

July 4-5, 2023: CHIJ Class of 1972 Reunion in Ipoh

Participants (27): Ooi Lee Choo, Kamaliah Noh, Wong Weng Yee, Prema Arasu, Tsai Pao Chien, Theresa Wong Lai Har, Ong Tit Suen, Pirunthavany Muthuvelu, Regina Wong Wee Ping, Cynthia Sek Sin Yu, Lisa Yee Oy Lin, See Toh Choon Wan, Ng Wei Liam, Chong Hwee Lim, Susan Hung Sow Mei, Vivian Loke, Leow Tiam Mooy, Wong Fui Shin, Phoong Huei Min, Chow Swee Lin, Esther Chong, Kong Sze Mooi, Mary Fock, Chun Siom Looi, Lo Joo Sim, Ho Sau Chan, Ong Hon Nan

DAY 1: All about food and chit-chat!.....and some shopping, sightseeing.....



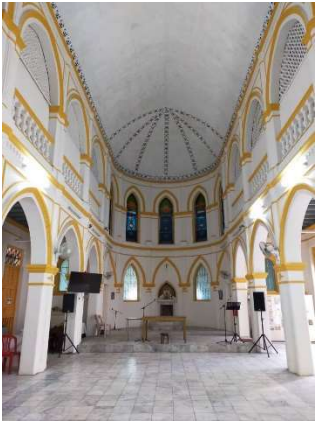
DAY 2: More food and friendship!!....and then, a memorable visit to our School!!!



Not much has changed at school – the physical structure is as it was in our time, but now the building is overshadowed by the Ipoh Parade mall and surrounding buildings... the teachers' room still has the swinging old-fashioned dual half-doors.



Yearbooks from several years were laid out for us to browse through before a welcoming speech from the Head Prefect and teachers; this was in front, in the principal's office.





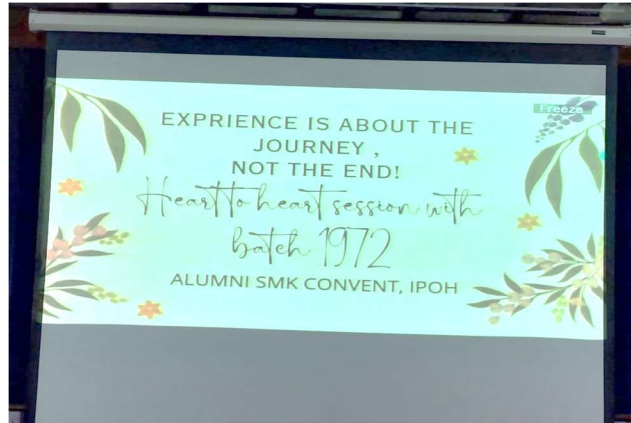
After a tour of the chapel, classrooms, canteen, etc., we went to the Main Hall where the Form 4 and 5 students were in two lines waiting to greet us with clapping and balloons as we walked in!





Pandan cake made and decorated by a teacher for our tea!

Centre stage - hanging poster welcoming '72 gals!!



Video links: (vist our webpage at <https://womenwisdom.net/ipoh-convent-class-of-72/>)

1. Current students performance: A rendition of "One thousand years" and then, a duet on the gemalan and xylophone
2. Head prefect's welcoming speech
3. Kamaliah, Lee Choo and Prema addressing and thanking students and teachers for organizing such an unexpected and well-organized welcoming event.



July 6th morning: As a token of our appreciation, a few schoolmates delivered a "Thank you" card and fruit basket to Puan Samsiyatul Aina (Student Affairs Director) and she WhatsApp'd back:

"I akan berikan kepada our girls..they gave so much effort untuk menjayakan program semalam..They were so proud and happy, can joined and met their super seniors..and shared good experiences."

She also wrote a message right after our visit:

"We were very happy and honored to have received a visit from all of you. Thank you for visiting us today. Hopefully, The presence of all of you today can gave motivation to our girls. They seem very happy and enjoyed. Thank you so much to Batch 1972 for willing to share valuable experiences with our girls.."

Follow up thoughts and request to each of you:

Wee Ping's WhatsApp to her close schoolmate friends who couldn't attend the reunion:

"What an amazing 2 days of reunion! Wish u were all here! The warm welcome fr the school staff n the secondary 4 n 5 girls were so memorable n they made so much efforts to make us feel at home! It was 2-3 hrs of tour of the school folo by Q&A session n even a lovely spread of tea n sandwiches n cakes! We were not prepared for such overwhelming gestures that v felt that we wanted to reciprocate n when v asked what v cud do for the school, they responded if we cud help them replace their broken down PA system which cost \$15K. We really feel that we benefited so much from the school n that the least we can do is to help them in the funding as they do not get much at all fr the Govt n most of the funds r raised fr alumni! So we are all trying to ask our year of 72 if each one of you would like to donate whatever you wish for this good cause. The school needs all the help they need dear 😊"

Ooi Lee Choo's WhatsApp Message:

This reunion, being an informal and flexible 2-days affair, I believe was a very good one. Out of town girls hv chance to shop and enjoy the various delicious food from Ipoh. We were very surprised and proud that Convent gave us such a warm welcome whilst visiting the school, which needs a lot of funds to maintain. I heard that this was the first time the school girls made it an event to welcome the 1972 alumni. Really felt like a celebrity being so welcomed when walking into the hall by the group of enthusiastic girls and even being entertained by them with an English song and musical instrumentals. Finally, even giving us tea and cakes in nice porcelain tea sets. We were told the school needs some funds for their terrible PA system so I appeal to you all to contribute to this cause, after all our school has given us a good education before embarking out into the world to be where we are today. Simple in Virtue, Steadfast in duty.

Let's reach out to as many of our schoolmates as we can, to help the school get a better PA system. Our gift will support and champion the hopes of current students. Puan Lina (School's Senior Administrator) is going to provide us with a written quote for equipment and installation. We hope this can be completed in the next few weeks. If you would like to contribute, any amount is greatly appreciated. Lee Choo and Prema are coordinating the effort. Please text or email us. And, let's look forward to many more happy, future reunions, and till then, good health and wellbeing for everyone!

