

Asian-Pacific City Summit Newsletter

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In this edition, we introduce you to information including heritages, culture and nature of Ipoh City, which is planning to hold the 11th Working-Level Conference by the end of March 2017.

I. Introducing Ipoh City (Article from Ipoh City)

Ipoh City

Ipoh, the capital city of Perak State, Malaysia, is the city that tin built. Located at the famous tin mining area, Kinta Valley, it used to be the world's largest tin mine since 19th century. Not only of its tin mine, but Ipoh is also famous of its delicious food, beautiful mountain ranges, mysterious lime stone caves, attractive history & friendly citizen. Being the second in Malaysia that gained the status



The Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat

of city in year 1988 after Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh is one of the major cities in Malaysia with the population around 700,000. Began as a small village in 1870's, tin mine industry had brought in Chinese and Indian that boosted the town development since 1890's. The rapid growing town later upgraded to be the capital of Perak during the Japanese occupation at World War II. The rich tin resource had brought prosperity to many Ipoh miners that even make it once known as the City of Millionaires. Today, Ipoh has grown to cover a large area including the neighboring township such as Bercham, Tasek, Jelapang, Menglembu, Pengkalan, Simpang Pulai & Chemor. The city is still developing continuously while maintains its beauty of nature and harmony.

Background

Ipoh is the capital city of Perak State, located 205 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur and 170 kilometres south of George Town, Penang. Located in the heart of Kinta valley, the city lies on the river banks of Kinta River surrounded by breath-taking limestone hills and lush greenery terrains. It covers 643 sq. kilometres with a total population of 710,000. Majority of the population are from Chinese descendants whereas other races including Malays, Indians and others are considered the minority group.



Ipoh is slowly catching up with Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Johor Bharu in terms of the development, and now Ipoh is the fourth largest city in Malaysia. The city is one of the fascinating tourist destinations in the Peninsular Malaysia, splendour with heritage, cultures and natures. Ipoh was selected by lonely planet magazine as the number 6 best destination to visit in Asia 2016.

Heritage

Historically, the early settlement in Ipoh existed in early 1800s and the city has spread across the Kinta River throughout the years. The river divides Ipoh into two sections, the old and the new town. The old town (West) is synonymously known as the place of historical buildings from the British colonial eras which stand parallel to the Kinta River. Notable Ipoh's historical landmarks such as Town Hall, The Court House, Ipoh Royal Club, Railway Station, Saint Michael Institution, Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank and F.M.S Bar are well preserved until today. On the other hand, the new town (East) is predominantly occupied by commercial centres, hospitals, shopping centres, food outlets and hotels. Ipoh is constantly growing, and the city is expanding right to the edge with new development of townships, shopping complexes, hypermarkets, and theme parks. Above all, the legacy of Ipoh is clustered in the quiet old town. There are a lot of untold stories and it's yours to discover.



Ipoh Railway Station



Birch Memorial Clock Tower

Culture

Historically, Malays were known to be the early settlers in the area and they lived in villages of *Kampung Ipoh* and *Kampung Paloh* along the banks of Kinta River in early 1800s. Later the Malay settlements grew bigger and formed *Kampung Kuala Pari* and *Kampung Jawa*. After the arrival of British in the tin rich valley in 1878, the scenario changed and Malays no longer dominated the place. There were large number of Chinese immigrants migrated to Ipoh during the tin rush in the late 1890s. Ipoh became the centre for tin trade. Thus, the town expanded to accommodate the large influx of miners and it became the largest settlement area in the Kinta valley. The tin trade contributed to the wealth of the city, and Ipoh prospered into a cosmopolitan city dominated by the Chinese community. Indians were brought to Malaya by the British during the booming rubber industry in 1900s. Most of them resided in the rubber plantation and estates in the outskirts of Ipoh. Today, seventy percent of the population in Ipoh are from Chinese descendant, while Malays, Indians and other races are considered minority group. Despite having such diverse races and cultures, Ipoh residents have lived in peace and harmony for more than hundred years. The existence of multi-racial and cultural differences has become an asset to tourism industry in Ipoh.

Nature

Geographically, Ipoh is located in a valley surrounded by Titiwangsa mountain range which runs to east of the city and Kledang mountain range which stretches from the north to the west. The panoramic view of hills and mountains can be seen from the city centre, and the valleys lush greenery terrains are beautified with a theme park, temples, recreational parks and gardens. The city of Ipoh houses some of the best limestone cave systems in the country.



The formation of these glistening stalactites and stalagmites took place over millions of years. Ipoh is enchanted by clusters of towering limestone surmounted with lush greenery, and features natural caves, picturesque lake, waterfalls and geothermal hot springs that await you to experience a wonder of nature.

Ipoh City Council

Ipoh is also known as the city tin built and the city of millionaires due to its abundance of tin deposit in 1890's. The name of Ipoh itself comes from the Ipoh, epu or epus tree (*Antiaris Toxicana*) which grew wildly here before. Today, the city is known as the city of Bougainvilleas, the name derives from the city's abundance of the flora. Ipoh is also known as Ipoh the Limestone Wonders and Ipoh the City That Tin Built. Ipoh was officially proclaimed a city status on 27th May 1998 and inaugural ceremony to commemorate the status was officiated by the ruler of Perak HRH the late Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-Lah. Ipoh is governed by City Council, led by a mayor or Datuk Bandar. The City Council's tag line, "Clean, Green and Progressive" was chosen to portray the practice of good governance, cleanliness, progressive development and preservation of nature.

Ipoh-Fukuoka, Japan Twin City

A history of international exchange between Ipoh and Fukuoka began in 1977 when Fukuoka first sent a Youth Exchange Flight to Malaysia. When Ipoh was to become a city, DYMM Paduka Seri Sultan Azlan Shah, Sultan of Perak, requested Fukuoka City to become a Sister City of Ipoh. On 21st of March 1989, His Royal Highness let the delegation of Ipoh including Chief Minister of Perak, the first Mayor of Ipoh City and the members of Ipoh City Council to Fukuoka to witness the official signing of the Sister City Agreement by the two Mayors in front of the citizen of Ipoh and Fukuoka. Since then, the cooperation between the both cities have been further enhanced through all the exchange programmed in the fields of youth, culture, sports, law, medical and the staff of both City Halls.

II. News from UN-HABITAT ROAP-Fukuoka (The eleventh installment)



United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the New Urban Agenda

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) was held in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, South America on October 17 - 20, 2016. The conference successfully ended with the adoption of the "New Urban Agenda", a consensus document.

This UN conference focuses on adequate human settlements and sustainable urban development, which is held once every 20 years. The first conference (Habitat I) was held in Vancouver in 1976, and the second (Habitat II) in Istanbul in 1996. Following these two conferences, Habitat III was the third conference.

When the first conference was held in 1976, the urban population of the world was growing rapidly. However, the capacity of urban infrastructure did not catch up with the pace. As a result, many people were living in slums and poor living conditions. People became much more aware of the negative effects of urbanization.



Being in an adequate living environment was reconfirmed as a right to all humanity at the Habitat I, and it was made clear to the international society by the "Declaration on UN Human Declaration". UN-Habitat was established in 1978 as an outcome of the conference to be an international organization specialized in human settlements.

By the time of the Habitat II in 1996, urbanization had further advanced and it became recognizable that the tide of urbanization can no longer be stopped. The conference has changed the people's view on cities to a positive one, such as the fact that energy of urbanization is an engine of urban development and thus cities promote the growth of rural areas. At the same time, the key thing to remember about the Habitat II was that the conference raised awareness about the importance of collaboration among diverse actors, such as national governments, local governments, and NGOs.

The urban population in 2050 is expected to be double of the current one, and 70% of the world's population is projected to live in cities. Various urban problems, such as deterioration of global environment and widening disparity due to accelerating urbanization are expected to occur. The Habitat III was held in such background.

Among over 35,000 participants, there were many heads of states and cabinet ministers from 167 countries and regions, and people with diversified backgrounds, such as municipalities, civic groups, universities, research institutes, and business community.

During the four-day conference, about 1,000 separate meetings and events including eight plenary sessions, six high-level roundtable sessions and ten policy dialogues were held. In parallel with these meetings, more than 460 related events were organized by various groups.

A total of 157 display booths introducing initiatives of each country, region and group were set up in other venue.



Venue of Habitat III



Exhibition



Display of Urban Models



PR booth of Japanese Government



At the opening of the conference, Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa (Chairperson of the Habitat III), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and UN-Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos (Secretary-General of the Habitat III) made opening remarks, followed by speeches by each country.

During the conference, separate meetings on individual themes organized by various organizations were also held everywhere in the venue.



The "New Urban Agenda", which was adopted at the Habitat III, is a global commitment and a guideline for the international society, member states, municipalities, and all other stakeholders to promote sustainable urban development. It aims to help all people sustainably enjoy safe, healthy, and convenient urban life, while ensuring consistency with other international agreements, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



The moment when the "New Urban Agenda" was adopted, a round of applause erupted in the venue.

Whether or not the energy of urbanization can be transformed into sustainable urban development, and cities can continue to be adequate living environment, will be an important key to the conservation of global environment.

In order to promote better urbanization based on this agenda, it is important to advance especially the following five points, specifically by adding scientific perspective, including data analyses and data prediction, characteristics of each country and region, including history and culture, and opinions of diverse residents.

1. Draw up national land development plans
2. Develop legislations and rules regarding urban development
3. Draw up urban plans
4. Develop urban economy and secure finances
5. Implement on-site specific projects

Each country and region is expected to steadily carry out sustainable urban development projects based on the respective situations.

Full text of the "New Urban Agenda"(English) can be downloaded at:

http://nua.unhabitat.org/uploads/DraftOutcomeDocumentofHabitatIII_en.pdf

Animation video on the "New Urban Agenda" (English):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQQxskvR9TE&feature=youtu.be>



III. Fukuoka Prize 2016 Official Event Report (Article from Fukuoka City)

Fukuoka City has been playing a significant role as a Japanese gateway to the Asian Continent since ancient days. Taking advantage of this role, Fukuoka City established the Fukuoka Prize, an internationally recognized award, in 1990 through the collaboration with academia and business to contribute to the promotion of the excellent cultures of Asia, mutual understanding, and peace. The Fukuoka Prize publicly honors individuals who have made distinguished achievements in the areas of academic studies, arts and culture in Asia. Since its establishment in 1990, it has been awarded to more than 100 individuals from 27 countries and regions, covering almost every corner of Asia.

All laureates are active on the world stage. Among them are two Nobel Prize winners, namely, Prof. Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi economist (awarded in 2001) and Mr. Mo Yan, a Chinese writer (awarded in 2006). Examples of other laureates are Mr. Kurosawa Akira, a Japanese film director (awarded in 1990), Dr. Donald Keene, a scholar of Japanese literature (awarded in 1991), and Mr. Zhang Yimou, a Chinese film director (awarded in 2002).

The 27th Fukuoka Prize was awarded to the following three outstanding individuals.

<p>Grand Prize Mr. A.R. Rahman India/Composer, Song writer, Singer</p>	<p>Academic Prize Ambeth R. Ocampo Philippines/Historian</p>	<p>Arts and Culture Ms. Yasmeeen Lari Pakistan/Architect, Humanitarian Aid Worker</p>
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The award ceremony was held in Fukuoka City in September in the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino, many guests from foreign embassies in Tokyo, diplomatic establishments in Fukuoka, local businesses and academic circles. As a special performance, Mr. A.R. Rahman, the Grand Prize laureate, and local high school orchestra played his famous scores on stage of the ceremony. Events by the laureates such as school visits for students and public lectures for the general public were held, attracting a number of participants from home and abroad.



We would like to ask all of you, member cities of the APCS, to submit nominations for the Fukuoka Prize. Nominations are always welcomed. For more details: <http://fukuoka-prize.org/en/nomination/>

★To all the contact persons of our member cities: We are waiting for articles from you.

Please feel free to send us information on hot topics and new projects of your city and your efforts to address urban issues that might be helpful to other cities.

(Newsletters are posted on the Asian-Pacific City Summit website and sent to member cities and other addresses via email.)

Future Asian-Pacific City Summit Conferences

Date	Name of the Conference	Host City
Scheduled to be held by the end of March 2017	The 11 th Working-Level Conference	Ipoh City (Malaysia)

The Asian-Pacific City Summit has been building cooperative relations and networks among cities through Mayors Conferences, Working-Level Conferences and other activities, working toward solutions for urban problems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asian-Pacific City Summit Member Cities 30 Cities from 13 Countries

Auckland City (New Zealand)	Kagoshima City (Japan)
Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (Thailand)	Kitakyushu City (Japan)
Brisbane City (Australia)	Kuala Lumpur City (Malaysia)
Busan Metropolitan City (Korea)	Kumamoto City (Japan)
Changsha City (China)	Manila City (The Philippines)
Dalian City (China)	Miyazaki City (Japan)
Fukuoka City (Japan)	Nagasaki City (Japan)
Guangzhou City (China)	Naha City (Japan)
Gwangyang City (Korea)	Oita City (Japan)
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	Pohang City (Korea)
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (China)	Saga City (Japan)
Honolulu City (USA)	Shanghai City (China)
Ipoh City (Malaysia)	Republic of Singapore
Jakarta Capital City Government (Indonesia)	Urumqi City (China)
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Korea)	Vladivostok City (Russia)

【Editorial/Publication】

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