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## Private funding to build expo center?

By Janyaporn Morel & Semacote Suganya

NAI YANG: Phuket's decades-old dream of having an International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) took a step forward on May 28, when Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MoTS) Minister Suwit Yodmanee ordered the formation of a provincial panel and gave it 60 days to decide where the center should be sited.

Revived interest in ICEC investment featured a May 25 meeting by ING Funds (Thailand) Co Ltd Managing Director Maris Tarab with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit and Suwalai Pinradab, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand's Southern Region 4 office in Phuket, at the Governor's Office at Phuket Provincial Hall.

Mr Maris proposed that ING Funds build a 10,000-seat conference and exhibition center on some 2,000 rai under the control of the Treasury Department's State Property Management and Services Office, or Ratchapassadu, in Mai Khao.

Mr Maris' plan for ING to completely fund the center's construction on a 30-year "build-operate-transfer" agreement with the government was well-received by Gov Niran.

During a meeting with Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont in Krabi last month, Gov Niran was told to find private sector funding for the convention center, as the interim government had no intention of granting funding approval.

Under the ING proposal, the firm would rent the Ratchapassadu land from the Treasury Department under a 30-year lease, during which time it would



Wichit Na-Ranong, Managing Director of the Pearl Group of Hotels (right), welcomes Sports and Tourism Minister Suwit Yodmanee (left) to a meeting at the Indigo Pearl Hotel in Nai Yang. During the meeting Dr Suwit said the interim government was keen to approve an International Conference and Exhibition Center somewhere in Phuket, to be built with private sector investment.

build and manage the center using subcontracted management firms, both Thai and foreign, Mr Maris told Gov Niran.

Mr Maris said the plan would require no government funding.

"Project construction could be started within one year...All we need from the government is a land lease agreement," he said.

The terms of the management offer was similar to one ING recently signed to build dormitories for Thammasat University in Bangkok, he said.

Also attending the meeting was Montree Buritan, Managing Director of building firm EkCa Thai Co Ltd, which will design and build the center if the ING proposal is approved.

EkCA Thai already has a

prototype model drawn up for a meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) center with seating for 10,000.

The model, based on an existing convention center in Chiang Mai, could be easily modified to be used at the site in Mai Khao. Construction could begin two months after approval, he said.

In addition to offering easy access by air, sea and road, the Mai Khao site is also an attractive seaside location appropriate for Phuket, he added.

Gov Niran also agreed that the Mai Khao site was appropriate, as it would be located near a sports complex, also to be built on Ratchapassadu land, which has attracted 70 million baht

Continued on page 2

## Police have no strong leads in murder of money lender

By Sompratch Saowakhon

TUNG TONG: Police admit they have no strong leads in their investigation into the brutal murder of a businessman who was found stabbed to death in his Bangtong Village home on May 22.

Tung Tong Police Investigating Inspector Lt Col Passakorn Sontikul told the Gazette the bloody corpse of 62-year-old Kajorn "Ko Jern" Somnam was discovered by his live-in partner Wassana Chookaew, 51, at about 7 pm, when she returned from a visit to relatives in another province.

She immediately notified police, who arrived at the scene at about 8:30 pm with forensic experts, Col Passakorn said.

The apparent cause of death was two stab wounds, one to the neck and one to the body.

Inside the home, numerous land title deeds and registration books for both cars and motorcycles were found scattered.

The victim ran a money-lending operation from his home in which such documents were used as collateral to obtain personal loans, Col Passakorn said.

Among the evidence collected at the site were at least two separate sets of bloody footprints and fingerprints.

The murder weapon was not found, but evidence collected from the bedroom included a brassiere and a used sanitary napkin. K. Wassana told police the items did not belong to her.

Col Passakorn told the Gazette that police are investigating romantic jealousy or a dispute arising from K. Kajorn's business dealings as possible motives, but as yet have no strong leads. They are seeking the owner of the bra and sanitary napkin.



## Navy rescues 'VIP' from 'terrorists'

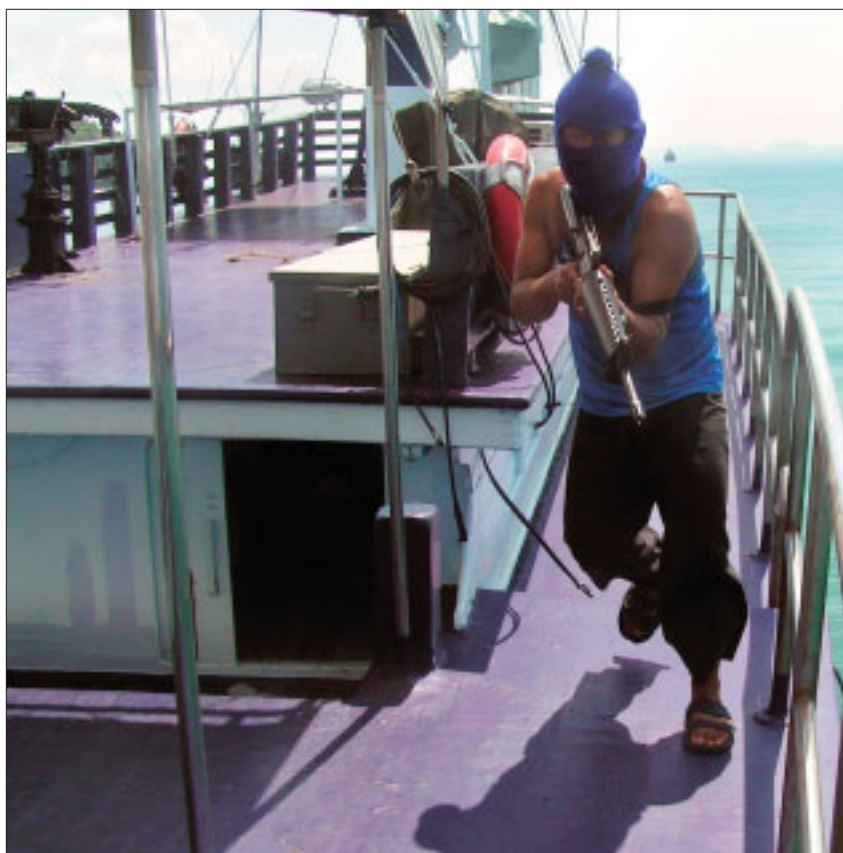
CAPE PANWA: A "VIP" was rescued by officers from the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Command May 24 as part of an anti-terrorism drill held off Cape Panwa.

About 50 officers from the Navy, Marine Police and Marine Transport Office took part in the drill, which simulated the rescue of a Thai government VIP from a terrorist boat in the sea off Cape Panwa. According to the story line, the VIP had been seized by terrorists from a resort on Mai Ton Island.

As the "terrorists" were making their demands, a Navy SEAL team stormed the terrorists' boat, freeing the hostage.

Rear Admiral Supot Pruksa, Commanding Officer of the Third Naval Area Command, told the *Gazette*, "We are ready to deal with hostage situations and will always put the safety of the hostage first. Phuket is a world-famous destination, and if VIP guests are threatened, we must be ready to help them."

"We keep a constant watch for terrorism and now there is no cause to be worried. We have many boats patrolling and informing us of any news," he said.



A member of the Thai military acts as a terrorist during a staged VIP rescue scenario held off Cape Panwa.

## Call for more police volunteers

PHUKET: Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch once again called for more police officers and civil defense volunteers in a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Committee on the morning of May 29 at the ST Hotel.

Comparing Phuket with Las Vegas, Phuket's top cop said that more officers are needed to keep Phuket safe, especially after seven coordinated bombs rocked popular tourist spots in Haad Yai, Songkhla on the night of May 27.

At the meeting, chairman Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima expressed concerns for the security of Phuket following the most recent wave of bombings to hit that southern city.

"For the time being, I would like to ask police officers at Tah Chat Chai checkpoint to continue checking for bombs, guns and suspicious people 24 hours a day," he said.

Gen Decha replied that all of the 1,060 officers in Phuket are working hard, but there are still not enough officers.

# ICEC dream revived by offer of private funding

From page 1

in funding, much of it from abroad.

"This idea is brilliant. I have long been interested in finding private funds for a convention center, but usually we end up needing about a billion baht in state funding, and we have had trouble reaching any solid conclusions about where it should be located," said Gov Niran.

"This is the easiest way, especially as using Ratchapassadu land means we won't need to comply with the laws applying to private sector developments on state land, nor seek Cabinet approval."

Phuket's tourism industry has suffered for too long from its inability to host large MICE events, he said.

The convention center and sports complex could attract further investment to Mai Khao, where an investment boom in medical services, spas and yachting could lead to the develop of a "new city" in line with provincial development plans, he said.

However, meetings would first need to be held to discuss a wide variety of related issues, such as laws on foreign investment and environmental impact, he added.

On May 28, after Gov Niran had left on a trip to Finland, Dr Suwit chaired a large meeting on the ICEC issue at the Indigo Pearl Hotel in Nai Yang. Attending the gathering were TAT Governor Pornsiri Manoharn, Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima, and representatives from numerous state agencies and private sector groups, including the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), The Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI), Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), Phuket Chamber of Commerce, Phuket Treasury Office and representatives of ING Funds.

After lengthy discussions, it was agreed only that the project should go ahead with private sector funding, with the government agreeing not to undermine such

investment by funding a rival convention center in the province at some time in the future.

Following objections that the Mai Khao site is too far from the island's main population centers, the intractable problem of where to site the center once again reared its head.

Wichit Na-Ranong, who sits on the Thailand Tourism Council advisory board and is also the Managing Director of the Pearl Group of hotels, said that the presence of hotel accommodation, public services and transport links all needed to be taken into consideration when making the siting decision.

The two sites now under consideration in Mai Khao, including the one being eyed by ING Funds, may be lacking in this regard, he said.

Phuket Real Estate Club President and former Phuket City Mayor Phummasak Hongsyok was among those who said that local investors should be allowed to submit proposals for the

project, rather than automatically cede it to foreign investment.

K. Wichit and K. Phummasak lead two of Phuket's largest families of landowners.

When the discussions were concluded, Dr Suwit asked the Governor's Office to appoint a committee, to be chaired by the governor himself, to be responsible for reaching a final agreement on the siting issue. The panel should consult with the TCEB and forward its final decision to him within 60 days, he said.

In the interim, private sector parties will be allowed to submit construction and management plans using either of two sites on Ratchapassadu land in Mai Khao or land held by the private parties themselves, it was agreed.

BOI officials would review the ING Funds proposal during that period, he said.

"This committee will choose the best location, considering such factors as proximity to the city center and the airport...I don't think it should be too hard for

them to make a decision with the input of so many people attending today, most of whom are local businessmen familiar with the issues involved and the local geography. We also need their input on how the center should be managed and what role the government should play."

TAT studies have determined the minimum land area for the project is 125 rai, he said.

Noting that the current TAT proposal for the project has been pending for about four years, Dr Suwit said he was determined to reach a decision within the term of the interim government that appointed him.

Dr Suwit confirmed that the interim government would not invest in the convention center project, nor would it fund a competing venue later on.

"The government doesn't have a lot of money to fund such projects and its priorities lie elsewhere... We will support the development of only one convention and exhibition center through the various government agencies directly involved. We want Phuket to be as competitive as possible in the MICE market and we are open to foreign investment in order to achieve this," he said.

## The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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# Swiss man held for Web threat to student

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: A Swiss businessman was arrested at Phuket International Airport (PIA) on the evening of May 26 after allegedly threatening to post explicit pic-

tures of a student from Bangkok on the Internet, along with her contact details.

The arrest came in a sting operation by Phuket City Police and the Pavena Foundation, which the girl had contacted for

help. The man has denied all wrongdoing.

According to a Phuket City Police press release, a Swiss man named "Mark", a Phuket resident who works in the property industry, responded to a post placed on

an unnamed chat site by 18-year-old Warn (not her real name) which read: "I have no money to pay school fees, I need help".

K. Warn said that Mark promised to give her money if she would come and live with him in Phuket, do housework and have sex with him on request. K. Warn then stopped contacting him, she told police.

After a while the two started chatting again and eventually exchanged phone numbers, K. Warn said. Mark then sent K. Warn an SMS reading "I want u be my gf", K. Warn said. She ignored it.

K. Warn said she then began to chat with another man, called Josef. His writing style was very similar to Mark's, but she thought nothing of it at the time, she told police.

Josef said that he did not have enough money to help her himself but would introduce her to a friend, Ranier, who would be prepared to help her with her 60,000 baht of overdue university fees if she would "look after" him well when he came on holiday to Thailand.

K. Warn said that she assumed Josef meant that she should show Ranier the sights and take him out to dinner.

Josef, K. Warn explained to police, asked for her to send him photos of herself in various poses using her fingers or "other implements" or wearing high heels. These Josef would pass on to Ranier, she was told.

Ranier himself then emailed to tell her that if the pictures did not please him, he would not agree to help her, K. Warn said. Ranier also asked for details about her university, purportedly to find out whether she really was behind on paying her fees, she said.

K. Warn explained to police that at this point she asked Ranier to call her on her mobile phone.

When he called, however, the name Mark appeared on her phone's screen. It was the same number he had called her from before, she said.

After talking for some time, K. Warn got Mark to admit that Josef and Ranier did not exist and that all three men were none other than Mark, she told police.

K. Warn became angry with Mark's duplicity, but he responded by threatening that if she did not do exactly as he instructed her, he would post obscene photos of her with her contact details on many websites – including that of her university, K. Warn claimed.

To back up the threat and prove that he was serious, he sent her a sample file showing her in an explicit pose together with her contact information, she said.

On May 24, Mark transferred 4,000 baht into her account for her to fly and meet him in Phuket, K. Warn claimed.

She then decided to contact Pavena Hongsakul, founder of the Pavena Foundation.

The foundation contacted Col Nos Sawetalek, Superintendent of Phuket City Police Station, and laid a plan to snare Mark at the airport when he went to collect K. Warn.

On May 26 K. Warn, accompanied by Pavena Foundation staff, arrived at the airport. When Mark came to greet her, he was arrested.

Police searched Mark's Patong home, where they seized a computer and a webcam as evidence in the case.

Capt Patrawut Onchuang, a Deputy Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that Mark has denied any wrongdoing.

At last report, he was being held at Tah Chat Chai Police Station and had yet to be charged with any offense.

## Crackdown on piracy urged

PHUKET: On May 29 representatives of national copyright and trademark enforcement agencies met with more than 30 police officers from Police Region 8, including Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch, to encourage the officers to crack down on intellectual property infringements.

According to Sutthisak Prasatkrurakarn, Secretary of the Prevention and Suppression of Intellectual Property Infringement Committee, one major problem is counterfeit entertainment licenses bought by karaoke shops.

According to K. Sutthisak, also the Director of the Laws and Suppression Department of the Thai Copyright Collection of Thai music industry giant RS Promotion, organized crime groups are making 3 million to 5 million baht a month using this scheme.

Cable television was also listed as an infringer for playing unlicensed movies. While commending the overall work of Police Region 8, K. Sutthisak urged police to step up the pressure on copyright violators.

## Liverpool legends to hold soccer clinic

PHUKET: Former Liverpool stars Ian Rush and John Barnes will conduct an hour-long soccer clinic for underprivileged schoolchildren on June 5 at Tesco Lotus.

The clinic in Phuket will be held at the Tesco Lotus shopping center on June 5 from 12 pm to 1 pm, during which time there will be a cheerleader show and autograph session.

While in Thailand, the two Liverpool legends will also play in the Tesco Lotus Bangkok Masters 7-a-side tournament for over-35s, to be held at Thephasadin Stadium on June 2 and 3.



Bangsod Densiri hands Provincial Palad Piya Bharatasilpin a letter from Cape Yamu villagers supporting the marina.

## Villagers back marina plan

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: In the latest in a back-and-forth dispute between opposing village groups, developers and the government, about 200 villagers from Baan Yamu in Pa Khlok May 29 staged a peaceful demonstration outside the Phuket Provincial Hall to show their support for a controversial marina project at Cape Yamu.

The planned 60-million-baht project, to be constructed by The Yamu Co, would also include a 39-berth marina, a hotel covering 100 rai and other facilities.

The group had a letter addressed to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit showing their support for the project.

The marina would end the villagers reliance on subsistence fishing, move them into more modern vocations and provide better prospects for their child-

ren's futures, the letter said.

The group, led by Bangsod Densiri, arrived in two buses at 10 am.

By 10:15 am, Piya Bharatasilpin, Chief Administrative Officer (*palad*) of Phuket Province, came down to accept the letter on behalf of Gov Niran.

"We came here to show our support for the Yamu marina project. Nobody put us up to this. We came by ourselves because we want Yamu to enjoy the benefits of development, just as parts of the island have," K. Bangsod said.

"Phuket is a tourist destination...but the development is happening very slowly at Baan Yamu.

"We want the project to give villagers more jobs, more money and a better life," he said.

Pariyes Rattanadilok Na Phuket, General Manager of The Yamu Company, was also at the

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Cross the Sarasin Bridge into Phang Nga province and head north toward Khok Kloy and Tai Muang, and you will pass through quiet villages and countryside reflective of Phuket perhaps 20 years ago. Peaceful.

But under the surface there is the steady buzz of development in the air – though you'll have to get off the main road and over to the beaches to see and feel the boom.

Starting at Pilai Beach and moving north to Natai, Bor Daan and Tah Sai beaches – and on up to Tai Muang – billions of baht are being spent on up-scale residential estates, five-star resorts and assorted combinations of both.

Developers and government officials agree that the boom is based on the beauty of the area, its easy access to Phuket International Airport and the fact that there are few large tracts of land suitable for resort development remaining on Phuket.

Pilai and Natai seem headed toward residential and small resort development, while Bo Daan and Tah Sai are slated for large-scale resorts and estates.

Bill Barnett, Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks told the *Gazette* that "Pilai and Natai don't have large land tracts, it is a residential area, but the Tah Sai area is poised to be a major hotel market because there are large land tracts available. Land with direct access to the beach – the next Laguna – where developers are buying 100 rai at a time.

"You can't find that kind of land anymore on Phuket. You'd be hard-pressed to see two or three good five-star resort locations left on Phuket," he added.

Phang Nga Tourism Association President Chittiporn Suthipibul said that the development from Pilai Beach through to Tai Muang had started before the 2004 tsunami. The first project was the Hotspring Beach Resort and Spa in 2002, and then another

# LOOK OUT PHUKET

## Phang Nga is coming up

The drive between Sarasin Bridge and Tai Muang in Phang Nga province has long been a view of quiet rural Thailand not often seen in recent times in Phuket. But that's now changing. These days the Phang Nga coastline is humming with activity. International and Thai investors have snapped up the seafront and are heading full bore into developing the area into a continuous stretch of upscale residential and resort luxury.

The *Gazette's*  
Sangkhae  
Leelananporn,  
Janyaporn Morel  
and Teddy Tucker  
report.



Jivana Villas is just one of many resorts and developments popping up on Natai Beach

er three or four five-star projects started development. Those projects halted after the tsunami but started to take off again last year.

"For this year, I know that there are many new projects from both Thai and foreign investors, some of them were planned before the tsunami and stopped

after it hit. Now they are starting up again.

"I know that soon a mega-project of about 3 billion baht will happen in the Tai Muang area. I think it's good news because investors are confident about the potential of this area," she said, adding that she couldn't yet divulge the details of the mega-

project.

"We have investors coming to do good and qualified projects here. They understand the provincial policy and the tourism format here very well, we are working to protect the environment and beaches.

"Phang Nga's tourism policy is to have sustainable tourism.

If we can conserve the environment, our tourism will continue longer. This is the focus for Phang Nga, because if investors are not concerned about the environment, they will benefit only in the short term and tourists will change their destination," she said.

"The main attractions for the Khok Kloy area [where Pilai and Natai beaches are located] are the beauty of the beaches and that the location is close to the Phuket airport," she added.

K. Chittiporn said her only concerns are the development of good services and infrastructure for the area.

"Waste and water treatment systems are the responsibility of each developer, but for infrastructure such as public roads, electricity and water supply I would like the local administrations to work with the private sector. I think it will be good if they start now and if it works well, it will be a pilot plan for the growth that will come later," she said.

Sutha Madmalai, Chief of Public Works of the Notoey Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), which includes the Bo Daan and Tah Sai area, told the *Gazette* that the main reason that the property business started to boom there was because the Natai beachfront in Khok Kloy was full. This pushed the development north to Bo Daan and Tah

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## HOT! HOT! HOT!



## EXISTING PROJECTS IN THE AREA

- Hotspring Beach Resort & Spa on Natoey Beach
- Ranyatavi Resort on Pilai Beach
- Aleenta Resort on Natai Beach
- Villa Natai: Luxury villas on Natai Beach
- Jivana Villas: Four luxury villas on Natai Beach

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS OR PLANNING

- Redevelopment of Tai Muang Golf Course, details not public yet
- Venice of the East, details not public yet.
- The Raffles Resort and Residences: on Tah Sai Beach, scheduled to open in 2009. Resort and 120 villas on 150 rai of land.
- Tah Sai Villas: Tah Sai Beach – Villas on 25 land plots.
- Malibuland: 40 to 80 villas on 100 rai, south of Tai Muang.
- The Natai: beachfront villas with prices ranging from 22 to 26 million baht.
- Saffron Villa: built on 1.3 rai of Natai beachfront for 80 million baht.
- North Beach: on Natai Beach.
- Andatika Resort: on Natai Beach.
- Khok Kloy pier: north end of Natai Beach, 284 meters in length, 19.9 million baht.
- Marina in the area just north of Khok Kloy pier.
- Condominium with 100 apartments on 11 rai of land next to the Khok Kloy pier.
- Golf Course with resort and villa on 2,000 rai next to Khao Pilai Beach, in planning.
- Sasin Institute of Chulalongkorn University: conference center and hotel.
- Marina of 100 rai at Khao Pilai near Sarasin bridge.
- Condominium with 600 units on 50 rai of land near Pilai Beach.
- Private airport with runway of two kilometers, under discussion, probably in Tah Noon-Natai area.

Numerous other projects are under discussion but not yet ready for public disclosure.

“Most of the property in the area is private houses or villas, more so than hotels or resorts. Many foreigners bought land and built houses here because the beach is so quiet. I believe the investment here is more than 1 billion baht,” he said.

He added that a good feature of Natai Beach is its proximity to Phuket International Airport. If you compare driving to Phuket City and Khok Kloy, the drive to Khok Kloy is closer and there are no traffic jams, he said.

K. Suwit also said the biggest problems for Khok Kloy are basic infrastructure and water supply, but the *OrBorTor* already budgeted 3 million baht to improve the water supply and the construction will be completed in the next three months.

“To help tourism, we are also building a 20 million baht pier that will be 284 meters long. We expect to finish it by the beginning of August. After it is finished people who travel by yacht can visit this area more easily and it will be convenient if they want to go to islands in the bay or out to the Similan Islands,” he said.

“I understand that the Sasin Institute of Chulalongkorn University will start construction of a new campus next year on more than 100 rai, and that their complex will include a hotel,” he added.

At the Baan Na Klue campus, called the Executive Education Center, Sasin will offer a joint MBA program with Kelllogg School of Business beginning in 2008.

Highlighting the move toward upscale properties in the area, the Head of Construction Division from *OrBorTor* Khok Kloy, Suthin Srirat, told the *Gazette* of a 450-million-baht private house with a helicopter landing pad planned for the area. The property is expected to sit on 70 rai in the Khok Kloy area and K. Suthin says it will be the most expensive house in Thailand.

Sai beaches, which are a total of about 15 kilometers long.

The Natoey area has nine small villages with a population of about 8,400 people. It's bordered on the north by Tai Muang and the south by Khok Kloy.

“The Raffles Resort and Residences will be the biggest project in Natoey area with 162 rai of land and if there are no problems, they might start construction by the end of this year.”

He added that another project has already cleared their land and put up a fence, but has not yet asked permission to be-

gin construction. The project, to be called “Malibuland”, includes plans to build a lagoon resort of 100 rai with about 40 to 80 villas in the Tah Sai Beach area.

“We will have no problem with water supply because we have many lagoons and tin mines to accumulate water,” K. Sutha said.

“The local people have no issues with the developments because there will be good jobs on offer and most beachfront land already belonged to investors; local people were not living in the beachfront area,” he added.

Montha Aiyarak, the Headman of Natai village told the *Gazette* that the development at Natai Beach started four or five years ago but the rapid growth began after the tsunami. The development has not disturbed the 120 families of about 640 villagers in Natai area, he said.

“Most villagers work on rubber plantations or are employees of companies or resorts. We have both Buddhists and Muslims living together in roughly equal numbers. The growth of many developments here hasn't disturbed our lifestyle. It will help

some of our villagers by providing jobs in hotels and resorts,” he said.

According to Suwit Koey-sakul, President of the Khok Kloy *OrBorTor*, the total population in the Khok Kloy area, which includes Natai, is about 12,000 people. Most people in the area work on rubber plantations or farms, or as fishermen.

“Natai Beach is about 2km long and it used to be a coconut plantation. At that time land cost about 1-2 million baht per rai but right now it has increased to 15-20 million baht per rai.

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## Queer News

# Thirsty thieves take top cop's beer

KANCHANABURI: A man noted for his integrity, Acting Royal Thai Police Commissioner General Seripisut Temiyavej has spent the best part of his life fighting the twin scourges of crime and corruption.

In an ironic twist of fate, however, Thailand's top cop recently found himself the victim of a horrific crime when thieves broke into his riverside holiday home in Kanchanaburi and stole his beer.

Inspecting the home after the May 24 break-in, workers found that the general's valuables had been left untouched. It appeared that all the thieves made off with was 10 cans of beer and a selection of snacks with which to enjoy them. The report did not specify the kind or quantity of the missing snacks.

Lamkhuan Srichaisak, a domestic helper in charge of looking after the house while Gen Seripisut is not in residence, said that she went to bed in her quarters, about 70 meters from the main house, at 10 pm the night of the robbery.

When she got up the following morning, the woman

found that a back window had been smashed – and 10 cans of beer were missing.

When news of the shocking crime reached Kanchanaburi's finest, Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sombun Hua-pbanyang was soon on the scene – accompanied by a phalanx of other officers and a 20-strong forensic investigation team.

Gen Sombun said that he thought the beer burglar could well have been a former employee and he had called all house staff in for questioning. The thief certainly was not after valuables, Gen Sombun added, as all the valuables were still there.

Col Phutipat Wongsanguansri, Superintendent of the Royal Thai Police Region 15 Forensics Division, said that he found two of the stolen beer cans discarded in a bush in front of the house. Both had been drained of their contents, he noted.

There was no comment from Gen Seripisut, or Seri as he is known in the Thai press, as to how he felt at the loss of his beer and snacks.

*Source: Kom Chad Luek*



**T**his column has featured photographs of garbage along Soi Panniang – between Koh Kaew and Samkong – on a number of occasions. Part of the problem seems to be that the road starts in one tambon, Rassada, and ends in another, Koh Kaew, and no one is quite sure who is responsible for which bit. In addition, there's no budget for machinery to pick up garbage even when it's been dumped clearly in one tambon's domain.

Hence this delightful sight, consisting mostly of plastic bags, cement bags and broken wooden furniture. The site is about 200 meters from the Leelavadee Resort & Spa. Close by are large numbers of temporary shacks housing construction workers. One has to wonder, where did it all come from?

Got a favorite informal dump? Send pictures and a brief description to [dump@phuket-gazette.net](mailto:dump@phuket-gazette.net).

**TRASHING  
Phuket** 

WARNING: SELLING ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD IS ILLEGAL

*When the taste is perfect,  
it can be the start of a friendship.*





This year the onset of the rainy season came to Khao Lak like clockwork. From the end of April onward, it has been pouring down daily – with the same rough seas and strong winds one would expect in October, when the rainy season reaches its peak.

The haste with which Khao Lak businesses shut down for the long low-season break never ceases to amaze me.

As in years past, this year the front runners were restaurants, cafes and dive shops catering to mostly European clientele. So quick are they to put up the shutters that they almost appear anxious to spend another six months with no income.

Some even close their doors by mid-April, when there are still plenty of tourists around.

Despite the downpours and reduced options for dining and entertainment, many Khao Lak holidaymakers do stick around until May, determined not to let bad weather or anything else ruin their vacation.

In the past, Khao Lak had far fewer of these “weather-resistant” tourists, or *Touristus Resistensis* as I like to call them. Before they would simply move on to sunnier destinations like Samui or Koh Tao on Thailand’s gulf coast. Curious about this new phenomenon, I went out to investigate.

The answer was simple: many tour operators in Germany and Scandinavia now offer low-priced low-season specials for the time between May and October to support their affiliated hotels and resorts in the Khao Lak region.

Most of these offers include accommodation and breakfast at some of Khao Lak’s most reputable upmarket resorts for just a fraction more of what the air ticket alone would cost.

I was left wondering about the options faced by the ordinary tourist: Is it worth it to pay more to relax on the beach during high season, or is it better to pay far less but risk walking in the rain all day? After all, when the skies do clear and the sun comes out – as it has for over a week now – Khao Lak is blessed by the



**SURF’S UP!:** Unusually high waves – or just the sea reclaiming what is hers? Some have even taken the highest water seen in Khao Lak since the tsunami as evidence of global warming.

# HIGH WATER, HIGH ANXIETY

same sunshine and calm seas that we enjoy in the high season and without the maddening crowds. It appears that going for a low season package deal would pay off after all.

Unusually high sea water levels and waves on May 17-20, combined with an earthquake on the May 16 in northern Thailand, sparked worries and fear among Khao Lak residents. Especially after reports of damage along Indonesia’s coastline

emerged. Residents of the new government-built sea gypsy village north of Khao Lak left their village to move to higher ground, carrying their children and belongings along despite the fact that there was no tsunami warning issued.

This was a grim reminder to the fact that shock still resides deep in many people’s psyche and that most locals no longer trust officials or even the recently erected warning systems, and most likely never will.



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Who can blame them since we all know that leading officials of the Thaksin era, in their Bangkok-based, air-conditioned offices, had been discussing whether or not a tsunami warning should be issued on December 26, 2004, for over an hour until the tsunami finally struck. This fact might be forgiven but will never be forgotten.

Yet there was no damage reported from the recent high water along Khao Lak’s coastline and it subsided quickly with

everything now being back to normal. A German radio station called me to inquire about the unusual phenomenon and asked whether there have been any casualties or damages in Khao Lak.

What I told them was that there was no reason to worry and that everything was fine with no damage or any casualties reported. We are in the rainy season now where winds blow from the southeast and during this time it is quite common that high waves appear along the coastline.


In addition, I said that the 2004 tsunami took away about 20 meters or more of beach front that will never reappear. Yet most beach front land owners try to reclaim their 40-meter deep land plots by filling up the beach front with red soil, which is then washed out into the sea again since a handful of humble human beings do not possess the power to reshape a 12-km long coastline.

As it often goes with the media, my interview was then given to German, Swiss and Austrian newspapers who twisted all the details into a weird story of panic and destruction while claiming that high waves smashed 20 meters deep into Khao Lak’s coastline.

The misleading features resulted in worried calls from concerned Khao Lak lovers asking bungalow owners in Bang Niang whether their resorts are still standing. Great – another confusing job nicely performed by the media.

An “everything is okay, all is clear” report about Khao Lak would of course not be a sales booster, so they decided to fine-tune the story a little bit and help to keep Khao Lak fresh in the German-spoken regions of Europe as a disaster area.

My mom used to say that people would rather follow a siren-wailing fire truck than a wedding procession – she was right.



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An enraged loner and gun enthusiast killed three people and injured seven in a two-hour clash with police and guards at an open market in Pathum Thani's Klong Luang District.

The rampage began just before dawn when 21-year-old Kiartipong Meksawat was questioned by a security guard as to who was the rightful owner of a motorcycle parked at the entrance of the market.

Kiartipong stabbed and killed the security guard, and the shooting spree began when police arrived to investigate.

The other two men murdered were Pol Sgt Issara Ma-neesaeng and durian vendor On Thongsuk.

Two hours after the stabbing incident, not far from where the first victim lay dead, Kiartipong was finally shot dead by police.

Initial investigations provided a glimpse into Kiartipong's personality.

It is known that he meditated, visited temples, yet also owned handguns, loved to play violent video games, read gun magazines and had no friends except his sister, who visited him regularly.

Although described as "a loner", police said they were not ruling out the possibility that Kiartipong may have been part of a gang behind a series of motorcycle thefts.

His sister Amnuay said Kiartipong's mother married a foreign man and lived abroad, sending him money regularly.

**TB epidemic:** Ninety thousand people are infected with tuberculosis in Thailand every year, with about 16.5% of the cases in Bangkok, according to Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Health Department Deputy Director Dr Chanchai Kumphong.

At least 60% of Bangkok infections involve people younger than 45, most of whom live in crowded areas, he said.

National Health Security Office senior official Dr Chuchai Sornchamni said random checks of crowded places like shopping centers, department stores and



**SUNSCREEN APPEAL:** Jom Muangchan, a resident of Srisaket's Muang Chan District, with her three-year-old son and three albino daughters aged 15, 11 and 8. Jom says the girls suffer from skin irritations after being exposed to the sun, and is appealing to the public for help for them.

# Gun lover runs amok, kills three

markets found one tuberculosis sufferer in every 500 people.

Dr Chanchai said there was a 98% chance of full recovery if treated. "If you cough for two weeks, start losing weight and have a slight fever in the evenings, see a doctor," Dr Chanchai advised.

Worldwide, Thailand has the 17<sup>th</sup>-highest incidence of tuberculosis, a common and deadly infectious disease caused by mycobacteria infection, most commonly of the lungs.

**Deadly discipline:** Armed forces Supreme Commander Gener-

al Boonsrang Niumpradit has ordered an inquiry into the death of a 16-year-old student after he was "disciplined" by senior students at the Armed Forces Academies Preparatory School (AFAPS) in Nakhon Nayok.

Preliminary examinations showed that second-year student Karun Orachon died from fluid in his lungs after senior students forced him to drink copious amounts of water. No other physical injury was found.

Pornpipat said the AFAPS established an internal investigation, dismissed a student supervisor and suspended the seven senior students involved. Police are set to question the seven.

The seniors forced Karun to drink 20 liters of water then perform push-ups until he vomited and then made him repeat the tasks.

Karun's father, Pol Lt Colonel Sanchai from Lamphun, made a complaint to Nakhon Nayok police. He has been advised to take action against the students also.

Col Sanchai has received an

apology from the AFAPS, which will arrange his son's funeral.

**Frog-tastic find:** A species of mountain frog that changes color in response to its surroundings has been discovered in northeast Thailand.

*Odorrana aureola*, known locally as the Phu Luang Cliff frog, can grow to 80 millimeters and has a green body which occasionally turns brown.

Tanya Chanard, Curator of Bangkok's National Science Museum, studied the frog with a team of government biologists and researchers.

The frog is found only in waterfalls and creeks between 1,000 and 1,500 meters above sea level in Phu Luang National Park, which covers parts of Loei, Phetchabun and Phitsanulok provinces.

The team's findings were confirmed by US-based experts with the natural history journal *Fieldiana* last year.

K. Tanya's team found the frog years ago, but only began studying it at the DNA level last year. It is not known how many

there are in the wild, though the frog is already considered in danger of extinction.

**Baht unlikely to rise further:** The Bank of Thailand (BOT) has forecast no significant additional pressure on the baht to appreciate, despite a lower surplus or a likely deficit in the balance of payments next year.

There is no need for the baht to move to the same extent as the Chinese yuan, the central bank said.

Speaking on the Money Channel, BOT Governor Tarisa Watanagase said economic fundamentals indicated there would be no more pressure on the baht to appreciate. Increase in imports from mega-project investments and imports of aircraft would lessen the surplus in the balance of payments or cause a deficit.

"Imports would reduce pressure on the appreciating baht," she said, but added the unit could fluctuate in the short term due to capital movements.

**Eyes on pregnant women:** Police at Suvarnabhumi Airport arrested a pregnant woman arriving from New Delhi who had swallowed 600 grams of heroin in 50 packets.

Two other pregnant Thai members of a drug-smuggling ring had earlier been arrested by Indian police, Office of the Narcotics Control Board Secretary-General Kitti Limchaikij said.

The identity of the 30-year-old woman has not been revealed. Smugglers use pregnant women because they are exempted from X-ray scans.

K. Kitti said drug-smugglers were using India as an alternative route after 31 pregnant Thai women with packets of heroin in their stomach were arrested in China over the past four months. He did not say what had happened to the women arrested by Chinese authorities, but China has a policy allowing for the execution of drug offenders.

**Institute of wisdom:** Srinakharinwirot University (SU) is planning to establish the Thailand's first "Institute of Wisdom", where undergraduates will study His Majesty the King's theories and thoughts.

"This institute will cover His Majesty's sufficiency-economy theory and other knowledge about the environment, community forests, conscience, ethics and moralities," said SU Asst Prof Amnat Yensabai.

The Institute of Wisdom will be established in a patch of degraded forest in Sa Kaew's Watthana Nakhon District, he said.

His Majesty's teachings would be used to restore the forest to its natural state, he added.

The Institute of Wisdom will open next year, with student admissions based on applicant's previous academic performance and work for the public benefit.

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

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# Six killed in one day in Yala

Militants killed five people and injured 10 soldiers and police officers in a series of gun and bombs attacks in Yala on May 23. Police managed to track down and kill one of the attackers.

The first attack came at about 6 am in Yaha District, where four members of a family were shot dead in a hut on a rubber plantation.

They were identified Mau-seng Jehloh, the 56-year-old father, Nurhayadi Jehloh, his 21-year-old daughter, and nephews Kuseng Tuankohseng and Tu-waeasuming Tuankohseng.

At around 7 am, municipal officer Paijit Thongchua was gunned down in Muang District while riding his motorbike to work.

At about the same time, a group of six Rangers were injured in a bomb attack on Yaha-Patae Rd, also in Yaha District.

Although slightly injured, the officers were able to find and shoot dead the bomber, who was hiding nearby.

**Share turns bitter:** The leader of an informal co-operative lending scheme known in Thai as "share" was shot dead while driving her motorbike to the mar-



Philip Blenkinsop, a Bangkok-based freelance photographer working for *Time* magazine, is treated for shrapnel wounds at Yala Hospital May 22. Mr Blenkinsop was taking photographs of a victim who was shot and burned beyond recognition in Lamai District when another bomb exploded near him.

ket in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Ron Phibun District on May 25.

The body of Sunee Phonsiri, shot once in the chest and once in the head, was found in a roadside ditch next to her Honda Wave motorcycle.

Witnesses told police that shortly after K. Sunee left her

house to go to Khao Chum Thong Market, a car with three men inside pulled up alongside her. One of the assailants shot K. Sunee once, causing her to lose control of her motorbike and fall into the ditch. The car then pulled over next to her. One man got out and shot K. Sunee again before the

killers sped away in the direction of Chulabhorn District.

Lt Col Cherdchai Mosika, Deputy Superintendent of Ron Phibun District Police Station, said that the victim was a money lender and head of a "share" co-operative lending scheme. A close friend of K. Sunee was also murdered recently. Police believe the two killings are connected.

**Pulo calls for contact:** The exiled separatist group, the Patani United Liberation Organization (Pulo), has invited the government to establish direct contact rather than closely monitor its activities in Europe.

"Why don't they meet us directly through the right channels, instead of just monitoring us? The sooner the better," Pulo's foreign affairs committee chief Kasturi Mahkota said May 25.

Council for National Security Chairman Gen Sonthi Boonyaratglin earlier instructed the Foreign Ministry to keep a close watch on the movement of exiled separatists in Europe, particularly those in Sweden.

Kasturi said his movement had done nothing wrong and its members enjoyed freedom of movement under the laws of European countries.

"The Thais should also bear

in mind, in light of the European Convention on Human Rights, that we are here legally and have nothing to hide," he added.

**Best Teacher jailed:** The Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Court on May 22 sentenced a winner of the national "Best Teacher 2005" award to nine years in prison for molesting a Prathom 5 student.

The court ruled that Amporn Suriya, a performance art teacher at a well-known primary school in the City of Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was guilty of luring a minor under 15 and molesting her.

The charges stated that in January 2005 Amporn took a 10-year-old student to his house, where he molested her.

In tears, the victim's father said he and his family were pleased with the sentence.

"The judgment assures us that there is still justice in society. This can help many girls who have been treated like my daughter," he said.

Amporn is expected to appeal the ruling.

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

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By Zach Fridell

# WHEELER DEALERS

**B**ike store owner and triathlon team manager Alex Bok [see *First Person*, page 27 of this issue] makes the case that bicycles are the responsible way to travel – both for yourself and for the environment. Cycling can get you in shape, make your morning commute double as your daily workout and, with Phuket's beautiful weather, excuses are hard to find. Except, of course, the traffic.

But where in Phuket can you buy a decent bike, and what should you be looking for? And once you have the bike, where can you ride?

The first decision to make in a bicycle purchase is what you're going to use the bike for. Bicycles fall into three main categories: leisure (or cruising) bikes, road bikes or mountain bikes.

Leisure bikes aren't meant to go fast or be ridden hard, and often have a basket in front so you can carry your groceries back from market. This type of bike is best bought at Big C Supercenter or Tesco-Lotus, but it is the least efficient type of bike. With a limited gear range (or no gears at all), they are harder to pedal and won't make it through more than a small puddle on the road.

For more serious bicycles, the kind that will get you to work in decent time and give a more satisfying workout, road bikes and mountain bikes are the way to go. They are, of course, more expensive, ranging in price from about 8,000 baht for a child's bike to 10,000 baht for a basic adult bike.

The difference between the mountain and road bikes lies in their tires and the posture assumed while riding them. Road bikes have thin tires better for cruising over pavement and the frames are designed to keep riders down close to the handlebars to reduce drag.

Mountain bikes have wide, knobby tires to tear through mud



Phaitoon 'Toon' Chaiwatanamethin at Thalang Bike can order, create and fix up all kinds of bicycles, but he said that he finds the Trek mountain bikes are his most popular item.

and up hillsides, and have sturdy frames with shocks built in to reduce the impact from bouncing along mountain trails.

While the color of the bike used to be the biggest determining factor in which bike to buy, there are now a dizzying array of options and accessories.

Luckily there are shop owners like Phaitoon "Toon" Chaiwatanamethin to help clear the way. K. Toon is the very knowledgeable owner of Thalang Bike on Thepkasattri Rd, where he sells both road and mountain bikes. He speaks excellent English and works as the official mechanic of the Laguna Phuket Triathlon.

Also an avid biker, he explained why a good quality bike and proper bike maintenance can

make a ride much more enjoyable.

"On a good bike, when you are riding you can hear just the friction of the tire on the road – wshhhh – your heart beat – thump thump thump – and the occasional shifting of the gears – click.. click.."

"But on a bad bike you hear everything." Here he makes a whole series of noises, including clanging chains, squeaking brakes and wrenching gears.

Buying a good bike is an investment, and there are several brand names that are favored in Phuket. Both K. Toon and Monprai "Kai" Sukchareun, the owner of Cross Country bike store in Tung Tong, say that Trek is their highest-recommended and most popular mountain bike brand, while Schwinn and Bianchi are popular road bikes.

Thalang Bike sells and services a whole range of brands, including Gary Fisher, Challenger, Klien, GT, Schwinn, Mon-goose, Scott, Jamis and Thailand-based LA. Cross Country doesn't have as much in stock, but can order any of the bike brands that customers want, K. Kai said.

Mountain bike frames now come in two basic varieties – hardtail and full suspension. In a hardtail bike, the front fork has a set of shocks built in, while the full suspension bikes have rear suspension as well.

Alex Bok's The Bike Boutique, which is set to open in the Boat Lagoon by the end of the year, offers more high-end options including brands like On-One, Cervelo and Planet-X. These bikes can range from 10,000 baht for a hardtail mountain bike to around 75,000 for a road bike.

After you've selected the model you want, make sure to order the correct size. Incorrectly sized bikes are the biggest problem K. Toon sees with inexperienced riders, he said. To choose the right size frame, he recommends the rider stand over the bike and ensure the distance between the top bar and the rider's crotch is at least one inch.

Because women's bodies have different proportions from men's, K. Toon's shop also has Trek bikes for women; Trek is the only brand that offers a specific set for females, he explained.

Even after the style and size of the frame is selected, there is still the matter of components – that is, the shifters, brakes, chains, gears and tires – to consider.

When Trek sell a bicycle, they are responsible only for the frame and while many bikes come pre-assembled with standard parts, those are easily swapped and replaced to customers' specifications.

Both K. Kai and K. Toon said they find Shimano brand parts dominate the market. But within Shimano there is a wide variety of options. For mountain bikes, disk brakes are becoming more popular because they can stop the bike quickly and can be used even if the tire frame is bent, unlike the more popular rim brakes.

If all these options are too confusing or more bike than you wish to buy, sports stores like SportsWorld and Super Sports offer a smaller selection of pre-assembled bikes without the option of swapping parts.

After you have a bike you may notice the roads around Phuket aren't too inviting for bicycles. So, after donning your helmet, it is best to head off the major highways to a more relaxing corner of the island.

For road riding, triathlon Team TBB have found that riding around Bang Wad Dam provides clear roads and easy rides.

For more coastal rides, [www.phuketdelight.com](http://www.phuketdelight.com) includes directions for scenic island tours – usually meant for cars but even more enjoyable on a bike.

The routes on quieter roads in the northeast of the island are perhaps the best and safest.

For more guided adventures, Siam Bike Tours on Kata Beach organizes longer rides between Phuket and Bangkok, Ranong or the beautiful Khao Sok National Park in Surat Thani.

Once the checklist is completed – bicycle, good components, helmet, map with route direction, and sun – there's no reason not to enjoy Phuket at a slightly slower pace on two wheels.

## Contacts:

• Phaitoon Chaiwatanamethin, Thalang Bike, 59/1 Moo 1, Thepkasattri Rd. Email: [talangbike\\_phuket@hotmail.com](mailto:talangbike_phuket@hotmail.com), Tel: 076-274352. Open 8 am – 8 pm, Monday – Saturday.

• Monprai "Kai" Sukchareun, Cross Country, 32/11 Wichit Songkran, Tung Tong. Tel: 081-5351231. Open 8 am – 8 pm, Monday – Saturday.

• Martin Brot, Siam Bike Tours Co Ltd, 135 Patak Rd, Kata Beach. Email: [mail@siambiketours.com](mailto:mail@siambiketours.com), Tel: 089-730-7441.

• Alex Bok, The Bike Boutique, soon to come to the Boat Lagoon. [www.thebikeboutique.com](http://www.thebikeboutique.com). Email: [info@thebikeboutique.com](mailto:info@thebikeboutique.com)

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# Nissan's challenger



With 174bhp of power and a the option of a six-speed manual gearbox, the 4X4 Navara brings a performance edge to the pickup market.

The Nissan Frontier has been around for a while but Nissan's share of the pickup market was as low as a paltry 5.6% in 2006.

Compare this with Toyota and Isuzu, who between them account for more than 75% of pickup sales. To combat these low numbers, Siam Nissan Automobile has introduced an updated model to its range: the new Nissan Navara.

Siam Nissan anticipates sales of 40,000 of the new Navara in 2007, helping the company achieve a more respectable market share.

Siam Nissan has now come under the direct control of Nissan Japan and there are plans to upgrade many of its dealers countrywide, some of which are desperately in need of redecoration and improved display facilities.

Frenchman Thierry Viadieu, president of Siam Nissan Automobile and a close associate of Carlos Ghosn, the boss of the Renault-Nissan alliance said, "This is a critical year for the Nissan business in Thailand, with the all-new Frontier Navara central to our growth in this key market.

"The Navara is one of three core products that will drive the brand and the business in 2007. In addition to the pickup, the Tiida compact and Teana premium sedan will be the start of a long-term new product offensive for Nissan in Thailand."

The new Navara is built at the Bangna Trad plant about 20 kilometers east of Bangkok and exports are expected to begin in the middle of the year, explained Mr Viadieu.

## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

"We need to realign our resources to perform more efficiently," he said. "The Navara is our latest product and the innovative additions it brings to the pickup segment will allow us to capture the market share we require."

The engine in the four-wheel-drive Navara is a 2.5 liter common-rail diesel and with 174bhp (128kW), it is the most powerful pickup motor of its size available.

Maximum torque is equally impressive, peaking at 403Nm. The two-wheel drive Navara comes with a slightly less pow-

erful 144bhp (106kW) 2.5 liter common-rail diesel.

On the inside, the pickup combines the comfort and command seating of an SUV with technology more commonly associated with a luxury sedan.

The Frontier Navara is the first pickup truck in Thailand to have six-speed manual transmission. A five-speed automatic gearbox is also available.

The Navara also features an electronically-controlled four-wheel-drive system with a limited slip differential. Utilizing "shift-on-the-fly" technology, it is possible to change from 2WD and 4WD with the use of a dial without stopping.

There are the inevitable varieties, from an entry-level single cab to the top-of-the-range double cab and either two- or four-wheel drive.

Nissan anticipates that Thailand will become a major production hub for the company and Mr Viadieu expects the Navara to contribute strongly to this aim.

"The Frontier Navara is cheaper than the Toyota Vigo and the Isuzu D-Max, the outright market leaders," he says.

Total pickup sales in Thailand this year are expected to top 400,000 units, from a total of around 700,000 automobile sales.

Nissan believes it will not be difficult to capture 10% of pickup sales and clearly wants to re-establish itself in the marketplace, despite the economic and political difficulties currently facing the Kingdom.

Strong competition will doubtless come from Toyota's

new 2007 Hilux, as well as the revamped Mazda BT-50 and Ford Ranger. The outgoing Nissan Frontier is more than seven years old and an advanced replacement such as the Navara has been sorely needed for some time. Now it remains to be seen what the public think of the new machine.

The Navara starts at 569,000 baht for the two-wheel drive version and 669,000 baht for the four-wheel drive.

Jeff Heselwood can be reached by email to [khc@netvigator.com](mailto:khc@netvigator.com)

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# Suitable respect for the dead

It is the Thai tradition for family members of a person who has died to move the body of their loved one to a temple for three, five or seven days before holding a cremation ceremony. In some cases, relatives choose to leave the body for 50 or 100 days to pay respect to the dead, but in Buddhist tradition – and following Buddha's example – nearly all of the bodies are cremated at the end of the mourning period.

The task of performing the cremations at Wat Kata falls to Boonkuer 'Daeng' Kongsana, a man who has garnered attention for his reverence for the bodies and his tradition of wearing a suit, tie and leather shoes to honor the deceased and those who come to mourn their passing. *Gazette* reporter Supanun Supawong asked K. Daeng about his work.



K Daeng in his trademark pinstriped suit and necktie. 'I think it is a worthwhile job, but one that not many people want to do,' he says.

**M**anning the crematorium at a temple may not be the most glamorous job in Phuket, but when no one else was around to perform the rites at Wat Kata (Kitti Sangkaram Temple) for a relative 10 years ago, Boonkuer "Daeng" Kongsana took up the task.

Again last year he decided to resume his position as crematorium attendant when called upon by a municipality official.

K. Daeng, 47, was born in Kata. He has lived all his life in

Phuket, raising two daughters and two sons while working as a construction worker and tree trimmer, jobs he continues to do when he is not working at Wat Kata.

"I started working at Wat Kata last September, because the temple built a new crematorium and needed a new attendant. The Karon Municipality Deputy Mayor persuaded me to work there," he said.

"I accepted immediately. I now receive a salary of 6,000 baht a month. The reason I accepted

the job is because I think it is a worthwhile job, but one that not many people want to do. I remember 10 years ago when my relative was ready to be cremated, the attendant was busy, so I had to do the cremation ceremony myself.

"I don't fear ghosts or spirits. I've never seen any since I began doing this job. I just think, 'Why should we be afraid of ghosts?' Everyone must die."

K. Daeng explained that when a person dies, relatives inform the municipality, which in turn informs K. Daeng. At the ceremony, he wears a white collared shirt and black pants as he serves refreshments to the family.

After that, at the cremation

ceremony, he dons his trademark suit and tie – highly unusual attire for a crematorium attendant in Thailand.

"Ever since I started working here I have worn a suit. At first people would look at me, thinking I was strange. One person even saluted me because they thought I was an official.

"There have been several magazines and newspapers that have come to interview me, but after a while I became accustomed to wearing the suit, so I wasn't as shy about it.

"Because the suit is quite thick fabric, it makes me hot and cramped on warm days. Now I have two suits, four white shirts and a pair of leather shoes that I bought with the money I am paid

from the job.

"The villagers here like the idea of me wearing a suit because it is different from everywhere else in Thailand. I heard that there are attendants in Nonthaburi and one other province who have copied me and now wear suits."

K. Daeng said that he is now the only crematorium attendant at Wat Kata, which in some months has no funeral services. In a busy month, however, he may attend three of four cremations.

"My responsibility at the funeral is to clean the crematorium, prepare the offerings and cremation fuel, as well as collect the bones of the deceased and place them in an urn after it is over. When it's finished, the relatives usually tip me about 500 baht," he said.

Cremations take about two and a half hours using liquid fuels, as opposed to the four hours that it would take using the more traditional firewood.

K. Daeng said that even though he has to deal with the gruesome remains of accident victims and people who have died from terrible diseases, he has never been squeamish about handling corpses. In one case he cremated a person who had died from HIV/Aids, but he was not afraid because the doctors assured him it was safe.

"I remember one corpse that was most difficult to burn. It


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## Happily Ever After

### Recently married in Phuket

Right: Sunee  
Chaiyotha and  
Stefano Bemabei  
were married at  
Fortuna Pavilion  
Restaurant in The  
Metropole hotel  
on May 11.



Left: Duangthida Wijit  
and Chatchanan  
Ngarnwong were  
married at Pra Pitak  
Grand Ballroom of  
The Metropole hotel  
on May 9.



was an old man from Phatthalung. Normally it takes about two and a half hours, but for him it took five hours. Many people there believe that because the old man dealt in black magic his skin and bones were difficult to burn."

K. Daeng said that while he is working he wears gloves and a mask. As a matter of routine, he always takes a shower and cleans his laundry after each cremation is finished. He wears the mask to protect himself from any diseases, he said.

It must be effective, as he claims he never fallen ill from his work as a crematorium attendant.

Despite his constant dealings with the dead and the religious rituals that mark their passing, K. Daeng said that he prefers to go fishing with his friends in his free time – rather than read scriptures or other religious doctrines.

Even though this job doesn't pay well, K. Daeng said that his family supports him because he is doing good deeds and making merit.

He will continue to work as the Wat Kata attendant for as long as he can, he told the *Gazette*.

"Everyone must die, so while I'm alive I want to do something to help society," he explained. "Being a crematorium attendant is a job that no one wants to do. People who do this job have to be unafraid of dead

bodies and they have to have a good heart. They have to do the job because they want to, not for the money," he said.

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# This week



**GOOD KARMA:** After making a donation to the project, movie producer Philip Cope (center) reviews construction of the massive Mingmongkol Buddha image high in the Nakkerd Hills. He is joined here by Code M Production Director Naowarat Chotipradit (right) and advisor Danai



**BEER AND BOXING:** Lindsay Turpin (center), proprietor of Piccadilly Bar, celebrates his birthday with boxing promotor Wanida 'Bow' Kaewma of Patong Gym (back right), friends and staff at the bar on Patong's Soi Kebsup.



**SCHOLARLY LIONS:** (right to left) Lions Michel & Dominique Monfort of Belgium present a 1,000-euro donation to help fund the education of orphaned eight-year-old Amphan Booncharoen. Receiving the funds are Phuket Pearl Lions Club President Dr Supaluck Kanchanamethakul, Ajarn Somjit Jitsaeree of the Baan Ketho School and project coordinator Arunee Suriwongse.



**SALUD!** Patong tourism pioneer Giorgio Gompf (right), who founded the Tropica Bungalow and Restaurant in 1980, together with staff toasts to retired Swiss customs inspector Louis Filli (seated) on his 50<sup>th</sup> visit to Thailand. Mr Filli, who has visited the resort 46 times, always stays in the same room and drinks rose wine.



**GOLFING FOR GOOD:** (from right) Satee Phuket School Director Kiatisak Pilawat (right) hosts Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of The Basic Education Commission Mungkorn Kulawanich, Chairman of the Administrative Board of Murex Co Ltd Yongyot Palanitisena and Satee Phuket School Deputy Director Nathpong Phathairat at a charity golf event at Blue Canyon Country Club to raise funds for a new building at Satee Phuket School.



**BIG HEART:** TV personality Naowarat Yuktanant (center) shows off her organ donor card after attending the 'Miracle of Giving' seminar by Dr Wisit Thitawat from the Thai Red Cross. The seminar was held at the Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

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The other night I had a nightmare about the new Suvarnabhumi Airport. This was after eating a large super-supreme pizza with double cheese, so if you don't like my nightmare, don't blame me – blame the pizza.

(Scene: The arrival hall at Suvarnabhumi Airport, one year after its opening. Enter two tourists: Fred Farang and his 11-year-old son Booger. They are both stark naked.)

**Fred:** Here we are, son. Nowadays they're calling it Unforgettable Thailand. Isn't it exciting?

**Booger:** Didn't they used to call it Unseen Thailand? And before that it was Amazing Thailand. How can it be unforgettable, unseen, and amazing all at the same time?

**Fred:** Son, you can't forget something you haven't seen. And to try to promote something unseen is amazing.

**Booger:** Dad, where are we gonna get clothes? We can't go into town buck naked.

**Fred:** Here's an information booth. Let's ask the girl. (They approach the booth, where a Tourism Authority of Thailand information clerk, Noy, greets them with a radiant smile.)

**Noy:** Sawasdee kha! Welcome

# Unforgettable Suvarnabhumi

to Unforgettable Thailand, kha. (Wais them.)

**Fred:** Miss, sorry to be buck naked, but they made us take off all our clothes for security reasons when we checked in at LA airport. The clothes are in our check-in baggage, which got delayed and will be coming on a later flight. All the other passengers have the same problem. Where can we buy some clothes?

**Noy:** Sir, the management of Suvarnabhumi Airport has anticipated this problem and contrived to profit from it. Just outside this arrival hall you will encounter a vast array of fashionable upmarket boutiques for your shopping pleasure. We're the boutique airport, sir!

And we'll soon be known as the boutique mallport, because once construction is complete we'll be attached to a massive new shopping mall, the Suvarnabhumi Supermall. Immediately

after exiting the aircraft, you'll be whisked into this magnificent new mall. You'll be able to do all your shopping before you even clear Immigration.

**Fred:** That's great. We'll buy some new clothes right away. Now, how do we get into town?

**Noy:** Sir, it's not necessary to get into town, if by "town" you mean the old city of Bangkok. This airport is located in the heart of Suvarnabhumi City, which has every imaginable convenience. Old Bangkok has been downgraded to a mere amphur, a district of Suvarnabhumi.

**Fred:** Well, but we're old fashioned. We'd like to see the Old City while it still retains some of

its ancient charm. Besides, we booked our hotel room there.

**Noy:** It's regrettable that you're so retrograde, sir, but I suppose you want to see it before the bulldozers and the wrecking balls move in. We do not have direct transportation to the hotels of Old Bangkok, but we do have a variety of tours which you may take en route to your hotel.

**Fred:** But we're tired after our 15-hour flight and want to go directly to our hotel. As soon as we buy some clothes, that is.

**Noy:** Sir, the government mandates that you must take a tour en route to your hotel. Now, we have a variety of exciting tours.

For adventure tourists, we offer the Runway Tour, which you can take without even leaving the airport grounds. This is a guided tour of the famous cracks in our airport's runways. You'll ooh and aah as you bounce over the cracks in our luxury minibus. See them now, before they widen into abysses. This tour will give you keen insights into our state-of-the-art construction techniques and the venality of certain politicians.

For shoppers, there's the Mall Tour, in which we take you to several of the Old City's many shopping malls. We allow you a full five hours of shopping before delivering you to your hotel.

Finally, there is the Dead Zone Tour, in which we visit the sites of Bangkok's once-vibrant nightlife, now fallen into ruin and decay. With luck, you might get to see one of the few remaining bars before the lights flicker out, the darkness sweeps in, and desolation holds sway over all.

**Fred:** I guess we'll go for the Dead Zone Tour, since that's likely to take the least time.

**Noy:** Very good, sir. And next time you come, please book your hotel in Suvarnabhumi City. By then Old Bangkok will be just a distant memory.

*You can scold S. Tsow for eating pizza before bedtime at: stsow@yahoo.com*

  
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Pruerk-Lawan	100	8,220,000	100,000	4,110,000	4,010,000
Pruerk-Pirom	99.6	8,350,000	100,000	4,175,000	4,075,000

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**T**his year's must-have hot weather garment for women is a dress. The summer collections, always the best option for fashion-conscious Phuket residents, regardless of the season, are offering a dress to fit every body type, every occasion and every budget.

The leading trends this season are coat-style dresses with a button-close front, Empire-waist dresses, sheath dresses, wrap-around dresses, floral-pattern dresses, African-themed dresses and graphic prints. Plain- and solid-colored dresses also are in style.

The new appreciation for dresses has something to do with the spirit of the times, said Gudrun Allstaedt, editor of a textile trade magazine. Dresses were once thought of not only as square, but also as impractical, she said.

"A blouse and skirt were easier to combine and didn't look as dowdy," Ms Allstaedt added. That's now changed.

There also were aesthetic reasons opposing the dress, specifically that they don't flatter every body shape.

"As with boots, dresses bring together several dimensions," said style adviser Maria Hans. Some women are bigger in the shoulders and breasts, others have rounder bellies, legs and hips. Current styles help with these issues, in particular, the wrap-around dress.

Introduced 30 years ago by designer Diane von Furstenberg, the wrap-around dress was rediscovered a few years ago by models and Hollywood stars. This year, wrap-around dresses can be found again



# FROCK around the clock

in every boutique and department store, and not just in the original version.

The fashion house Esprit, for example, has several variations. Whether the dress features a solid color, floral pattern, vertical stripe or geometric pattern, in every case a thin, light cotton belt ties at the waist.

"The absolutely hot wrap-around dresses drape nicely around just about every shape due to their cut and the soft fabric typically used," said Hans. And women who choose a trendy

Empire waists are a feature of this year's summer dresses, like this one from Betty Barclay.

Neutral colors have also found their way into fashion this year.

pattern can cleverly conceal problem zones.

New coat dresses such as the ones in designer Betty Barclay's collection can be easily combined in multiple variations. An important feature of every dress is a belt that emphasizes the waist. The collection includes neutrals, colors and strong contrasts.

The dress can be worn coat-like over another garment as well, said Frankfurt-based style adviser Andreas Rose. It can also be worn open over a pair of hotpants and high heels. Women with less courage can wear it over summer trousers or even a summer skirt.

"It's the game of length and width," said Mr Rose, describing the current style. Accordingly, a long-sleeved shirt may be worn under a short-sleeved dress or a wide-knit jacket can be worn over it. Wide belts that sit high on the waist offer numerous variation possibilities.

"Nearly every fashion house has a dress with an Empire waist in its collection particularly for younger women," added Mr Rose. Nude tones dominate the designs, although there also are some in black and white and in natural colors. The fabrics used are light and airy.

"Chiffon does a good job concealing," said Rose. "And dresses with soft jersey fabrics sit well all day long and are comfortable."

## Go-go

By Marque A. Rome

**W**eingut Gunderloch vintner Fritz Hasselbach is maker of one of Germany's finest wines, and husband of Gunderloch boss Agnes Hasselbach.

Seated at the center of Amari Coral Beach Resort's surprisingly long banquet table, Mr Hasselbach was guest of honor for the evening – having brought the wine – and remained affable despite pestering from a table-full of tropical oenophiles.

"Of the six wines tasted tonight, only one seemed characteristically German, the auslese, and that was served in a tiny glass as a dessert wine," said one. "Please explain."

Mr Hasselbach noted sheepishly that the wine would have been better were the glass bigger: "Riesling always needs air," he explained, "so bigger glasses are better."

He then launched into an illuminating critique of Germany's famous wine laws: "Simply because a wine has fewer than nine grams of sugar, I can't say it is therefore dry," he opined. Nor would he assert that because a wine has more sugar it is sweet: "My [Riesling] Red Stone has 15 grams of sugar – making it a dessert wine by law; yet to me it tastes dry. So I don't care about wine laws. I strive always for balance."

Mr Hasselbach also strives to avoid the curse of corked wine by using screw caps. In the fine wine business that is daring. But, as wine industry research shows roughly 20% of corks go bad, it is prudent; and evidence of an emerging trend.

The peculiar character of the wines Mr Hasselbach brought – two white Burgundy-style wines; two Rieslings of unmistakable aridity; one semi-dry; and the superb auslese (German for "selected bunches") – probably had more to do with Thai tax laws than with the German wine code (created to ensure that the country's wines, famous for their sweetness, would be so without addition of sugar). The wines are typically made of Riesling grapes, not of Pinot Gris or Pinot Blanc, both of which are cloned from Pinot Noir – the great grape of Burgundy, not Germany.

Thailand, though, is a haven for such rarities.

Hans-Peter Blumer, whose company Black Forest is Gunderloch's distributor in Thailand, notes on his website: "A wine ends up in Black Forest's [catalog] only if it is an absolute quality-price ratio leader." The reason for such economy is simple: "Tax on wine now stands at 400%." Cheap wine overseas thus becomes expensive here – and expensive wine becomes unthinkable.

Take for example Gunderloch's greatest wine, the Nackenheim Rothenberg Trocken-

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# dancers, noble rot and caviar

beeren Auslese, a late harvest wine using grapes afflicted with the "noble rot", *Botrytis cinerea*. This mold dehydrates the grapes considerably on the vine, thereby concentrating sugar, fruit acids and minerals. The resulting wines, known as trockenbeeren wines, are redolent of honeysuckle, complex to make, scarce, and never cheap.

Gunderloch's Nackenheim Rothenberg has received perfect scores for three vintages' - '92, '96, '01 - from the influential Wine Spectator magazine, which uses a 100-point rating system. Such scores are extremely rare; only a few bottles each year score 100 points. Gunderloch's 2002 Nackenheim Rothenberg Trockenbeeren Auslese earned 98 points - and on the world market cases of 370ml half-bottles sell for US\$2,819 each; bottles retail in American wine shops for up to US\$335.

But in Thailand, 400% taxation mandates they sell for US\$1,340 each, or about 45,000 baht per half-bottle. Other fine wines are similarly priced, so we don't often see them; and vintners are inclined to off-load freaks. "The Rothenberg Riesling 'Goldkapsel' Auslese we tasted tonight tested out as trockenbeeren wine," he explained, "and I might have marketed it as such legally. But it didn't taste sweet enough to me. So I de-classified it. It's still a fine dessert wine, but far less costly."

The Coral Beach tasting featured an evening of rarities. Black Forest's Mr Blumer had organized the event, inviting several distinguished gourmands, the odd raconteur, and many serious wine people.

Picture this if you can: the lights dimmed, Freddy Mercury and Queen began belting out "We will, we will rock you!", and a line of red and black-robed chefs were seen grooving to the beat as they prepared Grilled Scallop and Asparagus Salad with Nori Caviar amid the smoke of melting dry ice. Go-go dancers did the frug on tiled counters behind.

Rare.

It all began innocently enough with Gunderloch's excellent Riesling 2004 and a portion of Phuket's wine coterie assembled on the patio outside Amari Coral Beach Resort's Rim Talay restaurant. Phuket.com's Neil Cummings and wife Linda were there; so was The 9th Floor Restaurant and Bar's Thomas Brack; Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach Resort food and beverage manager Maria Steckermeier; Phuket Art Advertising's Sasithorn Akkarawanichsil; and Tropica hotel proprietor Hans-Jurgen 'Giorgio' Gompf - among others, gathered for the most part round two chromium containers of quiche-like Elzasser onion pies.



Weingut Gunderloch vintner Fritz Hasselbach was the guest of honor - after all, he brought all the fine wine.

The low-key affair introduced not only Gunderloch's wines to the Phuket market but showcased the Coral Beach kitchen's ability to turn out a banquet of truly novel cuisine for 50 guests. Each dish was crafted to complement its accompanying wine, rather than the reverse - an eclectic approach that paid off. Also novel, in this Age of Obesity, was the seven-course menu's preponderance of non-fattening ingredients.

After an hour of jaw-boning, admiring the sprawling hotel's tasteful renovations, and enjoying the fine, un-amplified performance of the four-piece group led by guitarists Lito Lopez and

Patrick Niserio, we entered the Rim Talay's open air pavilion. Our first course was lobster and papaya salad, which accompanied Gunderloch's 2004 Weissburgunder, made from Pinot Blanc.

The latter is a grape historically identified with Burgundy (hence the name) but now found more often in Italy, Alsace, Germany and Austria. Gunderloch's wine, from 60-year-old vines, was nicely balanced but austere - that is, "focused" in wine parlance, a by-product of its tannins and acids. These, however, inasmuch as they contribute to digestion, make it an excellent "food wine".

Second course was grilled

Scallop and White Asparagus with Nori Caviar and 2005 Grauburgunder ("Gray Burgundy"), made of Pinot Gris. That wine's aroma was slight, reminiscent of oranges, but its robe was colored a deeper yellow than the ultra-pale Weissburgunder; its flavor was more acidic.

Either of these relatively unknown German wines is a smart substitute for Chablis, which they both resemble. The Germans are also far less costly and more reliable, having none of the off-odor loss-leader editions of which famous French wines reek of.

The presence of rare white asparagus on our plates prompted the Teutons at table to rhapsodize on the vegetable's noble qualities. "It grows beneath the ground and costs more than meat," said Giorgio, who, after 27 years in Patong, is doyen of the tambon's foreign tourism operators. Other heads nodded sagely in approbation. "I used to visit Germany during the asparagus season just to eat white asparagus - it's available only from the end of April till mid-June."

All agreed that, aside from its specially delicious character, white asparagus shares a common characteristic with the King of Fruits: "It's something like durian," Giorgio observed, "but only in that when you pee it smells: because it's cleaning your kidneys."

A 2005 Riesling Kabinett, a spatlese (or "late-picking") identified as "Jean Baptiste", was served with two dishes: whipped pink lentils and sweet potato; and snowfish fillet in extra olive oil bell pepper ragout.

Kabinett is the most typical of German wines - flowery, fruity, and slightly sweet. This was arid and oak-ish - but the chef nevertheless found the prop-

er balance in pairing his dishes. One guest, however, 43-year-old Beat Schmidlin of Basel, argued that merely dicing the bell peppers was too simple: "I'd make a comfit of them - coating them with jam or sugar," he declared. "That would be better."

Armchair gourmets, like retired generals, always have a superior strategy.

One should perhaps have been employed for the next pairing, Gunderloch's 2005 Red Stone Riesling and a braised veal and tom yam prawn roll. The veal and prawn roll savored of salt; the Red Stone - colored a deep yellow but tinged with red from the mineral-laden slate in which the grapes grew - was strangely dry. It was a match made in Thailand - not in heaven.

Next on the menu from Amari's executive chef, German Alexander Mack, was physalis, also called ground cherry. It is something like an orange-hued tomato, but sheathed in a papery husk. It's good in salads and reputedly soothes a sore throat as well. We had it caramelized, with ice cream covered in an iced-Riesling foam, alongside a desert thimble of the delightful 2005 Rothenberg "Goldkapsel" Riesling Auslese: a perfect match.

In the meantime, dry ice fumed; commis and pastry cooks frugged on the kitchen counters; and Joey Tempest bawled out the Final Countdown. Various of our number rose to the occasion and congratulated us on our good sense for being there.

It is worth considering that German wine hitherto has met with few buyers in Phuket, prices being what they are. Mr Hasselbach's visit showed that at least one great vintner will do what he can to reach this market, however much...um, eclecticism is required.

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**S**leep is essential for concentration, memory, happiness and wellbeing. But let's face it, even though we spend a third of our adult lives asleep, we take it for granted – until we can't get it.

Women tend to suffer from insomnia more than men, and when it hits it can wreak havoc on your work, social life, and relationships.

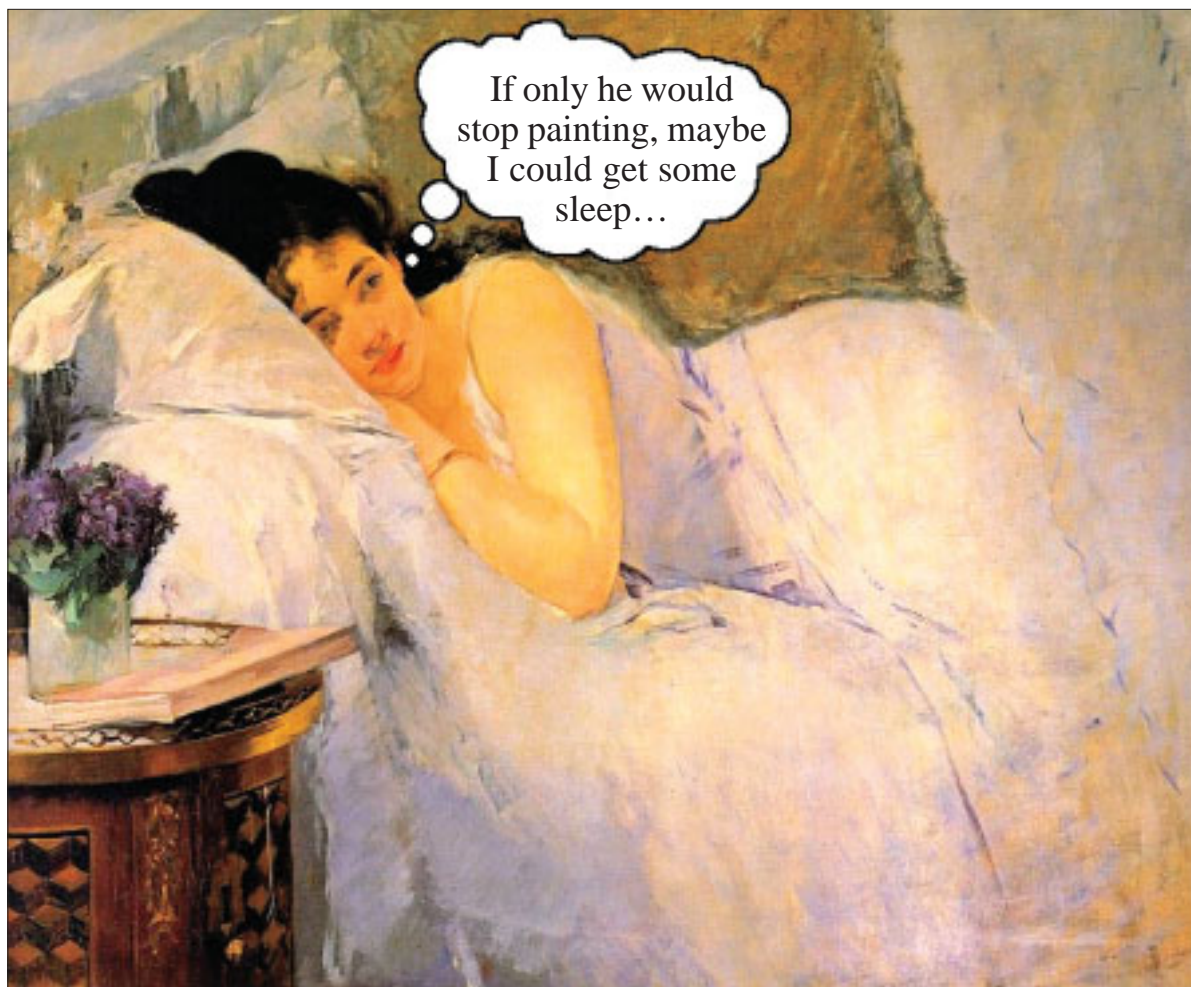
Here are some tips I have picked up after years of never getting enough sleep.

**Keep a sleep diary:** If you have problems sleeping, keep a diary of what you do during the day and what your sleeping patterns are. Sleeplessness can be caused by depression and anxiety. If this is the problem, it's best to treat the root cause and sleep will follow naturally. Even waking early in the morning can be a symptom of depression.

What you do before you go to bed is important. If you have a problem getting to sleep, your mind may be overstimulated. Watching television in bed, late-night phone calls or working until just before bedtime can all cause problems. Conversely, you may see making love as the most stimulating pursuit imaginable, but it can often help you get a good night's sleep.

**Establish a routine:** Adults as well as babies associate various environmental and nutritional cues with sleep. If you have a nightly routine, your body will start preparing itself for sleep. For example, if you always drink a cup of herbal tea while listening to calming music, go through a cleansing routine and then brush your teeth, your body will start to recognize your habit and wind down accordingly.

Regular bedtimes are also essential if you have problems sleeping. If you can't get to sleep or you wake up in the night, go to bed later but set your alarm clock for the same time. This takes the



# Good night and good luck

pressure off getting a good, long night's sleep and starts to train you to fall asleep more quickly and to sleep well for a shorter time. Gradually move your bedtime forward by 15 minutes until you're sleeping the right amount for you.

**Sleep in a dark room:** I hate light in my bedroom. Darkness stimulates the production of the

brain's melatonin, which encourages sleep. Your eyelids let through 80 per cent of light, so if you haven't got heavy curtains, wear an eye mask to block excess light.

**Make a sleep sandwich:** Avoid a heavy meal just before going to bed as this can keep you awake. If you really have to eat, make yourself a sleep sandwich. Put some sliced banana, yeast extract and lettuce between two slices of wholegrain bread – I know it sounds yuk, but it works. Lettuce has been considered an opiate since Roman times, and yeast extract and banana stimulate the production of amino acids which play an important role in the biochemical mechanism of sleep – according to the experts.

**Keep your bedroom cool:** Body temperature is fundamental to a good night's sleep. As your body prepares to drift off, you start losing heat through your face, hands and feet. If your bedroom is too hot you will be unable to lose heat adequately – which will result in a broken night.

The myth that women need more sleep may have come about because a woman's hormonal fluctuations lead to a rise in body temperature. This is why it is particularly important for women not to sleep in a warm bedroom, particularly around the time of their period.

**Have a warm bath:** Oddly enough, a warm bath is a great sleep aid. Your body temperature



will, in fact, drop after a good long soak. Add some sleep-inducing essential oils to your bath such as lavender, geranium and clary-sage.

**Think about what you drink:** Although a small glass of wine may help you relax, too much alcohol can result in broken sleep. Caffeine should be avoided where possible. If you love caffeine, drink coffee in the morning and tea in the afternoon.

Avoid both at night and, if you really can't do without something, drink chocolate instead. A hot milky drink can be comforting at bedtime – the maternal associations are said to give a sense of well-being, promoting relaxation and sleep. There are also various herbal "bedtime" teas on the market.

**Use your imagination:** Visualization can help send you off when you're feeling stressed and your mind is in a spin. Imagine a relaxing scenario – perhaps lying on the beach. Focus on the noises, the smells and the sounds you can hear and feel the heat of the sun. You will drift off in no time.

**Breathe:** Abdominal breathing can help you relax, getting you in the right frame of mind to sleep. Meditation is another way of stilling an overactive mind, and it will help you regulate your breathing.

**Exercise – the right kind can help:** Exercise during the day. It elevates your mood, releases stress and tires you physically so it's an ideal way to promote healthy sleep patterns. But avoid exercising too close to bedtime as this raises body temperature and releases adrenalin, which hinders sleep. Yoga is a great form of exercise if you suffer from sleep problems, since it is an ideal way of relaxing both body and mind.

**A good romp between the sheets:** It really does help. A good sex session relaxes the muscles and relieves stress. Whether it's with your partner or on your own it will always induce a good sleep afterwards!

*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 from amazon.com*

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There are two things about Thailand that stand out as being incomprehensible to Westerners: Buddhism and road rules.

When we meditate on this we find that the two are inextricably linked, Little Grasshopper. By understanding the one you gain insight into the other.

Here then, are some lessons to ponder as you travel the road to enlightenment.

**Duality is a Myth:** Western religions are burdened with the concept of opposites: good or evil, light or dark, original or extra-crispy. Buddhism, however, recognizes the inherent oneness of all things and thus sees these supposed opposites for what they truly are: facets of the totality of existence.

To follow the way of the Thai driver you too must cast off these illusions of duality, such as the duality of two traffic lanes moving in opposite directions.

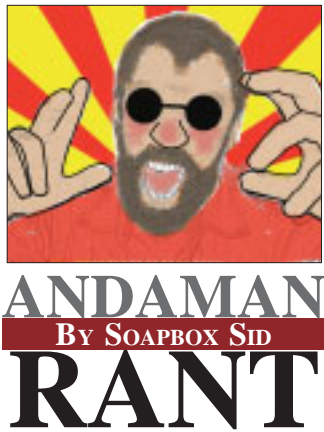
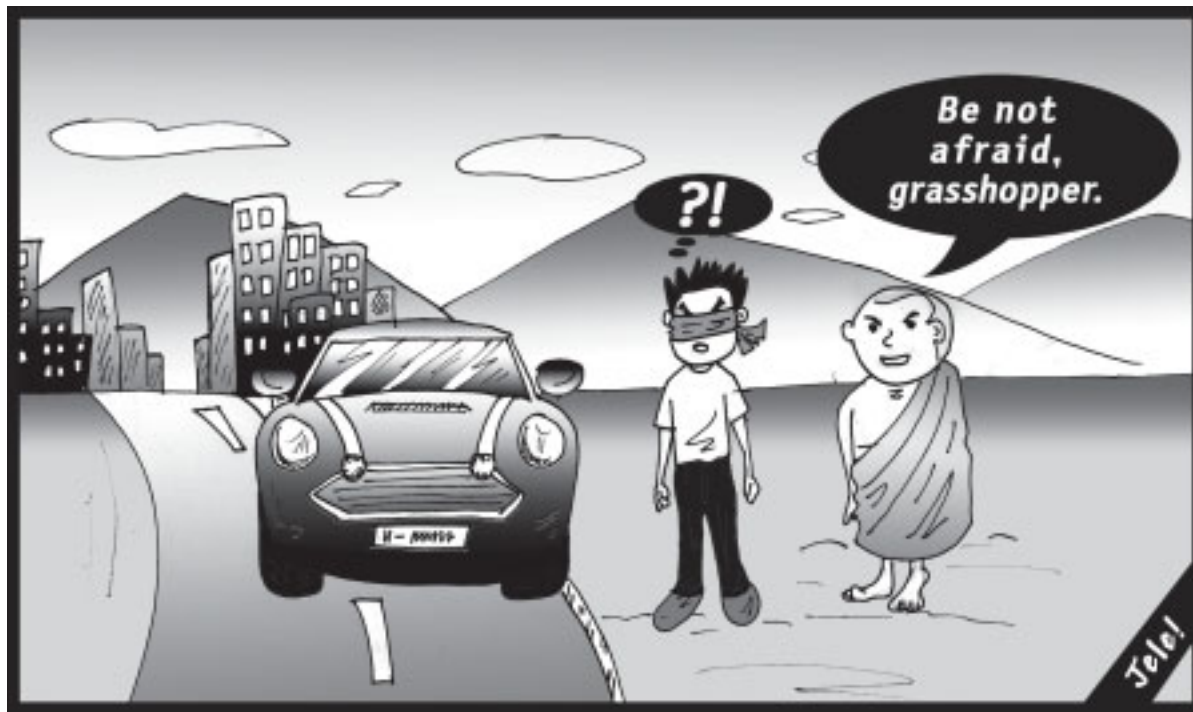
Are both lanes not part of one road? Are both directions not still expressions of the eternal flow of all things?

When you have grasped this concept, Grasshopper, you will then understand why Thais so naturally swerve into oncoming traffic to overtake and why they are so serene as they travel along a road the wrong way. It is because there is no wrong way, only The Way.

So, too, with traffic lights. To the enlightened Buddhist driver red and green are not different colors but simply different ways of seeing the same traffic light. Unlearn such deceptive notions as "right of way" and your inner eye will open. This is the only way to know how to proceed through an intersection.

**The Cycle of Incarnation is Eternal:** Existence is not a linear progression from birth to death. Rather it is an endless cycle of life, death and rebirth.

# Zen and the art of motorcycle madness



As one's soul gains experience and enlightenment from each lifetime one is reincarnated into yet another lifetime, until nirvana is achieved and one escapes from this eternal cycle into a state of

perpetual bliss.

You never die, as life is a mere Honda dream, instead you simply pass into another life for another chance to attain the wisdom necessary for enlightenment.

You should never fear death, even when careening along a twisty Phuket highway at 200km an hour with a bottomless chasm yawning right next to the road. This life will end when it is time.

No matter how many times you check your mirrors, a car can come screaming up from your blind spot and make that time NOW.

Accept this as inevitable and you will be free to follow the

way of the Thai driver, overtaking on blind corners and driving in the rain at breakneck speeds without a helmet.

Those who wish to have a little longer in this lifetime should be especially mindful when driving near temples as those coming out have probably just made merit and may be looking for reincarnation while the getting is good.

**Be Like the Water:** Water is the essence of life and, as such, has many lessons to teach us, Grasshopper. Be mindful of the water and seek to utilize its teachings on the path of the Thai driver. Water can fit into any container and so, too can

the Thai driver, maneuvering into any space between vehicles, no matter how small or inconvenient it may be.

Water, with determined patience, can seep through any crack. This same patience is necessary when leaving a car park and turning across an oncoming lane of vehicles. You must slowly seep across the road, finding even the smallest cracks through traffic.

When confronted by an obstacle, water does not stop, but flows around the obstacle, never losing momentum. So, too, must you.

When someone along life's highway has stopped in the middle of the road to smell the roses, or pick up some fried chicken, you must flow around the obstacle, never stopping your harmonious movement.

**Koans:** What is the sound of one horn honking? As you travel the road to enlightenment you will ponder this as it is a sound you will hear quite a bit.

The answer to this koan is childishly simple: it depends on how many times it honks. Once to indicate that someone is overtaking or coming through, while a series of several honks is meant as a warning.

Another question to ponder that is not so simple is the puzzle of the turn signal. Does a blinking left indicator mean a left turn, a right turn or no turn at all?

Understanding intractable questions like these is the secret to mastering the way of the Thai road.

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Puzzles

The Cryptic Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of 20 items of sports equipment. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; 20, excellent.

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

Solution on next page

ACROSS

1. Commerce transport in three directions. (8)
5. Get in with regard to welcomes. (6)
10. Lit one; Mia's about Home Guard. (7)
11. Draw conclusion? No. Hell! (7)
12. Space: a couple of notes, quietly. (3)
13. Little Henry's got tang about town. (7)
14. "No, lass", almost - back to hairdresser's. (5)
16. Paddle, they say, to get fish product. (3)
17. Fruit ring not recorded. (5)
18. Sahara features brown color at a couple of points. (5)
21. Like writer's ski town. (5)
23. Cher's child? Er, no. (5)
26. Samuel's got degree in dance. (5)
27. He's probably not a scientist. (3)
29. Skin blemishes? Turn bedding. (5)
31. Sense European Community is a mess? That's the central part. (7)
32. Baa! Computer part. (3)
33. Tedious alteration to exterior. (7)
34. Vote for or back something power-related. (7)
35. Part of garden ought to be sufficient. (6)
36. In the mouth, resembles variation of soft eats. (6,2)

DOWN

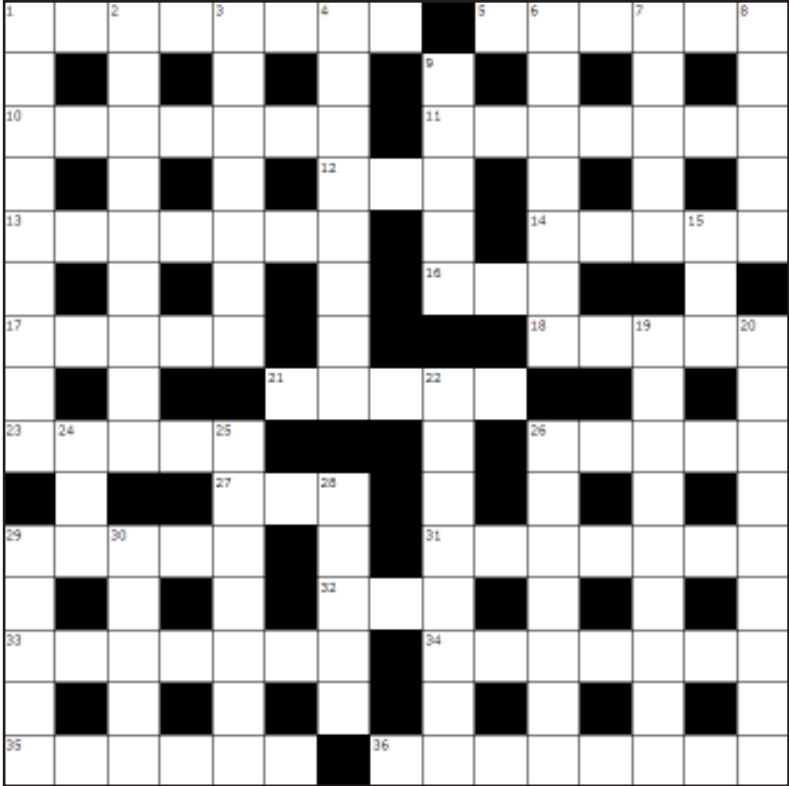
1. Strange opus, but I'm

Rhyme Time

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

1. Deep-voiced singer.
2. Get a substitute.
3. Personal defense weapon.
4. Speed.
5. Speed competition.
6. Turn toward.
7. Spoil appearance.
8. Foundation.
9. Elegance.
10. Lose

Answers on next page



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

- over-assertive. (9)
- Almost drooling, it's a saving. (9)
- Sounds like hotel price for chemical. (7)
- Struts and swears, almost, about horse. (8)
- Rubbish, note, is denied. (7)
- Lorre backs another movie star. (5)
- Faint imminently around cardinal. (5)
- When it rains, it clears. When it's clear, it doesn't. (5)
- Nothing of the French
- poem. (3)
- Names no friends in enclosure. (9)
- Remove barrel part before averted. (9)
- "He rape me!" Oddly, they don't last. (8)
- Unconscious, but not at home. (3)
- Deviating about pole - very tired. (7)
- Dubious religious group has unique selling proposition. (7)
- Tossed three, nearly, to cardinal. (5)
- Range magnifier. (5)
- Pest and I have zero

Scribble Space

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

EASY

#23

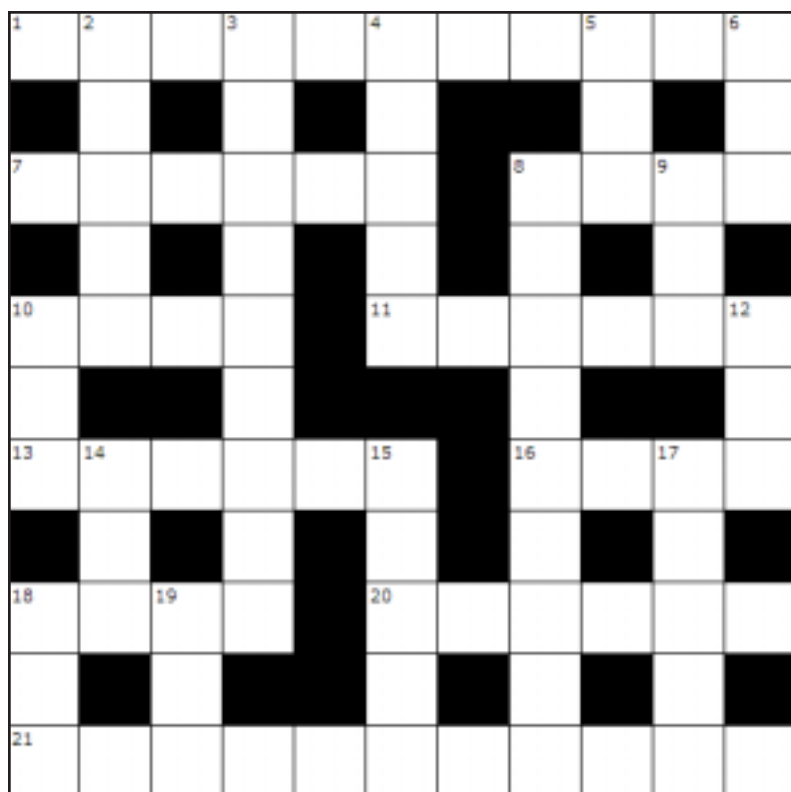
Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Banana, rambutan, durian, jackfruit; which is the odd one out?
2. Buenos Aires is the capital of which country?
3. Which sportsman uses a wedge, a driver and a putter?
4. Which Thai province sees the sunrise first?
5. How many inches are there in 1.5 yards?
6. Ablutophobia is a fear of what?
7. How many Dalmatians were there in the Disney cartoon?
8. What color was the Ford Model T car?
9. Which animal causes the most human deaths worldwide?
10. The planet Venus is named after the Roman goddess of what?

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

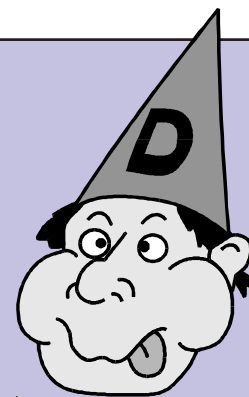
1. Sleeping through the winter.
7. Continent south of Europe.
8. Aged between 12 and 20.
10. Volcano product.
11. Water pipe.
13. Spooks.
16. Fierce argument.
18. Aquatic animal.
20. Foot ailment.
21. Not needed.

### DOWN

2. Word to go with "red".
3. British queen.
4. Under, poetically.
5. Solid water.
6. Rifle or pistol.
8. Tens of hundreds.
9. Historical period.
10. Throw slowly.
12. Head cover.
14. "Yes" in Paris.
15. Black fur.
17. "Love" in Paris.
18. Common virus.
19. We orbit around it.

*Solution below right*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. The moon is gradually moving away from the earth. By how much each year?
2. Name the first spacecraft to soft-land on the Moon.
3. Who was the most recent person to stand on the Moon? In which year?
4. In 1990 Japan put a spacecraft in orbit around the Moon. What was it called?
5. Russia aims to put an unmanned lander on the Moon in which year?
6. Which newspaper, in 1835, published a series of articles that became known as the Great Moon Hoax?
7. Roughly how much larger than the Moon's surface is the surface of Earth?
8. Approximately how old is the Moon?
9. When will the next total lunar eclipse take place?
10. Which Japanese musician released the album Moon in 2002?
11. Four so-called Trojan moons have been detected so far in the solar system. Name them.
12. All are in orbit around which planet?
13. The Galilean moons all orbit which planet?
14. Which is the largest, the Moon, Callisto, or Tethys?
15. The moon Dysnomia orbits which body in the solar system?
16. The asteroid 87 Sylvia has two moons. What are they called?
17. What is the name of the planet Neptune's largest moon?
18. The moons Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania and Oberon all orbit which planet?
19. The names of these moons are taken from which Shakespeare play?
20. Mars has two moon: Phobos and Deimos. What do the names mean?

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. 3.8 centimeters; 2. Luna 9; 3. Eugene Cernan, 1972; 4. Hiten; 5. 2012; 6. The New York Sun; 7. About 10 times; 8. 4.5 billion years; 9. August 28 this year; 10. Gackt; 11. Telesto, Calypso, Helene and Polydeuces; 12. Saturn; 13. Jupiter; 14. Callisto; 15. The dwarf planet Eris; 16. Romulus and Remus; 17. Triton; 18. Uranus; 19. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; 20. "Fear" and "Dread".

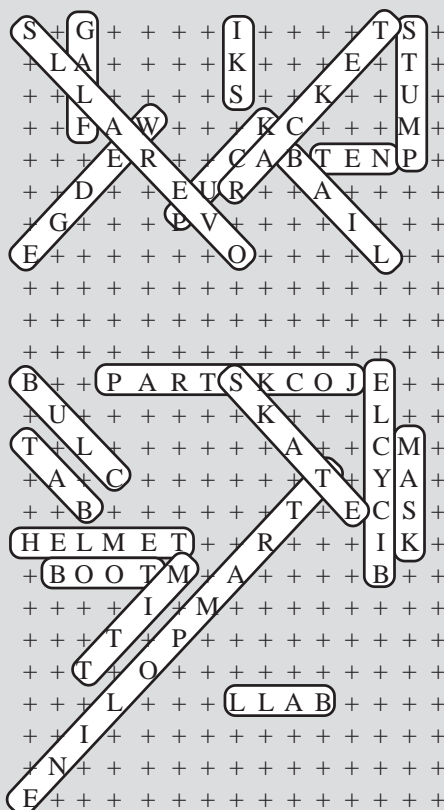
## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Rambutan - all the others have yellow flesh; 2. Argentina; 3. Golfer; 4. Ubon Rachathani; 5. 54. 6. Washing; 7. 101; 8. Black; 9. The mosquito; 10. Love.

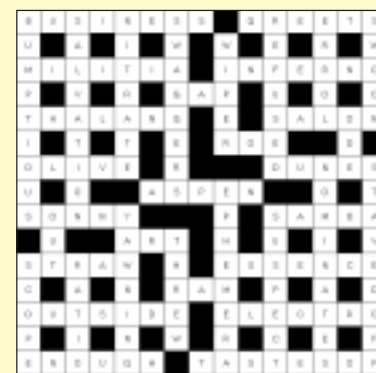
## Rhyme Time Answers

1. Bass; 2. Replace; 3. Mace; 4. Pace; 5. Race; 6. Face; 7. Deface; 8. Base; 9. Grace; 10. Misplace.

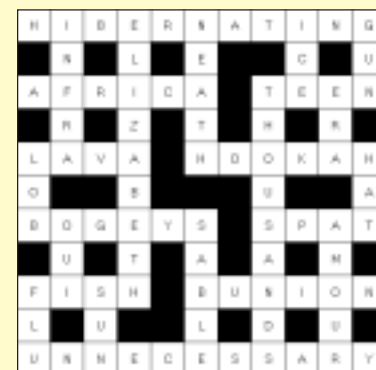
## Hidden Words SOLUTION



## Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



## Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



# HURRICANE HORROR

**B**reach of Faith (Random House, New York, 2006, 412pp) is the story, as the subtitle has it, of "Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City". Metro editor of *The Times-Picayune*, author Jed Horne was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his part in the New Orleans newspaper's coverage of the great disaster.

"Katrina erased neighborhoods across hundreds of square miles and wrought devastation in a surrounding area the size of Great Britain, 90,000 square miles, all told," Horne writes.

"It tossed about giant floating casinos like dice on a craps table, snapped 200-foot-tall pine stands with the ease of a scythe passing through dried hay, collapsed a million-dollar oil storage tank in Chalmette as though it were a beer can under a frat boy's loafer."

New Orleans, an area five times the size of Manhattan, laid underwater. Rooftops poked above the dark and poisonous swill: a brew that mixed sewage, industrial chemicals, and gasoline.

Flooded houses numbered 250,000, abandoned cars 50,000. But more than the statistics, Horne brings the story down to its human dimensions by hundreds of interviews with survivors.

In particular he tracks the fate of a dozen families – white, black, rich, poor – from the day before the storm hit to weeks afterward.

Patrina Peters, a retired teacher and matriarch of an extended family sharing a

house in the mostly black and poor Ninth Ward, sees off her family the day before the storm but stays on with her daughter Keia.

When Katrina breaches the levies of Lake Pontchartrain, they wind up trapped on the roof of their collapsing home, saving their lives only by jumping on the roof of another house floating past.

Meanwhile, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) chief Michael Brown was dining well at a steak house in Baton Rouge, oblivious to frantic telephone calls from his man on the ground in the New Orleans Superdome, soon to be turned into a reeking sump hole of overcrowded, sick and hungry refugees.

Brown would later be exposed as a notoriously incompetent political hack and ousted in disgrace.

"Fortunately, as FEMA brass dithered and dined well, an armada of small craft had begun fanning out over the flood-

ed city, an impromptu and unofficial rescue mission," Horne writes.

One of these was Stephen Ford, a shipyard carpenter and crab fisherman, who launched his pirogue to the rescue.

"God opened my eyes to many things during the storm," he said. "He allowed me to see the humanness of everybody and what I needed to do and how I needed to be – at least a snapshot of how I should be."

It was Ford who rescued Patrina and Keia Peters from their foundering rooftop.

There were many instances of heroism by rescuers, doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians and police. On the con-

trary, there were also numerous cases of looting and rape by rampaging mobs. Not only did hundreds of police desert their posts but many led the looting.

Ditherer-in-chief was President George W. Bush.

"White and black, exhausted and hungry, the New Orleanians were still huddled in a shelter the day after a terrible hurricane when the president, a Texan, stood among them, turned a flashlight onto

his face, and said he was there to help," Horne writes.

"The hurricane was Betsy. The president was Lyndon Johnson. 40 years later, the memory of those who had lived through it was sharpened on the stone of another Texan's presidential performance."

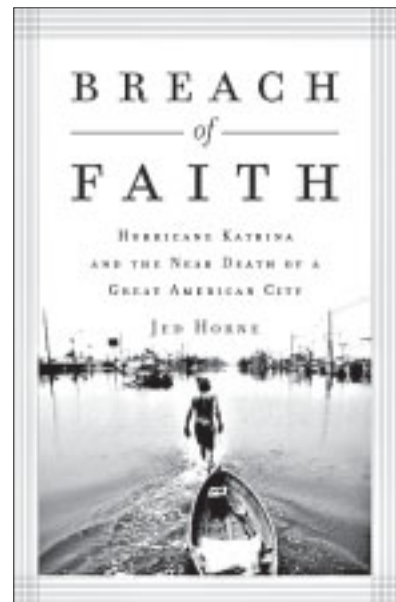
It was three days later before Bush cut short his Texas vacation and, on his way back to the White House, was photographed peering down at New Orleans from Air Force One – "a study mixing impotence and indifference in equals parts".

"True, in an age of violence and lawlessness, sheltered throngs weren't what they used to be. Neither, in

the eyes of many New Orleanians, were Texas presidents."

Two-thirds of the way through the book, Horne moves on to the fitful aftermath of reconstruction in New Orleans and the tale loses much of its narrative drive and turns dry with technicalities.

But the final scene of Patrina Peters and her family returning to the shambles of their home will break any reader's heart.



## PHUKET DIARY

[www.phuketgazette.net/calendar](http://www.phuketgazette.net/calendar)

### Every Sunday at the Mangosteen Resort and Spa.

Specialty brunches featured every Sunday. Seafood Brunch on June 3 and Italian Brunch on June 10. The brunch begins at 11:00 am and runs until 3:00 pm. Only 499 baht net and the first 20 bookings each week pay only 399 baht net. With a half-bottle of wine the charge is 950 baht net.

For more information contact Christophe Lopez at 076-289399 or email [info@mangosteen-phuket.com](mailto:info@mangosteen-phuket.com)

### June 3 to 5. World Environmental Day.

Melting Ice: A Hot Topic is the theme for this year's World Environmental Day on June 5. In commemoration of the day, The Phuket Environmental Office in conjunction with the Phuket City Network for Environmental Conservation offer three days of activities at the Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket City.

An exhibition promoting public awareness of climate change and its effect, and environmental and energy conservation will be on display. A drawing contest will be held and used mobile phone batteries will be collected. There will also be a special display of HM the King's environmental work.

### June 17. Meditation Retreat.

Free monthly meditation retreats are offered on the third Sunday of every month from 1:30

pm to 3 pm at the Wang Kung restaurant behind the King Rama 9 park in Phuket City.

The sessions will include an introduction to meditation, relaxation exercises and mediation practice, as well as a question and answer period. Instruction is provided in English.

All nationalities and religions are welcome to attend. For more information call 081-3704005, 089-6476424 or 087-2838185; Email: [mananya@hotmail.com](mailto:mananya@hotmail.com) or [poolsuk@asianpremier.com](mailto:poolsuk@asianpremier.com); or check the program website at: [www.meditationthai.org](http://www.meditationthai.org)

### June 17. Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007.

Organizers of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007, Go Adventure Asia, are expecting 1,500 international runners from 40 different countries to come and compete.

A half-marathon and a 10km fun run will be held so that people of all ages and athleticism can take part.

Proceeds from the event will go to HOPE worldwide (Thailand), which is dedicated to helping needy children and underprivileged girls in Thailand.

For more information visit [www.phuketmarathon.com](http://www.phuketmarathon.com)

### June 18. Phuket Sponsorship Clinic.

Seeking sponsors? Seeking an opportunity to sponsor? Looking to maximize an already spon-

sored opportunity? FREE! Phuket Sponsorship Clinic exclusively for *Phuket Gazette* readers at Trisara on Monday, June 18, from 9 am to 6 pm.

Call 02-622 0605/7 quoting "Phuket Sponsorship Clinic" to become eligible to take part in this exclusive offer.

For more information please see [www.paulpoole.co.th](http://www.paulpoole.co.th) or email [paulpoole@email.com](mailto:paulpoole@email.com)

### June 21 and 22. BIS presents The Inspector General.

The British International School's (BIS) year 7, 8 and 9 drama students will present Nicolai Gogol's play *The Inspector General* in the BIS main auditorium, beginning at 7 pm on Thursday, June 21 and at 3:15 pm on Friday, June 22. Admission is free.

### September 5-7: KTO Junior Challenge Golf Tournament 2007.

The inaugural KTO Junior Challenge Golf Tournament will be held at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club from September 5-7. This international tournament is open to children from six to 17 years old (on the days of the event) who hold a handicap card from a recognized golf club.

Registration is US\$285 per player, including welcome reception, 3-day green fees and caddy fees, awards luncheon, and more. Registration closing date is July 31, 2007.

Special events, discounted green fees and special hotel rates at Laguna Beach Resort have also been arranged.

For further information, visit [www.kids-tee-off.com](http://www.kids-tee-off.com).

### November 14 to 17. Chalong Bay Fishing Tournament 2007.

The four-day event will be based at Jimmy's Lighthouse at Chalong Bay. Registration will be from 6 pm to 9 pm, November 14. Registration fee of 7,000 baht per team includes free beer each evening for anglers and

crew and awards party on November 17.

### November 24. Phuket International Women's Club Gala Ball.

The Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) will host this year's Gala Ball on November 24. PIWC members say that this year's ball will be "even more sophisticated, elegant and exciting" than last year's. More details will be announced closer to the date of the ball. For more information contact [carol@aplusplussoftware.com](mailto:carol@aplusplussoftware.com)

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## Fantasy island?

The surprise announcement by Royal Phuket Marina (RPM) developer Gulu Lalvani that he plans to build "Zoran Island" off the coast of Koh Kaew to berth mega-yachts (see News pages) has elicited a wide range of responses locally.

Reactions have included charges that the announcement was little more than a brilliant marketing ploy, meant to draw media attention to his ongoing condominium project at RPM, as well as outraged cries calling for the perceived excesses of the world's super-rich to be curtailed in the face of global warming.

Lost somewhere in all the rhetoric is what appears to be a truly heartfelt call by Mr Lalvani to use Phuket as a springboard to develop the entire Phang Nga Bay area to what he views as its full potential for marine tourism – and that potential is great indeed.

Mr Lalvani is keenly aware that Phang Nga Bay, with its year-round warm water and dramatic karst landscapes, has all the ingredients needed to serve as an Asian version of the Mediterranean, where the world's richest people can escape aboard their mega-yachts to enjoy some of the recreational privacy the rest of us take for granted.

While news that Bill Gates was unable to find a place to berth his 54-meter yacht in Phuket is unlikely to elicit pity in most of us, the fact that he was able to cruise around Phang Nga Bay for two weeks undetected by the Thai and international media says quite a bit about the area's attractiveness to that market.

While Phang Nga Bay has great potential for marine tourism, there remains an enormous amount of work that needs to be done first.

Despite last month being named "Maritime Capital of Asia", the current state of the infrastructure in and around Phuket waters is still woefully inadequate by Western standards. Channels to some of the most well-known ports still consist of little more than bamboo polls hammered into the muddy seabed, while the network of lighted navigational aids such as flashing buoys can only be described as primitive.

As for Zoran Island, apart from some impressive computer-generated graphics depicting what it would look like, there has still been insufficient information regarding where the enormous amount of material needed to construct it would be sourced.

Perhaps what is left of the mountain of red tape that Mr Lalvani will need to cut through for the project to win government approval should be considered.

**The Editor**

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In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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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.

### Time to sort out the problems in South

It's about time that the national government got the problems in the South under control.

As the killings and bombings spread and get increasing coverage in the international media, Thailand's international standing will quickly diminish – as it has to some degree already from the recent government "changes".

We all had hopes that the new government would get a handle on the situation down South – but it just hasn't happened.

The area isn't so large – why doesn't the government just send a huge number of troops down there and just sort it out once and for all?

People who read international travel forums on the Internet already know that the most common question people ask about the country these days is, "Is Thailand safe?" And all we can say is, "Well, kind of, we think, uh . . . maybe".

More rapidly than we would all like, confidence in Thailand and its tourist destinations is eroding away. The nation's prosperity will soon follow.

It's time to quit dithering away with the problem and get it solved. Now.

Charles Maitlin  
Surin

### Island marina plan is ecological madness

There are two words that sum up why rich-beyond-belief Bill Gates and Gulu Lalvani will not be able to establish a two-billion-dollar floating marina off Phuket: global warming.

Such an ostentatious display

of outrageous wealth is beyond even megabuck billionaires these days.

The good thing in an age when the environment has become the most important issue of all is that money no longer matters.

These guys would both suffer from "an image problem" if they went ahead with what would be a selfish, foolish, ecologically unsound daydream.

Wanna buy a big yacht? There are plenty for sale these days. Their use cannot be justified as the world struggles to come to terms with the reality of excessive materialism and consumer madness.

Both these men, as time will prove, are too wise to be caught in such a profligate venture. I bet Bill Gates, a true philanthropist, seldom uses his superyacht these days.

To float the idea is ridiculous. To float the island marina is, to spell it out simply, an exercise in ecological madness.

Matthew Flemington,  
Rawai

### The dark side of the street – both sides

I may sound like a broken record, but what is the problem with the lights here in Phuket and the surrounding area?

Last December, the little village of Kamala proudly unveiled a series of lights in front of a new school. Beautiful. A true promenade along the sea. It gave the town a magical look at night. Warm and inviting.

But now, in low season, there's not a single light along Kamala beach after dark. Across from the school, 14 of the street

lamps are missing. Just their ugly broken stumps remain. Local boys gather in the dark, smoking and drinking along the now pitch black sea wall.

Andara, Kamala Beach Estates, The Plantation – all high-end residences just to the south of the village, offer up the charm of a "stroll into the lovely village for a night of shopping and dining". Do you think these people feel safe "strolling" into a pitch black void? Or after watching a brilliant sunset on the beach, do you think they want to try and negotiate the beautiful new footbridges and boardwalk in complete darkness?

Come on village elders. Use a little common sense. If this is about saving energy, turn off half the lights. But let's put the sparkle back in Thailand's night. Let's be safe rather than sorry.

Jim Newport  
Kamala

### Move it over buddy!

I am really tired of the macho guys in the big black Fortuners running the rest of us off the roads.

I live in a smallish village near Laguna where the roads were simply not built for all the traffic they now have.

The problem is only made worse by the selfish people who view themselves as being so important that they don't need to slow down for intersections or even bother to stay on their own side of the road.

Just because you have a huge SUV doesn't mean you own the road. Move it over, stay on your side and please wait until you have enough room to pass.

Francisco Barazza  
Cherng Talay

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



# Getting your life into gear

It is clear that impressive economic growth in Asia over the past 10 years has been detrimental to the environment. More than 240 million people throughout Asia have been lifted from poverty to a middle-income class which, in itself, is a wonderful thing. However, this increase in quality of life has come with the significant cost of poor air quality levels seen in major cities all over Asia, including Hong Kong, Beijing and Jakarta to name just a few.

Thailand, which is no exception, has had to deal with similar issues affecting areas that have seen rapid expansion. Bangkok continues to struggle with unhealthy air quality and even our beautiful island of Phuket, with no heavy industry, is starting to show adverse effects as a result of significant increases in the number of cars and motorbikes. In addition to the environmental impact, this also heightens the danger of commuting. A simple look at traffic accident statistics is enough evidence to prove this point.

While many people are earning higher incomes and can afford private vehicles, what practical, low-cost solutions can we take to minimize the environmental impact?

Thinking and talking about this dilemma is done all too often, but usually brings about minimal action. Instead of taking this route of inactivity, we have decided to establish a bike movement in Singapore called "iwant2bike2work" with the intention of it spreading across Asia.

As a non-profit organization, the sole purpose of "iwant2bike2work" is to get people to ride

Phuket is now facing a variety of environmental problems as it continues to grow each year, welcoming ever more developments and residents to fill them. One issue in particular is the deterioration in air quality stemming from the increased number of vehicles on the roads. Phuket resident **Alex Bok** has taken notice of these issues and has decided to take action by implementing his 'iwant2bike2work' movement, which promotes cycling as an eco-friendly alternative for commuters.



bicycles for their daily work commute. We want to make cycling sustainable in urban areas of Asia in order to provide accessibility, such as by providing workers a place to store bikes, take showers and change before going into the office. We also want to promote cycling as a rewarding way of staying healthy – including making roads safer and more convenient for cyclists.

This bike movement is fronted and sponsored by The Bike Boutique, a regional bike lifestyle franchise and Asia's #1 online bike store. Since The Bike Boutique will be opening a brand new bike boutique at Boat Lagoon in Phuket, the bike movement "iwant2bike2work" will

also be introduced to the Phuket area.

What will be a real challenge for Phuket is enabling people to ride safely on the roads, park their bike in a safe place, have access to showers and be able to walk to their place of work.

These are the problems we face in every city where we introduce the "iwant2bike2work" concept, although each location of course poses its own unique set of specific challenges. It is for this reason that the movement has prepared a generic roadmap that is applicable to every city and through which we hope our vision will become reality.

This roadmap constitutes

our practical call for action to people who are passionate about biking or the environmental protection and serves as proven framework for such people to initiate a cycling movement in their own community.

Based on international standards and proven results from similar programs in the USA, the roadmap is intended to kick-start the "iwant2bike2work" movement in key Asian cities. The simple framework for Phuket is divided into three phases:

## Phase 1: Perform the "Bikeability Checklist"

Perform a checklist of areas such as Phuket City and Patong concerning such aspects as ease of riding, road safety, access to safe parking, proper road signs and so on. A group of individual cyclists living in various parts of Phuket City and Patong will ride their bikes to work for a short period of time, after which they'll rate the access route to their central business district using a uniform checklist. Based on the results of the "Bikeability Checklist", local organizers will then create an action plan including both short-term and long-term improvement initiatives.

## Phase 2: Initiate Change

Once the action plan has been defined, the next phase begins by defining how to organize and foster growth within the bicycle advocacy organization, acquire resources and work with the relevant local authorities.

## Phase 3: Sustaining and Growing

This phase will educate the organizers on the mechanics of the membership and fundraising, which is essential to ensure the movement is properly equipped with the computers, staff, volunteers and other members who will all play important roles in sustaining the movement.

This same framework, adopted in Singapore in early 2006, has seen some promising results. A large number of cycling routes were defined and documented to provide people with easy commuting routes. The routes were made available on the Web, allowing people to print them out for personal use. Sample routes can be found by navigating to [www.iwant2bike2work.org/tt-sin-n-cbd.html](http://www.iwant2bike2work.org/tt-sin-n-cbd.html)

After successful discussions held with government bodies, cyclists in Singapore are now able to use the bus lanes that lead into the city's central business district.

In a joint effort with The Bike Boutique, a new "bikeLodging" service was launched enabling commuters to park their bike, take a shower, purchase a beverage and walk to their workplace. The movement has received a significant amount of supportive media coverage, which has inspired curious individuals to bike to work as well.

Starting from a grassroots base, the current results show that a bike movement like the one in Singapore could lead to a serious shift toward a healthier, more eco-friendly lifestyle. More than 75 people currently bike to work each day in Singapore. Many never considered this alternative before the bike movement was launched. We have already seen that more people are becoming interested in the movement and are actively looking to make the change in their own lives.

In every place where the movement was initiated, critics claimed it would never work. The roads were not safe enough and people nowadays prefer the convenience of cars and motorbikes, they said. However, these same critics lacked concrete solutions to address the challenges facing our environment.

Despite their challenges, critics are useful in forcing us to think of ways we can reduce the public adversity to bike commuting.

The bikeLodging service was pioneered by The Bike Boutique and has been slowly removing many of the concerns related to bike commuting. The goal of the movement is simply to make commuting by bicycle so convenient that it becomes irresistible.

It's our most sincere hope that people who live and work in Phuket will be willing to embrace and promote the bike commuting movement and that, over the course of time, more and more people will see that life and the environment will be enriched with more bicycles and fewer cars on the road.

For more information, visit [www.iwant2bike2work.org](http://www.iwant2bike2work.org) or [www.thebikeboutique.com](http://www.thebikeboutique.com). E-mail: [info@thebikeboutique.com](mailto:info@thebikeboutique.com)

## New visa extension requirements

I have an O-visa (marriage/dependants visa) that I have extended annually for the last seven years. A condition for extension has been to have a certain level of funds in a Thai bank account for at least three months before application. Alternatively, income such as a pension may substitute for the bank funds.

Apparently, beginning next year only proof of income will apply and it won't matter about the amount of any funds in a Thai account. Proof of income must apparently come from one's embassy but this in practice may be quite hard to do. For example, I have not been "home" for 10 years and have no income from there. Most expatriates normally have their savings offshore.

I am concerned about the uncertainties and wish to make plans to move away in good time, if an extension next year will not be possible. I don't want to go back to regular tourist visa runs. Can someone confirm the new

## Issues & ANSWERS

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)

rules and what documentation will be required?

Does income have to be remitted to Thailand as proof of receipt? Can "income" be remitted capital savings from overseas? Do the embassies know what will be required of them?

J Campbell  
Karon

**Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:**

For people who came to Thailand and had a permit to stay

for marriage before October 1, 2006, you need to present only your bank account, which must have not less than 400,000 baht. This amount must be on deposit in the bank more than three months before applying for the permit to stay. With this money deposited in the bank, you won't need to show monthly income.

Alternatively, if you have an income, it doesn't matter if it is from outside Thailand or not, the monthly income must not be less than 40,000 baht per month. If you have a business here in Thailand, the tax payment documents can be shown and must indicate an average income of not less than 40,000 baht per month.

If you want to show that you have an income or pension from outside the country, you must show a document from your home country's embassy indicating the amount of the income or pension, but this may be difficult because some embassies don't consider this their responsibility.



# Volunteers needed, please

**T**he Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) is appealing for more volunteers to assist them in their work. SDF's aim is to reduce the number of stray dogs and cats in Phuket through mass sterilization and to improve the condition and lives of the remaining strays.

They have now sterilized over 16,000 dogs and cats in Phuket and, in conjunction with the government, are running a shelter and re-homing center housing more than 400 stray dogs and puppies.

"We simply could not function without volunteers," says SDF spokesperson Gill Dalley. "The cost of running the shelter and maintaining our sterilization and treatment programs is immense. Sadly, unless we can generate more income we will have to slow down the number of sterilizations we currently perform. The stray dog population on the island has reduced significantly and the last thing we want to see is for this trend to reverse. This is why we need more volunteers, whether it be to work hands on with the dogs, in the background taking care of administration or, of course, in fund raising, without which we could not operate. SDF relies totally on donations."

Current volunteers come from all walks of life and many different countries including the UK, USA, South Africa, Germany, Australia, Switzerland and Japan. Some are retired while others work full time, such as Tomoko Seino, from Japan, who works at the JW Marriott but still gives up one day a week to help the dogs.

I spoke with one of the volunteers, Kathy Kramer, to find out what opportunities are available and what types of people they are looking for.

Kathy is a retired teacher from the US who is now living in Khok Kloy in Phang Nga Province with her husband Rick who teaches at the Prince of Songkla



**MULTINATIONAL VOLUNTEERS:** Kate (from the UK), Sonia (South Africa), Cristy (Australia) and Kathy (USA), with canine friends.

University Phuket Campus. She previously ran a grooming salon and a five-star boarding kennel in her native Montana.

Rick was at the shelter every day for three weeks last month constructing a volunteer center which was featured on TV when renowned Thai artists Wacharin and Jay-Da Rodnit spent a day there decorating the exterior.

"We are looking for people who have some free time and are looking to do something that will help the community while at the same time giving them a real sense of satisfaction that they are making a difference. We desperately need more volunteers who can commit to a day or even half a day each week to work at our

shelter and re-homing center.

"With the amount of activity that the shelter manager and her staff are involved in every day feeding more than 400 dogs, running errands to the veterinarian and buying supplies, not to mention trucks arriving with yet more strays each day, it is little wonder that details simply don't get taken care of. The staff, while committed, is small and the number of dogs and tasks to be performed often seems overwhelming," Kathy said.

Among the tasks that need to be fulfilled are weekly health checks. Volunteer Cristy Baker, from Australia, is concentrating on this but needs more help, as it is a mammoth task.

Other tasks include bathing, grooming, training, walking, and petting, which is an important role since most dogs need to be touched. Sue Hodgson from the UK looks after the puppies, many of which were abandoned and need special care. Rosemary Rerat from Switzerland comes several days a week just to walk and exercise the dogs who love the one-on-one attention.

An agility area has been set up for training and exercising purposes. Volunteer Sonia De Koch, who trained dogs professionally in her native South Africa, runs this side of things and is happy to train other volunteers in the art.

Another area where volunteers are needed is in assisting the vets who visit the clinic to perform sterilizations and other surgical procedures. No experience is necessary in any of these tasks as training will be given.

For those who want to vol-

unteer but find working directly with dogs a little daunting, the foundation has many other areas where help is needed. Fund raising is vitally important. Presently the majority of the funding comes from overseas and is insufficient to support what the foundation needs to do. Maxine Kent, from the UK, organized this year's major fund raising event but will be returning to the UK in the near future. People who can help in this area are desperately needed, whether it is being directly involved in raising funds or seeking out donations of food and medical supplies.

"One of our volunteers, Heather Richmond, from the UK, does not particularly like dogs and certainly doesn't like handling them. She does, however, understand the importance of what we are trying to do. She loves counting money, making her more than happy to spend a few hours each month counting up what we collect in donation boxes around the island. She is here for only six months of the year, therefore we need somebody with bookkeeping experience to manage the accounts and prepare them for our auditors," Kathy explained.

People with computer skills are needed to monitor our shelter database since the British Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) recently donated microchips enabling SDF to keep better track of the dogs. IT-savvy volunteers

are also needed to correspond with overseas supporters and provide them with updates. Current Webmaster, Sarah Heaney, actually spends only two weeks per year in Phuket. She runs the website from Saudi Arabia where her husband is working.

"We are also looking forward to starting an education program in local schools and to establish dog visits to special schools. Native Thai speakers are needed for this to move forward.

"One of the things that has been happening in the US in recent years is that nursing homes for the elderly or long-term care facilities for people who cannot care for them-

selves are now having resident dogs live there. Just having a dog to pet and get to know has made a huge difference in these people's lives. Some children's wards in hospitals now also have resident dogs who roam the halls and pop in to see the children in their hospital rooms. I don't know if Thailand is ready for such a concept, but it's working very well in the US," Kathy said.

"So as you can see the possibilities are endless. We can guarantee that you won't get rich financially doing this work but the rewards in other ways are immense," she enthused.

For more information, contact John at Tel: 087-0508688 or email: [dalleyj@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:dalleyj@loxinfo.co.th). Visit the Soi Dog Foundation's website at [www.soidog.org](http://www.soidog.org)

  
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## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): A stimulating month lies ahead for you, particularly if your birthday falls during the coming days. Expect to be showered with attention; Leo will do whatever it takes to get noticed. A slight downside could occur midweek when communication is tricky due to crossed wires. A golden business opportunity finally lands in your lap, but this will mean that you'll be busier than usual until the end of summer.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Some setbacks this weekend could prompt you to be in a crabby mood. Try to put negative feelings on the back burner and enjoy socializing with friends. Aries has sound advice regarding a work-related dilemma, but Scorpio's lack of tact means that their offer of help should be gracefully declined. Love looks like it will take off this Sunday; a relationship with Capricorn can bring the fulfillment you've been dreaming of.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Independence is highlighted. If you're leaving behind a relationship that has caused stress since the beginning of the year, better times are just around the corner. A Libran friend encourages you to indulge in some personal pampering this weekend. Where work is concerned, promotion is likely by the end of the month. Wear the color indigo to enhance your charisma.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): The power of other people's money is forecast to have a positive effect on you during the first part of June. If you have been reluctant to risk your security by venturing in a new direction with work, you will have no more excuses not to do so. Affairs of the heart will be affected by fresh astral energy. An attractive Sagittarius catches your eye.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Your instincts concerning finances are red-hot at the moment, but will become less sharp toward the middle of the month. Make hay while the sun shines. This also applies to a spontaneous invitation to travel which will be forthcoming early next week. Tuesday is the luckiest day to make the romantic approach you've been putting off for some weeks.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): A shaky start to June could lead you to believe that your luck is on a downward spiral. However, this negative astral atmosphere will soon be replaced by a more upbeat one. Avoid unnecessary stress by spending time with cheerful friends. A social gathering on Sunday will be particularly enjoyable. Refuse to discuss money matters on Monday as others will be determined to have the upper hand.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Focus on family is strong during the month of June. Some problems are likely to surface this weekend, but you should see this as a good thing, and you will be emotionally balanced and able to find the right solutions. Where romance is concerned, Cupid is about to fire an arrow in your direction. An Arian will make an unforgettable impression. The number 9 can bring good fortune next Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): The air is clear for a reconciliation to take place this week. If you believed that you would never see eye to eye with someone again, you should be pleasantly surprised by what transpires. You are advised to refrain from trying to control others' behavior as this tendency gets in the way of friendship too often. Wear a piece of onyx to encourage a more open mind.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): People are ready to support you this month. Those of you who can accept that you haven't been handling your business affairs very well this year will benefit the most from this benevolence. If your pride is too strong, you will miss out. Fun is high on the agenda, but you could pay the price for burning the candle at both ends. Combat tiredness with extra rest before it gets chance to develop into exhaustion.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Romance is complicated for many of you this month. Those of you who have become caught up in a love triangle will be keen to find a smooth way out. If you're conducting a long-distance relationship, you will discover that absence doesn't necessarily make the heart grow fonder. Concentrating on work will bring relief from these worries and will also ensure that you get ahead of others. Number 5 can bring luck on Sunday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): The prosperous period you have enjoyed during recent weeks is about to slow down. As long as you haven't been spending too freely there should be no problems with cash flow but if you've been throwing caution to the wind, expect to tighten your belt. An intimate relationship with Cancer is not recommended, unless you're prepared to lose more than you gain from it.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Money matters are highlighted until the middle of the month. If you are in the middle of negotiating contracts you should make sure that everything is signed and sealed during the coming days. This is an excellent time to embark on a new fitness regime; it will enhance your energy, making you more attractive to others. Don't go looking for romance; it will find you.

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I'm fresh off the flight from Hong Kong, with many a tale to tell. By day I attended the giant HOFEX food and baking convention. By night I ventured out into the geek wilds – primarily Mong Kok Computer Center and the Wanchai Computer Center.

Not for the faint of heart, the two claustrophobic multi-story computer malls churn with crowds of geeky, smelly, pushy shoppers.

Three weeks ago I wrote about the rather dismal state of affairs in the Singapore computer markets. I called the column "Singapore Slung" – and I'll stick by my original assessment. Prices for high tech consumer gear in Singapore, at this point, are not significantly lower than in Panthip Plaza in Bangkok.

New technology doesn't get into Singapore much faster than it does here. It's possible that the whole thing's a temporary aberration caused by price imbalances for Windows Vista and the latest chips from Intel and AMD. The situation could change next month. But for now, I don't see any real advantage in flying to Singapore to pick up tech equipment.

Several of you wrote reinforcing my reservations. Reader ZF said, "I appreciated the heads up before I went to Singapore and you can add telephoto camera lenses to the list of things more expensive there than they are in Phuket or the States. They had all the newest lens iterations, but for me, just looking for a low-priced Canon or Sigma lens, they didn't have much to offer."

With Singapore off my techie "A" list, I approached the markets in Hong Kong with some degree of trepidation. I'm more than a little relieved to report that Hong Kong prices, in general, run 10% to 30% cheaper than Panthip, and thus much cheaper than Phuket. Interesting new technology seems to show up in Europe and North America before it hits Hong Kong though. Hong Kong no longer sells the latest and greatest.

An example, if you will. In order to write my next book, I

# SINGAPORE SLUNG, HONG KONG HUNG



More than a hyperventilating Nintendo, the Xbox 360 functions as a "media extender." The Xbox 360 costs almost twice as much in Phuket as it does in Hong Kong.

need to run Microsoft's Xbox 360. While most of you may think of the Xbox 360 as a slightly souped-up Nintendo, in fact it goes way beyond simple shoot-em-ups and Internet-based role playing games.

The Xbox persona I have to deal with in the book goes by the geeky name "media extender." In short, you hook your Xbox 360 up to your TV and to your home network. The Xbox can then reach into sufficiently advanced Windows PCs and "stream" videos and music stored on those PCs.

There are many permutations, but the most obvious application here in Phuket involves hooking your Media Center or Vista Home Premium computer up to your UBC box, recording TV shows and storing them on the Media Center PC.

Then, with the Xbox connected to any TV anywhere in your house, the Xbox can reach into the library of recorded TV shows on the Media Center PC and play them back on the remote TV. That's just one of a wide array of Xbox 360 media extender capabilities.

Two months ago, Microsoft announced a new version of the Xbox 360, called the Xbox 360 Elite. It's available all over North America, but you can't find one in Hong Kong (or the rest of Asia, for that matter). The distributors in Hong Kong don't have a clue when the Elite will hit its shores.

A bit disappointed, I picked up a "classic" (read: obsolete) Xbox 360 in Hong Kong for HK \$2,960, or about 12,400 baht. Yesterday, I saw precisely the same machine for sale at a kiosk in Jungceylon for 22,900 baht. A friend, ES, tells me that you can get them as low as 16,000 baht in Phuket City. That's 30% higher than the Hong Kong price.

A similar story. Two weeks before I flew to Hong Kong, Canon announced availability of its new IXUS-950 IS point-and-shoot camera. (Confusingly, the same camera is called the SD850 in the United States.) While you can buy IXUS 950 IS cameras in Europe, there are exactly none for sale in Hong Kong – and the dealers don't expect to see any for at least a couple of months.

I wanted an IXUS 950 IS, but I settled on an IXUS 75, which costs HK \$2,480 (about 10,400 baht) including a 2GB memory card and an extra battery. The same camera at Power Buy in Phuket costs 13,900 baht, or 34% more, and that includes only a 1GB memory card and one battery.

I also found the selection of laptops in Hong Kong to be a half-step behind the ones widely available in the US and Europe.

Prices in Hong Kong were considerably higher, too, and very few laptops came with Windows Home Premium pre-installed,

opting instead for the cheaper and much less capable Windows Home Basic.

I looked all over Hong Kong for a wireless router that would work with CAT's EV-DO AirCard 580. Hong Kong's monopoly telephone company, which provides excellent wired broadband access, hasn't yet caught up with the rest of the world and started installing third generation mobile phone technology.

There's no EV-DO in HK – a fact that's truly astounding when you realize that Huawei, the company that provides CAT's third-generation phone equipment, has its headquarters in Shenzhen, a stone's throw away from Hong Kong.

So, in my opinion, Hong Kong at the moment is a mixed bag. If you can find what you want – and you aren't looking for a laptop – the prices are great. But for now, Hong Kong hasn't caught up with North America or Europe technologically.

For those of you who asked: yes, I did bring a glorious 27-inch widescreen Dell monitor back with me. It's huge and heavy. I had to disassemble the base with a T10 Torx driver and schlep the naked panel as a ponderous "garment bag." I paid HK \$8,888 (about 37,200 baht) for the monitor. The price in Thailand is about 40% higher.

When he isn't writing computer books and magazine and newsletter articles, or knocking Microsoft around on his website, Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, www.askwoody.com) runs Khun Woody's Bakery and the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

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## ON THE MOVE

**Claude Sauter**, 38, from Switzerland, has been promoted to be the new General Manager of Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket. He graduated from the Hotel Management School in Geneva, Switzerland and has been working in the hotel industry since 1987 in Switzerland, Germany, France and aboard cruise ships. He has been living in Phuket since 1994, and has worked as the Resident Manager at the Impiana Phuket Cabana for five years and as Resident Manager at Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket since 2004.



**Rochidee Himbenmarn**, 39, from Songkhla, has been appointed Room Division Manager of Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in general management from Rajabhat University in Phuket and first joined the Cape Panwa Hotel as a Receptionist in 1989. After five years he moved to Haad Yai to become the Assistant Manager of J.B. Hotel. He then worked as Front Office Manager at Paradise Koh Yao in Phang Nga for two years before returning to the Cape Panwa.



**Chatana Photosom**, 31, from Bangkok, has been appointed Marketing Manager of Courts Megastore Ltd in Thailand. She holds a master's degree from the University of Newcastle in England. This is her second stint with Courts Megastore, she had previously worked as Marketing Executive with the company for two years. She also served as Marketing Manager at GE Money Co Ltd in Bangkok for one year.



# Infrastructure needs high on Nation seminar agenda

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: The need for improved infrastructure and resource management were highlighted at "The Drivers of the Economy in Phuket" seminar held at The Metropole hotel May 25.

The sold-out event, part of activities to mark the Nation Group's 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary, drew many notable speakers from government, industry and tourism sectors to discuss challenges facing the Phuket economy.

Speakers included Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai, Phuket Chamber of Commerce Chairman Eam Thavornwongwongse and President of Thai Hotel Association Southern

Chapter Methee Tanmanatragul, among others.

V/Gov Smith emphasized the need for a comprehensive plan for Phuket's growth by saying, "Growth without a plan for the future is suicide."

"Phuket is growing very fast, and there are many people, both Thai and foreign, who visit [the island]."

"Now we are running into many problems such as property and personal safety for tourists and residents."

The key areas that need attention, according to V/Gov Smith, are law enforcement, the environment, water supply and garbage management.

"The most important problem is the trash and wastewater,"



During a seminar to discuss the economic future of Phuket, Vice Governor Smith Palawatvichai warned, 'Growth without a plan for the future is suicide.'

ter. This is a critical problem. Right now we only have one incinerator. That's not enough, as

it can only burn about 40% of the trash we produce daily. For this problem I have already

asked for a budget to build a second incinerator, but if we don't change our behavior we won't be able to solve the problem."

K. Methee agreed with V/Gov Smith that there are major changes needed to support the tourism industry and make it more sustainable.

"Phuket is like a golden goose. Now we have the golden eggs, but if we do not change or implement plans to improve the administration and management of the island, the golden eggs will surely come to an end."

"In my opinion, we should take care of tourists first. For example, everyone knows about the incident when protesters blocked the road at Koh Kaew [on April 18], but what impression did that incident leave on tourists?"

The Thai discussion, with simultaneous English translation, was moderated by Jomquan Lao-pet, news anchor for the Nation Channel.

Other panel members included Managing Director of Chan Issara Development PLC Songkran Issara; Director of the Government Housing Bank's Properties Information Center Summa Keetasin; Phuket Real Estate Club board member of Tanan Tanphaibul; Kbank Executive Vice President Boontuck Wungcharoen and other distinguished commentators.



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# Political cooks spoil the soup

Central banks play an important role in every economy. By setting interest rate levels, it is their function to steer the economy's future route. Setting interest rates too low eventually results in a build up of inflationary pressures. Setting interest rates too high will at best result in slow economic growth or possibly even a recession.

The setting of interest rates is therefore an area of considerable importance to an economy. History shows us how important it is to have a competent and independent central bank, because that is what is required to keep the hands of politicians out of the decision-making process.

Much has been written about Tony Blair's legacy in the UK. From the viewpoint of economic history, the most important decision he ever made was to make the UK's central bank, the Bank of England, a completely independent institution.

It does not take a great leap back in time to realize that even with a good, market-friendly prime minister in control matters can get out of hand. Such was the case with the UK under Conservative Party administration in the 1980's.

Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister at the time, was effectively in charge of interest rate policy decisions. In the wake of the 1987 stock market crash, she decided to reduce interest rates to encourage economic growth. It seemed to be the right decision; certainly there was a loss of confidence after the crash and logi-

cally anything that spurred confidence was all to the good.

In reality, although it was difficult to see it at the time, the 1987 crash was really a huge correction in an ongoing bull market. Stock markets had simply run ahead of themselves. Most stock markets reached new fresh highs 18 to 24 months after the crash.

In economic terms, Thatcher's intervention to reduce interest rates proved to be misguided. Britain by early 1990 found itself with rapidly mounting inflation that peaked at an annualized rate of 10.9%. This would have been easily avoided if interest rate decisions had been left to the Bank of England.

Thatcher was trying to make the right decisions, but this was not an area of expertise for her. She was trained in law, not economics. Many other incumbent politicians have used interest rate setting policies to their advantage, often prior to an election.

This generally results in a reduction in interest rates some time prior to the election. As reducing interest rates results in higher economic activity, more political popularity ensues. Naturally, after the election, politicians are required to tighten interest rates once again.

Many countries have suf-



**ENOUGH! New French President Nicolas Sarkozy wants to rein in the European Central Bank. Advisers reckon Sarkozy needs lessons in basic economics.**  
— Photo EPA/Francois Walschaerts

fered as a result of political interference in interest rates. Some have wisely established independent central banks as the best solution. Independent central banks may not always make the correct decisions, but at least their motives tend to be pure.

Thailand, unfortunately, has decided to move in the completely opposite direction. In an article headed "BOT gives in to the Finance Ministry" in the *Nation* on May 15, 2007, it was reported that Bank of Thailand (BoT) Gover-

nor Tarisa Watanagase had given the power to the Finance Ministry to appoint and dismiss the BoT Governor, instead of reserving this function to a central committee. This battle had continued for nine years before the BoT finally had to concede defeat.

The Finance Ministry's dubious logic concluded that the Finance Ministry is accountable to the electorate and therefore should have control of the BoT. This simply results in politicians regaining control of the central bank.

Politicians are often uncomfortable with an independent central bank. A good recent example is the newly-elected French President, Nicolas Sarkozy. For all his enthusiasm for economic reform, he continues to criticize the European Central Bank (ECB) for making the euro "too strong".

Advisers, with an appreciation that it is unseemly for a President to interfere with a central bank, are now finding that it is necessary to educate Sarkozy in economics and the functions of a central bank.

This is a perfect example of why a politician would want to interfere with a central bank. In this case, Sarkozy believes that the ECB has allowed the euro to appreciate too much in value.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson

Sarkozy is looking at the situation from a very narrow angle: the euro is expensive and this makes Euro Zone exports less competitive when compared with their US and Japanese counterparts. However, it is not really in the power of the ECB to alter this reality. The only way that the ECB could do this would be to reduce interest rates. This would be an entirely wrong policy measure to take, as Euro Zone economic activity is on the rise and inflation is approaching the 2% ceiling that is the benchmark for the ECB.

In approaching monetary policy from a relatively unbiased viewpoint, independent central banks have had a very successful history. In fact, an independent central bank is essential for the long-term development of any economy.

*Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Fax: 076-383185, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th*

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Nguyen Ngoc Thanh from Vietnam (left) flies through the air during his victory over Anuar Barmakbayev from Kazakhstan.

## Thailand takes 9 golds in karate tournament

SAPHAN HIN: The atmosphere was tense at Saphan Hin Stadium May 26 and 27 as more than 50 competitors from eight countries gathered on the island for the Phuket Thailand Karate-Do Championship 2007.

The final match of the championship saw a fierce battle in the male intermediate kumite over-75 kilogram division between Khalid Khalidov from Kazakhstan and Pham Hoai Long from Vietnam.

The battle was halted mid-way through when Khalidov landed a kick to Long's neck, knocking him to the ground and prompting the referee to call a medical time-out to check Long over. After a 10 minute break the match continued, with Khalidov eventually winning on points.

Athletes from Laos, Singa-

pore, Vietnam, Brunei, the Philippines, India, Kazakhstan and Thailand competed in 36 categories determined by gender, age, weight and style. Thailand took home nine gold medals and the trophy for Best Female Competitors.

**Thailand's gold medal winners:** Jiraphat Romsaiyud, kata style, boys ages 6 to 8 years; Monthicha Tantaveevong, kata, girls 6-8; Nuendeaw Daewongsri, kumite, boys 6-7; Pawarisa Sea-Ung, kumite, girls 6-7; Tanapat Jaiyen, kumite, boys 8-9; Pimkarn Kaney, kumite, boys 10-11; Panupong Udomsak, kumite, boys 12-13; Jittikan Tiemsurakan, independent (non-team) kumite, girls under 48kg; Yanisa Torr, independent kumite, girls under 53kg.



**AERIAL BATTLE:** Doha Dogs (white strip) and Bangkok Bangers battle in the lineout during their Coffin Dodgers Plate Final. The Bangers won.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: Queen Mary, playing at home, swiped all three points from previously-unbeaten Offshore. Mike of Offshore got the high close of 180, along with another score of 140.

Queen Mary's win tight-

## Two-way tie for first

ened up the league table considerably: Offshore now sit tied for first with Dog's Bollocks, who took all three points against Valhalla.

After a bye week, Shakers sit comfortably two points behind, in third.

In the only other match played last week, Piccadilly took all three points in a close Soi Keb-sup derby against next-door neighbors Simply Red.

Send reports of high closes, 180s and so on to: [darts@phuketgazette.net](mailto:darts@phuketgazette.net)

**May 22 results:** Dog's Bollocks\* 8 Valhalla 1; Piccadilly\* 5 Simply Red 4; Queen Mary\* 6 Offshore 3 (\* = won beer leg).

**Standings:** 1.= Offshore, Dog's Bollocks (13 points.); 3. Shakers (11); 4. Piccadilly (9); 5. Queen Mary (7); 6. Beach House (6); 7.= Valhalla, Simply Red (2).

**June 5 matchups:** Piccadilly v Offshore; Shakers v Dog's Bollocks; Valhalla v Queen Mary; Beach House v Simply Red (home team first).

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# MUPPET MAYHEM

## Emirates battlers take Phuket Rugby 10s in 17-12 thriller

**KARON STADIUM:** The Emirates Flying Muppets took the cup in the Raimon Land 9th Phuket International Rugby 10s with a hard-fought 17-12 victory over fellow Middle Easterners Bahrain Lights RFC.

About 1,000 spectators turned up to cheer on the 32 teams in the two-day tournament, held May 26 and 27 at Karon Stadium.

The Philippine-based Extinct Volcanoes proved the nimblest of the old folks, beating off Australia's Cottesloe Olde Gulls to take the Coffin Cup.

The home crowd's hopes in the competition were snuffed out on the second day of the competition when Phuket Vagabonds RFC were knocked out in the Plate quarter finals by the Moorabbin Rams from Australia.

Phuket's very own Viagrabonds took third place in the Coffin Plate with a win over Bahrain Heavies.

They were eliminated from the main competition after defeats by the Darwin Bad Bunnies and eventual runners-up Cottesloe Olde Gulls.

The Viagrabonds managed to make up for their lack of success in the competition by winning back the memorial Weasel Cup, contested annually between the Viagrabonds and rivals the Bangkok Bangers.

As the two teams did not meet on the field in this year's event, the cup was decided off the field with a "boat race" drinking contest.

### RESULTS

**Cup:** Winners: Emirates Flying Muppets; Runners-up: Bahrain Lights RFC.

**Plate:** Winners: Dubai Hurricanes; Runners-up: Devon Cully Cobras.

**Bowl:** Winners: The Bucks Bunnies (Singapore); Runners-up: Macau RFC.

**Coffin Cup:** Winners: Extinct Volcanoes (Philippines); Runners-up: Cottesloe Olde Gulls.

**Coffin Plate:** Winners: Bangkok Bangers; Runners-up: Doha Dogs.

## Singapore flyboys land Friendship soccer title

**PHUKET:** Singapore Airlines Cabin Crew Football Circle Team 2 were crowned champions in the Thailand Airlines Soccer Nines Invitation Friendship Games held at Surakul Stadium on May 22-23.

Eight teams participated in the event: Qantas Melbourne, Singapore Chinese Veterans, Sunbelt Thailand, International Football Club (Malaysia), Singapore Nomads, South African Airways and two teams representing Singapore Airlines (Cabin Crew Football Circle 1 and 2).

The annual games are held to build new relationships between the teams in a fun and competitive environment. This year marked the first time that the annual games were held in Phuket and both the Singapore Nomads

and the South African Airways made their first appearance.

Singapore Airlines (Cabin Crew Football Circle) Team 2 and International Football Club (Malaysia) competed in the final match which was played on May 23 and resulted in a final score of 2-0 in favor of Singapore Airlines Team 2.

Quan Kim Lye, former captain of the Singapore national team, presented the trophy to the winners.

### RESULTS

1. Singapore Airlines Team 2; 2. International Football Club (Malaysia); 3. Singapore Nomads; 4. Singapore Chinese Veterans; 5. Sunbelt Thailand; 6. Qantas Melbourne; 7. Singapore Airlines Team 1; 8. South African Airways.



The Bahrain Lights scrum half feeds the ball out from a scrum during the team's clash with Hong Kong FC in Group E.

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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

# Just lazily floatin' along

Aren't ponds supposed to be small? The reason I ask is that I've never quite understood the phrase "across the pond". To be honest, it would probably only make a modicum of sense to a native of the UK. We tend to use the expression to describe the section of ocean that separates us Brits from our strange neighbors several thousand miles to the west.

You've got it – South Canada; otherwise known as the good ol' US of A. The expanse of ocean water serves an extremely useful purpose – it keeps us apart very effectively. Not that they actually realize that there is anyone else outside their borders.

Bless them. They're just so eager. Well "yeedah", I can almost hear 290 million slightly rotund people whooping and giving each other enthusiastic 'high fives' without having any reason why as they chew on their hamburgers and Twinkies. Not that I would ever dream about generalizing about an entire nation, of course.

I have to be honest; I don't know how to shake hands with many Americans. It gets a bit confusing. They start off with this multiple finger-pulling/clicking maneuver, then they hit each others' fists, first front then top to bottom, and follow it up with a strange forearm-bashing, tribal kind of thing. The latter move seems to be optional.

I'm sure I've missed a few of the procedures, but that's my point; I never really know what I'm supposed to do. Our South Canadian neighbors just don't seem to understand that those of the British persuasion simply aren't very good at this kind of thing. We'd far rather just, well, shake hands. It's a lot easier, and what chaps do, after all.

One American trait that I admire is the quest to make life as easy as they can for themselves. And why not? In fact, I'm all for it. Why not spend your life doing as little work as possible if you can? It sounds like a solid plan to me, and I try to live by that doctrine daily.

I like to think that I am able to get out of the car to visit an ATM, or twist that pesky can opener by hand using good, old-fashioned wrist action, but if I had any real degree of motivation I'd be sprinting off to the gym every morning for a quick swim and a workout. I've lost count of the number of times I've promised myself in the evening that's exactly what I would do the following morning, but somehow it just never seems to work out.

There's always a somewhat plausible subconscious excuse; "I've got a monstrous hangover", "I think I feel a slight twinge in my right knee", or the all-time classic, "I really can't be bothered this morning" as I roll over and get an extra hour of



**Aquatic plants such as water lettuce provide greenery, while the minimal maintenance required to keep them alive is perfect for the lazy, green-thumb types.**

sleep rather than indulging in all the exercise nonsense.

I started this meaningless ramble thinking about ponds, believe it or not. Coincidentally, they're the ideal addition to a garden whose owner really can't be bothered. They're perfect. Do you have to water plants in a pond? Obviously not. Do you need to turn the soil or worry about insufficient drainage? You get the point.

And there are plenty of choices when it comes to what to put in ponds in this part of the world. Water lilies are a great start, especially for a decent-sized pond. In fact, larger ponds produce larger and more abundant flowers. They're not particularly difficult to get going either.

Fill a container up to two inches from the top with rich garden soil, and plant the lily upright in the center of the pot. Firm the soil around the roots leaving the crown (where the stems and roots connect) level with the soil line. Add a couple of centimeters of gravel to hold the soil in place.

Gently lower the completed planting into the pool to a depth of about 20 centimeters over the top of the pot. This depth should be increased to 30 or 40cm once the plants are established.

Lotus flowers are possibly one of the unofficial emblems of Thailand and are equally easy to grow. These things grow from tubers – those chunky sections of roots. Bear in mind that the tubers are very fragile and should be handled carefully.

Plant the tuber horizontally, and do the gravel-adding thing, in the same way as the lilies. This time, once lowered into the water, it should only be about 10 to 15 centimeters over the pot. Lotus flowers crave full sun, so make sure that they're put in a pond that's in the sunniest part of the garden.

Then there are the floating plants and oxygenating plants. These things are hardly the most difficult plants in the world to grow, but here are the step-by-step instructions for anyone who's unsure:

1. Take plant out of box or plastic carrier bag; 2. Put on the surface of water; 3. Open a beer; 4. Sit down and consume beer at your leisure. Any questions?

There's no real art to them – they just kind of float around the pond. Water lettuce are perfect. In fact any plant that meanders around floating on the surface will inevitably help to keep the pond water clear and clean too. They might even provide a bit of food for the fish.

Even though the pond might start to look a bit grubby after a while, it's not a good idea to drain the pond frequently to clean it, as this disrupts the natural ecosystem of the pond. The key to keeping a pond clean is to stock it properly with the right kinds of plants from the beginning.

Equally as important is to not overstock your pond with fish, or over-feed the ones that are there. Too many fish will result in not enough oxygen to go around, and rather murky water, as they all swim around in their own...by-products. The bottom line is that a properly-stocked pond will prevent those rather nasty algae blooms before they ever get started. Once your pond gets going, the less you do, the better.

Going "across the pond" in Phuket is a completely different experience from the Atlantic. It won't take anywhere near as long, you can do so with Heineken in hand, and you're not quite as likely to be greeted at the far side by a loud person whooping and trying to slap his palm against yours in mid-air while muttering phrases like "good jabh". Americans are a strange lot.

P.S. Mr Heineken Phuket representative – the Gazette office is open from 9am to 6pm for complimentary beer deliveries for the gardening columnist.

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## Design

by Semacote Suganya



The interior decor of Skipper's will feature a mix of both aviation and marine design themes.

# TAKING OFF

Captain Peter Hay has been a pilot with Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways for more than 23 years, but he plans on grounding himself permanently when he retires in September.

However, his post-career goals extend beyond simply enjoying all the numerous leisure activities that are readily available in Phuket. His desire is to start another challenging endeavor – one that will hopefully prove more rewarding than simply relaxing day in and day out.

Capt Hay recently commenced construction on a new restaurant and pub, appropriately called Skipper's, at the Royal Phuket Marina (RPM). What promises to be a harbor haven for the island yachters, Skipper's is scheduled to open in September of this year.

Local designer Steve Jordan from Concept Paradise in Phuket has been commissioned to design the interior. The vision is to blend both aviation and marine themes using soft, sweeping curves accented by delicately-positioned lighting.

To provide the right atmosphere, natural materials and soft colors will be blended throughout entire space. The venue is in-

tended to be the backdrop from which to enjoy impressive views of the luxury yachts berthed at RPM.

"I like contemporary and comfortable design concepts that are well-suited to the surrounding environment. The focus is to bring in the elements that have been of great interest to me throughout my life, including aviation and boating. Smooth, curved lines will provide the setting by replicating the interior feel of either an aircraft or a ship.

"This feeling will be complemented by features such as the design of both the windows and the columns, which will again create the mood of being aboard a vessel. The windows will reflect the portal structures commonly seen on both airplanes and boats while the columns will be constructed in a manner which will resemble the spreaders and shrouds of a ship's mast. Additionally, a rich mahogany wood will be used throughout as a subtle accent to aid in the overall ambience of the space," Capt Hay stated.

The conceptual layout of Skipper's will comprise both a restaurant section and a pub section that are intended to complement each other. Seamlessly intertwined, both sections will main-

tain the intimate shipboard feel while providing guests' parties with a sense of privacy.

The restaurant section will be a spacious area intended to seat about 40 people. The central focus of this space is to allow for a clear and expansive visual field directed toward the chef and his staff, so that guests can enjoy their culinary flair as they await their dishes.

The larger pub section will seat about 70 people in a variety of comfortable stools, chairs and tables, all centered around an attractive main bar. When completed, the bar will extend around the pub in a semicircular design, with seating for more than 15 in a relaxed, yet luxurious setting.

Behind the bar will be two large portal-shaped display cases housing Skipper's selection of wines. Other touches to the decor will include a large LCD television to be installed in one corner, along with sailing-related portraits and memorabilia meant to reinforce the venue's central theme: sea exploration.

Seating in both sections will be in comfortable, olive-green upholstery matched to the mahogany wood bar, tabletops and ceiling. The purpose is to create a naturally-energized yet traditional and welcoming feel.

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## Construction Update

by Semacote Suganya

# Skyline set for October start

A new apartment development, Skyline Apartments and Penthouses, sited in the Pasak area near Cherng Talay, will begin construction in October. Project owner Suda Promdaen told the *Gazette* she expects construction to be completed by early 2009.

The Skyline will be a 17-unit apartment complex with two five-story buildings featuring different configurations. Two three-bedroom penthouses and a two-bedroom apartment will sit atop one building, while a communal recreation area with two swimming pools and sala will top the other.

"We will have mountain views from one side and ocean views for the penthouses on the other. With many projects on the island the amount of space is limited, we want to build something where you can breathe in the open area. The style of the building is airy and spacious with a focus on convenience," K. Suda said.

When completed, Skyline



Left: Skyline Apartments (seen here in a computer-generated image) will be close to the beach. Above: For those who like their swimming right on the doorstep, the complex will have its own swimming pool.

will have 10 two-bedroom apartments, five three-bedroom apartments and two three-bedroom penthouses. All bedrooms in all the units will have en-suite facilities and the master bedrooms in the three-bedroom units will have

large walk-in closets. The penthouses will feature large walk-ins for two of the three bedrooms and a plunge pool on their terrace.

Building A will feature a three-bedroom apartment and a fitness center on the first floor,

and the second and third floors will each have two three-bedroom apartments and one two-bedroom apartment. The penthouses will cover two floors with two bedrooms and the kitchen and living areas on the lower floor and the master bedroom. Two single-floor two-bedroom apartments will share the fourth and fifth floors with the penthouses.

Usage area for the apartments will range from 155 to 430 square meters.

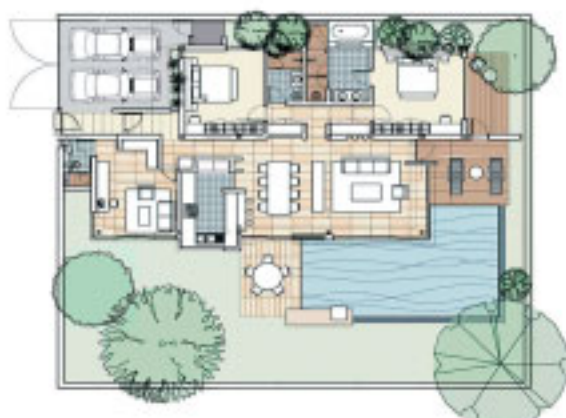
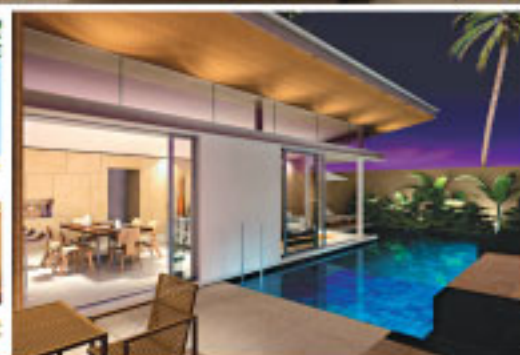
An indoor car park is the bottom floor of building B and the second, third and fourth floors will each house two two-bedroom units. An 8x12 meter swimming pool, a smaller shallow pool and a large sala will sit on the roof of the building, serving as a recreation area for the complex. An elevator will also be installed in each building.

Each apartment will have

one parking space under the buildings and the penthouses will have two. Additional parking will be provided in an open area.

"Prices start at 7.1 million baht and we estimate that the penthouses will be about 15 million baht – a good value for the amount of space. The price includes air conditioning, built-in bedroom furnishings and a fully-equipped kitchen. We are working with a freelance designer, but don't yet want to announce the contractor. We have all worked together on a previous project and should have no problems as we work well together as a team," K. Suda said.

For more information about Skyline Apartments and Penthouses contact Suda Promdaen at 081-0803000, email at: [suda@skylinephuket.com](mailto:suda@skylinephuket.com) or visit [www.SkylinePhuket.com](http://www.SkylinePhuket.com)



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Whether you are buying a resort villa, selling a piece of land or developing investment property, transforming any financial deal into a profitable investment can be a rocky road. Aside from sound accounting and tax planning advice, it is important that a key member of your team be your legal advisor.

All too often, individuals or businesses look only at the cost incurred, rather than the overall lowering of associated risks – including the possibly catastrophic impact poorly-constructed deals often bring.

Matches are not often made in heaven. Finding the right legal advisor takes time, research and in many cases a trial-and-error approach. While picking a name out of a phone book certainly is one of the more common ways of finding council, the results are often a hit-and-miss proposition.

Start your search by speaking to friends, businessmen or other contacts. If possible, ask for an introduction by means of a phone call or email. If you are a developer, sound out other developers and see who is representing them and how they assess performance. Look closely at what your needs are. If you are buying a home, do you need a multinational firm – or will you do better working with a smaller organization or individual lawyer? Right-sizing the approach ultimately saves time and money.

As in most professional practices, it is important to know exactly who in the company you will actually be dealing with and who is handling your account. All too often, the “bigger is better” approach means you might be represented by a well-known

## PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.

# Solid legal planning prevents pain



Going for an international firm such as Tilleke and Gibbins gives brand-name reassurance, but it may not always be the best option.

cal care: it is better to have an experienced specialist from a less-well-known government hospital than a green intern at a fancy international hospital.

Here in Phuket, the property market has evolved and developed to the point that we have a wide variety of choices, from well-respected local firms such as International Law Office, to firms with local and Bangkok offices, such as Belmont Limcharoen and McEvily & Collins, up to firms with international offices including JSM, and Tilleke and Gibbons.

There are also a number of extremely competent local law firms and individual lawyers. Getting into the market and speaking to a number of firms will enhance your own knowledge, enabling you to reach a more informed

decision. Asking direct questions is always the best approach, but don't expect free advice and lose track of the overall goal of find-

ing the most competent legal representative.

When engaging or appointing a firm, don't be too intimidated

to ask for cost estimates or added and reimbursable costs. These small items often represent significant expenses and need to be anticipated and planned for financially. In many cases, firms will work on a contingency basis, though this comes at a cost.

Capping the cost of certain work is an acceptable practice that ensures you do not exceed your budget. In many instances, reviewing a cost estimate will help you identify certain items that may be eliminated or done more cost-effectively by non-legal staff. Containing and managing the scope of work is good sense; it is never wise to hand someone a blank check.

A reliable professional services team will go a long way to making your deals successful, be it a one-time affair or a long-term working relationship. But as in any relationship, success often reflects the time and effort you put into the process. Pairing up your legal team, accountants and tax advisors in a don't-leave-any-stone-unturned approach is one of the best investments you will ever make.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### LUXURY VILLAS



Close to Laguna. Best negotiable price. Brand new 1,100sqm land, 4 bedrooms, pool, lotus pond & garden. Contact K.Gai. Tel: 081-7344324. For more information please see our website at [www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com](http://www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com)

### LAND FOR SALE

1,436sqm. Flat, square plot, Chanote title, in residential area with hill views. Price: 3.5 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-6910391. Email: [info@liveandletdive.com](mailto:info@liveandletdive.com)

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

New, 4 bedrooms, 5 aircons, living room, kitchen, 2-level garden. Tel: 084-8516121.

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, big living room, 2 levels, 2 car spaces, Bang Tao area. Tel: 084-8516121.

### CHEAP NEW HOUSES

for sale. 2 new, 2-story houses 6x15m, 2 new townhouses 6x17m, 25.5sq wah near Lotus. Tel: 084-0658298.

### BEAUTIFUL 3-STORY

building. 5 aircons, 3 rooms on second floor, third-floor apartment with kitchen and bathroom. Price: 6.2 million baht. 600meters from Chalong circle on Chao Fa East Rd. Tel: 081-4763242. Email: [davidbul@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:davidbul@loxinfo.co.th)

### PATONG BEACH CONDO

Apartment, foreign freehold. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

### HOUSE FOR SALE AT CAPE PANWA



Medium, stylish, fully furnished bayview home. 3 bedrooms, 3 en-suite bathrooms. Living room with office area, Western kitchen, sala, maid's room, laundry and storage room. Infinity pool. Includes 2 cars. 2003 Honda CRV and 2003 Ford Escape. 33 million baht. Please contact Liany for more information at Tel: 076-200707, 087-9312301 or via email: [joyc\\_lean@yahoo.com](mailto:joyc_lean@yahoo.com)

### LAND NEAR KHAO LAK

22 rai of beautiful, flat land in Tab Lamu, near Khao Lak and Tab Lamu golf course. For quick sale at 10 million baht. Contact for details at Tel: 081-8921097. Email: [info@swethai-realestate.com](mailto:info@swethai-realestate.com)

### PATONG

3-floor shophouse. Best location, 100 meters to the beach. Built-up area: 270sqm. Ground floor: 1 restaurant. New, fully equipped kitchen, WC, aircon, ADSL Internet. 1st floor: 2 bedrooms, teakwood floor, bathroom with new whirlpool, WC, 2 aircons, balcony. 2nd floor: 2 rooms, 1 aircon, bathroom, WC, balcony, UBC, ADSL, TV. Price: 12 million baht. Please call Tel: 081-8914844.

### PATONG SEA VIEW

in North. Top-floor, freehold, 2-bedroom apartment with pool. Price: 9.7 million baht. Please contact for photos and details at Tel: 086-2765117. Email: [jihshand@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jihshand@yahoo.co.uk)

### RAWAI LAND FOR

sale. Near mainroad, seaview land plot, 5 rai, water, electricity. Tel: 081-8151636.

### LAND FOR SALE



Flat land, 119sq wah in Maneekram, located between Chalong and Central Festival, full public utility, quiet area. Please contact Tel: 084-8516115. Email: [suksavat@hotmail.com](mailto:suksavat@hotmail.com)

### KAMALA BEACH LANDPLOTS

Two plots: 10m x 16m and 10m x 20m. Close to beach and main road. Chanote. Approved for apartment development. Please contact Tel: 081-8930935. Email: [surlamer05@yahoo.com](mailto:surlamer05@yahoo.com)

### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

8 minutes to Laguna, Baan Jo, 150 talang wah or 600sqm. Full Chanote, very nice area, good location. Asking price: 1.1 million baht. Tel: 081-0415646. Email: [khunraf@hotmail.com](mailto:khunraf@hotmail.com)

### CONDOS FOR SALE

Condos with fantastic sea views and hill views in Patong Tower for sale. Only a few minutes to Patong Beach. Contact Tel: 076-341871, 081-5697616. Email: [sales@phuketislandrealestate.com](mailto:sales@phuketislandrealestate.com)

### LAND FOR SALE

Kata/Rawai hillside. 11 plots from 400 to 1,200sqm. Tel: 081-2730080. Visit our website: <http://landandshopforsale.phuket.net>

### CHALONG 16 MILLION BAHT

Quality home in Land and Houses park, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big Western-style kitchen, spacious living and dining rooms, open study, aircons, fans, cable, ADSL, furnished, carport, private garden, near clubhouse and pool. Chanote. Must see! Contact Tel: 076-283235. Fax: 076-283235. Email: [sanaralang@yahoo.de](mailto:sanaralang@yahoo.de)

### MODERN & LUXURIOUS VILLA



323sqm, newly built, 4 bedrooms with bathroom, dressing room, living room, dining room. 80sqm. Spacious kitchen, 12m x 5m swimming pool. Land: 1,780sqm, near Rawai Beach. Sell: 22.8 million baht. Rent: 100,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 086-2713454. Email: [talavilla@yahoo.fr](mailto:talavilla@yahoo.fr)

### COMMERCIAL CONDO 600SQM

Individual building located on the bypass near Tesco Lotus. Includes a penthouse with 2 en-suite bedrooms, American kitchen and big living room. Fully furnished. 25 million baht. Tel: 076-355067, 081-7977210. Fax: 076-355067. Email: [scspkt@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:scspkt@loxinfo.co.th)

### RAWAI SHOPHOUSES FOR SALE/RENT

2 new, connected shophouses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land price: 4.5 million baht. Financing possible. Tel: 081-8928526. For more details and photos please visit our website at: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### APARTMENTS IN KARON

One unit with 3 fully furnished apartments for sale. Please contact John Johannesen by email or mobile phone for more details. Tel: 081-8957957. Email: [gymworld@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:gymworld@loxinfo.co.th)

### LAND IN RAWAI

3 plots with private road access. Chanote titles. Flat land with hill view. Perfect for housing projects. Sizes are: 449, 476, 475sqm. Price: 4,250 baht per sqm. Tel: 087-3828078.

### CHALONG HOUSE



for sale or rent in Land & Houses Chalong. New house with furniture, never occupied, very nice design, saloon, reception, office, kitchen, maid's room, 4 rooms (one with furniture and aircon + dressing room + bathroom with Jacuzzi). Price: 6.9 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 081-5693890.

### RAWAI BEACH

condo. Sea view, foreign freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. For more info email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

### RAWAI BEACH VILLA

400sqm land, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

### BEACHFRONT LAND

From only 1,500,000 baht per rai. For more info, please email: [admin@thaisunshine.com](mailto:admin@thaisunshine.com)

### BEACHFRONT POOL

house. 3/4 bedrooms from only 8 million baht. For more info, please email: [admin@thaisunshine.com](mailto:admin@thaisunshine.com)

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful Sino-Portuguese house in center of Phuket Town. Already restored, ideal for restaurant, guesthouse or business. Tel: 081-9700121. Email: [tikky2@mac.com](mailto:tikky2@mac.com)

### HOUSES AND CONDO

Two-story houses in secure estate. Only minutes from golf course, large land plots, 3-4 bedrooms, starting from 5.9 million baht. Also a luxury two-bedroom condo with sea views in Patong. Over 240sqm of living space, Jacuzzi in master bathroom, communal swimming pool. Price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288908. Fax: 076-383646. Email: [patrick@siamrealestate.com](mailto:patrick@siamrealestate.com)

### LUXURY NATAI BEACH VILLA



358sqm, sea view, 2 mins from the beach, 15 mins to airport, 2 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, Western kitchen with high quality appliances, fully furnished with designer furniture, 2 home theaters with plasma TV and UBC, ADSL ready, 1 rai garden with swimming pool. A must see! Contact for more information about houses and lands. Tel: 081-0863309. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.janepropertyphuket.com>

### LIVE IN KATHU

New modern-designed house for sale. 3 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. Living room, kitchen/diner, walled garden, large veranda, private parking. Near British Int'l School, golf course. Price: 4.5 million obo. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: [somlerdee@yahoo.com](mailto:somlerdee@yahoo.com)

### CONDO FOR SALE

Renovated Rawai condo, furnished, aircon, TV, freehold. Price: 700,000 baht. Call Tel: 084-1899868.

### NEW PATONG VILLA WITH POOL

Very exclusive, completely furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms with aircon, 3 bathrooms, Jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining area. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land: 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Please visit our website at [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com) for more information.

### SEAVIEW LAND PLOTS

Bang Tao. 3-phase electricity, top sea view. Starting at 3.9 million baht. Contact us for additional details. Tel: 086-267-0157, 089-5903665. Email: [bannuaton@yahoo.com](mailto:bannuaton@yahoo.com)

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# Property Gazette

## SHADY RETREAT



3-bedroom house for sale. Chanote title, 1.75 rai. Newly renovated, 25 mins north of Phuket airport, 5 mins to beach and local town, room to build 2 more houses. 4.2 million baht. Options to develop. Please contact Tel: 087-8067145.

## HOUSE FOR SALE



Single house in Soi Bangrae, Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living area, kitchen and many facilities. 125 talang wah + 500sqm. Price: 6.5 million baht. Please contact Tel: 081-5395317, 086-6890769.

## LAND & HOUSE CHALONG



Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 224sqm. Newer home, plot size 100sq wah, maid's room. Asking 7.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8483212. Email: cooperhawk92@yahoo.com

## AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

## DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE



Dreamhouse in Chalong on 715sqm of land with private pool. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Western kitchen, 7 aircons, dual carport and much more. Perfect for families. A must see. 16 million baht ono. Please call Tel: 081-8926251. Or email: mrsouza@hotmail.com. More photos and details can be found at our website: www.phuketdreamhome.com

## PATONG VIEWPOINT BLUE POINT



Viewpoint for sale. One of the hot spots on the island. Blue Point is located just outside Patong. Blue Point overlooks the complete bay of Patong and has breathtaking views. Visited daily by many people to enjoy the view over Patong Bay and the sunset. Located on the hillside, next to Baan Suan Kamnan, just outside Patong on the south end. Areas connected. Total area for sale is 2 rai. Perfect for exclusive residential usage. Also interesting for small, low resort or hotel. Nor Sor 3 Gor. (Upgrade and transfer with Chanote title possible). Only serious inquiries. Call Edwin for more information and details at Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

## KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

## POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

New, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen. Price: 5.5 million baht. Please contact for information Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

## LAND IN NAI YANG

Chanote near beach for sale. 2 rai: 7 million baht. 1 rai: 3.5 million baht, 6 plots (each 440sqm): 1.5 million baht per plot. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

## 200 METERS TO THE BEACH

New! Worth 5 million baht. Quick sale to best offer over 4 million baht. Please contact Tel: 089-7830494, 081-0837354. Or via email: jimcox007@msn.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Saiyuan Rd, Nai Harn. Secluded, spacious, open plan. Chic black-tiled pool. 3 air-conditioned bedrooms. Modern kitchen. 2 en-suite bathrooms. Convection oven. Large garden of native plants. Parking space. 320sqm. Price: 4.8 million baht. Tel: 081-8931258, 081-2733303.

## RAWAI 2-STORY

house. New, 160sqm. Great location, close to the beach. 1.5 million baht. Contact for info at Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

## CHEAPEST BEACHFRONT LAND!

1.6 million baht per rai. Will sell from 5 to 22 rai. Contact for additional details at email: admin@thaisunshine.developments.com

## LAND ON KOH MAPHRAO

East side, street access, electricity, water. Approx. 1 rai, ready to be built on. Price: 3.9 million baht. 7 rai next to Swiss resort. Price: 2.9 million baht per rai. Call Tel: 081-8918930.

## CALIFORNIA VILLA

3-bedroom house for sale. Corner plot, many extras. Very nice accommodation. Asking price: 3.2 million baht. Please call Tel: 089-8751154.

## HILLSIDE LAND

1 rai. Exclusive location west of Rawai Rd. Private access, beautiful setting. Chanote. 4.9 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-521005, 084-8504544.

## KRABI LAND

for sale near Ao Nang, mountain view. Price: 1.2 million baht per rai. Contact Tel: 081-7475293.

## PATONG CONDO

Seventh-floor condo for sale. Furnished, fan, air conditioning, very good condition, fridge, TV, hot shower, balcony. Call Tel: 081-6938010.

## POOL VILLA SALE

3 bedrooms, big living room, 2 car spaces. Only 4.8 million baht. Call Tel: 084-8516121.

## CHALONG LUXURY

house. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure, quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Curved teak staircase, spa, solar hot water, nice gardens, river views. 7.9 million baht. Chanote. Please call for additional details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. For photos, visit our website at: www.phukethouse4sale.com

## CONDOS FOR FOREIGN

ownership. Nai Harn Beach condos. High-quality, up-market, safe, secure. Large 2-bedroom units completely furnished and equipped, great location and views, close to the beach. Only 8 million baht. Must see! Please call for more information at Tel: 081-7974068.

## 4-FLOOR TOWNHOUSE

4 aircon units, nice furniture, large kitchen. Also with mini-pool. Price: 3.9 million baht. Please contact for more information via email: samwithness@yahoo.com

## NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

in Thantong Villa 7. Townhouse with 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on Chao Fa East Rd opposite California Villa. Price: 1.9 million baht. Contact Khun Jeab. Tel: 084-6890760. Email: a\_manasanan@hotmail.com

## PATONG APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, Western kitchen, communal area including pool, bar, game room. Secure compound. Price: 3.45 million baht. Contact Tel: 087-2810451. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

## HOUSE IN PATONG

4.7 million baht. 23sq wah, 3 bedrooms with aircons, bathtub (hot/cold water), living room, kitchen, 2 cable TVs, 2 fridges, washing machine, fully furnished. 1km from Patong Beach. Tel: 076-341724, 081-5690664. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

## SELLING HOUSE AND

3 apartments. 1st floor: 2 x 3 rooms, 100sqm. 2nd floor: 5 rooms, 80sqm. Jacuzzi, 3x40sqm garden. 3 million baht. Live in one, rent other two. Urgent! Nai Harn. Tel: 084-4454614.

## SEAVIEW HOUSE

2-bedroom house with large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". Price: 17.5 million baht. Contact for info at Tel: 086-2706454, +44-778-9995522, 089-4727588. Email: djjudges@hotmail.com

## SEAVIEW CONDO

Stylish apartment nearly completed in Kata Beach. Two bedrooms, 104sqm, nice location. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 076-292265, 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

## NICE HOUSE

2-story detached house with Western-style kitchen, dining room, living room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 aircon, carport, garden, fully furnished. Only 3.2 million baht obo. Contact at Tel: +31-64-6098573. Email: shd1@planet.nl Visit our site: http://home.planet.nl/~duang000/house.htm

## NEW 95SQM

bungalow. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, carport, 210sqm land. Price: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 086-9518140, 081-5383821. Email: info@1nj.de

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# Property Gazette

## NEW HOME NEAR BEACH



Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces. New furniture. Quick sale at 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Call Tel: 089-7830494, 081-0837354. Or send email: jimcox007@msn.com

## SPA & RESORT

37 million baht. A peaceful place of 3 rai, 900sq wah in Ao Nang, 9 villas of Thai-Bali style, blissful open-air bathtub, tropical garden, herbal steam & Jacuzzi pool, international restaurant. Tel: 081-4236906. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

## NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

in Phuket City. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Price starts from 1.49 million baht. Please call Tel: 076-221595.

## NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful, modern, European style. 3 large bedrooms with aircon, 3 en-suite bathrooms, huge terrace and living area, garage, laundry room, safe and alarm system. Plot of 600sqm. Quiet area. Built by European contractor. Only 10.5 million baht. Please contact Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

## 6.9 MILLION BAHT



New house 4km from Laguna and Bang Tao beach. Tel: 089-8131447. Email: kwanphuket@hotmail.com, kwan6a@yahoo.com

## LAND FOR SALE

9 rai for sale at Pasak Soi 8, Chong Talay. 2.7 million baht per rai. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 076-282808, 086-9519198. Fax: 076-282346. Email: heypiassy@hotmail.com

## 4 RAI FLAT LAND

Chanote title, square land, access from 2 roads. 2km from Heroines Monument. 500m from main road. Price: 6.8 million baht. Please contact Tel: 084-0577505.

## 885SQM PLOT

in Bang Tao. 1.79 million baht. 3-phase elec., road access. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Ready to build. Tel: 089-5903665, 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

## LAND IN TRANG

4.5 rai in Trang. Perfect location for future business. In front of main road, opposite university. Please contact K. Tan for more info. Tel: 076-296658, 089-6513479. Email: tannynanny@hotmail.com

## OASIS VILLA FOR SALE



Patong, 2-level, 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom villa. 2 swimming pools. Oasis in the heart of Patong, secure & private, yet within walking distance to Bangla action & beach. Obtains good high-season rents. Invest in paradise. Price: 16 million baht. Contact for more info via email: mark@andamanthaiproperty.com

## RAWAI BEACH HOUSE

Recently modernized, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse for sale with gorgeous sea views, just meters from Rawai Beach. There is a large 1st-floor terrace at the front of the house, off-road parking for 1 car, and a balcony at the rear. The bright and airy living/dining area is very large. As a bonus, there is a spacious attic room. Price: 3.3 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 02-5097872, 081-5118201. Fax: 02-5097874. Email: ben@LDSK.com

## PHUKET PALACE

condo. New re-fit, fully fitted and furnished. Large swimming pool with waterfall, carpark. Price: 3.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

## PATONG BAY GREAT SEA VIEW



A stunning beauty. Art deco house in Baan Suan Kamnan. One of the best, most quiet, green, clean and safe neighborhoods on the island. Located on a hillside at the south end of Patong. A large and tall house on a top location. Overlooks the bay of Patong in the daytime and you can enjoy the lively Patong scenery in the night time. Enjoy the views from a distance and have a look at our webcam. Tel: 086-786-6350. Fax: 076-345273. Contact via email: buurmanb@hotmail.com For more info please see our website at www.patongbluepoint.com

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## 3-STORY SEA VIEW

Includes 6 rooms, 2 balconies, 4 bathrooms. 9.7 million baht. Roof with Jacuzzi. In Rawai/Nai Ham. Tel: 085-7955383.

## HOUSE FOR SALE OR

rent. Located on Chao Fa Rd near Khao Khat viewpoint, 76 square meters, 2 bedrooms. Master bedroom is fully furnished with aircon. Restroom with hot water. Rent: 5,500 baht per month. Sell: 1.2 million baht. Please contact K. Jeab for more information. Tel: 084-6890760 or via email: a\_manasanan@hotmail.com

## Properties For Rent

### HOME NEAR AIRPORT

8km to Phuket airport, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms at Garden Place, 115sqm. 13,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-3823237, 081-2976162.

### BOAT LAGOON

Two bedrooms, lagoon-fronted townhouse, modern fully fitted kitchen, use of communal swimming pool near British Int'l School, shops, etc. Price: 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8337836.

### NEW BUILDING

2 units for rent. Opportunity for only minimart opposite Kathu waterfall. Please call Tel: 087-2799500.

### BEACHFRONT

house for rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

near Heroines Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, ADSL. Price: 18,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 086-2778461.

### 100SQM STUDIO

for rent. Furnished, beautiful views that overlook the lake, golf course and Kathu valley. Private and quiet location, pool, Internet, UBC. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information at Tel: 087-2698492.

### 3- TO 4-BEDROOM KATHU VILLA

for rent. Pool, 4km from BIS, lake, golf and valley view, quiet on a private hill. Gated with security guard + maid. 2 luxury Thai-style villas for rent with 300sqm each. All amenities in top-class surroundings. Internet, UBC, yearly lease at 65,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 087-2698492.

### BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, fully furnished bedrooms, no fence, beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes electric + water. Call Tel: 081-8924311.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

2 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, fully furnished, great sea views. Very private. Long-term rent: 25,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 084-4407472.

### LUXURIOUS VILLA RENT

3-4 bedrooms, sat TV, Internet, big pool, 2 levels, nicely furnished. Please call Tel: 084-8516121.

### SURIN BEACH APARTMENT

Modern, luxurious ground-floor Lersuang apartment, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, pool and parking. European kitchen with bar! 35,000 baht per month. Minimum rental of 6 months. 400m to the beach and restaurants. Tel: 089-1925186. Email: slees@slees.com

### AMAZING SEA VIEWS

Spacious 3-bedroom villa set in tropical gardens. Lounge, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool. Big driveway, 10 mins to Cape Yamu. 40,000 per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2796283.

### EAST AND WEST COAST



House/apartment located in Chalong. Look for us on the web under Rentalex. 2 bedrooms with communal pool. Price: 20,000 baht per month. Please contact at Tel: 076-245966 or via email: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com For further details, please visit our website at: www.phuketandamanrealestate.com

### 2-VILLA COMPLEX KAMALA BEACH

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### NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

### KATA LUXURY APARTMENT

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western teak kitchen, huge terrace. Long and short term. Starting at 25,000 baht per month for long term. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

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# Property Gazette

## HOUSE FOR RENT

at Chalong Land & Houses by the lake. New house, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, UBC, ADSL. Please call Tel: 081-8953649.

## RAWAI LUXURY VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, European kitchen, large swimming pool, garden, ADSL, UBC. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7196998.

## PALAI, GREENHOUSE BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht per month. Palai area. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8924311.

## RAWAI BUNGALOW

1 bedroom or 2 bedrooms, ADSL, cable TV, quiet location with large furnished terrace. Starting at 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7196998.

## KAMALA CASTLE

Large room in Kamala private villa. 10,000-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-3897023. Email: limoz@earthlink.net

## PATONG CONDO

1-bedroom condo for rent in Patong. Fully furnished. 10-minute walk to beach and Bangla Rd. Long-term rent at 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-8726895.

## SEAVIEW BUNGALOW

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, aircon. Price: 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6064279. Email: pichit\_49@yahoo.com

## PATONG CONDO

9th floor, Phuket Palace. Has everything. 17,000-20,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-3897023. Email: limoz@earthlink.net

## RAWAI SEAVIEW APARTMENT

New deluxe studio. Full kitchen, cable, DVD, great view, furnished, recliner. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

## FREEDOM APARTMENTS

Near Patong temple. Soi Khuan Yang. European-style kitchen, fridge, fully furnished, aircon, fan, cable TV, hot/cold water bathroom, high-speed wireless Internet. Price: 9,500 baht per month. Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

## OCEANVIEW CONDO IN KAMALA

250 sqm condo with breathtaking view. 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 1 study. Outdoor bath, huge terrace overlooking Andaman Sea. Fully furnished, tastefully decorated in contemporary Thai style. Walking distance to the beach, 15 mins from Patong, golf courses, diving and spas. Swimming pool and gym in complex. 90,000 baht per month, 3 months minimum. Short term: US\$1,000-1,400 per week. Tel: 852-94519793. Email: jessandsteve@netvigator.com For further details, please see our website at: www.kamala.seaview.com

## RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Long term, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, UBC 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914, 086-6865567.

## STUNNING SEA VIEW

New house for rent overlooking Karon Beach. Pool, fully furnished, 20,500 baht per month. Tel: (English, German) 089-5938690 (Thai), 087-8100150. Email: ruen\_narayan@hotmail.com

## HOUSES FROM WELLTA

My name is Wellta. I was born in Phuket. I have many houses for sale and rent here in Phuket. Contact Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com For further details, please visit our website at: www.houseinphuket.com

## KATA LUXURY

apartment furnished, 1-bedroom penthouse. 2 and 3 bedrooms, aircon, Western-style kitchen, huge terrace. Long and short term. Starting at 18,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

## SEAVIEW APTS

for rent in Karon and Patong beach. Please contact for additional details and pricing information. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: jjc@gmail.com

## 184SQ WAH HOUSE

located on Mae Luan Rd, near Rang Hill for rent as office, spa, restaurant or house. Please contact for more info via email: romeplace@hotmail.com

## GOLF VILLA FOR RENT

New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa at Phuket Country Club. Pool, aircon, maids' rooms. Long-term rent: 65,000 baht per month. For more information call Tel: 086-2772691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

## RAT-U-THIT ROAD SHOP

Detached building, large shop with offices above, prime location. For more info call Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

## RAWAI RESIDENCE

studios. Rent: 6,000 to 12,000 baht per month. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9408914.

## HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG

2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room, carpark, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. High-speed Internet and UBC satellite TV included. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Minimum 6-month contract. Please contact for more information at Tel: 087-1057320. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

## NEW BUILDING

2 units for rent. Opportunity for only minimart opposite Kathu waterfall. Tel: 087-2799500.

## BEACH FRONT

house for rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

## DISCOVERY GARDENS

New 2-bedroom homes, fully furnished. Rent includes broadband, maid service, and cable TV. Starting at 28,500 baht per month. Contact Tel: 076-527594, 089-1956822. Email: jziment@yahoo.com For further details, please visit our website at: www.phuketmarbella.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

at Chalong Land & Houses. New house by the lake. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, UBC, ADSL. Tel: 081-8953649.

## NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

## RAWAI HOUSE

for rent in Rawai resort. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, fully furnished, 2 safes, 5 aircons, ADSL Internet, communal pool, tropical gardens, carpark. Long-term rent: 50,000 baht per month. Email: hans\_lange@hotmail.com

## 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent. In Chaofa Thani. 9,500 baht per month. Nice garden. Please contact at Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Or via email: franklee200@hotmail.com

## 2-VILLA COMPLEX

Kamala Beach for

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## HOME NEAR AIRPORT

8km to Phuket airport, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms at Garden Place, 115sqm. 13,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-3823237, 081-2976162.

## NAI HARN HOUSE

1 minute to the beach. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, aircon. 20,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. Please call Tel: 081-3971835.

## SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

for rent in Karon & Patong beaches. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.com

## CHALONG HOUSE

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## LIST YOUR RENTAL

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## KATHU TOWNHOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, air conditioned. 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8953661.

## RAWAI BUNGALOW

1 to 2 bedrooms with kitchen, aircon, bathroom, cable, ADSL, quiet location, nice terrace. From 8,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 086-2790837.

## NEW HOUSE

in Kamala. Small space, 2 bedrooms. Price: 8,000 baht per month. Close to the beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8928208.

## RUSTIC HOUSE

for rent in Rawai. Available in May. Rent: 7,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. 2 bedrooms, living room, office, kitchen, bathroom, cable TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-9560257.

## BOAT LAGOON

Two bedroom, lagoon-fronted townhouse, modern, fully fitted kitchen, use of communal swimming pool, near International school, shops, etc. Price: 32,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 081-8337836.

## NAI YANG HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms (2 with aircon), living room, kitchen, fridge, garden, fenced, ADSL, UBC. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-6506221. Or via email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

## QUIET HOUSE & CAR

for rent. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, UBC cable, ADSL, maid & gardener. Toyota Yaris, black, automatic. Rent from May 07 to July 07. Price: 49,000 baht per month or 20,000 baht per week. Tel: 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

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## JET BOAT FOR SALE

Lots of fun! 5 meters, 120hp engine, seats 5. Includes bimini, trailer, cassette radio, life jackets, etc. Price: 325,000 baht. Tel: 087-2676024. Email: mwd@nmvtd.com

## LIVEABOARD

for sale. Dive & Sail liveaboard yacht, traditional Indonesian Bugis Ketch. 21m long, 2 masts, 4 sails, 5 cabins, dining area and deck space. Complete outfit includes 2 compressors, dinghy plus engine, watermaker, GPS navigation, equipment, auto pilot, dive tanks and much more. Extremely successful for years, price available upon request. Please contact. Tel: 087-2698921. Email: astaeubl@hotmail.com

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Telephone service with our customers and writing the invoices	Manage and control the store and stock
<b>2.) Your responsibilities are:</b>	<b>2.) Your responsibilities are:</b>
Normal accounting work and stock management.	Manage and control costs
<b>Your Qualifications should be:</b>	<b>Your Qualifications should be:</b>
Degree from a leading university	Good spoken and written English
Good spoken and written English	Computer skills
Computer skills	

Black Forest is an Importer and Distributor for fine wines and beers, based on Phuket with a branch on Koh Samui and Distribution Partners nationwide.

We are looking for someone to join our team on a competitive salary. Applicants are invited to apply in Person in our Patong / Samui office or send detailed English resume, stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo.

### Black Forest Distribution Co. Ltd.

**PHUKET**  
204/42 Rat-u-thit Road  
Patong Beach, Phuket 83140  
076 - 344 705

**KOH SAMUI**  
127/134 Moo 3  
Koh Samui, Surat Thani 84310  
077 - 418 585



**Paradise Group** is the Developer • Property Management • Architecture • Interior Design • Entertainment company located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket, is seeking for a qualified and energetic persons to fill in the position below

### ACCOUNTANT

- Male or Female, age between 25 - 30 years.
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting.
- Min. 3 years' experience in Property Accounting & Management.
- Be responsible to establish & maintain effective in accounting system, Monitor Payment Voucher, Taxation, A/C receivable, A/C Payable, computer skills and knowledge in Accounting Program. (Quick Books 2006 Program an advantage)
- Fair in both written & spoken English

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & enclosing a recent photo by fax or email to:

Chaiyan Sae-Heng, Human Resource Department.

### PARADISE GROUP

The Plaza Surin, 5/50 Moo. 3, Cherngthalay  
Thalang, Phuket 83110, fax: +66 76 271242

email: hr@paradisephuket.com

### Sales Manager - Phuket showroom

#### Responsibilities & Requirements

- + At least a Bachelor Degree
- + Age: 25+/-, Male or Female
- + Minimum 2 years of solution selling experience
- + Knowledge of furniture & kitchen is preferred
- + Experience in selling
- + Result-driven, optimistic and resourceful
- + Possess good communication and presentation skills
- + Live & work in Phuket (Phuket Residential is preferred)
- + Customer-focused with good leadership skills & the ability to motivate others
- + Able to work under pressure
- + Excellent communication, be fluent in English and presentation skill
- + Travel to meet customer; contact through purchasing, or marketing team
- + Owner car + driving licenses

#### " ATTRACTIVE SALARY & BENEFIT "

If interested please apply to email: rafael.veiga@rsventure.co.th  
arunee\_p@rsventure.co.th Tel: 02-8623571-3

### OFFICE SECRETARY

Office secretary/administrator needed for foreign company. Experience with government procedures and good command of spoken and written English. Basic computer skills required. Contact Tel: 076-282211, 081-8926251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com

### SALES PEOPLE

with work permits. Freelance jobs, high earnings selling holiday packets - no timeshare! Please call for more details. Tel: 085-7926008.

### LAWYER

Thai or foreigner. Full time, part time or freelance for our Patong branch. Please email: jobs@siam-legal.com

### LOOKING FOR

kindergarten teacher for teaching 3 to 5-year-old kids. English native preferred. Please call Tel: 084-7144104.

### CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Minimum 3 years' experience, CPD certified. Good English is an advantage. Please contact Personnel Manager at Asian Wind Co Ltd for more information. Tel: 076-381338, 081-8957908.

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Design artwork for quality publications & advertising. Thai national, excellent skills in Photoshop and Illustrator with knowledge of InDesign. Some English language. Email: info@artandcultureasia.com

**Asians View Architect Co.,Ltd** is an Architectural design & Construction Management based in Phuket, we are looking for

### Auto CAD Operator

- Thai national.
- Diploma degree in Construction or related field.
- 2 years experience in Auto CAD operation.
- Self-motivated, highly responsible and positive attitude.

Interested candidate, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by email to: secretary@asiansviewarchitect.com or call for more information. Tel 089-871-8133

23/105 Moo 2, Thapkrasathi Rd., Koh Kuew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel/Fax 076-273-512

### WANTED

1. Babysitter (1 position)
  2. English teacher (1 position)
  3. Administrator (1 position)
  4. Teaching a baby farang at home (3 positions)
- Please call for detailed information about any of the positions. Tel: 076-239209, 084-1885828.

### FITNESS STAFF

Thai nationals required for new fitness center and leisure club. Applicants should have good English skills and a lively personality. Full training provided. Tel: 081-0880422. Email: alun@eden-thailand.com

### ENGLISH TEACHERS

Kajonkietsuksa School requires native English teachers for kindergarten level (4 positions). Please email your resume or contact Tel: 076-264770. Fax: 076-264773. Email: kajonkietsuksa.school@gmail.com

### TEAM LEADER SITE SUPERVISOR

TCM Asia is looking for a site supervisor and team leader. Thai national, age 25. Strong leadership and problem solving skills. BA in Mechanical Engineering or related field. Self motivated and able to supervise other staff. Good communication skills, service minded and well organized. The position offers an attractive salary and additional benefits. Applicants are invited to send full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo by email or contact. Tel: 086-9439834. Fax: 076-279088. Email: office@tcm-asia.com

### DIVE & SURFSHOP

Need staff, male or female, must speak basic English. Work on the beach. Tel: 081-9685904.

**WE NEED A GOOD**  
cook for a new restaurant. Good pay and a place to live. Contact for additional details. Tel: 089-5934125. Email: brittsplace@hotmail.com

### URGENT!

Looking for nanny to live with us in Patong to take care of little 5-year-old girl. Must speak some English. Salary negotiable. Young lady OK. Please contact Mimi for more information. Tel: 087-976-6385.

### MATHEMATICS TEACHER

QSI International School of Phuket, an American-style school, has a vacancy for a middle/high school Mathematics teacher for the 2007/08 school year. The ideal candidate is a native English speaker, has a bachelor's degree and teaching certification and has experience teaching Mathematics to students aged 12 and up. This is not an ESL position. Email: alansiporin@qsi.org

Looking for a job?  
Still haven't found the perfect candidate?  
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)!



# Island Job Mart



## Hyatt Regency Phuket

A world-class Hyatt Regency Hotel, introducing a distinctive style, elegance, commitment to service, and attention to detail will open soon on Nai Yang Beach. We are currently inviting the following Thai applications to join our

### Sales and Marketing Team:

Director of Sales  
Associate Director of Sales  
Sales Managers  
Sales Coordinator

Marketing Analyst  
Public Relations Manager  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Reservations Manager

If you are outgoing, energetic, customer focused individuals who possess a natural flair for hospitality, creativity and passion for work, send us your resume with a recent color photograph to:

### Director of Human Resources

Hyatt Regency Phuket  
Pre-Opening Office, Plaza del Mar, Unit 115 - 116  
No. 1 Pasak-Koktanod Road, Cherngtalay, Thalung, Phuket 83110  
Telephone: 076 318 188 Facsimile: 076 318 189  
E-mail: [hrphuket.humanresources@hyatt.com](mailto:hrphuket.humanresources@hyatt.com)

Should you be interested in other positions not listed above, we would also be appreciated to receive your resume.



Central & City Development Ltd II3/II4, Plaza Del Mar No.1,  
Pasak-Koktanod Road, T. Cherngtalay, A. Thalung,  
Phuket 83110 Thailand Tel: 076-318121

Email: [hr@west-sands.com](mailto:hr@west-sands.com) or [sales@west-sands.com](mailto:sales@west-sands.com)  
[www.west-sands.com](http://www.west-sands.com)

## What is West Sands?

West Sands is a residential and hotel/resort development situated on the West Coast of Phuket at Mai Khao Beach.

## West Sands Phuket - Job Vacancies

### Rental Assistant

Qualifications Required:  
- Bachelor's degree  
- Very good command of English

### Property Sales Assistant

Qualifications Required:  
- Bachelor's degree  
- Very good command of English

### Construction Manager

Qualifications Required:  
- Thai national  
- 5 years' experience  
- Very good command of English

### Purchasing Manager

Qualifications Required:  
- Thai national  
- 2 years' experience  
- Very good command of English

### Legal Assistant/Assistant to General Manager

Qualifications Required:  
- Bachelor's degree in relate field  
- Good command of English both verbal and write

## Alila

PHUKET, THAILAND

Alila Hotels and Resorts, an international luxury lifestyle resort management company, is seeking talented candidates for its latest opening in Phuket. Currently under construction in one of the most exclusive and upscale areas on Phuket, the 200-rooms resort is scheduled to open in the third quarter of 2007. We are looking for candidates with energy and enthusiasm, a passion for working to the highest standards and preferably pre-opening experience.

Financial Controller  
Rooms Division Manager  
Chief Accountant  
Purchasing Manager  
Human Resources Manager  
Chief Engineer  
Chief Gardener

Front Office Manager  
Sales Manager  
Public Relations Manager  
Spa Manager  
Chief Concierge  
Chief Security  
IT/EDP Manager

Alila Phuket offers attractive salaries, benefits and career opportunities within Thailand and abroad with one of Asia's most exclusive hotel management companies. Applications with resume in English, a recent photograph, work certificates and salary expectations may be sent to:

### Alila Phuket

Pre-opening office, 9/2 Moo 6, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83150, Thailand  
Tel/Fax: 0-76 279 772  
Email: [hrphuket@alilahotels.com](mailto:hrphuket@alilahotels.com)

## New private villa in Layan seeking for.

**Positions** : 1 Chef, 1 Maid, 1 Barman / Pool Man  
**Qualification** : Chef / Thai food and Italian food  
: Experience in hotel or restaurant.  
: Some English speaking is require  
: Self-motivated and be able to work in a team  
: Thai, age not over 30  
: Offer an attractive salary

Applicant to: please send CV to [phuket@generalrecruit.com](mailto:phuket@generalrecruit.com)  
Tel 089 8730177, Fax 076 310226

## SECRETARY NEEDED

Secretary w/ experience needed. Good English and computer skills required. Tel: 087-0778454. Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

## QUALIFIED TEACHERS

needed. Horizons Learning Center, an international school for mainly expatriate students, seeks qualified K/G1 and G2/G3 teachers to start in August 2007. Native English speakers with university teaching certification required. Experience preferred. Fun, friendly work environment, inquiry-based program, generous school holidays. Tel: 076-238756. Email: [pamela@horizons-phuket.com](mailto:pamela@horizons-phuket.com)

## TRISARA

### DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING

Trisara, Phuket's leading small resort is seeking to fill the position of Director of Sales and Marketing.

Our marketing and sales strategies have positioned the resort at the highest end of the market on a global basis and we now seek a highly motivated Thai National to lead our international sales and marketing efforts, from our offices here in Phuket.

The successful candidate will have outstanding inter-personal skills, be well presented, have excellent English and general communication skills and be a positive, motivated person.

Our Director of Sales and Marketing will also have a strong record in driving the sales efforts of a luxury 5 star hotel in Thailand for at least 3 years and have strong connections to the travel industry in Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong. The position will require travel in the region on a number of occasions per year.

Applications should be initially sent via email to [fawn@trisara.com](mailto:fawn@trisara.com)

60/1 Moo 6, Srisoonthorn Road,  
Cherngtalay, Thalung, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076 310354, Fax: 076 310299, [www.trisara.com](http://www.trisara.com)

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator required for busy real estate office. Applicants must have excellent written and spoken English and Thai plus very good computer skills. Tel: 076-527565. Fax: 076-527564. Email: [cv@phuketoceanvillas.com](mailto:cv@phuketoceanvillas.com)

## PILOT TRAINING

The International Aviation College at Nakhon Phanom University is recruiting cadets for training at European standards for commercial pilot's license with instrument rating + MCC and ELT on simulator A320. Visit: [www.npu.ac.th/iac/](http://www.npu.ac.th/iac/)

**SECRETARY WANTED**  
for Thai and English company. You must be able to operate Windows, have a good command of English. Experience preferred. Please contact Tel: 083-1060088. Email: [princesspacific@lycos.co.uk](mailto:princesspacific@lycos.co.uk)

## Employment Wanted

### HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONAL

American expatriate resident in Phuket, 36 years old, fluently speaks five languages, holds a Hotel Management diploma from Switzerland. Working experience in Thailand in 4 & 5 star hotels and big companies. Looking for a Management position in Phuket at a hotel, real estate or company as Resident, Food & Bev, Sales or Marketing Manager. Please contact Tel: 089-7256994. Email: [abueli7@gmail.com](mailto:abueli7@gmail.com)

### JOB WANTED

50 years old, 6 languages, 15 years' experience in entertainment, 5 years in sales, 1 year in real estate. Have work permit. Call Tel: 085-7839062.



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### MOVING MUST SELL!

Laundry machines, motor-bikes, desktop computers, stainless steel water filter. Priced to sell! Contact Jesse for more information. Tel: 086-7428743.

### LOW INPUT, HIGH OUTPUT

Automatic carwash machines for sale. Starting from 3.9 million baht. For more details please email: carwash\_phuket@hotmail.com

### WOODEN SOFA SET

3-seater and 2-single seaters, both with cushions. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-4954761.

### CRISTINA JACUZZI

Quarter ring 1.3m x 1.4m. Price: 6,000 baht. Also sauna equipment. Price: 2,000 baht. Contact seller for specific details about items. Tel: 084-4454614.

### P150 SOUND SYSTEM

Fender, portable mixer with speakers and stands, 2 microphones, 1 stand, like new, beautiful design, easy to carry. New: 60,000 baht. Sell: 30,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-0603477.

### MANY ITEMS

for sale. Pentium 4 computer, 32" TV & CD combo, CD player, Pioneer DVD, speakers, 100 CD Sony karaoke, Sharp 3-CD player, HP 4000 laptop computer, printer and scanner, grass cutter, baby equipment. Please contact for specifics on any of the listed items. Tel: 081-2945441.

### GUITARS AND MORE

Fender Strat Japan 1987, Takamine with Fishman pickup, Motion AC, Dean Markley boss bluesdriver pedal, Fender small valve amplifier. Please call for additional information at Tel: 081-4972254.

### PICTURE LOUISIAN IN WOOD



120cm x 110cm. Painter "Rosse". Very interesting piece for restaurant or pub. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-2945441.

## 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 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

### ENGINEER OR MAD SCIENTIST

wanted to help with a hobby project. Could be an engineer, scientist, backyard inventor or anyone good at building stuff and has a better workshop than I do. Magnetic Sv experiments (spinning magnets around on discs at up to 20,000 RPM). Object is to increase/amplify magnetic viscosity (Sv), not to reduce it. Call Tel: 087-8954047. Email: iansworldtour@hotmail.com

## Business Opportunities

### CLOTHES SHOP

for sale. In Villa Dowroong. Nice big shop, good profit, includes rent and contract. Price: 450,000 baht. Tel: 087-4176393.

### EARN BIG MONEY

Real estate, invest 2 million baht and get 100% return. Email: admin@ideacon.biz

### BAR OFF BANGLA RD

Newly renovated bar in soi off Bangla Rd for sale. 4-year lease available. Tel: 089-9703697. Email: cuth22@hotmail.com

### HOTEL FOR LEASE

Long-term contract. 22 rooms fully refurbished, swimming pool, 60 covers restaurant, pizzeria. Running perfectly. Rental fee: 2.5 million baht per year. No key money. Please contact at Tel: 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at <http://www.ayudhya.net>

### RESTAURANT & BAR

Must sell 50% or 100% of this nice restaurant on Nanai Rd. Pool, big TV and Internet. Seats about 20 people. Only 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-113-3043. Email: barneywest@hotmail.com

**TSBA**  
Selling Going Concerns  
**EXCELLENT LOCATION**  
**PATONG CLUB**  
Great revenues+profits  
Long lease available  
If you want to buy or sell a business  
Call Kevin 084-7300190.  
Email: kevin@tsba.info  
www.tsba.info

### EXCELLENT BIZ OPPORTUNITY

Live and work in paradise for 1 million baht. Email: admin@ideacon.biz

### DANISH GRILL HOUSE

branch. 800,000 baht yearly, net profit of 12 million baht. Email: admin@ideacon.biz

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MLM leaders wanted. Build wealth & health. Make the investment of a lifetime. Email: info@uwould.com.au For further details, please see our website at <http://www.uwould.com.au>

**Owner moving to Chiang Mai will finance:**  
One of Patong's leading spas. Located in the center of "That's Siam" in the new Jungceylon Shopping Center. 2 suites, 5 full-body massage beds, includes certified staff. Interior by D. Komolwanich, designer for Queen Sirikit. Spa also has 5 chair-foot massage station at base of escalator. Perfect retirement business.  
**Tel: 089-866-7892.**

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Cafe, 32 seats, very busy, 2 apartments located above, newly refurbished, low rent, 5+5-year lease, great investment. Price: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8521977.

### GUESTHOUSE

for lease. Good location in Patong, 25 rooms, will eventually have a restaurant. Key money only 500,000 baht. Long-term contract available. Good general conditions. Tel: 076-292265, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at [www.ayudhya.net/english/business/index.php](http://www.ayudhya.net/english/business/index.php)

### SWISS INVESTOR

Private reasons: Offering my 50% partnership for 60,000 Swiss francs. Working and living in Thailand or Europe no problem. Business is working! Email: lifestylexxl2001@yahoo.de

### KATA RESTAURANT

Austrian restaurant in Kata for sale. Good and quiet location, 60 seats, ready for takeover. Contact for more information. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

### 5,000 EURO LOAN

Resident will pay for a 3-month loan between 5,000-12,000 Euro. Lawyer contract! Email: Kurfuerstendamm2000@yahoo.de

### BEAUTY SALON

Nanai Road. Fully equipped, many new things, good location. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sell: 350,000 baht ono. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-268-7241. Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com

### TEACHING SPACE

New, purpose-built room in established area of Patong is for sale. Spacious area with boards, phone line, ADSL, great aircon, includes office furniture, no key money, cheap rent, lots of parking. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-2763186.

### THAI COMPUTER LTD

Est. 2005 with international law firm before law changes. 4 million regular, 2 work permits for many kinds of businesses. Includes new furnished office. Genuine reason for sale. Please call for more information at Tel: 087-2763186.

### BAR FOR SALE

in Chalong. Internet lounge, wireless ADSL. Make an offer for the sale. For additional details, please visit our website: [www.roguelounge.com](http://www.roguelounge.com)

### BEST RESTAURANT

in Rawai. Beautiful restaurant, prime location. Up and running very well, long rental contract. Must be seen. Selling due to family reasons. Looking for quick sale, give me an offer! Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4435751. Email: phuketranahan@hotmail.com

### OCTOPUS BAR

Sports and pool bar at corner of Bangla Rd in Patong. Shares for sale. Please contact Ron for more details. Tel: 089-5915330, 084-1827809. Or via email: absoluteautos@hotmail.com

### GENUINE ONE-OF-A-KIND BIZ!

We have ideas for many types of businesses that have never been seen in Thailand before! Stand out from the crowd! Email: admin@ideacon.biz For your special business idea please visit <http://www.ideacon.biz>

### BEST RESTAURANT

in Rawai. Beautiful restaurant, prime location. Up and running very well, long rental contract. Must be seen. Selling due to family reasons. Looking for quick sale, give me an offer! Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4435751. Email: phuketranahan@hotmail.com

### KHAO LAK BANG NIANG



8 bungalows: 1 bedroom, 1 living room  
2 bungalows: 2 bedrooms, 1 living room  
1 restaurant and reception  
Swimming pool  
Parking space  
Thai steam sauna  
Finnish sauna  
3-meter Jacuzzi  
Telephone, Internet, Electric  
37-meter deep well, clean water  
Every bungalow has aircon, hot/cold water, TV  
Price: 12 million baht  
Please contact for additional information.  
Tel: 081-8914844.

### RETIRE ON ROCKET

science. Online option trader offers private consultancy. Trade in the world's biggest financial markets safely and profitably from home with a small account. You will be amazed, it's not rocket science. Zero experience required. Have an income in the tropics regardless of other people. 100% serious. Limited places. Tel: 081-7373958. Email: info@optionwok.com

### KAMALA BAR

and restaurant for sale. New renovation in Dec '06, all movables are new, 36 seats. Price: 650,000 baht. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 089-5911407. Email: gerd-janne@hotmail.com

### GUESTHOUSE

for sale in Patong. Call Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

### TRAVEL AGENCY

An established TAT-licensed travel agency is for sale in Patong. This 7-year-old business comes with an excellent website, corporate clients, and a superb reputation with it's clients, who include tourists, expats and Thai locals. Price: 1 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: +66-848528142. Email: trevor@bensonjack.com.au

### SHOPHOUSE RENTAL

contract for sale. 6 months remaining. Big shop, glass in front, shop carport, 4 big rooms. Located at Villa Dawroong. Price: 175,000 baht. Tel: 087-4176393.

### BEST PLACE OTOP

2 units (bar businesses). Best for any kind of business. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2778644. Email: make@thaicard.net

### PATONG BAR

Well-located beer bar. Call Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

### GUESTHOUSE

for sale in Patong. Call Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

### BOOKSHOP SALE

Patong OTOP bookshop for sale. Price: 690,000 baht. Please contact for additional information and details. Tel: 084-1705552.

### DISCOTHEQUE

in Phuket City. Fully furnished and equipped. Great staff team. Handles 300 people. For sale: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388623, 089-7317520.

### GUEST HOUSE PATONG

16 rooms, newly renovated. Internet, cable TV, aircon, bar. 3 mins to beach, busy location, 6-year lease. Price: 4.6 million baht. Contact K. Keith at Tel: 087-0211763. Email: keithhbrice@hotmail.com

### BAR/RESTAURANT

Koh Phi Phi:  
1. Successful bar/restaurant business + airconditioned apartment. Well established, great location for passing trade.  
2. New bar/restaurant and apartment, 15-year lease, under construction, completion in September '07.  
Price to include both premises and business name. Contact owner for full details. Tel: 089-4746007. Email: sgiandubh69@hotmail.com

### SOLID INVESTMENT

Multi business. Car care, 100sqm cafe/restaurant, 50sqm aircon office, separate toilet house, big parking area, billboard rental, 6 staff rooms. 3 minutes to Tesco Lotus. 1 location, 3-year lease. Please contact PVB, Bertrand for additional information and details. Tel: 081-2715292.

### AGRO-FORESTRY INVESTMENT

Guaranteed to return at least 100% in 3 years. Investment from US\$5,000. Contact via email: info@green-gold.info

### PUGWASH BAR

for sale. Pool table, darts. Contract paid to October 2008. Call or email for details. Tel: 087-3876401. Email: stellan\_larsson@hotmail.com

### BEAUTY SALON

and massage. Selling for half price, Chalong owner leaving, absolute bargain. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Business Products & Services

**Ivory Gallery Shop Patong**



Ivory Gallery Shop Patong Open daily from 10.00 to 21.00 hours  
Ivory Gallery Shop, Antique & Design  
200 Prabamee road, Patong-Phuket, Tel/Fax: 076-290026  
Email: ivoirantico@hotmail.com

**Phuket Magic**



★ Cabaret Show ★ Close Up Magic  
★ Strolling Magic ★ Balloon Modelling  
By Dave "Paul Jones"  
Bookings for:  
★ Hotels ★ Restaurants ★ Adults  
★ Childrens Parties, etc.  
Mb: 08-7888-7676  
www.phuketmagic.com, email: magic@phuketmagic.com

**VISA RUN**

Package A Ranong 1,599.-	Package B Andaman Club 1,800.-	Package C Penang 4,500.-
<b>BEST SERVICE</b> <u>Tour include</u> • Bus Transfer • Insurance • Breakfast • Lunch at Hot Spring Water • Big Boat • Visa Fee (10\$)	<b>ONLY EVE</b> <u>Tour include</u> • Bus Transfer • Insurance • Breakfast • Lunch at Hotel • Luxury Boat • Visa Fee (10\$)	<b>EVERY</b> Sunday and Wednesday Evening <b>BEST SERVICE</b> <u>Tour include</u> • Bus Transfer • Insurance • Hotel 3 Stars • Food

**CALL EVE** 081-535-2637, 089-195-4877

**VISA RUN**  
Penang and Ranong  
By Bangkok Legal Services Co., Ltd.

VISA RUN TO PENANG	VISA RUN TO RANONG
Every Sunday Night 3 Day trip to Penang including 3 Star hotel Single Room. Breakfast, Lunch, Transport and insurance. TV/DVD/Comfortable Reclining seat.	Thursday to Saturday 1 Day trip to Ranong including Immigration Fee, Boat, Soft drink.
<b>ONLY 4,900 BAHT.</b>	<b>1,500 BAHT ONLY.</b>

**Call For Booking**  
Thai or English: 081-0803414 (Khun Ning)  
ENG: 087-8947406 (Khun Steve), 081-8540061 (Khun Geoff).  
Office contact: 076-304072-3.  
info@bangkoklegalservice.com

**Sea Canoe Ferry Line Co., Ltd**

Offers Charter Boat to Phang Nga Bay, Phi Phi Island, Similan Island, Surin Island.  
Various capacity offered for 200, 60, 40 Passengers.  
Length 29.9m Beam 5.0m  
Draft 1.2m  
Power 2 x 560 hps Diesel

- Air Condition
- Toilets
- TV & Stereo



Contact: Sea Canoe Ferry Line Co., Ltd.  
367/4 Yaowaraj Rd., Taladyai,  
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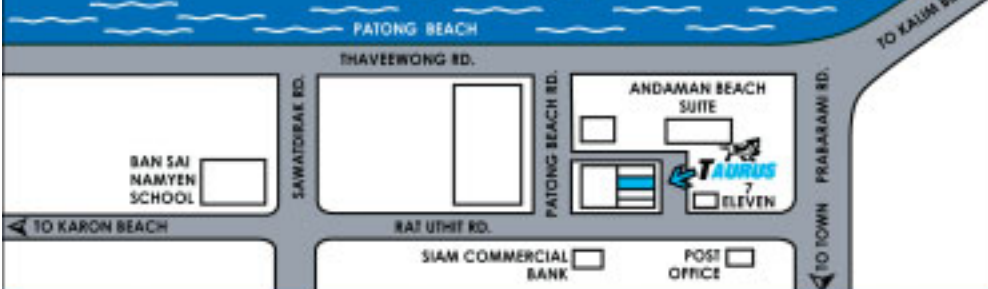
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