

# LIVING MOMENTS

Vol 5. Issue 2  
Apr - June 2025

HSL FAMILY ISSUE

FREE | *take me!*

A person wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, black pants, a white helmet, and a safety harness is rappelling down a series of vertical concrete pillars. They are holding a rope and a blue bucket. The background is a cloudy sky.

## SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

Meet the Daredevils Who  
Clean Our Skyline

### FAST TRACK TO GLORY

The Marathon That's  
Raising the Bar

### FROM "I DO" TO BRIDAL EMPIRE

Building the Ultimate  
Wedding Wonderland

### SERVE, SHABU, SUCCESS

The Culinary Journey  
of Yoyogi's Rising Star

### BRIDGING THE MIND GAP

A Fresh Look at Mental  
Health Advocacy



# EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear readers,

Welcome to the “HSL Family Issue,” dedicated to the people who power our company every day. A business is, after all, nothing without its people, and at HSL, we consider managing human resources to be as essential as balancing our books or overseeing our stockyards.

Inside these pages, you'll find a lively feature on our Annual Dinner—this year organised by our youngest planning committee to date—along with interviews with our top consultants for Jigsaw, our very first high-rise residential project.

The striking cover image celebrates two unsung heroes: window cleaners Peter Saka and Andy Barnabas, who meticulously cleaned all 3,700 glass panels of our 10-storey HSL Tower over the course of two months late last year.

With support from our building crew and Occupational Health & Safety team, they brought the tower to a spotless shine—no small feat. Their dedication truly keeps HSL looking its best, and we owe them our sincere gratitude.

Elsewhere in this issue, we shine a spotlight on architects Nicholas Ling and Tina Lau, both Sarawakians who first collaborated in Melbourne in the 2000s before returning to Malaysia.

This Jigsaw project marks their first reunion since those early post-university days, and we are delighted to have them on board as the condo heads towards completion in mid-2026.

We also take you behind the scenes of our Annual Dinner, held on January 11 at the Riverine Resort grand ballroom. With HSL Group expanding into retail and hospitality, we welcomed new departments into our celebrations this year.

The event itself was orchestrated by an enthusiastic group of rising talents: Charles Lee (*Occupational Health & Safety*), Katherine Song (*Graphic Design*), Abraham Tiong (*Social Media*), and Andress Lantuk Majing (*Properties Development*). Their efforts culminated in a memorable evening, and we've devoted eight pages to the festivities, full of photos and firsthand stories from our colleagues.

At HSL, collaboration is more than a buzzword—it's our way of working. Our team members are free to explore different departments and projects, swapping skills and sharing ideas.

It's a spirit of give-and-take that keeps us innovative and unified. In this “HSL Family Issue,” we hope you'll see how deeply we value every person's role and contribution.

Next time, look out for highlights of the third HSL Samarahan Marathon, new details on the Citadines Langit Kuching hotel and condo, and the results of AIR—our second national design competition with the Malaysian Institute of Architects.

Just like our first competition, Langit, our fresh venture, AIR, will become a reality.

Thank you for reading. We hope you find as much inspiration in these stories as we have. 📖

Yours truly,

*shinji*  
SHINJI

## Luxury That Fits

Designer condos tailored for professionals and families. 60% of units are family-friendly three-bedroom spaces, from RM 7,300 per sq m.

### ぴったりのラグジュアリー

プロフェッショナルとファミリーのために設計されたデザイナーマンション。ユニットの60%は家族向けの3LDK、価格は一平米フィートあたりRM7300から。

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Project Address: Jigsaw, Lot 145 Block 17 Kuching Central Land District | House Units: 117 units | Developer's License No.: L0100/KP/HD/01/2024/0039 | Validity: 29/06/2024 to 29/07/2028 | Advertisement and Sales Permit No.: P0106/KP/HD/01/2024/0043-1 | Validity: 16/10/2024 to 29/07/2028 | Expected Date of Completion: 36 months from date of S&P | Tenure of Land: 99 years leasehold (Mixed Zone Land) | Building Plan No.: B.P. 01/2021 | Approval Authority: Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan | SPA Approval No.: P11D1817-20 | Selling Price: from RM300,000 to RM1,700,000 | SHEDA Membership: SHEDA/099/996

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Scan to watch the  
architect's vision  
for Jigsaw Condos.



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**HEARTWARMING:** Joyful moment captured with friends, celebrating togetherness and cherished memories.



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**MAGAZINE OF HSL PROPERTIES**  
VOL 5 . ISSUE 2 | APR - JUNE 2025

**Editor**  
Shinji  
**Writer**  
Rochester Bagol  
**Layout**  
Velda Chang

**Photos by**  
Abraham Tiong  
Chonfan  
Ben's Medium

Published by



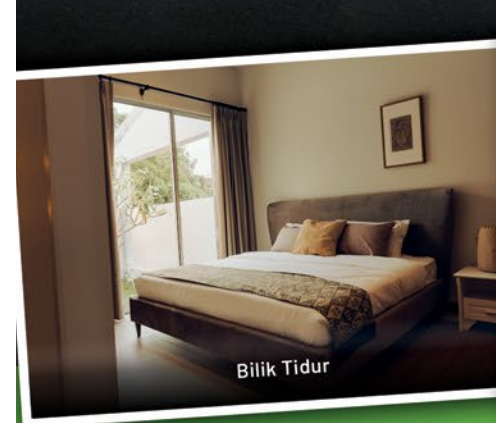
## RUMAH CONTOH DIBUKA SETIAP SABTU & AHAD

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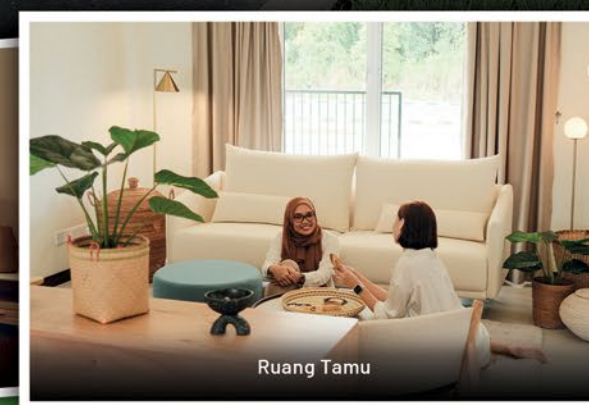
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Rumah Teres Setingkat



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Ruang Tamu



Rumah Berkembar Dua Tingkat



**HOCK SENG LEE  
CONSTRUCTION SDN BHD**  
199401042966 (328654-W)

No. 1, Bangunan HSL, Loteng La Promenade 2, La Promenade, Kuching Sarawak, 93000 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

**013 836 5566**

hsl.com.my | @hslcn





**THROWBACK:** Congrats to HSL Samarahan Marathon 2024 winners! A moment of triumph and determination for all participants.

# HSL Samarahan Marathon 2025: Bigger, Better And Back For Its Third Year

One Of Malaysia's Fastest And Flattest Routes, RM40,000 In Prizes,  
And More Exciting Perks Await Runners

*The highly anticipated HSL Samarahan Marathon returns for its third edition on June 14 -15, promising an even more thrilling experience for both competitive and casual runners.*

Building on last year's resounding success with over 2,800 participants, this year's event offers RM40,000 in total prize money and a fast racecourse primed for personal bests.

Renowned for having one of Malaysia's flattest routes, the HSL Samarahan Marathon attracts professionals eager to break records, as well as amateurs keen to tackle longer distances.

Already, more than 800 runners have signed up during the early bird phase, with half marathon slots filling up quickly.

The fun runs (6km and 3km) will take place on the evening of Saturday, June 14, while the competitive runs (42km, 21km,

and 10km) with cash prizes will kick off on Sunday, June 15, from 1am to 5.30am. Registration fees range from RM60 to RM139.

Back by popular demand, the Best Costume Award will reward the most creative and entertaining outfits in the fun run categories, judged by special guest influencers. This light-hearted addition ensures that everyone—regardless of pace—has a chance to stand out and win cash prizes.

For out-of-town participants, official hotel partners Citadines Uplands Kuching and Rume Hotel once again offer special discounts and transport to the starting line, ensuring a comfortable race weekend.

The start-finish line is at Hock Seng Lee's La Promenade Mall, with scenic routes along the newly completed Tanjong Bako Road and through Samarahan's heart and soul — Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas). Over 200 volunteers—including 30 race marshals, traffic police,

Samarahan  
Marathon  
2025

JUNE



first-aid teams, and water station crews—will ensure the event runs safely and smoothly.

A collaboration with Unimas and Universiti Teknologi MARA brings in a further 100 student volunteers to assist with race pack collection, hydration stations, and merchandise distribution.

"We're aiming to become one of the premier marathons in the region," corporate communications manager Jennifer Tang said.

"We benchmark ourselves against major international races and adopt best practices. For the full marathon, we have six pacer teams at 30-minute intervals; for the half marathon, they are 15 minutes apart. Having enough pacers is crucial for long-distance running.

"On top of that, both 21km and 42km runners will receive finisher T-shirts — a rarity for half marathon participants. HSL wants to give our running community what they value most."

Continues on Pg.11



**ENTITLEMENTS:** All participants will receive these beautiful 2025 HSL Samarahan Marathon tees and medals.



**CELEBRATORY:** Congratulations to the winner of the Best Dress, showcasing creativity and culture.



This marathon's tagline is *'Leading the Way to Healthy Living'*, and I agree wholeheartedly. I thank HSL for creating a vibrant and healthy event for Kuching-Samarahan, and for being the sole sponsor. My council and the great City Joggers' Club are proud to co-organise this race.

**DATO PETER MINOS,**  
Kota Samarahan Municipal Council Chairman



**ON YOUR MARKS:** HSL's La Promenade Mall serves as the start-finish line.



From Pg.7

HSL began hosting running events in 2022, starting with shorter distances and a half marathon. In 2024, the full marathon category was introduced, attracting runners from Kenya, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Brunei.

Sarawak's own Team Haolian (*a group of elite runners*) also took part, with nine members achieving personal bests on the Samarahan course.


"Samarahan is flat, making the HSL event one of the fastest around," said Andy Yeo from Team Haolian. "Professionals love it for potential record times, while newcomers find it more manageable for longer distances."

With strong community backing and a growing reputation, the HSL Samarahan Marathon 2025 is set to be a must-attend event for runners of all levels, said Kota Samarahan Municipal Council Chairman, Dato Peter Minos.

"Register now before all slots are taken! Don't miss the opportunity to be part of Sarawak's premier marathon experience," said Minos.

"This marathon's tagline is 'Leading the Way to Healthy Living', and I agree wholeheartedly. I thank HSL for creating a vibrant and healthy event for Kuching-Samarahan, and for being the sole sponsor. My council and the great City Joggers' Club are proud to co-organise this race."

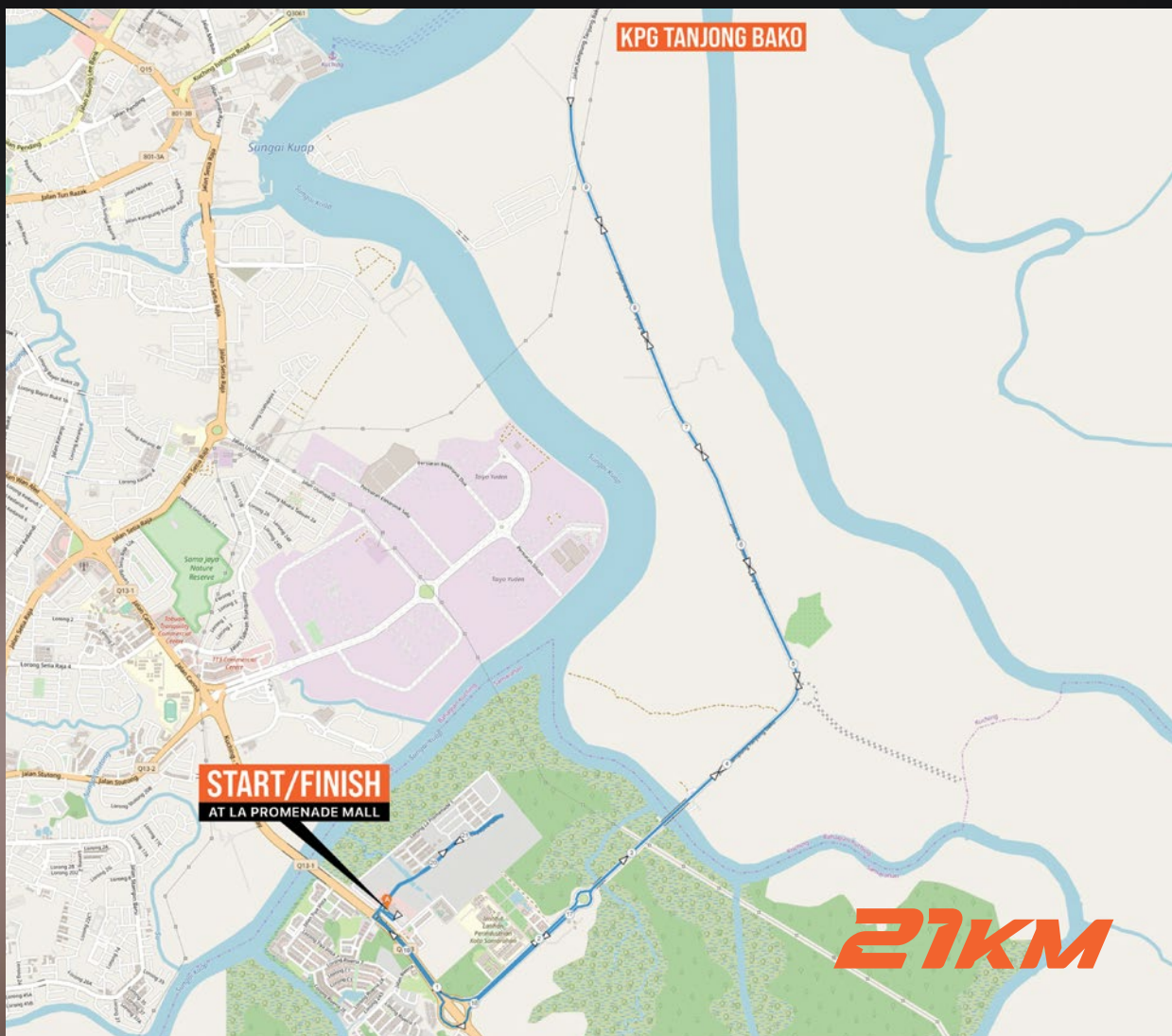
Register today at Checkpoint or JomRun.

For more information, visit [lapromenademall.com.my](http://lapromenademall.com.my) or search [@lapromenademall](https://www.instagram.com/lapromenademall) and [#samarathon](https://www.facebook.com/samarathon) on social media. 

Register



2025 Samarahan Marathon Event Page



**ROUTES:** All routes are fast and flat. The elevation gain is minimal, and uniquely, the 42km route goes through beautiful Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.



# Your Dream Wedding Awaits At AsahiLove Bridal Studio

How Jessica Lai Created The Go-To Bridal Service In Kuching At La Promenade Mall

**W**hen Jessica Lai planned her own wedding, she discovered the complexities and challenges couples face in creating their perfect day.

That experience inspired her to launch AsahiLove Wedding Bridal Studio, a one-stop wedding service hub in Kuching, Sarawak, catering to both locals and those working overseas.

“We had no idea what to do or where to start,” Jessica recalled. “But not knowing was not a problem. Instead, I considered it my starting point. I approached the business as if I was the customer. I tried to imagine what

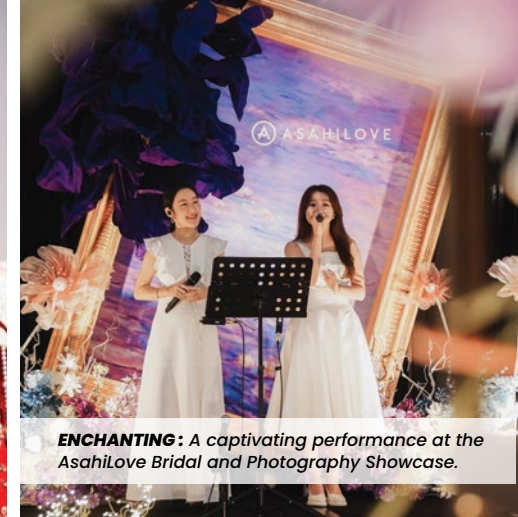
a customer would want, especially if they were a Sarawakian working abroad and returning here for their wedding. I gave myself that challenge.”

AsahiLove offers a variety of wedding-related services, including pre-wedding photography, gown and suit rentals, makeup, décor, photography, videography, wedding prints, emcees, live bands, and more.

Now six years into the business—including the tumultuous COVID-19 period—Jessica’s team has established AsahiLove as a trusted name in the industry. The mission is clear: make high-quality



**EXQUISITE:** Meticulous craftsmanship in every design at AsahiLove Bridal Studio.



**ENCHANTING:** A captivating performance at the AsahiLove Bridal and Photography Showcase.



**ROMANTIC:** A heartfelt moment at the AsahiLove Showcase with a rose gift on Valentine’s Day.



**JESSICA:** Our mission is to provide high-quality, stress-free, and affordable wedding services with “overseas standards” in Sarawak.



**SOPHISTICATED:** Timeless elegance from AsahiLove Bridal Studio’s stunning collection.



**ASAHILOVE BRIDAL STUDIO**  
L3, La Promenade Mall

wedding services accessible, stress-free and affordable while providing “overseas standards” right in Sarawak.

Jessica’s entrepreneurial journey began with a personal experience—her own pre-wedding photoshoot abroad. One of AsahiLove’s standout features is its commitment to quality and value.

Jessica drew inspiration from overseas studios that use pre-designed indoor & outdoor setups for photoshoots and the photoshoot process.

“We wanted locals to enjoy the same experience without the need for international travel,” she explained. With packages ranging from RM3,000 to RM5,000, couples can enjoy world-class quality at a fraction of the cost of overseas shoots, which often exceed RM10,000.

“So far, I’m really happy to have had customers from New Zealand, Japan, England and China. Although it is not that many yet, it is good for the business’s growth to work with a wide pool of customers with different expectations.”

Customer satisfaction is a top priority. With Google reviews as a testament, AsahiLove strives to offer clarity and honesty in every interaction. Jessica explained the importance of communication, ensuring that couples’ preferences, expectations, and budgets are met without overpromising.

Curating the perfect wedding experience, AsahiLove provides a personalised touch in every aspect of wedding planning.

Jessica and her team assist brides in selecting dresses that suit their body shape, wedding type, and venue, ensuring every gown is meticulously cleaned for pristine quality.

Pre-wedding photos are crafted with artistic precision, focusing on lighting, scene setups, and post-production, while wedding-day photography captures candid memories with key moments carefully planned to align with the couple’s schedule.

For décor, AsahiLove tailors every detail—from stage designs and arches to walkways and beyond—with budgets starting at RM6,000 for smaller banquets, ensuring the couple’s vision is brought to life.

Looking ahead, Jessica envisions AsahiLove as a premier pre-wedding photo studio in Sarawak, attracting couples from around the globe. “Our goal is to be the best bridal studio in Sarawak,” she said.

With a passion for creating magical moments, AsahiLove is more than just a business—it’s a promise to make every couple’s dream wedding a reality. Where dreams come true, and love stories are captured for a lifetime.

Make your dream wedding a reality! Contact Joonior Bu (JR), our expert wedding consultant, at **010 963 9631** for seamless planning. Looking for the perfect wedding attire? Reach out to Jessica, the passionate owner of AsahiLove, at **012 879 7970** for stunning designs. 📍



# From Service Crew To Shabu Shabu Mastermind, A Glimpse Inside Yoyogi's Culinary Journey

How Yoyogi Shabu Shabu Is Redefining Japanese Dining  
In Kota Samarahan

**K**ota Samarahan, a rapidly developing area in Sarawak, has witnessed a dining revolution with the opening of Yoyogi Shabu Shabu at La Promenade Mall.

Sim Jun Xiang, the Operation Manager and a seasoned veteran in the food and beverage industry, takes us behind the scenes of this Japanese buffet hotpot restaurant that has become a local favourite.

Yoyogi Shabu Shabu is not just another hotpot restaurant; it's a concept born from a genuine love for Japanese cuisine. According to Sim, the

establishment was inspired by the idea of bringing authentic Japanese dining to Kota Samarahan—a region known for its diverse yet underserved dining scene. "We wanted to create a space where families and friends could gather over delicious, high-quality food at an affordable price," he shared.

Unlike traditional hotpot spots, Yoyogi Shabu Shabu focuses on a Japanese buffet. With a menu boasting premium meats, fresh vegetables, and authentic broths, the restaurant aims to cater to both food enthusiasts and casual diners. The signature broths, from the rich and savoury miso to the fiery mala, are carefully crafted to ensure every bite resonates with true Japanese flavours.

"What sets us apart is our attention to quality," he explained.

"We source our ingredients both locally and internationally, ensuring a balance of freshness and authenticity. Our customers can truly taste the difference."

Sim's career path mirrors the values of teamwork and dedication that define Yoyogi. Starting as a service crew, he climbed the ranks, mastering every role—from dishwashing to management. "At Yoyogi, we're a team with no borders. Everyone contributes, and that's what makes us strong," he said.

Inclusivity is at the heart of Yoyogi's philosophy. The restaurant offers vegetarian options, Muslim-friendly menus, and customisable broths to accommodate diverse dietary preferences.

From the moment diners step in, they are greeted by an ambience that reflects the essence of Japan.

The decor, music, and attentive service transport customers to a cosy corner of Tokyo. Sim describes their buffet system as "flexible and interactive," allowing customers to create personalised meals from an extensive array of ingredients.

To enhance the dining experience, the team at Yoyogi continuously innovates. Current promotions include senior and children's discounts, as well as birthday specials, fostering a sense of community and loyalty among customers.

Introducing a Japanese buffet hotpot concept to the local market was not without its obstacles.

Educating diners about the unique dining style and sourcing premium ingredients posed initial challenges. However, the positive feedback from customers and the growing demand for adventurous flavours like spicy mala have validated Yoyogi's approach.

"One customer even told us that our miso broth reminded him of his trip to Japan. That's the kind of impact we aim for," Sim recalled proudly.

Yoyogi's long-term vision includes expanding its brand across the region while maintaining the high standards that set it apart. The team plans to introduce seasonal menu items and new broths, ensuring there is always something fresh to excite customers.

When asked about his advice for aspiring restaurateurs, Sim added, "Authenticity and consistency are key. Understand your market, innovate, and never stop listening to your customers."

Yoyogi Shabu Shabu is not just a restaurant, it is a culinary journey that bridges cultures and brings people together.

With its unwavering commitment to quality and innovation, it is poised to become a cornerstone of Kota Samarahan's dining scene. Whether you're a seasoned hotpot enthusiast or a first-timer, a visit to Yoyogi promises an experience that lingers long after the meal is over. 🍴

**TO RESERVE**  
L2, La Promenade Mall



**SIM:** We use ingredients both from local and international sources, ensuring a balance of freshness and authenticity.

**FRESH:** A freshly selection of vegetables at Yoyogi Shabu Shabu, offering a healthy and varied choice for every dish.

**INCLUSIVE:** A perfect setting for family occasions offering a warm and inviting atmosphere that suits all ages.

**NEW:** Yoyogi is a corner unit on L2 of the mall.



# Mentari Sentosa

## Bridging The Gap In Mental Health Care In Kuching

Vision: Advocate, Innovate, Collaborate



**SUPPORTIVE:** Mentari Sentosa Team under the expert supervision of Dr Syarifah Hafizah Wan Kassim (second right), psychiatrist from Hospital Sentosa, ensuring compassionate care for the community.

*Mental health is a vital aspect of overall well-being, yet in many parts of the world, including Malaysia, it remains a topic overshadowed by stigma and misunderstanding.*

The Mentari initiative, by the Malaysian Ministry of Health, is transforming the mental health care landscape by offering more accessible services, educational programmes, and fostering community support.

Mentari Sentosa, the fifth centre in Sarawak, launched in May 2023, plays a crucial role in making mental health care more accessible to the people of Kuching.

The Mentari initiative operates with a core vision to "Advocate, Innovate, and Collaborate". It aims to promote mental health advocacy, raise awareness, and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

By innovating service delivery methods and collaborating with local communities, organisations, and healthcare professionals, Mentari is changing the narrative around mental health in Malaysia.

This modern and accessible location in a bustling community hub makes it easier for individuals to seek support without feeling overwhelmed by the social stigma often associated with mental health services.

Mentari Sentosa provides comprehensive services to support mental health and enhance well-being. These include

counselling and therapy, where individuals and groups receive emotional support, learn coping strategies, and acquire tools for personal development.

"We are committed to provide therapeutic support through counselling and conversation, focusing on the mental and emotional well-being of our patients," Medical Officer Dr Siti Zarina said.

The centre also offers mental health screening and assessments, enabling early detection and timely intervention for potential issues. Rehabilitation programmes focus on helping individuals regain independence, build life skills, and reintegrate into society with resilience and confidence.

Through community outreach and education, Mentari actively raises awareness and reduces stigma surrounding mental health. Additionally, the centre supports families and carers by providing education and resources to help them better understand and assist their loved ones.

Since its launch, Mentari Sentosa has made significant strides in enhancing the community's understanding of mental health.

One of the centre's landmark programmes is the Circle of Hope for Carers Education programme, which provides carers with the necessary tools and emotional support for their journey.

The Job Talk for potential employers was another important initiative, aimed at breaking down barriers to employment for individuals with lived experience of mental health issues.



**EMPATHETIC:** Consultation, counselling, and therapy sessions offering vital emotional support and coping strategies to those in need.



**INSPIRATIONAL:** Mental Health Promotion and Awareness during World Mental Health Day 2024, inspiring positive change and greater community involvement.

Mentari Sentosa has also conducted several Mental Health Awareness programmes for university students and employees, raising awareness and encouraging open discussions about mental health.


The centre collaborated with HRD Corp Sarawak to run a Coping Skills Training programme, helping individuals manage stress, anxiety, and other mental health challenges more effectively.

In addition, Mentari Sentosa hosted a Mental Health in the Workplace Talk in collaboration with Pemangkin, educating businesses and organisations on how to better support employee mental well-being.

To further promote mental health awareness, Mentari Sentosa also hosted an Employee Mental Health Seminar and Workshop, equipping employees with practical skills and resources to manage their mental health at work.

Mentari Sentosa is actively seeking partnerships with agencies, NGOs, and businesses that share the vision of improving mental health care in Malaysia.

"By working together, we can create a healthier, more supportive community where mental health is prioritised, and everyone has access to the care they need," Dr Siti said.

For those seeking assistance or more information, Mentari Sentosa can be found at Level 4, Learning Hub by Hope Place, La Promenade Mall, or you can get in touch via Facebook or by contacting **019 829 4002**. 



**EMPOWERING:** Job Talk with potential employers, helping bridge employment opportunities for those facing mental health challenges.



# Scaling Heights:

## The Life Of A High-Rise Building Cleaner

Insights Into Challenges, Safety Measures, And Passion Behind The Job

**PREPARED:** Fredrik Neno (left) and Andy Barnabas (right) are fully equipped and ready for the job ahead.



*leaning high-rise buildings is not an ordinary job. It takes physical strength, mental focus, teamwork, and adherence to strict safety rules.*

In this article, we explore the experiences of Fredrik Neno and his colleagues, Peter Saka and Andy Barnabas, who have spent years cleaning some of the tallest buildings in Kuching.

Fredrik has been doing this work for over six years. During this time, he has gained a lot of experience in handling difficult tasks, such as cleaning windows while hanging from ropes or to reach great heights.

"Every day brings new challenges," Fredrik said. "But it is also a chance to learn and improve. That is what I enjoy the most about this job."

Working at such heights is not easy. It requires not only physical effort but also a strong mind. Fredrik explains how he and his team stay attentive and positive while working.

Talking to teammates during breaks helps lift their spirits and avoid boredom. They also follow a strict schedule, taking turns to work no more than two or three hours at a time.

This ensures they stay mentally fresh and focused. In smaller teams, where fewer people are available, teamwork becomes even more important to get the job done safely and efficiently.

Bad weather and a small team will make the work harder, but they still must give their best effort to finish the job well.

"When we're short-staffed, it can be tough," he added. "But we stick together and make sure we're looking out for each other. Safety and teamwork come first."

Fredrik and his team have cleaned several tall buildings in Kuching, such as the Imperial Hotel, Sarawak Energy Berhad HQ, and Wisma Sarawak Timber Association.



**ESSENTIAL:** One of the strongest tools they use is a steel safety wire, which is 18 mm thick and can hold up to 25,000 kgs.

For these jobs, they often use ropes and safety equipment. One of their most recent tasks was cleaning the Hock Seng Lee Tower at Jalan Expressway Kuching-Samarahan.

Safety is the top priority for high-rise cleaners. Before starting any job, the team checks all their safety equipment to make sure everything is in good condition.


This includes harnesses, self-braking belay, lanyards, and safety locks. One of the strongest tools they use is a steel safety wire, which is 18 mm thick and can hold up to 25,000 kilograms. This keeps them safe even in the toughest conditions.

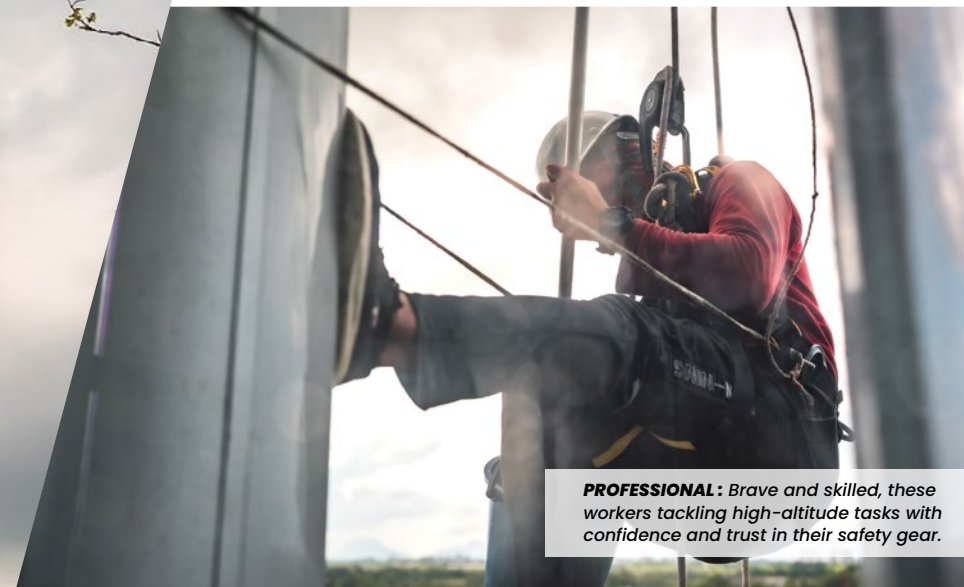
Fredrik has learned many lessons from his six years of work. The most important lesson is about safety. He and his team attend training courses, such as "Working at Height," to learn how to protect themselves and others.

He has also learned to adapt to challenges, like sudden weather changes or limited equipment, by staying calm and finding solutions.

For Fredrik, high-rise cleaning is more than just a job. It is something he enjoys and feels proud of.

Despite the hard work and risks, he finds it deeply rewarding to keep buildings clean and beautiful. With teamwork, dedication, and a constant focus on safety, workers like Fredrik show what determination can achieve.

Looking back, he still can't believe this is the path his life has taken — suspended high above the ground, doing a job he never imagined for himself. Yet here he is, proving that sometimes the most unexpected journeys lead to the most fulfilling destinations. 



**PROFESSIONAL:** Brave and skilled, these workers tackling high-altitude tasks with confidence and trust in their safety gear.



# Building Spaces, Shaping Lives: An Inside Look At Modern Architecture

**Konzepte Asia's Nicholas Ling And IDC Architect's Tina Lau Speak About Their Collaborations On Jigsaw Condos, And Their Younger Days In Melbourne**

**Question:** Please introduce yourself to our readers.

**Answer:** I'm Nick Ling, I'm from Kuching, and I run an architecture studio in KL. So Jigsaw is special for me. It's my first work to be built in my home town. Very special.

**What do you think are the most important elements in architecture?**

We try not to think like architects but as people living in those spaces—ourselves, our families. We focus on practicality and experience: how we'd use the space and what matters most—materials, light quality, and natural ventilation.

**Is there a difference between landed housing and apartments?**

We don't see them as entirely separate. Instead, we focus on the home as a collection of spaces that support different aspects of living — spaces for eating, relaxing, and spending time together. Whether it's an apartment or landed housing, the goal is to create spaces that enhance daily life.

**Housing needs a lot of common areas to create a sense of community, but you also need privacy. How do you balance the two?**

We don't want it to feel forced. The boundaries between private and communal areas shouldn't be rigid. Open spaces need flexibility because different users—like kids playing and parents working—have different needs. We design adaptable spaces that give residents control, allowing them to customise through furniture or structural changes. As architects, we provide the base, but residents shape it as their needs evolve.

**Very cool. Can you give an example?**

In some apartments we design, we make certain walls non-structural and let buyers know they can remove them if they wish. This gives them flexibility—like turning an extra room into part of the master bedroom or a larger living room. A young family might need that third bedroom, but when the kids leave for university, they can repurpose the space efficiently.

## NICHOLAS LING

Sarawakian Architect Based  
In Kuala Lumpur



**COMMON AREA:** Jigsaw's ground floor consist of amenities, waiting areas, lift lobbies and EV charging stations. Naturally ventilated, the space is designed like a resort.

**A room might be necessary at the beginning, but later it can become a home office.**

Correct. Buying a house feels like a fixed, long-term decision, which can feel overwhelming. You have to consider different life stages — being single, getting married, having children — and it's hard to predict everything. That's why we aim to design as much flexibility into housing as possible.

**Was your childhood home landed housing?**

Yes, it was a two-storey terrace house. We first lived at Tabuan Jaya's Lorong Four, then moved to Lorong 16 in the same neighborhood. Both had a similar, simple layout—living room facing the front porch, dining and kitchen at the back, and a small third bedroom. Upstairs, there were three bedrooms. It was compact but practical, perfect for our family of four.

**When you moved to Australia for university, did you live in an apartment?**

I did — basically in a shoebox! It felt like someone's storeroom, but it taught me that small living spaces work if balanced by shared areas like gardens. Australians do this well with parks and green spaces. At university, home was just for sleeping and basic cooking, so it didn't need to be a full-fledged home.

**That experience taught you something?**

Yes, I realised compact living works with well-designed shared spaces.

**That idea's been around for ages, hasn't it? In our kampung, people shared generators, town halls, and libraries.**

Exactly! Then we moved toward everyone having their own car porch and backyard. But apartments bring back communal living—sharing a pool, hall, or kitchen encourages interaction and reminds us how important community is.

**In Australia, after uni, you worked with Tina Lau right? Can you tell us about that?**

Yeah, we worked together at Lyons. It was a great experience. I especially remember playing football—she was feisty on the pitch! The design studio was fantastic; it taught us to focus on how spaces shape behaviour and feelings, not just aesthetics. Good times.

**Is this the first time you and Tina are working on the same project together?**

Yes, it's come full circle, and it's really nice to collaborate again.

**Tell us about your other projects in Malaysia and Southeast Asia.**

We work on housing, workplaces, offices, retail, and hospitality. Designing across sectors lets us transfer knowledge—like how hotels and parks can inspire housing design. Ultimately, we design for people, stay thoughtful and flexible as architects, with a strong focus on research and testing.

**How long have you been working?**

Almost nine years now.

**How many projects in Malaysia?**

Off the top of my head, we've completed about seven or eight, and we're currently working on around 15.

**Is this your first project in Kuching?**

Yes, this is the first one being built here.

**Do you remember when we first discussed this project?**

Yes! I remember exploring various options in close collaboration with the client, working around height limits and location constraints. The concept was inspired by water houses, giving each home its own identity, stacked up rather than merging into a single block. We wanted residents to feel a sense of ownership and individuality.

**The concept is very strong. But making something simple requires a lot of thought right?**

Yes, and it's actually quite simple—staying true to fundamental ideas rather than overcomplicating things. It's easy to throw out ideas, but distilling them to their essence and executing them well is challenging.

*Continues on Pg.25*





**WELCOME:** Enter Jigsaw's gated and guarded compound via Lorong Stampin Tengah 7A.



**GARDEN:** Wherever possible, the architects have added pocket greens to Jigsaw's compound. Landscaping adds tremendous value.



**UNIQUE:** The top-down view of Langit that clearly shows the architect's bold concept.

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**SOOTHING:** A section of the fitness area is a studio that can be used for dance or yoga.

**POOL:** One of the best things about condo living is always the swimming pools.

**LIGHT:** Unlike normal condos, the corridors at Jigsaw, on all levels, are light and airy.



## TINA LAU

IDC Architect

Jigsaw is Lau's fourth project with HSL since 2018.

From Pg.21

**Question:** Hello Tina, please introduce yourself to our readers.

**Answer:** I'm Tina Lau from IDC Architects, an architectural and interior design practice based in Kuching, Sarawak.

**HSL and IDC have worked together before. Shall we reminisce?**

Yes, we have collaborated with HSL on quite a number of projects, actually. The most memorable one being the Convertible House, which was in Precinct Luxe, in 2020. That was one of IDC's most major jobs during MCO.

**Believe it or not, it's been five years.**

Yes! That... it still feels like yesterday. What interesting times. In between that and Jigsaw now, we also worked on two other residential projects with HSL and its directors. Working with HSL is fun and exciting for us, with quick turnarounds.

**When you start a new project at IDC, what is the mindset like?**

Over the past 10 years, our approach has evolved. But our focus remains: we focus on creating the best designs by staying true to our clients' needs and the site's context. We always aim to bring a story to each design.

**What do you mean by story? Story telling via architecture?**

Every project is unique. By getting to know our clients well, we draw inspiration from the little things they share. Our approach varies between residential, workplace, and urban design. Residential projects, especially private homes, are very personal.

**You mentioned evolving your approach. Can you explain?**

As land prices rose and Kuching expanded, perceptions shifted. Areas once seen as distant, like Jalan Song and Samarahan, are no longer considered far. With the upcoming public transport system, the city's outward growth will continue.

People have gone from always wanting large houses to living more efficiently; making much better use of space. For instance, going from landed housing to high-rise living. The clients' needs and expectations have changed as well.

**Every project that we've worked on, your IDC team always mentions natural ventilation.**

Natural ventilation and daylight are vital for homes. During Covid, when we spent so much time indoors, everyone became more aware of our surroundings and how to connect interior spaces with the outdoors.

**This was reflected in Convertible House. It was full of natural light and cross ventilated spaces. The layout was so adaptable as well.**

With the Convertible House, we aimed for flexible design, focusing not just on aesthetics but on adaptable spaces. Instead of rigid layouts with multiple kitchens and bathrooms, we prioritised essentials like fresh air and cross-ventilation. HSL's blend of landscape and residential projects reflects this approach well.

The flexible design meant the house could evolve better for the houseowner as time passes and usage changes.

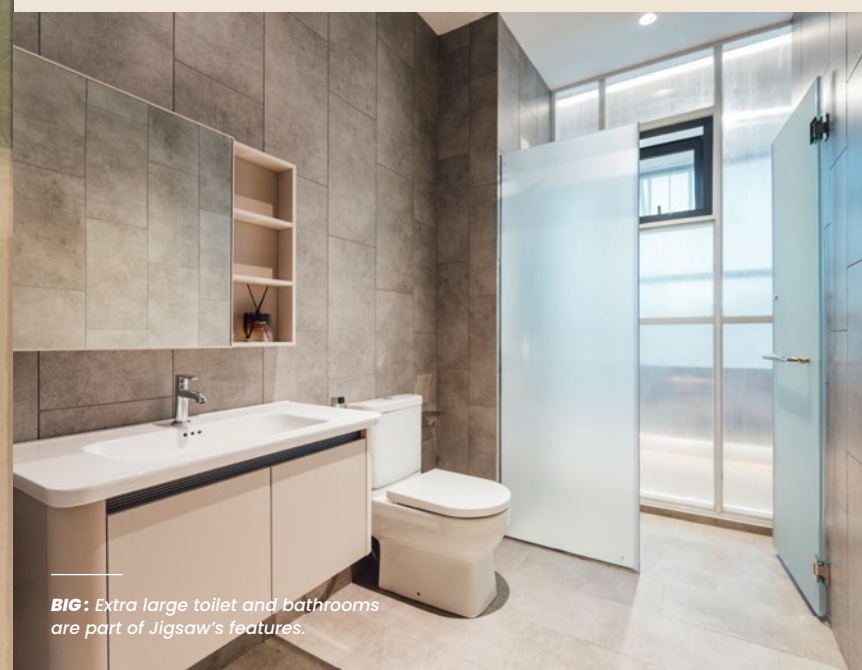




**DESIGNER:** Jigsaw condos can be bought fully furnished at RM800 per sq ft. A show unit is available for viewing at La Promenade Mall.



**LAYOUT:** A lot of careful consideration was given to the condo layout. For instance, to suit Asian cooking, a full height glass door separates the kitchen from rest of unit.



**BIG:** Extra large toilet and bathrooms are part of Jigsaw's features.

### How important is layout in design?

Layout is vital, especially in multi-level homes. Flexibility and adaptability matter most. In a 1,000ft² space, open, multi-use areas offer better value—like a dining room that doubles as a living room and large balconies that expand living space while providing shade and ventilation.

### Let's turn to Jigsaw Condo. When you saw Nicholas's design, what did you think?

He's given residents a lot of space, within the condos and also in common areas. I also think he really understands the target market. He's made it possible for condos dweller to rest and relax, and to also work from anywhere.

There's a lot of flexibility in his design. He's incorporated landscaping very well into the building.

### About 60% of units at Jigsaw are 1,000sqft, featuring three bedrooms. For the showroom, that is the unit you worked off. Tell us more.

It's compact and well-designed. Despite fitting in three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and two kitchens, the layout

remains flexible. It gives homeowners room to imagine and personalise their space.

### How did you choose the colour scheme and furnishings for the show unit?

We aimed for a natural, calming aesthetic with neutral tones inspired by pebbles and light wood, soft grey-tinged walls, and white ceilings for an airy feel. Natural materials and stones enhance the soothing atmosphere, making the show unit a serene, welcoming home.

### What's the main benefit of living in a condo?

Having a lot of facilities. Things like a swimming pool, a gym, communal gardens and more. Condos have great security too. These are all things that, if you lived in a landed property, you have to spend millions and millions to enjoy.

### That's really true. People who live in high-rises get a lot of premium perks.

Absolutely. Early on, people questioned the cost for something they might not use often. But with developments like Jigsaw offering well-designed shared spaces and tight security,

perceptions are changing. I actually do think more young people now aspire for condos over landed housing.

Finally, most condos are better located closer to or within the city centre. You save a lot of petrol and commuting time.

### That's a huge advantage, considering traffic congestion is becoming quite bad nowadays.

Absolutely. Jigsaw's location is great. It's such a luxury to live near to everything. You need the right team, and the right fundamentals for a great project.

### Let's turn to the interiors you worked on. What are some highlights?

Absolutely. The interiors of the units are bright. There's natural lighting whenever possible. For instance, separating the wet and dry kitchen, we using sliding glass doors.

We worked closely with HSL to find the best and smoothest sliding mechanism. HSL went all the way to China to find specialists. These kinds of details matter a lot.

The project team also stressed the master rooms must be big enough for king sized beds, and we made suggestions to make wardrobe spaces larger too.

### How do you maximise space from a designer's perspective?

It's about making the most of the footprint. Even small tweaks — like adding 10cm — make a big difference. Widening the wet kitchen created a more spacious feel, and we kept entryways at least 1.2m wide to avoid a cramped look.

### We told Nicholas that private spaces are very important to HSL buyers.

Absolutely. The layout reflects that — you either enter the living area or go directly to private spaces like bedrooms and bathrooms. Timber-look flooring adds warmth, and full-height windows minimise noise and offer great views.

A flexible space, initially a study, can be used as a lounge, wardrobe, or extra storage. The master bedroom fits a king-size bed with space on both sides. High ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows create an airy feel. The walk-in closet is open but can be enclosed.





The en suite bathroom has quality fittings, a mirrored cabinet, and a sleek grey, concrete-effect finish.

**Can you speak about the double-glazed windows?**

I think residents will be amazed by how much quieter their condos are with the premium glass. It's actual peace of mind. Of course, double-glazing has plenty of other benefits like heat reduction.

**Tell us about the balcony.**

Unlike many developments where balconies feel like an afterthought, Jigsaw's are up to two metres deep, offering space for a sky garden or outdoor lounge with panoramic views.

**Finally, tell us about the sales gallery, how does it reflect Jigsaw Condos?**

We made sure the entire sales gallery was as bright and airy as the condo would be. We managed to fit a 100% true-to-size unit into the sales gallery.

Even the ceiling height, 2.8m, is accurate.

Also, we put in a lot of greenery into the gallery, which is reflective of the condo. <sup>TM</sup>



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# Behind The Scenes Of The Hock Seng Lee Annual Dinner: Insights From Everyone

A Q&A With Key Participants On Planning, Coordination, And Execution Of The Event

**T**he Hock Seng Lee (HSL) Annual Dinner is an eagerly anticipated event that brings together employees from various departments for a night of celebration, recognition, and fun.

This year, the event was a resounding success, thanks to the teamwork, creativity, and dedication of the staff across all departments.

From management to decoration, graphic design to IT, and even the emcees, each department played a crucial role in making the event memorable.

Here's a breakdown of how each department contributed to the annual dinner, as shared by the key team members.

**TOGETHER:** Guests raising their glasses in a celebratory toast, honouring the success of HSL during the annual dinner.

**VIBRANT:** Simon Lau Kling Kang, HSL Executive Director, energetically opening the annual dinner with a lively speech.

**IMPRESSIVE:** A montage video showcasing HSL's projects during the annual dinner.

**ENTERTAINING:** HSL staff taking the stage with energetic performances, filling the night with laughter and joy.



**Question: What was the overall vision you wanted to deliver to your colleagues through the annual dinner?**

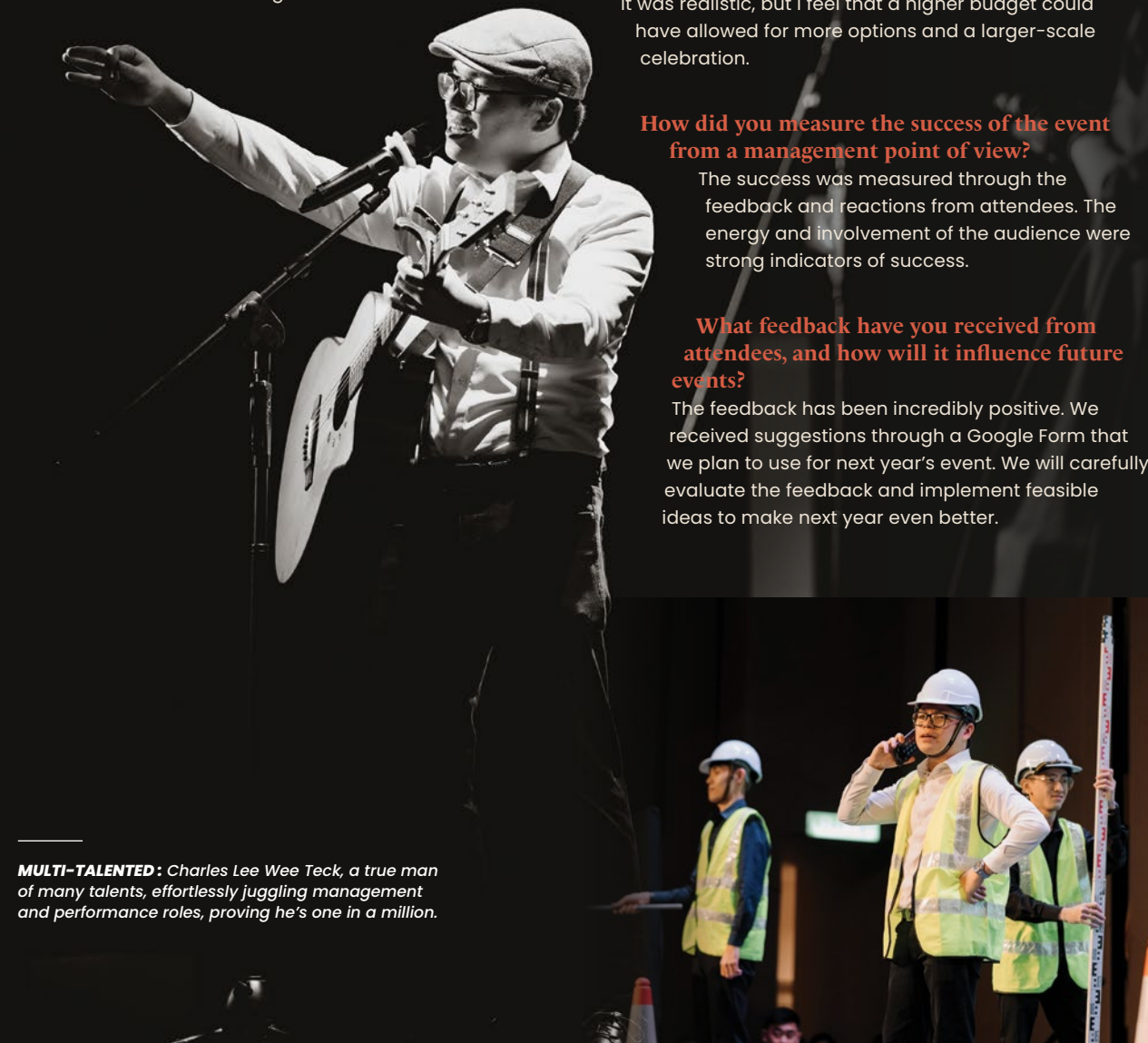
**Answer:** The vision was to create both a fun and meaningful night. With such a diverse workforce, it's important to bridge the generation gap. This event was about coming together as one, appreciating everyone's efforts, and creating an environment where all employees, regardless of age or position, could celebrate together.

**What were the most challenging parts of planning and coordinating the event from a management perspective?**

The challenge was managing a team with such a wide range of ages and perspectives. Younger staff members bring dynamic, fresh ideas, while senior staff offer valuable experience. Striking a balance and ensuring everyone was on the same page was key.

**What do you think went well, and what areas do you feel could be improved?**

Overall, I would say the event was a success. One area for improvement could be budgeting. A slightly larger budget could allow for a bigger celebration and more opportunities to recognise outstanding employees in addition to those with long service.



**MULTI-TALENTED:** Charles Lee Wee Teck, a true man of many talents, effortlessly juggling management and performance roles, proving he's one in a million.

**If you were the organiser for next year's annual dinner, what changes or improvements would you implement?**

If I were to organise next year's event, I would look to bring in more performances and maybe a talent show, highlighting the diverse talents within the company. I also hope to incorporate more employee engagement, particularly from younger staff.

**How well do you think the event reflected the company's culture and values?**

The event reflected our company culture perfectly. It was a celebration of teamwork and unity, emphasising that we work together as one collective unit.

**How did you manage communication and collaboration between departments?**

Communication was smooth, thanks to open collaboration. The managers and teams were professional, and we rotated tasks across departments to ensure everyone was involved. Everyone did their part, and the event was a collective effort.

**What budget challenges did you face, and how were they resolved?**

There weren't major challenges with the budget as it was realistic, but I feel that a higher budget could have allowed for more options and a larger-scale celebration.

**How did you measure the success of the event from a management point of view?**

The success was measured through the feedback and reactions from attendees. The energy and involvement of the audience were strong indicators of success.

**What feedback have you received from attendees, and how will it influence future events?**

The feedback has been incredibly positive. We received suggestions through a Google Form that we plan to use for next year's event. We will carefully evaluate the feedback and implement feasible ideas to make next year even better.

**Question: What was the creative vision behind the design elements for the annual dinner?**

**Answer:** The design process began with brainstorming themes. The chosen theme was then used as the foundation for creating visual materials such as invitations and backdrops, ensuring that everything was cohesive and aligned with the event's mood.

**How was the collaboration process with other departments when creating visual materials?**

The design team worked independently to draft initial designs. Once we have a draft, we gathered feedback from the committee before finalising the designs. The IT and HR departments then took over for distribution and implementation.

**Which design pieces are you most proud of, and why?**

There are no particular favourites, as every year brings new challenges and opportunities. However, the overall cohesion of the theme and design is always something I'm proud of.

**Were there any last-minute changes or challenges in your work?**

I didn't face any major last-minute changes, but I am always prepared for them. If any arise, I collaborated with the committee to resolve them quickly.



**CREATIVE:** Katherine Song, HSL's graphic design manager, bringing life to every event with her colourful and retro-inspired designs.

**Question: What was your role in supporting the technical aspects of the annual dinner?**

**Gaston:** My role involved assigning team members to their specific tasks, managing the equipment, and coordinating audio and video needs. I also managed the screen transitions throughout the event.

**Famelia:** I assisted with video transitions, helped with the staff award videos, and ensured the smooth running of the games by managing equipment checklists.

**Were there any technical issues on the night of the event, and how were they handled?**

**Gaston:** There were two main issues. One was a laptop failure, but we quickly fixed it by unplugging the HDMI cable. The second issue occurred during the lucky draw, where the Wheel of Fortune did not display the spinning process. I got distracted, but the team handled it well.

**Famelia:** Gaston has covered it. We both worked together to manage the technical aspects, and everything was quickly resolved.

**How do you think the audiovisual setup performed?**

**Gaston:** We coordinated well with the restaurant team for lighting and sound, and the setup performed as expected.

**Famelia:** Everything went smoothly, as we had already coordinated with the restaurant team beforehand.



**SUPPORTIVE:** The IT team, the heart behind the success, capturing a moment of joy after ensuring everything—from setup to execution.



### What feedback did you receive about the technical support provided?

**Gaston:** Since we worked behind the scenes, we didn't receive direct feedback, but everything seemed to go smoothly from the technical side.

**Famelia:** No direct feedback came our way, as our work was primarily behind the scenes.

### What improvements would you suggest for next year's technical preparations?

**Gaston:** I think we could involve staff from other departments in the decision-making process. It would also be great to consider more variety in the prizes for next year.

**Famelia:** I would suggest scheduling a practice session a day or two before the event to ensure everything runs smoothly. Additionally, all important files should be handed over to the team handling video playback at least a week in advance.

### Question: What was the theme and inspiration behind the event's decoration?

**Answer:** The theme was inspired by nature and certain cultural influences. We wanted to create a festive atmosphere using textures, colours, and lighting that reflected the event's celebratory purpose.

### How was the decoration planning and setup process managed?

The setup was meticulously planned by a dedicated event team. We worked together with a detailed timeline to ensure everything was executed smoothly.

### What feedback did you receive about the event's overall look and ambiance?

The feedback was extremely positive. Attendees loved the decoration, especially the lighting, arrangements, and themed installations.

### Were there any sourcing challenges for decorative items?

Some materials were difficult to source due to available stocks, delays or seasonal availability. We had to find

local alternatives or adjust designs to work with the available sources.

### How did you coordinate with other departments to match the event's theme?

We collaborated closely with the maintenance team, and general workers to ensure consistency in theme, colours and overall aesthetics. Having meetings and mood boards helped align everyone.

### What was the timeline for setting up and dismantling the decorations?

Depend on available general workers to help. Sometimes installation took place overnight to avoid disrupting hall operations.

### How did you ensure the safety and durability of the decorative elements?

We ensured all materials were fire-resistant and structurally secure. Heavy decoration was properly installed to prevent accidents, and weather-resistant materials were used for outdoor elements.



**RECOGNITION:** Executive Director presenting an appreciation gift at the HSL Long Service Award ceremony.

**RETRO:** Participants showcasing their "Retro" themed outfits for the "Best Dress" competition.



**TOGETHER AS ONE:** The emcees of the night creating a memorable experience for everyone during the event competition.

### Question: How did you prepare for your role as an emcee for the annual dinner?

**Eunice:** We prepared the script in line with the event's theme, running through it with Sunny every week. We also made sure to rehearse together to fine-tune our delivery.

**Sunny:** We rehearsed regularly to get a feel for the event and the venue. The key to being a good emcee is to come prepared with a heart to serve.

### What was your approach to keeping the audience engaged?

**Eunice:** I greeted the audience with confidence and energy to set the tone. I also made sure to keep the audience engaged with lively interactions.

**Sunny:** I focused on understanding the purpose of the dinner—appreciating everyone's hard work—and used that to engage and entertain the audience. It's important to be yourself.

### How did you coordinate with different teams (management, performers, technical, etc.) to ensure smooth event flow?

**Eunice:** We attended committee meetings to align ourselves with the other teams and understood everyone's roles to facilitate smooth coordination.

**Sunny:** Communication was key. We did a full run-through with all the teams to ensure that everyone knew what to expect, which helped everything flow better on the day.

### Were there any unexpected situations or last-minute changes, and how did you handle them on stage?

**Eunice:** Yes, we had to change the script on the spot when our chairman couldn't make it. I also mixed up the program flow, but Sunny quickly covered it with a joke and helped guide me back on track.

**Sunny:** The most chaotic moment was during game time when everyone rushed to the stage. It was unexpected but added to the fun atmosphere.

### How did you manage time and keep the event on schedule?

**Eunice:** We had a detailed rundown, and the IT team kept track of time to help us stay on schedule.

**Sunny:** Thanks to the IT team for keeping us on track. Time management is always crucial for a smooth event.

### What strategies did you use to create a lively and positive atmosphere?

**Eunice:** I interacted with the audience and encouraged participation to keep things lively and fun.

**Sunny:** Just being myself and reading the crowd helped maintain the energy throughout the night.

### How did you handle moments of silence or when things didn't go as planned?

**Eunice:** I stayed confident, smiled, and directly engaged the audience to keep things flowing.

**Sunny:** Staying calm and conversing with the audience helped me manage those quiet moments.

### What feedback did you receive about your hosting, and what would you improve for future events?

**Eunice:** Our colleagues were kind enough to say we did well, though I need to improve my tone for different situations and work on my posture during announcements.

**Sunny:** The feedback was positive overall. I think crowd control and more interaction with the audience could improve next time.

### How did you balance professionalism with humor and entertainment in your delivery?

**Eunice:** We made sure to keep the humor light-hearted and self-deprecating, avoiding any sensitive topics.

**Sunny:** There's always a fine line, but we focused on keeping the humor appropriate and engaging without crossing boundaries.

### What advice would you give future emcees for making the event even more memorable?

**Eunice:** Be confident, stay flexible, and remember to have fun. Things may not always go as planned, but staying calm and adapting is key.

**Sunny:** Just be yourself, prepare well, and remember that the key is to serve and keep the crowd entertained. Always be ready for anything!



**Question: How was the process of selecting and preparing performances for the annual dinner?**

**Abraham:** The process was pretty smooth. We had some initial meetings to brainstorm and plan everything out. Once we had an idea of what we wanted to do, we all got to work on our individual roles—whether it was practicing vocals or preparing the skit.

**Andress:** Yeah, and once we figured out the key performances, it was really just about putting the work in during rehearsals. Each of us brought something different to the table, so it was about finding the right balance.

**Charles:** Absolutely, it was a collaborative effort. I worked closely with Abraham and Andress to make sure the performances were well-rounded, and the rehearsals really helped bring everything together.

**What were some of the biggest challenges the performance team faced?**

**Abraham:** One of the main challenges was figuring out how to match our vocal ranges. We all have different strengths, so ensuring the songs fit everyone's voice was tricky. Another issue was fitting everything into the time limits we had for each performance.

**Andress:** Right, and finding time to rehearse was tough too. We were all so busy with work, especially with deadlines approaching before the CNY holiday. It was hard to align everyone's schedules.

**Charles:** For me, the biggest challenge was finding the right singers. I've known Andress for a while, and I knew her vocal skills were strong, but Abraham was new to the team. I had confidence he could deliver because of his experience with singing in church, and it really paid off.

**Which performances do you think stood out the most, and why?**

**Abraham:** The skit definitely stood out, along with our singing performances. The energy was fantastic, and we could really feel the audience responding to the humour and the vocal parts. I think the blend of those two elements made it special.

**Andress:** Yeah, I think every performance had its own charm. Whether it was the skit or the musical numbers, everyone put their heart into it, which made it memorable.

**Charles:** I agree with both of you. Each performance had its own moment, but overall, the combination of the skit and the singing created a dynamic atmosphere that the audience really enjoyed.

**How did you manage rehearsals and ensure everyone was prepared?**

**Abraham:** We had to stay disciplined with our rehearsal schedule. We rehearsed twice a week for about a month. The goal was to make sure everyone was comfortable and had enough time to practice their parts. If someone had difficulty, we worked through it together.

**Andress:** : It was all about planning ahead. We scheduled our rehearsals in advance so everyone knew when and where to be. We made sure to give 100% effort every time, even if it was just once a week.

**Charles:** It was a bit of a juggling act, but I made sure to fit in the rehearsals whenever I had free time. There were no excuses. Everyone needed to be fully prepared, so I was committed to making that happen.

**What suggestions do you have for improving future performances?**

**Abraham:** Overall, I think the performances were fantastic, but I believe having a longer period of preparation would definitely help. More time would allow us to fine-tune things and perhaps add a little more creativity to the performances.

**Andress:** I agree. Having more frequent rehearsals would make a huge difference. More practice could help with those small details that really take a performance from good to great.

**Charles:** Definitely more rehearsals, but also getting the whole team involved more. I'd love to see more people from different departments contributing to the performances next time. There's so much talent in the company that could bring something fresh to the stage.

**How did you select the right mix of performances for the audience?**

**Abraham:** We wanted to make sure the songs appealed to all generations. The theme was "Retro," so we chose a mix of older and newer songs, ensuring that everyone could relate to at least one part of the performance. We also included different languages to cater to the diverse audience.

**Andress:** Charles and Abraham really did a great job of curating the right mix of songs. We made sure to keep the flow of the performance dynamic and interesting, and the choices really resonated with the audience.

**Charles:** It was all about mixing and matching to reflect the different generations. We didn't want the performance to drag, so we kept it just the right length—long enough to make an impact, but short enough to keep the audience's attention.

**Were there any last-minute changes or cancellations, and how did you manage them?**

**Abraham:** There weren't any major cancellations, but we did make some last-minute adjustments to our song choices. We shortened some parts of the performance to keep it tight and ensure we stayed within the time limit.

**Andress:** Yeah, we had to make a few tweaks here and there, like cutting parts of songs that were running too long. But it wasn't a big issue. We all worked together and adapted quickly.

**Charles:** That's true. The last-minute adjustments went smoothly because we had rehearsed so much and were comfortable with the flow. It's always about being flexible when things don't go as planned.

**How did you handle stage fright or performance anxiety among participants?**

**Abraham:** For me, regular practice helped ease the nerves. Knowing that we had put in the work made it easier to relax and focus on the performance.

**Andress:** It also helped having a supportive team. We all encouraged each other, and I felt really confident knowing that we had each other's backs.

**Charles:** We're not professional singers, but I think the fact that we enjoyed the performances so much helped us control our nerves. When you're having fun on stage, the nerves tend to fade away. And when we got the standing ovation, it felt amazing!

**What kind of support did you need from other departments?**

**Abraham:** The biggest support we received came from IT, particularly with the lighting and sound coordination. Stephen Sunny, the emcee, also played a huge role in ensuring the technical side of our performance went smoothly. Angeline Ong helped us with the slides for the staff awards, which was invaluable.

**Andress:** More talent from other departments would be great next year. We're always looking for new voices and performers to make the event even more exciting.

**Charles:** I agree with Andress. Involving more people from different levels and departments would bring new ideas to the table and make the performances even more dynamic.

**How was the feedback on the performances, and how would you improve next year?**

**Abraham:** The feedback was really positive. People seemed to enjoy both the skits and the musical performances. Moving forward, I think we should focus on ensuring a balance between creativity and audience engagement. The performances should be tailored to the theme but also designed to keep everyone engaged, no matter their age or background.

**Andress:** I felt the same. Everyone loved the performances, and the energy was great. If we continue to focus on involving more talent and rehearsing more frequently, I'm sure we can make next year's performances even better.

**Charles:** The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. I'm proud of what we accomplished. But, as with anything, there's always room to grow. We'll keep striving to make the performances bigger and better each year. 🎤

**OUTSTANDING:** A captivating performance of the night by three HSL hidden gems, delivering an outstanding show.




# The Herald Before Living Moments

Throwback To HSL's Original Newsletter

**E**very issue of Living Moments, we end with a throwback to Hock Seng Lee's original newsletter. The Herald began in 1996 and was for in-house circulation.

Edited by Sonja Gan, the then HSL corporate affairs director, the newsletter is a treasure trove of memories and milestones.

This edition's #throwback is to the 11th-issue, published in March/April 1998. These articles bring back sweet memories. 

## A SHORT COURSE IN HUMAN RELATIONS



The six most important words: "I admit I made a mistake."  
The five most important words: "You did a good job."  
The four most important words: "What is your opinion?"  
The three most important words: "If you please."  
The two most important words: "Thank you."  
The one most important word: "We."  
The least important word: "I".

## Support for local charities continues

In spite of the economic down turn, HSL remains committed to altruism and to its role as a caring corporate citizen.

On Thursday 2 April 1998, The Sarawak Cheshire Home, which has the motto "For the relief of suffering", received a generous donation of a special hospital bed and accessories from HSL.

The presentation was made to Sister Therese, the Home's hard working Matron by HSL's Admin Officer Tay Chioh Kee. Admin staff Albinus and Lu Kah Nang were also on hand to witness the handover and help carry the load.

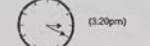
Valued at around RM1,300, the donation will ensure greater comfort for either ill or invalid residents of the Cheshire Home.



HSL's Admin staff, Tay Chioh Kee and Albinus bring a smile to Sister Therese and Mr Ching of The Sarawak Cheshire Home during a simple donation handing over ceremony at the Home near Jalan Ong Thian Swee, Kuching. Picture by Mr Lu.

## Brain Busters

- What number should appear next in the series 3, 7, 16, 35, 74?
- What shape appears next in this sequence?
- It is midnight. A clock showing the correct time begins to lose 2 minutes and 30 seconds per hour from that moment. That afternoon the clock stopped at the time shown in the picture. If an hour has passed since the clock stopped what is the correct time now?



ANSWERS: Come on, work it out first! Check page 4



# THE HSL HERALD

March / April 1998

For HSL Staff Only Issue 11

## Millennium Bug Awareness

### Turning 2000

The new millennium will be upon us in less than two years. Computer programmers and software manufacturers are now striving to ensure their programmes will still function properly when 1999 becomes 2000.

The Year 2000 (Y2K) problem has arisen from the use of two-digit year fields instead of four digit year fields in software, hardware, and firmware, including embedded chips. This will cause many computer programs and devices to fail as they attempt to calculate against the year "00" not recognising that the year is actually 2000. The resulting inaccuracies in date-related calculations will generate corrupt data results and may cause some systems to fail entirely.

If incorrect information goes unrecognised, the problem is petuated through interfaces with other systems. While this is the basis of the problem, it is actually more complex. Many systems and devices with embedded information technology (IT) have faulty date logic that does not recognise that the Y2K is a leap year. Some systems use the code "00 or 99" as a trigger to execute an action, while others, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), may have overflow or rollover problems.

In the last three decades, many systems were designed to minimise memory requirements due to expense or lack of system memory capacity. Processor speeds were slow and system life expectancy was short. Thus, the date standard, which developed used only two digits to represent the year i.e., 99 instead of 1999. This is the crux of the Y2K problem. Cross century date calculations, comparisons, and sequencing or sorting will fail: 00 - 60 = -60 but 2000 - 1960 = 40! The year 1999 creates an additional problem for systems using the digits "99" or "00" to indicate end-of-file, no expiration, or a trigger for some other action. Finally, many hardware and operating systems do not roll over correctly from 1999 to 2000.

## Introducing...

### HSLB's new chairman



**PERSONAL FACT FILE**  
Y Bng Datuk Haji Mohd. Taha Ariffin, LLB  
Born 23/07/1943  
Married to Datin Hajjah Siti Zaharah Binti Haji Husaini  
Has two children: Rafidah who is studying in Perth, Australia and Aslan who is in Form 4.  
Hobbies: Interested in all sports especially football; plays golf, enjoys reading.

Hock Seng Lee Berhad is honoured to have a well-known and popular face grace our Board of Directors. Our new Chairman is the distinguished former Sarawak Deputy State Secretary (1992-1997), Y Bng Datuk Haji Mohd. Taha Ariffin. Datuk Taha held state civil service posts for 19 years before his premature retirement last year and is now involved in a myriad of prestigious corporate and community positions.

Known for his pleasant personality, this articulate and erudite man hails from the legal profession. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Leeds University, UK and was called to the Bar (Inner Temple, London) in 1973. He has attended the Programme for Management Development (PMD) at the Harvard Business School, USA.

By his side since the first day he entered the civil service back in 1973 is his faithful secretary Mdm Kueh who spoke to HH about the man she says she really enjoys working for (and has twenty five years of loyalty to prove it).

"He is a very friendly and fair person who never discriminates on the basis of people's background," Mdm Kueh enthuses, clearly in admiration of her long-time boss.

Mdm Kueh has to help Datuk Taha juggle his vast responsibilities which, as well as being our new Chairman, include directorships of Kewangan Utama Berhad and two companies in the timber industry -

*Continued on back page*

## Year Newsletter

Time flies and 1998 is already well underway. Companies with 31 December financial year ends have entered their accounts into history and staff are settling into the routine of another year.

"Berhad" is still out there striving for more projects and MDM Paul Yu says he confident of some sizeable new contracts coming our way very soon.

"While the site staff may be complaining about the rain, we've had off and on, spare a thought for those getting such dry conditions to the east. Our friends in Jari have again been suffering 'hazardous' haze levels lately thanks to raging forest and peat fires. Let's hope the winds and rain bring relief soon or else get those masks ready.

This issue JHH introduces you to our venerable new chairman. Datuk Taha Ariffin and takes a fun look at the world's most favoured language: crazy English.

All your usual columns are also here including Grapevine which has lots of baby news, so happy reading!

## The Tricky English Language

English may still be the most widely spoken and written language in the world as well as the language of international business, but let's face it, there are some pretty strange inconsistencies...

- There is no egg in eggplant or ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.  
- English muffins were not invented in England or French-fries in France.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So, one moose, 2 meese? One index, two indices? Is cheese the plural of choose? If teachers



taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

In what language do people recite at a play, and play at a recital? Ship by truck, and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways? How can a slim

chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise gay are opposites?

How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another? When a house burns up, it burns down. You fill in a form by filling it out, and an alarm clock goes off by going on. When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it?

## GREEN IS GOOD! Be Green, think Green, act Green and stay Green



Used paper should not be tossed into the waste paper basket! Here's what you do:

- If it's used on one side and still in good condition: USE THE OTHER SIDE
- If it's used on both sides or not in good condition: PUT IT IN THE RECYCLING BOX
- If it's confidential: SHRED IT. Shredded paper will then be used for packing purposes.

Waste not want not.

## A very busy man...

*Continued from front page*

- Taman Logging Sdn Bhd (since 1982) and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (since 1983). He is involved in PRESAB Sdn Bhd, a property development company (since 1996) and is also the Secretary General of the Regional Islamic Da'wah Council of Southeast Asia and the Pacific (RISEAP).

Imagine how many meetings he has to attend and how much associated travel he has to do! Put simply, he is a very busy man.

Married with two children, - a daughter at university in Australia and son in high school - Datuk Taha is the eldest of a large family. In what spare time he gets, he is well known for his support of representative sport, culture, literary and community development work.

He is a huge supporter of the Crocs, Sarawak's blossoming football team.

"He loves football," says Mdm Kueh and he reads a great deal. Datuk Taha claims to have a personal library with a staggering 20,000 books.

With his strong business acumen and respected standing in the community, we look forward to Datuk Taha's long association with HSL.

## London Crier

### Mistakes that matter

- Yes, there is no doubt that English is a tricky language. Even when you think you have mastered the vocabulary, just a slip up in the grammar or a couple of words around the wrong way and you end up with a pretty strange message or even the opposite meaning to what you intended.
- The following are actual excerpts from classified sections of city newspapers:
- Literate! Write today for free help.
  - Auto Repair Service. Free pick-up and delivery. Try us once, you'll never go anywhere again.
  - Our experienced Mom will care for your child, fenced yard, meals, and snacks included.
  - Dog for sale: cats anything and is fond of children.
  - Man wanted to work in dynamic factory. Must be willing to travel.
  - Semi-Annual after-Christmas Sale.
  - 3-year old teacher needed for pre-school. Experience preferred.
  - Mixing bowl set designed to please a cook with round bottom for efficient beating.
  - Dinner Special-Tuesday \$2.35; Chicken or Beef \$2.25; Children \$2.00
  - For sale antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.
  - Now is your chance to have your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home, too.
  - We do not use your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.
  - Have several very old dresses from grandmother in beautiful condition.
  - Vacation Special: have your home exterminated.
  - Toaster: A gift that every member of the family appreciates. Automatically burns toast.
  - Used Cars: Why go elsewhere to be cheated. Come here first.
  - Christmas tag sale. Handmade gifts for the hard-to-find person.
  - Wanted. Man to take care of cow that does not smile or drink.
  - Our blinis are exciting. They are simply the tops.
  - Wanted. Widower with school age children requires person to assume general housekeeping duties. Must be capable of contributing to growth of family.
  - And now, the Superstore-unequaled in size, unmatched in variety, unrivaled in convenience.
  - We will oil your sewing machine and adjust tension in your home for \$10.00.

Editor:  
Sonja Gan  
Graphics/Layout:  
Seng Lee  
This issue's contributor:  
Lau Kieng Tung



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HSL HQ

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Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm

+6082 502 299

HSL SALES GALLERY

Daily 10am - 5pm

+6082 385 055

+6013 836 5566

1 HSL Tower, Lorong La Promenade 2, Kuching-Samarahan Expressway, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia.