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Your Voice In The Community

October 16-31 2011

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30 SEN FOR DELIVERY TO YOUR DOORSTEP -  
ASK YOUR NEWSVENDOR

ISSUE **130**

**An Inappropriate Misnomer**

**Page 3**

**Getting Ready For VPY 2012**

**Page 4**

**A Broken Promise To The Residents**

**Page 16**

**Property Development Supplement**

**Pages 7-10**

# Property Boom in Kinta District?

By Jerry Francis



Construction work in progress in Bandar Baru Meru Raya – mini Putrajaya of Ipoh

Indications of a property development boom in the Kinta District are everywhere. Large advertising billboards and banners displaying new property development projects are seen strategically located, particularly around Ipoh. Meanwhile, at the project sites, construction works are in progress as developers rush to meet their deadlines. Among the projects are a number of new townships, such as Bandar Baru Sri Klebang, Bandar Sri Botani, Sunway City and Bandar Meru Raya. Other major projects like The Haven, The Thompson Flora Tropika Residences, and Meru Desa Park vie for attention. Commercial projects too like MH Tower and Riverside....are all gearing up for completion.

Continued on page 2

An outstanding hillside residence in an award-winning Integrated Resort Township in Sunway City Ipoh

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Developer's license No: 1204-FA020075188 • Valuer's License No: 2402-2009020102010 • Advertising & Sales Permit No: 720248/09/2010/02014 • Vendor's License No: 240201-1-21A/2012 • Tenure: 999 years leasehold (residential) (10-21-2012) • The location is to be developed with JMB's consent. • Land Encumbrance: 181 • Approving Authority: AA06 (Kinta) Ipoh • Building Plans No: 1202 (119-A) L/01/2010/16109 • Site / Town / Area: Sunway City Ipoh • Date of Completion: 2015 • Total units: 130 • Price Range: RM 450,000 - RM 600,000. Developer's disclaimer: Information contained herein is subject to change and control form part of an offer or contract. All renderings are artist's impressions only. While every reasonable care has been taken in preparing it, the developer cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracy.

# Property Buyers on the Increase

Contrary to the signs, there is no boom yet 'but there are definite and encouraging signs that the property market is stirring. It started about a year ago,' commented Mr. Peter Chan, CEO of Superboom Projects Sdn. Bhd.

On whether the encouraging situation in property development can go on for a decade, he said, "it would depend on how the nation and Perak is doing. From present indications, two to three years is most likely because the trend has started and sentiment has reversed from negative to positive."

## No Property Bubble Noticed

His view has been further supported by the Perak Real Estates and Housing Developers Association (REDHA). Its chairman Dato' Francis Lee stated there is no property boom or bubble existing in the Kinta District.

"In most circumstances a property bubble is evidenced by the existence of an increasing percentage of buyers who purchase properties with speculative intent only with the hope of yielding some short term financial gains.

"This abnormal increase in demand has the effect of escalating the price of properties, often pushing prices of properties beyond the affordability gap of genuine purchasers," he said.

"In tandem with this increasing pricing, developers respond by increasing delivery well above the true effective demand which will ultimately cause the bubble to burst. However this is not the case in the Kinta district or anywhere in Perak."

In the case of residential properties in the Kinta district, Lee said almost all the purchasers are effective home buyers or long term asset class investment buyers. It should be noted that all housing developers in Perak are only making normal profits out of the housing industry and any exception is due to a capital appreciation of the developmental property.

Lee added that the price increase of some 15% over last year is due to increasing costs of delivery, including land procurement, building cost and cost of bureaucratic compliance.

## Housing Deliveries Fall Short

"In fact housing deliveries in Perak for the last few years have fallen short of the Ninth Malaysia Plan 2006-2010 target of 58,200 units for the planned period. This is equivalent to 11,640 units per annum for the corresponding period," he explained.

This is not in keeping with the population growth of Kinta district which has increased from 549,198 in 1991 to 735,601 in 2010 and Perak which has increased from 1,877,471 to 2,258,428 in 2010.

## Urbanisation

With this increasing urbanisation of the Kinta district within Perak and the fact that the urbanisation tempo will gain further momentum in the longer term, there will be a corresponding increase in demand for residential housing.

According to the report, the number of residential units in existing stock in Kinta is 183,118. Single storey terrace houses and 2 and 3 storey terrace houses account for 102,631. Detached houses total 24,198, single-storey semi detached 4,990, low-cost houses 36,379 and low-cost flats 5,560. The balance is made up of town houses, clusters, flats, service apartments and condominiums.

Single storey terrace and double storey terrace houses represent a 56.0% of total residential housing stock in the Kinta district as of last year. Consistent with the Perak State Government policy for a mandatory delivery of a percentage of total housing deliveries by way of low cost housing, there is a 23% housing stock of low cost houses/flats in the Kinta district.

## Future Delivery

The total numbers for future delivery of residential houses in Kinta as of last year was 13,974 "incoming supply" (physical construction works in progress), 1,796 "starts" (foundation and footing works in progress), and 18,968 "planned supply" (units with building plans approved).

All types of houses are in demand as they cater to different markets. However, quality housing is preferred as more people demand better quality.

Buyers are both locals and from outside of Perak with an increase in foreigners as well. Their purposes are for own stay, vacation stay, retirement stay and/or investment.

## Criteria for Buyers

As secured location is the most important in the minds of prospective buyers, developers are wooing them with gated and guarded enclaves and with CCTV cameras on every street. Some developers are even providing individual alarm systems and auto-gates to every unit. Other criteria such as pricing, location (how close to public amenities such as schools), value for money (quality finishings compared to other similarly valued units), architectural designs (with minimal "white zones" to enable all parts of building to be used), and the



Dato' Francis Lee, chairman REDHA Perak

reputation of the developers all play a role in developers' strategy to woo buyers.

"Some prospective buyers are very fussy. They would look at the *Feng Shui* aspects," remarked a leading developer. "They are interested whether the location and the architectural design of the building are favourable according to *Feng Shui*."

He said most developers are aware of such demands from the buyers and are doing everything possible to win them over.

"A right property investment is the best hedge against inflation," said another developer. The property market this year and next year could still see 10%-15% growth, driven by scarcity of land and higher input costs.



Sunway



Site for Mery Raya town centre

IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk

● by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

## An Inappropriate Misnomer

*A closer inspection of the place reveals some very interesting facts. It is a sad reflection of the working culture of those responsible for the centre.*

The Perak Tourist Information Centre (Pusat Pelancongan Perak) near Ipoh Padang was the focus of attention recently, all for the wrong reasons. Long the bane of tourists to Ipoh and Perak, the centre's name is the reason d'être for the many hiccups it has caused, imagined or otherwise. Mariam Mokhtar's piece in Ipoh Echo (Issue 129) had caused many raised eyebrows within the state government circle. In her many critical appraisals of Visit Perak Year (VPY) 2012, Mariam has often referred to it as "the Perak Tourism Office". This does not bode well with those responsible for tourism in the state, especially Perak Tourism Management Berhad.

This misnomer is seldom explained thus the people responsible for its upkeep get away scot-free. Although named the Perak Tourism Information Centre, it is not an appendage of the state government but rather an extension of the Ipoh City Council's tourism department. The centre, incidentally, comes under the ambit of the Community Development Division. The insignificance of its placement could be the reason why no one takes notice of its presence. In spite of adverse publicity, the Mayor did little to upgrade this valuable asset to the chagrin of visitors.

A major complaint is the absence of capable staff knowledgeable enough on Perak and its surroundings. Suggestions by well-wishers, keen on making it an information centre of substance, fell on deaf ears. The Perak Tourism Association has offered to train the staff and provide volunteers, with more than a fleeting knowledge of the touristic spots in place, to manage the office. The council's reluctance to embrace changes is puzzling considering that Ipoh is the entry point of visitors to Perak and VPY 2012 is just around the corner.

A closer inspection of the place reveals some very interesting facts. It is a sad reflection of the working culture of those responsible for the centre. Because of their educational background the staff are incapable of holding a decent conversation in English, let alone to comprehend. Imagine a harried foreigner having to put up with this inadequacy. At a similar centre in Canungra, Queensland recently, I was given more than enough assistance when I stopped to ask my way in this picturesque Aussie township.

Achieving a desirable standard is not impossible provided the head honcho takes an interest. If the mayor pays lip service, in order to placate his critics, then we are in for trouble. What more with a state executive councillor on a do-or-die mission to draw tourists to the state for VPY 2012.

On an average the centre receives between three to five visitors daily. The number is

### Letter of Agony

● by Peter Lee

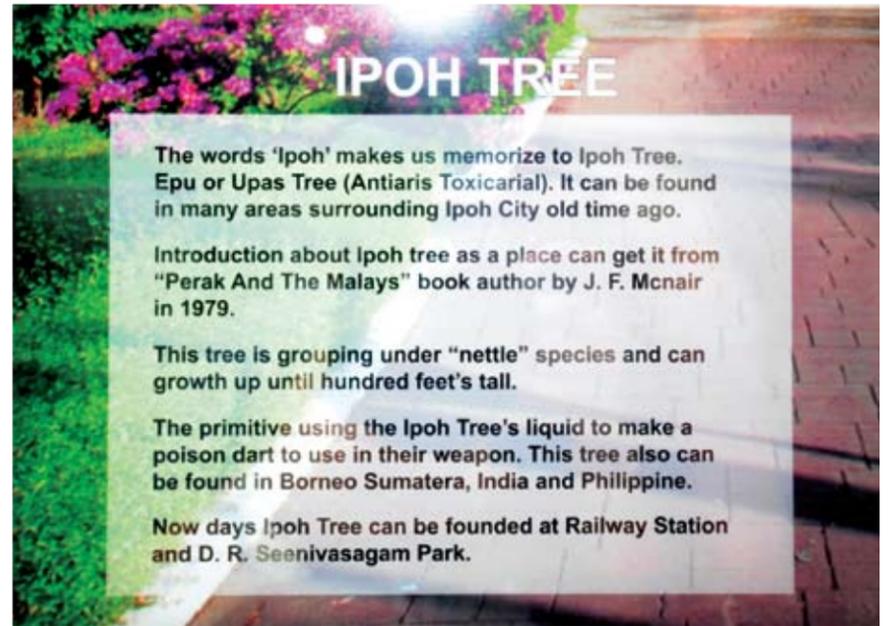
Ruth passed away without a will at the age of eighty five years ago. She was survived by four children who are in their fifties. Each of them is residing in overseas countries. Three of them are no longer Malaysian citizens because they have obtained foreign citizenship. One of the children, Anthony who resides in Singapore is still a Malaysian citizen and he has decided to return to Malaysia to unlock his mother's estate which has been frozen for some years because at the point of Ruth's death none of her children had the time to deal with it. After spending some time in checking, he discovered that his mother's estate in Malaysia included some money in a bank account, some shares in listed companies and a house. It all added up to RM500,000. She also had bank accounts in Singapore and Australia which amounted to RM100,000.



To unlock his mother's estate, he applied for the Letter of Administration (L.A.) in Malaysia. The first thing he wanted to do was to appoint himself as the Administrator. However, he was asked to obtain consent from his three other siblings overseas for his appointment. With this request, he spent at least a month locating them as they had lost contact with each other for several years after their mother's death. After locating them, he sent the letter of consent to all his siblings in different countries for signing and it took him three months to obtain all the signatures. Then he was further requested to look for two guarantors for the estate to ensure that if he absconds with the estate money, then the guarantors would pay the beneficiaries. It was also highlighted to him that when it comes to the distribution of the estate, he has to follow the Malaysian Distribution Act. In other words, all the four children will receive the estate equally. But before that happens, Anthony has to prove that his father and grandparents (Ruth's parents) have passed away because each of them would be entitled to 1/3 of the estate each if they were alive. Anthony could only produce the death certificate of his father but could not do the same for his grandparents as they died 30 years ago. So, he was told to either look for two witnesses who witnessed their death or produce a sealed Order of Presumption of Death.

The issue of the guarantors and producing the death certificate of his grandparents have now held up the whole application for L.A. Presuming that he clears this hurdle, then the next task would be applying for L.A. again in Singapore and Australia to unlock the bank accounts there and complying with their Distribution Act. As for distributing the estate, he would also have problems transferring the mother's house to his three other siblings who are foreign citizens. Based on this scenario, I refer to L.A. as Letter of Agony. So, wouldn't it be better for everyone to make a will to save your family the hassle of going through the agony of executing the L.A. After all, what have you to lose if you do your will and state down your wishes. In Ruth's case, it was of utmost importance to appoint a Trustee Company like Rockwills Trustee Bhd to act as the Executors so that her estate could be distributed smoothly.

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](mailto:excelsec@streamyx.com). Website: <http://www.wills-trust.com.my>.



greater during holidays and weekends. Most would ask for directions and places to visit in the city and the state. The available brochures help but the dearth of maps and sketches puts visitors at a distinct disadvantage.

A very informative booklet entitled "The Best Place in Ipoh" listing such trivia as heritage trail, places of worships, recreational parks, entertainment and food outlets etc is in short supply. Cost is the obvious factor for its scarcity. The glossy booklet is expensive to produce, thus the limited number available for distribution.

Making reservations, booking rooms and a multitude of other requests are being entertained by the counter staff. However, there are times when enquiries have to be directed to the parties concerned because the staff knows little or nothing about the places in question. This awkward situation can be avoided if some form of training is given to the minders beforehand.

The ultimate guffaw is the description of the Ipoh Tree, emblazoned at the base of the tree's photographic image on display at the centre. It starts with, "The words 'Ipoh' makes us memorize to Ipoh Tree". It rambles on nonchalantly, "This tree is grouping under "nettle" species and can growth up until hundred feet's tall". And concludes by declaring unabashedly, "Now days Ipoh Tree can be founded at Railway Station and D.R. Seenivasagam Park". The genius behind this "masterpiece" has decidedly debased the English Language.

Efforts are underway to rename the Perak Tourist Information Centre the "Ipoh Tourist Information Centre". A dedicated centre for visitors to the state will be established at the railway station and will be managed by the Perak Tourist Guides' Association. Whether this will ever happen is anybody's guess.

As for the mayor, he has to give tourism a deserving break. Indifference is not an option.

### Charity Sale Carnival

Pertubuhan Thalassaemia Perak (PTP) organised a Charity Sales Carnival at SJK(C) Yuk Choy recently as part of their fund raising campaign to support Thalassaemia patients especially young children to meet their medical expenses.

Thalassaemia is a disease whereby the blood cells fail to function normally and can be only be diagnosed through a blood test

and once confirmed, patients have to undergo blood transfusion every three weeks.

BAIDURI President, Datin Seri Diraja Saripah Zulkifli who launched the carnival praised the PTP for their splendid charitable works in supporting the Thalassaemia patients especially the young children and the poor. Baiduri took the opportunity to contribute RM2000 to PTP fund.

The PTP President, Chin Yoon Fook also expressed his gratitude to all sponsors and donors for their generosity. An appointment certificate as Medical Advisor of PTP was also given out to Dr. Teh Hiok Seng by Baiduri President.

Raja Nur Mastura, 14 and her sibling Raja Aznan Shah, 12, (pic) both benefactors of PTP's aid since they were 9 months old were full of praise for PTP. Besides assisting them in medication and treatments, PTP also took them out on vacation trips and other activities.



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## Thinking ALLOWED • by Mariam Mokhtar

### Getting Ready For VPY 2012

My exposé on the Perak Tourist Information Centre, Ipoh, which is managed by Ipoh City Council, in Ipoh Echo (Issue 129) did not go down well with the authorities. The messenger is normally shot, so the question is: "Why won't the management work on the problems mentioned and rectify the situation?" How often does top management pay surprise visits to their own departments? Do they ever conduct self-audits?

If a visit is announced, it allows the people being inspected to put on a good show for the boss. The same effect is seen during ministerial visits when instant gardens appear, the place is given a new coat of paint, repairs are hastily made and everyone is warned to be on their best behaviour. All is perfect for a couple of hours, after which it is business as usual.

#### Return to Basics

Tourism, like charity, begins at home. Perakeans want the authorities to return to basics and tackle the problems of crime, public transport, amenities, safety on the roads and on our rivers, lakes and waterways, and the lack of cleanliness and hygiene.

#### Public transport

Every time a person boards an express bus, or taxi, he wonders if this will be his last journey. The seat belts, like the meters in Ipoh's taxis, rarely function, whilst stage buses appear to be driven by drivers who are clueless of the Highway Code.

Not every visitor tours with his own car. Many tourists, local and foreign, rely heavily on public transport. What has Ipoh to offer in the way of cheap, reliable and efficient public transport?

Tourists who drive are dismayed by poor signage. Try leaving the Taiping zoo after the night safari and navigating your way home. There are no signboards to direct you back onto the motorway. The roads are dimly lit making signboards invisible.

#### Public Toilets

Of increasing notoriety are our public toilets. Washroom facilities are a continuing bane. Perhaps we have to reach out further to get the message to the general public. How much interaction is there between tourist site operators and the government departments representing education, information, health and public works?

#### Learn From Our Neighbours

Communication and work ethics are areas in which we are weak. One does not have to travel far to see how excellence can be achieved. The tourism industry of Thailand brings in repeat customers. In Singapore everything



works like clockwork. Why can't we be the same?

On recent visits to see fireflies in Kampung Dew and to explore Gua Tempurung, I specifically requested an English-speaking guide for my foreign visitors. I did not receive this and ended up translating for my guests. On another trip, my Japanese friends were fortunate to be able to understand Malay, but what about the thousands of foreigners who do not speak the language? If the Balinese and Thai can converse well in other languages, besides English, why can't we train our tour guides to

speak other languages?

#### Language Lessons

I spoke to a few tour guides and they said they were willing to learn other languages, if their companies would help them acquire this knowledge. None had been offered financial assistance or time off to learn another language. Many felt that their managers had not asked them for ideas and contributions to improve the facilities. So should these employees have been more pro-active and told management of their ideas?

Perhaps these employees, who are paid a minimal wage, felt that they were unable to share any of the extra profits these companies would inevitably make. What system of rewards do these companies have for their staff, if any?

#### Communication Lacking

Was anyone aware that the boardwalk in the Kuala Sepetang, Matang Mangrove Reserve is under repair? Work started two months ago and should have been finished by now. However, a shortage of raw materials to upgrade the boardwalk means that it will probably be out of use till the end of 2011.

So the mangrove forest and on-site amenities, like the museum/information centre, the meeting room, chalets and catering facilities, are unusable. Surely the Perak Forestry Department could have informed the media and the Taiping Municipal Council about the closure so visitors would not be inconvenienced.

#### Protect Natural Assets

Perak's natural assets are a magnet for both locals and foreigners. We must halt the destruction of these sites, and prevent uncontrolled development, such as the encroachment of the oil palm plantations onto fragile ecosystems like the mangrove swamps, the bird sanctuary and the natural habitat of the fireflies.

We must check illegal practices, like the indiscriminate logging of the Belum forest or quarrying and building near limestone hills. Even the lake at Gunung Lang is at risk from pollution.

If we are not careful Perak won't be able to boast of any attractions other than its fast vanishing pomelo orchards.

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## Musings on Food

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By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by VWSL

# SeeFoon stumbles upon Halal Dim Sum

There is a certain predilection amongst those of us who have grown up with a Chinese palate, to be disdainful of Chinese food that is cooked without pork. 'Chicken doesn't have the same flavour as pork' they say and 'where is the fragrance informed by slivers of Yunnan ham and a dash of Shao Tsing wine' they argue.

While the nuances are noticed by Chinese food cognoscenti especially when the food is prepared by novice cooks; in the hands of creative chefs, the subtleties in taste are resolved and authentic tastes can be achieved.

As I have often been asked why I haven't covered Halal Chinese eateries in my column and my usual reply of 'when I find some that appeal to my palate I will', I was delighted to stumble upon the **Greentown Dimsum Cafe**.

### Cheerful Ambience

Bright, fresh and cheerful with seating outside on the pavement for those who prefer, the restaurant is air-conditioned inside and the cheerful manager cum proprietor Judy Chin greets me as I arrive and makes recommendations on their signature tidbits (essentially what



Dim Sum means – small touches of the heart). As I invariably go incognito into a restaurant to decide first whether it's worth reviewing, I just ordered a variety of the items and waited for the taste test. I was not disappointed and came back on a second occasion with a larger group to taste as many of the items on offer.

## HAWKER FOOD

### Fried Radish Cake (Chau Kueh)



This popular local dish is called chau kok kueh or chau kueh in Cantonese, or char kway kak in Hokkien. The radish cake in this dish is made with finely diced radish mixed with rice flour, which is then steamed to form a cake. When cooked, it is chopped up into little bit-sized squares for frying this dish.

The hawker version, found in many local pasar malam, morning markets or coffee shops usually differs a little in presentation and ingredients from the more upmarket version found in dim sum restaurants. The hawker version is fried with eggs and bean sprouts, with or without a little pickled radish (choy poh), while at dim sum restaurants, the dish is fried up with a generous amount of choy poh and a sprinkling of dried shrimp, and then served on a bed of lettuce and garnished with spring onions.



#### Hawker Stalls

**Pasar Malam @ Ipoh Garden East (Tuesday) and Stadium Perak (Wednesday)**  
Adds kuchai – RM2.20 and RM2.80 (with egg). 7.00pm – 11.00pm.

#### Kampung Simee Market

RM2.00 and RM2.50 (with egg). 7.00am – lunch

#### Dai Shee Keok (Big Tree Foot)

Jalan King (off Jalan Pasir Putih)

RM2.50 and RM3.00 (with egg). 12.30pm – 5.00pm (closed every Wednesday)

#### Dim Sum Restaurants

##### Restoran Kao Lee

No.48-50, Lengkok Canning, Ipoh Garden

Uses its famous dim sum fried lobak kou (radish cake), but chopped up in this dish.

10.30 a.m.-3.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.-11.00 p.m. (Restaurant opens at 6.30 a.m. for dim sum but chef for chau kueh comes in later). RM6 with egg.

##### Restoran Chang Keong Dim Sum

34 Jalan Raja Ekram (Cowan St.)

Garnishes with spring onion – request to fry with chilli or else chilli will come on the side – can also be ordered at Wah Nam coffee shop next door – RM4 (with egg).

5.30 a.m.-3.00 p.m.

##### Restoren Foh San

No.51, Jalan Leong Sin Nam

Uses less black soya sauce, has a generous amount of choy poh and dried shrimp. RM5.50 with egg. 6.30am – 2pm (closed every Tuesday).

##### Greentown Dimsum Cafe (Halal)

10, Persiaran Greentown 4, Greentown Avenue, 30450 Ipoh, Tel./Fax: 05-2552010.

Has dried prawns and kuchai – RM4.20. 8.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

## RECIPE

By Margarita Lee

### Ingredients:

- 600g medium size prawns
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise
- 3 tbsp tomato ketchup
- ½ tsp lemon juice
- 1-2 tsp Tabasco Sauce
- Sugar and salt to taste
- 1 tbsp peanut candy for garnishing
- 1 cup cooking oil

### Method:

1. Devein the prawns leaving shells and heads intact. Wash and pat dry.
2. Heat oil in a wok, deep fry prawns until cooked. Drain prawns and set aside. Dish out oil; keep 3 tbsp in the wok.
3. Combine mayonnaise, tomato ketchup, lemon juice and Tabasco sauce in a bowl.
4. Heat up about 3 tbsp of prawn oil, add in the combined sauce.
5. Bring sauce to boil over high heat, add in prawns and stir well.
6. Dish out prawns, garnish with peanut candy. Serve immediately.



## Thousand Island Prawns



### Gold Standard Taste Test

The Gold standard taste test for any Dim Sum restaurant are the three classics: the *Char Siew Pau* (in this case as it is *Halal*, called the **Barbecued Chicken Pau**), the **Har Gao** or **Prawn Dumpling**, and the *Siew Mai*. The Barbecued Chicken Pau's pastry was light and fluffy, the filling substantial and just a tad sweeter than the norm but nevertheless fragrant and tasty – RM3.60. The *Har Gao* had the right translucent skin, the prawn filling inside fresh and resilient on the first bite, a sign of good prawns – RM4.90. The *Siew Mai* equally met my expectations especially when embellished with their *Lat Chiew Yau* or Chilli Oil paste – RM3.60 and RM4.50 for a prawn version. The next steamed item we tried was the **Kao Choi** or **Chive Dumplings** which were served with their homemade chilli oil/paste; 3 large dumplings – RM 3.90. This also comes with a **Pak Choy** or **Kale** version.



### Fried Tidbits

We then had their very tasty **Fried Radish Cake** which came with an abundance of bean sprouts, slightly spicy, embellished with choy po and dried prawns and served with a choice of chilli sauce or the ubiquitous chilli oil paste which I prefer – RM4.20 for a portion enough for three or four people.

This was followed by the **Fried Bean Curd Roll** which was melt-in-mouth crispy, filled with prawns and chicken meat. Served with mayonnaise, and interestingly with a mint sauce on the side, we found ourselves ordering yet another portion – RM4.60. The **Prosperity Ball**, the leading signature item on the menu arrived with a brown sauce. Apparently one of the most popular items here, the **Prosperity Chicken Balls** are a deep fried meat mushroom and capsicum vegetable mixture with a mild curry flavour. Dipped into the brown gravy the outside is crunchy and the meat inside succulent and tender. A must try RM 5.20.



### Noodles and Rice

Next came the noodles and rice and being in a tasting mood and the portions not being too large, we sampled a few. The dry **Sang Meen** or **Wonton Noodles** were

sufficiently al dente and the wonton juicy. However, the next time I would order the soup version as I found the soya sauce used to toss the noodles a tad sweet. Served with the 'de rigueur' pickled green chillies – RM7.90. A portion of **Ban Mian** (hand made noodles) followed, served with a sambal belacan sauce which lent just the right touch of oomph to the 'al dente' noodles topped with minced chicken and sliced shitake mushrooms – RM5.90. They also have a soup version.



### All Dim Sum Homemade

The most laudable feature of the **Greentown Dimsum Cafe** is that all their Dim Sum is homemade and so are their sauces like their sambal belacan, the chilli oil/paste, their mint sauce and their brown sauce. They do not stint on their sauces and happily replenish the small plates when requested. Unlike the usual factory prepared chilli sauces at many restaurants, I prefer the choice of dippings available here. Well worth a visit.

### Greentown Dimsum Cafe

No. 10 Persiaran Greentown 4

Greentown Avenue, Ipoh.

Tel: 05-2552010; Judy: 012-569 8876

Open: 8.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. Closed: Tuesdays



## News Roundup

# Poverty Is Not Inherited



Poverty is not something one inherits from generation to generation or is passed down from parents to children. A major cause of poverty is the habit of many who are reluctant to improve themselves. This was the message contained in a speech by the Chief Executive Officer of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU), Dato' Zainal Abidin Omar delivered at a gathering in Kg Tebok Hj Musa, Parit Buntar recently.

Dato' Zainal Abidin was addressing residents at the village community hall. Among those present were Ahmad Shah Hamid, Penghulu of Mukim Parit Buntar, Suleiman Abdullah, village head of Titi Serong and Nurdiana Abdul Latib, Kerian District Assistant Development Officer.

"There are those who were born poor but became rich through hard work and diligence. And there are those who were rich but became poor due to misfortunes that have befallen them," he said.

The state government, through agencies such as YBU, will help the poor to be on their feet. However, said Zainal the assistance is not to be construed as an entitlement but rather a privilege to encourage self-sufficiency.

"Those who are in need of capital to start a small business can participate in our micro credit scheme which the foundation is aggressively promoting," he enjoined. "The loan is interest-free and payment is flexible, based on one's capacity."

Zainal handed parcels containing canned food and drinks to 30 poor and needy residents and gave a replica of a house key to Aini Awang, one of the many recipients of YBU's low-cost houses. Six villagers whose houses were damaged in a recent thunder storm and one whose house was gutted by fire received cash donations from the CEO.

RM

## Thumbs Down

# Long Wait for Appointment



Recently, when I went to Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun for a routine eye check up, I was able to see the doctor within an hour; but had to stand in the queue for more than 45 minutes to fix a date for the next appointment. With the implementation of their new computerised system, the process is very slow. Two nurses are involved in fixing the dates.

The first nurse fixes the date to see the doctor and passes the appointment card to the second nurse who fixes the date for the field test. Most of the patients in the queue were senior citizens. The eye drops applied before checking the eyes blurs the vision and keeping the eyes open in the bright light is uncomfortable.

Previously when the appointment was fixed manually, the nurse took the appointment card and used a calendar to fix the date. The process was very fast. To speed up the process, the dates can be given manually and at end of the day the data can be uploaded into the computer. If this system is implemented the patients would not be required to wait for such a long time.

The authorities must take action to reduce waiting time.

A. Jeyaraj



## 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.

## How Are We Showcasing Our History?

Many words have been spoken, many plans have been drawn and laid out, many money making schemes by unscrupulous people have been planned and all of this is to be in conjunction with the Visit Perak Year of 2012 next year.

What I find most disturbing is that there has been nothing, absolutely nothing that has been written regarding our "proud" museum Darul Ridzuan in Ipoh. Those of you who are familiar with our so-called museum would know that it is located between the State Secretariat Building and the Police Patrol Car depot. To identify the museum just look out for a poor huge miserable turtle or tortoise lying on in the garden.

Now let us look at the museum itself, it is a double-storey mansion that used to belong to a Chinese towkay who sold it to the government. Then it was used as a government agency before being reverted into a museum a number of years ago. The museum occupies a very large area that consists of an external exhibition shelter that holds an old timber truck, rusty mining equipment, a boat with splintered wood and a small plantation train. There are also two very rusty military vehicles, a Ferret Scout Car and a White Armoured Personnel Carrier, exposed to the elements with no shelter.

The moment you step into the museum the visitor is confronted by...emptiness. Now that is just the beginning, I have not told you about the pictures with no labels, the exhibits with no information and the total absence of any curator or assistant who will be able to explain anything in English to a foreign visitor. The second floor is a little better, the exhibits have been touched up to an extent, lighting is better and the exhibits are well labelled by Malaysian standards.

Whereas the walls at the ground floor are just bare brown carpets, up here is where many, many years ago an NGO called Ipohworld held the most successful exhibition in the museum ever organised by a visionary, Commander (R) Ian Anderson RN (Royal Navy), who had made Ipoh his home. In a matter of four weeks the Ipohworld exhibition surpassed the number of visitors that had ever visited the museum since its opening.

Now, back to my question, how is the museum showcasing the history of us Ipohites? Ipohworld showed us our grandparents, it even showed us when we were young, it presented to us the trades of our forefathers and how our ancestors moved, and how Ipoh was and is. Now dear reader isn't that what history is all about? What does the current museum contain? Does it show us how it was? And what were the stories behind the exhibits? Does it depict the traders and their wares of yesteryears?

Now, what will the impression of a foreign guest be when he visits the museum? Never mind the museum toilet for now. I would like to suggest that if the State of this great land is not capable of guarding, conserving and preserving its history it will be better to either bulldoze down the museum and build a food court in place or let a private NGO like Ipohworld run it for the sake of Perak Darul Ridzuan.

Daniel Prakash James



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## PMR Final Exam at PCSH



On October 10, a candidate in the midst of PMR Examination at SMJK Poi Lam found himself taking the examination at the Perak Community Specialist Hospital (PCSH) instead of in school. Ng Chen Weng (pic middle) had abdominal cramps, vomiting and dizziness and was suspected of suffering from acute appendicitis which eventually turned out to be Acute Gastroenteritis (AGE).

As he had to stay in hospital for observation, he took his examination at PCSH, which proved to be a memorable experience for him. In addition to that, the principal of SMJK Poi Lam (pic right) also visited and gave the candidate encouragement and support.

## IPOH ECHO'S

By Jerry Francis

## PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENT

## A Good Time to Invest on Property in Ipoh

Ipoh is a choice location now, especially for those planning their retirement. It is just about two hours drive to Penang and Kuala Lumpur. It is linked to the Federal Capital by an efficient electric train service and by air to Singapore.

The city is also becoming a hub for academic and medical studies with universities and colleges located close by.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the property market in the city is experiencing an annual appreciation of 10% to 15%, creating a good climate for investment in properties.

About a decade ago, one rarely heard of a residential property in the city having a seven-figure price tag, but now it is rather common. High end property, such as the Thompson Flora Tropika Residences where its freehold bungalows in phase one have risen from RM2.4mil to minimum RM2.68mil and above within the past year, and further price appreciation seems imminent.

"It is a good time to invest in property, especially when prices are increasing nowadays," commented a housing developer.

According to him, this year has been moderately better for property development in the Kinta district than before, despite the move by Bank Negara last November to introduce a maximum loan-to-value (LTV) ratio of 70% for the third and subsequent house financing facilities to curb speculation on property prices.

The developers are convinced that there will only be a temporary setback for the property and banking industry. The loan-to-value will hamper residential mortgage loans growth this year or even reduce residential property prices significantly.

Residential home loans growth might see a slight slowdown as the measure by the regulator would curb speculative investment activities but it will not be drastic, as up to 90% of banks' mortgage loans are held by homeowners, who are not speculative investors but have purchased residential properties to live in.

There may be further demands for local properties especially the mid-level to high end properties which are normally the playgrounds for investors and speculators, as property prices in Singapore, Johor Baru, Kuala Lumpur and Penang have gone up.

The property demand should remain resilient, supported by positive macro factors i.e.: young population, robust economy, inflation hedging, urbanisation, shrinking household size, and accommodative bank lending.

Mid-level to high end property is in demand. The strong underlying demand from first-second home owners and up-graders continue to support property sales, even at new benchmark prices. The buyers are a mixture of both locals and foreigners.

## MontBleu Residence Set Amid The Scenic Surroundings Of Tambun



First came the mega mixed development project at Sunway City Ipoh (SunCity Ipoh) blossoming into Perak's largest integrated township sprawling over 560 hectares. Now another project, the MontBleu Residence has been launched to add even more to the vibrancy of the township.

MontBleu is in line with SunCity's 'Lifestyles of Health & Sustainability' (LOHAS) concept which promotes green and sustainable developments for a better quality of life.

This project, which is set amid the scenic surroundings of Tambun Hot Springs and the Lost World of Tambun, comprises 220 units of well-planned and modern 3-storey townhouses that are surrounded by lush greenery with a 25 ft wide backyard garden.

The development spans over 11.01 acres with standard intermediate built-up from 1,889-2,066 sq ft. Each of the unit comes with 3+1 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. With MontBleu Residence located in this township, homebuyers are set to gain from the various education, leisure and entertainment components.

Walkways and gardens connect all townhouse units, lushly landscaped for family-bonding moments or just simply enjoying the beauty of the serene surroundings. It is a gated and guarded enclave with round the clock surveillance, single entry and exit point, CCTV, and alarm system in every unit giving you absolute peace-of-mind.

Its Green Building Features include solar heater system, cement fibre board cavity walls facing East and West to insulate against heat complete with solar reflective paint, roof rock wool insulation and aluminium foil, low VOC paints to all internal walls, North and South orientation, natural daylight and cross ventilation and water harvesting and solar heater for club house.

Recreational Facilities available include a function hall, gymnasium, infinity pool, wading pool, garden gazebo, BBQ Area, children playground, basketball court, and jogging track.

## Bandar Baru Meru Raya Offers Great Investment Opportunity



The development of a modern and integrated town, Bandar Baru Meru Raya, has opened up a great opportunity for those looking to invest in commercial and residential properties.

The township is being developed by PCB Development Sdn. Bhd., which is wholly owned by the Perak Development Corporation. Situated just north of Ipoh and beside the North-South Expressway, it covers over 1,500 acres of old plantation land.

It is being developed to house an inter-state bus terminal, a hotel and convention centre, a hypermarket, business and cyber-centre, sports centre and commercial and housing lots; also 22 government departments and agencies and the Tenby International School. Some government departments and agencies have already moved in.

Of course, the success of such a massive project needs the participation of property developers. Kinta Real Estate is one of the many which have responded.

Kinta Real Estate's contribution to the progress of the town is the Meru Desa Park and 1Avenue, a mixed development of 92 shop-houses and more than 200 residential units.

The commercial units – 1Avenue, is being undertaken by Asiabina Land Sdn. Bhd. The shop-houses will be located nearby to the Ipoh central bus terminal and the Mydin Hypermarket, where a large number of commuters and consumers are expected to converge daily.

Investors will have the option of three designs. There will be a row of 40 three-storey shop houses, which will front a busy main road. These lots are available at RM788,800. Another row of 31 shops will face a commercial complex, where the company proposes to develop entertainment facilities and a hotel, among others. This unit will be priced at RM688,800. The third option is the two-storey units with dual frontage with covered and paved pedestrian walkway. It is priced at RM788,800.

All these shop units will be built on freehold plots of 22'x70'. Asiabina Land director Datuk Poo Tak Kiau said the 1Avenue project is an ideal investment opportunity as completed units of the three-storey lots, for example, would later be able to fetch at least RM1 million.

Those interested in residential property as investment or to stay can look into what Meru Properties Sdn. Bhd. can provide at its Meru Desa Park. There will be double-storey terrace, semi-detached and bungalow units.

The 129 terrace houses of 24'x90' have wide frontage, enough to accommodate four cars, while the 80 semi-detached are 45'x90'. Both offering ample space for comfortable living and priced at RM308,800 and RM658,000 upwards respectively.

The 24 bungalows with sizes of 8,000 sq ft cost above RM1 million. There are a few exclusive designs to choose from and those interested can register with the company.

Meru Desa Park will also have a clubhouse which will have a swimming pool, gym, sauna and multi-purpose hall which will be for exclusive use of residents and their families. The show houses and clubhouse will be ready for viewing latest by Chinese New Year.

As an all gated and guarded enclave, Meru Desa Park will be a comfortable place to live in with pleasant paved walkways. At the same time, security will be taken care of with CCTV cameras on every street and watchful guards.

Purchasers need to pay 10% upon booking with the balance payable only upon vacant possession. All legal fees for the SPA and loan agreements will be borne by Meru Properties and buyers will not be subjected to any interest payment during the construction period.

## Bandar Baru Sri Klebang, A Master Planned Eco Township

Everyone longs for a sense of belonging to a community. As an individual or a family unit, we want to live life to the fullest and look for elements in our community that allow us to live our dreams together with like-minded people.

As population increases and newer townships are being developed in the suburbs, community living features with recreational and personal needs within reach become essential elements to those who are looking for new homes.

You shall be able to enjoy such a lifestyle at Bandar Baru Sri Klebang (BBSK), a master-planned eco township located along Jalan Kuala Kangsar, the Northern Development Corridor as identified by Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh.

The new township of BBSK is a 650-acre precinct with facilities that provide wholesome living for its residents. The Centro, a community recreation centre is located in the heart of the township. The Centro is presently equipped with facilities such as a gymnasium, driving range, 25-meter swimming pool, tennis courts, children's wading pool & play area and a café. In the coming months new additions like a pro shop and a 9-hole golf course shall be ready for residents' use.

There are two schools within the township. The new SJK(C) Poi Lam presently under construction will commence operations in early 2012. A completed government school within the vicinity is expected to commence by end 2011.

BBSK has earmarked areas for a hypermarket, fast food outlet and a petrol station and plans to build these facilities are already in the pipeline.

For those who are looking to live in a guarded community for the peace of mind and security for their families and loved ones, the Parklane Residences shall be their ideal choice. Parklane Residences is a guarded precinct within BBSK and consist of both semi-detached and detached homes. The precinct is equipped with a state-of-the-art 3-tiered security system that encompasses stationed and patrolling guards, perimeter fencing wall with photo beam sensors and CCTV cameras at strategic locations along the perimeter wall.

Parklane Residences consist of various designs of luxurious detached and semi-detached homes. The detached homes named Mayfair and Regent sit on land lot sizes of 7,000 square feet and 6,000 square feet. The semi detached homes named as Albany and Ashby are built on 3,500 square feet land lots. All these homes are built with eco friendly features:



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Visit the Parklane Residences show-homes, which are open daily from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on weekdays and from 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. on weekends and public holidays.

For more information, kindly call our sales advisors at **012-5008018, 019-5133315** or **05-2921333** or log in to: [www.kintaproperties.com](http://www.kintaproperties.com).



## The Haven – A Perfect Choice

The Haven is an award winning resort condominium in Perak, which is very well described in the citation of the "twenty11 SC Cheah Choice Awards" which was presented to the project recently.

The citation states "How do you put an intrinsic value to a 280 million year-old gigantic rock? For nature lovers particularly those who adore karst landscapes, the beauty of limestone rock formations is indescribable and priceless. Well, The Haven, developed by The Haven Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Superboom Projects Sdn Bhd (Superboom), has such a rock soaring 14 storeys high beside a lovely lake in Tambun. This is one of Mother Nature's glorious creations right in front of your home.

The Haven's three blocks of 26-storey condo-tel, are even higher than this massive rock aptly called Rockhaven, giving residents different levels of views. However, The Haven is much more than just a prehistoric rock, lake and condo-tels. It is an innovative, green, luxurious development that is changing the mindset of Ipoh people and bringing in plenty of foreign investments."

The setting, amidst limestone hills and lake, is perhaps the most surreal in Malaysia, a local Shangri-la in fact. Yet it is eminently accessible and affordable.

The Haven Lakeside residences, which are acclaimed to be the tallest buildings in Perak, are possibly the only one of its kind in the world where you can live by the forest and in the city at the same time. The three 26-storey complex is surrounded by prehistoric limestone hills and a pristine 4-acre running lake at the foothill.

Designed with the customer's needs in mind, the luxury homes are functional and practical. The design is such that every square foot is utilised and the quality of materials and finishes is of the best quality that a development of this stature can afford.

It is close to all amenities such as retail outlets and hospitals, making it ideal both as a permanent abode for families as well as a vacation home. For added peace of mind, The Haven boasts an elaborate 5-level security system with perimeter fencing, guardhouses, CCTVs and card access to respective floors.

With concerns of conveniences and security well taken care of, you can relax at the 4-level 60m infinity swimming pool (slightly heated during the night), jog around the lake, work out at the gymnasium before you unwind in the sauna, and later enjoy a barbecue with your family and friends amidst beautifully landscaped waterways and gardens.

Stay connected with your loved ones, work mates and business associates with high-speed broadband access. There are two floors of conference and banquet facilities. The developers even thought of the convenience of the residents by arranging an executive shuttle service to railway station, airport, bus terminal, shopping centres and hospitals. Only 10 minutes to Ipoh city centre, and a mere 5 km from the North-South highway via the Tambun Interchange.

When you are tired of the outdoors, retire into your private enclave of modern luxury in well-appointed 10' high rooms complemented by quality finishing and wide windows.

You can choose from 14 unit designs, with sizes ranging from 968 sq ft - 2,852 sq ft; while the penthouses are over 3,000 sq ft. The Haven is perfect as a luxury or vacation home.

Owners can expect returns of 6% p.a. or more on their purchase based on lease arrangement with BWI Hotels Sdn Bhd. The intrinsic value is over RM600 psf. Limited units are available at a base price of RM456 psf before nominal floor premiums and furnishing package.

The company's business development advisor Ms Vivian Yaw disclosed that 65% of the 490-odd units have been sold out, of which 50% were taken by local, 30% by those from Kuala Lumpur, Penang and other parts of the country, while the balance of 20% by foreigners from 14 countries.

**Jerry Francis**

## The Thompson Freehold Exclusive Bungalows

Embracing nature is one of the prominent development trends these days. However, the nature of The Thompson Flora Tropika Residences goes further than just green trees and fresh air. It is not only set to become a coveted address in Ipoh, but also a very profitable investment for astute buyers.

The price of these freehold bungalows in phase one has risen from RM2.4 million to minimum RM2.68 million and above within the past year, and further price appreciation seems imminent.

The limited 47 bungalows are sited on 13.14 acres within a guarded enclave located between Jalan Tun Dr Ismail and Jalan Kelab Golf and off Tiger Lane, and is only about 1.5km to the North-South highway.

The elaborate development features generous built-up areas from 4,700 to 6,800 sq ft, and comfortable living spaces and lot sizes from 7,115 to 12,200 sq ft. The development assures residents peace of mind as they relax across 26,000 sq ft of open field and

landscaped areas.

Eighty percent of the first phase is completed. Second phase started construction and is targeted to complete by mid 2013.

Security is a high priority at The Thompson. In addition to each unit being fitted with leading-edge security systems, the project also enjoys multi-layer security that consists of two sets of guards, guardhouses, patrolling security, CCTVs, photo beams and barrier gate systems with card access.

The facilities include a duplex recreational centre with a spacious lounge, fully equipped gym and a family hall. It has unobstructed views of the garden, Jacuzzi and infinity pool.

A place perfectly poised between the distractions of the city and acres of green garden space. Between sun-bright light and cool, calm shadow. Between the absolute heights of luxurious style, and the deepest yearning for privacy and comfort.

At its enviable location among Tiger Lane, Tambun



Road and Gopeng Road, in Ipoh's most desirable neighbourhood, The Thompson has all the makings of Ipoh's most coveted address. Welcome a new way to live. A new way to experience the cosmopolitan with a sense of calm.

**Eunice Foo**



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## Meru Desa Park

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Developer License No: 11584-105-2014-584 Validity Date: 11/05/2011-10/05/2014 Advertising Permit No: 11584-1/1458/20107 Validity Date: 11/07/2011-10/07/2012 Building Plan Approval No: 05C(065-AJ)/B/125419/10 Land Encumbrances: N/A Tenure of Land: Freehold Building Plan Approval by: Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh Expected Date of Completion: January 2014 All items mentioned in the above Specifications shall follow strictly according to the approved plans and are subject to variations, modifications and substitutions as recommended by the Developer's Architect or Engineer or relevant approving authorities. \*Terms & conditions apply.

## News Roundup

# Additional Money for Aid Programmes



Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) can provide more financial aid to poor and marginalised Perakeans with the RM5.5-million donation from the Perak Islamic Development Corporation (PIDC). With this additional sum the foundation can expand the scope of its responsibility to cover the hardcore poor, single parents and the handicapped.

General Manager of PIDC, Dato' Hj Ayob Hj Awang handed over a mock cheque for the said amount to the Chairman of YBU, Dato' Saarani Mohammad and witnessed by Zambray at the MB's Hari Raya open house recently.

The primary objective for the formation of the foundation according to Zambray is poverty eradication. The target groups are the poor and the marginalised in the state regardless of their religious beliefs and ethnicity.

"Much has been achieved since the foundation was first formed," he said. He alluded to a case that took place at last year's open house when a Chinese woman personally thanked him for the assistance given by YBU. She said that the timely loan had enabled her food business to prosper and in the process provided for her and her family.

The Hari Raya open house was jointly organised by YBU and BAIDURI, the association of state assemblymen's wives. Present at the event was BAIDURI's President, Datin Seri DiRaja Saripah Zulkifli and YBU's Chairman, Dato' Saarani Mohammad.

The MB called upon corporations to make use of their on-going CSR programmes to assist the poor and the marginalised in the state. This, he said, would help augment the state government's efforts. Four non-governmental organisations involved in caring of the poor and the handicapped were given cash donations. Each received cash aid worth RM2,000.

RM

## Manis' Dream Comes True



Photo by Perak Today

Manis bt Mad from Kampong Headwork, an Orang Asli settlement in Langkap, can now heave a sigh of relief, thanks to Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU). Her dream of owning a new house has come true.

The 60-ish lady, who lives in a dilapidated wooden house which is almost 50 years old, built by her former husband, fears for her life as the termite-eaten house could crumble anytime. "I wish to thank Yayasan Bina Upaya and the MB for their help," she told the media when met. The foundation has undertaken to build a low-cost house worth RM30,000 on the site of her present house. The house when completed will provide Manis with a more habitable roof over her head.

Construction of low-cost houses is one of the foundation's on-going poverty eradication programmes for the poor and the needy in the state.

RM

## Wellness

### World Sight Day 2011

In conjunction with World Sight Day on the October 14, 2011, Ipoh Echo talks to Consultant Ophthalmologist Dr S.S. GILL on ways to prevent visual impairment.



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

Visual impairment is a term used to describe any kind of vision loss to the extent that even with conventional forms of correction or treatment, the person's vision remains poor.

"Being visually impaired can be frightening, especially when it affects those who once had good vision," says Dr Gill. "We cannot take our eyes for granted".

The World Health Organization lists the following facts:

- Approximately 286 million people are visually impaired worldwide and 39 million of them are blind, and 246 million are moderately or severely visually impaired.
- About 80% of all visual impairment is avoidable.

What Causes Visual Impairment?

Many factors can cause visual impairment. "Cataracts, or the clouding of the eye's lens preventing light from passing through to the retina, are common causes for loss of vision," says Dr Gill. "Because cataracts form slowly, causing gradual vision loss, it may not be noticeable to the patient". Cataracts usually affect people in their 60s and 70s, but may sometimes appear earlier in people who are excessively exposed to sunlight.

"Many of my patients who present early are golfers and sports people who are not in the habit of wearing sunglasses. The general rule is that you should always wear good sunglasses whenever you go out during daylight hours." Symptoms of cataract include double vision, cloudy or blurry vision, difficulty seeing in poorly lit spaces, and when colors seem faded. Replacement of the eye's cloudy lens with an intraocular lens (IOL) implant through cataract surgery usually restores vision in these cases.

"If you have diabetes, you need to be screened regularly for Diabetic Retinopathy, which is a condition where the tiny blood vessels in the retina (back of the eye) are damaged due to diabetes. People with retinopathy may not have any problems seeing at first. But if the condition gets worse, they can become blind." To help prevent retinopathy, people with diabetes should avoid smoking, keep their blood pressure under control, and keep their blood sugar at an even level.

Another common cause is Glaucoma, a condition where an increase in pressure inside the eye impairs vision by damaging the optic nerve. "Early detection and treatment is crucial or the vision will gradually deteriorate over time to a small tunnel vision, and then blindness can occur," emphasizes Dr Gill.

Most people may also find it surprising to note that injury like getting hit with a hockey ball or a shuttlecock, or children playing with sharp objects, and injuries from car accidents are some of the commonest cause for vision loss. "I always advise parents to avoid buying toys with sharp edges and prevent children from playing with chopsticks or pencils. Prevention is always better than cure!"

Macular degeneration is a gradual deterioration of the macula (centre point at the back of the eye), which is the most sensitive region of the retina. The condition leads to progressive loss of central vision (the ability to see fine details directly in front). Excessive exposure to sunlight and smoking can increase the risk for age-related macular degeneration.

In children, amblyopia or "lazy eye" in early childhood can drastically reduce vision in an eye if the weak eye is not corrected. It is important to detect and treat the lazy eye before the age of 7 or 8 years, before the "vision centre" in the brain completes development.

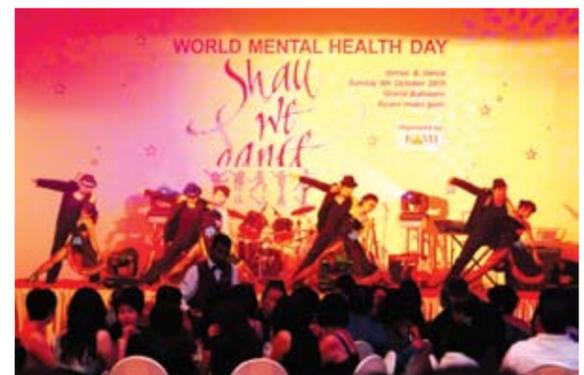


October 14, 2011

For more information, contact Gill Eye Specialist Centre at 05-5455582, email: [gillyecentre@dr.com](mailto:gillyecentre@dr.com) or visit [www.fatimah.com.my](http://www.fatimah.com.my).

## KAMI Dinner and Dance

'Shall we dance' was the theme of KAMI's Dinner and Dance held recently at the Syuen Hotel Ipoh. A video message from Dato' Michelle Yeoh started the evening followed by the address from KAMI Chairman, Ong Su-ming. The event paid tribute to the care-givers of persons with mental disorders and the journey they have chosen to undertake. Dance performances from Susan Ting & Susan Dance Academy and Sri Santiago Samathanam & Natyakalamandhir showcased several relevant themes in the "Journey in Dance", incorporating middle eastern and Indian dance. An English narration was given by host Mano Maniam. Joe Ong and Band was in attendance for an ever-willing crowd to dance the night away.



The dinner and dance was not only a means to raise funds but also awareness of mental health issues, whilst creating positive and supportive public attitudes towards the mentally ill, and to promote dance as a healthy activity with physical, mental and psycho-social benefits.

KAMI's message is this: "Mental illness is a biological condition involving chemical imbalance; effective treatment is available and works; and psycho-social support is essential."

To know more about KAMI (Kinta Action on Mental Health Issues Society Perak) and its activities, call: 05-5488403; email: [kami.wellness@gmail.com](mailto:kami.wellness@gmail.com); or visit them at: 44 Lebu Perajurit 3/2, Taman Ipoh Boulevard Timur, Ipoh.

VWLSL

## News Roundup

### SADC Signs MOU with UPM



State Agriculture Development Corporation (SADC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with University Putra Malaysia (UPM) which was witnessed by Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir.

Deputy Chancellor of UPM, Prof. Dr. Tai Shzee Yew signed on behalf of the university and CEO of SADC Ahmad Rizal Abdul Rahman signed on behalf of the corporation.

Ahmad Rizal said that the first project to be implemented would be a mango plantation in the state.

The occasion coincided with its annual Hari Raya open house at its office complex in Taman Chateau. Most of the invited guests were from the palm oil estates. Also contractors and stakeholders were invited. A variety of delicious Malay, Chinese and Indian food was served.

AJ

### Quest University Orientation Week Dinner



QUEST International University held its Orientation Week Dinner at Syuen Hotel for its September intake of students. Academic Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. V.G. Kumar Das in his welcome address said that he wants to make QUEST University the first choice university in Perak.

The students must pick up linguistic skills and be proficient in English. They must be able to sell themselves to become successful.

The university practises the 3Q Principle which is to get three quotations to get the best offer. This principle was used to select Syuen Hotel as the venue for the dinner.

AJ

## Old Michaelians' Dinner

Over 800 former Michaelians gathered at St Michael's Institution (SMI) Ipoh, recently for its 73rd annual dinner and to celebrate the school's 99th anniversary. It was an evening of good food, evergreen music, fireworks, fellowship and most of all, a walk down memory lane for the old timers.

The evening began with a welcoming speech by the President of the Old Michaelian Association, Adrian Tsen followed by a toast to the King, the Sultan and SMI.

Jubilee salutation certificates were then given to students who graduated from the school from the Class of 1941, Class of 1961, Class of 1971, and Class of 1981. The recipients were called up on stage to receive their scrolls from Dato' Bro. Vincent Corkery, the former principal of



St Michael's Institution.

Special mention was given to the Class of 1941 (pic) for having graduated from the school seventy years ago. The five Diamond Jubilee graduates are Dato' Yeoh Kian Teik, Ng Khoon Hong, Wong Hon Choong, Wong Kee Fah and Chang Kong Foo.

EL

## Conference on Organisational Excellence in Manufacturing

A one-day conference on "Organisational Excellence in Manufacturing" is being organised by FMM Institute Perak at Impiana Hotel on Oct. 19. FMM Perak Branch chairman Dato' Gan Tack Kong said that the conference would serve as a platform to bring together both international and Malaysian experts to share their knowledge in manufacturing. It would focus on bridging participants with manufacturing specialists from the industry and academic world to network and share best practices in manufacturing including sharing knowledge on Lean Manufacturing.

Local and overseas speakers who are authorities in their fields would deliver their lectures during the conference. There would be five lectures and one panel session. The topics include Malaysian Manufacturing: Effects of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis and



the Economic Outlook for 2012.

Dato' Gan said that they are expecting about 100 participants mainly from the manufacturing industry. He added that the conference would benefit Chief Executive Officers, General Managers and Engineers in the manufacturing sector.

For further details, contact: Nicole at 05-5488660.

AJ

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05-2552181; or email: [announcements@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:announcements@ipohecho.com.my), by the 9<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> of every month in order to meet deadlines. Announcements by phone will not be entertained. Ipoh Echo reserves the right to verify any announcement before it is published.

**Kinta Medical Centre Talk on "Per Rectal Bleeding" and "Managing Diabetes", Saturday October 22, 10.00 a.m.** at Conference Room (chapel). Free admission, door gift for the first 30 participants and light refreshments will be served. For details, call Ms. Aznira at **05-2538811/0199009969**.

**Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest, Sunday October 23, at De Garden (Free Parking).** For students ages 11-13 only. Contact: Lion Cheah at **0124333650**; email: [nyukphin@gmail.com](mailto:nyukphin@gmail.com).

**Miss Malaysia Model Of The World 2011, Sunday October 23, Syuen Grand Ballroom – Level 2, 88 Jalan Sultan Abdul Jalil, 30300 Ipoh.** Tel.: **05-253 8889/242 8889**. Fax: 05-2533335. Email: [sales@syuenhotel.com.my](mailto:sales@syuenhotel.com.my).

**"100 Days After 709 Yellow Spirit" by Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan, former Bar Council President.** Date, Time and Venue: Sunday, **October 23** beginning 7 pm at Tropicana Ballroom, Ipoh. For details call Irene Yeow at **012-524 1833**.

**Seminar on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse** organised by Perak State Health Department. Date, Time and Venue: Monday, October 24 from 9 am to 5 pm at Dewan MBI Taman Meru, Jelapang. Admission: Free. For details call Dr Azmah Zainal Abidin at 05-208 4200 or Halida at **012-673 3827**.

**World Stroke Day 2011 Stroke Awareness Talk, Saturday October 29, 2.00 p.m. (sharp) – 4.30 p.m.** at YMCA Hall. Free admission. Call NASAM Perak at **05-3211089** for details.

**Free Eye Screening and Public Forum (Bahasa Malaysia) by Lee Eye Centre, Sunday, October 30, 9.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.** at Dewan Orang Ramai Taman Meru. Speaker: Dr Ummi Kalsom.

**Ipoh (also) Got Talent Contest 2011.** November 19 & 20 (Preliminary), November 26 (Semi Finals), December 3 (Finals). Whether you have a talent to sing, dance, perform magic, play a musical instrument, perform as part of a band, draw laughter as a stand-up comedian, or impress with your talent in any creative way, the stage is yours. Closing date: **November 2**. Enquiries: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/YMCAs-Ipoh-Also-Got-Talent-2011/152122844864910> or call: **012-4616676** (Mr. Lim), **012-5325645** (Ms Chow), **012-5101099** (Mrs Chong).

**ISPCA (Ipoh Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Food Fair, Sunday November 6** from 10.00 a.m. till 2.00 p.m. at St John Ambulance HQ Ipoh, 134 Jalan Raja Musa Aziz, Ipoh. Contact Rani – **016- 5279515**, Doreen – **016-5608905** or Mai – **012-4002313**. There will be a Pets Beauty Contest organised by GBBM (Gerakan Belia Bersatu Malaysia). For registration forms and details on the contest, please contact Ricky – **012-5186915** or Yew Ken – **016-5553454**.

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**Ramesh Kumar**



## News Roundup

### Pantai Awareness Programme

In conjunction with Pink October, Pantai Hospital Ipoh launched the Think Pink Programme at Cosmopoint College, as part of its community service recently. This year's approach is to make youths be aware of the dangers of breast cancer and how to detect them.

Chief Operating Officer PHI, Anwar Anis said that the programme was one of the many initiatives taken by the hospital in support of its theme of "Caring from the Heart".

A photography cum videography contest was held specifically for Cosmopoint students as a run-up to the month-long programme. The first prize of RM800 in the videography division was won by Lay Chia Hong (pic) while Muhammad Nur Shafiq Norman won the photography category of RM700.

Readers wishing to know more about the programme can call Ms Katrina of Pantai Hospital Ipoh at 05-5405719. **SH**



### Sultan Opens Perak MACC Office

Sultan Azlan Shah formally opened the new Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Perak branch office at Bandar Meru Raya, Jelapang recently. Addressing an audience consisting of politicians, government officials and guests, he hoped that laws enacted by parliament pertaining to the protection and safety of whistle-blowers will encourage people to come forward with evidence to nail those who engage in corrupt practices.

The RM25-million complex, consisting of a five-storey headquarters, a hall, a building to keep exhibits and a guard house, covers nearly 17,000 sq metres. Work on the complex started in December 2008 and was completed in October 2010. The office has been operational since November 2010.

The Sultan reminded commission staff to carry out their responsibilities judiciously, alluding to the notoriety MACC has gained over the past two years.

"Don't tarnish the good name of the Commission by mishandling cases and mistreating suspects," he insisted.

Present at the ceremony were Datuk Seri Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, MB Perak, Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambray Abd Kadir and Datuk Seri Abu Kassim Mohamed, Chief Commissioner of MACC. **RM**



## Wellness

### 'Eye Chat' – from a Retinal Surgeon's Perspective



Dr. Lee Mun Wai

#### Surgical Management of Retinal Diseases

World Sight Day is upon us again and this annual advocacy event for "The Right to Sight" marks the coming together of all ophthalmic care providers to increase public awareness of blinding eye diseases. Retinal diseases make up a significant portion of the blinding diseases and with this article, I hope to provide an overview of the surgical management of these diseases.

#### Retinal Surgery

Vitrectomy is a specialized microsurgical procedure which is used to treat retinal disorders. The surgeon uses an operating microscope with a specialized viewing system and a highly sophisticated vitrectomy machine together with very fine instruments to perform the surgery. This is usually performed under local anaesthesia and is often a day case procedure.

#### RETINAL DISEASES WHICH REQUIRE SURGERY

##### Diabetic eye disease

Diabetes is a fast growing worldwide 'epidemic' and eye complications from diabetes are the leading cause of blindness in the working age group. Diabetes causes leakage of blood and protein from the blood vessels of the retina (retinopathy). Advanced diabetic retinopathy requires aggressive laser treatment to prevent progression to blindness but in severe cases, surgery is often required.

Symptoms of eye problems from diabetes may not be obvious until a very late stage. It is therefore very important for diabetics to have regular eye checkups to monitor for retinopathy. The longer the duration of diabetes, the higher the risk of developing retinopathy.



Schematic diagram of Vitrectomy

##### Retinal detachment

This refers to a separation of the retina from the back wall of the eye. The retina will degenerate and lose its ability to function when detached. The most common form of retinal detachment occurs following a break or tear in the retina.

Symptoms of retinal detachment include floaters, flashing lights or blurred vision particularly described by patients as 'a curtain hanging over their vision'. The prognosis for retinal detachment depends a lot on the extent and duration of detachment. Therefore, it is important that patients present early when they have visual disturbances as described above.

##### Macular diseases

The macula is the most sensitive part of the retina responsible for high quality vision necessary for tasks such as reading, driving or watching television. In the aging eye, abnormal changes in the macula can lead to formation of scar tissue known as macular pucker or epiretinal membrane. In some cases, a hole in the macula can form. Typically, patients will describe 'straight lines appearing crooked' or even a 'missing portion' in their central vision. A vitrectomy combined with peeling of this scar tissue would be required to close this hole and restore vision.

##### Other conditions

Cataract surgery can sometimes be complicated when the cataract dislocates to the back of the eye or in other cases where the intraocular lens implant itself dislocates. Vitrectomy would then be required to retrieve the dislocated lens material.

Other serious conditions which require vitrectomy would include endophthalmitis (intraocular infections) and serious injuries to the eye including intraocular foreign bodies.

##### Conclusion

Vitrectomy has been a major advance for ophthalmology as retinal specialists are now able to treat certain retinal diseases and prevent significant visual loss in patients where previously they may have gone blind. There have been further improvements made in the instrumentation for modern vitrectomy and the advantages to the patient include shorter operating times, less discomfort and quicker healing.

For more information, contact: **Lee Eye Centre Ipoh**  
Tel: 05-254 0095 or email: [enquiry@lec.com.my](mailto:enquiry@lec.com.my). Website: [www.lec.com.my](http://www.lec.com.my)

### Fishermen Shortage Will Not Impact Fish Supply

The Department of Fisheries Malaysia gives its assurance that the shortage of fishermen will not impact fish supply in the country. The shortage, says the Director, Dato' Ahamad Sabki Mahmod, is mainly due to the advent of modern technology. "Advanced technology reduces manpower dependency in the fishing industry," said Sabki at the opening of a workshop on fishery products innovation and development held at a local hotel here in Ipoh recently.

There are currently over 100,000 active fishermen in the country, both onshore and off-shore. The number, said Sabki, will decrease over the years due to several factors – age and technology being the major reasons. "However, it will not impact the supply of fish in the market. The amount last year was in excess of 1.3 million tons and is increasing at the rate of 3 per cent annually," he remarked.

The department has taken steps to improve



fishing methods in order to increase catch. Research into new techniques and methodologies are being conducted at four centres in the country. One such centre, known as Pusat Perkebangan Perikanan, is located in Kampong Acheh, Sitiawan.

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## News Roundup

### “We Want Zero Crime”

Residents of Ipoh Garden East gathered peacefully on the morning of October 8 to send a message to the Police that they are concerned about the spate of crime in their neighborhood and “want zero crime”.

Ipoh Garden East is made up of four housing estates, Taman Kaya, Perak, Kemuncak and Ipoh Garden East, and has over 700 households within its perimeter.

The residents here have experienced house break-ins with their family members being tied up, snatch theft and “in the last two weeks six cars were smashed just in Taman Kaya itself,” said lawyer Augustine Anthony one of the unfortunate residents whose car was smashed. Augustine was also a spokesman for the gathering.

State Assemblyman for Canning, Wong Kah Woh, who also resides here, said “crime is a real problem in the area and hoped that the Police would take the necessary action.”

Wong added that the residents would like to have an open dialogue with the OCPD to express their concerns for the safety of their family members and suggested that possibly the residents themselves could partner with the Police to prevent crime in their neighborhood. Wong also stated that he had raised this “concern about crime” during the recent state assembly sitting.

Wong also reminded the residents gathered that morning to always make a police report of any crime incident.



### SMI School Chapel Restored

“It warms my heart to see our SMI chapel filled again after so many years” said Dato’ Brother Vincent Corkery in his address to the congregation of former teachers and students after a mass at the chapel on the 2nd floor of the school recently.

Also present for the mass that morning was Brother Matthew Bay, Old Michaelian Association (OMA) President Mr Adrian Tsen and PIBG (Parent-Teacher Association) Chairman Joseph Michael Lee.

The Chapel was built in the late 1930s. The beautiful design of the chapel was inspired by the celebrated Sainte Chapelle on the Ile de la Cite in Paris. According to Bro Vincent the last service held at the chapel was around the year 2000 before it was closed due to termite infestation in the wood panels, walls and ceiling.

Around 2007, in line with the roof restoration of the main building, the plan to completely restore the chapel was mooted, the result of which was the mass that morning. As for the cost, PIBG Chairman Lee could not indicate a total figure because “the work was done very gradually over 4 years, as and when funds were available.”

Adrian Tsen, OMA Chairman who was a student during the 60’s recalled that “students would come by the chapel area on Fridays after school, for fellowship and get-togethers. It has always had a peaceful environment”

The mass that morning was conducted by Fr Michael



Cheah, also an Old Michaelian and accompanied by the choir from St Michael’s Church.

For the future it will be under the care of Bro Matthew Bay who recently retired. Brother Matthew, who passionately proclaimed the Chapel as “my property”, plans to work with other catholic groups and have activities at the Chapel.

A year ago the school opened their Michaelian Heritage Gallery followed by the restoration of the Chapel this year. Apparently the school is walking their slogan “Cherishing Our Past, Embracing the Future” towards preparing for their Centennial Celebration in September 2012.

JAG

When asked why victims were reluctant to make police report, Augustine explained that, “victims who did make reports claimed the bureaucratic process, when making the report, was very long.” He gave the example of residents making their reports at Bercham Police Station after which they had to go to IPD Ipoh to meet with the Investigating Officer. “That whole process could take up to half the day.”

The morning gathering however, ended on a positive note when Wong received an SMS from Perak Chief

Police Officer Dato’ Mohd Shukri Dahalan that “he would get the facts for the area and is committed to dialogue with the residents at a date to be determined later.”

Meantime, a “loose committee” has been set up and residents wishing to get updates on the group’s activities can log onto their facebook page “Yes, We Can”.

Residents who want to report any suspicious activity in their area are advised to call IPD Ipoh Police District at: **05-254 2222** or **05-245 1562** and provide the address.

JAG

Advertorial

## Sunway College Ipoh Growing From Strength To Strength



Academic Team (seating l-r) Mr Sundra Kanth, Mr Au Kim Chan, Ms Liza Wong, Mdm Cheah Pick San CAT/ACCA Prize Winner (standing l-r): Yeoh Zi Cheng, Chung Yen Wei and Kok Ying Fan

Sunway College Ipoh (SYCI) was established by Tan Sri Jeffery Cheah to cater to students in the northern regions of Malaysia. The college is located at Sunway City Ipoh, which is only a few kilometres south of Ipoh. Tan Sri Jeffery Cheah’s vision and mission have grown from strength to strength and has become a landmark of higher education in this part of the country.

Today Sunway College Ipoh is indeed elated over its students’ achievements held in the recent July 2011 CAT/ACCA examination. Congratulations to all Prize Winners, for First Placing in Malaysia. In other words, they have obtained the highest score in the respective paper(s) at the examination. The following CAT/ACCA Prize Winners are listed below:



ACCA Prize Winner for June 2011 examination  
**Ms. Yeoh Zi Cheng**  
First Placing in Malaysia for F8-Audit and Assurance

“What a surprise! When I learned from Ms. Liza Wong, the course coordinator that I had won a First placing in Malaysia for my F8 I thought she was joking. Yes, I did it. My grateful thanks to my lecturer, my parents and everyone who gave me encouragement. Thank You, thank you, thank you.”



CAT Prize Double Winner for June & December 2010 examinations

**Ms. Kok Ying Fan**  
First Placing in Malaysia for T10-Managing Finances  
First Placing in Malaysia for T4-Accounting for Cost

“Being an extremely self-motivated person, I am able to thrive best in a zero pressure environment. I found this a magical setting at SYCI which enabled me to unlock my full potential by winning a CAT award.”

CAT Prize Winner for June 2011 examination

**Ms. Chung Yen Wei**  
First Placing in Malaysia for T7-Planning, Control & Performance Management.

“if there is a will, there is a way,” I discovered Sunway College Ipoh, offering the CAT/ACCA course which dedicates itself to give students the edge to excel, to meet the challenges head on, to set our own goals and make our dreams comes true. Of course, I put in a lot of effort studying for the examination and I won an award.”



The CAT/ACCA Celebrations and Awards-giving ceremony for Prize Winners will be held on Saturday 29th October 2011 - 10.00am to 12.30pm at Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

In implementing Sunway College Ipoh’s performance culture and providing a holistic education, we are fortunate to have a pool of experienced and dedicated lecturers who share the same ideals and have the ability to recognise innate potential of each student. Our lecturers encourage their students to engage actively in the learning process, thus making it a personal as well as collective responsibility to achieve the performance goals.

Do you want to know more?

Sunway College cordially invites all parents and those who want further information to visit Sunway College Ipoh, No, 1-13A Persiaran SCI 2/2, Sunway Ipoh City, Perak, Malaysia or call 05 545 4398 to talk to our Advisory counsellors or course coordinators about our courses/programmes. Remember also to get the latest information on PTPTN loans. Find out about your child’s eligibility.

Watch out for Sunway College Ipoh Open Day event that will be held on 19th & 20th December 2011

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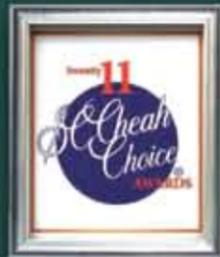
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**Best Perak Developer**  
(SC Cheah Choice Awards\* 2011, New Straits Times Property), Superboom Projects Sdn Bhd



**Quality and Innovation**  
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From



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## My Say



By Jerry Francis

## A Broken Promise To The Residents

Ipoh City Council has carried out shooting of stray dogs like a “covert operation” after it had promised to ban shooting and to adopt more humane methods to overcome the problem.

We, the residents and animal care NGOs, are justifiably very upset as we feel that we have been hoodwinked by the promise. Shooting of stray dogs in the city has been going on since March, but neither the NGOs nor the public had knowledge of it until recently.

Mayor Dato’ Roshidi Hashim was quick to respond to criticisms with a clarification that the council “had an option to shoot dogs as it is allowed to do so based on its local by-laws.”

Of course, the city council has the “option” to shoot; there is no argument about it as the by-law has never been amended to ban shooting. We have accepted the promise from the City Council to stop shooting in good faith and welcomed it as we believed that the City Council had become compassionate after dragging its feet in finding a solution to the problem of stray dogs and cats for many years.

Can we accept the excuse given by the City Council now, that those humane methods – shooting the dogs with tranquilisers and setting up traps to round-up stray dogs – are “not practical”? Is the Mayor implying that our enforcement officers, tasked to deal with the stray dogs problem in the city, are not competent and intelligent to adopt the humane methods, which are being used successfully by their counterparts in Selangor?

How can we trust the City Council in the future? This is not the first time the City Council has gone against its assurances. Take for instance, the stray cattle problem in the city, where assurance after assurance had been given by various city officials and even the state chairman for local government, Dato’ Mah Hong Soon. But nothing had come of it.

Herds of cattle are still seen lying on the roads at night particularly in the Silibin and Menglambu areas endangering the lives of motorists. Is this not contradicting the authorities’ assurance that when it comes to the safety of the people, there will be “no compromise”?

In the case of dog shooting, the promise to ban shooting was made following the uproar that resulted in the shooting of Spunk, a senior therapy dog and companion to an elderly woman, by City Council’s enforcement officers in Merdeka Garden despite having a licence about a year ago.

All the animal related NGOs including the Ipoh Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA), Noah’s Ark Ipoh and The Sanctuary Ipoh, SPCA Selangor and the Malaysian Animal-Assistance Therapy for Disabled, Elderly Association (Petpositive) also converged at Ipoh City Council to protest the shooting.

Following the wide-spread protest, which was even posted on the internet, the council’s secretary Dato’ Hj Abdul Rahim bin Mohd Ariff declared an immediate ban on shooting, formation of a sub-committee and to work very closely with the Veterinary Services Department and NGOs on how to handle stray dogs. Some of the measures proposed were to establish a pound for animals that were caught as well as the methods to be used to capture the animals.

The City Council’s failure to fulfil its commitments came to light when on September 27, Noah’s Ark Ipoh (NAI) received a call from Prima Condominium about dog shooters requesting to enter the compound in search of a stray dog that entered its premises.

When the NAI’s team went to the condominium they found a trail of blood “all round the premises” but did not find the dog which led them to conclude the dog would die a slow and painful death.

The Mayor, at a press conference after the council’s monthly full board meeting, acknowledged that his enforcement team had shot at the dog. “MBI had earlier received complaints that a dog was barking at nurses from a nearby hospital after duty,” he said.

Meantime, the Mayor was quoted as saying that the City Council was planning to outsource this function of dealing with the stray dogs problem. It had identified two potential companies that could undertake the task.

The question is why outsource the task to private companies when there are the NAI and ISPCA, and not forgetting several animal loving individuals, doing a great job with their efforts to save stray animals in the city? Why not allow these NGOs to take over the responsibility of rounding up the stray dogs? Just channel the funds from the annual dog licences’ fees, estimated at about RM200,000, to the NGOs.

Who will be better to undertake the responsibility than these NGOs, which were formed with the objective to care for the homeless dogs and cats?

## Sport

## Armed Forces Team Wins Hockey Tournament



The Sekolah Raja Perempuan-organised Open National Level Women’s Hockey Tournament 2011 ended on an awesome note with Angkatan Tentera Malaysia Team B (ATM B) taking top spot. The two-day tournament was held at the Azlan Shah Hockey Stadium, Ipoh recently.

The final match between ATM B and RPS Legend ended with a 3-2 score-line in favour of the armed forces team. The winner was decided on penalty strokes after a scoreless draw.

“We hope to maintain the same standard in other championships,” said coach, Suleiman Bujang. His team has been in training for the last two years.

Sixteen teams, from all over the country, took part in the championship. It was the first time that a tournament of such magnitude was organised by SMK Raja Perempuan Ipoh.

Principal, Rusnani Sharuddin was proud of the achievement and praised her staff and students for their commitment and dedication. The valuable experience gained was a plus point for her school.

Parents’ and Teachers’ Association President, Dato’ HJ Cik Mat Hj Padali, gave away the prizes.

SH

## Perak Wins Big



The Perak contingent was declared the champion in the Girls Free-Sparring 10 to 13 year old Division at the recently concluded National Youth Tae Kwan-do Championship 2011 held at the Cheras Badminton Stadium, Kuala Lumpur.

The Perak team, consisting of 36 exponents and led by the Perak Tae Kwan-do Association (WTF) President, Nawas and coaches, Liew Sang and Jay Ganesh, won 2 gold, 4 silver and 6 bronze. The championship serves as a medium to select potential candidates for the National Sports Academy Bukit Jalil. They will be trained for the 2016 and 2020 Olympics.

The annual championship, the second in the series, is jointly organised by the National

Sports Council, Milo and the National Tae Kwan-do Association (WTF).

Yap Nai Wong and

Jacintha Quek Xinpeng were the gold medal winners.

FZB

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**Sunday Roast Luncheon with  
Resident Band “Mac & Zel” @  
The Bistro, from 12.00 to 4.00 p.m.**