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# Desal plant to supply drinking water from July

By Janyaporn Morel

KARON: The 520-million-baht desalination plant currently under construction opposite Central Karon Village is 90% complete and will be ready to supply potable water to Kata, Karon and Patong in July.

Construction started January this year as part of Phuket Provincial Water Supply (PPWS) plan to solve the problem of Phuket's chronic water shortages.

The plant is being built and will be operated by REQ Water Services Co Ltd, who were awarded a 20-year contract from the PPWS granting exclusive rights to supply desalinated water to Kata, Karon and Phuket.

PPWS Manager Sayan Wareearoonroj explained that Bang Wad reservoir is the main water source for the island and has a capacity of 8 million cubic meters. The reservoir is used by both PPWS and Phuket City Municipality, which combined supply around one million cubic meters of water a month to Phuket households.

Currently, however, there are only about two million cubic meters of water left in the reservoir, he said.

It was decided to have the desalination plant supply Kata, Karon and Patong because many



The reverse-osmosis treatment building. The filters will be on top and the filtered water will be collected underneath

local residents and businesses there currently have to rely on water brought in by trucks to meet their daily needs.

The plant will be able to produce clean water at a maximum rate of 12,000m<sup>3</sup> a day.

REQ General Manager Jaturong Sad-uagkan said that the

plant need an intake pipe stretching 600 meters out from the shore to a depth of nine meters below the sea surface. Through this it will suck in around 1,500m<sup>3</sup> of seawater an hour.

The water will be pumped through a screen to filter out sand

Continued on page 2

## Mövenpick signed up to manage Crowne Plaza

By Alasdair Forbes

KARON: Swiss-based Mövenpick Hotels and Resorts (MH & R) has signed a management agreement with Kingdom Hotel Investments (KHI) to run the Crowne Plaza Karon Beach resort, which KHI bought recently for 3.7 billion baht.

On June 28, the resort, which has 186 villas and 166 guest rooms, as well as 30 apartments for lease, will become the Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket.

Sarmad Zok, KHI's CEO, said, "With Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts, we have the right management partner. This further demonstrates our ability to consolidate our position in attractive, emerging growth markets."

Jean Gabriel Pérès, President & CEO of MH&R, said, "Thailand and Phuket are a perfect growth platform for our presence in Asia, based on our expertise in exquisite resort operations, and we are pleased about our return to the Asian region."

"We expect to be able to announce further projects soon, aimed at establishing our brand on a broader base in this promising region."

Meanwhile, KHI has announced its preliminary results for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005, indicating strong performance.

The numbers show gross profit of US\$17.9 million (678 million baht), an increase of 41%, on revenue of US\$58.8 million (2.23 billion baht), which was up 53% from 2004.

Earnings per share rose 133% to US\$0.07 (2.65 baht) in 2005, while revenue per available room (RevPAR) was US\$81 (3,068 baht) in 2005, an increase of 23%.

# Saxberg body sent to Bangkok for autopsy

PHUKET: The body of Canadian Lorne Saxberg, who apparently drowned May 6 while snorkeling off Koh Khai, in Phang Nga Bay, has been sent to Bangkok for forensic tests to determine what caused his death.

An officer of the Phuket Police Station, who spoke to the *Gazette* on condition of anonymity, on May 10 said, "We have yet to receive the results of the autopsy by doctors at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

"Mr Saxberg's family have now requested that his body be sent to the Central Institute of Forensic Science in Bangkok.

"His family are still waiting for the autopsy results. They need to know the real reason why he died. I think we will know the reason soon," he added.

However, the officer later told the *Gazette* that doctors at Vachira Phuket had completed their autopsy and had determined that the cause of death was drowning.

He added, though, police will rely on the autopsy results from Bangkok for their case.

The officer added that police believe Mr Saxberg either died of heart failure, as he had had a heart operation seven years ago, or that

he drowned after suffering a cramp while snorkeling.

Mr Saxberg, 48, was a veteran CBC broadcaster and was on vacation in Phuket when he died.

He worked at CBC for 27 years. In 1989 he became an anchorman on CBC's rolling-news channel Newsworld. Recently he had been working for NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), where he received an Edward R. Murrow Award for *Hiroshima 60 years later*, a program he both wrote and presented.

— Natcha Yuttaworawit

## Desalination plant to come online in July

From page 1

and other large particles, then passed through an "ultra-filtration membrane", as commonly used in the production of bottled drinking water. The final step will be reverse-osmosis (RO) treatment. Water will be collected in an elevated tank with a capacity of 2,500m<sup>3</sup>, K. Jaturong explained.

Phuket will be the second province in the country to use a desalination plant to meet its water needs. Surat Thani already uses desalinated seawater to supply water to Koh Samui residents. The plant there has a maximum output of 3,000m<sup>3</sup> a day.

K. Sayan explained, "We have contracted to buy 12,000 cubic meters of water a day from REQ, but this amount can be increased in the future if necessary," he said.

The PPWS will buy the RO-treated water at 39.8 baht a cubic meter, and will sell it at 11 baht a cubic meter to private households and 20 to 25 baht a cubic meter to large businesses.

"The difference in price will be subsidized by the PPWS," K. Sayan said.

However, K. Sayan added, "At present most hotel operators say that they don't get enough water from the PPWS, so they have to have water brought in by truck at a cost of around 20 baht a cubic meter.

"We believe that most of these customers will accept a price of 30 baht a cubic meter.

This is because the RO water that we will supply will have a guarantee of cleanliness that water trucked in cannot offer."

However, he said, the PPWS has no power to set prices; these must be set by the Cabinet.

"We are considering charging large hotels and tourist-related businesses higher prices, but not ordinary householders," he added.

REQ also has exclusive rights to provide water to the PPWS from two surface-water treatment plants it is constructing. One on Phra Barami Rd in Patong will have a capacity of 6,000m<sup>3</sup> a day, while the other, in Chalong, and will have a capacity of 3,000m<sup>3</sup> a day.

As part of its short-term plan to fight water shortages, the PPWS has invested more than 60 million baht to install a 17-kilometer pipeline to supply water from the Hitlor and Manik tin lagoons in Tambon Srisoonthorn, Thalang.

The two lagoons have a combined capacity of 2 million cubic meters.

As a possible long-term solution to Phuket's water shortage problem, the PPWS is still considering piping in water from Ratchaprapa reservoir in Surat Thani province.

"Most of the water problems in Phuket come from a lack of places to store water. We hope these projects will bring the problems to an end," K. Sayan said.



**PPWS Manager Sayan Wareearoonroj: 'The water that we will supply will have a guarantee of cleanliness that water trucked in cannot offer.'**



**Yoshitomo Nara with his 3D-meter-tall sculpture. 'The dog', he said, 'will live in our hearts forever.'**

## 'Phuket Dog' is here to stay

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PATONG: A sculpture of an over-sized dog by a famous Japanese artist has returned, this time permanently, to Patong Beach. The sculpture, known as Phuket Dog, is 3½ meters tall and was originally created for an art exhibition held on the beach last year in commemoration of the tsunami.

The artist who made the fiberglass dog, Yoshitomo Nara, explained the concept guiding his creation, saying, "The dog is for everyone. It has no name, so please call it whatever you wish. It will live in our hearts forever."

A ceremony was held on May 9 to welcome home the canine sculpture, which has been on display recently in Bangkok.

At the ceremony the Director General of the Office of Contemporary Art and Culture, Prof Apinan Poshyananda, said "We

chose the park at Patong Beach to be the permanent site for the sculpture because it has been shown here before and we feel that it fits in well with the beach's beautiful surroundings. Also people here already feel close to the dog.

"Yoshitomo Nara devoted himself to building the sculpture. Many people have been interested in it and it was on display at Silpakorn University and Central Pattana, Bangkok. People have asked to buy it, but he [Yoshitomo] has always said no, he wants it to stay in Phuket," Prof Apinan added.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura, who was also present at the ceremony, said that he was very pleased that a famous artist had given a special gift to Phuket, and he hoped it would both attract tourists and add to the character of the beach.

## World's oldest liner books a call

PHUKET: *MV Doulos*, the world's oldest ocean-going passenger ship – it was built just two years after the Titanic sunk – is returning to Phuket for the first time in 10 years.

The Malta-registered liner is now operated by Gute Bücher für Alle (GBA), a private non-profit organization based in Germany that has worked since 1977 to promote good education and international understanding by staging book fairs and cultural exchange programs.

The ship has visited more than 100 countries in Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Pacific region. More than 18 million people – including royalty, presidents, prime ministers, and sheikhs – have come aboard the ship since GBA began running it.

The *Doulos* has the largest floating bookstore in the world. It stocks titles covering a wide range of subjects, including science, sports, hobbies, recipes, arts, philosophy and children's books. GBA has a policy, however, not to sell any books of a political or pornographic nature.

The ship will be in Phuket from June 1 to 19, 2006, berthed at the deep sea port, Ao Makham. It will be open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 10 pm, and on Sundays and Mondays, from 2 pm to 10 pm. On Monday, June 12, however, it will be closed.

Admission for adults will be 10 baht. Children under 16 will be admitted free but must be accompanied by an adult. For more information visit the ship's website at [www.mvdoulos.org](http://www.mvdoulos.org).

## Renowned ranad player for concert in Phuket

PHUKET CITY: Ajarn Narongrid Tosanga, better known as Khun In, the acclaimed *ranad* (Thai xylophone) player from the film *The Overture (Hom Rong)*, and his six-piece band will play two concerts at Central Festival Phuket on May 28.

The first concert will begin at 5 pm and the second at 7 pm.

Tickets, priced at 500 baht each, are on sale at Seng Ho bookstore, on Montri Rd in Phuket City, or from tour organizer WE Agency (Tel: 05-8881008 or 076-215430).

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# Migrant worker rules 'are to be relaxed'

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PHUKET: The complicated and much-maligned system for employing migrant laborers from Myanmar, Laos or Cambodia is to be overhauled, Boonchock Maneechot, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Services Office (PESO), has announced.

Previously, employers wanting to hire workers from any of the three countries had to pay a "guarantee" of either 10,000 or 50,000 baht per worker, depending upon the immigration status of the worker.

However, at a press conference at The Metropole hotel on May 15, K. Boonchock told reporters, "I just received news this morning that at a [Cabinet] meet-

ing on May 10, the Minister of Labor, Somsak Thepsuthin, announced that [the Cabinet] had decided to abolish the 10,000- and 50,000-baht guarantees, and charge only a simple 3,800-baht 'processing' fee."

## FREE EXTENSION

He added that employees who already hold work permits may have them extended to June 30, 2007, without having to pay any additional guarantee. He gave no further details.

The press conference came after a month-long window for the registration of illegal laborers from the three countries in March.

In Phuket, a total of 12,026

people came forward to register, making it the province with the fifth-highest number of registrations in the country, behind Bangkok, Samut Sakhon, Chon Buri and Tak. The vast majority, of the registrants, 11,953, were Burmese.

K. Boonchock also said that, following the expiry of the registration period on March 30, Phuket Provincial authorities had commissioned the PESO, along with other agencies, to set up a special unit to "investigate, suppress and detain" workers who have not registered with the authorities.

The unit has already checked 574 people, detaining 30 illegal workers and arresting two employers, he added.

## Lovers murdered during beach tryst

NAI YANG: A couple died after a brutal attack while they were enjoying a secret nighttime rendezvous on Nai Yang Beach in the early hours of May 15.

Pol Lt Col Sakchai Limcharoen, Deputy Superintendent at Tah Chat Chai Police Station, told the *Gazette*, "The old man was Chian Petcharat, 59, and the woman was Sriprai Chai-intha, 40. Both of them were married to other people, but they had a 'rendezvous' at the [beach guard] watchtower on Nai Yang Beach.

"They were attacked by more than two people while they were having sex in the watchtower.

"K. Chian died at the scene, and K. Sriprai was unconscious when she was found. She had fallen out of the watchtower and was lying on the beach. She died on the way to Thalang Hospital," he said.

A 3-by-3-inch piece of wood was found in the watchtower, he added.

Col Sakchai said that police

estimated that the attack occurred about 1:30 am.

"We have questioned the woman's husband, Nikorn Pratheep Na Thalang, 48, and he has denied killing the couple.

"If our investigation or the results from forensic tests turn up any leads, we should be able to issue a warrant to arrest the killers," Col Sakchai said.

"We believe the motive for the killings is sexual because the killers did not steal any of the couple's valuables," he added.

## Soi Dog Foundation, Livestock Office in successful peace talks

PHUKET: There was a time, not so long ago, when the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) and the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) fought like cats and dogs. Now, however, they have buried the hatchet.

Members of the SDF board, headed by its new President, Dr Prasit Koeysiripong, met PPLO chief Dr Sunart Wongvorachart recently for what they described afterward as "extremely positive" talks on cooperation.

One major step forward was an agreement that it would be better for the SDF to help the provincial government improve and run its dog pound than for the SDF to set up its own shelter for strays.

In a statement released after the meeting, the SDF stated, "Although final details need to be finalized, Dr Sunart has proposed to set up a committee - to be chaired by himself, with Dr Prasit acting as Vice-Chairman - to coordinate local fund raising from both the public and private sectors to ensure the future sustainability of the shelter.

"Representatives of other interested groups would also be invited to join.

"SDF would, with the approval of the PPLO, make structural improvements to the shelter to bring it up to international standards, including, among other things, the division of the existing enclosures; providing better protection for the animals from bad weather; building a fully-equipped clinic; establishing a quarantine area to prevent transmission of disease; improving the drainage and waste facilities; and providing additional staff to support the excellent but overstretched staff currently at the facility.

"In addition it would provide regular veterinary care for the animals there."

In return, the statement said, the PPLO would help in providing drugs for animal treatment and assist SDF wherever possible in achieving its goal of sterilizing the majority of Phuket's stray population, with the eventual aim of making the shelter redundant.

"SDF sees this as an oppor-

tunity to demonstrate how NGOs and government departments can work together to better serve the needs of the community and the local animal population," the SDF release said.



The wreck of the Crocodile, pictured after the fire in March.

## Crocodile Disco to be resurrected as go-go bar

PATONG: Crocodile Disco, which was gutted by fire in March, will reopen next year as an a-go-go venue, Amnuay Kubbakum, former Manager of Crocodile Disco, has told the *Gazette*.

The fire, which broke out early on March 13, caused damage estimated at 40 million baht to the three-story complex, located at the end of Soi Moulin Rouge.

The soi, more commonly known as "Soi Katoey" because of its go-go-dancing ladyboys, is home to one of Patong's most popular strips of beer bars.

K. Amnuay explained that Sompert Moosophon, the owner of Crocodile, has decided to forge ahead despite the insurance payout for the damage being delayed due to the ongoing forensic investigation into the cause of the blaze.

"We are still waiting for results of forensic tests by police.

"I have been told by police that they have completed their tests and have come up with a

theory of how the fire started, but they are waiting for their chief to confirm it on paper before letting us know the results," K. Amnuay said.

"We do not believe the fire was started intentionally, and we intend to carry on with our business," he added.

K. Amnuay went on to explain, "We have lost some of our staff because we have closed our business for so long. The staff had to find new jobs and now we have to employ new staff and train them, too."

He explained, however, that K. Sompert has taken on a partner to help finance building the new a-go-go bar next year.

In the meantime, K. Sompert and K. Amnuay quietly opened The Loft Night Club, near Tiger Discotheque, on May 7. "The grand opening of The Loft Night Club will be May 19, but we are already open and ready to serve our customers," K. Amnuay said.



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Bangkok Hospital Phuket will hold a charity art auction for the first time to celebrate its 11<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on 22 May 2006. This event will be an occasion to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne. Part of the proceeds will go to support King's Scholar for Thai Monks and Kamala Child Development Center Tsunami Fund.

The exhibition of 61 paintings by Boonkasem SaiKow title "Andaman's Life" and other well-known artists will start on 11 May until 26 May 2006 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Bangkok Hospital Phuket. This special event brings together the works of several nationally recognized artists such as Thawan Dujjanee, Partuang Emjaroen Angkam Kalayanapongsa, Nab Sothibandhu, Aree Suttipan, and more.

## Charity Art Auction

### on 22 May 2006

The 31 paintings will be available for auction on 22 May 2006 at 5:00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

For more information please  **1719**

# IS PHUKET SCORING ENOUGH FROM SPORTS?

It is a simple statement of fact that sport is big business. The average fee paid by Liverpool FC for a player is around £8 million (575 million baht) while the rights to broadcast events such as Formula One motor racing or the World Cup sell for many times this amount.

Competition among nations to host the Olympic Games is fierce, not only for the privilege of holding the event but also for the revenue the Games bring into the host nation.

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta (KCR), for example, is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year and has become one of the highlights not only of the Phuket sporting calendar but also of the entire Asian region.

Simon James, Marketing Manager of Sunsail Phuket and also Chairman of the race committee for the KCR, explained – quoting the views of a number of KCR committee members – the impact of the regatta on Phuket.

“Approximately 1,000 people take part in the KCR, but at least another 500 people – friends, family and the like – will also be in Phuket for the event. That's 1,500 people using Phuket's facilities and contributing to the island's economy.

“The event – based off Kata Beach – has changed and certainly grown over the years; in 2004 a 96-strong fleet – the largest – competed. The regatta may be focused around Kata but money is also spent island-wide by KCR participants who select accommodation in other areas and also extend their stay here before and after the regatta.”

Read through the sports pages of the *Gazette* and one sees that a wealth of competitive sport takes place on the island. From local competitions, such as *takraw* and volleyball, to the headline-hitting events such as the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, the King's Cup Regatta and a raft of golfing tournaments, Phuket plays host to all levels of sport.

The events add glamor to the island and may grab the headlines, locally, nationally or internationally, and are often feted as a useful tool in promoting the island, but how much do they really achieve in terms of revenue for and promotion of the island, and are local facilities up to par?

The *Gazette's* Andy Johnstone and Sangkhae Leelanapaporn asked those involved in the organization of a number of the island's major events for their thoughts.

Mr James said that a survey conducted two years ago by the organizers of the Asian Yachting Circuit (AYC) showed an estimated US\$800,000 (28 million baht) was spent in Phuket on yachting, dining, accommodation and incidentals during the regatta week.

“And of course, those 1,500 people will tell others about the regatta and, naturally, about Phuket. In addition to this is the massive amount of coverage it – and by extension Phuket – receives in the national and international media.”

Mr James said that the programs commissioned by the KCR and broadcast by the AYC are available to some 289 million viewers, while reports on the regatta broadcast on other TV stations are available to an estimated 424 million viewers.

“It's undeniable that the KCR – and other major sporting events – do a great deal of good for Phuket; the regatta is not



The Phuket King's Cup Regatta – now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year – is one of the region's premier sailing events. Revenue for the island was put at some 28 million baht. – Photo courtesy of www.shufen.net

purely about sport, but promotion for Phuket,” said Mr James.

Lin Tan, Public Relations Manager of Blue Canyon Country Club, which in recent years has hosted major tournaments such as the Tiger Skins, the Johnnie Walker Classic as well

as lower-profile national and local events, agrees.

“Phuket is obviously on the world stage anyway, but top international and national competitions held [on the island] showcase Phuket's other attractions, the ones that the more general

tourist – rather than the ‘dedicated’ sports tourist may not yet have discovered, to potentially millions of people,” said Ms Tan.

She explained that while the average number of players for a pro tournament is, at around 120 participants, smaller than the 1,000 for the KCR, the event will attract many hundreds of spectators to the island as well as global media coverage.

“As an example, 5,000 passes – including those for staff, players, players' families and the media – were distributed for the 2005 Tiger Skins tournament, while the media coverage of it reached millions of people worldwide through TV golf channels and in the mainstream media.

“Worth pointing out is that of these 5,000, many were temporary staff – caterers and drivers, for example – employed specifically for the tournament. Major sporting events are, demonstrably, a significant boost to the island's economy and a valuable source of income for many workers here,” said Ms Tan.

Another international sporting event to have become a regular fixture on the island's calendar is the Phuket International Cricket Sixes (PICS) tournament. Since the inaugural tournament in 2004, the Sixes has mushroomed from 12 teams to 28 teams this year.

Mark Burns, the Media Director of PICS, highlighted the significant boost to the island's revenues that the tournament gives – and the positive image of Phuket shown around the world.

“Of the 275 players and officials – and 150 or so family members and friends who attended PICS 2006 – the overwhelming majority were from abroad and therefore stayed in hotels. The combined contribution to Phuket's income came to an estimated US\$300,000,” said Mr Burns.

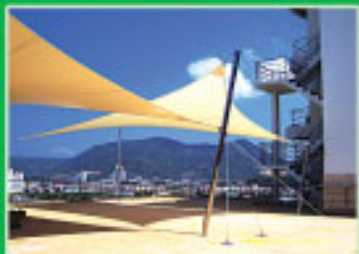
“The Sixes always attracts former professional players; Trevor Chappell has played in all three Sixes. Ex-Essex skipper Paul Prichard played in the first tournament, and this year saw Adam Hollioake, Alan Mullally, Pranab Roy and Rizwan Sattar playing.”

Players of this caliber in the tournament are an endorsement not only for the event but also of the island, he added.

“The Phuket Sixes is a friendship tournament designed and staged to promote and share the positive spirit of cricket among as many people as possible, but also to promote Phuket.

“One of our main aims for the 2005 and 2006 was to attract tourists back to Phuket following the effects of the tsunami. In fact the 2005 Sixes was one of the first

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major sporting events to be staged in Phuket following the [December 26, 2004] tragedy," said Mr Burns.

Another high-profile event, the 2006 Sixes received coverage in both local and national media, but more significantly, added Mr Burns, in the international media. "The Sixes, and therefore Phuket, was reported on in the media from Arkansas to Japan, as well as in countries more traditionally associated with cricket.

"The Sixes and other major sporting events, both pre- and perhaps more significantly post-tsunami, were instrumental in getting the message out around the world that Phuket was still there."

The global attraction of Phuket and its sporting events is ably demonstrated by the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, which attracts around 1,000 competitors – most of whom are drawn from 30-odd countries – as well as 500 of their families and friends.

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the event contributes to the island what Paula Himel, Assistant Director of Events & Promotions at Laguna Phuket, describes as "a substantial amount".

"And," she adds, "it isn't

just the Laguna Phuket hotels that are filled because of this event. Other hotels and restaurants in and around Bang Tao, Surin and Patong also do extremely well because of the triathlon."

Ms Himel said that the list of professional triathletes is recognized as one of the most impressive outside of the World Triathlon Championship held annually in Kona, Hawaii.

"The Laguna Phuket Triathlon has attracted triathlon legends such as Simon Lessing, Paula Newby-Fraser, Mike Pigg, Mark Allen, Peter Reid, Heather Fuhr and Normann Stadler. Promotion of the event is provided by organizations such as Ironman Australia, Bintan Triathlon and others throughout the US, Europe, Asia and Australia," she said.

"Is the Laguna Phuket Triathlon purely about sport? No, but it is to promote Phuket with an emphasis on sport, fun and the community. In that, as in many other respects, it is highly successful."

The consensus among any of the organizers of major sporting events the *Gazette* spoke with is that facilities on the island for such events and the support from Thai bodies, such as the Tourism

Authority of Thailand (TAT), the provincial government and Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorTor*), are healthy.

Mr James reported that KCR committee members described these organizations as "very supportive" and that the KCR maintains good relationships with them all.

"It would be good [however] to see more relationships developed between the regatta organizing committee and local associations and organizations, including the Phuket Tourist Association and the local TAT office.

"But then, more support and assistance is always welcome, especially locally. The KCR is, after all, a Phuket event – and one of Thailand's largest annual sporting events."

One respondent – who asked to remain anonymous – said that the attitude of the provincial government and *OrBorTors* was "generally good and very supportive, yet there is certainly room for improvement in the facilities available in Phuket to stage field sport events and tournaments. We will help and liaise wherever we can to help achieve improved standards.

"Everyone – the sports-

people and the locals, and local businesses – will benefit."

Songsak Kitikarnkul, chief of the Sport Authority of Thailand (SAT), sees Phuket's success as a tourism province to be a partial barrier to its success as a sports-tourism province.

"Accommodation and food is so expensive here – it can cost twice as much to organize an event here as it would in a province not dependent on tourism. The SAT would like to see the hotels involved in providing accommodation to sportspeople and the organizers to reduce their costs," began K. Songsak.

"[The hotels] will benefit, because more competitors – including professionals and amateurs, those who are sponsored and those who are not – will be encouraged [to come] if the costs of competing here are reduced."

Another commentator, who also wished to remain anonymous, said, "I've been a regular visitor to Phuket since the early '80s and have taken part in five out of the past eight King's Cup Regattas – as well as similar events around the world – and can't fail to be impressed by how healthy the picture looks here for international sports tourism."

Adding that both the num-

**South Korea's Grace Park tees off during Tiger Skins 2005 held at Blue Canyon Country Club, one of many high-profile tournaments held at the course.**

**The global audience for this tournament – and therefore Phuket – ran into the millions.**

– Photo courtesy of Asia Tour.

ber and the size of the events are increasing, she continued, "Sailing – my passion – and golf may be the two 'biggies', that is, the ones that generally attract the most publicity and promote the 'Phuket lifestyle', but recent years have seen huge growth in other sports here, such as cricket and rugby.

"Being pretty mercenary about it, if people can afford to take a week off work to fly halfway around the world to knock a ball around in the sun, then it stands to reason that they have a fair bit of disposable income," she suggested.

"They have the money and the time to play sports here, and once they have got hooked into the lifestyle, it stands to reason that a significant number of them will return on holiday or to buy property here, both of which are, in the long run, great for the island's economy."

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## Queer News

# Errant abbot's disguise fails to fool villagers

An abbot in Lampang was nabbed by a group of villagers while he was sneaking back into the wat at 4:30 am after a tryst with his paramour, a local widow.

The 50-strong mob confronted the 43-year-old abbot, who was described as being "a bit on the chubby side", and his 49-year-old paramour as she was dropping him back at the temple after spending most of the night in her home.

The couple were then frogmarched inside the temple to wait for local *Sangha* (Buddhist clerical hierarchy) officials to be called.

The Chairman of the Village Community Association, Wanchai In-nak, said that he had suspected for a while that the abbot was engaged in inappropriate relations with a local woman. He added, however, that he had no hard evidence and could not bring himself to believe that such a respected figure would do something of that nature.

To allay his doubts, he and a number of other villagers decided to start following the abbot to see where he was going at night. After they had caught him going in and out of the woman's house three times, disbelief was plainly no longer an option, so they decided to lay a trap.

On the night of May 10 the villagers, accompanied by a policeman, hid themselves along the route from the temple to the woman's house and waited to see what would happen.

At around 10 pm they saw a pick-up truck pull into the temple car park, stop briefly, and then pull out again. The truck then drove 500 meters down the road, straight to the house in question.

The villagers stationed there reported seeing a slightly porky chap, dressed in shorts, T-shirt and a woolly hat creep into the house.

Despite his clever disguise, the villagers were able to identify the night-creeper as the errant abbot.

They elected to wait for the couple to come out before confronting them. It proved to be a long wait – it was not until 4:30 am that the truck reemerged from the house and headed back to the temple.

When it stopped to let the abbot out, the villagers leaped out from their hiding places and surrounded the vehicle.

In the morning, the temple committee beat a drum to call the villagers to come witness justice in action. They then invited the head of the local *Sangha* Council to come and pass judgment.

The abbot confessed that he had been wrong and had behaved inappropriately for one of his rank. However, his superiors showed no mercy and defrocked him on the spot. Amid jeering from on-lookers the abbot went to collect his personal belongings, including a computer and other electronics, and left.

K. Wanchai and other community members then went to check that none of the temple's collection money had gone missing.

It was reported that, after collecting his things and leaving the temple, the erstwhile abbot could not be found anywhere. As for his ladyfriend, she has been too ashamed to set foot outside of her front door since the incident.

Locals, especially the older generation, were left shocked and disappointed by the scandal. Jansom In-nak, 75, said that she thought it was unbelievable that the abbot could behave as badly as this and that it would cause people in the area, especially old people, to lose their faith.

She added that it was especially disappointing as the abbot was still young and was a talented preacher.

Source: *Kom Chad Leuk*



**BYPASS ROAD:**  
Two very simple rules for would-be polluters:

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Seen a good place to dump your unwanted trash? Email us a couple pictures to [dump@phukeyazette.net](mailto:dump@phukeyazette.net) and we'll let everyone know.

## TRASHING Phuket



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# Pakistani confesses to brutal killing

**P**akistani national Mohammad Arif on May 10 confessed to the murder of English teacher Dissanee Thongnarkthae, whose head, arms and right leg were found near a petrol station close to the Ratchadaphisek-Lat Phrao intersection in Bangkok.

Her torso, cut into two halves, was later found dumped off Soi Ramkhamhaeng 24.

The pair had agreed to meet in person after "meeting" through an online "chat" service.

Maj Gen Witthaya Kosiya-sathit, chief of Metropolitan Police Division 4 and who is supervising the case, quoted Mohammad Arif as saying he had killed K. Dissanee in a fit of rage after she was rude to him about using someone else's picture during the Internet chat, and lying about his nationality.

According to Arif's confession, Maj Gen Witthaya, K. Dissanee had demanded that he pay for her air ticket home.

"She turned angry when he refused to give her the money, an argument ensued, and the man killed her," he said, quoting Arif's confession.

Officers from Hua Mak Police Station in Bangkok said that Arif, now in police custody, initially protested his innocence, despite significant evidence found in his hotel room, including Dissanee's ID card and a large amount of blood.

Forensic tests are underway to determine whether the blood found on the premises matches the deceased.

Other items found in the room included a butcher's knife and two chopping knives, a toy pistol and a travel bag with bar-coded tags attached that matched the barcodes on the two travel bags found containing the body parts.

Police said Arif had admitted that the items belonged to K. Dissanee, whom he claimed that he had sex with the night before, but that she had later disappeared.

The police officer said that Arif said he had met K. Dissanee through an online chat site about a month ago, and that she had traveled to Bangkok to meet him at a coffee shop. Police later escorted the suspect to his room at an apartment building in Soi Lat Phrao 23 where they found a pair of jeans soaked with blood.

The Criminal Court approved the arrest warrant and granted custodian authority to



**TOY BOY:** Young women in wedding gowns play with a 'bridegroom' to promote the 'All About Love' Wedding Festival show at the Impact Arena Muang Thong Thani from May 13 to 21. Many in the wedding business are hoping that the nine-day show, costing 20 million baht, will give the industry a shot in the arm, said Attapol Itthirattanakomol, an executive at the Wedding Business Association (WBA). Couples are becoming less romantic and more guarded about spending money as the uncertain economic and political outlook erodes their confidence in the future, K. Attapol said, adding that many wedding businesses were just aiming to maintain the same level of revenue as last year. The WBA is hoping the wedding-business sector maintains its average annual revenue of up about 30 billion baht this year, he added.

Hua Mak police after receiving the initial evidence report.

**Court cuts kamnan's sentence:** The Supreme Court May 10 upheld the prison sentence against Somchai Kunplome, better known as "Kamnan Poh", for his conviction in masterminding corrupt land deals worth 93 million baht in Chon Buri province.

The Court of Appeals, however, reduced Somchai's sentence to three years and four months, from five years and four months.

Somchai, father of former Tourism and Sports Minister Sontaya Kunplome, was found guilty of instigating the 1994 sale of protected forest land near Pattaya for 93 million baht. The land was sold to local authorities who wanted to use it for a garbage dump. At the time, Somchai was mayor of Tambon Saensuk, where the land was located, and was found to have skimmed profits off the sale.

Somchai is already facing a 25-year prison term handed down by the Court of Appeals for masterminding a murder. The decision centered on the allegation that Somchai hired a hit man to gun down a rival who was sub-

sequently shot dead, by a different, unidentified gunman, who remains at large.

Some rumors circulating say that Somchai has fled to Cambodia, while others report that he is lying low somewhere in Thailand.

**Too close for comfort:** At first it looked like a SWAT operation to a frightened grandmother when a police helicopter suddenly loomed above her house in Sai Mai district in Bangkok May 9 and hovered directly above it for 10 minutes – its whirling rotor blades kicking up dust and debris.

Som Ruerktheun, suppressing her fears the helicopter would fall onto her house, waved the chopper away and shouted to her

seven-year-old granddaughter to get inside the house.

After the chopper left, she phoned the Khan Na Yao police station to complain.

An unnamed police officer later called her back, and offered to buy her a new desk fan and several clay flower pots to replace those damaged by the gust from the rotor blades.

"The officer told me the pilot was his friend who merely wanted to take a peak at his house [located across the road]," she said. "Then I realized what was

going on. I don't mind about the property damage, but I want to tell the pilot to be mindful about the welfare of other people. He frightened me and the people around here," said the 63-year-old woman.

Un Wongkham, who lives nearby, said her one-year-old daughter cried in panic when the helicopter showed up and hovered noisily, even after she took her inside. "There were four men sitting at the doors with their legs hanging out. All of them looking at the officer's home," she said.

**Rampage:** A 60-year-old businessman rammed two men on their motorcycle after they snatched a gold necklace from a woman in Bangkok's Bang Kapi district.

Winai Pheukhom, 25, and Santi Klachan, 38, were injured after being knocked off their bike and held until police arrived and arrested them. The stolen necklace was returned, Lt Col Booncherd Srithong, from Hua Mak Police Station, said.

Grateful Home Pro shop assistant Pattama Khamthong, 26, told police the two men snatched her gold necklace from in front of the shop where she worked.

Boonyong Maneesakul, the businessman who rammed the robbers, said he was driving with his sister in his 300E Mercedes-Benz sedan and saw K. Pattama being robbed.

"I chased them and signaled to them to stop, but they just sped up, so I decided to ram them with my car ... they fell off the bike. Then I helped other people to hold them and just waited until police arrived," K. Boonyong said.

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

## Expert Property Advice

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We made it through the high season in Krabi in one piece, and thankfully without any disasters or major news-making dramas.

In many areas, especially those hard-hit by the tsunami, the season began slowly. A lack of flights and the aura of the "One Year After" ceremonies put a damper on tourist arrivals in December and early January, but many businesses still saw a brisk rebound from mid-January onward.

As we do every year, it's time to reflect on the highlights and low points of the high season. Since it is human nature to complain rather than to compliment, maybe we should start with things we think need improvement in our own version of Monty Python's "Complaint Room". That TV comedy sketch saw customers arriving at a complaint room only to hear the staff's complaints, and unable to register their own.

One of the biggest gripes of this past high season was the Thai Airways International (THAI) flights in and out of Krabi. Previously, Bangkok Air and PB Air also flew to Krabi, but this year only THAI has domestic routes to the airport, and not only at reduced capacity but also at prices substantially higher than before. As an example, it is cheaper to fly from Krabi to Singapore on Tiger Air than to Bangkok on THAI.

#### NEW TERMINAL

Krabi hotels also complained of cancellations as potential customers could not book direct flights, or realized they had to fly to Phuket instead.

Meanwhile, the long-awaited new terminal at Krabi Airport finally opened. Direct flights from Stockholm began, along with a service from Singapore.

However, there were severe bottlenecks at Immigration after the flights from Sweden arrived. The first week of international flights saw waits of two hours and more, with weary Scandinavian travelers unable to comprehend why just two counters were operating to deal with the arrival of a full 747.

Tourists arriving from Singapore on a 100-minute flight were confronted with a 90-minute queue at Immigration.

Everyone hopes these problems can be sorted out by next high season, when there will be yet more international flights scheduled.

On a positive note, the construction of walkways and the beach wall at Haad Napporat Thara has been completed, and what an improvement this work has made. Permanent food stalls have been built, with



Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort General Manager Greg Findlay presents SripHong PhuKaoluan Foundation President Chuan PhuKaoluan with a check for 104,400 baht. This check is the first installment of more than US\$100,000 to aid 23 orphans and tsunami children in Krabi Province.

## Time to visit the Complaint Room



### ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

The lack of garbage bins at Haad Napporat Thara is a glaring omission that can easily be rectified, given how much money has already been spent on improving the area

sidewalks providing an environment that is both safe and scenic.

Just one complaint here, though – there are no garbage bins. This is a glaring omission that is made obvious at weekends when the area is at its busiest. During the Songkran holidays last month, the beachfront was covered with refuse; the smell of rotting garbage was enough

to drive anyone away. After properly investing in the infrastructure, we hope the local municipality can at least cough up the wherewithal to install a few refuse bins.

**Radio daze:** What's the deal with the loudspeaker tower on the corner of the beach road? Residents and tourists alike

have been scratching their heads as loud Thai music or radio talk shows are broadcast. Understandably, the tower is used for public service announcements and for playing the national anthem, but it is not clear what purpose it serves to play blaring music at 6:45 am.

**What water?** Homes and businesses in Ao Nang recently went without municipal water supply for two days, and then a few days later experienced the same again. What is this, 1992?

**Community responsibility:** Most expatriate residents in Thailand would agree that they have a responsibility to the communities in which they live, as much as if they were still living back home.

While most of the time they take things for granted during their day-to-day lives, the tsunami and its aftermath saw a great outpouring of help from many volunteers trying to support those in need.

For many residents, this support for the community has not stopped. Some individuals and companies have taken on leading roles as they view a stable and viable community necessary for the well-being of everyone, including themselves.

The Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort and its parent company, Starwood Resorts & Hotels Worldwide, have played a highly visible role in this.

#### GOOD EXAMPLE

The resort has been active in rebuilding and refurbishing the school at Baan Sai Thai, and, more recently, the resort and Starwood made a major commitment to support tsunami orphans and children who lost family members in the disaster.

In all, the resort group will sponsor 23 children, providing educational support, food, clothing, school uniforms and more.

As resort General Manager Greg Findlay says, "We want to lead the way in providing a good example as a community leader."

This program will be run through the SripHong PhuKaoluan Foundation – [www.krabirelief.com](http://www.krabirelief.com) – and the resort's head of Human Resources, Witoon Pinpimai, will be on board as a director of the foundation.

The SripHong PhuKaoluan Foundation, currently supporting 101 orphans and children from the tsunami, is looking to establish long-term relationships with the Sheraton and other corporate names in Krabi Province.

"It is clear that it is in everyone's interest that we give something back to the community," Mr Findlay says.

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Nong Tom receives his scholarship from Vice-Admiral Thana.

## Tsunami survivor sets sights on Navy career

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

After the unforgettable day in December 2004, when the great wave raced over from Indonesia, destroying everything in its path, it seemed as if there were only stories of tragedy and loss.

After a few days, however, some incredible stories of hope and survival emerged from the darkness.

One of those was the story of nine-year-old Patiwat Komkla, or "Nong Tom", who was found at sea clinging on to a piece of wood near Ban Nam Khem, Phang Nga, two days after the tsunami struck.

Nong Tom was surrounded by debris and bodies when he was finally spotted by a Royal Thai Navy helicopter that was patrolling on the slim chance of finding anyone still alive. He had been drifting for two days, alone, with no food or water, and no place to escape the burning sun.

After he was rescued he discovered that his father had been killed and his house badly damaged, but his mother and two brothers had survived.

Nong Tom told the *Gazette*, "When I was alone in the sea, I felt so scared and just didn't know what to do. I cried and cried, there were many corpses floating around me. I just kept holding tightly on to the timber, not knowing if I would live or die. When I saw a helicopter I was very happy. I tried to make them see me by pulling off my T-shirt and waving it around in the air. Finally they noticed me and came down to help."

He said that he has always liked ships and planes and that his time adrift had made him feel grateful to the Navy for saving him. The experience had not left him in fear of the sea, he said. He was also impressed by the dramatic helicopter rescue and the men who rescued him, and so decided that when he grows up he would join the Navy, too.

The Royal Thai Navy's Third Naval Area Command,

based at Cape Panwa but including the Navy base at Tab Lamu in Phang Nga, and the Thai Stock Market Business Council decided to help Nong Tom with his ambition by offering him a scholarship of more than 150,000 baht. The money will be given to Nong Tom's family in yearly installments to support him in his studies until he finishes Matayom 6.

At the scholarship presentation ceremony, Vice-Admiral Thana Boonnak of the Third Naval Area Command said that Navy officers had witnessed firsthand Nong Tom's bravery and survival instinct, and were keen to support him.

However, he also warned that a career in the Navy requires determination.

"We can provide him with a scholarship until he finishes high school, but gaining entry to the Royal Thai Naval Academy will still depend on his ability. He has to study hard and learn more about the navy if he wants to succeed," he said.

V/Adm Thana suggested that Nong Tom pay attention to his studies and exercise more so that he will be ready to join the Navy when the time comes. He added that the Third Command Area would send a trainer to help and encourage Nong Tom and other local children who are interested in the Navy.

"I suggest that he loses weight, plays more sports and works hard to increase his knowledge," V/Adm Thana said.

Although proud, his mother, Raschanee Komkla, 44, is mindful that Nong Tom is still just a boy. "He is a brave boy – a natural leader – but he can be a little naughty sometimes.

"I don't worry about him except for his studies, which are not always as good as I would like. He is a very happy and excitable boy, but sometimes I have to scold him when he misbehaves," she said.

"He is very pleased with the pilot brooch his auntie gave him recently," K. Raschanee added.

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# What it is like to be a 'trash lady'

**K**hun Ko searches through garbage for bits and pieces to sell because of a series of events she describes as being "beyond her control".

She was born in Samut Prakan Province and moved to Bangkok, where she lived for seven years before her family moved to Phuket.

Her father is a laborer and her mother is a housewife. She has two brothers and a sister so she, her eldest sister, and her elder brother worked from an early age, also taking turns to look after their youngest brother.

Her working life started when she was in Grade 5. By the time she was 14, she was working part-time as a caddy at Phuket Country Club. Soon, however, she had to quit school and begin working full-time, taking on the role of family breadwinner.

It was around this time she dreamed of becoming a nurse, but reality prevented her from pursuing her dream. She married when she was 18 and had three sons, but her husband eventually left her.

She has remarried and has a daughter from this relationship. Happily, her new husband is willing to pitch in and help with the boys and the family's needs, and is at present laboring in Bangkok, sending money back when he can.

For the past two months K. Ko's main job has been cleaning, washing and ironing in a house in Ketho in Kathu. She receives 100 baht a day from the owner, al-



On the rounds: 'Some days I earn 400 baht. On others, well, it can be as little as 100 baht.'

though she says that she occasionally earns a little extra when the owner wants a massage or a manicure.

"I've been collecting trash for a few months now," K. Ko says. "At the beginning I hired a *saleng* (motorcycle with a sidecar) 100 baht a day, but the owner felt sorry for me and sold it to me for 4,000 baht. I now pay for it in 500-baht installments."

She continues, "I started collecting right outside my house and then I searched a little farther afield. Basically, I keep an

eye out for all kinds of paper, cardboard boxes, tin, plastic bottles and anything else I can sell. The rate for paper is 1½ baht per kilo, cardboard is 4 baht a kilo, tin is 10 baht a kilo, plastic bottles are 8-12 baht a kilo.

"Some days I earn 400 baht. On others, well, it can be as little as 100 baht."

On a good day K. Ko can drop off a full *saleng* load of garbage, but when the pickings are slim she has to keep the garbage overnight or for as long as three days.



'Sometimes we go without food, but I refuse to get discouraged.'



A common sight on the streets of Phuket are the people who scavenge through our garbage bins for items – plastics, drinks cans, anything, really, that might have some value if sold on to be recycled. We may see them, but how many of us know – or, more accurately, care to know – anything about them? At best, we may acknowledge their existence as they root through our refuse. At worst, if we are honest, we pretend they are not there. The livelihood is dirty, smelly and something most of us would want to forget, however important it is. The *Gazette's* Jenjira Ruengjarus spent a day with Wilairat 'Ko' Jaemcharoen, 27, one of the island's part-time garbage sifters.









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K. Ko's home, with its modest bathroom (below).



"I normally get up at 6 am, prepare breakfast and get the children ready for school before doing the housework. By 8:30 am, I'm heading off for work at Ketho and I finish there at 3 pm. I'm back home by 4 pm and then I start collecting items to recycle."

"My working day finishes at 10 or 11 pm most days," she says.

Before she started collecting garbage, she had a food stand outside her house selling meatballs, hot dogs, and soft drinks to passing schoolchildren. After a while, though, it became obvious that this business wasn't going to pay the bills so she stopped and decided to collect garbage.

She told the *Gazette* that she has to budget for food, gasoline, her son who lives with her mother and installments for her *saleng*. She keeps her savings in a tin, but has to dip into them whenever someone in the family is sick.

"The trouble is," begins K. Ko, "when I get ill, I cannot work

for days at a time and I have to borrow money to make ends meet. This creates more problems as I have to then pay 20% interest on the borrowed money. Still, sometimes my employer at Ket-Ho gives me a no-interest loan."

Luckily, too, her brother shares the electricity, water and other bills.

Her house resembles a shell of a building; there are exposed nails in the woodwork, the roof leaks and there is bare concrete as the floor. Even though her extended family is large, sometimes not allowing enough personal space, there is still a happy atmosphere in the house.

"We're pretty much destitute at the moment," K. Ko says with tears in her eyes. "Sometimes we go without food, but I refuse to get discouraged. I'll fight for my kids because I want them to be good people and have a good education which will lead to them enjoying a brighter future."

# Happily Ever After

## Recent weddings in Phuket



Thai Airways International (THAI) officer Kritchanok Panglikhit and Customs officer Manit Kabpeng, the groom, relax as Anaek Phooteng, THAI's Station Manager Phuket, entertains as emcee at their wedding reception in the Harbour Restaurant, at the Boat Lagoon.

Colleen McLaughlin and Sam McManis, from Australia, recently married at the Katathani Phuket Beach Resort.

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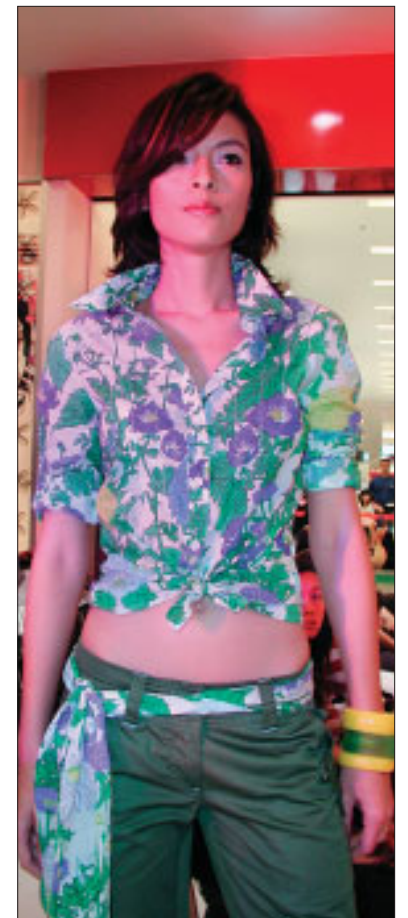
www.finewoodshutter.com

## Fashion's central to looking good

Those wanting to expand their collection of casual wear recently had the opportunity to find inspiration at a fashion parade at Central Festival Phuket.

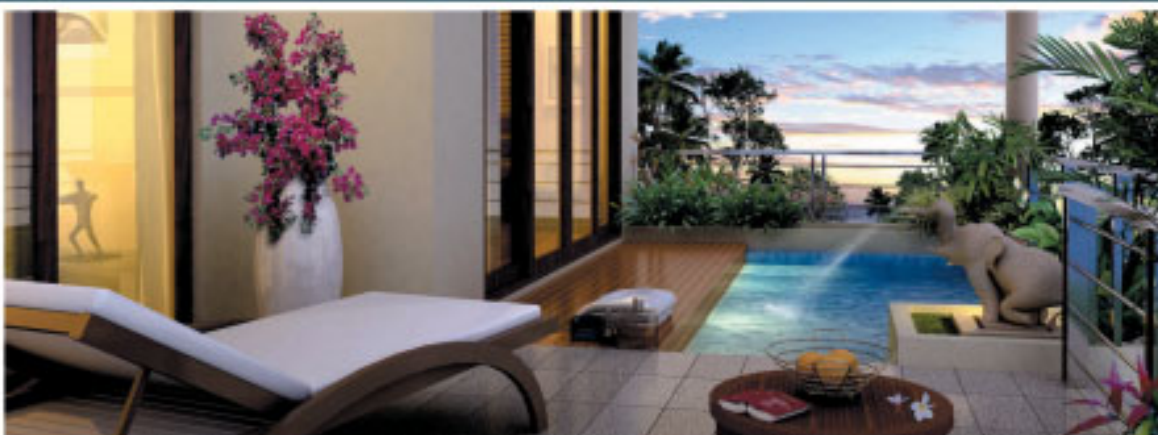
Famous Thai models Yossawadee "Yo" Hassadeevichit, Chanokvanan "Tuk" Watcharakul and Nithichat "Yuan" Yosamornsoonthorn were all there showing off new creations by Benetton, Elle and Giordano, among others.

*Photographs by Sangkhae Lee-lanapaporn and Nattamon Ratcharak*



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## This week



**SOLID FOUNDATION:** Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura (center) joins Dr Supaluck Kanjanamethakul (front, left), Managing Director of Sunshine Village Foundation, and Christophe Perruchot of the French Red Cross (front, right) at the laying of the foundation stone at Sunshine Village for underprivileged children and tsunami victims.



**ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE:** World Vision International President Dean Hirsch hands gifts to children at Ban Nai Rai village during his recent visit to tsunami-affected areas in Phang Nga province.



**MILITARY SERVICE:** (Front, from left) Pol Gen Nopadol Soomboonsub, Army Commander-in-chief General Sondhi Boonyaratklin, Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanimit, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth (2<sup>nd</sup> row, in uniform) attend the opening ceremony of the annual Military Tennis Tournament on April 21.



**SCOUTS' HONOR:** Phuket Provincial Administration Organization Vice-President Suthin Uthai-thamrong (center, in black jacket) leads senior boy scouts in a vow to be faithful to the nation, to their religion and to HM The King, during a jamboree of 189 boy scouts held at Saphan Hin Youth Center from May 7 to 11.



**POOLING RESOURCES:** (From left) Cherng Talay Municipality Mayor Sunirand Rachatapruerk and Deputy Mayor Wipa Chanthong receive a state-of-the-art electronic water treatment system donated by Andy Andersen of Caribbean Clear Thailand for use at the Cherng Talay municipal public pool.



**PAWS FOR EFFECT:** Antonio Perelli (in red shirt) and Lion Adrienne Tusoni (rear, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) present students at Muang Phuket School in Rawai with at total of 91,000 baht, donated by Mr Perelli's family and friends through the Lions Club of Phuket Pearl scholarship program, so the children may continue their education.

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## Phuket scores a first in Asia with dog passports

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of May 1-14, 2001

PHUKET: Phuket has begun issuing dog passports, making it the first place in Asia (and the second in the world) to do so, according to the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO).

The introduction of dog passports, which are issued free of charge and which (so far) are not compulsory, is an expansion of the PPLO's campaign against rabies, which began with the office keeping records of dogs that have been vaccinated against the disease.

Thai law requires pet dogs to be vaccinated for rabies.

A spokesperson for the PPLO told the *Gazette*, "The idea

is to compile a record of each dog's vaccination history so we can keep rabies at bay indirectly, while also allowing dog owners to take their pets abroad."

To apply for a dog passport, dog owners must take their pets to the PPLO's office on Narisorn Rd in Phuket Town.

Owners will also need to bring a photo of themselves; two 7.62 cm x 12.7 cm photos of the right side of the dog's head and two of the left side; as well as details such as the dog's breed, age and name, and a record of the vaccines administered to the dog and the date(s) thereof.

## THE TIME machine

News from the past

## Drought Now Seen Likely For Phuket

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of May, 1996

PHUKET: Leading local Thai daily newspaper *Siang Tai* reports that the three districts in Phuket, Muang, Kathu and Thalang, are preparing to cope with a drought likely to hit the island this year, according to Phuket Provincial Clerk Yongyuth Sangchan.

Yongyuth notes that this year's weather has been much

drier than usual. If it continues, it might lead to shortages of drinking and domestic water, even though there is "no problem" at present.

He did admit, however, that some areas in Phuket Town are already facing a shortage of water, but government trucks have been distributing 'H<sub>2</sub>O' to the affected people everyday.

## PHUKET DIARY of coming events

### May 20: The Jamie O' Trio at Watermark.

Another great night of live music at Watermark bar and restaurant at the Boat Lagoon, this time when The Jamie O' Trio take to the stage for a full acoustic chillout vibe in the vein of Jack Johnson, Ben Harper, Coldplay and CCR. You can expect them to pick up the pace later on with U2, the Stones, The Jam & other classy covers. Watch out as the knickers go flying when these young boys cook it up. If you want dinner, then book early as this is bound to be another full night. On stage 8:30 pm-11:30 pm. Happy hours and drinks promotions.

For more information contact Stuart Bird at Tel: 01-7376184, Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com

### May 20. Canadian Club Resurrection Meeting.

All Canadians are welcome to attend this first informal meeting to resurrect the monthly Canadian Club get-togethers. Subsequent meetings will be held every third Saturday of the month. There is no specific agenda, it's just a friendly get together for a drink and a good time. Event starts at 5 pm, at Jimmie's Lighthouse in Chalong.

For more information call

**TINY TWIRLERS:** Junior dancers from the Phuket Academy of Dance will perform on stage at the Hilton on June 3.



Phil Hollywood at Tel: 01-080-8995.

### June 3. Academy of Dance annual recital.

Dance students both young and old of Karen Alexander's Phuket Academy of Dance will perform a range of choreographed routines to the theme of "That's Entertainment", in the island's premier amateur dance event to be held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort, from 5 pm.

For more information contact Linda Cumming at Tel: 01-8937749.

### July 2-30: British Curriculum International School Summer Camp.

Sports & Adventure Camp organized by BCIS. For details see the website at [www.bcis.ac.th/sport2006.asp](http://www.bcis.ac.th/sport2006.asp)

### July 10: Asarnha Bucha - public holiday.

Asarnha Bucha marks the anniversary of the Buddha delivering his first sermon at the Deer Park in Varanasi, India, more than 2,500 years ago.

### July 11: Khao Phansa - public holiday.

Beginning of Buddhist Lent. This is the beginning of the "Rains Retreat" - known in Thai as Phansa, hence the Thai name for the holiday, Khao Phansa Day - during which many Thais join the monkhood for three months.

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# Supertrain, faster than a speeding bullet...

Those wonders of the modern world, *shinkansen* or bullet trains, have been running for the past 40 years. They are earth-bound “jets” that just happen to follow railway tracks at speeds of up to 300 kilometers an hour.

Climb aboard in Tokyo, and 232 minutes later – the average late arrival is a piffling six seconds – your *shinkansen* is pulling into Hiroshima, 681km away.

For the ordinary visitor, *shinkansen* lay the entire country wide open. And in a nation rarely noted for its travel bargains, a visitor's Japan Rail Pass lets the train take the financial strain. For example, a regular return ticket between the capital and Hiroshima costs ¥36,000

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

(12,000 baht); but pick up a pass for around two thirds of that amount, and you can go just about anywhere you want by train for an entire week.

You don't have to be a dyed-in-the-rail train buff to appreciate *shinkansen*.

The sight of one hurtling through a station is a marvel to behold, as is the near stampede as passengers hop on and off, assisted by smartly uniformed staff. Supremely comfortable –

the more recent 500 series, which cost US\$40 million apiece, have computer-controlled suspension – and organized down to the very last detail, *shinkansen* personify luxury travel.

The *shinkansen* lines run from Kyushu in the south, roughly following the east coast, to Hachinohe at the north of the main island of Honshu.

Rail Pass holders can use other, less speedy, trains on the network, but the *shinkansen* vaporize distance and are the best option for anyone with limited time.

With seven days to play with, although two- and three-week passes are also available, the choice from Tokyo is either south or north. Try to pack in too many sights, though, and you'll spend more time on the train than off it.

Fukuoka lies at the southernmost end of the line, a bustling city criss-crossed by canals,



Fast women: Granny can board a *shinkansen* and zip along at a very unladylike 300 kilometers an hour.

known of Japan's cultural centers, with more than 2,000 temples and shrines, a trio of stunning palaces and dozens of gardens and museums.

From the capital – perhaps one of the most frenetic in Asia, and where it's easy to understand what inspired Ridley Scott, director of the futuristic *Blade Runner* – the *shinkansen* lines spread out over northern Honshu.

Nagano, site of the 1998 Winter Olympics, is not just one of the main gateways to the Japanese Alps, it is also the center of one of the most beautiful regions in the country, where traditional architecture and culture still linger.

One of the pluses of this part of Japan is the prevalence of *onsen* – natural hot springs in which visitors are encouraged to while away an hour or so, up to their necks in near-boiling water.

While some *onsen* have been commercialized, there are still many that remain free to anyone who happens to drop by. They are an excellent way to unwind after a long journey – even aboard a high rattle-free *shinkansen*.

and this is the jumping off point for the rest of Kyushu.

Heading towards Tokyo, Hiroshima is the first major stop, and the Peace Park the logical first port of call.

A couple of hours to the east, Kyoto is perhaps the best-

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## Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

Having worked in the tourism industry in Thailand for 16 years, Andrea Capucci is in an ideal position to know what visitors to this country are looking for.

In February of this year Andrea, who comes from a town called Latina, not far from Rome, opened Latina Italian restaurant on Wichit Songkram Rd in Kathu.

Andrea is a man who obviously likes to be busy.

"In spite of everything else I've done, I've never lost my passion for cooking," he says.

"So the restaurant fulfills that interest. I'm also involved in wine distribution, and am able to supply more than 70 types of Italian wine. We have 25 available in the restaurant."

Most of the first guests to visit Latina have returned, much to Andrea's pleasure.

In addition to the extensive wine selection, there is a range of delicious Italian dishes to enjoy, and soft live music playing between 8 and 11 pm.

The restaurant has seating for 50 people on two floors – with a pool table upstairs. There's also an outdoor terrace.

### Spinach and potato dumplings in Bolognese sauce with cream – Serves 2

#### Ingredients

*For the dumplings:*

200gm plain flour,  
100gm fresh spinach leaves,  
½ small potato, boiled,  
Salt and pepper,  
½ tablespoon butter.

*For the sauce:*

50gm minced pork,  
50gm minced beef,  
200gm tinned peeled tomatoes,  
1 small onion, diced,  
1 small carrot, diced,  
1 small white celery stalk, diced,



#### Pizza Latina

(one pizza, about 30cm in diameter)

#### Ingredients

*For the base:*

1kg plain flour (imported flour type 00 preferred),  
7gm dried yeast;  
4 tablespoons sunflower oil,  
28gm sea salt,  
500ml water.

This will make enough dough for 6 pizzas. You can keep it in the fridge in a sealed bag for 3-4 days.

*For the topping:*

120gm grated mozzarella,  
10 halved cherry tomatoes,  
3-4 slices Parma ham,  
2 tablespoons flakes of Parmesan cheese,  
1 small bowl of rocket leaves,  
Olive oil.

#### Method

To prepare the dough, put about 90% of the water into a large bowl and stir in the yeast. Leave this for about five minutes. Mix the salt into the remaining water in a separate bowl. Put the yeast solution into a mixer with the flour. Mix for about 30 seconds, then add



Andrea Capucci says he has never lost his passion for cooking.

the water with salt and mix for a few seconds. Knead the dough well and store in a large sealed plastic bag at room temperature for one hour.

When the dough has doubled in size it is ready to roll out. You will need a piece weighing 225gm for one pizza. Roll the dough out very thinly; this is Roman style.

Place the ingredients on top in the following order: mozzarella cheese, cherry tomato halves, Parma ham, Parmesan cheese and finish with a drizzle of olive oil. Bake in an oven pre-heated to 250°F for about 5 minutes. Arrange the rocket leaves on top before serving.

# LA LOCAL LATINA

½ glass red wine,  
Olive oil,  
Salt and pepper,  
1 pinch nutmeg powder,  
1 pinch sugar,  
1 tablespoon whipping cream,  
Fresh basil leaves,  
1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese.

#### Method

To prepare the dumplings, cook

the spinach leaves in butter until they are wilted. Remove and blend with the boiled potato until you have a smooth paste.

Put the flour into a large bowl with some salt and pepper, and add the potato and spinach mixture. Mix until it becomes a dough.

Form this into a ball and roll out into thin sausages. Cut into small pieces about the size of kidney beans.

To prepare the Bolognese sauce, fry the onion, carrot and celery in hot olive oil until the onion is golden. Add the minced beef, pork and nutmeg.

Stir fry for about two minutes, then put in the red wine, peeled tomatoes, sugar, salt and pepper.

Simmer the sauce for two hours. Boil the dumplings in salted water for 10 minutes.

Drain well and add to the Bolognese sauce. Add the cream and Parmesan cheese before serving and decorate with fresh basil leaves.

*Latina restaurant, 94/23 Wichit Songkram Rd, Kathu, Phuket 83120. Tel: 076 249688. Open six days a week, closed Mondays, from midday until midnight.*

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## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

The Lexus range is expanding. It now incorporates the flagship luxury sedan the LS430 – soon to be superseded by the LS460 – the exquisite GS coupé, the SC430 sports car, which has been controversial in terms of styling, and the somewhat outdated RX300 SUV.

There is also a relatively new addition to the line-up – the compact luxury sports model, the IS250.

Exhibited at this year's Bangkok Motor Show, the IS250 joined the only other two truly new motors there, the Ford Ranger and the Mazda BT50.

The Lexus, however, has been around a few years, and in Europe a diesel version is now available, to take advantage of the huge demand for oil burners in many countries.

In Thailand, the latest Lexus IS offers a 2.5-liter direct injection gasoline V6, producing a healthy 204bhp and strong torque of 250Nm, thanks to variable exhaust and inlet valve technology.

### LIGHTING

The compact V6 is mated to a six-speed manual gearbox, although a six-speed automatic – complete with paddle-operated sequential shift – is available as an option. Maximum speed is a respectable 230kmh (225kmh for the automatic), with a 0-100kmh time of 8.4 seconds.

A unique feature – in this class of car – is the intelligent adaptive front lighting, in which one of the projector lamps swivels with the steering by up to 15°, helping the driver to see round the bend.

As you would expect in a sedan of this class, the IS250 is extensively equipped.

On the safety front, the Lexus has electronic brake-force distribution (EBD), brake assist, traction control and vehicle stability control.

It also features Lexus' unique active safety system called



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Vehicle Dynamics Integrated Management (VDIM).

This provides steering assistance to minimize torque steer, helping to optimize the steering angle and maintain stability.

The VDIM system is integrated with new electric power steering, which is superior to comparable hydraulic systems, in that it uses a direct-current motor to offer tiny but perceptible fuel savings.

Unlike conventional power steering, in which the assistance is related to vehicle and engine speed, the Lexus system also reflects steering angle and torque, thereby calculating the degree of assistance needed at any given time.

New to the latest IS250 is a pre-crash safety system using a millimeter-accurate radar sensor, operating within a 20° scanning amplitude to detect obstacles in front of the vehicle.

A computer uses sensors to monitor speed, steering angle and yaw rate to help determine whether an impending collision is unavoidable. If it is, the system

activates the seatbelt pre-tensioners and adjusts the emergency brake assist system to provide maximum force when the brake pedal is depressed.

For passive safety, there are whiplash-lessening seats, a concept that provides a new seat back and headrests that are closer to the occupant.

### ALUMINUM

There are dual-stage front air bags, as well as – for the first time in this segment – driver and passenger knee bags, while side air bags and full-length air curtains are also standard.

The body of the IS250 features an aluminum hood to reduce weight, and many of the suspension components are also lightweight aluminum.

Wider and lower than its competitors, the new Lexus has

a low center of gravity to give greater stability, together with Lexus' legendary ride quality.

In keeping with the Lexus tradition of "concert-hall" audio reproduction, the IS250 is equipped with a 13-speaker sound system, together with a six-CD auto changer and an auxiliary socket for external audio devices.

The Thai auto industry is currently enjoying a boom, with a 13.6% rise in new sales in February – the latest month for which figures are available. This compares with a 2.8% decline in January.

Although the market is dominated by light pickups, there is clearly a strong market for luxury compacts such as the Lexus IS250.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at [jhc@netvigator.com](mailto:jhc@netvigator.com)



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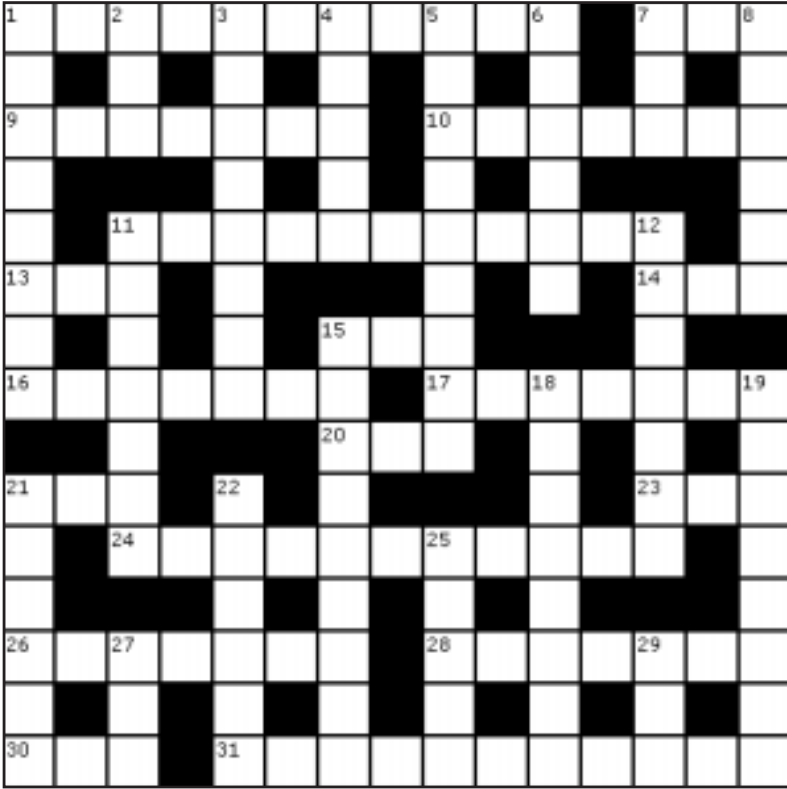
Hidden in the grid below are 20 words that are parts of a bicycle. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; all 20, excellent.  
Solution on the next page.

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

# The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Ill-informed people – I note neither partner entertains.
7. Eccentric Scot returns. (3)
9. Set boundaries and timed back around 51. (7)
10. Hairy bruin almost dead. (&0
11. Make aunt face rum, in a way. (11)
13. Thanks, I create language group. (3)
14. Vehicle’s in California, right? (3)
15. From the French I get a garland. (3)
16. Take away the food? It brings merit. (7)
17. Gain release if loud court official. (7)
20. Mean street. (3)
21. Make a bow to equal score. (3)
23. Knight and I take direction at both ends. (3)
24. Here and capable, and looks smart too. (11)
26. Pin ’em to cook spice. (7)
28. Everything you and Des refers to. (7)
30. Arrest and reverse prohibition. (3)
31. Self-penned vehicle is vivid. (11)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

Down

1. Owing rumpiled bed I dent. (8)
2. Bit of a pain I’ll have? It’s nothing. (3)
3. Aide-memoir regarding tender. (8)
4. Mail order to fit back into theme. (5)
5. Sign up for underwater writer? (9)
6. Irish feller may embarrass us, we’re told. (6)
7. Disc about you gives something to chew on. (3)
8. Crazier color! (6)
11. Young lady takes pet back ? That’s a blunder. (7)
12. Cuts in two ways when sun disappears. (7)
15. Omits tree bits not inside. (6,3)
18. I label as “twisted queen”. (8)
19. In favor of English, thus appropriate for court. (8)
21. Canvas on fish. (6)
22. Point to Internal Affairs after her ailment. (6)
25. In shirt, called city. (5)
27. Just the cap for protesting! (3)
29. Scuttle back to Simpson cry. (3)

Solution on next page

su|do|ku  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

		4			
		7	1		
3		1			
8			3		
		5			
	3				
			5		

Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each “box” of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

## Scribble Space



## EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

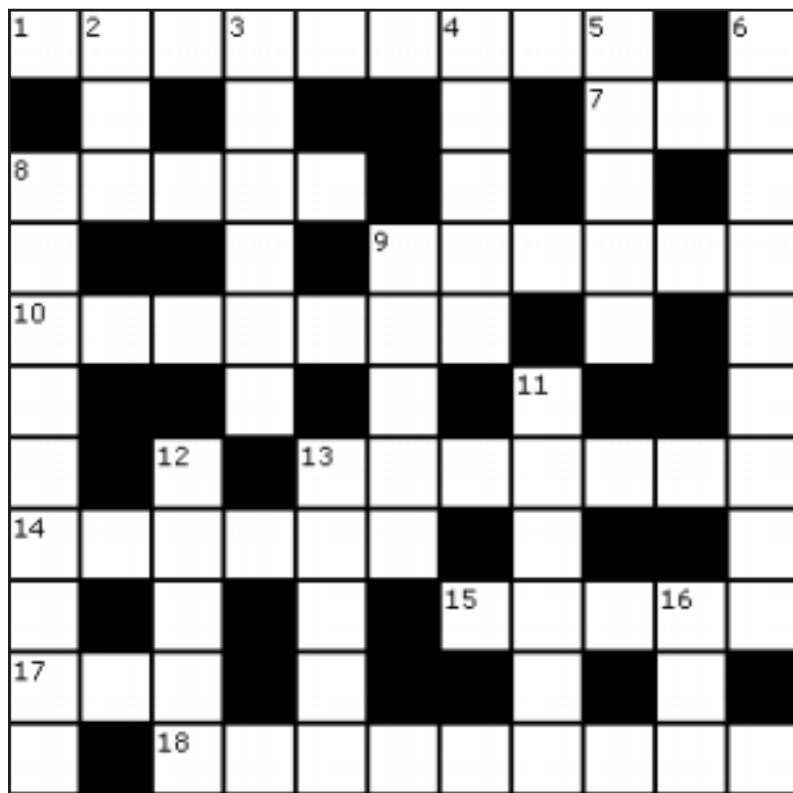
1. Which Native American woman, born in 1595, married John Rolfe and became a celebrity in London toward the end of her short life?
2. Saltpeter, sulfur and charcoal mixed to a ratio of 15:3:2 produces what kind powder?
3. Which bodybuilder achieved fame with his mail-order “Dynamic Tension” exercise program?
4. At which Bangkok park is the “Weekend Market” is held?
5. Who is the leader of the newly-formed Pracharaj Party?
6. What vegetable is commonly used for a nose in a snowman?
7. On what island is Guantanamo Bay located?
8. What is the largest muscle in the human body?
9. What do we call a book containing classified lists of synonyms?
10. Which Asian country is Ulan Bator the capital of?
- Answers on next page.

## Brain Buster!

What number should replace the question mark in the middle of the bottom line? Why?

8  
2 5 2  
1 2 4 2 1  
1 2 1 3 1 2 1  
1 2 1 1 ? 1 1 2 1

Answer on next page



## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

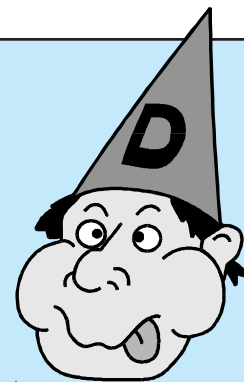
1. Bandit style.
7. Shoemaker's tool.
8. Not sink.
9. Vow.
10. Hand signal.
13. North African country.
14. Required.
15. To love and respect.
17. The Sun.
18. Shrank.

### DOWN

2. Laugh online.
3. Decrees.
4. Soup spoon.
5. Gridiron units.
6. Make less painfull.
8. Lack of clarity.
9. Full of self-esteem.
11. Nero's plaything.
12. Shouts.
13. Pavarotti, for example.
16. Fish eggs.

*Solution below right*

# Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask 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. The patent for which item of clothing was issued in the US on May 20, 1873?
2. Yaoundé is the capital city of which country?
3. Who directed the 1978 Hong Kong martial arts cult classic *Five Deadly Venoms*?
4. In which city is Darling Harbour?
5. The mammal *Okapia johnstoni* is peculiar to which region of the world?
6. Which poem begins, "Had we but world enough, and time, This coyness, Lady, were no crime..."
7. Who wrote it?
8. Quintana Roo is a state in which country?
9. Gerard Way is the founder and lead singer of which band?
10. Which character in which film says, "...Commander of the Armies of the North, General of the Felix Legions, loyal servant to the true emperor, Marcus Aurelius"?
11. *The Evening Times* is a Monday-Saturday tabloid newspaper printed in which UK city?
12. Which British sports commentator used the catchphrase, "It's an up and under?"
13. What is another term for a memetic phrase?
14. In the TV series *Star Trek*, who said, "Beam me up, Scotty"?
15. Which was Fleetwood Mac's only number one British single?
16. What was the original Brougham?
17. Which jazz guitarist was born August 12, 1954 in Lee's Summit, Missouri?
18. Which town is the third-largest film production center for US-based movie productions?
19. Who recorded the 1976 album *The Modern Lovers*?
20. Who designed the Rolling Stones' "tongue and lip" logo?

*Answers below left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Brain Buster Solution

The number 2 should replace the question mark. Each horizontal row adds up to one more than the one above it, so the last row must add up to 12.

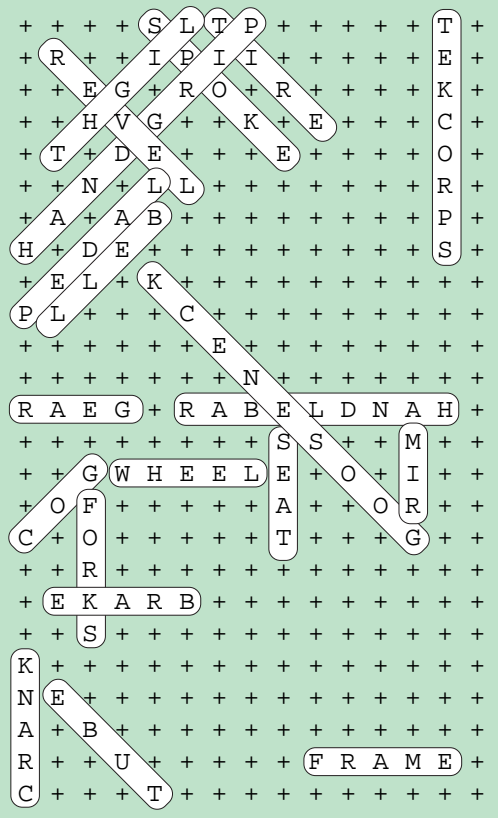
## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Blue jeans with copper rivets; 2. Cameroon; 3. Chang Cheh; 4. Sydney; 5. The Ituri Rainforest of central Africa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; 6. *To His Coy Mistress*; 7. Andrew Marvell; 8. Mexico; 9. My Chemical Romance; 10. Maximus Decimus Meridius, from *Gladiator*; 11. Glasgow; 12. Eddie Waring; 13. A catchphrase; 14. No one; 15. *Albatross*; 16. A four-wheel horse-drawn carriage of the 1800s; 17. Pat Metheny; 18. Vancouver (after Hollywood and New York); 19. *The Modern Lovers*; 20. John Pasche.

## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Pocahontas; 2. Gunpowder; 3. Charles Atlas; 4. Chatuchak Park; 5. Snoh Thienthong; 6. A carrot; 7. Cuba; 8. The gluteus maximus, located in the buttocks; 9. A thesaurus; 10. Mongolia.

## Hidden Words SOLUTION



## Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



## Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



**Manners, please!** "This favorite place to eat is one where you literally get sand between your toes. And your food rests just a couple of inches above the sand. And you, the diner, sit on it." (1)

**Tailormade charm:** "I used to live in Patong, [and] practically every morning as I walked to my car the same tailor asked me if I 'wanted suit?' I ran through every emotional response over the months, but nothing could stop him. One time I was on a bike waiting for the traffic to clear and the guy leaned off the pavement and whispered his mantra in my ear.

"You could run out of the sexy show with a misplaced balloon dart in your head, trip over the guy with the 'you want massage' postcards, get hit by 3 tuk-tuks and in your dying, bleeding vision you'd have a tailor guy offering you a suit whilst a another fella places a dirty great lizard around your neck and takes a photo. That's part of the charm of Patong." (2)

**More hassle:** "We paid for a pre-paid taxi to Patong Beach, and on the way there, our taxi driver made an unannounced stop at a travel agency and got out. A lady showed up at our window waving brochures and asked if she could book a hotel or tours for us. Needless to say, we did not give

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

What does it feel like to sit on your food? Ever been sold a suit on your deathbed? Is Patong the gay/lesbian capital of the world? Was your taxi driver gay/happy or gay/gay? All these life-changing questions are addressed in this weekly look at how the world sees Phuket through the Internet, thanks to the Gazette's veteran of the tripewryter.

our taxi driver any opportunity to earn a commission." (3)

**And more:** "We are still trying to figure out why we would spend 2½ days in the gay, lesbian capital of Thailand and ½ a day in Paris? The organizer and his significant other thought Patong beach was a real cool place! By the end of our stay we had had enough of the stalls selling junk, the tailors pulling you in from the street to sell you a suit and the

# Exclusive

## The truth about Patong

ladies (we think) of the evening soliciting customers." (4)

**A leading question?** "In a country where the average woman is particularly easy on the eye, a country which is famous the world over, rightly or wrongly, for its sexual image from its large sex tourism industry, is it not unreasonable to assume that the locals may well be a bunch of sex maniacs, or at the very least, a bunch of keen participants?" (5)

**The sexual proclivities of Thai taxi drivers:** "I see the taxi driver over there! This guy whose name is Tuk is the first Thai I met. That's the only reason he will have his very special room in my heart. His English was worse than mine and I must recognize that our conversations were not very elaborate. We had the time to exchange a few ideas about my 4 months holidays compared to his 7 days holidays (!).

"Everything was fine on this road along the beach, in the direction of Patong, the taxi driver

was gay, unable to express any complicated idea such as 'don't seepeek farangset, seepeek engliss little.'" (6)

**Eh?** "So we arrived in Patong Beach in Phuket (where the tsunami hit) and found it to be very much like Ibiza - although i have never been there!" (7)

**Crumbs!** "Phuket. Nothing but a breeding ground for dead beats, posers and seedy old men with Thai women half their age. The locals don't care who you are or where your from, they just want your money." (8)

**More hyperbole:** Lis would like to know why people wax so polemic when it comes to Patong. It's either one way or the other.

For example: "Patong is one of those places people love to visit over and over again. The most-liked and exquisite beach on Phuket Island in Thailand is Patong Beach. It is also one of the most preferred beaches for

diving around the globe" and "Phuket is a huge island with a wide range of beaches." Phuket is most definitely not a "huge" island. It's roughly the same size as Singapore and you don't hear people describing that place as "huge" do you?

There's more: "Some visitors revel in the combination of peaceful surf and high-spirited nightlife." (9)

"Peaceful surf?" Just what the tarnation is "Peaceful surf"? And "Stretched, spotless strip sand"? Patong Beach, "spotless"? That's stretching it a bit isn't it? Better strip it down of superlatives and tell the truth.

1. <http://www.phuketmagazine.com/html/Restaurants/Dining%20by%20the%20Oceans.htm>
2. <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/lofiversion/index.php?t59447.html>
3. [http://www.yeungstuff.com/rtw/blog/2003\\_12\\_14\\_archive.htm](http://www.yeungstuff.com/rtw/blog/2003_12_14_archive.htm)
4. <http://www.gtgtandems.com/moulds/moulds40.html>
5. [http://friskodude.blogspot.com/2005\\_04\\_01\\_friskodude\\_archive.html](http://friskodude.blogspot.com/2005_04_01_friskodude_archive.html)
6. <http://www.thai-blogs.com/index.php?blog=23&m=200504>
7. <http://jacqui1981.travellerspoint.com/archive/022006/>
8. <http://www.travelblog.org/Asia/Thailand/Phuket/Patong-Beach/blog-26334.html>
9. [http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/26623/have\\_a\\_memorable\\_vacation\\_on\\_patong.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/26623/have_a_memorable_vacation_on_patong.html)

**S**keletons on the Zahara (Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2004, 353pp) is the harrowing story of how the 11-man American crew of the merchant brig *Commerce* was shipwrecked off the coast of the western Sahara in 1815 and enslaved by Arab tribes.

For three months, they suffered terribly from thirst, hunger, exposure and exhaustion. Some were never seen again. Central to the tale is the dogged leadership of ship captain James Riley and his unlikely friendship with Arab trader Sidi Hamet, who managed to deliver five of the crew to ransom and safety.

*Skeletons on the Zahara* is also an object lesson in how fleeting literary fame can be. Author Dean King, who specializes in nautical books, was doing research in the library of the New York Yacht Club in 1995 when he spotted an old leather tome entitled *Sufferings in Africa* by Connecticut sea captain James Riley. When published in New York in 1817, it became an immediate bestseller, and was republished in England and France. Among its admirers were Henry David Thoreau, James Fenimore Cooper and Abraham Lincoln.

"Lincoln held up Riley's narrative as one of the half dozen most influential books of his youth," King writes. While it was the story of white Christians enslaved by desert Arabs, the abolitionist themes were all too apparent. In a letter written in 1819, Riley commented that having suffered slavery along with "cruelty & religious intolerance and big-

# Enslaved in the desert



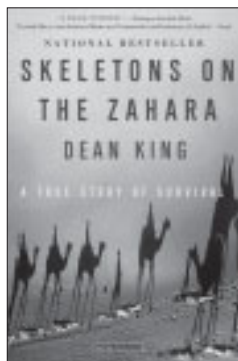
## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

otry", and that he could not accept the enslavement of black Africans "who have been snatched & torn from their native country... by professors too of moral & political freedom & christian benevolence".

Riley's book stayed in print until the end of the 19th century. In light of the current tensions between Christians and Muslims, King has resurrected the tale, using additional material from a companion memoir by seaman Archibald Robbins who, with another crewman, managed to secure his freedom by following Riley's route.

Riley also provides a lengthy account from the point of view of Sidi Hamet, who led Riley's crew on their 300-mile journey to the Moroccan port of Swearah, where he turned them



in for a bounty from the British Consul.

When Riley and his crew are shipwrecked off Cape Bojador, in what would later become the Spanish Sahara, they are set upon by the desperately poor Arabs of the coast who strip them and intend to enslave them. They manage to escape back to their foundered ship, and set off down the coast for 200 miles in a longboat.

Tortured by thirst, they are shipwrecked again, and after wandering in a delirium of hunger and exhaustion, turn them-

selves in at the first Arab campfire. The men are split up among different masters and set off wandering into the desert. As "Christian dogs" they are beaten and stoned, and rarely given enough food or water. They survive on roots, snails and camel urine.

At another camp, Riley encounters Moroccan traders Sidi Hamet and his brother Seid. By now he has picked up enough Arabic to offer them a proposition: if they buy him and his shipmates, they will be rewarded with a fortune in silver from his friends in Swearah. He's lying, but Sidi Hamet is his only chance of survival. The five Americans are already close to death - emaciated, filthy and half-naked.

Here is what they look like as they mount Sidi Hamet's camels for the long trek to Morocco:

"Hamet put Horace, Burns and Savage on his towering camel. They clung to its pack-saddle and one another in a shift-

ing stew of flesh and sweat, of matted hair and woolly beards. Burns, wearing an old jacket, and Horace and Savage, draped in ratty goatskins, looked like desperadoes. Riley, shirtless, and Clark, clad in a fragment of sail, rode on Seid's camel."

They endure days of waterless treks before they emerge from the desert at last into the farming villages of Morocco. There is still much intrigue and tension, with various groups seeking to seize the little party and return them to the desert.

When they make the final push to safety, the reader heaves a sigh of relief.

This is a horrific tale leavened by the innate nobility of Riley and Sidi Hamet.

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## Lessons to be learned from a simple meeting of minds

The new we're-all-pals relationship between the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) and the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) appears to hold great promise of a more effective approach to solving Phuket's stray dog problem.

At a meeting described by the SDF as "extremely positive", the two sides – who until recently spoke to each other only through gritted teeth, if at all – came to an agreement to cooperate in running the government's underfunded Mid-Road Dog Shelter.

The outbreak of peace in the War of the Shelter holds lessons that warrant application in a variety of situations, particularly those that involve foreigners on one side and Thais on the other.

In Phuket, perhaps Thailand as a whole, foreigners who move here initially love the slower pace of life engendered by the Thais' *mai pen arai, jai yen yen* approach to life.

They enjoy the lack of rules – or the lack of enforcement of rules – which impart a sense of personal freedom that seems to have been lost in the nanny states of the West, where Big Brother watches via CCTV on every street corner and almost every activity seems to be subject to approval of every minute detail by the meddling nannies from Health and Safety Departments.

All too often, however, after this first blush of utter love wears off, disenchantment and bitterness seep in as foreigners find that things don't work as efficiently as they remember they did "back home". The time is then ripe for Angry Farang Syndrome to take hold.

Five years ago, it was possible to say to such people, "Well, if you don't like it, go home." Today, however, Phuket is a great deal more international than it was five years ago.

In terms of population, the foreigners may still be a small minority, but in economic terms they loom large – and all the signs point to their economic influence growing further.

Some kind of middle ground must be found between the impatience of the West and the relaxed approach of the East, or at least Thailand. At the risk of jinxing the dog shelter accord, it seems that this middle ground has been found between the SDF and the PPLO.

The accord has been reached between an NGO and a government department, but it offers an example that anyone in any social or business context would be wise to follow, if he or she wants to lower temperature and blood pressure – and get things done.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

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## 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.

### The perils of potholes in Phuket

I drive from Patong to my business in Kata seven days a week. It is my observation that what was originally a minor problem involving a few bumps on the new road surface has got considerably worse with each new "repair" job. The contractor merely dumps asphalt on the road and does not roll it in to ensure that it adheres to the existing surface.

After just a few days it goes and as a result the holes are even worse. This section of the road needs redoing as the bumps are located on a steep decline and by a sharp curve and are very dangerous. Tuk-tuk drivers actually drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid them! I just wonder how long it will be before we have a serious accident.

Joe Frisa  
Patong

postcards and T-shirts that leave the island and become an icon of hope and good fortune, putting a fitting capstone on the tsunami disaster.

In particular, the establishment of this new symbol of Phuket will do much to heal our image as a place haunted by bad luck, in our growing Asian source markets.

While I am a firm believer in maintaining a strict ban on construction above 80 meters, the government has made a wise exception to the rule in this case.

Donations are being accepted at [www.mingmongkol-phuket.com](http://www.mingmongkol-phuket.com), but perhaps a more direct and satisfying method for island residents to support this project would be to visit the site in person. The view is spectacular.

Jeffrey Studebaker  
Phuket

### Dog daze in Patong

I saw the article on your website recently about the "Phuket Dog" statue installed at Patong and last Sunday I decided to go and see it for myself.

I am astonished that rubbish like that can be considered art these days, and the concept given by the so-called artist – 'The dog will live in our hearts forever' – is utter twaddle.

When I was young you had to have talent to be an artist, not just be able to spout mindless prattle and make a big model of Snoopy without the spots.

I also wonder what the Patong authorities were thinking when they gave it pride of place. Dazzled by a famous name, no doubt. It looks like it should be in a children's playground. Indeed,

when I was there it was being clambered over by an assortment of unaccompanied children, at great risk to their safety, I might add, given the concrete floor under it.

And it's only going to get worse. Already the white fiberglass looks scuffed and scruffy. It will no doubt soon be covered with moronic graffiti of the "Bill loves Nok" variety.

I really think it's time the Phuket Dog was put down.

Bill  
Nai Harn

### If Gom didn't exist would anyone care?

With reference to the Blue Gom's letter (*Gazette*, issue of May 6) I believe the creation of Grumpy Old Men (Gom) clubs should be an island-wide institution and not restricted solely to Goms in the Cherng Talay area.

Goms' wives could rest assured that their husbands are in good and relatively safe, if somewhat grumpy company. Goms themselves could vent their spleen, have a good moan, and for once act their grumpy selves instead of having to keep up this ridiculous smiling lark.

Host bars would do spectacular business and wives could enjoy a well-earned break from their whining *teeraks*.

Participants should not necessarily be over 50; they should merely possess the negative and bleak mindset with which most middle-aged men are afflicted.

It's such a beautifully simple and innovative plan that the very thought of it almost brought a smile to my face. I said almost.

Lis Kinswoman  
Phuket

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

# Why Bali and Phuket must cooperate — not compete

**D**ue to the similar geography of Phuket and Bali as well as the significant tourist attractions and natural resources which draw in tourists from all over the world, we feel that initiating the sister-city project would have considerable benefits to both islands. The project, which is still under consideration, would aim to expand and strengthen bilateral relations in all areas of economic and technical cooperation, particularly trade and tourism.

The idea of being sister cities is to co-operate not to compete, as some might have thought. We intend to use the attractiveness of the two islands as tools to draw tourists from all the continents of the world. We would encourage the development of packages to increase the flow of tourists going from Phuket to Bali and vice versa. The necessary arrangements for transportation, both sea and air links, to make it convenient for tourists to move between the two islands can be achieved through cooperation.

The 2005 bombings shocked the Bali economy, which is highly dependent on tourism, causing a 30-40% drop in the number of visitors arriving on the island. The image of Bali as a safe tourist destination faded away from the guide books. However, the atmosphere of Bali, the so-called Island of Peace, has been healing itself.

Tourists from the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, America, Europe and the Middle East are now flooding back to the area. The great achievement of the

## FIRST PERSON

**P**huket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has been cool on the idea of twinning Denpasar, the provincial capital of Bali, with Phuket City ever since Indonesian Ambassador Ibrahim Yusuf first proposed the idea on December 2. In his initial response, Gov Udomsak said he would need first need to raise the idea with local tourism industry associations.

Then, at a meeting on April 4, Gov Udomsak said, "We are still considering the proposal to establish [Phuket and Bali] as 'sister cities'. I need more time to decide."

However, **Satria Djambek**, Head of Mission of the Indonesian Consulate in Songkhla, is a keen proponent of the project. Here he explains why he thinks the project is a good idea and about how Bali is coping with the aftermath of the 2005 terrorist bomb attacks, in which 23 people were killed, and the 2002 bomb blasts in the popular tourist area of Kuta that killed 202 people.



police in catching the perpetrators of the bombings is clearly a key component in restoring Bali's image.

Security is currently the most important issue to be addressed. In order to increase the safety and security of Bali, several measures have been taken. Thorough security checks have been initiated at every entrance to Bali, such as at Ngurah Rai Airport, Gilimanuk, Benoa, Padang Bai and Celukan Bawang ports. Tightened security measures have also been in-

troduced at tourism facilities such as hotels and restaurants.

In addition to the above measures, we continue to advise people [in Bali] to stay calm and peaceful in order to avoid conflict among people of different races and religions, and other groups. The people of Bali have proved themselves to be a peace-loving community. This can be seen in their response to the tragedy.

The Balinese people did not respond with riots or negative attitudes, even though the explosion

had destroyed the livelihoods of many local people. Instead of doing harmful things, they helped each other and prayed together, not only among the Hindus, but also with people of other religions. This proves the readiness of Bali to welcome tourists from all over the world, not only physically, but also mentally from the very bottom of Balinese hearts.

People in Bali continue their religious activities as if there had been no problems. There is no feeling of fear or of being threatened present among the people.

Various tourism events in Bali will go ahead as planned. We are confident that the security and safety of Bali is much better now than it was before.

Apart from the above mentioned, the Indonesian visa-upon-arrival system is also a welcome greeting that makes it easier for tourists to enter Bali and every other province of Indonesia. Tourists are given a 30-day visa upon arrival at any entry point. I am confident that tourists will have a pleasant stay in Indonesia.

## Power to the people of Kalim?

I've lived at Kalim Beach for more than 20 years and for the entire time the electricity supply has been dismal, with very low voltage and almost daily power outages. Some days the power goes off for a second as many as seven times a day.

I look out across to Patong and it's always blindingly bright, with no outages ever. I'd like to ask: do we simply have bad management and incompetence on this side of the road? Or is there a logical explanation for this ongoing fiasco?

Name and address supplied

**Theera Phruksanan, Chief of Patong Electrical Works, replies:**

We're currently upgrading the electrical system between Kalim and Kamala from 33 kilovolts to 115 kV. The Phuket Pro-

vincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) is carrying out the work.

We have had problems with outages in the past due to the 33kV wires touching the 115kV wires in high winds and fusing. Therefore we are installing porcelain insulators that are not affected by seawater.

I cannot say exactly when this upgrading will be completed. Ultimately, the PEA headquarters in Bangkok is responsible.

### The Gazette notes:

The PEA has been upgrading power lines all around the island for several years. Often this entails blacking out parts of the island while power cables are replaced. Whenever we receive them, we post lists of such scheduled blackouts in our online Bulletins (see [phuketgazette.net/bulletins](http://phuketgazette.net/bulletins)).

## My wife is Thai. Can I stay here?

I have a one-year, multiple-entry, non-immigrant visa. I have a Thai wife and daughter.

When the initial 90-day permit to stay expires, can I have it extended at Phuket Immigration Office, or do I need to leave the country? If it can be done in Phuket, what documentation is required?

Shaun Rice  
Phuket

**Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen, of Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO), replies:**

Foreigners who hold a multiple-entry non-immigrant visa have to leave the country before their 90-day permit to stay expires. They can then re-enter the

country and in most cases they will then be given another 90-day permit to stay in the Kingdom.

No additional documentation is required for this, just a valid Thai visa. The PPIO cannot do this because Phuket is not a border province.

Phuket Immigration can, however, issue an extension of stay in two cases.

The first is for foreigners who are supporting Thai families. The applicant must have a copy of his or her marriage license, translated into English and certified by the embassy of the country where the certificate was issued, along with proof of a minimum monthly income of 40,000

baht in Thailand or of 400,000 baht in a Thai bank account.

They may come to the PPIO and request the extension of stay.

Secondly, people over 50 years of age can request a permit to stay on the basis of retirement. More information about this option can be found at [www.immigration.go.th](http://www.immigration.go.th)

Alternatively, call the PPIO at Tel: 076-212108.

### The Gazette notes:

The searchable online Issues & Answers database includes a great deal of detailed information about visas and permits to stay.

## Issues & ANSWERS

Write to: The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or submit your issue at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

# Tuk-tuks under siege

A recent news item reported that London plans to import tuk-tuks to augment its fleet of taxicabs. This proposed innovation has not gone unnoticed by British cab drivers.

Not surprisingly, they're against it. "Potential death traps," they snarled.

One was quoted as saying, "Tuk-tuks tip over easily and are definitely dangerous. Safety is a top issue and we will be going back 100 years if they are allowed on the road. In Southeast Asia they're used by poor people trying to scratch a living. This doesn't apply in London."

Other cabbies grumbled that the tuk-tuk is a Third World vehicle unsuited to a posh First World capital like London.

Curious to get the opinion of tuk-tuks on this issue, I arranged to interview one.

It was a Phuket tuk-tuk owned by a local tuk-tuk "business co-operative", so I had to pay 1,500 baht for a five-minute interview:

**Q** How has the tuk-tuk community reacted to the criticisms of British cabbies?

**A** They've insulted our dignity. The tuk-tuk is an icon, revered and venerated throughout Southeast Asia. In Thailand it's practically the national emblem.

**Q** Errrr... isn't the elephant Thailand's national emblem?

**A** An elephant riding in a tuk-tuk, maybe. Far from being "used by poor people trying to scratch a living," the tuk-tuk is a democratic vehicle used by people from all walks of life. During the APEC conference a few years ago, a fleet of electric tuk-tuks ferried the princes and potentates of the world to and from the conference hall. Americans were thrilled to see George W. and Laura riding in a tuk-tuk. Think of the face it gave them!

## The truth about the plan to boost London's fleet of cabs



**Q** But they say the tuk-tuk is a Third World vehicle.

**A** What a slur! Thailand a Third World country? Look at our shopping malls! State of the art, our shopping malls, and that goes double for our mobile telephones.

You can't be a Third World country if you've got a Big C or a Tesco-Lotus on every block and a mobile phone in every pocket. Not to mention Irish pubs.

**Q** But they say tuk-tuks tip over easily.

**A** (Snorting). Well, of course they'll tip over if you weigh 300 pounds and lean the wrong way tearing around a corner at 120kmh. Sit up straight, hang onto your worry beads, pray that the

driver hasn't been quaffing too much Mekong, and I guarantee that you'll get to your destination without mishap.

Well, probably.

In the unlikely event of an accident, there is always the possibility of a favorable rebirth.

**Q** Even so, there's the safety problem...

**A** Bah! Safety is boring. You farang need a little adventure in your lives. Tuk-tuks provide thrills you'll never get in a stable vehicle. You want stability? Go hail a passing tank.

The vehicle you choose to ride in says everything about your character. Adventurers ride in tuk-tuks: mountain climbers, kayakers, sky-divers, bungee-

jumpers, roller-coaster freaks, daredevils who are always pushing the envelope in the great game of life. Boring people take a London cab.

**Q** Sure, but the roofs of tuk-tuks are so low you can't see where you're going. If you stick your head out too far to see what's up ahead, a passing truck might clip it off.

**A** Listen, part of the Tuk-Tuk Experience is not knowing where you're going. A little mystery adds spice to life. If you don't know where you're going, you'll be all the more delighted when you finally get there.

**Q** But then there is the annoyance of having to negotiate with the driver...

**A** Yes! Jaded Londoners will get to sharpen their negotiating skills. Haggling over the fare will revive long-dormant verbal talents. The

warm human contact as they bond with the driver in heated argument will provide a welcome relief from the sterility of their machine-dominated world.

**Q** Will tuk-tuk drivers be able to adapt to the different conditions in England?

**A** For sure we'll suffer. The cold, the rain, the lack of *somtam*. The dour stiff-upper-lippiness of the British character. The total absence of *sanook* or anything remotely resembling a warm Thai smile.

But tuk-tuk drivers will bravely make the sacrifice to enhance our prestige and spread the glory of tuk-tuk culture to Britain's barren shores.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's riding at break-neck speed in a tuk-tuk, and hoping not to be reborn on Britain's barren shores.*

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**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): This month is proving to be pivotal. A series of exciting romantic developments has you poised to make serious decisions. This is a time when you should listen to your heart and not to other people. At work, socializing has to wait until the end of the month.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): If it's your birthday this week, expect the year ahead to bring some fame and fortune. Ideas you have had recently are suddenly going to be attractive propositions to those with influence. You can trust Leo with finances, but beware Sagittarius.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): If you can't see the wood for the trees, clear your head of troubling thoughts. Slashing and burning will help you focus on what is important. Personal relationships will run more smoothly as you discover that honesty is best. Number 2 is lucky on Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Beware the temptation to spend too much money this week. A trip will probably end up costing more than you had budgeted for, although

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

a family member will ease the burden. Your cool heart helps a business discussion on Monday. You may learn something that will be of advantage later in the year.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): What seemed to be a pie-in-the-sky scheme last month takes on realistic appeal when you realize that it's not impossible after all. Events are about to take on a life of their own. Financial transactions may be shaky next week; get proof of agreements. Number 7 is lucky on Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): If you've been waiting for the buffaloes to come home before finalizing a plan, get ready to move. Others who have been dragging their feet will decide they are ready to move also. Your partner is warming to an idea you put forward last week. Emerald green will enhance your appeal.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Romance blossoms in unexpected places

this week. What turns out to be a tedious appointment on Wednesday could well provide the spur for an instant attraction. Those already in a relationship should plan an intimate getaway. At work, your vision is clouded by negative feedback. Remember there are always two sides to a story.

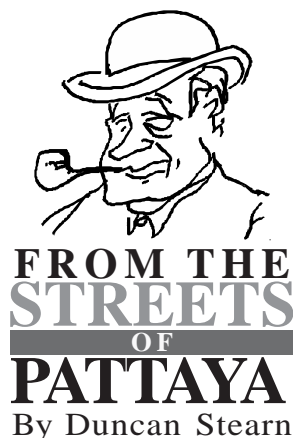
**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Friendships are still running on a somewhat rocky road. Keep conversation topics light to avoid landing in deep water. A colleague puts you on the spot on Tuesday. Correct this situation tactfully before it escalates into something bigger. Something you lost recently will come to light. Wear tangerine to attract good luck.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): A deal will be done and dusted before the week is out. The early birds will celebrate, but those who were too slow to get the worm will be kicking themselves. Romance coasts along quietly; you shouldn't try to force anything before it happens naturally.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): A spider's web of intrigue is being woven around you. It's not usually easy to pull the wool over your eyes, but if you're not alert this could easily happen. Gemini can be trusted, but Aries has ulterior motives. Double check financial affairs early next week as you are likely to have forgotten that someone owes you money.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): A hitch on Tuesday slows you down. Be patient, realize there's no easy way along this jungle path and plan accordingly. Don't give in to pressure from a Sagittarian colleague to make waves. This weekend, take the opportunity to let off steam when friends ask you out. The party atmosphere on Saturday night will help you forget work worries.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Your charm is at a high until the end of the month. Use this by presenting business propositions, but don't take risks. The best day for a date with someone new is Sunday, when first impressions can be trusted. Dinner on a terrace will set the perfect scene.



# You get what you pay for

nation. Reproduced below are two of the best of these; some will, I hope, serve as warnings to those who may see every smiling face as a future Mrs Gullible. Others were simply, at least according to my warped sense of humor, funny.

**Plausible Deniability:** While I understand the motivation and even the logic behind it, I find it surprising the lengths to which some men go to try and hide their lady's past. For example, a story I was regaled with recently involved an Englishman who'd bought a damsel out of one of Pattaya's most infamous Sierra Tango establishments. No doubt feeding her hungry ATM on a monthly basis, he was able to convince her to return to Amphur Anywhere to await his next visit.

However, he phoned her in a state of high dudgeon complaining her photo was still on the bar website. Her picture had been taken off the "Current Girls" page a month or so earlier, but he still wasn't happy because she was still visible in "Party Photos",

snapped about a year before he had met her. So they too were pulled. Scouring the website he found one group shot featuring her comely visage and had it removed.

Returning to Thailand, the now-chaste damsel and her paramour returned to the dine and dash establishment where they had first laid eyes and other parts of their anatomy on each other, to celebrate her birthday. A party was laid on (after all, she had been somewhat of a veteran) but the Englishman was adamant: no photos of him or his beloved should be taken, lest they somehow find their way back to his pals in Pommyland. He didn't want his friends or family to know he'd met his intended in a bar.

I'd love to be a fly on the wall at the Puke-on-Floor boozier in Lower Snatchitch when some old codger full of giggle juice recognizes the lady in question and staggers over with a £10 note and, in a loud voice, says, "Hello, me darlin' Lek. Here's that tenner I promised you for that little extra you gave me in Pattaya last year."

**My First Language is Lying:** An Aussie who has been spending a couple of months a year on holidays in Fun Town told me a story concerning twins who work in a beer boozier in one of the lesser-frequented sois.

On a previous trip he'd asked them both if they'd be willing to come back to his sleeping den for an evening of horizontal folk dancing. He said they declined, but one of the pair was willing to go for a romp.

After being back in Oz for a few months, he returned to the Land of Double Dating and went in search of the twins, this time aiming to complete the quinella. He went to the boozier and found one of his intended, chatted her up in the usual way (waving a flurry of banknotes, most with a purple hue) and off they strolled into the deep dark night.

He asked her, "Do you remember me?"

"I speak nit noi Englit. Only work three day," was her Academy Award-winning reply.

Knowing full well she was telling porkies, he pulled out his mobile phone, scrolled down to the number he wanted, showed her and asked, "Do you recognize this number?" It was, as you might have guessed, her sister's mobile number.

"Oohhh!" she exclaimed in almost flawless English, "I remember now, you went with my sister last time you came to Pattaya."

Of course the game this little sweetheart was playing can be found in the pamphlet *1,001 Ways to Con a Farang*, an under-the-counter tome produced by the Pattaya Chrome Pole Molesters Collective and Beer Bar Workshop. The "I not speak Englit too mutt" section is on page 24, paragraph four, just after the "I only work bar two month" part.



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## ON THE MOVE

**Sombat Prongtong** has been appointed Executive Chef at the Club Andaman Beach Resort. With more than 20 years' experience in the hospitality industry, K. Sombat has worked at the Regent Cha-am Resort, Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, Kata Thani Beach Resort and Rydges Amora Resort. Before his new appointment, K. Sombat was Executive Chef at La Flora Resort, Khao Lak.



**Wijittra Iamwiwattanakool**, 28, from Phuket, has been appointed Sales and Public Relations Manager of the Twinpalms resort. K. Wijittra graduated from Assumption University in Bangkok with a management degree in business administration. Before joining Twinpalms, she was Events and Sales Manager at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.



**Pachon Pakham**, 34, from Srisaket, is the new Executive Sous Chef at the Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket. Since graduating at Srisaket Physical Education College, K. Pachon has kept himself fit through work, including as Executive Chef for both the Horizon Karon Beach Resort & Spa and the Horizon Patong Beach Resort & Spa.



# Will laptops lick Vista?

## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

**Q** Mind if I pick your brains? My screen at home went pop last weekend, and my PC is a 1.2GHz "dog". So I'm due an upgrade and was thinking that laptop prices are now competitive – if I can get three to five years out of one. Any suggestions? I'm not looking for top end, nor am I willing to pay for that, but I do need something to replace my tower. One rider: I have one 80GB drive of music that I use as my jukebox. Is using an external hard drive adapter an option?

CH, Muang

**A** The big question to ask is whether you're going to want to run Microsoft Vista on the new machine. If the answer is "yes" – and it probably is, with a three-to-five-year horizon – you need to ensure you get a sufficiently capable video card.

The new, visually intensive Aero Glass user interface sucks

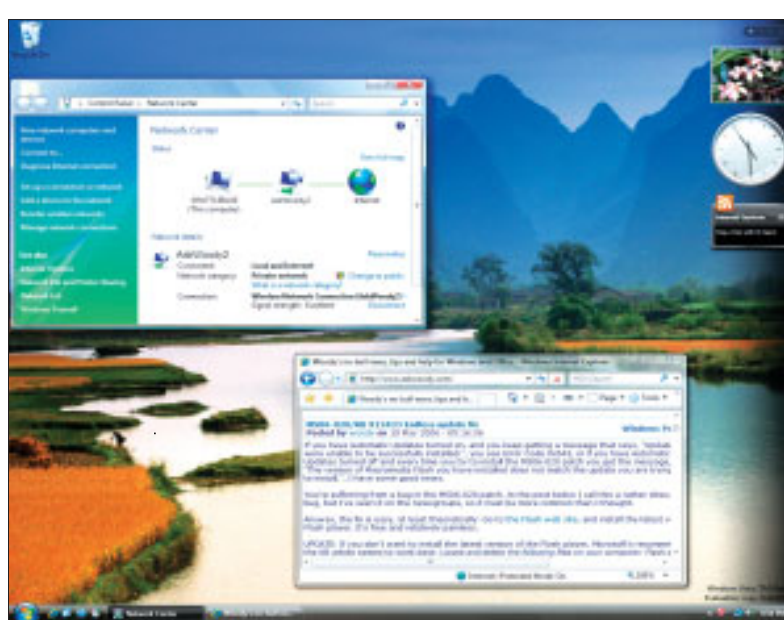
up video card cycles and video memory like a yob quaffs brew in a bar beer. In fact, the number one barrier to getting full use out of Vista won't be the CPU and RAM, as has been the case in previous versions of Windows. Nowadays, fast chips and gigabytes of memory come cheap.

Nope, you're going to get stuck paying for a really good graphics card, and if Microsoft gets the bugs out of Vista before it ships early next year, you're going to love every minute of it.

The two major video card chip makers have lists of Vista-capable products on the Internet: nVidia's is at [www.nvidia.com/page/technology\\_vista\\_home.html](http://www.nvidia.com/page/technology_vista_home.html); ATI's is at <http://www.ati.com/technology/windowsvista/index.html>

If you're shopping for a new computer of any description, and you plan to run Vista, print out those lists of video chips – and don't spend cash on anything else.

As you note, laptops have come down in price. If you want its convenience, and can live with the cramped keyboard, a gener-



Which graphics card you have will determine whether you'll be able to run the Windows Vista Aero Glass interface on your laptop.

ally smaller screen and limited upgrade options, then you'll find that a laptop is only marginally more expensive than a comparable desktop machine.

One big benefit of a laptop is this: if your Internet connection goes down, you can schlep everything to a local wireless spot and get back online relatively easily. That's a significant advantage, particularly in Phuket.

Most laptops – and desktops – come with Intel video chips permanently attached to the motherboard, so you need to be sure that any new laptop can run Vista's Aero Glass.

Intel's website does not appear to have a succinct yes-or-no list of supported video cards. The best I could find was, "Ready for Microsoft Windows Vista / Updated Intel Graphics WDDM drivers supporting the Intel 945G Express Chipset are included in the Windows Vista February CTP build (build 5308). These drivers are only compatible with this build and should not be used with other versions of Windows Vista." Since we're currently up to build 5381, that's small consolation indeed.

That is why I was very pleased to bump into a video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTdTdTELZj4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTdTdTELZj4) showing Aero Glass running on an Intel GMA 950 chip. So as long as you stick to laptops with a GMA 950 – the Thinkpad X60 comes to mind

immediately – you should be able to run Aero Glass on it.

As for external hard drives, they work like champs. Take the hard drive you have now, slap it in an external USB case, plug the power cord into the wall and the USB cable into your PC, and you'll think that your computer has a new drive just like any other.

**Q** I was a bit surprised when I read your article "The view from Windows Vista" in the *Gazette* of April 7. The whole community, including Microsoft, seems to disagree with your statement that it is a "magnificent product". Maybe in the future you can tell the people there is an alternative available – and it's not Vista.

Let's face it – there has never been a good Windows. I've used it intensively, on average eight hours a day for eight years (3.11, 95, 98, 98SE, NT 4.0, NT 5.0), and after those eight years I have now made the switch. It's the best computer decision I have taken in the past 10 years.

But I need freedom. That's why I like Linux so much – it gives me full control over my PC.

The only thing we can do now is educate people that Open Source software is here to stay, and that it is the only way to go in the future. Discourage the use of proprietary software. Instead of saying, "Vista is going to be a magnificent product", one could

also say, "Vista is three years too late, only delivering some of the promised features; it is also unstable, and the first patches and viruses will show up soon. We only have to look at the history. There are better alternatives on the market, with no viruses and all great software free to use. Time to consider a dual boot?"

IV, Chalong

**A** In many ways you're right, certainly about Vista being late, delivering less than what was expected, and likely the target of all sorts of malware. I'm not a Linux fan. Heaven help me – I like the Windows interface. But in the end, in my opinion, we're both quibbling over details, arguing about how many *nang fah* can dance on the head of a pin.

Five years from now (although it may take 10), the operating system you use will be irrelevant, as will the speed of your computer, how much memory you have, and how many terabytes of storage hum in the background. Microsoft will keep milking its cash cow, but the industry will move on. Users will stop paying big baht for Windows and the iron to run it.

Instead, the major push will be online. Rather than spending money on PCs that become obsolete the week after you install them, folks will spend money on access to big data pipes.

Open Source is a great concept. Heck, I first broke on the international scene doing Open Source 15 years ago, in the days of Word 1.0. But Open Source is a tool – a means, not an end. In the not-too-distant future, building a better operating system won't mean nearly as much as building a better Firefox, or Google, or Amazon, or Wikipedia – and providing the bandwidth necessary to use these programs.

– Woody Leonhard

Woody Leonhard ([woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com), [www.askwoody.com](http://www.askwoody.com)) writes no-bull books about Windows and Office, including Windows XP All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies, Windows XP Timesaving Techniques For Dummies, and Special Edition Using Microsoft Office.

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Governor Udomsak: "If our proposals are unsuccessful and no progress in co-operation between Phuket and Port Blair is made, I will give notice to cancel the 'sister city' agreement."

# Slow progress in trade talks threatens Port Blair's sister city status

By Nattamon Ratcharak

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura will move to revoke the "sister city" status of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands if trade proposals that will be made next month fail to bear fruit.

Governor Udomsak recently told the *Gazette* that the "sister city" relationship, ratified by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two parties on June 29 last year, should serve to promote international understanding and strengthen ties through tourism, education, culture, urban development, commerce and investment.

"We have agreements between Thailand and India at both national and provincial levels.

"At the national level we have a Free Trade Agreement, but at the provincial level Phuket has had to deal with Port Blair in the areas agreed to in the MoU," Gov Udomsak said.

"At the moment, there is private sector business between the two regions, but there are as

yet no public sector deals," he added.

The Governor said that discussions have so far been ineffective as Port Blair officials have to wait on agreement from the Indian central government in New Delhi before making any decisions.

"I or a Vice-Governor will visit India again next month in order to establish concrete co-operation between Phuket and Port Blair. We will, however, be going to New Delhi and Chennai, not to Port Blair," he said.

"We [as representatives of Phuket] have specific proposals to present to New Delhi for consideration.

"If our proposals are successful, Phuket and Port Blair will be able to start implementing projects through the provinces' Chambers of Commerce.

"If our proposals are unsuccessful and no progress in co-operation between Phuket and Port Blair is made, I will give notice to cancel the 'sister city' agreement."

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a Union Territory of India with a population of about 350,000 people, are renowned for their natural beauty and isolated tribal people. They were also

badly hit by the December 2004 tsunami, and it was hoped that the MoU would result in a skills exchange in tourism and in other areas, including waste management.

In addition, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands economy is based on forestry, fishing and tourism, and officials had planned to increase trade between the islands and Phuket.

'Port Blair has plenty of natural resources, such as timber and fish, and Phuket would like to import tuna and wood products'

Gov Udomsak explained, "Port Blair has plenty of natural resources, such as timber and fish, and Phuket would like to import tuna and wood products. We are also looking forward to changing regulations to allow Thai fishing vessels to fish in the waters around the Andaman & Nicobar Islands for more than the one month currently allowed.

"Goods that Phuket would like to export to Port Blair include construction materials and cooking oil," he added.

## VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS

	April 2004	April 2005	April 2006
Limited company registrations	90	86	155
Limited partnership registrations	25	14	20
Limited companies changed	178	165	320
Limited partnerships changed	23	32	29
Companies deregistered	6	4	14
Partnerships deregistered	3	6	5

Source: Phuket Business Development Office

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# MONEY TALKS



By Richard Watson

**M**ost people are aware that the price of oil and gasoline has been rising steadily and that the price of gold has also emerged from a multi-year slumber.

These are headline-grabbing events. However, what is not so apparent is that many other commodities are also rising rapidly in value. Oil and gold have certain attractions and they draw the attention of nearly everyone. While it is very likely that these markets still have further price increases in store, a wide spectrum of other commodities have been quietly making very substantial gains, including platinum, copper, lead, zinc and palladium.

The basic reason for these rises is not mere speculation, it is demand. The global economy is growing at a rapid pace and these hard commodities are necessities for the expansion to continue. However, demand is starting to place pressure on supply – hence the rise in prices.

## DEMAND

Banking group Barclays recently announced their outlook for copper prices. For years the copper market was a very uninteresting area, but a steady increase in consumption has seen prices soar in recent years.

Barclays claim that the increase in consumption is not likely to end soon, and neither are the increases in copper prices. Demand is soaring, but supply will not increase rapidly; that is going to take years.

Investors who are aware of the long-term changes in the investment world will have been aware of the growth in what is generically known as hedge funds. The logic of hedge funds is inescapable. Before the creation of hedge funds a few decades ago, investors generally



A woman sells tomatoes at a farmers' market in Beijing. Investors who wish to put their money into agricultural markets should still seek professional advice, as this is not an easy area in which to speculate. Photo – EPA/MICHAEL REYNOLDS

# Food sector investors reap what they sow

took the view that whatever took their interest was an area that they expected to rise in value. The introduction of hedge funds changed that philosophy forever. What is now a trillion-dollar industry took a broader and essentially more rational view.

In reality, prices of assets rise and fall. Nothing rises in value forever, and there will be periods when prices fall – regardless whether the asset in question is a share, bond, currency, property or natural resource.

The whole idea of hedge funds is to be able to make money regardless of the movement in the price of the underlying asset. Naturally, the art of making money is to be able to identify the direction of prices.

One of the first to use hedge funds was American Jim Rogers. He was one of the founders of the hugely successful Quantum Fund with another investment legend, George Soros.

Jim Rogers is no longer involved with Quantum, but he has formed a commodity fund based in Switzerland. From time to time he gives television interviews on business channels, and what he has to say is always interesting. He is very aware of the minerals

mentioned in this article, but adds some very interesting points.

The commodity cycle, in his opinion, is one of a multi-year duration. While it may continue to produce profits up to, say, the year 2015, it may well have entered its downward phase by 2018. He also points out that little attention is being given to what are known as “soft” commodities, or agricultural products.

For the past five years the world has been consuming more food than it has been producing. This has led to a depletion in stockpiles that cannot continue for much longer without having an impact on prices. It is not only the rise in the global population, but also economic growth and the resultant spread of wealth that has enabled many more people in the world to be able to afford better-quality food as well as more of it.

This, again, is a commodity that is going to bring profit to investors, but these are not easy areas in which to invest. At the

most basic of level, are individuals really going to hire vast warehouse space to stock wheat, rice, cotton or any other “soft” commodity? That would seem a dangerous investment to make, though generations of rodents might applaud such efforts.

Alternatives include buying shares of companies involved in all forms of energy and commodities, but this again requires effort and a great deal of time to research. Sophisticated investors can “play” the futures and options markets. Even in Phuket I come across people who feel this is the way to instant wealth.

However, this is just a variant of all those earnest souls who in the late 1990s thought that buying “tech” shares online was an infallible means to make money. Naturally, as with the tech boom, the participants in this new boom, in 99% of cases, have no previous experience in what they are so sure will yield their fortune.

Surely, if you want to make money in any investment in this

world, employ professional help. There may be very few commodity funds available to the public but at least they employ professional traders and their track record is a matter of public record.

The IQS fund that I featured some months ago has returned over 2,000% in gains to investors over the past 10 years. Their day-to-day trading is computer driven; human intervention is used only when there is a perceived change in a market direction.

To give the last words to Jim Rogers, “If you want to be an investor [especially when dealing alone], you must be prepared to undertake an enormous amount of research.”

*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: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th*

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The ETC's Reid Ridgway uses his knife to free a manta ray from a tangle of rope and fishing line.

– Photo by Champ Sorsomboon.

## Laguna to host first Phuket International Marathon

CHERNG TALAY: Laguna Phuket will host the first Phuket International Marathon Festival. More than 10,000 people are expected to attend the event with around 2,500 runners taking part in the marathon and supporting races on June 18.

Promoted under the "Run Paradise!" slogan, the 43-kilometer marathon, half-marathon, 10-km fun run, 3-km community run and 1-km kids' run, all scheduled for Sunday June 18, are expected to attract many local runners along with some 500 foreign competitors from more than 30 countries.

Organizers, Bangkok-based sports event organizers Go Adventure Asia and Amazing Field, are set on making it the biggest running event in South-east Asia.

Japanese sports commentator and 1984 Olympics marathon runner Akemi Masuda, who is one of the organizers, commented, "I have been to Phuket many times and I believe we will have a great marathon festival here."

"I am very excited to be involved with this event and hope to bring as many Japanese runners as possible to Thailand."

"I inspected the marathon course on my last visit and it is safe and very beautiful."

The schedule is as follows:

June 16: 10 am to 8 pm Registration at Laguna Beach Resort (Cherng Talay room) and bib number pick-up.

June 17: 10 am to 6 pm. Registration at Laguna Beach Resort. Opening ceremony at 5:45 pm.

17 June: Pasta party. 6 pm.  
June 18: Race day. Start times are: Marathon 5 am. Half-marathon 6:30 am. 10-km fun run 7 am. 1-km kids' run 9 am.

Registration for the full marathon costs US\$65 if done through the website at [www.phuketmarathon.com](http://www.phuketmarathon.com) before June 6, or US\$75 if done at Laguna on June 16 or 17.

For the half-marathon the fees are US\$55 and US\$65 respectively, while for the fun runs they are US\$40 and US\$50 respectively.

Surplus proceeds from the event will go to charity, say the organizers, though which charity this will be has yet to be announced.

– Sangkhae Leelanaporn

For more information or to register, visit the event website at [www.phuketmarathon.com](http://www.phuketmarathon.com) or call Roman Floesser or Chuanthong Ittipatachai at Tel: 02-2362931.

# ADEX draws big Thai crowd

ADEX, Asia Dive Expo, is the largest international dive exhibition in Asia. On April 21, many members of Thailand's dive community flew to Singapore to attend the three-day trade show, which last year was held in Bangkok.

Naturally, PADI – the Professional Association of Diving Instructors – had a major presence, but so did competing agencies, such as SSI (Scuba Schools International), NAUI (the National Association of Underwater Instructors) and BSAC (the British Sub Aqua Club), all of which had large booths.

Missing from ADEX, however, was a booth for TDA, the Thailand Diving Association.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) was there, promoting Thailand as a diving destination. It shared its booth space with local dive firms such as live-aboard operators Mermaid Live-aboards and Colona Diving and

Tours, as well as some not-so-local operators such as Black Tip Diving from Ao Tanote at Koh Tao. Many other Thailand-based businesses also had their own booths.

Visitors wandered round the exhibition space during the day, bringing themselves up to date on new developments, products, the competition and standards, and also attending seminars and catching up with old friends.

One firm that deserves special mention is Moskito Diving from Koh Phi Phi, the only dive operator representing the islands at ADEX. Moskito Diving owner Supha Thamnam and manager Toine Kokke were there to promote both their dive shop and Phi Phi as a travel and dive destination.

Surprisingly, there were not more operators letting the diving

community know that Phi Phi is recovering and that the diving there is still world class.

**Happy ending:** Thai dive master students from the Ecotourism Training Center (ETC) at Takuapa, in Phang Nga, recently were treated to a special lesson as they and ETC Managing Director Reid Ridgway took to the water to help a manta ray in distress.

"It was entangled in some old fishing lines,"

said Mr Ridgway. "The manta appeared to have been struggling for several days. It was exhausted and badly cut. It had a severed tail and its back was bleeding and raw. The manta ray's right mandible was encircled in ropes and nylon fishing lines."

The large manta had been spotted from the boat, just off the popular diving site of Koh Racha Noi. The group had just completed training dives during a United Nations Development Program-sponsored underwater clean-up mission.

Mr Ridgway jumped in and began cutting the lines, but as soon as the manta became free enough to descend much deeper, the group lost sight of it. The crew kept sighting the ray later, but as soon as the boat approached it would go deep again. All of the divers were on a mandatory surface interval, and none could risk another dive to help it.

However, the boat's tour leader, dive master Seasack "A" Boonchu, had not dived that day, and he entered the water. He

**Beneath the SURFACE**  
By Sylvie Yaffe



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Sayarm Puttaraksa, winner of the nearest-to-the-pin prize for hole 17, received a smacking great kiss and a hug from a bouncy member of the Tiara Cabaret team, who entertained the players after the tournament.

## Prapan scores 35-36 to win Meridien golf

KATHU: Prapan Khanthakul bested 155 golfers with scores of 35 and 36 to total 71 to win the Le Meridien 6<sup>th</sup> Golf Tournament 2006 at Phuket Country Club on May 13.

For his efforts, Prapan won two return tickets to Kuala Lumpur with two nights' stay at Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, and a 15,000-baht "Gift & Golf Voucher".

Chana Jaritngam won the Low Gross trophy in Flight B with a score of 78, while Kimsia Sae-Chan scored 83 to win the Low Gross prize in Flight C.

Sirada Panpat won the Ladies Flight Low Gross with a score of 80, and Patcharajutha Khongkrapan scored 74 to win the Junior Flight Low Gross.

Samarn Chainarong won the Low Net prize in Flight A for scoring 69 off a handicap of 10, with Christopher Treene placing second with 70 (handicap 6), and Chun-Eaw Sae-Heng finishing third with 70 (7).

In Flight B, John Irish scored a net 65 to win the Low Net prize. Surapol Kojarean was second with a net of 65 and Kim Tae

Weon finished third with a net 66. Sittichok Tongprew scored 62 to win the Low Net in Flight C, with Manoon Soison in second place with a net tally of 64, and Jim Henderson scoring a net 69 to place third.

Kamonluk Jarpimind won the Low Net prize in the Ladies Flight with a net aggregate of 58.

Other prizes went to:

**Encouragement Award:** Kannika Euwsakul (Gross score: 124).

**Nearest the Barrel:** Som-nuk Jaritngam.

**Nearest the Line:** Rudolf Borgesius 70cm (hole 6), Kannika Euwsakul and Wassana Suttanon, both on the line (hole 13).

**Longest Drive:** Patcharajutha Khongkrapan, 275 yards (hole 9).

**Nearest the Pin:** Suchet Submee 130cm (hole 2), Charnchai Chimkerd 98cm (hole 5), Virat Wangsuk 172cm (hole 14), Sayarm Puttaraksa 79cm (hole 17).

A new Mazda 3 car was up for grabs for the golfer who could sink a hole-in-one on hole 17, but no one won the prize.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: The heat is on in the Patong Darts league as Didi's on 45 points lead Offshore by only three points, with just two rounds to go. Queen Mary are third on 40 points, and Piccadilly hot on their tails trailing by one point.

**May 9 results:** Valhalla\* 6 Dog's Bollocks 3; Didi's\* 5 Coyote Bar 4; Offshore\* 5 Amigos 4; Queen Mary 5 Piccadilly\* 4 (\* winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Didi's (45 points); 2. Offshore (42); 3. Queen Mary (40); 4. Piccadilly (39); 5. Dog's Bollocks (38); 6. Amigos (36); 7. Coyote Bar (32); 8. Valhalla (30); 9. Shakers (28); 10. The Boss Bar (20).

**May 23 matchups (final round):** Queen Mary v Dog's Bollocks; Amigos v Valhalla; Shakers v Didi's; The Boss Bar v Coyote Bar; Piccadilly v Offshore.



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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

# Sea dragon lands in park



Following the seahorses and neon dolphins at Nimit Circle, the beautification of Phuket City continues on a marine theme, with the unveiling on May 14 of a seadragon in Suan Chalermprikat 72 Punsu Maharachinee BE 2547 Park on Thalang Rd.

The 5.5-million-baht, five-meter-high statue of a *hai laeng*, a fierce-looking mythical sea creature and a symbol of wealth in Thai-Chinese culture, was unveiled by Phuket Vice-Governor Pongsak Playvet.

A six-day festival was held in the park to celebrate the erection of the statue.

The image, designed by Thawat Srisompatis, is set in the center of a fountain. Molded from bronze, it weighs five tons. The dragon's body is around 15 meters long.

## CELEBRATIONS

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana told reporters that when the park, built in 2004, was being planned, space was set aside to house the statue and work was started on it in April 2005.

The *hai laeng* will protect and bring good fortune to the people of Phuket, as well as visitors to the island, particularly when it comes to the success of their businesses and careers, she added.

The celebrations started on the evening of May 11 with the parading of an image of *Pud Jor*, a Chinese God, from the Pud Jor Shrine to Suan Chalermprikat park where it will be temporarily housed.

Other events included traditional entertainment such as *Likae* performances, Thai theater and Chinese lion dances. The unveiling of the dragon by V/Gov Pongsak was accompanied by a fireworks display.



Despite its fierce appearance, the *Hai laeng* is a potent symbol of wealth in Thai-Chinese culture.

Above, Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana (kneeling, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) joins in prayers at the installation of the statue.

Left, the dragon is lit up at night.



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"I have items both from China and from Thailand, and most of the Chinese cabinets I stock were made around 60 to 80 years ago.

"The best seller is the Butterfly Cabinet design from China because of its auspicious red color. The butterfly signifies freedom and red is a lucky color for Chinese people," he explains.

On hand in his workshops, which are located opposite his

showroom on Chao Fa West Rd, K. Vorapan has more than 160 expert carpenters, some of whom come from the north of Thailand – a region noted for its expertise in woodwork and artisans. The carpenters make cabinets in a range of styles, and can make one to order in an antique style as per the customer's preference.

He claims that his prices, starting from around 50,000 baht, are lower than his competitors. "I love to collect antiques and I am very happy when I am surrounded with my pieces, so I understand my customers if they love and want to buy antiques, especially as I have suitable prices for them," K. Vorapan says.

*Phuket Inter Craft is on Chao Fa West Rd. Open Monday-Saturday, 8:30 am-5:30 pm. For more information call K. Vorapan at Tel: 01-4771002.*

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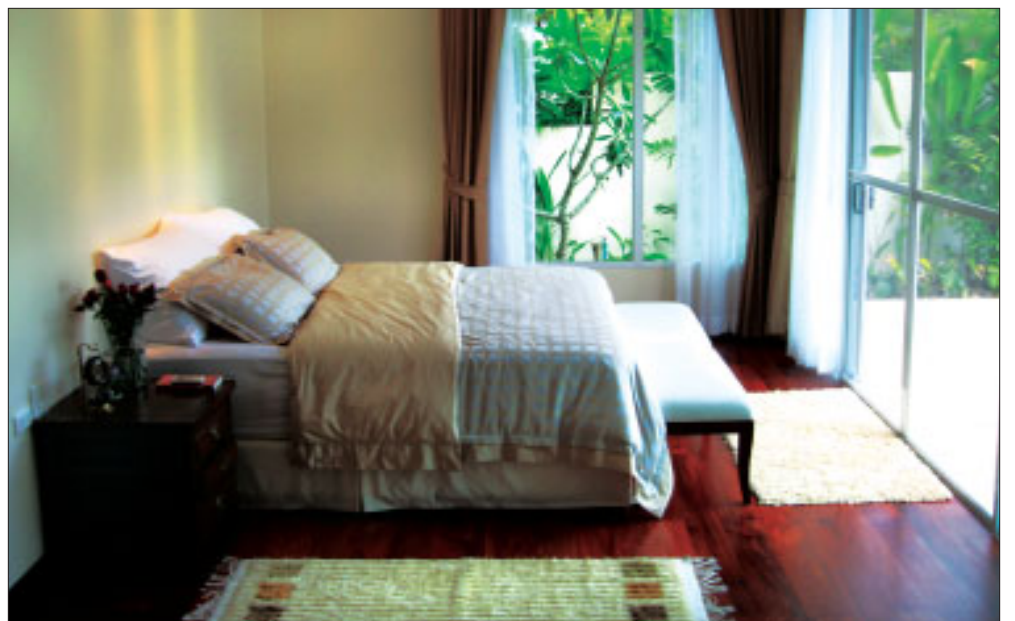
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An open-plan style house is a start, for this lets the breeze blow through the property. When the wind drops, the ducted air is recycled throughout, thus ensuring a cool atmosphere at all times.

All of the rooms front onto a large 50-square-meter swimming pool, with its waterfall feature at one end adding to its natural beauty.

The pool is complemented by a well-established landscaped garden.

The 339-sqm home sits on more than 1,000sqm of land in one of the more up-market areas on the island, inland from the hustle and bustle of the busy beaches, yet still only a short drive away from the coast.

The white marble floor in the main area adds to the coolness.

Easy to maintain and easy to clean are real features of this modern-style property.

At night, the ambient lighting can enhance the mood, whether for relaxing or while entertaining.

Each of the three bedrooms has an en-suite bathroom, and the master bedroom also has its own walk-in closet.

The kitchen area is huge, and

fitted with appliances well-suited to a creative cook.

Its island bar is a favorite with the kids.

There is also a Thai kitchen for smaller preparations.

The property fence is about nine-feet tall to enhance privacy, and there is a home-security system fitted.

Utilities include cable TV, two telephone lines, two broadband Internet connections, well water with a filtration system and water heater.

This large, quality property is available at 18 million baht.

The title is Chanote, and all furniture is included in the price, including a large plasma TV in the main lounge.

For further information, contact Richard Lusted of Siam Real Estate in Rawai at Tel: 076-288908 or by Email at: [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com), or visit the website at [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

We all speak with an accent and in a particular dialect, no matter what language we speak. Thais can identify their counterparts from Isarn, Bangkok or from the South just by listening to them. Rather than responding with *mai pen rai* when you next want to say "no problem" here in southern Thailand, you can really impress a local Thai by trying *mai pleu* instead.

In English, for example, there's the unique Australian accent. It is unique in that speakers seem to ensure that utterances emanate from the nasal passages rather than the mouth.

Then there are Texans. Apart from the volume and the predictable "everything is bigger" thing, they have the uncontrollable urge to multiply everything – even the number of people to whom they're speaking. I was strolling down a path in a Texas national park on my lonesome several years ago when I was greeted by a Texan and his lovely wife, both wearing those rather special hats.

"Howdy, y'awwwl," said Mr Texan Bloke. "How y'awwwl doin'?"

## STALKER?

I looked around, bewildered, half expecting that some mysterious stalker had materialized behind me. But no – I was completely alone. I can only put down the "y'awwwl" greeting to double vision, or the fact that his hat was too tight.

There are fascinating varieties of the English language in its motherland as well. I can guarantee that if you go for a pint in any Glasgow inner-city pub and try to initiate a conversation – presuming you've managed to remain in one piece – you won't have the faintest idea of what any person is trying to say. Subtitles would work well there.

Cockneys in London have a similar inimitable way. They'll probably start with, "Awright, guv?", which I understand trans-



lates as "Hello". They may well follow up with "Nice whistle n' flute, mate. How's the trouble n' strife then?". This means your dress sense is being admired, and you are being asked about the health of your wife. These are Cockneys who care.

And how about the Georgies, that irrepressible bunch from around Newcastle in the north-east of England? By the time they've finished the usual, "Why aye, bonnie lad" routine, they've often forgotten what they wanted to say in the first place.

I'm from Yorkshire, a region not unknown for its distinctive language. A Barnsley native may greet you with something like "Ayup, sithee. 'Ow ista?", which loosely translates as "Hello, how are you?" Really.

The flora subject this week vaguely reminds me of how a Yorkshire miner might greet Vera, his long-suffering wife, after a long, hard day "down't pit" – "Aloe, Vera."

Yes, I know, aloe vera isn't a plant that's particularly closely associated with Yorkshire, but I

could hardly prattle on about heather or white roses.

The aloe vera plant is very content in Phuket, though. It's probably a slight victim of its own name, a godsend to copywriters everywhere. In reality, the name comes from the Arabic *alloe*, and the Hebrew *halal*, meaning a shining, bitter substance, and from the Latin *verus*, meaning true.

There are more than 250 species of aloe in the world, most of which are native to Africa. They range in size from little one-inch miniatures to massive colonies consisting of hundreds of plants that are 60 centimeters in diameter. The aloe has a fibrous root system, producing long, tapering stemless leaves. These light-green leaves have spiky edges and are surprisingly tough.

Although they are generally grown by the average gardener for their strangely attractive leaves, older aloe plants occasionally bloom, with the firm upright stems bearing several bell-shaped, fleshy yellow-orange flowers. The nectar the intermit-

tent flowers produce is a favorite of hummingbirds.

The aloe plant is technically considered a "succulent" because it retains a lot of moisture in its leaves. It's not really a cactus, like many succulents, but is related to the lily, and grows in a rosette formation to allow the plant to gather as much water as possible when it rains.

A healthy aloe vera plant will constantly produce offspring from its underground roots. Leave it be and the youngster will sit there happily, but in a pot it will always be a smaller version of its mother, as in the above picture of a pot in my garden – with an uninvited "guest" in the same pot. Replant aloe vera and give it its own space, and the growth rate will accelerate significantly.

I once inherited a small pot that contained about 50 miniature aloe plants. I presumed they were a smaller species of aloe, until I separated many of them out into new pots. It turned out that they were regular aloe vera plants that just hadn't had the space to grow. They were healthy enough, but

they had just needed a bit more room.

The aloe is probably best known for its medicinal properties, having been used as a healing plant for centuries. Its freshly cut leaves can be applied to all sorts of skin injuries – with impressive results. Fresh leaves help to heal cuts, burns and abrasions, soothing and refreshing the skin. Apply it before going out into the sun to help filter out UV rays, or if you already have sunburn, use aloe to soothe the skin and help it heal.

All you need to do is cut a larger leaf from near the base of the plant, and you'll see a huge amount of treacly, gel-like sap inside the hollow leaf. Apply that to your sunburn, and feel the after-effects of the Phuket sun disappear in minutes. This really does work. The clipped plant won't grow another tip, but it will heal and continue to grow.

Aloe can even be "taken internally", to use a medical phrase. One of the ingredients in aloe is a powerful laxative, so if you do decide to take this internally, then expect dramatic results. Taken in small doses, it is apparently a very good digestive tonic, but I rather think I'll stick to applying it to the outside of my body.

Aloe prefers a rough, gritty growing medium and a well-drained, sunny location, but it will also be quite content in partial shade. Because of the heat in Thailand, it's not unusual for the tips of the leaves to turn brown, but this is not necessarily a sign of abuse or neglect.

I just hope no miners from Barnsley with wives named Vera are reading this. They may not take too kindly to their daily greeting being compared to a laxative. If they are, though, then ayup, sithee. 'Ow ista?

Want to know more  
about a plant  
in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at:  
[bloominbert@hotmail.com](mailto:bloominbert@hotmail.com)

**The Beach Boulevard. A smart move in Paradise**

These luxury boutique hotel-style guesthouses are designed specifically for sale to discerning investors looking for a property with potential in the Kata Beach area. The project is being developed and managed by a professional team with more than 10 years' experience.

The Beach Boulevard is located just 300 meters from the Club Med, a few minutes away from the popular Kata Beach, and is a short drive from Phuket City (30 minutes) and Phuket International Airport (50 minutes).

Each three-story hotel compound has 12 bedrooms and 13 bathrooms. Facilities include air conditioning and water heaters.

The suites in each boutique hotel all come fully equipped with a kitchen, dining room, living room and luxurious office area. High-quality materials have been used throughout.

**THE Beach POOLVILLA**  
KATA PHUKET THAILAND

Each unit comprises:  
3 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, living room, reception room, dining room, kitchen, maid's room, storage room, 2 parking spaces with storage facilities. 4 x 10m swimming pool includes pump room.

Every day is a holiday at The Beach Pool Villa.

8 units of detached two-story homes on 1.1 rai of land. Only 400m from Kata Beach. Feel the warm ocean breeze and enjoy the uniqueness of being in a tropical paradise.

A social modern-style home with some local touches. The overall design emphasizes simplicity. An L-shaped wall allows more space for family activities or party. Glass walls make it possible to view all areas of the house. A private swimming pool with salt water has therapeutic benefits. It is located in an enclosed area adjoining the unit and can be viewed from two master bedrooms on the second floor. To increase privacy, the garage is specially designed to stand in a spot that partly covers the pool.

All this continues to make The Beach Pool Villa one of the best-designed two-story homes with a pool in the Kata area.

The unit is 13.25 x 23.50m on an area of 34 x 23m. Usage area is 415sqm with swimming pool included.

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**Financed by Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) Co., Ltd.**

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### HOUSE FOR SALE, KATHU



3-bedroom, furnished, one-story house, 203 sqm, in Kathu. Price: 6.9 million baht, or 7.1 million baht with tiled 10mx4m pool. Tel: 01-4945423.

### LAND FOR SALE

in Rawai. 1, 2 and 4 rai at 4.5 million baht per rai, and 3 rai at 9.9 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com

### PHUKET CITY CONDO

32sqm, freehold, brand-new, furnished, 550,000 baht. Close to Central Festival. Tel: 01-4763623. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### SMALL PLOT - RAWAI

Perfect for small villa. Chanote, road, electricity. 200,000 baht. Don't wait. Tel: 01-5376866.

### ISLAND FOR SALE

1 million baht a rai. Buy this paradise from owner to build a resort. Call K. Lek at Tel: 07-8938747.

### 10 RAI, RAWAI

Villa area, only 5.5 million baht. Great views. Electricity. Top for small resort. Tel: 06-2670898.

### DETACHED MODERN

bungalow for sale. 260sqm living area, 3 beds, 2 baths, full kitchen. Fully furnished. Safe and secure. Freehold title. 10.9 million baht. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

### 700 SQM VILLA

Newly built, Bali style. Valued at 25 million baht, selling at 19 million baht. Stunning sea view. Kata. Tel: 01-5376866.

### NICE POOL VILLAS FOR SALE



In Kata, Nai Harn. Prices start from 7 million baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com More pictures of nice villas can be seen at: www.chokechaiproperty.com

### BEACH APARTMENTS

Spacious, modern, 2-bedroom apartments, some with a sea view, a 2-minute walk to the beach, gardens, pools, clubhouse, gym, sauna. Prices start from 8.5 million baht. On-site sales office. Tel: 06-2806624. For further details, please see our website at: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

### KATA SEA VIEW

Most stunning view, best plot, guaranteed success. 3 rai. Asking 5.9 million baht. Road, electricity, Chanote title. Tel: 06-2670898.

### BEACHFRONT LAND

in southern Phuket. Live on the beach boat on front 1 rai. Sale by owner. Call after 5 pm. No brokers. Cheap and stunning. Tel: 06-2670898.

### RAWAI BEACHFRONT

50m from beach. Electricity, road, golf course views. Bargain! Great for apartment building. Tel: 09-6525664.

### CHERNG TALAY VILLA

New, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on 305sqm corner plot. Ready Sept, secure estate close to Laguna, Surin Beach. 2.5 million baht. Chanote. Tel: 04-7468607, 09-8750530.

### RAWAI CONDO

sale/rent. Freehold studio 2,500 baht/month or will sell for 450,000 baht. 400m from beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



Brand-new, deluxe house, with a swimming pool, on a Patong hillside, on Soi Maneesi. 2 floors, modern Thai-style architecture, completely furnished, ready to live in. Ground floor: big living room, Western-style kitchen and dining room, guest toilet. Second floor: big master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi, 2 bedrooms and a separate bathroom. Each room has an air conditioner and a balcony. Living area: 200sqm; freehold land 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. (US\$210,000). Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

### 1,800 SQM, RAWAI

Top land location, Chanote, road, electricity. Perfect for house. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 09-6525664.

### 1 RAI, CHALONG

2.4 million baht. Road, electricity, Chanote, great spot. Tel: 09-6525664.

### 1 RAI, CHALONG

200m from beach, open views of the bay. Chanote. 4 million baht. Private sale, no brokers. Tel: 07-8938747.

### 3 RAI, RAWAI

Chanote, road, electricity. Top spot, great price: 3.2 million baht. Call Tel: 07-8938747.

### 10 RAI, RAWAI

Best area. Great for the development of successful projects. Last big plot for this price. Tel: 01-5376866.

### CHUAN CHUEN

Close to international school, 3-4-bed/bathroom house. Built-in furniture throughout, excellent condition. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 04-8376440.

### NEW HOUSES IN PATONG



3 new, connected, deluxe houses on Patong hillside, Soi Thamdee, for sale. Ground floor: garage and separate one-room apartment with toilet. Second floor: 2 bedrooms and bath, balcony. Third floor: living room with balcony, built-in kitchen and dining room, toilet. Fourth floor: big roof garden with Jacuzzi. Usable area: 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price: 6.2 million baht. (US\$155,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-8928526. For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

### NEW HOUSE PATONG BEACH

Located on small development in the hills at the north end of Patong beach, very quiet and natural setting, and only 2 minutes to the beach. Only 5 out of a total of 8 plots left. House can be custom built, by an English mastercraftsman builder to your requirements. We are so sure of our quality, if you can show us a better-built house, in our price range, we will give you a house for free. Price range from 10 to 15 million baht. Contact Andy. Tel: 01-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

### 2 RAI, CHALONG

Includes 3 houses. Perfect for spa. Aircons, tropical gardens. Unbelievable price at 12.9 million baht. Sale by owner. Tel: 01-5376866.

### RAWAI SALE/RENT

2-story house. 130sqm living space. 5,000 baht per month or will sell for 850,000 baht. 400 meters from beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### RAWAI SHOPHOUSES



2 new, connected shop-houses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd are for sale. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Second floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. Third floor: living room and en-suite bedroom. Living area 200sqm, freehold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. (US\$113,000). Please contact K. Peter for more information at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

### HOUSE WITH 50M BEACHFRONT



for sale, at Tha Lane in Krabi. 1.4 rai with boat launch, 2 bedrooms and separate guest room, and garage. 8 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 09-4731165.

### LUXURY SEA VIEW

Urgent sale: 2-bedroom, luxury seaview apartment in Kata. Fully furnished. 14.5 million baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 076-325-411, 01-9793369. Fax: 076-325413.

### 1 RAI, YANUI

500m from beach, stunning view. Only plot with Chanote, perfect for small resort or big villa. Tel: 06-2670898.

### 1 RAI, KARON

Sea view, road, electricity, Asking 6 million baht. Chanote. Tel: 09-6525664.

### APARTMENT IN PATONG



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury apartments (61sqm) for sale or lease (60-year lease). Located in Soi Playboy just off Nanai Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. All apartments are fully furnished with a built-in kitchen and bathroom. The bedrooms are equipped with high-quality hardwood floors. The apartments further offer air conditioning, safety box, 24-hour security, high-speed Internet, telephone and cable TV connections. The common area includes: garage, elevator, corridors and garden. The construction will be completed by December 2006. Prices start at 2.6 million baht. Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit: www.phuket-besthomes.com

### NAI HARN HOME WITH BIG GARDEN

2-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms house in a lovely private setting. A perfect family home, now for sale at only 6.9 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel 01-893-8592, 06-2826221. Email: sanerod@yahoo.com

### RAWAI: SALE/RENT

New detached villa: 10,000 baht/month or will sell for 5 million baht. 400 meters from beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

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This fully furnished house offers one of the best sea views available in Patong. It is located within a private area on Patong Hill and is absolutely unique.

Priced at only 14 million baht, this is a great home to buy.

Note: We have more villas, condos, sea view land, beach land hotels & developments available. Contact us now!

This beautiful detached luxury villa is well designed, and built for a western taste. It comes with a big pool, high-quality furniture, 3 bedrooms & 2 balconies. At only 17.2 million baht you will not find a better home. Call now!

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# Property Gazette

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- 1,330-1,995 sq.m. plot size
- Professional estate management

**Baht 60-67 Million**



- 2 b/r pool villa, fully fitted
- 208 sq.m. built up area
- 398-410 sq.m. plot size
- 5 min. drive to Nai Harn Beach

**From Baht 7 Million**



- 2-4 b/r condo. in Marina
- P/H with rooftop terrace & pool
- Splendid views, leisure & shopping facilities

**From Baht 11.8 Million**



- Land 7. 2 rai on Aman Hill
- Next to Amanpuri Resort
- Spectacular sea views
- Suite for villas or boutique hotel

**Baht 61 Million (Freehold)**



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## IDYLIC COUNTRY VILLA IN RAWAI



Charming, 3-bedroom home, carefully built by owner, set among trees in 1,000sqm of walled garden with an attractive swimming pool and separate guest/granny bungalow. Private plot in a quiet country area but handy access to Nai Harn and Rawai Beaches, and Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (master en-suite), pool shower and separate toilet in garden, Western-style fitted kitchen, dining room, living room, front and rear terraces, laundry/storeroom, carport and parking. Guest bungalow: 1 bedroom, bathroom, living/dining room, kitchenette. All utilities; underground power & 2 phone lines. Full Chanote title. Price: 10 million baht. Tel: 01-4774792. Email: sybil@loxinfo.co.th

## LUXURY BALI VILLA



on 1 rai in Cherno Talay. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, all top-end fittings, swimming pool. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 07-8948379. Email: info@malee-baan-thai.com please see our website at: www.malee-baan-thai.com

## KAMALA VILLAS



2 Thai-style villas with 3 bedrooms and two bathrooms. Ground level has marble flooring, the upper level has hardwood flooring. Swimming pool & Jacuzzi. Price: 8.2 million baht. Tel: 07-8948379. Please see our website at: www.malee-baan-thai.com

## CHALONG BEACH

New bungalow, directly at the beach. 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, European kitchen. For sale: 2.6 million baht; or rent: 220,000 baht a year. No agents. Tel/Fax: 076-288-997. Email: wsmfa@gmx.de

## LAND FOR SALE

Up to 5 rai. Can cut to any size or buy the lot. Call the owner at Tel: 04-9940027.

## HOUSE AT PA KHLOK



3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with usable area of 117sqm. Living room and kitchen. Fully furnished. Close to Yamu Beach. Price 6.5 million baht. Tel: 09-8148564, 01-9022504.

## CHANOTE CORNER

house. in Kata. Quiet location, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Western kitchen, 2 aircons, nicely furnished with ample parking. 3.9 million baht incl Thai company. Tel: 04-063-9223, 01-7888280. Email: david@katabeachproperty.com

## BEAUTIFUL CHARACTER

Recently-renovated beach house. 2 mins to Kata Beach. Great price for quick sale. Tel: 04-8405834.

## RAWAI PRIME LAND

2 rai 41sqm in developing quiet area close to Chalong. Chanote title with Thai company. Electricity, water, flat land. Tel: 01-4776662. Email: verndono@yahoo.com

## CHALONG - LARGE HOUSE

Double-story large house with 4 bedrooms, large living and dining area, new kitchen and office with separate entrance. This European-style house is 6 years old, all fenced in and sitting in a mature garden. Located in a quiet location in Soi Bang Rae, with concrete road access, underground electric and telephone cables. Close to shopping centers & schools. This property is realistically priced at 5.4 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-8951826, 076-289656. Fax: 076-289656. Email: info@far-away.net For further details, please see our website: www.homesinphuket.com

## BEACH RESORT

on Koh Yao. 4,400sqm, 75m beachfront, 22 bungalows, restaurant, bar, shop, speedboat, Chanote title. Email: han@yaoyairesort.com For further details please visit: www.yaoyairesort.com

## SMALL PLOT

500-sqm plot near Don's Mall, between Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. Flat, clear, ready to build on. Located in a nice area. Price: 1.9 million baht. Call the owner at Tel: 06-6845368 (English), or Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

## OVERLOOKING PATONG BAY



This is the top home. Yes, the top in many ways. A beautiful tall house in Art Deco style on top of a hill, it overlooks Patong Bay and has great sea views. It is great in size and in an outstanding location in Baan Suan Kamnan, a nice, little-known, quiet green and residential area just outside Patong. Next to the Blue-point viewpoint. Enjoy lively Patong without its disturbing noise. The best spot on the island! A quiet green and relaxed oasis has been created here. The house has: 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a pool with whirlpool bath next to it. Great sea views in daytime and a beautiful view of the lights of Patong in the evening. Many features and extras included, such as satellite TV, professional camera security system. Huge water-storage tanks and a lovely garden. For serious potential buyers only: come and see what you can get for your money instead of buying from plans, with promises. This house can be bought with several options, such as neighboring leased rental apartments/offices, which make it a very profitable investment and/or with adjoining extra land. Price depending on your wanted "options", but for house and land only 30 million baht (higher depending on take-over of separate rental business). For sale direct from owner. Tel: 06-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

**SMALL PLOT RAWAI,** 480sqm. With walking distance to shore and popular cafes. Flat and almost square. 1.3 million baht. Contact the owner at Tel: 06-6845368 (English), or Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

## FULLY FURNISHED

2-story house, parking for 2 cars, 81 sq wah (300sqm) useable area, 2 large balconies, 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 5 aircons, large European kitchen, cable TV, etc. Tel: 076-383959, 01-693-1386. Fax: 076-383959.

## FREEHOLD APARTMENT

Phuket Palace Condominium, 300m from beach. Fully furnished, 1- or 2-bedroom, 1- or 2-bathroom, with kitchen, living room. 120sqm. Asking 5.9 million baht. Tel: 09-8719739.

## 2-BEDROOM HOME

Nai Harn. For sale by owner: a lovely 2-story, 2-bedroom home in Nai Harn set on more than 1 rai of landscaped gardens. ONLY 6.5 Mil. Tel: 06-2826221, 01-8938592. Email: sanerod@yahoo.com

## CHANOTE CORNER HOUSE in KATA

Quiet location, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, western kitchen, 2 aircon, nicely furnished with ample parking. 3,900,000 Baht inc Thai Company Tel: 040 639 223 or 017 888 280 email to david@katabeachpropertymarket.com

## VILLA SUKSAN

Villa Suksan is a quiet secluded development of Balinese villas with private swimming pools combining luxury and affordability. Starting from 5.9 million baht. Agents welcome. Tel: 06-0043008. Fax: 076-341372. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at: www.villasuksan.com

## CHAOFA THANI

2-story, fully furnished, semi-detached house in secure estate. 45 talang wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, study, small garden & big storeroom. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 01-893-6630. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

## LAND FOR SALE

27 rai on Koh Lanta, Krabi (no brokers). 40 minutes from Krabi Airport. 13 rai on a hill with a panoramic sea view and an adjoining 14 rai below. Absolute beach front of 235 meters in length. Asphalt road and electricity. 2 million baht/rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-5350060. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

## PATONG SEA VIEW

houses. Fully furnished and in lovely locations. Prices from 8.6 to 12 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

## EARTH HOUSES

Holiday homes, sea view, Ko Maphrao, from 1.5 million baht. 1-36 rai, Chanote, from 2.6 million baht. Email: info@maphrao.com

## LAND NEAR MISSION

hills. Gentle slope, partial sea view, 23 rai. Price: 1.8 million baht per rai. Email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

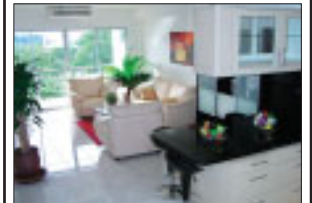
## RAWAI HOUSE + GUESTHOUSE

Distinctive 2-story house plus large, Thai-style guesthouse on a half-rai, with walled, tropical gardens. Private pool, woodland views. Chanote title. 10.8 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-2730141. Email: howells\_sue@yahoo.co.uk

## 2 APARTMENTS IN PATONG



New freehold apartments (85m<sup>2</sup>) located near Simon Cabaret, on a hillside in a green and quiet environment overlooking Patong with lovely sea view. Swimming pool on the roof, low monthly maintenance.



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Tel: 06-2771204.

Email: alfred.keller@isofa.ch

## LAND PLOTS IN KATA with Chanote title

2 plots available in a quiet area surrounded by luxurious villas. Electricity & water, close to road and near to beach. 329/496 square meter from 2,500,000 Baht. Tel: 040 639 223 or 017 888 280 email to david@katabeachpropertymarket.com

## AUTHENTIC BALINESE

-style luxury villa complex. 8 villas with private pools and Jacuzzi. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's quarters with bathroom, storage room, laundry room, garage for 2 cars and Balinese-style gardens. 17.9/19.9/24 million baht. Tel: 01-0875828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com Please see our website at www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0330182

## ABSOLUTE BEACH FRONT

For full details and photo, please call Tel: 09-196-8429 or visit: www.thephuketproperty.com

## VILLA IN CHALONG

countryside: 11.5 million baht. Villa near orchid farm: 9.5 million baht. For details call Tel: 01-9241447.

**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**

# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted



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### BUNGALOW RESORT

or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai or Chalong areas. Email: tomDEXTER2001@yahoo.de

### HOUSE WANTED

in Kata, Karon or Chalong. I am looking for a house with 2 to 3 bedrooms at a maximum price of 3 million baht. If you have one. Tel: 01-8948588. Email: bennob@diveasia.com

### 5-10 RAI WANTED

We are interested in buying 5 to 10 rai of land in Phuket. Email us with details. Email: micele9@yahoo.com

### GARAGE WANTED

I am looking to rent a garage in Patong. Please mail with location and price. Email: sainamyen@hotmail.com

### LONG-TERM RENTAL

in Kathu. 1- or 2-bedroom house in Kathu required as soon as possible, preferably semi-furnished but not important. However, it must have a phone line and a small garden. Addition to family forces move from Patong. Can provide reference from present landlord for past 17 months. Tel: 01-8022800. Email: markbowen@ji-net.com

### ONE-BEDROOM

apartment. Bright, airy apartment. Lounge, kitchen, dining, bedroom with en-suite shower/toilet. Private entrance/balcony. Cable TV & WiFi. 12,000 baht/month + electric and water. Long term only. Tel: 076-342-601, 01-2705374. Fax: 076-342601. Website: www.orcella.com

### CONDOMINIUM

I am looking for a condominium (studio, 1 or 2 bedrooms) in Patong to buy freehold. Purchase can be made quickly. I am able to pay up to 2 million baht. Please Email: feyewise@yahoo.co.uk

### LAKE VIEW APARTMENT



Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water and car park. Rent 183 baht a day (minimum 1 month). Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Fax: 076-202911. Please Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

### PATONG

Low-season offer: room with "everything". Monthly: 9,000 baht. Daily: 500 baht. Tel: 01-8948446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

### 2 NICE HOUSES KATA & RAWAI

6 months plus. Low-season bargains. Serious inquiries only. Tel: 09-0633185. Email: friendlyfrog43@yahoo.com

### HOUSE IN VILLA CALIFORNIA

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living and dining room. Fully equipped with ceramic cooking stove, central water heater, 3 air conditioners, insulated windows and built-in furniture. Monthly rent: 18,000 baht. Please call Tel: 01-8934012.

### PATONG TOWER LUXURY CONDO



Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14<sup>th</sup> floor. Spectacular sea view. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, Internet access, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 01-3753970, 04-159-0501.

### APARTMENT WITH POOL PATONG

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### PATONG APARTMENT

300 meters to the beach, clean and comfortable, with air conditioning, TV, a big fridge, double bed, pool and parking. Please call Tel: 01-0825707. Please see our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

## Accommodation Wanted

**HOUSE, VILLA, APT needed.** Looking for a 2-bedroom house or villa to rent for month of June. Should be in Patong, Kata or Karon area. Should also have a pool and be close to the beach if possible. Email: lee\_pfc@yahoo.co.uk

### JAN-FEB 2007

I want to rent a villa with 2 or 3 bedrooms and a swimming pool. Must be furnished and of a high standard. Location: Karon, Kata or Koh Lanta. It could be 2 months in Karon or Kata, or January on Koh Lanta, February in Karon or Kata. Email: klippasa@bredband.net

### APARTMENT

wanted. Small furnished apartment or house wanted for short-term rental (3 months). Should be near the British Curriculum International School, Phuket. Please contact Mrs Khetrat ASAP. Tel: 06-7427714. Email: asian\_creations@hotmail.com

### CHEAP ROOM

wanted for 2 weeks from May 3. I am on a budget and will be traveling on my own so will need a single room. I don't mind a host family letting me stay with them. I can pay up to 3,000 baht. Email: s\_murkin@hotmail.com

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### KING-SIZE BED

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## Household Services

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4-stroke Honda outboard engine. Short design. Tel: 07-2811995.

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Staff wanted for hotel bar and restaurant on Patong Beach. Must speak some English. Call K. Nim at Tel: 07-8914894.

## HOUSEMAID

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- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper (Garden & Landscape)
- Laundry Supervisor
- Bungalow Attendant
- Public Area Attendant
- Garden Supervisor
- Garden Attendant
- Human Resources Manager
- Sous Chef
- Chief Steward
- Chef De Partie (Cold Kitchen)
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## URGENTLY REQUIRED

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Our business is expanding and we have exciting career opportunities for dynamic, qualified people to work and grow with us. Currently we are looking a **Business Manager** and a **Night Auditor** to strengthen our team.

### Business Manager

- \* Male or female, not over than 40 years old, Thai national preferred
- \* Hotel, hospitality or related bachelor's degree
- \* Modern hospitality industry knowledge of more than 5 years' experience. Construction and Real Estate experience.
- \* Excellent command of both spoken and written English. Other foreign languages would be a plus
- \* Excellent computer and organizational skills and able to work independently
- \* Pro-active, entrepreneurial, leadership skills, motivated team player. Responsible and reliable with a hands-on approach, good interpersonal skills; good social connections.

### Night Auditor

A lovely and small boutique resort in Patong has a vacancy for an ambitious and committed Night Auditor to strengthen our team.

### Requirements:

- \* Female Thai national, over 22 years old.
- \* Hotel hospitality or related bachelor's degree
- \* Modern hospitality industry knowledge
- \* Excellent command both spoken and written English. Other foreign languages would be a plus
- \* Excellent computer skills, especially in Fidelio program
- \* Pro-active entrepreneurial skills, leadership skills, motivated team player. Responsible and reliable with a hands-on approach, good interpersonal skills.

Please submit CV with salary expectation and a current photo or contact for more information. Tel: 076-345345-7. Fax: 076-345099. Email: agm1@clubbamboo.com



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Siam Real Estate requires a British copywriter for property listings. Experience not necessary – if you have writing skills. Work from home with computer. Hours flexible. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

### OFFICE STAFF

Needed: female; age 21-35; college or bachelor's degree in accounting, hospitality or related field; Windows, Excel, Word and work experience required. Good command of written and spoken English. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-292073, 06-3418781. Email: solitude001@aol.com



Our combined companies are the leading provider of Data, Broadband, Communications, Electrical Power and Infrastructure Solutions to the Business & Developer Construction Markets. We have the following career opportunities in our Phuket offices. We offer health benefits, annual bonus, profit sharing and training plus excellent career growth.

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**Senior Office Manager:** Working Directly with the MD, this Position Requires Strong Problem Solving and People Skills.

Please send your resumé in English to jobs@islandtechnology.com

### FINANCIAL MANAGER

World Concern, an international relief and development organization, will hire a Thai national who must be qualified to supervise and manage all financial, accounting transactions and monitor records and exchanges and advise on financial planning for our tsunami-related project located in Phang Nga. Tel: 076-423757. Email: yohuncp@gmail.com

### STAFF NEEDED

- CUSTOMER SERVICES
- SALES STAFF
- GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We are looking for a competent and highly-motivated person to join our advertising and media business in Phuket City. Must be a Thai national with good spoken and written English, driving license, car and motorbike, and computer skills. Previous experience required. Tel: 076-236637-8.

## Employment Wanted

### HOUSEKEEPER AVAILABLE

For foreign clients only. Fair spoken and written English. Tel: 06-9469997.

### BA DEGREE

in int'l tourism. Dutch female, 26, looking for office job in marketing, e-commerce, management. Email: suzanne@suzannessource.com

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### PRO BODYBOARD

New Mike Stewart Comp 42" + Balin cover. only 14,000 baht. The best bodyboard in the market. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-592-6482. Email: ant\_maluca@yahoo.com

### MOBILITY SCOOTERS

Latest models. Portable 3-wheel, 4-wheel, latest models. Full service by distributor. For catalogs and prices please contact Ecobrand. Tel: 02-9656291, 01-8750860. Fax: 02-965-6294. Email: ecobrand@truemail.co.th

### SUPER KING-SIZE BED

- Teak frame with headboard and footboard. British sprung mattress with extra-firm support. Easily transportable. Only 3 months old. Best price at 20,000 baht.

- Various items of old English silver, must be viewed.

- Large collection of Beanie babies suitable for little girl.

All have labels. Best offer. Contact. Tel: 06-2712758. Email: davidandannatandy@hotmail.com

### TITLEST GOLF BAG

Big size, as new. Maroon and black, I am asking only 5,500 baht for it. Tel: 06-5952833. Email: ukdj007bond@yahoo.co.uk

### BABY COT, STROLLER

Solid timber cot with innerspring mattress, matching change table and 3-wheel stroller. All Australian Safety Standard approved. 3 years old. Great condition. Please contact Michaela for more info. Tel: 06-9537624. Email: michaela\_trigg@yahoo.com.au

### KITEBOARD

for sale. I have two kiteboards for sale urgently. Both are Airush brand. Never used. Will go to best offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8235410. Email: frank@bathline.info

### BOKHARA STYLE

carpet. Size 4' x 6', in good condition, 4,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2658801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com

### SATELLITE TV

"magic box" for UBC for sale at 4,500 baht, full-year subscription remaining. Tel: 01-859 7239. Email: mpasiastar@hotmail.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),

019564031 or 018912895

## Business Opportunities

### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Big returns, low risk. We are financing mortgages for foreigners with a guaranteed buy back in event of NP loans. We are looking for serious investor(s). Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-0639223, 01-7888280. Email: david@katabeachproperty.com

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Nice office located in a business area. 50sqm, fully furnished with all office equipment and ready to start. 1.8 million baht. Company car is available if required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8750017. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### SHOP FOR RENT

Best location Karon, busiest street in Karon, 13.5m long x 4m wide, complete bathroom, electric water heater, aircon, No key money, 25,000 baht a month. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-2718254.

### CHEAP BUSINESSES

Visas for Thai people great profit only 700,000 baht. Bar/restaurant best location Patong. 1.1 million baht. Charter boats party boat from 1 million baht. Contact Brian for more information. Tel: 07-0673360. Email: batone86@hotmail.com

### 2-STORY SHOP FOR RENT

On Phuket Rd. Good location next to a dentist. 5m x 30m. 240,000 baht per year. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-8924311.

### FOR SALE

German carwash technology. Wash 100 cars or more a day. Selling, installation, service, training, investment. Email: carwash\_phuket@hotmail.com

### MAP PROMOTION

Now you can show your customers exactly where your business is located! 100% cartographically correct map now on the Internet with direct links to your company! Email: info@siammaps.com

### BIKINI SHOP

Kata beach. Well-established bikini and surfwear retail outlet located opposite main entrance of Club Med for sale/rent. Large inventory of quality imported beachwear available at heavily discounted prices. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-607 9020, 01-8235410. Fax: 076-383401. Email: frank@bathline.info

### BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Great businesses in one of the best locations in Patong are for sale, including:

- a 15-room guesthouse
- a tour agency
- a 60-seat restaurant
- a rental business
- an Internet cafe

Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-082-0039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan\_75@hotmail.com

### INVESTOR SOUGHT

Housing project in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. Site already has roads, electricity and water supply, plus planning permits. Project already has 30 million baht invested, and has 3 houses sold. 6 remaining plots. Looking for silent partner for investment of 15 million baht. Please contact Andy for more information. Tel: 01-8913466. Fax: 076-296-160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

### BUSINESS PARTNER

A unique opportunity to Join a rapidly expanding company that has nothing to do with food, tourism or accommodation. Capital required 5 million baht. Genuine inquiries only. Call Gordon. Tel: 01-8924804.

### BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. 5-year lease. 5.7 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 07-8838721.

### SHOPHOUSE

Unique building for rent on Dibuk Rd, in 'Old Phuket Town'. 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 01-6072489.

### SMALL INVESTORS

Patong commercial property. Great returns. Be part of Phuket's property boom. Freehold. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8817600.

### TWO BOUTIQUE

hotels for sale and/or rent. Turnkey, brand-new. Many purchase options. Please call Tel: 01-0875828 for further information, or please see our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0310186/ #0310189

### SEARCHING

for a business partner from Switzerland or Germany for Internet business. Tel: 06-8605713.

### SALON FOR SALE

Good location in Kata center. Please call Suporn for more information. Tel: 09-5944633.

## Business Products & Services




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### VISA RUN

to Andaman Club. Promotion until 22/08/06: 1,650 baht, including hotel, transfer, insurance, breakfast, soft drink, visa, boat (big boat + aircon). Only one company. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-289201, 01-535-2637.

### JEAB'S JUMPING

Castles and slides for children's parties. 7 models to choose from. Tel: 01-8939742. Email: zimbo@netvigator.com Please see our website at: www.phuketjumpingcastles.com

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Tel: 076-288765,  
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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Notice

### Public Notice

This notice is to inform the public that as of February 20, 2006, Mrs Duangkamol Khaochatr (Mod) has no further involvement and is no longer associated in any way with The Surin Bay Inn Hotel.

## Personal Services

### Personal Services Wanted

#### MIDWIFE, NURSE OR MAE BAAN

In early August I will give birth to my fourth baby, and I would like to do this at home. Is there any midwife, nurse or doctor in Phuket interested in natural birth who would come to our home? Also looking for a "mae baan" who knows how to take care of mother and baby after birth in traditional Thai style. If you know somebody, please let me know. Thank you. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-270027, 01-0827703. Email: suntree@phukethomemassage.com

#### LOOKING

for a German-speaking dog trainer for my Thai dog of about 5-6 months old. Please call Tel: 01-2596052.

#### HOME TEACHER

in the Cherng Talay area for children 6-8 years old. Math, English, Thai. 5 days/week. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-239112. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

#### COMING SOON! KIDS CENTER

Over The Moon activity center for children.

- \* Yoga
- \* Dance
- \* Art
- \* Library
- \* English/Thai Lessons

Location: Cherng Talay, close to Laguna Phuket. Please contact Barbara for more information.

Tel: 09-6472651.

#### NURSE CARE

Nursing care offered at your residence or hospital. Fluent in English, available day or night. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8912112. Email: wadee@csloxinfo.com

**CARPETS & SHAWLS**  
Handmade carpets, kilims & real pashmina shawls (we can wash & repair too). Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-8187591. Email: jkashmiry@hotmail.com

## Personals

### YOUR FUTURE FORETOLD

Richard de Meath, internationally renowned clairvoyant and Tarot Grandmaster, will reveal the secrets of your future. Please contact. Tel: 44-(0)12028. Email: richarddemeath@tiscali.co.uk

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

### UK MAN SEEKS

Thai girl. UK male, 39, seeks Thai penpal. All emails answered. Email: hanson7@hotmail.co.uk

### MAN FROM USA

I am looking for an attractive, slim Thai girl, age 25-40, for companionship. I am in Patong for 3 months. Email: soinanai@yahoo.com

## Pets

### COCKER SPANIEL

Male Cocker. Brown. One year old. All jabs up to date. Friendly and great with kids. 2,000 baht. Must go to good home. Tel: 076-203064, 01-0876702. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com



**COCONUT HEAD**  
Reggae Band  
(voted best in SE Asia)

For contract starting Nov 2006.  
For details contact Rick Chaney.  
Email: rickchaney6565@yahoo.com.sg  
Website: www.coconutheadband.com

### Club Memberships Available

#### BLUE CANYON COUNTRY CLUB

Blue Canyon individual membership for sale at a very special price. If interested, please contact me for more information.

Email:

bkkbroker@yahoo.co.th

### Club Memberships Wanted

#### PCC WANTED

We want to buy a Phuket Country Club golf membership. If you have one or know somebody who is selling one, please email details to me at:

jahellner@yahoo.com

## Computers

### COMPUTER

1) Biostar iDeq-200T SFF. Intel P4 3.0, 512MB memory, ATI 9600 PRO graphics, 80GB HDD, Sony DVD burner. 18,000 baht.

2) XFX 6600GT AGP graphics card. 4,000 baht.

Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-2839806. Email: leonsk@yahoo.com

### Miscellaneous for Sale

#### TELEPHONE LINE

for sale Chalong area 10,000 baht. Tel: 06-2699484 Asap.

## Mobile Phones

### NOKIA 8800

for sale. No scratches, like new. Currently used with 1-2 call, but it can be used on any network. Asking 22,000 baht. Tel: 09-0666178. Email: singto@caramail.com

### GIFT OF MYSTERIES

Tae Raenon Veenae Albamacia, American mystic, invites communion with English-speaking farang and Thais interested in studies of ancient mysticism on Phuket. All religions accepting mystic thought are invited to seek the gift. Please call for more information.

Tel: 01-3965824.

### THAI COOKING CLASSES

Do you want to learn how to cook Thai food? We will teach you in English, German or Thai. Price 1,600 baht per lesson, incl. lunch for two. For more information call Mr Sasha, of Thai House Phuket Co Ltd, at Tel: 09-7257814.

### HEALING & PSYCHIC

Readings in the comfort of your home. Call Alexander for more information. Tel: 09-7367148.

## New in Phuket

**Matida Property Finance Brokers**  
**Land & Real Estate Finance**  
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# Wheels & Motors

## Saloon Cars

### VITARA FOR SALE



Year 2000, gray, CD player, 5 doors. Tel: 01-6078567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### NEW ZAFIRA 2.2 SPORT

Very nice Chevrolet Zafira 2.2 sport, black, 9,000km, 1st-class insurance free for 1 year, 4-CD player, aircon, black windows, leather interior. Has never been damaged and is in perfect condition. Price new, 1.45 million baht. I will sell to the best offer. Must be seen and road tested to be appreciated. Tel: 01-8512280. Email: dm@janydan.com

### HONDA CITY 03 E AT (AS)

Full options, in top condition. Metallic "Satellite silver" paint. Only 55,000km. Tel: 07-2801390 (Thai), 01-8935709 (English). Email: pichy@loxinfo.co.th

### MAZDA 3 SPORT

Must sell - I'm moving. 7 months old, never in an accident, as new, under warranty, metallic silver paint, 880,000 baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-388465, 06-7421780. Email: graham@thai-connexion.com

### MITSUBISHI LANCER 1.6 GLXI

Good, clean reliable car. 1994, silver, 122,000km, new battery, new tires. 220,000 baht ono. Contact Richard or Nicola to view. Tel: 076-239408, 05-8186065. Email: nicola\_rumsey@yahoo.co.uk

### MITSUBISHI CHAMP

1990, like new, 4 doors, aircon, sport wheels, metallic "wine red" paint, perfect inside and out. 1600cc engine. New tax and insurance. Price: 75,000 baht. Email: mma.thailand@gmail.com

### HONDA CITY 2003

Honda City 1.5 Si-DSI (Auto) Max, CD/MP3 player. 437,000 baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-652-0694. Email: cherrypuffgirl@hotmail.com

## Pickups

### ISUZU D-MAX 3L

Turbo SLX Jan 2004, 2WD, 4 door, manual, gold color, full service history, expat owned, Canvas Creations tonneau cover, load bay liner. No accidents. Excellent condition. 25,000km. Selling at 550,000 baht. Please call Tel: 076-238231 for details.

### 1999 ISUZU SPARK

Dark green, 250,000 baht. The pickup is now in Surat Thani. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-6506221. Email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

## 4 x 4s

### FORD RANGER

3 years old, 50,000km. Dark blue, four doors, electric windows and mirrors. 395,000 baht. Please call after 1pm or any time at weekends. Tel: 09-5891124.

## Motorbikes

### HONDA PHANTOM

Chopper, silver-gray, almost brand-new, only 130km. With or without side car cost 90,000 baht new. Will take 75,000 baht or near offer. Tel: 01-0913818.

### 1150cc BMW FOR SALE

Bought July, 2003, but 2004 model. Only 1300km: driven only long distances, not short hops around town. A1 condition, all services by BMW dealer in Phuket city. Silver color, race tires, always parked in a dry place. Please contact for full details. Tel: 09-9091008. Email: peterphuket@hotmail.com

### FOR SALE: HONDA STEED

Fully customized. Must be seen. 140,000 baht or ono. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-1466622.

### VESPA FOR SALE

Classic Vespa in good-to-great condition, driven daily. Tel: 047-625534. Email: reidkerr\_4@yahoo.com

### HARLEY 2002 CUSTOM



This bike started out as a 2002 Heritage Classic. Below is a list of what I have added to make the bike what it is today: 1550 upgrade kit with Branch heads (Andrews Cam), duel Mukni carburetors, top-of-the-range ignition module (this bike goes fast), Performance Machine (PM) Phatail (240 kit), PM wheels, PM 6 piston front brake with PM rotor, PM 4 piston (drive side) rear brake with PM Rotor, PM Contour forward controls, PM Contour switches and handle bar accessories, PIM Mirrors, corbin Seat (ostrich leather), Harley Oil Cooler, temp gauge and oil pressure gauge, Paul Yaffe X Pipes and completely chromed. Bike can be seen at Nicky's Handlebar in Patong. Price: 1.8 million baht ono. Please call Tel: 076-240042, 01-9792264. or email to: stroker106@csloxinfo.com for more information.

### HONDA PHANTOM

Year 2005. Only 3,800 kms. Blue custom paint job, many chrome extras. Mint condition, as new. 75,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 05-7862404. Email: looster69@hotmail.com

### HONDA SHADOW

American Classic, year 2001, metallic black, many Harley parts (about 70,000 baht), very good condition. Price 240,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-3676373. Email: austrianer@web.de

### HONDA JAZZ & HONDA CIVIC

Both cars top of the range. Rent now for 18,000 baht a month also Nissan NV at 14,000 baht a month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 09-9708281. Email: kevptk@hotmail.co.uk

## Rentals

### A1 CAR RENTAL



Cars, trucks, jeeps - fully insured for rental. Best prices for long-term rental: 12,000 - 20,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8314703, 076-200900.

### CAR FOR RENT

Many types of car for rent. Short-term or long-term rentals at special rates. Tel: 01-6078567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### MOTORBIKE

Honda motorbike for rent. 2,400 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-214794, 06-6837162. Email: somthawin\_pw@hotmail.com

## Wanted

**TOYOTA FORTUNNER**  
or Vigo wanted. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-2746511.

### YAMAHA WANTED

dragstar. I am looking for a good chopper. If you have or know of one for sale. Tel: 074-240132, 01-9591891. Fax: 66-2661076.

### WANTED: FORTUNER

I would like to rent a Fortuner for August - at a good price. If you have one for rent, Please contact me at: Email: np05101961@yahoo.fr

## Others

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