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# The Phuket Gazette

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## Phuket City to get new beach

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: In an effort to spruce up the city's premier recreation area, Phuket City Municipality will spend a total of 39 million baht on drainage, repairs and other improvements at Saphan Hin.

Once the project is complete, Saphan Hin will have a 500-meter-long beach, created from recovered sand, near the remaining mangrove stands on the north coast of the peninsula.

Funding for the work, to be carried out by the Municipality, will be from both provincial and national government coffers.

Deputy Mayor Kawee Tansukatanon told the *Gazette* that 5 million baht from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Post-Tsunami Redevelopment Fund would be used to repair concourses and walkways damaged by the tsunami. Some 80% of the work will involve simply resetting the red paving stones that were washed up, with the city buying more bricks in a different color to complete the project.

Also included in the 5-million-baht budget is the planting of 115 "golden shower" trees (*Cassia fistula*) in the area. The work will be completed before the end of August, he said.

Another 19 million baht from the MoI will be spent on clearing pipes and dredging drainage ditches that became clogged with sand during the tsunami. Sand that is recovered will be used to create the new beach between the mangrove trees and current seafront. This work will be completed by the end of October, he said.

To the south, the municipal-



The plan envisions this stony, unattractive piece of coast being turned into a delightful sandy beach fringed with flowering trees.

ity will spend 15 million baht landscaping a section of Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd from its start at Ko Jan Bridge all the way to the solid-waste incinerator.

The project will include road resurfacing, building *salas*, sidewalks and parking areas, and even decorating power poles to resemble the *Ko Chan* (Chinese-style longtail boats) that traditionally plied the section of

Klong Bang Yai running alongside the road.

"When completed, the area will serve as a new, beautifully-landscaped area for people to enjoy," K. Kawee said.

Funding for this will come from the CEO Governors' budget, in accordance with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's "Beautiful Road Project", he explained.

## Gov proposes new zones for entertainment

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has announced proposals for new, larger entertainment zones for Phuket, subject to public consultation.

The proposed new entertainment zones, in all three districts, were discussed at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on July 7.

"This is the first step in the expansion of our entertainment zones," Gov Udomsak said. "Each district will conduct a one-month round of consultations with the public. After that, we will decide upon the most suitable locations for entertainment venues."

The proposed new zones are as follows:

### Muang district:

- North of Nimit Circle along Tilok Uthit 2 Rd up to Phang Nga Rd;
- 200 meters south of Nimit Circle along Ong Sim Phai Rd;
- West of Nimit Circle along Chana-Charoen Rd to Tilok Uthit 1 Rd;
- Phun Phol Night Bazaar.

### Thalang District:

- 150m west from the intersection of the airport entry road and Thepkasattri Rd;
- 100m each side of road No. 4025 (Ao Bang Tao Rd), from the intersection with the road leading to Surin Beach, as far as the Bang Tao Beach Village Hotel (Soi Hua Tieow).

### Kathu District:

Patong, covering a boot-shaped area bordered on the west by the beach road, from Banana Disco & Pub to the Beach House.

The line then turns east to Sirirat Rd near Simon Cabaret, then curves north toward a point southeast of the Sun Hill, before

Continued on page 3



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## Big chance for movie directors

BANGKOK: Movie directors in Thailand will have the chance to attend a four-day workshop with top European film executives in Bangkok in October, in a project titled "Produire au Sud" (Movie production in the South).

Better yet, the winners of "best project" awards at the workshop will get round-trip air tickets, with accommodation and expenses included, to attend the prestigious 27<sup>th</sup> Festival of Three Continents in the French city of Nantes the following month.

Full details of the awards and how to apply can be found on page 13 of this issue.

The awards are underwritten by the French government and co-sponsored by *The Nation* and the *Phuket Gazette*.

## Gazette to handle major magazine subscriptions

PHUKET: *The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd* has been appointed local subscriptions agent for a number of major publications.

The company can now handle subscriptions in Phuket for *Business Week*, *Business Traveler*, *Time*, *Forbes Global*, *Fortune*, and *Reader's Digest* (English and Chinese editions). The magazines will be sent by mail.

A subscription form is included with this issue of the *Gazette*. Alternatively, those wishing to subscribe may do so online at [www.phuketgazette.net/subscribe.asp](http://www.phuketgazette.net/subscribe.asp), or by emailing [yui@phuketgazette.net](mailto:yui@phuketgazette.net) or calling Passara "Yui" Raktammakit at Tel: 076-236555 to make enquiries or request a subscription form.

# ADB earmarks US\$1.7m for tsunami aid plan

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has set aside US\$1.7 million (about 75 million baht) for Thailand, to help Bangkok develop long-term solutions for tsunami-affected areas, especially Krabi, Phang Nga, and Phuket, an ADB report announced on July 7.

The funds will come from the Asian Tsunami Fund, which was set up by the ADB in February 2005 with an initial contribution of some US\$600 million.

"The [Thai] government, with the support of several development partners, is carrying out short-term actions such as repairing the fishing fleet, reconstructing houses, rehabilitating villages and resorts, and restoring livelihoods," Alfredo Perdiguerro, an ADB project economist, explained in the report.

"But many of these processes have long-term impacts, and an effective and comprehensive medium- and long-term plan for the affected provinces is required," he said.

The funds to be given by the ADB will help formulate plans that will develop the six tsunami-affected provinces over the coming 15 years.

This assistance will cover terms of land use, population distribution, settlement patterns, economic activities, social infrastructure and major utility and transport infrastructure.

Key areas for economic investment as well as for the implementation of conservation and environmental protection measures will be highlighted.

The fund will also support a Subregional Development Plan, to include broad strategies covering regional economic development, environmental conservation and sustainable development, infrastructure planning, and community development and livelihoods.

## B36m awaits tsunami jobless

PHUKET: Huge amounts of money are sitting waiting for employees who lost their jobs because of the tsunami. Of more than 40 million baht set aside for this purpose, only four million baht has been disbursed, the Ministry of Labour said on July 1.

A ministry survey shows that 28,300 workers are entitled to aid from the government's Tsunami Employee Relief Fund.

Yet so far, just 523 people in the six tsunami-affected provinces have received compensation, probably because people

were unaware of their right to compensation, a ministry spokesman said.

The deadline for applications has been extended to December 31. Employees who need help should first call Tel: 1546.

## Yes! We love Phuket!



Above, Yothin Bumrungsawat (right) collected his prize of a two-night stay for two at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort from *Gazette* webmaster Seubsak 'Big' Sahaworapun, as part of the *Gazette's* ongoing 'We Love Phuket' sticker campaign.

Below, Chavewan Laongpanich (left) receives her prize of three computer books by *Gazette* columnist Woody Leonhard from the *Gazette's* Oranut Samantamit.



## TT&T goes into ISP biz with Max Net

UBON RATCHATHANI: In an all-bells-and-whistles launch in this eastern Isaan city on July 1, telephone company TT&T went into the ISP business, with the introduction of a nationwide broadband service.

The launch included video conference link-ups with both Phuket and Chiang Mai, via the Internet, as a way to demonstrate what may be achieved with TT&T's new system.

The company boasts that high-speed Internet access is now available for 1.5 million provincial fixed line telephone numbers nationwide.

"Max Net", TT&T's latest product, offers high-speed broadband Internet access at a 256/

128Kbps transfer rate for 590 baht a month, or a 512/256Kbps transfer rate for 790 baht.

Suroj Lamsam, Senior Vice-President of TT&T's Marketing and Service Group said, "Max Net provides unlimited use in terms of time, no [call] charges, and users can still make calls while online. This is a winning package."

Until July 10, TT&T will be running a nationwide "Fast and Fun with Max Net" promotion.

"We hope that our 10-day campaign will attract 10,000 new users. On our very first day, we signed up 200 customers in Ubon Ratchathani," K. Suroj said.

"TT&T foresees the con-

tinual growth of broadband and Internet businesses, so we are focusing on the development of signal channels and networks," he added.

TT&T currently provides 50,000 ports for broadband users nationwide. It expects to have 100,000 ports by year-end and is aiming for 300,000 by 2007.

Prachuab Tantinon, President & CEO of TT&T, said that whereas, in the past 13 years, the company had simply provided plain telephone services, now, "...TT&T wants to support learning via the Internet and, with Max Net, we aim to provide access that satisfies our customers." — *Athiga Jundee*

## Two slain at upmarket development

PHUKET: An army sergeant and a security guard were murdered on the night of July 6 at the upmarket Phuket Pavilions project in the hills east of Cherng Talay.

Pol Lt Col Siriwat In-yim of Cherng Talay Police Station told the *Gazette* that the victims were found the following morning under one of the villas at The Pavilions.

They were identified as Royal Thai Army Sgt Buntoon Hormsuwan, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, and Kittisak Jitdaengnui, a security guard working for Ranger Security Co.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the killer forced his victims to sit next to one another before shooting each of them once, in the head.

The bullets were recovered from the victims' corpses and have been sent to Bangkok for forensic examination.

Gen Siriwat said that he believed a business conflict was likely the motive for the crime.

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## Fortune magazine labels Phuket 'Paradise found'

PHUKET: The island has been named by one of the world's top business magazines, *Fortune*, among the top five "idyllic places ... where you can still live like a king on what you've saved".

For a feature in Issue 1, Volume 25, titled "Paradise found: where to retire abroad", the magazine chose Phuket – along with San Carlos de Bariloche in Argentina, Dubrovnik in Croatia, Boquete in Panama and Merida in Mexico – as idyllic yet affordable places to live.

The article uses *Gazette* founder John Magee as its exam-

ple in Phuket, describing how he used to visit the "indescribably beautiful" island while working in Hong Kong, before leaving the world of banking in 1992 and moving to Kamala.

It correctly notes, "Phuket suffered less damage than other parts of Thailand from the tsunami six months ago," and cites the island's golf courses and hospitals as plus points for retirees.

The article also offers examples of substantial homes currently on the market, with Phuket coming out second least expensive of the five.



This is the life: Americans Tom McNamara, John Magee and OB Wetzell in a photograph shot for, though not used in, the *Fortune* article. – Photo courtesy Mark Leong – Redux.

### 'Eat shrimp' campaign launched

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Internal Trade Department (PITD) has launched a campaign to boost local shrimp consumption.

Sompoch Sangkapong Head of the PITD explained, "Last year, we exported tons of low-priced, mostly frozen, shrimp to the US, but they have imposed anti-dumping tariffs on non-canned shrimp from several Asian countries, including Thailand."

"However this could be considered good news for those of us living here and for tourists, as we can indulge ourselves at a lower cost," he added.

Local shrimp farmers are selling their produce at discount prices at ad hoc markets behind Super Cheap on Thepkasattri Rd from 8 am to 12 pm and at the Phuket Commercial Office on Montri Rd from 3 pm to 6 pm.

## Police get training in international crime

By Anongnat Sartpisut

CAPE PANWA: Some 90 police and Immigration officers are undergoing training in how to identify fake passports and other documents so they are more effective at detecting terrorists or criminals engaged in the smuggling of people, weapons or drugs.

The course, organized by the Australian Embassy and the Royal Thai Police, and held at the Cape Panwa Hotel on July 12 and 13, is part of a series also taking place in Bangkok, Pattaya, Chiang Rai and Nongkhai, aimed at boosting the skills of some 750 officers around the country.

The 90 officers attending the Phuket course are from Police Region 8 Headquarters in Surat Thani, as well as officers

from Phuket Provincial Police and Phuket Immigration.

The Deputy Commander of General Staff of the Immigration Bureau, Pol Col Arporn Chaiyapa, said, "Transnational crime happens worldwide. Thailand could be used by people who might enter the country, get a fake passport to change their identity and leave for another country, possibly to perform acts of terrorism."

"Our country could be a good hub for such people as it has good links with other destinations."

"Because monitoring of foreigners entering Thailand via Bangkok International Airport is now so tight, we are concerned that Phuket International Airport may become the preferred point of entry [for criminals]," he said.

He added that the Royal Thai Police are cooperating not only with Australian Immigration, which helped organize the training course, but also with the US and Japan on information exchange.

Col Arporn explained, "In Thailand, the big problem is fake passports, and more than a million illegal migrant laborers. Our country shares borders with Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia."

"The government gave a period of amnesty for migrant laborers to register, and there are now 1.2 million laborers registered."

"There are only 3,000 immigration police officers in the whole country. They [alone] cannot cover all these issues, so we need cooperation from local police," he added.

### 191 service back on line after emergency repairs

PHUKET: The police emergency phone number, 191 came back in service on July 7, after inquiries were made by the *Gazette* as to why it had not been functioning for at least two weeks.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Pol Col Kokiat Wongvorachart told the *Gazette* on July 6 that the 191 line had not been working for about 15 days, and police were still waiting for it to be repaired.

The *Gazette* contacted the chief of the Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT), Phuket branch, Pairoj Somsri, explained the problem to him, and asked why it was taking so long to fix.

After checking with the police, K. Pairoj called back to say that the problem had been tracked down to an ISDN network terminal (NT) in the police station.

"There is no problem with the TOT system, nor with the 191 network," he said.

"However, the police installed an NT supplied by a third party, which malfunctioned. They sent it to be repaired and it has not come back yet."

"We will find a spare NT to replace the broken one while it is being fixed. We will do it tomorrow – it should not take long – and after that people will be able to call the police on the emergency line," he said.

True to his word, K. Pairoj had the NT replaced the following morning and the 191 service was up and running again.

– Sangkhae Leelanaporn

## Gov proposes new entertainment zones

From page 1

turning northwest across Nanai Rd, jinking southwest to a point east of Patong Street Inn, about midway between Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and Nanai Rd.

Finally, the line goes north between the two roads, running parallel to the beach, as far as the edge of the existing zone, just north of the Jungceylon site, before turning west again to join the beach road.

Wansurachart Dej-Aran, Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) of Kathu District, was

in favor of the expanded zone for Patong. He commented, "In fact, there are many unlicensed businesses around Patong Beach. Why not help these bars to operate legally [by expanding the entertainment zone]?"

K. Wansurachart refuted the view that broadening the zones poses a threat to hotels as entertainment venues.

"[Actually], entertainment venues are often partly owned by hotels and some hotels even have space available for entertainment companies to rent."

"[The benefit of expanded zones is that] people won't need to open clandestine bars because the new zoning gives them the opportunity to operate lawfully."

He continued, "The proposed zones are good locations for entertainment venues as they are not close to residential areas, temples or other public areas."

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## Queer News

### 30-baht nightmare

UBON RATCHATHANI: A housewife in Muang District found out the hard way that the state's 30-baht medical care scheme doesn't always guarantee top-notch care.

Puttachart Nammontri, 32, was admitted to Ubonrak Thonburi Hospital in Muang District to give birth to her second baby girl, on March 10 last year.

She told her gynecologist, Dr Jamras Poompuang, that she wanted to be sterilized by tubal ligation after the birth.

Both procedures apparently went normally and K. Puttachart was soon released with her infant daughter.

But about two months later, she began to experience some very distressing symptoms. During what should have been a bowel movement, excretions no longer exited via the appropriate rear channel but, instead, out the front.

Poor Puttachart was unable to control herself and – afraid to go out anywhere – soon became housebound.

Her husband was forced to

be the family's sole breadwinner, but he made less than 100 baht a day, leaving the family in ever-worsening poverty.

K. Puttachart said that when she returned to see Dr Jamras, he said nothing and simply prescribed her some antacid pills. She also learned that, like many other private hospitals, Ubonrak Thonburi had opted out of the 30-baht scheme; she could no longer afford treatment there.

As she couldn't afford the transport to Samphasitprasong government hospital, far from where she lived, she went home hoping that some kind soul would give her the money she needed for treatment. But nobody did.

As a result, she suffered from this dangerous condition for well over a year.

It was only when a reporter heard of K. Puttachart's plight and confronted the hospital that doctors there agreed to give K. Puttachart a full gynecological check-up and perform whatever surgery she needed to fix the problem – all free of charge.

Source: Thai Rath

### New Abbot fails his flock

PHANG NGA: The new Abbot of Wat Yan Yao is on temporary leave after some 150 villagers staged an angry protest calling for him to step down.

The reason? He banned gambling and drinking at the temple, famous for its former tsunami victim identification center.

The monk, Wichjit Phuttawichito, agreed to temporarily step down to appease the villagers, who were outraged when he contacted police to force them to stop gambling and drinking during an all-night funeral session.

At 11am on July 11 they gathered, calling for the Abbot to find a new temple on which to impose his harsh regulations.

One protester, Sompong Tiewbamrung, said, "This Abbot doesn't understand that drinking and gambling 'to keep the corpse company' is a time-honored tradition among villagers here. He has put too many regulations in place so we are dissatisfied."

Source: Kom Chad Luek

# Learning to

The Tourism Authority of Thailand has been giving seminars to tourism industry operators and government officials in 'Risk & Crisis Management', but are these just post-tsunami buzzwords or is real change coming in the way Thailand's tourism industry approaches safety issues?

The Gazette's Athiga Jundee reports.

A popular T-shirt on sale in shopping arcades around the island reads: "PHUKET – 2001: Bomb Alert; 2002: SARS; 2003: Bird Flu; 2004: Tsunami. What Next?"

If practice makes perfect, the Phuket tourism industry should be becoming fairly well-versed in dealing with crises that impact on perceptions about whether it is safe to travel here.

Although future tourism trends remain as difficult to predict as weather patterns or stock market movements, few would deny that perceptions about safety play a major role.

Hajime Ohno, owner of Phuket Pegasus Tour Company, told the Gazette that the impact of the tsunami on in-bound tourists from Japan was disastrous following the tsunami.

In the first three months of 2004, some 1,200 Japanese tourists arrived in Phuket on vacation packages booked through his agency. The number of arrivals booked by him in the first three months of this year, in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami? Zero.

"Japanese arrivals [overall] dropped 83% after the tsunami because of misperceptions and cultural sensitivity about visiting the tsunami disaster regions.

"The Japanese have no confidence in the safety systems in Thailand, and they get no guarantees from the government that Thailand is prepared to handle unexpected crises, whether natural or manmade.

"The Thai government did a big tsunami alarm system test, but it still doesn't make the Japanese confident about traveling to Phuket.

"Many Japanese businesses, including mine, have been unable to get the message across to people back in Japan that it is safe to come here. Japa-

nese tourists would like some sort of 'guarantee message' from the Thai government," he said.

Comparing Thailand and Japan, Hajime sees a stark contrast between the two in terms of risk and crisis management and disaster preparedness – not just in the tourism sector, but across the entire societies.

"I was general manager of a department store in Japan 20 years ago. Every six months we provided safety and security

training to our staff. When a crisis happened, the staff were not only able to help themselves – but also the customers.

"Every department store in Japan has a well-prepared safety plan in place, but I don't see any safety or security systems in place in department stores here.

"Japan still has room for improvement in this regard, but I would put current crisis management in Thailand as not even equal with what it was in Japan 20 years ago," he said.

In a land where people ride motorbikes on the wrong side of the road and ignore pedestrian bridges

to cross busy streets using the "go half-way and pray" technique, is it possible that Thailand can somehow rise to the challenge and making tourists feel truly safe when traveling here?

It will have to, if it has any hope of reaching the Thaksin government's ambitious goal of establishing Thailand as the "Tourism Capital of Asia".

That goal, viewed by some critics as unreachable or unsustainable, calls for doubling of the current number of visitors to 20 million by 2008 and an increase in annual tourism revenue from 384 billion baht last year to a staggering 789 billion baht three years from now.

With so much at stake in Thailand's most important indus-



'We should learn risk and crisis management techniques from them and try to provide this knowledge to workers in the industry. If we do well in risk and crisis management, Thailand's tourism industry will recover.'

– Associate Professor Manat Chaisawat, Director of the MBA program at Prince of Songkhla University's Phuket Campus

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# manage a crisis the hard way



(Above) Hotel industry consultant Bert Van Walbeek (right) explains crisis and risk management at a seminar in Phuket earlier this year.

(Left) The beach road in Patong on New Year's Day. Similar scenes were aired on global television networks around the world showing the extent of the tsunami damage in Patong – but most of the debris pictured in the background was actually part of a construction project in the area and was there long before the tsunami hit.

An effective crisis management plan called into action might have reduced the mass misinformation.

try, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Office of Tourism Development came up with its "National Plan for Risk & Crisis Management in Tourism" after the tsunami.

Drawn up under the supervision of long-time hotel industry consultant and motivational speaker Bert Van Walbeek, of The Winning Edge consultancy, the comprehensive plan covers just about every phase of risk management and disaster preparedness.

Written in English and somewhat academic in approach, the 82-page book, along with a set of seminar notes, was distributed to a group of about 20 tourism industry leaders and public officials at a two-day seminar at The Metropole hotel on May 30 and 31.

The seminar started with a simple definition of the word cri-

sis: "Any situation that has the potential to affect long-term confidence in a destination, or an organization and its products, which can interfere with its ability to continue operating normally."

The stated vision is "To make Thailand's tourism destinations as safe as humanly possible!" and its stated mission: "To create safety and security for all businesses and leisure travelers through risk & crisis management by means of never-ending stakeholders education and teamwork."

It goes on to outline, in the form of flowcharts, elaborate "risk and crisis management development processes for the tourism industry", putting into words and diagrams what is – or least should be – basic common sense. For example: "*Plan risk*

*avoidance > Determine actual situation > Determine existing controls > Determine likelihood > Determine consequences,*" etc.

It may be too early to know whether such an approach is overly pedantic or practical enough to implement where it is needed most: in the day-to-day operations of hotels and other tourism-related businesses.

Nevertheless, Associate Professor Manat Chaisawat, Director of the MBA program at Prince of Songkhla University's Phuket Campus (PSU Phuket), thinks it's worth a try. He hopes to bring some of the concepts introduced during the seminar to students studying in PSU's Service Industry Institute.

"Sanitation and safety are important factors in the tourism industry. Tourists focus on those issues and they won't visit places

they don't have confidence in," he said.

"Risk and crisis can be natural or man-made, and we can not expect to anticipate or control them completely. But some countries, like Japan and the US, are often faced with crises and they seem to manage them well," he said.

"We should learn risk and crisis management techniques from them and try to provide this knowledge to workers in the industry. If we do well in risk and crisis management, Thailand's tourism industry will recover," he said.

He added that in 2002 PSU added a course in risk and crisis management to the degree program for Hotel and Tourism Management students.

"We did this because we knew, even then, that this is one

of the most important factors facing the tourism industry," he added.

Prof Manat, who attended the May workshop, said that it was good idea for the Office of Tourism Development to come up with a national plan for the industry – and he did not see the material presented in the workshop as being too abstract.

"It provided practical information on how we can help prepare the tourism industry in our region for any disaster. PSU Phuket will focus on these points when preparing our students for their future careers in the industry," he said.

Warunkan Tithitammarn, an academic with the Office of Tourism Development, stressed that the initial objective of the workshop was to make those in the hotel industry better aware of risk and crisis-management techniques.

"The workshop provided basic knowledge that the participants can understand and find useful in real-life situations." A second workshop was held on June 6 and 7 in Hua Hin, she said, and other workshops will take place in other provinces with tourism-based economies.

Pattanapong Aikwanich, President of the Phuket Tourist Association and owner of the Diamond Cliff Resort in Patong, told the *Gazette* that the tsunami had forced both the government and private sector to see the need for greater risk and crisis management.

But, he added, "While risk and crisis management techniques can help the Thai tourism industry, the TAT Governor still needs to do more public relations to let people abroad know that Thailand is still a safe place to visit."

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By Anongnat Sartpisut

# A quicker dip

Nowadays, some would argue, a swimming pool is one of life's necessities. Yet, assuming you have the money and space, it takes several muddy weeks, or even months, to have your very own swimming pool installed. Or does it?

Not these days, say two French pool companies on the island.

Although "instant" fiberglass pools have been a feature of the European swimming pool market for more than 15 years, Chalong-based Navinda Swimming Pools introduced its Conceptual model – the first in Phuket, indeed, in Thailand – just three months ago.

Navinda's Marketing Manager, Nadege Anaert, told the *Gazette*, "It takes only three days to install this pool. The mono-block pool is the same concept as a 'normal' concrete pool except that it is stronger and cheaper."

"True, concrete pools are very strong, but if an earth tremor happens, they can sometimes crack like glass. The essence of fiberglass pools is that they are flexible; they have no joints or links and come with a smooth surface that is pleasant to the touch, with no leakage risk."

Managing Director Florent Mayard said that designs and colors other than the turquoise Conceptual will be available "probably next month".

The mono-block pool is 9.2 meters long, 3.9m wide and is 1.5m deep. A "children-friendly" underwater ridge runs round the rim of the pool making it easier for the little ones to clamber in and out.

The basic pool package

costs 245,000 baht, including VAT. The full package, including VAT, installation, fully equipped machine room (sand filter and pump, underwater spotlights, plumbing, skimmer, electric control panel and automatic chlorine feeder) comes in at 445,000 baht.

Optional extras include counter-swimming currents and a mosaic pool bottom. The pool and certain equipment comes with a 10-year guarantee.

K. Florent said, "Foreigners – the largest target customer base for us – generally come from cold climates so Thailand is a swimming pool owner's heaven as you can swim all year round."

Meanwhile, the General Manager of Desjoyaux Pools, Wongkarn Karnjananopinit, said that the company, based in Chao Fa East Rd, is capable of installing a swimming pool in five days.

The Monte Carlo model – made "80% of concrete and 20% of ingenuity" according to the company – is 7m long and 3.5m wide with a depth ranging from 1.2m to 1.5m.

The price ranges from 388,000 baht, depending on the

land, and includes VAT, installation, excavation, coping, chemicals, accessories, filtration, steps and, perhaps not surprisingly, water. Desjoyaux pools also come with a 10-year guarantee.

Customers who order pools before the end of July can also get interest-free credit from the company.

K. Wongkarn explained that the French-made Desjoyaux pools do not use piping and therefore do not leak.

"Most customers are interested in the Monte Carlo as it is a reasonably-priced family pool," she added. "A pool is an investment – it adds value to your home."

For more information contact:

• Navinda Swimming Pools & Spas, 9/4 Moo 4, Chao Fa East Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-282782 or Fax: 076-282826 or Email: [phuket@navindapools.com](mailto:phuket@navindapools.com).

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# No plan to arm teachers – Adisai

**M**inister of Education Adisai Bodharamik said his ministry has no policy to encourage teachers in the three southern border provinces to buy and carry guns – or to finance their purchase.

K. Adisai said that if teachers in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat Provinces wanted to buy and carry guns to protect themselves, it was their business and had nothing to do with the ministry.

The announcement contradicted an earlier statement by his deputy, Rung Kaewdaeng, who said the ministry would buy 800 guns from the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) at half price and then sell them to teachers at half the price the ministry paid.

K. Adisai said he was concerned that if teachers borrowed money to buy guns, they would land themselves in debt as guns cost at least 40,000 baht apiece. The Ministry of Education will simply coordinate with the MoI to help teachers obtain licenses to carry firearms, he said.

**Disaster center:** Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said Thailand is ready to house a United Nations regional Emergency Logistics Response Facility (ELRF), now that a Cabinet screening committee has approved in principle a UN proposal to set up the center here.

K. Surakiart ordered the Foreign Ministry to prepare a letter to be sent to the UN, detailing terms and emphasizing Thailand's readiness for the project. Other countries in the region – including Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia – have also expressed interest in the ELRF project, he added.

The government's deputy spokesman, Danuporn Punnakan, said Thailand's proposal to the UN included an offer of a long-term lease on an 8-rai plot of land opposite the U-tapao military airbase in Rayong and 60 million baht to help shoulder construction expenses.

**Queer Fellows:** Over 500 scholars, NGO workers and activists crowded convention halls at the Ambassador Hotel in Bangkok at the first International Conference of Asian Queer Studies.

"The size and diversity of this conference clearly demonstrates that Asian queer cultures and Asian queer studies have genuinely arrived," announced Peter Jackson of the Australian



The Court of Appeals upheld a lower court verdict sentencing Bangkok Dr Wisut Boonkasemsanti (center) to death for killing his estranged wife, Dr Phassaporn Boonkasemsanti, in 2003.

The judges ruled that a chunk of human flesh recovered from a cesspool was sufficient physical evidence to uphold a lower court ruling that found the gynecologist guilty of hacking his wife to bits and flushing her remains down the toilet.

National University and Asia-Pacific Queer Network in his opening speech.

The organizers, the Australian National University and the Office of Human Rights Studies and Social Development at Mahidol University, originally expected between 50 and 100 delegates, but the numbers swelled beyond their wildest hopes.

A total of 165 papers on Asia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and transsexual cultures and communities were presented by scholars from 22 countries.

"We need to know the real situation of Asia's queer peoples in order to demolish stereotypes and promote rights and equality," Mr Jackson said.

**Bulletproof monks:** A vocational school has designed bulletproof robes for Buddhist monks in the three southern border provinces, a senior education official said yesterday.

Weerasak Wongsombat, Secretary-General of the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, said his office would produce the robes and give them to monks in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat Provinces if they wanted them.

**Better late than never again:** A fifth-grader who was admonished by his mother for coming

home late from school was in critical condition after apparently shooting himself in the head with his father's pistol.

Suthipong Wunsod, 13, was found lying in a pool of blood not

far from his home in Lop Buri's Muang District. He was rushed to Phraphutthabat Hospital in neighboring Saraburi Province, where doctors said he had a 50% chance of surviving.

His mother Naree Wunsod, 45, said she had rebuked the boy the night before because he had repeatedly come home late over a two-week period. The following morning she saw Suthipong walking aimlessly around their home after his two brothers had left for school.

Naree said she then left to chat with a neighbor but rushed home when she heard a loud bang. Police are investigating.

**Upper-crust crumbs:** The company behind the 1-million-baht Thailand Elite Card is preparing to rustle up new customers through nine international road shows.

Fresh from a promotional event in South Korea last week, Thailand Privilege Card Co (TPC) next plans to talk to the upper crust in Bangladesh, Singapore, the UK, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the US and Canada.

There are currently just 900 Elite Card holders, far short of the TPC's original goal of one million members in the first five years.

*Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.*

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"Have a good Shabbos"



# The lowdown on a low town

**W**e have been observing how low this low season really is, and the effect it is having on local businesses and residents. While many expat business owners usually close their shops for a short period to take a vacation back in their home country during low season, it seems that this year some are making their vacations last a lot longer.

Some shop-owners have decided to close for the entire low season, and in some cases it is doubtful whether they will reopen.

Other businesses have simply thrown in the towel, opting not to renew expensive leases in the face of an uncertain future. For example, the entire Outlet Mall across from the Krabi Resort has closed.

This, added to the already vacant Ao Nang Shopping Arcade just down the street, gives the area a ghost-town feel. The previously rather narrow selection of shops in Ao Nang has now been reduced to almost zero.

Some of the area's favorite spots have closed their doors. The Full Moon Bar, one of Ao Nang's oldest and most popular beachfront watering holes is a casualty of high rent and lack of business. Café 154, once the premier steak

house in Ao Nang, has closed, leaving the Carnivore Restaurant the best place in town for a steak.

Several businesses opened just weeks before the tsunami and therefore never benefited from any high season trade. Coliseum Italian Restaurant 1, and its sister restaurant, Coliseum 2 are both for sale. Absolute Restaurant, a Swedish eatery, hopes to refinance and open next season.

There is talk of some new bars coming to Ao Nang to fill the shoes of the departed. For example, a small Irish pub and a Swedish cocktail bar are set to open on the second row of shops on the Ao Nang beachfront.

This area, which houses JJ's Sports Café and Encore Café, should be rejuvenated by the addition of these two newcomers.



## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds



**GHOST TOWN:** The Outlet Mall in Ao Nang is completely deserted.

The next two months will be crucial for many businesses in determining their ability to hold on until next high season.

**Centrally remote:** One group that is undoubtedly hoping for a successful inaugural season in Krabi is Central Hotels and Resorts.

The Central Krabi Bay Resort, with 191 rooms, will open in October 2005, marking the hotel group's first major entry into the Krabi market.

It is located on picturesque Pai Plong Bay, and accessible only by boat – the bay is next to Ao Nang, but hemmed in by spectacular limestone cliffs.

In this idyllic setting, Central Krabi will offer all the facilities of a luxury resort, with a spa, conference rooms and several restaurants, including a Japanese restaurant.

Due to the resort's inaccessibility, it will have its reception center next to Ao Nang Beach, complete with changing facilities

and amphibious vehicles to ferry guests to the resort. Its opening should help raise the worldwide profile of Ao Nang.

**Victim reunion:** On July 2, the Krabi Royal Hotel hosted a reunion of tsunami victims. Sponsored by the Sriphong Phukaoluan Foundation (see [www.krabirelief.com](http://www.krabirelief.com)), the day was filled with music, dancing and food, with games for children.

Some 45 families attended along with their young ones, aged from six months to 18 years old. Most of the children had lost one parent, and more than a dozen lost both to the tsunami.

The Mayor of Krabi Town, Keratesuk Phukaoluan, was in attendance, along with Provincial Vice-Governor Chai Pranitpornpun and other government and education officials.

After the fun and games period ended, the Mayor and Vice-Governor dispensed gifts of food, clothing and shoes, and educational and financial aid. A medical clinic was set up in the hotel lobby, where the families received free checkups and medicines.

The day brought many smiles to the children and their families, and appreciation for the aid packages was unanimous.

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## This week



**MAKING LIFE BEARABLE:** Prin Chirathivat (back row, left), Executive Director of Finance of Central Group; Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, General Manager of Central Festival Phuket and Decha Ratchaupanun, GM of Central Department Stores, present school materials and toys to students of Baan Bang Niang School and Baan Bang Maruan School, both in Phang Nga Province. The Nation Multimedia Group, Chunkajorn Production House and TIS Worldwide Marketing also joined the charity drive.



**BIG IMPRESSIONS:** Artist Jay-da Rodnit (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and her husband, Watcharin Rodnit (left), along with Adrienne Tusoni, founder of the Lions Club of Phuket Pearl, and Phuket artist Niphon Jungina, celebrate the recent opening of the "My Wonderworld by Jay-da" exhibition on display at Sapan Hin Public Library, in Phuket City.



**TOUR TOPPER:** Lily Udomkunnatham (seated, center), Managing Director of the Burasari Resort management company Phuket Resort Club Co Ltd, and representatives from seven of the country's leading travel agencies, including Roongthong Tour and Season Holiday, launch a three-day, two-night package at 3,600 baht per person in a bid to encourage Thai and international tourists to spend a weekend in Phuket.



**BABY BLUE:** Stephen Mago (in black shirt), General Manager of Laguna Beach Resort, and Derek Loke, the resort's Sales & Marketing Director, are happy to take a break from their usual duties for a picture with the 20 Miss Hong Kong 2005 semi-finalists, who recently visited Phuket.



**COLLECTIVE CREATIVITY:** Kymberley Sproule (left), Public Relations Manager at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa, recently led an inspection tour of The Spa at the resort, whereby public relations and marketing managers from Phuket's hotel industry gathered for a healthy Tao cuisine luncheon. The group will meet every six weeks or so to discuss ideas for collectively promoting and marketing Phuket.



**GOING DUTCH:** Kewalee von Keller (right), Managing Director of the Mangosteen Resort & Spa, and her daughter, Rachawadee (left), join Dutch holidaymakers Pim (center) and Maya Christiaans and their daughter, Coco, for Sunday Brunch at the resort's restaurant on July 3.

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Members of the Pattaya City Expats Club (PCEC) deliver toys and clothes for children at a tsunami-stricken village in Kuraburi District in Phang Nga (above), and take time out to play with the children (top right).



Richard E Smith (right), Co-Chairman of the PCEC, with a fellow PCEC member and a child from a tsunami-affected family in Kuraburi District.



# Pattaya expats help out

A large delegation from the Pattaya City Expats Club (PCEC) recently visited Phang Nga and Phuket with two goals: to deliver aid to tsunami-stricken villagers in Kuraburi District, Phang Nga, and to get the ball rolling in promoting tourism between Phuket and Pattaya.

Richard E Smith, Co-Chairman of the PCEC, which has more than 750 members, explained to the *Gazette* that the trip was organized by the Pattaya-based Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) District 3 Director, Chattan Kunjara Na Ayudhaya, and tour agent Kwan Jai Varin Travel Service, with help from Bangkok Airways.

"We were asked by K. Chattan to act as ambassadors to Phuket on behalf of Pattaya, so the badges we wore carried that



The PCEC is looking to help the village by promoting its home-grown coffee (above) in Pattaya.

message – 'Pattaya Tourism Ambassador', he said.

In addition to six boxes of clothes and toys for children, the team gave the village 35,100 baht

donated by PCEC members in Pattaya.

Mr Smith acknowledged that the supplies and cash would provide only short-term relief, but

said that the club was looking at long-term aid as well, by helping to develop the villagers' business opportunities.

"The village is growing coffee, which they process and put into individual [little bags] similar to tea bags. They had several glasses of coffee ready for us when we arrived. Everyone thought the coffee was delicious, so we bought out the complete stock of their coffee – and wanted more," he said.

"We have requested an initial supply of 100 boxes – which we hope will be shipped to us soon – with which we plan [to use] to try to develop a market for [this] product in Pattaya."

For more information about the PCEC, contact Mr Smith at Tel: 03-8412197 or Email: [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com)

## INTO

The sound of the word makes me cringe. Whenever I'm sitting in a restaurant or walking by a group of Thais and I hear the word "farang" I want to yell, "No, I'm not from another world, I'm a human being just like you."

Well, maybe I'm wrong. One of the most popular of the *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* series is called *Legends of the Ferengi*; stories about a race of aliens.

According to Paul Theroux, celebrated travel writer, the word *firingi* or any of its relatives like *farang*, *faringi*, *aferingi* or *ferengi* has been used to describe Westerners in cultures stretching from the Sudan to Papua New Guinea.

The British were known as *firingi* in India during the time of the Raj. The word probably reached Thailand with the Portuguese who had a considerable colony on Phuket in the 17th century. With a history like that, I'm just going to have to accept being called a *farang*.

**Halal high:** I stopped by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office the other day to find out what initiatives the agency was taking to increase the number of visitors to Phuket.

"Khun Bruce," I was told, "we have not been given a budget from Bangkok to do anything." Surprise. Well, they did give me some information about an event they are sponsoring at the end of this month that I'm sure you won't want to miss.

Starting on July 28 and continuing over the last weekend of the month, the village of Kamala will present "Halal Food Hilal Town", a celebration of local Muslim culture.

Featured events will be continuous reading from the Holy Quran, bulbul singing contests, an exhibition on sustainable tourism and a light-and-sound show telling the sad legend of Princess Mahsuri.

There will also be extensive foodstalls featuring Halal cuisine as well as demonstrations of leatherwork. And you can be sure that this will be one festival where there won't be many mongrel dogs roaming around.

**Street smart:** While the TAT doesn't have much of a budget to promote local tourism, that is not stopping the local hospitality industry from using their imagi-

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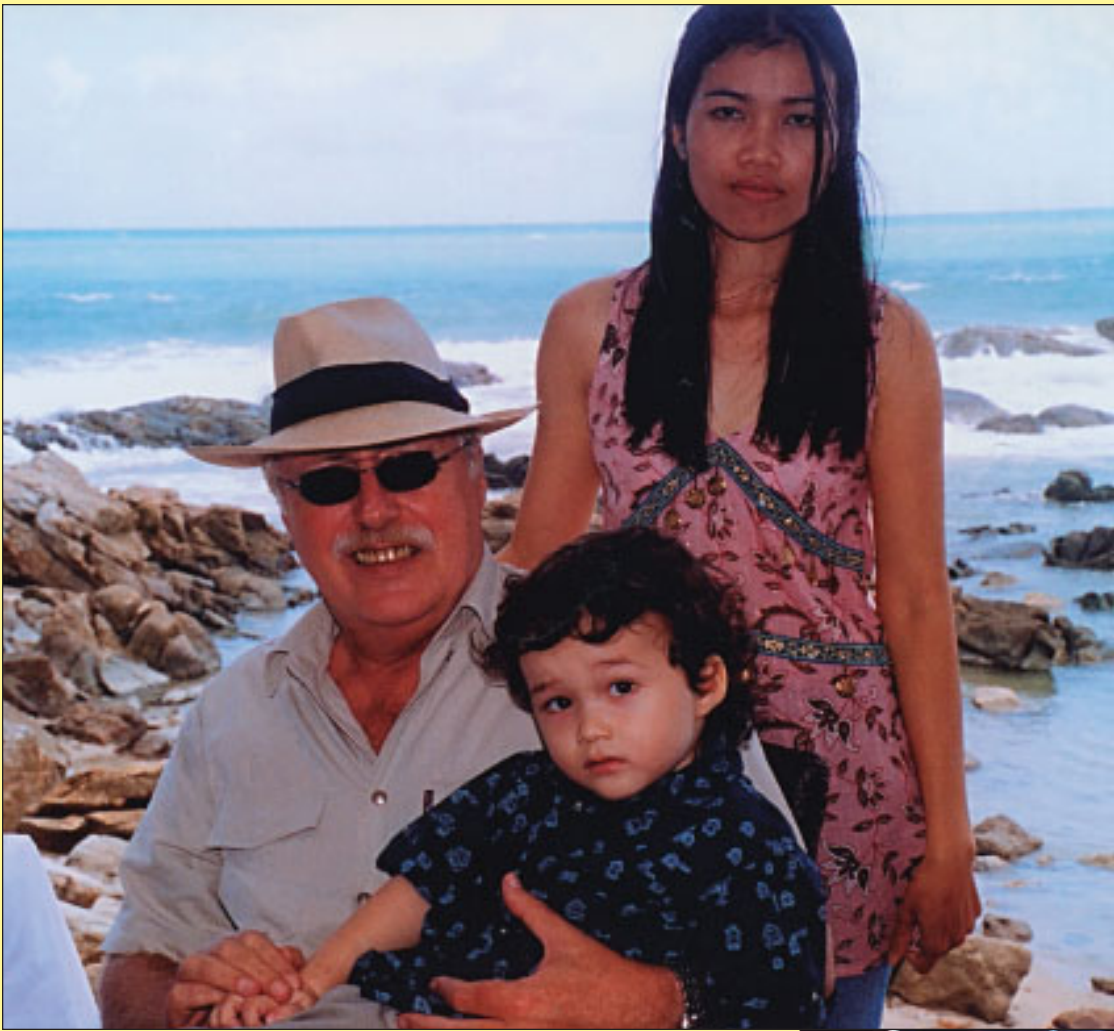
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# AN ISLAND RENAISSANCE



(Left) Maurizio Laureri with his son Lupetto ("little wolf") and wife, Sathapon "Tim" Saowiang, at the rebuilt Da Maurizio Bar Ristorante. Their original Da Maurizio restaurant was washed away by the tsunami.

(Below) Ajarn Sohnatda Panchee (left) demonstrates "massage from the heart" to Orasiri Ruktae-Ngam, Director of Aura Scent and Yoga, during Ajarn Sohnatda's recent visit to Phuket.

nations to attract both visitors and residents.

**Andrew Jessop**, GM at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket and his Director of F&B, **Torsten Richter**, decided to combine all the exotic flavors found at the resort into a single promotion called "Talad Eat Street" offered nightly at the resort's main dining room, Birds of Paradise.

For a modest price, you can enjoy a full range of exotic cuisine from a large fresh seafood buffet to grilled meats, Indian curries to *dim sum*, *sushi* to the most exciting spread of desserts found on the island.

"While we are refurbishing our restaurants in anticipation of a busy high season, we thought we'd combine the tastes and flavors of the world into a single promotion," said Torsten. With the Sheraton's outstanding chefs preparing their

famous food, don't miss this culinary happening.

**The Italian job.** I checked out the new *Da Maurizio Bar Ristorante*, which was all but washed away last December. "When I arrived to survey the damage, all that was left was one chair and some cutlery," **Maurizio Laureri** told me.

The devastation gave Maurizio and **Tom McNamara** the opportunity to re-invent Phuket's most upscale Italian dining spot. Gone are the dark-hued woods, mirrors and red colors. Instead, the new Da Maurizio has a bright, breezy Mediterranean open-plan style with even better views of the sea. A new Italianate stairway from the road has marble and cascading water features, as one might find in a Tuscan villa.

**Stephen Roberto's** win-



ning wine lists, which have garnered the *Wine Spectator's* Award of Excellence, are offered and Maurizio and Tom are building on the bistro's famous menus by inviting international guest chefs to expand the daily offerings.

Some years ago, Maurizio's 90-year-old mother, **Clara**, flew in from the family home in Rome, to give her son the recipes which have made the place famous. This resulted in the *Da Maurizio Cookbook*, which featured the mother-son duo.

Since then, Maurizio, who spent his early years working in the Italian film industry, has found yet more happiness with the ar-

hooked up with the Ministry of Public Health to upgrade the services available at the island's prominent spas.

**Ajarn Sohnatda Panchee**, Director of Training at the famous Chiva Som International Health Resort at Hua Hin, spent 10 days at the Royal Spa in Phuket City teaching the healing aspects of Thai massage.

"The body has a fantastic system to heal itself. We teach therapists the techniques to help bring a body back into balance so a person can return to maximum health," she explained.

After obtaining a degree in economics, Ajarn Sohnatda began her career as a flight attendant for Thai Airways, which allowed her to spend extensive time in Switzerland's famous spas.

After six years, she decided to return to open her own day spa in her native Chiang Mai and then in Soi Thonglor in Bangkok before being asked to direct training at Chiva Som.

"I am teaching local managers about the importance of well-being, the harmony of the body, mind and spirit. And most importantly, I am teaching them to *massage from the heart*," she added.

The spa industry on Phuket continues to expand. Across

from Central Festival Phuket and behind Thainaan Restaurant, Phuket's largest spa complex, one that can handle hundreds of visitors a day, is nearing completion.

From intimate jungle retreats such as the original Hideaway, to Phuket's world-class spas like Evolve at Treetops and The Spa at Twinpalms, the spa industry may be the strongest anchor for the revival of Phuket's tourism industry.



## Off the WALL

With Bruce Stanley

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## COCKTAIL

by Anongnat Sartpisut

# Make my Mai Tai a large one

Down Chalong way, those with a nautical bent will find themselves deep in their element. There's many a truth-stretching yarn spun in the Chalong's seafront bars and restaurants and the slap of the incoming tide against yacht hulls provides a perfect soundbite for a sundowner – or five.

But Chao Fa East Rd is not exactly the place you'd expect to see a "yacht", yet that she blows; a restaurant/yacht opposite Land & House. This is Fatty's, the culinary stomping ground of Jens-Peter-Marsch and U-tit Pahnmai, a German-Thai couple, recently arrived from Phi Phi Island.

Fatty's is a nautically-themed restaurant fitted out like a yacht, complete with mast and sails. Jens-Peter handles the cooking and U-tit the bar. She mixes me a Mai Tai.

At first taste, the Mai Tai is dominated by the citrus of lemon and Curaçao Orange, but it mellows out as Jens-Peter tells me



Jens-Peter and K. U-tit.

his tale. The couple had two restaurants on Phi Phi, but both were lost to the tsunami. Fatty's opened July 2 and Jens-Peter is hoping for plain sailing from now on. The eatery is certainly atmospheric and is an ideal place to eat a steak and watch the world go by from Jens-Peter and U-tit's private "yacht."

*Fatty's. Open from 11 am to 10:30 pm. Thai and European Food, cocktails, wine and beer.*



**ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS:** K. U-tit (above) shows that a Mai Tai is best served with a smile, but don't forget the grenadine and Curaçao Orange (below).



## Mai Tai

### Ingredients

1 oz Light Rum  
1 oz Triple Sec  
1 oz Curaçao Orange  
2 oz Orange Juice  
2 oz Pineapple Juice  
1 oz Lemon Juice  
1 oz Grenadine  
Orange slice

### Method

Decorate glass with orange slice.  
Place all ingredients in blender, add 3-4 ice cubes.  
Blend well, serve.

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## Application Process

### Step One

**Initial-Registration** via e-mail

**Register before: July 24, 2005**

Sent brief information of the proposed project including names of producer & director.  
e-mail your registration request to all of the following three e-mail addresses:  
dd@worldfilmbkk.com and frederic.alliod@diplomatie.gouv.fr  
and produireausud@3continents.com

### Step Two

## Submission of Complete Proposal Package

**Submit before: August 26, 2005**

- \* Detailed profiles of producer and director.
- \* Covering letter written by the producer telling us why you want to attend the workshop.
- \* Full-length feature project proposal including:
  - Synopsis (max. 2 pages);
  - Treatment (min. 10 pages);
  - Budget & Finance Planning;
  - Technical Information;
  - State of Project & Schedule;
  - Director's Filmography;
  - Director's Letter of Intent;
  - Director's Show Reel.

e-mail the Complete Proposal Package to all of the following three e-mail addresses:  
dd@worldfilmbkk.com and frederic.alliod@diplomatie.gouv.fr and produireausud@3continents.com

## Selection Criteria

1. Age between 25-40 (important but not exclusive).
2. Candidates should have produced at least one full-length feature or more than three short films.
3. Producer should not be the director of the project in development.

Eligible countries include Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Philippines and Vietnam

Invited producers and directors abroad will receive air tickets with hotel accommodation to attend a four-day workshop-seminar during the "3rd World Film Festival of Bangkok" from October 15 to 24. They will also receive accreditation to the Festival.

For further information, please visit our festival website at:  
[www.worldfilmbkk.com](http://www.worldfilmbkk.com) or [www.pasbangkok.com](http://www.pasbangkok.com)  
call: 0-2317-0420 ext. 3447





By Andy Johnstone

First impressions never lie and only a fool ignores them, or so they say. First impressions of a customized Seahorse 52, lying at Phuket's Boat Lagoon, are not so much of a seahorse, but of a workhorse. Sleek she is not; rugged and practical she most definitely is.

Launched in 2004, the MV *Wun Hung* is precisely the sort of vessel on which one could disappear if the financial demands of one's tailor, restaurateur or *mia noi* were to become too much.

At 54-feet long (16.46 meters) with a beam of 16ft (4.88m), this trawler design is built for endurance, not speed. Even the novice admirer of naval design can see immediately that the Seahorse trawler range is built to withstand some of the toughest conditions.

Note the centimeter-thick windows on the pilothouse. These are angled downward so that rain and spume are less likely to drip down them and so that they are not flush to wave impact.

But this Seahorse is also a dark horse, her exterior belying the interior. The current – and first – owner of *Wun Hung* had the already far-from-basic Seahorse 52 modified to his own plans. Indeed, this is something that Seahorse – based in Zhuhai, China, next to Macau and not too far from Hong Kong – welcome, if not expect of their customers.

The owner chose to have her fitted out in solid teak rather than veneer, as found on boats where weight – or cost – are the deciding factors. For practicality and durability, the interior floors are covered with non-slip neoprene underlay and the simple act of boarding this sturdy vessel gives one a sense of security. Deck rails are set high, so that pitching in rough seas should not mean a wrenched back or a trip to Davy Jones' Locker.

*Wun Hung* feels as solid as



The Seahorse 52: Sturdy, practical and comfortable, both inside and out.

Inset below: The engine room camera, one of a host of safety features, works both in the normal spectrum and infrared, allowing engine function to be monitored even in the dark.

# Disappearing act

if she has been fashioned from a single ingot of steel, although her hull is in fact thick fiberglass.

Stepping into the spacious saloon, one can see that this boat is built to last – and to shield her occupants from the elements.

Watertight bulkhead doors and hatches are fitted throughout, even for the cabins.

The size of the galley would shame a small apartment. It includes a large gas stove and electric oven, extractor fan and a family-sized fridge-freezer. There is even a washer-dryer and a natural water-purification system that can produce up to 21 liters of water an hour.

The gas bottles have leak detection alarms fitted as well as automatic shut-off valves, essential safety measures on a vessel so well-sealed against the elements.

There is also a CO<sub>2</sub> detection system and air conditioning,

fans and blowers are fitted throughout.

Entertainment for long journeys – she has 3,000-liter fuel tanks and a range of around 3,000 kilometers – is provided by an energy-saving LED television, a DVD player, and a Sony car stereo system.

Indeed, most of the 12-volt lighting system on board has been switched to LED, great for saving energy, even though *Wun Hung* has an upgraded 2,500-watt battery charger as well as extra batteries. Power is generated by high-output 190-amp alternators.

The pilothouse, although eminently comfortable, is a no-nonsense workstation. Navigation

equipment and displays include a Raymarine color radar/sonar/plotter, as well as a fishfinder/depth sounder. The vessel also has a PC and LED monitor linked to the navigation system, which provides GPS and navigation programs.

She has two top-of-the line ICOM radio systems, a 602 VHF and an IC M802 HF, with 23-foot antenna, and a ICOM CommandMic remote microphone and control system on the custom flybridge.

Visibility from the pilothouse is, as one would expect, excellent – and not just out to sea. There are two cameras on board, one fitted aft and one in the engine room. Both are linked to the

onboard computer and both cameras operate in the normal spectrum and infra red, so that even in pitch black engine function can be monitored.

The owner upgraded from the standard twin engines to 170hp Westerbreke Century 6-cylinder diesels, which give the *Wun Hung* a top speed of around 14 knots using either of its two engines.

The Seahorse series is, in fact, designed for single-engine traveling. Twin engines allow for redundancy, as a sole engine conking out would make for an unpleasant passage to India.

*Wun Hung* is kitted out as a four-berth vessel, although the sofa in the spacious saloon can be pulled out and turned into more berth space. The master cabin is of good size and has its own domestic-size air conditioner, a head with bathtub, and a writing desk/dressing table.

The twin-cabin seems more than adequate for a long voyage, and, as elsewhere on this comfortable workhorse, lazarettes abound. There is another head/shower for the twin cabin.

The upper aft deck boasts a crane, good for bringing essential supplies of beer on board, or for moving the inflatable rib tender, which has a 15hp Yamaha outboard.

The flybridge has duplicates of almost all the controls found in the pilothouse and benefits from a durable bimini top to keep the sun and spray off.

Not beautiful, but handsome, sturdy and comfortable, the *Wun Hung* is a desirable and practical vessel for the adventurer – or escapist – in all of us.

*Seahorse 52 MV Wun Hung* is on the market for US\$490,000 (about 20.4 million baht). Contact Lee Marine International Marine Brokerage at Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina (Tel: 076-238803; Fax: 076 239729) or visit [www.leemarine.com](http://www.leemarine.com) for more information.



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## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Despite the problems that have affected Nepal in recent years, Kathmandu remains one of the most exotic cities in Asia. There is hardly a skyscraper worthy of the name; there are no glitzy malls and very few international hotels or shops.

Instead, cows wander the streets, pilgrims meander from shrine to shrine and, in the alleyways off the main roads, there is little to disturb the medieval atmosphere.

The capital of the Kingdom of Nepal, Kathmandu lies at the heart of a lush valley in sight of the great, snow-capped Himalayas, and has opened up to large-scale foreign tourism only in the past few decades.

Kathmandu was once the capital of three separate principalities, and it has a wealth of ancient palaces, temples and monuments that still form part of daily life.

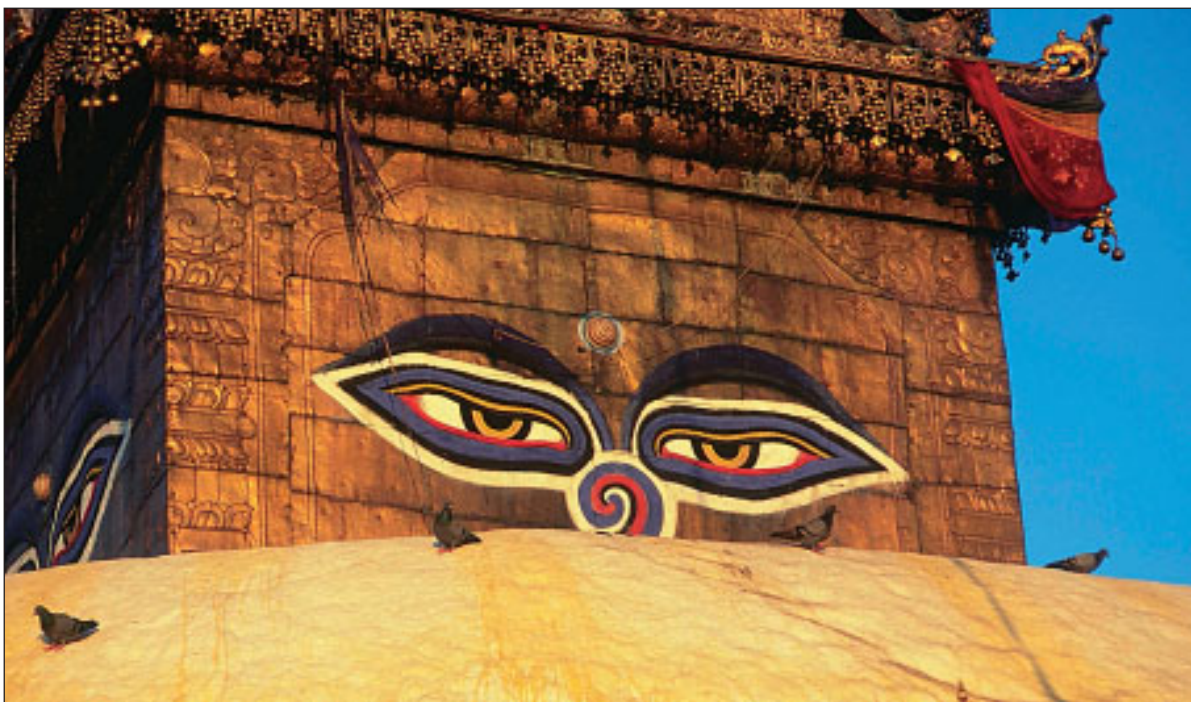
Even today, the people of Kathmandu worship a young girl chosen as the city's "Living Goddess". She is surrounded by reverential servants until she reaches adulthood, when a new goddess is selected.

Every morning, many residents jog or walk to temples, such as Swayambunath and Bodnath (whose all-seeing eyes are icons of Kathmandu), for exercise and to make their devotions. Religion is integral to their lives.

A fascinating Shangri-la, Kathmandu is a friendly city, comparatively safe at night and easy to explore by day. The Nepalese are easygoing, hospitable and very proud of their ancient capital.

Kathmandu is not at all expensive and there are some great souvenirs and handicrafts to be had. Be warned, however, that many of the "genuine" handicrafts on offer are actually made in India. Regard "antiques" with a skeptical eye, and bargain like crazy.

The first deal of the day is usually a good one; the trader will usually sell at a low price to bring himself luck later, so go shopping as the shutters go up.



The all-seeing eyes at Bodnath.

The entire temple complex of Bodnath has, since 1959, become one of the most important centers for Tibetan Buddhism.

(Below): Kathmandu is bedecked with a rich array of temples and shrines.

(Below left): Cycling is a convenient and pleasant way to traverse this ancient and spiritual place.

# Completely Kathmandu



A Tibetan carpet is a worthwhile buy. There are many shops selling them around Jawalakhel. Tailors in Thamel, the backpackers' quarter, produce clothing, and roadside silversmiths and goldsmiths are remarkably skillful.

In the evening, there is plenty to do, although nightlife tends to revolve around the hotels and the Thamel area. Nepalese cultural troupes put on dancing shows; there are a few discos and a slowly-emerging club scene.

Imported liquor tends to be much more expensive than the local hooch. Try Kukhri Rum mixed with cola or lemon juice.

In the '60s, Kathmandu was at the end of the overland trail from Europe and the hippies, though having found Nirvana, still needed to eat.

In Thamel most menus feature diverse dishes such as buffalo steak, vegetarian pizza,



chocolate brownies and even cheesecake.

There are several options for trips out of the city: take one of the daily flights that soar up to Sagamatha or Mount Everest or one can take a motorcycle around and through the valley, passing paddy fields and quaint villages, while down on the plains

rhinos and tigers roam the national parks.

Bhaktapur, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, has not been modernized and still looks very much as it did centuries ago – so much so that it was used as the backdrop – or perhaps it was the star? – for Bernardo Bertolucci's 1993 movie, *Little Buddha*.

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# Time to jump on a tuk-tuk or two

In response to a *Gazette* article about a proposed 20-baht tuk-tuk service in Patong, Phuket-watchers, local and worldwide, chipped in at a forum hosted by thaivisa.com.

"I fear there will be blood on the streets. Or no one will dare to be a 20-baht tuk-tuk driver."

"I remember when I came to Phuket in '99 ... It was 100 [baht] from Patong to Kamala Bay if you were getting ripped off and 60 if you were right on the money. Now it's 600 baht!"

From another thaivisa forum: "Everybody should go out of their way to tarnish them [tuk-tuk drivers] as much as possible, I don't mean walk down [Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd] waving banners, just by simply spreading the word. Every tourist you speak to, tell them, educate them!"

**Travel advisory:** "Parties held in bars for Noi's weekly birthday again should be avoided at all costs, funeral wakes have a better atmosphere," writes stickmanbangkok.com/reader/reader570

**Mass-media hysteria:** Contributors to the Web realize the damage the mass media has inflicted on Phuket's tourism in-

Are you the sort of person who likes to watch a computer defrag? Do you love it when, at the end, it goes nuts, sweeping down the screen like a turquoise and green waterfall? If so, this column is decidedly not for you. Normal human beings please read on...

## OUTSIDE IN By Lis Kinswoman

dustry. Here's Tracey Northcott at kokochi.com/archives/000950:

"I can say with all certainty, that way too many adjectives [about Phuket] have been banded about in the interest of headlines, airtime on cable networks and sales of newspapers."

On the same subject, Diane Edwards at stevelacey.com/6logarchives/2005/01/friends, has this to say: "'We were already optimistic that Phuket would be significantly better than the mass media have been portraying it. 'Better' doesn't even begin to describe it."

"If one had been disconnected from the media for the past 2 wks, there would have been no clues whatsoever that anything was amiss on our taxi ride ... to Kata Beach...

"Unsafe? Tell it to our smiling coconut vendor in Patong Beach."

"Relief funds? Our beach café family won't get any, they are working their butts off from dawn till midnight to get back on their own feet."

"Disease? Tell that to the local girls we were talking to last night, who are about to lose their restaurant jobs. Guess what they will end up doing instead...?"

**The horror, the horror...** From traveljournals.net/stories/6319: "I took a tuk-tuk to Patong Beach and there was every form of man and woman stuffed into a speedo and bikini."

"I have seen some terrible things in my life but nothing prepared me for this ... The best that you could do was not make eye contact and slowly back away."

**Freudian slip #2:** *The Grauniad* at guardian.co.uk/tsunamistory/0,15671 reports: "Like the prostitutes, masseurs, go-go dancers and kick boxers who make a liv-

ing in this hotbed of exoticism and sleaze, the transsexual population of Patong are struggling to make ends meet ..."

**Compare and contrast...** then ignore: Kenneth Champeon (a *nom de guerre* if there ever was one) at thingsasian.com/goto\_article.2908 quotes Martin Amis in his mocking of travel writers "... for their use of the cliché 'land of contrasts' in their account of semi-exotic locales."

But then he drops a huge contrast cliché himself with "Phuket: burqas and bare breasts."

In article 3281 - "What is a Farang?" - the ever expansive and blustery Champeon is not

exactly going to get local expats cheering for him.

"Many, if not most farangs in Thailand are oddballs, rejects, runaways, hippies, druggies, alcoholics, sex maniacs, beach bums. Asked to describe a farang, a Thai is likely to imagine one of two creatures; the odiferous, long-haired backpacker, or the pot-bellied beet-red barfly."

Of course he's talking about male farang as there are relatively few women in Thailand who are pot bellied, beet-red barflies, but the fairer sex get off no lighter.

"Thai women tend to give an appearance of malleability that hides a solid core: with farang women the reverse is often true."

## Wordly Wise

Dear Prime Minister:

[Transport Minister] Suriya Jungrungreangkit will be kicked upstairs, huh? It's this kind of tradition and the 'show me the receipt' routine which have made me so invincible in countries like Thailand. Have a nice day.

Your old friend,  
Corruption

- From a letter to Thaksin Shinawatra, as imagined by Tulsathit Taptim, Managing Editor of *The Nation*, published July 5, 2005.





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KIDS

THE FUN PAGE

FOR ALL

THE FAMILY

# Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 25 world-class tennis players. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. See if you can find more than your family or friends. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent.

K	Z	D	S	B	J	Z	H	W	T	R	Q	I	P	P
A	Z	E	A	I	U	I	I	E	E	Y	S	R	I	Q
R	V	S	N	R	G	L	T	R	W	S	H	E	E	G
O	E	O	Q	I	L	N	E	S	A	I	D	Q	C	S
D	Q	A	L	I	T	D	I	G	A	A	T	O	I	I
D	Z	N	A	I	E	R	A	H	W	M	N	T	I	W
I	V	M	X	F	T	D	A	V	E	N	P	O	R	T
C	S	V	A	L	V	A	S	M	O	G	J	R	E	W
K	F	H	E	L	K	D	R	R	K	M	D	O	A	G
U	G	N	O	U	Y	V	S	V	K	D	W	M	T	S
K	D	G	U	S	Q	O	Q	J	A	L	X	M	C	F
L	R	J	X	E	T	K	E	O	R	N	E	C	M	A
F	M	V	P	L	E	I	G	J	G	N	Q	H	V	R
R	A	F	T	E	R	N	P	J	S	O	V	O	R	G
S	X	N	E	S	X	L	H	D	M	V	S	Z	E	P
L	H	W	I	R	I	E	G	D	G	T	C	I	K	O
W	X	A	P	W	L	F	Z	R	E	T	H	N	C	Z
U	V	K	R	T	J	A	G	N	I	K	E	I	E	L
H	G	R	O	A	Y	K	Z	G	Y	I	S	T	B	C
S	V	Y	U	F	P	U	D	V	S	A	N	A	I	Z
Q	M	M	X	T	K	O	G	N	H	T	O	B	O	G
N	A	S	T	A	S	E	V	R	U	N	K	A	W	Y
E	B	M	O	C	W	E	N	A	O	L	O	S	S	X
E	T	D	C	L	P	Z	R	S	J	B	V	F	O	K
A	A	A	S	M	U	S	X	F	A	W	B	F	V	A

# Brain Buster!!

Which number does not belong in the square?

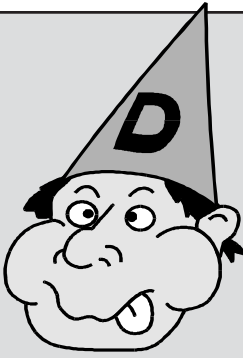
3	33	15	36
12	27	34	18
72	39	30	6
24	21	9	42

A: 34. All the others may be evenly divided by 3.

## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Tom Hanks; 2. Johnny Weismuller; 3. Tarzan; 4. James Bond; 5. The lungs; 6. Hinduism; 7. Richard Millhouse Nixon; 8. T rshavn; 9. Nahuatl; 10. Tin; 11. A shrewdness; 12. An intrusion; 13. Dolls; 14. Robert Thomson; 15. 42; 16. A cooking pot; 17. Orlando Bloom; 18. The Who; 19. David Carradine; 20. 16 Elwood Avenue.

# Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Get Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy, but if you do some research you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

1. Who won this year's Eurovision Song Contest?

2. What was the name of the winning song?

3. For which ministry did Winston Smith work in the novel 1984?

4. What does "SIM", as in SIM card, stand for?

5. In which country is Timbuktu?

6. Take a boat east from Buenos Aires and you'll arrive in which country?

7. The Italians call him Topolino. By what name is he known in the US?
8. Who or what is Budels Meibock?

9. Triton is a moon orbiting which planet?

10. Who made the first telephone call to the moon?

11. Where is the Encyclopaedia Britannica published?

12. Where did the cloth denim get its name?

13. The streets of Atlantic City, New Jersey, were used in the original version of what game?

14. What is the Sanskrit word for "union"?
15. Which country joined the G7, which then became the G8?

16. The port of Rotterdam is built on the delta of which European river?

17. What was Dr Franken-stein's first name?

18. How many hurdles are there in the 110 meter hurdle race?

19. What did soccer referees get in 1970 that they never had before?

20. Which is the only muscle in your body that is only attached at one end?

Answers next week

# Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Cook in hot oil.

3. Getting one's own back.

7. Poem of praise.

8. Debtor's promise.

9. pH is a measure of this.

10. Fury.

14. Hit by a bullet.

16. Very fat.

17. The king of the beasts.

19. Not narrow.

24. Make damp.

25. Indoor sports facility.

26. Cube root of eight.

27. Puzzle.

28. Rocky outcrop.

Down

1. The Red Baron or Amelia Earhart, for example.

2. Not old.

3. Back end.

4. Canceled.

5. How a horse says no?

6. Pharaoh's country.

11. Parisian friend.

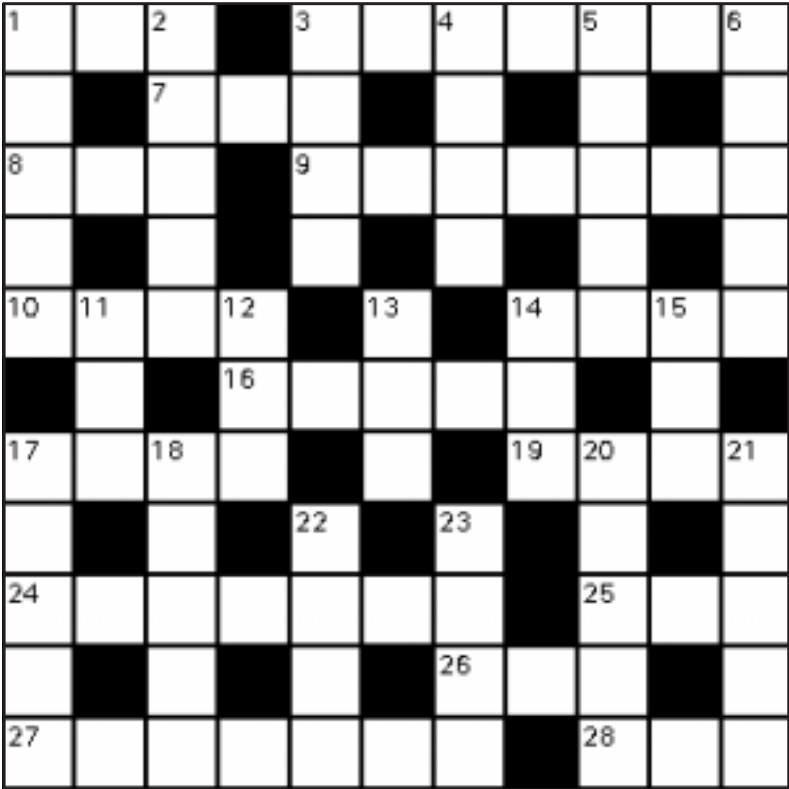
12. A very long time.

13. Diamond or sapphire, for example.

14. Use a needle.

15. Strange.

17. Malfunctioning yellow car?



## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD





# At the moment of truth

5...4... Your heart starts to pump a little faster. ...3...2... Check to make sure that you've typed in the correct codes. ...1... You take a deep breath and click "LOG IN."

Since our final exams in May, many of our classmates have been taking time off after this stressful and exhausting period of our academic lives. If they were asked what they had been up to, a majority would simply reply "nothing" and no one would say anything or even give them a disapproving look, because they know that we deserve it.

The months pass without even a thought of when the results come out until that one special caring, sharing person asks, "So ... you looking forward to receiving your results tomorrow night?"

That's when it hits you; the nerves kick in and that little bit of doubt creeps into your mind: the holiday is over and the results are in!

A week ago, all the students

from the International Baccalaureate (IB) course 'Class of 2005' logged on to get their results. It was our moment of truth after two years of hard work. Receiving our results is a moment we'll never forget; a moment of truth. We remember every detail such as where we were, who we were with and, of course, what grades we got.

The journey has been an enjoyable one despite the many bumps in the road, and it is one none of us will ever forget. And as we move on in our lives, we will always look back with fond memories of all the times we shared and remember with affection those people we knew when we were first starting out.

This is the last article I shall write for the Gazette before handing over to my delightful replacement. And I've been wracking my brains for witty and intelligent anecdotes or inspirational quotes I could leave you with; something designed to intrigue the mind before you move on to the next thought-provoking piece of journalism in these pages.

Everything I came up with seemed so trivial and clichéd, so I read my predecessor's final article to see how he had handled this moment.

As it turns out, his final piece was about how we should not be saying, "Goodbye" but rather, "See you soon". His argument was a simple

one and the piece discussed the fear a lot of us have right now: the fear that we may never see our friends ever again. So, to be true to myself, I've decided to counter his argument.

I mean after all, let's be realistic: how many people reading this column are still in touch with their entire graduation class? It would be nearly impossible to do, and would require extraordinary communication skills.

Of course, we will try and stay in contact, but over the years it's natural that contact will start to dwindle to the point where you'd be lucky to make it onto everyone's Christmas card list.

We could all be optimistic and pretend that we'll see everyone again but that's just not going to happen. Instead, we will strive to stay in touch with smaller groups of close friends; this has been made so much easier with advances in communication.

And with smaller groups of friends you have a feeling inside that you will always know them. You may not see them again for

several years but see them again you will, and that little bit of hope makes it easier to remain in contact.

Something that I loved when I was doing the IB course was the variety of people I met. I studied with people from all corners of the globe and learned about so many different cultures and lifestyles in the process, all of which helped me become a better person.

It's these people I want to stay in contact with, the ones who taught or inspired me to try harder.

So when it comes to saying "goodbye", be truthful. Share tears, joy and laughter with those you are least likely to see again. But say "farewell" and "see you soon" only to those special few that will stay with you.

As American author Richard David Bach wrote, "Don't be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after a moment or a lifetime, is certain for those who are friends."



**Youth 'n ASIA**  
By Lauren Moorhouse

## Smoking etiquette and 'You! You!'

Dear Momma Duck,

I am a new staff member in a very small company in Phuket. My *farang* boss is kind, but I don't like that he smokes in our office, which is not air-conditioned. I like my job so far, and want to work here, but I don't think I can take the smoke and I'm afraid to tell my boss.

Do you think if I put a "no smoking" sticker on my desk, he would understand? Please tell me what to do.

Nee

Dear K.Nee,

If your boss is a *farang*, he probably comes from a country with very strict smoking regula-

tions. These invariably include a ban on smoking in offices because of the well-documented danger to those who inhale second-hand smoke.

I feel it is very impolite and inconsiderate of him to smoke in an office atmosphere. He should have asked your permission, which is a standard etiquette among most foreign smokers.

In this case he may think that since he is the boss, he can do what he pleases. Most foreigners like direct communication, unlike Thais who tend to prefer indirect communication. So be brave and tell him that you're allergic to cigarette smoke and that it is not good for your health. I do

not think that many foreigners would take offense.

Dear Momma Duck,

When I walk the streets of Phuket, I am sometimes confronted by Thai people shouting "*Farang! You! You!*" at me. I assume that these people want to catch my attention, but when I ask them in Thai, "*Ao arai krap?*" (What do you want, sir?) they seem to go into speechless befuddlement.

This has happened to me so many times that lately I have gotten into the habit of ignoring them completely, although I realize this may be somewhat rude.

Do these people simply want me to acknowledge their existence? If so what is the best way to do so without having to stop and get into an extended, time-wasting conversation with them?

Me-me  
Phuket City

Dear Me-me,

Thais who lack a good understanding of the English language, often translate the polite Thai word *khun* into the English word "you", which is one of its meanings, used when addressing or catching the attention of someone whose name or status isn't known. (The other main use of *Khun* is as a prefix to someone's name, equivalent to the English "Mr." or "Ms.").

Many Thais do not realize that it is considered bad manners to yell "you! you!" in order to catch someone's atten-

tion, the polite "Excuse me, sir (or madam)" being more acceptable.

In the past, "hey you" was also heard frequently, probably learned from American soldiers during the Indo-China war ("hey" being an Americanism to catch someone's attention).

The intent is certainly to catch your attention (to sell you something or to simply talk with you), but they are not being know-

The word *farang* (Caucasian foreigner) is, of course, widely used and although it may sound impolite, is not meant to be.

I prefer the common "hello, hello" that I often hear young Thai children call out to a passing foreigner (as a general greeting rather than a prelude to conversation).

The second part of the phenomenon you describe is speechless bewilderment when you respond to them in Thai. I have seen this many times because they assume that you don't speak Thai and it takes a while to register.

My husband, who speaks Thai well, tells me stories from the 1970s, when he would go into an up-country restaurant in the north and order some food or drink in Thai and

be met by a blank stare from the waitress.

The waitress had obviously seen a *farang* entering the restaurant and thought "Oh my God! A foreigner! I won't be able to understand him" and only responded when she suddenly realized, after a second or third repetition, that he was speaking Thai.

Thai people seldom encounter this kind of problem because it's not common to approach a

stranger to catch their attention except when they, perhaps, have unknowingly dropped something.

I do not know if it is right or not, but I think most Thais generally perceive *farangs* as casual, friendly and approachable.

Additionally, there's no problem of trying to figure out their social status before you speak

with them (which is a necessity when speaking with another Thai). I think this contributes to their attempts to catch your attention.

There's certainly no cultural problem with pretending that you haven't heard them. Thais do it all the time (don't "hear" what you don't wish to). But please remember not to respond with anger or aggression or you may find yourself in trouble.



**Momma DUCK**

By Wanida Hongyok  
momma@phuketgazette.net



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# Addressing Mr Q's company quandary

**M**r Q was invited to buy some shares in a Thai company. However, the major partner in the business died just a short time after opening the business and his heirs appointed an executor who took over the business.

Unfortunately, Mr Q was, at that time, traveling back and forth between his home country and Thailand, staying in each for a few months.

While in Thailand, he also moved several times from one rented property to another, so he effectively had no permanent address.

His address in the register of shareholders in the company was never amended. Mr Q was later to learn how important it is for a shareholder to keep the records up to date in order to receive his or her rights.

As the new shareholders of the company had no more interest in the property bought by the firm, they agreed to sell it and duly filed all the necessary documents and paid the necessary taxes to keep the company going until the sale had been completed.

Mr Q was neither informed of nor invited to any meeting, and became aware of the sale only after it had gone through.

He sought legal advice, and

his lawyer sent notice to the company's directors calling for a meeting to which all the shareholders were invited.

It became clear in the meeting that the company was ready to cease trading after the sale of the property had been completed and any outstanding payments had been made.

Mr Q also learned that letters inviting him to meetings had been sent out by registered mail to his address as stated in the register of shareholders. They letters had all been returned as undeliverable.

It was therefore deemed that the invitations had been sent out properly and

the meetings held correctly, with valid and majority decisions made.

The lesson in this is that a simple change of address that is not registered with the directors of a private limited company in Thailand can result in a shareholder losing his or her rights, including the right to take part in the decision-making processes of the company.

Depending on the articles of association as registered at the Business Development Office, it may even give minority shareholders the right to make decisions about the future of the company that are contrary to the will of a major shareholder.



**LAYING DOWN THE LAW**  
With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

## Phang Nga Hosts Huge Flowers

— Gazette, July, 1995

What may prove to be the world's largest flower was found last month in Phang-Nga.

Mr Preecha Rakkid, Governor of the province, was informed by local people that they had found the plant on Kuan-changtie Hill in the Takuetung District. The blossom of the as-yet-undetermined species measured more than one meter in diameter, they said.

Mr Preecha was sufficiently interested to organize an expedition in search of the plant. Eventually, the flowers were found and blossom measurements were taken. The largest, flaunting elephantine pink petals, was recorded at 90 cm across.

Residents refer to the plants as Dokbuapud ("The Lotus Risen From The Water").

## Don't come here, 'slanderer' told

— Gazette, July 15-30, 2000

PHUKET: The instigator of a campaign to get a Bangkok-based academic to apologize for allegedly slandering the revered former abbot of Chalong, Luang Por Chem, has urged the academic to stay away from Phuket or risk injury at the hands of irate locals.

Amnuay Koombarn, a member of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, is leading a petition to press Dr Poowadon Songprasert, a professor at Kasetsart University, to apologize via the media, not in person. "The local people may injure him if he comes here, so apologizing through the media is fine," K. Amnuay said. "We only want him to show regret for what he said. We want to do everything peacefully."

## THE TIME machine

News from the past

In The Stars

by Isla Star

# Discover your tomorrow today!

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Ambition kicks in and there is no stopping you for the remainder of July. You should steer a straight course and not get sidetracked by temptations irrelevant to your main goal. Do not push your luck where romance is concerned; time is on your side and you should concentrate on frying more important fish. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for business agreements.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Extravagance could be your downfall this week. It would be prudent to save your cash for an overseas trip that appears to be imminent, so make shopping trips short and to the point. On Wednesday you get a bee in your bonnet that is hard to shift. If no immediate action can be taken, just accept the inevitable. Pisces asks a complicated favor later in the week.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): An unanswered question continues to be a source of irritation for you during the coming days. Resolution is forecast to take place at the end of this month, and not before. Focus energy on home concerns; younger family members need more attention than you have been giving them lately. If you are single, there is every reason to suppose that your interest in someone is mutual.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Your powers of observation are particularly strong this week. While others are busy admiring the big picture, you will zoom in on the small details. This should enable you to make the correct decision about a longstanding issue. For the remainder of July, relaxation should be a major goal; taking a break from the stresses and strains of life will set you up for August, which promises to be a challenging month.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): A welcome wind of change should blow in your direction this weekend. You have been feeling somewhat frazzled lately, but at least one problem is guaranteed to dissolve into thin air. The only cloud blotting your landscape now relates to your inability to resolve a financial matter. There will be no quick and easy solution, but advice from Leo is well worth listening to. The number 6 brings luck on Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): You can expect

a week of surprises, including a package that should arrive in the mail. This will cause you to take a trip down memory lane, setting off a chain of events that could culminate in an impromptu trip. At work, nothing goes according to plan and your ability to be flexible will be put to the test. The color saffron brings luck.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): While you are usually content to skip around in familiar pastures, a desire to go beyond the boundaries overcomes you this week. This is a fertile time to experiment and perhaps even re-invent yourself. Any money-making schemes you have been nurturing must be presented carefully. Even if you can clearly see the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, others will find it hard to see your vision.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Your skills as a natural leader come in handy when others require guidance midweek. However, you should beware of assuming too much long-term responsibility for little or no financial gain. August promises to be an exceptionally busy time for you with new opportunities appearing at every turn. Someone who has been the apple of your eye reveals a sour side; a reality check is in order.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Ongoing changes at work are a persistent problem and the only way to alleviate stress is to step back a bit. There is no escaping the fact that you are a small fish swimming in a big pond and will have to wait for those more pow-

erful than you to make the relevant decisions. This weekend, seek out fresh surroundings to take your mind off these issues. Wearing the color aquamarine will encourage peace of mind.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Added sparkle this week will help you shine like a diamond. The feel-good factor should continue until the end of this month, by which time you will have impressed enough people to make a difference to your personal situation. One friendship that is poised to begin could lead to more than platonic feelings, but be content to let things grow slowly. Wear the color turquoise to make a statement.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): All the daydreaming in the world will not achieve tangible results. If you are inclined toward laziness, set deadlines for yourself to ensure positive progress. Your willingness to lend a helping hand to others could be taken advantage of this week; you should put your own needs first for the remainder of this month. Those who have not yet met their romantic match can look forward to an interesting meeting.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): You should receive clear indication this weekend that they have been barking up the wrong tree. There is still a way to obtain the ripe fruit you have been coveting, but a change of tactics is called for. If the tedium of quiet island life is starting to get you down, take a break to seek out some temporary excitement. The number 9 is lucky this Saturday.

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## Twilight zones?

The proposed new entertainment zones contain several ideas that will raise more than a few eyebrows – and many that were fairly predictable.

In Patong, the extension of the zone – apparently aimed at making a lot of illegal entertainment establishments legal – is somewhat predictable. There is merit in this idea; it should, in theory at least, result in a reduction of extortion and bribery.

What is surprising, however, is the scale of the expansion. By stretching the zone southward along the entire beach road, the plan more than doubles the area of the Patong zone.

Another surprise is the proposal to have a new entertainment zone along both sides of Ao Bang Tao Rd – the road that leads past the glitzy Twinpalms Phuket hotel and the gates to glitzier Amanpuri, home-away-from-home of royalty and rock stars.

If this plan survives public scrutiny, it will bring major changes to the area. Whether these will be for the better, such as upmarket restaurants and bars, or for the worse – including tin-roofed karaokes and women calling out, “Me my friend you, you want massage?” – remains to be seen.

One oddity is the idea of setting up a zone stretching along the airport access road from Thepkasattri Rd, the island’s north-south artery. It is difficult to see where the clientele of this zone would come from, unless staff are fluent in Burmese.

Once the discussion is over and the decisions have been made, the big question will be whether entertainment establishments outside the zones will face more stringent enforcement.

Will bamboo-walled karaokes in the middle of residential areas be forced to rebuild to legal standards, with concrete walls and glass doors to keep the noise in? Will they be forced to kick out their often drunk and off-key patrons at midnight? Or will *laissez-faire* attitudes prevail, continuing to allow no respite to sleepless neighbors?

Zoning is, in principle, a fine idea, and one that many people would like to see enforced in Phuket – not just in relation to entertainment, but for all activities.

The fact that there is, apart from the entertainment industry, no zoning on the island will become increasingly problematic. It is still perfectly possible for the owner of the land next to one’s beautiful million-dollar mansion to set up a pig farm, or for a prawn farm to appear right next to a five-star beachside hotel.

One hopes that the authorities, once the entertainment zones have been decided upon, will then move on to consider of other types of zoning.

– The Editor

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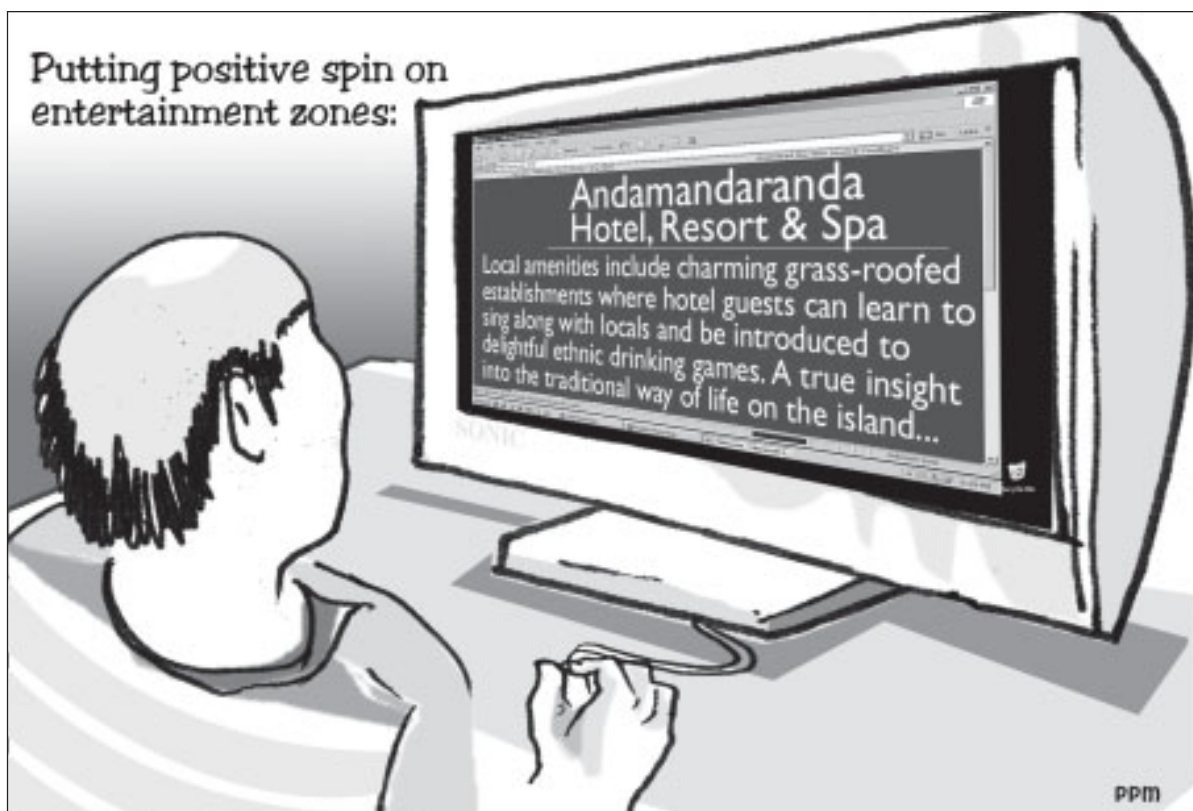
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Putting positive spin on  
entertainment zones:



## Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-213971 or send an email to editor@phuketgazette.net

with your views for publication in our next issue. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address are supplied.

### Just Fox off, please

My, what a pleasant and sensitive fellow Roger Fox (Letters, *Gazette*, July 9) must be.

Hundreds of people lose their work and savings in the tsunami, and his final comments are, “So what? Go somewhere else.”

If Phuket is too busy for you Mr Fox, then you should go somewhere else, and the sooner the better.

Frank Visakay  
Phuket

### Time for Phuket to clean up its act

I read with interest a recent letter from one of your readers bemoaning the filthy state of Layan Beach and I think his comments would apply equally to most beaches on Phuket.

I walked along Bang Tao Beach the other day and, for a tourist beach, it was a disgrace.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has stated that he intends to turn the first anniversary of the tsunami into a major public-relations coup by hosting all sorts of activities, including a volleyball competition, a property exhibition and free entry to the national parks.

In my opinion Phuket should get back to basics, and first of all clean up its prime attraction: the beaches.

In an earlier edition of the *Gazette*, a Danish environmental expert quoted a figure of 165 million baht for cleaning up 15 kilometers of beach plus an annual monitoring plan and evaluation report.

In the *Gazette* article, it was stated that the Governor thought

that this was expensive and may consider a cheaper version.

However, in the grand scheme of things this is not a large sum of money, and if this company can deliver what they promise, then Phuket should not hesitate to invest the money, or ask central government for assistance if necessary.

Phuket stands to lose not millions, but billions of baht if tourism does not rebound and, with respect to the ideas quoted, this would bring in very few tourists as the critical mass of tourists to Phuket come here for the sand and sea.

The recent Miss Universe fiasco is a case in point; how many incremental tourists did it bring to Thailand? The answer is very few.

Countries in Europe and the Americas have machinery to clean their beaches, and Phuket should invest in a permanent “flying squad” of beach cleaners to ensure that the island’s beaches are always in pristine condition.

Taking any clean-up campaign a step further, police should be instructed to force those who dump rubbish to remove it or to fine offenders.

To give just two examples, the road from the Heroines’ Monument to Cherng Talay is heavily used by tourists, but around one kilometer from the monument on the left-hand side is an old mattress, corrugated iron and other rubbish which has been lying there for months.

On the same road entering Cherng Talay on the right-hand side, beside the *Farang* restaurant, is a glazier that dumps broken glass in a big pile outside its premises.

I would implore the Governor to concentrate on a long-term and ongoing plan to ensure that Phuket’s roads and beaches are as clean as they possibly can be. This would be a wonderful legacy for him to leave to Phuket when he eventually gives up his position.

Ian Stewart  
Cherng Talay

### Annoying security guards nothing

I am exposed to the very worst of the local way of doing things every time I drive into Central Festival Phuket or Tesco-Lotus. It seems that appearance is more important than efficiency and convenience.

At the entrance to the parking area at Central, two security guards carefully inspect the underneath of my car with mirrors, but ignore luggage or parcels in my car, as well as the contents of my trunk. This little ceremony takes 30 seconds per car, so it is not uncommon to queue for 10 minutes before gaining entry.

Conversely, at Tesco-Lotus, I am asked to open my trunk at the entrance while a guard whirls a metal detector around it. Nobody cares about what’s under my car nor about any parcels or luggage inside it.

Any terrorist who has done his homework would know by now that to bomb Central, you should hide explosives anywhere except under the car. To wipe Tesco-Lotus off the map, your explosives should be stashed anywhere except in the trunk.

This is a mockery of security.

Patrick Legrain  
Phuket

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.



# Turning the water tables

## FIRST PERSON

**L**and values in Phuket have soared, but at the same time the province has faced many problems as a result of property developers [and the property boom].

Landowners who want to build housing developments first need to ask for and be granted permission from a committee I chair before they are allowed to begin work. The committee also oversees construction work in progress to ensure that the developers comply with all relevant building regulations.

This committee has members from three government agencies: my office, the office of Vichan Busapavanich – the Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) – and the Phuket Provincial Prosecutor's Office.

If our committee finds any building code violations, substandard work or a failure to provide necessary infrastructure, we order the developer to correct any mistakes – or take whatever action is necessary – to bring the project into compliance.

Most water-related problems occur when developers seek permission to source water themselves, rather than rely on the supply provided [by local government].

We need to check whether or not they will be able to provide enough water for all [their] residents. If the developer's proposal fails to meet our criteria, then we

**A** group of angry homeowners in Tambon Wichit complained to Phuket Governor **Udomsak Uswangkura** in early June that they had been swindled.

They claimed that the property developer they bought their homes from had promised them an adequate water supply, but instead they were forced to rely on water trucked in from elsewhere.

Speaking to the *Gazette*, Gov Udomsak explains the provincial government's role in ensuring that Phuket residents get the water they need.

do not give them permission to begin construction.

Problems arise when developers neglect their responsibilities. It should be noted, however, that the case in Wichit is the only one of its type in Phuket that I have been informed of.

The developer there claimed to have a sufficient supply for all the residents, but the claims turned out to be inaccurate. The developer later needed to bring water in by truck, and the homeowners needed to buy equipment to store the water themselves. Those with the largest tanks got the most water.

This showed a lack of responsibility on the part of the de-

veloper. I have already informed the Consumer Protection Board of the situation, and have asked them to find a way to resolve the problem.

We understand that it is sometimes necessary to truck water into developments, such as when water-pipe construction work is underway or when repairs are being carried out. But water supply shouldn't be a problem here because Phuket has rain for most of the year.

We have to collect and store water to get us through the four-to-five-month period when there is little or no rain. The provincial authorities understand this clearly.



I know that Phuket is a province dependent on tourists, and that water shortages will hurt tourism. That's why we employ abandoned tin mines to serve as water sources, and require hotels to have their own water-storage facilities.

We monitor the water supply situation continually, and hold monthly meetings on water supply issues.

Right now we have 1 million cubic meters in the Bang Wad Reservoir, even though we are just coming out of the dry season.

But there are also other sources of supply. The Phuket City Water Supply Department

(PCWS) has a total storage capacity of about 2 million cubic meters from tin mines.

PCWS can tap additional supplies from lakes belonging to the Phuket Provincial Excise Office and old tin mines owned by REQ Co and the Anuphas & Sons group. In total, there is a storage capacity of 4.8 million cubic meters from both systems.

Phuket City uses about 800,000 cubic meters of water a month and the Phuket Provincial Water Supply Department [which serves the rest of the island] uses around 1.1 million cubic meters a month, for a total of about 1.9 million cubic meters.

Therefore our [total] current supply of 4.8 million cubic meters should last for about 10 weeks. It's raining now, so water supply won't be a problem in the immediate future.

We are also building a new reservoir at Bang Niew Dum to help get us through the next dry season.

Design of the dam is already complete, and we are now in the process of finding a contractor to build it.

Whenever people complain about a water problem we always investigate and try to solve the matter, if it falls within the remit of our committee.

We can't afford to ignore water supply issues, especially in a province with a tourism-based economy such as Phuket's.

## Spam newsbites on my cellphone

I have recently begun receiving spam messages on my cellphone from ITV – little newsbites, I am told, in Thai.

I am really not interested in these, and they are irritating because I never know if I am receiving an SMS from a real person or one of these spams. They take up the memory space on my phone so that I have to delete each one as it arrives, which is roughly once an hour. How do I stop this?

John Gardner  
Pa Khlok

**Chaleeya Wanta, of AIS's call center for customers of Serenade (the company's privileged customer scheme), replies:**

Usually, we don't send such news alerts to mobile phones unless the customer has requested the service.

In this particular case, it looks as though the customer requested the service by accident, without realizing what he had done.

If he does not want these news alerts, all he has to do is

enter \*455544499 and then press dial, after which he should get an SMS confirming that the news alert service has been canceled.

Alternatively, he may call the AIS call center at 1175, press 2 for the English language service then follow the instructions. The customer will have to tell the operator his phone number and ask the operator to cancel the news alerts.

The operator should also be able to tell the customer when (or indeed if) he requested the service.

## Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you.**

**Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.**

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## Defining domestic buildings

I should like to know how Thai law defines condominiums in Phuket.

Does a condo have to have more than two floors?

What is the difference between a villa and a condominium? I have downloaded from the Internet an official "building control zone" document and it goes on to detail about eight different zones.

Do you know where can I get the map to accompany the document?

I tried contacting the source from which I downloaded it, but have received no reply so far.

Bob  
Sweden

**Friedrich "Sam" Fauma, of the International Law Office, replies:**

The law that applies is the Private, Commonly-Owned Housing Act of 2522 BE (1979), also known as the Condominium Act. The law does not stipulate a minimum number of floors or rooms for a condominium.

A villa is a stand-alone building on a plot of land, whereas a condominium is a structure featuring both privately-owned property and common property, with the land owned jointly by the owners through a "juristic condominium person".

The local Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBor-Tor*), city planning commission or municipal office will have the plan.

Any architect should easily be able to get it for you.

## Patong sidewalks a menace

The sidewalks on Kata seafont look nice, but why have the sidewalks in Patong not been repaired?

I fell about five weeks ago on a piece of bad paving in Patong and had to have six stitches in my ankle.

Everything in Patong is beginning to look nice and new, but the pavements are quite dreadful.

Sandra Richardson  
Chalong

**Suwat Boonchanawiwat, Chief of the Construction Depart-**

**ment of Patong Municipality, replies:**

We have been waiting for central government approval of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) budget for repairs and renovation in Patong.

Initially, the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority wanted to bury all power cables, but the government rejected the budget proposal for that, and has only just approved the new proposal for work including the sidewalks.

Now that the budget has been approved, the TAT will hire a consultant to do the planning.



In my previous column, I highlighted some of reasons Internet services in Phuket are not the best in the world. To recap, there are three key issues:

- The lack of quality telephone lines, assuming you have one at all, at your home or office.
- The overpriced “raw material”, in other words the price ISPs (Internet Service Providers) must pay for bulk Internet.
- The most important one – oversubscription, which translates as too many people drinking from the same glass of water.

This week, I shall show you how to become an informed shopper, get a better connection and at least know what you are buying.

**Ask questions:** The ISP may or may not be easy to reach, especially when it comes time for service and tech support, but I suggest you start off by asking the people there some fundamental questions.

These include asking how many qualified support technicians they have and asking them to provide at least three product-quality references. This may sound a bit odd, but most of the “big boys” cannot (or will not) do this, which is a pretty good indicator of how they will respond to your support needs and complaints.

Next, ask them to document how many subscribers share a given line. Be careful here, because “line” can mean many things.

Ask how many people share the connection to the ADSL or router “port”, then ask for the connection speed (in megabytes) to these ports.

Next, you will want to know two important pieces of information: where their gateways are, and what their connection speeds to the Internet backbone are.

Finally – and this is a big one – find out the speed of the connection between Phuket and these gateways.

Take a look at <http://iir.ngi.nectec.or.th/internet/map/>

firstpage.html. There you will find valuable information including link line speeds and gateways of every major ISP in Thailand. If your connection goes through the International Internet Gateway (IIG), don't be surprised if your Internet speed is poor and filled with latency.

Latency is the term given to the delay between pressing “go” and actually getting onto the Information Super Highway. This IIG is completely overloaded, oversubscribed, undersized and antiquated.

Your best bet is to go with a connection that uses the NIX Gateway, but bear in mind that, as it doubles your speed, it also doubles your monthly fees.

**Wireless connections:** We all like to be connected without wires, and although WiFi has been around for some time, the technologies and those who support it are not all the same.

The older 802.11b standard does not work well if there are newer 802.11g connections in the area, which these days is likely.

Next, some wireless devices – including laptops – do not work well near microwave ovens, cordless or mobile telephones and radio signals used by boats and the Thai government.

When your connection is slow or non-existent, try resetting it. In Windows XP, click on Start; then on Connect To, and choose Show All Connections. Right-

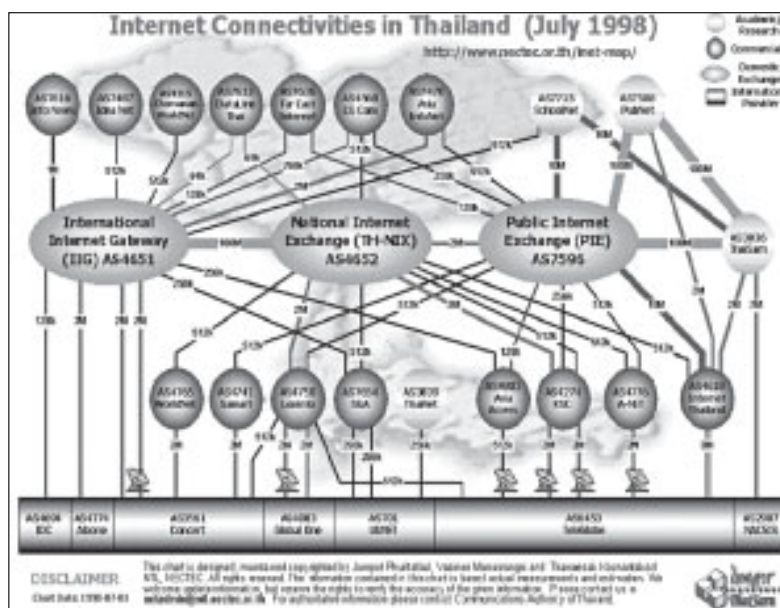
click on your Wireless Network Connection and choose Disable. Wait a few seconds, right-click again and choose Enable. This often fixes the problem.

Another trick is to turn off your computer, WiFi access point and modem (or other connection devices). Then turn them back on in reverse order.

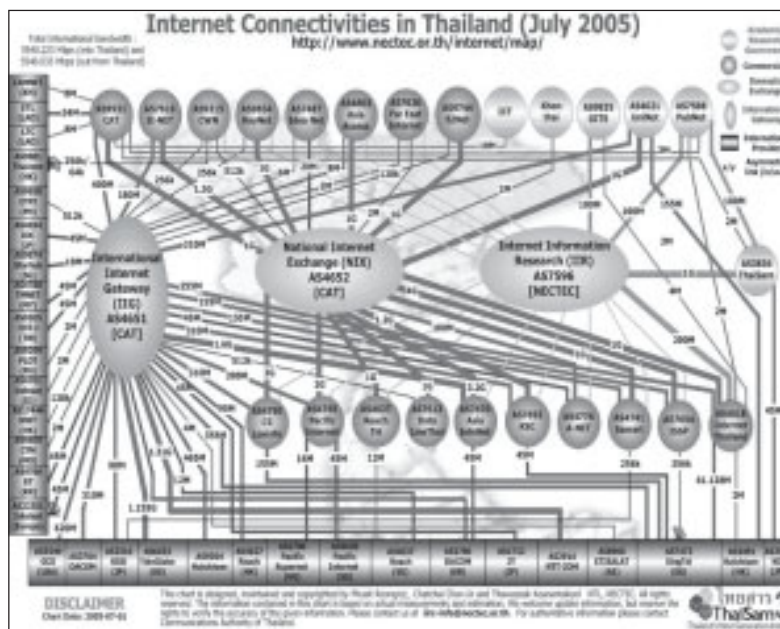
This resets everything. If that does not work, call tech support – if there is any.

One additional note regarding outdoor WiFi and satellite connections is that the weather

# Internet connection tips, tricks and traps



Oh what a tangled web we weave... Thailand's connections to the Internet have multiplied massively in the past eight years, as shown in these two connectivity maps from the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC).



**Test your real speed:** Many of us like to see the actual speed at which we are (or are not) connected. I like <http://us.mcafee.com/root/speedometer/default.asp> and [www.2wire.com](http://www.2wire.com) (click on the speed meter).

These give a good indication of your Internet speed, but remember, test results depend on how many other people around the world are also accessing the same service.

Note that many ISPs have different national versus international connection speeds, so your “256kB” connection may offer only 64kB outside Thailand. Again, ask questions of your provider.

A more accurate test is to download two or three large files at the same time. Try connecting to [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) and [www.freedownloads.com](http://www.freedownloads.com) and choose Downloads.

Then choose a few large files to download and add up the speeds listed in each download window. Keep in mind that usually you must multiply the download speed by eight to convert it to the true Internet speed.

By the way, both of these sites are jam-packed with great stuff so take some time and look around.

**You get what you pay for:** This may not be the most surprising news ever, but it is undoubtedly true – especially in our local Internet market.

Think about it. Less than one year ago, a 64kB connection would cost you 20,000 baht a month.

Today, some providers are selling 1MB for 800 baht a month or less. Might you be thinking “Oversubscribed?”

Ask your provider what speed (if any) they guarantee, and whether is it national or international; you will be amazed at their responses.

I am interested to hear your stories and comments, so please email me and I'll be sure to include some in my next Q&A.

*John Seebach has more than 25 years' consulting experience in management information systems and business process re-engineering. His company, Island Technology, offers IT solutions and Broadband services throughout Southeast Asia. Contact [john@islandtechnology.com](mailto:john@islandtechnology.com) for more information.*

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## ON THE MOVE



**Chumnong Chitpukdee**, 57, from Songkhla has been appointed as the new head of the Southern Meteorological Center (West Coast) in Phuket. A degree-holder from the faculty of communication arts of Sukhothai University, K. Chumnong was Chief of Weather Warnings at the Southern Meteorological Center (East Coast) in Songkhla for 13 years before moving to Phuket.



Belgian **Jan Verduyn** has been appointed General Manager of the Dusit Laguna Resort. Mr Verduyn has over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry. Before taking up his new post, he was GM of the Anassa Resort & Spa Hotel in Cyprus. Much of his early career was spent with the Hilton Hotel Group.



**Nijjaporn Marprasert** has been appointed Group General Manager by the Briza Resort Group, which includes the Briza Beach Resort & Spa, Samui, and the Phulin Resort at Karon Beach. His most recent position before joining Briza was as GM of the Royal Princess Larn Luang Hotel in Bangkok.

# Is US property bubble about to burst?

In advanced countries, consumers account, on average, for around 65% to 70% of economic activity. The balance is made up by the business sector.

When residential housing prices are rising, the consumer is very aware of this and personal spending increases. This rise is often referred to as "the wealth effect".

It was therefore something of a surprise when Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve (usually known as The Fed), told the joint congressional economic committee, in June 2005, that any drop in housing prices in the US would not have a serious effect on the economy. He also said that the bubble in real estate prices was only prevalent in some areas and was not a nationwide problem.

Not everyone agreed with Mr Greenspan's point of view. For example, Bill Seidman, Chief Economic Commentator for TV business channel CNBC and who is a former Governor of the US Federal Reserve, holds the opposite view. He says that he has traveled extensively around the US and has come to the conclusion that the real estate bubble is in evidence just about everywhere.

It is very unlikely that the US housing bubble is just about to "pop". Bubbles, whether they are in the price of tulips, stocks or real estate tend to go to extremes; it is the nature of markets to go too far in one direction before snapping back to a more stable position.

The overall current economic expansion in the US is also being called into question.

Richard Cotton, the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and a voting member of the FOMC (Federal Open

Markets Committee) of which Mr Greenspan is Chairman, recently questioned the longevity of the current US economic upswing. He used a baseball analogy to illustrate his view that the economy is approaching the latter part of the game.

The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) publishes the UCLA Anderson forecast and, as early as mid-March this year, was asserting that the current US economic expansion was nearer its end than its beginning.

Chris Thornberg, a senior economist with UCLA Anderson, in a televised interview in late June 2005, forecast that 2006 would see sluggish US economic growth led by a weakening housing market.

He went on to say that the term "froth" is often being used to describe the housing market.

There is ample evidence to contradict Greenspan's optimistic attitude to the economic effect of falling house prices. In Holland two years ago, a rise in home prices peaked, leading to a decline in consumer spending serious enough to push the economy into recession. The Dutch government had predicted growth of 1.7% in 2005 but recently slashed this estimate to just 0.4%.

In Australia the housing boom came to an abrupt halt last year and, over the past 12



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

months, retail sales growth has plunged from 8% to 1.8%.

Britain is another perfect example. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) publishes a monthly report on UK house prices and for the past 11 months the reports have all been negative. It is no secret that retail sales growth in the UK has dropped alarmingly. The common expression there: "The consumer has both hands in his pockets."

Many loans currently being taken out in the US are of the interest-only variety, with no repayment of capital included. There is even a new version called "negative amortization". With this option the borrower pays less than the actual interest rate for an initial period, with the difference being added to the total outstanding.

It is estimated that more than half of new loans granted in California this year have been of these two types. Mortgage lenders are also offering loans of up to 105% of the purchase price to cover not only the house but also the purchase costs.

Standard & Poor's, the US credit rating agency, has ex-

pressed concern over the situation, arguing that, after the initial loan period, borrowers could be faced with a 50% or 60% increase in repayments. In addition, the loan could exceed the value of the house by 25%.

The US historically had a mortgage system similar to that found in continental Europe, where the repayment amount was fixed for the duration for the loan.

Goldman Sachs, the US Investment Bank, estimates that in 2004 total housing equity withdrawals from home loans represented 7.4% of personal disposable income in the US.

Should house prices even stabilize – let alone fall – then most of this "income" from increasing wealth will disappear.

The contribution of a buoyant housing market toward job creation of a buoyant housing market in the US is substantial; more than 40% of US jobs created since 2001 are related to this sector. Occupations include mortgage lending, real estate and construction.

Warning signs are evident in many countries. Economists are estimating that this could be the biggest bubble in history. Unlike stockmarkets, which can crash after a spectacular boom, housing markets are inclined to react more slowly. The end result, however, is usually the same.

Another difference between stockmarkets and house prices is that, normally, investments made in stocks are in the form of cash while in the latter, much of it is borrowed money. The American National Association

of Realtors reported that, in 2004, 25% of all purchases and more than 40% of first-time home buyers paid no deposit on their homes.

It has been reported that the US Federal Reserve has been pressuring mortgage lenders to tighten their leading criteria. It is apparently fearful of the consequences of current practices in the banking sector.

It all sounds like the build up to the Savings and Loan crisis of the early 1990s.

Bill Gross, Managing Director of Pimco, which has the largest bond fund (US\$60 Billion) in the US, has warned that the current economic expansion, fueled by ample liquidity and reduced tax rates, was not sustainable.

Gross, who is generally regarded as the "guru" of bonds, says the economy is over-leveraged and the "Fed" will be forced to reduce interest rates in 2006.

CalPERS (the Californian state pension fund), the largest pension fund in America, has announced its intention to sell US\$7.5 billion of its US\$21-billion property portfolio because, it believes, home prices have peaked.

*Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-081-4611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th.*

It has been reported that the US Federal Reserve has been pressuring mortgage lenders to tighten their criteria. It is apparently fearful of the consequences of current practices in the banking sector.

### VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS

	June 03	June 04	June 05
Limited companies registered	69	119	119
Limited partnerships registered	15	25	34
Limited companies amended	140	215	228
Limited partnerships amended	28	29	32
Companies deregistered	17	7	15
Partnerships deregistered	10	7	11

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office

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## THE NOT-SO-ROUGH GUIDE TO GOLF

With Andy Combe and Bruce Whitehead

BE SURE to check out the *Gazette's* sports pages each week as Laguna Phuket Golf Club PGA pros Andy Combe and Bruce Whitehead offer handy hints for players of all ages and abilities.

The first few tips will highlight the importance of getting a good "setup" before even hitting the ball. As the late Ben "The Hawk" Hogan said, "Most mistakes are made before the player makes a swing."

### Tip 1: The Grip.

The importance of a correct grip is paramount to playing consistently good golf.

The main goal is to achieve a grip that will, after the backswing, return the clubface to a square position – that is, facing the intended target.



Baseball-style grip.



Interlock grip.



Overlock grip.

To do this the player must place his or her hands on the grip in the most natural way possible. There are three styles of grip that take into account differing hand sizes (See pictures).

The baseball-style grip is suitable for young children, while the interlock grip is generally used by people with smaller hands.

The most common grip is the over-

lock, usually favored by players with medium- to large-sized hands.

Maintaining the correct grip will ensure that the club meets the ball square, so that straight shots will be played.

## Phuket loses chance to host rounds of Coke Cup

PHUKET CITY: A diary clash has resulted in Phuket losing its chance to host one of the preliminary rounds of the national Coke Cup.

The cup, organized by Thai Pure Drinks Co and Haad Thip Plc at a cost of 10 million baht, is expected to draw some 3,000 soccer players vying for "grants" totaling 180,000 baht.

Songsak Kitakarnkul, Chief of the Phuket office of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), explained that Phuket will be hosting rounds of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Indoor Games from November 12 to 19 and the Thai Cup soccer tournament from November 5 to 12 – clashing with the dates that had been earmarked for Coke Cup matches in Phuket.

If the dates of the Coke Cup could be changed, K. Songsak told the *Gazette*, Phuket would be delighted to host matches. This is not to be, however. The matches will be played in Trang instead, between November 9 and 16.

# Honors even in AIA-Thai women's soccer friendlies

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Athletes in Action (AIA) lost heavily to the Thai national women's team in the first of two friendly matches at Surakul Stadium July 6 and 8, but then came roaring back in the second to defeat their hosts 5-1.

The team from AIA, an international youth evangelist movement, was made up of players from Canada, the US and Ireland.

The Thai Women's team fielded their best players for the first game and, despite trailing 0-2 at the beginning, came back to take the day 5-3.

The second match, however, saw AIA take revenge in a one-sided affair.

Thailand initially went ahead after 17 minutes through a Supornpip Wipakornwit goal. In the 35<sup>th</sup> minute, however, Katic Randolph scored an equalizer. Toward the end of the half, the Thai team were awarded a pen-



Thailand's Supaporn Kaewben (No 14) impressed the AIA coach, who described her as 'dangerous'.

alty, but it was saved by the AIA goalie, Alli Tramel.

In the second half, the flood-

gates opened and the AIA players poured into the Thai half, raining shots on the Thai goal. Allison Kellogg scored in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute, Whitney Agassiz in the 79<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth Jones in the 80<sup>th</sup> and Meg Agnew in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute, to give the final scoreline of 5-1.

The Assistant Manager of the Thai national women's team, Khajohnkiat Nipatpokai said, "We fielded our best players in the first match and came back from 2-0 to win it."

"In the second match, we wanted to try out new players and we can see that our defense needs to improve a lot. Their forwards are fast and good."

## PATONG DARTS

**July 19 fixtures (Home teams first):** Queen Mary vs Two Black Sheep; Dog's Bollocks vs African Café; Amigos vs Nag's Head; Valhalla vs Didi's; Piccadilly vs Shakers; OffShore Bar vs Coyote.

"All in all, this was a good opportunity for our players to gain experience against a foreign team and we can use the end result to develop ourselves."

The AIA coach, Scott Trausasos, told the *Gazette*, "We made a few changes and I think most of the goals were down to speed."

"I think the Thai team have had a lot more training than us. They could do well in the [November] Southeast Asian Games."

"I was really impressed with [Thailand's] Supaporn Kaewben. She played very well today and has the capability to be a very dangerous forward."

One thing that must have disappointed both teams was the stadium: there was no one in it, a sign perhaps, of an enduring apathy in Phuket toward sports spectating.

While in Phuket, the AIA team also toured tsunami-affected areas and donated 100 footballs to youngsters in Phuket.

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Traditional seadog victory signal from Muzza Norstrand (2nd from stern) as *Securicor Somtam Express* finally defeats *La Samudra*.

## Somtam scotches Samudra

AO CHALONG: Muzza Nordstrand and the crew aboard *Securicor Somtam Express* finally put paid to *La Samudra*'s winning streak in the Racing class of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club Keelboat and Multihull race series on July 10 and 11, with a first-class performance.

In fair weather, the Phuket 8 proved too quick in the light-to-moderate winds, finishing first both across the line and on corrected time. *La Samudra*

finished second overall in the Racing class, while *Minx* finished third.

In the other divisions, *Cyrene* won the Multihull class, and John Fenn on *Four Winds* won the Cruising class.

The next ACYC regatta is due to be held on August 27 and 28. For more information contact Scott Duncanson at Tel: 076-354762 or email: securicor@csloxinfo.com.

## Asian Indoor Games events for Phuket

PHUKET CITY: The Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) has confirmed that Phuket will be one of the venues for the 1st Asian Indoor Games from November 12-19.

The SAT Deputy Governor for Administration, Montri Chai-pun, told the *Gazette* that the SAT chose Phuket because the Foreign Ministry has a policy to boost the island's tourism industry and show the world that Phuket is a

safe venue for organized events.

The sport aerobics competition will be held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, while the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa will host kick-boxing.

There is some concern, however, over the venue for the ballroom dancing event – the proposed venue at Phuket Rajabhat University is smaller than the standard 18 x 24 meters the sport's rules demand.

Despite this, K. Montri concluded, "We expect to have 400 athletes in Phuket for the tournament. We have spent some 20 million baht nationwide and are happy to hold these events here as the island has hosted many previous international events."

## Premier League soccer clinic axed

PHUKET CITY: The English Premier League kids' soccer clinic planned for July 21 has been canceled due to a shortage of sponsorship money.

On their last visit to Phuket in May, Brian Phillpotts, the Premier League's Director of Commercial Enterprises; Alan Irvine, Everton's Assistant Team Manager; Derek Fazackerley, Head Coach of Manchester City; and Peter Almond, Assistant Academy Manager of the Bolton Wanderers, were enthusiastic about staging the one-day soccer clinic as part of their teams' tour of Thailand.

But Eam Thavornvongwongse, President of the Phuket Sports Association (PSA), told the *Gazette* that the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) was still some 20 to 30

million baht short of the 150-million baht in sponsorship funding required for the event to be held in Phuket.

Phuket residents hoping to catch a glimpse of the three teams will now have to travel to Bangkok, where they will still play invitational matches against the Thai National Team in Bangkok from July 20 to 23.

### ...but Ozzies are coming

PHUKET: David Smith and Alan Nisbet from Australia's Northern NSW Soccer Federation are scheduled to visit tsunami victims and set up a soccer clinic for schoolchildren on August 2-5.

Mr Smith, the federation's Football Manager, and Mr Nisbet, its Operations Manager, will arrive in Phuket on August 2.

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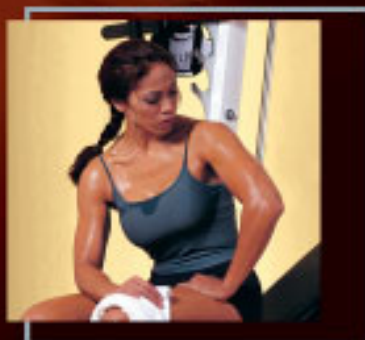
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# BEGINNING A CAREER IN WINE

**Q** My daughter will graduate from high school soon and is considering what will be her university major. We holidayed in Tuscany last year, and on our return to Phuket she daughter surprised me by saying she wants to study winemaking.

Can you tell me about the entry requirements for this subject and recommend some schools that offer this course?

**A** Winemaking is a good career choice for people who love nature, the arts, science and economics. It is a discipline that requires a broad range of knowledge and the ability to synthesize large amounts of what can seem like paradoxical information.

Generally, the entry pay is rather low; rewards come later in one's career. The top 1% of winemakers in the US may earn as much as US\$200,000 dollars (9 million baht) a year, though most earn around a quarter of that.

Generally, people come to winemaking either through formal university

study or an apprenticeship. The latter tends to be more common in small, artisan wineries while the former is usually the norm at larger wineries where a strong grounding in economics and physical sciences is essential.

The world's most respected university-based winemaking program is found at the University of California, Davis.

It is a four-year program that accepts about 70 students a year, half of whom are foreign. To enter the program one must have already completed one year's academic study in each of the following disciplines: physics, calculus, organic and inorganic chemistry, microbiology, biochemistry and statistics.

Other American universities offering wine studies include Cornell, Oregon State University, Fresno State University, and California State Polytechnic University,

## WINE



By Steven Roberto

which focuses on winery economics and agriculture.

New Zealand has a highly-regarded wine program at Lincoln University in Christchurch, and Australia, Italy and Spain have several universities with highly-respected wine programs.

At some point most students choose an area of specialization – usually either viticulture or oenology.

Winemakers must have a strong understanding of grape growing, so often a couple more years' study is required beyond undergraduate level.

One also finds local community colleges offering wine studies in all the major wine-making regions of the world, and most offer continuing education for industry members. Studies at community colleges tend to be more practical in nature, and most offer job training and placement assistance.

I recommend that your daughter seek

admission to a four-year winemaking degree program then take a winemaking internship during her second year.

If she then decides winemaking is not really for her, most of her credits could be transferred to any of several other majors in the physical sciences, including medical, dental or veterinary fields.

Most people come to winemaking later in life, after a career change. I don't see many young people entering winemaking directly from university, except those from family-owned wineries.

However, if your daughter is absolutely certain winemaking is what she wants, nothing should hold her back. If she later changes her mind, then the knowledge and experience she gains along the way will certainly enrich her life.

*Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Managing Director of enVision Phuket, a Phuket-based wine importer and consultant. Email: stevenroberto@lycos.com.*

# Why Thailand is a fun place to be

**T**here is no better introduction to *The Society of Siam* (The Siam Society, Bangkok, 2004, 409pp) than editor Chris Baker's own: "This book contains a selection of articles drawn from the last fifty years of the *Journal of the Siam Society*. The collection is published to mark the Siam Society's centenary in March 2004.

Collectively, the articles offer a broad overview of the country during the past half century. And hopefully they convey why Thailand is such a fun place to live and to study."

Baker notes that the articles collected to commemorate the Siam Society's first half century

were mostly written by government officials and advisers, both Thai and Western. In contrast, the articles selected from the last fifty were authored by academics.

There is a drawback to this. While Charles F Keyes, the great anthropologist of Northern Thailand, writes in lucid English, some lesser lights employ a fussy, verbose, convoluted academic lingo, replete with stodgy jargon that only belabors the obvious.

That said, there are amazing treasures in this book.

The pre-Buddhist *Mae Posop*, the Rice Mother, is still worshiped in villages, observes Phya Anaman Rajadhon, while Grant A Olson describes an Eden-like myth of rice that grew itself before the Fall of Man.

Jeremy H Kemp delves into the kinship and economic origins of the small village of Hua Kok

in Phitsanulok province.

Moving to the greater questions of Thai identity, Jane Bunnag in "Loose Structure: Fact or Fancy? Thai Society Re-examined" addresses the competing factors of social mobility and hierarchy.

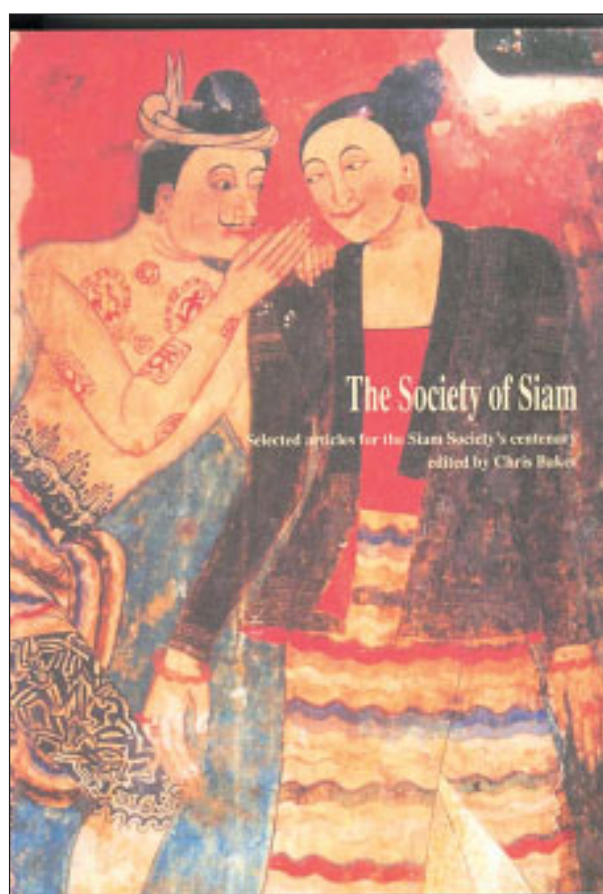
Anan Ganjanapan presents a fascinating portrait of three "Mo Muang", traditional healers in northern Thailand. With the advent of scientific medicine, they have turned from herbal remedies to psychic and magical cures for the everyday stress and alienation of the modern middle class.

Charles F Keyes weighs in with "Tug-of-War for Merit: Cremation of a Senior Monk". This is a meticulous description of the funeral of a highly esteemed Abbot in a village near Mae Sariang which climaxes in a tug-of-war over the vessel containing the deceased Abbot's remains.

"Awareness of death is met by symbolic answers to the question of what death means," Keyes writes.

"These answers are supremely Buddhist. Man is born to die and dies to be reborn once again. Such is the fundamental meaning of the tug-of-war ... which can be seen as competition between death and life in which there is no ultimate champion."

John P Ferguson and Shalardchai Ranitanondh conduct a



Through five generations, leadership of the clan has passed through the family of its founder, which maintains ritual custody of their protector, the "King's Spirit".

On a lighter note are studies of temple murals and what they reveal about everyday life centuries ago.

Beyond a concentration of articles about the North are lucid expositions of the musical traditions of the Northeast and the *nang talung* puppet shows of the South.

Moving toward Bangkok are articles devoted to the tradition of *nirat* poetry, the development of Thai history, and the literary career of Kulab Saipradit.

The volume concludes on a sad note: an address entitled "The Society of Siam" given by Puey Ungphakorn on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Siam Society.

The year may be 1974, but many of the problems he excoriates are still rampant today: corruption, ostentatious wealth, excessive centralization of power, insurgency in Thailand's Deep South, the widening gap between rich and poor.

He even paints a picture of the Society of Siam as "excessively conformist, superficial and contemptuous of ideals".

Two and a half years later, Puey Ungphakorn, rector of Thammasat University, had to flee for his life during the October 1976 military crackdown. He died in exile.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



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## On the menu

with  
Andy Johnstone

### Thai House

This week's restaurant, Thai House, falls into two highly desirable categories – it was highly recommended by friends and it is significantly off the beaten track.

Off the beaten track unless, that is, one is a teacher from the British Curriculum International School (BCIS, formerly Dulwich) seeking respite from the recent messy divorce proceedings.

Thai House, owned and operated by charming husband-and-wife team Sascha and Riem Meissmer, is a quaint little restaurant in a shophouse on Soi Han Farang.

One might be forgiven for not being able to place this street, but – very briefly – go north along Thepkraassatri Rd, about a kilometer or so past the turnoff to BCIS, then turn left just before the Isuzu Car Gallery.

We arrive at Thai House on a pleasant evening to the sounds of Buddhist chanting gently emanating from the restaurant.

It all seems rather appropriate, especially with the maroon walls, Buddhist iconography and Chinoiserie decorating the restaurant.

Moving past the other diners, we meet Frankfurt-born Sascha who tells me that custom has fallen off since the school holidays began but that he expects it to pick up again soon.

Sascha and Riem vow to serve only the freshest food and, with it being a little quiet, not everything on the menu is available every day. So Sascha recommends that diners phone ahead to allow the couple time to visit Kathu fresh market.

By the looks of things, my companion and I are set for a feast, beginning with a hearty and colorful seafood salad.

I simply love the diamond-shaped pattern cut into squid served here; perhaps because it allows more of the piquant dressing to penetrate it. The prawns dazzle our taste buds.

K. Riem removes our cleared plates, and allows us a few minutes to digest. There's



Right, irresistible *piece de resistance*, the unmuddled rudd with all the trimmings. Left, the duck curry and below, the hearty and colorful seafood salad.



# A LESSON IN FOOD

none of the frantic – and off-putting – depositing of the next course while we still chew the previous one. A gentle pace of dining from gentle people.

I go for a short stroll outside and, as if on cue, the Buddhist chanting ends just as a *mu-ezzin* in the distance calls the Muslim faithful to prayer. It is as appealing as church bells.

Suitably immersed in another culture, I sit down to one of my favorite dishes: *gaeng phet pet yang*. Duck curry, in other words.

K. Riem, whose looks belie the fact that she has been a professional chef for some 20 years, eschews the practice of throwing a handful of black grapes into this dish – my companion and I both prefer it without.

The duck has a velvet-like texture, and the sauce has rich undercurrents of flavor that linger long and pleasantly in the mouth. A word, too, about the rice; it is so often overcooked, but

here it retains the slight nuttiness of rice cooked just right.

Another pause – just long enough for Sascha to explain that Thai House is their third restaurant, their last one was in Khao Lak; 'nuff said – before the *piece de resistance* arrives: a magnificent pan-fried silver rudd with cashews and mixed vegetables.

Our jaws drop sufficiently at the sight of the *thai plaa thod kee mau* for Sascha and K. Riem to recognize our anticipatory pleasure. We dive in, and come up smiling.

The rudd is a freshwater fish, and I admit to having had too many muddy-tasting freshwater fish in Thailand. Our chap on the table, however, has sweet-tasting flesh and tons of it.

Blessed by the wonderful

sauce from K. Riem, the meat from this fine fellow is consumed with indecent haste, although I confess that we couldn't quite finish off the two-kilogram specimen. We should have brought more people along.

Another respite, and another wander outside, before dessert. "Dessert?" we cry as one. "We're full, *im maak maak!*"

But we are glad when the dessert – mixed fruits in warm coconut milk – arrives. It is a subtle variation on a theme, but one which has us trying to work out what the Dickens it reminds us of.

Watermelon, bananas and a few Thai fruits neither of us are familiar with are in there – and then an epiphany occurs. The overriding impression is of simple

bananas in custard, one of the staple desserts of any school dinner in the UK.

Sheer, unadulterated comfort food – and strangely appropriate, bearing in mind the proximity of BCIS.

Sated and staggering away, my companion and I have the following conversation:

Me: "'Splendid meal,' I thought. What did you think?"

Companion: "I thought, 'Splendid!' What did you think?"

Me: "'Splendid, I thought.'"

*Thai House 92/3 Soi Han Farang, Koh Kaew, Phuket. Currently open daily from around 5:30 pm to 11 pm, although soon to reopen for lunch. Tel: 09-7257814 or Email to: saschameissmer@gmx.de*

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Wichit

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The lower floor comprises a spacious living and dining area with doors opening onto a long, covered terrace with a beautiful garden view. The kitchen, maid's quarters and guest bathroom is also on this floor.

There is an extensive shady garden featuring various mature trees that complement a centrally-placed swimming pool.

On the upper floor there are two master bedrooms with well-designed bathrooms featuring both showers and Jacuzzis, as well as two mid-sized bedrooms with a shared bathroom.

The main area is fitted with luxurious decorations, pictures, lighting, and fans. On this floor, too, there is also a terrace overlooking the garden.

Utilities include seven air conditioners, a solar-cell power unit, water pump, telephone line, concrete driveways on both sides of the house and access to the public water supply.

Sweeping lawns surround the house and a large lagoon opposite the property is the ideal place for relaxing with the family.



The house, with chanote title, is for sale at 14 million baht.

For more information contact Phuket Land Service at Tel: 09-1954029 or 01-6935781, or E-mail: [info@phuketlandservice.com](mailto:info@phuketlandservice.com) or visit the website: [www.phuketlandservice.com](http://www.phuketlandservice.com)



Above, the elegant swimming pool. Below, the front of the house is almost hidden behind mature trees. Left, trees all around give the pool natural privacy. Below left, the interior of the home is spacious.



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## Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut



Of the 34 studio rooms (above), each of 48sqm, seven offer a large living area with a private garden.

KARON: Located on a four-rai plot just a short walk from Karon Beach, The Phulin Resort (Phuket) is positioned as a standard hotel offering deluxe service.

Construction of this 79-room boutique resort, a new subsidiary of the Briza Resort Group (BRG), was due to be completed on July 15 for an August opening.

BRG opened its first five-star hotel in Khao Lak, and has subsequently invested more than 600 million baht in their two newest hotels, The Briza Beach Resort & Spa Hotel Samui and The Phulin Resort.

The Phulin is a three-star hotel, but, Nijjaporn Marprasert, BRG's Group General Manager, points out, "One of our selling points is that we have a human resources team that offers five-star service."

"Tourists' needs vary. Some like a sea view while others like on-site activities, and we provide both. Our location isn't right on the beach, so we don't charge as much as a five-star hotel," he said.

The Phulin's 18 standard rooms, each of 24 square meters, are fully equipped with an air conditioner, bathroom amenities, color television with satellite channels, telephone with IDD, a refrigerator and a personal safe.

The Phulin Resort boasts 27 deluxe rooms of 38sqm each, comprising five rooms with pool access, four rooms with pond decks and the remaining 18 rooms on the second and third floors. All feature a day bed, dining table, private balcony and pantry with all necessary kitchenware, a microwave oven, a toaster, a DVD

## Deluxe service, three-star price



Although the Phulin Resort is a three-star hotel, the fine finishing touches give the rooms a five-star feel.

player and coffee- and tea-making facilities.

There will be 34 studio rooms on the ground floor, each of 48sqm. Seven of these offer a spacious living area with a private garden. Each of the other studio rooms will consist of a bedroom and a living room in addition to a day bed, dining table and pantry.

Resort facilities include an Internet corner and a 30-seater conference room.

K Nijjaporn explained that the Phulin will attend equally to

comfort and to function. "Our beds are larger than regular beds, for example. The concept is to exemplify an 'easy way of life' to make customers feel at home and that they are getting value for money."

"This is a difficult time for Phuket," K. Nijjaporn observed. "However, we believe that tourism will be back to normal soon. We expect an average occupancy rate of 50% from August to December this year."

"According to our business forecast for next year, we will be on target if we achieve an average occupancy rate of 40%."

"We started marketing early this year, and received good feedback from the Scandinavian market, which forms 50% of Phuket's hotel market," he said. "Japan, another important market, also gave us a positive response."

"Koh Samui is booming now, but we still believe in the growth potential of tourism and the hotel industry in Phuket."

For more information, contact Tel: 076-398327-9 or 398380. Email: [info@thephulin.com](mailto:info@thephulin.com) or visit Web: [www.thephulin.com](http://www.thephulin.com)

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## DECOR

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

# Home show all the go

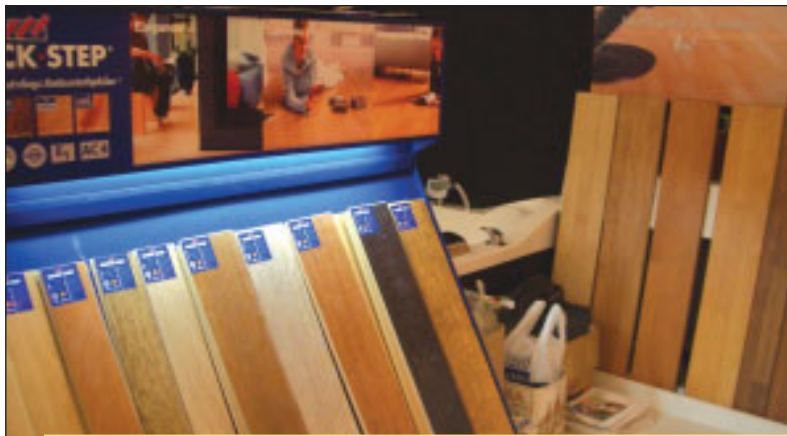
The Architect & Engineering Exhibition 2005, held from July 7 to 10 at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, saw many people check out the latest designs, and current prices, of home decor, and fixtures and fittings available in Phuket.

Organized by Delice Thai, this year's event featured one-stop shopping for home builders and hotel managers, lightweight structural and roofing systems from Europe and America, artificial surfaces and nano-technology products, construction materials from more than 100 different manufacturers and importers, numerous pool and spa products, and more.

For those who missed the show, here are a few pictures of what was on display.



**ONE-STOP SHOP:** (clockwise, from top) Home furniture, bathtubs, stone flooring and paving tablets, whirlpool baths and showers, wood floors and decking were all available at the show.



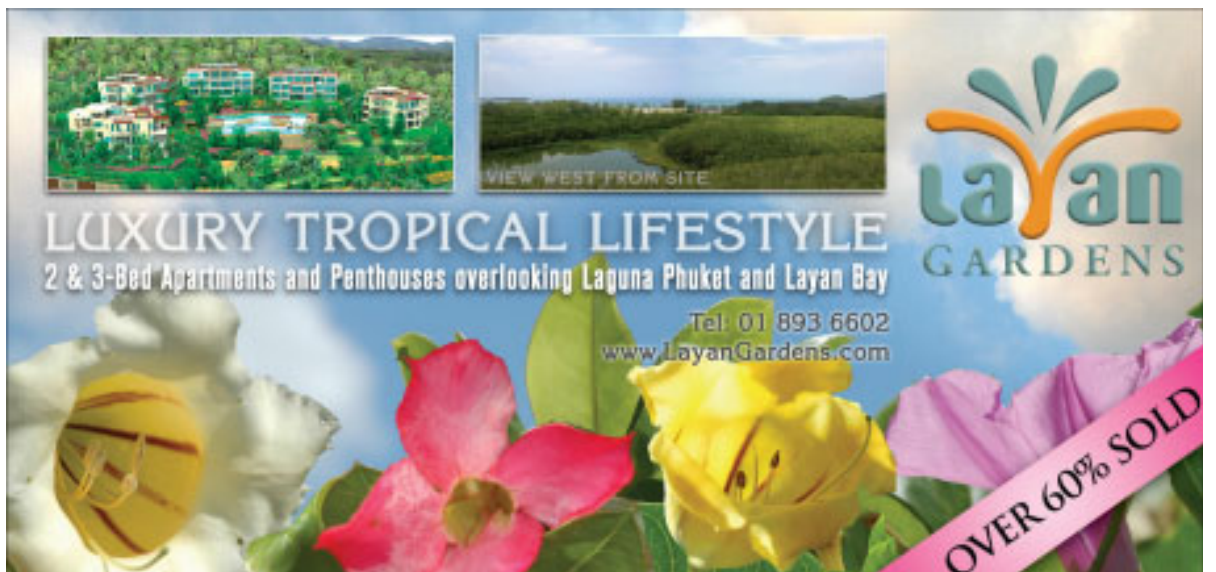
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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# GRAND OLD MAN OF THE GARDEN

This is a column about gardening, which you probably know because it says so at the top. Well it's supposed to be about gardening. Proper gardening columnists write about how to plant things in the backyard and give handy hints about adjusting the pH balance of soils, how plant A will complement – or compliment – plant B perfectly, with their natural balance of hues.

That is pushing it a bit. Do they really imagine plants have conversations and compliment one another on how good they look?

"Good grief, Petunia, you look absolutely stunning today. Your petals go perfectly with mine." I think not. Maybe I just don't get it.

That's probably the point, though. These grizzled, elderly gentlemen with traces of soil under their fingernails probably actually know what they are talking about.

Who knows, I might eventually become one of those little garden gnomes one day, sitting at the bottom of my garden muttering contentedly, keeping myself amused. No doubt there will be a bottle of beer there somewhere.

As you probably know, I am a long way from being a "proper" gardener and I often talk about what you probably do not grow in Phuket. Last week I prattled on about the strangling fig, so I thought I would have a look to day at its close relative – the banyan tree. In Thai it is known as *don sai*.

This has got to be the old man of any garden. If this tree were human, it would be wearing slippers, smoking a pipe and bellyaching about the young people of today, and how life is not like it used to be.

The reason you will probably never plant one in your garden is that to become in any way impressive it has to have been doing the business of growing for several generations. If you want to plant a tree that your grandchildren can enjoy in the autumn years of their lives, then the banyan is absolutely perfect.

This mammoth tree is more than a little unusual in the world of plants, in that it appears to grow down rather than up. Once



**WHO GIVES A FIG?** In old age, a banyan tree may have the appearance of a small forest.

the tree has established itself and spread out a few branches in the usual upwards and sideways manner, it feels the need to spread elsewhere – downward.

It sprouts numerous aerial roots from its branches, which dangle and reach down until they hit some kind of medium in which they can grow. At that point they burrow down and establish themselves as roots in the traditional sense, and grow underground.

In time, these become thicker and thicker, and slowly become additional or "accessory" trunks for the same tree. In old age, a single banyan may have the appearance of a small forest.

The largest banyan tree

known is on Sri Lanka, and has 350 major trunks and several thousand smaller ones.

The name of the tree originally comes from its ancestral home – India. It is from the Hindu word for "trader", because in places where banyans are found,

traders and merchants use the shade to display their wares.

The banyan tree, also known as the East Indian Fig, has heart-shaped leaves about 15 centimeters long. The fruit, when it appears, is scarlet, not much bigger than a cherry, and grows

in pairs from the axils of the leaves.

If you do decide to grow a banyan, then pick the location carefully. Over its lifetime, the tree may spread over a huge area; it can grow up to around 30 meters in height, and many meters in girth.

The safest way to avoid an insidious invasion of your garden is to grow the banyan tree indoors. This is not as daft as it sounds; many people in more temperate regions grow them in their living rooms as a largish *bonsai*.

Limiting its growth in a pot will restrain its tyrannical tendencies. A banyan is quite content in a pot, but just like an old man, it will complain bitterly if it has to move.

Banyans will often show their displeasure by dropping their leaves, especially if they're shifted from a spot with high light levels to a more shaded part of the house. They are quite content to be neglected for long periods, and will not complain in air conditioning.

These plants benefit from regular pruning and can be cut to whatever shape you want, if pruned regularly. Like all figs, it will weep a milky sap when the branch is cut. This stuff is a bit poisonous, so you should probably wear gloves.

A banyan tree in my garden will be the perfect tree for me when I am in my dotage. Once I become a grizzled, elderly gentleman with traces of soil under my fingernails, that is. I wonder if Heineken will still be available then?

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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New house located in Kathu, in a small, private development, rural setting. Convenient for golf courses and supermarkets, 9 minutes to Patong. A 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom bungalow with a large living room, kitchen-dining room, off-road parking and internal verandahs. Land approximately 340sqm. Asking 3.5m baht. Tel: 076-321954, 04-8439579. Fax: 076-323-421. Email: [somsrijenner@lycos.com](mailto:somsrijenner@lycos.com)

### LAND & HOUSE

House and 5 rai of land for sale in Lor Yung, on Phetkasem Rd in Phang Nga. A good location and available at an interesting price. Tel: 076-341032, 01-8918755. Fax: 076-341032. Email: [info@easythailandproperty.com](mailto:info@easythailandproperty.com) or [supawadee@easythailandproperty.com](mailto:supawadee@easythailandproperty.com)

### FANTASTIC LAND

Panwa Bay, nearly 1 rai, concrete road, electricity, etc. View of ocean and surrounding islands. Near 5-star hotels. Only 7.8 million baht. Tel: 076-212248, 01-8929592. Fax: 076-355326. Email: [kodesh32@hotmail.com](mailto:kodesh32@hotmail.com)

### LAND IN RAWAI

for sale. Good land, 4.5 rai, in a good location, a quiet area with many trees. Soi Ruamjai. Asking 13 million baht. Tel: 01-6939571.

### PARLAI GREEN NEAR

zoo. Good location with easy access to main road. Perfect for quiet, peaceful home, 200 meters to the sea. Asking 10 million baht per 2.2 rai. Tel: 076-388156.

### ALL-IN-ONE PLOT

Plot with waterfall and sea view for sale. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-8918082. Email: [seagullphuket@hotmail.com](mailto:seagullphuket@hotmail.com)

### AO POR

beachfront. Asking 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8938747.

### STUNNING SEA VIEW



Located in Chalong, 4.5 rai with unbelievable view and Nor Sor 3 Gor title. Asking 3.1 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8938747.

### HOUSES IN NAI HARN

for sale. Two-story house on 1 rai for 6.5 million baht. A 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house on 1 rai with nice garden, asking 6.5 million baht. New, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house, asking 2.4 million baht. Tel: 076-288199.

### SOI NAKOK SEAVIEW

4 rai. 324 square wah with sea view on Soi Nakok, near Phuket Island Spa, Chalong Bay, Sapan Hin and Phuket Town. Asking 15 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-4771002.

### SINGLE HOUSE

3-bedroom house for sale. One room with air conditioner. European-style kitchen and some furniture. Tel: 05-2167619.

### PATONG STUNNING

sea view. Almost beachfront. Asking 7.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8938747.

### NICE HOUSE

Patong. A house in Patong and a house in Kamala for sale. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-292596, 06-2678477. Fax: 076-292596. Email: [tourniechristian@hotmail.com](mailto:tourniechristian@hotmail.com) Website: [www.thailandhouse.facite.com](http://www.thailandhouse.facite.com)

### SEA VIEW – 7 RAI

Land for sale. Panorama sea view over Chalong Bay, Phuket City, Rawai, islands. Asking 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 06-2761831.

### CHALONG SEAVIEW

Almost one rai for 2.9 million baht. Tel: 07-8938747.

### CHALONG CIRCLE

Kata hill. Seven rai on the main road to Kata, overlooking Chalong Bay. Asking 25 million baht. Tel: 01-6939571.

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in Paradise Complex for sale or lease. Please contact for details. Tel: 06-2827779 or please see our website at: [www.phuketdir.com/pranee](http://www.phuketdir.com/pranee)

### LAND FOR SALE

1 rai. Asking 1.3 million baht. Near Thalang Hospital. Please contact Khun Pasit. Tel: 06-6269899.

### MANY PLOTS

at land & house.

- 75 sq wah, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom fully furnished house: 2.8 million baht.

- 75 sq wah house: 2.7 million baht.

Also have: one rai opposite Mission Hills golf course, 1.99 million baht; half rai close to sea, 950,000 baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-8920213. Email: [relaxphuket@thailand.com](mailto:relaxphuket@thailand.com)

### NAI HARN, RAWAI,

Chalong. Land for sale. Prices per rai start at 1.7 million for sea view. Tel: 01-5376866.

### STUNNING SEA VIEW,

Chalong. Three rai for sale. Asking 3.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 09-6525664.

### LAND IN PA KHLOK

(Phuket). 10-rai parcel with Chanote in Pa Khlok area. Contact for details. Email: [jit\\_thailand@hotmail.com](mailto:jit_thailand@hotmail.com)

### NAI HARN 1 RAI

Land with Chanote title. Asking 2.4 million per rai. Tel: 07-8938747.

### PRIME BUILDING

land in Kathu. 1,200sqm with Ltd Co. for sale. Photo available. Offers welcome. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-202473, 01-5696-910. Email: [nik@indigosiam.com](mailto:nik@indigosiam.com)

### BEACH FRONT

Rawai. Five rai for sale. Asking 7.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-5376866.

### 10 RAI

Full sea view. 10 rai for sale in Phuket City. Asking price: 3.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8938747.

### 35-ROOM HOTEL

Exclusive boutique hotel for sale. An excellent investment opportunity. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-6491963. Email: [ctmrn@yahoo.com](mailto:ctmrn@yahoo.com)

### 3 RAI, SEA VIEW

at Layan. Spectacular sea view, 3-rai plot, direct beach access just 2 minutes away. For sale by owner, only US\$75,000 per 1,600sqm. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-7371688. Fax: 076-324099. Email: [riding@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:riding@loxinfo.co.th)

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# Property Gazette

## Accommodation Available

### ROOMS TO LET

Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished, with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water, car park. 183 baht a day. Contact for details. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

**HOUSE TO SHARE,** Chalong. 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom furnished house with TV, ADSL, and washer, to share in Chalong. Asking 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-282466. Email: thecollected@hotmail.com

**PATONG LUXURY** apartments. Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. For information and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

**SUVIMOL** Apartments. New, furnished rooms with air conditioner, key card, refrigerator and maid service, for 4,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-6072489.

**1-BEDROOM - KATHU** 1-bedroom apartment in Kathu: 8,000 baht/month. Furnished, aircon, fully renovated, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, golf course view. 55sqm. For long-term rental only. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-319003, 01-8932575. Email: pjsunset@samart.co.th

### HOTEL PROMOTION

Low season, long-stay, spa & pool. Many facilities. Price only 17,500 baht/month. Beachfront. Call for more details. Tel: 076-345518, 01-8920038.

## Accommodation Wanted

### LONG-TERM RENTAL

55-year-old French couple looking for a nice furnished house or apartment in which to live for about two years in a calm and beautiful environment very close to a nice beach. We are looking for a peaceful place with high-speed Internet access. Now at Kata Beach until July 15, when we would like to look at new possibilities. Beginning of rental could be at any time this year, depending on availability. Please contact me if you have something you think might be of interest. Tel: 078-921979. Email: phdesbordes@laposte.net

### LONG LEASE

wanted. Two professional Phuket residents looking for 3- or 4-bedroom house north of Phuket. Ideally furnished, but pool, ASDL and privacy a must! Realistic rent for a long lease (1-3 years). Email: vokman@yahoo.com

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### RENTAL WANTED

Two male travelers will be in Phuket from July 14 through August 9, doing volunteer work. We need housing. All accommodations will be considered. Email with specifics. Email: benjamin.hewitt@colorado.edu

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### SHIPPING CONTAINER

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## Household Items

### GAS STOVE

Baloma gas stove, for sale at half-price. Double burner, no rust. 600 baht. Tel: 09-291-3641. Email: sayan40@hotmail.com

### SHOWER HEATER

Sharp shower heater. A few months old. 1,000 baht. Tel: 09-2913641. Email: sayan40@hotmail.com

**EXPAT MOVING SALE** Everything less than 2 years old.

- Chinese TV cabinet: 10,000 baht
  - TV: 3,000 baht
  - Washing machine: 6,000 baht
  - Football table: 5,000
  - Teak garden table (extends to seat 8) plus 4 chairs: 25,000 baht (cost 55,000)
  - Teak sun lounge with cushion: 10,000 baht.
- Tel: 07-8828147. Email: brophydebbie@hotmail.com

### VERTICAL BLINDS

tracks and brackets. Approx 38m for 9 windows. Call for window sizes. 12,000 baht. Tel: 076-288050, 04-189-8419. Email: albertjames1940@hotmail.com

### GERMAN MOVIES

on video cassettes. 120 movies and TV series: 3,000 baht. Email: phuketopportunity@hotmail.com

### BILLIARD TABLE

Great billiard table for sale. Only 23,000 baht. Tel: 05-0690525. Email: beatduss@orchid-services.com

### MUST SELL

Ikea kitchen cabinets for sale at 6,500 baht: (Refer to photo) the section above measures 30cm deep x 150cm wide x 51cm high; the section below (with a faux butcher's block countertop) measures 60cm deep x 150cm wide x 92cm high. Tel: 076-288850, 01-6930767. Email: mikaam@hotmail.com

### BABY GRAND PIANO

Yamaha, 3 years old, perfect condition. 435,000 baht or best offer. Contact for more details. Tel: 01-7541584. Email: spb499@hotmail.com

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## Property Services

### ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Advice on all electrical issues. UK registered. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-6919907. Email: phuketelectrician@yahoo.co.uk

### PHUKET/MARBELLA

villa management. Your wish is our command. Cleaning, gardening, pool upkeep, all to 5-star standard. Bill paying/ accounting, visa services also available. For more details. Tel: 076-271544. Fax: 076-271545. Email: jziment@yahoo.com

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The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
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tel: 076 238 803  
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Email: info@leemarine.com

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The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Contact: Andrew de Bruin  
Mobile: 01 894 1530  
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Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

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## ONE LASER LEFT

One laser sailboat left for anyone who is interested. Give me a call or an email to arrange a time to come look at this excellent boat. All equipment and a few extras, going for 60,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-8979987. Email: frasergow@hotmail.com

## TEAKWOOD VESSEL

23m teakwood boat with Hino engine. Ideal for conversion to tour or dive boat. Seller can assist with design and construction. Offered as is, at 1.5 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-6500957. Email: thavorn@andamandolphin.com

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48 Ft 87/88 Dutch Pilot, Def 2x140 Hp turbo US\$150,000	57 Ft 1995 Lagoon 57, Yanmar 2x45 Hp US\$950,000
39 Ft 90/00 Searay 390 Custom, Cat 2x385 Hp THB7,300,000	44 Ft 1976 Peterson 44, Yanmar 1x45 Hp US\$85,000
36 Ft 1994 Island Gypsy, Perkins 2x225 Hp US\$169,000	38 Ft 2003 Athena Cats (2 sister boats), 2xYanmar 19 Hp US\$245,000

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## BASED IN PHUKET (at Impiana Phuket Cabana)

### RESIDENT MANAGER

Applicants for this position should possess more than 6 years' experience in managing resort hotels and currently be holding a senior management position. Preference will be given to applicants who have experience in pre-opening resorts/hotels, with strong skills in Sales & Marketing, F&B operations and activities, and possess good interpersonal and leadership skills. Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumé not later than 30th July 2005 to the General Manager at: cabana@phuket.ksc.co.th

### DEPARTMENT HEADS: Food & Beverage, Front Office, Engineering, Spa, Sales & Public Relations

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree with minimum 3 years' experience in the same position. Good command of written and spoken English, with strong leadership skills.

### ASSISTANT LEVEL: Chief Steward, Bar Manager, Night Manager, Reservations Manager, Events Sales Manager, Credit Manager

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**F/O Department** : F/O Supervisor, Chief Receptionist, Receptionist, Operator, Bell man and Driver

**Housekeeping Department** : Office Clerk, Room Maid, Room Boy, Cleaner, Gardener

**Engineering Department** : Engineer (specialist in mechanics & air-conditioning)

**Accounting Department** : Purchase Supervisor, A/C Receivable, Front Cashier, Night Audit, Restaurant Cashier and Checker

**Spa Department** : Spa Receptionist, Therapists

Applicants must have minimum 2 years' experience in a related field, good command of written and spoken English, strong customer service skills and a good personality.

**BASED IN KOH SAMUI (at Impiana Resort Samui): Executive Sous-Chef and Lady Chef**  
Experience in fusion cuisine; good command of English and able to create and design menus and recipes. Pleasant personality and good management skills with strong leadership approach.

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Bachelor's degree minimum 3 years' experience, good command of written and spoken English, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, self-motivated, result-oriented and able to work independently.

Interested candidates are invited to send their resumé a recent photo to the address below:

Personnel Manager Impiana Phuket Cabana

41 Taweewong Road, Patong Beach, Phuket

Tel: 076 341494 Fax: 076 344310 or Email: pncabana@samart.co.th



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Teacher of ESL  
Teacher of Mandarin (part-time)  
Teacher of Design Technology (part-time)  
Librarian

Prospective candidates are expected to have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent plus relevant educational qualifications. Applications from less experienced candidates are welcome.

IGCSE and IB experience is an advantage. Candidates should email a short letter of application, CV, recent photograph and email/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: konitthai@bris-phuket.org

Interviews will be held in Phuket in July.

An attractive package is offered, with details available on application. Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: [www.bris-phuket.org](http://www.bris-phuket.org)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasatthi Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200, Thailand  
Tel: (076) 238711-20 Fax: (076) 238 749-50

### ENGLISH TEACHER

Darasamut School requires an English teacher for grades 4-6, to teach English vocabulary. Experience required. Please see Sister Meena at Darasamut Catholic School or please call Tel: 01-805-6801.

### BARTENDER

Small hotel in Patong looking for experienced female bartender; must speak some English. Please contact Khun Jip for more information. Tel: 076-340464, 07-8871733. Email: whharris042004@hotmail.com

### NEW INTERNET CAFE

needs female, age 20-30 years, with computer skills and good at speaking English, or experience with Internet cafe work. Must be service-minded. Please contact us. Tel: 076-296381. Email: skynet\_phuket@yahoo.com

### ACCOUNTS CLERK

wanted. Good spoken and written English, computer skills. 1 year experience, position available immediately. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 076-273504. Email: info@marinasystemsinternational.com

### MANGOSTEEN

marketing team. The Mangosteen sales department is looking for several assistants with excellent English skills and computer knowledge. Experience in marketing in the hotel and real-estate business required. Please submit your CV (with income requirement) by email, or by fax or contact for more info. Tel: 076-289399. Fax: 076-289389. Email: opsmanager@mangosteen-phuket.com

### ACCOUNTANT

required. Diving and Adventures Company in Karon seeks Accountant. Thai or Foreign nationals may apply. Candidates will be computer-literate Accounting graduates with three years of relevant working experience and a fair command of written and spoken English. Attractive salary for the right person. Please send resumé to 393 Patak Rd, Karon, Muang, Phuket, 83100, Thailand, or contact. Tel: 01-8927847, 076-398-364. Fax: 076-398365. Email: holiday@liveaboard-thailand.com

### FULL TIME

secretary. Real estate agency needs a secretary. Good English, computer skills. Tel: 04-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

### SALES

Computer-literate salesperson wanted with excellent spoken and written English, and sales and marketing track record. Able to learn quickly, work independently, and able to drive a car. Driving license required. Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: charter@thaimarine.com

### F&B STAFF NEEDED

Sala Samui Resort and Spa, a newly-opened luxury resort on Koh Samui, requires experienced food and beverage service staff. Knowledge of both written and spoken English and experience in four- and 5-star resorts or hotels is required. Tel: 077-245888, Fax: 077-245889. Email: hrsamui@salasamui.com

### ACCOUNTING MANAGER WANTED

Asiadebit Thailand is looking for an accounting manager to handle accounting issues for our Thai operation. The applicant must have the following qualifications:

- Good spoken and written English
- Ability to work independently
- Thai accounting license
- Internet experience

The right person will be working with an energetic team and have great possibilities and new experiences. Please send your CV to Khun Oil. Tel: 076-282211. Email: oil@asiadebit.com

### PROJECT

coordinator needed. Fluent in Thai and English; computer literate, with excellent secretarial skills. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-325-667, 01-9145119. Fax: 076-324313. Email: info@acquaphuket.com

### SECRETARY/PA

Looking for office assistant for hotel & real estate sales. Must speak good English and have computer and accounting skills. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-0778454.

## TREETOPS ARASIA

Life's different up here.

A luxurious boutique resort hotel of 48 suites, located on Surin Hill, overlooking Surin Beach and the Andaman Sea, is inviting applicants for the following positions:

### ○ EVOLVE @ SPA ARASIA

Spa Manager/Assistant Spa Manager  
Spa Therapists  
Spa Attendants  
Fitness Instructor

### ○ MOM TRI'S BOATHOUSE AT TREETOPS ARASIA

Food & Beverage Supervisor  
Food & Beverage Service Attendants

### ○ FRONT OFFICE

Resort Host Supervisor/Resort Host

### ○ ENGINEERING

Mechanic

### ○ ACCOUNTING

Store & Receiving

Attractive salary, fringe benefits and career opportunities are offered to the successful candidates.

Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person by July 31, 2005 to:

Human Resources Manager

125 Moo 3, Surin Beach, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel: (076) 271 271

Fax: (076) 271 270 email: hr@treetops-arasias.com

Find more Recruitment Classifieds  
at  
[www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)!



# Island Job Mart

## Phukana

**Wine and Music**, a leading 5-star place located in Phuket town, is now looking for applicants to join our team in the following positions:

### Manager

- Male
- Experience in a restaurant and good knowledge of wine
- Fluent English is required

### Receptionist

- Female, age not over 30
- Experience in a related field
- Good command of English

### Cashier

- Female
- Must have a guarantor

### Waitress

- Female, 18-25 years of age
- Experience in a related field
- Good command of English

### Chef & Assistant Chef

- Experience in Thai & Western cooking

### Kitchen Staff

### Housekeeper

- Female

Interested candidates are invited to contact K. Kwan. Tel: (01) 892-4337. Phukana Co., Ltd. 6 Maeluan Road, Tambon Talad Yai, Muang Phuket 83000.



## Bali's Leading Holiday Ownership Company

Following the opening of our New Sales Deck in Kuta, Bali, we need:

### Sales Consultants

Top Commission Paid, Legal Work Permits provided, Good Career Opportunities for the right person/s

Be a part of the future of Holiday Ownership  
Phone Udo on 010 918 086

or email  
tina@island-dreams-int.com  
Visit our website at:

[www.island-dreams-int.com](http://www.island-dreams-int.com)

Experienced Reps and Closers only

### (OIL)FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER

An International Oil & Gas Service Company invites suitably qualified people to apply for the post of Field Service Engineer. Minimum skills/experience required:

- Fluent English
- 5 years of experience in drilling/down-hole tools
- Ability to work unsupervised.
- Current (and clean) driving license.
- Currently based in Asia-Pacific region

Interested parties should email their application letter and CV. Email: fraser@andergauge.com

### PHUKET ISLAND

Living is opening in Phuket. Showroom/office manager: bachelor's degree with a major in English an advantage; 3 years or more experience in secretarial work or office administration; excellent command of spoken and written English; accurate typing skills; able to operate MS Office. For more information, please contact Khun Wassana Devore at Tel: 01-7005549 for more information.

### RESTAURANT

staff. Preferably with experience, English speaking. 2 positions, Nai Harn. Serious offer for serious people. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9560204.

### SECRETARY

required to work in a real estate office. Must have computer skills and be able to read, write and speak English. Some knowledge of sales would be an advantage. Offering a good salary for the right person. Please contact Phuket Island Real Estate Co., Ltd. Tel: 076-341871. Email: sales@phuketislandrealestate.com

### SECRETARY NEEDED

Looking for a Thai female or male secretary, who speaks good English and has a driver's license and computer skills. Must know Excel and be able to move to Pattaya. Salary 4,000-5,000 baht/week. Non-smoker only. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-248827, 04-7444807. Fax: 076-248826. Email: toddteal@mail.com

### WEB DESIGN, SEO,

PHP work. Require experienced web designer with SEO expertise and PHP programming skills minimum. Either full-time job or company that can provide these services. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com For more details, see our website at: [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

### BOOKKEEPER

wanted. Min 3 years' experience, knowledge of Quickbooks Pro. Office near Wat Chalong. Email: bic1@phuket.ksc.co.th



Paradise Group Limited is a Property Developer • Property Management • Architecture • Interior Design & Entertainment company located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket, is seeking for a qualify and energetic persons to fulfill in the position below:

### CHIEF ACCOUNTANT/FINANCIAL

- ▶ Bachelor's degree or higher in Accounting/ Financial Controller Management
- ▶ Minimum 7 years' experience in Accounting/ Financial in Real Estate Businesses
- ▶ Sound knowledge of Thai taxes/Laws/Statutory Regulations
- ▶ Strong leadership, managerial skills & able to work independently
- ▶ Ability to communicate effectively in English
- ▶ Able to work in Phuket

Interested candidates, please send full resumé and expected salary by fax or e-mail to:

Rungnapa Sakdiwong, Administration Manager  
Paradise Group: The Plaza Surin, 5/50 Moo 3,  
Chengthalay, Thalang, Phuket, 83110.  
Fax: 076 271242 Email: onn@paradisepuket.com

## Employment Wanted

### JOB WANTED

24-year-old service-minded Filipina with pleasant personality seeks a job. Capable of adapting to a changing environment, good command of written and spoken English and German, with experience in waitressing, housekeeping and baby care. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-7441520.

### SWEDISH LESSONS

Do you or your kids want to learn Swedish or English? I can help you with that from November 1, 2005 - April 1, 2006. Please call or send me an email for more information, if you are interested. Tel: +46-467063737. Email: picassocat@hotmail.com

### GERMAN LAWYER,

age 43, is looking for a job in Thailand, especially Phuket. Not necessarily in law business. I also have experience in commerce/trade, diving and semi-professional German cooking. Always willing and able to try something new. Please contact me. Email: jobinlos@gmx.de for more information.

### SEEKING RELEVANT

employment. British male with a BA in Thai Language and South East Asian Studies, and work experience in Thailand, is looking for suitable work. Has experience working in British police, hotels worldwide, travel industry and sales and marketing. Flexible, personable and willing to learn. Thank you. Email: saxbyalex@hotmail.com

### SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR

International Sales and Marketing Director (40) is looking for a new challenge. Great experience in building up and leading efficient teams with 'Must Win' attitudes and: - Working in developing countries - Building up new branches/subsidiaries - Implementing channel strategies - Introduction/establishment of new products - Working in start-up situations, and - Developing new markets I am a team player with strong ability to motivate and develop people. I speak English and German, and have working experience in Asia and Europe. Email: muenchen1@gmx.net

### ENGLISH TEACHER

Australian male English teacher with TEFL is seeking employment at a hotel, resort or golf course. With the high season approaching, it is important that your staff speak good English, so give me the opportunity to teach them in a fun and friendly way. Tel: 04-0541269. Email: kimbofive@hotmail.com

### NANNY/COOK

I can make all types of Thai food and some European food. I was cooking on a dive boat before the tsunami. I have also worked in Holland. Please let me know if you might have any work for me. Tel: 076-202816, 01-6067417. Email: watchreec@yahoo.com

### PROPERTY SCOUT

If any company needs a property scout, please let me know. I'm available now. Tel: 076-286071, 09-1968429. Fax: 076-286071. Email: amorn9999@yahoo.com



### Construction Quality Manager

J.D. Pools is the premier swimming pool company in Thailand. We are currently seeking a Construction Quality Manager to set the highest standards on the construction site.

### Requirements:

Minimum 3 years' working experience in construction, preferably in pool building, degree in construction, good leadership and motivational skills, ability to manage construction projects and to focus on customer expectations. Good command of spoken English.

Please send your CV and recent photograph to [norbert@jdpools.com](mailto:norbert@jdpools.com) or call direct 01-8916143.

### GAY MALE FOR HOTEL

in Portugal. Looking for gay young Thai male to work in a gay guesthouse in Portugal. Gardening, swimming pool handling, cooking, receiving guests. Please send background information and photo. Tel: 351-284434105. Email: quintadafe@clix.pt

### LAW FIRM

Looking for secretary and paralegal. Send resumé for appointment. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

### SPA MANAGER

We are looking for a Spa Manager and female Receptionist. Nationality not important. Tel: 04-8478352.

### NANNY/MAID

required. Live in. Must speak fluent English. Good pay and conditions. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7025479.

### URGENTLY NEEDED

Housekeeper/cook; gardener/driver/maintenance man; English-speaking language teachers for Spanish, French and Thai lessons; music teachers for guitar, piano and singing lessons; personal fitness instructor. Excellent conditions and pay. English-speaker required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-7871752, 01-978-4773. Email: mjoneilluk@yahoo.co.uk

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### UNIQUE FURNITURE



Beautiful pieces from Suzhou, China. Dark timber china cabinet, opium chair, coffee table, carved mirror & vase. Tel: 076-385768, 06-2707031. Email: dgfrns@hotmail.com

### DOUBLE BED

including brand-new (still in packaging) mattress. 10,000 baht. Please email to: info@sunoffabeach.com

### DVD COLLECTION

Over 100 DVDs. Must sell. Please call for more info. Tel: 04-8106205.

### RESTAURANT

furniture and equipment. Brand-new restaurant furniture and equipment for sale. Great prices – everything must go. Tel: 07-9795048.

### GOLF SET FOR SALE

Full set with bag, including: - MacGregor Irons CG1800 with True Temper iron shafts (sandwedge to iron 3)

- MacGregor Fairway woods CG1800 with Grafalloy Attack Lite graphite shafts (5 and 3)

- 2-ball putter

- Callaway Big Bertha 11.5 degree driver

- New Pro Tour grips on all clubs.

A good set for the beginner up to the medium player. Only 15,000 baht. Tel: 04-844-9360. Email: johanh@loxinfo.co.th

### 40GB DISK DRIVE

2 1/2" Hitachi disk drive. 40 GB. Suitable for use in laptop computer or disk enclosure. 1,500 baht only. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9783089.

### USB VIDEO CAPTURE

Dazzle USB video capture card VC80. Capture from video camera or cassette player to mpeg. Composite or s-video input. All cables and installation disks. 1,500 baht only. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9783089.

### JVC DVD PLAYER

JVC 266 DVD player. 14 months old. Perfect working order. Cost 5,000 baht. Will sell for 1,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-8831190. Email: farangcd@yahoo.com

## Bulletins

### Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

#### Phuket City

Mission Hospital

on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital

on Fri at 7 pm

#### Patong

Patong Hospital

on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun

at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call

012732053 (Scandinavian),

018954763 (English) or

018912895 (Frank)

## Business Opportunities

### GUESTHOUSE

for lease. Guesthouse for rent with 25 rooms and a 9-year lease contract. No key money. Great location, 70m from the beach. Fee: 160,000 baht a month. Don't miss it! Tel: 06-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, pls see our website at: www.ayudhya.net/english/show.php?property\_ID=305

### SHOPHOUSES

for sale. 3 floors, 160sqm, located opposite Simon Cabaret on busy road between Patong and Karon. Asking 4.2 million baht, for quick sale. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9684575.

### WORKING SHAREHOLDER

Wanted: Working investor to join highly successful technology-based company in Phuket. Established 6 years with 2 shops and 16 employees. You must:

1. Be living in Thailand
2. Have experience in business
3. Have some Thai-language skill
4. Be prepared to work hard
5. Have between 4 and 10 million baht, subject to amount of investment, for which you will receive a work permit, car and medical care, and a good salary with a high return on investment.

This is a very serious offer, so I would appreciate serious replies only, please. Email: louj@mail2world.com

### OFFICE FOR RENT

2-story office with 15 computers for rent opposite Robinson. Tel: 076-250538, 09-875-1166. Email: ppcabana@dreamwiz.com

### CAFFI FOR SALE

Trendy caffi at Surin Beach with all assets for sale. Selling due to family commitments. Tel: 01-8636294.

### RESTAURANT

and guesthouse available for 6.5-year lease in Karon. European-style kitchen, 36-seat air-conditioned restaurant, 2 TVs, UBC & sound system. 5 air-conditioned guest rooms with hot water, TV and full UBC satellite system. Small staff room and office. Thai registered company included, ready to start your business now. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-591-4044, 01-8936072. Email: beefeater\_karon@hotmail.com

### PATONG

Guesthouse for sale with Chanote: six rooms, living quarters and minimart. Asking 4.5 million baht. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 07-8887-676. Email: homeawaypatong@hotmail.com

### NIGHTCLUB

for sale. Exclusive nightclub in central Patong; fully equipped with stage, professional DJ equipment and VIP lounge. Contract until 31-12-2009. Before 2.5 million baht, now 1.7 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-292523, 06-6911516. Email: venus@patong.biz Website: www.patong.biz/venus

### FOR URGENT LEASE

One-floor, three-room shop-house now for lease in Kata business center. Please call Khun Sinny for more information. Tel: 01-9798540.

### INVESTOR

Active investor or silent partner sought for beer garden and for beach bar. Please email at: phuketopportunity@hotmail.com

### NEW RESTAURANT

for lease. 60-seat, air-conditioned restaurant for lease in 3-story, new building, fully equipped, in Phuket City. Tel: 01-7872869.

### HOTEL IN AO NANG,

Krabi, for sale. 17 rooms and restaurant on the main road; incredible mountain view. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8935105. Email: we\_are95@hotmail.com

### PROFITABLE BIZ

One of a kind; monthly net profit 120,00 baht. Price: 2.5 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-0808557.

### BAR FOR SALE

Patong. 5-star luxury nightclub. 3-4 entertainment licenses, work permits, Thai company. Cost to build: 12 million baht, selling for 6 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-8817600. For further details, please see our website at: www.homebarphuket.com

### BARS FOR LEASE

15 beer bars for lease near Simon Entertainment on Soi Bangla, next to Tiger Discotheque. 3 + 3-year contract. All new, opening November 15. Please call Mr Kees. Tel: 01-8267129 for more information.

### SMALL SPA

for sale, Patong. Includes healthy yearly profit and 900,000 baht in investment. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-233348, 01-8958837. Fax: 076-212901. Email: siripornp@asianwind.biz

### CAFFI EUROPA KRABI

Scandinavian restaurant with 40 seats + guesthouse with 6 rooms. Sale includes building and company with 2 work permits. Well-established business, 15 years with the same owner. Price: 7 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-5910584. Email: henrik\_krabi@hotmail.com

### GUESTHOUSE +

land for sale. 10 rooms, with room to build a small pool, only a 10 min walk to beach. 6.9 million baht, or will sell 6-year lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

### A-GO-GO BAR

for sale/lease. Off Soi Bangla, full licenses, company, work permit. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-4571871, 01-4764700. Email: barpatong@yahoo.com

## Business Products & Services

### DAY TRIP TO RANONG

New double-decker tour bus (not minibus), non-smoking and smoking areas, toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks, on-board buffet lunch. No extra to pay, fully inclusive. Only 1,300 baht. Every Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sunday. Tel: 04-7457024.

### LEGAL SERVICES

Register your Thai Limited Company in just two hours through Thailand's largest legal service network, Siam International Legal Group. Business Licenses, contracts and property transactions by legal professionals at reasonable fees. Call 24 hours. Tel: 076-345-277, 04-0219800. Email: admin@siam-legal.com For further details, please see our website at: www.siam-legal.com

## Computers

### COMPUTER SERVICES

New + used. Repairs, GPRS, ADSL, WLAN. No phone – Internet – no problem. English computerman. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-4735080.

## Miscellaneous for Sale

### INT'L DRIVERS LICENSE

5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years, 6,000 baht valid up to 20 years. Sole agent in Thailand. Free pick-up & delivery, open 365 days a year. Please contact Khun Christine for more information. Tel: 04-006-8736.

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- is intensive learning
- is effective tutoring
- is child-centered
- is following international standards K1 – University
- is flexible in time & place
- is fun in small groups – no more than 6 students
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- is made for all students from 2 – 80 years!
- Fair pricing and high professional quality

**> New groups: Apply now! <**

**Tel: 076-383308**

### VISA FOR THAILAND

Tired of visa runs? Get a one-year Thai visa. Free initial consultation at Thailand's largest legal service network, Siam International Legal Group. Call 24 hours. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-345-277, 04-021-9800. Email: admin@siam-legal.com For further details, please see our website at: www.siam-legal.com

### COMPANY

formation and accounting services. We can set up a registered limited partnership with work permit for 20,000 baht (no hidden extras). Over 50 and need a one-year visa? 12,000 baht yearly; company accounts 12,000 baht. We also take care of your monthly tax and social contributions. Contact us if you have problems, we are pleased to help you. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

### HAIRDRESSER FOR GENTLEMEN

British hairdresser now working at the new West One Salon, on the second floor of Central Festival. Walk-in service is available or you can call to make an appointment. I look forward to meeting you. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-248311.

### LEARN THAI

at home. Conversation and coursework with a charming Thai lady. Course books provided free. Also basic English lessons for Thai spouses. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-398157, 01-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

### LATIN JAZZ BAND

"Tropical Harmony" is now available for your restaurant or function. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-2720571.

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call if interested. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

### SERIOUS

relationship. I am a farang woman living and working in Phuket and looking for a serious relationship. If you are a caring, honest, mature male aged 35-45, also looking for a serious relationship and living in Phuket, I'll be happy to hear from you. Email biniangelina@hotmail.com

### THAI LADY WANTED

Australian male, kind, caring, (50s), frequent visitor to Phuket and Thailand, wants to meet Thai lady (30-45) for companionship. I would like to establish nice, caring relationship, with me visiting you and you holidaying in Australia. Possible marriage in future. Let's exchange emails. Tel: 08-93984784. Email: bologo@yahoo.com

## Pets

### CATS NEED HOME

Friendly feline, pregnant again, and her female kitten free to a good home. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-7410668. Email: sheldrick\_s@hotmail.com

### DISCUS FISH

for sale. Discus fish farm sells show fish in all-new colors: red white, white leopard-skin, red melon, tamarin passion, tiger stripe, and many more. Tel: 01-8914-069. Email: dickytassenaar@hotmail.com



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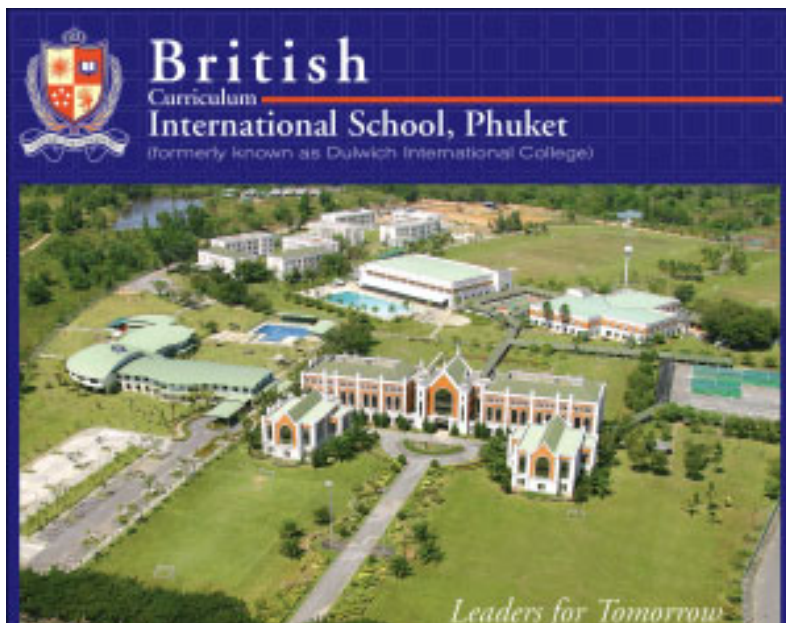


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## The Phuket Gazette


Wherever you stop for shopping, don't forget to pick up your weekly **Gazette** every Saturday at:

<b>Tesco Lotus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Se-Ed Book Center (2nd floor)</li> <li>Kiosk opposite Watson's</li> </ul> <b>Home Pro</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Se-Ed Book Center</li> </ul> <b>Big C</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Se-Ed Book Center (Ground floor)</li> <li>Kiosk in front of MK Suki (1st floor)</li> </ul>	<b>Robinson Department Store</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bookstore (1st floor)</li> </ul> <b>Central Festival</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Books (3rd floor)</li> <li>B2S (3rd floor)</li> </ul> <b>Index Living Mall</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Se-Ed Book Center (1st floor)</li> </ul>
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# เดจอย

## สระว่ายน้ำ

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