

# Phuket Gazette

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## Local leaders allay fears of coup violence

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: At a meeting held at Phuket Provincial Hall on September 21, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura, along with other key island figures, reassured residents that life will carry on as normal following the September 19 coup.

He said that Thai people already understood the national situation but that it could be misread by foreigners. He added that he had already explained to the British, Swedish and Norwegian consuls on the island that martial law "just means" empowering the military to give orders to civilian officials, and that it would not have an impact on people's everyday lives.

Gov Udomsak said that, in Phuket, the police and navy are responsible for security. He added that troops from Krabi were posted at the airport as he thought the increased security measures and military presence would not deter tourists.

He also explained that his impending retirement, on October 1, and the annual redeployment of government officials on the same day would not be affected by the coup. "The changes in Bangkok will not interfere with the everyday running of the province, and I will carry on reporting to the Ministry of Interior," he said.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch agreed, saying that the situation in Phuket remains normal and calm. He added, however, that he is concerned about the potential impact to tourism, especially in the coming high season.



Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura: "The changes in Bangkok will not interfere with the everyday running of the province, and I will carry on reporting to the Ministry of Interior."

"Phuket Provincial Police had already heightened security measures following the bombings in Haad Yai [on September 16]. We are now prepared for any new security threats that might emerge, although nothing much has actually changed following the coup," Gen Decha said.

He added, "In Singapore, they have had armed soldiers at the airport for years and that has never bothered people."

Runjuan Tongrut, Assistant Director of Tourism Authority of

Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 Office, said that tourism to Phuket should not suffer any real setbacks due to the political changes.

"The TAT agencies in 18 countries outside Thailand are helping their customers understand the situation here. They are also reporting the tourism situation in the markets they are responsible for to the central TAT office in Bangkok," she said.

"We know that the Korean government is very concerned

about this situation and we have had some cancellations from Korean tourists. The Japanese government has warned tourists of the situation but so far we still has no reports of canceled trips.

"The British Government have warned tourists to keep away from crowds but has not advised people not to come to Thailand. News about the situation has also been posted in the Scandinavian market, but the big agencies are still confirming bookings for trips to Thailand."

K. Runjuan added that all activities organized by TAT and the vegetarian festival in Phuket next month will go ahead as planned.

Phuket Tourist Association President Maitree Narukatpichai also agreed that the tourism situation in Phuket will not be greatly affected by the situation and that, as long as there is no violence, will soon be back to normal.

Phuket Hotel Association President Sithi Tantawanich said that he has had no reports of any cancellations and that hotel managers in Phuket have explained to guests that they will not be affected by the coup.

Eam Thavornwongwongse, President of Phuket Chamber of Commerce, said that he had not heard of any hoarding of goods and that all businesses in Phuket are operating normally.

British Honorary Consul in Phuket, Alan Cooke, said, "In my experience, Thailand has developed a unique technique for dealing with coups; they are operated and managed extremely well and extremely successfully. I hope very sincerely that this occasion will be no different."



# Karon statue offers a monumental irony

KARON: Kata-Karon Municipality is building this statue of an old-time fisherman at Karon Park as part of its two-million-baht improvement project in the area. An officer at the Kata-Karon Public Works Department, which is overseeing the work, said the figure of the fisherman was chosen because 20 years ago fisherman could be seen lining Karon Beach every night, surf-casting for dinner.

The statue should be completed some time next month, said

the officer, who declined to give his name.

Ironically, the arrival of the statue coincides with two new Thai-language signs in the area: one asking tourists not to collect or damage marine life in the area and another forbidding fishing in Nong Harn Pond, just behind the statue. Fishing in the pond, in which a population of *pla kapong khao* (white sea bass) was discovered by surprise after the tsunami, will net violators a fine of 2,000 baht.

Right: the statue to honor the local fishermen of the past. Below: the sign reads, in short, 'No Fishing'.



## OrBorJor plans to open pawnshop

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) is planning to build a pawnshop in Tambon Rassada and says the project will be completed some time in 2007.

In media release of September 19 the *OrBorJor* public relations office said the project has only to be approved by the Ministry of the Interior's Department of Local Administration, which has yet to review socio-economic aspects of the plan to see if it qualifies under its current regulations.

If approved, the pawnshop will be on a 500- to 600-square-meter site near the Austrian-Phuket Community Center.

The densely settled area, known as the Saphan Ruam Community, is home to some 30,000 people, mostly urban poor.

# Saudi hotel giant inks B4.3bn resort deal

PHANG NGA: Kingdom Hotel Investments (KHI), which is chaired by Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, has signed a deal to acquire land on which it proposes to build a US\$115 million (about 4.3 billion baht) Raffles Phang Nga Resort and Residences, comprising 150 rooms and 25 luxury villas.

The deal was made through a joint-venture company that is 80% owned by KHI and 20% by European Hotels Corporation Ltd (EHC), KHI's joint venture partner in the Four Seasons Hotel in Marrakech.

Tim Hansing, KHI's Senior Vice-President for Development, told the *Gazette*, "The deal is definitely still going through. We signed the deal on the evening of the coup. We heard about it, and we made the decision to also announce it [the deal] the very next

day, in line with our policy.

"We are very confident that the transition process will be smooth. The tourism offer in Thailand has not changed. It still has wonderful beaches, wonderful people.

"We've invested into a 100-million-dollar project in the Movenpick Karon Beach Hotel earlier this year, and we are very confident about investing in this project in Phang Nga, the Raffles Resort, to carry on our investment in Thailand.

"We're an emerging market company. Our eyes are open. We have full confidence that tourism will continue to grow in Thailand."

In May the Crowne Plaza Karon Beach Phuket resort was bought by KHI for US\$98.5 million (3.7 billion baht), including US\$30.5 million (1.1 billion baht) in debt.

Details of the Phang Nga plan were disclosed in a media release on September 20.

The resort is proposed to start operations in 2009 on some 240,000 square meters (150 rai) of land approximately 35 minutes drive north of Phuket International Airport.

Mr Hansing confirmed to the *Gazette* that the resort will be overlooking Phang Nga Bay.

The project is expected to

boast a 80,000sqm freshwater lake and 400 meters of beachfront.

Residential villas will be offered for sale during the development period on a long-term leasehold basis. The sale proceeds will be used to part-finance the development, of which KHI states it expects to invest US\$12 million for an 80% ownership stake in the proposed villas development.

KHI will seek debt financing to fund approximately 50% of the total project.

In the media release, HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, Chairman of KHI, said, "Thailand is an exciting market for KHI. We announced our first investment in the country earlier this year and are pleased to add the proposed Raffles Phang Nga Resort and Residences to our portfolio.

"The hotel and residences have significant potential and will benefit from the strong brand awareness of Raffles in the Asian hotel market."

Sarmad Zok, Chief Executive Officer of KHI, added, "I am delighted with our acquisition of the proposed Raffles Phang Nga. The site and project provides a spectacular setting that will enable us to develop high-end, branded residential villas.

## Dive operators still struggling with new regulations

Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: At the time of going to press, only seven Phuket dive operators had registered with the Phuket Marine Office, as required by new provincial regulations, set to take effect October 1.

Saichon Khonbaankuan, secretary of the committee established to oversee the industry in the province, said that although she had received many calls from dive operators seeking information and requesting application forms, only seven had actually returned the forms completed.

Some dive operators asked if the committee intended to extend the cut-off date, she said.

She added that there had been no order from the committee to extend the September 29 application deadline.

Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat said, "We have explained this to the dive operators many times. They have to register first, then they can come and submit detailed information about their businesses later as it becomes available," he said.

*Palad* Nivit said the province was prepared to take legal action against any unregistered dive operators working in the province after October 1.

"We will check all the dive operators, both at sea and on land. We have a complete list of where their offices are located, so we know where to find them.

"We will check their registration papers, both for their businesses and boats. We will also check their work permits and all other required documents," he said.

*Palad* Nivit conceded that while the committee is bound to follow the rules once they come into effect, there was still a possibility that the province might compromise and allow dive companies to register after the deadline passes.

Phakdee Kruthanang, President of the Dive Operator's Club of Thailand (DOCT) Phuket Chapter, told the *Gazette* that many dive operators went to the Marine Office to register only to find no-one there to accept their application forms.

"They were informed by officers there that there was no-one in the office responsible for accepting the application forms. That's why so many of us have the forms but have not yet registered," he said.

He added that the DOCT Phuket Chapter was still waiting to see what would happen.

"The information that we are getting from the province is that we face arrest if we don't register, so we might have to," he said.

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# Blaze threatens Kata Boathouse

By Stephen Fein

KATA: A fire broke out in two tailor shops opposite Mom Tri's Boathouse at about 1 am on September 24. A rapid response from the Karon Fire Department, however, ensured that the blaze was put out before it could spread to the resort complex and other nearby businesses.

The tailor shops, Phuket Boston Tailor and Royal Thai Tailor, were gutted by the blaze, with flames reaching over eight meters high, though no injuries were reported.

Theerapong Karndee, Duty Chief of the Karon Fire Department, told the *Gazette* that two of his department's firefighting vehicles responded to the call, receiving assistance from a third vehicle dispatched from the Rawai Department.

They were able to put out the blaze in about a half hour, he said.

Many of the tailor shops in the area use three-phase electricity, which created an additional hazard for the firefighters, who were able to put out the blaze while maintaining their own safety, K. Theerapong added.

K. Theerapong refused to



The two tailor shops were engulfed by flames that reached up to eight meters in height.

estimate the damage to the tailor shop, but a local Thai-language newspaper put the figure at around 1 million baht.

Lies Sol, Public Relations Manager of Mom Tri's Boathouse, said that Boathouse General Manager Louis Bronner was woken up in his fourth-floor, air-conditioned room by the heat of the blaze, flames from which were leaping above his window.

All resort guests were evacuated for their safety. Around 2:30 am, when the danger had passed, guests were allowed to return to their rooms.

See Letters, page 26, for The Boathouse management's letter of thanks to the Karon Fire Department, Chalong Police and other agencies who helped in the emergency response effort.



Phuket International Airport Deputy-Director Sq/Ldr Wicharn Nernlop (right) presides over the opening ceremony of TMB's newest branch in Phuket. TMB is the first bank to open a full branch at the airport.

## Thai Military Bank ready to expand in Phuket

PHUKET AIRPORT: TMB Bank PCL, better known as the Thai Military Bank (TMB), opened a new branch at Phuket International Airport on September 22. The branch is the seventh in Phuket and the 511<sup>th</sup> branch nationwide.

Amorn Sukhonpitumart, head of TMB's Upcountry Branch Banking Group, told the *Gazette*, "We want Phuket to be a new business center, because Phuket has potential - it's a tourism province that has shown continual growth."

Reflecting this confidence is an aggressive expansion plan for the province.

"Our aim is to have branches all over Phuket. We currently have seven full-service branches in Phuket, including this new branch, and we intend to open eight more new branches in Phuket next year. We also have 22 currency exchange booths in Phuket," he added.

"We are not worried that the current political situation will affect banking business. Many customers have come to open new accounts today on the opening day - more than we expected," he said.

## Traffic cop dies after passing out while on duty

PHUKET CITY: A traffic police officer from Phuket City Police Station died on September 22, three days after accidentally fracturing his skull while on duty on September 19.

The officer, Sq Ldr Pol Sen Sgt Maj Wisit Wisetsuwan, 48, collapsed and hit his head on the parking lot pavement in front of the police station while taking a member of the public to recover a motorcycle from Phuket City Police Station.

Officers rushed him to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where doctors tried in vain to save his life.

Pol Maj Teerawat Leamsuwan, a Traffic Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, said, "After he fainted, other officers took him to hospital."

"Surgeons operated on his head and found that he had had a brain hemorrhage. After three days in hospital, he died from his injuries."

"He was a very responsible officer and in good health. We will have to wait for the results of the autopsy before we know why he collapsed. I never thought he would die so suddenly. Now his body is at Mongkol Nimitr temple awaiting funeral rites."

## Aussie Embassy calls for its nationals to register

THAILAND: The Australian Embassy in Bangkok is calling for all Australian nationals in Thailand to register with the Embassy.

Robin Hamilton-Coates, First Secretary and Consul at the Australian Embassy, told the *Gazette*, "The registration reminder is a routine annual event. There is no specific reason why we are doing it now."

"We are updating the register, which is maintained online.

People can register at any time. There is no deadline for registration."

To register online, go to [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au) and click "Register with us" in the left-hand sidebar.

Mr Hamilton-Coates added that people with specific inquiries regarding consular services at the Embassy can call the Consular Section at Tel: 02-3446300.

## Local tax office receives 30% boost to coffers

PHUKET CITY: Taxes collected for fiscal year 2006 are predicted to total 5.2 billion baht, a 30% increase on the previous year, the Phuket Area Revenue Office (PARO) has announced.

The boon for the local tax office was reported at Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura's monthly meeting with Provincial Office Chiefs on September 25.

PARO Chief Pensri Passakul said that the taxes collected from October 2005 to the end of August 2006 totaled 4.8 billion baht, an increase of 29% over the same period last year and a 19% increase on the pre-tsunami economy of 2004.

Some 400 million baht is expected to be col-

lected during September, the last month of the annual fiscal cycle.

The highest single earner was the company income tax category, with 1.57 billion baht collected from October, 2005 to August, 2006. PARO collected 1.3 billion baht over the same period during the previous fiscal year. The annual increase in revenue of approximately 20% was due to the continuing boom in the property sector, K. Pensri said.

Supot Suwannachote, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO), reported that his agency has collected 1.014 billion baht in tax on land transactions, plus 330 million baht in associated fees.


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The terrorist bombings in Haad Yai on September 16 and the military coup in Bangkok just three days later left many foreign residents in Phuket wondering what the long-term outcome will be on their adopted home. For many of them, there is a more immediate concern, however: immigration requirements.

Here the *Gazette's* Stephen Fein, Natcha Yuttaworawit and and Suganya Semacote look at how recent developments have affected Thailand's immigration policy on long-stay tourists.

Even before the September 16 Haad Yai bombings, the Immigration Bureau of the Royal Thai Police set off some fireworks of their own on September 10, when an article originally published on the *Forbes* magazine website reported that stringent new immigration rules would come into effect on October 1.

The story quoted Immigration Police Chief Lt Gen Suwat Thamrongrisakul as saying, "Tourists who stayed for 90 days must leave the Kingdom for at least 90 days before being permitted to re-enter Thailand."

The report raised concern, bordering on outright panic, throughout much of Thailand's expat community, of which many members have bought homes here, married Thai wives and have families to support – or otherwise have made a great personal investment in the country – yet still fail to qualify for non-immigrant visas.

All was clarified following a Bangkok meeting of all Immigration Chiefs on September 15, when it was confirmed that the new rules would apply only to the free "visas on arrival", which are issued free-of-charge to tourists from any of 41 qualifying countries.

Immigration said the new measures needed to be put in place in order to keep people from those countries from working illegally in Thailand – and also to keep out undesirables. The

move followed the August 16 arrest of American John Mark Karr over his involvement in the murder of six-year-old American JonBenét Ramsey. How Karr had managed to enter and stay in the country had put the harshest spotlight on Thailand's Immigration that it had faced since Al Qaeda operative Hambali's arrest in Ayudhya in 2003.

After all the panic, however, it turned out that the restrictions applied only to the free visas on arrival: law-abiding tourists – as well as undesirables and those who work illegally – would still have a chance to stay here for as long as they like: as long as they agreed to pay for the privilege.

Pol Lt Col Pipat Pongpan, an Inspector at Phuket Provincial Immigration Office, explained the new situation soon after the September 15 meeting. "Anyone who has already stayed 90 days on a visa-on-arrival permit does not need to worry. We will start counting the days from October 1," he said.

"[Foreigners from countries qualifying for visas on arrival] can come in and out of the country as many times as they like with a visa on arrival, but can stay for a maximum of 90 days in any six month period. If they stay 90 days, then they must leave for 90 days before they are entitled to another visa on arrival. They can, however, go and request a tourist visa from a Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate abroad and

# 90 DAYS:



come back into the country," he said.

"Extensions beyond the 90-day limit may be granted in exceptional cases, such as if the tourist is ill or is involved in a court case," he added.

"No new investment visas will be issued after October 1. However, existing visas in this category may be extended if the holder still has funds of 3 million baht and is still doing business in Thailand," Col Pipat said.

Not long after that explanation, came the bombing of Haad Yai and then the military coup. Rumor was rife following the coup that those in the Bangkok power elite thought to have been aligned with the deposed premier Thaksin were to be transferred to "inactive posts", desk jobs where they would keep their rank and base salary, but lack any real position or power. With new personnel come new policies, so was change imminent at Immigration?

Just as this edition was going to print, the *Gazette* was able to contact Gen Suwat himself, who said that as of September 25 there had been no changes at Immigration and that Thailand had never closed its borders [after the coup, to keep Thai Rak Thai people from fleeing, as reported in some news media].

"Now every Thai border checkpoint is still open. When a neighboring country chooses to close its own border it may appear that our border is closed since nobody is able to pass, but in fact that is not the case. Our borders have been open all along," he said.

Gen Suwat was referring to about 100 Thais and a handful of foreign tourists who were trapped in Burma opposite Ranong, waiting for the two border checkpoints there to reopen following

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# That's your lot



Left: An officer (yellow shirt) at Phuket Provincial Immigration Office helps foreigners with visa complications. Above, Pol Lt Col Pipat Pongpan, Inspector of Phuket Immigration says, 'We will start counting the days from October 1.'

their closure on September 20. The checkpoints were finally opened on September 24.

He encouraged *Gazette* readers to read the department's official website ([www.imm.police.go.th](http://www.imm.police.go.th)), where any changes

in Immigration policy would be posted.

In related developments, the *Gazette* has also learned that those seeking to stay long-term on double-entry tourist visas issued in Penang might have to

settle for single-entry options. An official there told the *Gazette* on September 14 that Consul Pramoete Pramoonasab had issued an order to stop issuing double-entry tourist visas. No reason was given for the order, and other visa

categories were unaffected by the order, the official added.

The Royal Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was, at last check by the *Gazette*, still issuing double-entry tourist visas. Fareeda Chewae of the Royal Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur warned that this may change in the near future, however.

A *Gazette* source in Penang confirmed that the mission there had stopped accepting applications for double-entry tourist visas, even from the many "visa agents" who operate there.

The source said that the Consulate had given no reason for the new policy.

Another visa run option to the southern border has always been to go through Narathiwat.

Natini Wongpuvarak of Business and Leisure tours, well-known to many Phuket residents as the woman who organizes visa runs to the Kota Bharu in the Malaysian state of Kelantan, told the *Gazette* that her service has never ceased, despite the nearly daily acts of violence in the Deep South over the past two years.

Nowadays, she organizes twice-weekly visa runs for her customers, almost all of whom are based in Bangkok or Pattaya. Her once-thriving business from Phuket dried up after the tsunami; not because of the waves, but rather because it was after that disaster that Phuket Air stopped its daily flight service from Phuket to Haad Yai.

Since then, no carrier has chosen to take over the route between the two cities, which had enjoyed air links for many years – including a long stretch when

twice-daily flights were available on Boeing 737s.

"We still offer the service to Phuket residents, but not many people want to endure the 15-hour bus ride from Phuket to Narathiwat," K. Natini said.

The introduction of many low-cost regional flights had also cut into her business, allowing foreigners to fly cheaply to places like Kuala Lumpur or Singapore to obtain visas.

K. Nathini said she expects to see a resurgence in business from Phuket after the new Immigration policy goes into effect and foreigners living here are no longer able to prolong their time in Thailand by making unlimited trips to Kaw Thauang in Burma, opposite Ranong, to get free one-month visas-on-arrival.

The Consulate in Kota Bharu stopped issuing double-entry tourist visas about the same time as Penang, she said, noting that the current Consul there is scheduled for a transfer next month and that the new Consul might decide to allow the issue of the double-entry tourist visas.

To see if the coup marked sweeping changes in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), which issues visas to enter Thailand, the *Gazette* called the MFA's Visa and Travel Document Division.

An official there said that the move by the consulate in Penang is not due to any sweeping changes in MFA policy. The decision whether or not to issue double-entry tourist visas is solely at the discretion of each diplomatic mission, the source explained.

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## Queer News

# EXPOSED TO DANGER

PATONG: Different people held different reactions to the coup d'état that stunned the world – and, to a lesser degree, the nation – on the evening of September 19, 2006.

But for some people, including many foreign tourists enjoying the nightlife in Patong, all the excitement was just another excuse to get sloppy drunk, go out and have a grope, and play darts.

Once such visitor was a 28-year-old German tourist named Dennis, who lost control of his motorbike on a curve on the road from Patong to Karon and smashed into – of all vehicles – a Kathu Police 191 patrol pickup passing in the opposite direction.

The bald German, dressed in a

sports shirt, white trousers and tennis shoes, sustained a broken right leg and bloodied right arm. Both the police truck and the German's metallic-gray Yamaha Mio were damaged.

Although the collision occurred at just after 3 am on September 20, there was no lack of curious onlookers, including many young females who screeched with a mixture of dread and delight at the sight of victim, whose trousers were ripped open in the crash, leaving his private parts exposed for all to see.

The German was rushed to Patong Hospital.

There were no reports that the victim, who agreed to pay for the damage to police pickup, would be charged with any offense.

Source: *Siang Tai*

## STAMPS

# Plants that eat meat

THE PHUKET Post Office has reported that Thailand Post services remain completely unaffected by the coup, and that all its services remain available. Now isn't that reassuring?

Sarayut Kedkhong, an administrative officer at Phuket Post Office, confirmed that the October 9 launch of a set of four stamps featuring carnivorous plants in Thailand will go ahead as scheduled.

The plants featured are: *Nepenthes mirabilis* Druce (a pitcher plant); *Rafflesia Kerrie Meijer*, one of the world's rarest and largest flowers, which is found in the Khao Sok National Park



in Phang Nga; *Sapria poilanei* Gagnep, which can be found in Chanthaburi; and *Drosera burmannii* Vahl, a sundew that has been intensely studied for its potential medical uses.

Each four-stamp set will be available for collectors at 35 baht each.



Previously slated to be the site of Patong's first up-scale inland marina, the open area behind Phuket Palace Hotel at the start of Sirirat Rd, is now home to this garbage tip, which appears to have ample room for expansion.

The sales office of the company that was developing the marina project now appears to have been abandoned, and its telephone number no longer works.

Got a place where you dump your garbage at midnight (or midday)? Don't be secretive. Share it with the rest of us. Email a picture and brief description to [dump@phuketgazette.net](mailto:dump@phuketgazette.net)

## TRASHING Phuket



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# Coup to cost B800m – Thai travel agents

The Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) has estimated that inbound cancellations following the coup will reach 40,000 by the end of September, resulting in 800 million baht in lost tourism revenue.

Chinese tourists account for most of the cancellations, followed by Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, India and the UK. However, the coup is not expected to have much effect on arrivals from North America or continental European.

A few days after the coup, ATTA President Apichart Sanakary said that 50% of all cancellations were made by Chinese tourists, most of whom travel on charter flights. Their numbers will drop by 80%-90% from August, he said.

Some 50% of Japanese tourists had also canceled. Most of these were individual travelers. Travelers from other countries had already paid for packages, so fewer cancellations were expected from them.

**Haad Yai fallout:** A week after the six terrorist bombings in Haad Yai, the Odean Shopping Mall reported a reduction of 50% in both the number of shoppers and total sales.

Naruemol Amornratvitaya, the mall's Deputy Managing Director, said the shopping center was open as usual, but the mall and the owners of the many fashion outlets there need to change their marketing plans to counter the sluggish atmosphere.

"The recent bomb blasts have affected our business because our main customers are tourists from Singapore and Malaysia," she said.

Bombs went off in two areas beside the mall, the most popular mall in Haad Yai for locals and tourists alike.

The mall, which had generated about 100 million baht in annual sales, now faces an uncertain future, she said.

Past adverse circumstances, such as the financial crisis of 1997, floods in 2000 and the bomb blasts at Haad Yai International Airport last year did not have the same impact as the most recent disaster, she said.

**Peer pressure:** Research by Mahidol University in Bangkok has indicated that banning alcohol advertising may not stop people from drinking and that educating schoolchildren about the health effects of alcohol might be a more effective approach.

Manee Chaiteeranuwasiri, head of Mahidol's Education Department, told a recent seminar that research conducted in July found people aged between 18 and 25 drank three to six times a month, while those over 25 said they drank 12-15 times monthly.

Although some admitted alcohol ads tempted them to try new products, most of the younger group surveyed said the advertising ban would not prevent them



**ONE LAST MISSION:** Royal Thai Navy ship *Luang Good* is sunk in the Gulf of Thailand to create an artificial reef. Formerly the *USS Exno*, the ship was decommissioned last year after 51 years of service that included transporting soldiers and weapons in the Korean War. In its final mission, the *Luang Good* will provide a haven for various sea creatures and create a new marine tourist attraction off Pattaya's coast. The project is part of the Royal Thai Navy's celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

from drinking because the habit came from peer pressure and socializing – and they could buy alcohol from shops. The older group said that, with or without ads, they would still drink because they enjoyed it.

**Slower growth forecasts:** Although the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand have maintained their optimism on the economy following the coup, some foreign finance houses have revised their growth forecasts downwards.

Morgan Stanley cut its estimate of Thai gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 2.4%, from an earlier figure of 3.5%; and its estimate for next year to 4%, from 4.5% before.

Dow Jones Newswires quoted Morgan Stanley's chief Asia economist Andy Xie as saying a few days after the coup, "We believe the final outcome is far from clear. A fresh round of uncertainty looks set to further dampen consumer and business sentiment."

Citigroup also revised downwards its GDP forecast for the year, from 4.5% to 4.3%, in the belief that both investment and tourism will fall in the fourth quarter.

However, United Overseas Bank (UOB) restored its Thai GDP growth forecast of 4.5% for this year and 4.2% for next year, after a better-than-expected market reaction to the coup.

In its initial response to the military takeover, UOB trimmed its GDP growth projection to 4% for this year and 3.9% for next year.

**A coup for apes:** The plan to repatriate to Indonesia 48 orangutans confiscated from a private zoo near Bangkok was delayed a week because the plane due to transport them is unable to land in Thailand after the coup.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment had planned to send the apes to Indonesia on September 23, but pushed the plan back a week when an Indonesian navy cargo

plane was unable to land. The rare apes were confiscated from the private Safari World tourist park near Bangkok.

"Indonesia should be understanding," said Schwann Tunhikorn, Deputy Director-General of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, which is finally sending the apes back – three years after they were confiscated.

The orangutans are set to receive a VIP welcome when they return to Indonesia, with the wife of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reportedly ready to meet them when they arrive in Jakarta

**It's a gas, gas, gas:** Starting January 1 next year, millions of vehicles running on octane-95 gasoline, including 24 million motorcycles and large cars, will have to shift to gasohol-95.

The Energy Ministry's Energy Business Department will issue a regulation in November banning the sale of octane-95, giving oil retailers until the end of the year to unload their octane-95 gasoline inventories, estimated at about 11 million liters.

From January 1, the operators of any station selling octane-95 gasoline will be subject to a maximum fine of 100,000 baht, or one year in prison, or both.

The regulation ends doubts as to whether the premium gasoline will be cleared out of the market. Doubts had arisen due to concerns over the supply of ethanol and the number of cars on the road manufactured before 1995. Gasohol, a mixture of ethanol and gasoline, was generally believed to be incompatible with cars more than 11 years old. But PTT Plc and the Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency Department have test-run older cars for 80,000 kilometers, finding no engine problems.

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



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The day after Army Chief General Sonthi Boon yaratkarn's military coup in Bangkok, Koh Samui remained unaffected by the turmoil in the nation's capital. The atmosphere was calm and relaxed on the island, with many Thai people taking advantage of an enforced public holiday as the island's visitors continued to enjoy the beaches.

When reports began to appear in the international media, some foreigners received phone calls from home, but there was no sense of alarm or panic.

Kate Fins from Portsmouth was on a two-week holiday. She first heard about the coup from her mother.

"Mum called me to check that I was OK," explained the 23-year-old Englishwoman. "She said there were tanks on the streets of Bangkok, but I couldn't see any on the beach in Chaweng, so I just told her to relax. Later I watched the news and it seemed as if the pictures were from another country."

High season officially ended on Koh Samui in early September, but occupancy levels were still high at the time of the coup.

Chao Ngiampasal, owner of the Muang Samui Resort and Spa, said that so far there had been no cancellations as a result of the coup and expressed hope that tourists would understand the real situation. "Most of the visitors we receive here are intelligent people," he said.

"They read the news and know what's going on politically in Thailand. I am confident they will see this as a positive, peaceful move to protect our country's democracy. I don't believe we will see any negative effects in terms of tourism on Samui."

At another of the island's hotels, a large corporate booking from New York allegedly canceled their reservation after hearing about the military takeover. However, the company later re-



**SECURITY BLOSSOMS:** Pol Maj Gen Worwet Winitnejoyano (right) and Kongsak Wantana – who at that time was Minister of Interior – press buttons to activate the CCTV system.

## What coup? It's business as usual

confirmed the rooms when full details of the situation were released.

Despite announcements that the country was under martial law, no curfew had been imposed and there was no visible military presence on the streets. From a tourists perspective it was business as usual.

**Be seeing you:** On September 15, the chief of the Surat Thani Police Department, Pol Maj Gen Worwet Winitnejoyano, was joined on Samui by Kongsak Wantana, who was at the time Minister of Interior – this was pre-coup – at

a ceremony to launch the use of CCTV cameras in 17 locations around the island.

The new cameras will be monitored by police 24 hours a day at the central Samui police station and the recordings will be stored for one month to assist police with their investigations.

The installation of CCTV cameras is part of a wider campaign to improve security for visitors to Samui, with a particular emphasis now being placed on anti-terrorism measures.

However, Col Chaityut, Samui's police superintendent, believes more still needs to be done

and recently held meetings with hoteliers and the managers of Samui's airport to suggest more stringent private security measures. "Seventeen CCTV cameras is not a guarantee of safety," he said. "Private businesses will have to install their own devices and the police need the public's help to spot and apprehend potential criminals."

Although the troubles in southern Thailand have yet to affect provinces north of Songkhla, the authorities want to make sure that major tourist centers, such as Samui, remain safe. Sniffer dogs already patrol the airport and there is a scanner for cars and passengers boarding ferries in Donsak on the mainland.

Col Chaityut plans to ask Bangkok to install more CCTV cameras on Samui, to bring the island in line with other Thai destinations. Surat Thani Town already has 50 cameras in operation, while Haad Yai has 117.

**Foreigners lend a hand:** A new Tourist Police box manned by two police officers, a foreign interpreter and police volunteers, recently opened in Samui's main tourist zone.

As the island grows, tourists increasingly fall victim to



### FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

crimes including bag snatching, assault and rape. In addition, more and more foreigners are being arrested on Samui and articles in the national press have shown a need for better policing.

The new police box aims to help tourists in the downtown area who experience problems or need help and advice.

The tourist police recently recruited and trained both Thai and foreign volunteers to patrol the island and they hope this will improve overall security, especially in the Chaweng area.

One local resident volunteer said that he joined the team to help the island and to break down the communication barrier. "Samui has given me a lot," he said. "Now I can return the favor by helping visitors to the island [by translating for them]."

**Ferry pier opens:** Seatran Discovery Ltd recently held a ceremony to mark the opening of a new ferry pier on Samui's north coast.

The municipality built the pier two years ago for about 200 million baht. Unfortunately, after construction was completed, the water surrounding the pier was found to be too shallow for boats to come alongside.

Seatran Discovery Ltd, Samui's largest ferry operator, recently took over the management of the pier and brought in a dredger to deepen the surrounding bay. The company will operate three boats from the pier on routes between Samui, Koh Phangan and Koh Tao, as well as providing overland connections to Bangkok via Chumphon.

According to company Vice-President Tenatpan Pramnuak, the company will focus on cleanliness and managing the pier in a way that enhances the natural beauty of the location, close to the Big Buddha temple.

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# A paradise for Phuket's bird fanciers

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

**C**olorful plumage and melodious songs are the trademarks of many tropical bird species found in Phuket.

Thanks to Phuket Bird Paradise, they can also be found in your living room. The exotic bird store, on Phang Nga Rd opposite the Honda showroom, has more than 10 breeds of birds for sale.

The owner, Chai Tan, a dentist, runs the store with his wife, the aptly-named Nok. He originally started raising birds as a hobby before deciding to open the business. The shop, in its fourth year at the same location, has more than 50 birds for sale.

"I love birds and I'm always finding new breeds to raise. At first I only raised Thai birds, but after that I started raising more international birds both to sell and to have as pets," he said.

"Most of the birds I raise are parrots. Some are imported from abroad, legally. Now I have more than 10 kinds of birds in my shop, most of which I have bred myself."

Chai and Nok take care of the birds as if they are their own children. Not by dropping predigested worms from their own mouths into the hatchings open beaks, but by using a syringe to feed the baby birds and calling themselves father and mother.

In the days of the H5N1 virus, some might think birds are no longer safe to keep as pets, but Chai and Nok dismiss this idea as, well, for the birds.

"I would also like everyone to know that the birds at my shop were checked by the Provincial Livestock Office. None of them have bird flu. I feed and provide for the birds, never letting them fly out of the building – so there is no chance that they can contract the illness. If anyone is worried about it, I recommend they take the bird to the Livestock Office to make sure," he said.

Half of Phuket Bird Paradise's clientele are foreigners living in Phuket who want to have birds either at a business or at home.

The age of a bird when a customer takes ownership of it is

important and depends upon the pet's intended use.

"If a customer wants to feed them and make the birds tame, they should start when the bird is two or three months old. If they want to breed the birds, most of the species should be over five years old. For example, the African grey parrot needs to be at least six years old to breed. It can live a long time too, up to 90 years," K. Chai said.

The couple not only sell birds they have raised themselves, but also serve as bird matchmakers, allowing customers to order birds of a specific species, size, sex and age. After an appropriate bird is tracked down, K. Chai and K. Nok call the buyer back and arrange the sale.

Phuket Bird Paradise is always expanding, K. Chai said, as he finds new breeds of birds. Currently the store has African grey parrots, eclectus parrots, orange-winged parrots, Amazon parrots, Barraband's parrots, red-  
lored parrots, cockatiels, lovebirds, canaries, Senegal parrots and sun conures.

Most of the birds the shop sells are two to three months old. Prices vary depending upon the type of bird and its age. For example, a fledgling African grey

is about 14,000 baht, while a mature bird is 20,000 baht. The most expensive bird, the citron-crested cockatoo, is a white bird with a bright yellow crest. It is endangered in the wild, but can be bred in captivity. These cost from 20,000 to 30,000 baht each. At the opposite end of the scale is the lovebird, costing just 200 to 300 baht. Who says you can't buy love?

Chai and Nok are no strangers to criticism from animal rights activists.

"I disagree with the foreigners who say we imprison the birds, and that they should fly in the sky instead of a cage.

"We take good care of the birds, and they get food from us. We never hit or kill them – quite the opposite, we treat them with love. If they are unhappy they won't lay eggs, and most of the birds here breed. We let them out of the cage to fly around the building, but they always come back



Phuket Bird Paradise owner Chai Tan with an African grey parrot. 'I love birds,' he says.

to their cage, because they are happy to live here," he said.

"However, a bird owner

should understand that you can't just feed them bananas or sunflower seeds. You need to feed

them nutritious food and clean water," he said – the same basic needs as humans.



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Auction  
October 6

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October 4 - 6  
Auction  
October 7

### CLASSICISM IN CONTINUUM - THE ARTS OF THE MING

Exhibition  
October 4 - 6  
Auction  
October 7

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Phuket Bird Paradise is located on Phang Nga Road, in front of the Honda showroom. It is open from 10 am to 3 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm daily. For more information, contact the shop at Tel: 076-356252, or Chai at Tel: 081-597-9255, or Nok at tel: 081-535-4676.



# Southern violence should be CDRM's top priority: poll

People nationwide most want the Council for Democratic Reform under Constitutional Monarchy (CDRM) to solve the troubles in the Deep South and restore harmony in the country, according to the results of an Assumption University (Abac) poll released four days after the military coup in Bangkok.

The poll surveyed 4,250 respondents, aged 18 and above, across the country from September 20 to 22.

The survey showed respondents a list of 10 problems facing the nation and asked them which the CDRM needed to address. Solving the trouble in the Deep South quickly and restoring harmony among all citizens was rated the top priority by 99.4% of respondents.

Addressing problems stemming from natural disasters was the second most important item.

Taking legal action against politicians and government officials involved in corruption was third.

**Conservationist killed:** Fifty-eight-year-old environmental activist Arom Tawaraphon, better known as Kamnan Wod, was shot dead on September 18 during an early-morning jog in Tambon Sikhit, Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province.

Police reported that K. Arom, sitting President of the Tambon Sikhit Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) at the time of his death, left his house around 4 am to go jogging with two or three close friends.



**NOT SO PRETTY:** Children in Nakhon Sri Thammarat place offerings to their ancestors before an effigy of a Praet ghost. Many locals believe people who sin, such as by insulting their parents, become Praet ghosts in the afterlife.

The ritual is part of this year's Wansart Deuan Sip (Tenth Month Festival), which is held around the South and is held in high regard in the province of Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

There is no danger of the ghost eating the offerings because its mouth is only about the size of a pin, according to local beliefs.

When he had jogged about 300 meters, two men who had been lying in wait pulled up alongside on a motorcycle, the pillion passenger firing off five or six shots with a pistol, thought to be

either a .357 or a .38, before speeding off.

Arom, hit four times in the chest, immediately collapsed on the ground. His friends rushed him to Sichon District Hospital, where he died. By the time police arrived at the scene, a crowd of locals had gathered and many were condemning the murderers.

Pol Col Wirawut Saesoe, Superintendent of Sichon District

Police Station, said that as far as he knew, the motive for the slaying was likely to have been an old dispute from when Arom was still *kamnan* (Tambon Chief), though it could have come from a problem raised during his time as *OrBorTor* President.

A source in the District Police Investigation Department said that the victim was a leader of a local conservation movement, with links to high officials in every local government department, including forestry and drug and crime suppression agencies.

Arom was not only feared by local lawbreakers in Tambon Sikhit, but had also won the trust of local residents, who elected him president of the *OrBorTor* by a landslide in the last election.

Recently Arom had been trying to obstruct the granting of a concession to open a limestone quarry in the area. He had been intent on protecting the local limestone hills since his time as a *kamnan*; this could have provided a motive for his murder.

Police are also tracking hired guns in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and neighboring provinces as they believe that the gunmen were likely to be paid assassins, the source added.

**I'm your handyman:** Government officers in Patthalung Pro-

vincial Hall were given a nasty shock on September 15 when they discovered a suspicious bag containing wiring.

Officers reported that the bag was left by a man in a yellow shirt who was seen arriving at the hall on a motorcycle around 8:30 am. Worried about a potential terrorist attack, they contacted experts from the Border Patrol Police Unit 434, which is stationed in Phattalung.

Opening the bag, police they found it full of wires and workmen's tools. Soon after, a man came forward claiming to be a friend of the owner of the bag and asked for it to be returned.

Police detained the man, taking him for questioning at Pattalung Town Police Station, where he was given a dressing-down for causing so much stress to the officials. No charges were reported.

**Swift reprisal:** Four men were seriously injured in Patthalung's Pak Phayoon District on September 13, when the SUV of Aphichit Angsutharangkun, Manager of birds' nest soup company Siam Nest, was sprayed with bullets from an AK-47 assault rifle.

Police reported that the men were on the way back from a business meeting when two pickup trucks set upon them — one in front, the other alongside. A man in the truck alongside then opened fire on the vehicle.

Aphichit's SUV pulled over, its passengers returning fire and forcing their attackers to flee the scene.

Police said that the cause of the attack is likely to be connected to the birds' nest business, as Siam Nest has a concession to collect swift nests on local islands.

Two days later, on September 15, a man was killed and three companions injured when their pickup was fired upon in Khuang Kalong District, Satun Province.

The men were on the way back from a funeral when another pickup truck pulled alongside and two men armed with an M-16 assault rifle and an 11mm pistol opened fire. The dead man was identified as Jaran Nak-suwan, 34.

Thai-language newspaper *Thai Rath* quoted police as saying that Jaran and the other occupants of the pickup were likely to have been involved in Aphichit's shooting.

The attack probably had the aim of silencing the men so they could not inform police of who was behind the attempt on Aphichit's life.

*Around the South news roundup is sourced from the pages of Kom Chad Luek, The Nation and Krung Thep Turakij newspapers.*

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I am indebted to the OB&C, She Who Must Be Obeyed, the memsahib. With unflinching generosity, she once took me to India; they were playing at The Oval. A splendid day ensued, not least of which was the promise of passage through the North-West Frontier and possibly on to the Khyber Pass...

Never one to turn down the offer of a free lunch (restaurants and hoteliers please note; I'm not in this for the money – just the food), which does exist, particularly if one has already taken the Queen's shilling or made a Faustian pact to prostitute one's soul and cast it into eternal damnation in return for short-term glory, fortune, adoration and fame.

Robert Johnson supposedly made such a pact, as – so legend has it – did Niccolò Paganini.

I did, and have never looked back, mostly because I am greatly afeared of catching sight of Messrs B L ze Bub or Louis Cypher lurking in the shadows – although I have issue with them over precisely what the diabolical definition of glory, fortune, adoration and fame is.

## JEWEL IN THE CROWN

I'm still waiting for them to come through, like the check in the post; and believe me, the wages of sin are not death; the *Gazette* wouldn't be that generous...

Yet – and despite the literary references – there are some fringe benefits. One of which is a rather nice Sunday lunch at Navrang Mahal, and Indian restaurant in the charming Karon Sea Sands Hotel.

The hotel's learned and urbane GM, Seemant Raju – known almost as much for his interest in cricket as for his hospitality – has invited us to partake of the jewel in the crown (I bet you never guessed that I would use that old chestnut) of his hotel's dining repertoire.

Seemant is from Delhi, and is justifiably proud of his great nation's contribution to the global canon of cuisine, particularly that of the northern region of India.

So influential has Indian cuisine become in the UK that it is now considered part of the national diet, while chicken tikka masala (CTM) – that centuries-old (well, created around 1960 possibly in Glasgow) dish of fowl marinated in spices and roasted in a tandoor before being served in a rich tomato sauce was once hailed by the late Robin Cook MP as "Britain's true national dish".

He was, however, being mildly belligerent towards Tory xenophobes, yet the point was made; Indian cuisine is ingrained in nations far beyond her borders, perhaps a case of The Empire Bites Back.

Seemant explains to the memsahib and me that North Indian cuisine is distinguished from er... Southern Indian cuisine by the former's greater use of dairy products—such as *paneer* (cottage cheese), *ghee* (clarified butter) and yogurt. Perhaps forget-



ting for a moment the impact of Indian food on the UK, he explains what *ghee* is without using the word, which we supply as one and to his delight.

Samosas with a sweet tamarind sauce, which, although synonymous with Indian cuisine are really a Northern specialty, are brought out for us first, to much acclaim, along with a selection of pickles (*achar*) and glasses of *lassi*.

*Lassi*, for the uninitiated, is nothing to do with rough collies, but a blend of yogurt, water, salt, spices and/or natural sweeteners. Ours are rosewater-flavored and heavenly. It is superb for cooling the palate and, we also learn, by mixing it with a little turmeric, it becomes an excellent treatment for gastroenteritis.

Mutton *seekh* kebabs and chicken tikka are brought sizzling hot to the table. They are vibrantly – and I hasten to add – naturally colored. We wolf them down, the delicately flavored and textured chicken and the spicy mutton needing no garnish, nor adornment. The taste is all.

Seemant recommends a bottle of Chevalier de Glenan, a 2004 Merlot, to accompany our meal, although he confides *sotto voce* lest the other diners hear – that it is considered a little non-U in India to serve any form of alcohol with a meal.

"We drink before we eat. Or we drink after we eat. Or we drink before and after we eat," he notes.

The wine, however, is robust

and a good counterpoint to the strong tastes of our lunch, so good in fact, that we order a second bottle. The girls are each drinking Lemon Lilly, which tastes almost as nice.

The table is in serious need of being cleared as a quartet of dishes are presented in double-time. *Paneer*, mutton vindaloo, *dahl* – not Sophie nor Roald – and, by jiminee, CTM plus mounds of *naan* and other breads have the table groaning under the sheer weight.

Still, it is a Sunday, the day of rest for some, and having had but half a poached egg on toast for breakfast, shared with the mem, we remain ravenous.

Conversation ranges from education to family to Indian festivals. The children's eyes light up as Seemant explains that, during Diwali, an average of 1,000 different kinds of sweets and deserts are available. He also explains how a single festival is celebrated in four similar, but different ways, in the four compass points of the country.

Back to the chase and the food is sublime. Following Seemant's lead, we eschew cutlery and tuck in using the bread to scoop up the fiery vindaloo, the spicy *paneer* – this Indian cottage cheese is firm, quite different in consistency to that found in the Occident – the scented CTM and the fragrant *dahl*.

I turn to the mem with a look of child-like delight in my eyes seconds after biting into a cardamom pod. It seems like

years since I have experienced the aroma, the taste of this prized seed.

It is obvious that while we blinked or were engaged in conversation a group of elves whisked the food away, for suddenly, where once the dishes – we are particularly keen on the brass-handled dishes; dunno why, but they have oodles of visual appeal – were full, now they are empty.

## On the menu



WITH  
Andy Johnstone

### Navrang Mahal

We, however, on a delightfully indolent Sunday afternoon are less than empty, although a spot of room remains for dessert, Northern Indian ones, of course.

The first is *ragulla*, an off-white orb that foxes us as to its ingredients. I suggest almonds and flour, the mem, too, thinks similar, although it is actually made from cottage cheese poached in syrup. The second is *gulab jamun*, which has a similar consistency, yet oozes a rich syrup as one cuts into it. *Gulab jamun* is, again, made from cottage cheese, but mixed with condensed milk before being fried.

Navrang Mahal at the Karon Sea Sands Resort has, in the two months it has been open, built up a solid reputation for great Indian food. So much so that a recent Bollywood film crew making a film in Phuket had all their meals supplied by the restaurant at the request of the stars.

Delightful food, pleasant service and not a square inch of flock wallpaper in sight. Superb.

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Over the past three years Phuket has been through land scandals, assassinations, water shortages, mob protests, a tsunami and most recently a coup in the capital. During that period the man in the big chair has been Udomsak Uswarangkura, the Governor of Phuket.

Governor Udomsak will retire from government service on September 30. Before he retires, he tells *Gazette* Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanapaporn what he believes he has accomplished and his feelings about working in Phuket.

**Gazette:** Do you think you have been successful in implementing your policies during your term in Phuket, especially in maintaining a transparent government and cracking down on drugs?

**Gov Udomsak:** We work toward those goals all the time, but for me achieving them is more than just my job.

As the Governor, I have had the responsibility of implementing the central government's policy and dealing with problems such as drugs, recovering after the tsunami, supporting businesses and reducing poverty.

Narcotics is not a major problem here because Phuket is not a drug trafficking center or gateway like some cities in the North, such as Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son. The drug busts

we make are for 100 to 1,000 pills, not the tens of thousands or even millions that they find in other provinces.

Our approach to controlling drugs is through the national policy of remedy, control and recovery. We watch gangsters and "mafia bosses" very closely and we make sure there are no big drug traffickers here like the Papadu gang on Koh Samui.

Tourists come here for holidays, not to cause trouble, but some of them do take drugs. That said, another factor is the types of drugs

that tourists take, such as ecstasy, which does not cause the same problems as opium because the users don't usually bother other people.

In the fight against poverty, we have supplied "caravans" to provide food, kitchen equipment and loan money to low-income families. We also keep records and profiles of poor families so that if we have any problems it will be fast and easy to track them down and solve the problems.

We also support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the sale of One Tambon, One Product (OTOP) products in Phuket, but our primary strategy – through supporting the local government and the private sector – is to promote tourism. It is important for us to promote our beaches and our diving and entertainment opportunities.



'In this line of work there are always going to be things that I like and things that I don't like, but I believe I have always done the right thing.'

# Three years in



We also promote health tourism and are encouraging Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Phuket International Hospital to stage road shows, which are quite successful at bringing tourists to the island.

We have also supported tourism by improving basic infrastructure for air, land and sea transportation. We are improving from the bypass road all the way to Rawai, and we have completed a feasibility study on making a road from Chalong to Patong. We also have security checkpoints around the island and at Mai Khao.

We now have the Ao Por Pier and Rawai Pier projects, and we have improved Chalong Pier. We have improved the airport terminal and are looking at expanding the airport and lengthening the runway. We have also streamlined the transportation system at the airport, with more limos, metered taxis and now the airport bus, all for the goal of improving Phuket tourism.

In solving the island's water supply problems, we have completed a pipeline from Baan Manik to supplement supply, and the reverse-osmosis water-filtration plant [in Karon] will be finished soon.

We have also started construction of new dams at Bang Niew Dam in Thalung and Klong Kata in Chalong.

One of the main problems for Phuket is the low number of visitors during the rainy season – or "green season". We need to attract more conventions and conferences to be held here at this time of year, and we have proposed a long-term plan for Ao Phuket so that more activities will be held here during the rainy season.

We are also looking at building a modern sports stadium that can accommodate 5,000 spectators and have a retractable roof that we can open and close. Now we just need to find an architect and someone to build it at a reasonable price.

We also support the development of IT [information technology] in Phuket, and we support self-employed people and entrepreneurs in this field. When Phuket becomes more technologically developed, it will benefit the real estate sector because it will make the island a more attractive place to live and work.

**Gazette:** You have served in Pattani and Bangkok. In your experience, was Phuket a difficult province to work in?

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# Phuket



## TOUGH LOVE:

At times – as when protesting limousine drivers besieged Provincial Hall – Gov Udomsak (with loud hailer) had to summon reserves of character to control the situation.

ble for us to recover. The deputy prime ministers helped by staging tourism roadshows promoting the provinces affected by the tsunami, and we got the tourists back.

**Gazette:** Will you have a chance to meet or work together with the incoming Phuket Governor before you leave?

**Gov Udomsak:** No, and I don't know who will be the next Phuket Governor. I don't think that he or she will have any problems, as the Governor has the power to approve many things without another person's approval.

**Gazette:** What concerns you the most about the future of Phuket?

**Gov Udomsak:** I would suggest that Phuket should start using less land for long-term development because every square meter of land in Phuket is valuable.

Building condominiums and apartments is one way to save Phuket's land. The more you build houses on estates, the less land you have left. People have to change their thinking of having their own house on their own land. If everyone wants a house on 50 square wah of land, and there are 50,000 people, how much land will you have left on the island?

Look at Hong Kong. It's like they live in a box. Some buildings are 50 stories tall because there is very little usable land. But it isn't that bad in Phuket, I think that having four- to five-story buildings would be fine.

I think most people come to Phuket to see the natural green of the rubber plantations, not to see buildings. If we think that we have an infinite area of land to use, we will have problems in the future.

**Gazette:** What are your plans for after you retire?

**Gov Udomsak:** I plan to just relax for a while. I will move back to my hometown of Bangkok, but I will come back to Phuket to visit friends. I do not have a business, but I might take on work as a consultant for an organization. Who will care about an old person like me? [laughs]

**Gov Udomsak:** I have had no problems. I am always happy doing my work or carrying out assignments. I never worry because I have faith in the system.

In this line of work there are always going to be things that I like and things that I don't like, but I believe I have always done the right thing. I have always been honest and I have never broken the law.

**Gazette:** Was Phuket the province you worked in the longest?

**Gov Udomsak:** No, I worked for six years in some provinces, but I think three years working here in Phuket is a good length of time, because if I worked here any longer I would probably get more complaints from people. [laughs]

**Gazette:** You were the Governor when the tsunami hit, and the province recovered very quickly. How did you handle that?

**Gov Udomsak:** We had excellent cooperation among all organizations, both from the private sector and the government, that provided the money we needed to rebuild.

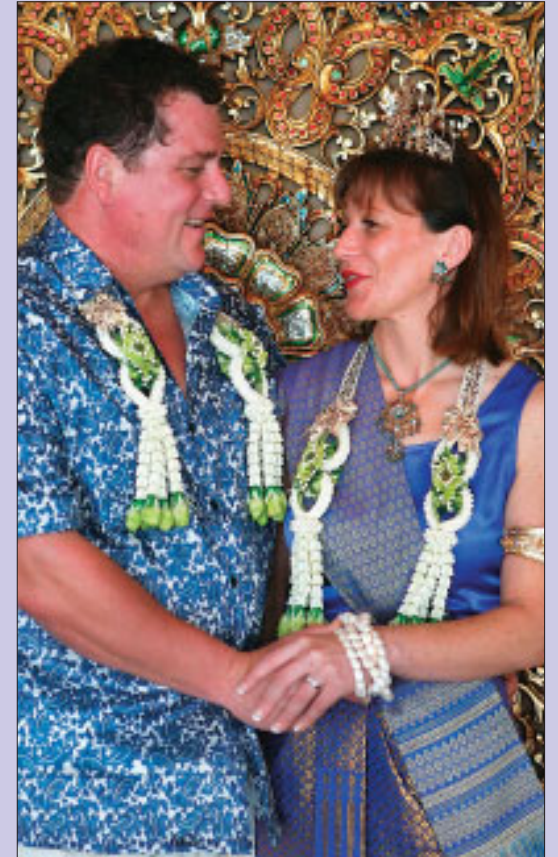
The government support and soft loans also made it possi-

## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket



Left: Mayuree Khunmee and Chaiya Tuanchart, were married at Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of The Metropole Hotel on August 6



Right: John and Amanda Hayes from Australia celebrated their wedding at the Wang Warin Thai restaurant at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort on July 15.

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## This week



**NOW WE ARE TEN:** On September 15 the British Curriculum International School (BCIS) celebrated the 10th anniversary of the school opening its doors.

Left, Phuket Vice-Governor Worapot Ratthasima (yellow shirt) presides over the opening of the Archive at the school, with Boonnam Ourairat (center, representing BCIS chairman-Dr Arthit Ourairat) and Valentino Tan (yellow tie) Member of the BCIS Board of Governors and Special Consultant to the school.

Below, left, Andrew Jordan (left), Director of Operations, Royal Phuket Marina, and BCIS CEO Apiwat Ourairat at the cocktail party at the marina on September 16.

Below, The Headmaster, Prof Dr George Hickman (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), enjoys the cocktail party.  
Photo by Dan Miles.



**WHAT A HANDFUL:** Outgoing *Gazette* Managing Editor Alasdair Forbes (the old geezer) has trouble letting go at a 'farewell' lunch on September 16.  
Photo by Dan Miles



**CLEAN CORAL:** Divers and helpers in the 12th annual Underwater Reef Cleanup on September 16 pose with Ronnachai Chindapol (right) President of Thailand Diving Association, and Weerawat Chanpen (left), Muang District Chief, at Chalong Pier before leaving to clean up the waters around Koh Hei and Koh Khai.

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## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

**M**azda has relaunched the lovable MX-5 sport roadster, now with a retractable metal hardtop. Following the trend created by Mercedes-Benz with its SLK, and the Peugeot 206 and 307 CC models, the MX-5, known as the Miata in the US, features a solid roof that neatly folds into a space between the seats and the trunk.

The MX-5 was originally launched in 1989 as a no-nonsense, down-to-earth sports model. Rudimentary to the extreme, it had a basic 1.6-liter motor, a manual gearbox and – shudder – drum rear brakes... on a sports car that was capable of speeds approaching 200kmh.

Over the years it acquired a larger engine, disc brakes all round and, if desired, automatic transmission. The introduction of a metal hardtop will undoubtedly prolong the life of this popular little sports model, of which in excess of 700,000 have been built.

### ECLIPSE

The beauty of Mazda's electric roof system is that it does not reduce trunk space at all, unlike the Mercedes and Peugeot models.

Mercedes-Benz believes it invented the idea of a folding metal roof on the SLK, but in fact there was a 1930s Peugeot with an electrically operated roof, the 401 Eclipse, which featured a roof panel that retracted at the press of a button.

The Mazda's roof folds into the space behind the seats near to the vehicle's center of gravity, maintaining the 50:50 weight distribution. It may not be as fast as the Mercedes-Benz (25 seconds) or the Peugeot (about the same), but it does it all automatically and if you have ever stood in the pouring rain trying to erect a recalcitrant soft-top, this is truly appreciated. The only downside to the metal top is a slight increase in weight of around 37 kilos.

The power plant is now a decent 2-liter DOHC unit producing 170bhp (125kW), mated to a six-speed manual gearbox, though the entry-level MX-5 has only five gears, while there is an optional electronically controlled Activematic transmission, for which you get a slight downgrade in power to 122kW.

No performance figures are given, but expect a top speed of around 210kmh and a sprint time from rest to 100kmh of



# Make mine a new Mazda Miata



about seven seconds, depending on the mechanical spec. Relaxed driving is ensured, however, with a substantial peak torque figure of 188Nm, which, for such a light machine, means ease of overtaking and less shifting down in the gears.

The handling of the little Mazda is impeccable, aided in part by a special truss system that links the engine and the rear differential, eliminating flex, while the front wishbone and rear multi-link suspension maintains the wheels at the optimum angle. While it is no Ferrari, it would take a foolhardy driver to get

into serious trouble with an MX-5.

Somewhat romantically, Mazda has coined the phrase *Jinba Ittai* for the new model, meaning "heart-to-heart communication between a rider and a horse". Quite how that relates to

the MX-5 is not explained, but it presumably means that the driver will feel at one with the car.

The MX-5 has achieved immortality by warranting its own entry in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the most successful two-seater sports car ever. Guinness ratified the figure of 700,000 in February 2002; by the end of 2005 the cumulative production figure had stretched to 748,904. Another point of recognition for the MX-5 Roadster was being voted Japan Car of the Year in 2005-06; no mean feat in the crowded Japanese domestic market.

The retractable roof model was launched at the poorly supported British International Motor Show in July, but has now gone on general sale around the world, including Thailand, priced around 2.5 million baht. A worthy successor to the model that has endured for the best part of 17 years.

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

The MX-5 is in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the most successful two-seater sports car ever

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**W**ith no beginning and no end, a wedding band signifies undying love and ought to be as unique as the couple whose love it celebrates.

This kind of thinking has resulted in mass-produced rings being edged out as more couples pick unique designs and personalized engravings.

The new trend has created all kinds of new choices for couples.

First, couples need to choose the right metal – and the choice usually spares no expense.

Yellow gold is still standard, though its popularity has slipped somewhat.

“White gold is very popular and platinum is also a major player,” says Alfred Schneider, Managing Director of the Federal Society of Jewellery and Watches in Pforzheim, Germany.

Another favorite is an amalgamated ring – a ring that combines both white and yellow gold.

### SKIN COLOR

If one opts for gold, it should be at least 585 or 750 parts per 1,000, according to Hans-Jurgen Wiegler, President of the Central Committee for German Goldsmiths and Jewellers, based in Koenigstein, in Germany.

Skin color is the most important factor in this choice, says Sylke Mann, a wedding planner for the Munich-based Agentur Weddix.

As a general rule of thumb, gold looks good on darker or tanned skin, while white gold and platinum are better for pale skin. However, the right metal is also a question of taste.

“Someone who usually prefers to wear silver jewelry should opt for white gold or platinum,” advises Mann.

More couples are also opting for platinum because it is tougher and more resistant than gold.



Although many couples opt for contemporary designs, it is important to take care to choose a ring that will still be in style on your silver or golden wedding anniversary.

# The ring of truth

Today's trends call for wider rings, from five to eight millimeters wide.

“Women especially like wide rings,” said Nils Friese, Director of Merkle, a Hamburg-based jewelry company. It is important that the type of ring

suits the hand, says Mann. A wide ring on a delicate hand looks out of place. Conversely, a narrow ring looks lonely on a larger hand.

Often, the bride chooses a gemstone for her ring.

“Diamonds are often chosen as a symbol of eternity,” says wedding planner Mann. Rings skew toward classic designs as women often wear their wedding ring with other rings.

To avoid wedding day upsets, couples should arrange for their rings at least two to three months beforehand because handcrafting must start once the choice is made.

In Europe, wedding rings can cost as little as 300 euros

(about 14,300 baht), but as soon as one picks more expensive metals or gemstones, one should be prepared to pay as much as 2,000 euros (95,600 baht), said Wiegler.

Rings with symbolic value are another trend.

“Every ring tells a story,” says Jutta Ingala of the wedding ring manufacturer Niessing in Vreden, Germany. One example is the Niessing model tango, in which two different kinds of metal are used.

Engravings have also become a popular way for couples to tell their stories with special pictures.

“We have engraved every-

thing from a seagull to a heart,” explains Wiegler.

Pledges of love such as “Forever” or “With deepest love” have also become popular. But an engraving with the partner's first name and the wedding date remains classic.

To individualize rings further, couples have also begun to make their own. Courses are available across Germany. At the Schmuckschmiede, a jewelry-making shop in Wuerzburg, couples can hammer, sand and solder.

“The attraction is making it yourself,” says goldsmith Mareike Hintze. “Even people with no experience can make gold or platinum wedding rings that are impossible to tell from purchased rings.”

Even though eye-catching wedding rings are today's fashion, many couples still want sleek, classic models, which stand a better chance of being in style at one's silver or golden anniversary.

In another change, experts like Mann report that men have stopped resisting wedding bands – at least in Germany.

“The number of guys who complain about rings has declined. Today, you see many more men proudly wearing their wedding rings.”

– Stephanie Lettgen, dpa

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# Depressed about your weight? Try a depresso-massage machine

In the first of a series about weight-loss services and treatments in Phuket, **Jenjira Ruengjarus** and **Suganya Semacote** visit the Unisense Slimming Institute at Central Festival.

- The *Gazette* strongly recommends that you consult a physician before undertaking any slimming regimen. The *Gazette* also makes no assertions of treatment effectiveness.

**W**hy work out? For those among us who want to shed a few pounds but are too lazy, or unable, to go to the gym, the Unisense Slimming Institute of Phuket may offer shortcuts to a healthier, slimmer body.

The Slimming Institute, a franchise of the Premiere Slimming Co Ltd, a Bangkok-based company, opened just a month ago in Central Festival Phuket, offering clients a combination of two weight-loss treatments.

Phuket has seen a boom in fast weight-loss treatments with what seems like a new type of machine in every clinic. The Slimming Institute uses three such machines: a body-mass index calculator, an ultrasonic fat reducer, and a DataVein, a vacuum-controlled depresso-massage machine.

At Unisense, K. Ple was receiving the treatments in an attempt to lose weight from her 70-kilogram, 170-centimeter frame. She said she was interested in the program because she was lazy and disliked working out, but had put on some unwanted weight from overeating.

## REFRESHED

After the treatment she said she felt refreshed and lighter, stating that she had lost nearly 800 grams during the one-hour treatment. So pleased was she with her session that she booked her next one before leaving.

The technique first uses a Bodystat monitor to determine the relative weight of fat in the patient's body. The machine uses electrodes to measure the body fat in by taking readings from the clients right hand and right foot.

A consultant then asks the client their medical history to screen for risk factors.

Patients are not allowed to receive the treatment if they have had surgery in the past six months, had a child from a natural birth within one month or a caesarean

section within three months, or are pregnant, or have any metal implants in their body.

Next, ultrasonic waves are used to, as staff at Unisense told the *Gazette*, loosen the fat. To achieve this, several pads are strapped to the target areas on the body. The pads generate 300-kiloHertz ultrasonic waves to "dislodge" the fat. These are applied for half an hour.

During this time the client may feel itchy, as if they have ants on their skin, while the fat, as staff put it, "drains away under the skin".

## EXPELLING FAT

Next, the DataVein machine is used to "drain the lymphatic system and to start the process of expelling the fat from the body." This contraption uses a slight vacuum and rollers to massage the fat.

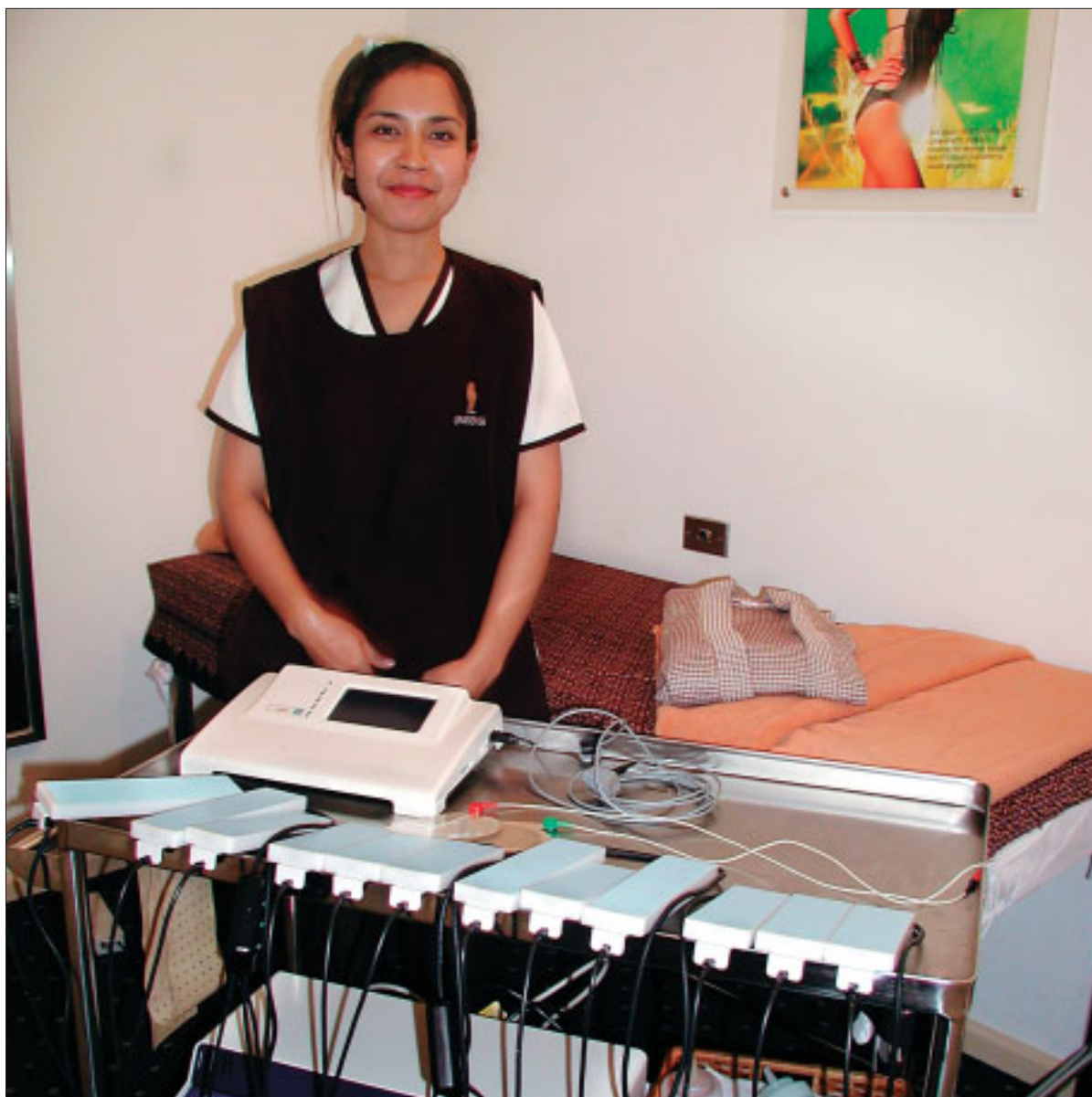
Finally the customers are treated to a Lipodrainage, a drink to help flush the fat from the body. Clients should also continue to drink plenty of water over the following days to cleanse the dislodged fat. The staff said that the client's urine may be darker than normal as the unwanted weight drains away.

The combination of the treatments is said by staff at Unisense to reduce visible cellulite and "orange skin", firming the targeted body parts. The clinic guarantees that patients will lose at least 300g of fat per session.

The machines and technique, licensed from a French company, have all been approved by the Thai Ministry of Public Health, they say.

Unisense Slimming Institute is currently running a grand opening promotion and packages are available for slimming and body contouring treatments; lipolysis, drainage treatments, anti-cellulite treatments, firming/body contouring treatments and massage. A package of 48 treatments is available for 18,900 baht while a 60-treatment package is on offer for 35,000 baht.

Unisense Slimming Institute, on the second floor of Central Festival Phuket, is open daily from 11 am to 9 pm. Tel: 076-249717-8 or email: [www.unisensethailand.com](http://www.unisensethailand.com)



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# Spa MAGIC



By Alasdair Forbes

## Chandara Spa

**W**hy do people really go to a spa? For their health – to get those aching muscles, bones and joints to settle down? Maybe. To get their chakras realigned, yin and yang balanced or crystals straightened? Nah. For most of us, let's face it, a trip to the spa is all about pleasure.

Let's define spa pleasure: purely sensual – well, unless you and the therapist are both into discussing philosophy or literature – with, perhaps, just a tinge of eroticism. There. I've said it.

A visit to the spa is a form of entertainment, an art that feeds not the intellect, the ego or the laughter gland, but satisfies the body's need for coddling, for touch, for luxury – the same needs as are satisfied by a warm hug, a good stretch or a yawn. But if you choose the right spa, the need gets satisfied for hours on end.

It was pouring with rain when I arrived at the Chandara Resort & Spa, the first seriously luxurious resort built on the east coast, looking out across Ao Por toward what used to be Koh Raet and will soon be Barama Bay, and a village away from East Coast Villas.



# I FEEL KNEADED

I'm met by the charmingly modest Spa Manager, Yaowaluck Chotiga from Phang Nga, who received her spa training with Peter Heppel's Asian Wind. She in turn trained the Chandara Spa's five therapists.

We do the menu: a total of 21 possibilities ranging from a 30-minute hot herbal compress treatment for 550 baht to the four-and-a-half-hour Sweet Honeymoon for two (well it wouldn't be right for one, would it?) at 11,900 baht.

I choose the three-hour Chandara Relaxation (4,900 baht) and, to go with it, the "Relaxing and Balancing" oil made from blue chamomile, lavender, geranium and black pepper, one of four recipes. Would I like a strong massage? Hmm, not really. Very

well, a relaxing massage, says K. Yaowaluck.

The best spas provide not just "therapy" but drama of a sort. This requires scenery – and Chandara has it aplenty with its calming rooms stocked with striking art and the usual silks, along with tropical greenery outside every window. It also requires characters (me and the therapist, though there's not much dialog beyond "Sabai dee mai, kha?" "Grunt."). Finally, it needs a plot. This is where the Chandara Relaxation treatment excels.

**Prelude:** Me flat on my stomach, looking through the hole in the massage bed at a bowl of marigolds. The air conditioning feels a little chilly at first, but the bed seems to be equipped with a warming pad, so I'm comfortable.

**Act I:** My therapist, tiny, from Phuket, and called Prempreeda "Sue" Krajai, starts with a fruit body scrub. The term "body scrub" always conjured up for me images of a cheerfully wielded wire brush.

There are no wire brushes, thank heaven. I discover that a body scrub is a bit like a standard

oil massage after you've just come from the beach and have not washed all the sand off. It's slightly gritty but not at all unpleasant. Rather the opposite, in fact.

K. Sue starts with my feet, working up each leg in turn, thighs, buttocks, followed by back and neck, shifting the towel covering me as she moves to another part. "Turn over, please." She does the front.

I shower to get the grit off. While I'm doing that, K. Sue is tending to a small boiler, brewing up the props for **Act II:** The Hot Herbal Compresses.

This is another first for me. Gently but firmly she presses the compresses onto my legs, back, and the back of my neck. The warmth and pressure is relaxing though, for me, not as luxurious as the laying on of hands that comes next as K. Sue segues into **Act III,** The Relaxing Swedish Massage.

She is a skillful artist, her hands sometimes kneading the bits that need it, sometimes drifting lightly from one end of a limb to another. They never stop moving; as one comes to the end of a stroke the other is beginning.

Sometimes they work in tandem. It almost feels like four hands.

I am pretty much lost in 100% sensation. There is background music: a sort of Mike-Oldfield-Tubular-Bells-meets-whale-song-album, which gives way at one point to tropical birdsong.

I'm close to blind. When face-down, all I can see are the marigolds and an occasional glimpse of K. Prepreeda's immaculate toes. When I'm face-up, she covers my eyes with a towel, allowing me to concentrate on her artistry.

**Act IV:** The Aromatherapy Facial.

I'm face up as K. Sue wraps my head tightly with a towel so that hair and ears are covered. She then winds a hot towel around my face, like an old-time gents' barber, and presses it gently into my eyes and either side of my nose.

She removes it. "Close your eyes, please," she says. No problem. I'm having a great deal of trouble keeping them open anyway. She sprays my face with something aromatic, then massages oil – a different aroma – gently and sensually into my features. Another hot towel, more oil. Another hot towel...

She uses cotton wool to wipe my face gently – yet another scent – and moves into position an odd piece of apparatus that pumps water vapor at me. It's a bit like sticking my head into a Turkish bath. For hydrating and cleaning, I'm told.

Another hot towel. **Act IV** takes on an air of mystery as I hear something trundle on wheels across the floor. The sound of wood sliding against wood. Bottles clinking. She removes the towel, but only to cover my eyes again with something cooling.

She paints my face. What with, I don't know. It smells as though it may be orange-flavored chocolate mousse. Inertia returns and I decide I don't need to know.

To give the mask time to take effect, K. Sue slides my modesty towel down to below my navel and spends the next 10 minutes – or maybe it's 30 – applying hot herbal compresses to my belly. It feels as good as a warm meal after a three-day fast.

She returns to my face and removes the mask, carefully cleaning all traces from around my eyes and even in my nostrils – now that is sensual.

She massages my scalp and applies more aromas to my face before the final, sensual, erotic touch. She takes a Q-tip and with it gently applies a gel to my lips. "Set laew, kha," she smiles.

Now I know how pasta feels. I went to the Chandara spa as stiff and fragile as a piece of uncooked spaghetti. I emerge *al dente*.

Chandara Resort & Spa is at 99/1 Moo 6, Ban Ao Por, Pa Khlok, Talang. Tel: 076-317800 ext 790. Email [chandara.spa@chandara-resort.com](mailto:chandara.spa@chandara-resort.com). Open daily from 8 am to 9 pm.

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# Koh Yao Noi: – isle be there

## Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

**M**y supine companion tried quietly to tempt me to move a muscle. “Any wine left?” she whispered.

The extremely comfortable hammock, the beach with its gently lapping waves and Nora Jones quietly playing on the pavilion’s stereo certainly didn’t encourage the fastest of responses, though.

Slowly rising, I was able to take in the sunset illuminating the Krabi coastline and islands in the distance and, on fully waking, felt a wave of appreciation wash over me as remembered I was back at the Koyao Bay Pavilions on Koh Yao Noi.

This elegant yet simple resort has three large pavilions, each with its own sala, a small restaurant, a lounge-clubroom area with a small bar and TV, and a gorgeously shaded swimming pool; all quietly hidden away in a coconut plantation.

The owner, French architect Georges Cortez, has certainly done it again

following his earlier success with the Koh Yao Resort. “We believe in elegance and the simplicity of nature,” Georges proudly says as we eat lunch together. Georges, being typically French, had prepared food that was simple and delicious – a spaghetti seafood dish to die for.

After lunch it was time to explore, and with the aid of a trusty Honda Dream – my still supine companion riveted to a good read – I made my way around this undeveloped isle. Despite the construction site where the Evason Hideaway resort will be, little has changed on this very friendly Muslim island since my last visit.

The importance of nature and its protection seems to be respected in the way the island is being developed. The locals, who are looking to attract tourists, want controlled development and to maintain their simple island lifestyle. Even the larger resorts, such as Paradise Resort and the Evason, are being developed in line with this approach.

That evening the decision was made to “go local”. So off we rode to the island’s only real settlement, Ta Khai, where we dropped in at the “Drop Inn”, better known as Koh Yao Seafood, to meet up with another old buddy – my Welsh friend Simon Warren and his lovely wife and the restaurant’s cook, Mena.

Simon – one of the founders of the original Sea Canoe – lives permanently on the island. He is



Above, Don't you just hate deserted beaches?

Left, the shaded pool at the Koyao Bay Pavilions resort.

a mine of information on what is happening on the isle and while we were catching up on the news Mena was preparing some of the finest seafood available.

No fancy stuff here, but some of the best and freshest seafood I've tasted in years. “My brother in law runs one of the island’s seafood farms,” said Simon with a smile. With dishes from 60 baht up it’s definitely worth a visit.

Asked about nightlife, Simon smiled wryly and said, “Well there’s the 7-Eleven, where most of the islanders seem to head to on a Sunday afternoon. In the evenings, after 8 pm, there are the two *roti* shops in town – they are great, too.” There are certainly no venues for bar hoppers. Please note alcohol is available only in the resorts, at the 7-

Eleven and at the Chinese supermarket.

On the new ferry on the trip back to Phuket we meet my old friend K. Mut, Managing Director of Sea Canoe, who was born and raised on the island. He, too, has strong ideas for Koh Yao Noi’s future. “We need to discuss carefully how the island is being developed and not try to grow too fast. It’s very important for us all to protect our homes and nature, as that’s what will attract the type of tourist we are looking for.”

The ferry trip is one of the best deals for a cruise on Phang Nga Bay. At 120 baht for the one-hour transfer from Phuket to the Koh Yao islands, it offers some of the most stunning views of Phang Nga Bay with glorious vistas of the bay’s famous islands and outcrops in the distance.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Drive to Ao Por Pier. As the pier is not busy at this time of year, one can even park at the end of the pier. For budget travelers and those traveling without a car, there is a local bus service that operates regularly to and from the bus station in Phuket City.

### By Ferry:

The large express ferry departs daily from Ao Por Pier at 10 am and 4 pm. The crossing takes one hour. The return leg departs from Mah Noh pier on Koh Yao Noi at 8 am and 2 pm. All crossings stop at the Khlong Hia pier on Koh Yao Yai. Cost: 120 baht per person. Tickets can be bought on board or call Sea Canoe in Phuket City at Tel: 076-212252

## WHERE TO STAY

Koyao Bay Pavilions – an elegant and very private pavilion-style resort. Special low-season rates of 5,000 baht a night, including daily breakfast as well as free massage for two. For workaholics, free Wi-Fi is also available throughout the resort. Tel: 076-597430 Fax: 076-597430. Website: [www.koyaobay.com](http://www.koyaobay.com) Email: [info@koyaobay.com](mailto:info@koyaobay.com)

Lom’Lae – A simple resort comprising eight small rustic bungalows directly on the beach with great views, simple but comfortable rooms and acres of space. Also has a small rustic restaurant and the only dive shop on the island. Low Season: Beachfront rooms from 1,000 baht a night; simpler garden-view rooms at 500 baht. Tel: 089-8688642. Email: [info@lomlae.com](mailto:info@lomlae.com). Website: [www.lomlae.com](http://www.lomlae.com)



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# Puzzles

## Spot the Difference



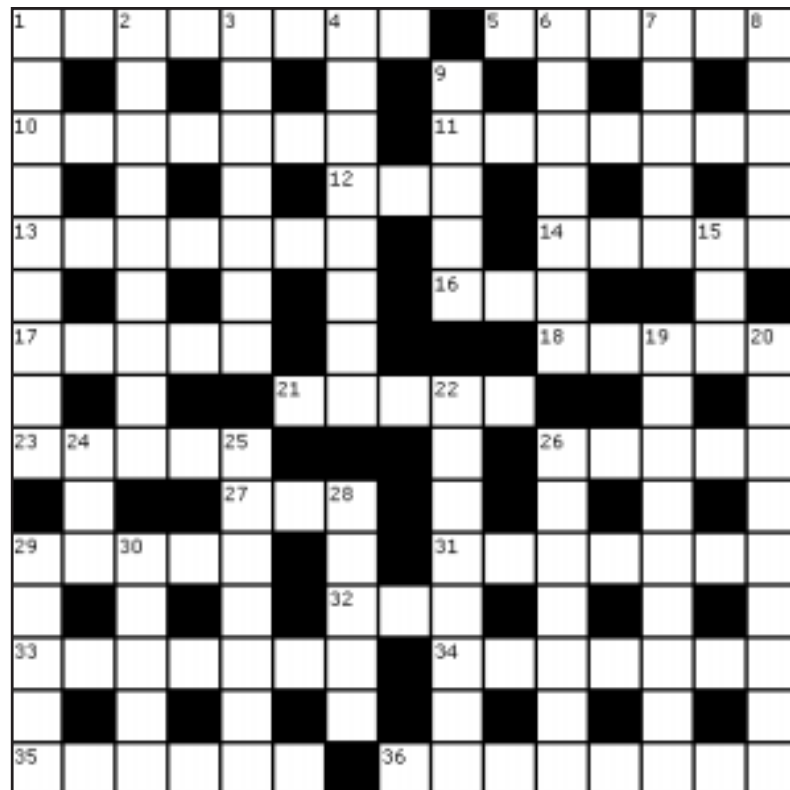
Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



# The Cryptic Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Sisters double-drug cardinal. (8)
5. Mocks eats. (6)
10. Genuine peepers, they say, come to understand. (7)
11. Country lad may knock relatives. (7)
12. Fish get a bit of sunshine. (3)
13. Opening, is at home but leaving. (7)
14. Early or late one is on stairs. (5)
16. Polish sport? (3)
17. A face cover, it's said, may be of use. (5)
18. Desert ship. (5)
21. A journey close to the bottom of the sea. (5)
23. Provide income to end? No point. (5)
26. Cover for airport area. (5)
27. Beast of burden's rear end. (3)
29. Elsewhere, a kind of defense. (5)
31. Menacing? Ring us after zero minute. (7)
32. Back end is most of the raft. (3)
33. Simple, like a plundered gallery. (7)
34. Split, met ex re very intense. (7)
35. Stop, Des! Is junction. (6)
36. Perfectionist may glue the French letter. (8)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

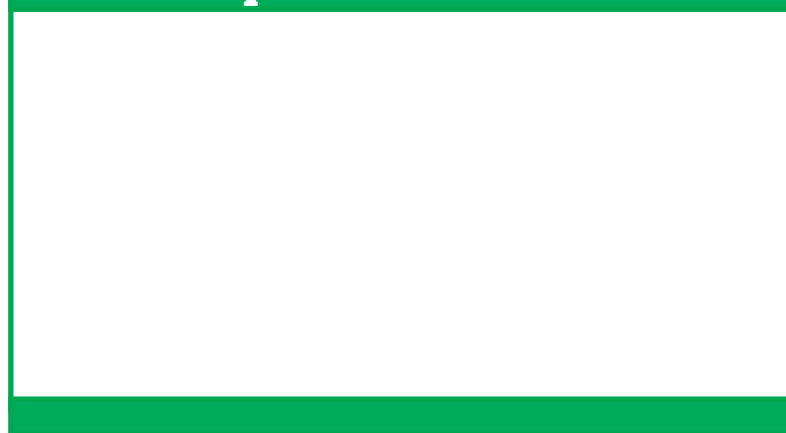
### DOWN

1. Said: go quickly, beat the dreadful weather. (9)
2. Back protectors raise escort. (4,5)
3. First letter first. (7)
4. Small gentleman follows, slight mess coming into existence. (8)
6. Linen is eccentric building block, almost. (7)
7. Following soccer org, Kes feints. (5)

8. Submarine gear thus ran back. (5)
9. B says, destructively, "The bottomless pit."
15. East ye look. (3)
19. Smashed arm male, or like marble. (9)
20. Pike has hankering for fruit. (4,5)
22. I'm powerful... not! (8)
24. There's nothing in most of the Nile. (3)
25. In the waters I find servers. (7)
26. A local airline twitch for this part of the world. (7)
28. What Errol would have done with a buckle. (5)
29. Prize for a protégé. (5)
30. I have no thanks for small things. (5)

Solution on next page

## Scribble Space



## EZ Trivia Quiz

1. What is the name of Winnie the Pooh's donkey friend? were called Thao Thepkasattri and ...?
2. Who wrote Peter Pan?
3. What is the name of Tata Young's latest hit single?
4. What is the currency of Greece?
5. In computing, what does CPU stand for?
6. Phuket's two heroines
7. In which Thai province is Haad Yai?
8. What colors are the flags of the US, Britain, France and Thailand?
9. Who is the president of the US?
10. Who is generally recognized as the inventor of the telephone?

Answers on next page

## Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with "prune". What are they?

1. Desert feature.
2. Canoodle.
3. Air.
4. Flare.
5. British sedan.
6. Woodwind instrument.
7. Piffling.
8. Defense against air attack.
9. Satirize.
10. Faint.

Answers on next page

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

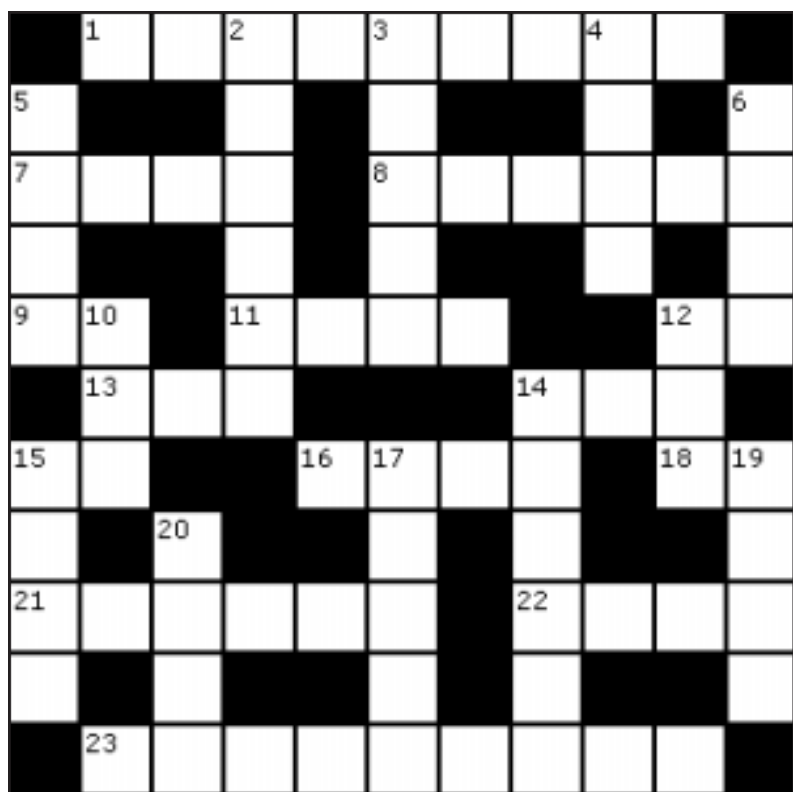
				3		6	2
		1	8			7	4
			4			5	
	9		1	8			6
4							8
1				9	3		5
		5			7		
	4	6			8	9	
	3	8		2			

MEDIUM

# 14

The principle of 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. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. The one who does this is lost.
7. Indian exercise system.
8. Component of water.
9. Belonging to.
11. Returning sound.
12. Street or saint, in short.
13. Strange.
14. Pigeon sound.
15. You and me.
16. Opera song.
18. Negative.
21. 1984 author.
22. Concept.

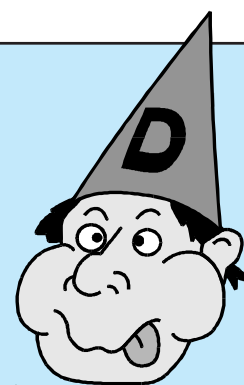
23. Harmless.

### DOWN

2. Trapped.
3. Chopper.
4. Chicken products.
5. Printer's mistake.
6. Sheetbend, for example.
10. Enemy.
12. Male offspring.
14. Gambler's place.
15. Stop! to a horse.
17. Artefact from the past.
19. Semi-precious stone.
20. White waterbird.

*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. Which boxer did Robert De Niro portray in the movie *Raging Bull*?
2. What is the Norse mythology equivalent of Armageddon?
3. What is another word for a fyfot?
4. Who said, "I find television very educational. Every time someone switches it on I go into another room and read a good book"?
5. By what name is Rapa Nui better known?
6. William Ramsay won a Nobel Prize in 1904 for discovering what?
7. What substance is known as "fool's gold"?
8. Which capital city lies at the mouth of the Gambia River?
9. What is the female equivalent of the bar mitzvah?
10. By what name do most Parisians refer to the Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou?
11. Roughly how many liters of blood does the average-sized adult male human have?
12. What play was Abraham Lincoln watching when he was assassinated?
13. The Fergana Valley links which three countries?
14. What does Mardi Gras mean?
15. Triton is a moon orbiting which planet?
16. Gout is caused by elevated amounts of what substance?
17. Ole Worm and Athanasius Kircher were famous for having what?
18. Which king supposedly united the thrones of Dalriada and the Picts to found what is now Scotland?
19. Romansh, Ladin and Friulian are all what?
20. What has the the same chemical composition as granite, yet has such a low density that it can float on water?

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Jake La Motta; 2. Ragnarok; 3. Swastika; 4. Groucho Marx; 5. Easter Island; 6. The inert gases; 7. Iron sulfide (iron pyrites); 8. Banjul; 9. The bas, or bat mitzvah; 10. Centre Beaubourg; 11. 5.6 liters; 12. *Our American Cousin*; 13. Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan; 14. Fat Tuesday; 15. Neptune; 16. Uric acid; 17. Cabinets of Curiosities, or *Wunderkammer*; 18. King Kenneth I; 19. Languages; 20. Pumice.

## Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



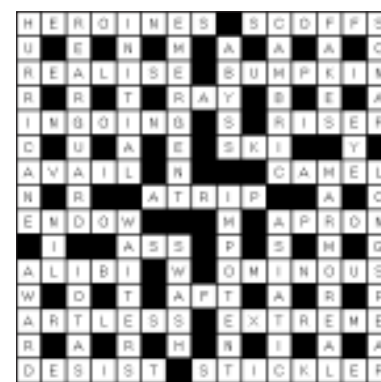
### EZ Trivia Answers:

1. Eeyore; 2. J M Barrie; 3. *El Nin-Yo!*; 4. The Euro; 5. Central Processing Unit; 6. Thao Srisoonthorn; 7. Songkhla; 8. Red, white and blue; 9. George W Bush; 10. Alexander Graham Bell.

### Rhyme Time Answers:

1. Dune; 2. Spoon; 3. Tune; 4. Maroon; 5. Saloon; 6. Bassoon; 7. Picayune; 8. Barrage balloon; 9. Lampoon; 10. Swoon.

## Cryptic Crossword Solution



## Quick Crossword Solution



## Sudoku solution

8	5	4	7	3	1	6	2	9
6	2	1	8	5	9	7	4	3
3	7	9	4	6	2	5	8	1
5	9	2	1	8	4	3	7	6
4	6	3	2	7	5	1	9	8
1	8	7	6	9	3	2	5	4
9	1	5	3	4	7	8	6	2
2	4	6	5	1	8	9	3	7
7	3	8	9	2	6	4	1	5



# The return of 'On The Rock'

Pity poor Steve Rosse. For nine years, he had written regular columns about life in Phuket for *The Nation*, *Phuket Gazette* and *Phuket Magazine*. Then he disappeared off to the wilds of Iowa (Iowa?).

He writes in the introduction to his second book, *Expat Days* (Bangkok Books, Bangkok, 2006, 231pp) in reference to that creative period of 1989-1997: "The years they span, and the events they describe, were the most important in my life."

And pity Steve Rosse more for the crummy cover to his book: a garish cartoon in the line of other lesser titles in the Bangkok Books catalog. His writing at its best achieves a fine balance between cynicism and sentimentality to attain true romance. He deserves a better cover.

The subtitle, *Making a Life in Thailand*, announces his theme: how he transformed himself from a sex tourist to a hard-working, Thai-speaking expat with Thai wife and kids. Many of these stories refer to his last years in Phuket and can be characterized as "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Expatriate" when the novelty of Thailand has waned and he begins to suc-

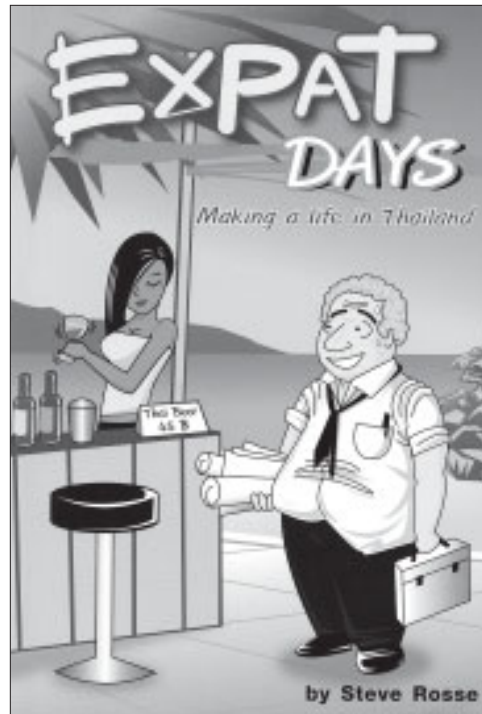
cumb to homesickness for the sights, sounds and tastes of the good ol' USA. He calls it the "Sentimental Subway" as he swaps stories of home with fellow expats in a Soi Bangla bar while ignoring the gyrations of nubile lingerie-clad dancers.

At 3 am, on the way back home to his wife, he suddenly reverts to the old dangerous Steve, stripping off his helmet and revving up his motorcycle on a deserted road.

"My old Yamaha plow horse stood up on his hind legs like a colt and galloped down the hill. I climbed the gearbox and for once wished I had one of those bikes the teenagers used to ride, the waspy king that can be heard shifting into high gear by people on boats wallowing in gales off Singa-

pore. The geometrical rows of rubber trees made psychedelic patterns in my peripheral vision and the wobble in my front tire smoothed itself out when I hit 130 kph.

"The needle on my speedometer topped out at 150. ... My eyes were watering and my teeth were chattering and I had the throttle twisted so high my wrist hurt, and when my headlight picked out the stop sign at the traffic circle at Chalong I stood up on the break pedal, laying rub-



ber down over 50 meters of the broken yellow line in the middle of the road."

This incipient rebellion is soon quelled when his wife gives birth to a son and swaps his bike for a sedate Citroën.

He makes much over his son – too much sometimes – but this soft fatherly side provides a nice balance to his incessant angry bashing of fat sloppy tourists.

That horse can take just so much beating.

But there are fine idyllic sections too which show why it makes sense to live in Phuket even as it subsides under a flood of mass tourist development: Kata Beach in the early days, drinking and fishing aboard the floating platform of a fish farm, biking over mountain trails, outdoor village movies, rustic restaurants, bungee jumping, a helicopter ride over a posh golf course... There are wonderfully funny set pieces on Thai boxing and crazed bus drivers.

His Songkran homecoming trips to his wife's family plantation in Nakhon Sri Thammarat are also beautifully rendered. Anyone who has married into a Thai family will recognize the scene.

Despite all his scathing criticism of the ravages that tourism has inflicted on Phuket, he is still an old softie when it comes to its charms: "It's not the beaches or the food that are the real attraction of this island for foreigners... It's the simple fact of common human hospitality."

Steve Ross has been gone for nine years now and I wonder how many remember his weekly "On the Rock" column in *The Nation*. Nine years is a whole generation in expat time. But for newcomers to Thailand, *Expat Days* is an invaluable education.

## September 30: 7th Phuket International Beer Festival.

This year The Phuket International Beer Festival will take place on the opening day of Munich Oktoberfest. The venue: Watermark Bar Restaurant at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina.

The festival involves the drinking of copious quantities of amber nectar, though to avoid it seeming a mere slosh-up it is loosely disguised as a competition.

Entry fee: 800 baht for 12 beers. Entry registration: [www.watermarkphuket.com](http://www.watermarkphuket.com) or call Stuart Bird at Tel: 081-7376184.

## October 14: Wine tasting.

Once again Wine Connection in Chalong welcomes the winemakers Paso Del Sol and Terra Mater from Chile, from 7 pm to 10 pm. On this special oc-

## PHUKET DIARY of coming events

casion, we will be trying their latest vintages. Six wine tastings, an hors d'oeuvre buffet and live music, all for 350 baht. For information call Paul Clark at Tel: 076-282411, ext 16.

## October 22: 2nd Phuket Int'l Mountain Beach Marathon.

The day's events include a full 42-kilometer marathon, a half-marathon, a mini-marathon and a 5km fun run/walk. T-shirts and souvenirs will be given to all participants. There are special accommodation packages for 2-5 star hotels for participants in this event.

Along with food and drinks there will also be raffle draws with prizes such as hotel stays,

dinners at restaurants and bar vouchers, and much more. For information contact K. Jeerasak at Tel: 081-8912663 or by email to: [info@katakaron.com](mailto:info@katakaron.com)

## October 22-30: Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

This nine-day festival is renowned for its colorful, noisy processions and Chinese temple ceremonies during which *mah song* (mediums) pierce their faces with a variety of sharp objects while "possessed" by Chinese gods. Devotees taking part in the festival abstain from sex, meat and alcohol over the nine days.

## October 23: Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday.

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

## October 23: Hot Seminar – The Foreign Business Act.

Foreigners doing business in Phuket are invited to a half-day seminar with officials from the Ministry of Commerce, including Preecha Hantongtus, Senior Trade Official. The topic will be The Foreign Business Act.

The seminar, at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, will be conducted in English. This is an excellent opportunity for your company to engage with the Ministry of Commerce and to get the answers to some of your questions.

For details contact K. Sriruan at Tel: 076-212989 or 089-4743694, or by email to: [info@thaiaccounting.com](mailto:info@thaiaccounting.com)

## November 18: PIWC Gala Ball Dinner.

The Phuket International Women's Club's annual fundraiser will be at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. This year's theme will be "Italian Masked Venetian Carnevale".

The organizers are seeking sponsors, who will have their names and company logo displayed in the event's program booklet, which will be given to all 450 guests at the ball.

For details of the event and sponsorships, call Deborah Williamson at Tel: 085-7829019 or email: [deborah@puriti.org](mailto:deborah@puriti.org), or Nadine Oliver at Tel: 084-8375297 or email: [nadine@puriti.org](mailto:nadine@puriti.org).

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## Beauty in the eye of the beholder

Following the military coup staged on September 19 and the successful takeover of the country by the Council for Democratic Reform under Constitutional Monarchy (CDRM), many Phuket businesspeople are left to wonder what they can do, if anything, to minimize the impact of the regime change on prospects for tourism, particularly in the upcoming high season.

Although this most recent coup, already being dubbed "Thailand's most peaceful ever", has buoyed spirits locally, international reviews of political developments in Thailand have been less enthusiastic. It is from these reports that the threat to Phuket's tourism economy stems.

Following the bombs in Haad Yai and then the coup, some countries were quick to issue travel advisories warning tourists to exercise caution when visiting the South, including Phuket, while failing to mention that Phuket is at least an eight-hour bus ride away from the violence.

From the UN, Washington DC and many European leaders came the predictable reactions to the "overthrow of an elected government by a military force".

Unfortunately, the international response failed to take into account that Thailand has its own unique set of checks and balances, one that has allowed the Kingdom to escape the dismal fate suffered by the Philippines under Marcos, who managed to cling to power for 21 years using many of the same methods as Thaksin.

Suan Dusit Rajabhat University's snap poll after the coup, showing that some 84% of Thais supported the feat for its effect, captured the feeling across the country that the coup was a matter of "doing the right thing the wrong way".

To counter the sensational reports, resident expats in Phuket once again need to get the word out about recent events in Haad Yai and Bangkok, and the effects these events will have on our many friends and relatives who want to visit.

The impact of clear, on-the-ground reports from resident foreigners in Phuket was well proved in the post-tsunami recovery effort, when huge numbers of tourists placed greater credibility in the observations of people living here than the "market-driven" reports of international media organizations.

As the handing over of power from the military to civilians unfolds, people living in Phuket have a responsibility to let the rest of the world know not just what is happening here, but also the sentiments of those of us who are watching.

Spread the word.

— The Editor

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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.

### Coup coverage clear

Just a quick note to express my admiration and thanks for the *Gazette* staff's superb reporting throughout the coup.

I was able to keep up on the latest developments by reading your [online] reports. I then called my Thai wife in Krabi to pass the news along to her, since she had no sources of information with the news blackout.

Excellent job and many thanks.

Tim Lawson  
American Embassy  
Seoul, South Korea

### High time to give dive shops a break

I don't know what the Phuket diving industry has done wrong to be targeted by the authorities. The dive operators in Thailand, and particularly in Phuket, have established over many years a quality of service that is unrivaled in Asia.

But instead of being proud of something that brings a good reputation – and substantial income – to Phuket, the authorities view dive operators on the same level as bar owners and other dubious business ventures. They seem to assume that any foreign operator is avoiding taxes.

But after running a business for many years in Thailand, I can tell you that we are under such close scrutiny that tax evasion would be professional suicide, since foreign operators face not only a fine, but also the total disruption of our lives, including deportation and the loss of everything we have built up.

Cracking down on illegal foreigners is the hypocrisy of the year. Dive shops rely on foreigners, yet we cannot get work permits for them. We would love to have everybody legal, but when self-proclaimed experts on diving within the Phuket administration tell us that there are too many foreign workers, we can't get enough permits for the staff we need.

Why not allow unlimited work permits with clear conditions attached, such as minimum wages and taxes? Then the Phuket Revenue Office could collect more tax, everybody would be legal and we could still maintain the standards we have established over the past decade.

The claim that foreign divers are taking Thai jobs is nonsense, since in this field language skills are the most important thing, and completely fluent English speakers are almost impossible to find in Thailand as of yet.

Well-educated English speakers usually come from wealthy families in Bangkok, but do you think they want to work on a boat under difficult conditions, getting very dark skin and little money? I don't think so. Diving is for enthusiasts and that's how it should remain.

So please, give us a break,  
Mike Horwood

### Praise for brave blaze fighters

By 1:05 am on September 24 a large fire had started in the properties across the road from Mom Tri's Boathouse on Kata Beach. It put the Boathouse and the sur-

rounding buildings at serious risk of catching ablaze.

Khun Vorapong, my Night Manager, called Chalong Police Station, who alerted the Fire Brigade at Karon.

In less than 10 minutes, a large team from the Karon Fire Brigade had arrived at the scene with three tenders, while the blaze was growing bigger and drawing closer to the Boathouse.

We evacuated our guests to the beach for their own safety.

In less than half an hour the fire, was under control and traffic clear to pass through.

All the guests were able to go back to their rooms by 2:30 am.

On behalf of ML Tri Devakul, all our Boathouse guests and my team, I wish to express our gratitude to the remarkable, most efficient and courageous intervention of the Fire Brigade of Karon. They did a fabulous job and displayed a superb example of efficiency and professionalism.

Kindly forward our message of gratitude and admiration to the Karon Fire Brigade and to the Chalong Police.

Louis Bronner  
General Manager  
Mom Tri's Boathouse

### Keep death off the roads

Limo drivers, bus drivers, taxi drivers and certainly visa run drivers take note: Your crazy driving scares, mutilates or kills people every day. Follow the traffic rules and drive us safely to the destination. Please, do your job and keep us all alive.

Happy to be alive

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* in the *Phuket Gazette* Online.



# Solar power: is it such a bright idea after all?

## FIRST PERSON

After the PPEA installed the solar panels for me, they told me if I had any problems I should contact the Srisoonthon *OrBorTor*, but the *OrBorTor*, in turn, told me that I had to inform the PPEA of any problems. After that I had to wait for about three months for TE, the company that installed the solar panels, to come and repair mine.

During that time I had to use candles. That didn't bother me so much, but I was upset for my three children, because they wanted to use the computer, which uses a lot of electricity.

The battery of the solar home isn't as good as they said it would be. They guaranteed they would keep it repaired for two years, but mine broke long before that. When it was new I could watch my 14-inch TV, power two lights and one electric socket [not more than 60 watts]. But after about a year, I could not watch more than 30 minutes of television before it shut off. I looked for a battery I could buy and replace the one they installed, but they are not available in Phuket City.

Solar systems should be installed in homes in hilly areas that are difficult to reach by car. Our village has had concrete roads for 14 or 15 years already, so I think

For more than 30 years, residents of a small rubber tapping community in Thalang's Tambon Srisoonthorn used candles to illuminate their modest homes. When the Phuket Provincial Electric Authority (PPEA) began installing solar generators in homes in remote areas over a year ago, they were initially thrilled to learn they would have enough electricity to power a small television and two electric bulbs in their houses for four hours every day.

But before long the batteries gave out or the solar panels stopped working altogether.

Private firm Thailand Electric (TE), contracted to install the systems, was also responsible for their upkeep for two years after installation. After that, upkeep is to be handed over to the Srisoonthon Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

Phan Luesup, a member of one of the 43 families that began using solar power last year, says that he has run into many difficulties with the technology.



the money would have been better spent by installing road lights, which would have been of more benefit to us.

Before the solar homes project came to the village, I was the leader who contacted the PPEA and told them about the 43 families in the area who

needed electricity, so when those families ran into problems, they contacted me before they went to the *OrBorTor*. Because of that, I have seen first-hand how many problems the solar systems have.

Right now, we need lights on the road. Many people come

running and walking through here every day, especially in the morning and just before dinner, because this area has a good view and unspoiled nature. The lack of lights on the road makes it very dangerous. Plus, the road lights would be very beneficial for the rubber tappers, who could use the

light to work at night [rubber trees are always tapped at night].

Now we are waiting for the road lights to come. We have been told that the PPEA will come and install the lights sometime in 2007. Maybe after that we won't have to use our solar generators anymore."

## Am I being taken for a ride at the park?

I would like to know what the current official policy is in regard to charging foreigners to visit Phuket's various National Parks.

I seem to remember reading not too long ago that foreigners who are long-term residents of Thailand (with Thai families for example) are exempted from the 200 baht foreigners' entrance fee and pay the Thai price, if they can show documentation to that effect, such as a Thai driver's license.

I have never had to pay the foreigners' fee in Phuket until recently, when I went to Ton Sai Park to pick up my Thai family.

I was asked to pay 200 baht

to enter. The attendant who asked for the fee was not in uniform, nor did he seem to have the official receipt forms, and I had the impression he was just a private individual who was out to make some extra money from unsuspecting foreigners. In his words, foreigners pay 200 baht, Thais go in free.

Ton Sai Park is so small, and has hardly any amenities – the toilet is out of order and the nature trail has also been closed, so it seems that even if one were a tourist it would hardly be worth paying 200 baht to visit it.

Guenter Bellach  
Baan Lipon

**Sawaluck Nambunyen, Chief of Public Relations Department at Sirinath National Park, replies:**

The policy is still the same. At Sirinath National Park we still charge foreigners 100 baht per child and 200 baht per adult. The fees for Thais are 10 baht and 20 baht respectively. If, however, a foreigner has a Thai family, we charge them the Thai rates.

We issue official receipts for the fees paid and national park officers are in uniform.

At this time, we are not serious about collecting entrance fees because the park currently does not have many amenities.

When I lived in Rawai, mail from England took a maximum of 14 days to arrive. I now live in Thalang, and mail from England takes more than three weeks. Even the local telephone bill, which is sent from the Phuket office, takes a week to get to me.

Why?

Danny  
Thalang

**Surin Muangprompt, Chief of Operations for the Post Office delivery division, replies:**

Express mail from England to Phuket usually takes four days. Airmail takes two weeks, economy airmail takes about a month, and surface mail takes

about two months.

Phuket Post Office (PPO) sends the mail to each district, and about two days after the letter has passed through the PPO, the recipient should get the letter.

You should check with Rawai Post Office whether any of his mail is there.

You should also inform the office that he has changed his address to Thalang and check whether any mail has been delivered to his old address.

If you wish to lodge a complaint, you can write to the main office at: Phuket Post Office, Montri Rd, Talad Nua, Muang, Phuket, 83000 Thailand.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

## POST NOT HASTY



# Billy's inn

**S**ukhumvit Road is well known to anyone who knows Bangkok. It is probably Bangkok's best known road and it is very long. In fact it is apparently the same Sukhumvit Rd that runs through Pattaya and the eastern seaboard, although I am not sure what happens to it between the outskirts of Bangkok and when you suddenly find yourself on it entering Pattaya.

Sukhumvit Rd is best known for its entertainment, restaurants and hotels of all stars and levels. You've got the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, The Marriott, The Westin Grande Sukhumvit, The Intercontinental, The Conrad and many other international names.

And then you have Baan Sukhumvit. You might imagine that a hotel that carries such a simple name would be an old, established, traditional hotel, something like Raffles in Singapore. But you would imagine wrong.

For a start, I stay there, which automatically rules out the Raffles comparison.

Baan Sukhumvit is in fact just a year old. The rooms are not suitable venues to stage the World Cat-Swinging Championships. The hotel has, in fact, only 12 rooms, a small lobby and is at the end of a small sub-soi off Sukhumvit Soi 20. The hotel has a manager, the pretty Rootbeer, and a landlord named Billy Duncan.

That latter name may invoke alarm in some of the long-term residents of Thailand, especially Phuket. Images will be invoked of the warped Scots cook, meat "importer" and little blue pill agent, usually seen prowling the nightspots of Phuket City caus-

ing confusion among unwitting people who have never met him before.

The alarm would be justified. It is indeed that same warped and evil individual roaming the streets of Sukhumvit Rd, causing the same brand of havoc, but now in some of the poshest restaurants and nightclubs of Bangkok.

Unsuspecting victims still fall prey to his warped sense of humor. However, in such pleasant establishments as Happiness Bar in Soi 22, Doug Harrison's Bourbon Street in Washington Square and Tims' Sports Corner Bar in Soi 20, just outside Baan Sukhumvit, most patrons are now

immune. As a result, Billy Duncan is reduced to reasonably normal, cheerful and polite conversation.

Some people positively dislike him but I enjoy his company, albeit in reasonably small doses, and I also enjoy staying at his little hotel.

It is really a boutique hotel, with very Thai interior decoration,

and although the rooms are small, they are very comfortable. The staff are nice, and while the place occasionally has an air of *Fawlty Towers* about it, there is generally a pleasant family atmosphere.

The location is great, close to the underground and the Skytrain, big shopping centers such as Emporium, and a short walk from Soi Cowboy, Soi 22, Soi 33 and other places where I watch major sports events on TV.

I am not the only one from Phuket who uses Baan Sukhumvit; many other island residents are now regulars. Indeed, if the hotel doesn't find a way to expand, it may become hard to get in without booking a long way ahead.

## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven



Billy Duncan and Rootbeer.

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Windy, wet weather suits your mood this week. Librans will be ready to embrace excitement after recent non-eventful weeks. If your birthday falls during the coming days, find some friends to share a challenge with. By starting off your year on an energetic note you will encourage changes to happen. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for job-hunting; set your sights beyond the immediate jungle to find fulfillment.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Scorpios can be forgiven for thinking they've entered the twilight zone as October gets under way. It will not be easy to deal with others during the week ahead as crossed wires are one problem you must unravel. Rest assured that communication will improve towards the middle of the month and delay any appointments that you can until then. For unavoidable meetings, remember that flattery can be useful.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Words spoken in the heat of the moment could get you into trouble at a later date. Sagittarians who have been storing up resentment are advised to take out their frustrations by exercising more than has been the habit recently. Both your mind and body will benefit. Nothing you can say will alter the other person's attitude anyway. Romance cannot be built on shifting sand, so decide just how committed you really are.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Your surefootedness allows you to gain access to places others can't reach this week. Capricorns who would like to get ahead should throw caution to the wind and follow their hearts. Scorpio can provide interesting information on Monday, but allow them to tell the tale at their own pace. Where romance is concerned, a relationship with Aries is well-starred, but Cancer is looking for something you can't provide.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Doing things your way won't accomplish as much as you would like this week. Aquarians often find it hard to listen to advice, but this will be a vital skill in avoiding making a costly mistake. On a more personal note, a secret shared should not be passed on. The person responsible for spilling the beans is relying on you to remain silent. The number 6 can be lucky on Sunday.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Pisceans can relax as October gets into gear. A worry that has been occupying too much space in your mind will be laid to rest. On an even brighter note, a financial gain will be reason to celebrate this weekend – now is the perfect moment to repay friends' hospitality. You will come to realize that an intimate relationship is worth its weight in gold – show this person how much you care.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): There should be no need for you to go overboard to impress someone you've taken a shine to. If the thought doesn't count enough, that should be enough evidence to tell you that the price for this potential relationship will be high, maybe too high. October will bring opportunities to get involved in activities that are close to your heart – you should build on these for a productive future. The number 1 is lucky on Saturday.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): An exciting month lies in wait for Taureans. You will not be affected by gray days unless you allow others people's negative moods to burst your bubble of happiness. The best day for expanding plans is Wednesday, when the stars guarantee success for new endeavors. Delay making travel plans until you have absolute confirmation that others will be available to meet you at a specific time and place.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Those Geminis who haven't been able to make a serious decision regarding a personal relationship will be in a more secure position to take action this week. Don't pussyfoot around any longer. October is a month to move on in a positive way; business matters are well-starred and you will have only yourself to blame if you miss the boat. The color topaz yellow helps you to see the truth.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): A work-related dream stands good chance of turning into reality before October ends. You should stand your ground tenaciously and not allow others to leap into your limelight. This week sees you revealing leadership skills that you didn't know you had. Someone from your past is planning a comeback, which probably won't be good news for everyone concerned. The number 7 can bring good fortune this weekend.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): If your comfort zone is getting claustrophobic, it's time to leave the lair and venture out into the big, wide world. Leos who are aware that their potential isn't being realized need to move on to more fertile pastures. Now is the perfect time to face your inner fears and lay them to rest. On Tuesday, a Scorpio friend asks for a favor that could escalate into a big responsibility.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You will find ways of making their time work more efficiently this week. Taurus has some particularly good tips, so take them on board. Take care early in the week not to upset someone with influence in the world of work. Treading lightly now will enable you to make strides later in the year. Your self confidence grows as a close relationship blossoms, and you will be tempted to ask a loaded question.

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# Not your average garden snake – except in Phuket

## NATURE

### NOTES

By Dave Williams

It's common to hear people call dangerous snakes poisonous. No. They are venomous, not poisonous.

This is a common misuse of terms. Poisonous animals cause a problem if you eat them, such as the famous puffer fish that's such a popular dish in Japan. Venomous animals actually inject venom in you. Got it? Good, let's proceed.

Snake bites are a problem in Thailand. Surprisingly, approximately 10,000 people are bitten by snakes each year, however, thanks to antivenin there are fewer than 100 deaths. It's thought that many snake bites are not recorded, so the number of bite victims could be much higher.

The venomous snakes in the viper family (*Viperidae*) that may be found in Phuket include Malayan pit vipers (*Calloselasma rhodostoma*), white-lipped pit vipers (*Trimeresurus albolabris*), Pope's pit vipers (*Trimeresurus popeirum*), big-eyed pit vipers (*Trimeresurus macrops*), bamboo pit vipers (*Trimeresurus stejnegeri*), Indonesian pit vipers (*Trimeresurus hageni*), Kanburi pit vipers (*Trimeresurus kanburiensis*), mangrove pit vipers (*Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus*), temple pit vipers (*Trimeresurus wagleri*), Bornean pit vipers (*Trimeresurus puniceus*) and mountain pit vipers (*Ovophis monticola convictus*).

Then there are the elapid snakes (*Elapidae*) including Malayan kraits (*Bungarus candidus*), common banded kraits (*Bungarus fasciatus*), red-headed kraits (*Bungarus flaviceps*), Malaysian coral snake (*Maticora bivirgata flaviceps*), monocellate cobras (*Naja kaouthia*), Equatorial spitting cobra (*Naja sumatrana*), and, naturally, the famous king cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*).

Some other famous elapids that you have probably heard of



The mountain pit viper, above, is one of a range of snakes that have infrared-sensitive organs (set in 'pits') that allow them to locate and hunt their prey by sensing body temperature. Right, king cobras pack enough venom to kill an adult elephant.

are Africa's notorious black mamba and Australia's brown snake, death adder and tiger snake.

We've also got a few keelback snakes in Phuket. Keelbacks are in the genus *Rhabdophis*. Snakes in this genus have fangs in the rear of their mouths.

The most common keelback, and one that's been in my house more than once, is the red-necked keelback (*Rhabdophis subminiatus*). This is one of the few red-necks that aren't in Washington, DC.

Other keelbacks include the speckle-bellied keelback (*Rhabdophis chrysargus*), green keelback (*Rhabdophis nigrocinctus*) and blue-necked keelback (*Macropisthodon rhodomelas*).

Although all of these snakes seem terrifying, the reality of the situation is that no venomous snakes in Thailand attack without some provocation. The exception would be if you accidentally

stepped on one or somehow accidentally harmed the snake.

Watch where you step and where you place your hands, and you should be fine. Also know that many bites are what's known as a "dry" bite, which means that the snake did not envenomate you. As much as 50% of all cobra bites are dry bites, which is a good thing as the king cobra, for example, packs enough venom to kill an adult elephant.

The majority of snake bite

fatalities are actually the result of shock and not of envenomation.

Despite all of the popular shows on TV these days, where these reptile experts walk right up and grab dangerous animals, you, of course, should not try it. Even harmless snakes can and often do cause serious infections or allergic reactions.

Reptile bites involve a lot of bacteria. For example, did you know that no fewer than 256 different types of bacteria have been identified in the mouth of the Komodo dragon? The extremely large variety of bacteria makes fighting infection very difficult. The same holds true for non-venomous snakes, though to a much lower degree.

There's no real need to be afraid of snakes, though respect and caution should always be practiced.

Dave Williams runs the eco-expedition company Paddle Asia. For details, visit <http://www.paddleasia.com>



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## IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

While back, I made one of the worst technology purchases I have made in many years.

The funny thing about it was that I spent more than 10 hours online, over the course of a few months, doing my diligent homework researching every kind of mobile telephone available at that time. My mistake was to purchase the HP iPAQ.

The only thing worse than the telephone was the actual software that ran the silly thing – written by our very best friend, Microsoft.

To say the least, this was the most user-unfriendly mobile phone software I have ever used. In fact, on many occasions I almost had an accident driving while trying to operate it with one hand – but please don't tell that to the local traffic police...yeah right!

Now, in a recent news flash, Microsoft has entered into the MP3 market with an answer to the Apple iPod. They have called it Zune, though I am not sure why.

Its fans say it is the next best thing to hit the streets targeted directly at Apple's iPod market. I seriously wonder about that, given their track record in mobile phone and palm-top software...

Microsoft's idea is that people want to be able to easily share music, and the Zune media player, scheduled to be available around the upcoming holiday season, will include wireless technology enabling people to connect up and share some of their favorite songs, playlists or pictures with other Zune users who happen to be nearby.

Microsoft said the song-sharing capability will be available for most songs available through its soon-to-open Zune Marketplace service, although some music publishers won't allow it.

Users, once they have been beamed a song from a friend, can listen to the song three times over three days before deciding whether to purchase it themselves.

# Coming real Zune



The Zune player. There is currently just one model, though it is available in a variety of colors.

This is their answer to Apple's iTunes Music Store.

The idea here is to legitimize peer-to-peer sharing in a healthy way that works for everybody, including the license-holders of copyrighted material.

Also, for now at least, users will not be able to buy songs directly through the device. In-

stead, they can flag the song and purchase it next time they connect the device to a computer and access the online music store.

This is also the case for the Apple iPod. Critics, however, wonder whether the wireless feature will be enough to lure would-be iPod buyers over to Zune.

Microsoft has not yet com-



The Zune marketplace does not yet exist, but this mock-up web page gives some idea of what it will offer.

mitted to a launch date for the first Zune player, but they have said that it is being manufactured by Toshiba Corp.

The current design has a 3-inch screen, a built-in FM tuner and 30 gigabytes of memory, which is enough to hold about 7,500 songs.

It will also come loaded with about 25 songs or other pieces of content to whet your appetite. You will also be able to load music from any computer, not just the Zune Marketplace.

The Zune Marketplace music service lets users buy songs individually or listen to unlimited tracks for a flat subscription fee, which is unique. No such option is yet available on Apple iTunes.

I wonder if they have made one design mistake though; there is only one size available, while Apple has a much broader product line to choose from. I know my first iPod purchase was the smallest version available at that time.

I figured, heck, with my re-

cent failure to make a good telephone buying decision I had better take it slowly.

As it turned out, the Apple iPod was the smartest technology purchase I have made in recent years and it has opened up a whole new world of podcasting, bit torrenting and a host of other very cool online experiences.

By the way, Microsoft is not the only company to take a shot at the Apple iPod market share; other would-be contenders include Creative Technology, Samsung Electronics and Nokia, all of which hope to have new players available by Christmas.

*John Seebach has 25 years consulting experience in Information & Internet Technology and Infrastructure Development. His company, Island Technology, offers IT solutions and broadband services throughout Southeast Asia. Email: john@islandtechnology.com for more information.*

## Local outfit installs Chalong Circle CCTV

CHALONG: Local IT startup Viper Systems was integral in installing the new police 24-hour CCTV cameras at Chalong Circle, the busiest junction in the south of the island. The cameras are now fully operational.

Viper Systems Managing Director Steve Illyes explained that the company was selected for the task not because it deals in security systems but because it delivers custom-made IT solutions.

"We are not in the security business, there are several very good local [security] companies serving the area.

"What we do best is provide IT/IP solutions, data security, encryption and protection, network management solutions and bandwidth enhancement/stability, which is currently the biggest

obstacle for most IT-related Phuket businesses," he said.

The project's challenges lay in that IP technology requires large and reliable bandwidth due to streaming video, as well as large amounts of storage for data and equipment capable of withstanding Phuket's weather, unreliable phone service and notorious power fluctuations and outages.

"Equipment selection – in Bangkok – took us nearly three weeks. [The equipment] needed to be able to operate in the dark, in the rain and be completely automated," Steve said.

"To provide the computing power, he explained, "Our Technology Director Peter, using software alone, transformed an old 400MHz Celeron police station computer into a very quick server.

"Peter did have an advantage though – he designed part of that particular Celeron system at Intel nearly 15 years ago," Steve said.

However, Peter explained, "Internet speed and data integrity were the most difficult challenges. While ADSL download speed was highly variable and slow, the upload was surprisingly very fast. Using ADSL upload and routing download through a wireless VPN [Virtual Private Network], we created the bandwidth required at no additional cost, other than some equipment upgrades."

"Using MPEG4 compression, 448 SSL encryption and a distributed server system through Australia and the US allows us not only to have a cheap and reliable data backup system, but

also prevents accidental data erasure or 'frame manipulations'," Steve added.

He added that snapshots can be taken by the infrared cameras at any time and emailed – or even sent to newer cell phones – instantly, allowing a real-time frame showing a car's plate number, model and color and even a facial image to be sent from Chalong to Patong or the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint within seconds.

To overcome the problem of Phuket's notorious power problems, batteries and a UPS were put on every piece of equipment.

"These things can't take the fluctuations and glitches from as low as 160 Volts to 270 Volts [that occur in Phuket]; they are designed for 220 Volts," he said.

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## ON THE MOVE



**Chris Husted**, 35, has been promoted to Managing Editor of the *Phuket Gazette*. Australian-born and with a bachelor's degree in management from the Queensland University of Technology, in his native Brisbane, Chris joined the *Gazette* in January 2001 as a Desk Editor. Before his promotion, Chris was Deputy Editor at the *Gazette* for three years. He succeeds his friend and mentor Alasdair Forbes, who has stepped down to enjoy a lighter workload. Mr Forbes will continue working with the *Gazette* as Editorial Consultant.

**Chutimon "Helen" Srithep** has joined the *Phuket Gazette* as General Manager of PGTV, the company's rapidly expanding television division. Her career spans 12 years in international marketing for CNN, the *Bangkok Post*, and *Forbes* magazine; four years in event marketing at Bangkok-based Act Media; and four years as General Manager of JSL, one of Thailand's "Big 3" TV production houses. Fluent in English, German, French and Thai, the former Bangkokian is a graduate of Chiang Mai University. She is also a specialist in intellectual property licensing.



Raimon Land has appointed **Apichet Phongphaibul** as its Manager for legal affairs. The Bangkok native holds several law degrees, including a master's degree and graduate diploma in business law from Thammasat University; a post-graduate diploma in international law from the University of Nottingham in the UK; and a diploma in international trade law from Thai Bar Association. He also holds license to practice from the Thai Lawyer Association. His previous experience includes top advisory positions with ACE Life Assurance, TA Orange Company and plastics firm Vinythai Plc.

# Mangosteen enters resort property management sector

By Suganya Semacote

**RAWAI:** This year has been one of diversification for Hajo Von Keller, Managing Director of Mangosteen Resort & Spa. Expanding from the core Mangosteen resort in Rawai, Mr Von Keller has two buy-to-rent projects under construction, the Mangosteen Pool Suites and Pool Villas. His company is now entering the resort management business with The Sands at Nai Harn Beach.

Mr Von Keller explained that managing The Sands is part of his plan to slowly develop the Mangosteen brand. He aims to gradually increase the number of Mangosteen-managed boutique resorts until he has a group of boutique properties with the same management system and marketing scheme.

"I'm not planning to do a huge expansion quickly because it's a lot of work and we want to do it right. To set up The Sands correctly is a half-year job. We have to open a new restaurant, build a reception area; there are many things to do," he said.

Unlike a hotel, The Sands consists of 36 individually-owned apartments. "Most of the 36 owners want to rent out their villa and use it for just a few weeks a year as a holiday home.

"Getting the contracts signed was difficult. We had to convince each owner individually to agree with our rental concept, and we started [signing agreements] about a month ago.

"Guests now book a suite in the resort in the same way that one books a room in a hotel.

"Before, many owners arranged rentals themselves. They



Owners of the units at The Sands in Nai Harn (pictured) are signing up for Hajo von Keller's Mangosteen team to manage their properties as resort accommodation.

offered monthly rentals, so the return was very low. We offer rates per night, like a hotel – it's a totally different concept," Mr Von Keller explained.

Not all the owners at The Sands have joined the management deal. "[Those who have not] will still benefit from the services we offer but will not pay any money to us," Mr Von Keller said. "We want to make money in the rental program, for the owners and for us. But on the management side we will provide security guards, have the garden and the pool maintained and so on. There is no profit in this for us.

"We have signed agreements with 12 owners and another seven are interested in joining as well. I'm expecting about 20 apartments in the rental pool," he said.

Mr Von Keller explained that his aim is to have 20 units in the rental pool as that would be enough to make an impact in the tourism industry. "At the moment the tour operators, travel agents, reservation websites and so on have never heard about The Sands, so for us it is like opening a new hotel," he said.

Mr Von Keller added that Mangosteen is expecting to invest one to two million baht on improving The Sands so that it is better suited for short-stay guests. "The common areas and the services need to be improved. There is no reception area and we have no proper Internet access for guests. We also need to install a TV system and open a restaurant. The quality of services for guests

needs to be brought up to standard so we can start charging decent rates," he added.

The Sands – unlike the Mangosteen Resort & Spa, which is aimed more at couples

and honeymooners – will be marketed mainly as a family resort. "The marketing will focus more on attracting families with children as the apartments have a second bedroom," Mr Von Keller said.

Suites, at a reduced rate, are already available and the official opening will be on November 1, by which time all the improvements are expected to be finished.

Looking at further expansion, Mr

Von Keller said that he is discussing with the owner of a new property on Koh Samui about the possibility of it being managed by Mangosteen. He is also interested in managing properties in Krabi and Khao Lak.

"In the next few years we will collect a few more properties, but I'm not desperate to get properties to manage. I'm a marketing person and I want to build up the Mangosteen brand in Asia. But I'm looking for good properties and interesting projects," he said smiling.

Asked whether he had any special management strategy for his properties, Mr Von Keller concluded, "It's no secret; my strategy is to be honest and straightforward. I've never had an enemy on the island and I have never cheated anybody. Also, work hard – with The Sands we have promised the owners something and now we must deliver."



**'We have promised the owners something and now we must deliver'**  
– Hajo von Keller

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## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

In early 2001, Thaksin Shinawatra and his Thai Rak Thai party were elected to office. Shortly after that happened, I made a routine visit to my local accountant. He was extremely enthusiastic about this political development;

I remained mute, having opposing views.

The years passed and the situation, in my opinion, only worsened. Thailand appeared to be on a downward spiral, a track completely opposite to the one it was on initially after the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Coups are generally unwelcome events, but the situation in Thailand had deteriorated to such an extent that the September 19 overthrow came as a solution to a seemingly intractable problem.

There are certainly some "ifs" at present, but assuming that the military keep to their timetable, it becomes an opportunity for a better future for Thailand.

Proposals for the interim prime minister are being bandied about. One of the most commonly heard names is that of the Bank of Thailand Governor, Pridiyathorn Devakula.

This would be a good choice for two reasons; central bank chiefs are a well-respected group and it would give an indication to everyone that the state of the Thai economy was being given priority.

After all the expected statements from foreign governments, the global financial community gave some interesting views. US investment bank Bear Sterns upped its rating, within 24 hours of the coup, on Thai stocks from "market perform" to "outperform" and Merrill Lynch quickly followed. No doubt many others will take a similar stance.

The financial world hates uncertainty, but at present they prefer the current post-coup position to the previous scenario.

In the course of my business I speak to many international financial institutions, all of whom were very interested in my thoughts on current events. The big pluses for this coup were that it was of the "bloodless" variety and the level of enthusiasm shown by the Thai public.

Second, the military appear credible in their statements that they did not want to continue to hold power, but wanted to hand



Soldiers involved in the coup obligingly provided unusual photo opportunities for tourists and locals alike. — Photo: EPA/Barbara Walton

# Coup clears the way for improvements

over to a civilian administration within a very short time frame. Last, it gave Thailand an opportunity to re-establish itself as a country with political credibility.

Financial institutions are always extremely well informed about situations, as are most major foreign investors. A recent example earlier this year was the decision by Jetro (the Japan Export Trade Organization) to downgrade Thailand to equal rank with Indonesia and the Philippines.

Japan is simply too important a foreign investor to rate Thailand with such dismal company. There are too many alternative destinations for capital and Thailand needs foreign investment to survive and prosper.

Even on a very local front, the current clampdown on the diving industry is very unwelcome.

Every foreign business in Thailand already comes under a great deal of scrutiny; the measures being implemented vis-à-vis the diving industry are simply excessive.

It shows that any welcome mat has been removed and just adds to the feeling that foreign investment in Thailand is, at best, tolerated — a very strange situation considering tourism contrib-

utes so much to the Thai economy.

Tourist numbers will probably be affected by recent events, and the recent bomb blasts in Haad Yai are also a factor. People go on holiday to enjoy themselves; there are already enough hassles involved on air travel and they do not want more problems on arrival.

Image — within the travel industry — is paramount. Petty regulations such as not being able to have a beer late in the afternoon are unwelcome.

Tourists simply want to relax; they usually cannot have a beer at that time of day because they are working. But when people are on holiday people they want to enjoy themselves.

Singapore, which is well

known for its tight regulations, found itself facing a decline in revenue from tourism.

This prompted a change in the official outlook and last year Singapore's Minister of Tourism freely admitted that things had gone too far. As he said, "Let the tourists dance on the bar tables if they want to."

I am not suggesting that Thailand has to go overboard in this area, but much of the attraction of Thailand for tourists has been its reputation for freedom. In 1997 a statement comparing Singapore with Thailand was "half as many rules, twice as much fun". *Sanook* must be re-discovered.

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# America's Cup expert to chair King's Cup jury

PHUKET: The America's Cup is the best-known sailing competition in the world, and this year one of the men in charge of the world's most popular regatta will be calling the shots at Asia's biggest marine event, the annual Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

Internationally-renowned ISAF sailing official Bryan Willis, who has overseen five Olympic sailing events and has been involved in six America's Cups as a rules adviser and chief umpire, and who will be the Jury Chairman at next year's America's Cup in Valencia, Spain, has agreed to play a leading role in this year's Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

Willis has agreed to fill the vacuum left by regular Phuket King's Cup official Mark Pryke – one of the world's leading sailing judges – who will be on duty at the Asian Games.

The Asian Games start in early December in Doha and as Asia's leading authority on sailing, Pryke – who was instrumental in the launch of the annual Sydney-to-Hobart race some years ago with Phuket King's Cup Regatta senior committee member Nigel Hardy by his side – has been enlisted to oversee the sailing events at Asia's version of the Olympic Games.

This year's Phuket King's Cup Regatta runs from December 2 to December 9, and with Pryke involved in running the sailing events in Doha, regatta organizers in Phuket breathed a sigh of relief when Willis agreed to take on the role of Chairman of the Jury.

Willis will be backed up by



With more and more high-level competitors – such as last year's winner Drumstick, above – the Phuket King's Cup is bringing in high-level officials.  
Photo by www.shufen.net

a team that will include Howard Elliot and Simon James, who will handle all the action on the water – protests, handicaps, race courses – and make sure the big fleet of yachts all return to their base off the Kata Beach Resort at the end of the day's racing.

Elliot, who has been appointed to various positions on the

Race Committee at the King's Cup for many years, will be Principal Race Officer this year and the International Jury will be led by Willis.

James also has plenty of sailing experience as the Marketing Manager for Sunsail, one of the world's biggest yacht charter firms, and has played a leading role in the Phuket King's Cup Regatta for many years as well as at many other regattas in Asia.

James also announced that the RORC will send Jenny Howells from the UK to process IRC certificates and sort out any measurement questions during this year's King's Cup.

"It's a shame to be losing our regular group of world-class officials this year, but we have managed to replace them with some highly respected and knowledgeable people who have experience running some of the world's biggest regattas," said Santi Kanchanabandhu, President of the Phuket King's Cup Committee.

"This year's regatta, which is our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is also shaping up as a record year in the number of entries, and with our expert team of officials in place we can now guarantee that the racing will be run to the highest international standards."

This year is special for both Thailand and the Phuket King's Cup Regatta – the regatta is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year and the regatta's patron, HM King Bhumibol

Adulyadej, is celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> year on the throne, making him the world's longest reigning monarch.

Every year during the regatta a candle-lit ceremony is held on Kata Beach in honor of HM The King of Thailand's birthday, which falls on December 5.

Sailors from around the world take part in the annual King's Cup, with yachts and crews from 18 countries making up the fleet of 86 boats in last year's regatta.

Much of the interest last year centered on the first team from China to ever enter the event, and they were accompanied by a huge media contingent, some of which sent daily television feeds back to Beijing and Shanghai.

Now with a fledgling industry in China building superyachts for export and their first entry into the America's Cup Challenge in Spain in 2007, the giant of the region is awakening to the burgeoning marine leisure industry, and with the Olympic Games fast approaching, becoming competitive at sailing is high on the priority list.

More entries from China are expected for this year's regatta.

– Alan Parkhouse

For more information about the King's Cup Regatta, call Tel: 076-273380, Email: info@kingscup.com, or visit the website at www.kingscup.com.

## Giant claim Rajabhat

PHUKET CITY: After three rounds of action, the Giant team comprising bowlers Somkiet, Paisarn and Ubolkarn took first place with 1,460 points in a charity bowling event held on September 24 at CS Bowl at Big C Supercenter.

The event was held to commemorate of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what is now Phuket Rajabhat University.

Second place went to Phuket Two World Points team with 1,350 points who pipped third-place Wah Hen team, who finished only 10 points behind with 1,340.

In individual play, Pemika from the Nong Mai team came in first in the one-game category, running up a score of 175 points.

The three-game combined winner was Leck from the Pee Su Jad Hai team, who scored an impressive 480.

Organized by students studying Human Resource Management in the weekend program, the event aimed to raise money for a project to help child tsunami survivors under the Royal Project sponsored by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

• The day before, in a competition entitled "Bowling for Friendship" organized by the Phuket Reporters' Club, the Vachira

## Annual game fishing tourney set for November

CHALONG: The Unofficial Phuket International Game Fishing Tournament – the replacement event for the Phuket Classic Tournament – will be held from November 2 to 4.

Last year, 14 teams from around the world took part in the open event.

Organizers say they expect even more teams to join in the fun this year.

Teams of a maximum of four anglers will compete in several categories.

Registrations will be accepted at the Tamarind Bar at Ao Chalong starting at 7 pm on November 1.

Trophies will be presented at an awards ceremony and closing party immediately after the final hour of competition on November 4.

For more information contact Uwe Schitteck (Tel: 081-7195766; Email: uweschitteck@yahoo.com).



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## triumph in bowling

Hospital team came out on top with 1,410 points.

In total 30 teams took part in the event, also held at CS Bowl. These included teams from the Reporters' Club and teams of guests, including squads representing Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Kata Group Resorts, De-joyaux Pools, the Pearl Hotel, the Tourist Police and Phuket Aero-thai.

Close on Vachira's heels were the Pearl Hotel and Phuket Marine Office teams, both of which finished on 1,400 points.

The Marine Office had to be content with third place however, after judges decided to award the second place position to Pearl Hotel as they scored higher in the final round.

The wooden spoon went to Kata Group Resort team with 1,070 points.

Naphat, from the Phuket Tourist Police team, recorded the highest individual score over the three rounds, with 510 points.

The best individual game was played by Thanin from Phuket Provincial Electricity Office, with 190 points.

This was the fifth time the annual event had been held and this year it was opened by Vice-Governor Worapot Ratthasima.

The money raised will go to support Phuket Reporters' Club activities.— *Jenjira Ruengjarus*

### PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

## Arrows outrank M16s in Bangkok

PATONG: Most matches took place as scheduled on September 19, despite the military coup that was announced just as most of the matches were getting underway.

Some people took a mild interest in the Fox News coverage that most of the bars had; others just kept on drinking and focused on the task at hand.

One postponement, league-leaders Didi's v OffShore, was unrelated to the political turmoil and had something to do with an OffShore team field trip.

The match was rescheduled by mutual agreement and with the consent of league secretary Steen, and the result will be reported next week.

Another postponed match, Jungle Juice v Queen Mary, was replayed the following Friday and ended in a 9-0 win for the Juicers, though Queen Mary somehow managed to win the beer leg to salvage a point.

In another note of interest, Footrot Flats has been bought out by a nice British guy named Si-

mon, who has renamed it Funky Monkey. Sadly, the name change didn't help them on the night; they went down in a close one to Piccadilly, 5-4.

In a Soi Seadragon derby, Coyote Bar crushed Amigos 9-0, with Coyote boss Freddy throwing the winning dart in the beer leg.

**September 19 results:** TaiLife\* 4 Valhalla 5; Funky Monkey 4 Piccadilly\* 5; Shakers\* 3 Dog's Bollocks 6; Jungle Juice 9 Queen Mary\* 0; Coyote Bar\* 9 Amigos 0.

**Standings:** 1. Didi's\* (38 points.); 2.= Coyote, Piccadilly (33); 4.= OffShore\*, Dog's Bollocks, (27); 6. Amigos (25); 7. Shakers (22); 8.= Queen Mary, Valhalla (21) 10. Jungle Juice (17); 11. TaiLife (11); 12. Funky Monkey (10). Didi's v Offshore match postponed.

**October 3 fixtures:** Queen Mary v OffShore; Dog's Bollocks v Amigos; Funky Monkey v Coyote Bar; Shakers v TaiLife; Valhalla v Piccadilly; Didi's v Jungle Juice (home team first).



Rain failed to deter the hundreds of people who turned out in the early hours of September 24 to take part in the Walk and Run Mini-Marathon at Suan Luang in Phuket City, which was held to mark the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Phuket Rajabhat University.

## Two schools through to Aerothai regionals

PHUKET CITY: Two teams have advanced from the Phuket regional Aerothai Mini Volleyball competition, for children under 12 years old, and will compete in the November 8 to 12 regionals to be hosted here in Phuket.

In the provincial finals competition, held at the Saphan Hin Sports Complex from September 4 to 9, Kajornrungsun School beat out three other teams to win on the boy's side. Tessaban Baan Samkong School took the girl's

trophy, beating nine other teams.

Members of the first, second and third place teams received scholarships, trophies, certificates and sports equipment as prizes.

Dowroong Wittaya won third place for the girls while Ban Cherng Talay took the bronze for the boys, each player winning a 2,000-baht scholarship.

The regional competition, also to be held at Saphan Hin, will pit the winning boys and girls

teams from each Andaman province – Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong and Satun – against each other. Prizes awarded at that competition will be 6,000-baht scholarships for first place, and 4,000-baht scholarships for second.

Winners in that competition will advance to the national final in Bangkok in December, where 15,000- and 10,000-baht scholarships will be awarded to first- and second-place teams, respectively.

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## Construction

By Janyaporn Morel

# Phang Nga lures Hidden Oasis

PHANG NGA: A 30-minute drive north from Phuket International Airport and into Phang Nga is the Stoney Monday Hidden Oasis Resort and Condominiums, a development by Rell Hayes, also the man behind the Stoney Monday boutique hotel in Patong.

The Hidden Oasis Resort is being built on 11 rai of land that slopes gently down to a beach just 100 meters away. Each of the units in the mixed-property development – a four-star, 50-room hotel, 15 secluded bungalows and a 37-unit condo block – will have panoramic sea views.

Mr Hayes' latest development – work on which began just last month, but is expected to be complete by October 2007 – will be in three phases. Closest to the beach and 10 meters above the high-water mark will be the condos, of which, said Mr Hayes, around 40% have already been sold.

There will be two styles of condo for sale; the Panorama and the Seabreeze.

Panorama units, which will be on two floors, will have three bedrooms and 352 square meters



Above: Land offering scenic views of Phang Nga Bay, such as the site of the Hidden Oasis pictured above, are attracting investors away from Phuket. Right: An artist's impression of the the completed condominiums.



of floor space. The lower floor will comprise a plunge pool, terrace, small garden, bedroom, bathroom, living area, study room, dining room, kitchen, storeroom, laundry and a pond at the rear.

The upper floor will have two bedrooms, two bathrooms, terrace, open area and "family area".

The two-bedroom Seabreeze units, comprising 225sqm, will have two bathrooms, a ter-

race, plunge pool, study room, living area, dining room, pantry, laundry room, a storeroom and a small garden.

Solar power will be harvested and used for all of the buildings at the Hidden Oasis Resort. Other environmentally-friendly features include the recycling of water and extensive rainwater collection.

Inland beyond these will be the public areas for guests and owners. Included here will be facilities such as two restaurants, a brace of bars, a pair of pools, a health spa, fully-equipped gymnasium, sauna and Jacuzzi.

Guests and owners will be able to avail themselves of the resorts laundry service, maid service, room service, car and bike rental and tour service.

The villa-bungalows will be beyond these.

"The explosion of construction on Phuket Island, has meant that Phang Nga is becoming extremely popular with tourists and investors looking for a tranquil Thai experience," said Mr Hayes

"This, in turn, is pushing up demand on resorts, condominiums

and villas in this area. The result has been that property prices have risen in Phang Nga by an average of 80% over the past three years, making Stoney Monday Hidden Oasis Condominiums a great investment.

"Many more foreigners want to buy property and have a holiday in Phang Nga," said Mr Hayes, "because Phuket is now like Disneyland."

Mr Hayes added that the markets for these properties include Australasia, North America and Europe.

Owners will have the choice of living in their properties or renting them out, using them as an investment, on which, the developers say, they can expect an 8% return on investment.

*The Stoney Monday Hidden Oasis Resort and Condominiums is on Petkasem Rd, Klong Kien, Phang Nga. The sales office is at 39/7 Prabamee Rd, Patong. Tel: 076-296321. Fax: 076-290368. Email: info@stoneymonday.com Website: www.stoneymonday.com or www.hiddenoasisphuket.com*

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## Decor



This bed, the Snowdonia made by Ligne Roset, typifies the tastes in domestic furnishings among today's singles, combining a strict minimalism, organic form and high functionality.

## Nifty ways to make a small apartment livable

With the spiraling cost of prime land in Phuket and the popularity of sea-view condos, many island residents find themselves living in small single-room apartments with limited living space.

There are, however, several nifty ways to make a single apartment comfortable with a bedroom serving a multi-functional purpose as a place to read, talk, listen to music and watch television.

"The bedroom is no longer just a place to rest. Taking steps to promote personal well-being and communication in the bedroom are just as welcome as those for the kitchen," says Birgit Gebhard of the Hamburg Trend Office.

Mobile cupboards near the bed, working tables, settees and room dividers are all part of the interior. The furniture has become more versatile as opposed to the standard bedroom.

"The bedroom of grandmother's day is long a thing of the past. The bedroom furnishings are modules and no longer models of a series," says Ursula

'The bedroom is no longer just a place to rest. Taking steps to promote personal well-being and communication in the bedroom are just as welcome as those for the kitchen.'

Geismann of the Association of German Furniture Manufacturers.

Sabine Walter-Boehm, press spokeswoman of furniture maker Ligne Roset, says, "Especially in a bedroom people want comforting forms and soft materials".

The furniture is marked by soft round forms whether it is a bed or cupboard.

Heidi Bucher-Stoeckli, press spokeswoman of the Swiss Team manufacturer, says quality demands for bedroom furnishings have increased because of the

different ways the furniture is used.

Team is offering a BoRa bed that can be turned in the room in any direction according to the mood of the day. "The bed flows elegantly on a solid central foot," says Ms Bucher-Stoeckli. With the bed come shelves with integrated lighting and different widths.

The Riva bed from the Hamburg manufacturer More Furniture looks almost like a boat with sides reaching down to the floor. The bed can be combined with various other individualistic furniture.

The Zurich-based manufacturer Selenorm offers a bed that can be turned from a single 80cm bed into a 180cm double bed, according to spokeswoman Sylvie Merlo.

The variety of bedroom materials has significantly increased in recent years, says Ms Geismann, with an increasing use of high-quality solid woods from alder to cherry-tree.

— Heike Edelmann, dpa

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### CORRECTION

The *Phuket Gazette* would like to make a correction to the Decor column of the September 16 issue, which featured Island Furniture. All Island Furniture furniture and other products are produced in Thailand.

The *Gazette* regrets any inconvenience and misunderstandings this has caused.



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Home of the Week

Nai Harn



# Contemporary with a touch of Thai

**B**uilt on one rai of land in Nai Harn, this contemporary property shows touches of Thai style, from the carved wooden fencing and wooden built-in furniture to

the landscaped tropical gardens that complement the uniquely-shaped backyard swimming pool. To the rear of the house is a pond full of koi carp.

Through the front door is the

living area, which has been floored with terracotta tiles. Sliding aluminum doors open up to the swimming pool and entertainment terrace.

All rooms in the house overlook the pool and have fans and air conditioning.

The modern Western-style kitchen is well-appointed and has been crafted from wood. The counter tops are gray-speckled granite and the kitchen also has a gas stove-top and oven.

All bedrooms have either a built-in or walk-in wardrobes, with one of the two bathrooms featuring a Jacuzzi.

Surrounding the property is a high security fence that opens to reveal a covered two-car parking area attached to the house.

A laundry room is included. Utilities include UBC TV, telephone, broadband Internet, water heater and three-phase electricity.

Listed at 28 million baht, this new property comes with a Chanote title and freehold purchase terms.

For more details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, or visit the website at [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com) or email: [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com)

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# Perfect for a drunken numpty

Sobriety is over-rated. I like beer, and I'm not ashamed to admit it. I'm rather partial to the odd glass or two and I have, on occasion, been known to somewhat over-indulge in this particular pleasure. Booze is rather clever here – it punishes you the next day when you imbibe a bit too much.

Thai beer is even more calculated. This country produces some particularly powerful brews – Beer Chang being one of the most notorious. Spend a night on this stuff and it will bite back in the worst possible way, when you suffer the inevitable “Changover” the following morning. Not a pleasant experience, but one that we seem repeat with worrying regularity.

There are people in the world who will argue that the alcohol in any form is an evil scourge in society, and that its consumption will inevitably lead to moral decay. I do admit that I frequently lean towards this view the morning after a close encounter with the alcoholic ambrosia. How many times have I said “never again”?

We've all heard of the Temperance Society. You may, like me, have thought they were a bunch of do-gooder, early twentieth century buffoons who just wanted to spoil everyone's fun. You may well be right, but the strange thing is that they're still around today.

The moral crusaders of the twenty-first century, who say that they've been established for over 150 years, now call themselves the Sons of Temperance. They proudly proclaim themselves to be “a friendly society for total abstainers of all ages”.

They state on their website ([www.sonsoftemperance.co.uk](http://www.sonsoftemperance.co.uk)): “Because Total Abstainers are generally thrifty and are able to take advantage of their principles,

extra benefits are to be derived from their way of living. In addition, social fellowship can be obtained in this member-managed society.

“The Order of the Sons of Temperance has an outstanding record of service for providing financial benefits for those men and women who prefer a healthier modern life style by abstaining from all use of alcohol as a drink.”

They also sell insurance on the website as part of their “financial benefits”.

Don't they sound like fun? I rather suspect that Bloomin' Bert, along with many other Phuket residents, may not be very high on their list of prospective membership candidates. Ah well, never mind – I'm sure that this is one membership card we can all get along just fine without.

Alcohol can even be blamed for some of my more lucid thoughts here in this column. I was sitting in one of my favorite watering holes recently when I glanced over and saw a plant which I'd seen a thousand times before and had largely ignored. Strange how that happens.

I reached for the camera that had earlier been recording some of the more immature antics that alcohol seems to encourage, and snapped a picture of this *dracaena reflexa* with the Andaman Sea in the background. My apologies for the quality of the picture, but I do have a very obvious excuse.

The *dracaena reflexa* is commonly known as the Song of India, or the pleomele. It's part of the huge *dracaena* family – better-known members of the family are those rubber plants and yuccas that appear in so many Western living rooms, as does the pleomole, as houseplants.

It's not from around here originally, but native to Madagascar, Mauritius, and other nearby islands of the Indian Ocean.



*Dracaena reflexa* likes sunshine and humidity, but suffers if you overwater it. A bit like Bert, really.

The *dracaena reflexa* is no ordinary plant. It has richly-colored, mottled evergreen leaves, and thick, irregular stems. While it may reach a height of four or five meters in ideal, protected locations outdoors, the song of India is usually much smaller when it's grown as a houseplant. Having a five-meter monster in the corner of your country cottage probably wouldn't be ideal.

The lanceolate (in other words, tapering to a point like the head of a lance) leaves are spirally arranged on the stem, from 5-20 cm long and 1.5-5 cm broad

at the base, with a parallel venation and entire margin; they grow in tight whorls and have uniform dark green and cream stripes.

The plant doesn't have particularly strong stems; in fact they're a bit on the wimpy side, so it will sometimes need some kind of rigid support to keep it from collapsing. All it basically needs is high temperatures and moist, humid air – neither of which is a problem in Phuket.

The only damage you can really do is over-water it. If this happens, it will express its displeasure by turning its leaves yellow

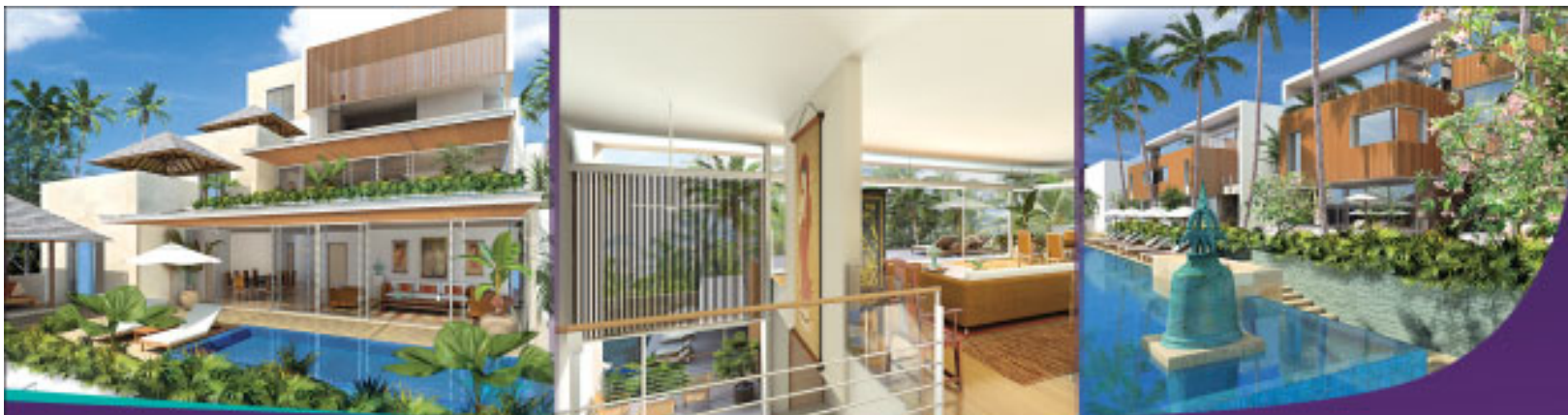
and eventually dropping them. It's also a bit of a sun worshiper – happiest in one of the brighter parts of the garden. Although it will survive in a relatively shady spot, the plant may grow a bit spindly as a result.

Traditional medicine practitioners in the plant's ancestral home of Madagascar have long believed *dracaena reflexa* will cure malarial symptoms, poisoning, dysentery, diarrhea, and various tropical ailments. The leaves and bark are mixed with parts of a number of other native plants and brewed into a herbal tea. Its effectiveness in any of these treatments remains unproven; I'm not quite brave enough to give it a go the next time I have a touch of Delhi Belly.

If it gets too tall it can be pruned back harshly with absolutely no ill effects, and will sit there quietly with the botanical equivalent of a Cheshire cat grin. This pruning can actually be combined with a completely different aspect of its care – propagation, which, like so many plants around here, is ludicrously easy for *dracaena reflexa*.

Chop off a 30 cm length, remove the leaves from the bottom half, and push in into some of that compost soil you can buy for 30 baht from any garden center. Keep watering it and wait a few weeks. Some of the original leaves may drop off, but after a while it should bounce back to life. This is gardening for a drunken numpty.

Speaking of drunken numpties, I think it's important that I go off now to do a little more gardening research. Perhaps the consumption of the odd Heineken or two will aid the process considerably. Unlike the Sons of Temperance, my “social fellowship” will be obtained in a completely different “member-managed society” – the pub. See you there, cheers.



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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

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### PATONG CONDO

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### NEW VILLA FOR SALE



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### LAND FOR SALE 5 RAI



Chalong. Electricity, water, road access. Price: 2.7 million baht/rai. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

### HOME IN KATHU

for sale. 400sqm, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 living room, 1 kitchen. Big business room. Contact K. Olan. Tel: 076-202283, 084-1901437.

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### VILLA IN BOAT

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### GREAT SEAVIEW

Chalong top spot, soft slope, 4.5 million baht near beach. Tel: 087-8938747.

### KATA APARTMENT Private Sale



### 4 Storeys/406m2 area! Panoramic Seaviews!

- ▣ Huge open-plan lounge
- ▣ 3 double bedrooms
- ▣ 3 bathrooms / jacuzzi
- ▣ Separate guest studio
- ▣ Rooftop sun terrace
- ▣ Swimming pool/jacuzzi
- ▣ Completion next month

Buy now at pre-completion price  
**14.5 million baht.**

Call Mike on 06-2776698

### 2 RAI IN RAWAI

Only 7.5 million baht, Chanote title. Don't wait too long at this price – make your dream come true now. Call Tel: 089-6525664.

### 524 SQM IN RAWAI

Beautiful and quiet Chanote title, top plot for house, 2.1 million baht. Tel: 087-893-8747.

### SMALL HOUSE

Rawai. Walking distance to the beach, 1.9 million baht. Tel: 086-2670898.

### 1 RAI, RAWAI

Chanote, electricity, water supply, top location. 3.2 million baht. Must view. Tel: 086-2670898.

### NAI HARN, 400 SQM

Beautiful area, square plot, Chanote title. Asking 2.7 million baht. Call Tel: 081-537-6866 for details.

### STUNNING SEAVIEW

Karon, top design, unbelievable views, come and look. Tel: 086-2670898.

### THALANG 1 RAI

1.2 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

**Phuket Real Estate** THIS WEEK'S HOT PROPERTIES

**Rawai Land** - 5 rai seaview in Rawai (across from Rawai Villas), only 1 minute to Rawai beach. This plot has electricity and 3 government roads, side, front and back, so ideal for a small development. The best-priced seaview land in Nai Harn / Rawai / Chalong! 2 checked Chanote titles.  
Price: 22 million baht

**Rawai Land - Green**, quiet and well-priced! 960sqm located in Rawai. Bare has already been sunk. Two partly-built 2-story homes. Large coconut trees, end of road and no close neighbors due to adjoining government land. Urgent sale, owner has dropped price 200,000 baht. 3 Chanote titles.  
Price: 3.5 million baht

**Patong Land** - 3 Rai of seaview land in Patong. Very cheap price at 15 million baht. No offers! Other land in this area is 8 million per rai. Land includes road access to the plot. Land titles checked and correct. There are great views of Patong Bay and city from the land. Land sits at 39 meters above sea level. A great developers plot!  
Price: 15 million baht

**Phuket Real Estate Partners Co., Ltd.**  
111 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd, Patong Beach, Phuket 83150 Thailand  
Tel: 076-346346 Mobile: 06-272 6508, 09-871 5192  
Email: info@phuketrealestate.com www.phuketrealestate.com

**Seaview Condominiums for Sale**  
Rambutan Residence  
An Investment in Paradise



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury freehold fully furnished apartments for sale. Located in Soi Playbay just off Nanai Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay.  
Prices start at 2.7 million baht.  
Please contact Peter at Tel: 01-8928526  
For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

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# Property Gazette

## RAWAI SHOPHOUSE FOR SALE



2 new, connected shophouses 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 and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. Third floor: living room and ensuite bedroom. Living area: 200sqm. Free hold land: 100sqm. Price: 4.5 million baht (US\$113,000). Tel: 081-8928526. Please see website: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

## PATONG VILLA FOR SALE



Very exclusive, completely furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. Two floors, three bedrooms with aircon, three baths, jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining area. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land: 150sqm. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-892-8526. Please see our website at: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

## BARGAIN HOUSE KATHU

In popular small development. 3-bedroom house with 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen/diner, laundry room, covered patio, private parking, walled garden. Nearly complete. Rural setting though close to all facilities. Sale price: 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: [somlerdee@yahoo.com](mailto:somlerdee@yahoo.com)

## HOUSE FOR SALE



Rawai. 150sqm, communal pool, 3 bedrooms, absolute privacy and security. 6.2 million baht. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: [info@sea-property-phuket.com](mailto:info@sea-property-phuket.com)

## HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 200m beachfront, 80 villas, total 120 rooms. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: [info@sea-property-phuket.com](mailto:info@sea-property-phuket.com)

## LAND FOR SALE

79 rai beachfront land on the east coast of Phuket, close to airport, Mission Hill Golf. Email: [tthai@hotmail.com](mailto:tthai@hotmail.com)

## 520 SQM RAWAI

2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

## KATHU TOWNHOUSE

New 2 story with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park, gates and security. Price 1.7 million baht firm. Tel: 087-8822462.

## KAMALA APARTMENT

The Club, 1 bedroom, excellent condition, fully furnished and equipped. US\$69,000. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-8957545.

## CONDO FOR SALE



Rawai sea view, 126sqm living space, common pool. 4 million baht. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: [info@sea-property-phuket.com](mailto:info@sea-property-phuket.com)

## LAND & HOUSES PARK NUNTAWAN 1

Urgent sale: 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom house with parking for 2 cars. House is on 624sqm of land. 6.2 million baht. Tel: 076-238777, 081-7371678. Fax: 076-282514. Email: [supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th)

## HOUSE CONTRACT

Almost finished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, near PTT gasoline station, Chong Talay. Valued at 2.9 million baht, must sell to best offer. K. Peter. Tel: 087-2644125.



## Surin Beach—Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach. 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: [ann@mms.ais.co.th](mailto:ann@mms.ais.co.th)



## BEAUTIFUL HOUSE

Newly reconditioned house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, 5 aircons, marble floor. With separate office, 2 telephone lines and high speed internet. Perfect, quiet and safe location, between Patong and Phuket town. Asking price 4.2 million baht. Will consider any good offer! Tel: 086-2740010 Email: [info@biomed1.net](mailto:info@biomed1.net)

## BEACHFRONT

apartment. Includes yacht. Top of the range, 220sqm high quality, 16m boat in front. All new interested buyers get good price. No brokers. 1<sup>st</sup> to see will buy. Call Tel: 087-8938747.

## BUILDING PLOT

for sale. Sloping land with lovely elevated views. Soi Kathu waterfall area. Nor Sor 3 Gor title 1,400sqm. 4.4 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

## LUXURY VILLA SALE

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, tropical gardens, swimming pool. Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 081-0912137, 087-9237242.



Commercial building 9 units in Kata beach Price 6.5 million baht

Tel: 08-9679-7878 or 08-9777-1166 Inside-Siam property Tel: 076-33333-4 [www.inside-property.com](http://www.inside-property.com)

## 7 RAI BEACH LAND

for sale. Outer island beachfront land, 15 minutes from Ao Por pier. Great for developers. 3.5 million baht per rai. Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

## SMALL PLOT

220sqm with sea view. Price: 1.4 million baht. 5 minutes to Naiham beach, next to the front entrance of the Mangosteen resort. Please call Tel: 087-3828820.

## BUNGALOW COMPLEX

5 Kamala houses with aircon, kitchens, large swimming pool, landscaped gardens. 9 million baht or sell individual units leasehold soon. Tel: 081-6064649.

## GEOFFS

LAND FOR SALE IN KATHU



5 rai 50 sq wah with Chanote title, good area, great canal at the back, 5 minutes to Big C & Central, perfect for private complex, 8 million baht / rai.

## HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATHU



At Anupas Golf Villa, with Chanote title, lake views 3 bedrooms + maid, 3 bathrooms, aircon, hot water, curtains, kitchen units, land area 75 sq wah 3x3.5 meter, pool & jacuzzi 7 million baht.

## HOUSE FOR SALE AT PHUKET



At Phuket Country Club Golf Course, near clubhouses 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen units with hob, hood, oven and dishwasher. Land area 175 sq wah with Chanote title, 7.3x12 meter pool & jacuzzi. Nice & quiet, beautiful golf views, 17 million baht.

Please contact: Mr. Geoff Curry Mobile: 08-8540061. Tel: 076-323214, 08-0803414, (K.Ning) Fax: 076-323215. Email: [mrgoeffcurry@yahoo.com](mailto:mrgoeffcurry@yahoo.com)

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## Properties for Sale



- 4 b/r pool villas in Laguna area
- 1,050 sq.m., partly furnished
- Intl Property Management
- 25 minutes from Phuket Airport

Baht 31.5 Million



- 2-5 b/r villas on Coconut Island
- 300-1,500 sq.m. land plots
- Resort operation
- 7% guaranteed return

From Baht 12 Million



- 2-3 b/r condo. on Karan Beach
- Unit sizes: 88-177 sq.m.
- 500 metres from the beach
- 10 minutes from Patong nightlife

From Baht 5.5 Million



- 60 rai of land in Khao Lak
- Direct access to public road
- Suitable for 5-star hotel or high end development

Baht 6 Million/Rai

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# Property Gazette

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Beautifully-furnished 2-bedroom house in Kathu. Aircon, UBC, phone and kitchen. Long term only. Tel: 081-3673106.

## PHUKET B.L.

apartment. New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

## PATONG 2-BEDROOM

apartment. 2 en-suites, kitchen, aircon, UBC, swimming pool, ADSL. 25,000 baht. Tel: 086-2790837.

## HOUSES ON MY ISLE

I have a big website with houses for rent and sale on the island where I was born. Welcome to Phuket! Please contact. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in the popular and secure Chaofa Thani estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, etc. ADSL, UBC TV, garden, furnished, air conditioned. Rent: 36,000 baht per month. Long-term rental. Tel: 084-843-9579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

## BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, living area, kitchen, etc. Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong. Month rent: 15,000 baht. Tel: 089-4717629. Email: maxgmuender@hotmail.com

## LUXURY HOUSE

3 bedrooms, near Laguna, furnished, spa pool, poolside bar, garden, aircon. Rai. 29,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-5944067.

## APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

## HOUSE FOR RENT

New, 2 bedrooms built to Euro standards. Aircon in main bedroom. Fully furnished with good quality. Kitchen with all necessary equipment, including 2-door fridge. Elevated with walled garden. Very private, good view toward the ocean. Available now for a minimum of 1 year. 200,000 baht. Email: alansimpson75@hotmail.com

## 2-BED BUNGALOW

Rawai, quiet location, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 9,000 baht. Tel: 086-2790837.

## KAMALA LONG LET

2-bedroom, 3-aircon, furnished house, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht per month. Call Khun Tom. Tel: 087-1789273.

## DISCOVERY GARDENS

Near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built, fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Available short/long term. Tel: 076-271544, 089-1956722. Fax: 076-271545. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

## PATONG SEAVIEW

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, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 084-159-0501, 081-375-3970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

## FREEDOM

Apartments. Near Wat Patong, Soi Khuanyang, 256. Small kitchen, cooker, fridge, fully furnished, European style, balcony, aircon, fan, cable TV, safety box, hot water bathroom, cleaning twice a week. 9,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

## RAWAI HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-8081804.

## NEW HOUSE

for rent. A must-see. 9 months old. Located in an excellent location, minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. High quality with beautiful & modern design and 162 square meters of living area. The house has 2 large bedrooms, 2 private bathrooms, 1 guest toilet, a large living/dining room, terrace and a storage room, 1 air conditioner, private car park, free water and garbage service. The house is furnished with 1 set of king-size bed + mattress, 5-door wardrobe, a vanity set, a dining table, fridge and curtains. Asking 22,000 baht a month or nearest offer. Call K. Nui. Tel: 089-5940887, 076-288-611.

## KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon. 50m from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, Wi-Fi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 086-2718254.

## SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Please call Khun Vachira. Tel: 081-3269495. for more information.

## FOR RENT PER DAY

or per year. Luxury apartments: 35-75sqm, with pool, at Residence Edouard in Soi Veerakit in Patong. Tel: 076-296800 or see: www.residence-edouard.com

## PATONG APARTMENT

Sea view, kitchen, cable TV, 10 min to beach. 600 baht a day, 12,000 a month. Please call Alan at Tel: 087-2635735.

## NEW HOUSE

for lease or rent at Nai Harn Beach, before the lake. 2 minutes to the beach. Safe area. 600sqm with swimming pool. Please call for more details. Tel: 089-6492947.

## CHALONG NEW HOME

Perfect Western-style home for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon and telephone. Tel: 089-6521473, 076-280-466.

## APARTMENTS

Cheap apartments in Phuket City near Vachira Phuket Hospital, very quiet and clean. 4,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-7472033.

## PATONG, SEA VIEW

apartment. Lovely, clean poolside apartment in desirable area, available early October. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Patong Hillside. Has both sea and mountain views. Fully furnished, large pool, aircon, satellite TV, etc, etc. Long term rental only @ 35,000 baht per month. Photos available. Please contact me at Tel: 076-346158, 085-0717134. Fax: 076-346158. Email: robinsonkevin@mac.com for further details.

## HUGE 5-BEDROOM

Chalong. Master bedroom, 3 bedrooms with bathroom, great location. Call Bill for details. 45,000 baht a month. 40,000 baht if pay whole year. Please call for more details. Tel: 089-7299619.

## APARTMENTS

Patong. Rent out for long stays. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon. Same apartment with good sea view. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-2909567. Please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

## CLASS SEAVIEW

villa rental. Available November! Views do not get better. Very safe and quiet. 5 bedrooms in total. Alternatively, rent 3-bedroom house or 2-story bungalow-apartment separately. Private entrances and pool access. Email: pocconnor@hotmail.com

## LARGE VILLA

Kamala. 300sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, separate granny/maid accommodation, beautiful real teak furnishings, plasma TV, full-size snooker table, UBC, ADSL, 2-/3-car garage. Set on Rai with tropical garden. 60,000 baht per month, minimum 1-year let. Tel: 081-8111067.

## NAI HARN

Sweet home for rent. Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/music. Move in! Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-851-9072. Email: goodtastefor goodlife@yahoo.de

## MARINA VIEWS

Limited selection of various sizes of offices & apartments for rent, from December. Stunning views with use of pool & gym. Tel: 076-206704. Fax: 076-206706. Email: info@yacht-haven-phuket.com

## PATONG TOWER

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, nicely furnished, UBC, DVD, aircon, pool, parking, sea view, only 300m to the beach. Central Patong. 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8473304.

## DETACHED HOUSES



Four new detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6900626.

## RAWAI SEAVIEW

Apartment. Luxury studio, full kitchen, hot water, cable, etc. All new 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

## SERVICED CONDOS

and apartments for rent long term or short term. Tel: 076-292628, 089-4912496. Please see our website: www.bluewaterphuket.com

## 3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd, 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For rent at 40,000 baht per month or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Tel: 081-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

## OFFICE SPACE

Just 2 km from Tesco-Lotus on bypass road. Office space of 240sqm for rent in new 2-story building. Tel: 076-238-777 or 081-7371678. Fax: 076-239739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

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# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted



**PHUKET ANDAMAN REAL ESTATE**

**Buy or sell, Call us**

**HOTEL AND LAND WANTED**

We are looking for land and hotels to buy in Phuket and the surrounding provinces

Land 30-60 rai, must have beach front.

Hotel 100 rooms up, good location at beach front or near

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www.phuketandamanrealestate.com  
Email: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com  
phuketandamanrealestate@hotmail.com

### 1 RAI IN NAI HARN OR RAWAI

Need 1 rai in Nai Harn or Rawai (anything south of Kata). It should be either very secluded or with seaview. Chanote only. Please contact via by email: tembusa@gmail.com

### LAND WANTED

Seaview, beachfront land in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi. 10-100 rai. Tel: 081-6936437, 086-6841260.

### LARGE-SCALE LAND

Wanted: Big piece of "rough" land, size approx 50-150 rai, minimum 400m x 400m. Phuket or Phang Nga. Must be in a remote area or former open-cut mine. Valley site preferred. Should be suitable for outdoor sports field. Land titles must be ready for purchase. Email: jibjoyly@hotmail.com

### WANTED: SHOP SPACE IN KAMALA

I need to rent a shop for a restaurant in Kamala. Must be in a good location. Tel: 085-7866596. Email: roger\_sommer1@hotmail.com

### 1 RAI +

Looking for Chanote land with a sea view, up to 2 rai, preferably on the west coast of Phuket. Must have road access and utilities. Please contact via by email: ulrichkuhl@gmail.com

### LAND IN KATA/KARON

I am interested in buying 1.5-2 rai of land in Kata or Karon. Must be suitable to build house on. Email: sverker\_gustafsson@yahoo.com

### NEED SEAVIEW LAND

I am looking for prime seaview land at Patong Beach. It must overlook the bay and town. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-0540120. Email: richard.market@gmail.com

### BEACHFRONT WANTED

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-0543505.

### HOUSE & WORKSHOP

For woodworking machinery with 3 phase electricity. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8473304.

### 1-STORY SHOP

We are looking for a 1-story building suitable for a small shop. Seeking locations in Phuket City, Kathu, Chalong and Patong. Please contact us if you have property like this available at very reasonable rent. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-214000. Email: info@siamquick.com

### SEAVIEW LAND

wanted. I'm looking for 1-2 rai of seaview land in the Ao Makham area. Tel: 085-032-7100. Email: saze@gmx.net

### HOTEL WANTED

Small hotel/resort wanted on Phuket or nearby island. Email info/pics to Alan. Email: movinlos@yahoo.com.au

### GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong, Karon, Kata or Phuket City. Please email if you have or know of something appropriate. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.com

## Accommodation Available

### APARTMENT FOR YOU

1-bedroom apartment in Soi Nanai 2. All-inclusive low-season rate 12,500 baht/month. Tel: 081-5362954. Email: petro@phuket-4you.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-apartments-4you.com/patong/baan\_arunsri.htm

### PATONG TOWER RENTAL

1 bedroom luxury apartment, A/C, Western kitchen, bath and shower. Cable and Wi-Fi. Car park and swimming pool. Best sea view and location in Patong! Long or short term. Tel: 086-072 4015. Email: terrydv8@hotmail.com

### APARTMENT

Patong 1 bedroom, near the beach for short-term. Aircon, TV/DVD, pool. Email: phuket-apartments@hotmail.com

### FURNISHED 2-BEDROOM CONDO

Euro kitchen & bathroom, washer, 3 aircons, 4 ceiling fans, attic fan, TV, communal pool. 10 minutes to Central Festival Phuket. Must see. Short-term rate 15,000 baht a month. Long-term rate: 10,000 baht a month for one-year rental. Tel: 076-245871, 086-2734678. Email: roy@kool-mix.com

### HOUSE OR APARTMENT

At Nai Harn, 1 or 2 beds/baths, fully furnished, TV and music. For rent long- or short-term. Near the beach. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-388621, 084-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

### HOTEL WITH POOL, ADSL, ETC

Club Coconut Resort in Nanai Rd, Patong. 590 baht a night. Tel: 076-292907. Fax: 076-292907. Email: info@club-coconut-resort.info Please see our website for details: www.phukets.info/ccr.html

### PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Email for information and photos. Please contact for more information. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

### LOFT STYLE

apartments, Kathu. 4 large apartments, 6,000-15,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-9684230. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

### NICE HOLIDAY FLAT

At Kata, fully furnished holiday flat in quiet location available. Tel: 076-333242-3, 089-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.capt-horst.com

### CHALONG PIER SEAVIEW

Short/long term, aircon, wifi, cable TV, housekeeping. 8,000-12,000 baht. Please contact K. Nu. Tel: 086-0999289. Email: nooandaman@yahoo.com

### APARTMENT KATHU

- 1 apartment, 58 sqm. 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, pool, fan, aircon, ADSL available. Price: 600 baht per day, long term 12,000 baht per month.

- 1 apartment 85 sqm. 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, pool, telephone. Price: 800 baht per day or 15,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

## Accommodation Wanted

### 4- OR 5-BEDROOM HOUSE WANTED FOR DECEMBER

4- or 5-bedroom furnished house for rent for all of December. Good price paid for the right property, up to 150,000 baht or more if non-estate with view and nice garden. Email: andy@abairflow.co.uk

### WANT TO RENT

I want to rent 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom accommodation in Kata-Karon for 3 months, from Jan-Mar 2007. Tel: 903-883-2384. Email: whitetome@gmail.com

## Building Products & Services



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## Agents for Classified Advertising

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Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

#### Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

#### Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

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Email: charter@asia-marine.net

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rubber dinghy with new 50hp engine, in excellent condition, rarely used. Price: 95,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-895-1724.

## FERRY FOR SALE

Jet cruise 1. Has 244 passenger capacity. Length: 30.73m. Gross: 322 tons. Two 1,540KW MTU engines. Docked at Rattanachai slipway, Phuket. Price: 12.2 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-4084991.

## WINDSURFING EQPT

wanted. Sails, masts, booms and boards wanted. Can collect. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282-864, 084-8501340. Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

## WILL PAY CASH

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40ft charter boat, 2x185hp inboards, powerful generator, boatyard re-fit completed August 2006. Air conditioned, TV, DVD, galley, 4 cabins, sleeps 8 in comfort, power shower, electric toilet, large fishing deck, fly bridge fitted with seating, GPS, fish-finder, VHF. 4.8 million baht. Tel: 085-7143656. Email: crew@cruise Phuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.cruise Phuket.com

## 8-FOOT

rubber dinghy with 5 hp engine, in good condition. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-895-1724.

## SAIL & KAYAK

Big boat, shade, good food. Captain + 12 people day trip, 6 overnight. Please call. Tel: 081-6771641.

## SILVERTON 40FT

family boat, 2 twin bedrooms, two bathrooms + shower, saloon, dinette, galley kitchen. Two years old but with complete interior refurbishment within 12 months. Twin Volvo Penta engines + turbo, dinghy. New Mercury outboard used regularly, very reliable. Sale due to owner upgrade. Viewing at Ocean Marina Pattaya. 5 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 02-6777555 ext 238, 081-8335750.

## 2 YAMAHA 200HP 2 STROKE

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## DIVE BOAT FOR SALE



Length: 18m. Beam 4.5m, Hyno 6-cylinder 300hp turbo diesel engine, Isuzu 80hp 20kw generator, just out of refit. Fully licensed for 35 persons, crew on standby. 3.5 million baht. Please call Tel. 084-845-1208, 076-381877.

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# Island Job Mart



## Executive Assistant Manager

Phuket Pavilions seeks to urgently fill the position of **Executive Assistant Manager**. Pavilions is a luxury boutique hotel, consisting of all pool villas, located in the exclusive Layan Beach area on Phuket's northwest coast. Since opening one year ago, the resort has received excellent reviews from guests and tour operators, and has achieved exceptionally high occupancy rates. The resort's concept of chic, hip, affordable luxury, combined with a very contemporary design, has been extremely popular.

The position requirements are as follows:

- Minimum 5 years experience in a 5-star property
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Excellent guest relations skills
- Excellent staff management skills
- Ability to supervise all aspects of hotel operations on a daily basis
- Strong background in both front office and F&B
- Ability to oversee annual budget
- Exceptional commitment to excellence

We offer an attractive salary, good service charge, a great working environment, and excellent career prospects to the right candidates.

Please submit a resume stating educational background, working experience, expected salary, contact telephone number and a recent photograph to metta@phuketpavilions.com

**Phuket Pavilions**  
31/1 Moo 6, T. Chengtalay, A. Thalang Phuket  
Tel: 076-317600



LIFESTYLE & LEISURE (Thailand) LTD.

## Real Estate Sales & Marketing Manager

We are a successful high-end villa development company based in Phuket. Currently, we have developments under construction, and are in the design stage for our newest project. As a result of continued expansion, it has become necessary for us to set up a broader sales and marketing department.

The successful candidate will be responsible for setting up this department and would be responsible for selling the remaining units of Laem Singh Villas, and all the units of the new development. You would also be involved in marketing including property exhibitions, advertising programs, etc.

All our villas are in the high-end market, therefore require a sophisticated individual with experience and an understanding of the clients in this range of the market.

The financial gains are very attractive. The person we are looking for should be:

- Female
- English as a first language
- Minimum 3 years experience in real estate sales
- A captive personality and presentable appearance
- Possess Management Skills
- Able to live in Phuket
- Speaking Thai would be an advantage

Interested candidates should send their resumé to [hr@lifestyleandleisure.com](mailto:hr@lifestyleandleisure.com)  
website: [www.lifestyleandleisure.com](http://www.lifestyleandleisure.com)  
Developer of LAEM SINGH VILLAS

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## Phuket Gazette

*The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:*

### I. DESK EDITOR

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Some page layout skills, experience with PageMaker preferred.

Salary commensurate with skills and experience.

### II. REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national, with initiative, an outgoing personality, and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and resumé to: [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

### III. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Fax: 076-213971 Email: [fon@phuketgazette.net](mailto:fon@phuketgazette.net)

## SUNWING RESORT & SPA

Sunwing Resort & Spa, Phuket  
72/11 M. 3 T. Chong Talay, Thalang,  
Phuket 83110  
[www.sunwingphuket.com](http://www.sunwingphuket.com)

Fully contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages is looking for highly-motivated and service-minded individuals committed to growth within the expanding Ocean Resort Group

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| ▪ Chef De Partie              | ▪ Kids Program Attendant       |
| ▪ Cook                        | ▪ Waiter / Waitress            |
| ▪ Restaurant Manager          | ▪ Show and Entertainment Staff |
| ▪ Captain / Bartender         | ▪ Accountant                   |
| ▪ Guest Relations / Reception | ▪ Hotel Service Trainee        |
| ▪ Pool Attendant              | ▪ Minimarket Head              |

### \*APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME\*

Candidates should send a detailed resumé stating current and expected salary and telephone number together with a recent photograph to:

#### Personnel Department

Ocean Resort Group: 562 Patak Rd, Karon Beach, Muang, Phuket 83100, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0) 76 396599-601 Fax: +66 (0) 76 396470, +66 (0) 76 396177  
Email: [wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com](mailto:wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com)



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We are looking for the following qualified staff:

### Project Sales Consultant (2 Positions)

- ✦ Female-Male
- ✦ Age 23-30 years
- ✦ Good command of English or English as a first language is preferred
- ✦ Experience in real estate business or property management in Phuket is a must

Please apply in person or send an application with resumé to

**Window Fashions Co., Ltd**  
19/58-59 Moo8, Chaofa Road, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83100  
Tel: 0-7628 3158 Fax: 0-7628 3159  
Email: [luxaflex\\_phuket@windowfashions.co.th](mailto:luxaflex_phuket@windowfashions.co.th)

### SECRETARY WANTED

Female, 25-35, secretarial and accounts knowledge preferred. English speaking, to work with foreign manager in Phuket town. Tel: 081-9703750. Email: [lifhome@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:lifhome@loxinfo.co.th)

### HOTEL WAITRESSES

& cook. The Club Coconut Hotel at 140/2 Nanai Rd seeks 2 female waitresses and a cook. Waitresses MUST speak some English. Please email your CV + photo or come and drop your CV at the hotel. Tel: 076-292907. Fax: 076-292907. Email: [recruitment@club-coconut-resort.info](mailto:recruitment@club-coconut-resort.info)

### RAILEI BEACH CLUB

is looking for excellent people for the following positions:

- Accountant
- Front Desk/Office Assistant

The qualified candidates will have a diploma or degree, or equivalent experience. Must also have excellent English skills (both spoken and written). We offer a competitive salary and compensation package. Contact K. Anurat. Tel: 075-622582, 086-6859359. Fax: 075-622596. Email: [sunny@raileibeachclub.com](mailto:sunny@raileibeachclub.com) Please see our website at: [www.raileibeachclub.com](http://www.raileibeachclub.com)

### SECRETARY WANTED

F, 25 secretarial & acct, English speak to work w/foreigner in Patong. Tel: 087-0778454, 087-5012545. Fax: 076-292073. Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Wanted for freelance work, must be skilled in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2825107.

### SERVICE MANAGER

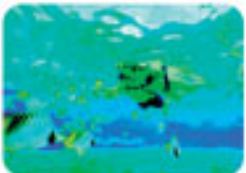
Property Care Services (PCS) Phuket require Service Managers for their Janitorial and Landscaping divisions. Preferred applicants are aged 27-45, hold a bachelors degree in a related field, and have appropriate experience in hotel or residential estates. Please email CV and expected salary or contact for more information. Tel: 076-246 589, 081-9586879. Fax: 076-254774. Email: [scott@pcs.co.th](mailto:scott@pcs.co.th)



# Island Job Mart

**Destination Air Shuttle**  
www.destinationair.com

Destination Air, based in Phuket Thailand, will fly over the beautiful crystal clear blue water of the Andaman Sea. We are looking for the following dynamic and qualified persons to work and grow with us.



## Human Resources Manager

The Human Resources Manager will have at least 4 years in HR experience with a multi-national company and possess an in-depth knowledge of Human Resources Management and Thai labor law.

Handle and oversee all human resources functions including recruitment process, performance evaluation, training, compensation, payroll, and ensure the implementation of the company's policies.

A team player with good leadership qualities, interpersonal skills, hard-working, well-organized, proficient in English is preferable.

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the qualified candidate.

Please send your resumes to: [pat@destinationair.com](mailto:pat@destinationair.com)  
[hr@destinationair.com](mailto:hr@destinationair.com)

Destination Air Co., Ltd.  
27/111 Choktip Villa, Chalong, Muang, Phuket, Thailand 83000  
Tel: 076-283388 Fax: 076-283389

## Job Openings at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket.

**Front Office** Front Office Manager, Assistant Manager (Duty Manager), Operator Supervisor, Airport Supervisor, Guest Relations Officer, Guest Service Agent, Airport Representative, Operator Agent

**Housekeeping** Assistant Housekeeping (Supervisor), Room Attendant, Laundry Equipment Technician

**Executive Office** Security Supervisor, GM Driver

**Engineering** Vehicle Technician

**Food & Beverage** Assistant Wildfire Manager, Room Service Supervisor, Waiter / Waitress, Minibar

**Finance** Staff Planner, Accounts Receivable Clerk, Messenger

**Sales & Marketing** Sales Coordinator (BKK), Reservation Manager, Associate Director of Sales

**Recreation** Activity Supervisor, Kids Club Animator

Please submit your detailed resumé, transcript and recent photograph to the Human Resources Department.

Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket  
509 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket 83100, Thailand  
Phone +66 76 396139, Fax +66 76 396122  
[patteera.maneesri@moevenpick.com](mailto:patteera.maneesri@moevenpick.com)

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Phuket

### COOK + WAITRESS NEEDED

1 cook (5 pm-10 pm) and 1 waitress needed. Email: [tkoschig2000@hotmail.com](mailto:tkoschig2000@hotmail.com)

Tel: 081-8914019.

### NEED QUALITY CHEF (THAI)

For new classic Thai restaurant in Nai Harn. Applicant should have experience from good hotel or high-class Thai restaurant. Please call K. Thip for more information.

Tel: 081-2726980,  
081-8447408.

### PASTRY CHEF WANTED

The Deli's shop at Chalong Circle (Ha Yaek), on the way to Kata, requires a pastry chef for the coming high season. Tel: 076-281273. Email: [violetapple@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:violetapple@loxinfo.co.th)

### ENGLISH WRITER

for website. Writer, working from home part time, ideally ex-journalist or copywriter. Would suit retired or semi-retired expat. Email: [leighw7@hotmail.com](mailto:leighw7@hotmail.com)

### ACCOUNTS

Accounting background with good English, some secretarial experience, loves to meet people, self-motivated, able to handle charter work. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-239423. Email: [k\\_kueyong@yahoo.com](mailto:k_kueyong@yahoo.com)

### PROGRAMMING

services wanted. Need a fit programmer who is willing to work hard and able to create MySQL databases in a fast and reliable fashion, and who is smart enough to understand what people want without them having to be programmers themselves. If there are creative and smart programmers out there, I need to hear from them! Business partnership without cash investment possible - simply bring some brains, your own computer and manpower. Contact. Tel: 081-2739279. Email: [info@avaloncreations.com](mailto:info@avaloncreations.com)

## Urgently Required



Phuket Pavilions, a luxury resort hotel located at Layan Beach, seeks dynamic professionals to fill the following positions:

### Senior Resort Host / Assistant Manager

Position requires a minimum of 2 years experience in a 5-star hotel, excellent guest relations skills, excellent English language skills

### Bellman

Position requires a minimum of 2 years experience in a 5-star hotel, excellent guest relations skills, excellent English language skills

### F&B Manager

Position requires a minimum of 3 years experience in a 5-star hotel, excellent guest relations skills, excellent English language skills

### F&B Server

Position requires a minimum of 2 years experience in a 5-star hotel, excellent guest relations skills, excellent English language skills

### Villa Attendant

Position requires a minimum of 2 years experience in a 5-star hotel, excellent guest relations skills, good English language skills

### Night Cook

Previous experience in a 5-star hotel, ability to prepare both Thai and Western dishes

### Accounts Receivable Clerk

Strong accounting background, previous hotel experience

We offer an attractive salary, good service charge, a great working environment, and excellent career prospects to the right candidates.

Please submit a resume stating educational background, working experience, expected salary, contact telephone number and a recent photograph to [metta@phuketpavilions.com](mailto:metta@phuketpavilions.com)

Phuket Pavilions  
31/1 Moo 6, T. Chentlay, A. Thalang Phuket  
Tel: 076-317600

**LAGUNA**  
RESORTS & HOTELS

[www.lagunaphuket.com](http://www.lagunaphuket.com)

Laguna Property is currently looking to recruit a position to join our friendly team. We are seeking the following qualified candidates to work for one of the leading developers of luxury residential resort properties in Phuket.

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT (PROPERTY SALES)

1 POSITION

- Female, Thai nationality, age between 25-35 years old
- Experience in property sales and residential development
- Bachelor's degree in any related field
- Minimum 3 years experience in secretarial field
- Excellent in computer literacy: Word and Excel essential
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Highly self motivated, well-organized with excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be Phuket based

We offer an attractive remuneration packages and the opportunity for career growth.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or email your detailed English resume stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

Group Director of Human Resources  
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.

390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Chentlay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel: (66-76) 324444 Ext 16, 17, Fax: (66-76) 271718 Email: [sunisas@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:sunisas@lagunaphuket.com)

### SALES MANAGER

If you are a well-presented Thai National with a good command of English and a Bachelor's degree or above in marketing and experience in sales, we are looking for you. Requirements:

- Able to develop marketing strategies
- Organised and work independently
- Own vehicle.

We offer you good basic salary + high commission and a bonus.

Please send CV with photo plus current and expected salary by email. Tel: 081-9586805. Email: [kris.derweduwe@th.g4s.com](mailto:kris.derweduwe@th.g4s.com)

### SECRETARY NEEDED

Thai female with English and computer skills. Email: [brett@phuketrealestate.com](mailto:brett@phuketrealestate.com)

### STAFF WANTED

The Yorkshire Inn, Patong, is now urgently seeking a night security man who can speak good English and has bar knowledge. Please contact Khun Noot at Tel: 076-340-904. Fax: 076-345259, or send your resume to: [info@yorkshireinn.com](mailto:info@yorkshireinn.com)

### WEB DESIGNER /

programmer needed: Thai national with the following skills: Web design, programming, Dreamweaver, Photoshop, PHP/MySQL and English. Please email CV and expected salary or contact for more information. Tel: 081-077-1006. Email: [jeremywilliams@hotmail.com](mailto:jeremywilliams@hotmail.com)

### RESTAURANT STAFF

needed for well-known restaurant in Nai Harn. Front (2 positions), kitchen (1 position). Salary about 10,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-9560204.

### SECRETARY/PA

required for foreign manager in condo. Must have office experience, some accounting and computer skills, and ability to understand English. Should be single, well-presented and outgoing in personality. Email: [robor@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:robor@loxinfo.co.th)

### SALES & MARKETING

assistant. Real estate company urgently requires an active and motivated sales & marketing assistant. Good knowledge of written and spoken English is a must. This person should be computer literate (MS Office & email), be able to organize and work independently, be service-minded, willing to learn and have excellent communication skills both in person and over email. Thai nationals only. Good salary for the right candidate. Tel: 076-340792, 087-8822856. Email: [luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com](mailto:luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com)



# Island Job Mart



One of Thailand's most exclusive Country Clubs, Blue Canyon Country Club, voted "Best Championship Course in Asia", is seeking to find suitably-trained, business-proven Thai professionals to join our team. We are taking applications for the position of:

**Director of Sales**  
**Sales Manager**  
**Human Resource Manager**  
**Food & Beverage Outlet Manager**  
**Asst. Financial Controller**  
**Training or Asst. Manager**  
**Events Executive**  
**Public Relations Executive**  
**Member Service Officer**  
**Sales Executive**  
**Night Auditor**  
**Guest Relations Executive**  
**Reservation Officer**  
**Spa Service**  
**Food & Beverage Service**  
**Telephone Operator**  
**Housekeeping Service**

The position is based in Phuket and requires candidates who possess the following:

Minimum experience in related field  
 Experience in the hospitality industry is a plus  
 BA degree or higher  
 Proficiency in written and spoken English  
 Service and results-driven attitude  
 Computer skills required

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Please send in your resume inclusive of at least three references and a recent photo by **October 2006 to:**

**Human Resource Manager**  
 P.O. Box 18 Thalung Post Office, Phuket 83110  
 E-mail: hr@bluecanyonclub.com  
 Tel: 076 328 088 Fax: 076 328 087

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The Hotel Travel Network is a very international and multicultural company, employing some of the most experienced and knowledgeable staff from every continent on the planet. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide unparalleled service in almost any language.

Applications from candidates with the following qualifications are now being taken for Phuket Call and Reservation Center.

**Customer Service Agents for the following languages:**

Italian / Korean / Spanish / French / German / Chinese / Japanese

- Fluent in above mentioned languages; both written and spoken
- Have a good command of English
- Have basic computer skills and excellent typing skills
- Experience with MS Office software (Word, Excel and Outlook)
- Thai nationality would be an advantage
- Team player
- Enthusiastic & Hard-working

Interested applicants please submit your application including resume / CV or employment certificates to [Employment@HotelTravel.com](mailto:Employment@HotelTravel.com) or call 076-282808 Khun Arunab Sarakorn for further information

**Campbell Kane**

**Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd.** is the developer of Cape Yamu, The Yamu Hotel and The Bay project. Cape Yamu and The Bay are two exclusive luxury residential property developments on Phuket's East Coast.

We are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our growing business:

## Administration office (Koh Kaew)

- Personal Assistant 1 Position
- Accountant 1 Position

## Cape Yamu Project Site (Paklock)

- Project Manager 2 Positions
- Project Secretary 1 Position
- Procurement Officer 1 Position
- Contract Administrator 1 Position
- Contract Administration/QS 1 Position
- Site Architect 1 Position
- Site Secretary 1 Position

Construction experience required in all positions. Candidates with good English communication preferred

Please send your CV to  
 Human Resources Department  
 28/7 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd.,  
 Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000  
 Email: [annie@campbellkane.com](mailto:annie@campbellkane.com)  
 Tel: 076 204 008 - 9, Fax 076 239 837  
[www.capeyamu.com](http://www.capeyamu.com)



## Position | Assistant Office Administrator

### Qualifications

- Thai national female 24 yrs. or above
- Good spoken and written English
- Assisting the Office Manager in running day-to-day business organization of general office
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work under pressure
- Able to use Microsoft Office
- Bookkeeping experience in any field is an advantage
- Self motivated and proactive
- Own transport and driving license

Please contact  
 Khun Khanuengnit  
 Paengwong  
 email: [manager@lorchideeresidences.com](mailto:manager@lorchideeresidences.com)

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## HERMAN'S RESTAURANT AND LIPS-BAR



Located close to Rawai Beach with an excellent reputation and nice atmosphere. Searching for an attractive, charming lady for our reception. If you are highly motivated, well-presented with a good command of English, we want you to join our dynamic team. We offer a good salary, benefits & commission as well the opportunity to get professional training on the job. This is an excellent chance for your future. Call "Herman" at Tel: 081-894-0570. Email: [hsiegner@hermanns-phuket.com](mailto:hsiegner@hermanns-phuket.com)

## PRIVATE VILLA

Kamala, Phuket. Looking for:

- Thai chef
- Waitresses
- Room maid
- Experienced personnel

Required for small villa. Applicants must speak English, have attractive appearance and enjoy working in a very relaxed setting. For more information, please call K. Kat. Tel: 086-2716850.

## RECEPTIONIST

wanted. Must speak Thai and English and have experience about massage or spa. Tel: 085-7859239.

## CLEANER / MAID

Wanted to clean house, cook, and look after 55-years-young farang man. Must speak some English. Tel: 086-9501411.



Burasari Resort & Spa (Member of Special Hotels of the World) is situated in the heart of Patong. We are committed to a high level of standard and service and are currently recruiting the following professionals to join our team for the opening of our new extension wing and the new elegant Floyd's Restaurant.

## FRONT OFFICE

- GSA 1 Position
- GSA Supervisor 2 Positions

## HOUSEKEEPING

- Room boy 1 Position

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Bar Manager 1 Position
- Administrative Assistance 1 Position
- Restaurant Captain 1 Position
- Waiter or Waitress 4 Positions
- Bartender 1 Position
- Pool Attendant 1 Position

## KITCHEN

- Pastry/Bakery Chef 1 Position
- Chef De Partie 1 Position

## ADMIN

- Secretary to Hotel Manager 1 Position

## ENGINEERING/LANDSCAPING

- Gardener 1 Position

## SPA

- Therapist 2 Positions

Candidates for the above positions must have the following qualifications:

- Male or Female, over 20 years old
- Pleasant personality, be service minded and have good English communication skills.
- Experience in similar position will be a benefit.

The remuneration package and benefits will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience, of selected candidates.

Interested applicants are invited to email with your full resume, details, qualifications and experience with recent photo to [hr\\_bj@burasari.com](mailto:hr_bj@burasari.com).

## LOOKING FOR LOCAL DESIGNERS

An Italian designer is looking for local designers. Interview in Phuket on Sunday, October 1, Monday, October 2 and Tuesday, October 3. Please email [harpos@tin.it](mailto:harpos@tin.it) if you are interested in a meeting. Looking for artists specializing in painting art on paper and on textiles. Also interested in meeting textile school director in order to select the best art students. Interviews will take place at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Hotel at Patong beach.

## MASSAGE

therapists wanted. Looking for 2 professional massage therapists to work for one year at a spa in Mexico.

- Female, 25 to 35 years old
- Certified massage therapist
- Minimum of 2 years experience
- English-speaking ability is a must

Great salary and housing provided in a beautiful city on the coast of Mexico. If you are interested, please send CV and photo by email or call for more information at 11 am-2 pm or 4 pm-6 pm. Tel: 076-383325, 083-1743618. Email: [lillysada@yahoo.com](mailto:lillysada@yahoo.com)

## NEW TOUR-TRAVEL AGENCY

IN KAMALA. We have a prime location and the money. You will need the knowledge & experience to build up the business and make it a success. We offer a good salary plus uncapped commission. Please call for more information.

Tel: 089-5918105.

## SWEDISH & GERMAN SPEAKING

PADI INSTRUCTOR. The ideal person can teach in both languages. Suitable candidate will be offered a working permit, a good salary & commission. Please call for more information.

Tel: 089-5918105.

## PEERAPAT BUSINESS

center is urgently looking to fill the position of Accountant/Inventory Controller. Female age 22-28, *PorWorSor* or higher, familiar with accounting software and gifted with a great sense of responsibility. Please send CV, photo and expected salary by email or contact K. Chitrada for more details. Tel: 081-5385032. Email: [jack@peerapatholding.com](mailto:jack@peerapatholding.com)





## Molly Malone's Irish Pub Patong Beach Phuket Positions Now Available

### Accountant: Job Description & Qualifications:

- Monitoring and controlling accounting functions and procedures, including all general accounting processes, and closing monthly accounts.
- Bachelors Degree in accounting or related fields.
- Minimum 3 years experience in related fields / position.
- Experience with accounting software and procedures.
- English literacy is an advantage.

### Administration Staff: Job Description & Qualifications:

- General office administration and stock control.
- Minimum 2 years experience in office administration & operations, with skills in both Word & Excel.
- English literacy is an advantage.
- All candidates should be currently located in Phuket, or able to relocate to Phuket.

### Customer Service & Operations Positions:

- Assistant Restaurant Manager
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Bartenders
- Waiter / Waitress
- Sous Chef
- Chef de Partie
- Commis Chef

Interested candidates are invited to send current resumes and photograph, stating present and expected salaries, to email: [mollys@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:mollys@loxinfo.co.th) or apply in person at: **Molly Malone's Irish Pub**, 94 /1 Thaweewong Road, (Beach Road) Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150 / Tel: 076 292 771 [www.mollymalonesphuket.com](http://www.mollymalonesphuket.com)

**OFFICE AND SALES**  
Manager. Tiger Muay Thai Training Camp, Chalong, is looking for an experienced female sports-minded manager for our office and sales department. Computer, English, and organization skills needed. Job requires speaking to and helping foreign guests while at our training camp. Salary, room, motorbike, + performance bonus. Tel: 076-383107, 089-8736432. Email: Wmac1@aol.com For further details, please see our website at [www.tigermuaythai.com](http://www.tigermuaythai.com)

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school. Teacher & language training. Thai-national English teacher wanted full time. Tel: 076-219241/251. Email: [tefl@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:tefl@loxinfo.co.th) Please see our website at [www.teflschoolphuket.com](http://www.teflschoolphuket.com)

**TROPICAL HOMES**  
Require an office clerk. Must have good command of English, basic accounting skills, computer literate (Excel, Word, Internet), driving license, enthusiasm. Contact David. Tel: 087-2671920. Email: [info@tropical-homes.net](mailto:info@tropical-homes.net)

**SALES & MARKETING**  
manager. If you are a highly-motivated, well-presented Thai national with an excellent command of English and a Bachelor's degree or above in marketing, we want you to join our dynamic team.

- Able to develop & execute marketing strategies
- Computer literate (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Organized and able to work independently
- Experienced in tour operations is an advantage
- Own car

A good salary, benefits & commission incentives to the successful applicant. Please contact at: 16 Soi Tueson, Hongyok U-Thit Rd, Samkong, Phuket 83000. Email: [manager@coralseekers.com](mailto:manager@coralseekers.com)

**MARKETING**  
We are looking for open-minded people who are looking for a career in marketing. You need to have good spoken and written English and experience in the tourism industry. Own transportation and computer skills needed. Tel: 084-8490443.

## Employment Wanted

### HOUSE KEEPER PART TIME

Available for European clients only. I speak English and work Monday to Friday 9 am till 3 pm. Prefer not to live in. Please call for full details. Tel: 086-946-9997.

### WORK WANTED

30-year-old NZ male, dive master, boat + fishing experience, also qualified chef, seeks any opportunity. Please call Rick for full details. Tel: 084-0599071.

### SWEDISH GIRL

seeking work! I'm a 23-year-old girl from Sweden, I'm looking for almost any kind of job in Phuket and can start November. I have an Aerobics Instructor's diploma and good skills in taking care of children, office work and lots more. Interested? Please contact. Email: [cozmoz8@hotmail.com](mailto:cozmoz8@hotmail.com)

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### GOLF CLUBS

Arnold Palmer system 2000. 6-year-old full set of Paragon USA drivers, new Taylor-made grips, new bag. 10,000 baht. Tel: 087-8957545.

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## 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  
(Scandinavian Meeting)  
**Karon**  
Wat Karon School  
on Tue, Sat at 7 pm  
For Phuket info, Please  
call 08-19564031,  
08-18912895 or 08-12732053  
(Scandinavian)

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @: 02-231-8300 (for Thai language press 3) [www.aathailand.org](http://www.aathailand.org) or email: [info@aathailand.org](mailto:info@aathailand.org)

## Business Opportunities

### BEAUTY SALON

Beauty salon for sale. Kathu. 150,000 baht or for rent. Please contact. Tel: 084-8448589. Email: [bb-anaiya@hotmail.com](mailto:bb-anaiya@hotmail.com)

### KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. All for sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 03-175-3996. Email: [boomerkamala@hotmail.com](mailto:boomerkamala@hotmail.com)

### NEW COMPANY

Looking for investor/s, profit 3 million plus per month. Looking for total investment of 6 million baht, please call for more information. Tel: 085-8880636.

### SPA AND BAR

in 1 rai with garden and swimming pool. We are looking for someone interested in building a spa and bar around the swimming pool in tropical garden area of our resort. You would have a long-term lease from us. For further details, please contact me. Email: [janco2002@hotmail.com](mailto:janco2002@hotmail.com)

### HOTEL FOR SALE

in Patong. 14-room running hotel for quick and urgent sale due to owner's sickness. Email: [info@thaorientalinn.com](mailto:info@thaorientalinn.com)

### BAR FOR SALE

Located in Soi Gonzo, 2 years left on lease. Please call. Tel: 085-7826492.

### BAR FOR SALE

Popular, successful Amigos bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. Price negotiable dependent on length of lease required. Tel: 087-8838721.

### RESTAURANT KATA

Restaurant for sale in Kata beach, cheap rent. 30-year agreement possible. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: [chilligarden@hotmail.com](mailto:chilligarden@hotmail.com)

### SUCCESSFUL BIZ

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### INVESTMENT OFFER

or partnership for building new resort or villas in Phuket or Krabi. New Marketing Co Ltd under preparation. 20/30 rai in very good location. Debt free! Email: [Zukunft@hotmail.com](mailto:Zukunft@hotmail.com)

### BAR / RESTAURANT

for sale on Nanai Rd. All fittings and furniture just 6 months old. 20 years left on lease with further options. Very profitable business. Genuine reason for sale. 1.5 million baht (negotiable). Buy now and enjoy the high season. Contact for more information. Tel: 084-8478469. Email: [ptpbar@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ptpbar@yahoo.com.au)

### BAR AVAILABLE

in Phi Phi. Beautifully-constructed bar located in a resort with high occupancy all year round. Two main bars with lots of open space surrounding a beachfront swimming pool. Great ocean views. Steady customers both day and night. 4-year renewable lease available. Friendly working environment. Well placed to catch all of the resorts foot traffic as well as tourists and locals lounging around the pool. Contact landlord directly at Tel: 089-7284532(mobile) or Fax: 076-253209. Email: [e\\_fowler0405@yahoo.ca](mailto:e_fowler0405@yahoo.ca)

### RESTAURANT /

guesthouse. In Patong, long-term lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-8723029. Email: [thaipaul@gmx.de](mailto:thaipaul@gmx.de)

### SPORTS BAR AND RESTAURANT

For sale. Large premises in Soi Sansabai, Patong. 3 million baht for 4yr lease, 50,000 a month rent. Option to extend. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-5887876.

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### KATA BEACH

Resort & Spa. 12-year leasehold for sale. Cafe, restaurant and subleases included. Zero rent, no key money: 13 million baht, next to beach and city center too! Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-541-3629. Website at [www.phuket-massage.com](http://www.phuket-massage.com)



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## BAR-RESTAURANT

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Nanai Rd, Patong. Long-term rent (2-5 years). 7 rooms, all have aircon, cable TV, fridge. No key money. Example: 5 years is 1.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8469029.

## RESTAURANT & BAR

for rent. Klong Dao Beach, Koh Lanta. 27 seats inside, 12-16 outside. 20m from main road, 140m to the beach. Lease is until March 31, 2009. Rent is 200,000 baht a year. The price includes the 1st year's rent. Asking price: 450,000 baht. Contact Conny. Tel: 089-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

## SHOWROOM

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Private ESL Tutor. Must have CELTA & experience. Tel: 089-8682563.

## Personals

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Single healthy Western male seeks open-minded husband & wife. Tel: 085-2451637.

### GENTLEMAN, 53

California & Phuket resident seeks Thai lady 30-35 for long-term relationship. I will be in Phuket in November. Please email with picture. Tel: 086-0681972. Email: ydelk@hotmail.com

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