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## IN THIS ISSUE

**NEWS:** PPEA powers up against blackouts; TTVI chief transferred. **Pages 2 & 3**

**INSIDE STORY:** Saving the sea turtles. Turtle eggs laid at Karon, but is it a sign of success or failure? **Pages 4 & 5**

**AROUND THE ISLAND:** Fishing boats get a breath of fresh air at Ao Makham. **Page 7**

**AROUND THE NATION:** Will the Year of the Pig bring bad luck to your moniker? **Page 9**

**AMBROSIA'S SECRETS:** Remembering the dating game after divorce. **Page 13**

**PEOPLE:** This pageant queen doesn't need a man to make her happy. **Pages 14 & 15**

**LIFESTYLE:** Dresses but no brides; Fashion for the golf greens. **Pages 18 & 19**

**COMPUTERS:** Internet issues - is it just me that's slow? **Page 30**

**SPORT:** BCCC Golf; Cricket; Darts; Langkawi Regetta preview; Boxing profile of the fly-weight king. **Pages 34 & 35**

**PROPERTY:** Gardening: Abstract plants; Home of the Week: Nai Harn; Decor: pure illumination; Construction: Rawai luxury apartments. **Pages 36-39**

## PLUS

**TRASH, QUEER NEWS 6; AROUND THE SOUTH 8; ACROSS THE BAY 10; HAPPENINGS 16; MOTORING 17; TRAVEL 20; CHEAP EATS 21; TAKE A BREAK 23 & 24; BOOKS, DIARY 25; EDITORIAL, LETTERS, FIRST PERSON 26 & 27; HOROSCOPES, PATTAYA 28; TOWNINGS 29; MONEY TALKS 32; ON THE MOVE, BUSINESS 33; CLASSIFIEDS 40-51.**

## Tuk-tuks protest new traffic flow

By Supanun Supawong

**PATONG:** About 40 angry tuk-tuk drivers parked their vehicles on the football field on the beach road from 5 pm until 10 pm on January 21 to protest the town's new one-way road system, which went into effect on a three-month trial basis just a week earlier.

Among the drivers' complaints are that the new system has increased traffic, travel time and operating costs - while decreasing profits of many local businesses that have lost passing trade.

An urgent meeting, chaired by Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha, was convened the following morning at Kathu District Office to hear the drivers' complaints.

A compromise solution was agreed to by both sides that the first evaluation and review of the new road system would be carried out after just 45 days, instead of 90 days as originally planned.

Madlee Sawangpol, a representative for the tuk-tuk drivers, said that the one-way system makes people drive too fast, increasing the likelihood of accidents and making it more difficult for drivers to pick up fares.

The need for traffic to drive on the right on many connecting roads is also wrong and many drivers have had difficulty getting used to it, he said.

Public hearings held before the introduction of the new system were attended by too few people representing only certain groups, he added.

Kathu Police Deputy Superintendent Pol Lt Col Chartchai Nicrodhanond, whose department worked together with



**RED-CARDED:** Tuk-tuk drivers took their vehicles off streets and parked on the football field on Thaweewong Rd in protest of the new one-way system in Patong. Photo: Yongyot Preuksarak.

Patong Municipality in introducing the one-way system, said that K. Madlee attended a public hearing on the matter at Kathu Police Station on November 10 and had agreed to the proposed changes at the time.

Col Chartchai denied that the one-way situation has worsened traffic, except on the first day when drivers were still getting used to it.

The one-way system was now a law that all drivers must obey, he added.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin and V/Gov Tri both said the tuk-tuk drivers were too quick to stage a protest, as the trial period was still only a week old.

A 56-year-old tuk-tuk driver who works the beach road told the *Gazette* that he didn't want to pass along his increased operating costs to tourists. "I don't want to raise fares [for a short journey] from 100 baht to 150 baht," he said.

The new system will have a trickle down effect on other businesses, he added.

"Tourists will no longer want to come into central Patong for dinner. Who wants to pay 400 baht in taxi fare to enjoy a 100-baht meal?" he asked.

"I used to get 300-500 baht during a daytime shift. Now on some days I have no fares at all," he said.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit told the *Gazette* that the protestors represented just a small group whose interests had been affected by the change.

"It's not as easy for tuk-tuk drivers and motorcycle taxi drivers now because they can't just stop or turn wherever they want under the new rules," he said.

Gov Niran sees the change as wonderful. "This is a great idea that was originally proposed years ago when Pongpayome Vasaputi was Governor," he said.

## Hotels still refuse to pay rooms tax

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

**PHUKET:** Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr has again threatened legal action against hotels that refuse to pay the controversial 1% rooms tax.

K. Anchalee said that the *OrBorJor* this year aims to collect 60 million baht in rooms tax, up from just more than 41 million baht collected during the fiscal year from October 1, 2005, to September 30, 2006.

However, she said that the tax collected during the past fiscal year was from 149 of the 522 hotels on Phuket.

K. Anchalee warned that the court has already passed a judgment requiring every hotel to pay the room tax. A reminder will be sent by mail to nonpaying hotels, she said.

Collection of the tax has proved difficult in the past. In fiscal 2004, some 47 million baht in revenue was collected from fewer than half of the 218 hotels in Phuket at the time.

The *Gazette* reported in January 2005 that many hoteliers, including members of the Thai Hotels Association, wanted more details about how the revenue would be spent before they would agree to paying the tax.

K. Anchalee explained that the 20-million-baht increase in rooms tax collected is expected to come from an increase in the number of tourists, in part from the Asia and Europe, but also from expanding Middle Eastern and Russian markets.

She added that the *OrBorJor* plans to ramp up tourism promotion in India, which she says offers the greatest untapped tourism potential for Phuket.



## Kamala to get traditional Thai-Chinese medical center

KAMALA: Cabinet has approved a plan to build a traditional Thai-Chinese medical center with the assistance of the Chinese government at the site of the Kamala Public Health Office.

Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Wanchai Sattayawuthipong said that the center will provide Thai and Chinese traditional treatments to both Thai and foreign patients.

The PPHO, which drew up the proposal, will now discuss the construction plan with experts from the traditional medicine section of China's Public Health Ministry.

The PPHO has budgeted 30 million baht for the project and expects additional funding from the Chinese government.

Construction is expected to begin by the end of this year, Dr Wanchai said.

Following Cabinet approval for the project, Thai Foreign Minister Nitya Pibulsonggram is now authorized to sign an Exchange of Notes drafted by the Chinese Embassy on Thailand's behalf.

Under the agreement, the Chinese government will co-ordinate a delegation to directly oversee construction.

—Janyaporn Morel

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## Phuket runs out of "smart" ID cards

PHUKET: People seeking a new "smart" national ID card will have to wait until about mid-year to get their hands on one, as all District Offices on Phuket have run out of the new cards.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana said that people will have to settle for an old-style card until the Department of Local Administration (DOLA) is able to get more smart cards from the national office of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Supattra Bhannaros, a registration officer at Phuket City Municipality, explained, "The ICT Ministry makes the smart cards and DOLA issues them. But now it seems that DOLA is having

problems getting the budget to buy more cards from the ICT Ministry."

K. Supattra explained that Phuket City Municipality received 1,000 smart cards directly from DOLA in Bangkok at the beginning of 2006, but has yet to receive more.

"Phuket City Municipality will issue the old-style card for people renewing their ID cards or applying for new ID cards. I can't say when Phuket City Municipality will start issuing smart cards again. We have to wait for DOLA," K. Supattra said.

An officer at the local DOLA office told the *Gazette* that more smart cards are expected to arrive about mid-year.

— Supanun Supawong

## Princess visits Phuket



HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha inspects a pearl during a private tour of the Phuket Pearl Industry Company factory in Koh Kaew on January 18, the first day of her recent three-day visit to Phuket.

Holder of a PhD in Law Studies from Cornell Law School in New York, Princess Bajrakitiyabha paid an official visit to the Phuket State Attorney's Office on January 19.

The Princess spent two nights at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort in Karon before leaving Phuket on January 20.

# PPEA improves supply to prevent island blackouts

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: The island's residents are expected to suffer fewer electricity supply disruptions this year as power supply will be boosted to meet expected increases in demand, the head of the island's electricity provider has reported.

Suthep Jitseree of the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) said the successful introduction of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) technology to the island's power grid has reduced blackouts by isolating power disruptions before they can spread.

The SCADA technology, which uses automatic switches to isolate disruptions, was installed in 2005 at a cost of 386 million baht, he said.

Total power usage in 2006



**TRANSFORMATION:** The PPEA will install two more substations with the same load capacity as this one on Thepkrasattri Rd to help reduce the number of blackouts affecting island residents.

was 1.138 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh), up about 5% from 2005. Usage is expected to increase another 6% by the end of 2007, K. Suthep said.

The number of users on the

increase of more than 28%. The large increase mostly reflected ongoing repairs to the grid carried out after the tsunami. Peak output is expected to be increased by a further 10% by the end of 2007.

The PPEA currently operates four substations in Phuket – in Patong, at Srisoonthorn in Thalang, on Chao Fa West Rd, and on Thepkrasattri Rd in Phuket City. They have a combined output capacity of 413 megavolt amperes (MVA), K. Suthep said.

The PPEA is seeking to increase total output capacity by 100MVA by the end of 2009 and is looking for land in Karon and Thalang to site two new substations, he said.

In the longer term, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), which manages the PPEA, has announced a plan to build three 230KV substations on the island, with construction scheduled to begin in 2010. The first of these will be built in Koh Kaew, just north of Phuket City.

Phuket power grid continues to rise, from 107,445 in 2005 to 113,800 in 2006, an increase of about 6%.

The figures include power usage on the Koh Yao islands, which, though in Phang Nga province, fall under the PPEA's service area, K. Suthep noted.

The grid's peak output was increased from 183 megawatts (MW) to 235MW during 2006, an

## The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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# Teenager arrested for brutal murder

By Janyaporn Morel

KATHU: Tung Tong Police have arrested a 17-year-old man for the brutal stabbing murder of 40-year-old Nongying "Sao" Sengton in her home near Tung Tong Market in the early hours of November 27.

Pol Lt Col Witoon Kong-sudjai, Deputy Superintendent of Tung Tong Police Station, said the arrest was made on January 16 at the youth's home in Phang Nga's Thapput District, where he had been in hiding since the murder.

The young man, who police named only as "Aek", was taken to Tung Tong Police Station the next day to re-enact the crime.

K. Sao's body was found by well-known property owner Thavorn "Pae Lian" Kajkla, who identified the victim as his "second wife", around 8 am on the day of the attack.

Her body had 15 deep stab wounds, the severity of which initially led police to believe she was murdered as a result of a personal conflict with her attacker.

However, Tung Tong Police Duty Inspector Pol Lt Col Passakorn Sonthikul told the *Gazette* that Aek said that he committed the murder solely for profit.

Aek was working as a builder in the area and lived with "Yod", a 24-year-old native of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province, who was his accomplice, Col Passakorn explained.

Yod waited outside K. Sao's home and kept watch while Aek broke into the home to steal the victim's valuables, he added.

Police have fingerprint evidence linking Aek to the murder scene, Col Passakorn said.

"When we arrested him, he confessed that he killed K. Sao because she woke up while he was searching her home," he said.

Aek told police that he sold a gold bracelet and necklace stolen from K. Sao for about 60,000 baht at a gold shop in Thapput, sharing the money with Yod.

Yod is still at large.

Aek is being held at the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center.

# TTVI chief transferred to inactive post

BANGKOK (*Kom Chad Luek/Gazette*): Pol Col Khemmarin Hassiri, the Superintendent in charge of the Thailand Tsunami Victim Identification (TTVI) center, has been transferred to an inactive position at the Police Forensic Science Office.

His transfer is pending an investigation into allegations that money donated to the TTVI was used improperly.

The allegations were initially made by the foreign diplomatic missions of Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, the US and France.

Ireland and Denmark have now added their names to the list of countries demanding an explanation from Thai police as to how funds donated by those countries were used.

Col Khemmarin told the *Gazette* that he was not worried by his transfer as it did not indicate that he himself was under suspicion.



Former Thailand Tsunami Victim Identification (TTVI) chief Pol Col Khemmarin Hassiri.

He added, however, that the move would have an impact on TTVI's work at Bangmaruan Cemetery as the team would be leaderless.

Col Khemmarin told the *Gazette* that the results of the investigation into his team would be

released to the public on February 9.

Pol Gen Ajiravid Subranbasaj, Deputy Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police, explained that Col Khemmarin's transfer was in line with standard practice to allow for transparency in an investigation.

He added that the American Embassy in Bangkok has hired international law firm Baker & McKenzie to audit the TTVI's finances from June 2005 to May 30, 2006, when the project's finances were under the control of an international committee.

On June 1, 2006, administration of the TTVI was handed over from the international committee to a panel comprising Royal Thai Police officers and one foreign auditor.

The TTVI's finances since June 1, 2006, will be investigated by the Office of the Auditor General of Thailand, Gen Ajiravid said.

## Kamala hit with a spate of burglaries

KAMALA: Three hotel rooms in Kamala were burgled on three consecutive nights from January 17 to January 19.

On January 19, the room of Atitaya Shanon, 27, from Lop Buri, and her husband Simon Shanon, 37, from Ireland, was broken into while they slept at the Pavilion Hotel.

K. Atitaya said that the thieves made off with 10,000 baht in cash, two mobile phones and a digital camera, worth a total of about 50,000 baht.

Burglaries were also reported at the Benjamin Resort on January 17 and the Twin Lotus Resort January 18. Kamala Police believe that all three burglaries are connected.

"I checked in to the hotel about 2 pm on the same day as the burglary. My husband saw two laborers near our room, so he asked to use the safe at the reception but they said they didn't have one," K. Atitaya said.

K. Atitaya explained that she and her husband returned to

their room around 10 pm, and slept through until the next morning.

They were woken up by hotel staff who said that they had found a bag that looked like one belonging to the couple at the bottom of the stairs leading to the room. When she checked, she realized she had been robbed, she said.

"I feel so bad that I was so unlucky," said K. Atitaya.

Pol Maj Monsak Srisuwan, Investigation Inspector at Kamala Police Station, said, "The burglars climbed in through the window while the victims were sleeping in their second-floor room."

"I believe the culprits were not locals as we haven't had a series of burglaries like this before."

"I have questioned the hotel staff, but did not find anything suspicious. We must patrol that area more effectively by checking more frequently," Maj Monsak added.

— Natcha Yuttaworawit

## Cost of living in Phuket rises by 4.9%

PHUKET: The consumer price index in Phuket increased 4.9% in 2006, comprising sharp increases in several food categories, the Chief of the Phuket Commercial Affairs Office, Tada Pitchayaporn, has reported.

On January 15 K. Tada announced at the monthly "Governor meets the press" meeting that food and beverage prices increased 6% overall, led by sharp increases in fruits and vegetables (12.9%); basic ingredients (17%); and meat, poultry and seafood (8.6%).

The combined increases in all non-food-and-beverage categories was 4%, led by the rising costs of fuel and public transport.

K. Tada said the increases led to a decrease in consumer buying power, explaining that in 2006 consumers were paying 104.9 baht for the same quality and quantity of goods that would have cost 100 baht in 2005.

Although the Commercial Affairs Office cannot fix market prices, it monitors sales activity in fresh markets and large retail

centers to ensure that all products are sold according to correct retail practices, such as being correctly labeled.

Although the Phuket Commercial Affairs Office cannot set market prices, K. Tada encouraged the public to report overinflated prices to the Phuket Commercial Affairs Office at Tel: 076-212-017.

Alternatively, K. Tada said that reports can be made to the Phuket Internal Trade Office at Tel: 076-216418.

— Supanun Supawong

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# Clutching on to

**R**apid development along Thailand's Andaman Coast has had a dramatic effect on the region's biodiversity – and not in a positive way. Among the most prominent victims are the area's sea turtles. Action is now being taken to reverse the decline, but some experts warn the effort is too little, too late.

The Third Naval Area Command, on Cape Panwa in Phuket, protects turtle nests on Koh Hoo Yong, also known as Island 1, one of the Similan Islands off Phang Nga.

The island, a national park where visitors are forbidden, is about 60 kilometers from Tab Lamu and takes about three hours to reach by speedboat.

Cdr Nimit Choowong explained that the Navy protects turtle eggs on Koh Hoo Yong from poaching and increases the survival rate of hatchlings by raising them until they are large enough to have a better chance of reaching maturity in the wild.

After hatching, many young turtles are picked off by monitor lizards and other predators before they can reach the sea.

Once in the water, the newly-hatched infants still have part of their egg casing attached, which causes them to float and makes them easy prey for sea birds, Cdr Nimit said.

It is estimated that if left to their own devices, only about 1% of the hatchlings survive to reproduction age.

"Three sailors stationed on the island are rotated every 15 days. Their duties include surveying the 800 meters of beach, feeding the turtles, changing their water and releasing fledgling turtles into the sea.

"Turtle eggs are incubated on the island until they hatch. When we rotate the sailors stationed on the island we take most of the young turtles to Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC). They are kept there until they are four to six months old, then released into the sea," he said.

"Since the tsunami, especially last year, the number of turtles nesting on Koh Hoo Yong has increased dramatically. We

**T**he giant leatherback turtle that hauled itself ashore on Karon Beach to lay eggs Christmas Day was the first turtle spotted nesting on that beach in 10 years. Could this be a sign that turtle conservation in the Andaman Sea region is improving?

*Gazette* reporters Sangkhae Leelanapaporn and Sompratch Saowakhon and Desk Editor Dominic Earnshaw investigate.



A green turtle being released at Cape Panwa. The turtles are raised in captivity to give them a better chance of survival.

still do not know the reason for this," Cdr Nimit said.

"When we find a turtle we name it and insert a microchip in its fin. We record where it was found, its size, where it laid its eggs and the number of eggs," he added.

"Eggs we collect are kept at our hatchery on Koh Hoo Yong. The eggs take 45 to 50 days to hatch. Last year we collected 9,047 eggs, of which 6,919 hatched; 1,261 turtles died while being raised and the rest were released at Koh Hoo Yong and other sites.

"To raise a turtle from hatching to six months old costs about 288 baht a turtle," he said.

Eggs being stolen for food is still a problem, though Cdr Nimit said that eggs on sale in Phuket are more likely to have been smuggled from Myanmar via Chiang Rai province, rather than collected locally. The eggs sell for 50 baht or more apiece, he added.

The Navy project works very closely with the PMBC. Kongkiat Kittiwattawong, a ma-

rine biologist at the center, said that in the past 60 years the number of turtle nests in Thailand has fallen from more than 2,000 to the present total of 300 to 400.

"Many turtles are lost to fishing equipment, such as floating nets. This is an international problem, but the center can control only within Thailand. Other countries need to join the effort in order to protect turtles," K. Kongkiat said.

"The important turtle nesting areas in Thailand are Phang Nga, Phuket and Koh Khram in Chon Buri. After they hatch, the young turtles feed in seas around India, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam," he said.

The PMBC has facilities to care for about 1,000 turtles at a time. The remainder are raised on Koh Hoo Yong.

"Female turtles return to [where they were born to] lay eggs every two to five years, depending on the availability of food", K. Kongkiat said. "One female turtle will lay about 400 eggs in a two- to four-month period.

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# the last of the sea turtles



Young green turtles being prepared for release at the Phuket Marine Biological Center in Cape Panwa.

"Our latest statistics show that 20 to 30 green turtles come to lay eggs on Koh Hoo Yong, 20 to 40 on the other Similan islands and 30 to 60 on Koh Khram," K. Kongkiat said.

"The eggs shouldn't be moved more than 24 hours after they were laid because by that time the nucleus will have connected with the food line, which is delicate and easily damaged.

"If you see a turtle nest, cover up the trail of the mother turtle leading from the sea so people will not be able to find the nest and do not disturb the eggs. The babies will hatch in around 55 days.

"Don't worry about people walking over the nest as the eggs are buried about 60cm underground," K. Kongkiat added.

Another group struggling to protect sea turtles in the region is the Ban Mai Khao Turtle Pres-

ervation Fund, which works with leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The fund was established in 1990 by local villagers.

Manop Kidsang, President of the group in 2005, said, "Many turtles used to lay eggs on Mai Khao Beach, but we haven't had any for two years.

"The last one we saw was a leatherback turtle that came twice in 2004 before the tsunami. It's very strange because before in November and December we would have at least one turtle. I try not to think that maybe the tsunami has made the turtles forget their home.

"We have educated villagers about the importance of preserving our turtles, but I think it has come too late.

"Before, when turtles came here regularly, no one cared that their eggs were being stolen for food as turtle eggs are a delicacy

for local people. Now almost all villagers love the turtles and want to protect them.

"Now I wonder where our turtles have gone. All of the problems come from people. Maybe people in Mai Khao won't have the opportunity to see them anymore. This thought makes me feel very bad and full of regret," he said.

Songpol Tippayawong, Head of WWF Thailand's Marine and Coastal Resources Unit, said, "We are helping Tai Muang National Park [in Phang Nga] to conserve sea turtle nesting sites.

"Tai Muang has one of the last two leatherback turtle nesting sites in Thailand. Actually, it is probably the last one now because no turtle nestings have been reported at Mai Khao Beach for a couple of years.

"They have probably disappeared from that site as there is

too much development in the area. Leatherbacks are very specific, they nest only on the mainland, and only the Tai Muang area is still suitable for them.

"The most serious threat to sea turtles is commercial trawlers and some kinds of fishing gear such as steel nets and lines with a number of hooks attached. There are no laws to prevent [these practices] and no one is really working to solve this problem.

"Controlling the number of trawlers that can be licensed per area per year would be very helpful, as would cracking down on harmful fishing gear

"Encroachment to their nesting sites is another problem. Now there are very few places suitable for turtles to nest because tourism and urbanization is extending to Phang Nga and many other places that used to be pristine," he said.

"Zoning the coastal area more effectively or more appropriately would also help. For example, we have research showing that places with high light intensity from hotels, resorts or

other development will have less turtles nesting compared to undisturbed areas – or even no nests at all," K. Songpol said.

Asked about the effectiveness of captive-raising turtles, K. Songpol replied, "We have few other options. I cannot say it is 100% good, but it is a way we can help. We have to help them.

"I don't think [raising the turtles away from the beach] will have an effect on their navigating system because this instinct is already rooted in their genes, their DNA.

"It has taken thousands of generations to develop this instinct so it cannot be changed in such a short time. I support the Navy project on Koh Hoo Yong and have arranged some workshops with them.

"In my opinion, we have no hope of conserving turtles here, they're going to be extinct in Thai waters very soon, especially the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and leatherback.

"The only two that could survive are the green turtle and hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)," he said.



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## Queer News

## A really dumbo idea

PHITSANULOKE: A drunk was left with critical head injuries after being slammed into a tree by an elephant he was teasing.

The unfortunate event transpired on the morning of January 17. A crowd of curious villagers had gathered near the entrance to Wat Muang Hawm ("Temple of the Fragrant Mango") in Tambon Kaengsopha, Wangthong District, to see an elephant that had been chained by his mahout to a bodhi tree.

The elephant, a 15-year-old male named Plai Bodhi-ngen, was to perform in an elephant show later that day. He was also one of two elephants under the care of mahout Pramote Pomsuwan, 55. K. Pramote, employed by the Chaityaphum-based Bodhirat traveling elephant show, had left the other elephant chained to a tree near a stream about two kilometers away.

The crowd, including the temple abbot, was standing around admiring the elephant when local resident Sai Thamaku, 59, stepped up to the beast. Despite the early morning hour, K. Sai was drunk and began hugging the elephant's trunk.

When the crowd warned him to be careful, he bragged that it was no problem, because he was an old and experienced ma-

hout. He also said he had stolen many elephants in his time, selling them for profit.

To demonstrate that he had no fear of the elephant, he knocked hard on Plai Bodhi-ngen's trunk.

The pachyderm, angered by K. Sai's knocking, shook his trunk hard, sending the drunken ex-mahout to the ground. But the elephant didn't stop there. He then wrapped his trunk around Sai's waist, picked him up like a rag doll and threw him against the tree.

A branch pierced K. Sai's mouth, leaving a gash that ripped open his face and extended all the way to the back of his skull.

Hearing screams, Plai Bodhi-ngen's mahout, K. Pramote, rushed back to calm the enraged beast before calling the police to report the attack.

K. Sai was rushed to nearby Wangthong Hospital and eventually transferred to the better-equipped Buddhachinaraj Hospital in Phitsanuloke's Muang District.

K. Pramote said that Plai Bodhi-ngen had never before attacked a human, which was why he felt it was safe to leave him alone among a crowd of strangers.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

TRASHING  
Phuket


There are trends in everything – the latest restaurant, the trendiest brunch, the coolest disco. All change constantly but every now and then one will find favor again with the public.

So, too, with illegal garbage dumps. This week, Soi Panieng, between Samkong and Koh Kaew, is once more being enjoyed, as can be inferred from the exuberance of the gent flinging spent sugarcane from his truck (above). Pictured on the right, this dump is on the same road, just across the other side.

Clearly, this is *the* place to dump. Get there quick with your oozing plastic bags and sticky mattresses.

Want to promote a new favorite? Email a pic and short description to [dump@phuketgazette.net](mailto:dump@phuketgazette.net).








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# FISHING WITH WIND IN THEIR SAILS

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Innovative thinkers are at it again in the Andaman region. After high fuel prices began taking a toll on the already suffering fishing industry, the Chaipattana Foundation, the Department of Fisheries and the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau joined together to inject a gust of fresh air by adding sails to the engine-driven boats.

The fiberglass fishing boats were supplied by the Chaipattana Foundation, which was created by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej to serve any urgent needs of the people.

After the 2004 tsunami the Chaipattana Foundation worked with the Thai Red Cross to donate 500 fiberglass boats to fisheries in six stricken regions.

Rangsan Chayakul, the Director-General of the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau, said, "We aim to help local fishermen improve their lives by cutting their expenses.

"However, we still keep the engines on the boats to use when there is no wind".

K. Rangsan said that the fisheries taking part in the project don't use much equipment and have no more than four employees. They are currently testing the sails with fishing boats at Ao Makham.

"After the tests are complete, we will give sails to fishermen with fiberglass boats; many of them are interested in this.



**LONG TAIL, TALL SHIP:** The researchers test the trapezoidal sail, which was judged to be the best shape.

"If it is successful in these six Andaman provinces, we have plans to expand to other provinces too," K. Rangsan said.

Praulai Nootmorn PHD, the Director of Andaman Sea Fisheries Research and Development Center, Department of Fisheries, told the *Gazette* that they tested

three kinds of sail shapes: triangle, rectangle and trapezoid. The trials showed the trapezoid sail was best-suited to the fishing boats.

"From the test we found there have to be two people on the boat to control it, one on the tiller and the other to control the sail," K. Praulai said.

"The program has received very good feedback from fishermen.

"On the day we tested the sails we saw many people watching us. They were probably wondering what were we doing. The local fisherman told me they paid 100 baht for fuel for three days,

so if they use sail part of the time they can save about 40 to 50% of their costs," K. Praulai said.

"We will start with four to five fishermen who are really interested in this, and then we need to get their feedback and spread the word to other fishermen," added K. Praulai.

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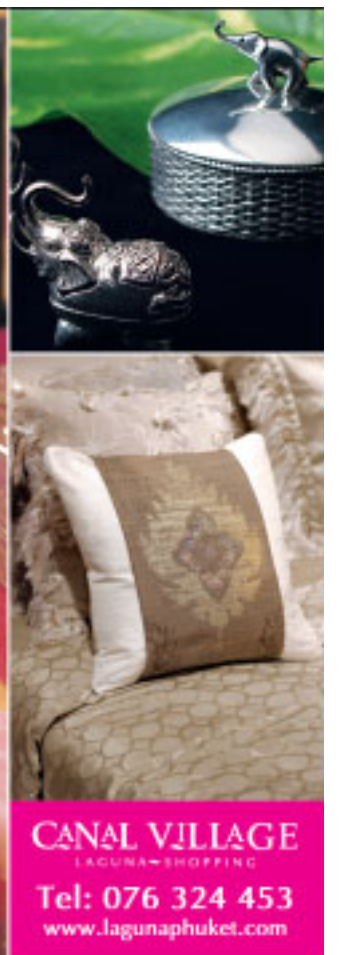
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# Man, 87, beaten, strangled by son in family feud

Police in Thung Yai District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, on January 17 arrested 60-year-old Sommai Janjaem for the murder of his 87-year-old father, Ran. The alleged killer's 40-year-old younger sister, Ratee, was arrested for attempting to cover up the crime.

The investigating officer, Pol Lt Col Nitithon Thanseresagul, Deputy Superintendent of Thung Yai District Police Station, said that K. Ran's death was reported to them by Ratee at 3 am, January 6.

Ratee claimed that her father had been killed in a break-in about 5 pm the previous day. The 10 hours between K. Ran's death and the report to the police immediately raised suspicions, Col Nitithon said.

Police investigations revealed that Sommai, K. Ran's oldest son, had come to speak to his father at his house in Tambon Prik, Thung Yai, Col Nitithon continued.

Sommai was allegedly angry with his father for receiving a smaller share of the family's

rubber plantation than he had hoped for.

When K. Ran refused to agree to his son's plans to install rubber processing equipment, an argument broke out and Sommai beat his father with a metal rubber-rolling pin and then strangled him with a length of rope, Col Nitithon said.

Col Nitithon explained that Ratee was present at the time of the attack and out of fear and a wish to keep her brother out of prison, agreed to help conceal the crime.

The pair then scattered possessions around and planted evidence to make it seem as if a break-in had occurred, Col Nitithon said.

Sommai was charged with murder. Ratee was charged with obstructing justice. Both denied the charges.

Ratee was released on bail of 80,000 baht. Sommai, however, was refused bail on the grounds that he had a criminal record. He had previously served 18 months in prison for assaulting his parents.



**EXPLOSIVE EVIDENCE:** Police and Army officers examine the scene where a bomb wounded two soldiers outside a local religious school in Narathiwat's Joh Ai Rong District January 17.

**Village chief shot:** Yongyut Seuphem, Phu Yai Baan (village chief) of Village 1, Tambon Khuankalong, Satun province, was seriously wounded when he was blasted by a shotgun while he was on his way to tap rubber.

His assailant, who was allegedly laying in wait for him, fired just once before fleeing into the bushes.

Police are unsure of the motive for the attack as K. Yongyut was not known to have any enemies.

However, police are investigating a dispute between local villagers that he had recently brought to a resolution.

**Ya bah couple caught:** A man and his wife were arrested for selling *ya bah* (methamphetamine) in Ranong, January 13.

The couple, Manop Sukneam, 39, and his wife, Phakphean Chonsin, 29, were arrested by undercover police officers outside Wat Hadsompan as they were negotiating a deal with Sumet Chiwarorot, 25, who was also arrested.

Police found 361 pills of *ya bah* in the trouser pockets of the three suspects. All three were charged at Ranong Muang District Police Station.

**Nasty nephew:** A man was ar-

rested for leading an armed gang in robbing his aunt's house in Thung Yai District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The victims, Sarot and Metta Majaroen, told police that at 1 am, January 18, five masked men forced their way into their house in Tambon Thung Yai. One of the men then pistol whipped K. Sarot until his face was covered in blood, while another held a knife to K. Metta's throat.

The gang made off with 20,000 baht in cash, jewelry made with about 180 grams of gold and 12 mobile phones, the victims told police.

K. Sarot's wounds required 12 stitches.

At 9:10 am the same day, Pol Sen Sgt Maj Taweesak Lekkla and Pol Sen Sgt Maj Suchat Praphreuk from Thung Song District Police Station, spotted a Toyota Tiger pickup matching the description of the vehicle used in the robbery parked in front of Thung Song train station.

When they approached the vehicle, the four men standing beside it all attempted to flee.

Police caught Somkiat Sangchuay, 30, and K. Metta's nephew, Phisit Reuthiphan, 26. Inside the truck they found five guns, a box of ammunition, two gold bracelets and three mobile phones.

At 11:30 am police arrested a third suspect, who they named only as Wutiwong, 24.

*Around The South news round-up is sourced from the pages of Kom Chad Luek newspaper.*

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# Isarn folk flock to change names

**D**istrict Offices in the Northeast are facing a shortage of name-change forms after being overrun with people wishing to avoid bad luck in the Chinese Year of the Pig, which begins in February.

Astrologers have warned that individuals with names that start with the Thai letters "sor sua" or "por pla" would have bad luck in the Year of the Pig.

The Muang District Office in Nakhon Ratchasima ran out of name-change forms after being faced with 100-200 people a day applying to change their names over recent weeks. About 60% of applicants had names starting with the two unlucky letters. Similar scenes have occurred in Ubon Ratchathani and Khon Kaen.

Police are unconcerned because an individual's details and criminal record could still be checked via computer since the number on the national ID card remains the same after a name change, a spokesman said.

**Reverse insemination?** After the government approved in principle a proposal to amend the criminal code so that male rape victims would be able to sue their abusers, National Police Assistant Commissioner Jongrak Juthanont



**CAUGHT RED HANDED!** Suwat Khongbutr, 24, after his arrest for the stabbing murder of Charin Prathanporn, a 50-year-old fish vendor in Tambon Mahachai of Samut Sakhon's Muang District. Suwat stabbed his victim 13 times in an attempt to steal a 3-bahtweight (45 gram) gold chain and a Buddha image amulet, both of which were recovered by police.

said it would be difficult – but not impossible – to prove such charges.

Pol Col Pornchai Sutteerakhun of the Forensic Medicine Institute said physical examinations could find evidence in men who were forced to have anal sex if the victims immediately went to doctors.

Meanwhile, Women's Af-

fairs and Family Development Office Deputy Director Kingkeaw Insawang said the proposed legal amendment was intended to protect all rape victims, including boys, men and transsexuals.

The change focuses on a loophole in the current criminal code, which now defines a rapist as someone who rapes a woman who is not his wife.

In the proposed draft, rapists are defined as those who rape a person who is not their wife or husband.

**R&D upgrade:** The Science and Technology Ministry will introduce a bill proposing Thailand spend a minimum of 1% of gross domestic product (GDP) on science and technology in order to increase the country's international competitiveness.

Currently Thailand spends just 0.26% of its 7-trillion-baht GDP on science and technology development.

"The goal is expected to be achieved in the next few years. When the science minister met recently with the prime minister, the latter extended his full support for the proposed law," said Dr Teerachai Pornsinsirak, Deputy Chief of the National Nanotechnology Center.

Thailand's spending on science and technology is among the lowest in Asia.

"More advanced countries such as Taiwan and Korea spend more than 1% of GDP on science and technology," Dr Teerachai said.

**Fuzzy logic:** Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said an organizational revamp of the 200,000-

member Thai police force would be completed within the one-year term of the interim government.

Presiding over the opening ceremony of a seminar on the government's law enforcement policy, PM Surayud said one of the proposed solutions was the establishment of one national-level police policy committee, nine independent regional-level police policy committees and an independent committee to take public complaints of police misconduct.

More power decentralization to regions, the transfer of missions deemed not essential police duties to other agencies, and the improvement of 1,450 police stations and public security services were also proposed by the newly-established Police Development Commission.

Other proposals included improving the police investigation system, a change in the ranking system, and greater public participation in policing communities.

The revamp would reduce political interference in police work and increase public participation, the Prime Minister said.

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



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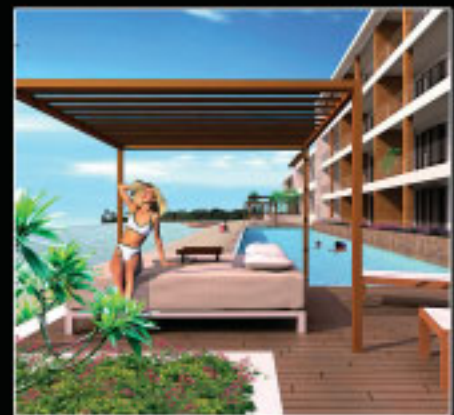
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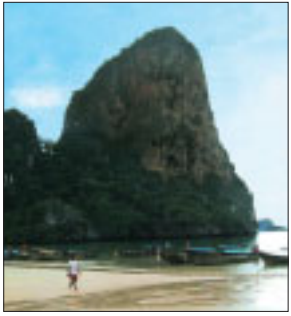
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## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

**T**he high season has been a good one so far, with high occupancy rates at hotels and waiting lines at restaurants.

But the first good season in years has highlighted an old problem we have already discussed, but have yet to solve: the lack of qualified staff.

Business owners are scratching their heads as staff jump from job to job for an extra 1,000 baht a month.

Sudden "sicknesses" during the peak season are common, and the complaints from staff have changed from the low season complaint of being bored to the high season complaint of being tired.

One resort owner told of a number of his staff threatening to quit on New Year's unless they receive raises.

With three large resorts, The Central, The Sheraton and The Sofitel, all competing for



Dr Vivian Broadway-Firmage (left), who survived the 2004 tsunami on Koh Phi Phi, poses with her family and the staff of Krabi Hospital, where she operated her free dental clinic for tsunami orphans on January 6 and 7.

The project underway here is a marine conservation project run by Marten Meynell, who co-ordinates volunteers who pay their own way to work on the project.

Projects-Abroad, which started in 1992 by sponsoring teaching programs in Africa and Asia, is now operating in some 20 countries.

Their projects have expanded over the years to include community care, child support, medical aid and research, conservation and language classes.

Volunteers man these programs under the direction of Projects-Abroad professionals.

In Krabi, the project is focused on marine conservation and has several components.

The dive-based programs include reef monitoring, maintenance of artificial reefs, salvage diving and clean-up of waste materials.

Projects-Abroad operates in conjunction with the Ao Nang Scuba Center, allowing volunteers to get their PADI certification while helping with the clean up.

The second part of this program is the land-based clean-ups of the local beaches and outlying islands.

From Ao Nang to Koh Poda to Klong Muang, the group has been busy cleaning the beaches of debris.

The other major project being run by the team is mangrove replanting and maintenance. Using nurseries to grow young plants, they rehabilitate damaged areas.

Finally, when the group has spare time, they work with local authorities in mosquito control efforts as well as teach environmental awareness classes at local schools.

For more information about Projects-Abroad you can check their website at [www.projects-abroad.com](http://www.projects-abroad.com).

# High season staffing shortage – yet again

staff, smaller boutique resorts and restaurants are suffering as their workers are plucked away.

Many businesses have resorted to employing part-time stu-

dents, which involves time-consuming training and monitoring.

Those who have best weathered the storm are family-run businesses, as family members tend to be more reliable and trustworthy; or at least show up for work.

**Polishing pearly whites:** On January 6 and 7, Krabi Hospital was the location of a free dental clinic for children who lost parents in the 2004 Asian tsunami.

The clinic was spearheaded by Dr Vivian Broadway-Firmage, a dentist from California who survived the tsunami on Koh Phi Phi with her husband and two daughters.

Dr Broadway-Firmage raised money and materials in the US through dental supply companies who even provided her

with the latest hand-held portable X-ray machine.

Over a two-day period, the children and their families were brought to the clinic by the SripHong Phukaoluan Foundation, or [www.krabirelief.com](http://www.krabirelief.com), whose Tsunami Child Sponsorship Program is supporting 101 children in Krabi.

The clinic was a major success and both the Mayor of Krabi, Keritisuk Phukaoluan, and the new Governor of Krabi, Siwa Sirisaowalak, were in attendance.

After their work was done, there were a lot of smiles showcasing cleaner teeth.

**Helping is contagious:** Projects-Abroad, a UK-based organization with a variety of programs worldwide, has been operating in Krabi Province since May 2005.

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How easy is it to date again when you are over 35? Until a few months ago this question would have been entirely academic, but in the past few months three of my friends have separated, divorced or split up from their long-term partners.

It sounds scary just writing about joining the ranks of semi-detached femaledom, as in separation and not divorce, with two kids. My friend Laura has assured me that the reality is even more terrifying.

After eight years of being in a relationship she now faces a choice. She can do what one British TV presenter did and retire to the kitchen to tend tirelessly to the needs of her children – and hit the biscuit tin – or she can do a Meg Matthews. After splitting from Noel Gallagher of the rock band Oasis, she hired a nanny and advertised her availability – naked – on the cover of a magazine.

Real life is not that simple, of course. Most women who find themselves suddenly single in their 30s, 40s or beyond are looking to occupy a middle ground somewhere between saintly earth mother and sex siren. They want a relationship, but they certainly don't want all the hassle from the last time – a new life, definitely, but it still has to fit around the remnants of the old one.

The question is: how do you do that? The biggest issue for many seems to be fear – fear of getting naked in front of a new man, fear of making a fool of oneself after a couple of G and Ts, fear of upsetting the children, or just fear of failing.

I have another girlfriend who left her husband after a decade of marriage. She is now happily ensconced with a new man, but along the way she dated a few undesirables, spent a few hours waiting by the phone for Mr Wrong to ring, and had her fair share of cries over Chardonnay.

She says women in their prime shouldn't be worried about bodies that have gone a bit. An ounce of sexual enthusiasm is worth a pound of pert flesh, apparently. The key can be to go

# LEPERWOMAN looking for Mr Right



**Getting a bit desperate: don't forget to get a new bed first.**

for a younger man. "My first boyfriend after my husband was 21," she explained. "He loved the fact that I didn't give a damn in bed."

Twenty-one might be pushing it a bit, and indeed that relationship didn't last. But the chance to enjoy great sex can be a huge ego-boost in itself. According to another 40-something friend, "If in doubt, get a good bra and keep it on in bed. He'll think you are being naughty when you're just keeping them hitched up."

This presupposes you've managed to get a date in the first place. That can be a major stumbling block. I can understand when my friends complain of rusty dating skills. When it comes to eyes meeting across a crowded room, they don't even remember how. And as for the etiquette of exchanging phone numbers and who pays for dinner, it can all become a bit of a blur.

"Texting is really big," explained a born-again single in her 40s. "You don't give your home number, you give your mobile and then you flirt."

"Flirt?" my friend Chris exclaimed. "I can barely see the screen on my mobile without glasses, let alone flirt..." I suppose this method has the advantage that if you have to dump him, you don't have to do it face to face.

So if you're over 30, where can you go to meet a half-decent bloke? Nightclubs are probably out. The competition is likely to be younger and more lithe – and won't have a babysitter they have to get back to.

Another possible source is friends, but they tend to be cozily coupled up. And the teenage parties where everyone was available are probably just a distant memory. Instead, you are now Leperwoman, the sole single fe-



male whose only purpose in life, it is assumed, is to steal someone else's chap. Frankly, you're lucky if you get invited out at all.

Some friends might line up a spare man for you at a dinner party, of course. This happened to Chris. "They didn't warn me," she said. "Fortunately, he was as embarrassed as I was, so we turned it into a bit of a laugh. I didn't fancy him, though." That was probably the best way to deal with it – make him a conspirator rather than a potential father for your children.

For younger people the prime hunting ground is the workplace. But while getting off with Derek in accounts at the office party is fine if you're Tracy the photocopy assistant, if you're the MD it's a huge no-no.

My friend Sarah, a senior PR executive in London, had a relationship with a man junior to her. "The other men, in particular, were really snuffy about it," she said. "There were loads of jokes behind my back about Lady Chatterley."

Which leaves dating agencies, the small ads and the Inter-

net. It's best to approach all three with caution. I have one friend who met a man on the Internet. He sounded really nice, but when she met him face to face she didn't find him attractive. She tried to let him down gently, but he turned a bit nasty and took to leaving threatening messages on her phone.

This may all sound a bit depressing, but as I said, I have a girlfriend who is living proof that you can start again in your late 30s – with a bit of luck and a huge helping of optimism. She met her chap when he came to landscape her garden. But she doesn't have kids, and the greatest worry must be that children would hate any new man brought into their lives. "The scenario of my daughter clinging to my leg as I attempt to go out the door on a date beckons," said Claire. "In my imagination at least."

Kate, a lawyer and single mother, is adamant her child hasn't suffered because of her relationship. "My six-year-old was desperate for a daddy," she said. Still, when Kate met a new man she was careful to keep him off-site until she knew he was serious. "I didn't want my daughter getting attached in case we broke up," she admitted.

According to those who've done it, the tricky stage with kids probably only lasts until they're teenagers anyway. By that time, they'd be glad if you went out with *anyone*, so long as it stopped you nagging them to tidy up their bedrooms.

Thinking of bedrooms, here is one last piece of advice from a girlfriend who is dating again – get a new bed. "The last thing you want is to be reminded of your ex," she said.

*Ambrosia Sakkadas, a UK-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her first novel, Greek Girls Don't Cry, is available now.*

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# MEN? WHO NEEDS THEM?

Being voted the most popular woman in a beauty pageant for widows and divorcees may not seem like an honor to some people, but for Lamyong Thanarak it confirms that she made the right decision in her life. K. Lamyong talks with the *Gazette's* Suganya Semacote about the decisions she made to end her marriage, her feelings about men and the happiness divorced women have to look forward to.

Pageants are a popular attraction at the annual Rawai-Nai Harn Beach Tourism Season Opening and New Year Festival, but none is quite as unusual as the *Mae Mai* Pageant, a competition to crown the most beautiful *mae mai* – divorced or widowed woman.

At this year's festival, local woman Lamyong Thanarak was named "Most Popular", thanks to the number of roses her friends showered upon her.

"I am happy that I received this award and very happy with all my friends' kindness. They gave me many roses, which counted as votes [in the 'most popular' section of the contest].

"I was delighted. I expected, as a local person who has lived here for a long time and has many friends, that I would get at least one award," says K. Lamyong, 48, who divorced her husband 10 years ago.

K. Lamyong married when she was 20 years old. The couple had two sons, but after 18 years she divorced her husband, citing

"mutual misunderstanding" as one of the reasons for their split.

"I would have wasted time if we had stayed together, with nothing getting better and no understanding. We are better apart," she said.

"My ex-husband was never responsible for taking care of me and my sons anyway. He liked to go out drinking, flirting and hanging around..."

"One day I said, 'That's enough, for 18 years I have been patient'," she says.

K. Lamyong had separated from her husband before, after two years of marriage, but returned to live with him.

"He told me he would be good and would not do the same

things he did. But eventually he went back to his old ways.

"Initially I thought it was just normal family problems, but it ended up being too much for me to handle."

By then her sons were 18 and 14 years old, and she felt they were old enough to accept that their parents couldn't be together.

K. Lamyong said that her friends and family were not surprised about her divorce; they had suspected it was coming.

"I would like to tell all women that being divorced shows that you can live and survive without a man in this world. We do our best. Do what makes you happy. Be strong. I am doing whatever makes me happy."



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**ALONE AGAIN, HAPPILY:** K. Lamyong (center, after being voted Most Popular) is happier without hubby.

As for K. Lamyong's feelings on men in general, she'd rather keep them as friends.

There was a man who wanted her to live with him, but she had to tell him "no", she says. She admits she enjoys being independent and free, and doesn't want to go back to being a wife.

"I don't think I will ever remarry because I can live by myself, and I don't need to depend on anyone.

"I have my sons and a job, which is sufficient enough to take care of me and my sons," she says with a smile.

"My sons say that I look happy to be single and they want me to keep it this way. They do not want to see me unhappy again."

She has worked as a cook for 30 years, currently at Jasmine restaurant and previously at a restaurant of her own.

Now K. Lamyong would like to open her own restaurant again with the help of her sons.

"I never feel sad, and I wasn't sad at all after ending my marriage. Before we separated I was patient but [18 years was] long enough. I was sorry that I wasted so much time on being patient.

She smiles. "Now I feel very free and I'm happier than ever before."

## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket



**ABOVE:** Herawaki BJ Soleh and Colin Kidner exchange rings during their wedding at the Club Andaman Beach Resort on January 10.



**LEFT:** Thananat Chanhomthong and Teerasak Thongrakkhao were married on December 15 last year at the Pearl Hotel in Phuket City.

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## This week



**WINE & DINE:** Aleenta Resort & Spa General Manager Anchalika Kijkanakorn (right) and Castello Banfi wineries Asia-Pacific Export Director Richard Goodine show off one of the vintages sampled at the Aleenta's first wine dinner of 2007.



**REFRESHING RETURN:** Suchart Vikittipong (center), Chief Operations Officer and Hotel manager of Katathani Phuket Beach Resort, welcomes Finnish Justice Minister Leena Luhtanen (left) and her husband Jahani to a cocktail party held for the resort's returning guests.



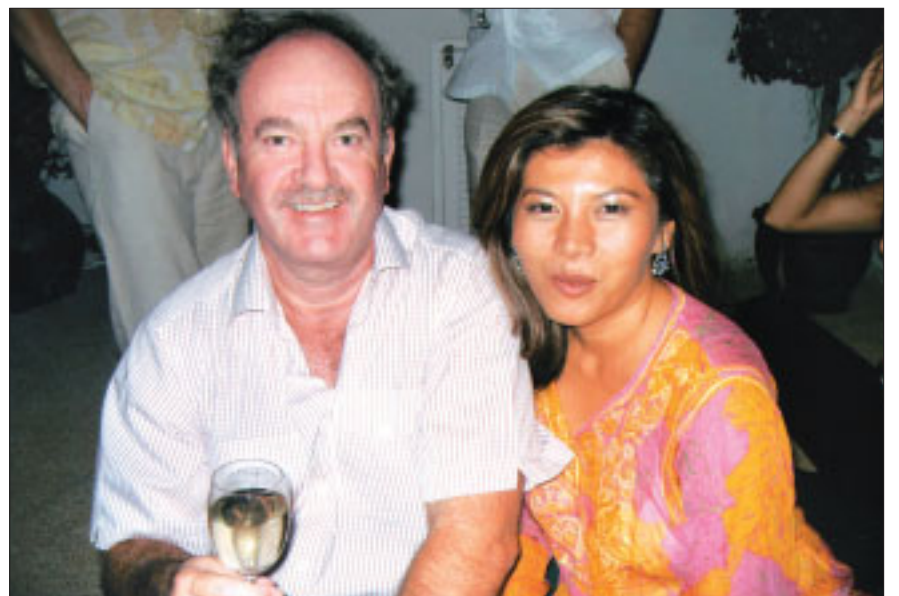
**SUNNY SIDE UP:** (From left) *Phuket Gazette* Editorial Consultant Alasdair Forbes, Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club General Manager Denis Thouvard, ArtAsia Press Managing Director John Everingham and writer Fiona Stalker (seated) savored a spread of food and wine – and the view – at the Nai Harn resort's first weekly Sunday brunch.



**SPECIAL SERVICE:** Oriental Leisure Managing Director Worapot Saboa lends a hand as he and his staff join IBM International Phuket staff in serving food at the Phuket Home for the Elderly in Pa Khlok. The companies donated 10,000 baht each to the Phuket Home for the Elderly and Phuket Special School.



**LADIES AND LATTES:** Sombat Wasikan and Kietkong Aongrungruang (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from right) celebrate the opening of their 32120 Coffee Shop near Phuket International Airport, with Thasane Bunyung and (front, from left) the *Gazette*'s Advertising Sales Exec Manasanan 'Jeab' Bunto, Managing Director Oranee 'Ann' Pienprasertkul and Marketing Manager Natthira 'Anna' Susangrat.



**HIGH-FLYING FINISH:** Cathay Pacific Captain Peter Hay and Donnaphat Skunrattapas, Director of Kai Tak Furnishings, enjoy his Christmas party on the roof of his recently-completed penthouse at the Royal Phuket Marina.

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# One to add to the wish-list



The Toyota Wish is the car Toyota does not want you to know about. Well, not quite, but despite representations direct to Toyota in Japan, the *Gazette* was unable to obtain photographs of the vehicle. The image you see on this page was captured in Rawai by your intrepid scribe.

The Wish is a popular domestic Japanese model, first introduced in January 2003, together with an expensive advertising campaign featuring Japanese singer Hikaru Utada.

It is imported into Thailand in CKD (completely knocked-down) form; in other words, it comes as a kit of parts with some local components added.

By assembling the vehicle here in Thailand, it means the Wish is considerably better value than comparable imported models.

Thai assembly plants, located on the outskirts of Bangkok, are producing ever more vehicles. Outside the US, Thailand is now the world's largest producer of pick-up trucks, many of them for export to other Asian countries.

Toyota, which began operations in Thailand in 1956, has steadily increased its presence here until it reached its current status.

This year, Toyota is forecasting a 6% rise in production volumes to a staggering 9.42 million vehicles and is likely to overtake General Motors as the world's No 1 automaker.

In Thailand it is already number one, with more than 80% of the SUV market, 38% of pick-ups and almost half the sedan market.

A little larger than the extremely popular Honda Jazz or the recently introduced Toyota Yaris, the recently face-lifted Wish offers reasonable space and comfort, together with a high degree of safety.

If there is a complaint it's that the Wish looks rather anonymous. It's one of those vehicles where you have to look at the badge to discover what it is. It does not say with any emphasis "Toyota" or indeed "Wish".

The Wish features a strong two-liter power plant sourced from the popular RAV4 along with various unusual features for a vehicle of this class, including traction control, a rarity at this level. Anti-lock braking is also standard.

Inside, sumptuous individu-



al captain's seats with a walk-through feature comprise the second row seating, while an additional third row makes the Wish thoroughly practical for large families or groups of friends.

A host of trays and oddments bins are all handily placed, while there are standard cupholders for each seat. There is also a novel hook on the passenger door to accommodate a shopping bag.

There is a one-touch moon roof and a "smart" entry system using a proximity card within the ignition key.

Headlamps are high-intensity discharge lights proving good visibility in even the darkest corners of the island, while the rear lamps are of the energy-saving LED type.

The two-liter RAV4 engine produces a healthy 208 bhp (153 kW) at 6,000 rpm, with a maximum torque output of 192 Nm.

No speed or acceleration figures are revealed by Toyota, but reckon on around 200 km/h maximum velocity and a benchmark 0-100 km/h time of a little over 10 seconds.

Figures apart, the Wish feels responsive and reasonably nimble, despite its six/seven seat specification.

The mid-sized Toyota SUV has spawned a rash of competitors, notably the Mazda 5 (not yet available in Thailand) and the highly acclaimed Honda Stream.

Another contender is the newly introduced Toyota Avanza, although this is both smaller

and more expensive as it is imported fully assembled.

The Wish starts at 1.1 million baht and comes with a 36-

month or 100,000-kilometer warranty, whichever comes first. For more information go to [www.toyota.co.th](http://www.toyota.co.th)

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# A market made for marriage

A destitute corner of Europe hides a breathtaking pink and white surprise: thousands of wedding dresses.

Acres of frothing lace, dripping chiffon and figure-enhancing corsets, plus a mind-numbing selection of frocks and accessories, jam the Kalinovsky Market, a sometimes-muddy open-air bazaar on the outskirts of Chernivtsi, near Ukraine's border with Romania.

"We in Chernivtsi have always sewn wedding dresses; this was our tradition even during Soviet times," explained Vavara Kostiuk, owner and operator of one of the market's 300-plus specialist shops.

Roughly half of eastern Europe's languages echo off the Kalinovsky's pre-fab trading stalls on a busy day. You'll hear discussions on wedding dresses in Ukrainian, Russian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Georgian, Uzbek, Hebrew or Yiddish.

"That's one big reason there is a market specializing in wedding dresses out here," said Ihor Vybid, a registration lawyer working at the Kalinovsky. "This town is the old intersection between the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires."

"There are no natural riches here, so what wealth we have,

we have to make for ourselves," Kostiuk said.

An estimated 30,000 traders work at the Kalinovsky, making the market the largest employer and taxpayer in a district roughly the size of Luxembourg. The trading center operates its own cafes (better kept and attended than in the regional seat Chernivtsi), fire department, police force and medical clinic.

Irina Bortusiak is one of thousands of Chernivtsi women working at the Kalinovsky.

Bortusiak operates trading point 73, a four-meter square cubicle in a building containing 40 cubicles. She and a partner, both trained seamstresses, rent the stall. Their stock averages 20 dresses on hand, but they are willing to take an order for 100 times more, for the right customer.

"The whole Chernivtsi region supports the wedding dress trade," she said. "There are villages nearby where the women do nothing but sew – the men are unemployed or working abroad. So if we can't sew it, we farm it out."

A modest but attractive wedding dress, made in the village of Voloka, costs around US\$80. It arrives at the Kalinovsky partially finished, and when



Irina Bortusiak, businesswoman and seamstress, at the Kalinovsky market in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, with one of her creations.

trading point 73 completes it, the article sells for around US\$200, depending on the finish, Bortusiak said.

The most expensive fabric available at the Kalinovsky is In-

donesian raw silk at US\$65 a meter. Also commanding high prices are crinoline, moray and organza; usually from places like Turkey, Thailand and Vietnam.

A top-end dress with first-

rate materials and tailoring costs US\$300 to manufacture. It will sell in Kiev for twice that, and in Moscow or Paris for as much as five times the manufacturer's cost, workers at the market said.

Rhinestones, bugle beads and handmade bangles make their way to the Kalinovsky market by the ton from China and India. Glistening decorations sufficient to decorate one gown will set back a dress maker a cool US\$100 per dress, but with the right saleswoman the glitter can triple the retail value of a dress.

This summer at the Kalinovsky there was a big run of enameled steel eyelets and thick white lacing, as laced corsets not quite closing fully were in fashion, to enhance a bride's nicely-tanned back.

Tailors' mannequins cost between US\$25 and US\$125 each, depending on its origin. The cheapest are Turkish, the most expensive are Polish.

Ukraine makes its own mannequins as well, available at a mid-range US\$70 each.

The Ukrainian mannequins are superior to the foreign competition, more than one saleswoman claimed. Why?

"A typical marriage-age Ukrainian girl has a more substantial bust and a more svelte hips and waist than foreign girls," explained mannequin trader Edvina Grigorievna, with more than a trace of pride.

"So naturally our Ukrainian mannequins model the shape of our girls better."

A huge problem in the business, Kostiuk and Bortusiak agreed, is creating a dress that is simultaneously fashionable yet unique.

"We sell to anyone – retail, wholesale, everyone is a customer for us," she said. "But frankly, I prefer wholesale. With this market right at their door, Chernivtsi brides are the most spoiled in the world!"

Stefan Korshak, dpa

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# When it's OK to be above par

By Supanun Supawong  
& Natcha Yuttaworawit

**O**n the golf course players are surrounded by lush greens, tall trees and serene water ponds – also known as fairways, rough and water hazards.

In this gorgeous setting, who wouldn't want to look their best?

Gone are the days of goofy plaid pants and ridicule-inspiring hats. Golf has moved from the game of the fashion-challenged elite to a popular pastime, and in the process it received a head-to-toe makeover.

Phairoj Pissawong, Merchandising Manager of Active Nation Co Ltd, parent company of Sport World in Jungceylon, has several tips on how to stay up to par in golf fashion.

K. Phairoj said that men on the green often opt for full-length pants or knee-length shorts in a neutral khaki or white color, paired with a collared shirt. This year's most popular colors are orange and yellow, and Wilson, Mizuno and Colozzeo are the most popular brands, he said.

Rataya Chuaythong, Assistant Manager of Super Sport at Central Festival Phuket, said that khakis and light colored pants are also popular buys at her store, and grey or white colored shirts are selling well, too.

For the women, however, the trend is toward, "bright colors such as pink, violet and blue, with pants just over the knees or long shorts. The most popular brands for ladies are Mizuno, Nike and Orage", she said.

Women are also choosing bright colors at Sport World, especially blue and pink, coupled with the same long khaki or light colored pants.

Wilson, Mizuno, and Nike are the favored women's brands at Sport World.

K. Phairoj said that golfers' favorite brands are Nike and Adidas because golfers like to wear or use golf equipment that famous athletes and fellow golfers are using.

"In our research of golfers in Phuket, most are middle- to upper-class local people and tourists from Europe and Asia.

"They come here because there are complete golf courses such as Mission Hill, Blue Canyon or Phuket Country Club. We have also found that some tourists take charter flights just to play golf."

As they make such long trips to play their game, K. Rataya said, they also want to look their best with matching colors for the golf equipment, shoes, socks, pants and shirts.

So the next time you tee off, take a look around. You may not be standing next to Tiger Woods, but chances are your fellow players look quite fashionable.



**Main pic:** Get more admiring glances in pink by Colozzeo. **Inset, top,** cool in cream, also from Colozzeo. **Inset, below,** let your Nike shirt shout 'Fore' for you.

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# TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

For anyone who equates Japan with high-tech, high-rise, highfalutin sophistication, Tohoku comes as a surprise.

The region – on the island of Honshu and far north of the ever-burgeoning metropoli of Tokyo and Osaka – is Nippon's backcountry, with vast lakes, forests, rolling countryside, superb ski runs and farmland, plus the occasional quirk to add spice to the mix.

Perhaps one of the most bucolic locations in all of Tohoku is the Geibikei Gorge, in Iwate Prefecture.

The water running between the gorge's towering, tree-hung cliffs is no more than a couple of feet deep, and the ideal way to take in the sights is to board a flat-bottomed punt and be poled slowly upstream by one of the ancient boatmen for whom this is not so much a living as a vocation.

There is practically no noise here, except when the boatmen launch into folk songs – plaintive, melodious, wistful and as far from the artifice of karaoke as could be imagined. There's no doubt about it, this is the Japan of yesteryear.

For Japanese one of the main attractions of Tohoku is its plethora of *onsen*, or hot springs. The volcanic shifts beneath the earth's crust, which make life in other parts of the country so perilous, send superheated water bubbling up in myriad locations around the region.



One of the most picturesque of the spas is the Aoni Onsen, tucked into a wooded valley in Aomori Prefecture and lit only by oil lamps.

Rustic is the watchword here, and quaint, too, with rick-

ety huts covering the steaming pools of water, and bathers delicately picking their way along the stony paths with only a minuscule towel between themselves and the elements.

Etiquette is strictly observed

here, in one of the few *onsen* where mixed bathing is a matter of course.

Bathers shower first, then head for the spa where they slide into the water before removing the towel. In winter, when temperatures plummet, the towel is dipped in the water from time to time and then placed on top of the head.

After broiling yourself for as long as you can stand it, it's a short step back indoors, and then time for a cup of tea and an hour or so relaxing with your skin tingling from tip to toe.

Tohoku's cuisine mirrors that in other parts of the country – beautifully presented, the acme of freshness and with a taste to match.

However, the town of Morioka has got fast food down to a fine art. Restaurant patrons

here sit cross-legged on the floor and are encouraged to compete in gulping down as many – admittedly small – bowls of buckwheat noodles, known as Wanko Soba, as they can manage.

Waitresses stand by with loaded trays handing out refills the moment customers signal they are ready, and the bowls are stacked up on the table as proof of the diners' appetites.

It's reminiscent of one of Japan's wackier television game shows, with those who have eaten their fill egging on their friends to put down just one more bowl in an atmosphere that borders on sheer hilarity.

No records have been kept, but it's not unusual to see the stouter, sumo-ish sort of diner looking replete and proud with around 100 inverted bowls stacked in front of him.

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# Noodles by the boatload



Sen lek nam tok: Noodles in strongly-flavored nam tok soup.

When you're looking for a cheap, tasty, fast meal, it's hard to beat a bowl of noodles, especially boat noodles.

The dish, called *kuay teaw rua*, derives its name from the times when Thai people who lived by a canal would order the noodles from vendors who paddled by.

The vendors have changed, but the noodles are still often served in symbolic and recognizable boat-shaped bowls.

On Chao Fa East Rd, near Wat Thepnimit, is *Kuay Teaw Rua Samuprai Ko Aod* ("Ko Aod's Herbal Boat Noodles"), where Wasan "Ko Aod" Sitthiratt serves his signature boat noodles, with his unique blend of Thai herbs in the soup seasoning, all day long.

Ko Aod opened his restaurant April last year, after his previous venture – a beer garden – failed. His new restaurant is a return to serving boat noodles. Before running the beer garden, Ko Aod sold his herbal boat noodles at Koh Sireh for about three years, when he invented his secret recipe.

The menu includes *sen mee* (small, white, vermicelli-like noodles), *sen lek* (small white noodles), *bamee* (yellow noodles)

## CHEAP eats

BY Janyaporn Morel

and *sen yai* (large flat noodles). All can be ordered with pork or beef meatballs, and can be eaten either as dry noodles or in a soup. Prices range from 10 to 30 baht per bowl.

One dish that stands out on the menu is the pork blood soup, called *nam tok*, which is created by adding fresh pork blood to the hot soup to give the noodles a stronger flavor. This is also served with dried pork skin (*cap moo*), fresh sprouts and sweet basil leaves.

The shop also serves fresh *longan* and coconut juice at 10 baht a glass.

Don't be surprised if you drop by and see Ko Aod smiling. He said that he gets rave reviews from customers, much better than when he ran the beer garden.

"We serve delicious noodles flavored with herbs, which is healthy. And people can be full at a cheap price," he said.

The shop is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm, and can seat about 50 customers.

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# The Cryptic Crossword

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the family names of at least 15 makers of supercars. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 7 or more, good; 12 or more, very good; 15 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

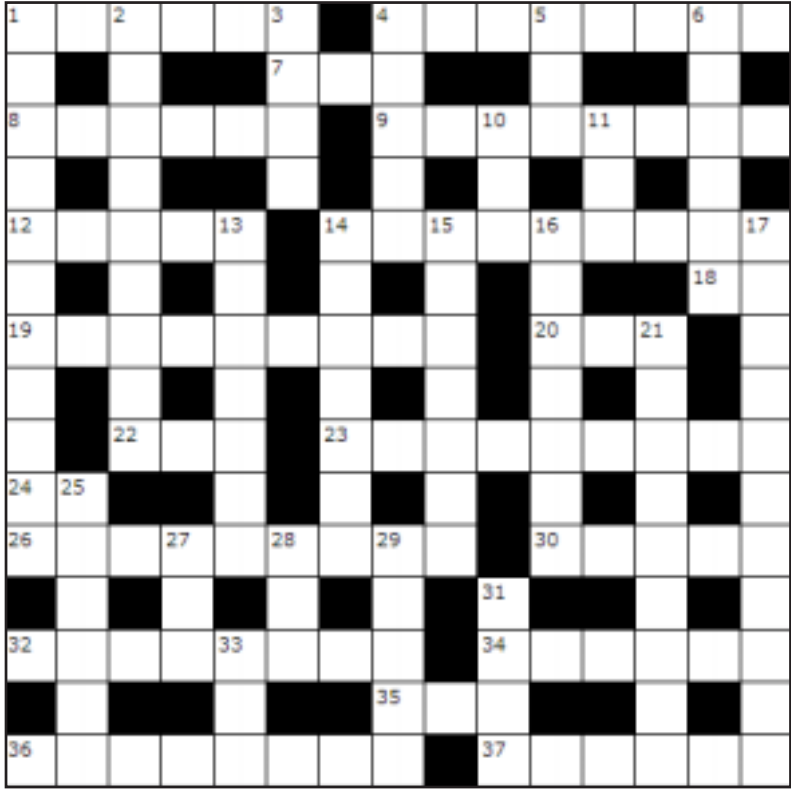
B	M	A	A	L	F	I	N	P	T	N	K	Z	H	N
W	N	C	M	X	R	A	C	O	R	R	W	N	X	W
Z	N	E	L	A	M	D	I	R	E	N	B	H	G	C
L	M	W	R	A	X	L	I	S	W	P	Q	U	H	U
X	W	R	N	Q	R	D	E	C	T	U	M	L	I	G
A	E	Q	O	E	Y	E	C	H	X	P	K	W	P	L
F	O	J	S	P	I	E	N	E	E	G	M	Z	V	O
B	B	U	G	A	T	T	I	R	E	K	Y	P	S	I
F	R	S	U	U	A	X	T	P	E	B	B	A	R	P
I	N	I	H	G	R	O	B	M	A	L	V	A	Y	J
Y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

### ACROSS

1. Need the French sewing tool. (6)
4. Set of doctrines for melted igloo dye. (8)
7. Saw back to what existed. (3)
8. Gossip about teetotaler's tale. (6)
9. Promotes up hills. (8)
12. Animal in Greek letter outside. (5)
14. Take bus back to damage in east warship. (9)
18. Sabena serial number. (1,1)
19. Force convicts to take train. (9)
20. Picture quiet in junior grade. (1, 1, 1)
22. Cereal whisky. (3)
23. Fish with employees for weapon shaft. (9)
24. God of radium. (2)
26. Little swing makes potential weapon. (5, 4)
30. Hide saint and tree. (5)
32. Stopped after Arkansas; took a break. (8)
34. Ed followed the remainder and relaxed. (6)
35. Continental water? "Oh!" they said. (3)
36. Oddly, lust fit a player. (8)
37. Initially, grandpa narrated a rambling, long, yarn all twisted. (6)

### DOWN

1. Crazy person. Crazy table implement. (11)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

2. Take food to Ann, re diet, oddly. (3, 6)
3. Pitcher for sheep? Right. (4)
4. Suzi and you trashed pick-up. (5)
5. Or boating implement, it's said. (3)
6. Salads around the holes. (6)
10. Tree stick. (3)
11. Vent a song. (3)
13. Porridge is nothing at lunch. (7)
14. Fake smell for shower requisite. (7)
15. City that begins with loud noise. (7)
16. Adapts, barely, in the commercials. (7)
17. At midnight, when all discussion is over. (3, 2, 3, 3)
21. He pledges gun, oar, rat, though not in that order. (9)
25. A lesson lacking in right or wrong. (6)
27. General shelter. (3)
28. Decay nonsense. (3)
29. No gentleman and French trainee. (5)
31. Doctor, you note narcotic! (4)
33. Drunk cardinal on overtime. (3)

Solution on next page

## Scribble Space



## EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What colors are used in the flag of Saudi Arabia?
2. Which craftsman uses a last?
3. "Sing a song of sixpence, a pocket full of..." What?
4. Who played David Addison in *Moonlighting*?
5. To an American policeman, what does "APB" mean?
6. Which city is famous for gondolas?
7. Who first performed the pop song *Good Vibrations*?
8. In which city is the Brandenburg Gate?
9. Name the capital of New Zealand.
10. Who began his retreat from Moscow in 1812?

Answers on next page

## Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with 'straight'. What are they?

1. Jacket for a lunatic.
2. Meeting with a stranger.
3. Lure.
4. Make.
5. Slow and stately.
6. All one's personal assets.
7. How heavy you are.
8. Serve in a restaurant.
9. Number.
10. Where to board an aircraft.

Answers on next page

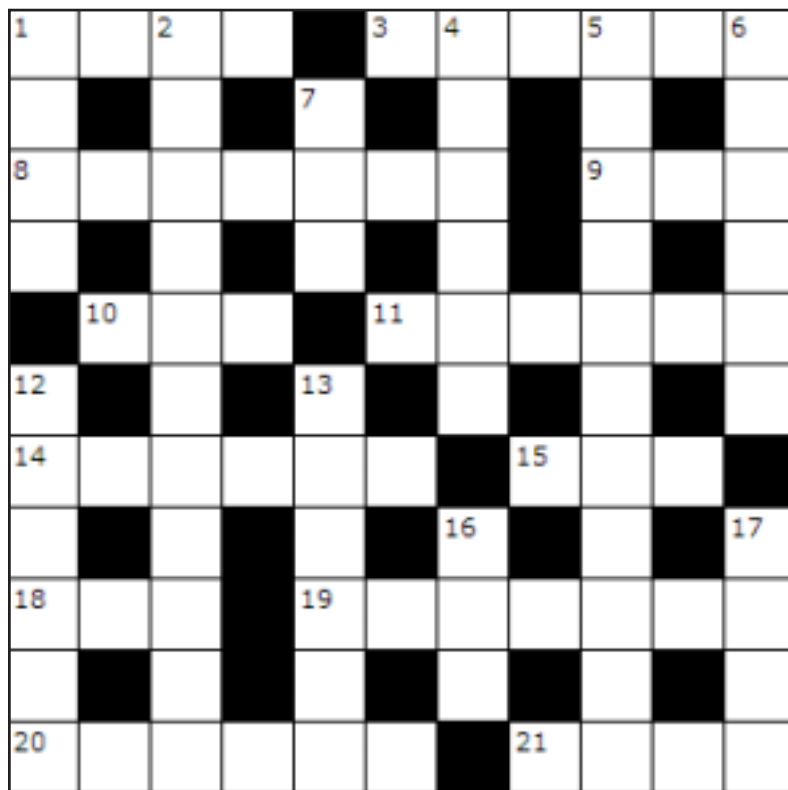
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Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

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





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Ailing.
3. Not awake.
8. Bewilder.
9. That woman there!
10. Irritate.
11. Aniseed-flavored drink.
14. Six feet at sea.
15. Males.
18. Incorporated.
19. Insanity.
20. Tempt.
21. Go no further!

### DOWN

1. Footwear.
2. American state.
4. Scandinavian country.
5. Improvement.
6. Procession.
7. Underwater boat, in short.
12. Place of work.
13. Type of acid ants make.
16. Not even.
17. Répondez, s'il vous plaît.

*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. What is the term for the kind of confusion when, for example, "Darling, she said" is misheard as "Darling Cheese Head"?
2. Mrs Malaprop was a character in which play?
3. In which university would you find the Rooner Spoom?
4. Why?
5. Which Nirvana member formerly played with a band called Dain Bramage?
6. By what name is parapraxia better known?
7. What is the term for a puzzle that combines letters and pictures to form clues?
8. If a palindrome reverses the order of letters, what reverses the order of words?
9. What is the term for a clause the begins and ends with the same word?
10. What is perissologia?
11. What is the more commonly used word for paronomasia?
12. By what name was rapper Christopher Lee Rios better known?
13. The palindrome "Able was I ere I saw Elba" was written to mark whose exile?
14. A finger fumbler is the American Sign Language equivalent of what?
15. Who came up with the remark, "They were yung and easily freudened"?
16. "Fish" can be spelled "ghoti", according to whom?
17. Whose name is an anagram of "Old West action"?
18. "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" is an example of a what?
19. Who coined the word "palindrome"?
20. Which Tintin characters are afflicted with Spoonerism?

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. A mondegreen; 2. *The Rivals*; 3. New College, Oxford; 4. The Rev William Spooner was Warden of the college; 5. Dave Grohl; 6. A Freudian slip; 7. Rebus; 8. A crab canon; 9. Epanalepsis; 10. Wordiness; 11. Pun; 12. Big Pun; 13. Napoleon Bonaparte; 14. A tongue twister; 15. James Joyce; 16. George Bernard Shaw; 17. Clint Eastwood; 18. A pangram; 19. 17th century English playwright Ben Johnson; 20. The Thompson Twins.

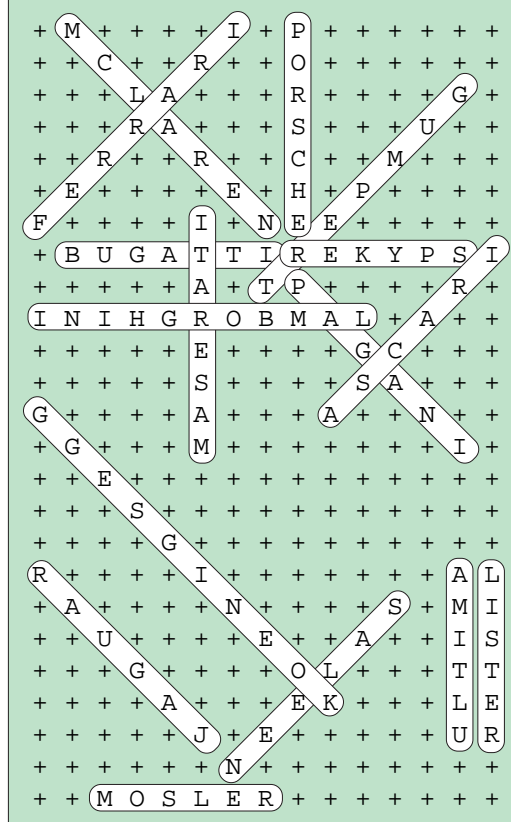
## Rhyme Time Answers

1. Strait; 2. Blind date; 3. Bait; 4. Create; 5. Sedate; 6. Estate; 7. Weight; 8. Wait; 9. Eight; 10. Gate.

## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Green and white; 2. Shoemaker; 3. Rye; 4. Bruce Willis; 5. All Points Bulletin; 6. Venice; 7. The Beach Boys; 8. Berlin; 9. Wellington; 10. Napoleon Bonaparte.

## Hidden Words SOLUTION



## Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



## Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



# Another miss from Martin Amis

I have long regarded Martin Amis, William Boyd and Ian McEwan as the top triumvirate of their British literary generation. But while Boyd and McEwan have gone from strength to strength, Amis has slipped badly.

His eighth novel, *Yellow Dog*, was universally panned. I recall one reviewer observing that reading *Yellow Dog* was like catching your favorite uncle in an obscene public sex act.

Amis had been famous for big rollicking comic novels such as *Success and Money*, characterized by long, sinuous, bravura passages of rococo hilarity.

His latest, *House of Meetings* (Jonathan Cape, London, 2006, 198pp), is short and terse.

Instead of his usual stamping ground – the trendy world of London and New York – his subject is the gulag of Stalinist Russia.

Why is the privileged son of novelist Kingsley Amis, born four years before the death of Stalin, treading on the turf of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*?

Well, because he can. Like Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, this is a short book and rings with authenticity. The labor camp of Norlag is inside the Arctic Circle and death from

hunger and exposure are an everyday occurrence:

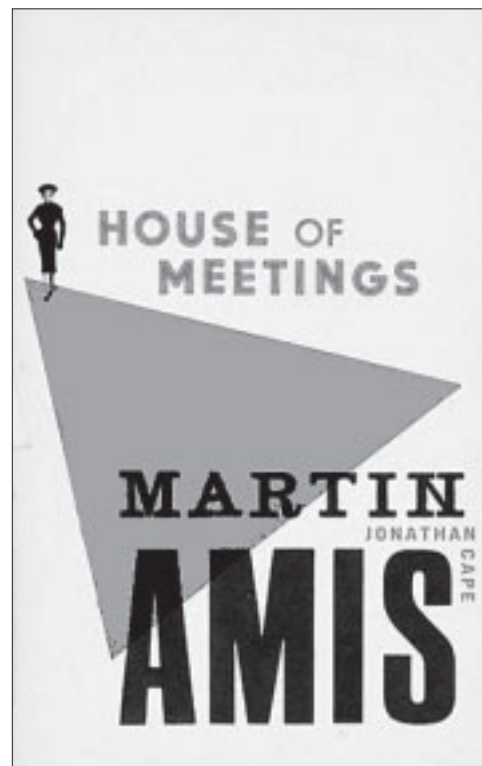
"Even in June your breath hung in the air as if you were smoking an enormous and fiery cigar. They went out six feet and curled back around you, these scarves of breath."

The unnamed narrator was born in 1919, served on the front line in the Great Patriotic War, raped his way across Germany and shortly after the war was imprisoned, ironically, as a "fascist". In 1948, his half-brother Lev winds up in the same camp for the same reason. They are both in love with Zoya, a beautiful Jewish university student who has rejected the narrator and married Lev.

It is now 2004 and the ex-slave laborer is on a tourist steamer, the *Georgi Zhukov*, on a 2,500-kilometer voyage up the Yenisei River, which flows into the Arctic Ocean. He is on his way to visit the site of his old camp, a rich American now, "a vile-tempered and foul-mouthed old man".

Day by day he writes the account of his life to Venus, his American stepdaughter, a recent college graduate who in the fashion of the day has been urging him to "vent" and "achieve closure". As he writes he feels himself "re-Russifying all over again".

"So keep a look-out, hereafter, for



a prison stampede, at the climax of a cholera riot, or in the most sepulchral phase of a terror-famine."

Eventually he will lead a murderous pogrom against informers in the camp and stand in the forefront of the Norlag strike of 1953 in which the political inmates faced down the post-Stalin state.

Unlike Solzhenitsyn, he hates Russia and he hates God. Once released from camp, he thrives in a gangster economy and now, "I am back in the bosom of a vast slum family. Now it has to fend for itself. All the money has been divided up between the felons and the state."

This is a strong narrative voice and its bitterness and eloquence carry the reader along. The problem is the other two parts of the romantic triangle: Lev and Zoya.

Zoya never comes across as anything but a sex goddess without much to say. Lev is simply impossible, a pacifist for no discernible reason, a romantic idealist who is destroyed by a single connubial visit by Zoya to the camp's House of Meetings, where he loses his "sense of play".

What this means I can't figure out, but his malaise extends to civilian life, where he resolutely becomes a failure. Zoya suffers an even worse fate.

The narrator's sole consolation is that modern Russia's death rate is surpassing its birth rate: "Russia is dying. And I'm glad."

## PHUKET DIARY

### To January 30: Moments of Color art exhibition

This exhibition, at The Watermark Bar & Restaurant in the Boat Lagoon, shows the work of local artist Varaporn "Map" Ponrit. Daily from 10 am until the bar closes. No entry fee. To contact the artist call Tel: 081-6963901 or email: art@phuketlifestyle.com

### To March 30: REWIND at The Watermark

Watermark and Tommy Double T(SOUNDWAVES) hook up once again to bring you more sleeve-rollin', fringe-flick-in', tramline shavin', ass-shakin' good times.

REWIND – something new by way of something old taking it back to where it all began.

On the first Friday of each month at Watermark we will rewind to the best sounds of the '70s, '80s and '90s, from the Sex Pistols to the Chemical Brothers. Disco classics? New Romantics? A journey thru New Wave, ska and disco. Duran Duran, Madness, Soul II Soul, Motown, Philly Soul & sooo much more. Happy

hour 5-7 pm; REWIND 7 pm to midnight. Admission free. For more information call Stuart Bird at Tel: 076-239730 or 081-737-6184 or email info@watermarkphuket.com

### February 16-17: 2nd Phuket International Blues Festival.

Eight to 10 Thailand-based acts will perform at the festival during two nights of great blues, R&B and rock 'n' roll.

The headline band on the first night will be British legend Victor Brox, while the line-up on the second night will be headed by the Rich Harper Blues Band from the US.

Other acts already confirmed include Kyla Brox (Victor's daughter), Phuket's own Groove Doctors, The Blues Machine from Pattaya, and Blue on Blue, Cannonball and the Soi Dog Blues Bank from Bangkok.

Tickets are 500 baht for one night or 800 baht for both nights. For more information see the events website at [www.phuketbluesfestival.com](http://www.phuketbluesfestival.com) or contact Andy Andersen by email at [phuketmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketmusic@yahoo.com) or by calling Tel: 086-6822639.

### March 3: Candlelit Dinner and Let Your Hair Down Party

Soi Dog's major fund-raising event on Saturday March 3 at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa features an elegant candlelit dinner followed by a "Let Your Hair Down" party.

Tickets are 2,000 baht per person and include a cocktail reception followed by a four-course dinner.

Have fun and help the dogs. For more information, or to reserve tickets, call Maxine (Tel: 086-9447721) or Joan (087-282-0422) or email Maxine at [maxandgoddess@csloxinfo.com](mailto:maxandgoddess@csloxinfo.com).

See also the Soi Dog website at [www.soidog.org](http://www.soidog.org)

## Upcoming events on the island

### To April 8: Island Furniture Cricket League

The Island Furniture Cricket League returns for its second season starting in late January & finishing up in early April.

Four local teams will play 12 round robin matches with the top two teams playing in the final. Games are 11 a side, 35 overs & played every Sunday during the season.

Email Mark Whetton at [scarfy@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:scarfy@loxinfo.co.th) for more details or call him at Tel: 086-1208346.

For additional information see the League website at <http://www.phuketcricket.com/>

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## When goodwill turns turtle

When a leatherback turtle laid a clutch of 103 eggs on Karon Beach last month it made headline news across Thailand. The leatherback, quickly dubbed "Santarina" for its unexpected arrival on Christmas Day, was the first sea turtle sighted at the beach in decade. Could the leatherback really be staging a comeback in Phuket? Sadly, the answer appears to be "no".

Despite the unexpected visit, the future for sea turtles in Thai waters remains grim [see Inside Story, pages 4 and 5].

Even sea turtle conservation experts concede that the days are numbered for the sea turtles along Thailand's Andaman Coast. Poorly-regulated coastal development in the region has taken its toll, both on sea turtle nesting sites and on the marine habitats that have sustained these fascinating creatures since the time of the dinosaurs.

In the open ocean, where the migratory sea turtles spend most of their lives, they are also under almost constant threat from mankind. They can choke on wide range of synthetic materials found floating as trash.

Every year, scores of sea turtles die needlessly as "by-catch" of the tuna fishing industry, which uses long monofilament lines ("longlines") of individually-baited hooks that stretch for tens of kilometers. Some turtles are caught when they nibble the bait, while others become entangled and drown. The exact toll on sea turtle populations from by-catch can never be known, as sea turtle carcasses are seldom, if ever, returned to port.

Attempts to minimize by-catch, such as by using simple-but-effective "turtle excluder devices" that allow most sea turtles to escape trawlers' nets, are given scant attention by the fishing industries of most countries in the region.

Thailand is one of 24 signatory states to the Indian Ocean Southeast Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum Of Understanding and also plays host to that multinational organization's secretariat offices located in Bangkok.

IOSEA, established in 2001, correctly recognizes the need for a regional approach to conservation of the six sea turtle species, all of which are migratory.

Unfortunately, IOSEA's work has done little to save the sea turtle from what appears to be an inevitable date with extinction.

Despite years of high-profile events held in Phuket to raise public awareness about the plight of the sea turtle, the eggs of the Santarina turtle were quickly poached by villagers in Karon who hoped to sell them at a profit. Luckily, officers recovered the eggs, but the damage they suffered may never be known.

What could be more disheartening for an island that wants to tout itself as a sustainable tourism destination.

— The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

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## Letters

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

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

### Right... and wrong

Have the powers-that-be in Patong forgotten which side of the road we drive on? I thought it was the left...

How can they justify implementing a "one-way system" in Patong that results in motorists being forced to drive on the right on connecting roads? What a laugh!

Surely the easiest and simplest solution would have been to alternate interconnecting roads, with one-way traffic on Sawatdirak Rd flowing toward the beach, Soi Bangla flowing as it did originally toward Soi Sansabai, and so on.

Another solution would be to change the flow of traffic to a counter-clockwise direction, toward Karon along the beach road and toward Kalim on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

This would result in motorists turning left into connecting roads and therefore driving on the left. There would then be a need, however, to implement traffic lights at various places for motorists turning right off Rat-U-Thit.

Sure, residents here will become accustomed to the current system.

However, this is a resort town with a two-week rotation of tourists and significant proportion of "Joe Farangs" renting motorbikes who, let's be fair, cause enough accidents as it is. Let's not help them cause more!

Greg Richardson  
Patong

### Tuk-tuk jams vs helmet fines

Every evening, half the length of the road in front of The Dino Park

in Kata is an endless line of tuk-tuks, causing chaos and huge traffic jams – and they appear to be parked in "No Parking" zones.

It is far quicker to walk. Funnily enough, if one did opt to jump in a tuk-tuk there, one would be caught up in the mayhem caused by the rest of them blocking half the road.

Police are always at one end of this serpentine convoy stopping people for not wearing crash helmets. A person would stand more chance of surviving a head-on collision with Michael Schumacher's windscreen as an insect than a fender-bender on a motorbike with the protection afforded by these novelty plastic crash helmets.

Park where you like as a tuk-tuk driver, but get fined for not wearing a helmet that is as much use as an ashtray on a motorbike?

I must remember to attach a strap to my dog's dinner bowl and wear that on my head, as presumably it will suffice in compliance with the law.

Cedric Smythe  
Phuket

### Tuk-tuk fares are out of control

I picked up a copy of the January 2007 edition of a local tourist guide and was amazed by the prices quoted:

"Day time fare for a tuk-tuk within a beach resort 20 baht. Evening fare for a tuk-tuk within a beach resort 40 baht." Please tell me where this place is, so that I can book for there next year!

I am a first-time visitor to Patong and I have been horrified at the prices charged by the tuk-tuks for a short distance.

We are staying on Soi

Sevatasai, near the fresh market on Nanai Rd. From Jungceylon, it was 100 baht fare until Saturday, and has now mysteriously become 150 baht. Another visitor told us that he pays 200 baht for the same journey.

There is no list of acceptable fares on view anywhere. Having one would be good; it would stop customers from feeling they are being cheated.

A price list should be displayed in every tuk-tuk and taxi.

Perhaps the Gazette could publish a realistic price list of fares for tuk-tuks in the Patong area, as the prices are becoming out of control.

It would be a great help to know just how much a fare to Kamala or Karon beach should be.

It may also be an idea to install meters in the tuk-tuks, so that they have to charge a reasonable rate.

Those of us who do not wish to drive are being held hostage to the tuk-tuks and their excessive fares.

If there were a local bus service, Patong's dreadful traffic problem would improve overnight as it would be easy to hop on and off a local bus.

Phuket has the poorest bus service of any of the places we have traveled in Thailand. The only local bus goes from Patong to Phuket City.

It is not acceptable to have to go all the way there and then have to take another bus all the way back to Karon or Kamala.

We feel we are constantly being ripped off by taxi and tuk-tuk drivers. It is such a pity when so many other things here are so good.

S Carmichael  
UK

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



# Solving big issues requires serious commitment

I have been a government officer since 1975. I have served as *Nai Amphur* [District Chief] in many areas, including Tak Bai District in Narathiwat, Satingphra and Chana in Songkhla, and Kuan Tanode and Langoo in Satun.

I was also *Nai Amphur* of Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Muang District for one year before my transfer to Phuket on December 25.

The position of *Palad* is under the Ministry of the Interior's Department of Local Administration (DOLA). The main responsibility of this office is to ease the suffering of people and keep them happy.

This involves a variety of tasks, such as ensuring that government services are convenient, providing fairness to the public, overseeing census registration and controlling business at establishments like entertainment venues, shops and hotels.

I know that in moving to Phuket I have to accept that there is trouble everywhere. My experience after just a few weeks working in Phuket is that the problems here are not that different from other places, but that because we have so many people, there are more of them.

Most of the problems here concern land encroachment, gun control, gambling, poverty, drugs and the number of traffic accidents.

Although Phuket has more

## FIRST PERSON

Phuket Provincial has a new Chief Administrative Officer, or *Palad*. **Piya Bharatasilpin**, 55, takes up his post as the Governor's right-hand man well aware of the many problems that led his predecessor to request a transfer: land encroachment disputes, court cases and security issues, to name just a few.

Here *Palad* Piya tells the *Gazette* why he feels he is up to the challenge.



problems than other places, that is no barrier to my work.

In fact, I had been to Phuket two or three times before I was posted here. I really love seaside provinces because I like to fish in my free time.

Formerly I worked in Satun province and on Koh Samui, both by the sea. So it's not hard for me to live in Phuket.

My main duty is to work together with *Nai Amphur*, *Kamnan* (tambon chiefs) and *Phu Yai Baan* (village headmen). Usually I just need to oversee their work and let them solve problems, but in special circumstances or emergency situations I can come

down and deal with matters directly.

I will hold monthly meetings with all three *Nai Amphur* to exchange opinions and ideas and learn about the problems they and their constituents face.

I also take orders from the Phuket Governor. The first duty that Governor Niran Kalayanamit assigned me with is to implement a Royal Project to better extend government services to rural people.

This includes establishing a "mobile unit" to enable people living far from their nearest district office to register for "smart cards" and update house regis-

tration forms without having to travel.

Now we require a budget of about three million baht more to set up a satellite communication system in the "mobile unit" van.

The system will link the van with the government database. This will not only help save the public time and money, but it will also help Phuket get a more accurate census tally and ease Phuket's "hidden population" problem.

If we get a correct population count for Phuket, it will improve funding in many areas, such as education, roads, health care

and basic infrastructure development.

My work also includes working for the Damrongtham Center [provincial ombudsman's office], which comprises a team made up of police, government officers and representatives of other government agencies who work together to investigate letters of complaint that we receive.

This way of dealing with problems offers faster solutions than the normal procedure working through the district office.

We have so many complaints about different issues, including sale and use of illegal narcotics, environmental problems, wastewater, gambling...the list goes on.

We have to look at how pressing each problem is and figure out which department should be assigned to investigate or solve the matter. If it is an emergency, I might go down and solve the problem myself.

Increasing social harmony here in Phuket is my first goal. If people are living in peace, crime and poverty will decrease and Phuket will become better and more livable.

To do his best, a government official needs to really get involved and address many problems, not just a few. If all of our government officers are dedicated and sincere, I think we can combine our many different skills the help quickly solve the problems that confront us.

## Moving abroad, and taking Fido with you

We will be relocating from Thailand to Kathmandu, Nepal, and we have a pet dog that we would like to take with us. We will be flying out of Phuket on a Thai Airways flight with a connecting flight in Bangkok. What are the procedures for taking our dog with us?

Sindhu Lim  
Phuket

**K. Paras, an officer at the Nepalese Embassy in Bangkok, replies:**

To import a pet to Nepal, all that is required is for the pet's owner to show a certificate issued by a veterinarian in Thailand confirming that the animal is free of diseases. The owner must show this certificate when the pet arrives at the Animal Quarantine Office at the airport in Kathmandu.

**Angkhana Damrongchua, of the Thai Airways International Reservation Desk, replies:**

Thai Airways also requires a certificate of clean health, and the Phuket Animal Quarantine

Station at Phuket International Airport must issue this certificate. Once this is done, you must call us at the Thai Airways reservation desk and inform us of the certificate number at least three days before your flight.

When you check in, if your dog's weight plus the cage (which must be provided) is less than 10 kilograms, then the dog can be loaded into the cabin.

But if your dog plus the cage is heavier than 10kg or if the cage is bigger than 55cm x 37cm x 30cm, then the dog must be loaded in the hold, and we will charge you for the excess weight.

Alternatively, you can have your dog flown by a cargo company, which will still require the certificate issued by the quarantine station.

Cargo companies that deliver pets include Pasco (Tel: 076-238824-6), Sky Trade (Tel: 076-351329) T&M (Tel: 076-351474), and Thai Airways Cargo (Tel: 076-351306).

**Kittima Thepabutr, an officer at the Phuket Animal Quarantine**

## Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities? Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.**

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

**tine Station, replies:**

To be issued the certificate, you must bring your dog to the Phuket Animal Quarantine Station with the following documents:

1. Dog's medical history book that shows all vaccinations the animal has had since it was born.
2. Blood test result or health certificate from a veterinarian who works at pet clinic or pet hospital.
3. Proof of a rabies vaccination at least 30 days before its departure.
4. The owner's passport (the pas-

senger who will be transporting the dog).

5. A "dog passport", available at the Phuket Livestock Office. To get this you must present the Livestock Office with the health certificate and a photo of the dog.
6. Microchip and microchip number (you can request this from your vet).
7. Any pedigree certification for your dog.

The Animal Quarantine Station will check all documents and your dog's health and issue the

certificate for you to show to the airline. You must finish all this at least three days before departure.

**Pitipat Kitpitakun, a veterinarian at Rak Satt Pet Hospital in Phuket City, replies:**

We need to check the resistance of rabies in the dog's blood. This is very important, especially if the dog will go to European countries or Japan. The rabies vaccine must be administered at least 30 days before departure.

If you want to take your dog to another country, you must bring its vaccination record to the vet clinic; there the vet can double check the dog's health and issue a certificate of clean health.

The veterinarian's office can also put a microchip in the dog if it doesn't have one yet.

**The Gazette notes:**

It is advised to consult your preferred vet about what size transportation crate is appropriate for your dog and whether your dog should be tranquilized before being loaded onto the plane.



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From:  
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Dear Sir,

Compliments of the day. Before I proceed, I must be grateful to introduce myself. I am Dr Sylvester Smarm, the business partner of the late Mr Yaroslav Vodkaontherocksov and the great entrepreneur Khun Samart Arze.

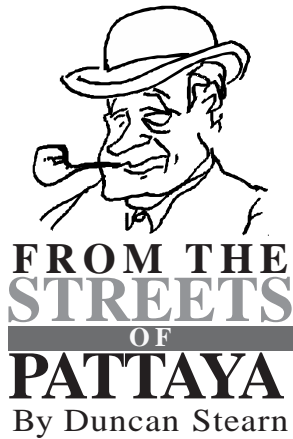
These names may mean little to you at present, but I can assure you Mr Yaroslav had the ear of the great and powerful.

I'm sure I only have to use the first names Vladimir and Boris and you, being a person of great intellect, will understand immediately of whom I am talking.

K. Samart has had a long-standing association with the famed Swiss banking house Gnomes of Zurich as well as an office in the Cayman Islands, and he too is well connected. I'm sure a man of your undoubted worldliness can read between the lines and know of Fearless Leader.

Sadly, Mr Yaroslav met an untimely end recently when his liver, of which he was very fond, ceased functioning in an acceptable manner and caused him to expire prematurely.

Before his demise Mr Yaroslav had visited the country of Thailand and, in company with Khun Samart, had occasion to open a bank account in the resort city of Pattaya. He was intending to establish a very big entertainment business in the city for the tens of millions of Russian and Eastern European tourists who flock there for the sand,



sea, sunshine, scenery and sexy nightlife.

The money on deposit in this account totals 800 million baht (which is the Thai currency and bears no relation to a famous American cartoon character), or the equivalent of around US\$20 million (TWENTY MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS).

This is the reason for my letter to you. Your name has been given to me by a highly respected person within the Pattaya Chamber of Commerce (Undischarged Bankrupts Division) as a man of great integrity and Christian honesty, and as one who would happily handle a delicate matter involving the transfer of a large sum of money to a foreign bank account. In this case, yours.

Thai banking rules are very strict. They are known for their attention to even the most minor details; a simple clerk will reject a presented check if even one letter is not placed correctly. For this reason the Thai banking system is the envy of the Asian world and there are many in the financial world of high flying business who will be quick to tell you Thailand is the Switzerland of Asia.

Unfortunately, even though we were Mr Yaroslav's business partners, the Thai banking authorities will not release our late partner's funds as they need to do an autopsy (on the bank account, not

Mr Yaroslav). This will take some time and your co-operation would help us turn the autopsy into a minor financial surgical procedure. We would like you to assume the status of Mr Yaroslav's only dependent and beneficiary in order for the money to be transferred out of Thailand.

This may appear a deception to you but I assure you we are people of the highest reputation. You do not reach the rarefied levels of government power without possessing the most discerning character and financial acumen.

However, as I am what is known as a "person of interest" to certain authorities in my homeland of Nigeria, I am not in a position to repatriate Mr Yaroslav's funds.

For your help in this matter we have decided to give you 25% of the total value of the money, 70% will go to us and 5% will be used for expenses. I assure you this transaction is 100% risk free as we have concluded every arrangement to protect the interest of everyone involved.

Likewise, all modalities for the successful transfer of this fund have been worked out with the Ministry of Greased Palms and the Bank of Amphur Anywhere to facilitate the remittance of these funds to your designated account within 72 hours of your claim being approved.

We would want to believe you are honest enough and will not raise any misgiving attitude in respect of the transaction.

Please provide your phone number and bank account details by return email with a view to arranging a meeting in the resort city of Pattaya. Please treat this information as confidential as we are at pains to avoid falling into the hands of criminals and ne'er do wells.

Best regards,  
(Dr) Sylvester Smarm

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Aquarians who are looking forward to a surprise birthday treat will be very happy to discover what it is. Someone special is determined to show you just how much they care. This is a good week all round where relationships are concerned. If you're single, a particularly interesting encounter on Sunday could lead to more.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Pisceans will be relieved to see finances finally start to pick up and, while not everything you touch will turn to gold, you are likely to be lucky with money until the end of the month. Pay special attention to a tip you catch in passing next Tuesday – your flair for creativity could help turn this into something worthwhile. Gemini is on the lookout for fun and games this weekend.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Arians who are interested in seeing how the other half lives will have a wonderful opportunity to do so this weekend. You can leave your agenda at home during the last days of January as spontaneous invitations are highlighted. Capricorn is starting to develop interest, but their capricious nature is probably not what you're looking for. Keep romance lighthearted with this person or risk getting hurt.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Not everything is plain sailing for Taureans this week, but you should be confident enough to ride out a minor storm. Once this situation is sorted out, the stars promise to support your efforts to move onward and upward. Romance is not high on your list of priorities, but Gemini could change that outlook. The number 5 can bring luck on Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): A guilty secret threatens to land you in hot water. Geminis who thought they could get away with not coming clean could have a shock in store. Be prepared to do what it takes to apologize to the person concerned; this is not the time to let your pride take over. The astral atmosphere will settle down during February, and you should take advantage of this forthcoming period to finalize business agreements.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Freedom is the theme of the week for Cancerians, but you should use this carefully. If your partner is away, surprise them by taking care of overdue household chores in their absence. Those who are single could get unknowingly caught up in a love triangle, so approach romantic matters with caution. A whole new world relating to work is about to open up; if you applied for a job overseas late last year, a delayed invitation is due.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Saturday and Sunday are auspicious days for settling financial disputes. Leos should not accept less than what they are worth. February gets off to a great start when the work opportunity of your dreams arises. Family members may not share your enthusiasm, so allow them to warm slowly to the idea. Mahogany brown helps you get in touch with your roots.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Many Virgoans will have had to face up to an important truth this month. If you are still having difficulty with this issue, it's time to ask advice from a trusted friend. Aquarius has the right experience to offer some pearls of wisdom, but Sagittarius could lead you up the jungle path. Make a serious effort to focus your energy on work matters and you will reap rewards in February.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): One of your New Year's resolutions is put to the test this week. Librans are advised to look on the bright side when a well-meaning gesture is not well received. Communication is better highlighted in the second week of February, so don't take words at face value before then. Your romantic outlook is getting more promising; those who recently became single will be pleased when they learn of someone's romantic interest.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Don't jump at the first offer presented. The stars are on your side when it comes to making the best business deal possible and this is forecast to happen in the middle of next month. Tread water tactfully until then and you won't miss out. Wednesday is the best day for letting someone know how much you really care. The number 7 can bring luck this weekend.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): A soul-searching period has probably helped you to feel more balanced emotionally. You will still be in a reflective mood as the month of February begins; those close to you could start to show their frustration at your lack of communication. Make quality family time a priority this weekend and a lighter atmosphere will prevail. Sagittarians embarking on a new relationship shouldn't rock the boat by taking too much for granted.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Capricorns are warned to be on your guard for a snake in the undergrowth. A previously trustworthy business colleague is starting to become jealous and could lash out soon. The best approach is to refrain from sharing secrets. Social appointments this weekend are subject to last minute alteration; be prepared to go with the flow and you'll have more enjoyment than anticipated. Number 3 could be lucky on Wednesday.

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# Protesting – but politely

Since the Thai people sometimes hold political demonstrations, the government is planning to establish a Ministry of Polite Protests.

The Ministry's job will be to set up guidelines for demonstrations and to oversee them when they occur. I interviewed the minister-designate, a charming and cultured lady named Somying "Soft" Baobaanoi.

**Tsow:** K. Soft, what will be your first priority once your new ministry is established?

**K. Soft:** During the Thaksin regime, some of the demonstrators were very rude. In the future, we want them to be more polite.

**Tsow:** For example?

**K. Soft:** Well, they used to carry signs reading "Get Out!" and "Go to Hell!" Such signs convey a bad impression of Thai culture to foreigners.

**Tsow:** How do you want the signs to read?

**K. Soft:** We favor signs along the lines of "Please Resign, Sir" or "Please Depart Your Office Gracefully at Your Earliest Convenience, Sir."

**Tsow:** What about the "Go to Hell!" signs?

**K. Soft:** That sentiment is inherently impolite, but we could live with "Please Shift Your Residence to a Much Warmer Venue, Sir."

**Tsow:** That's nice. Making political demonstrations more polite will strike a blow for civility in a strife-torn world.

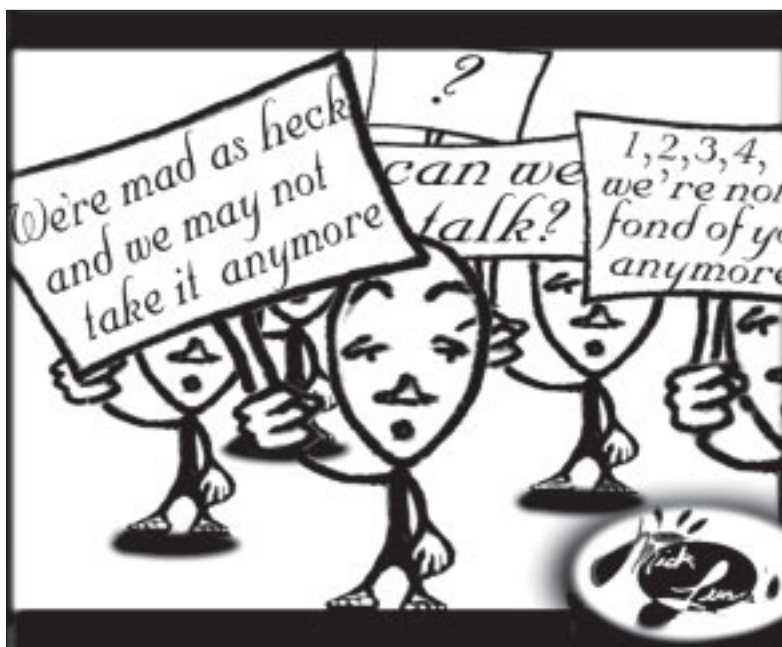
**K. Soft:** Yes, we'd like to make civil disobedience more civil and less disobedient. In fact, we hope to make Thailand a training center for polite demonstrations. When people in other countries want to riot and overthrow their government, we will invite them here to learn how to do it in a courteous, cultured and positive manner.

**Tsow:** I notice that none of the signs you have proposed have exclamation marks.

**K. Soft:** Yes, we want to get rid of them. We believe exclamation marks are rude. Full

points are much more polite. Question marks are even better, because they're less dogmatic. A sign reading "Go to Hell?" might get past our censors because it suggests some doubt in the mind of the demonstrator. There's room for dialog there.

Now, cartoons can be potent political weapons. But they have caused a lot of trouble lately, so we want to ban cartoons that



**K. Soft:** Absolutely. Those will create confusion, because nowadays lots of people identify Satan with America. We don't want people to think our PM is an American.

**Tsow:** It might upset the Satanists, too. All the witches and warlocks would be deeply hurt. They might unleash a barrage of spells, curses and hexes against Thailand.

**K. Soft:** That's right. You can't be too careful about who you offend nowadays. There's also the likelihood of offending Satan himself.

**Tsow:** Yes, he might get so annoyed that he'd tempt you with riches and power, the way he did Jesus.

**K. Soft:** Errrr... actually, that doesn't sound so bad.

**Tsow:** What about Rahu, the god of darkness? The symbolism could be compelling.

Just as Rahu eats the moon, you could accuse powerful figures of eating Thai democracy. Cartoons could portray them as Rahu munching on the Democracy Monument.

**K. Soft:** No. We don't want to antagonize Rahu. He might retaliate by eating the whole country.

**Tsow:** That's true. Well, good luck with your new ministry.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at [stsow@yahoo.com](mailto:stsow@yahoo.com), except when he's out demonstrating politely.*



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# Skype, routers and XP vs Vista

**Q**I recently installed Skype (www.skype.com), which lets me talk for free with other people using Skype on their computers, but when I use Skype to talk with family members in Holland and Switzerland, their voices keep fading out.

I have a 512-Kbps ADSL Internet connection, provided by Jasmine Internet and running on Windows XP, at my home in Baan Sakoo, Thalang. Can you explain what is happening? Is there something I can do about it?

AK  
Thalang

**A**If your family members also have ADSL lines, and you can make the connection, then the most likely culprit is your Internet connection speed here in Phuket.

In Phuket, most ADSL services – whether they're rated at 512Kbps (thousands of bits per second), 1Mbps (1,000Kbps) or even 2Mbps – frequently run at 30 to 40Kbps.

The telephone companies are notorious for putting too many customers on a single connection and when demand gets heavy – especially in the afternoon, evenings and on weekends – the data pipes aren't big enough to handle the load.

The easiest solution is to use Skype in the mornings here, even though it's late at night in Europe. Failing that, you'll have to find a faster Internet service.

If you do decide to upgrade your connection, my recommendation is CAT's EV-DO wireless service, and CAT has recently made the service more affordable. I didn't believe it either, but if you drop by your friendly local CAT office on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket City, or in Patong's Aroonsom Plaza near Andaman Beach Suites, you can see for yourself.

CAT will sell you the Sierra Wireless AirCard 580 for 15,990 baht. That's expensive but you get free, unlimited service until the end of April, 2007.

Starting May 1, you pay 590 baht a month. That's about half what CAT used to charge – and it compares very favorably with similar 3G service anywhere else in the world.

As far as I've seen, CAT's EV-DO service still runs rings around every ADSL package on the island, except for CAT's direct lines (which run faster, but cost 2,600 baht per month). I've heard from many readers who achieve "real" 400 to 800kbps download speeds in most parts of Phuket, and other places in Thailand. One reader says he even got a signal at the Andaman Club

in Burma, off Ranong. Many readers found there was little slowdown after the earthquake in Taiwan. I have

no idea why.

Considering my TOT ADSL line currently runs about 30kbps on a good day with a stiff tailwind, EV-DO makes a whole lotta sense and should solve your Skype troubles.

**Q**My company has six relatively new PCs, all put together by a well-known local computer company.

I was shocked to discover that the copies of Windows XP on those computers are "not genuine" (to use Microsoft's euphemistic terminology). In short, I'm

now in a position where I need to buy six copies of Windows.

Should I buy Windows XP or Windows Vista?

NW  
Phuket

**A**Yours is a common problem. I'd guess that there are at least 10 times as many companies in Thailand running pirate copies of Windows as run completely legit ones. That doesn't make running bootlegs legal or right. It makes it common.

With Microsoft turning the screws on Windows validation, more and more companies are going to find it safer – and easier – to tear down the pirate flags and belly up to the Microsoft bar.

If your computers are relatively new, have 1 GB of memory or more and have fast video cards with 128MB of video mem-

ory or more, you should consider buying Vista.

On the other hand, if your computer inventory looks like a mixed bag of wheezers, you should stick with Windows XP for the older machines, and selectively install Vista on the ones that can handle the load.

Upgrading from Windows XP to Vista is a real pain in the neck. I strongly recommend that upgraders take a "scorched earth" approach, completely wipe out their hard drives and install Vista from scratch.

Changing from pirate Windows XP to a legitimate copy, on the other hand, is quite straightforward. Microsoft has released a program that lets you type in your valid activation key, and make your pirate copy "legit" without re-installing. See [bink.nu/Article8072.bink](http://bink.nu/Article8072.bink) for details.

Here's the rub. In the past you've been able to buy an "upgrade" version of Windows and install it on any computer that's running an older version of Windows, and the "upgrades" cost much less than the "full" packages of Windows.

It was an open secret – and an open joke – that feeding the "upgrade" version of Windows almost any older version of Windows would clear the upgrade hurdle. For example, if you bought a Windows XP "upgrade" package, you could fake out the installer by using a pirate copy of Windows 98 as your "old" copy of Windows.

That doesn't work with Vista. You can install a Vista "upgrade" copy only on a machine that's running a fully legitimate copy of Windows XP. If you have a bevy of machines running pirate versions of Windows XP, you have to spring for "full" packages of Vista. OEM copies of Vista should work as "full" packages.

Historically, Thailand has been a horrible place to buy Windows: I've seen retail boxes of Windows XP with prices marked on them that are twice the going rate in the US and Europe. Shop around before shelling out the money for legit copies of Windows XP or Vista, and don't be afraid to buy packages overseas. A legitimate Singapore version of Vista is every bit as valid in Thailand as it is in Singapore.

One final note: if you're buying five or more copies of either Windows XP or Vista, look into Microsoft's Volume Licensing Plan. Hard to believe, but there are discounts available for as few as five "seats" of both Windows and Office. You can contact Microsoft's headquarters in Thailand at Tel: 02-2574999.

*When he isn't writing computer books, Woody Leonhard ([woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com), [www.askwoody.com](http://www.askwoody.com)) runs Khun Woody's Bakery and the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.*

## ARE YOU HOT?

Here are four of the absolutely free Wi-Fi access hotspots on the island.

- **Valhalla V-Plaza, Soi Sunset, Patong. 256/512kbps. Available 24/7.**
- **Aqua Restaurant and Bar, Paradise Complex, Patong. 512K ADSL, 8:30 am to 4 am.**
- **Jairak Laser, Soi Taling Chan, Phuket City. Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5.30pm; 802.11g; 1 MB TOT ADSL line.**
- **Lady Pie, 120/6 Srisoontorn Rd, Cherg Talay. 250kbps via TOT. Monday to Saturday, 8.30 am-6.30pm; Sunday, 10am-6.30pm.**

If you're hot – and free – just drop Woody an email at: [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com)

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Economics is probably the most underestimated and misunderstood influence in our lives. It dictates the movement of interest rates that have a fundamental impact on how economies operate, currencies move and asset prices react – all of which directly affect people's lives.

There is a strong tendency among economists to believe that they can predict the future, and sometimes they can, but often their predictions are wrong.

A good example is the US economy. The economists of many top financial institutions confidently predicted in the final weeks of 2006 that the US Federal Reserve would shortly start to reduce interest rates.

This was based on their short-term outlook for the US economy, which they expected to slow rapidly. In reality, the economy did the opposite.

In December 2006 it created about 35% more jobs than analysts had predicted, and retail sales strongly outperformed analysts' expectations. This had a number of immediate effects that have been felt around the world.

Over the past few weeks analysts have expected the US dollar to fall against other major currencies. Instead, the dollar has moved in the completely opposite direction.

Stock markets in Asia that experienced losses in the first few days of 2007 started to appreciate that if US economic growth was increasing, then overall demand supported higher prices. Thus, those stock markets started to recover from their earlier falls. There were exceptions – Thailand was one, but that was due to local factors overriding a general trend.

# US economy not alone in defying predictions

The US economy is not in the middle of a boom – the still-troubling residential housing market is affecting the construction industry and many other directly-related sectors. Manufacturing in general is also relatively weak. However, these areas are being countered by a stronger than anticipated service sector, which is still exceeding expectations.

This has led to a new view that sees the likelihood of interest rate cuts being pushed into the second half of 2007 or even disappearing completely. Falling energy prices are also lowering inflationary pressures.

If this trend continues, the US Federal Reserve may cut interest rates, but as this is only one component, it will have limited effect. Stock markets were initially disappointed by the prospect of US interest rates being unlikely to fall in the short term.

This may appear strange in the context of better economic numbers, but falling interest rates are a valuable short-term stimulus to stock markets because they cut the cost of corporate borrowing. The stock markets later rallied on better economic news, feeling that corporate profits were likely to benefit.

Across the pond, the decision by the Bank of England (BoE), the UK's Central Bank, to raise interest rates by 0.25%



After falling for several weeks, the US recovered spectacularly, hitting a 13-month high of 120 against the Japanese yen, as shown on this screen in a Tokyo brokerage. – Photo: EPA/Andy Rain

to a base level of 5.25% took the market and virtually every analyst by surprise.

This decision was made because inflation had risen to 2.7%, above the BoE's target. It also had the immediate effect of raising the value of sterling in foreign exchange markets.

This shows the benefits to Britain of having an independent currency.

Many people wonder why Britain is not a member of the

Euro zone. There are advantages in joining a larger currency, such trade and commercial contracts being removed from exchange rate risk.

On the other hand, among the problems posed by economic integration would be the loss of the UK's ability to individually manage its economy.

The expected initial result of currency integration would be a huge economic boom and rise in asset prices.

Property prices would rocket, as borrowing costs would fall by 2%, the difference between interest rates in the Euro zone and those in the UK.

The British would also go on an unprecedented spending spree and credit card debt would soar from what are already record levels. Inflation rates would swiftly become uncontrollable but the European Central Bank could not be expected to raise interest rates just to suit the UK.

Around 92% of British mortgages have adjustable rates, while in continental Europe almost all mortgages have fixed interest rates.

It is unlikely UK mortgage borrowers would take advantage of the sharp interest rate reduction to refinance their mortgages to a fixed basis.

A new economics term has been introduced to the world recently: "Chindia" and this name, unless it is quickly superseded, is likely to become a fixture for years to come.

Chindia is simply the name given to the huge potential global economic influence of China and India combined.

Both countries are reflecting growth now in excess of 9% and India seems to be accelerating to double digits.

The combined effect of these two economies, barring any unforeseen event, on the global economy is going to be of ever increasing importance and the pace of their growth is going to change the world.

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

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## ON THE MOVE



**Tipsukon Thonthan**, 32, from Bangkok, has been appointed Information Systems Manager of Dusit Laguna Resort. She graduated with a master's degree in engineering from the University of New South Wales, Australia, and also holds a law degree from Thammasat University. Before joining Dusit Laguna Resort she was in Bangkok with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) for one year.



**Sukawat "Dong" Senphakdee** from Nakhon Sri Thammarat province is the new Events Manager at Oriental Leisure. K. Dong, 33, has a degree in hotel management from Baltimore International Culinary College in Maryland, USA. He worked as a freelance tour guide in Phuket for about seven years. Before moving to Oriental Leisure, K. Dong worked for two years as Tour Coordinator at Diethelm Travel (Thailand).



Phuket native **Kittti "Noom" Tantibankul**, 36, has been promoted to Publications & Web Design Manager at the British International School, Phuket (BIS). A graduate in management science from Phuket Rajabhat University, K. Noom's previous experience includes one year on the production team at Siam Printing Co, Ltd in Singapore and four years as Production Manager at the *Phuket Gazette*. K. Noom moved to BIS in 2003.

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Following the release of Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) statistics on Phuket property development values and land ownership transfers, PPLO Chief Registrar Somboon Santiamorntat says that confidence remains in Phuket's property market despite events since September last year.

"The PPLO uses the 'total investment' values of property projects and the amount of tax collected on property ownership transfers as indicators to track Phuket property market's performance," K. Somboon explained.

Developers must register their projects with the PPLO, he said, and must give a total value of the development once completed.

The PPLO collects its statistics according to the Thai fiscal year, from October 1 each year through to September 30 the following year.

"The total investment value [of Phuket property projects] in fiscal year 2004 was 9.18 billion baht, while in fiscal 2005 the figure fell to 7.94 billion baht because of the tsunami," K. Somboon said.

"But in 2006 (October 2005 to September 2006), the total investment value increased to 10.03 billion baht – a 21% increase, which shows that the Phuket property is performing well," he said.

## Confidence in property still strong, says Land Office

In fiscal 2004, there were 51 projects registered with the PPLO, and 42 projects in fiscal 2005. In fiscal 2006, that dropped to 41 property developments registered.

Another healthy indicator, K. Somboon said, was the tax collected on ownership transfers. "In fiscal 2006 the PPLO collected 1.47 billion baht in land taxes and service fees, up from about 1.09 billion baht in 2005," he said.

However, K. Somboon added, "From October through December 2006, the PPLO collected 314 million baht in land taxes and fees, down from 365.5 million baht the same period the previous year."

K. Somboon attributed the slowdown to the impact of the new nominee legislation. "Since the Interior Minister introduced the Nominee Act [in May 2006], the number of property transactions has slowed down.

"The Act means that we must carefully check companies with foreign shareholders, so some companies are not buying property at the moment. They are just waiting to see if there are any

further changes to government policy," K. Somboon said.

"Some foreign firms have slowed down their volume of transactions, preferring to just lay down deposits and postpone the transfers for now," he added.

"Anyway, it's not a huge number of firms that are doing

this so it won't have a big effect on the property market," he said.

Despite the current slowdown, K. Somboon said he was confident Phuket's property market will recover. "Phuket land prices continue to increase because there is a limited amount

of land on the island, while demand for it is increasing.

"Land prices in Patong continue to increase, and in Phuket City, some plots near Tesco-Lotus, Big C and Central Festival have increased in price by as much as 200% from last year," K. Somboon said.

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# Surin takes Blue Canyon title again

THALANG: Surin Bamrungphol once again took the Blue Canyon Country Club Championship, for the second straight year, in a nail-biting finish over John Marinko.

K. Surin, the President of the Phuket Golf Association, was leading Mr Marinko by two shots going into the final day of play.

By the time they reached the final hole, K. Surin was only one shot ahead of Mr Marinko and two shots ahead of Anton Suppon.

K. Surin and Mr Marinko both made par on the final hole, while Mr Suppon fell a spot, leav-

ing K. Surin the champion once again.

The 2006 Club Championship was the biggest in the event's history, with 120 players in four divisions for men and two divisions for ladies.

The Ladies Club Champion title was decided on the final nine when Wassana Schaupp pulled away from Sirada Panpetch to win by five shots. Pim Hamilton followed another shot behind.

Divisions were determined by handicap, but all winners were the gross winners of their division (handicap not factored in).

## FINAL STANDINGS

**Overall Club Champion:** Surin Bamrungphol.

**Overall Ladies Club Champion:** Wassana Schaupp.

**Ladies A:** Winner: Sirada Panpetch; Runner-Up: Pim Hamilton.

**Ladies B:** Winner: Jung Hee Cho; Runner-Up: Tamako Igata.

**Division A:** 1. John Marinko; 2. Jung Kyu Cho (OCB); 3. Anton Suppan.

**Division B:** 1. Paul Ahern; 2. Narin Singh; 3. Bunny Gray.

**Division C:** 1. Ken Abday; 2. Joe Mahler; 3. Randy Bishman (OCB)

**Division D:** 1. Tomohiro Okybo; 2. Choi Won Kyu; 3. Jacques Morcos.

## Islanders thump Academicals in Cricket League opener

THALANG: Despite Phuket Academicals winning the toss, they were beaten by Islanders Cricket Club by a handsome 85 runs in the opening match of the Island Furniture Cricket League on January 21.

Despite Academicals bowler Nicolas Catts taking three wickets for 45 runs off 8 overs, he could not contain the Islanders' batting line up, who scored a handsome 269 runs for just six wickets in the limited 35 overs.

Best on the scoreboard for the Islanders were Anand with 72 runs, Samir with 51 runs and Diwan, who scored 42.

Samir's performance at the crease was so impressive he was named Man of the Match.

In the second innings, Islanders' Jaffa was no slouch for the ball, taking four wickets for 18 runs off seven overs.

Brave performances by Roddy Meyer (declared) and Kellaway, who both scored 47 runs, were not enough to save the day. Phuket Academicals were bowled out for 184 runs.

The first day of cricket for the 13-week season started with a 10-over match between BIS Lighting, comprising students from British International School (BIS), and the Cherng Talay Witayakom School Hellboys.

BIS Lightning opened the batting and scored 46 runs, before the Hellboys replied with a solid innings, scoring 65 runs.



**SILLY WHAT?** A player in the Lightning-Hellboys game, played before the main event, gets ready to make a stand.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

### Piccadilly blitz Didi's to go top

PATONG: Piccadilly moved into first place with a solid 9-0 win at home against Didi's. It was Piccadilly's first win against Didi's in a long time, following a string of 5-4 losses.

Meanwhile, Queen Mary, which took all three points by forfeit

when Offshore couldn't get a team together on Boxing Day, has now agreed to relinquish those points and will play a make-up match against Offshore this week. As a result, Queen Mary now sits in third, but with a game in hand. Send match information to [darts@phuketgazette.net](mailto:darts@phuketgazette.net) for inclusion in this article.

**January 16 results:** Piccadilly\* 9 Didi's 0; Queen Mary\* 6 Dog's Bollocks 3; Funky Monkey 4 Offshore\* 5; Valhalla\* 3 Coyote Bar 6 (\* = winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Piccadilly (19 pts.); 2. Coyote Bar (18); 3. Queen Mary\* (17); 4. Didi's (15); 5. Dog's Bollocks (14); 6. Offshore\* (13); 7. Valhalla (9); 8. Beach House (7); 9. Funky Monkey (5); (\* = one game in hand).

**January 30 matchups:** Dog's Bollock's v Didi's; Piccadilly v Queen Mary; Offshore v Beach House; Funky Monkey v Valhalla (home team first). Coyote Bar has a bye.

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# Lord of the Flyweights

By Scott Mallon

In a residential neighborhood in Bangkok is WBC flyweight titleholder Pongsaklek Wonjongkam's home away from home, the Petchyindee Gym. Pongsaklek, 29, doesn't look like a veteran of more than 100 professional fights.

His boyish looks and reserved manner belie his age and occupation, but broach the subject of boxing and his eyes light up, and you realize he's a warrior in disguise.

Pongsaklek comes from Nakhon Ratchasima – one of the poorest areas of the country where tradition remains extremely important. Reverence to the family is strong, and adolescents feel an obligation to provide for their parents and relatives.

Although most farm boys have limited educations, they do know it's possible to forge a better life through boxing.

Pongsaklek was one such boy. At the age of 12, he began training in Muay Thai.

Pongsaklek began fighting bouts once a month throughout



**DANGEROUSLY DEDICATED:** Pongsaklek Wonjongkam puts yet another opponent on the back foot.

the country. Over the next five years he built up a 40-10 record and eventually fought at Bangkok's Lumpinee Stadium.

His boxing ability had always been superior to his Muay Thai skills, and after turning 17, he decided to make conventional boxing his exclusive profession.

The fact that the financial

rewards of boxing were potentially greater made the decision that much easier.

Like most of Thailand's fighters, Pongsaklek lives a relatively Spartan lifestyle. He lives at the gym, sharing space with other fighters, only leaving after a fight to visit his mother.

A week or two later, he is back at the gym, working for his

family, his future and his legacy.

He is never out of shape, doesn't drink, smoke or carouse with women, and trains six days a week. He lives to fight and to support his family.

"Sometimes we've caught fighters getting complacent," Petchyindee Camp Administrator Charoenchai Suriyawut said.

"We don't ever have to

worry about this with Pongsaklek; he's very diligent."

Pongsaklek's work ethic has proved beneficial. Pongsaklek, 63-2 (31), has reigned as the WBC flyweight titleholder for nearly six years and has defended his belt 16 times since knocking out Filipino Malcolm Tunacao in March 2001 to win the title. Pongsaklek made his professional debut on December 21, 1994, scoring a third-round KO against Bernardo Jun Davalos in Bangkok. There are rumors of a late 2007 fight with IBF champion Vic Darchinyan. However, the bout has yet to be confirmed.

Meanwhile, with every victory and title defense, Pongsaklek inches closer to greatness.

He recently surpassed the record for flyweight title defenses and is rapidly closing in on the title-reign record of seven-plus years. He has publicly vowed to win 20 in a row before retiring.

It is unlikely that the reserved Pongsaklek will remain a public figure after he quits boxing. For Pongsaklek, all roads lead him back to his beloved family and farm in Isarn.



**BRIGHT START:** OrBorTor Pa Khlok (in yellow) beat Assumption Sriracha 5-1 in the opening match of the provincial playoffs for the annual Prime Minister's Cup soccer tournament on January 20.

## New Firefly to contest Langkawi

PHUKET: Chris Jongerius's new Firefly 850 catamaran *The Frog* will be launched February 2, just in time to sail in its inaugural regatta, the Royal International Langkawi Regatta, to be held from February 4 to 9.

*The Frog* will be racing against defending Multihull Racing champion Roger Kingdon on *Moto Inzi*, as well as Andrew Marshall's *Pink Lady*, Bill Phelps's *Twin Sharks* and Henry

Kaye's *Mambo* – which this year will be racing in their own "one design" class.

Australian Mark Pescott, who designed the Firefly, will be the main man to beat, at the helm of *Twin Sharks*.

One design racing is considered by many as the ultimate form of yacht racing as there are no differences among the boats in the class, thus no handicaps. The fastest boat is determined by

the crew with the best tactics, skills and agility aboard, as well as determination and, of course, a touch of luck.

Crews will be weighed and any shortfalls on weight will require that water containers be added to bring the total up to the required level.

The class will race windward leeward courses only; there will be no procession courses for the Firefly class. – **Bob Mott**

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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

# I dunno art, but I know what I like

**M**odern art is for idiots. A bit strong, you may say, but how can an otherwise perfectly sane and rational segment of the population take a group of blobs, dots and accidents on canvas seriously?

Maybe I'm being unfair. Officially, modern art is defined as just about any art that "strays from portraying things realistically". That means that an even wider variety of pretentious nonsense can be viewed as "inspired" or "extraordinary" by men with goatee beards or women with comfortable shoes. Not that I'm generalizing, of course.

I really believe that I'm not alone in this cynicism, and that a sizable portion of the Western world thinks that at least some, if not all modern art is a form of scam; a kind of fake art.

We have some classic examples of "artistic genius" that have made the news over the years. An unmade bed. Water pouring out of a tap into a sink. A pile of bricks. Plastic bags full of rubbish. All won prizes and sold for thousands.

When you see an Andy Warhol lithograph of someone's face in three colors or a Campbell's soup label, it's hard for the average person not to think that they could have done exactly the same thing themselves with very little effort, and suspect that Mr Warhol just chucked some paint on a canvas, splashed it around a bit and hyped it to the art world.

On the other hand, there are a couple of things that are abundantly clear. Firstly, the average person didn't create a Warhol litho; its weirdness proves that. More importantly perhaps, the average person wouldn't even have thought of it. It may sound as if I'm arguing against myself

**TOP THAT IF YOU CAN:  
when it comes to splashy  
colors, modern art  
has nothing on the croton.**

here, but the fundamental point is that this stuff is still complete nonsense.

Jackson Pollock is another one – his stuff really is the ultimate in artistic cons. A canvas covered in a series of splashes, smudges and smears? Please. Next thing you know, they'll be calling elephant art masterpieces. Actually, come to think of it, they're both very similar...

Anyway, I think Jackson Pollocks's a complete buffoon. As Paul Hogan, the Australian actor, said in a beer commercial while looking at one of his paintings, "That's Pollock's".

He painted in what I can only presume is the same way as he thought – in a totally random fashions; you never knew what was coming next.

The plant world is generally a lot neater, better-organized and predictable. In contrast to most of its bedfellows, crotons do things a little differently – they are definitely not your average plant. I rather think that they come from



the Jackson Pollock side of the evolutionary chain – they just can't decide what color or shape they want to be.

Green and uniform they are certainly not. Their leaves are variegated, which just means that there are distinct different colors on one leaf. There are of course a number of variegated leaved plants around, but the croton, or *Codiaeum variegatum*, dares to be different, and takes this idea one step further.

As I write this page on a weekly basis, I should be able to describe precisely what a croton looks like, but honestly, I can't, as they're all totally dissimilar. There are certainly a few members of the family that look similar, but every single croton plant is unique.

They're usually a meter or two tall, and have at least six different leaf shapes, from long and

narrow to wide and oval, or a kind of maple shape. Some even form themselves into corkscrew arrangements. The leathery, shiny leaves don't usually get any longer than about 15 centimeters.

The colors are without doubt the most amazing thing about this plant. Most varieties we see in Phuket have at least two, if not three combinations of colors on their leaves; green, yellow, pink or red. They also have as many names as there are varieties, but in Thai they are typically called *koson*.

Watching them grow is worthy of one of those time-lapse films you see on the National Geographic Channel. The green and red variety, for example, grows quickly and enthusiastically in plenty of sun, as you'd expect. What you wouldn't expect is that the new leaves are a completely different color from the lower

ones – they initially emerge as light green and yellow.

As they begin to grow, they look as if they just can't be bothered to be the right color, but over the next couple of weeks they muster a little energy and gusto, and eventually decide to change hues. By this stage, they look as if they belong to the rest of the plant.

It's thought that the croton came from Moloko in Indonesia, originally in an all-green form. Over time, this original variety produced a "sport", or an offshoot differing from the parent plant. Since then, crotons have continued to produce sports as off-spring, and today, the seeds of the plant nearly always produce plants that look absolutely nothing like their parents. They should probably be from Manchester.

To this day, new hybrids are still being created, particularly in Thailand, where the plant is regarded as being a bearer of good luck. It also brightens up any spare sunny spot in the garden. It will put up with just about any treatment, but likes a fair bit of water. In a pot, it likes plenty of drainage, and will complain bitterly if the soil gets too muddy.

A sign that the croton is particularly content is when it produces clusters of small, nondescript flowers. They're nothing to write home about, but that's not a problem, as the plant is grown entirely for its spectacular foliage.

You could even bring your potted version indoors. Make sure it's near a window to give it plenty of light, but plenty of heat too. Crotons and air conditioning are not a happy combination.

If you're one of those who likes to walk round a garden trying to identify all plant life present, this one's easy in its own particular way. If the leaves are weirdly multi-colored and you haven't a clue what it is, it's probably a croton. I rather think that Mr. Pollock would have approved.

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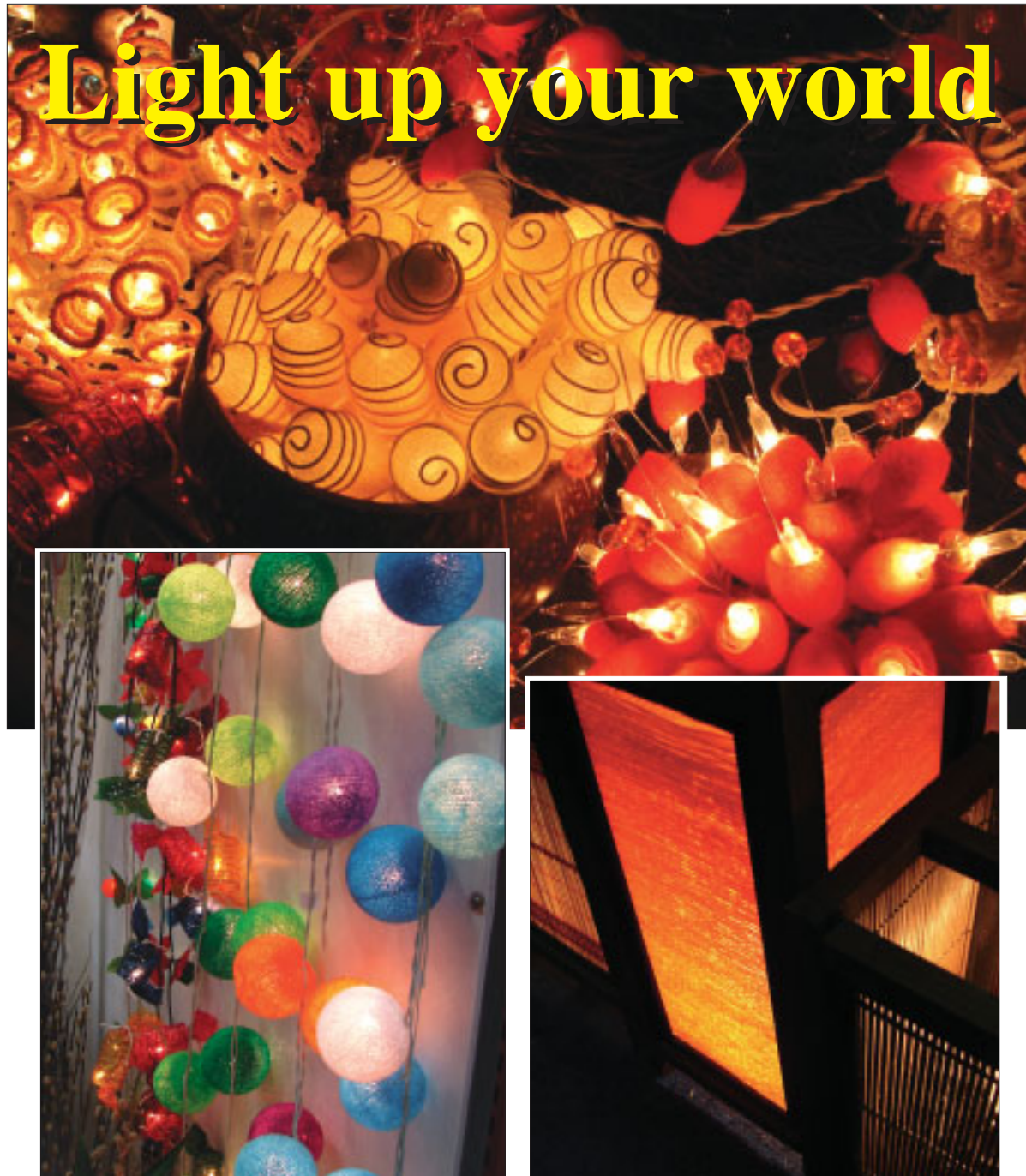
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## Decor

By Natcha Yuttaworawit



Decorative lighting is an easy, affordable way to add style to any room in your home. "Light can create a soft and joyful ambiance at the same time," agrees Khun A, who runs a small stall at the Tesco-Lotus supercenter.

Her shop offers lamps and lighting fixtures of all kinds, from candle holders to wall decorations to large lamps, with many of the items made from natural materials, such as wood, silk and leaf fibers.

The warm, soft glow given off by these lamps would add a cozy feeling to any corner, says Khun A. "But the best seller is the handmade lamp. I think it sells well because it's not just a lamp, it looks more like a work of art," she adds.

Among the large range of colors and styles at the shop, decoration lights that hang on the wall cost from 250 to 300 baht, glass candle holders run from 39 to 99 baht, lamps are priced from 350 baht, and the biggest "burner" is 1,300 baht.

The shop also carries other home decorations, gift items and souvenirs. Khun A, originally from Bangkok, explains, "All of my products are ordered from Bangkok, and I sometimes even discover decorations for my own home when ordering, but what I like most is lighting."

*Khun A's stall is located opposite Sukiyaki at the Tesco-Lotus supercenter. Open daily from 10 am to 9 pm. Tel: 081-920-0180. Email: numoungnaka@hotmail.com*

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## Home of the Week

Nai Harn

# Asian space and beauty

This fully-furnished Thai/Balinese-style home is situated in an attractive old Thai village in the prestigious compound of Nai Harn Baan-Bua, close to amenities and some of the best unspoiled beaches on the island.

The home is built on two plots covering 2,516 square meters.

At the top of the driveway are two garages, an art gallery with Burmese and Thai art, a conference room and a reception room with open view to the valley of Nai Harn/Rawai.

This area also houses a shower room and garden storage.

Up an open stairway, you come to the two-bedroom guest apartment with full view, separate bedrooms and a bathroom.

Further up the tree-shaded stairway, you enter the private section of the house that includes the sleeping and living pavilions, separated by a bridge overlooking a lily pond. Each pavilion is surrounded by a 120-sqm terrace.

The living pavilion includes



the living room, kitchen and dining area. The fully-equipped living room features a carved-wood

Thai temple door and bamboo furniture. Large windows permit views of the surrounding beauty.

Through a glass sliding door one enters the dining room, with antique Chinese furniture, an attractive bar in the kitchen and an attached bathroom.

The kitchen is well equipped and practical, with laundry and pantry attached. Through the kitchen, a rustic sala is just a short walk away over another bridge and a perfect place to enjoy breakfast.

Back through the living pavilion and over the bridge, one enters the sleeping pavilion. To the right is the master bedroom and the study; to the left a guest room.

The master bedroom, which includes a walk-in closet, is tastefully decorated with Thai and Tibetan furniture.

It has a private terrace with Jacuzzi. The walls of the en-suite bathroom are natural gray marble and blue pearl granite. The shower has two warm water showerheads and one cold waterfall shower that is fully open, overlooking the garden and the mountains.

The guest room has built-in furniture and Thai style decoration. The en-suite bathroom is almost fully open to the garden. The study is fully-equipped with electronic controls and furniture.

The stairs down lead to the pool deck entrance. Here there

is a gym with wooden floor, a fully-mirrored wall, another wall with wooden lattice.

The gym, which opens onto the garden, also has an open shower and small sauna.

The upper garden surrounds the main house, sala, waterfall, pool deck and gym. Art pieces and many different plant and water features provide a natural yet sophisticated appeal.

Steps lead one down to the middle and lower garden, which has a beautiful pond and relaxing sala where one can sit and enjoy the surroundings.

Priced at 42.2 million baht, this house is at home in the tropics with touches of the Asian spirit throughout.

For more information contact Morna Mackintosh Tel: +66 85 7829544 or email: morna.mackintosh@cbre.co.th for a viewing or further information.



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## Construction Update

by Dominic Earnshaw

Site clearance for Serenity Terraces, a new 7.2-rai luxury apartment development in Rawai, is now almost complete and construction work is slated to begin within two months.

The project is on Friendship Beach, to the north of Friendship Beach Hotel and Evason Phuket Resort, on a plot previously occupied by Atlas Dive Resort.

Ann Hanson, Serenity Terraces' Sales Manager, said that the location has "views of the many islands in and beyond Chalong Bay, including the Phi Phi Islands. The beach itself is quiet and peaceful, as there is no public access within easy reach.

"Close by is the Evason Resort and Spa, soon to be complemented by a new Four Seasons resort," she added.

The 63-unit development is a project of Serenity Development Group, which also has projects coming in New York, Tel Aviv and Kiev. The 63 units will be divided into four "Beach Lofts", four "Beach Duplexes", 10 penthouses, 24 two-bedroom apartments and 21 one-bedroom apartments. Seventeen units have already been reserved.

Off-plan prices are expected to start at 7.6 million baht for a 126-square-meter, one-bedroom apartment in building A, rising to 30.4 million baht for beachside duplexes with living areas of 220sqm.

"These are truly unique in being new properties with direct beachfront locations. A license for a location such as this with total beachfront will be impossible to secure in the future," said Ms Hanson.

# Serenity and added benefits



Main picture: Computer-generated impression of the living room in one of the beachside apartments at Serenity Terraces.

Inset, below: The *Lady Anita*, which will be shared by all the apartment owners.



When complete, the development will offer a rental management service for owners who want to rent out their properties for part of the year.

"The beachfront location will enhance occupancy demand and rental rates over other properties, many of which do not enjoy direct beach access or are remote from Phuket's activity centers," Ms Hanson explained.

The project will also include a clubhouse with a gym and spa, a beachfront infinity pool and a beachfront restaurant.

An unusual aspect of this project is the "Serenity Toys"

package provided for residents. This includes an 89-foot luxury yacht, *Lady Anita*. "Every owner at Serenity Terraces will have an exclusive period of use each year, by lottery, of this magnificent, fully-crewed boat. Periods

of use can be swapped with other owners, or sold," said Ms Hanson.

"A luxury speedboat will

also be provided for the exclusive use of Serenity Terraces owners, for island-hopping and snorkeling or diving trips. Two Hobie cats and several kayaks will also be provided," she added.

In the first quarter of this year, construction will start on the beachfront units. The whole project is scheduled to be complete by the fourth quarter of next year. Bids for the construction contract are now being finalized.

The project managers are Cornerstone Management Co Ltd and the architects are AP-FID International. The units will all have modern interiors by local designers Andaman Design.

For more informations visit the project website at [www.serenity-terraces.com](http://www.serenity-terraces.com).

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LAGUNA PHUKET AND LAYAN BAY**



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### OPEN TO OFFERS



2-bedroom, 3-bathroom, Jacuzzi, sea view. 320sqm. Extra land available. Tel: 081-9583513.

### SEAVIEW 2-BEDROOM

2-bedroom seaview houses with large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". 17.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2706454, +44778-9995522 (UK), 089-4727588. Email: djudges@hotmail.com

### RAWAI: 2 PLOTS OF 1 RAI

2 plots of 1 rai between Rawai and Chalong, quiet location, large coconut palms. 5 million a rai. Direct from owner. Tel: 089-874-8804. Email: rat\_phuket@yahoo.co.uk

### HOUSES FOR SALE

Or rent. 2 or 3 bathrooms and bedrooms. 5km from Heroines Monument toward Mission Hills Golf Course. Tel: 089-7298009. Email: clickphuket@gmail.com

### HOUSE AT PA KHLOK

Urgent sale. 3 bed, 2 bath with usable area of 117sqm. Living room and kitchen. Fully furnished, close to Yamu beach. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-8148564, 081-9022504.

### VILLA FOR SALE PATONG PHUKET



Has private swimming pool. Fully furnished. Tel: 086-2791602. For more information, please see our website at: [www.thai-norwaymansion.com](http://www.thai-norwaymansion.com)

### UNIQUE OFFER, KATHU

House in Kathu, 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms, living room, large veranda/patio, kitchen/dining, laundry room, walled garden. 340sqm plot, private cul-de-sac in small development, rural setting but close to shops, international school, golf courses, 9 minutes to Patong. Price 4.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

### RAWAI CONDO

1.35 million baht. Superb 1-bedroom condo on 5th (top) floor. 54sqm, lounge, shower room, kitchen area, balcony with mountain views, fully furnished, aircon, hot water, secure. Chanote for foreign ownership. Tel: 076-388657, 087-8917408. Email: gillies18367@hotmail.com

### MISSION HEIGHTS

Land for sale, fully serviced, 500 meters. Mission Hill Golf Course, various plots available, 90-year lease to non-Thais. Tel: 081-3772280, 089-226-2612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

### SEA VIEW TOP LOCATION



Sea view is great, bay view is nicer. You have the beauty of the sea in daytime and the lights with atmosphere in the evening. So here you have it both. A tall house with many large balconies to enjoy the scenery. Located in Baan Suan Kamnan, green and relaxed neighborhood at the south end of Patong bay. This (Freehold) house (5 levels) has a private pool with nice garden (Chanote land). Take a look at the website or pass by. Call owner Edwin for more info. Tel: 086-7866350. For more details, please see our website: [www.patongbluepoint.com](http://www.patongbluepoint.com)

### PATONG NEW SEAVIEW

Apartment with swimming pool. 30 years + 30 years. Start: 2.5 million baht. Chanote land plots with electric and water from 450,000 baht. Tel: 081-6917241.

### NAI HARN LAND FOR SALE

Beautiful 2 x 800sqm. Water, electricity, Chanote, top location, residential area. 3.2 million baht. No brokers. Tel: 081-8920580.

### 4 SARABURI VILLAS

For sale/barter, 180sqm on 100sq wah guarded estate. 4.75 million baht. Or barter with seaview plots. Tel: 081-8142040. [www.ziam.com](http://www.ziam.com)

### VILLA FOR SALE NEAR LAGUNA



Newly built. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Open-plan kitchen, living room. The villa is fully airconditioned and furnished. Built on 360 sqm. 176sqm living area, with a beautiful garden. The location is only 10 minutes to Bang Tao Beach and 5 minutes to Laguna. 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-813-1447. Email: kwanphuket@hotmail.com

### SEA VIEWS

Only 600 meters to the beach. 1-, 2-, & 3-bedroom apartments from only 1.1 million baht. 20% already gone and selling fast! Full freehold condo title. Be quick! Phone James. Tel: 081-5552073, or Torry. Tel: 085-0648079. Email: [newpropertygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:newpropertygroup@hotmail.com)

### MUST SELL, KAMALA

New house in Kamala. 4 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. Master bedroom has Jacuzzi. Quality build inside & out. Solid wood floors & ceilings. Western kitchen, pool. Detached 2-car garage with studio above. Interior over 300sqm, walled-in plot. 50% financing over sale 15.5 million baht. Rent (min 6 months) 90,000-120,000 baht a month. Contact Boomer. Tel: 086-2878966. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

### INVESTMENT

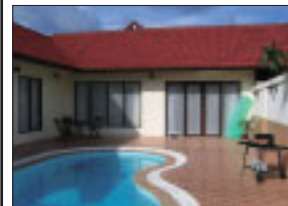
Guesthouse in Patong for sale with Thai company. 208sqm with Chanote title, 150m from Jungceylon, on the bypass road. Option to open 3 shops, extension to 7 floors. Reasonable price: 25 million baht. Tel: 086-1062566. Fax: 076-345554.

### PRIME LAND ON PHUKET



On hill, very beautiful view overlooking sea on east coast & west coast, and 2 golf courses (Blue Canyon & Mission Hill). 19 rai. Wholesale: 2.5 million baht a rai. Partial sale: 3 million baht a rai. Has Nor Sor 3 Gor and no obligation (price negotiable). Tel: 081-893-6355.

### HOUSE WITH POOL IN CHALONG



Beautiful house on 224sqm of land, with private pool. Two bedrooms, big living room, bathroom with Jacuzzi and shower, European kitchen. Fully furnished, 3 aircons, ADSL, UBC. 5 million baht. Tel: 081-2720668, 086-5336089. Email: [gazette@glibber.com](mailto:gazette@glibber.com)

### NAI THON BEACH

Seaview land sale. 4 rai, chanote. Tel: 089-4742140. Please see our website at [www.naithonhill.com](http://www.naithonhill.com)

### HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story house in Chalong. 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom, aircon, Western kitchen. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

### NEW POOL VILLA

Land & House Park. 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom. European kitchen. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-0918908.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircon, phone, UBC. Fully furnished. 4.2 million baht. In Land & House. Tel: 076-378-140, 081-3619277.

## BEACHFRONT LAND



### THE ONLY 9 RAI

DEVELOPMENT SITE LEFT ON BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG BEACH. D.A. APPROVED FOR 96 UNITS. CURRENT PLANS AVAILABLE. CONTACT

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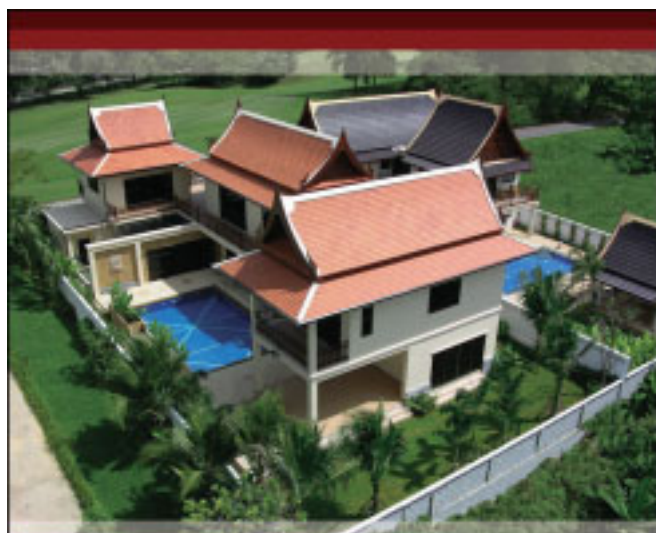
### CEDAR SHINGLE ROOF, NAI HARN



Last house is for sale in a boutique development of 5 houses in Nai Harn. Beautiful roof of cedar shingles. Pool, 2 bedrooms, 3 toilets. Thai-Bali style and well-known architect with highest quality. Near beach and restaurants. Special price for last house: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8447408. Email: viktoys@loxinfo.co.th Please see our website for more details: [www.nchantra-property.com](http://www.nchantra-property.com)

### LUXURY HOUSE

For sale in Chalong. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Teak curved staircase, spa, solar hot water, nice gardens, river views. 7.9 million baht. Chanote. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. Or see our website at: [www.phukethouse4sale.com](http://www.phukethouse4sale.com)



## VILLA AT PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB GOLF

Situated next to the 14th tee is a wonderful Thai style villa, 800 sqm of lovely gardens plus 340 sqm villa. Fabulous offer and ready for new owner at 24 million baht.

Please call 081-9241447 (English), 081-8920226 (Thai).

## Seaview Condominiums for Sale Rambutan Residence An Investment in Paradise



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury freehold fully furnished apartments for sale. Located in Soi Playboy just off Nana Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. 80% sold. Prices start at 2.7 million baht. Please contact Peter at Tel: 081-8928526. For details please see our website at: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

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# Property Gazette

## HOUSE WITH SWIMMING POOL



For sale or lease in Thalang. Center of Thalang next to the Bangkok Bank and only 100 meters to the main road. 10 minutes to Surin beach, Phuket International Airport and Blue Canyon Country Club, and only 5 minutes to Laguna beach. 8 x 4m swimming pool, 5 air conditioners, 1 child's room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & 1 separate building useful as office-cum-storeroom or as a maid's room. 504sqm, Chanote title. 5.5 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 081-6078000.

## URGENT SALE!

New 2-bedroom, 100sqm apartment, Surin beach area, massive swimming pool with excellent resort facilities, best price in development! 5.95 million baht. Tel: 085-787-1320. Email: kez\_turn@yahoo.co.uk

## 2 RAI SEAVIEW

Panoramic sea view of Phang-nga islands with infrastructure. 2 rai at 5 million baht per rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-270376, 086-9434824. Fax: 076-271193. Email: lagunaphuket@exotiqrealestate.com

## VILLA FOR SALE

Near Laguna area. 2-story, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, big pool with 2 car parking spaces. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

## FOR SALE

Bali-Thai style house. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, private pool, near Laguna. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 089-8686842.

## STUNNING SEA VIEW

400sqm square plot in Kata. Chanote title. Last one available. 3.5 million baht. Be quick. Tel: 089-6525664.

## 1 RAI RAWAI LAND

Surrounded by mountain view, square plot. Concrete road, electric. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

## RAWAI 200SQM

Plot. Chanote title, ideal for single house. 750,000Baht. Tel: 081-5376866.

## RAWAI SEA VIEW

Land. 540sqm amazingly beautiful plot, Chanote title. 200m from main road. Only 2.4 million baht. Tel: 081-8938747.

## RAWAI SMALL PLOT

Near main road, square, perfect to build house on. 1.2 million baht. Call quickly. Tel: 081-5376866.

## FOR LEASE

3.25rai of cleared flat land. Suitable for stables, etc. Good location in Rawai. For more information call. Tel: 081-0825707.

## RAWAI POOL VILLA

Big villa, 2,200sqm land. 5 bedrooms, top location. Asking price: 14.9 million baht. Call now. Tel: 089-6525664.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Koh Lanta. Old Thai-style fisherman's house in Lanta old town on the water. Approx 150sq wah. Partially renovated, in need of completion. Views to the islands. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-4698982. Email: simon\_darvill@hotmail.com

## CHALONG HOUSE

For sale. 3 bedrooms, maid's flat, aircon throughout, two carports and spacious garden. Tel: 085-7819961.

## RAWAI 3-BEDROOM, 3-BATHROOM



New traditional Thai-design home with large patio surrounded by a pool and a cooling lotus/fish pond. Home is 240sqm, sits on a 400sqm lot and features modern kitchen & many upgrades. Priced at only 7.9 million baht. Contact Gary. Tel: 087-8987062.

## MODERN &

Luxurious villa. 323sqm, new, 4 bedrooms with bathroom, dining room, living room 80sqm. Spacious kitchen, swimming pool 12 x 5m. Land 1,780sqm, near Nayang beach. Price: 22.8 million baht. Tel: 086-2713454.

## CONDO FOR SALE

Fully fitted and furnished. Patong views. Sale to include company title. Car parking. Large pool. Tel: 087-265-0118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

## PA KHLOK LAND

1 Rai 79sq wah. Point East State. 4km away from Heroines Monument. Chanote title. Good price for very nice land. Tel: 081-8953649, 089-8718327.

## HOUSES ON MY

Island. Hello, my name is Wellta, I have a large, up-to-date selection of houses for rent and sale on the island where I was born - Phuket. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

## EAST COAST OFFICE

Or shophouse near Mission Hills. 100sqm. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 081-8918689.

## PATONG LOVELY HOUSE!



Beautiful, 2 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, European kitchen, nice garden and garage! Located in the center of Patong. 5-minute walk to beach. Good price. Tel: 089-4745238.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Patong. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big living room and kitchen. On private land and soi. Tel: 081-7879627. Email: gerar@patongfamily.com

## BARGAIN THAI SPA

Pool villa. Romantic tropical spa/resort-style courtyard garden pool villa for sale by owner near Kamala beach for only 7.9 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. Amazing. Must see. Tel: 081-816-2066. Email: coneybeez@aol.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Patong. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Contact for further information. Tel: 089-662-0804. Email: renoothailand@gmx.net

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Tel: 087-2799500. For details, please see our website: www.baan-phuttharat-phuket.com

## SHOPHOUSE

In Patong. Near beach, Soi Wattana Clinic. 12 million baht. Contact for more details. Email: info@cafespatz.com

## THE WATERFRONT CONDOMINIUM



Karon Beach. Sea view, luxury. Foreign freehold, 2 bedrooms, 167sqm high-floor condo with panoramic sea views of Karon beach from all rooms. 14.5 million baht. Call Jeremy or Nida at Phuket Land Search. Tel: 081-8916174, 089-470-7591.

## CHALONG BEACHFRONT



Elegant housing project, 23 two-story pool villas available. Starting from 11 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## FREEHOLD/SEAVIEW

Condo sale. Brand new, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Bel Air Panwa unit. Price: 9 million baht. Including 500,000 baht worth of furniture. Agents welcome. Tel: 076-342673, 081-9582705. Fax: 076-342673. Email: asiaproperty@compass-club.com

## LAND FOR SALE

108sq wah, beautiful land, Kathu area. Near Kathu market. 3 million baht. Tel: 089-4691813.

## Land Villas And Homes FROM 960,000 BAHT.

**Mission Hills** 800sqm plots from 960,000 baht

**Nai Harn** 2-3/4 Rai. 5.1 million baht per Rai

**Nai Harn** 1 Rai + 280sqm Car Commercial Site. Offers.

**Chalong Bay** 4 Rai Absolute Waterfront Offers

**Rawai** 28 Rai Esplanade Front. Sea and Island views 9 million baht per Rai.

**Kathu** 80 Rai Prime Sub-Divisional land 3.5 million baht per Rai.

**Chalong Townhouses** 2 bed/2 bath. From 1.4 million baht.

**Patong 'SEAVIEW'** Homes from 7 million baht.

**WAANN MARKETING**  
PHONE: 0865150234  
Email: royalprestige1776@yahoo.com

## ECO NANUA ESTATE

Eco Nanua is located on Phuket's east coast just a short distance from the Heroines Monument & just before the junction to Cape Yamu. The project will become a gated residential community comprising tropical gardens & views of the natural rainforest, presenting a unique opportunity for future residents. Land plot sizes range from 2 to 3 rai at 3 to 5 million baht a rai. Tel: 081-8925649. Fax: 076-385293.

Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com

## AMAZING SEA VIEW

400sqm. Land in Kata, Chanote title, last available plot. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

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## 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



# Property Gazette

## 3-BEDROOM VILLA



Kathu, peaceful residential area, 134sqm living space. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## KAMALA BEACH

Very nice new apartments or houses for rent or sale near beach fully equipped. 15,000 to 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-3059606.

## 1.02RAI : RAWAI

Super location near hills. High-end development on one side. Only potential for sea view. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8504544.

## KOH JUM, KRABI

Beachfront on Koh Jum near Koh Lanta. 16 rai with Nor Sor 3 Gor. Call for more details. Price: 35 million baht. Tel: 081-6406196.

## HOUSE RAWAI

Beach. 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, pool. Good investment, easy sale. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 086-5041407.

## HOME/OFFICES

For sale. Newly-built, 3-story, 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom home offices for sale. Tel: 084-8480907. Email: aasvogel06@hotmail.com

## KATA BEACH

800,000 baht. Road, water, Chanote title, and 5-minute walk to beach, good for small house. Please call Jul at Tel: 081-6911053.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Kathu. Corner house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining rooms, kitchen. Furnished. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 080-7275514.

## GOLDEN TEAK

Wooden house. 1,080sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, partially furnished, beautiful garden, peaceful, near Ekamai and Thonglor BTS stations, easy access to Sukhumvit Rd, New Petchburi Rd, Rama IX Road and express way. Tel: 02-8670455, 089-9102225. Fax: 02-8670455. Email: miniature7@yahoo.com See www.woodenhouse.com

## SEAVIEW LOVERS

For Seaview Lovers only. Come to Baan Suan Kamnan, located in south Patong Beach, and witness the incredible sea views offered. 3-bedroom main house with 2-level guesthouse. Spaciously combined, leaving plenty of layout options. 3 to 5 minutes down to the beach. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

## SHOPHOUSE, KATA

3 floors of shop space. 175sqm, 4 single bedrooms 50-65sqm, 3 bedrooms 115sqm. Ket kwan road. Tel: 089-6522331. Email: owner-donsngym@hotmail.com

## CONDOMINIUM



Freehold, Boat Lagoon Marina, 195sqm living space, direct waterfront, comfortable open-plan dining and living, European kitchen, 2 bedrooms, boat mooring. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## PRIVATE POOL

Villas. Near Laguna area. 2-bedroom villas with luxury and tranquility. Only: 6.95 million baht. Tel: 087-2670102. Email: paul@reefframmer.com

## RAWAI SMALL PLOT

600sqm. Near mainroad, square, ideal for house building. Only: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-5376866.

## HOUSE IN KATHU

Convenient for international school, golf courses, shops and 9 mins to Patong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, 500sqm land area, walled garden, private parking. Price: 5.25 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: kittisakdj@yahoo.com

## HALF RAI IN RAWAI

300 meters from Rawai Beach ideal for development. Tel: 087-8938147.

## 2-BEDROOM KATHU

Lounge. Kitchen, clean, ready to move in. Near Kathu waterfall. 1.1 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 083-1310626 (Chris), 084-843-5046 (Nok, Thai).

## 2.5 RAI LAND

Square plot. Top location. Concrete road, water supply, 200 meters from beach. Tel: 089-6525564.

## 1 RAI PLOT RAWAI

Surrounded by mountain views, square plot, concrete road, electric. Price: 4.5 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 089-6525664.

## KORINA VILLAS

Chalong. Exciting new project of 4 high-quality, 3-bedroom homes. 2-story, all with private infinity pools, salas, large balconies. Complete: 7.6 million baht. Tel: 085-7871320. Email: info@tharapropertyphuket.com

## FURNISHED HOUSE

5 minutes to Laguna Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, solar water heating, 3 aircons, living room, large hall area, pool 5 x 10, usage area 310sqm, land 1,200sqm. Price: 13 million baht. Tel: 089-8738295, 086-594-8426. Email: tomasflet@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story house Chalong. 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom, aircon Western kitchen 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

## 13 RAI LAYAN BEACH

13 rai with great sea/sunset views. This plot is ideal for an apartment project. Land titles checked! Tel: 076-346346, 086-2726508. Fax: 076-346263. Email: info@phuket realestate.com

## LANTERN PROJECT

Near BIS. Must-see show house! 450sqm, water concept, 3 bedrooms, private lift and pool. SMEG kitchen, penthouse office with panoramic view. Completion: June 2007. Available for rent at: 70,000 baht a month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-8779-292. Fax: 081-8779292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com Please see our website at: www.gracegardensphuket.com

## HOME IN KHOK KLOI

118sqm, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom with 904sqm garden, sandwash walkway & patios, with 2-car covered parking, deep well with water tank. 2.6 million baht. Tel: 081-7284821. Email: elevendigits@yahoo.com

## KAMALA 1 1/2 RAI

House. Near beach, great opportunity, 10 million baht. Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

## RAWAI ECO-COOL THAI HOME



The open-air design of this award-winning home affords a true tropical lifestyle. Traditional Thai design and modern materials are combined to beat Phuket's tropical heat without aircon. A large, naturally cool patio surrounded by a pool and a cooling lotus/fish pond. Priced at only 9.9 million baht, this large 3-bedroom 3-bathroom, plus office area (240sqm) home sits on a 400sqm lot. Features: modern kitchen, designer bathrooms, hardwood floors. For more information contact Gary at Tel: 087-987062. Email: www.eco-coolthaihomes.com

## KOH YAO YAI



East coast, 8 beachfront and 5 oceanview plots available, already subdivided, Nor Sor 3 Gor land title deeds. From 2 to 6 million baht a rai. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## LAND 1 RAI

At Kho Ta Node. 1-2-39.9 rai, Chanote, next to new high-end project & near Laguna properties. Road & electricity, suitable for private villa or small project. 5 million baht a rai. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-325411, 081-3701189. Fax: 076-325413. Email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

## SEAVIEW LAND

In Ao Por. Nor Sor 3 Gor. 380sqm. Price: 1.55 million baht. Tel: 081-1719705. Email: atatayap@yahoo.com

## CONDOMINIUM

Freehold, Cape Panwa, 106sqm living space, ground floor, open-plan dining and living area with direct pool access, European kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 6.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-279280. Email: apawann@hotmail.com

## OFFICE BUILDING

Executive office building for sale. 102sq wah. Includes aircon, security system and private carport. 15 million baht. Tel: 076-282211, 081-958-0815. Fax: 076-283251. Email: moo@mintcard.net

## Properties For Rent

### NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms at Pa Khlok, just 700 meters from monument. Furnished, near international school. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-8516115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### BANG TAO

Bungalow. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms (1 with aircon), hot shower and bath, phone. Quiet. Rent: 15,000 baht per month (4 month min). Utilities. Call Betty at Tel: 076-210312 or Khun Tee at Tel: 086-2786465.

### ONE-BEDROOM

Condominium. In Patong Tower with beautiful mountain views. Fully furnished, Cable TV, telephone, etc. Available for long-term letting. Tel: 089-6519872. Email: oswald.spiess@aon.at

### LARGE HOUSE

For rent, Kathu. 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom furnished house for long-term rent. Telephone line, UBC, garden, etc. Close to golf course & international school. Located on quiet private road 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-323663, 089-8752532. Fax: 076-323663. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

### 4-BEDROOM VILLA

Rawai. Luxury villa. Large swimming pool, UBC, ADSL. Available Feb for long- and short-term rental. Tel: 086-2790837.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, living room, study, fenced garden, UBC, ADSL. For rent long term. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-843-9579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

### LUXURY SEA VIEW

Large private villa. With amazing views in every direction. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's quarters, snooker room, large kitchen, dining room, study, fully furnished, swimming pool, sauna, all set in gardens. 10 minutes to BCIS. 80,000 per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

In Patong, sea view, 2 bedrooms, lounge + kitchen. For rent. February 4. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-8700434.

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# Property Gazette

## New Villa For Rent



In Land & House Residential Area Near Chalong  
3 bedrooms, furnishing, air-conditioned,  
kitchen, large living area, garden.

Baht 30,000.- per month (min. 1 year contract)  
Baht 39,000.- per month (min. 6 months contract)  
Baht 55,000.- per month (min. 1 month contract)  
Please contact Khun Sasithorn at 081 537 8774  
or Urs at 081 846 9981 or ursaebi@gmx.net

### FOR RENT

Boat Lagoon. Large, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, townhouse on Canal. 1 year min. Furnished. 33,000 baht. Tel: 086-2820567.

### RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Rent room. Daily or monthly 3,000 to 9,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC. Tel: 084-3079909. Email: dyotachan@yahoo.com

### LONG-TERM RENT

Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, car park, furnished. Tel: 089-7288311.

### BUNGALOW RAWAI

2 bedrooms, aircon, Cable TV, ADSL. Quiet location. Tel: 086-2790837.

### LAND IN PATONG

For long-term lease. 2.5 & 3.5 rai. 200 Pi Rd. Tel: 081-6424280 (No brokers).

### RAWAI SEA VIEW

DLX studio apt, all new or remodeled, refurnished. Long term 7,000 baht. Tel: 084-0571420.

### HOUSE NEAR

Airport. House at Wong Chalem Villa for rent, fully furnished. Aircon, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen room, living room. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-5696086.

### LAGUNA AREA,

Discovery gardens. New fully-furnished, 2-bedroom houses. Large pool, WiFi, cable TV, maid service. Excellent rates for 1 night or 1 year! Tel: 076-527594, 084-8661965. Email: jziment@yahoo.com www.phuketmarbella.com

### NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms at Pa Khlok close to monument. 15,000 baht per month. Unfurnished. Tel: 084-8449568. Email: Wazbec@hotmail.com

### WE WANT TO BUY

Or lease an established hotel or resort on Phuket. Please email details, property name, address, price, website and any other relevant info. No agents please email to. Email: buyhotels@phukets.info

### NEW HOME

Available from March. 4 ensuite bedrooms w/pool, Western kitchen & bar, separate maid's room w/bath, sala, BBQ, Solarcell hot water, UBC, parking for 3, nice garden. In quiet area of Thalang, 10 mins to Laguna/Phuket City, 15 mins to airport. 1-3 months: 150,000 baht per month. Over 3 months: 120,000 baht per month. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

### SURIN BAY AREA

Big garden. Long-term lease now available on 3-bedroom house with aircon, 2 toilets, outdoor kitchen, opening up to 1.2 rai of screen-fenced garden. Unfurnished or partially furnished as required. Good for pets, kids & privacy. Large covered outdoor area. Garden maintenance provided. 27,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-9410410, 086-269-2020. For more details and photo please see website: www.phuket-house.here. fastmail.fm/@Surin\_Beach/Surin%20House%20-%20Details.doc

### NEW HOUSE

Phaklong, Thalang. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished kitchen. 13,500 baht a month. Palm Garden 56/6. Tel: 081-6063525.

### 3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd, 207sq 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. Please contact for further details. Tel: 081-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

### FOR RENT KATHU

2-story aircon restaurant with seating outside in busy area opposite Caltex Garage. Fully equipped with modern appliances. 1 year old. 300,000 baht + 12,000 baht per month for rent. Tel: 084-1935124.

### LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Kathu. 4 large, quiet, central flats. 6-15,000 baht a month long term. Please call for details. Tel: 081-968430.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Newly built, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 1km to Phuket & 7km to Patong Country Club. Available Feb 1 for 1 year rent. 27,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-090-4786. Email: malkham0614@yahoo.com

### LOVELY, 4 BEDROOMS CHALONG

4 bathrooms, spa, aircon, pool, garden, UBC. 800sqm. Quiet area. 65,000 baht a month. Call for more details. Tel: 086-2817605.

### AMAZING SEA VIEWS

Large villa in Cape Yamu set in delightful gardens surrounded by rolling hills and countryside. Superb views out to Phang Nga Islands. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining and snooker room, maid's room, kitchen, study, sauna and swimming pool, furnished, UBC, Internet. 80,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-2796283.

### RENT A HOUSE

Beautiful house, views of elephants and nature, big terrace, 130sqm basement, garage, full aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. European style. Long-term rent: 30,000 baht a month. Come look. Tel: 081-2711082. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

### DETACHED HOUSE

For rent. In gated estate close to British International School. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, well maintained with nice garden. 35,000 baht per month. Available Jan 07. Call Piyanute at Tel: 081-8926991 or David at Tel: 081-8500911.

### LAKEVIEW APT/LOFT

Office. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 floors, near Lotus. Furnished, cable, phone, aircon. 20,000 baht a month. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8928208.

### FOR RENT OR SALE

In condotel Sky Inn. 2 single rooms/1 double room. Tel: 089-8756803. Email: hebo41@gmail.com

### DETACHED HOUSE

For rent or sale. Just 7 minutes from international school. Fully-furnished house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and ready to move in. Rental price: 20,000 baht per month. Selling price: 2.45 million baht (negotiable). Please call for more details. Tel: 081-5399269.

### SEAVIEW PATONG

Luxury 2-bedroom apartment. European kitchen, aircon, UBC, ADSL, large swimming pool. Available for long- or short-term rental. Tel: 086-2790837.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Land & Houses Park Chalong. New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, aircon, free access to pool, fitness 400 Gym. Tel: 081-7884655.

### BUNGALOW

For rent. Fully furnished. 2 bedrooms with aircon. Nice, quiet & safe Chalong area. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6064279.

### BUNGALOW

1 bedroom bungalow in front of Chalong Bay beach for rent. Has terrace, kitchen, aircon, car park 15m from house. Fully furnished. 12,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-658-4437, 089-7297978. Email: property1998@hotmail.com

### HOUSES FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 1 pool, ADSL, UBC, aircon, Rawai, available from February. 40,000 baht per month. 2 bedrooms, ADSL, aircon, in Kata. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7371687, 086-9544155.

### 9 RAI FOR LEASE

Located in Kathu. 2 minutes from Central. Suitable for long-term investor. For more info email: leekuab@yahoo.com

### BUNGALOW

For long-term rent in Karon Beach. 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, 2 airconditioners. Fully ready and fully furnished! Quiet location near the beach. Monthly rent: 7,000 baht. Take-over of furniture is wanted; let's speak about the price! Ready to move in on 1st March 2007. Tel: 087-0066263. Email: peterkaron@gmx.de

### HOUSE FOR RENT 25,000/MONTH



For one-year contract rent, including furniture, 2 aircons and hot water. 5.9 million baht for sale (land and house) 80sq wah (320sqm), 2-story house with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one big store room and a large garden in a nice tranquil area. 10 minutes to Nai Ham or Rawai beach and 15 minutes to Phuket City. Please call for showing by owner. Tel: 084-9916654.

### PATONG TOWER

Sea view. 1-bedroom apartment, 100 meters from beach. UBC, pool, parking. Tel: 084-8473304.

### NEW KATHU HOUSE

For rent or sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, garden, aircon. Near Lotus, Central and Patong beach. For rent at 25,000 baht per month. For sale at 4.5 million baht. Please call Khun Yupa for more details. Tel: 081-735-6684, 084-1871939.

### APARTMENTS

For rent at Karon Beach. Long- or short-term. Tel: 089-491-2496. For more info email: mailjic@gmail.com

### 2 BEDROOM HOUSE

In Patong, sea view, 2 bedrooms, lounge + kitchen. For rent Feb 4. Tel: 087-8700434.

### MARINA VIEWS

Limited selection of various sizes of offices & apartments for rent, from December. Stunning views. Use of pool and gym. Tel: 076-206704. Email: info@yacht-haven-phuket.com

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## RUBBER DUCK 10FT

With Honda 8hp 4-stroke. Perfect condition, ready for fun. Contact George. Tel: 086-9724805.

## PEGASUS 8.2

Fiberglass. Center Console. New from 475,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 076-527129, 086-5950978.

## MORGAN 38'

For sale. Newly renovated 38-foot Morgan from 84. Located in Phuket, first to see will buy. Contact for full details. Tel: 089-5208503. Email: nips63@yahoo.com

## BUYING LIVEBOARD BOAT

Selling your liveboard dive boat? Contact for full details. Tel: 65-63487172, 65-96722511. Fax: 65-638 93792. Email headoffice@fishermenscuba.com

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(Contact Ms. Kanokorn Sangutai)  
E-mail: sales@sunnay.com Website: www.sunnay.com

## Boat for Sale

### Star Ruby 2

Length 26m, 5m beam  
with two 415hp Hino.  
120 passengers

Good Condition.

**1.8 million baht**

For more information  
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Executive Office at  
The Racha Resort  
at Tel: 076355455 or  
email: executiveoffice@theracha.com



## SAILING DINGHY

Last chance to buy before export to Australia. As new condition. Buy at 60% of cost to buy + ship. Call for more information. Phil at Tel: 081-3970905, or Robert at Tel: 081-5399560.

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For sale. 1.5 million baht with Thai registration. Width 4.9m, length 24m. 150,000 liters. Please call Surin for more information. Tel: 081-891-2333. Email: surin123@csloxinfo.com

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40ft charter boat, 2 x 185hp inboards, powerful generator, boatyard re-fit completed, TV, DVD, galley, 4 cabins, sleeps 8 comfortably, power shower, electric toilet, large fishing deck, fly bridge fitted with seating, GPS, fish finder, VHF. Sensible offers considered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7143656. Email: crew@cruise Phuket.com For further details, please see our website at: www.cruise Phuket.com

## INDONESIAN WOOD

Boat. Thai registered wooden boat and company for sale. 65ft long, 18ft wide, 30t weight. Email: shaanxi.xian@vipmail.hu

## AVON DINGY

English, 4-meter, wooden floor, 5hp Johnson outboard. 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-8733952.

## PEGASUS 7.2

Fiberglass. Center Console. New from 375,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-527129, 086-5950978.

## CRUISE IN STYLE

36' Oceanrace hull, twin Volvo turbos, full interior, turn-key, perfect condition, 3.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8424861. Fax: 076-200191. Email: brittsplace@hotmail.com

## OCCASION IN THAILAND



Sealine T52 Motor yacht, 1999. Outstanding, maintained in a nearly like-new condition, 16 meters, 2 x 600hp Man engines, 15 KW Kohler generator, tropical air conditioning, ice-maker, flatscreen TV, Dolby surround system, 3 cabins, Thai tax paid/registered. Owner wants to buy a bigger yacht. 22.8 million baht, must be seen! Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8629710 (English, German, Thai).

## YACHT FOR SALE



Fairways Freedom 25. Very seaworthy, just finished full refit including new rigging, sails, engine, etc. She's a lovely little ship, reasonably priced. Tel: 081-9252155. Email: no1paul@gmail.com

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Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept. Phuket Island Property Services Co., LTD (PIPS) 452 Siwathorn Road, Chongklay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel: 076 270 750 Fax: 076 270 751 Email: hr@pipsphuket.com

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## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

in sales. Attractive, very experienced sales lady required in Phuket. Should be 25-30 years old and have excellent presentation skills. Must have good command of spoken and written English. Candidates with their own car will have an advantage. Tel: 087-8974541. Fax: 076-221598. Email: gary@team-euro-asia.com

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Please contact: Personnel Manager at Asian Wind Co Ltd Tel: 076-381338, 081-8957908.

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- 1 x Chef/Hostess
- 1 x Hostess

A luxury motor yacht charter company is looking for 2 English-speaking Thai national staff to fill the above positions. A background in five-star service is essential as is a fun personality.

Please contact prue@tawancruises.com for further information.

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Cooks, wait staff, accounting staff needed. Must speak English. Women only. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-6931179.

## TOUR DESK SUPPORT TEAM

We are looking for a Thai person with a good command of English to work at our Jungceylon Tour Desk. Applicants must be sales experienced and have a happy, outgoing personality. Computer skills an advantage. Attractive salary and commission. Please send CV and photo by email or contact for more information. Tel: 076-342750, 084-8523380. Email: shall@loxinfo.co.th Please see our website at: www.travelgolf-spaholidays.com

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Can you teach Portuguese to GCSE Standard? If so contact Gary for more information. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: warton.gary@gmail.com

## SALES & MARKETING

Phuket Free Plus Marketing Co Ltd are looking for sales and marketing staff. Thai nationals. All customers will be Thai but some English will help. Experience preferred but not necessary as full training will be given, top salary and excellent commission. Contact K. Nutthanun for more details. Tel: 076-245971, 085-8880636. Email: phuketfreeplus@hotmail.com

## ACCOUNTANT/SALES

A little English experience, knowledge about Phuket, and flexibility preferred. Good salary and a great future. Please contact for further information. Tel: 081-537 6866. Email: info@phuketlanddeals.com

## URGENT

Experienced accountant needed For well-established real estate company. Male or female Thai national with good command of English. Quick Book and Easy Accounts knowledge an advantage. Needs to start immediately. Attractive salary and benefits. email: Peter@amarindvalley.com

## M&E/FINISHING INSPECTORS

- \* Finishing Inspectors (3 positions) – Male/Female over 25 years, architectural background, 3 years' experience in residential projects, own transport.
- \* Structural (1 position) – Male/Female over 25, degree in civil engineering, 3 years' project experience, own transport.
- \* M&E Inspectors (2 positions) – Male/Female over 25, degree in relevant field, 5 years' project experience, own transport.

Tel: 076-325401. Fax: 076-325403. Email: bee@dmg-thailand.com

## OFFICE STAFF

For new pool company near Laguna. Receptionist, admin & secretary. Good English & computer skills. Pool designer and estimator. Visio & Autocad helpful, good English. Contact Gary for more information. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: warton.gary@gmail.com

## SITE MANAGERS

PCS Phuket urgently requires Site Managers experienced in the janitorial field. Preferred applicants are aged 30 years or up, computer literate, and have basic English-speaking skills and a driver's license. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-224658-9, 081-6949088. Fax: 076-254774. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

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# Island Job Mart



A six-star resort-style development along the shores of Bang Tao Beach is currently seeking for a candidate of

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- Fluent in spoken & written English.
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- 1 host
- 1 staff manager

Full time only.  
Good salary for right person.

**Requirements:** Must speak and write English. Applicants for waitress positions must be between 25 and 35 years of age.

For more information or to apply for a position please call our staff manager at **085-7988511**. Also see our website for more info about us.

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A great and challenging opportunity is open at **THE AYARA RESORT**, a luxury resort with 30 rooms sits on the hill, nestled with panoramic view of Kamala beach and its natural serenity. The resort will be soft opening May 2007.

We are looking for the right candidates to join our team with warm working environment.

### Rooms Division

- Guest Service Manager
- Guest Service Supervisor
- Guest Service Executive
- Guest Service Assistant
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Room Attendant
- Butler & Porter
- Security Supervisor

### Kitchen

- Chef De Partie
- Cook (Thai / European)

### Spa

- Asst. Spa Manager
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- Therapist

### Restaurant & Room Service

- Restaurant & Room Service Manager
- Restaurant & Room Service Supervisor
- Restaurant Cashier
- Bartender
- Waiter / Waitress

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If you do not want to miss this opportunity, please send your resume, photo and expected salary to [sufee@ayarakamala.com](mailto:sufee@ayarakamala.com) or fax no. **076-310748**



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- Restaurant Hostess / Guest Relations
- Waiter / Waitress
- Bartender
- Cook Helper
- Yacht Hostess
- Event Catering Supervisor

Thai nationals only.  
Excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & service-mind required in all positions.

watermark bar restaurant

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22/1 Thepkasatthi Rd. Muang, Phuket  
For interview send resume to [long@watermarkphuket.com](mailto:long@watermarkphuket.com)  
Tel: 076-239078, 081-8941657

## ISLAND ECO-RESORT

**goldenbuddharesort.com** seeks a **MARKETING MANAGER**. This is a position for a person who loves nature and wants to help conserve it.

Native English speaker, computer savvy, with some relevant experience. Contact: [dicksandl@gmail.com](mailto:dicksandl@gmail.com)

### ARCHITECT

Young creative architect required to work with a property company. Experience in interiors and construction needed. Good deal for the right person. Interviews will be conducted in February. Please contact for more information. Email: [sten56@msn.com](mailto:sten56@msn.com)

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Freelance photographer required to work with new company. Should have experience in print media and have stock (digital) of pictures of Phuket for use in print and web. Using PhotoShop. Office in Bang Tao, interviews in February. Email: [sten56@msn.com](mailto:sten56@msn.com)

### SALES & PROMOTION

Sales & promotion person wanted. Thai national, male or female, for real estate sales project. English required. Tel: 087-0778454, 086-341 8481. Fax: 076-292073. Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

### PROPERTY CARE

services. Property/Site Coordinator required. Preferred applicants are high school graduates and above, aged over 27 years, with a minimum of 2 years housekeeping/management experience in hotel field. Please contact. Tel: 076-224658, 081-3702488. Fax: 076-254774. Email: [sirin@pcs.co.th](mailto:sirin@pcs.co.th)

### ACCOUNTING/ADMIN

manager. Publishing company requires experienced person for a variety of general accounting functions: Quick Book entries, cost control, banking, invoicing, tax invoicing, collections (contacting clients and arranging payments), maintaining accurate records, control petty cash and daily acct duties. As administration manager you will oversee daily operations and junior staff and be part of the team. Right remuneration for right person. Please contact. Tel: 089-8664023, 089-8663064. Email: [info@artandcultureasia.com](mailto:info@artandcultureasia.com)

### WEB AND GRAPHIC

designer. Fantastic Designer with wide experience in print, web publishing, video editing and latest electronic media wanted to join new company with office in Bang Tao. Owner has 25 years' experience with media in Europe. Good deal for right person. Interviews in February. Please contact for more information. Email: [sten56@msn.com](mailto:sten56@msn.com)

### HOME PART-TIME JOB

Do online surveys at home and earn up to \$35,000 a day. Freelance part-time! Please contact for more info. Tel: 65-91059260. Email: [lanzjun@gmail.com](mailto:lanzjun@gmail.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.asiahomejobs.com](http://www.asiahomejobs.com)

### BARTENDER/

Manager. Thai lady, some English, good customer care to lead team of five girls. Fine bar near beach at Patong. Good salary, lady drinks commissions. Tel: 087-2677965.

### ADMINISTRATOR

Experienced administrator required for busy real estate agency based in Surin. Applicants should be computer literate, able to speak English & able to interact with foreign customers & developers. Please send CV or contact.

Email: [orawan@phuketpropertyhunter.com](mailto:orawan@phuketpropertyhunter.com)

### DRIVER/HANDYMAN

Personal driver wanted. Need to work as a handyman and gardener too. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-384025, 081-8261330. Fax: 076-293151. Email: [jcjbreed@yahoo.com](mailto:jcjbreed@yahoo.com)

### THAI OPTICIAN

Preferably woman, experience is a plus and must speak English. Call for more details. Tel: 089-874- 6170.

## Emergency Numbers

✓ Police	191
✓ Fire	199
✓ Tourist Police	1155
✓ Marine Police	076-211883
✓ Hyperbaric recompression chambers	076-342518, 089-8712335
✓ Bangkok Phuket Hospital – Phuket City	1719 (Call Center)
✓ Vachira Phuket Hospital Phuket City	076-211114 ext 385 081-8951075



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### COFFEE TABLE & TV STAND

Make an offer - bamboo from Island Furniture. Contact. Email: ByeByePhuket@hotmail.com

### LOW INPUT HIGH OUTPUT

Automatic carwash machines for sale. Start from 3.9 million baht. Contact. Email: carwash\_phuket@hotmail.com

### AWNINGS

New awnings for sale, 3m X 2m. 15,000 baht each, for sale because I bought wrong size. Tel: 081-7193962.

### WOOD HANDLE COURT

Yard umbrella for sale. Double top layer, 300cm. Only 3,000 baht. Tel: 089-4742958.

### KITE SURFING

15m Globberider Curl. Kite Airush board, control bar, seat harness. 34,000 baht. Call K. Aidan. Tel: 087-8984125.

### BEDROOM SET

Dark brown. Queen size with mattress, wardrobe and dressing table. 11,000 baht. Tel: 081-9701070.

### TAYLORMADE IRONS

Complete set graphite R5 men's irons, flex R, with Titleist bag + putter, like new. New: 41,000. Sell for: 25,000 baht. Tel: 081-9701070.

### CLEARANCE SALE

Mountain bike Trek 3900, large, 28 gears. 6,000 baht. Large, Leeco fireproof safe. 8,000 baht. Swiss weight bench. 8,000 baht. Vintage Honda motorbike original working 90 cc. Collectors item with book. Contact K. Tony. Tel: 089-5934193.

### MOVING SALE

Contents of Internet Cafe, computers, desks, routers, modems, fans, lights, discs, signs, drawers, filing cabinets, plus restaurant tree-stump style furniture, beautiful. Call Tony. Tel: 089-5934193.

### WINDSURF BOARD

Windsurf beginner board, sail rig new, still packed. 50% price. Kawasaki KSR 110, Mongoose mountain bike, aluminium. Near new. Tel: 087-8888244.

### LATEX MATTRESS

King-size Lady Americana full-body comfort for sale. 25,000 baht. Tel: 081-9701070.

## Bulletins

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

**Mission Hospital Phuket City**  
Wed and Sun 7 pm  
**Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City**  
Fri 7 pm  
**Patong Hospital Patong**  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm  
**Chalong Health Clinic-near Chalong Circle**  
Tues 1 pm  
For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895  
**Scandinavian speaking Group Wat Karon School-Karon**  
Tue and Sat 7 pm  
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor) 087-2795636 (Nor) 086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

## Business Opportunities

### BASIC FOOD AND BAR

Homemade pies and fish and chips. Profitable business in Chalong as loyal staff will stay. Full training & recipes provided. Huge potential in wholesale and retail market. Cheap, includes accommodation. 995,000 baht includes equipment and stock. Tel: 087-0245036.

### GYM FOR SALE

Gym + building in Kamala beach, excellent shape. Tel: 084-3059606.

### RESTAURANT

For lease. Located at Kata beach 2 floors (live in). Fully furnished, ready to move in. Tel: 081-9206054.

### BAR FOR SALE

Patong. 100% or 50% share. Please contact. Email: peter@homebarphuket.com Website: www.homebarphuket.com

### PATONG BEACH

For rent prawn fishing business, 3-year contract or more. 900,000 baht + 18,000 baht per month. Includes all inventory, 3 staff rooms, 1 small 2-room apartment with bathroom + aircon. Good profit. Call Michel. Tel: 085-7962790.

### MASSAGE + BEAUTY

Kata beach, 3 + 3-year lease. Fully equipped. For sale: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 089-471-7629. Website: www.phuket-beautymassage.com

### BUSINESS COMPLEX

For sale. Includes two restaurants, beauty salon, Thai massage and accommodation. Fully stocked in best Chalong location. Low lease, well-established. Price for everything: only 2.68 million baht. Tel: 089-5934193. Email: nydudley@eznet.co.nz

### GUESTHOUSE LEASE

Long established, long lease. 9 rooms, large restaurant, bar. Busy location. Quick sale: 1.6 million baht or offer. Tel: 089-6489932.

### BAR FOR SALE

Patong Nanai Rd. Contract left: 1 year 10 months. 36sqm, have everything, pool table, UBC, TV, etc. 500,000 baht offer. Tel: 084-8483657.

### KAMALA

Restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza & Tex-Mex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. For sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-287-8966. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Soi Gonzo Bangla Rd. Priced for quick sale. Call Tel: 085-7826492, 085-7571301

### BAR FOR SALE

Karon. Fully-equipped bar for sale in Karon. Tel: 089-5879551

### VERY POPULAR B&B

Rated "Best in town" by Lonely Planet. Teak & redwood, 2-story house with 12 rooms. Granite & marble floors, baths & kitchen. Center of Phang Nga. Busy all year. Only 9.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0882179.

### 300,000 BAHT REWARD

If you send us a property buyer. We only need name and telephone number from you. The buyer can call. Tel: 085-7839062.

### BAR/RESTAURANT

Popular business on Nanai Rd. Good quality equipment less than 1 year old. Live-in, 3-story building. Urgent sale. Offers over 500,000 baht. Tel: 084-8478469. Email: ptpbar@yahoo.com.au

### SHOPHOUSE FOR SALE



Between Patong and Phuket City. Only minutes from Central Mall. 2 shophouses, 3 floors, 10m x 18m. 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, granite floor. Very reasonable price. Call Tel: 089-9662994 (English), 081-5974835 (Thai). Email: nengrich@gmail.com

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or sell a business  
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Email: kevin@tsba.info  
www.tsba.info

### RESTAURANT KATA

Restaurant in Kata for sale. 60 seats, quiet location, cheap rent, 30-year contract possible. Please contact. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

### INVESTMENT

Boutique hotel opening December 2007, only 9 shares available. Great return and yearly holiday. Please contact. Email: resortinvestment@hotmail.com

### FOR SALE

Guesthouse and restaurant. Located opposite the main entrance to Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guest rooms with shower, aircon, TV. Luxury, beautiful restaurant with kitchen, high standard. 14 million baht. Tel: 081-8956587. Email: rudolfoan2@hotmail.com

### DELUXE

Guesthouse for lease. New guesthouse with restaurant for lease in best location in Patong. Elegantly fully furnished and ready to run. Tel: 087-8866043. Email: mastinchen@hotmail.com

### SHOPHOUSE

For sale. 2 1/2 stories, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Near Kaneang 1 Chalong Bay. Tel: 089-4736886.

### HAVE AN INCOME

Regardless. Earn a living regardless of tourism and other people. Learn online option trading with a private tutor, and trade the world's biggest financial markets safely and profitably from home, with a small account. Zero experience required. 100% serious. Limited places. Detailed proposal available. Tel: 081-7373958. Email: info@optionvok.com

### CHALONG RAWAI RD

Established restaurant for sale. 395,000 baht. Rent 8,000 baht/month. With 2-bedroom house + 1,320sqm, more than 100 banana trees. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-6467176, 089-1662804. Email: asoke\_chatterjee@yahoo.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful. Amigos bar on Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. Price negotiable dependant on length of lease required. Tel: 087-8838721.

### REGGAE BAR KOH PHI PHI

Unique opportunity to take over this famous and profitable PP business. The bar sits on 1,100sqm of leased land with 12 + 10 years remaining. For sale at 49.5 million baht, including all equipment, stock and experienced staff. The owners are retiring after 12 successful years. Email for more info. Email: reggae\_bar@hotmail.com

### TWIN BANGLA BARS

Rare opportunity to lease twin bars (Angels & Swingers) on Bangla. Seats 50, fully-equipped, ready to run. Prime location next to Seduction Disco. Offers over 1.6 million baht. Call Danny Tel: 084-8379068 or Sakorn Tel: 089-9546433.

### BAR FOR SALE

On Nanai Rd. Fully stocked: 42" plasma TV flat screen, DVD, own sound system, darts, pool table. Bargain price, cheap rent. Tel: 084-8520862.

### INVESTOR/PARTNER

Two villa development in Nai Yang. Approx 2.5 million baht, double your investment. Contact Paul. Tel: 084-6535863 for more information.

### PIRATE SHIP



We have the 35m pirate ship Hispaniola from the film Treasure Island cast in Krabi area 8 months ago. The ship needs extensive repairs, since there were some explosions in the last scene. We need to sell urgently, all offers are welcome. If you are interested for this chance of a lifetime, please contact Nathalie. Tel: 085-1111155, 081-666-6622. Email: alexanderkbh@gmail.com

### BUSINESSES

Wanted. For our busy website. Please contact Tony. Tel: 089-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

### MULTIFUNCTIONAL

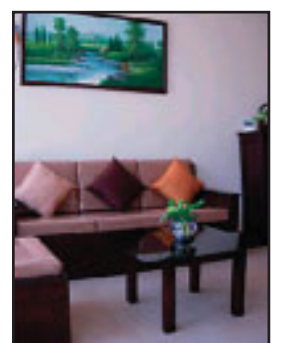
Building in Kamala. 5 minutes to the beach. 300sqm, 3 shops, 3 apartments, fully-furnished, terrace 60sqm. Price: 1.9 million baht. Long-term lease 3 + 3 years, price includes rent until March 2008. Tel: 089-4742958. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

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### RESTAURANT

For sale. In the heart of Patong, all furniture and materials with company, low-rent 3 + 3-year lease. Reasonably priced at 1.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8500375. Email: wilhelmdeutsch@gmx.at

### OFFICE FOR SALE



Fully-furnished office. 5m x 12m located in Cherno Talay area in a good location close to main road, opposite the bank. Nice office furniture, aircon, high-speed Internet and garden area, ready to move in. Price: 450,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5399269.

### BOOK SHOP FOR SALE

Patong OTOP book shop & Nanai book shop. 2 shops for 980,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-1705552.

### INVESTOR/PARTNER

Wanted. AMT was established 2 years ago, and is now ready to produce high-quality, high-tech deep-v boats. AMT has built a factory 10,000sqft. Fully tooled and ready to roll. 1st boat 90% complete and waiting sale. Any interested parties please contact Steve. Factory visit welcome. Tel: 089-2878667. Email: stephenday@gmail.com

### MASSAGE & BEAUTY

Salon. Professional beauty salon and a very nice massage in the best location on Nanai Rd. Up and running very well. Good profits. About 10 staff, 160sqm. Rent: 40,000 baht a month, no key money. 3 + 3-year lease. Everything brand new. 850,000 baht ono. Monthly profit about 80-100,000 baht. No timewasters please. Quick sale. Tel: 089-8093566. Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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I am a Thai teacher. If you want to learn Thai or your friends want to learn English, I can teach privately at your place. Please call. Tel: 084-9925882.

### TEACHING GERMAN

Reasonable price at a convenient time for you. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-1849828.

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired Businessman looking for Backgammon Players on Phuket Island. Tel: 076-386-113, 081-5778443.

## Pets

### MALINOIS PUPS

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### ENGLISH BULLDOG

Female English bulldog for sale. We have beautiful AKC English bulldog companions. Home-raised, vet examined, shots and de-wormings current to age. Health guarantee. Shipping and delivery available. Tel: 415-415775303 (Switzerland). Email: petbreed11@yahoo.com

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Sport Mazda Astina F323, Silver, year 1995, 1800cc. Registered in your name & fully insured. Payment options: (1) cash 215,000 baht; (2) down payment of 110,000 baht and 6,250 baht a month for remaining 19 months. Must see to appreciate. Tel: 087-3809066. Email for photos and more details. Email: phuketislander@yahoo.com

**NISSAN CEFIRO 1992**  
For sale, Nissan Cefiro 1992. In mint condition. 150,000 baht. Power steering and windows. Leather seats. If interested, please contact me on my cellphone. Cheers! Tel: 076-215829, 089-7764200.

**CRV + VIOS**  
Honda CRV, 2003, red, 27,000km. Asking: 700,000 baht. Toyota Vios 2003, auto, gold, 52,000km. Asking 400,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-4744704. Fax: 076-284198. Email: p\_eamso@hotmail.com

**BMW FOR SALE**  
BMW 530i. 6,000km, like new inside and out. Excellent condition, have always used car cover. Has had 3 oil changes. Price: 2.7 million baht or best offer. Tel: 076-280709, 085-7950779.

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195,000 baht. Model '93. Nice condition, 5-speed, aircon, 140,000km. Foreign owned for 3 years, very reliable. Best offer! Contact for more details. Tel: 077-826355, 087-0403007. Email: tomcox100@hotmail.com

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**SUBARU WRX IMPREZA**  
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**TOYOTA AVANZA**  
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**TOYOTA CAMRY**  
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**BLUE TOYOTA ALTIS**  
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**TOYOTA COROLLA**  
For sale. Year 1996, good condition, CD player, well maintained. Price: 220,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-239111, 081-9583095. Fax: 076-238974. Email: suporn@asia-marine.net

**LANCIA 1800 BETA**  
1975 Coupe. 1,800cc, 5-speed manual, original parts, good condition. 125,000 baht. Tel: 076-345018, 081-903-9862. Email: yourplace\_06@yahoo.com

**MERCEDES 280SE**  
LPG GAS! 2jz, automatic, full options, perfect condition. 215,000 baht. Tel: 086-9488139. Email: jefdejong@gmail.com

**OPEL ASTRA**  
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With cab. 5-speed manual gears, 90,000 miles, year 2000. 180,000 baht. Tel: 086-9270293. Email: mikejnorth@hotmail.com

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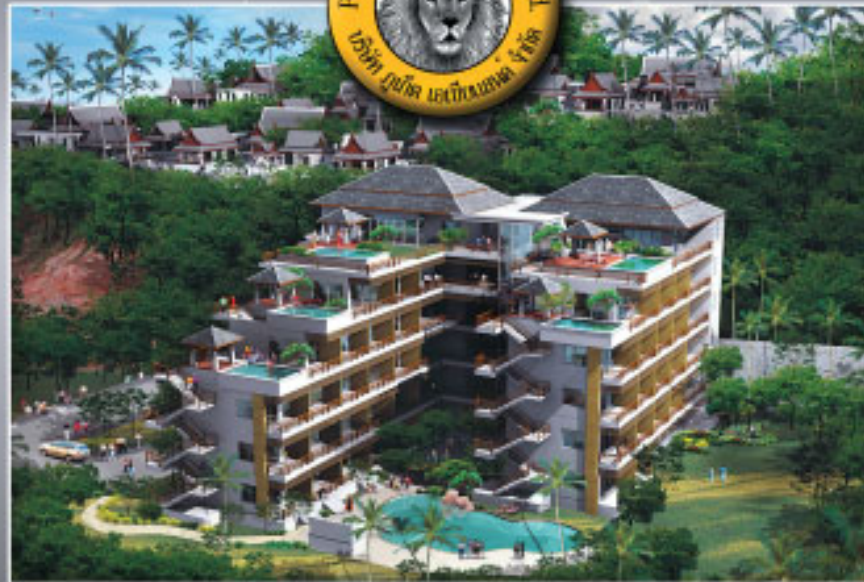




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