



Foreword



I am delighted to see the story of Ipoh told with such verve and richness of detail. What a wealth of information about the town that characterised Malaysia's prosperity for at least half a century. The story of the growth of Kinta, and especially its commercial centre Ipoh, captures most vividly the remarkable story of global modernisation as it reached from Western Europe across the oceans to the shores of the Malay Peninsula.

Tin had been mined for centuries in the Malay riverine states but the industrial revolution extended its value to the world economy in dramatic ways. How the various communities in the country responded to the new opportunities, and the speed at which new technology revolutionised tin production, together provide an historical example of entrepreneurial endeavour that deserves careful study. Although mining booms have been experienced elsewhere, very few have stimulated the kind of courage and imagination that not only brought quick wealth to a rich few but also built an elegant town that has won the affection of generations of its inhabitants.

I congratulate the publisher, Perak Academy, and the author, Dr. Ho Tak Ming, for the efforts to tell that story. This is a fine achievement that takes us through Ipoh's emergence as the world's greatest tin city. I am confident that, with that story fully told, new generations will be inspired to bring new life to Ipoh again.

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