of wound care work together to manage the most complicated wounds and expedite healing by 75%.

The Advance Wound Centre's mission is to improve patient's quality of life by managing wounds so it heal quickly and the patient's be completely free from pain and discomfort. The centre treats various types of wounds such as Diabetic Wound, Post Operative Wound, Ulcerative Wound, Venous Ulcer, Neuropathic Ulcer, Pressure Ulcer (bed sore), Traumatic Wound (accident), Burn Wound, Chronic Wound and many other types of wounds.

Wound care treatment does not mean only doing daily or regular dressing but also require time, patience and compliancy to the treatment until the wound healed completely.

There are lot of factors which impair the wound healing such as, infection, malnutrition, poor blood supply, hygiene, etc.

Each type of wound has its own factors which disturb the wound from healing fast. Wound care with optimization of other health parameters (sugar, potassium, sodium, albumin, blood supply, etc.) will surely save your limbs from amputation.

Advance Wound



Before



After



Centre is a wound care treatment centre run by doctors where they do detail wound dressing with regular dysloughing, flushing, packing with high quality wound care products, dietary advice and solving medical related problems which impair wound healing.

Patients referred to The Advance Wound Centre programme benefit from a comprehensive approach. If you're suffering from a non-healing wound, you're not alone. Many patients with wounds, that have resisted healing after months and even years of treatment, can be treated.

In fact, the Advance Wound Centre had completely cured or healed wounds in most of the patients in short period of time.

LOCATION AND HOURS OF OPERATION

Advance Wound Centre
12 Laluan Gunung Rapat 3,
Gunung Rapat, 31350 Ipoh, Perak.

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Arts & Culture

Ode to Taiping

How many musical compositions have two tunes of the *Negara Ku* and incorporated into a symphony? Well, that's what Paul M. Baker of London did. And he aptly named it "Taiping", a suite for a symphonic woodwind ensemble. The Taiping orchestral suite had its world premiere by the 70-member Portsmouth Band of the Royal Marines at their winter concert in November at St Mary's Church, Fratton, Portsmouth, United Kingdom.

On why he incorporated melodies of the *Negara Ku* in to the suite, Baker had this to say, "It's a juxtaposition between modern Malaysia and the reminders of British colonial rule."

"It's the original Perak state melody that later became the national anthem," he added after the show, 'A Musical Evening with Paul Baker' attended by over fifty Taiping Heritage Society members and friends on Sunday, December 20 at the New Club, Taiping.

It took Baker, 56, a year to compose the song. He now lives in Petaling Jaya with his Taiping-born wife, Jasmine Chong Chee Wan, 42.

The 21-minute symphony came in four movements depicting icons in Taiping: The Old Market; The Kopitiam (coffee shop); The Lake Gardens and Maxwell Hill (Bukit Larut).

The first movement, the Old Market, began with the market coming to life and the pace picked up over many scenes until it closed to prepare for the next day. The second movement highlighted the kopitiam, with its many rustic characteristics while it was open. The third movement, the Lake Gardens, showcased its idyllic boating lakes, oriental pavilions, wide grasslands and wooded walks.

The final movement opened with looking up at a mist-shrouded Maxwell Hill. As the mist cleared, a Land Rover made its way up the winding road. The ride was said to be

'hair-raising' but there were moments to enjoy the view. Looking down at the highest point in the area, one was not sure whether this was a British colony or a part of Malaysia. The conflict between the feeling of once having been a British colony and an independent Malaysia was reflected in snippets of the *Negara Ku* with the fife and drum, the archetypal instruments of the British military in colonial times. This gradually developed into a full blown concert march in the English style, which was unmistakable but at the end, the *Negara Ku* came back in with full force. The final two bars reminded us that Taiping was very much Chinese in origin for Malaysia.

Baker grew up in England and started his musical career at seven in a choir. He performed in theatre, musicals and joined the Royal Marines School of Music at 16 to play the French horn. Baker's musical resume included an engagement aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia and directorial portfolios of many musicals, like 'The Rising Son' and a number of oratorios. Baker won the musical theatre award in Boh-Cameronian Awards Presentation 2015. The musical director, composer, arranger, lyricist and musician now teaches music and tutors in playing instruments.

Baker's Taiping suite can be viewed on Youtube under the header, "World Premiere of Paul M Baker's TAIPING SUITE by HM Royal Marines Band".

Nirmal Ariyapala



Food

Marianis@7 Recaptures Italy



Nestled along Jalan Wan Mohd Salleh, Greentown, Ipoh is a 10,000 sq ft single-storey pristine white bungalow which has been refurbished as a modern-style Italian ristorante, Marianis@7. In this little jewel box of a place, three sports cars / supercars (Porsche 911 Turbo S, Ferrari F430 Spider and Lamborghini Gallardo) guarded its entrance during its official opening on Tuesday, December 22.

Upon entry, we were greeted with the wonderful scent of wood-fired oven pizzas permeating the atmosphere and a wine wall with a wine list which covers the globe. There is even a fireplace to make the cozy yet elegant interior feel all the more homey.

Being the one and only lady in Malaysia that owns all three high-performance vehicles, 53-year-old and well-travelled Dato' Dr Wenddi Anne Chong is a perfect example of a renaissance woman with an extensive experience in the hospitality, entertainment, modelling, and now in the food and beverage industry.

"Marianis@7 is named after the famous food writer John Mariani. Meanwhile, the number 7 is the address of this place," Dato' Dr Wenddi explained. She co-owned Marianis@7 together with her other half, Kim Goo Khim Kian.

"When we first came here five years ago, we only saw a few pasta places. There was no full Italian cuisine in Ipoh, that's why we decided to open one," Kim, who draws his inspiration from his experience as the former owner of 14 Italian restaurants in Kuala Lumpur, told Ipoh Echo. Marianis@7 was formerly located at De Garden.

All the chefs are Italian-trained and the team imports only the highest quality ingredients. The waiters offer impeccable yet un-snooty service, another plus point.

First of all, the wood-fired oven turned Scampi (RM34), a shrimp-cheese-and-tomato pizza, Hawaiiana (RM36), a turkey ham-onion-and-pineapple pizza and Marianis (RM36), a rocket salad-and-cheese pizza into magical creations bursting with flavour.

Next was the roast chicken served with mushroom or black pepper sauce (RM78 – whole bird, RM42 – half bird). The breast meat was so tender, I could cry. "In fact, for Christmas, someone bought the whole turkey and requested for it to be cooked the same way as our chicken," Dato' Dr Wenddi enthused.

Equally memorable was the chef-recommended Stinco D'Agnello Al Forno, a lamb shank slow roasted in red wine (RM56). Regarding their perfect al dente pastas, literally everything is good, but do try the Spaghetti Sorpasso (RM56) which is spicy marinated spaghetti with freshly baked seafood. Totally swoon-worthy.

Try to leave room for their Tiramisu (RM16), the original version of mascarpone cheese espresso and coffee liqueur, Tortino al Cioccolato (RM16), rich chocolate brownies with vanilla ice cream and Panna Cotta Alle Noci E Miele (RM15), homemade creamy pudding served with walnut and honey sauce. I especially loved the warm chocolate oozing from the brownie with a crisp exterior.

"Everything I do, I want to do the best. I want this place to benefit many people with its great food, beautiful place and affordable pricing," Dato' Dr Wenddi concluded.

Offering lunch and dinner, Marianis@7 opens every day from 12 in the afternoon till late night. It can accommodate up to 124 indoor and 300 outdoor, which makes it a unique venue for special events such as weddings and annual dinners. For those seeking a private space, the most comprehensive Italian restaurant in Ipoh has a sound-proof VIP room with a huge screen perfect for movies, karaoke and dance for up to 22 people.

Prices are nett and reservations are advised. Bon appetito!

Address: No. 7, Jalan Wan Mohamed Salleh, Greentown 30450, Ipoh.

Contact: 05 243 6505

Mei Kuan



Glorious Spreads for Chinese New Year

Ili Aqilah

1. The Haven: Luxury Resort

Move into the Year of the Monkey with the Night Sky Gourmet Poon Choi Dinner for Chinese New Year at The Haven from January 8 to February 22. Made up specially with a selected array of quality fresh prawns, smoked duck, abalone, scallops, dried oysters



and fish, guests will also get to enjoy the ambiance of unspoiled landscape, with its pristine and ancient karst sculpture estimated to be 280 million years, beside an overflowing lake. The Poon Choi will be accompanied with Salmon Yee Sang, Garlic Rice, Hong Kong Kailan and dessert.

Along with the Gourmet Poon Choi, The Haven is running a 2 days 1 night stay including breakfast at The Cuisine. From January 8 to February 6 and February 11 to 22, guests will get to choose between two packages; RM1288++ for 2D1N stay for 5 pax

that include breakfast and Poon Choi dinner for 5 or RM2488++ for 2D1N stay for 8-10 pax including breakfast and Poon Choi dinner.

From February 7 to 10, guests can choose to stay at The Haven for RM1588++ (for 4-5 pax) or RM3088++ for (8-10 pax); all packages are included with breakfast and Poon Choi dinner.

Residents and in-house guests may invite their guests to enjoy the gourmet Poon Choi from RM498- RM988 for 4-5 pax.

Reservation can be made now via email or phone. Kindly contact reservation@bestwesternhaven.com.my or +605 220 9000 / 1700 8 1700 0.



2. Syeun Hotel

Celebrate your Chinese New Year with a variety of delicious dishes for the fullness of good fortune and great food as well entertainment by Syeun Hotel. For the sixth

consecutive year, Syeun has run its 'Family Reunion Dinner' on the eve of Chinese New Year and this year is no exception.

Guests will get to a chance to keep their memory of celebrating the new year at Syeun as a photo booth will be set up at the foyer for them. There will also be various singing and dancing performances to entertain everyone including the



God of Fortune who will give out Red Packets to guests.

The hotel is offering four different sets of menu including vegetarian to cater to the needs of everyone. Up to ten dishes will be served during the event including Prosperity

Salmon Yee Sang, Baked Emperor Honey Chicken, Braised Assorted Seafood, Whole Abalone in Claypot, Stewed Black Chicken Soup with Xin Soo and Fish Maw and many more. Price ranges from RM588 to RM1,388 per table for 10 persons.

For reservations and inquiries, contact +605 253 8899, ext: 8330 / 8008.



COMMUNITY

Of Children,
Worms and Compost

A team comprising of former students and current lecturers of National Institute of Education (NIE) Singapore, together with a supporting team from Ipoh, organised a hands-on vermicomposting workshop for the children of Anning Children's Home.

Vermicomposting is defined as the use of earthworms to convert organic waste into fertiliser. The vermicompost is nicknamed as black gold or brown gold. It could reduce municipal solid waste, landfill and emission of greenhouse gases as it redirects a significant portion away from landfills. Plants grown with the compost as fertiliser would taste better and have better resistance towards diseases.

"Ong Su-ming who led the Ipoh team invited us to be here. I discovered that the kids have a lot of potential. On vermicomposting, they may not use it immediately, but at least we have planted the seed," Dr Wong Ka Lun, an Assistant Professor of NIE told Ipoh Echo. Together with Associate Professor Dr Tan Swee Ngin, they have been doing research on vermicomposting for the past five years. "This is our first visit to the home and our first time organising such a workshop to give back to the society," Dr Tan added.

"Here we are doing it on a small scale with the help of NIE. It is very popular in the schools in the States," said Suming.

They demonstrated to the responsive kids the way to start a vermicompost by layering newspaper shreds, garden soil, used cardboard boxes, earthworms and food waste such as egg shells, pumpkin skin, watermelon rinds, cabbage and coffee grind in a box. During the fun-filled activity, many eager hands shot up and the facilitators satisfied the curious young minds in the most affectionate manner.

Seven-year-old Aw Chai Yee was initially afraid of the worms but she had this to say at the end of the educational session: "It's so much fun and I like the big brothers and sisters from Singapore."

Anning Children's Home is a welfare home established in 2008 to provide shelter, food and education for underprivileged children. It currently houses 39 children ranging from 3 to 17 years of age. Readers who wish to donate to the home kindly contact **05 311 4640** or visit the home located at Ampang Baru New Village, Ipoh.

Mei Kuan

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Broadening Horizons, Transforming Lives

Perak Chinese Assembly Hall

Established in 1930s, the objectives of Perak Chinese Assembly Hall have remained the same which are to liaise, unite and cooperate with all registered Chinese guilds, associations and the people of Chinese ethnic origin in the State of Perak with the view of fostering better relationship and understanding. Funded by donations, the non-profit NGO also fosters culture, education, science, technology, music, sports and other cultural activities.

Acting as a bridge between the people and the government, the association expresses its view and recommendations to effect Government's policies for the good of the people and the nation from time to time.

Initially, the association was located at the current address of SMJK Yuk Choy Ipoh along Jalan Kuala Kangsar. For the advancement of Chinese schools, the piece of land was donated to be turned into a school. The association then moved to Jalan Tun Sambanthan before finally settling in Jalan Raja Ekram in 2010.

There are a total of 13 State Chinese Assembly Halls in Malaysia which are led nationally by The Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia.

"When you reach a certain age with vast life experience, you realise that you need to make a contribution back to society. Here, we contribute without asking for anything in return," the inspirational 70-year-old Dato' Chai Voi Keong, President of the Perak Chinese Assembly Hall told Ipoh Echo during our exclusive one-on-one recently. He has been involved in the assembly hall for over 30 years and has been the President for two years now.

Currently, for Perak, there are 811 members, in which 206 are corporate members while 605 are individuals. Its annual meeting is held in June every year.

The Chinese New Year Festival is organised annually which enables members to celebrate the joyful occasion together with the Menteri Besar, state representatives, head of political parties and media.

The assembly hall has hosted the National Chinese Cultural Festival in 1986, 1998 and 2013 respectively.

"We used to have a lot of subsidiaries under our wing. After several years with us, these former members grew and became independent," Ben Ban Chuan Tang, its 60-year-old Secretary General explained.

For instance, Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCCI) is one of their members and together, they had co-organised the Lantern Festival and Chap Goh Mei (Chinese Valentine's Day). However, as PCCCI eventually grew bigger with more members and funds, they now host their own celebrations.

For those interested to join the association, here are the three types of membership available:

Ordinary Individual Members consist of any Malaysian citizen of Chinese origin residing in Perak and of good character shall be qualified to apply for membership. There would be a yearly subscription of RM10 and one-time registration fee of RM50.

Corporate Members comprise any Chinese guild, association or organisation registered in Malaysia and situated in the State of Perak shall be qualified to apply for membership.

Life Membership is open for any individual or corporate member who may choose to pay a lump sum entrance fee of RM200 respectively and shall be exempted from payment of all annual subscriptions.

Do take note that there is an interview beforehand. "Only people who sincerely want to contribute their time and energy to the society will be accepted," stated Dato' Chai. Dato' Lau Pak Kuan, one of the great pioneers of both Ipoh and Perak had been the president of the assembly hall back in 1961 while the local business philanthropist Foo Yet Kai was its committee member.

When asked on the upcoming plans of the association, Dato' Chai revealed: "We hope to organise a grand celebration of the Mooncake Festival, with parade and all."

By the Chinese for the Chinese, details of the association are as follows:

Address: No. 46-A, Jalan Raja Ekram, 30450 Ipoh, Perak

Tel: 05 254 8015 Opening hours: 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday

Mei Kuan



COMMUNITY

1Malaysia Mega Festive Dinner 2015

Some 100 residents from 14 homes were treated to a year-end dinner at YMCA. James Ratnam, Chairman of Love and Welfare Society Perak which organised the dinner, said that this event was to commemorate all the festivals for the year as the society has the means to host one event only.

James in his speech updated those present with news on the society's activities. The tuition programme conducted for underperforming UPSR students was successful and all the students passed, explaining that the aim of the Society is not to coach students for straight As, but help weak students to pass. The Society would also be launching a Mother Teresa Scholarship Fund to help the underprivileged. He then shared the good news that he had found a sponsor who is willing to give scholarships for three needy students who have been offered admission to public universities. Applicants may contact him.

The evening started with traditional bharathanatyam performance by Abirami Arasu. Residents from Good Shepard Home and Society for Promotion of Mental Health performed dances. Children from Praise Home sang Christmas Carols and the residents from the homes were presented cash vouchers.

The downside of the event was, a couple of homes did not turn up and had not



informed the organisers of their decision. The food catered for them was wasted. People who run homes must be more responsible.

A. Jeyaraj

Gotong Royong on Pangkor Island Beach

About two hundred volunteers ranging from local communities and students gathered at Kampung PPRT Hujung Kelawai to spend one Saturday morning in December by participating in beach clean-up activities in partnership with Vale in Malaysia and University of Queensland Australia. Organised by Global Environment Centre (GEC) together with District and Land Office of Manjung, Department of Irrigation and Drainage Perak & Manjung, Manjung District Council SWCorp, and Perak Tourism, the clean-up activity is part of an ongoing community based waste management project in Pangkor Island that is currently being executed by GEC and partners.

The volunteers scoured the beach for an hour and a half, collecting more than 5 large garbage bags, mainly consisting of plastic packaging items, plastic bottles and Styrofoam which is a direct threat to shorebirds and marine life once it reaches the water.

"Due to its lightweight characteristic, plastic are easily 'flown' from our hands, onto the streets, into the drains and end up in waterways," said Dr Kalithasan Kailasam, Project Coordinator of GEC. He added that littering is a behavioural issue and emphasized long-term educational campaigns as a must to change attitudes.

Participants also took part in sorting the rubbish into recyclable and non-recyclable items and were given hands-on training on the correct manner to dispose the recyclables at home. The participants also planted 20 trees to beautify the area.

According to Andre Kopperschmidt, Country Manager for Vale in Malaysia, "We are very happy to be a part of this activity to do a good cause and I believe that this should not be a one-off activity; all of us can do our part every day to dispose wastes responsibly and practise recycling to keep our environment clean".

Closing ceremony of the event was officiated by Tuan Mohamad Fariz Bin Mohamad Hanip, Manjung District Officer. He said "This clean-up activity is in line with our ambition to make Pangkor Island clean and eco friendly. We thank the local community for their willingness to participate and Vale in Malaysia and GEC for their support in

implementing a community based waste management project."

The event also saw the launch of Pangkor Island River Map that aimed to introduce the origin of Pangkor Island River to the public and to be used as a tool to identify potential locations for ecotourism activity on Pangkor Island.



Pedal It Forward

It took them nearly 200km but for good health and raising awareness, 14 cyclists and four support drivers from Bunanamo Triathlon Club successfully completed their journey cycling from Kuala Lumpur to Ipoh recently.

The journey started early in the morning and despite the heavy traffic and bad weather, it didn't affect their spirits when they arrived later in the evening. Bunanamo's president, Rupert Chin then continued the event by handing over a donation cheque to Pay It Forward Ipoh (PIFI); an organisation that runs on public donations to feed the homeless in Ipoh.

"We decided to collect donations for PIFI because we support the idea. It was one of our members, Yeow Jian Hui, an Ipohite, who found out about this charitable organisation," added Rupert.

Aside from the cheque, Bunanamo also donated one thousand packs of instant noodles and hand-me-down clothes, all to be given to the PIFI's street friends. Started in 2014 by a group of triathlete friends who were preparing a race in Langkawi, this wasn't the first time the club has done such thing and they hope they could spread the idea to more people. They managed to raise RM6000 for Sabki Ariffin a Para-triathlete to compete in the ITU race last year.

A representative from PIFI who was at the scene thanked Bunanamo and hope more people would join PIFI in the future. People who are keen to join PIFI can check their facebook page, Pay It Forward Ipoh for more information.

Ili Aqilah



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COMMUNITY

Going Green in Taiping

“Going Green” is the in thing now with Taiping Municipal Council. The Council, with the support of non-governmental organisations (NGO), educational institutions, the private and corporate sector, statutory bodies and the town’s civil society councillors, jointly launched a recycling campaign and exhibition at the Zoo Taiping and Night Safari Pavilion recently.

In conjunction with the World Recycling Day, the event was held to promote recycling awareness, keep the town clean and maintain its image as a prime local and international tourist destination.

In addition to the dictum of “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle”, the occasion also encouraged the public to “Rethink or Think before Discarding”. For a start, all local NGOs, civil society groups, businesses, government bodies and related groups in the town were encouraged to place specifically designed recycling bins to separate recyclable wastes like plastics, paper, glass and metal.

Council President Dato’ Abdul Rahim Mohd Ariff said, “We’re ever ready to help promote activities, events and campaigns on going green and recycling, as they’ll help to safeguard the environment and instil good habits.”

Campaign organising chairman, Tan Kim Seng explained that the idea was to educate the public to recycle their waste in a proper manner. “For instance the Zoo here doesn’t allow non-biodegradable packaging like styrofoam to be brought in by visitors into its premises,” he added.

Shan Poornam Metals’ senior executive programmer, Govind Raj, urged the recycling of electrical and electronic appliances which were not in use or discarded like personal computers, televisions, radios, refrigerators, washing machines, air-conditioners, printers, mobile phones, DVD/VCD players and batteries. The full recovery e-waste company is one of the exhibitors present.

“What we can provide is proper disposal methods and safe management so that the so-called waste products can be recycled, manufactured and put to good use again,” he stated.



The event also hosted a nature and environment themed children’s art exhibition. Among the other exhibitors were aluminium can demonstrating specialist Looi Kok Heng, Bengkel Semangat Maju Taiping, Department of Environment, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Department of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Taiping Community College, Jabatan Kesihatan dan Klinik Kesihatan Ibu dan Anak, Legal Aid Department and Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission.

Nirmal Ariyapala

Introduction to FWC

Family Wellness Club (FWC) held its first ever mega food fair with almost 30 booths on Sunday, December 27 at the St John Ambulance Hall, Ipoh to raise funds for year 2016. It was a heart-warming morning for families and friends who had brunch consisting of homemade Hainanese chicken rice, coffee, cakes and cookies. There was also a jumble sale of clothes, books, kitchen utensils and handicraft items.

Ipoh Echo had a one-on-one with the President of FWC, P. Mangaleswary to learn more about the non-profit NGO which to date has 40 members.

Established in March 2014, FWC aims to strengthen, support and empower the individual and family through education, coaching, counselling and support-group activities.

“The highlight for 2015 had been the taking off of the first part of Living Values Education Programme for children. UNICEF together with child psychologists came up with this programme and it’s being run in 8000 centres worldwide,” said Mangaleswary.

The second part of the programme would continue in January over the span of six weekends.

In March, FWC would be collaborating with National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN Perak) on a sex education workshop running on the theme, “I Am in Control” for teenagers.

“A pre-marital education and counselling for couples is in the pipeline and we hope to start latest in May. Meanwhile, we’ll organise programmes for Malaysia International Day of Families which falls in the month of November,” she added.

Readers interested to join as members or donate, kindly contact **05 242 6866** or email familywellnessclub@gmail.com.

Memberships are open to Perak residents only. Ordinary memberships are for those of 18 years and above. Teenage memberships are for those between 11 to 17 years with the consent of their parents. For both categories, there would be a one-time entry fee of RM10 and a yearly fee of RM20. Lifetime membership fee is RM200.

Mei Kuan



TOP and MYDIN CSR Bring Smiles to Students



Smiles and laughter were echoed at MYDIN Meru recently, all thanks to TOP’s corporate responsibility programme (CSR) with MYDIN where they provided new school kits for more than 400 underprivileged children all over the country.

The programme’s objective was to encourage school attendance and participation by providing tangible support in the pursuit of education, leveling the playing field when it comes to uniforms and school essentials while boosting self-esteem and self-image, educating the kids on living skills such as washing clothes and presenting a clean, neat and well-groomed appearance.

Southern Lion Sdn Bhd, a joint venture company between Lam Soon (M) Sdn Bhd and LION Corporation Japan that developed TOP, was represented by Ms Carmen Foo their marketing manager, who was touched by the tremendous support from consumers who had helped make the CSR campaign a success.

“The initial target was to raise RM40,000. We were overwhelmed when the final funds raised was more than RM50,000. We have decided to provide children from two more homes with the full school kits with the extra funds collected,” added Carmen.

State Exco for Women, Family and Community Welfare Development, Housing and Local Government, Dato’ Hajah Rusnah binti Kassim officiated the affair and hoped more would be done to help the kids in need.

“Those of us who are blessed with enough may not understand the joy that these children find in having new school kits. TOP and MYDIN have stepped up to assist the children in a meaningful way,” said Rusnah in her opening remarks.

Four lucky homes in Perak to receive such aids were Praise Home, Rumah Anak Yatim Yayasan Amanah An-Nur Maisarah, Pertubuhan Kebajikan Kasih Nurul Iman and Vision Home.

Ili Aqilah

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COMMUNITY

A Double Joy

Thousands of Ipohites filled Dataran Bandaraya Ipoh for the New Year countdown celebration by Tourism Perak which also saw the launch of the official logo for Visit Perak Year 2017.

Running on the theme, “World of Wonders”, the flower-like logo drew its inspiration from ‘labu sayong’ (Sayong pottery) and features the colour orange representing “heritage”, green representing “nature”, blue representing “food and shopping” and dark blue representing “sports and leisure”.

Present at the joyous occasion were Dato’ Saarani Mohamad, Executive Councillor for Rural Development, Agriculture, Plantation, Information and Human Capital Development, Dato’ Nolee Ashilin Mohammed Radzi, Executive Councillor for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Multimedia and Communications, Dato’ Shahrul Zaman Yahya, Executive Councillor for Human Resources, Youth and Sports, Dato’ Rusnah Kassim, Executive Councillor for Women, Family, Community Welfare Development, Housing and Local Government and Mayor Dato’ Zamri bin Man.

“The effort in internationalising Perak includes the organisation of Pangkor International Dialogue (PIDD) and the PULARA (Poetry and Folk Songs) Festival. It had received positive response as during that time, more than 90 per cent of hotels in Ipoh and Pangkor registered high occupancy rate,” said Dato’ Saarani Mohamad, who represented Menteri Besar, Dato’ Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

He remarked that Perak recorded the highest number of domestic tourists in Malaysia for 2012 (5.6 million), 2013 (6.01 million) and 2014 (7 million), consecutively.

The New Year was ushered in with the powerful vocals of Gegar Vaganza winner Siti Nordiana and fireworks display in the night sky. The Ipoh City Council building, lit with a “Happy New Year 2016” moving LED display, was simply riveting.

Mei Kuan



Sport

Taekwon-do Team Wins Medals

Led by President Khoo Bu Leong and secretary, Lee Wei Kean, 19 participants from Martial Arts Taekwon-Do Association of Perak went for the 6th Hong Kong Inter-school ITF Taekwon-Do Invitation Tournament on December 26 and came back with 38 gold, 18 silver, 8 bronze medals, “Best Pattern Performer Award” and “Best Athlete Award”.

“This is a great platform for them to prepare for the coming World Taekwon-Do Championship 2016 in England as most of them are having their first overseas tournament. I am not quite satisfied with the overall results but I was impressed by their stamina and discipline. We hope that students will keep up their determination and enthusiasm to bring pride to our country again,” said Khoo.

Coach, Lee Wei Kean said, this is a chance for students to expose themselves to foreigners’ standards especially in sparring events. He encourages the students to have their target and dream big so that they can bring fame to Malaysia. Teo Kar Sai performed extremely well this time by winning four champions (Individual Pattern, Individual Sparring, Knife-hand Power Breaking and Side-kick Power Breaking events) and two 1st runner-ups (Reversed-kick Power Breaking and Punching Power Breaking events), hence being awarded “Best Athlete Award”.

Nine-year-old, Loh Ying Shan from SJKC Kampung Tawas fought bravely and won three golds (Individual Sparring, Team Pattern and Side-kick Power Breaking events) and one silver (Individual Pattern) medals.

Chuah Zhi Wei from Sebanjing successfully brought back four golds (Individual Pattern, Individual Sparring, Team Pattern and Side-kick Power Breaking events) and one silver (Knife-hand Power Breaking) medals.



Three representatives from SJKC Sin Min, Simpang Taiping won 8 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals in total while Ahmad from SMJK St Michael Ipoh was awarded “Best Pattern Performer”.

Khoo expressed his deep sincere gratitude to financial supporters and OMAS company for sponsoring 22 trousers for participants. After the tournament, the team enjoyed Disney Land, Ocean Marine Park and other tourist spots in Hong Kong.

Jamal Takes Top Spot

Jointly organised by the Perak State Chess Association and Ungku Omar Polytechnic, the annual national-rated Perak Closed Chess Championship 2015 was held from Saturday, December 5 to Sunday, December 6. The youngest player was nine years old while the oldest was 54.

The champion of the open category was Ahmad Jamal Husni bin Jamaluddin, 36, from Teluk Intan. He has been playing since the age of eight under his father’s guidance. This is his advice for chess enthusiasts out there, “Train hard and respect your opponents.”

“We’ve 69 participants in total who competed for two days back-to-back. It is relatively more tiring as each round would take one and a half hours,” said Chan Swee Loon, the President of the Perak State Chess Association, to Ipoh Echo.

Prizes were given away by Abdul Halim Abdul Hamid, the Assistant Librarian of Ungku Omar Polytechnic while Abu Bakar M. Abdullah, a national arbiter, acted as the chief arbiter.

Below is the list of winners for the respective categories:

- Open category: Ahmad Jamal Husni bin Jamaluddin
- Best Lady: Najihah Mohd Saufi
- Best Veteran: Ahmad Mudzaffar Ramli
- Girl Under 16: Nurdamia bt Mohd Asri
- Boy Under 16: Pravin a/l Pathamanathan
- Girl Under 12: Nur Fadhilah bt Azhar
- Boy Under 12: Thang Kit Han



The upcoming chess tournament will be the 1st leg of the **Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Perak Grand Prix Chess Championship** to be held on Sunday, January 31 at SMK Shing Chung, Sungai Siput.

Mei Kuan

My Say

By Jerry Francis



Inconsiderate Motorists

Just a few days ago I was at the Greentown Business Centre. Like most motorists, I drove around looking for a parking lot, which is not easy to find on a working day.

I understand how frustrating a motorist can be when moving towards a parking bay, which from a short distance appears to be empty, but on approaching finds a motorcycle parked in the middle (see picture) – depriving him of any space to park. And to make matters worse, about 15m away a car was parked right in the middle of two parking bays.

I am sure many other motorists too, would have seen them on that day, and felt frustrated and angry that they had been deprived of the parking bays.

What is wrong with these motorists? Why were they so inconsiderate and how would they feel had the situation been reversed?

Finally I found a parking space and parked my car. As I alighted from the car, I saw two parking enforcement officers checking on the vehicles in the area for valid parking tickets. Curious to know what the enforcement officers would do on seeing the vehicles not being parked properly, I stood on the five-foot way and observed.

Much to my surprise, they just walked past as though everything was in order, or perhaps they did not know under which by-law they could issue summonses to the owners of the vehicles, the motorcycle and car.

No wonder such inconsiderate motorists are blatantly continuing to park their vehicles in such manner, especially in the Greentown Business Centre.

It is also about time that the Ipoh City Council takes action against motorcyclists for parking indiscriminately. They would take over two or three parking bays in front of banks. Since most motorcyclists prefer to park in front of the banks, why not convert the



car parking bays into motorcycle parking bays and the motorcycle bays nearby into car parking bays?

Yang TU Yang NI

Postcard from Shenzhen



Shenzhen was a small fishing and farming village of around 60 thousand inhabitants nearly 40 years ago. Today the Shenzhen Metropolitan population is 18 million. Deng Xiao Ping declared it a special economic zone in May 1980 and it has never looked back. From smokestack industries Shenzhen is now referred to as China's Silicon Valley.

None of this would have been possible if not for its most valuable resource – PEOPLE. They came (and are still coming) from all corners of China for work, get a better life and the chance to make their fortune. Going by the Porsches, Audis, Benzes and Range Rovers; with VWs, Hondas at the lower end; many have found it. (Sorry, have not seen a Proton yet). These 'migrant' workers had no special help except for permission to move there from their villages.

In certain street corners you see artisans with their tools gather. They are waiting for people who want odd jobs done (plumbing, wiring, tiling, etc.) to engage them. The rates are competitive because if you don't take the job, the next person will. And no work means no money.

Similarly you have people on electric motorcycles (almost all bikes and trikes are electric to cut down pollution) offering a taxi service. Then there are flatbed tricycles which offer to deliver goods for the shops – fridges, basins, bulky stuff. I saw a lady in a cubicle no more than eight feet by eight feet where she sews clothes for others but also cut keys, sells eggs, sugar cane, cigarettes, cooking oil, etc.

People try to make a living anyway they can!

In the supermarkets (Walmart, Aeon, Carrefour where I am writing from) staff in charge of each section shout out their specials, each trying to get your Yuan, this despite the fact that they are all working for the same supermarket. Have you ever had someone in Tesco or Giant entice you to buy anything? Our attitude is even if you don't buy I will still get my *gaji*.

China has risen from an economy very far behind Malaysia's to be the second largest in the world in less time than we have been in charge of our own destiny since Merdeka. Other countries like Vietnam are also surging forward. They are not where they are sitting on their hands and waiting for handouts.

Meanwhile . . .

Back home many of us just wait for government handouts – as individuals as well

as companies. Some companies have contracts given to them, they are given monopolies, they are shielded from competition yet many fail and are forgiven their debts or are bailed out at taxpayers' expense. Individuals are given scholarships for which many are unsuited. Until lately, they were almost guaranteed a job in government or in government linked companies (GLCs).

Decades of mollycoddling have created a nation where the majority doesn't know how to compete. I don't blame them but the politicians who feed them this 'opiate of specialness and entitlement' and therefore enfeebled them. It's a bit like when the British fed the Chinese opium to exploit them. Our government is doing the same to the Malays.

Let's face it, given a cushy number most of us will grab it (including the writer) until one day we realise that it's doing us more harm. Thankfully, many thinking Malays have already come to that conclusion.

My point:

The world does not owe us a living as individuals or as a nation. We have to compete with the rest of the world. There is no special entitlement out there.

A country where 30 per cent accounts for 70 per cent of the GDP is uncompetitive. We need to better use our number one resource – PEOPLE. Handicapping some while mollycoddling others is a double whammy that will bring our country to its knees.

Racially biased policies disguised as affirmative action is morally indefensible and economically unsustainable. End it and release the full potential of our people.

Yin

(the man from TR)

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Arts & Culture

Ili Aqilah

Ipoh Kreative 2016



Calling all music lovers, movie goers, coffee addicts and if you just want to see more art scenes happening in Ipoh, get ready to clear up your schedule from January 24 to 30 and head to Ipoh Kreative festival where you will be entertained by various underground local bands, keynotes, poetry parties, forums and many more.

The 7-day long festival will run at several locations and Ipoh Echo has the details of them all!

1. Day one: January 24, Sunday

The official opening for Ipoh Kreative will be held at Ipoh's iconic treasure market, Loken at 9 a.m. where state exco for tourism, arts, culture, communication and multimedia, YB Dato' Nolee Ashilin binti Mohamed Radzi will officiate at the event. Later at 8pm at Khizanat, Ipoh Avant-Garde special will take place with a forum and show by five performers; Kamal Sabran, Ahmad Norsiful, Azmil Mokhtar, Mohd Redzuandy and Eric Hausmann, a multi-faceted American musician and composer who began his musical training on violin, cello and trumpet at the tender age of six. Eric has appeared on dozens of albums, soundtracks and has released up to sixteen solo albums.



Fynn Jamal

2. Day two: January 25, Monday

The second day of Ipoh Kreative will witness a discussion at Sepaloh Art Gallery at 5pm, about the 'Wave of Alternative Book' and 'Rabak Writing & Poetry' by two keynote speakers, Riduan A.Dullah and Mutalib Uthman, CEO for DuBook Press, a local book house that has published many books written by Malaysian authors. One of their recent publications, 'Terima Kasih Si Babi Hutan' written by Ismail Ariffin a.k.a Lepat has sold more than fifteen thousand copies during the first month of its launch.

Poetry Party will then take place at the same venue at 8pm where eight poets will be entertaining the audience with their writings and stories. Secure your place and get ready to be mesmerized by Lara Hassan, Jack Malik, Seyn Jukey, Muharos, Meor Hailree, Riduan A.Dullah, Melizarani T. Selva and Fynn Jamal!

3. Day three: January 26, Tuesday

For coffee lovers, make sure you head to Hobo cafe at 5pm for a special exclusive talk entitled, 'Art of Coffee' by Faiz Mustapha, the brilliant mind behind Hobo @ Gan Lee Co and who manages his family restaurant, El Negra Deli. Faiz also co-owns Buat Design, a contemporary local design house specializing in interior design, architecture and modern landscaping. The founder of "PeaceBeUponYou", Ipohite Adam Jalaluddin, will also be conducting a talk about "Pop Art in Design" at 3pm also at Hobo.

Co-founder of My Performing Arts Agency (MYPAA) Brian J. Lowe will also be taking part in Ipoh Kreative this year where together with three other speakers, Azizul Abdul Latif, Amzari Zamri and Abdul Hafidz Adam, will discuss "Sell Creative Ideas" at Gomok, 8pm.

4. Day four: January 27, Wednesday

The perfect day for film and theater goers, the first event of the day, Street Theater – Pok Yek by Rhis Amirul will take place at Kong Heng Square at 4pm. The festival will then continue at Yasmin At Sekeping Kong Heng, where writer cum film director, Junad M Nor will be conducting a workshop session on film, script and directing. Junad's short film, 'Odah' was screened at the Busan International Film Festival and received warm responses from the crowd. Her creative flair in finding humour has landed her to co-found Studio Canpakes; a creative collective that takes on music videos, short films, commercial campaigns and many other projects. Studio Canpakes has an impressive record working with The Venopian Solitude, Tunetalk, The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Kuala Lumpur International Photo Awards, Whimsgirl Design, Stellar Studio, Wardrobe and many more.

The Ipoh Film Festival will then take place at 8pm where five films will be aired exclusively for the festival. Make sure you



Eric Hausmann

manage to watch Ipoh Kreative Documentary, Behind The Scene: Jagat, Nadia Mengidam Cili, Poskod Dari Seberang and Aku Bukan Neitzche.

5. Day five: January 28, Thursday

Perakean Daniyal Kadir will be giving a talk entitled "Membedah P.Ramlee" (Dissecting P.Ramlee) at 5pm at Karat Cafe. Daniyal, a history and film geek is also a published writer where his book "Membedah P.Ramlee" was published by DuBook Press. Later at 8pm, at Chokodok Reggae House, four singer-songwriters Anaz, Wira, Amy Ami and Sam Lopez will be performing their songs.

6. Day six: January 29, Friday

Interested in 3D printing? Then Benz's workshop is definitely a must-go for you. Benz or his full name, Fadzlee Khamis has been working closely in the printing world where he works with two friends and created Shapeshift; providing prototypes, designing materials and module testing. Benz's workshop will take place at Khizanat at 3pm. Shortly after the workshop, a forum entitled "Local Visual Art on Fire" will be held by five speakers; Nur Hanim Khairuddin, Ajim Juxta, Jojo Yusof, Alex Lee and Amy Amin.

An exclusive show entitled Berlinale Shorts Go Abroad, a collection of international short films will be aired for the audience. Get ready to be charmed and awed with Planet Sigma, Hosanna, Pebbles At Your Door, Shadowland, Dissonance, Snapshot Mon Amour, El Juega Del Escondite, Daewit, Yuyu and Symbolic Threats. These films which have won international awards, are at times controversial, disturbing, testing the limits and created with multi-layers of possibilities. A definite must go.

7. Day seven: January 30, Saturday

The final day of the festival will take place at Insider Satellite Space. At 2pm, keynote speaker, Cee will be talking about 'Soundlab At The Dusun: Experimental Music Incubator' followed by Elena Kravchenko on 'Russian Illustration: Then & Now'. The closing act of this art-loving festival will witness nine different local bands rocking out their music at 3pm. Alternative Music Showcase will be seeing Plague of Happiness, Balok People, Harmacy, Bahajang, Nothing Underneath, Gaina, Space Banjo Circus, The Electric Ape in Stereo and Radiowave performing live for its audience.

With art-packed activities, Ipoh Kreative is a must go for everyone who is keen on exploring the art scene in Ipoh. There is no fee needed for any shows so make sure you go to all of them!

For more information, visit ipohkreative.com or Facebook, *Ipoh Kreative* and Instagram *@ipohkreative* for more information. Ipoh Echo, its proud media partner will be doing a live update during the event, so be sure to catch us too!



Cee



Plague of Happiness