

SIGNATURE KITCHEN



MOTHER'S DAY PROMO 8th April - 8th May 2016

VISIT US AT
**SIGNATURE KITCHEN IPOH
@ TAMAN IPOH SELATAN**

1800 88 8669
05 548 6696
www.signaturekitchen.com.my

GET A RM **500**
DISCOUNT VOUCHER
* T&C Apply

www.ipohecho.com.my

FREE COPY

IPoHecho

Your Voice In The Community Since 2006


April 1 - 15, 2016

PP 14252/10/2012(031136)

30 SEN FOR DELIVERY TO YOUR DOORSTEP -
ASK YOUR NEWSVENDOR

ISSUE **232**

100,000 print readers ★ 1,663,667 online hits in February

Awesome Wildlife Encounters

•By Ili Aqilah and Nantini Krishnan

Located in the heart of Taiping, specifically the Taiping Lake Gardens, it would be impossible to leave the legendary Taiping Zoo out from the list of must-visit places in Taiping. The zoo was first opened in 1961 with only 22 acres of land. However over time, the tourist spot has received bigger audiences and has expanded into 36 acres in 2000. With that in mind, an Ipoh Echo team paid a visit to the home of 1300 animals such as the Malayan Tiger, Black Panther, Marmosets, Civets, Dholes and innumerable other species to pander to our inner animal-lover and to see the latest facilities at the zoo.

Continued on page 2





Adris jewellers

The April Diamond Month Collection

April is the month designated to Diamonds. Visit us to see our range of diamond jewellery and GIA certified diamonds.








12D, Persiaran Greentown 1, Greentown Business Centre, 30450 Ipoh. Tel : 05-254 0984, 05-241 4992 www.adris.com.my



Scan this code to visit our Facebook page.



HEALY MAC'S IRISH BAR & RESTAURANT

Award Winning Bar & Restaurant

NEW HAPPY HOUR DEALS

All day all night 'Happy Hour' on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

'Happy Hour' from 12noon until 9pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Tiger Tower 3L RM88++
After 9pm RM103.50++ (Thu, Fri, Sat & Sun)

Buy 6 mugs get 2 free package RM79.75++
After 9pm RM94++ (Thu, Fri, Sat & Sun)




Mix & Match any 5 bottles of beer of your choice RM69++
After 9pm RM79++ (Thu, Fri, Sat & Sun)





No.2, Ground Floor, Persiaran Greentown 4, Greentown Avenue, 30450 Ipoh.
Tel: 05-249 3627 Fax : 05-249 3628 GPS: 4° 35'55.917"N, 101° 5'31.883"E www.healymacs.com

Taiping Zoo Fascinations Not Just for Ogling



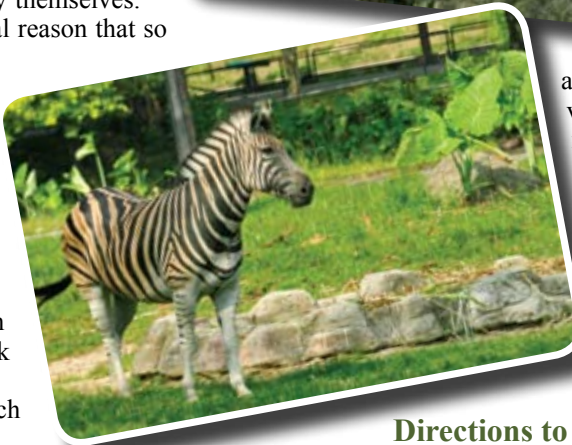
Taiping Zoo is concentrated in four action areas: **conservation, recreation, education and research.** While its primary purpose is to breed endangered species in captivity and also reintroducing them into the wild, Taiping Zoo also aims to help teach visitors the **importance of animal conservation**, letting visitors witness the animals first-hand. With conservation of animals and their habitats, Taiping Zoo plays a **crucial role in preventing extinction** of certain species and provides opportunities to reintroduce animals into the wild, while in other cases it's a matter of maintaining a species that has already gone extinct (or likely to go extinct) in the wild.

In other words, not only does the zoo unite and educate the community, providing understanding of the interdependence of animals and their habitats, conducting conservation programmes of animals in the wild, including breeding programmes to reintroduce near-extinct and endangered species back into their natural environment, it also provides a pleasant recreation place for the visitor. Visitors are given the opportunity to view animals in their natural splendour and at the same time relax and enjoy themselves. We all know that zoos are recreational places; this is the real reason that so many of us go to the zoo every year to have a good day out.

Exciting Residents

With **over 150 species**, the display priority for this particular Zoo is mostly Malaysian species such as the Bear Cat, Malayan Porcupine, Orang Utan, Common Palm Civet and Malayan Sunbear. However, there are other habitats which display foreign animals such as the African Savannah, home of ten species; Giraffe, Burchell's Zebra, White Rhinoceros, Red Hartebest and African Crowned Crane or the Australian Fauna where you get to see the Agile Wallaby, Emu, Black Swan and Magpie Goose.

A few species of birds are flying free around the area such



a playground, cafe, toilets and many more.

"Some of the facilities such as the cafe and another souvenir shop are under renovation and scheduled to finish by this May," said Munarizal Abdul Manap, the Education Officer of Taiping Zoo.

By May, Taiping Zoo will see better parks, enclosures, kiosks and souvenir shops. Members of the public will also have the option of sponsoring other related services and facilities like landscaping services, signboards, shelters and other infrastructure which are necessary. For the last two years, the team have **upgraded** two new attractions; the **African Savannah** and the **Elephants of the Perak River** and **currently upgrading** twelve other enclosures; 'Australian Fauna', 'Sambar Deer', 'Malayan Tiger', 'Marmoset and Tamarin', 'Malayan Gaur' and many more that are expected to complete in another two months time.



Dr Kevin Lazarus

The Night Experience

As one of the oldest zoos in Malaysia, Taiping Zoo was the first to open the concept of "**Night Safari**" where visitors will get a rare chance to see nocturnal animals at their active hour. According to **Dr Kevin Lazarus, the director of Taiping Zoo and Night Safari**, visitors will be getting a unique experience and gain knowledge while viewing the behaviour of the nocturnal animals displayed.

"The main idea is to give guests an **experience** as if they are **walking in the wild during the full moon** and watching the animals illuminated under the moonlight,"

added Dr Kevin. Although the zoo's train is available, visitors are encouraged to walk on foot when they visit the zoo at night.

Should We Visit?

Yes! Taiping Zoo is a fun and safe place to learn. It creates a rare opportunity for people to study about wildlife and get to appreciate nature. They allow students to connect with wildlife, build their understanding of conservation issues and be empowered to help save wildlife. There is always something new that we can learn about our wildlife.

Directions to the Zoo

There are a few options for visitors:

Train: Whether you are coming from North or South by train, passengers will have to disembark at the Taiping Railway station and grab a taxi to the zoo.

Bus: Guests can take the express bus which will stop at Kamunting Bus Terminal and get a taxi to Zoo Taiping & Night Safari.

Car: Via the North-South PLUS Highway, take the exit at Kamunting toll plaza (North) or exit the Changkat Jering toll plaza (South), you will be directed by signboards that will eventually lead you to the zoo.



as the Crown Crane and the Black Crowned Night Heron. There are also other birds such as Little Heron, Cattle Egrets and few others scattered around the premises. The zoo has successfully bred the Milky Stork and plans to let them range freely soon.

While others may conduct animal shows, Taiping Zoo has chosen not to do so; rather emphasising more on **educational programmes and activities**. Hence it has become a popular place to receive visits from school students and researchers who are active in the field of zoology.

The zoo also launched a programme called '**Adopt an animal**' in 1994 where interested individuals or companies can fund the costs needed for any animal or animals of their choice and interest. The donations made will be used to bear the cost of feeding, medicine, enrichment programmes, maintaining and building animal exhibits and also facilities for the visitors. Readers who are keen on joining the programme can get details from brochures available within the zoo compound.

Facilities in Taiping Zoo

Zoo Taiping's facilities are well maintained and very clean; services such as the tour train are good, and the staff, friendly. Current facilities available at Taiping Zoo include



... continued on page 6

From the Editor's Desk
By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

RELIGION AS A FORM OF CONTROL

Why demonise the liberals and the pluralistic when corruption and abuse of power by the higher-ups go unpunished?

The recent statement by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of Islamic Affairs, Datuk Seri Jamil Khir that the Government was monitoring "liberal Muslims deviants" as part of its crackdown on liberal Muslims is worrying. Coming at a time of political and economic uncertainties, the warning can be construed as a clever distraction from the major issue facing Prime Minister Najib's administration - the 1MDB scandal. Malay Muslims, being the predominant race, controlling the way they think and act is not only beneficial to those in the corridors of power as it will buy them time before the curtain comes crashing down.

Now let us define what "liberalism", in the context of the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim), means. The Government, according to Jamil Khir, had made its stance clear in a 2009 declaration during the 74th National Fatwa Council's muzakarah (meeting) that liberalism contains understandings which "deviate from faith and syariah". Among this is the concept of pluralism "believing that the human mind is a revelation, doubting the authenticity of the Quran, questioning its interpretations and that of the hadiths, fresh interpretations on the concept of worship, questioning prophetic morals and having their own ways of determining Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence) punishments".

The more serious ones are that concerning the prophet's moral about him marrying a minor and punishments meted to offenders such as whipping and the dismembering of limbs, which liberal Muslims considered not only barbaric but uncivilised.

The federal and state religious departments, said Jamil, would work together to crackdown on liberal Muslims by issuing fatwas (edicts) and conducting talks and seminars to "control the spread of deviant beliefs".

I share the sentiments of Zaid Ibrahim, the former



law minister who insisted that Muslims should have the freedom to think and discuss matters relating to their religion without the fear of being labelled "deviants" by the government. Malay Muslims should be allowed to develop their potentials to think and behave rationally like others. "This is the reason why they cannot develop their potentials because they are prohibited from exercising their rights to think for themselves," he said.

There are simply too many examples to quote why this is prevalent within the Malay Muslim community. The practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) is one. Though remote it is still a common occurrence. Next is child marriage. In spite of international pressure the number is on the rise. The reason has much to do with Islam and the reluctance of parents to care for their

daughters once they reach puberty.

"Their obsession for control is disguised as protecting the purity of the faith. They only know how to punish and to ban anything they don't understand," said Zaid. This is, however, true as no religious ceramah, be it at the mosque or out in the open, is devoid of pronouncement of punishments for the disbelievers, in the hereafter. The word haram is being liberally used and the speaker entertains no questions from the floor. Listeners must listen attentively, as any distractions are considered sinful. I find such dictates not only medieval but demeaning.

My question is why demonise the liberals and the pluralistic when corruption and abuse of power by the higher-ups (committed by Muslims) go unpunished? Some remain defiant and unrepentant and

will repeat when an opportunity presents itself.

"A deviant," says enigmatic Datuk Noor Faridah Nur of the Group of 25 Movement of Moderates "is someone who doubts the authenticity of the Quran and matters relating to aqidah (faith), not a liberal."

I cannot agree more.

And the development which I find most disturbing is the propensity of Malay Muslims to adopt Arab culture and ways. It is not that they do not possess their own traditions and culture. The temptation to follow the ways of the Arabs has to do with religion too. The Sultan of Johore has put it bluntly, "If you don't wish to follow Malay customs and traditions, that's up to you. I welcome you to live in Saudi Arabia." He cannot say it any better.

EYE HEALTH — Glaucoma Treatment



World Glaucoma Week AWARENESS SERIES

In conjunction with World Glaucoma Week, Ipoh Echo talks to Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. Gill about the **TREATMENT OPTIONS in this final part.**



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

Glaucoma as you know has been nicknamed the "silent thief of sight" and results in **permanent irreversible blindness**. It often goes without symptoms and is crucial to be detected early to **prevent this loss of vision**. Is glaucoma treatable? Glaucoma treatment may either involve eye drops instillation, *pills, laser surgery, conventional surgery* or a combination of these methods. Glaucoma treatment does not restore vision that is already lost but only **prevents further loss of vision**.

1. EYEDROPS

The *first line* of treatment is often instillation of special eye drops to *reduce eye pressure*. These will have to be instilled daily *without fail* in order to prevent loss of vision. Sometimes a combination of eye drops may be required. Always be *diligent* with the instillation of any eye drops that have been prescribed for glaucoma.



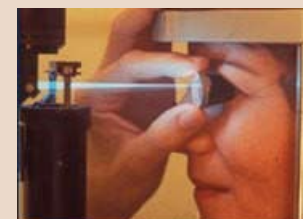
2. ORAL MEDICATION

Oral medication usually has quite a few *side effects* that may include skin rash, tingling in the hands or feet, nausea or upset stomach, kidney stone formation, altered taste (especially with carbonated beverages), weight loss, fatigue, and decreased energy. So, they are *generally not used long term*. They are generally only used to treat acute eye pressure increase.



3. LASER SURGERY

Laser treatment may be recommended *if suitable*. Laser surgery is performed on an *outpatient basis* in the clinic after the eye has been numbed. A laser is directed toward the trabecular meshwork which is the area that drains the fluid (aqueous humor) from the eye into the blood. There are *many kinds of laser surgery* and they are usually recommended based on the type of glaucoma.



4. SURGERY

Surgery is usually recommended *if the eye pressure*



cannot be controlled despite all the above treatment. Surgery involves *creating drainage* for the eye fluid (aqueous humor) to drain in order to relieve the eye pressure. As a last resort, a *special glaucoma drainage device* may have to be implanted in the eye in order to relieve the eye pressure.

In summary, get an eye examination done annually. If you are diagnosed with glaucoma, it does not mean you will go blind. It only means that you will need to be treated intensively in order to prevent you from going blind.

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

En Multi Coat Sdn Bhd
Kitchen and Bathroom Refinishing Coating
68, Persiaran Bercham Selatan 2, Taman Desa Kencana, 31400 Ipoh, Perak

Anti Slip Waterproofing Coating

HWT
21ST CENTURY THE PRESTIGIOUS BRAND
BEST OF THE BEST
MASTER CLASS
IN INTERIOR COMPLETION SERVICES

Quotation & Booking
Andy Fam 013-3985133

NO DAMAGE HACKING | JUST COATING REFINISH!

Make Life Easy!!
www.enmulticoat.com.my

PUBLISHER

Ipo Echo Sdn Bhd
(Regd No 687483 T)

A-G-1, No. 1 Persiaran
Greentown 2, Greentown
Business Centre, 30450
Ipoh Perak Darul Ridzuan.
Tel: (605) 249 5936
Fax: (605) 255 2181
Email: editorial@ipohecho.com.my

EDITORIAL

Fathol Zaman Bukhari
G. Sivapragasam

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Rosli Mansor Ahd Razali
Luqman Hakim Md Radzi

MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Deanna Lim

REPORTERS

Ili Aqilah Yus Amirul
Nantini Krishnan
Tan Mei Kuan

PERMISSION AND RE-PRINTS

Materials in Ipoh Echo may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publisher.

PRINTER

Ultimate Print Sdn. Bhd.,
Lot 2, Jalan Sepana 15/3,
Off Persiaran Selangor,
Seksyen 15, 40200 Shah
Alam, Selangor.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD):

05 2451 072 (CCC)
05 2451 222 (Operator)
999 (emergency)

Ipoh General Hospital:
05-208 5000

Ipoh Ambulance:
05-522 2506
993 (emergency)

Ipoh Fire Brigade
05-547 4444/994
(emergency)

Perak Immigration Dept
05-5017100

Perak Water Board
05-254 6161

Ipoh City Council
Hotline: 05-255 1515
General: 05-208 3333

Perak Anti-Corruption
Agency: 05-526 7000

State Secretariat
05-253 1957

Railway Station
05-254 7987

Airport: 05-318 8202
Registration Department
05-528 8805

Tenaga Nasional Berhad
05-208 8000

Lembaga Air Perak
1800-88-7788

Directory Service: 103
Perak Women for Women
Society

05-546 9715 (office)

AA Ipoh
019-574 3572
017-350 8361

Isn't it time the department cleaned up its act?

After a year long wait, the 51 school cleaners from Ipoh, whose plight was highlighted last September by the Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM), will finally receive their wages.

The workers' problems started early last year, when the company they worked for, Double Click Enterprise (DCE), did not pay their wages. DCE is a company which is authorised by the Education Ministry to clean several schools in Ipoh.

The company told the workers that the ministry had not sent them any payment and therefore, they could not pay their wages. This fact was confirmed by a member of the Education Ministry, who was contacted by PSM.

As every employer and employee knows, the Employment Act states that salaries have to be paid before the 7th day of each month.

Online newspaper, Malaysiakini, reported that the workers had previously voiced their problems to both the Perak Education Department and the Education Ministry, in February 2015. Their problems were not resolved.

So what is going on? Why is a company, which was vetted and selected by the Education Ministry not paying its workers on time, and breaking the government's own Employment Law? In normal circumstances, the company which flouts the law, would have to pay a massive fine.

When PSM contacted the Ministry, they were given the run-around by officials. They were told to contact the secretary of the asset management and acquisitions department. PSM then complained to the Perak education department, and again to the Education Ministry's asset division, last August.

Malaysiakini attempted to find out from the Education Ministry the name of the person dealing with the issue, but was told that the ministry was not sure. At the same time, it tried to contact the Perak education director, but was unsuccessful.

Workers are not unfamiliar with the non-availability of key personnel in government departments who suddenly go missing or who have no idea who should be in charge.

Presumably, this left the PSM MP for Sungai Siput, Dr Jeyakumar Devaraj, little choice but to lodge a police report against the Education Minister and his ministry's secretary of the asset and acquisitions division, to get to the heart of the matter.

He made his report, at the Ipoh police station, on September 7, 2015, so that the police could initiate an investigation on behalf of the workers. He wanted to know if there had been a misappropriation, or misuse of the funds, that had been allocated for the cleaners.

Finally, six months later, on March 17 this year, Dr Jeyakumar received a parliamentary written reply, from the Education Ministry, confirming that it had orders to disburse RM31,000 to the workers.

The Ministry informed Dr Jeyakumar that they had held on to the money and had not released it to DCE, which has since gone bankrupt. The Ministry had terminated



the contract with the company, in May 2015, because their services were below standard.

DCE apparently went bankrupt in July, 2015, but incredibly, its cleaners were told, by the Kinta district education office, to continue providing their cleaning services.

This must have been a thoroughly confusing state of affairs. We are told the performance of DCE was poor. So, why did it continue to provide its services, despite being bankrupt? How was the company deficient? Were the workers' performance terrible? If so, why were they requested to continue providing their cleaning services? Why was a new contractor not found?

R. Rani, who is the coordinator for the Network for Government Contract Workers was aware of the workers' fears, and said, ".....the salary and minimum wage of every worker of between RM7000 and RM11,000 is safe. Therefore, the workers can get their unpaid salary and minimum wage as soon as possible".

The workers will finally receive their wages, after a 10 month wait, but in the meantime, will the ministry and education department clean up their act?

Source: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/334256>.

CHILD HEALTH

Dr Shan Narayanan

Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

WORLD
HEMOPHILIA
DAY

Haemophilia The Royal Disease

April 17 is World Haemophilia Day. It is a day observed internationally since 1989 to increase awareness and understanding of haemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

Most of us would have heard of haemophilia due to its royal connections. Queen Victoria's son, Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany had haemophilia. Although only two of her daughters passed the mutation to various royal houses in Europe, it is not surprising that haemophilia was called 'the royal disease'. So, what is haemophilia?

Haemophilia is an **inherited lifelong bleeding disorder**. It is due to absence or deficiency of clotting factor VIII or IX in the blood of the individual. The individual lacking clotting factor VIII is said to have **Haemophilia A** and those lacking clotting factor IX is said to have **Haemophilia B**.

This is a rare disorder; about one in 10,000 are born with Haemophilia A and 1 in 50,000 with Haemophilia B.

The haemophilia gene is passed down from a parent to a child. The genes for Haemophilia A and B are on the X chromosome. The X and Y chromosomes determine the sex of the child. Thus, the inheritance of haemophilia is sex-linked and to be specific X-linked.

Men have one X chromosome thus if they inherit the affected X from their mother they will have haemophilia. Women have two X chromosomes, if they inherit the affected X chromosome from their mother or a father with haemophilia, the effect is balanced by the normal X chromosome. However, as they have an affected X chromosome they become a carrier and can pass it on to the child.

When the mother is a carrier and the father is normal, there is 50% chance of their son having haemophilia and 50% chance of their daughter being carriers.

In individuals with haemophilia, due to the lack of clotting protein VIII or IX, depending on the severity, the process of blood clotting is very slow or does not occur. Thus they have prolonged bleeding following trauma, pulling teeth or surgery. Those with severe haemophilia have spontaneous bleeds and profuse bleeding following minor trauma. Spontaneous bleeding occurs mainly in the joints and muscle. It can also happen in the brain and other organs. Severe complications can arise from repeated spontaneous bleeding.

A diagnosis of haemophilia is made from a history (of prolonged bleeding and spontaneous bleeding including family history of bleeding disorder) examination of the child and specific blood tests.

Bleeding episodes are treated with Factor Concentrates (Factor VIII or Factor IX). In joint and muscle bleed, along with the Factor replacement, the child is advised to **Rest, apply Ice Compression and Elevate the affected limb (R.I.C.E.)**. Once the bleeding has settled they need physiotherapy to improve the function of the joint/muscle. In serious bleeds such as intracranial bleed they will require hospitalisation and treatment.

Factor Concentrate, traditionally has been human plasma derived. In the recent years, it is being replaced with the safer recombinant factor concentrate. Older children with haemophilia and parents of younger children with haemophilia are trained to self infuse the factor concentrate.

Children with haemophilia can exercise and participate in sports. Exercise prevents bleed. Strong muscles protect the joints and prevent spontaneous bleed into the joints. These children can safely participate in walking, swimming, cycling and badminton. Contact sports are not encouraged.

The **current trend** is for children to be on prophylaxis factor concentrate as this reduces the episodes of bleed and allows them to lead a near normal life.

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



THINKING
ALLOWED

by Mariam Mokhtar

To Advertise

IPoHecho



05-2495936
Deanna Lim

016 501 7339

Han Chin Pet Soo

Impress your guests with your own private dinner party in a museum setting. Enquiries should be made to the Events Manager at 05 529 3306 or events@ipohworld.org



ON IPOH FOOD

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



When a former industrialist decides to set up a food stall, it is certainly not with the intention to put food on the table for his family like the way most Mama and Papa stalls begin their journey but rather in the case of Dato' David Tan, a realisation of his passion for cooking and for superlative food.

David's culinary skills were only developed when he was studying in the UK and yearning for the dishes from his childhood, he began experimenting. Over the years, he became passionate about cooking and today David is a fine chef, excelling in producing dishes, some from his Hokkien origins, whose recipes are mostly forgotten.

Growing up in Singapore he developed a fondness for **Katong Laksa**, a hawker specialty that every Singaporean raves over and every Laksa stall there claims to be the 'original' one. David's **Katong Laksa** can certainly be vouched for as being even better than the original as I too, grew up in Singapore and this used to be one of my favourite treats.

I used to have to wait for invitations to David's home in Ipoh to have my favourite childhood dish or placate my cravings by eating Ipoh's famous Curry Mee but today, I no longer have to salivate at the thought of not fulfilling my culinary yearnings for Katong Laksa, I can have it every day, any day, thanks to David's perfectionist pursuit of his passions.

His stall **Little Katong @ Little Genting** is garnering fans to Restoran Impressive, a corner coffee shop on Jalan Ali Pitchay opposite Ibis Hotel. Beginning from 8am till it runs out by around 2pm or till the chickens have all gone, the stall serves only three menu items: **Katong Laksa, Asam Laksa and Kai See Hor Fun**.

All three are superlative, thanks to David's attention to detail and his meticulous research into what makes a



SeeFoon gets lucky with Laksa



particular dish special and why people flock to one stall and not to others. For example, his Kai See Hor fun has a secret ingredient which gives it that special 'je nais se quoi', French for 'don't know what' not to be found at other stalls. Apparently without letting out his secrets, David told me it was the oil which is put into every bowl just before serving that permeates the soup. The flat white noodles were smooth, sliding down my throat in a wave of velvety goodness, juxtaposed against the occasional crunch of a bean sprout and chive here and there. The prawns were ocean fresh and chicken chunks tender and flavourful while the broth delectably umami.

When asked for the secret of the broth, David shared his secret which was the fact that he has a central preparation



kitchen where all his broths (for both the Laksas and the chicken noodles) are prepared, taking many hours every day, before they are delivered to the stall. The preparation kitchen is set up with meticulous hygiene standards, akin to top hotels, a move which David hopes will see the beginning to a wider network of stalls serving these three specials and maybe more.

Certainly as far as this Foodie (me) goes, David's **Kai See Hor Fun** is second to none. The same compliment goes for his **Katong Laksa**, the spiced coconut broth quite mild but heat can be added with the dark sambal paste (which I did with gusto) a thick, hearty paste with hints of dried prawns. The portion comes with generous helpings of sliced fish cake, prawns, cockles, chicken and topped with chopped Daun Kesum imparting their inimitable aroma which distinguishes this Laksa from others.

Finally we come to the **Asam Laksa**, with David's version giving the ubiquitous Penang version a run for their money. Now I need no longer wait for the occasional visit to Penang with this right on my doorstep, thanks to David. Here at Little Katong the broth is seasoned just right, a perfect balance of sour, umami and sweet, with pineapple in the broth lending a pleasing lift to plain old tamarind. Adequate chunks of **Kembong fish** add substance to the 'lai fun' (thick white rice noodles) while mint leaves add to the plethora of fresh cut vegetables which is a signature feature of this dish.

All items RM5 per portion.

Keep opening stalls David. Let's have more old favourites elevated by your passion.

Little Katong @ Little Genting (Siew Wan Dang)
Restoran Impressive, (opposite Hotel Ibis)
2 Jalan Ali Pitchay, Ipoh.
Opening times: 8am-2.30pm
Closed 2 days in a month.



Nosh News

Tina Cafe & X-press Car Wash

Ili Aqilah



That tedious long wait for your car to be washed and cleaned has now been given a food relief at Tina Cafe & X-press Car Wash, located at Jalan Kompleks Sukan.

With over thirteen different menu items including both Asian and Western, owner of Tina, Habibah Zainal Abidin has exciting plans for the cafe.

"The car wash station is managed by my husband while the cafe is named after our daughter, Tina. The menus of this cafe are being prepared and made by a certified chef and sous-chef," said Habibah who is an avid foodie.

Customers are welcome to try their signature Grill Rolled Chicken Chop with stuffed carrots and celery, served with mashed potatoes and two type of sauces for RM12.80; breaded Fish & Chips with fries at RM10.80 or opt for the Asian menu such as Chicken Cashew Nuts at RM6.90 that comes together with white rice, salad and soup of the day; or Habibah's favourite, Kuey Teow Special (Fried flat rice noodles topped with prawns) priced at RM6.90.

Specials for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, includes special BBQ Lamb or Grilled Salmon that comes together with dessert and ice lemon tea, both at RM26.80.

The cafe opens from 5pm to 11.30pm while the car wash starts its operation from



10am till 8pm. Reservations can be made by calling **012 483 8650**. The cafe is located at 101, Jalan Kompleks Sukan (next to Petron). For more information about Tina Cafe & X-press Car Wash, readers can visit their Instagram @tina_cafe or Facebook at Tina.WashCafe.



Taiping Zoo. . . continued from page 2**Operation Hours and Ticketing**

Visitors will get to enjoy 20 per cent off the usual price if they are residents of Larut Matang, Selama and Keria OR if they come in with more than twenty people in a group. School groups, travel agencies or government groups with formal letters and verification, will receive 30 per cent discount and for senior citizens an exclusive 50 per cent off. Prices are subjected to 6% of GST

Daytime ticketing price**Daytime:**

Visiting Hours: Open everyday of the year including Sundays & Public Holidays from 8.30am to 6pm.

Feeding time: 10am to 11am.

	Adult	Children
Normal Price	RM16	RM8
20%	RM13	RM17
30%	RM11	RM6
50%	RM8	RM4

Night Safari:

Visiting Hours: Open everyday of the year including Sundays & public holidays from 8pm to 11pm (till 12am for Saturday nights and eve of public holidays).

Feeding time: 8.15pm to 10pm.

Night Safari ticketing price

	Adult	Children
Normal Price	RM20	RM10
20%	RM16	RM8
30%	RM14	RM7
50%	RM10	RM5

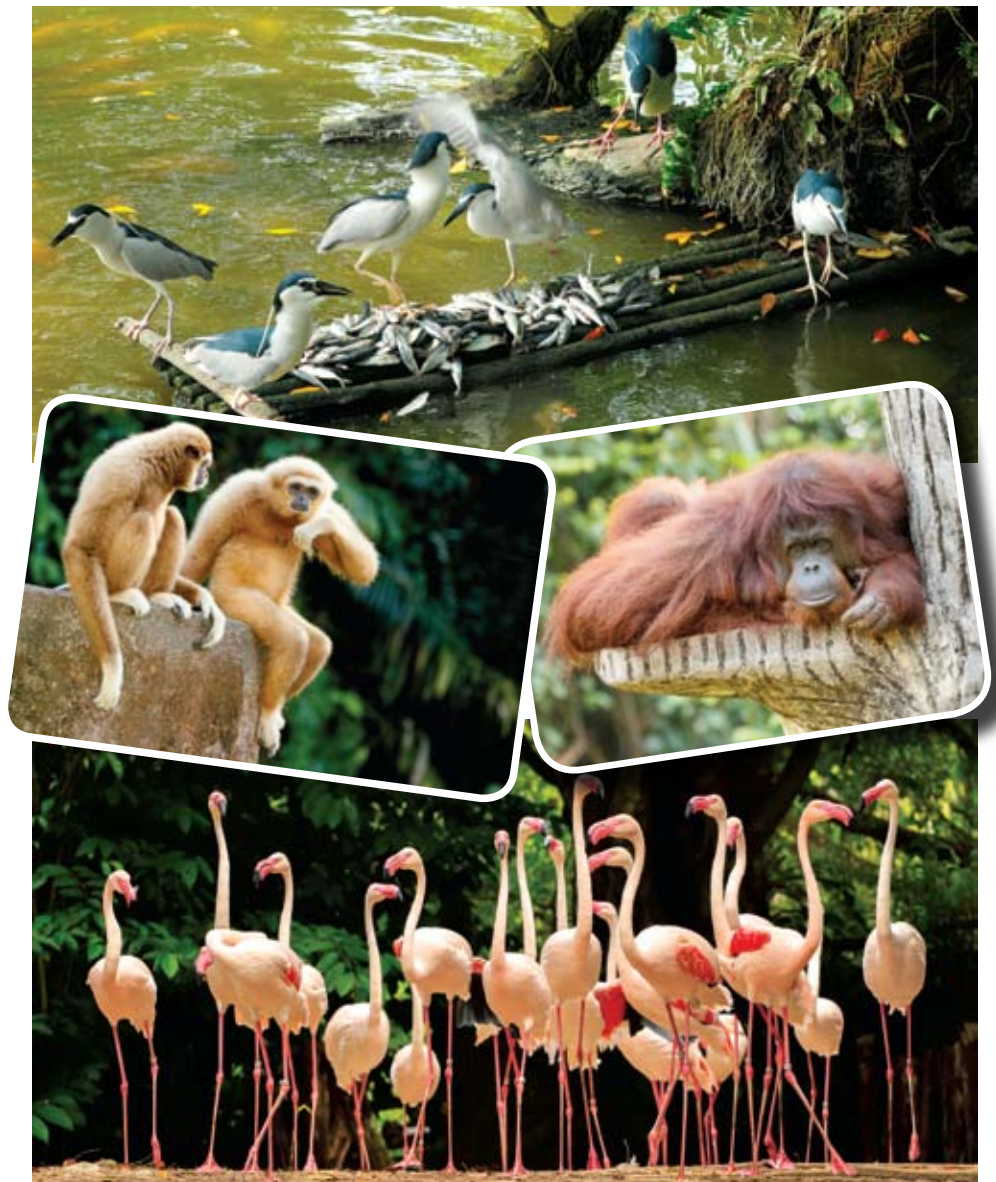
Contact details:**ZOO TAIPING**

**Jalan Pekeliling, Taman Tasik Taiping,
34000 Taiping, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia.**

Tel: 05 808 6577 Fax: 05 806 6025

URL: <http://www.zootaiping.gov.my/>

GPS: N 4° 51.3' E 100° 45.1'

**News****Solemn Tribute to Brother Vincent**

People of all walks of life from around the world filled St Michael's Church, Ipoh during the funeral mass for the late Dato' Reverend Brother Vincent Corkery on Thursday, March 24.

The morning dawned bright and clear as the remarkable 87-year-old, who represented all that was good about Christian missionaries who worked in Asia, was laid to rest at the grounds of the church.

Ipoh Echo talked to those whose lives have been touched by the man who passed away after a short illness at a private hospital in Ipoh on Tuesday, March 22.

His niece, Noreen Stanley shared her fondest memory of him, "In the last number of years, my sister has a place in West Cork in Ireland and he used to come on vacation in May. All the family members would sit around and chat. It's was a wonderful time."

"I was a Michaelian in the 1960s. This kind and gentle man always gave deep words of wisdom. He could discuss any subject matter, not just poetry. He was the pillar of St Michael's Institution (SMI) together with Brother Paul, always building infrastructure and looking after the poorer performance students," Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, Chairman of SMI Board of Governors cum CEO of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad remarked.

Joseph Michael Lee, Chairman of SMI Parent-Teacher Association, was Vincent's student in 1972. He was in Form 1 then. "He'd take students out to the greenery outside the classroom for poetry reading. He was always challenging us to be culturally sensitive. I remember how he encouraged us to watch the internationally famous Vienna Boys' Choir who came to Ipoh to perform then. He wasn't just interested in us getting A's, he wanted us to be well-rounded gentlemen with manners," he recalled.

Chan Kok Keong, Deputy Chairman of the Perak Academy, was taught by the icon for Standard 3 back in 1960s. "It's a pity that the late Brother's experience and knowledge was not really made use of by the authorities," he lamented.

"I got to know him when I studied Form 6 in SMI in 1975. I was transferred here as the principal last year and met up with him again. He's a very gentle person, always giving good advice. A man of his times," said Madam Chan Nyook Ying, Principal of SMI.

"Besides practising the Lasallian core values and non-streaming of classes, Brother Vincent named the school's sports houses after the Brothers: La Salle, Patrick, U-paul and Augustus. His contributions were not confined to St Michael's Institution alone but in Malaysia and regionally, as he was teaching in Singapore before he came to Ipoh," she added.

"The way he talked, slow and steady, with a sense of humour and a twinkle in his eyes to indicate he was speaking with tongue in cheek. His warmth was always felt whenever you were with him," Victor Chew, Secretary of Ipoh City Watch related. Victor got to meet Brother Vincent at many education-related activities when he started teaching in the late 1980s.

Brother Vincent may no longer be with us but his greatest legacies, character and faith, are forever etched into our minds.

Mei Kuan



Travel

Malaysians Catch Travel Bug Despite Depreciation of Ringgit

If the sales of oversea destinations during the recent three-day MATTA Fair held at the Ipoh Parade is any indication, the depreciation of the Malaysian Ringgit has not stopped Malaysians, particularly those in Perak, from the lure of tourist attractions abroad.

“Over RM35 million worth of tour destinations were sold,” said chairman of the fair’s organising committee, David Chong. “This is an all time record for Perak. Last year, we managed to sell just about RM30 million tour packages.”

According to Chong, top on the list of popular destinations is Japan. Next are South Korea and Taiwan. He said that cruises of Asian countries were also gaining popularity.

Over 30,000 people visited the fair, which had 88 booths set up by domestic and overseas tour agencies.

He attributed the increase in Malaysians keen to tour abroad to the change of attitude of senior citizens. “The old folk are no longer thinking of saving only for their children’s education, but also felt that they deserve to tour abroad,” Chong added.

On the other hand, the depreciation of our currency had also resulted in a 20 per cent increase in inbound tourists compared to last year. It also allows foreign visitors to stay another day or two in Malaysia. This, he said, was especially true as Singaporeans were noted to spend an extra day in Ipoh.

The fair also introduced eight agro-tourism products to the list of Perak’s tourist attractions which are aimed at encouraging visitors to get hands-on experience of agricultural life. They are the Sahom Farm Valley (Kampar), Gaharu Tea Valley (Gopeng), iGROW (Institut Agro Usahawan, Kampung Gajah), Refarm (Kampar), Trong Leisure Farm (Taiping), Pink Guava Sime Darby (Sitiawan), Syamille Agro Farm (Kuala Kangsar) and Sahabat Hutan Bakau Lekir (Sitiawan).

Jerry Francis



News

A Heart-warming Ranger Reunion

Over 500 former officers and soldiers of the 4th Battalion Royal Ranger Regiment, along with their family members, attended a reunion at the mess hall of Camp Syed Putra on Saturday, March 26. The get-together was for a reason. The date coincided with the battalion’s 50th Anniversary. It was one of nostalgia, hugs and tears. The Ranger battle cry, “Agi Hidup Agi Ngelaban” filled the hall.

Fifty four, inclusive of five widows and five disabled veterans, received their long over-due meritorious medals, the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM), in recognition of their service to King and Country.

Formed on March 28, 1966 with its nucleus at Camp Syed Putra (Sulva Lines), Ipoh the battalion is presently stationed at Camp Oran, Kangar. It remained in Ipoh for a good eight years (1966-1974) before being rotated to other bases in the country.

Organising chairman, Col (Rtd) Dato’ Syed Othman bin Syed Ali Alsagoff, recalled with much emotion how the football field was used as a helicopter landing point to bring in wounded soldiers and casualties in the early 1970s. It was at the height of the Second Malayan Emergency (1969 to 1989) and the jungles around Tanjong Rambutan and Ulu Kinta were Communist hotbeds.



Wellness

By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen

Prevention Of Chronic Kidney Disease

Ipoh Echo recently talked to Dr Fauziah Khairuddin, Consultant Nephrologist at KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital about **prevention of chronic kidney disease (CKD)**. For the layperson, a nephrologist is a Physician who has been trained in the management of kidney disease which may include inflammation, infection, kidney stone disease, acute and chronic kidney injury. They also manage end stage renal failure patients i.e., the ones on dialysis.

Dr Fauziah is a **sessional Nephrologist with 3 clinics a week** and has been practising at KPJ for the past 24 years. According to Dr Fauziah, diabetes mellitus accounted for more than half of the primary renal disease in new dialysis patients for the last 10 years.

In general, the presence of the following risk factors for CKD should provoke formal testing for CKD. These include history of diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, obesity, metabolic syndrome, smoking, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis C virus infection, and malignancy; family history of kidney disease or treatment with potentially nephrotoxic (kidney toxic) drugs



Dr Fauziah Khairuddin, Consultant Nephrologist

DIABETES MELLITUS

Long standing diabetes mellitus especially if poorly controlled will lead to **diabetic nephropathy** whose **risk factors** include having chronically elevated blood sugar levels, being overweight or obese; smoking; having a diabetes-related vision problem (**diabetic retinopathy**) or nerve damage (**diabetic neuropathy**).

To **diagnose**, urine tests are recommended once per year in people with type 1 diabetes, beginning about five years after diagnosis, and in people with type 2 diabetes, starting at the time of diagnosis.

DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY TREATMENT

People with diabetes often focus on keeping their blood sugar levels in the right ranges. And while it is important to **control blood sugar**, it turns out that **controlling blood pressure** is at least as important. That’s because high blood sugar and high blood pressure work in concert to damage the blood vessels and organ systems.

For these reasons, the most important things you can do to **stall kidney disease** and protect against other diabetes complications are to make **healthy lifestyle choices**, keep your blood sugar as close to normal as possible, keep your blood pressure below 140/90, if possible.

Lifestyle changes include limiting the amount of salt you eat; quitting smoking; losing weight if you’re overweight.

Manage blood sugar levels by keeping blood sugar levels close to normal can help prevent the long-term complications of diabetes mellitus. For most people, a target for fasting blood glucose and for blood glucose levels before each meal is (4.4 to 6.6 mmol/L).

A **blood test called A1C** is also used to monitor blood sugar levels; the result provides an average of blood sugar levels over the last one to three months. Even small decreases in the A1C lower the risk of diabetes-related complications to some degree.

Manage high blood pressure — Many people with diabetes have hypertension (high blood pressure). Although high blood pressure causes few symptoms, it has **two negative effects**: it **stresses the cardiovascular system** and **speeds the development of diabetic complications** of the kidney and eye.

If these measures are not effective or your blood pressure needs to be lowered quickly, your provider will likely recommend one of several high blood pressure medications.

Blood pressure medications — Most people with diabetic nephropathy need at least one medication to lower their blood pressure.

Monitor for signs of change — After beginning treatment and lifestyle changes to stall kidney disease, you will need to have repeat urine and blood tests to determine if urine protein levels have improved.

So to prevent kidney disease, lead a healthy lifestyle, eat a balanced diet, quit smoking, maintain a normal weight and if you have diabetes mellitus or high blood pressure, do follow up regularly with your doctor and check for kidney involvement as has been outlined above. Those with a family history of kidney disease such as polycystic kidneys should also go for a screening test for kidney disease.

Dr Fauziah Khairuddin, Consultant Nephrologist.
KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital Tel: 05 240 8777

The audience was moved to tears when Brig-Gen (Rtd) Dato’ Kamarudin bin Mantan, the deputy organising chairman, narrated how Capt Chandran a/l Velayuthan and his men successfully dislodged a band of Communist Terrorists operating in the Ulu Kinta forest in 1971. Chandran and his men charged up the enemy position. He was shot twice in the head. In spite of being mortally wounded he kept firing at the enemy until his last breath. Cpl Rahman bin Jaafar, Rjr Abang Bolhi and Rjr Bajau anak Ladi were with Chandran during that fateful day on June 13, 1971.

Ipoh Echo spoke to two of the pioneering members of the battalion and this was what transpired.

Cpl Abdul Malek bin Puteh, 57, from Kuala Selangor began his service in 1979 and served the battalion for 15 years. “I still remember the many operations we did in Sarawak, especially in areas such as Bau, Biawak, Lundu and Sri Aman,” he recalled.

Lt-Col Yap Chok Sang (Rtd) joined the army in 1966 and was commissioned into the Rangers in 1968 as a subaltern. “It’s so nostalgic, especially when I had a look at the barracks. Way then I was a young officer and my formative years spent with the battalion were my most memorable,” he remarked.

Johor-born Yap came all the way from Melbourne, Australia, where he now lives, to attend the gathering. His advice for all serving soldiers, “Carry on soldiering like we used to.”

Present at the ceremony were Dato’ Aminuddin bin Md Hanafiah, state assemblyman for Hulu Kinta who represented Dato’ Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, Minister of Finance II, Maj-Gen Dato’ Fadzil bin Mokhtar, General Officer Commanding 2nd Infantry Division, Brig-Gen Mas’od bin Hj Muhammad, Commander 2nd Malaysian Infantry Brigade and Lt-Col Mohd Nazri Madjan bin Abdul Rahman Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion Royal Ranger Regiment.

Mei Kuan

Visit us at POSMarket.com.my

Bundle Items	Price (RM)
Recon CPU Licensed Windows 7 (+ RM1054 for New Dell Inspiron, Win10)	445
New Manual Laser Barcode Scanner	280
New Monitor	329
New Cash Drawer	150
New Mouse & Keyboard	15
New Thermal Receipt Printer	560
BMO POS Software	800
Pendrive Back Up	25

Full Set Total Price RM 2604

1800 87 7061 (M'sia Toll Free)

KK Leong 014-602 8442
Mr. Ang 012-492 7082
03-7980 1388 (KL)
04-642 0621 (PG)
011-3671 0208 (JB)
sales@mobiweb.com.my

7FO-10, Tower Regency Hotel & Apartments Jalan Dato Seri Ahmad Said, 30450 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia.

CLASSIFIED

Two Indian hearing impaired brothers (OKU) presently working in KL, are seeking jobs in Ipoh. The elder (36) is a graphic assistant, knowledgeable in Adobe (Photoshop, Illustration, Indesign). The younger (32) is an assistant draftsman knowledgeable in AutoCadd, MES. This is an appeal to kind Employers to give them an opportunity. They could be reached through their father (Rajah) 017-8995738 / 05-5270491. Thank you for your kind consideration.

TEACHERS WANTED

Pre-school teachers wanted for CPE Training & Development Centre, Ipoh

If you love children, have the talent and resourcefulness to keep them interested and motivated to acquire not only reading skills and general knowledge but how to be caring individuals, and have fun doing so, you might be the person the children are waiting for.

Call 016-5599727 (Ms. Lee) for the above position.

Teachers are also wanted for the Cambridge Young Learners English Course.

Call 016-5200098 for CYLEC

Arts and Culture

Kareem Encourages More Art



Art has been an important part of his life and now local artist Kareem wants to encourage more people to express themselves, and get in touch with their artistic side. A previous interview in Ipoh Echo (issue 217, August 1-15, 2015) lauded his talent in the fields of painting and drawing and now he is conducting art classes to give insight into the world of art.

"Aside from learning painting and drawing techniques, students will also be briefed on the history of art allowing them to get to know famous faces such as Leonardo Da Vinci to name a few," said the young artist.

Students of his class will start off learning how to draw and paint still-life objects, figures, animals and



also scenery before learning to compose their own masterpieces. The classes will be held from Friday to Sunday, with two separate sessions; noon till 3pm, and 3pm till 6pm. Personal classes are charged at a monthly rate of RM150 per person while group classes are charged at a monthly rate of RM100 per person with a maximum of five people per group. For more information, contact Kareem at 014 347 5000 or 05 241 7840.

Ili Aqilah

Kellie's Castle on Canvas

Organised by People of Remarkable Talent (PORT) recently, the Plein Air Challenge 2016 not only unearthed fresh talents, but also helped in promoting the state's iconic tourism products in conjunction with Visit Perak Year 2017.

According to PORT director, Zamari Muhyi, it was the first watercolour painting competition that used Kellie's Castle as its subject.

"Since the castle is one of the attention-grabbing tourism products, we've taken multiple approaches to enhance its promotion and the competition is one approach. The response is overwhelming, especially from participants outside of Perak. More than 100 amateur painters produced paintings of high value," he said.

"Two similar programmes are in the pipeline. The targeted locations are the tin dredge in Tanjung Tualang and the city of Ipoh. Participation is open to the public. Details will be forthcoming," he added.

Painters were given four hours from 9am to produce an art piece with an attractive perspective of the castle.

First place was won by Azman Md Nor, 31, from Selangor. Second spot went to 39-year-old Mazuki Muhammad from Kelantan while Halim Abang Drashid, 43, from Kuala Lumpur took third spot. They received RM3000, RM2000 and RM1000 respectively besides certificates, plaques and T-shirts.

Prizes were presented by Dato' Zainol Fadzi Paharudin, a member of PORT's Board of Directors.

Held for the first time ever, the competition was supported by Persatuan Seni Rupa



Malaysia, Perak Tourism Sdn Bhd, Tourism Malaysia, Batu Gajah District Council and K-Perak.

Rosli Mansor



News

Perak Tax Forum

The Chartered Tax Institute of Malaysia (CTIM), Perak branch held its Perak Tax Forum 2016 at Syeun Hotel recently where the issue of the evolving tax landscape was the main highlight of the day.

Attendees of the forum were enlightened on the current issues in the tax world by known speakers such as Datuk Harjit Singh Sindu, the CEO of HSS Advisory Sdn Bhd who talked about the tax incentive for SMEs. Guests were also briefed on managing key risks in withholding tax, given by Thenesh Kanna from Thenesh, Renga & Associates.

Guest of honour, Tan Sri Chang Ko Youn congratulated CTIM Perak's efforts to keep its members updated through its engagement initiatives and as a link and intermediary between revenue collecting agencies, tax practitioners and taxpayers.

"We currently face a number of challenges to our national revenue. These challenges include the uncertain conditions in the global financial and real economies as well as the sharp fall in the price of petroleum and other commodities. With that, I wish CTIM Perak will continue its successful organisation of the forum," said Chang during the opening ceremony.

Ili Aqilah



Pride of Workmanship Award

Running on the theme "Do it once – do it well", Rotary Club of Ipoh honoured 19 outstanding staff from the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital, Ipoh with the Pride of Workmanship Award on Friday, March 11 at the hospital's auditorium.

Promoted by Rotary Clubs worldwide, the annual award acknowledges employees in any field and any position for their exceptional service, commitment and dedication in their line of work. It is aimed at building better employer-employee relationship, as well as bringing work enthusiasm to a higher level.

"It's my first time receiving this award. I feel grateful and happy as it shows that our service to the government hospital is being appreciated," Dr Yan Yang Wai, one of the recipients, told Ipoh Echo. Practising since 1989, the general surgeon has been with the hospital for eight years.

Present at the joyous occasion were the award organising chairman, Chan Siew Yee, the hospital's

director, Dato' Dr Ahmad Nordin bin Mohd Jais and deputy director, Dr Kamalakshi a/p Saminathan.

"We're presenting a weighing machine, which could take up to 300kg, to the Bariatric Surgical Unit," said the Rotary Club of Ipoh President, Dr Kok Fu Loon.

"The machine is important, especially for obese patients, as it helps us in providing treatment and surgical options for them. Conventional weighing scale normally takes up to 150kg only. We recently operated on a 247-kg (approximate) patient. We couldn't weigh the patient and had to use a commercial machine instead," exclaimed Dr Kirubakaran Malapan from the Breast and Endocrine Unit. He has been practising for 16 years.

Formed in 1930, the Rotary Club of Ipoh is the third oldest Rotary Club in Malaysia. To date it has contributed a digital display board, intraocular lens, playstation (video game console), wheelchairs, a LCD TV, food packages to the hospital and financial aid to poor patients.

Mei Kuan



Perak Matta Fair



The low currency and economy did not seem to stop Ipohites from visiting the much awaited travel fair of the year, the Perak Matta Fair 2016 held at Ipoh Parade from March 11 to 13. The crowd went wild as the fair offered cheaper and valuable holiday packages to feed travel junkies.

During the official launch of the fest on March 11, Tourism Malaysia took the opportunity to promote Perak's latest packages that focused on Perak's Agro sectors. State exco for tourism, culture, arts, communications and multimedia, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Dato Mohammed Radzi was present to officiate the affair.

"The Perak Agro Tourism package is one of our efforts to invite more visitors, both domestic and international to visit Perak," said Nolee in her speech.

Perak Matta Fair this year saw over 20 companies and travel agencies such as Fulham Tours Sdn Bhd, Keris Travel & Tour Sdn Bhd and Parlo Tours Sdn Bhd, offering special holiday packages to interesting and famous destinations such as Japan, Korea, Australia and many more.

Ili Aqilah

A Timely Recognition

Outgoing President of Ipoh-based Perak Women for Women Society (PWW), Halida binte Mohamad Ali, was among the 11 recipients of the Iron Lady Awards 2016. The presentation ceremony was held at the concourse of Aeon Metro Prima Shopping Complex, Kepong on Sunday, March 13 in conjunction with the annual Women Street Crime Awareness Campaign initiated by the Road Safety Marshall Club.

This is the third annual award ceremony which began in 2013. The Iron Lady Award is to recognise women who have contributed selflessly, in whatever ways, to society, especially in the empowerment and liberation of women, per se.

The 11 recipients come with diverse backgrounds, ranging from housewives to businesswomen to policewomen. Each has her own stories and achievements to relate.

Perak Women for Women Society has been in the forefront of women's affairs in Perak since its formation in 2003. The society's forte is in tackling issues relating to domestic violence and spousal abuse. It has carved a name for itself and is well known throughout the state, the result of the cumulative efforts of individual members of the society. Halida has been with the society since 2005 and became president in 2014.

Incidentally, two other members of PWW were similarly recognised for their work thus making Halida the third recipient of the august award. The two previous winners were Dr Sharifah Halimah Jaffar (2013) and Yip Siew Keen (2014).

The awards were presented by Dato' Seri SK Devamany, the Perak State Legislative Assembly Speaker. Present at the ceremony were Capt Balasupramaniam, founder and president of the Road Safety Marshall Club and his able assistants. Popular singer cum entertainer, Zamil Idris emceed the event. His rendition of Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up" was a fitting tribute to all the ladies present among the 500-odd audience.

Ed



COMMUNITY

Avid Reader Receives Award

“I’ll keep on reading.” That was the answer given by government retiree, S. Anandan, 72, when asked about him being voted as the individual who borrowed the most number of books (adult category) in “Let’s Tour De Library @ Tun Razak Library Programme” on Saturday, March 12.

Anandan did not expect to be picked as winner of the award, as he considered his book-borrowing routine as part and parcel of his hobby. Nonetheless, he was proud of the achievement and vowed to continue with his hobby till the end of his days. For the record, the septuagenarian borrows an average of five books a month. His choice ranges from fiction, novel, military and politics, though not in that order.

“The award comes as a pleasant surprise to me. I’ve been a member of this library for 35 years,” he told reporters.

The award was presented by Senior Executive of the Karangkrat Media Group, Muhammad Asyraf Yahya. In attendance was Mohd Zakuan Zakaria, Secretary of Ipoh City Council.

Anandan recommended that the reading habit be instilled in youths today. Malaysians in general are not into reading, per se.

The Assistant Director of Community Development, Tun Razak Library, M. Kasturi said that the programme was aimed at revitalising the library through organised activities that would benefit Ipohites.

“We’ll organise a book sale in conjunction with Ipoh City Day on Monday, May 23,” she added.

Rosli Mansor



McDonald's Visits Dialysis Unit

McDonald's Gunung Rapat Drive Thru organised a visit to the Dialysis Unit at Fatimah Hospital Ipoh recently.

Food and ang pows were given to the dialysis patients by Operation Consultant, Mr Tan Chee Beng, Regional General Managers, Shahrul Nizam, Shukri, Rohana, Customer Service Executive Mazidah Mustpha and Customer Service Ambassadors, Esther Kris and Fatin Fatihah.

The Chief Executive Officer Dr Ng Yew Sang, Consultant Physician & Nephrologist was also present for the occasion.

Susan Ho



Paying It Forward



When Susan Ho Sue Fun, 29, saw a video of a stranger paying meals in advance for another person, she decided to start the same act in Ipoh. After nearly a year of operation, Pay It Forward Ipoh (PIFI) has been feeding the homeless every week on Saturday.

When PIFI first started, together with her co-founder, they would walk around the city of Ipoh after hours to find the homeless. Using their own money, the duo distributed Nasi Lemak and drinks for them and now from a team of two, it has expanded into a big group of volunteers who came from all sorts of backgrounds, race and religions.

“We provide the food for those who need it regardless of their race and religions. I decided to focus on the homeless because they are often neglected due to their past history,” said Susan who is currently working in Kuala Lumpur.

“I was lucky to have great support from my family and friends to do this, especially my mom who has been kind enough to cook for the homeless for almost every serving,”

added Susan. Her mom, Surine Chan, 58, has a stall located at Indera Mulia Stadium food court, shop number 3, where she will cook vegetarian noodles and sometimes porridge too.

PIFI runs solely on public funding where donations can be made upon buying food at Susan's mom stall or by contacting Susan herself, “There are times when we would receive kind donations from the public and some would even sponsor the whole meal and toiletries.”

The volunteers of PIFI would gather every Saturday at 11pm at UTC, Ipoh. They will then pack the food, drinks and other donations before distributing it around town including Taman Kanak-Kanak and People's Park.

Readers who are keen on joining Susan and the volunteers of PIFI can check their Facebook page at Pay It Forward Ipoh or contact her at **011 1278 7268** or email: ipohpayitforward@gmail.com.

Ili Aqilah



IPOHecho

Like us on Facebook
Facebook : Ipoh Echo
<https://www.facebook.com/IpohEcho>

Follow us on Instagram
Instagram : ipohecho.my
<https://instagram.com/ipohecho.my>

FOLLOW US ON

twitter
Twitter : ipohechomy
<https://twitter.com/ipohechomy>

Upcoming Events

Ipoh Picnic Day

Ipohites and foodies, clear your schedule on April 16 to attend the first ever, Ipoh Picnic Day happening at Taman D.R. Seenivasagam!

Get ready to tuck into Malaysian delicacies from restaurants all over Ipoh with the chance to sample the delicious dishes cooked by the one and only, Malaysia international celebrity chef Datuk Redzuawan Ismail or known to many as Chef Wan where visitors will also get to learn a thing or two about preparing cooked meals from scratch by the man himself.

The event is organised by Generasi Bersatu Malaysia (GBM) together with state Human Resource, Youth and Sports (BS2M), Tourism Perak, People Of Remarkable Talent (PORT) and Kedai Seni. The Chief Empathy Officer of GBM, Izat Izwan Idzian who's also the Project Manager for the event hopes that this event would unite locals from different ages and also provide youths knowledge about Malaysia and its traditions.

"The family-friendly festival will be packed with a lot of activities. On the entertainment side, one of Ipoh's famous bands, Bittersweet, will be performing live together with Couple. Aside from that, we will be having a movie session where the film 'The Journey' will be aired later at night courtesy of Astroshaw," said Izat.

Aside from food vendors, there will also be a few stalls selling fashion items and not to forget, food trucks will be available too.

"We currently have over 70 stalls and restaurants such as El Negra Distro and Konda Kondi joining. This is an event no one should miss," added Izat during the press



conference held at PORT recently.

For more details about Ipoh Picnic Day, readers can visit their Facebook page, Ipoh Picnic Day or Instagram at @ipohpicnicday or Peatix at ipohpicnicday.peatix.com.

Ili Aqilah

Ipoh International Waiters Race 2016

The fourth edition of the Ipoh International Waiters Race is back with a vengeance. This premier sporting event is fixed for on Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15 at the Lost World of Tambun, Ipoh.

Maggie Ong, Chairperson of Malaysian Association of Hotels (Perak Chapter) said that over 500 participants, including those from overseas, would partake in this internationally-acclaimed competition.

"We expect an ever larger participation this year, especially from locals and Asean countries. Similar to last year, we picked the Lost World of Tambun as the venue considering its popularity as a touristic spot in Perak, especially Ipoh.

"This is a good opportunity to help Perak Tourism promote its tourism products in conjunction with Visit Perak Year 2017," said Maggie to reporters following the launching of the event on Thursday March 17, at Lost World of Tambun.

The competition is divided into two categories. Category A, named Classic Tray, is open to individual men and women with cash prizes of RM2000, RM1000 and RM700 for the top three winners. Category B, dubbed Sportive Tray, is also open to individual men and women with the cash prizes of RM1500, RM1000 and RM500, respectively.

On the first day is the Master Chef competition for cooking buffs. It is open to all professional staff registered with the Malaysian Association of Hotels. Besides that, fruit and ice carving competitions are on the cards.

Readers keen on participating please call the Marketing and Communications



Department of Impiana Hotel, Ipoh at **05 2555 555** or email: fey.chiam@impiana.com or visit its website at: www.ipohwaitersrace.net.

Rosli Mansor

Obituary

Dato' Brother Vincent Corkery

Brother Vincent who passed away on March 22 2016 from pneumonia was a La Salle brother who at the age of 20 answered an appeal to leave his country to serve overseas.

He was born and grew up in a farm in Cork, Ireland. He joined the Brothers of St John Baptist De La Salle in 1942. He obtained a BA (Hons) in History and Political Thought from University College Dublin. He also pursued post graduate studies at Cambridge University.

He began his vocation in 1948 by teaching in St Patrick's School, Singapore and later on at St Joseph's Institution.

In 1958, after turning down an offer to be Brother Director of St Joseph's, he was posted to St Michael's as Brother Sub-Director and became Brother Director from 1971 to 1976.

When Brother Paul returned to Ipoh in 1976, he relinquished the position for his mentor. Upon Brother Paul's retirement, Brother Vincent became Brother Director again.



In 2010, he was awarded Dato'ship from the then Sultan of Perak, the late Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah. St Michael's celebrated his diamond jubilee as a La Salle Brother in 2015, aptly running on the theme "Our teacher, our friend, our brother".

An inspirational icon to countless lives and careers, as innumerable also are the boys and girls whose characters were shaped by his loving kindness, deep wisdom and vast learning.

Emerging from an Irish background, Brother Vincent very quickly assimilated both the hopes and the anguish of the young people under his care. He understood the psyche of the Malaysian adolescent and sought to reach out to them. In a sense, he was ahead of his time and adopted a progressive approach towards education.

In place of elitism, he initiated a more inclusive culture of discerning the uniqueness of every individual. He saw each child in the school as gifted and it was the

duty of the teacher to discover the gift and help develop it. He also encouraged the weaker pupils and those from underprivileged families to strive to excel.

As a religious, he was not only prayerful but had a great devotion to serving in the church and the community at large. He never failed to stress the importance of quiet time and personal reflection. As a teacher, he was witty, effervescent and never boring. As a friend, he was always soft-spoken, considerate and caring.

Seldom would he miss daily mass. Not so long ago, he could be seen cycling to St Michael's Church for Holy Communion. More recently, when no longer so agile, he would be driven by Brother Matthew to morning mass at the Church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Ipoh Garden. Inevitably, there would always be many who would approach him for advice, a blessing or just to catch a glimpse of his saintly figure!

Erudite but always unassuming, Brother Vincent adored James Joyce and loved Shakespeare, the world's greatest writer. He also admired George Bernard Shaw. His favourite poets were W.B. Yeats and Patrick Kavanagh. He was conversant in Latin and French besides having great knowledge and understanding of the Bible, especially the psalms and the Gospel. He was also appreciated classical music.

Although officially retired from being Brother Director in 1988, he never really retired from education. He was happy in writing and research and was active in the La Salle Centre, Ipoh organising programmes for young people. He was a key member of the Regional La Salle Education Council which amongst its objectives was the revitalization of the schools run by the Brothers.

A memorable quote of his is "Just as war is too serious a matter to be left to Generals, education has become too important to be left to Teachers!"

Brother Vincent was always sensitive to the spiritual roots of Malaysian society. To him, these roots are deep and he remained hopeful that they can give definition and meaning to the lives of Malaysians. He saw the biggest challenge being experienced by all our many spiritual traditions as how best to minister to the needs of young people in this internet era. Spirituality, he believed, is not an option but a prerequisite to a successful education system.

This spiritual dimension was undoubtedly close to his own life, from the beginning to the end. Indeed, to him and all the brothers of the La Salle schools, the spiritual dimension was inseparable from the aim of every school run by the Brothers which is to help evolve a nation of people, irrespective of religion, who will be truly good, happy and wise!



iSpeak
A. Jeyaraj

MBI and Local Agenda 21

Some years ago MBI invited a number of NGOs and explained the concept of Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and how we can work together to improve the quality of life in Ipoh. With the change of mayors this seems to have been forgotten. LA21 is a programme to forge partnerships between local authorities and the communities they serve and to work together to plan and care for their surroundings towards sustainable development. LA21 adopts a "bottom up" approach. That is to say the local community themselves are involved from the very initial planning stage.

Programme Background

LA21 (Local Agenda for 21st century) programme was launched in June 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. There were a total of 178 participating countries, including Malaysia. The programme began its implementation in Malaysia since the 8th Malaysia Plan (RMK8) in 2002 by initially appointing four pilot local authorities, namely Petaling Jaya City Council, Miri City Council, Kuantan Municipal Council and Kerian District Council. Other local authorities were also required to implement LA21.

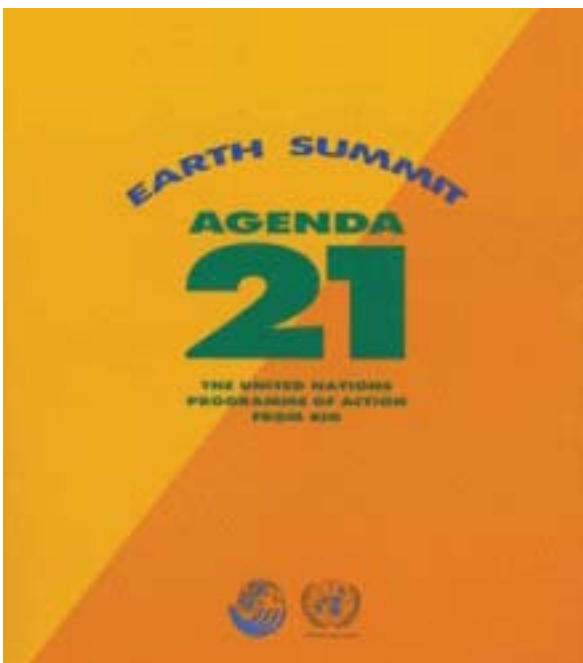
MBI claims that it has implemented LA21, I think it is in theory rather than in practice. The Land Office was shifted to Kampung Manjoi without consultation with the residents and there were many complaints. The Customs Department is in Lim Garden, causing traffic jam and minor accidents. The residents were not consulted. The Syariah Court is in a residential area in Pari Garden. Recently, the operating hours of Tun Razak Library has been reduced to office hours without any consultation with the public and many people have complained. This is an issue to be dealt on its own.

So far MBI has not invited Lim Garden Residents Association regarding any development project in the area. MBI did not discuss the issue of land request by St Philomina Tamil School for extracurricular activities with the residents. The newly proposed commercial project will affect the residents whose views have not been heard.

Residents in Meru Raya are concerned of the rapid developments taking place in their area and are not aware of what is going on.

Benefits of LA21 to individuals and community:

- Your views being taken into account in the planning and implementation of



development projects. Your local authority will be more sensitive and effective to your needs

- A more conducive environment and a higher quality of life
- Having more pride and ownership over your surroundings

Programme Objectives

- To expose sustainable development issues to the public and private sectors
- To clarify that sustainable development is a shared responsibility
- To formulate strategies and action plans based on the LA21 local sustainable development issues.

This looks nice in theory, but is not being practised. MBI must engage residents associations and Rukun Tetangga and discuss the projects being planned in their areas. The residents know best what is good for them. However, MBI must be cautious in dealing with NGOs. Many NGOs are more interested in promoting themselves than looking into the welfare of the residents.

Local Government Act 1976 states councillors "shall be ordinarily resident in the local authority area, have wide experience in local government affairs or have achieved distinction in any profession, commerce or industry or are capable of representing interests of their communities".

Do our councillors fulfil these requirements and are capable of doing their duties?

Councillors are the link between the public and MBI. It is the duty of the councillors to inform residents in their zones on the projects that are being planned in their zones and get their feedback.

While surfing online I noticed that many local councils in other cities like London, Brisbane, Auckland and many more allow the public to attend council meetings which are held during late evenings enabling the public to attend. The public can participate in the meetings and their opinions are taken into consideration. The minutes of the meetings are also made available.

We have a new forward-looking young Mayor and he must open the council meetings to the public, if he thinks there is nothing to hide. If we want to be a developed country we must follow some of their good practices.

Personality

Sheila Jamal

For this issue, Ipoh Echo met Sheila Jamal, 31, an ESL teacher who decided to ditch the usual scene and teaching to become a creative make-up artist.

Ipoh-born Sheila, who is currently staying in Kuala Kangsar, has always had an interest in doing make up and she spent a fair amount of time at events like weddings, engagements and parties.

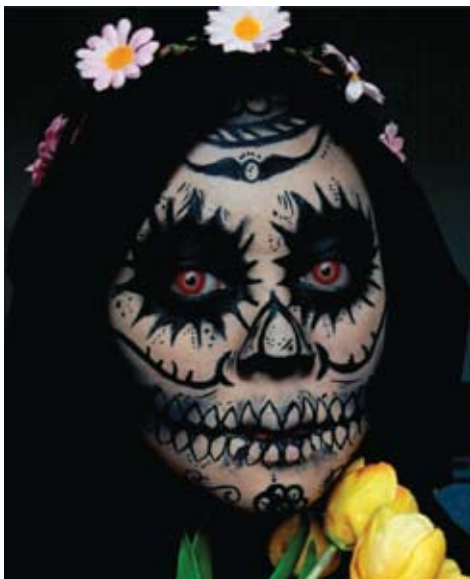
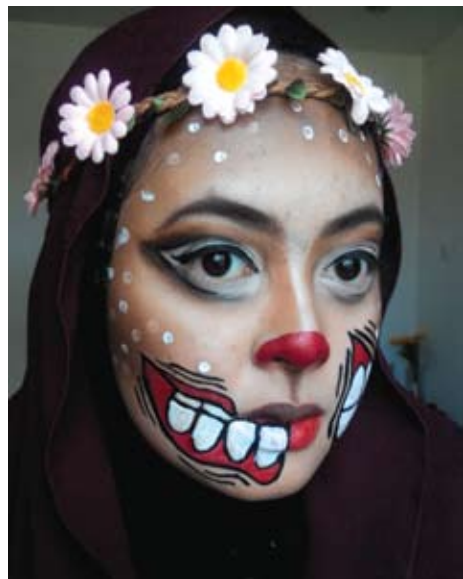
"I've been a make-up artist since 2010. As time passed by, I started to question myself on how I can be different from the others? Then the idea of doing creative make-up popped up," said Sheila.

Impressed by her skill, a production company offered her a chance to do zombie-style make-up for its cast but due to her tight schedule, Sheila had to turn it down.

"I am currently in my final year and about to finish my thesis paper. It was hard to decline the offer but it had to be done," said Sheila who was inspired by other make-up artists she found on Instagram such as @Naye0na, @lola_von_esche and @heloys.

When asked about the difficulties she faced, Sheila admitted it wasn't easy at first. "I received sarcastic remarks on my Instagram page all the time. It was hurtful of course, but you learn to let go of unimportant matters slowly. I hold on to the strong support I receive from my family and close friends," added Sheila who looks like she is on the way to establishing herself as a leading creative make-up artist one day. Readers who are keen to see more creative looks by Sheila can check her Instagram page at @snowlily.

Ili Aqilah



News

Lingzy Represents Ipoh

Ipohite Lingzy was in Ipoh for a quick break from the hustle and bustle in Kuala Lumpur when she decided to compete in the Shuddup N Dance competition held recently at Ipoh Parade. The final battle took place on March 20 where Lingzy emerged as winner for Solo Category, beating twenty other dancers including Daniel XP, the winner from last year.

"Lingzy was at home for holidays when she found out about the competition. For a girl who loves dancing, naturally she wanted to take part in it," said Program Director, Alan Thoo.

For the group category, the epic battles of twenty dancing crews saw representatives from Penang, Dvolution grabbing first place leaving DareFam second and EXLR8 Dance Crew as the first runner up. Dvolution impressed all judges including Bboy GeeOne from Thailand who was amazed by their slick and quick moves.

"Although there is room for improvement, Dvolution's synchronizations and choreography sets them apart from others," said Bboy during the final battle. Two Rejuvenate Crews members, Dannya Lee and Chan Hon Fee were among the judges on that day.

Top four solos (Lingzy, Daniel Xp, Bboy Hi Jump, Mugen) and top three groups (Dvolution, DareFam, EXLR8 Dance Crew) from the Ipoh Parade battle will be up against the winners from Klang Parade, Citta Mall and 1Mont Kiara mall in August for the final round of Shuddup N Dance 2016 battle.

Ili Aqilah



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.

Reverend Brother Vincent Corkery & La Salle Brothers

Reverend Brother Vincent Corkery passed away at 12.18pm on March 22 and the funeral was held on March 24.

How de La Salle Brothers was founded:

John Baptist de La Salle was born into a world very different from our own. He was the first son of wealthy parents living in France over 300 years ago. He completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest on April 9, 1678. Two years later he received a doctorate in theology. Meanwhile he became tentatively involved with a group of rough and barely literate young men in order to establish schools for poor boys.

To be more effective, he abandoned his family home, moved in with the teachers and so formed the community that became known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Brother Vincent Corkery, who comes from Ireland, has served in Malaysia since 1948 or a span of more than 60 years. Several years ago, he applied for Malaysian citizenship after having obtained the necessary pass in written and oral Malay, but his application was rejected without explanation.

His main contribution has been to St Michael's Institution in Ipoh where he served since 1958. In addition, he took an active interest in Malaysian education. In the 1960s, he was the state supervisor for oral English, and served in the early 1970s as secretary-general of the national conference of the Heads of Secondary Schools. For some years he was an active member of the Malaysian Historical Society.

As with other Brothers who taught in Malaysia, the financial remuneration provided to him has been barely adequate. His last drawn monthly salary as Principal was RM1000, and when he retired in 1988, he did not qualify for a pension or for other retirement benefits. Since retirement, the La Sallian communal fund has provided him RM1000 a month for his



Bro Vincent Corkery



St Michael's Institution

food and car maintenance.

In retirement, he heads a centre for programmes for student leadership and for staff groups at La Salle Centre in Ipoh, and serves as secretary for the Brothers Councils for Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The La Salle Brothers made their first appearance in Asia in 1852 when they founded St Xavier's Institution in Penang. Since then a network of Lasallian schools has developed throughout the country. When the British left Malaya, the Lasallian Brothers stayed on to manage their schools.

During the Japanese army occupation of the country all the foreign brothers were imprisoned. My old teacher, Brother Lawrence Spitzig, a Canadian was imprisoned in Changi, Singapore. Brother Lawrence retired as principal of my alma mater, St John Institution and died last year on August 18 in Assunta Hospital, Petaling Jaya at the age of 92 after long service to the nation.

These Catholic schools have continued to flourish even when the Brothers have greatly diminished in number. The foundations were well laid, and Lasallian education continues to be an important part of our education system even in these changing times.

Several of our important leaders of the nation, including our Prime Minister Abdul Najib Razak, Hishammuddin Hussein, the Sultan of Selangor, the Sultan of Perak Raja Nazrin and many others have had their education in my alma mater St John's Institution, Kuala Lumpur.

In terms of their service and loyalty to the country and the various communities, the Brothers hold a torch that is second to none.

Their dedication and commitment to the country was perhaps most evident during the Japanese Occupation period. Despite the warnings of many friends that they would be perceived as enemy aliens by the Japanese and of the dire consequences following, the Brothers opted to stay with the people. They paid a horrific price for this loyalty.

The consequences included incarceration in Changi prison where 15 Brothers were held; Taiping and Pudu jails where 12 were held; and at Bahau, in Negri Sembilan, where some 30 were held under primitive conditions in a mosquito-infested jungle settlement, surviving only on the food they managed to grow.

Once the Japanese surrendered, in spite of what they had endured, the Brothers returned to their posts and reopened their schools without delay. The fact that they had not run away but had chosen to stay with the people and share their pain, greatly enhanced their standing in the post-war years but this seems to count for little today.

I urge the authorities to do the right thing for all other LaSallian and missionary educators who have sacrificed so much for our country. Provision of a gratuity and a pension, automatic approval of citizenship, appropriate medical and other civil service benefits – surely the country can afford this minimal humanitarian assistance.

Koon Yew Yin

Tribute to a Great Star

It is heartening to read in The Star, dated Thursday, March 17, that award-winning action star and Ipoh-born, Tan Sri Michelle Yeoh, has been appointed a United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador.

This is a great achievement, as Malaysia is being represented by a talented lady who has acclaimed roles in the James Bond movie, "Tomorrow Never Dies", Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and others.

I remember vividly when she was crowned Miss Malaysia, her first voluntary service was to visit the residents of the Salvation Army Home in Tambun where she gave away goodie bags and food along with the Y's Men's Club of Ipoh.

Her late father, Dato' Yeoh Kian Teck, was also a generous man who helped people from all walks of life. Like father like daughter, I am sure she will continue walking the extra mile to help others.

Let us all congratulate and thank her for her advocacy and philanthropic efforts, which have brought fame to our beloved country.

K Letchimanan

Looking for Nieces

A friend of mine from the United Kingdom is trying to trace the whereabouts of his two nieces with whom he stayed together in the 1960s.

His name is Tang Fook Wah, a British citizen residing in London. His two nieces are named Tang Poh San and Tang Poh Yin, respectively.

The ladies are believed to be in their 40s now and were staying at No. 1, Samson Road, Merdeka Garden, Ipoh with their grandparents then.

Their mother worked for the Tang family as a maid. Their grandparents' names were Tang Chee Kee (grandfather) and Cheong Woon Kuan (grandmother).

Their father, Tang Fook Kui, migrated to the UK around the year 1971 and now resides in London.

Tang Fook Wah has tried to locate the two ladies some years ago by writing in the Northern Issue of The Star, but to no avail.

To readers who could help, I can be contacted at **012 666 6238**.

Anne Weng

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.

Perak Academy Lecture Series entitled: 'Bifurcation of the Malaysian Legal System' by Professor Andrew James Harding, Saturday **April 2**, 8.30pm at Syeun Hotel, Le View, Level 10, 88 Jalan Sultan Abdul Jalil, Ipoh. Dress code: batik/long sleeve. Dinner at RM100 per person. For reservation, tel./fax: **05 241 3742** or **016 221 3742**. Email: contact@perakacademy.com.

Community Service Project, 'We Care Our Turtle', Tuesday **April 5**, 10am to 3pm at Segari Turtle Sanctuary, Lumut, Perak @ Pusat Pengurusan Penyu.

St Michael's Institution, Ipoh school play entitled "FROZEN" would be held from Friday, **April 15** to Sunday, **April 17** at 7.45pm at its main hall. This year's play is dedicated to the late Brother Vincent Corkery. Tickets are priced at RM20 and RM50. All proceeds will go towards school maintenance. For details, call the school at **05 254 0418** or email Peter Khiew at peterkhiew@yahoo.com.

Basic Teaching & Learning Course for Tutors. Modern Language Training & Consultancy Services (IPO 44 1988-D) is organising the above mentioned course themed 'connecting-extending-challenging' for parents, home tutors, kindergarten

teachers and lecturers. The purpose is to train those who have no formal teaching qualifications on the basic concepts of teaching, learning, assessment and lesson planning strategies. The modular-based course will be conducted on weekends. The course begins on **April 16**. For further information, contact Dr Bart **0111 643 3120** or anthaman90@yahoo.com.

Mother Teresa's Reading Shelter Charity Lunch 2016, Sunday **April 24**, from 11am to 2pm at Church of Our Lady of Lourdes Hall, 45 Jalan Silibin. For tickets call **05 241 0751**.

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.

Perak Women for Women Society (PWW) offers counselling services, for victims of domestic violence, by Mabel Wong our licensed and registered counsellor. PWW also has a crisis intervention support team comprising of para-counsellors. For more information, please call PWW at **05 546 9715**.

Young Perak

Young Entrepreneur Programme

The Perak team was adjudged the best company at the national-level Tunas Niaga Programme (Young Entrepreneur Programme) 2015, held at Casuarina@Meru recently.

The team, comprising of five schools in Perak, defeated 42 other teams that participated in the convention. It scored 870 out of a possible 1000 points. It won RM1500, a trophy and a certificate during the highlight of the convention, which was officiated by Dato' Samsudin Abu Hassan, Executive Councillor for Consumer Affairs, Entrepreneur Development, Cooperative, NGO and Civil Society. Present at the event was the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Services) of the Perak State Development Corporation, Sayed Shariffuddin Sayed Shamsuddin.

Second place went to the Pahang team with 847 points while the Malacca team came in third with 814 points.

The Perak team was represented by students from SMKA Kerian, Madrasah Idrisiah, SMKA Slim River, SMKA Sultan Abdullah and SM Sains Raja Tun Azlan Shah.

In his speech, Samsudin said that additional budget should be allocated for the programme to realise the country's hope in producing one entrepreneur per family, as encouraged by Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He added that the event is capable of producing at least 50 successful entrepreneurs from 250 participants.

"We can see the effectiveness of this programme based on feedback received. It should, therefore, be supported with a better budget allocation and other improvements in future. Today, we see the involvement of 1000 students from 42 secondary schools from around the country in the three-day convention. This is a record of sorts," he added.

The revamped entrepreneurial programme, first introduced in 1989, was initially under the supervision of the Coordination Unit of the Prime Minister's Department. Beginning 2014 it is being jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Financial and the Ministry of Education.

Rosli Mansor



EDUCATION

Tenby's Kiddie Sports Day

It was a fun-filled morning at Tenby Early Years Centre Ipoh's Sports Day held at the centre's field on Saturday, March 12. The children came dressed in brightly coloured red, blue, green and yellow T-shirts representing their teams.

The day kicked off with a march-past followed by the singing of the national anthem and the Tenby Cheers, which got the parents and spectators clapping in unison to the music.

Puvanes Mahendran, Head of Tenby Early Years Centre Ipoh, in her opening remarks, said that children enrolled into nurseries and schools today did not possess physical skills and, therefore, were less mobile and agile. The reason, she posited, was their early exposure to computerised games, TV and the Internet. The absence of rough-and-tumble activities, enjoyed by children of yore, made what they are today.

"The emphasis at the Tenby Early Years Centre Ipoh is to develop their fundamental movements and sporting skills. This will form the foundation for more complex skills later on," she added.

The eventual prize-giving ceremony marked the end of the morning sporting carnival. The winning team was Neptune (yellow team). It garnered 191 points to come out ahead of the competing four teams.

Nantini



Socialising in Learning

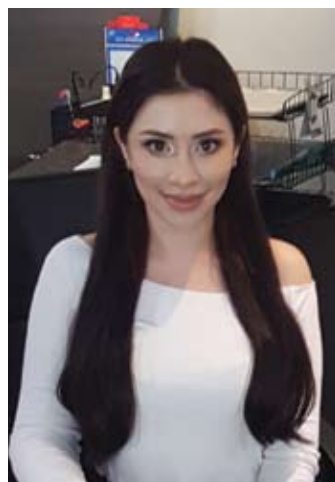
Through her own experience, Sophia Khan and her co-founder decided to fix the lack of social equality in Malaysia's learning system. That is when and how Classroom Technologies Sdn Bhd was founded.

"We wanted to provide quality education to everyone regardless of their social status such as race, religion and financial standing; giving everyone an equal chance at life in general," said the young enthusiastic Sophia.

How does Classroom work? Imagine yourself in a virtual chat space, instead of just interacting with others you can now get access to educational content provided by educators. In other words, it is like hitting two birds with one stone; learning and also socialising.

"Teachers upload content onto the portal in the form of pre-recorded videos, tutorials, notes, lectures and also exercises where students can then complete later," added Sophia.

Both teachers and students can create their own unique profiles, chat to one another, take part in educational games and also publish their scores onto social media accounts such as Facebook. There are currently two separate business models for Classroom; one for public schools and the other for private. The cost of public schools are being funded and covered by government and students will get access to the public



school syllabus and subscribe to any government school teacher who has an account with Classroom. As for private schools, the access to content is limited to internal users of the school only.

"We currently have 40 public schools in the state of Johor and expect to expand further into states like Perak and Selangor," added Sophia who is also currently working with a number of private educational institutions to convert their physical content to digital so they can expand their reach.

Although Classroom is only available in Malaysia, make no mistake about its limitations as the team is planning to expand worldwide, starting with countries like Indonesia and India. When asked about the difficulties in managing Classroom, being a young entrepreneur herself, Sophia admits to having trouble with public school sectors where the access to Internet connectivity is limited, however they are working hard and a few meetings have taken

place with telco companies across Malaysia to find solutions and provide Internet access for them.

"Just because something has been a certain way for a long time, does not necessarily mean it is right and unchangeable. I don't feel the need to conform to the norms of society if it does not sit well with me. As far-fetched a dream may be, I for one know that with belief and perseverance, slowly but steadily you will inch closer to fulfilling it," said Sophia.

For more information about Classroom, readers can visit classroom.com.

Ili Aqilah

Yang TU Yang NI

The views expressed in this column are the writer's and do not necessarily reflect those of Ipoh Echo.

The Elephant in the Room

Dr Mahathir resigned from UMNO Baru and called everyone to come together to get rid of Najib. Is it to serve his own ends or for the national good? That is the billion dollar question.

Many have insisted that cooperation is conditional on addressing other issues also – not just getting rid of Najib and then we are back to the same old situation which the new leader can exploit; it should be said that Mahathir is responsible for much of the mess we are in.

These people have called for an independent anti-corruption agency, a police which is not politicised, addressing our flawed judiciary, better governance and an electoral system that is fair, transparent and which really reflects the population.

I can't help but notice that they have thought of everything except the elephant in the room – Bumiputraisim.

Whether we like to admit it or not, Bumiputraisim is the source of most of our problems.

Let's examine this claim:

The greatest damage Bumiputraisim has done to our country is to drive a wedge between those who have been anointed "sons of the soil" and those who have not. What is the basis to say that so and so is 'a son of the soil' – surely not their origin for the original inhabitants of this land are the Temiars, Jakuns, Sengoi, etc. and the natives of Sarawak and Sabah. The rest of us came from other lands, near and far. I dare venture that many Malays have shallower roots here than some Chinese or Indians. Indeed like the disgraced ex-Menteri Besar of Selangor Khir Toyo, many came over very recently. So there is really no historical basis for this category of citizenship called Bumiputra; unless it is confined to the Orang Asli and the natives of East Malaysia. In fact the term did not exist in our original constitution – we were all Malaysians.

Bumiputraisim makes national unity impossible.

"My friend, the one free race we dream of seems so distant from reality

My anger turns to sorrow when they drive a wedge between us

The distance grows, I get the title 'bumiputra' and not you" – Usman Awang.

The concept of citizenship has been described thus:

"Citizenship which is conferred upon a person after the fulfillment of certain legal and sometimes cultural requirements entitles him to the same rights and responsibilities as the earlier or original inhabitants of the land. Once citizenship is acquired no distinction is made. Theoretically everyone is completely equal." – Chandra Muzaffar.

Bumiputraisim has certainly emboldened the corrupt politicians and bureaucrats who, in the name of defending Malay rights, have looted the country with impunity. What they did benefited them and their cronies, not the Malay masses.

We are less competitive because we have not used our best talents. In a globalised economy we have to compete with others. The world is not bothered with our internal politics – it doesn't owe us a living. Does it matter if it is a Malay, Kadazan, Indian or Chinese who is in charge? Everyone benefits if we are progressive and prosperous – the colour of the cat should not matter, as long as it catches mice. Until we maximise our human potential we will not be competitive.

It has led to a second rate civil service and police and public universities (which produce second-rate graduates and so the vicious cycle continues).

The cost of living goes up for everyone – including Malays. How not to when you award someone the right to collect money by sticking a hologram to the things we buy under the guise of protecting us against counterfeit, or make secret deals with the toll operators or add millions to a contract because someone wants his cut.

If we want to put our country right then we have to honestly tackle the Bumiputra issue. Getting rid of one prime minister and addressing issues ad hoc without dealing with the fundamental cause does not do the job. It is only kicking the can down the road. We ignore the elephant in the room at our own peril.

Yin – the man from TR

My Say

By Jerry Francis



Potential of Gunung Lang Park Not Tapped

Each time I take the short boat ride across the "lagoon" to the hidden garden of Gunung Lang Recreational Park and return, I feel a sense of great disappointment.

Since I highlighted the deplorable condition of the once beautiful park eight months ago, I have made a number of trips – paying RM1.50 (senior citizen fare) for the return trip by motor-boat.

I have been hoping that the Ipoh City Council would give the park a complete facelift, or develop it into a magnificent botanical park. Surrounded by greenery and limestone cliffs, the park has the potential of being turned into a unique tourist attraction to make Ipoh proud.

Instead, the gazebos are rotting and about to collapse, the aviaries are damaged and empty, the shrubs and flower plants appear to be neglected, broken benches and collapsed sheds are everywhere and the deer and ostrich in the enclosure are in poor condition.

Nothing much seems to have improved, except some of the overgrown bushes and creepers have been cleared, and the embankment reinforced against erosion.

However, it is heartening to know that Mayor Dato' Zamri Man had assured that public parks in the city would be spruced up and returned to the people.

But, it will be a mammoth task to achieve as negligence over the years had reduced the park to a pathetic state, which would require a big amount of funds to redevelop.

About RM11 million was spent on the park over a decade ago so that it could be a premier family recreation spot for city folk and a tourist attraction. Its artificial waterfalls with the name of the park above the cascading water can be seen by motorists along the north-south expressway.

Despite the time and money spent on the project, the park still failed to achieve its desired objective and was left to rot. I am sure the influx of visitors during the recent school holidays, who had packed motorboats operated by the city council for a five-minute trip across the lake, too, must have felt the same after visiting the garden.

Many of them, including foreign tourists, were seen spending hardly half an hour in the garden and took the next boat out. They must have felt "cheated" as they had expected to see a well-kept beautiful garden.

"All I saw was poor maintenance," claimed a businessman from Pantai Remis, Lim Ah Wah, who had visited the park with his wife and two children. "Everywhere there is withered plants, damaged pots, damaged gazebo, and cracked floors. I didn't make the trip here to see a dying public park."

Lim did not understand why the city council had failed to improve and maintain the park. He had visited a number of public parks abroad and saw how efficiently they were maintained even though they were older than the Gunung Lang park.

A trader from Tapah, Hassan Din said he heard about Gunung Lang from a friend and decided to take his wife, three children and a nephew to visit the park.

"After about a 20-minute walkabout, we had seen enough and decided to leave," he said. "What a pity, we had come with the hope to have a good time, but left disappointed. Only the three kampong houses and two newly-constructed toilets are still in good condition," he added.

The park was first discovered by the Rotary Club of Ipoh over three decades ago and they decided to adopt it. It was then approachable only through a tunnel under a limestone hill. The tunnel has since been closed.

It was later taken over by the Ipoh City Council and developed into a recreational park with a new entrance from the lake.

Are these what the visitors take a boat ride to see?



One of the damaged and empty aviaries



Another gazebo in appalling state

SPORT

Nine Medals in Northern Zone Masiswa Championship

In line with one of UTAR's pillars of education, namely physical and mental health, UTAR has been encouraging its students to participate in sports and other co-curricular activities in order to inculcate interest and creativity, as well as to enhance leadership and management skills.

This round, UTAR Kampar Campus contingent achieved another exceptional feat in winning a total of nine medals – three gold, two silver, and four bronze – in the annual Kejuhanan Masiswa Zon Utara 2016 that was held at the Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) Sports Complex in Penang from February 26 to 29 February. The nine medal haul placed UTAR in second position in the overall rankings.

Organised by TAR UC Penang in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Majlis Sukan IPTS Malaysia (MASISWA), the tournament was aimed at encouraging students' participation in co-curricular activities. The tournament saw more than 700 student athletes from a total of 15 institutions of higher learning in the Northern Zone, competing against one another for the championship title.

UTAR Department of Students Affairs, Sports and Recreation Unit Assistant Manager S. Theva Das led the contingent of 46 students. Volleyball, futsal, chess, badminton, ten pin bowling, table tennis, netball and basketball were the games played and UTAR participated in four of them.

The three golds were from women's volleyball, badminton mixed double pair, and the first team in badminton women's double pair. The badminton players who contributed the two golds were Marketing student Jason Loo Koon Seng and Accounting student



Goh Sueki in the mixed double pair event, and Banking and Finance student Lee Xue Qi and Goh again as the women's double pair players.

The two silver medals came from the first team in the badminton men's double pair and the men's volleyball event. Three bronze medals came from the badminton players in the second team in women's double pair, the second team in men's double pair, and men's single events. While the remainder came from the men's single event in chess.

Theva Das said, "Apart from raising the standard of games amongst the student athletes from institutions of higher learning, this annual tournament is also a great platform for UTAR students to enhance their knowledge and expertise in sports." He added, "Our UTAR players played well and I am personally proud of their determination, persistence and motivation throughout the tournament."

Rookie O'Toole Wins at Clearwater

American rookie, John Michael O'Toole captured his maiden Professional Golf of Malaysia (PGM) Tour title when he won at the Clearwater Masters recently.

The 22-year-old, who came into the fourth and final round of the RM200,000 golf tournament at Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort, Batu Gajah, Perak with a four-shot lead, carded a one-under 70 on the final day, Saturday, March 12. The score gave the American a 15-under-par 269 tally, two shots ahead of his Thai rival.

Thailand's Poom Saksansin shot a 68 and was runner-up with a 13-under 271 total, while Malaysian R. Nachimuthu also finished with a three-under 68. He was third, a stroke adrift on 272.

Sattaya Supupramai, of Thailand, was fourth with an 11-under 273, while his compatriot Namchok Tantipokhakul (69) and Jay Bayron (68) of the Philippines were tied for fifth. They finished on nine-under 274.

The Thai duo of Natthapong Niyomchon (67) and first round leader Ekthumrong Luanganuruk (72) were joint seventh on 275, Malaysia's Gavin Green (70) and Sorachut Hansapiban (67), of Thailand, were tied on six-under, 278.

O'Toole, cousin of last season's Asian Development Tour Order of Merit winner, Casey O'Toole, had mixed fortunes over the front nine, he stumbled to bogey at the 2nd hole and triple-bogey at the 6th hole.

However, four birdies levelled things for him. And after two birdies and a bogey on the back nine, he did enough to wrap-up the title with some room to spare. The victory was worth RM35,000 to the Bangkok-based American.

Ipo Echo caught up with the players and those behind the game.

Regarding the weather, this was what O'Toole said, "Usually, in Alabama where I'm from, we'll get some days like this in early August, around midday." A first-timer to Ipoh, here is his advice for aspiring golfers, "Follow your dreams, you'll never know when your time will come. Put in hard work and just keep at it."

Turning to his game, the amiable O'Toole commented: "Kind of had a struggle there on hole 6 but ended up finishing strong the rest of the way. I tried focusing on one shot at a time and never gave up until I reached the final hole. I am pleased with the way I finished." This is his first win since turning professional last year.

"I've been speaking with my mentor (veteran Malaysian pro) Iain Steel every day and that helped pull me through here. He's given me a lot of good advice and I really appreciate it," he added.

Poom had this to say, "I played okay. I thought I could put some pressure on John but my three-wood let me down today. But I'm still happy with how I played. I am happy I gave myself a chance to contend for the title. My game is good and, hopefully, I can win a second tournament soon," added Poom, who is also 22.

Serendah-born R. Nachimuthu, 45, came in third. A multiple winner on the Tour, he was pleased with his week's work at Clearwater. He carded all four rounds in the 60s. Nachimuthu's final day score was a three-under 68.



"I keep working on my fitness, as well as staying focused with my training," said Nachimuthu, one of the senior players on Tour.

For his efforts, Nachimuthu earned RM14,000 and a few notches up the world ranking, since the tournament was co-sanctioned by the Asian Development Tour.

Kenny Yap Ken Nan, Chief Executive Officer of Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort, was delighted to host the golf tournament. According to him, the PGM Clearwater Masters was part of their rebranding effort after their last hosting of the tournament in 2011.

"This is a new start for us. That's why we wanted the tournament to build that new branding. We hope to stage more golf tournaments in future in line with our resort's goal of improving the standard of golfing in the country," said Kenny.

Also present at the prize-giving ceremony held on the same day were Dato' Mohamed bin Hamzah, Chairman of Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort and Mior Abdul Rahman, General Manager of Professional Golf of Malaysia.

Mei Kuan and Nantini