

IPOH echo

Your Voice In The Community

July 1-15, 2010

PP 14252/10/2010(025567)

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ISSUE **100**

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AN ECHO IN THE DARK

Ipoh Echo celebrates its 100th Issue Anniversary today!

• By *Fathol Zaman Bukhari*

It was merely an idea put forth by a member of a threesome driven to desperation by the dearth of news on Ipoh. Whatever was gleaned from the mainstream media, be it English, Malay, Chinese or Tamil, delved little on Ipoh and its neighbourhoods. News on the political front dealt mainly with the ruling elite thus the slant, as expected, was onerously one-sided. It was difficult to get views and comments that were objective, non-prejudicial and non-partisan.

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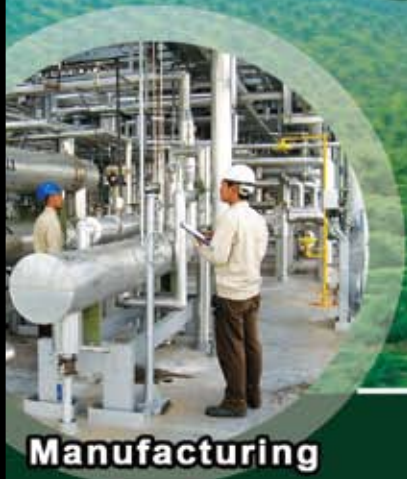
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Manufacturing

Ipohites' biggest headache then was an insensitive city council that seldom responded to their needs. The founding of the country's only community newspaper has much to do with Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI) – herein lies its connection.

Evolution

The evolution of Ipoh Echo is incomplete if no reference to a non-governmental organisation (NGO) known as Ipoh City Watch is made. This NGO, popularly referred to by its acronym ICW, was formed in November 2002. The three protagonists, namely, Sivaprasagam, Bobby Yin and Fathol Zaman, were inadvertently drawn to the ideals of this society which openly champions the aspirations of Ipohites, albeit subtly. The primary objective of ICW is to improve the living standards of city dwellers through constant engagements with MBI. Yin was the society's first president while Siva and Fathol sat on the committee.

The trio comes from a varied background. Siva is a bona-fide Ipohite and a former student of St Michael's Institution. He is a lawyer by profession but took to managing a hotel out of necessity. Yin hails from Ipoh and is an ex-student of Anglo-Chinese School, Ipoh. He has travelled the world extensively having lived and worked in such exotic places as the Arab Emirates, Dubai and Sudan. He now resides somewhere in China. Fathol is the oddball. He is a former soldier having once commanded an infantry regiment while stationed at Kem Syed Putra, Ipoh. Fathol's birthplace is Parit Buntar.

Realising a Dream

None had any media or journalistic experience save for the time they were



Despite Football fever, Echo fans in UK take time out to catch up on Perak

Even the ducks get to peek at the Ipoh Echo in England



in school when they volunteered to write for their school magazines. They, however, made their marks by contributing much needed articles for ICW's quarterly newsletter. And their writings were mainly focused on the shortcomings of city council and related agencies under its wings. A piece written on the under-utilised 20-storey government building near the Jelapang Plus tollgate and another on the unkempt Chinese cemetery along Jalan Tambun had the authorities fuming. That was to be the format of forthcoming articles in Ipoh Echo, which at that time, was still on the drawing board.

It was no walk in the park for the founders as they were faced with the daunting task of making a dream come true. Detractors were aplenty. Some were downright blunt with their comments, arguing it was a doomed project with little or no prospect. Others were a little muted but were equally

acerbic in their remarks. One had the audacity to call them fools. "How are you going to survive? No one will read your paper let alone buy it", he teased. The only support they received was from close friends and family members, but they too were sceptical.

Publishing Permit

Starting a newspaper in Malaysia is an exercise in patience and perseverance. The biggest hurdle, besides funding, is getting a publishing permit (*permit penerbitan*) from the Ministry of Home Affairs or more popularly known as KDN (Kementerian Dalam Negeri). A publishing permit is renewable yearly and a fresh application has to be submitted three months before date of expiry. There are several conditions the publisher needs to abide by as contained in the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984. Although the law was meant to maintain genuine news stories, cre-

ate a regulated press sector, provide legal guidelines to journalists, some are of the opinion that the legislation "is aimed at controlling and manipulating the news delivered to consumers".

Application for a publishing permit was duly submitted on April 18, 2005. While the application was being processed, Yin decided to opt out, citing distance as an excuse. He had moved to Penang and no amount of persuasion could make him change his mind. So the burden of responsibility now rested squarely on the shoulders of Siva and Fathol. The duo felt it was their moral obligation to continue with the project in spite of waning interest and an inexplicably hostile environment. Much to their surprise their application for a permit was approved by the Ministry. Ipoh Echo came into existence on July 1, 2005, with the issuance of a publishing permit. The permit was

for a bi-monthly English-language tabloid numbering 5,000 copies for distribution within Ipoh and its neighbourhoods.

Along with that came other related problems which Siva and Fathol had to contend with. A small office within the foyer of Syuen Hotel was requisitioned for the purpose. Siva set aside RM25,000 as an initial capital for the project. Further financing was obtained from the few well-wishers and the hotel's suppliers. They bought space for advertisements in Ipoh Echo. It was a very modest beginning indeed.

The first issue rolled out from the printers on January 1, 2006, with a cover story on the inconsistencies of Ipoh City Council. One such grouse was centred on the manner full-board meetings were conducted. The contentious points raised were attire, attendance and publicity. The other was the prevailing conditions of Taman DR Seenivasagam which was in dire straits. Enforcement was one other point raised. There have been some positive changes since then.

Teething Problems

Working on a very tight budget had its downside. What was most problematic was sourcing for credible writers and contributors for free. The team had to depend on friends, independent contributors and

the Internet for editorials. This got the duo in trouble with KDN when an article by Bakri Musa was considered in poor taste by the authorities. A show cause letter was issued to the effect. Two other warnings followed in succession, one had to do with the editorial layout and the other with the contents of an "offending" article by one other controversial writer, Din Merican. These were nothing more than teething problems which were overcome with time and patience.

Coming of Age

Ipoh Echo has since grown by leaps and bounds. In September 2007, a partnership with Kinta Properties opened up new frontiers for the fledgling newspaper. From a modest beginning Ipoh Echo has transformed from being "Your Community Tabloid" to "Your Voice in the Community". It has gained both acceptance and footage in the city. Today, the paper is not only in print with a readership well over 40,000 per issue, but online with monthly hits in excess of 20,000. The paper's circulation far outstrips mainstream English-language dailies in Ipoh.

In conjunction with the paper's 100th issue today, the editorial team wishes to say, "Jutaan terima kasih" to the legion of fans for your unflinching support and belief. The country's only community paper has now come of age.

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LETTER FROM ULU KINTA

The following are my reasons to tempt my friends and family to visit Ipoh. Why not check yours out!

Why Ipoh?

Ipoh is a great, compact city – it has everything you need, but packs it all into a very manageable size. It's a gourmand and nature-lover's paradise. Escaping to the many attractions like the beach, the hill resorts, mangrove reserve and the caves in the limestone outcrops, are all within an hour's reach. Overseas friends enjoy the agritourism that is easily accessible.

What Do You Miss Most when you're Away?

Reading the newspapers over a *kopi tarik* while waiting for my breakfast of *roti canai* or *tosai*, followed by *char kway teow*, in a coffee-shop.

What's The First Thing You Do When You Return?

I go out to find some excellent local food. First stop, Funny Mountain Soya Bean in Jalan Theatre for *tau fu fah*. If I am up early, fresh toddy from a nursery in Gunung Rapat – it's for medicinal purposes.

IPOH: MY KIND OF TOWN

Where's The Best Place To Stay?

Ipoh has a range of hotels from budget to boutique hotels.

Where Would You Meet Friends For A Drink?

At dusk, the Iskandar Polo Club for the stunning views of the multi-coloured hues of the setting sun against a backdrop of the limestone hills. It is "Members Only" so hang around the paddocks or clubhouse for an invitation.

Or Berlin's Bier Houz in Greentown's Business Centre for a selection of imported German beers.

Where Are Your Favourite Places For Lunch?

I hate places with slow service or loud music. The following are favourite haunts: Moven Peak in the centre of Ipoh, Hollywood Restoran in Canning Garden, Simpang Tiga for Indonesian cuisine, banana-leaf and duck curry in Samy's Restoran in Chemor. Or for curry mee, try Keng Nam coffee-shop. Or just join any queue in

front of a noodle shop at lunchtime. I've never been disappointed.

And For Dinner?

The food courts at about 6 p.m. No vendors have a greater understanding of food than those in Ipoh. They are dotted around town. No trip to Ipoh is complete without a sample of Ipoh Chicken *taugeh*, for supper. Almost all of Ipoh's food places are excellent value – from RM3.00 a dish.

Where Would You Send A First-Time Visitor?

Emerald Lake, just past Jalan Kuala Kangsar Ipoh. For a walk, try the Heritage Trail for an interesting trip into memory lane, past architectural structures with fascinating origins. To the Gunung Rapat market on a Saturday morning for the sights, sounds and smells of a typical bustling market whilst being serenaded by the music played by musicians from a nearby home for the Blind. Wander the traditional medicine lanes in old town where dried seafood, ginseng and bird's

nests tickle the senses from open-fronted shops. There are several interesting shops around the main market in the centre of the city that specialise in various products such as those that make the lion's heads, in lion dancing.

Or have a day out to visit the Sam Poh Tong caves, Gua Tempurung, and Matang Mangrove Reserve.

What Would You Tell Them To Avoid?

Public toilets.

Public Transport or Taxi?

Public transport is very bad in Ipoh, but without a car, there is little choice but to use the taxis. They are not cheap anymore and the minimum charge may be RM10. Taxis never use the meter so a price has to be negotiated at the start of the journey. Be prepared to pick up additional passengers on the way to your destination.

Handbag or Moneybelt?

Definitely moneybelt. There are several reports of bag-snatching by people on motorbikes: be vigilant everywhere, keep your bags in sight always, and be careful when walking along the kerb. Be street-wise.

What Should I Take Home?

Pomeloes from the pomelo stalls opposite the Sam Poh Tong cave temple, groundnuts from Menglembu, *kicap cair* Cap Budak Terbang and *kicap pekat*

Cap Orkid, available from most grocery shops, wooden clogs from the main market and bespoke suits from Sin Tit tailor along Jalan Brewster.

YAM

Century Ride Is Here Again



On Sunday, August 1, hordes of cyclists will once again be seen riding over a carefully planned route through 100 miles of beautiful Perak terrain. Milestones will once again be achieved, personal records set or broken and friendships forged across cultures and communities. This is Century Ride, an event that brings the world to Perak and puts it on the map.

Century Ride – Perak's very own homegrown event and the only event of its kind anywhere in the region is once again inviting participants to register for this event.

RM100 for entries received before July 15. Check out more details and download entry forms at www.centuryridemalaysia.blogspot.com or call Ernest at 012-5162687 for more information.

TRAGEDY STRIKES LIKE LIGHTNING

by Peter Lee

Just less than two weeks ago five members of a family were killed and three others injured when the car they were travelling in collided with a trailer lorry which is believed to have been overtaking another car from the opposite direction. The dead were the father, his three children and mother-in-law. Those injured were the mother of the family and another two children. Another daughter is still studying overseas. It is always sad to read this kind of news and even more heart wrenching when you see their funeral in the newspapers. I believe that those who have followed this news feel very sympathetic to the family and hope that we won't face this situation with our family one day. A tragic accident like this is a grim reminder to all of us that life is so fragile and it can happen to us anytime because tragedy strikes like lightning. In light of such tragedy, we should ask ourselves what kind of financial security can we provide for our family, should anything happen to us?

One of the ways to provide financial security is to do a will and trust for the family. Assuming that the deceased father died without a will, the first issue that needs to be addressed is the appointment of Administrators for his estate to apply for the Letter of Administration. Once the Administrators have been appointed, then two guarantors (known as sureties) are required to provide the Administration Bond which is equivalent to the gross value of the deceased's estate. With this in place the distribution of the entire estate will be based on the Distribution Act, 1958 (amended in 1997) i.e., ¼ to his parents (if they are still alive), ¼ to wife and ½ to children equally. If the deceased's parents do not survive him, then the estate is distributed to wife (who will receive ½) and the children (⅓).

If the deceased has a will, then he would be able to appoint the executors of his choice. Secondly, he could choose the guardian for his children who are under 18 years old should the wife pass away. With regards to the distribution of his estate, he can give to his beneficiaries according to his wishes. Since he has children who are under 18 years old and could not receive his estate, then he can set up a testamentary trust in his will so that he provides a certain amount for their monthly expenses.

In addition to a will, he can also set up a Trust for his children's living, medical and education expenses. To create the Trust, he can assign life insurance policies to the Trust. Upon his demise, the money from the life insurance will be paid immediately to the Trustee Company like Rockwills Trustee Bhd, who will in turn distribute the moneys periodically to the respective beneficiaries according to his wishes written in a Trust Deed. This method of immediate funding is important and crucial especially when he has a daughter who is studying overseas. The reason for choosing Rockwills Trustee Bhd. is because it has the expertise, impartiality, professionalism and most importantly perpetual existence. So I urge you not to delay anymore and immediately take steps to provide security for your family by doing a will and trust for them.

Peter Lee is an Associate Estate Planning Practitioner (Wills & Trust) with Rockwills International Group. He is also an Islamic Estate Planner providing Wills & Trust services for Muslims. He is based in Ipoh and can be reached at: 012-5078825/05-2554853 or excelsec@streamyx.com.



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(Regd No 687483 T)

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THINKING ALOUD

By G. Sivapragasam

On June 10, the New Straits Times reported that the Perak government wants Lenggong Valley to be declared a world heritage site.

It quoted the Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Dr Zambray Abdul Kadir saying that the United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) had done an assessment of the area and that it had potential, especially in terms of world history. It further reported that, "According to UNESCO, the Lenggong Valley is one of the earliest sites of world civilisation which dates back more than 180 million years".

There can be no dispute that amongst the attractions in Perak the Lenggong Valley archaeological sites are in a class of their own. They have the potential, as Dr Zambray claimed, to put Perak on the world map.

Information Disseminated Should Be Accurate

Having said that, I need to impress that if we are to succeed in establishing and promoting this area as an important archaeological site we need to become more knowledgeable about archaeology in general and the area in particular and deliver accurate information. Only then can we be perceived as credible.

Grossly inaccurate statements like that attributed to UNESCO that the "Lenggong valley civilisation dates back more than 180 million years" has to be avoided. I do not know if UNESCO actually said this but I seriously doubt it. Suffice it to say that 180 million years ago dinosaurs were still wandering around the earth and mammals, let alone man, existed in ferret-like form and

this region, if it existed at all, was part of the super-continent Pangaea.

Modern Man Left Africa Only 100,000 Years Ago

Current evidence supports the theory that modern man (Homo sapiens) left his place of origin in Africa only about 100,000 years ago. He probably arrived in the Lenggong valley about 80,000 years ago. However, there is evidence that the ancestors of modern man (Homo erectus or descendants) possibly resided in the Lenggong valley 200,000 years ago. Even if this specie were considered human we are still talking only about 200,000 years, and 180 million years is more than a little exaggeration. I can only hope that it is the New Straits Times that erred, substitut-



ing million for thousand. If that be the case, the Chief Minister's secretary should have been diligent enough to correct the mistake within a day or two of its publication.

Is The Intent Research Or Tourism?

I do not know if the intention is to promote this site for research or as a tourist destination. If the intent is merely to employ the site for research I do not think much benefit could be derived by gaining recognition from UNESCO as a world heritage site. We will only succeed in subjecting ourselves to restrictions imposed by a third party.

If, on the other hand, we are talking about promoting the site as a tourist destination, I am puzzled by the fact that it appears to be missing in the Perak tourism master plan prepared by the consultant from New Zealand engaged by the State Government. It is unfortunate that there appears to be a singular lack of coordination amongst those directing tourism.

Set Up Dedicated Body for Lenggong

If we are really serious in promoting the Lenggong valley as a tourist destination, a separate body needs to be set up to single-mindedly focus on this product. It could

be modelled on the Perak State Parks Corporation. At the moment, save for the museum, which I must say is well designed and the artefacts well presented, the archaeological sites are not easily accessible and more importantly not ready with infrastructure to not only support visitors but safeguard the integrity of the sites. Rules and regulations need to be devised and strictly enforced to ensure that the value of the sites is not compromised in any manner. If this is not done we will only be inviting disaster.

Immense Tourism Potential

Prof. Zuraina says archaeology is much more than artefacts. It is the study of human culture and the process of its evolution. It is the study of how societies evolved and civilisations developed in a complex, dynamic and changing process, influenced by a range of factors including the environment, contact with others, population increase and changing needs.

This vision presents almost unlimited prospects for creating tourist attractions based on the history of the Lenggong valley.

One possibility I can immediately think of is creating a sound and light show at a suitable site in the area. Bringing the history of the valley to life in this manner will provide tourists an exquisite experience of prehistoric Lenggong.

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MUSINGS ON FOOD



● By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen

What is this obsession amongst the ethnic Chinese that fuels the drive for fresh seafood? Not only must the seafood item under consideration be fresh but preferably squirming or claw waving as it is presented at the table, or swimming in a tank for selection. Having almost exhausted the number of eating places that offer this option in Ipoh, a group of my foodie friends decided to take me further afield to Matang for new taste treats.

It took us under an hour to arrive at our destination, the Restoran Makanan Laut Lemon Tree, a very large 'coffee-shop' style restaurant in Matang, close to Taiping. Two glassed-in air-conditioned rooms towards the



back provide respite from the heat as our group settled in for the delectable lunch that followed.

Guarantee of Freshness

Lemon Tree is, as its Malay name 'Makanan Laut' clearly states, first and foremost a seafood restaurant, some of whose fresh



seafood come from nearby fish farms in Matang and Kuala Sepetang, which is almost a sure guarantee of freshness. The style of cooking leans towards the Teochew, with most of their steamed dishes sitting on a bed of bean thread vermicelli, beaten egg and laced in dark soya sauce unlike the Cantonese style which has no vermicelli and uses light soya.

Crustaceans Galore

Our first dish was the Oyster noodles, thick Udon-style noo-

dles in a soupy sauce replete with tiny fresh oysters. Eaten with black vinegar, the sauce which is eaten like a soup had all the right Umami notes. I felt that this was too heavy a dish to serve as a first course and would have been better at the end of the meal, which as I soon discovered, was a groaning twelve-course affair.

This was followed by clams (not the usual small market variety but large, round succulent clams) fried with scallions and ginger, and a second clam dish, this time the bamboo clams fried 'Kum Heong' style with dried chillies, dried prawns, curry leaves and curry condiments. Both clam dishes were very fresh and cooked to the right degree of doneness, which in the hands of someone less experienced can often lead to chewy bits of rubber.

Next to arrive were the 'spiny sea snails' in Chinese called 'Tsi Loh', just blanched, eaten with toothpicks and dipped into *sambal belacan* sauce. Quite a fiddly process unless you're like me who loves to extract the last

morsel from any shell or bone. This was followed by small shrimp, lightly battered and fried crispy. A great accompaniment with drinks which should have been served right at the beginning of the meal, particularly with beer.

Rare Surprise

Then we were presented with a dish which is very rare and totally seasonal depending on the catch of the day. It was a plate of shark's liver, looking not particularly appetizing on the plate surrounded by a dark sauce, but absolutely melt-in-the-mouth succulent, with not the slightest hint of fishiness and exploding in the mouth with its rich creaminess not unlike the sensation of biting into still-pink fresh foie gras or goose liver.

Piece de Resistance

A steamed dish was next, this being the piece de resistance of this restaurant which is the Mantis prawns or 'Lai Liew Har', large 7-8 inch long crustaceans which get their name from their resemblance to the praying mantis insect, and which to my mind are the best tasting crustaceans in the ocean. Scrumptious. This was followed by the steamed pomfret, a medium sized 'Tao Dai' which is highly prized amongst certain gourmards, in dark

soya sauce.

Then came sea-breeze fresh Flower Crabs steamed in the inimitable Teochew style, followed by small 'Tsai Yu' – a five inch long sea fish fried to a crisp where one can eat almost the whole fish, head, bones and all.

Irresistible Pancake and Mud Crabs

By now all 10 of us were groaning with surfeit of food and still the dishes kept coming. Next to appear was the Oyster Pancake, a flat pancake of egg and tapioca starch, generously dotted with medium sized fresh oysters, crisped on the edges and soft and chewy in the middle. Not an easy dish to find indeed and certainly nowhere have I eaten a more delectable one.

Last but not least were plump, fleshy mud crabs sautéed in salted duck egg roe, succulent and juicy with the egg roe sauce adding the right measure of saltiness. I was ready to give up altogether but the sight of the tantalizing crab claws had me tucking in with gusto.

For a group of 10 people and with the number of dishes we had eaten, the total bill



of RM428 was great value especially considering that most of the seafood dishes that we had is usually quite exorbitant in restaurants elsewhere.



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ANAK PERAK

● By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen

When one of your 18 children is an international superstar, you have every reason to rest on your laurels but not Dato' Yeoh Kian Teik, father of Bond girl Datuk Michelle Yeoh and one of Ipoh's most loyal residents. Where his six other siblings have flourished elsewhere, Kian Teik remained behind in Ipoh, carrying on his father's transportation business and becoming a transportation mogul in his own right.

Kian Teik is a second-generation Yeoh to call St Michael's Institution his alma mater, his whole family from his father to all his five brothers being alumni. From high school, Kian Teik went on to study law at Lincoln's Inn in the UK, returning to Ipoh to start his legal practice and continue in the transport industry in which his father was a founding member in 1937 and responsible for setting up of the town bus. He remained as a Director on the three transport

DATO' YEOH KIAN TEIK – LEGAL STALWART AND TRANSPORT MOGUL



companies, the General Omnibus, Kinta Omnibus and Reliance Omnibus for many years. Kian Teik set up Seri Maju, an executive coach service, in 1975 with the Ipoh-Singapore routing. Today Seri Maju plies the highways from Haadyai, Thailand, in the north to Singapore in the south with many stops at major cities and towns in between.

Less Hectic Lifestyle

In a career that spans almost sixty years, Kian Teik who is now 84, can still be seen at his desk at the

Seri Maju's office in Jalan Bendahara taking care of business as his staff walk in and out demanding his attention on various matters. His law firm is now in the hands of one of his daughters and Kian Teik who was Chairman of the Perak Bar Association on and off for many years, says he doesn't miss practicing law and now prefers a less hectic lifestyle, working mornings and spending his afternoons on leisure activities which may include playing mahjong and hobbies around fish, whether sea fishing

or breeding and watching aquarium fish.

"The only thing I miss about my law practice is the legal fights I used to have with the Seenivasagam brothers, be it in court or in the political arena", he admitted. "It was thoroughly enjoyable – total no-holds-barred-battles – and we would remain good friends in and out of the courts", he added.

Computer Savvy

The day I visited Kian Teik in his office, he was sitting at his desk peering into his computer. "No fear of technology for this 84 year-old" I thought to myself, and went on to discover that this is his way of staying in touch with his pan-global family of 18 children and 39 grandchildren, the fruit of a colourful personal life. "I started using a computer when I bought a computer for one of my grandsons who was six years old at the time. He became my computer coach and today I communicate with my extended family, aside from family

gatherings, through email and Skype."

Significant Moments

When asked about significant moments in his long and illustrious career as one of the legal stalwarts of Ipoh, Kian Teik proudly pointed to a framed photograph on the wall beside him and said, "meeting with Tunku Abdul Rahman in 1970", further identifying Tun Sambanthan and Tun Razak and Tun Ismail in the same picture.

He was active in the MCA for many years adding that "in those days, we had to take money out of our own pockets to support the party". He was also a Member of the Senate from 1959 till 1969. Kian Teik is particularly proud of his role in ensuring that nomination papers for both State and general elections were always properly filled out and no seats were ever lost in Perak, unlike what happened in some other states, owing to faulty nomination papers. This was a responsibility he fulfilled till 1995 and to date

the untarnished record still exists as testimony to his meticulous stewardship.

Humble Homily

When questioned on the oft touted topic of his influence on the career of his celebrity daughter Michelle Yeoh, he modestly demurred and said, "Her talent speaks for itself. All I have ever emphasised to her is to be humble and friendly. That no matter how successful she becomes on the world stage, to remember that we're all born equal and there is no need to be high and mighty. I teach all my children this same homily". And judging by the few exchanges I've had with Michelle Yeoh, I can certainly vouch for the efficacy of Kian Teik's teaching to his daughter for she is without doubt one of the most down-to-earth superstars one could ever have the pleasure of meeting. An abiding legacy from one of Ipoh's living legends.

How has Ipoh Echo made a difference?

Datuk Roshidi Hashim, Ipoh Mayor



"I strongly believe that Ipoh Echo can assist to

enhance development and make Ipoh more vibrant. Ipoh Echo's role so far has been in providing a balanced reporting link between the residents and MBI. I love working with the Ipoh Echo. My observations are its facts are accurate. We need Ipoh Echo to be in Ipoh and contribute positively to the Ipoh Community and the whole of Perak."

Zameema Banu Mohd Ariff, CEO Perak Tourism Council



"We all need to be reminded of our past, understand our present and hope for a better future. To me this is what Ipoh

Echo does – pictures and stories of the past to evoke emotions, taking stock of what we have today and striving for a better tomorrow. Bringing together a community that may be at a coffee shop in Ipoh, or sipping latte in Singapore or drinking tea in KL.

Like a thread that weaves a piece of cloth into something majestic, Ipoh Echo in its own way strings the words to communicate and speak the language of the people to the people."

Jek Yap, Kinta Heritage



"Ipoh has been left behind for many years due to the false perception of its bottomless wealth from yesteryear. Fortunately

we still have our natural attractions such as our limestone hills unlike other Malaysian states and a Colonial history in the form of quality buildings and even quite a number from the Art deco era. By creating the awareness of these two combined attractions with the resources offered by the Ipoh Echo, we can share with the rest of the country the beauty and quality of life that Ipoh has to offer from then till now."

Peter Chan, CEO Haven



"Congratulations to the editor(s) and staff of the Ipoh Echo. The paper has played a major role in disseminating information responsibly to the Ipoh community. It pursues truth and assists to unite rather than divide. A good example of 1Malaysia. Thank you."

Ian Anderson, Director Ipoh World



"I always look forward to the next issue of the Echo which provides local news unavailable elsewhere, but most of all I enjoy the forthright articles which address the important issues – policing, illegal dumping, destruction of heritage, etc."

Dato' Chang Ko Youn, Adviser to Menteri Besar of Perak and Perak Gerakan chief



"Ipoh Echo has been a valuable source of information on diverse matters such as heritage, environment and politics. It has been objective and informative though on certain occasions, I disagree with the views expressed. But, this is a manifestation of democratic practice and the wide space of freedom of expression available in the state. It highlights the people's problems and proposes non-partisan solutions to issues raised. I hope more articles on the common people will be published and remind politicians their role and responsibilities are to the people. Last but not

least, your articles on many historical events and personalities remind us of the heyday of Perak which the present State Government is endeavouring to revive. I can aptly describe Ipoh Echo as the people's paper beside your well known "Voice in The Community."

Dato' Chin Lean Choong, president of the All-Malaya Chinese Mining Association and chairman of Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (commerce committee)



"Ipoh Echo is playing a big role in putting our

city on the world map. Not only is it the voice of the community, it has also been highlighting the city's mining heritage and its various iconic products such as Pomelo, White Coffee, and shoe and ceramic industries to promote Ipoh within the country and abroad. We are proud of the role of the newspaper and hope it will continue with the support of everyone."

Iris Cheong, Sales & Marketing Manager, Kinta Properties Holdings



"We have been advertising in the Ipoh Echo for about 2 years now and find the response from the ads very encouraging as it is the right medium for our target audience! Our residents, especially the expats, have commented that the information found in Ipoh Echo allows them to discover, love and appreciate Ipoh more."

S. Rajendran, regular walk-in customer on the 1st day of every issue since IE 01

"The Ipoh Echo has interesting and informative articles which keep me abreast of what's happening in the community. I have collected all the issues since issue number one and I have two sets. I keep one set at home and another is kept at the Ipoh Club."



Chelvi Murugiah, Lecturer



"The Ipoh Echo running its 100th Issue is no plain fete. Congratulations! Discharging the role of a local community paper by reporting without bias has duly paid off! As a reader, the Ipoh Echo's continued effort in highlighting newsworthy articles of public interest is what makes it unique."

Mohd Taib Mohamed, president of Perak Heritage Society



"We talk about transformation. What is transformation without engagement with the government, NGO and rakyat. Their contribution should be respected and the voice of Ipoh Echo, the community newspaper should be appreciated."

Hj Odzman Abdul Kadir, president of Perak Tourist Association

"The Perak Tourist Association (PTA) appreciates the efforts of the Ipoh Echo in playing its role to promote tourism. Its reports about tourist destinations in the state have created awareness of these destinations. Additionally the comments received from the public are useful to help improve the attractions. PTA strongly believes that by working together with



Ipoh Echo to feature local destinations regularly will greatly help promote domestic tourism."

Dato' Gan Tak Kong, Chairman of FMM Perak Branch



"The Ipoh Echo newspaper has done a fantastic job of creating awareness about the community in Ipoh.

It is an English medium newspaper, unlike the mainstream papers, which has galvanized the interest of the community through its independent reporting of diverse topics such as politics, heritage and even food. Every edition is enjoyable and shares more information about Perak. I am proud to say that Ipoh has such a newspaper."

Mdm Lee Yam Sei, Director Tenby Schools Ipoh

"Ipoh Echo is very aptly named for it echoes the feelings and concerns of Ipoh folks and gives a true picture of what is going on at home through its articles on crime, education, history, food and personalities. It gives us a sense of regional identity and the views and opinions expressed definitely shape how we develop as a society."



Peter Lee, Rockwills Associate Estate Planning Practitioner



"It is a newspaper that brings the news and happenings in Ipoh not only to the community of Ipoh but also to the world through its website."

More quotes in the next issue

IPOH ECHO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Updates on past stories

The Kelly & Jacinta Story



The story of Kelly Tan Juat Jong and Jacinta Emmanuel caring for stray dogs, which was published in Issue 92, has moved the hearts of many readers with compassion and love for animals. Since then, numerous calls with offers of help in the form of donations, dog food, and advice have been pouring in.

Kelly and Jacinta, who have been taking care of 52 dogs on their own in a shelter on privately owned land about 17 km from Ipoh, are now for the first time, able to vaccinate all their dogs with the help of a generous donor, Mr Foo Wan Tot, president of ISPCA.

Another contributor, Dr Suresh Sethuraman, whom Kelly and Jacinta call their 'Goodwill Ambassador', and his family donated cash and dog food, and also visited their shelter and gave invaluable advice on an adoption programme to re-home some

of their dogs by designing a Facebook page. Kelly and Jacinta and their new-found friends are planning to register their shelter.

They now have tapped cleaner water from a different stream, so that they need not lug in 75 litres of water; ISPCA's Mr Yap laid the pipes and Ms Sandy Chan financed the project.

Sadly people still call them to pick up strays, abused and injured animals, but they can ill afford to do so, because they are self-supporting and lack space at their shelter. Meanwhile, Kelly and Jacinta are looking for a suitable place closer to the city where they can have clean tap water and electricity and are closer to vets. They still welcome dog food and cash donations. Their phone numbers remain unchanged; Kelly - **016-5397192** (in Chinese) and Jacinta - **012-5150803**.

VWSL

"KEKABU" Lady Thanks Ipoh Echo

Puan Radziah Yeop Ibrahim (Mak Cik Wok), 60, whose plight was highlighted in Ipoh Echo Issue 94 was full of praise for the community paper for helping to improve the sale of her home-made products. "There was a marked increase in demand for my 'kekabu' pillows and mattresses following the publication of my story," she told Ipoh Echo recently. "I got orders from as far away as Kuala Lumpur and Johore." The sale of her *agar-agar kering* (dried jelly) too has picked



up. She thanked Ipoh Echo for making an effort to help the poor and needy. "I felt blessed," she remarked gleefully. "I couldn't have asked for more."

RM

KAK KIAH Sits Easy



Taibah Receives Aid



Puan Taibah Shahuddin, 67, the lady who ate coco yam to sustain herself and her mentally disturbed son, was a picture of health when met recently. She recounted how her story in Ipoh Echo Issue 89 had touched the hearts of many Ipohites and outsiders alike. "Well-wishers came looking for me to render assistance," she said. "They brought with them clothes, foodstuffs and cash." Their timely appearance did much to lift up her spirits. "I am fortunate that there are still good people around who are prepared to share their good fortunes with the less fortunate, and I thank Ipoh Echo for making this happen." Tabiah has moved out of her run-down shack to a comfortable little house courtesy of Baitulmal.

RM

Zakaiah Shabuddin or Kak Kiah, 58, to her neighbours, heaved a sigh of relief when approached by Ipoh Echo recently. She no longer picks *pucuk paku* (fern shoots) for a living. Standing proudly in front of her new house, Kak Kiah smiled when her snapshots were taken. The house was a gift from her generous neighbour, who apportioned her own land and acquired timber for the project. "It's unbelievable. Allah is great. He has answered my prayers", she exclaimed. "A special thanks for Ipoh Echo for highlighting my plight." Her story appeared in Ipoh Echo Issue 52. She recounted the numerous calls made by well-wishers from as far away as Kuala Lumpur who sought her out bearing gifts, food and money after reading her story. "It's a miracle!"

RM

IPOH IN BRIEF

Ipoh Echo Congratulates Mayor on His Reappointment

Ipoh Mayor Datuk Roshidi Hashim, whose two-year term expires in June, has been reappointed for another two years.

Commenting on his reappointment, Datuk Roshidi said his priority would be to assist the Menteri Besar and the state government in realising the Aman Jaya approach in planning and the Government Transformational Programme, which has been conducted at both federal and state levels.

"I am personally committed in ensuring a clean, green and a vibrant city in line with the wishes of the state government. The Menteri Besar has also instructed me to implement projects concerning beautification, landscaping, lighting and the upgrading of roads in the city."

"God willing," he said, "I shall undertake these tasks with vigour and determination. The Menteri Besar has been to Wenzhou (China) and is impressed with the city's landscape and its vehicle-friendly traffic system. These shall be the models for Ipoh."

Datuk Roshidi took over as Mayor in 2008 when Datuk Mohamad Rafiai Moktar retired. Prior to his appointment, he was the council secretary.

He had also been the private secretary to former Perak Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Mohamad Tajol Rosli Ghazali.

SPORT

by James Gough

Men's Indoor Hockey Tournament



It's that time of the year again for the 3rd Men's Indoor Asia Hockey Tournament. The tournament will be held at Stadium Indera Mulia Ipoh from July 1-6. Six countries will be participating this year compared to four a year ago. The teams are Thailand, Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Malaysia. The 2 new

participants are Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

As we go to press, the selection of the Malaysian team to represent the country at this 3rd Indoor game is currently being battled out at the National Indoor Hockey Tournament being held at the MSC hall at the Simee Sports Complex.

This year is the first time that a knock out system is being used to select the National Indoor Hockey team. Twelve teams (from Perlis, Perak, Penang, Kedah, Pahang, Selangor, KL, Malacca, Negeri Sembilan and 3 from the military) are taking part.

The President of the Perak Hockey Association Dato' Abdul Rahim Bin Muhammad Ariff, stated that this year's tournament was "significant as the champion from this 3rd Asian Indoor Championship event will represent Asia at the World Indoor Hockey Tournament schedule to be held in February next year". "There is only 1 place slotted for Asia at that world tournament", added Rahim.

According to Rahim, with the 6 teams participating this year the tournament will be exciting. For the spectators, Rahim indicated that attractive lucky draw prizes, like a motorcycle and LCD TVs were awaiting the lucky winners.

SUKMA's Contingent Fails to Hit Target

The Perak Contingent to the 13 SUKMA held in Malacca recently failed to achieve its targeted goals.

The contingent managed to bag only 26 gold medals instead of 35. Similarly for the overall medal tally the contingent was ranked sixth whereas their target set by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Zamby was fifth.

State Executive Councillor for Art, Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato' Zainal Fadzi Paharuddin, who was with the contingent throughout the games, said he was "obviously disappointed with the result. The spirit of competition was positive but the result was not so".

According to Zainal a report of the games has been submitted. One of the causes for the poor overall showing was because preparation of the teams for the games started late. "Most teams started preparing for the games just 5-6 months before the games, some later. The minimum time is eight months and ideally is one year", stated Zainal.

For the mini SUKMA to be held next year the "preparation will start now", said Zainal emphatically. "I am serious about this."

After Archery the other top medal hauls came from Sail Boating (3 gold and 4 silver) Diving (3 gold, 2 silver, 3 bronze) and Petanque (3 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze).



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016 5531092 Ramesh Kumar

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Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian

on being conferred
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Which carries the title Tan Sri

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Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan
Zainal Abidin ibni Al-Marhum Sultan
Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah

D.K.M., D.K.T., D.K.R., D.M.N., S.U.M.Z., S.S.M.T., S.P.M.T., D.K.(Perlis),
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on the occasion of
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Miss Tham Lai Meng
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See Foon Chan-Koppen
Ipoh Echo Sdn Bhd



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BUSINESS

NEW FLASH! All-Cargo Flight Flies into Snags

● by JERRY FRANCIS

Hardly two weeks after it was announced, the launching of the direct Ipoh-Singapore all-cargo flight was postponed “indefinitely” and, perhaps may even be called off.

What a shame. Such a development which could bring some hope to the revival of the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport and would be welcomed by manufacturers and traders throughout Perak as of “great benefit” to them is now not likely to materialise.

The introduction of the direct cargo flight to Singapore would also be a step forward in the State Government’s efforts to make the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport a feeder airport.

Was the proposed



Dato' Hamidah: “Air cargo is a necessity for the state. We want the service.”

launching on June 16 at the airport prematurely announced or were those involved labouring under a misconception and overlooked the conditions governing the approval by the Transport Ministry?

Why at this stage, when so much efforts have been made to the extent of getting an airline to participate, was it suddenly

postponed and indefinitely at that.

According to a source, the Transport Ministry had issued the approval for the direct all-cargo flight, but the condition is that cargo can be brought in but no cargo can be flown out of Ipoh.

Under such a condition, the operator Asialink Cargo Express (ACE) may not find it viable to operate the all-cargo flight. The Indonesia-Singapore joint venture cargo airline operates its hub from Batam, Indonesia.

Certainly those in the aviation and freight sectors should have been aware of the rulings and procedures governing the approval of air freight in the country.

Were all the requisites looked into before the approval from the Transport

Ministry was sought and the announcement made?

Commenting on the news, a reader Norhisyam Yusuf said, “Anyway, I laud the efforts made by MITI, MIDA and FMM. I hope more of these friendly, business-minded approaches will be introduced by them to increase Perak’s competitiveness in the Malaysian economy”, he said.

Another reader Izzy Delancy believes that having such services in Ipoh will benefit the exporters.

“It is better to be a spoke than a hub, since to be a hub, you have to be gazetted as an “international” airport that can cater at least to an Airbus A330 series aircraft. Nonetheless, this effort is sufficient enough for Perak to recover and “re-boost”

its economy, and recover some of its past glory”, added Izzy.

Let us hope whatever problems confronting the introduction of the all-cargo flight could be resolved quickly. Especially when so many hopes were raised in certain segments of the business sector.

Meanwhile, the State Government will actively pursue the matter to make the “desired service” a reality. State chairman for Industry, Investment,

Industrial Development and Tourism, Dato’ Hamidah Osman, said it was discussed at the recent state executive council meeting held in Kuala Lumpur.

“The government is still positive about the service and taking steps to identify the problem to ensure it becomes a reality,” she told our reporter James Gough after the meeting. “The air cargo is a necessity for the State. We want the service,” she added.

CORRECTION

In Issue 98 page 11 under the story, ‘Honouring Dato’ Brother Vincent’, we would like to point out that it was **Mr T.R. Sharma** that presented a tribute on behalf of Form 6 students from 1959 and not Mr D.C. Sharma as printed. We apologise for the error. Mr T.R. Sharma had also written a poem which can be viewed on our website: www.ipohecho.com.my.

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For more information, please visit www.cimaglobal.com or call the FMM Institute Perak at **05-5488660**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: **05-2552181**; 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 Women for Women Society (PWW) workshop “Community Radio as an Alternative Tool to Combat Violence against Women”. Friday, July 2 (8 am-10 pm) and Saturday, July 3 (9 am-4.30 pm), PWW Centre, 52 Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Ipoh. Admission: Free. To register call: **05-5469715** or **012-5212480**.

Perak Academy’s Perak Lectures: “How to Read and Write Novels & Short Stories” by Ms Chuah Guat Eng. Saturday July 3 at 11 am. Neptune Room, Ipoh Swimming Club, Ipoh. For reservations call: **05-5478949/016-5518172**. Email: contact@perakacademy.com.

Kinta Valley Wind Orchestra Inaugural Concert. July 4 at 7.30pm, Syuen Ballroom. Tickets available from: Creative Music (05-5479828), Yamaha Music School (**05-2413388** or **5455071**), The Music Store (**05-5454111**) & PSPA (**05-5487814**).

KAMI Forum (English) “Understanding Depression”. Wednesday July 7, 2-5 pm, KAMI Wellness Centre, 4A Lebuhraya Perajurit 3/2, Taman Ipoh Boulevard Timur, Ipoh. Free admission

– refreshments will be served. Call: Su – **016-5468003**.

Taman Merdeka Rukun Tetangga Medical Camp. Sunday July 18, 9.00 am at Sekolah Menengah Dr Hj Megat Khas. All are welcome. For further information, contact: Mr Tamaralaran at **012-5196949** or Mr Narenthra Rao at **016-5506215**.

Perak Youth Hockey (6 and 7-a-Side) Tournament 2010. July 10 and 11 at Ipoh Padang and Stadium Azlan Shah. Some 150 teams, including those from abroad, are expected to compete in the two-day tournament. For details on participation, please call Secretary of MBI Hockey Association, Jaswant Singh at **012-5656647**.

Heritage Hotel World Cup 2010 Singgah Café. Football matches will be shown for the public on a big screen. Fans will stand a chance to win souvenirs of their favourite teams for each match starting from June 26 till the Finals on July 11.

Perak Academy’s Perak Lecture: Oxford Reflections on Knowledge, Traditions and Progress by Dr. Muhammad Afifi al-Akiti. Wednesday, July 7 at 8 pm, Level 10, Syuen Hotel, Ipoh. For

reservations call: **05-5478949** or **016-55181172**. Email: contact@perakacademy.com.

Malaysian Nature Society – Kinta Nature Park Field Trip. Sunday July 18, meet up at 8.30 am at KNP visitor area. For details, contact Lim Kim Chye (**016-553 8431**) or Lim Swee Yian (**016-422 3895**). For the latest info, log on to www.mnsperak.wordpress.com.

The Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health presents ‘Vision of Forever’ Odissi. Artistic direction by Ramli Ibrahim and featuring artistes of Sutra Dance Theatre. July 24, 7.30 pm, State Banquet Hall, Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang Wahab, Ipoh. Contact: **05-5335457** or **012-5056049** (Mr Subain).

Ipoh City Watch Dinner 2010. The postponed dinner is on again. Friday, July 30, at 8 pm, Ipoh City and Country Club, Jalan Kampar. Entertainment and lucky draw from the card. For details and reservation contact Steven Lee at **016-5052848** or e-mail: sleekk@yahoo.com.

KAMPONG TALES



By Yusuf Martin



TAMAN HERBA

We trawled over the last remaining dredge, stepped out and up at Kellie's Castle and climbed once more into our aging jeep heading down the road to an area rapidly becoming renowned for its tranquil lakes and lush parklands – Taman Herba.

The serene sanctuary of Perak's Taman Herba (herb garden) washed over us as we stepped out of our aging 4X4, welcoming us to its floral paradise. Lakes and green vistas uninterrupted by calming trees led us to a secluded office building, where we were welcomed by enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff eager to greet its imposing visitors.

The 22 hectares of the Taman Herba (herb garden) was re-launched in June 2009, by the Sultan of Perak, and is nestled along the road to Batu Gajah for those coming from Gopeng, in Perak.

Alternatively the gardens are easily accessible for people wanting to visit Kellie's Castle, or perhaps meandering their way along the back road from Ipoh to Kampar. The turn off to the herb gardens is practically equidistant from the Simpang Pulai and Gopeng exits from the North/South Highway.

The radiantly beautiful (state run) herb garden is exactly what it says it is – a garden full of useful herbs but, more than that, it is also a plant research centre and a repository for Malaysian herb knowledge. Malaysian herbs, traditionally used in treating any number of complaints, including diabetes and high blood pressure, are investigated at the centre to determine the accuracy of ancient claims, which inevitably tend to be proven to be true.

We arrived at the herb garden in my aging Rocsta, about lunchtime. We thought that we may have to go elsewhere and return at a more appropriate

time but, having disturbed the staff at their lunch, we were still met with smiles and gracious hospitality as the manager offered to take us on a guided tour of the magnificently delightful gardens. It was to be a veritable eye-opener for the three of us, as Puan Azizah explained the names and uses of some of the more exotic plants.

In those charmingly peaceful gardens there were plants to rub away the painful evils of the mosquito, plants for the specific ailments of women, and some – Tongkat Ali, also for men. There were plants with the sweetest of smells and others with the bitterest of tastes, plants which perfumed the air and stayed with us throughout the tour and one in particular which, indelicately, is called the 'fart plant' – how it got its name becomes clear the nearer you step towards the plant.

As bewitched and bewildered as we were

by the sheer variety of the plants on display, the greatest surprise came when Puan Azizah asked us to taste a small, practically insignificant, yellow flower about the size of a small caper. She called it the flower of the Grandma's earring plant because, I suppose, that is what the flower resembled – a small golden stud for a grandmother's earlobe.

At first the tiny flower tasted as many small flowers would – green, a bit planty, nothing out of the ordinary – then the flavour burst onto our tongues and across our mouths in much the same way as Japanese Wasabi might. The taste was hot, a little sour, salty, peppery and astringent all at once and not at all unpleasant. It was a shock and none of us were expecting it except, of course, Puan Azizah – who laughed. All at once I was imagining pizza topped with grandmother's earring, spaghetti fried with grandmother's earring or grandmother's

earring sandwiches with sandwich spread. Good grief, I thought, this might just be the next hottest taste next to chilli and black pepper. There may be a thousand and one marketing opportunities for this extraordinary flower, awaiting the right culinary entrepreneur.

In one of the garden's planted 'greenhouses', some green plant stems were called 'bones' because they resembled, well, err – bones I guess. Outside there were banana flowers which grew upward, for ornamental reasons, instead of hanging down and plants whose leaves you heat then wrap around aching joints – specifically knees. There were efficacious plants, relieving all kinds of ailments which I had considered weeds and, for the past five years, have been merrily pulling and discarding from our garden. And then there were rapturously fragrant trees, which I would



dearly love to dig into our more than sun blessed garden.

Each of us was given a token gift – a small plastic bag containing seeds from the mahogany tree, known for reducing blood sugar and lowering cholesterol, and then it was time to depart. We left, driving slowly through an avenue of trees and looking at the lakes, vowing that we would return soon. Our Australian friend was intent upon capturing as much as he could, on his compact digital camera.

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MY SAY



● By Jerry Francis

What has happened to the proposal to redevelop the location of Ipoh's once well-known landmark – Yau Tet Shin Market – better known as the 'Pasar Bulat'? Is it hanging in limbo now?

After the last general elections, it was being actively pursued. Some local architects had even drawn up plans and submitted them for consideration.

Enthusiastically, various members of the public and NGOs had also come forward to give their views and ideas on the proposed redevelopment of the site to the Ipoh City Council.

The project was to re-energise the city by turning the location around Cowan Street in the New Town Sector into a multi-racial "cultural district".

Among the prime movers of the project are the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Perak League (an organisation of prominent

Plan for the City's Cultural District in Limbo

Perak-born individuals), Perak Academy, Perak Heritage Society and Ipoh City Watch.

The Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry had even carried out a survey on the proposal and received unanimous support from the business community in the area.

Most of them felt that redeveloping the site as a commercial and shopping complex would inject new life to the once active shopping centre.

At a public forum held in a hotel in Ipoh in January, last year, the proposed project also had consensus from various NGOs and individuals.

Mayor Datuk Roshidi Hashim, had, in his invitation letter to the public forum, said the State government (then under Pakatan Rakyat) had agreed to hold the forum for the residents to give their views and proposals so that the redevelopment of the site could be carried out according to their "hopes and aspirations".

The Yau Tet Shin Market was built in 1961. Following an invitation by the then Ipoh Municipal Council, architects throughout Malaysia and

Singapore submitted the building's designs. The winning design, submitted by Architects Booty, Edwards & Partners, was picked and the building was constructed at a cost of \$500,000.

The octagonal-designed block had a "projecting shell roof and balcony terminating in two gradual ramps". It is known to the locals as Pasar Bulat (the circular market) or *pat-kok lau* (octagonal villa).

It was named after a Kah Ying Hakka's community leader, Yau Tet Shin, who had risen from mining coolie to towkay. His mansion is currently occupied by the State Health & Medical Department.

He was the developer for much of early Ipoh. He acquired a piece of land from the Dato' Panglima Kinta and built a theatre on Leech Street in 1891. He then built some shop houses along Panglima Street, as the theatre had made the surrounding land valuable.

Yau Tet Shin, who also owned a large mine at Ampang and the Menglembu Smelting Works near Ipoh, developed a large tract of land

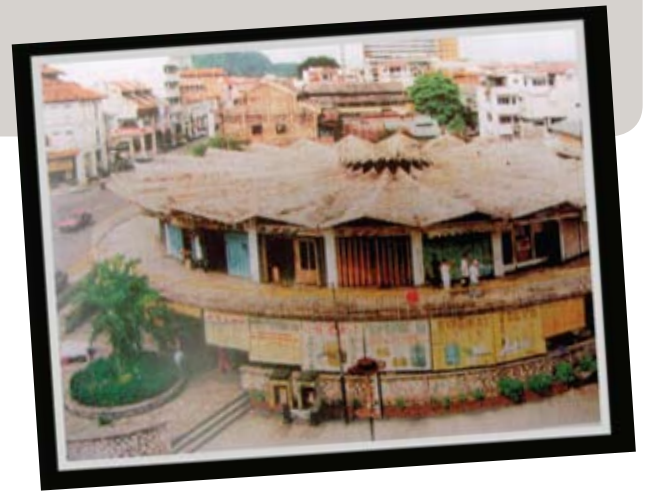
east of the Kinta River that bisects the city into New Town and Old Town sectors in the early 1930s.

The Yau Tet Shin Market became a popular rendezvous for tourists, where they could pick up souvenirs, pomeloes and other favourite goodies of the city, as well as being a hangout for youngsters.

In 2001, the building was deemed unsafe by the city council and was demolished. Since then the site has been used as a public car-park and became the main issue of grievance amongst the predominantly Chinese residents of the city.

It was only after the Pakatan Rakyat came into power in Perak in March 2008 general elections that some serious suggestions about the redevelopment of the site were made.

However, just as it was gaining momentum, the state government changed hands and all enthusiasm to develop the project fizzled out. Now, no one is willing to talk about it and any attempt to get comments from those connected with the plan for redevelopment of the site, either ran up against a blank wall or received a request not to write about



Ipoh's once well-known landmark 'Yau Tet Shin Market' before being torn down

it yet.

Perhaps those involved need to be re-energised now to get the proposed project going and bring back more life to the city centre, which has become gloomy and will soon be flooded with swiflet 'hotels'.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir,

who was asked earlier about the redevelopment, said no allocation had been given for the project.

His statement shattered any hope of the residents that the proposed "cultural district" will be developed to fill the need for a tourists' centre in the city, at least not for many more years.

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