

# Phuket Gazette

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## Airport expansion funds approved

By Janyaporn Morel

**MAI KHAO:** Airports of Thailand (AOT) is set to inject 5 billion baht into the expansion of Phuket International Airport (PIA) to bring its capacity up to 11.5 million passengers by the year 2016 – an increase of 77% over current capacity.

The announcement was made on May 23 by Deputy Transport Minister Songsak Thongsri, who joined Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rathasima, PIA Director Wicha Nernlop and other officials from AOT and PIA in a meeting and inspection tour of the airport.

In 2007, PIA had a total of 38,368 flights, a 32.4% rise from 2006, with 5.47 million passengers using the airport, a 22.6% increase over the previous year. The sharp rise is attributed to the growing popularity of low-cost carriers.

This year, AOT expects the airport to accommodate 41,000 flights and about six million passengers.

Following the 516-million-baht expansion of the international terminal completed last year, the airport can now handle up to 6.5 million passengers per year.

The 5-billion-baht funding will cover the development plan for fiscal years 2009 to 2011, said K. Songsak.

Beyond that, AOT will need to provide more funding in order for the airport to be able to welcome 15 million visitors by 2020, he said.

The 2009-2011 budget will cover the construction of more taxiways and 11 parking bays for aircraft, a new international passenger terminal, the modification



This aerial photograph illustrates why the solitary runway at Phuket International Airport, with the Andaman Sea at one end and a main road at the other, cannot be extended much beyond its 3,000 meters.

of the existing international terminal into a domestic passenger terminal, a new cargo building, new roads and improved transport systems, a parking garage for the international terminal, improvements in car parking areas, and a new airport office and airline offices.

However, the two-year plan does not address the airport's main limiting factor: that its single 3,000-meter runway can only accommodate 20 flights per hour and is too short to allow for safe takeoff of fully-laden jumbo jets or mammoth Airbus 380s.

Given this restraint, AOT is intending to propose to the Transport Ministry that Krabi Interna-

tional Airport be designated as a relief airport for PIA when traffic exceeds capacity, K. Songsak said.

The deputy transport minister on May 25 also visited the intended site of the island's second bus station on Thepkasattri Rd, near Super Cheap in Koh Kaew.

Construction has been delayed because none of the six construction firms who took out plans for the work tendered a bid, which they say underestimates actual cost of materials.

K. Songsak advised local officials to review the plan and adjust the bid specifications to bring them in line with rising market prices.

## Secret list of 'influential people' drawn up

By Sompratch Saowakhon

**PHUKET:** A confidential black-list of "influential people" in Phuket's criminal underworld has been drawn up as part of a nationwide government campaign to monitor individuals who "pose a threat to society".

Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha on May 26 met senior provincial officers at Provincial Hall to finalize the list before sending it to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit for approval.

The final list was compiled based on whether individuals are known to be involved in any of 18 criminal activities, including offenses related to drugs, gambling, illegal migrant laborers, smuggling, hiring hitmen and Phuket's taxi "mafia", said V/ Gov Tri.

"To be on the list, an individual must also have a network of people working for him or her, or be known to have the support of a powerful person, such as a government officer," he added.

It was not revealed how many names are on the list or whether those blacklisted have been convicted of crimes.

The district chief and police superintendents of each of Phuket's three districts – Muang, Thalung and Kathu – compiled and passed on to the provincial committee a list of known "influential people" in their respective districts.

"The governor and the provincial police commander must now sign and confirm the list," he said.

"We will be monitoring all of the people on the list so that if there are any crimes we think they are involved in, we can

Continued on page 2



From page 1

## Secret list compiled

easily arrest them," he added.

Although the list will not be released to the media, V/Gov Tri confirmed that all the people on the list live in Phuket.

The list is similar to blacklists drawn up by the government during Thailand's war on drugs under the Thaksin regime. Black-listed individuals were targeted as part of an intensive nationwide crackdown on drugs, which saw extra-judicial killings by police of more than 2,000 alleged drug dealers.

Thailand's latest war on drugs began on April 2 this year, although neither Governor Niran nor V/Gov Tri were available to confirm or deny a link to this latest blacklist.

## American commits suicide in Chalong

CHALONG: According to a business card left at the hotel where he took his life, a man found hanged in a rented room in Chalong on May 19 was American dive instructor Adrian Martin.

On the evening of May 13, staff at Ao Chalong Mansion reported to police that the guest in room 206, on the third-floor of the small shophouse hotel, had used an electrical cord to hang himself from a clothesline in his room.

Found by a room maid, Mr Martin's body was naked at the time of discovery.

The business card, given to the *Gazette* by the hotel management, described Mr Martin as the proprietor of the Marina Del Rey Dive Service.

A female staffer at the hotel said Mr Martin, 50, was a dual-national, having been born in Mexico and later naturalized as a US citizen.

# OrBorJor council gets down to business

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: In the inaugural sitting of the new Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) council on May 21, Pradit Sangjan secured 18 votes of the 24-seat council to be elected council chairman.

K. Pradit, who represents Muang District 11, in Wichit, bested Somkuan Tansakul, the only other candidate nominated to contest the position.

K. Somkuan represents Muang District 1, comprising Samkong in Phuket City.

As chairman, K. Pradit does not vote in

the first instance, but has the power to call a re-vote or decide on a vote in the case of a deadlock.

In other *OrBorJor* business, Sanit Siriwat (Thalang District 5, Thepkasattri) was voted vice-chairman and Teera Jiasakul (Muang District 10, Wichit) was voted second vice-chairman.

Kraiut Kumban was voted *OrBorJor* Secretary.

*OrBorJor* President Paiboon Upatising appointed Chawalit Na Nakhon and Soratam Jinda as his vice-presidents.

Four people were named *OrBorJor*

consultants: Arsin Arammetapong (tourism issues), Jirayut Songyot (quality-of-life issues), Somchai Duangkhae (education) and Jirasak Tortip (Societal issues and Islamic relations).

Presiding over the provincial council session was Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit. Also present were Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatwichai and Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch.

*OrBorJor* Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Manop Leelasuthanon served as secretary for the proceedings.

# Phuket's antiques all accounted for

By Sompratch Saowakhon

THALANG: After a nationwide spate of thefts and damage to important cultural and religious sites, Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima on May 22 paid a visit to Thalang National Museum to make sure its collection, for which the Fine Arts Department is responsible, remains safe.

Thalang Museum Curator Atjima Nukong told him all the museum's items were accounted for and being properly protected.

V/Gov Worapoj's inspection followed Fine Arts Department director-general Kriengkrai Sampat-chalit's call for better security measures at historical sites nationwide after high-profile incidents of damage and theft were reported in Nakhon Ratchasima, Buri Ram and Rayong.

After meeting with staff at the Thalang museum, V/Gov Worapoj and his entourage stopped to inspect the condition of the nearby Heroine's Monument. Built in 1967, the statues of Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthon were found to be in good condition.

V/Gov Worapoj told the *Gazette* that he had asked for



Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima (center) speaks to local officials about the condition of the Heroines' Monument, which was built in 1967 to honor Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthon.

status reports from around the island about important statues and other objects. Although there were no reports of loss or damage, he called on the public to keep an eye out to ensure that important cultural artifacts remain out of the hands of smugglers and thieves.

People should report any such activity immediately to their local administrative body, he added.

Thalang Museum curator K. Atjima reminded tourists that it is illegal to take antiques such as Buddha images out of the country.

They must obtain a clearance certificate from the museum to take even replica antique items out of the country, she said.

So far this year, the museum has inspected some 100 items to determine authenticity, she said.

## SIPA helps to fast-track yacht registrations

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: The Phuket Office of the Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) has announced its plan for a first step in creating a true one-stop service for yacht and crew registrations at Ao Chalong pier.

In February, SIPA was tasked with creating a "device" to help track yachts visiting Thai waters, as well as streamlining procedures among the Marine, Immigration and Customs offices in charge of processing the yachts, crew and cargo at the pier.

SIPA Specialist Pracha Asawaweera, at a meeting at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) office on May 20, said that SIPA had studied the registration procedures of the three agencies and found that they were complicated and involved extensive paperwork.

SIPA designed a format, he said, that will bring all the information together into a centralized database that can be easily accessed and updated by each of the relevant offices.

The registration step would be less time consuming, requiring only one or two officers from the *OrBorJor* to help in fill in the data.

SIPA has put the budget for this first phase at about 2 million baht.

Phuket Provincial Information and Communications Office Chief Somnuk Wijitsarat said that the first-stage proposal will be passed to Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima for consideration.

The budget will be funded by the *OrBorJor* at the end of the year, he added.

"The project is expected to start early next year and it will take about six months to complete," K. Somnuk said.

K. Pracha said that the next phase of the project involves improving security issues but that these would have to be developed together with the Third Naval Command.

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# Donations needed to provide Burmese aid

By Nick Davies

PHUKET: Donations of equipment to provide emergency food and shelter for victims of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar are gradually piling up at collection points around Phuket, but more donations are needed before there is a chance of the supplies providing the much-needed relief.

The Royal Thai Navy (RTN) Third Naval Command at Cape Panwa, Baan Kamala School and the Kusoldharm Foundation have been accepting donations of food and equipment since the cyclone devastated large parts of the Irrawaddy Delta.

Cyclone Nargis hammered the region with winds exceeding 190 kilometers per hour for more than 10 hours on May 2, killing many and leaving an estimated 2 million people without food and shelter, according to the Red Cross.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies estimates that up to 95% of homes in rural parts of the country were completely destroyed by the cyclone, which also uprooted trees and brought down power lines.

Director of Baan Kamala School Nawarat Samuthkota said that people can make donations at the school to be later taken to the RTN Third Naval Command, as will items collected at the Kusoldharm Foundation.

The donations include fluorescent striplights and fittings,



The pile of donated goods at the Third Naval Command at Cape Panwa continues to grow. More donations are needed before the stockpile will be transported to Bangkok.

corrugated iron, canvas and tarpaulin for tents, dried and canned food, rice and drinking water.

People wishing to make donations can take items to the following collection points:

The RTN Third Naval Command at Cape Panwa between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm. Tel: 076-391826.

Baan Kamala School. Tel: 076-279239 (K. Pudsadee or K. Suda).

Kusoldharm Foundation, 34 Phun Pol, Soi 9 Rd, Talad Nua, Phuket City (opposite James Garden). For more information call 076-211706, 076-246216, 076-246301. Email: info@kusoldharm

foundation.org

Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) President Jutta Dumluck is also helping to co-ordinate relief efforts. Tel: 089-4643006.

At the time of going to press, the *Gazette* could not confirm precisely when or how the donated items will be taken to Myanmar.

However, Capt Sreecharoen said that the items will be taken to the RTN headquarters in Bangkok to be transported to Myanmar by air and handed over to the Myanmar Air Force when enough items have been collected to warrant transporting them.

# Gov meets over use of reclaimed SorPorKor land

PHUKET: Following final rulings by the Supreme Court to return disputed *SorPorKor* land plots to the state, Phuket provincial authorities met at Phuket Provincial Office on May 26 to discuss how the land will be used to benefit the public.

At the meeting were Anan Phusitthikul, secretary-general of the Agricultural Land Reform Office, and Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit.

Final judgment was passed on 98 rai of land near Kata viewpoint in Karon, which had been occupied by Tossaporn Thepabutr, and four plots totaling 16 rai – two in Karon, two in Kamala – used by Charoen Thawornwongwong.

K. Anan announced that the 98 rai in Karon will be designated as a public park, while the

plots in Kamala and Karon will likely be landscaped as public beachfront land.

In the first week of June, provincial and state authorities will announce definite plans for how the land will be transformed.

“Our team from Bangkok will spend 10 days helping Phuket provincial authorities establish the best ways to restore the returned *SorPorKor* land,” said K. Anan.

He added that suggestions included an agricultural center to help farmers increase the value of their produce and setting aside land for tourism-related activities.

Ten other *SorPorKor* plots are under investigation – three by the Supreme Court and seven are under appeal. All are prime sites in the popular tourist areas of Patong and Karon.

– *Pathomporn Kaenkrachang*

# Brit shot, robbed in Chalong

CHALONG: Police are hunting two suspects who shot and robbed a British man while he was riding home on Patak Rd before dawn on May 22.

Chalong Police Superintendent Col Samarn Chainarong on May 23 confirmed that UK national Richard Hendren, 50, who runs the September beer bar on Soi One Man in Karon, was riding home to Chalong around 5 am when he was attacked.

Riding pillion was Phraewnapa Laohongse, 13, the daughter of one of the bar staff. She was to return the bike to the bar.

As the pair rounded the final bend coming down Kata Hill and into Chalong, two men wearing full-face helmets on a motor-

bike pulled alongside. The man on the back kicked the bike, causing it to crash.

As the victims lay on the road, the man who had been riding pillion demanded their valuables.

When Mr Hendren said he didn't have any, he was shot in the left leg. The blast caused a compound bone fracture to add to the extensive injuries he had sustained in the crash.

Mr Hendren was forced to hand over his waist pouch, which contained cash as well as ATM and bank cards.

The bandits then robbed the girl of 200 baht and her mobile phone before riding off toward Karon.

# Internet petition calls for another probe into One-Two-Go crash

BANGKOK (*Daily Xpress*): More than 4,400 people, mostly foreigners, have “signed” an Internet petition seeking another formal investigation into the crash of One-Two-Go Airlines Flight OG269 at Phuket International Airport on September 17 last year.

The petition calls for a formal probe into claims that the crash may have been caused by controversial management practices by the airline.

Relatives of some of the 90 people killed in the crash have written to Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej seeking an independent inquiry into allegations raised by a television report that the boss of One-Two-Go and its sister airline Orient Thai encouraged pilots to adopt unsafe practices, such as excessive flying hours.

The allegations are detailed on the website [www.investigateudom.com](http://www.investigateudom.com) set up by the Ameri-

can sister of a man who was killed in the crash.

In the documentary aired on Australian TV last year, Udom Tantisprasong-chai, the head of One-Two-Go and Orient Thai, denied any wrongdoing. However, families of the deceased –

many of whom have signed the petition – appear unconvinced.

Many of those who have signed the petition have also expressed a lack of faith that the inquiries being conducted by the Department of Civil Aviation will get to the true cause of the crash.

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# Saphan Hin incinerator:

Despite being nearly a state-of-the-art facility when it opened in mid-1999, Phuket City Municipality's incineration plant has been the subject of negative attention in recent years.

When the plant opened, claims by protesters that the facility would poison local residents with dioxin were dismissed by engineers attesting that when trash is burned at the very high temperatures that the Saphan Hin incinerator is designed to – no dioxin emissions are created.

However, the issue of whether the plant emits dioxin today was raised during campaigning in the recent Phuket City Municipality elections.

Technically called polychlorinated dibenzodioxins, dioxins are organic compounds that can accumulate in the body and – at high concentrations – cause mutations, birth defects and cancer.

Although dioxin occurs naturally in the environment, concentrations increase substantially through a variety of man-made sources, ranging from diesel engines and incineration plants to the simple act of smoking a cigarette.

Emissions from the Saphan Hin plant are tested quarterly by SGS (Thailand) Ltd, both inside the stack and from six monitoring points spread out over a three kilometer radius from the plant. Thus far, analytical results using US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) methods at the monitoring sites show that the emissions have fallen to within

During the run-up to the recent Phuket City Municipality elections, the problems plaguing the waste incinerator plant at Saphan Hin became a political football, with candidates making all sorts of accusations of its past performance and claims of how they would improve the facility.

One issue that resurfaced was the safety of the emissions from the incinerator's smokestack, and whether it has doused the local population in the carcinogen dioxin – a key concern as the incinerator is located in the heart of a popular recreational area for Phuket City residents.

The *Gazette's* Chief Reporter Janyaporn Morel and News Editor Stephen Fein report.

safe government standards.

Bandit Jantawat, managing director of BTECH Mitsui Co-operation Co Ltd, which has run the plant under a contract with Phuket City Municipality since July last year, told the *Gazette* that in the latest round of sampling, on the late afternoon of April 11, test samples came back from the SGS lab with low concentrations.

In 1997, the Ministry of Science and Technology mandated that the maximum dioxin concentrations allowable from the plant are 30 nanograms per cubic meter at normal temperature (25°C) and pressure (1 atm), K. Bandit explained.

While the levels sampled from the top of the stack slightly exceeded this 30ng/Nm<sup>3</sup> standard in January this year, the concentrations never came close exceeding safe standards at six

nearby monitoring sites within the three-kilometer radius, including Phuket Vocational College and Suan Luang Park.

With the subsequent introduction of technology that continuously sprays activated carbon powder over the exhaust stream, absorbing dioxin, the plant was able to lower smokestack emissions to just 6.8ng/Nm<sup>3</sup> on April 11, the SGS results showed.

All other smokestack emissions – including particulate dust, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and hydrogen chloride gases – also continue to fall within safe standards, K. Bandit said.

As has already been widely reported, the plant's sole incinerator can only burn 250 tons of refuse a day, less than half of the average 550 tons of trash sent to it daily. The remaining 300 tons continues to up on a nearby 170 rai landfill that is already well past its safe capacity, he added.

Designed to house two separate incinerators, the island now desperately needs some 2 billion baht in central government funding for a second burner.



However, until those funds are approved, effective waste-sorting strategies could reduce the amount of trash currently being incinerated and lower dioxin emission much further, said K. Bandit.

As the main cause of creating dioxins is well known – mixing organic matter and plastics in the incinerator – K. Bandit said the problem could be eliminated with a little help from everyone.

A comprehensive, island-wide trash-sorting system could reduce the amount of trash that

needs to be incinerated by about 40%. This would increase the plant's efficiency, as dioxin and other pollutants are completely destroyed at the kind of very high temperatures that occur when the waste stream is free of organic materials – such as leftover *somtam* and sticky rice.

"Garbage separation that can really make a difference can be as simple as getting people to sort wet garbage from dry, as wet garbage lowers the burning temperature and lowers efficiency. From there, the dry garbage can be sorted into recyclable materials and that which needs to be incinerated. It isn't very complicated," he said.

Another benefit of doing this would be the energy supply. Currently, the plant produces all the electricity it needs for its own operations and sells the excess back to the local power grid.

"Our capacity to generate electricity falls sharply when there is a lot of wet trash and organic material in the waste stream.

Currently we only produce about 1.6 megawatts per day, which is only about 70% of design capacity.

"Current revenue from electricity production is about 1 million baht per month, all of which goes to the municipality. So there is a great incentive to increase that production to full capacity," he said.

Prachum Suriya, who heads Phuket City Municipality's Environmental division, fully agrees that garbage separation is the key to the solution.

The city also has expansion

**PROPERTY RESALE**

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<p><b>3 Laguna Townhome II THB 24 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey Townhome</li> <li>• 25 sqm private pool</li> <li>• on golf course</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 39 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-storey Townhome</li> <li>• 2 beds • rooftop pool</li> <li>• guaranteed rental return</li> </ul>
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# should we breathe easy?



When the Saphan Hin incinerator (left) opened, claims by protesters that the facility would poison local residents with dioxin were dismissed by engineers. However, the issue of whether the plant emits dioxin today was raised during campaigning in the recent Phuket City Municipality elections.

of its waste-based, electric-generation capacity as part of its master development plan.

In November last year, Electricity Generating Plc (Egco, a private company set up by the Electricity Generation Authority of Thailand), PTT Plc and Sepco Asia Group signed an memorandum of understanding to build a 1.8-billion-baht sewage-to-garbage plant that would also turn used plastics to usable petrochemical products.

Already, Thalang Green Co Ltd has been formed as the juris-

tic vehicle for the project, K. Prachum said.

Unfortunately, the ambitious project has been suspended because of legal considerations and the fact that any joint state-private investment over one billion baht needs Cabinet approval.

"Egco is studying the proposal and will request an exemption from some provisions of the Joint Investment Act based on the fact that the project would convert waste to energy. If the project receives an exemption, it could move forward with approval

from just the municipality and province," he said.

Not willing to guess when such an exemption might be granted, K. Prachum said Phuket Municipality continues to study other waste-treatment options in the meantime.

"We still need a budget of about 10 million baht to do a comprehensive waste-management study that would cover all phases from separation and transport to disposal. We will need to improve our management, because now we have separation capabilities but no way to transport or dispose of the separated garbage.

"In the short term, we need a new incinerator and expanded landfill capacity. Our current plan is to improve our existing landfill so that it can accept trash for two more years," he said.

As for toxic waste, K.

Prachum said that Phuket City Municipality already has a collection point at the plant for toxic-waste items, such as old batteries and spray paint cans. These are removed from the waste stream and handed over to the Pollution Control Department (PCD).

"The PCD asks us to pay a disposal cost, but so far we have haven't sent them any of the collected materials so we don't know how much they will charge us," he said.

He admitted that a certain amount of toxic waste made it through the separation phase and ended up being landfilled or incinerated.

They always say that education is the key to maintaining a clean environment. In Phuket City the job of informing the public about the need to reduce, sort and recycle household waste falls to

Wina Pikunpron, who heads the city's Public Health Division.

To encourage trash sorting, the city last year introduced a system of two different colored trash cans, green for "general waste" and blue for "organic" refuse.

Unfortunately, the color schemes are counterintuitive to foreigners, who presume green as the color for organic wastes. The bins having no markings in English also limits their effectiveness among foreign visitors.

More recently, at fresh markets, the municipality has introduced three different-colored bins as well as a cabinet-like structure to accept toxic wastes.

"We haven't started our public relations campaign in every area, but have started with signs in areas that produce the most waste – especially organic waste that can be collected and converted into fertilizer," she said.

At the start of the fiscal year, the city will provide a 700,000 baht budget for the first phase of the campaign, which will receive support from the Phuket City Environment Division and the 300-member Phuket Environmental Protection Society, an NGO.

K. Wina understands that it will take a huge effort to introduce trash separation measures all across a fast-growing province like Phuket. However, as a cause for optimism, she cited plants put in place by Thepkasattri Municipality and Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization that turn organic waste into fertilizer.

"We still need to do more public relations work to educate people how important it is to separate trash and garbage at the source," she said.

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The two-day exhibition is open to the public from 10 am to 7 pm. Also, an exclusive presentation and private appointments are available on 2-5 June, 2008 at the Knight Frank offices in Shui On Centre on Harbour Road, opposite the Hong Kong Convention Centre. Prospective home owners are invited to meet with Laguna Property Sales and Knight Frank representatives from 10 am to 7 pm.

Investors reserving a Laguna Phuket property at the exhibition will receive a special package for 2-nights' accommodation at Laguna Phuket including breakfast; two rounds of 18-hole golf; a 90-minute massage session for two at Angsana Spa; a Phang-Nga Bay or a Cultural Tour for two and flight reimbursement upon purchase of property.

For further information or to schedule private appointments, please contact

Mr. Amous Lee. Tel: +66 (0) 844 8108 / +852 2846 4850 (amous.lee@th.knightfrank.com)





## Kickabout academy

**PATONG:** Football star Luther Blissett (wearing blue cap) was on hand at the Patong Municipality football field on May 27 to train 30 lucky local children.

The children, from Baan Sainamyen School, were taught the basics of shooting, passing and balance before playing a match at the end of the session.

The event was part of the Asian Celebrity Golf Tour charity event, which saw players of all handicaps going head-to-head with British sport celebrities at Loch Palm on May 28 and 29.

## Call for Brits to register with Foreign Office

**THAILAND:** The Consular Section of the British Embassy for Thailand is calling for all UK nationals traveling or living in Thailand to register through its new online registration system LOCATE.

The service allows the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to locate British nationals in the event of a crisis abroad.

To register, visit [www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/Locate/](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/Locate/)

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office website advises, "You only need to register for the service once and then update your account when you make a new trip abroad. You can even add planned trips abroad up to a year ahead."

Regarding information privacy, the FCO website states, "Your details will be stored on a secure database which can only be accessed by staff in our embassies or our Consular Crisis Group.

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People who have already registered for the Foreign Office's Online Services are urged to also register on LOCATE.

Registrants will not automatically receive travel advice email alerts. To do so, registrants must sign up for email alerts separately.

People who have difficulties registering are asked to email [locatebangkok@fco.gov.uk](mailto:locatebangkok@fco.gov.uk)

## Queer News

# Sacred salute gives police problems

**NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT:** Police in Phromkhiri district are investigating why a policeman fired a 21-bullet salute following a private visit to a temple by Education Minister Somchai Wongsawat and his wife, Yaowapa, younger sister of deposed former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

On May 18, K. Somchai and K. Yaowapa traveled to pay their respects at a number of temples in Nakhon Sri Thammarat province.

After visiting Wat Mahathat in Muang district, famed for its Jatukham Ramathep amulets, the pair moved on to Wat Khun Phanom in Phromkhiri district to perform a ceremony to King Taksin the Great (no relation to the former prime minister).

Many observers reportedly speculated that the couple were trying to bring an end to the spell of bad luck that had led to the downfall of their powerful relative.

After the Brahman ceremony concluded, a police officer fired off a 21-bullet salute with his police-issue HK assault rifle.

Soon, however, people started to question whether the salute, using police equipment and in a public area, was appropriate for a private visit to a temple – even if the visitors were a big-shot government minister and sister of one of the country's most powerful figures.

After visiting Wat Mahathat in Muang district, the pair moved on to Wat Khun Phanom in Phromkhiri district to perform a ceremony to King Taksin the Great (no relation to the former prime minister).

After hearing of the incident, Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Krachang Suwannarat ordered the superintendent of Phromkhiri District Police to investigate.

"I accept that the visit to pay respects to Taksin the Great was a private outing. We have to establish whether government property was used in the salute.

"From the preliminary investigation, it looks as if the salute did indeed happen. I met [K. Somchai and K. Yaowapa] when they arrived in the province, but did not accompany them to Phromkhiri.

"Most people light firecrackers after the [Taksin the Great] ceremony," explained Gen Krachang.

It was not reported if the

local firecracker salesman had closed up shop early that day.

Phromkhiri Police Superintendent Col Erp Khonklam said that he would explain the incident to his superiors, but at present would reveal only that police helped in the ceremony at the temple's request.

A source high up in Nakhon Sri Thammarat Police said that the low-ranking officer responsible for the salute would definitely need an order from higher up before firing rounds from an assault rifle at a place of worship.

Nevertheless, a source from Phromkhiri Police revealed that a committee had been formed to officially examine the personal conduct of the NCO in question.

It was also revealed that an HK rifle was chosen for the task because it is louder than an M-16, the other make of assault rifle commonly used by police.

Another police officer, who again asked not to be named, said that the unfortunate NCO was being set up to take responsibility for the incident. The order for the salute had been given verbally, leaving the hapless shooter no evidence with which to defend himself.

Phromkhiri Police have a week to conclude their investigations, Gen Krachang said.

**Source: KomChadLuek**

# Robbers nab everything – and the kitchen sink

**PHRAE:** In the course of a typical home break-in, it is hardly unusual for an intruder to force a door or break a window to gain entry.

A recent case in Phrae,

however, was a little out of the ordinary: the thieves not only broke in through a door, but once inside, they stole other doors, windows – and even the kitchen sink.

At 11:30 am on May 24, homeowner Pawana Wilairat reported a burglary at her property in Muang district's Tambon Pa Mat to Sen Sgt Maj Praphan Kaowmora of the Phrae Muang District Police.

K. Pawana, 48, told the officer that when she went to the house, which she had rented out to a tenant, she found that two teak doors, four framed windows, 10 screen doors and an aluminum sink had all been removed from the dwelling.

Witnesses who eventually came forward said they saw men loading the fixtures into a white Mazda truck before driving off, though no-one saw it fit to notify police at the time.

Police said they will try and bring the dangerous door thieves to justice as swiftly as possible.

**Source: Khao Sod**

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The 7<sup>th</sup> Samui International Yacht Regatta will once again serve as the grand finale of the Asian Yachting Grand Prix Championships series, with this year's event running from June 1 to 7.

Callum Laing, the new organizer of the event, plans to bring this year's competition to a new level while maintaining the same laid-back island style of years gone by.

"We really appreciate the huge effort the many international participants make to attend the Samui Regatta year on year and guarantee another great event in 2008," he said.

Bangkok-based MobyElite will be running the event, and local Samui sailing celebrity Francesco Brancaccio has been appointed to head up the island management team with Race Officer Tony Denham making his third return to take charge on the water.

Renowned international judge Mark Pryke, also from Australia, will bring his vast knowledge and experience in Asian regattas to bear, returning as head of the jury. Meanwhile, long-serving directors Marc Ribail and Peter Plant are looking forward to yet another successful event.

Some 35 to 40 yachts and 300 participants are expected to join the event.

Organizers say that Matt Allen's *Ichi Ban* is being shipped from Dubai, fresh from her recent victory at the Maktoum Cup, to fight for the Premier Racing class title.

Ray Roberts on *Quantum Racing*, who has already wrapped up the Asian Yachting Grand Prix championship, is also expected to join the race. He will face some stiff competition from rival Frank Pong on *Jelik* and defending Samui champion Bill Bremner on his new *Foxy Lady IV*, a TP52 recently shipped in from the US.

Many other familiar faces on the Asian yachting scene are set to compete, including Sam Chan on *Ffree Fire*, Neil Pryde on *Hi-Fi*, Fred Kinmonth and Nick Burns on *Mandrake* and Chris Meads on his new Corby 43 *Full Metal Jacket*.

Full details on the event are at [www.samuiregatta.com](http://www.samuiregatta.com)

**Falling tree kills boy.** On May 5, a nine-year-old boy was killed after strong winds toppled a large mango tree, causing it to fall on the sleeping child's house.

Sithichoke "Pond" Phetnui was asleep with his parents Surachet Samsuwan, 40, and Suwipha Daoloy, 29, when the tree crashed through the roof of his home just before dawn.

The boy's parents, rescuers and police tried in vain to free the

# Yachties set to battle in the Gulf



Some high-powered racing is expected in the Koh Samui International Regatta this year, with 300 sailors due to hit the water starting June 1.

boy, who was pinned under the tree's massive trunk for nearly 30 minutes. Soon after cutting him free he was rushed to Koh Samui Hospital, where he died from his massive injuries.

The heavy winds were attributed to Cyclone Nargis, which was reported to have also caused large waves and brought down trees elsewhere on Koh Samui.

**Immigration crackdown:** The Marine Police reported that 25 illegal immigrants were arrested earlier this month aboard a fishing boat off the coast

of Koh Samui.

Eighteen of the arrested were of Burmese origin while the others were here illegally from Cambodia, police said.

Following a tipoff, officers from the Koh Samui Immigration Office and the Marine Police carried out the raid on the vessel.

Meanwhile, Pol Lt Col Jaruwat Bootsaba reported that 70 Burmese nationals were found working on a construction site on the island without the correct permits. All were taken back to the border of Burma.

The government and immigration officials are said to be cracking down hard on illegal migrant workers after the tragic deaths of 54 Burmese who suffocated in a truck while being smuggled from Ranong to Phuket.

**Murder suspect held.** The prime suspect in the April 13 murder of a former Koh Pha

Ngan tambon chief Nakorn Roengrot has been arrested.

After a manhunt that involved more than 80 police officers, suspect Pittaya Inkhong, 39,

was arrested. Two other men, both still at large, are also under suspicion for involvement in the murder.

Pittaya is the current *kam-*

*nan* of Koh Pha-ngan, a position that Nakorn had formerly held. Police investigating the crime found a possible motive for Pittaya's involvement, stating there had been a dispute over the final count of votes in the October 2007 election for the post, narrowly won by Pittaya.

A small margin of only 100 votes separated the two and Nakorn asked for a recount.

K. Nakorn died from gunshot wounds inflicted by whom police believe were two hired hit men, who shot him down at his home and in full view of his young son.

During a raid on Pittaya's house, police found two .38-caliber automatic weapons with ammunition, along with a shotgun containing 25 bullets.

The two other suspects, Wuttichai Maspun, 21, and Surasak Chukiow, 23, are believed to be the gunmen who actually committed the shooting, said police.

After the raid, Pittaya was taken to Koh Samui Police Station for questioning. He denied any involvement with the murder.

His request for bail was rejected by Pol Maj Gen Santhan Chayanon of Police Region 8, who said his release could impede the ongoing investigation. Pittaya will remain at the Samui jail while awaiting his initial court appearance.



## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

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# Gulf fishermen plagued by pirates, petrol prices

While fishermen in the Gulf of Thailand have been protesting the effects that rising fuel prices are having on their livelihoods, an outbreak of piracy off the coast of Nakhon Sri Thammarat province has led Marine Police to step up patrols in the area.

Amphol Jensetarat, president of the Khanom District Fishermen's Association, on May 24 said that in the past two weeks, two fishing boats in the area, one off Khanom district and one off Sichon district, were robbed by pirates.

Both attacks occurred at about 3 am. As crews were preparing to head back ashore after making their nightly catches, a small fishing boat pulled alongside and a group of six masked men armed with pistols and shotguns boarded, K. Amphol said.

The pirates took the nights' catch as well as fishing equipment, he added.

Lt Col Phromrat Phromyaphon, an inspector with Khanom District Marine Police, said that these were the first incidents

of piracy he has encountered in his 10 years of patrolling the waters from Don Sak district in Surat Thani south to Tha Sala district in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The crews involved in the incidents told police that after their boats had been boarded, they were ordered to lie face down on the deck while the pirates robbed items from the boats – even stealing some of the crews' clothing, Col Phromrat said.

Marine police, who have increased the number of patrols in the area, have urged fishermen to be on the lookout for any suspicious boats and to radio for help if they are approached while at sea, Col Phromrat.

Marine police, who have increased the number of patrols in the area, have urged fishermen to be on the lookout for any suspicious boats.

Traikrit Meusanthat, deputy president of Chumphon Fishermen's Association, said that Chumphon has also seen a rise in attacks on fishing boats, with a number of incidents in the past month.

On May 20, fishermen in Sichon burned a boat and used more than 100 boats to block the entrance to Sichon Bay in protest of rising fuel prices.

Protesters submitted a list of seven requests to Nakhon Sri Thammarat Governor Wichom

Thongsuk. These included debt relief, a cap on fuel prices, loosening of conditions for employing migrant workers and action to crack down on piracy.

On May 24, Sutham Witchutraiphop, president of Nakhon Sri

Thammarat Fishermen's Association, said that Governor Wichom had agreed to meet the protesters' demands. He added, however, that if conditions for fishermen in the province did not start to improve, they would take further action.

**Forestry folly.** A Krabi Provincial Forestry Department officer was arrested for possession of more than 850 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills on May 20. Three other men were arrested in the raid, conducted jointly by Phatthalung Provincial Police and Region 9 Narcotics Suppression Officers.

Following a tipoff, a team of



## FLAMING PROTEST

A fishing boat set ablaze in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Sichon Bay on May 20 in protest of the impact rising fuel prices are having on the livelihoods of the region's fishermen.

more than 20 officers stormed a house in Village 3, Tambon Khok Cha-ngai in Phatthalung's Muang district. There they seized 854 orange *ya bah* pills and one .38-caliber pistol.

The house's occupants – Wiraphong Intharakul, 29, a forestry officer in Krabi's Ao Leuk district; Jakrin Somphetch, 26; Kiatsin Thiansaeree, 29; and Jarin Rotsuk, 31 – were placed under arrest. They later confessed to selling *ya bah* to local youths for 350 baht a pill, police reported.

The four suspects, all from Phatthalung, were then handed over to Phatthalung Muang District Police to be charged with possession of a Class 1 drug with intent to supply.

**Mega-project given thumbs up.** Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, the visiting chairman of the Dubai World group, has expressed confidence that the proposed logistics network and land-bridge project in southern Thailand would be successful.

Dubai World signed a memorandum of understanding with the Thai government on May 22 to conduct a feasibility study on the mega-infrastructure scheme.

The sultan said the project has a good chance of success because it will connect the Middle East, India and other Asian sub-continent economies with those in the Far East, especially China, Japan, Korea, and land-locked countries via a shorter transport route.

The Thai Cabinet granted approval for the feasibility study, which includes the land bridge linking the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea and a deep-sea port at Pakbara in Satun. An industrial zone will also be built in the land-bridge area.

Transport Minister Santi Prompat said that Dubai World would shoulder the entire Bt200 million cost of the one-year feasibility study and with no binding conditions.

"The study results will be disclosed publicly and interested parties worldwide can join the bidding," he added.

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem said the project should benefit Thailand and other parties concerned since a large number of jobs will be created, especially in southern Thailand, where there has been unrest for years.

The sultan believed that economic prosperity could help solve the problem in southern Thailand since poverty often breeds unrest and terrorism.

In the case of Dubai, a small sultanate in the United Arab Emirates, economic prosperity has proved to be a key driver of social stability, even though Dubai itself has no oil reserves.

Dubai has prospered as a service centre for the oil-rich Middle East, while the state-owned Dubai World is currently in transport and logistics, property development, maritime transport, commodities, financial services and other businesses.

### Militants 'using child soldiers'.

In a worrying development in the Deep South, there is increasing evidence that non-state armed groups have used boys for propaganda purposes.

Boys have been used to distribute leaflets and write graffiti as well as in arson attacks and on some occasions to plant bombs, according to the 2008 Child Soldiers Global Report released earlier this month.

Citing confidential interviews in February last year, the report read, "Although reliable information was scarce, there were credible reports of the use of children in operations by separatist armed groups in southern Thailand.

"The most active of the separatist groups, the National Revolution Front-Coordinate (Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Koordinasi, BRN-C), had a youth wing with over 7,000 members, which, together with units organized into cells, was reported to be responsible for much of the violence."

Thailand is among Southeast Asian nations where children are enlisted as soldiers by anti-state armed groups, while Burma remains the only country in the region using forcible recruitment and children in the state armed force, it was reported.

The report by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers provides information on the treatment of child soldiers captured or rescued by government forces and armed groups in more than 190 countries worldwide.

The coalition's last report was in 2004.

"Southeast Asia still has a poor record on protecting its children from conflict," said Ryan Silverio, co-ordinator for the Southeast Asia Coalition.

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

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A World Health Organization (WHO) survey has found that smokers in Thailand start at an earlier age than people in most other countries, some as young as 10.

Dr Chai Krittiyaphichatakul, a WHO tobacco-control expert stationed in Thailand, said young smokers become addicted more easily and find it harder to quit than those who pick up the habit as adults.

The survey found high rates of young smokers in Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia and India.

In Thailand 16% of students smoke, a higher proportion than in India (14%) and Indonesia (13.5%).

Tobacco manufacturers invest more than 310 billion baht a year worldwide in promotions directed at ever younger customers as their old ones die off, he said.

To counter this, the WHO is mounting a campaign against student smoking with the slogan "Tobacco-free Youth" from May 31, World No Tobacco Day.

It will urge member countries to ban tobacco advertisements and tell teenagers of the dangers of smoking.

**Online lotto.** The controversial two- and three-digit lottery will be reintroduced in September, with players able to place wagers over the Internet.

Finance Minister Surapong Suebwonglee said the Government Lottery Office already has full legal approval to move forward with the lottery. Delays are only required to prepare it for punting online, at vending machines or through computer-equipped agents, he said.

The online version will solve a long-standing problem of tickets being sold at inflated prices, he says.

Prizes will be the same as before: 500:1 for every baht wagered on the three-digit draw, and 65:1 for the two-digit draw.

The number of bets allowed may vary by draw and there might be more than one first prize, or the number of tickets and prizes may vary in different regions, he said.

Of the total revenue, 60% will go to prizes, 28% for the government and 12% for expenses.

**School's out.** The Social Development and Human Security Ministry says lots of pupils are cutting class because they are "bored with their teachers", according to a survey by the ministry's Social Surveillance and Warning Center conducted in 2006 and 2007.

Ministry Inspector-General Suradech Chayakasetrin told a seminar that Mathayom 3 and 6 students skipped class less frequently in 2007 than in 2006, when the average was about 10 times a year.

Mathayom 1 truancy was up, however, at an average of 1.6%, compared with 1.1% the previous year.

Depression among youths also increased over the period, up to 50.5% from 47.8%.

# More children are smoking: survey



## KAREN ON SHOW

Despite constant international criticism of the way Thailand treats its long-necked Karen, they have now become a tourist attraction in the coastal town of Sattahip in Chonburi, where 13 families are being paid 3,000 baht a month to live. Thai tourists can enter the village for 250 baht each, while foreigners pay 10 times that amount.

Photo by Thawechai Jaowattana.

Those considering suicide increased to 19.6% from 18%, he added.

**Sex, at last.** Air Chief Marshal Weerawit Khong-sak, deputy director of the King Prajadhipok's Institute's Center for the Promotion of National Strength on Moral Ethics and Values, said secondary-school sex education should be replaced by courses that "install good values for parenthood".

The center will campaign for the learning of nationalism and standard virtues in an "age-appropriate manner", he told at a strategy-planning seminar for 2008-2009.

"Sex education is not so effective because youths still don't understand sexuality and many have underage sex. The solution is to promote good conscience and morality. We propose that sex education be replaced with family studies at secondary level," he said.

**What's up doc?** University rectors and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) will next month discuss a ban on transvestites or openly gay men from enrolling at medical schools.

The talks result from a reference at a recent meeting of the National Human Rights Commission that certain medical schools had long imposed the ban.

HEC secretary-general Sumeth Yaemnun, who says medical schools have the right to impose their own regulations on applicants, admits the issue is a sensitive one.

The upcoming meeting will work out standard details on applicant qualifications to prevent future disputes on matters including gender and third-sex issues, he said.

**Police track vandals.** Police believe black magic practitioners were involved in desecration of sacred idols at the historic Phanom Rung castle in Buri Ram on May 19.

Some 19 items were destroyed, including four original artifacts.

Since the desecration, large numbers of tourists have been flocking to the site to see the damage. The estimated number on

May 26 was around 10,000, twice the normal figure on a Sunday before the incident.

Money spent by tourists has reached 4 million baht a day, up from between 1 and 2 million baht.

Culture Minister Anusorn Wongwan says security has been beefed up at historic sites as an immediate solution and installation of surveillance cameras is under consideration.

The ministry is also researching the registration of the Phanom Rung castle as a World Heritage site, he said.

Dusit Thummaphorn, chief of the historical park where the castle is located, said repairs will take around one month and cost

about 30,000 baht.

**Edu-extortion.** Parents should expose schools demanding extra money despite a Constitution condition mandating free compulsory education, Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej said.

"Parents should pillory these schools by making public their names, or by sending those names to me directly. I will tell the public exactly what these schools want. This government guarantees 12 years of compulsory education for free," he said.

Government schools must tell parents openly how much extra they need on top of the government subsidy. Education Minister Somchai Wongsawat will make public government subsidies to schools and additional costs faced by parents, he added.

**Teenage wasteland.** Thai youth are growing up with bad influences due to a lack of good role models, a poll by the Assumption Business Administration College (Abac) poll center has revealed.

More than a quarter of teenagers questioned say actors and singers are their role models, while 21% choose politicians. Of those, only 14% admire their sacrifice, while only 3% said they admire their efforts at national reconciliation.

Some 70% say they regularly see drunken people near their homes, and 53% say vandalism is common.

The survey questioned 3,137 people between February 1 and May 24.

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

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# SPLASH DOWN!

By Marque A. Rome

As a young man, I used to sneak off with friends on rainy nights to do donuts in our cars on the high school playing field. Yes, Dr Moore, if you're still alive – I was one of the heartless brats who kept spoiling your grass. Dr Moore was the principal of the school and had a keen interest in maintaining the lawn.

Speaking only for myself, I didn't do it to jerk the old boy around. It was just a blast cutting 360s in the mud. The playing field was the only safe place to do it.

The foregoing confession was prompted by my experience on water in Jet Boat Phuket's astonishingly maneuverable 13-passenger excursion vessel, driven by a Hamilton waterjet. My prodigal youth came back with a rush as we fish-tailed through the sea, throwing rooster-tails this way and that.

But it was plain to see that, unlike my old Pontiac GTO, the Phuket Jet Boat vessel handles as if on rails. It turns on a dime and stops dead in its wake, using a mere fraction of the distance a car traveling the same speed takes.

In fact, it's a perfect marvel of engineering from stem to stern.

Jet boat rides are an Antipodean phenomenon, but are not well known elsewhere. "This is the only one of its kind in South-east Asia," said Doug Taylor, one of Jet Boat Phuket's partners.

The operation is affiliated with Oz Jet Boating, Australia's largest jet boat operator, which is famous for its excursions through Sydney Harbor.

"We thought, 'Wouldn't people sitting on Patong Beach like to try that?'" explained Doug, who, together with Scott Lawrence from Newcastle, New South Wales, is developing the Phuket franchise. They opened for business last November.

The jet boat derives its

name from the propulsion unit, the motive force of which is not a propeller but a powerful water jet that draws water from beneath the hull. It then passes through a jet pump to increase waterflow velocity and is sprayed out through a nozzle in the transom just above waterline.

The unit in Taylor and Lawrence's Phuket Jet Boat, powered by a 370hp Cummins Turbo-Diesel, "will empty a swimming pool in 30 seconds" and drive the seven-meter long vessel over the water at 70kmh. Modern jet units were developed in the 1950s in New Zealand, not by a group of university-educated engineers, but by "practical farm workers" working under the leadership of William Hamilton. Hamilton, who was later knighted for contributions to New Zealand's development, operated a farm and sheep ranch in rural Canterbury, South Island, at a sheep station called Irishman Creek.

Grazing was poor, so sheep were herded over vast rocky wastes cut by numerous rivers and streams, but not by roads. Communication, Hamilton decided, would be greatly facilitated if people could travel to the interior by water.

Trouble was, the watercourses were variable: Hamilton needed a boat capable of protracted travel in mere inches of water – something no prop-driven boat could do without damage to rudder and propeller. He needed a boat that would plane on water – thus one with a pow-

erful engine – with no add-ons hanging beneath the hull.

Waterjet propulsion looked to be the ticket, but existing waterjets delivered feeble performance.

Then one of his shepherds noticed that a stream of water was more powerful out of the water than in it. This simple observation was key to the creation of a great industry. When Hamilton moved the nozzle from below the waterline to above it, he doubled his boat's speed and found he could plane over as little as three inches of water.

Better yet, the nozzle's force could be adjusted in any direction. Thus, modern jet boats can spin wildly on their central axis (the so-called "Hamilton spin"), brake suddenly or come to a plunging halt within the distance of one-and-a-half boat-lengths – all without a rudder. The latter makes it possible to speed through shallows impossible for prop-driven boats to navigate.

The biggest jet-driven vessels are found in ferrying and naval applications: South Africa's Valour class frigates – roughly 120 meters long – are the biggest jet-propelled ships – and they, too, are capable of performing amazing stops.

But the really fun rides are had in vessels such as the Phuket Jet Boat. After loading 11 passengers and seeing they were properly strapped in, Scott ordered us underway. We departed from Chalong Bay, tearing across the strait to Koh Lone in a few moments. It was a clear, calm day



ABOVE: The Jet Boat can zoom up to 70kmh on water.

LEFT: It can also spin wildly on its central axis, brake suddenly or come to a plunging halt within the distance of one-and-a-half boat-lengths.



at sea, but the boat felt nonetheless remarkably sturdy in the water."

"It was designed in New Zealand," Doug explained later, "and made of six-millimeter aluminum."

The design is in accordance with Lloyd's of London standards; dimensions and weights were reviewed by naval architects before the whole was assembled.

It feels like a Rolls-Royce on water – until the pilot begins taking it through its paces. Then it's more Ferrari-like.

Approaching shore at Koh Lone, we didn't slow down. The sand bank loomed. Our vessel sped on, running hard. Just when it appeared we'd no choice but to roar up the bank and into a seaside resort, the pilot turned the wheel sharply left – throwing up a landscape-obscuring rooster tail of seawater and turning the boat, without losing speed, to tear through whitewater along the beach. Fab.

Leaving Koh Lone, we powered on to Koh Hei ("Coral Island") lapping the island's circuit in minutes while dicing and spinning among the rocky shoals that line its coast. I was left with the impression that no F1 racer turns so sweetly or stops so quickly. Michael Schumacher might only wish he had so much control of his car – yet this was a boat.

"The manufacturer of these has a 100% safety record," said Doug, when I asked him about risks. "The boat is unsinkable. It's built in three sections, so if you get a hole in one section, or a hole in each section, it still can't sink."

"Jet boating has been popular in Australia and New Zealand for a long time. We're registered with the Tourism Authority of Thailand and fully insured. It's a safe trip," he added.

And fun – at least as much fun as doing donuts in the mud around a high school playing field.

For more information call 084-8444332 or visit the website: [www.jetboatthailand.com](http://www.jetboatthailand.com)

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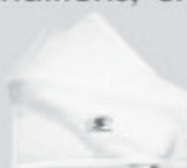
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# Putting the 'new' in noodles

Mention *kuay tiow moo toon* (steamed pork noodles) to most people and they will think of a quick meal or a bite to eat on the run, but mention the finer points of delicious, tender steamed pork and you might raise a few eyebrows.

*Kuay tiow moo toon* is a great meal for any time of the day, but it's a difficult dish to cook if you aren't a culinary whiz. The pork takes a long time to steam until it's tender enough, but even then, if you don't prepare the meat just right, you'll end up with a let-down of a meal. May as well leave it to the pros.

The aptly named Kuay Tiow Restaurant on Tilok Uthit 2 Rd, Phuket City, is a small eatery run by Bangkok native and *kuay tiow*-chef-extraordinaire Yao-vamal "Noi" Auamtade.

It has been almost two years since a friend of K. Noi's invited her to work in a noodle restaurant in Phuket. After spending a year learning the ropes, K. Noi decided that there

were bigger fish, or bits of steamed pork, to fry, so she concocted a secret recipe and opened her own restaurant.

"I read many cook books and tried combining Thai and Chinese herbs on the way to perfecting my secret recipe for steamed pork," she said.

"Every day I prepare three kilograms of carefully selected pork tenderloin, which I steam with herbs and my secret ingredients until the meat becomes soft and delicious. I steam the pork tripe the same way, but for a little longer," said K. Noi.

"I love to eat steamed pork and noodles, but there aren't many restaurants in Phuket that really cook it the way I like it, which is why I decided to cook it myself," she added.

K. Noi's restaurant serves up bowls of noodles with any combination of steamed pork, steamed pork tripe, pork balls and pork offal – all for 35 baht.

Customers can select different noodle types, with or without soup. Diners going *gao lao*



K. Noi serves up a bowl of her famous noodle soup – MSG not included.

(without noodles) have the option of ordering steamed rice – apparently a popular choice for girls watching their figures.

"Many restaurants charge

more for *gao lao* than they do for regular noodles, but at my restaurant, every bowl of noodles is the same price. I also sell steamed rice for 5 baht a bowl," she said.

As well as exciting customers' palates with her perfect pork, K. Noi delivers a double whammy with her soup – another secret recipe. "I cook the soup by boiling the water for three hours with pork bones and a few special herbs. I don't use MSG in any of my dishes," she said.

K. Noi's talents aren't limited to whipping up noodles, as she is also a dab hand at prepar-

ing *somtam*, with a variety of papaya salad dishes in her arsenal, including horse crab, salted egg and preserved egg – all for between 30 and 60 baht.

"I took a *somtam* course so that I could learn how to prepare great dishes for my customers. The secret to making a good *somtam* is all in the mixing of fresh ingredients," she added.

K. Noi's restaurant, located on Tilok Uthit 2 Rd next to the Methee Cashew Nut Factory, is open daily from 8 am to 6 pm. For more information call K. Noi at 081-8415545.

K. Noi also knows how to make a mean *somtam* salad.



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## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket

Christopher Joy and Debra Duncan from the UK were married at Laguna Phuket's Chapel-on-the-Lagoon on April 19.



Supanun Supawong, of the *Gazette's* Advertising Sales team, and Chalermchai Thongkate were married at the Chamchuri Ballroom at the Phuket Merlin Hotel on May 11.



# Beauty Betrothed

By Nick Davies

I met a wonderful woman at a luxury resort by the beach recently. She was modest, motivated, very pretty, and... married. Her name is Elischeba Wilde and she also goes by the title Mrs Germany.

Elischeba is her homeland's hope for the Mrs World title. In June, she will compete against other married women from around the world when they grace the stage for the Mrs World 2008 contest in Kaliningrad, Russia.

Elischeba was in Phuket with her trusty special effects makeup artist and model Sabine Ehrmann, who is also a qualified rescue diver. Joining us was documentary filmmaker Martin Helmers, who also produces German-language adventure publication *SeaStar Magazine*.

They were shooting scenes for an adventure reality show contest that will be broadcast in Germany and we were cozying up for an intimate chat on a large comfy sofa in the lobby of Mövenpick Resort & Spa on the last day of their working holiday.

Despite spending two weeks performing daily outdoor-adventure activities for the cameras in much more down-to-earth settings than the luxury resort we were chatting in, Elischeba looked fresh as a daisy and had managed to keep her flawless skin pearly white with



Mrs Germany 2008 Elischeba Wilde (left) and model Sabine Ehrmann (right) pose with film producer and photographer Martin Helmers at Mövenpick Resort & Spa while on their working holiday in Phuket.

plenty of maximum-factor sunscreen.

Elischeba drank mineral water and soon revealed that she is much more than just a pretty face, legs and everything else. The Cologne native's endearing accent is just that, but her adventurous experiences, including snorkeling with whale sharks and water skiing, reveal a tough woman who embraces the rougher parts of her job, which she admitted is fun but not always as glamorous as some might think.

"Being a model is nice, but it is hard work. Being here is not really like a holiday as we've been getting up very early, working hard and going to bed late. We'll actually need a proper holiday after this trip," she laughed.

Upon her return to Germany, there would be no time for rest, Elischeba had duties to perform that go with her Mrs Germany title, such as moderating a Miss pageant, at which her husband would also be on the jury panel, assigned with the task of selecting one of the beauties as a winner.

The scenario brought to mind the domestic scene between beauty-judge husband and beauty-queen wife, with Mr Wilde explaining why he made a particular selection. Asked if she would trust her husband's choice, she laughed and said that he always chooses contestants with long legs.

Elischeba claims that she's definitely married to her man more than to her job, but loves the job for its variety. "Every day is different. It's a hobby and a job at the same time," she said.

Mrs Germany doesn't have

any children yet, though she plans to have a little missus or mister in two or three years. "I think it would be nice to bring up children in Thailand. It would be ideal to spend summer in Germany and the winter here," she said.

After falling in love with Phuket and having to leave it behind within 24 hours of our meeting, the team was not looking forward to the hassle of the flight home with all their equipment, which included 40 sets of clothes and whole suitcases of makeup and accessories. Because of their job, however, the airline allowed them to carry 20 kilograms more than regular passengers.

Elischeba was especially not looking forward to returning home and having to tell her husband that she had lost an expensive ring her gave her as a wedding anniversary gift. She'd lost it while hastily preparing for a water-skiing photo shoot. "He's such a nice man that he won't be angry, but it's just such a pity," she said morosely.

The Mrs World pageant was founded 15 years ago, after William Barron Hilton I, co-chairman of the Hilton hotel chain, acted on his belief that being unmarried shouldn't have to be a requirement for beauty-pageant contestants. They don't become less beautiful after they're married, he's reported to have said.

Unlike Miss World candidates, Mrs World contestants can be any age and *have to* present their marriage certificates to be allowed to take part.

"It's good to support something that gets away from the youth mania associated with the Miss World contests. I'm looking forward to meeting the most

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**BEAUTY IN THE WILD:** Mrs Germany 2008 Elischeba Wilde (back) and Sabine Ehrmann (front) on location in Thailand for a photo shoot.

beautiful wives from the 50 other countries," she said.

Elischeba became Mrs Germany through the Oliver Burghard modeling agency, which works closely with the Mrs World contest, although she is free to do other modeling as her contract with Oliver Burghard is non-exclusive.

"Since becoming Mrs Germany, I've been very busy with interviews and I've been involved with charity projects," she said. Her photo shoots have taken her all over the world to meet a variety of people – and animals – most of whom were very happy to have such a beauty in their midst. She has swum with dolphins in Jamaica and whale sharks in Asia, and even joined Star Wars fans at a festival in Kaliningrad.

Was modeling something she'd always aspired to? "Not really. When I was a teenager, people said I had the kind of looks to be a model, you know; long legs, nice hair and good skin, but I didn't start modeling until I was 22 years old, which is relatively late to begin a modeling career. I was soon doing a lot of fashion and lifestyle photo shoots for magazines, but it turned out to be very enjoyable," she said.

"I hope I get the title [Mrs World] and that it will lead to other things, such as being a moderator and maybe getting into acting. It's a chance to do something positive with charity projects, too," she added. She is already an ambassador for Rock Gegen Kinderarmut ("Rock Against Child Poverty") and children's charity Sunshine4kids.

"I like the food here. Thai is the kind of food I like cooking the most. We had some lovely traditional pancakes at one of the bungalow resorts in Khao Lak." Asked if she has to watch her figure, Elischeba's reply of having a high metabolism allowing her to eat nearly anything she wants would make many wannabe models envious.

What about the changes in modeling careers over the years? What challenges does a modern model face compared with those of a decade or more ago? Sabine explained that in the past, appearing on the cover of a fashion magazine was considered the pinnacle of a model's career. Once a model's face graced the cover of a high-end fashion magazine, she would be able to live off the work that followed for the rest of her career.

But today, with the current proliferation of fashion media and the massive growth of the modeling industry, becoming a cover girl these days is just one small step in the endless struggle to reach the top and the harder achievement of staying there, Sabine explained.

Elischeba will be representing Germany for the Mrs World pageant on June 29. For updates, visit [www.mrsworld.com](http://www.mrsworld.com) Catch up with Elischeba at her own website: [www.mrs-germany.de](http://www.mrs-germany.de) With her stunning looks and endearing personality, Elischeba probably doesn't need any good-luck wishes, but the *Gazette* will be cheering her on anyway.

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## This week



**STARS LIKE US:** Sirikul Amaramorn, Director of Public Relations of Phuket FantaSea, welcomes Science and Technology Minister Wuttipong Chaisaeng, who accompanied the team taking part in the 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference on Stellar Astrophysics at a dinner at Phuket FantaSea.



**ANDAMAN OPENING:** Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance and Chairman of the board of the Thai Military Bank Dr Sathit Limpongpan (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) joins Andaman Island Group (AIG) Director Sunanta Kolsaman (in yellow dress) and guests at the grand opening of the Heroine Building, home of AIG's headquarters, on May 15.



**RESTING PLACE:** Kaysorn Jackson and daughter Nikki join friends at the bench to be placed at the 4<sup>th</sup> hole at Loch Palm Golf Course in memory of Daniel Leroy Jackson, who passed away on April 15. The bench was paid for from donations collected throughout Rawai.



**THE BRUNCH BUNCH:** Laddawan Somniyam (2<sup>nd</sup> from Left), Director of Sales & Marketing at Indigo Pearl resort, welcomes guests to the inaugural Sunday Martini Brunch at the resort's Rivet Grill Restaurant on May 11. From left are Carol Fryer from Phuket International Women's Club and her husband Nick; Lilian Carpenter from Blue Canyon Golf Club; Janpen Forbes, Alfreda Hickman and her husband, British International School Headmaster Dr George Hickman; and Martin Carpenter of Phuket Concierge.



**TEAM YOGA:** Bikram Yoga celebrated the grand opening of its yoga center in Kathu on May 17. Pictured are (from left) CEO Asia Pacific Sumanta Bhattacharya, Chief Instructor Benn Lees, Sales & Marketing Manager Thanakorn Parnpeng, General Manager Sono Yasumoto, Managing Director Prapha Bhattacharya and instructor Sittipong Rattanapong.



**ROCKIN' ON:** Hard rock AC/DC fan Gert Svensson (right) celebrates his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 10 with his wife, Iron Maiden fan Marianne, and their son George, at George's new Rock City venue at the top end of Soi Bangla.

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# Confessions of the terminally insane

The immaculate Douglas Adams was a ranter in a class of his own. He elevated ranting to the lofty pinnacles of sheer poetry, leaving sad acolytes like Soapbox Sid merely gasping in his imperious wake.

It was Adams who observed, "It is no coincidence that in no known language of the galaxy does there exist the expression 'As beautiful as an airport'."

And why might that be?

Clearly because airports represent a sort of sink of human depravity and squalor, so terrible that not even the most benevolent observer could find a good word to say about them.

Here in Thailand, it seems we have examples of the very best and very worst representations of airports, as indeed we do for so many other categories of experience.

The verdant, open-sala, palm-tree-fringed Disneyland-by-sea that purports to be Koh Samui Airport is the closet any airport in the world has ever come to being "beautiful".

Little electric-golf-buggy-type trains pootle out to pick you up after you have disembarked.

Then, after a bit of a chat and a ciggy with a couple of his mates, the driver will eventually consent to take you the 50 feet to a couple of open salas, where brightly clad and beautiful young women will then point out that your luggage has gone to Surat Thani.

So, the principles of airport inefficiency are upheld even at Samui Airport, but in a most charming Thai way.

But not all airports are bad. Some are simply appalling. At the other end of the airport horror spectrum we have, er, Phuket International Airport.

The only thing that prevents murder becoming a daily occurrence at the Phuket airport is the fact that most punters arrive for a sun-drenched tropical holiday and are therefore in ultra-forgiveness mode.

Our airport raises the standards of global airport inefficiency and brutishness to new heights.

First, your plane usually comes to a standstill a good 300 meters from the terminal building, necessitating a hot, sweaty scramble across roasting concrete in a sun-blinding heat haze that makes the likelihood of being mowed down by a passing baggage van almost inevitable.

Upon arrival at the terminal building and in desperate need of a leak, you will find that every toilet has a silly sign in front of it – all day, every day – indicating that it's being cleaned and therefore cannot be used for its designed purpose.

What do they do in there all day?

Next, it's time for the charming immigration officers to check your passport. But unfortunately, the three disgorged jumbos arriving from Russia happen to coin-

cide exactly with the statutory three-hour lunch break of the immo boys.

So, rather than "Welcome to the Land of Smiles", it's more a case of "Welcome to the land of miles" – of immigration queues.

When you do finally reach the immigration desk, after a wait almost as long as the duration of your flight from Vladivostok itself, what you hope for is a nice sweetie and a welcoming smile, as you get at say Changi or KL immigration. No such luck.

Khun Immigration clearly hates his job, hates you for having the audacity to come here on holiday while he's grimly grinding out his horrible existence and, most of all, hates your rotten foreign passport, which he stamps with a ferocity and disdain that you normally see only in those extreme boxing matches where gladiators pummel each other to near death behind high-wire fencing.

Now it's baggage carousel time – there's a misnomer if ever there was one. Whoever likened waiting for your luggage to appear on a rotating metallic belt to a

merry fairground ride with bobbing horses and organ music had a very warped sense of humor.

You wait so long that cobwebs and spiders cover your slumping frame while you listen to a looped piece of tap-dancing music played on an out-of-key piano.

Eventually your case appears, broken open and with your most embarrassing underwear and sex toys poking out for all to see.

As you exit the terminal, you brusquely fight your way through a hoard of touts offering everything from over-priced taxi rides to massages, ladyboy shows and their own sisters, before meekly asking where the air-conditioned public transport leaves from to take you to your hotel.

After the touts have fallen about laughing for about half an hour, you realize you should perhaps have been nicer to them as their over-priced rides, which have just gone up by another 50%, are the only option you have.

So there it is in a nutshell.

It's a tragedy that dear old Douglas Adams is no longer with us. But perhaps it's just as well, if he had had the misfortune to visit Phuket International Airport, even his glorious sense of humor might have been found wanting.



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# Shine like a diamond

Cheaper, but just as stylish as the diamonds they imitate, this range of crystal-adorned accessories adds subtle sophistication to any outfit, and even an especially evocative addition to eveningwear.

These handmade jewelry designs at the Gold Miss store in Central Festival Phuket are fresh in from Korea, the birthplace of much of Asia's feisty fashions.

The designs intertwine quartz and pearls with gold- and silver-plated hoops and swirls to create harmonious combinations as pendant necklaces, earrings, bracelets and hair accessories.

The accessories are an economic alternative to pricier diamond and precious-metal designs, but the craftsmanship of the accessories are still premium quality.

Ranging in price from 100 to just over 1,000 baht, the accessories can be combined to create earring, necklace and bracelet sets. Customers can also request for designs to be made to order.

Gold Miss is on the ground floor of Central Festival. For more information call 086-2663275.

— Natcha Yuttaworawit



Jena (above) of Gold Miss store at Central Festival shows off earrings from her latest collection, which includes delicate hoop earrings and silk necklaces with drop pendants (right, below and left).



**LIVE MUSIC**  
**Friday 6th June**  
 Watermark presents the next of its **FAB FRIDAYS** live music nights (first Friday of each month)  
 Pop-folk duo **Steel & Pillows**  
 Followed by **adrenalin-junkies**  
**The Foreign Community**  
 Closing with DJ set by **eVolutions**  
 Come early - it fills up from 6pm!  
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**Happy hour 5-7PM**  
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Every Monday & Friday: Happy Hour from 7pm to 9pm - Buy 1 Get 1 - Tapas  
 Dj Eric S (80's, 90's and house...) on Friday only till closing

## Ladies Privileges Nights

Every Tuesday: Ladies Get 15% Discount on Food & Beverage

Every Saturday: Ladies Night from 10pm till late...

Ladies get 2 Free Drinks at the Roof Top Bar  
 Guest DJ & Entertainment

## Get Into the Box...

May - June 2008



By Chris Husted

Earlier this month, Eric Smulders of the island's premier objets d'art source Soul of Asia, set the bar on the island for the biggest birthday bash of the year when he celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

For his platinum anniversary, Eric invited more guests than candles would fit on a birthday cake, flying in more than 50 family members and friends to join at least 50 more local guests for a party that stretched over five days.

Even the guests arriving was hectic, explained his better half Elisabeth. "We had 10 flights arriving within hours of each other, so we had to organize a fleet of minivans and cars to pick them all up. That's a lot easier said than done," she said, adding that Jeanette Skelton of Luxury Events Phuket did a sterling job of organizing the five-day event.

Among the guests attending the party were all six of Eric's brothers, as well as his own children: Alex, a father of three who lives in China; Patrick; and Pier and his wife, who live in Christchurch, New Zealand, and who were expected to have a newborn within four weeks of the party.

Elisabeth's daughter Marine, 23, who works for Chanel, was also welcomed to the event.

Unfortunately, Eric's mother could not make the party. Although wonderfully spry considering she turned 100 at the end of January, she was unable to travel to Phuket from her home in Belgium to join the festivities.

In his mother's footsteps, at 70 years old Eric is no slouch. He loves his golf, boating, diving, is heavily involved in setting up a beach club in Surin and is in the gym two hours nearly every day. So it is no surprise that his own birthday party was one, long funathon.

After the new arrivals had settled and packed their jet-lag away for the week, the party started in earnest on Day 2 (May 15) with a belated 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Eric's brother Paul, also



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Eric Smulders celebrates his birthday with hugs from his partner Elisabeth and her daughter Marine.



Above and right: In addition to 50 guests being flown in for the party, the guest list included all sorts of locals. Photos by Dan Miles.



# Soul of Eric



known as "Uncle Seven" as he is the youngest of seven brothers. Paul's birthday is July 14, so he does not celebrate it on the day as it is also Bastille Day, a national holiday in his homeland, France.

On the Friday, the guests were boated out to a nearby island to inspect some pearl farms and have lunch at a floating restaurant. They returned for dinner at Rockfish restaurant in Kamala and took in the latest FantaSea stage show.

Then came Saturday: The Birthday. The rains stopped, monks held a blessing ceremony at Eric's Kamala home and 70 birds were released.

The course of events was as natural as day becomes night: a birthday lunch blended into an afternoon get-together which led to dinner that night, at which Eric arrived on a palanquin carried by his nephew and godson.

Well, the night just went on and the soirée ended the next day with 35 Dutchmen and one Dutch lady greeting the new dawn sipping champagne in the pool.

Sunday, the traditional day of rest, saw guests enjoying a barbecue lunch on the beach at the Norwegian-English restaurant Taste. This time, Eric arrived by elephant.

The beach party closed with sundowner cocktails before guests headed back to the airport.

At the time of going to press, Eric was last seen enjoying a well-deserved rest. Happy birthday, Eric.



THE BROTHERS SEVEN: (from left) Uncle Francis, 77, from Amsterdam; Uncle Robert, 75, from Monaco; Uncle Maurice, 73, from Belgium; Uncle Eric, 70, from Amsterdam, Belgium, Japan, Hong Kong, Phuket (and elsewhere around the world); Uncle Louis, 67, from Houston, USA; Uncle Harry, 64, from Belgium; Uncle Seven (aka Uncle Paul), 60, from Holland and Phuket.

Photo by Luxury Events Phuket.



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Last year, Mazda celebrated 40 years of producing Rotary-powered cars. Although rotary-engine technology was invented by German engineer Dr Felix Wankel and developed by Germany's NSU (now Audi), Mazda has been the only leading motor manufacturer to persevere with the concept.

In 1991, Mazda won the Le Mans 24-hour endurance race with the rotary-engined 787B, making it the first, and still only, Japanese manufacturer to capture the prestigious French classic.

Dr Wankel first came up with the rotary idea in 1924, but it was only in the 1960s that an engine was considered a realistic proposition.

Early motors suffered from reliability and fuel-consumption problems, mainly because of excessive wear to the seals at the tips of the rotors. Despite NSU and Mazda introducing a succession of models, the concept was quietly dropped by all manufacturers – except Mazda.

The Japanese automaker began with the Cosmo Sport in 1963 and continued to use it in three generations of its RX-7 sports car. Since its launch in 2003, the RX-8 has several top motoring awards. Line manager for the RX-8, Tetsu Nakazawa, said, "Dating back to the Cosmo Sport, every sports car ever developed by Mazda has had the same fundamental mission. The 2009 RX-8 embodies the mission, conveying the unique and distinctive Mazda brand DNA to the fullest."

To date, Mazda has sold almost two million cars powered by a rotary engine. The RX-7 supercar has now made way for the RX-8, which still contains the ultra-smooth rotary principle. Its twin-rotor power plant produces a generous 246bhp (184kW) at the relatively high engine speed of 8,500rpm, but so smooth is the rotary motor that it sounds and feels more like a sewing machine.

Torque is less impressive, with a modest 216Nm delivered at 7,500rpm. The engine is mounted in the front of the car, giving the RX-8 a weight distribution of 50:50. The rear wheels



RX-8 Line manager Tetsu Nakazawa says the new model embodies the very essence of Mazda sports performance cars, the result of 40 years of perfecting the sports roadster.

# Rotary comes full circle

are driven through a six-speed manual gearbox.

The design of the RX-8, which is closely related to the concept vehicle Mazda showed at the 1999 Tokyo show, features what Mazda calls "freestyle" doors, where there is no center pillar and the rear doors are hinged at the back. This allows rear-seat passengers easy access, but for safety reasons the rear doors cannot be released unless the front doors are open.

The interior is sufficiently large, due in part to the compact dimensions of the rotary engine. With so few moving parts and a nominal displacement of about 1300cc, the engine also allows a low bonnet line and a short front overhang.

The brakes are six-piston front calipers, four-piston rears, both acting on huge ventilated



The tailored interior brings together the themes sports and style.

discs, while the power steering is electronic, not hydraulic, thereby minimizing any power losses.

Safety was an important consideration in the initial design of the RX-8 and the rotary engine helps even in this department, with the location of the engine allowing a larger, deformable struc-

frangible brake pedal to lessen injury to the driver in a crash.

Interestingly, the front and rear tires are different sizes. Nineteen-inch wheels with ultra-low-profile rubber at the front give the car a purposeful aspect, while the width of the tires at the back ensures excellent handling in all conditions.

Ferrari once researched the occurrence of punctures and concluded that the average driver experiences a deflation only once every seven years. Therefore, only in rare circumstances would differing front and rear tire sizes present a problem.








The Mazda RX-8 is a unique car in more ways than one, but it is spacious, relatively economical and comprehensively equipped.

Although unavailable locally in Thailand, the RX-8 is expected to cost around 3.75 million baht once imported.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at [jhc@netvigat.com](mailto:jhc@netvigat.com)



By Jeff Heselwood

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

**Until June 1. Overgaard Phuket International Rugby 10s.**

Marking a decade of international rugby on Phuket, this year's Rugby 10s tournament will be played at Karon Municipal Stadium.

Once again, the Phuket Rugby 10s will be raising money for the Ronda Butler Memorial Fund.

For more information, contact Patrick Cotter by email: at [phuketrugby@gmail.com](mailto:phuketrugby@gmail.com)

Alternatively, visit the Phuket Vagabonds website at: [www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com](http://www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com)

**Until June 30. Boathouse Gallery extends "Islands" by Laura Baum.**

The much talked-about exhibition "Islands" by Laura Baum, at Mom Tri's Boathouse Art Gallery, will be extended for another month.

Laura Baum, accomplished American painter of ethereal landscapes, was a student of Diane Kan, disciple of revered Master Chang Dai Chien (1899-1983). The powerful watercolors, with stone and mineral colors mixed by the artist, are painted on Japanese gold- or silver-leaf boards covered with rice paper.

The exhibition is open daily, from 9 am to 9 pm, until 30 June.

For more information contact Lisa Sol. Tel: 076-330015. Email: [pr@boathousephuket.com](mailto:pr@boathousephuket.com) Website: [www.boathousephuket.com](http://www.boathousephuket.com)

**June 1. PC Group Therapy – Patong.**

Is your Internet connection driving you nuts? Ready to throw your PC out the, uh, window? Need advice on where to buy a computer, or get one repaired? Join *For Dummies...* author Woody Leonhard for his weekly Group Therapy sessions from 10 am to midday. They're free.

Novices most welcome – no experience necessary. Bring your questions, bring your computer, bring your mother-in-law and your worry beads, and let's see if we can sort things out.

For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, see the website. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

**TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon****June 22**

Race three of four in the TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon series will be held at Indigo Pearl Resort on June 22. Registration will be at 6 am, with the first race beginning at 7 am.

There are three race classes:

- Adult sprint (swim 750m, ride 20km, run 5km)
- Splash 'n' dash (swim 50m, ride 3km, run 750m)
- Junior (swim 200m, ride 6km, run 1.5km)

Medals will be awarded to all finishers.

Registration is available online at [www.triballisticclub.com](http://www.triballisticclub.com) or contact Shaun Boulter for more information. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: [tri@triballisticclub.com](mailto:tri@triballisticclub.com) Alternatively email [jittima@indigo-pearl.com](mailto:jittima@indigo-pearl.com)



Junior athletes will be competing in a splash 'n' dash, comprising a 50-meter swim, a three-kilometer cycle ride and a 750m run.

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

Contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: [woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com) Website: [www.khunwoody.com](http://www.khunwoody.com)

**June 6. Bands' Night @ The Watermark.**

And the beat goes on... Watermark presents the next of its Fab Fridays live music nights – the first Friday of each month.

On June 6: pop-folk duo Steel & Pillows, followed by Adrenalin Junkies and The Foreign Community. Closing with a DJ set by eVolutions.

Fancy some Talking Heads, The Killers, Amy Winehouse, Jack Johnson, Radiohead, U2 or Portishead?

Come early – the venue fills up from 6 pm, so dust off your dancing shoes.

Happy hour: 5-7pm. 50 baht Heinekens. 2-4-1 cocktails.

**June 7. Showbiz.**

Dance Performance by

Phuket Dance Academy at Royal Phuket City Hotel.

The performance will start at 5 pm.

Adults: 500 baht; children under 12 years old: 250 baht.

Contact Linda Cumming for additional information. Tel: 081-8937749. Email: [linda@lindacumming.com](mailto:linda@lindacumming.com)

**June 8. PC Group Therapy – Laguna.**

As always, from 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Laguna.

**June 8. Meet the Dogs Sunday Brunch by Soi Dog Foundation.**

Meet some of the special dogs from the Soi Dog Shelter, all of which are looking for new homes.

Hosted by your MC Gary, this event at Babylon Beach Club in Bang Tao will be loads of fun, including a raffle and auction.

Tickets are 750 baht and include a buffet lunch, water and soft drinks. Places are limited.

For more information contact Cristy. Tel: 085-4734636. Email: [cristy@soidog-foundation.org](mailto:cristy@soidog-foundation.org) Website: [www.soidog-foundation.org](http://www.soidog-foundation.org)

**June 15. The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon.**

The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon is expected to be another success this year with more than 1,000 participants in the 42km marathon, 21km half-marathon, 10km run, and 5km walk. There will also be a 2km kids' run.

Registration, which closes

on June 5, is available at [www.phuketmarathon.com](http://www.phuketmarathon.com) For details contact Roman Floesser. Tel: 02-2362931. Email: [direct@goadventureasia.com](mailto:direct@goadventureasia.com)

**June 15. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.**

From 10 am until midday at the Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

**June 22. PC Group Therapy – Patong.**

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

**June 29. Mac Group Therapy – Chalong.**

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

**July 17. Asarnha Bucha Day (Public Holiday).**

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

**July 18. Buddhist Lent Day (Public Holiday).**

Occurs one day after the full-moon day of the eighth lunar month. Khao Pansa marks the beginning of the annual three-month Rains Retreat, during which, Buddhist monks customarily stay at a particular temple to study and meditate.

A candle festival is held annually on this day.

**July 23-27. Six Senses Phuket Raceweek.**

This is one of Thailand's top on-the-water events for participants and sponsors alike. Email: [gren@image-asia.com](mailto:gren@image-asia.com) Website: [www.phuketraceweek.com](http://www.phuketraceweek.com)

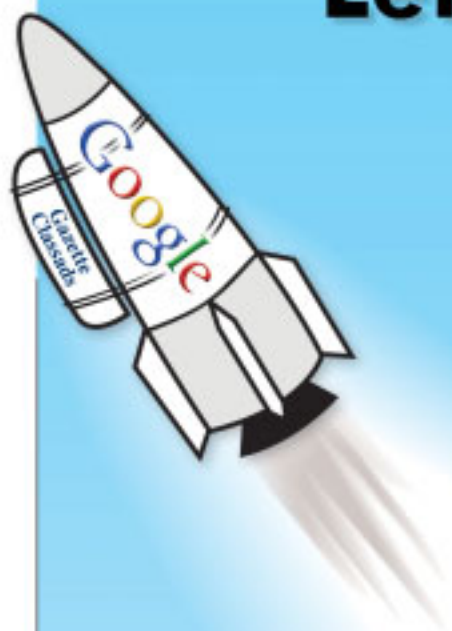


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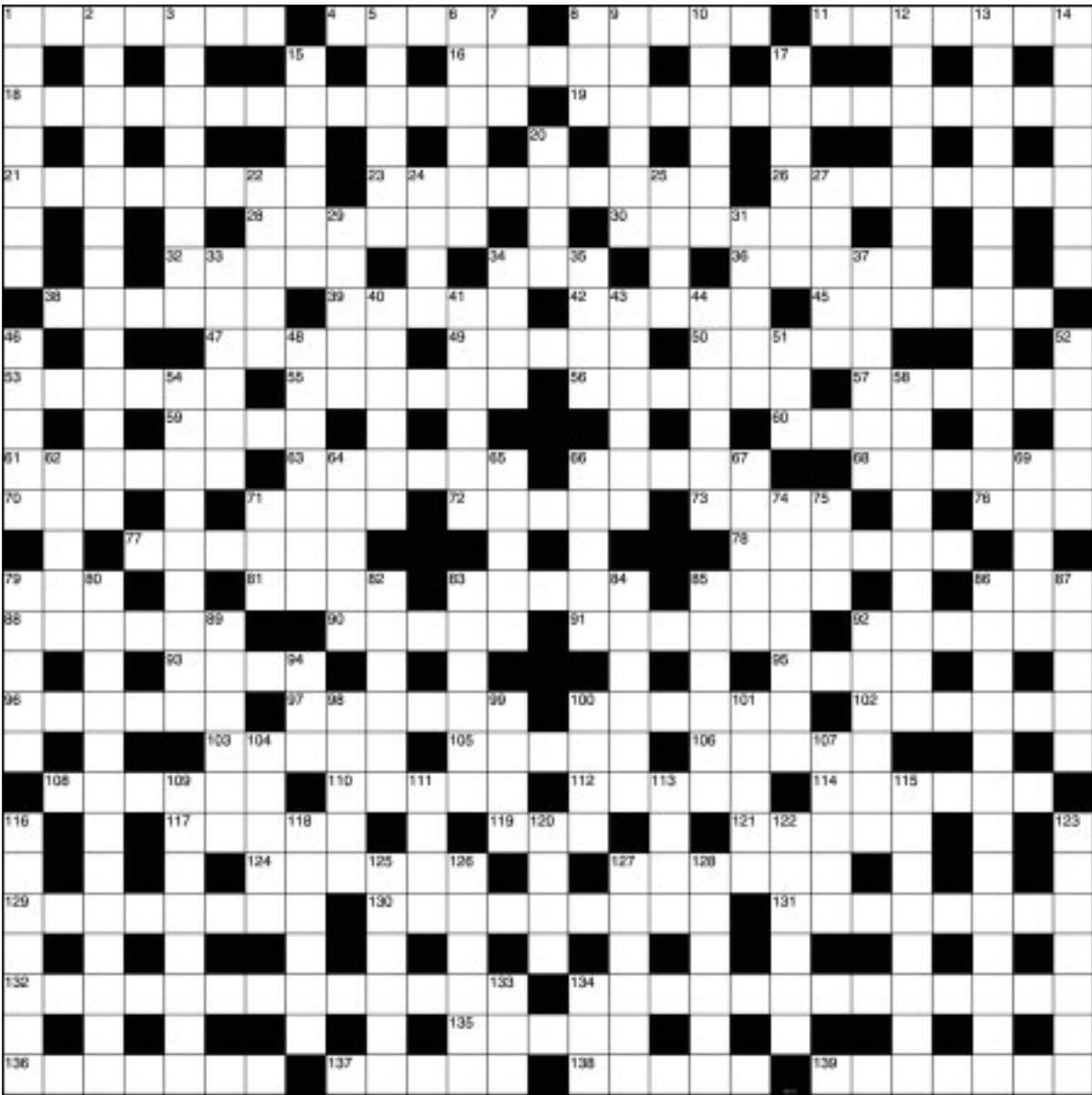


# The BIG Crossword

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are up to 25 words or phrases related things you might find in a house. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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



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### Across

1. Insult
4. Surgical sponges
8. Boots & sandals
11. State explicitly
16. Extreme
18. Totally (boring) (4-9)
19. Undistinguished
21. Eighteen,...., twenty
23. Make drunk
26. Huge rock
28. Decapitate
30. Cheap digs
32. Untethered
34. Inflatable vest,...west
36. ...In Wonderland
38. Deep gorge
39. NE US state
42. Female title
45. Stays as guest at
47. Embankments
49. Having an advantage (3-2)
50. Gauge
53. Blissful
55. Forward
56. Hunting expedition
57. Fabled sleeper, ...Winkle (3,3)
59. Actor,...Connery
60. Naming word
61. Runs after
63. Early sound movie
66. Holler
68. Seafarer
70. Coal by-product
71. Fully occupy
72. Not frank
73. Catches (thief)
76. Actor,...Brynner
77. Rescind
78. Indigenous

79. Bumped into
81. Creamy (cake)
83. Knife edge
85. Compassion
86. So!
88. Discontent
90. Singer,...Minogue
91. Droop
92. Noses
93. Mary Had a Little...
95. Grand in scale
96. Vexes
97. Go back on deal
100. Shrivel
102. Man's hat
103. Opera house, La...
105. The King,...Presley
106. Inserted piece
108. Fuller (figure)
110. Drug addicts
112. German river
114. Of hip region
117. Audibly
119. Expert
121. Actor, Roger...
124. The P of PTO
127. Voice box
129. Organization
130. Loud-hailer
131. Uncontrolled excitement
132. Lovelorn (6-7)
134. Red seasoning powder (7,6)
135. Tsunami,...wave
136. Abstains (from)
137. Shut
138. Handed (out)
139. Emotionally unmoved (3-4)

### Down

1. Chronicle

2. Taxation period (9,4)
3. Elaborately
5. Bear,...the Pooh
6. Swelled
7. Furtive
8. Ceylon,...Lanka
9. Actress, Daryl...
10. Expels from homeland
12. Incidents
13. Fancifully
14. Slain Israeli PM,...Rabin
15. Steaks (1-5)
17. Bath coating
20. Constellation, ...Major
22. Black wood
24. WWII fascist
25. Amphibian
27. Yellowish-green
29. Virile males (2-3)
31. Animal trainer
33. Lots
34. Getting better, on the...
35. Large Australian birds
37. High altitude cloud
40. Also (2,4)
41. Scandinavian
43. Lethargy
44. S American river
46. Remove (tape) from VCR
48. Thor Heyerdahl's raft (3-4)
51. Pewter metal
52. Menacing growl
54. Vainly
58. Beforehand (2,7)
62. Shelter
64. Know-all, smart...
65. Two under par

66. Fuses
67. Wild alarm
69. Should,...to
71. On behalf of
74. Swimmers
75. Filthy place
79. Wall fresco
80. Broadcasts
82. Laughing scavengers
83. More sizable
84. Impish
85. Jump queue (4,2)
86. Self-penned life story
87. From the largest continent
89. Tuft of threads
92. Sieve
94. Brassiere
98. Avoid
99. Famed lioness
100. Metal strand
101. Foe
104. Cuts hair short
107. Resin glue
109. Washes
111. Alternatively, or...
113. Iraq's neighbor
115. Tough (skin)
116. Partook of liquor
118. Irish province
120. Survive
122. Available (2,4)
123. Conducted (meeting)
125. Unprincipled
126. Lesser white herons
127. Locality
128. Abate
133. Expire
134. Wheel-shaft projection

Solution on next page

## su|do|ku

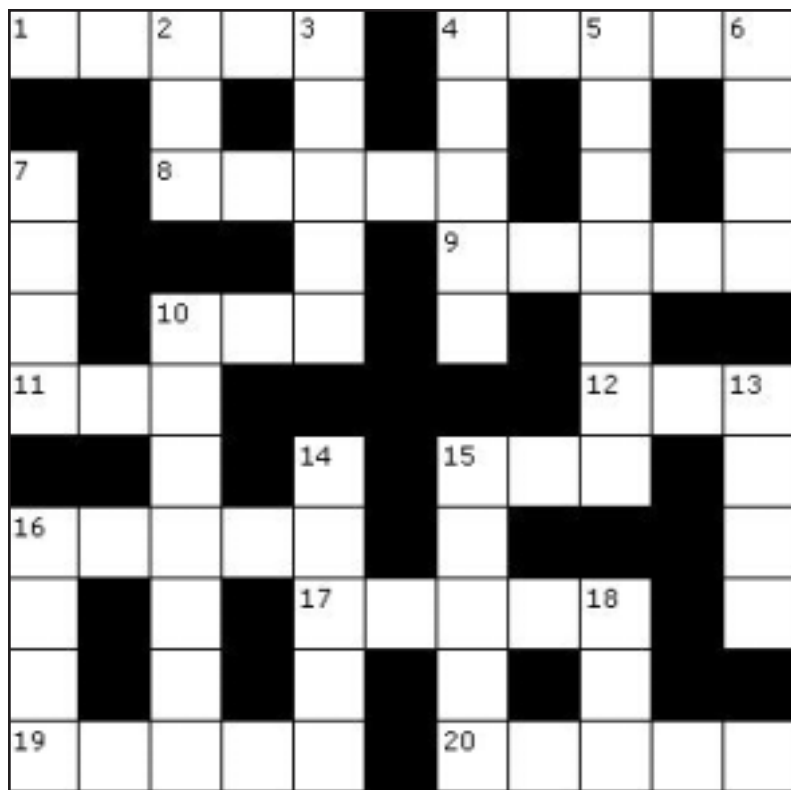
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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





## Quick Crossword

### Across

1. Rodent
4. Insurgent
8. Brand of jeans
9. Delete
10. Watch discreetly
11. Pretend
12. Part of a gear system
15. Not true
16. Sound transmitter
17. Blue
19. Silly person
20. Not old

### Down

2. Web address
3. Government representative
4. Start over
5. Equilibrium
6. Solo
7. Water
10. Where sports are played
13. Hold
14. Fictional boxer
15. Girl's name
16. Digest words on paper
18. Pirate tippie

*Solution below*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. In which year was Phuket's Heroine's Monument built?                                | 8. In which country was that historic event?  | 15. To the nearest hundred million pounds sterling, what was Ladbrokes operating profit for 2007? |
| 2. In which year was the battle that the Heroines are famed for?                       | 9. Which country adopted the dollar as its currency that year?                                      | 16. In which country is Ladbrokes moving to open branches this year?                              |
| 3. In the same year as the battle, which famous newspaper was first printed in London? | 10. According to the Hebrew calendar, what year is this?  | 17. Who wrote the bestselling paperback novel <i>The Hollow</i> ?                                 |
| 4. What was the newspaper originally called?   | 11. Which US group had chart success with the song <i>Runaway Train</i> ?                           | 18. How many <i>New York Times</i> bestsellers has she written?                                   |
| 5. Who was it's editor?  | 12. Which train disaster occurred outside London in 1999?   | 19. What was her first published book called?   |
| 6. What business was he in before becoming an editor?                                  | 13. What was the nearest train station to the site of that accident?                                | 20. Which horse won last year's Kentucky Derby?   |
| 7. What historic aviation event occurred on May 10 that year?                          | 14. Which US hotel chain did British gambling company Ladbrokes own from May 1999 to February 2006? |   |

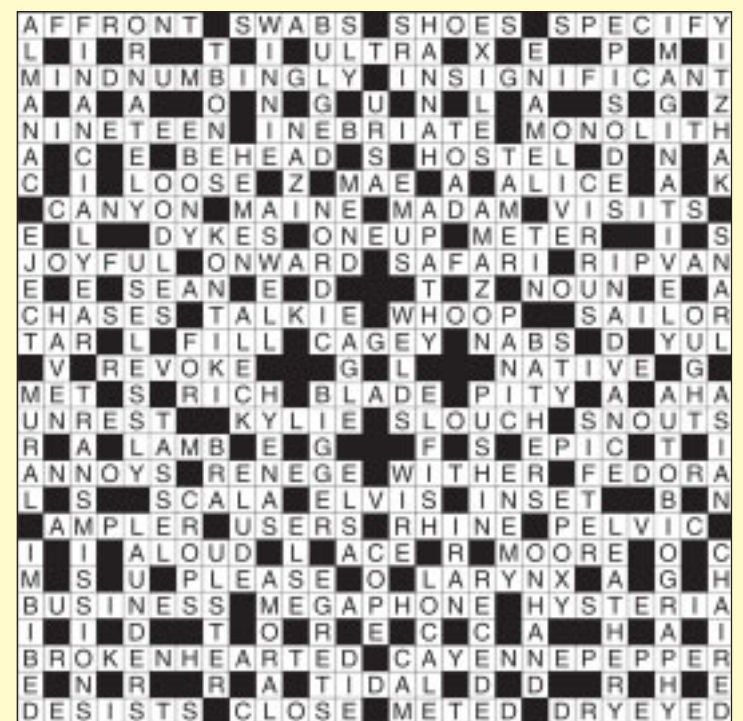
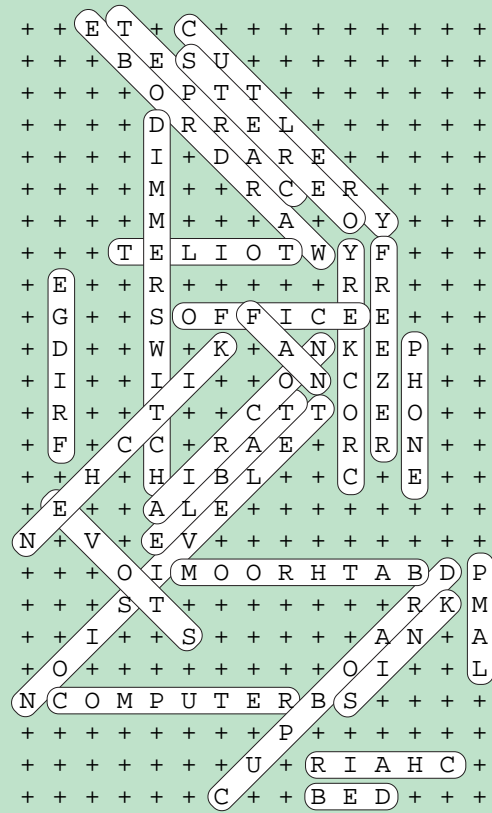
*Answers below*

# Puzzle Solutions

### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



### Hidden Words SOLUTION



### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

### Monster Quiz Answers

1. 1967; 2. 1785; 3. *The Times*; 4. Daily Universal Register; 5. John Walter; 6. He was a coal merchant; 7. The world's first aviation disaster (a balloon crash set alight homes, killing more than 100 people) 8. Ireland; 9. United States; 10. 5768; 11. Soul Asylum; 12. Paddington train crash; 13. Ladbroke Grove; 14. Hilton, outside the US; 15. 420 million pounds sterling; 16. China; 17. Nora Roberts; 18. 147; 19. *Irish Thoroughbred*; 20. Big Brown.



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# Tiny, nasty Parmesan addicts

I'm living in a little house in a crowded neighborhood in Phuket. When not at school or out doing some other activity, I spend most of my time in the kitchen.

When I eat I'm usually too focused on the food to pay any attention to anything else, but lately, I've been noticing the behavior of the variety of creatures that share my house, and it's surprising how many of them there are.

I know them all and I have started to study their habits. I don't think my house is dirty – my mother has a phobia about bacteria and cleans everything – but still we have many uninvited “guests”.

Just drop a single crumb of bread on the floor, or leave a little sugar on the counter after making a coffee and the ants start filling the house. They are like supervisors who can see with microscopic precision every little morsel you've missed.

My dad is Italian and he, of course, loves spaghetti and Parmesan cheese. I've discovered that these armies of “supervisors” are also addicted to Parmesan. As soon as some appears, they immediately march in to devour it.

There must be a reason why the entire world loves this Italian specialty, don't you think?

My neighbor, a Thai gentleman who works at the airport, is very proud of his homemade water feature that has a waterfall. I sometimes see him looking at his creation with affection – a love that is



shared by 100 or so frogs that have discovered a meeting place just under the waterfall.

They put on a big frog concert every day and I suppose they must be highly developed amphibians because they seem to use a modern PA system to blast their froggie notes over the fence.

After their concert, some of the frogs pay a visit to my garden and I'll sometimes find them in my house or in my shoes.

I have a gecko in my house, too. He happily runs around the wall and he's very

fast. He's doing a good job in the house: he eats spiders and keeps me company in the kitchen when I'm raiding the fridge for a snack in the middle of the night.

I've tried to shoo him away from the house because he scares me sometimes, but he's too fast, so I try talking to him instead, but he just looks at me without moving a muscle. He has the bad habit of using the wall as his personal toilet.

I decided to ask some friends if they

had any idea on how to rid the house of this gecko.

One suggested setting a fire in the house, as geckos hate smoke.

Someone else suggested using ultrasound, as the vibrations are good for scaring away mice, too. No way. He loves to watch television.

Getting back to the ants, most of the time I hate them because they're simply annoying, but I have discovered many interesting things by observing them.

For example, the many species of ants fight each other and even amongst themselves. But they must live together to be able to survive.

They have strong rivalries when fighting for control of their territory, yet they co-operate and work in a team because each of them is gifted with specific abilities.

This co-operation is, in fact, the only way they can guarantee their survival. Some kinds of ants are better at sorting the food, while others watch over the transporters.

I'm sure your house has its variety of daily guests, even if they were uninvited. Some of them are useful, while others come to steal your meal or to scare you.

Useful or not, the ants give us a clear message: no species can survive without co-operation and it is impossible to face most situations alone.

## Youth 'n ASIA

By Maria Giulietta

One thing is for certain, Fun Town is never short of stories to tickle the imagination. Of course, there are some classics. In August 2006, a worker at a building site near Sukhumvit Highway discovered what looked to be an unexploded grenade. Local police were called in and confirmed that it was indeed an explosive device.

The police called in demolition experts from the nearby Sattahip naval base. One of these experts began attacking the top of the aged device with a wrench, attempting to remove the metal.

Fortunately, he failed. So instead, he wrapped the device tightly in black masking tape and,

# Stories from the outer limits

with his colleagues, returned to Sattahip.

September brought a great story about three men from Yugoslavia who decided that rather than making a cash withdrawal at an ATM, it would be far more profitable if they absconded with the entire device.

They hired a pickup in Pattaya and then drove to Chonburi where they found a target to which they returned late one evening to prise the 200-kilogram machine from its alcove.

They then lugged it into the

back of the pickup.

The next day, employees of the bank arrived to find a hole in the wall where once there had been an ATM. They called the police, who, through their collective efforts, immediately suspected a robbery.

Those white-skinned Europeans were probably under the impression that Thailand is a real dirt-poor country run by morons. Perhaps, but one thing the Thais are very fond of is money. Thai banks prefer to hang onto as much of the folding stuff as pos-



## FROM THE STREETS OF PATTAYA

By Duncan Stearn

sible, which is why they usually install CCTV cameras.

The Europeans were caught on CCTV and when Thai television news announced the robbery, the man who ran the car-rental agency recognized the criminals. He contacted the local police and, as the saying goes, the rest is history – as are the Yugoslavs.

I recall that the (male) governor of an American state once publicly confessed to having an affair with another man. I wonder what his wife was thinking as he came out.

Psychologists apparently believe a woman feels worse if her partner admits to having an affair with another man rather than a woman. I wonder what psychologists would make of this next story.

Soi 8 is a street lined for much of its length by beer bars. One Monday evening, the fine

constables of the nearby Soi 9 police station were called to a fracas between a 27-year-old Englishman, a 28-year-old Thai lady and a 27-year-old ladyboy.

The Thai lady told police that she had come to see her English boyfriend, but found him engaged in a conversation with the ladyboy.

She was most upset at the sight of her true love showing more than a passing interest in another person and the trio were soon involved in a shouting match that disturbed the peaceful and graceful ambiance of the bars of Soi 8.

The police took the whole shouting match back to the Soi 9 station where all parties were ordered to cough up 500 baht each for disturbing the peace.

This final story comes from the files of the Asia Bugle ([www.asiabugle.com](http://www.asiabugle.com)). The owner of the Peacock Bar asked his staff to have some more business cards printed, the same as his old ones, with the name of the bar, the address and a picture of a peacock.

When the new cards arrived, instead of a picture of a peacock, they were adorned with a picture of a parrot.

The owner was understandably upset and demanded to know why the picture had been changed.

“This bird is much prettier,” came the reply.



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# Male chick lit a sad read

Russell Banks is a 68-year-old novelist and poet whose literary territory – upstate New York and rural New England – overlaps two of his contemporaries, William Kennedy and Richard Russo. He has written 12 novels, of which I've read and enjoyed two: *The Book of Jamaica* and *Continental Drift*. They share a common theme of white working man encountering the Caribbean world. Banks is president of something called the International Parliament of Writers and holds the strange official title of New York Author.

*The Reserve* (HarperCollins, New York, 2008, 287pp) is his 12<sup>th</sup> novel and it is awful.

This is a shame because it's got a great opening scene which is replicated on the cover: a tintype of a woman standing on a lakeshore, with a hairdo and dress from the 1930s, while overhead hovers a biplane with pontoons.

The woman is Vanessa Von Heidenstamm (née Cole), a 30-year-old, two-time divorcée, famed socialite and hell-raiser. The lake is in an Adirondack Mountain reserve inhabited by rich people. Her parents and four other couples, all friends

from Harvard, are celebrating July 4, 1936. Suddenly this seaplane alights on the lake and onto the shore steps the dashing figure of Jordan Groves, rich artist, leftist, WWI fighter pilot and travel writer.

At which point the novel turns into a chick lit comic book. Jordan Groves is every inch the bodice ripper. He travels to the jungles of Peru and the icy wastes of Greenland, bedding the local women but faithful in heart to his beautiful blond Austrian wife and devoted to their two sons Bear and Wolf (yes, Bear and Wolf).

Thus, he was "sexually incandescent to certain women".

"He was dangerous, and yet he was unavailable, off-limits, safe. It did not hurt him that he was a famous artist and handsome and healthy, a legendary adventurer and sportsman, a roistering world traveler with a loving family, leftist politics, and a lot of money."

Naturally Vanessa makes a play for him. Now listen to him rebuff her:

"Look, you're not some pretty little Chilean dance hall girl showing me her tits, or a smiling round-faced Inuit girl laying naked under a bearskin blanket, or some doe-eyed model from the Art Students League dying to sleep with the famous artist. You're not one of those Fifth Avenue society hostesses looking for a discreet tumble in the maid's room after the party's over and the other guests have gone home. No, you're like me, Vanessa Von Heidenstamm. And people like you and me, we leave wreckage behind us. I don't want my family to be part of that wreckage. That's all I'm saying."

Now who really talks like that? This is antique women's magazine gush.

Such fustian prose is put in service to an utterly ridiculous plot. The only surprise is that Jordan Groves' wife Alicia is

having it off with local hunting guide Hubert St Germain.

When Vanessa finds the two in his cabin, Alicia figures she will tell Jordan. So she confesses her adultery to him that night and the next morning, for no explained reason, he flies off to Vanessa's home only to find St Germain sleeping on the porch.

He had been hired to bring food to the place because Vanessa had kidnapped her mother and is holding her hostage.

Why? Because her mother wants to seize her inheritance and ship Vanessa off to a mental institute in Austria. Instead of simply refusing to sign the committal papers at the lawyer's office, Vanessa does sign them and kidnaps her mother instead. But the mother is accidentally killed by a shotgun blast and Vanessa convinces the two men to bury her and then agree to say that the old lady has simply disappeared.

There's more, but you really don't want to hear it.

You might want to know that Vanessa eventually does get it on with Jordan. She really gets her bodice ripped.

*The Reserve* is a sad spectacle of a fat cat novelist shamefully writing below his weight class.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# Finding your voice

In my previous column, I explained "contrasting" and "non-contrasting" sounds as well as aspirated and unaspirated sounds in Thai. This week, we'll discuss another important distinction in Thai: "voiced" and "voiceless" sounds.

To briefly recap, those sounds we consciously distinguish are called contrasting sounds. Other times, there are multiple sounds that our brains automatically group together as one "sound". That is, our brains aren't trained to hear the difference. These are called "non-contrasting" sounds.

An example that illustrates the difference between voiced and voiceless sounds is "th" – the scourge of all non-native speakers trying to master English. "Th" can be one of two sounds, as in "this" and "thin". Pay close attention to the first sound of each word. When pronouncing "this", your vocal cords vibrate, but when pronouncing "thin", your vocal cords don't vibrate.

You can even feel the difference when you place your fingers on your neck while you make these sounds. Don't be fooled by the vowel "i" immediately following the th-sound. One of the characteristics of all vowels is that making them always causes the vocal cords vibrate. Focus only on the initial consonant sounds, you can tell the difference.

Other words that begin with voiced-th are that, there, then, and though. For voiceless-th, we have words such as think, three, thimble and through. Proper English pronunciation requires you



to distinguish the two. It just so happens that for native speakers, it's a subconscious distinction.

There are many voiced-voiceless pairs in English. Many of them are contrasting sounds, so we don't even realize that the only difference between the two sounds is the vibration of the vocal cords. These include s and z ("sit" and "zit"), f and v ("fan" and "van"), and ch and j ("chain" and "Jane"). Your pronunciation may vary slightly, depending on your dialect.

In Thai, there are only two voiced sounds, but they confuse many people: b and d. Combined with aspirated and unaspirated consonants, they make a three-way contrast in Thai. English has only two.

Where English has pet and bet, in Thai, there are เป็ด / phèt / "spicy", เป็ด / pèt / "duck" and เป็ด / bèt / "fishhook".

Similarly, consider ที่ / thii / "time, instance", ดี / tii / "hit, strike" and ดี / dii / "good".

The table to the right will help you sort out the difference.

One sound not found in Thai is the English sound "g". Many phrasebooks use g to spell Thai words, but this is one of those misleading downsides of Romanized Thai.

The first letter of the Thai alphabet is ก ไก่ / kor kai. It is a "voiceless" sound. In English, g is voiced. It's a subtle distinction, but it is there.

The correct sound of ก is one of those non-contrasting sounds in English, only found in words such as sky and ski. In that context, our brain groups it with k. In Thai, since there is no English g sound, it's tempting to just let g fill in that gap, rather than learning to say ก sound properly.

If you pronounce ก like English g, it'll sound wrong to Thais, even if they can't explain why.

Think of, say, Dracula. It's like you're saying, "I vant vun order of chicken fried rice.. mua ha ha". Only no Dracula laugh. Then again, maybe that's why they put all that garlic in the food.

Rikker Dockum writes regularly at [thai101.blogspot.com](http://thai101.blogspot.com) and can be contacted at: [rdockum@gmail.com](mailto:rdockum@gmail.com)

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## Voiceless

p

ป

ไป / pai / "go"

ปาก / pàak / "mouth"

ปลา / plaa / "fish"

t

ต

ไต / tai / "kidney"

ตา / taa / "eye"

ตาย / taai / "die"

k

ก

ไก่ / kài / "chicken"

กิน / kin / "eat"

เก้า / kâo / "nine"

## Voiced

b

บ

ใบไม้ / baimáai / "leaf"

บ่าย / bàai / "afternoon"

บน / bon / "on"

d

ด

เด็ก / dek / "child"

ด้วย / duai / "also"

ดำ / dam / "black"

g

none

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## Stuck in a holding pattern

Plans by Airports of Thailand Public Company Limited (AOT) to fund a 5-billion-baht upgrade at Phuket International Airport come as good news, but the two-year work plan falls short of addressing the airfield's key limiting factor: its single runway can only safely accommodate 20 takeoffs and landings per hour. Worse, the 3,000-meter airstrip is too short to allow for safe takeoff of fully laden jumbo jets, let alone the new generation of even larger commercial aircraft like the Airbus 380.

Ideas to lengthen the existing runway, a 45-meter-wide strip of asphaltic concrete, pose a difficult but not insurmountable engineering challenge – one that needs to be addressed as soon as possible if AOT's own heady projections of having the facility serve 15 million visitors annually by 2020 are to be realized.

As for extending the existing runway, there are only two options. [see photo, page 1]

Former Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr in 2004 slammed the idea of extending the runway inland, saying that noise pollution was already disruptive for local communities, mostly Muslim, whose prayer times are often disturbed by the sound of jet engines overhead.

While this may have been a shrewd, politically motivated statement at the time, her alternative suggestion to extend the runway out into the sea at the southern end of Mai Khao Beach should be dismissed out of hand as sheer fallacy.

While runways have been successfully constructed out onto reclaimed land in some places around the world, none of them have been in locations that get battered by the kind of huge surf that prevails along Phuket's entire west coast throughout the monsoon season – which is why the Interior Ministry's Town and Country Planning Department correctly forbids any offshore construction there.

One can only hope that AOT engineers would have learned enough from building runways on swampland at Suvarnabhumi to take on the even greater challenge of building on a beach, especially one such as Mai Khao. Tsunami risk and gradually rising sea levels contributing to coastal erosion along most of the Andaman shoreline make this idea totally impractical in the long term.

Given these facts, the only viable option is to construct a tunnel under the stretch of Route 402 that passes a few hundred meters from the existing airfield. Such a tunnel would need to be carefully designed to prevent flooding and support the airfield above, but the technology exists and needs to be used here if AOT's projections are to be realized.

– The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?  
Email editor@phuketgazette.net

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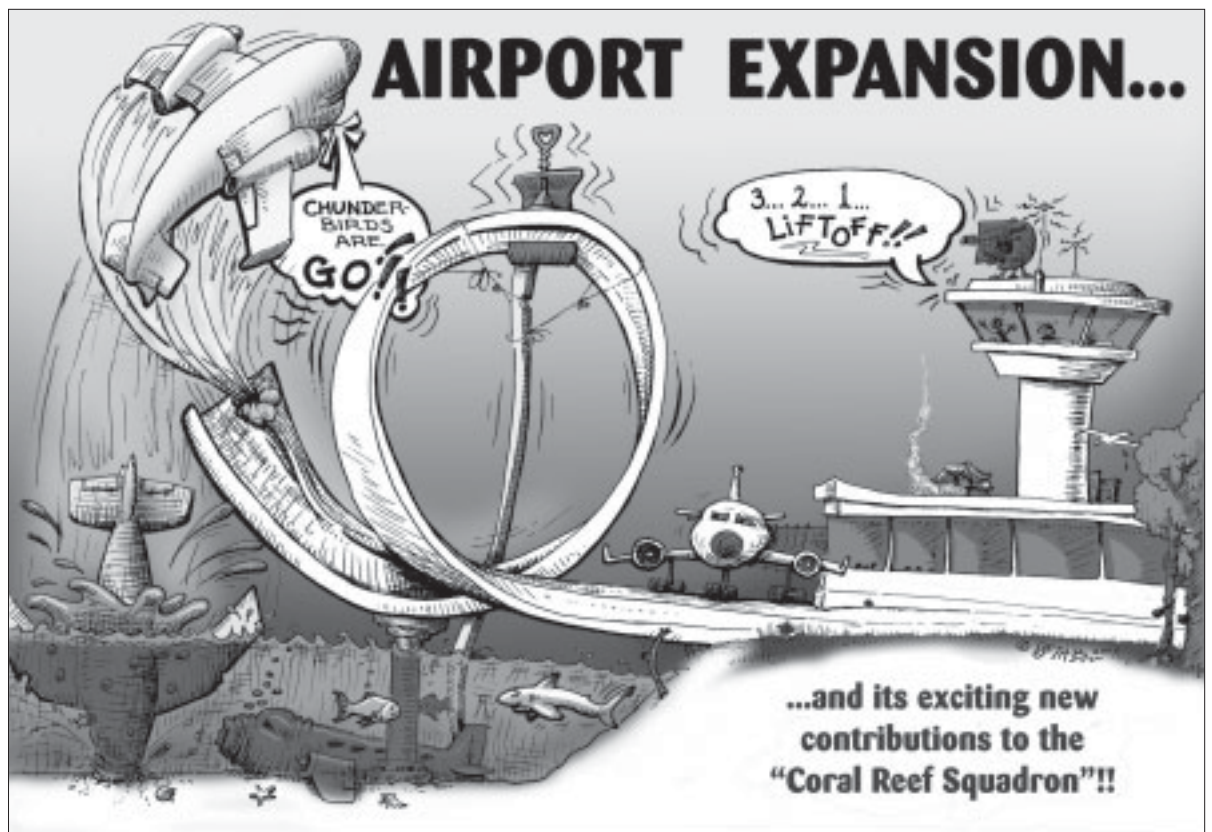
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## Letters

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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.

### On being gassed

There I sat at my desk when I began to hear the approach of what might have been an aircraft – it had that turbine whine. A local *OrBorTor* member, my landlord's nephew, was leading a worker with a vacuum-sized canister around the property spraying for mosquitoes. I didn't think much of it until a cloud of the stuff – it smells rather like the silicon spray, WD40 – poured through my kitchen window.

I figured it was all very well to gas the drains, but had doubts regarding the safety of gassing people with the stuff. Birth defects and other illnesses associated with exposure to insecticides actually led Monsanto, the world's largest maker, to re-incorporate itself as a means of avoiding responsibility for the pending lawsuits.

When I mentioned it to the *OrBorTor* member, asking what kind of poison he had sprayed through my window, he replied angrily that I should sue him.

"I'm only asking what the name of the stuff is," I said. "You don't know what the name of the stuff is, do you?"

"The Public Health Office guarantees it," he said, "so you know it's OK."

"How many times has the Public Health Office been wrong about things they guaranteed?" I asked, thinking of the thalidomide babies of years gone by and the more recent scandal involving distribution of placebos instead of actual medicine by hospitals. "Is it too much to alert people before you spray?"

"You're the only one who has a problem," he shouted, then swore at me.

Well, I wonder just how safe

that stuff is. I also wonder whether the Public Health Office thinks it is safe to pour clouds of the stuff into folks' homes. I have noticed in Phuket City that they spray only drains and always at about 4 am – not midday.

Finally, I think it imperative that officials spraying the stuff be sufficiently well trained that they know what they are spraying and what the right concentration is – two things I rather doubt my local *OrBorTor* man and his sidekick had any idea of.

M  
By email

### Thanks for dredging

Well, all I can say is that it's about time [Royal Phuket Marina dredging wins Governor's Office support, *Gazette* Online, May 23]. This channel is used by many tour vessels, large yachts and motor cruisers and if Thailand wants to be the cruising playground of Southeast Asia, it had better lift its game on issues such as this.

Congratulations to RPM on its efforts. It's a pity other marinas that will benefit haven't opened their wallets to help out.

Paul Nelson  
Phuket

### Low-season whinge starting to wear thin

We have all read about the local government contracts to pick up trash on the beach, but we can't help but notice the complete absence of this service lately. What happened?

Many hotels have even quit picking up trash on the beaches in front of them. Tourists can only be disgusted and will never return after seeing all the litter and

trash lying about. And why else would they want to return? Perhaps for a suit or a tuk-tuk ride?

Low season is a self-fulfilling prophecy when resorts and communities quit providing services that keep the area nice and clean. Get with it – or quit whining about how slow business is.

Ricky Ricardo  
Cherng Talay

### No one deserves to be a mugging victim

In response to "There are always two sides to a story" (*Gazette*, May 24 issue), what a strange letter with certainly a very alternative opinion.

The writer says, "This kind of thing happens so often in beach areas when farang think they can get drunk and make noise, either someone hates him or it's a real criminal."

Is this reader actually saying that it was the victim's actions that warranted a violent mugging and also because he's a "farang"?

I don't even know what the circumstances were, but to make excuses for this sort of behavior shows this particular reader's complete ignorance.

Phuket is Thailand's wealthiest province outside of Bangkok; this is due to tourism. Thai families are profiting from soaring land prices due to foreign influence. If these violent attacks continue and the local authorities cannot control the situation, it will hurt Phuket's economy big time.

I'm in Singapore, which is the safest city I've ever visited. The Thai authorities could learn a lot from this place if they wanted to.

Paul  
Phuket

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



# Uzbek air carrier eyes Phuket, calls on governor

**O**n the morning of May 23, I was visited by representatives of Uzbekistan Airways, led by Sharkir Parpiev of the carrier's commerce division. He and his team informed me that they plan to launch a direct service for the seven-hour flight from Uzbekistan to Phuket, but that the market potential has been hampered by the problems Uzbeks face in obtaining visas.

Most of the Uzbek population is Muslim, with a similar world view as people in Turkey, they told me.

They love to travel and enjoy life. They know a great deal about Phuket and would love to travel here, but they face too long a wait and other difficulties when applying for tourist visas. [Uzbekistan is not one of the 42 nations listed on the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs tourist visa-exemption list - Editor]

They also complained that their people don't like being pent up inside the grounds of their hotels with the type of package tours currently being offered to them. When they visit, they would like more freedom and outside activities, similar to package tourists visiting from Russia, not East Asian countries.

I advised them to put their concerns in an official letter and send a copy to the Phuket Tourist Association, providing information about the number of potential tourists, economic considerations and other relevant information. Although we will, of course,

## The Governor's Letter

**I**n this month's letter, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit discusses tourism development issues, mega-projects, security issues related to the recent disaster in Myanmar and the rising cost of living in Phuket.

Compiled by Sangkhae Leelanaporn.



do our best to help them, progress on the visa issue will remain largely at the discretion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its security committee.

As for Phuket's tourism situation in general, we are clearly in the low season now, especially in terms of foreign visitors. However, we have seen quite a good number of domestic arrivals, with many government officials here to attend meetings and seminars.

**Security.** Following the terrible effects of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, I have instructed all relevant agencies to be prepared for a possible increase in efforts to smuggle migrant laborers into the province from that country.

This is to be expected given the dire situation so many people there face, with nothing to eat and having lost any way of making a

living. However, we must be prepared because, even though Phuket does not border Myanmar, it is not far from Ranong and is a major destination for smuggled migrant laborers from that country.

For this reason I have asked the police to be very strict in enforcement.

This is only one of the security issues we can expect to face, however. With the worsening global economy and rising prices of essentials, such as food and fuel, many businesses are failing. As a result, there is a real likelihood that snatch-and-run crimes and other forms of theft could increase.

A few days ago at about 7 pm, a female worker at the Phuket Public Prosecutor's Office had her bag snatched and was thrown to the ground as she was riding along on her motor-

bike. It happened right in front of my house.

**Drugs.** On the matter of the illegal trade in narcotics, there are two opposing forces at work. It is true that the worsening economy might make it too expensive for people to buy them, but at the same time, more people might, out of desperation, be tempted to deal drugs - thus making drugs more readily available.

Illegal drug use is endemic in developed areas all over the world. As Phuket is an international tourism destination, I think it is inevitable that there will always be some level of demand for narcotics here.

We are always careful to try and keep the level of drug use to a minimum because, as far as we know, there are still no major producers or suppliers based on the island. The cases we see mostly

involve small-time dealers and addicts.

Of course, we can make drug busts day in, day out, but I think the best long-term solutions are to educate young people of the dangers of drugs and use Phuket's natural advantage as an island to maintain strong surveillance measures at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint.

**Mega-projects.** I have worked hard to convince both the present and previous central government administration of the urgent need for funding for many mega-projects, such as [a new incinerator] to deal with the waste-disposal crisis and tourism-related developments, such as an international conference center and light-rail service. Unfortunately, these projects remain without funding.

I recently called a meeting of all Phuket senators and MPs to discuss with my team the island's most urgent infrastructure needs and we all agreed to work together to push for this funding.

**Voter apathy.** We are seeing a decrease in the the number of people using their right to vote in elections for local administrative bodies, such as tambon administration organizations and municipalities. It's not specific to Phuket, but part of a nationwide trend.

For larger elections, such as for seats in the Senate or House of Representatives, there is still a good deal of interest and high voter turnout.

That may be in part because of the much larger financial resources candidates invest in their campaigns, as well as the better-funded government campaigns encouraging people to get out and vote. Unfortunately, local elections seem to lack such coordination and candidate exposure.

Also, I think part of the turnout in local polls reflects a certain degree of exasperation among voters who are bored with having to go the polls so often.

Over time, they may feel it is not worth the effort given the past track records of previous winners in terms of local development efforts.

Another cause of complaint are the new election laws that extend alcohol-sales restrictions and thus harm many businesses. This law needs to be rewritten, but until it is, we must adhere to it.

Niran Kalayanamit, Governor of Phuket

## In need of law and parking order

Why is it that even after the new Soi Nam Jai in Rawai has been completed, we still do not have reasonable access to and from our homes when the Wednesday and Sunday markets are on because of irresponsible parking of motorbikes and vehicles in Soi Nam Jai?

Parking on one side of the road, not two, should be enforced by police so that we can all come and go from our homes when necessary.

Neil Rickards  
Rawai

**Aroon Solos, Rawai Municipality Mayor, replies:**

I will send municipal offi-

## Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you. Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.**

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

cial this Wednesday to take care of the traffic and organize parking. I would like to ask anyone who has a problem with our management of the area to please contact the *Phuket Gazette* so that they can inform us of any issues.

Rawai Municipality Office

is located on Rawai Beach Road, on the way to Promthep Cape.

To contact us call 076-288651 or my personal number at 081-5352422. We vow to solve problems within seven days. The office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm.

## Who wants my used cooking oil?

I would like to know if there are any recycling facilities that collect used cooking oil.

Jay  
Rawai

**Sumal Tilokkarn, clerk of Wongpanit Recycling Shop, Phuket Branch of the Wongpanit Group, replies:**

We buy all kinds of used cooking oil and use it to make biodiesel. You can bring oil to our shop. As long as it is in an aluminum container, we will pay 250 baht per container.

Wongpanit Recycling Shop Phuket Branch is located at 75/3 Village 1, Kathu, Phuket and is open Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 5:30 pm, closed Sunday. For more info call 076-203271.



# The incredible shrinking lease

A common leasing arrangement for commercial property is a three-year term with two consecutive three-year extensions – a total of nine years under contract.

Mr A entered just such an agreement with his landlord, thinking that he had a secure nine-year lease and that all the rental terms had been set for the duration.

As happens so often in Thailand, the landlord pledged the property's lease to Mr A against a loan from the bank and thus, even if he wanted to, he could not issue the lease agreement for nine years since the lease would have to be registered with the Land Department.

As he had a mortgage on the property, without approval from the bank such

a lease agreement cannot be recorded officially.

Upon expiry of the initial three-year lease, Mr A was contacted by a Thai person claiming to be the new owner of the building, complete with evidence that he had bought the property at a public auction some time ago and had already paid off the bank, making him the legal owner of the property.

He requested that Mr A either sign a new lease agreement for a higher rental price than stated in the original contract or that Mr A move out as there was no agreement between Mr A and the new landlord.

Mr A sought legal advice and learned that, in such cases, extension options signed in an agreement with a land-

lord are not binding with any third party should the original landlord relinquish ownership of the property.

Mr A had the option to file a case seeking damages from the original landlord.

However, if he did not agree to the lease terms as set out by the new landlord then he would have to move out of the property.

Taking legal action against his initial landlord meant that he had a good chance of winning, but even if he won the case and his old landlord was ordered to pay a settlement, Mr A might not receive anything because, it transpired, the original landlord had lost the house after non-payments to the bank.

In the end, Mr A signed a new lease

agreement and was granted a six-year lease, this time registered with the Land Department to protect the lease from any third party, thus avoiding a repeat of events.

This highlights the dangers of lease-agreement extensions. For example, if the lessor dies, you have no legal standing with the inheritor of the property. The same can happen if the lessor sells or loses the rights to a property.

Even if the lessor honors his contractual obligations, he will be unable to authorize an extension of the lease.

Worse yet would be if no extension options have been agreed upon, leaving a lessor free to introduce new terms once a lease has ended.

Mr A sought legal advice and learned that extension options signed in an agreement with a landlord are not binding with any third party.

## LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

# Some quirky days are in store, Gemini

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): It may appear that the stars are guiding you in a rather strange direction as June gets underway, but all will be revealed mid-month. On Tuesday, you will receive an offer from Scorpio that is hard to refuse, but do some background checking before accepting. Geminis who have a birthday during the coming week can certainly look forward to a year of fulfillment. Romance is particularly well-starred in the coming year.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Monday heralds the beginning of a stressful week that will be less tiring if you focus on resting this weekend. If you are intent on making a romantic impression, try to control your enthusiasm. The best approach to make where Libra is concerned is to keep some distance. Money matters require careful scrutiny mid-

week when a discrepancy is highlighted. The number 9 is lucky this weekend.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Leos who like the idea of moving to another country may be surprised by news received next week. A job you have never considered doing could be involved, and the stars are ready to support your attempts to try something new. Regarding romance, another fire sign would like to share a sunset walk on the beach this weekend.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Finances are much better starred this month. You will be happy to receive a monetary boost from overseas. A chance meeting on Sunday leads to a romantic date next week and dreams of finding true love could be fulfilled. Miscommunication is highlighted on Tuesday; make sure that your words have been

properly understood before assuming that an agreement is final. The number 4 can open a lucky door this weekend.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Opportunities come flying in thick and fast during the first week of June and you might find it hard to know which direction to choose. Relocation is a strong possibility and Sagittarius has a good housing tip this weekend. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, it appears that your expectations are too high for a new partner. Wednesday is best for an honest conversation. The scent of jasmine encourages a calm atmosphere.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Trying to be in too many places at one time could lead to frustration this week. As June begins, take a realistic look at your schedule and streamline commitments. Aquarius can be trusted to carry out your wishes, but Pisces lacks the practical skills to do a good job. Romance catches you by surprise this weekend when a new acquaint-

tance makes their feelings known.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Certain stressed-out Sagittarians could be prone to a bad mood this week. To avoid snapping like a crocodile at friends and family, you are advised to spend some quality moments alone. A business-related decision becomes easier to make mid-week when Libra has a useful suggestion. Money worries are also forecast to fade by the middle of June. Meditate on a white lotus flower to encourage a more peaceful outlook.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Capricorns should have no trouble aiming for the moon as June gets into gear. Your confidence level is higher and this enables business to flow smoothly. The only rocky patch this week could be on Wednesday, when Aries tries to get your goat. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, Scorpio's allure is hard to resist this weekend. You are advised to resist the temptation to tap into savings.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Your wit is sharp this week and this can be an advantage when dealing with difficult colleagues. A new romantic partner makes a tempting offer on Sunday, but it would be sensible to wait. Love has more positive astral backing next month. Home improvements are on your agenda. Tuesday is best for approaching a reluctant landlord. Wear the color peach to encourage creative thought.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): If you are puzzled by your lack of success in business lately, you may receive some answers this week. Taurus has some sage advice to help you rearrange priorities and Cancer can offer practical financial tips. Sparks are forecast to fly in a romantic relationship on Sunday when your partner makes a sudden request. The number 7 can be lucky on Monday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): If you can admit you can't take the heat, you will be relieved to get out of the kitchen. If you are determined to prove others wrong, you can look forward to a month filled with problems. Instead, focus on recent success and be satisfied with the results so far this year. Romance proceeds at a snail's pace, but brings contentment. Wear deep-sea blue to encourage wisdom.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Life looks lively and this should continue well into June. A recent vow to embrace freedom more allows you to live in the moment and stop fretting about the future. Your relaxed mood draws others to you like bees to sugar and a particular Arian is hoping to make a lasting impression.

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❖ Legal consultation Contact: K. Joy

❖ Company formations Tel: 076 346 149

❖ Notarial certifications Fax: 076 346 150

❖ Contracts Email: siamint@loxinfo.co.th

❖ Work permits

❖ Bookkeeping

❖ Visa service

❖ Translations



This week, The “S” in S-Files stands for “super FOSS software”. I review free software that’s as good as, if not not better than, the best stuff you can buy. Software built by volunteers? Probably junk, you think. Maybe you imagine semi-skilled misfits working in mom’s garage. Paying guarantees better software, right? Wrong.

Professionals know that often free open-source software (FOSS) is often the best software available.

Even Microsoft and its cheerleaders sometimes embarrass themselves by using competing<sup>1</sup> free software.

The Software Industry Promotion Association (SIPA) actively supports FOSS, recognizing the immense value in good, free software and in skilled Thais who can use it as Mozart used music. Stand on your chair, cheer and clap for FOSS.

Why? Because commercial software is built by dedicated pros. However, their teams are small and their code is kept secret. Development is slow and testing is often skimpy, rushed or skipped. The geeks refer to this as “ivory tower” programming. It’s more like raising mushrooms in a dungeon: it smells like fertilizer, the workers are kept in the dark and you don’t know what you have until you bring it up into the light.

However, hundreds or thousands of programmers and users write and test open-source software. In the words of Eric S Raymond, “Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow.” Open-source software evolves faster than commercial software, with fewer bugs and better access to user feedback<sup>2</sup>.

Commercial programmers often become confused about who is paying their salaries and who their customers are. For example, Windows Vista is less useful and comfortable to end-users than the Windows that came before it and the FOSS Linux that competes with it.

Windows Vista wasn’t written to please you; it was written to protect the companies selling software, music and movies. What you get is slow, resource-hogging, fragile spyware masquerading as Windows.

Best of all, you can legally receive, install, distribute and modify FOSS. Sure, you could wander down Soi Bangla and buy software “worth” hundreds of dollars, but if you use it at your office, you ought to live in fear of a police raid. Wouldn’t you rather use the FOSS, Luke?

## PICKS OF THE BUNCH

### Operating system: Windows vs Linux

If you use Windows, it’s hard to learn a whole new operating system. Stick with WinXP but use XP-AntiSpy<sup>3</sup>, a free pro-

gram that restrains most of WinXP’s bad habits. If you’re new to computers or feeling adventurous, use Linux.

The best is arguably Ubuntu and its Debian relatives. If you buy one of those tiny, sexy ASUS Eee laptop PCs in Central Festival, you will have Xandros, a Debian Linux that can imitate Windows so effectively it’s spooky.

### Which Office suite to use?

Open Office<sup>4</sup> has almost as many features as MS Office. It has free competitors to MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and a few other programs. It’s compatible with all but the very latest versions of Microsoft file formats.

Open Office’s version of Word is so good that I use it exclusively. I use it to write in several languages, to create MS Word documents for Toyota’s headquarters in Japan and the

*Phuket Gazette*. Its behavior is far more sane and predictable than MS Word’s. Even better, it doesn’t

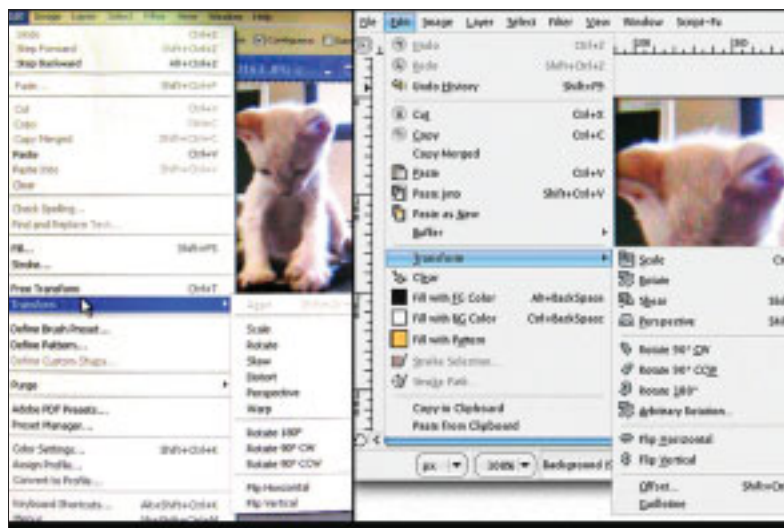
“phone home”<sup>5</sup> (communicate back with the developer) as the latest Word help system does, and it doesn’t require online activation.

Open Office’s Excel-like spreadsheet is just as good at accounting spreadsheets, though it can’t do graphs as well as Excel.

Open Office’s Powerpoint competitor doesn’t come with as many templates, but you can find them for free online. Better, it can export Powerpoint presentations and animations to Flash format, a feature that you pay extra for if you’re using Powerpoint.

### Illustrations and photos: GIMP<sup>6</sup> and GIMPshop<sup>7</sup>

Photoshop and Illustrator are the best – I don’t dispute that. They have heaps of third-party plugins, books and free tutorials. Don’t applaud yet; they cost hundreds of dollars and last year’s



Twins? Photoshop CS2 on the left is nearly identical to GIMPshop, as seen on the right.

plugins don’t work with this year’s version. Also, even the pirate copies phone home.

However, the number-two illustration software is GIMP. If you haven’t learned Photoshop yet, use normal GIMP.

If, however, you have invested lots of time learning Photoshop or want to use all those great free online Photoshop tutorials, try GIMPshop, which imitates Photoshop’s menu and appearance.

### Email and Web browser: Mozilla Thunderbird<sup>8</sup> and Mozilla Firefox<sup>8</sup>

Microsoft’s Outlook and Internet Explorer (“Exploder”) are the most common tools used today, so they attract the attention of most virus writers. They also have more than their fair share of security problems. Use Mozilla’s Thunderbird email and Firefox Web browser. When you install them, they can import your settings from Outlook and “Exploder”.

### Movies and music: VLC<sup>9</sup>

VideoLan (VLC), is better than any other media player. It’s available for Windows, Macintosh and Linux. Compared to the Windows Media Player (WMP), VLC asks for fewer downloads and updates.

WMP asks unnecessarily often, loves to phone home and sneakily overrides your don’t-phone-home settings each time

you install an upgrade. VLC works for you; WMP works against you.

### The big bundle: WinLibre<sup>10</sup>

Installing these programs one by one is boring. How about installing all of them, in one big package? That’s the aim of WinLibre, who have combined the most popular FOSS into one free 150MB package. It includes several packages I didn’t have space to praise today: Blender, Audacity, Inkscape and others. It also includes some software I don’t recommend, such as ClamWin (AVG from free.grisoft.com is far better), but during installation on WinLibre, you can choose which parts of the package to install.

### The future: open-source hardware?

It’s not available now, but I hope that one day we will see computer- and printer-hardware design done as open source and copyleft (the opposite of copyright).

Look at the printer industry:

most printer manufacturers are not in business to make a profit from their printers<sup>11</sup>.

They make money selling ink and toner. They don’t win unless you’re forced to buy those little bottles of colored water.

Unavailability works best for them. They receive no profit from making a sturdy, inexpensive printer that uses generic parts and generic inks available from a horde of competitors. Printer companies are actively avoiding competition and free-market forces.

I’d love to see small Pacific-Rim companies making generic, cheap, sturdy printers that use copyright-free inks and open-source, copyright-free hardware. Wouldn’t you?

## LINKS

- 1) [www.hacktivision.com/index.php/2008/01/12/microsoft-hypocrites?blog=2](http://www.hacktivision.com/index.php/2008/01/12/microsoft-hypocrites?blog=2)
- 2) [www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/cathedral-bazaar/](http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/cathedral-bazaar/)
- 3) [xp-antispy.org](http://xp-antispy.org)
- 4) [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)
- 5) [wikipedia.org/wiki/phone\\_home](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/phone_home)
- 6) [www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org)
- 7) [www.gimpshop.com](http://www.gimpshop.com)
- 8) [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com)
- 9) [www.videolan.org/vlc/](http://www.videolan.org/vlc/)
- 10) [www.winlibre.com/en/](http://www.winlibre.com/en/)
- 11) [www.itotd.com/articles/295/giving-away-the-razor-selling-the-blades/](http://www.itotd.com/articles/295/giving-away-the-razor-selling-the-blades/)

*Seth Bareiss has been an IT professional for two decades. If you’d like to chat with him about PCs, come on down to one of the PC Group Therapy meetings at Woody’s Sandwich Shoppes, Sundays, 10 am to midday or go online at the club’s website [www.khunwoody.com](http://www.khunwoody.com)*

*Seth is also the Gazette’s freelance editorial cartoonist. This week, he’s hidden a tiny UFO and the words “Fox” and “Scully” in the editorial cartoon. Can you find them?*



## PC GROUP THERAPY

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

On June 1, we’ll have a session, at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong (near Andaman Beach Suites).

And on June 8, we’ll be back at Woody’s Sandwich Shoppe at the entrance to Laguna in Cherng Talay.

Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they’re absolutely free.

Driving instructions at [www.khunwoody.com](http://www.khunwoody.com)



Faced with a massive credit crisis, the US Federal Reserve (the Fed) has moved at lightning speed, in central bank terms. Short-term interest rates, measured by the Fed Funds Rate, have moved from 5.25% to 2% within months.

The Fed is to be commended. A serious problem appeared and it faced it head-on. The short-term outlook is still difficult, but the Americans are taking intelligent steps to mitigate an unpleasant situation.

Soaring food and energy prices have put pressures on economies across the globe. The areas where prices have risen most are exactly the items that most affect low-wage earners.

They, too, have seen food and transport costs escalate rapidly, but they spend a much higher percentage of their income on necessities than their more affluent counterparts.

The incompetence of some governments is breathtaking. North Korea, Myanmar and Zimbabwe immediately come to mind, but there are many more.

However, there are some success stories. In Brazil, for example, inflation is under control, economic growth is strong and there has been a massive new offshore oil discovery. The major credit rating agencies have all

# Fast-acting US may weather financial storm



Though the country's central bank is taking drastic measures to buoy the banks, it's all gloom and doom in the UK. Meanwhile Brazil's economy is giving its people something to smile about.



Photo: Agencia Brasil

upped the country's credit rating on its sovereign debt to investment grade.

Back in the US, major US bank Wachovia Bank announced in early May that it had reduced its expectations for a US recession in 2008 from an 80%-90%

probability in early 2008 to a current likelihood of 45%. Others are also seeing a slightly improved outlook.

One analyst predicted on Bloomberg that it was possible that the next six quarters of US economic growth could be less

than 1% annualized, with no negative quarters.

This is a very confused slowdown for the US economy; sections of the country and some businesses are finding times tough. On the other hand, if you are a West Coast US exporter targeting Asia, the biggest problem is probably a shortage of shipping containers.

Soaring fuel costs have meant that if a company is transporting goods overland from, say, California, to the midwest, it is often more cost efficient to put its transport truck onto a train until close to its final destination.

There is no doubt that there is considerable speculation in oil and other commodity markets and it is difficult to assess "real prices". Markets are finding it exceedingly difficult to "price" commodities.

However, whatever figures commodity markets reach, it is much easier than the prices that investment banks and their counterparts have to assume for the exotic opaque chunks of Structured Investment Vehicles, Collateralized Debt Obligations and other similar containers of potential financial toxic waste.

Banks, despite central

banks such as the US Fed, European Central Bank (ECB), Bank of England and the Swiss National Bank, have, together with some other central banks, offered to exchange bank "toxic waste" for government-issued debt that can be instantly transferred into cash or can form a part of a bank's Tier 1 capital.

The debt-swap deal offered by the Bank of England was expected in US-dollar terms to be a "pick up of around US\$100 billion"; it now seems to be twice that amount.

It is difficult to find an analyst or economist who is positive about the UK economy. One example I saw was on CNBC's Europe Squawk Box. The analyst said that he was upbeat overall but felt that quite a lot of pain was still to come. This seemed a bit too rosy for the interviewer, who asked if the analyst could really be that optimistic about the UK.

The answer was immediate: "I am talking about the US economy". His facial expression and brief remark about the UK was that of someone that had bitten a lemon.

The Bank of England is talking tough, citing inflationary pressures as the main priority. The level of consumer debt, falling house prices and a general air of gloom would have benefited from some central bank support in clarifying interest rates. Instead,

the central bank looks badly behind the curve.

It is going to be a humbling experience for the Bank when eventually it will have to cut interest rates. The problem is that almost every analyst is predicting that it is going to happen this year.

In general, Asia, excluding Japan, looks like a bastion of stability this year. Some countries may find that economic growth has been trimmed back from previous targets, but average growth will be the envy of North America and Europe.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson

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 Website: www.global-portfolios.com

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### VITAL STATISTICS: INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS RISE 3.4%

Type	April 2007	April 2008
Domestic passengers	310,433	324,935
International passengers	176,883	182,829
Domestic aircraft	2,025	2,107
International aircraft	1,341	1,370
Domestic Cargo (tons)	958	995
International Cargo (tons)	427	398

Source: Phuket International Airport



## ON THE MOVE

**Nittaya Lokesh** has been appointed Spa Manager at the Indigo Pearl resort at Nai Yang. K. Nittaya has a hotel and tourism degree from the Prince of Songkla University, Surat Thani campus. She has eight years' experience in the hospitality and spa industry, working in five-star hotels.

In Phuket, she has worked at establishments including the Angsana Spa at the Dusit Laguna resort.

Before her new appointment, she was Spa Manager at the Wora Bura Resort & Spa in Hua Hin.



Phuket native **Chaowalit Laoprasertsiri** has been appointed Human Resources Manager at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. K. Chaowalit has a degree in public administration from the Prince of Songkla University in Haad Yai and a master's degree in business administration from Ramkhamhaeng University.

His experience includes 14 years working for Siam Cement Group, where he worked in Human Resource Development and then joined the Corporate Human Resources Office.



**Dr Suwit Thongcharoen-sup** has been appointed Pediatric Hematologist at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. A graduate from Phramongkutklao College of Medicine in Bangkok, Dr Suwit completed his Pediatrics Residency training as part of the pediatric hematologist team at the college hospital.

He began his career as a General Practitioner at Fort Prachaksinlapakom Hospital Udon Thani. Before Phuket, he was the Pediatric Hematologist at Fort Viphawadeerungsit Hospital, Surat Thani.



# Ibis opens in Patong

By Chris Husted

**PATONG:** Accor Asia Pacific moved into high gear with its expansion into Thailand under the Ibis brand with the opening of the 260-room Ibis Patong Phuket at the north end of Patong this month.

General Manager Raphael Hirsch told the *Gazette* that target occupancy for first six months – through Phuket's traditional tourism low season – is an average of 50%. For the next high season, he expects occupancy to rise to 85%.

In sourcing guests, Mr Hirsch said Ibis Patong would be targeting Australians, Russians, Germans, Scandinavians and UK nationals, as well as leisure groups from Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

In reaching those markets, newspaper and Internet marketing campaigns were already underway, he said.

During the initial opening period, the hotel was offering a special opening promotion, said Mr Hirsch. At the time of going to press, Latestays.com was offering rooms at the Ibis Patong at prices starting at 1,424 baht a night.

Mr Hirsch said the Ibis Patong will serve the mid-market traveler, competing directly



The Ibis Patong is one of four Ibis hotels to open in Thailand by the end of 2009. The other three will be in Bangkok, Pattaya and Samui.

with the Baumanburi, the Deevana Patong Resort & Spa, the Horizon Beach Resort hotel and the Hyton Leelavadee.

"We offer the best value for money," he said. "We have Wi-Fi in all rooms, serve snacks and drinks 24-7 and a Thai Tapas restaurant. Most importantly, we are an international brand and adhere

to international standards."

Leisure facilities at the hotel include an outdoor swimming pool, table tennis, mountain bikes and dart boards. For the business traveler, facilities include a car hire service, a currency exchange, an Internet boutique and two meeting rooms.

The Ibis Patong is also a

100% no-smoking hotel.

The Ibis Patong is one of four Ibis-brand hotels to open in Thailand by the end of 2009. The other three will be in Bangkok, Pattaya and Samui.

"We will have 10 Ibis hotels from the Erawan Group within the next two years with which we will be working closely

together," said Mr Hirsch.

Together, the four new hotels form part of Accor's recently launched MGallery brand, which aims to add 12 hotels in Thailand by 2010.

This will boost the number of Accor rooms in Thailand to more than 10,000 from the current 9,338 rooms.

## IBAP discusses work permit issues

**PATONG:** The topic of the next International Business Association – Phuket (IBAP) monthly meeting, on June 13, will be on Thai work permit issues.

The event will include a panel presentation led by Fabian Doppler of McEvily & Collins and Kert Stavorn of Siam Legal (Phuket).

In addition, some of the front-line staff from the Phuket Labor Office will be on hand to answer questions.

As many questions are expected, company owners in Phuket and foreigners working here are invited to add their questions in advance to those already posted on the website using the online form here: [http://ibap-phuket.org/events.php#200805\\_form](http://ibap-phuket.org/events.php#200805_form)

The list of the questions already posted are here: [http://ibap-phuket.org/events.php#200806\\_workpermit\\_questions](http://ibap-phuket.org/events.php#200806_workpermit_questions)

Doors will open at 6:15 pm, and the dinner will start at 6:40 pm.

The seminar on Thai work permits will start at 7:15 pm.

Entry costs 200 baht for IBAP members 400 baht for non-members.

The entry fee includes dinner and drinks.

The event will be held at PG's Steak and Rib House at The Yorkshire Inn on Soi Sansabai in Patong.

For more information email: [info@ibap-phuket.org](mailto:info@ibap-phuket.org)

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# Thais top medal tally in SEA Junior Athletics

PHUKET CITY: Thailand's young athletes put on a strong show on the track and the field, winning 13 gold medals, 13 silvers medals and 13 bronze medals to top the medal table in the third annual Southeast Asian (SEA) Junior Athletics championships at Surakul Stadium on May 22 and 23.

Of the gold medals, five were won in boy's events, eight in the girls' competition.

The only Phuket athlete to win a medal was Tantawat Tongalam, who was part of the gold-medal winning 4x100-meter relay team with Weerawat Prarung, Wattana Deewong and Tossaporn Boonhan.

In addition, Phang Nga native Jintara Seangdee had two reasons to smile after winning gold medals in the girls' 100m and 4x100m relay.

About 300 junior athletes from around the region braved two scorching days to take part.

Athletes aged under 19 years old traveled to Phuket from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Brunei, East Timor and, of course, around Thailand.

A large crowd of mostly students filled the stands at Surakul to watch the two-day event as temperatures became so hot that two dancing girls passed out during the opening ceremony.



About 300 athletes from around the region were involved in the third annual SEA Junior Athletics championships held at Surakul Stadium on May 22 and 23.

Thailand's gold-medal winners:

## Boys

400m: Suppachai Chimdee (47.68s)  
4x100m relay: Weerawat Prarung, Tantawat Tongalam, Wattana Deewong, Tossaporn Boonhan (40.45s)  
4x400m relay: Suppachai Chimdee, Rangsiwut Laenlang, Sarawat Sirirat, Chanatip Ruckburee (3:18.22)  
High jump: Suwit Thuekaew (2.05m)  
Shot put: Pet Suwannarat (15.49m)

## Girls

100m: Jintara Seangdee (11.70s)  
400m: Karat Srimuang (56.22s)  
400m hurdles: Jutamas Khonkham (1:02.81)  
4x100m relay: Atchima Engchvan, Ketsiri Wongchai, Jintara Seangdee and Kamonchanok Sorkplod (46.2s)  
4x400m relay: Jutamas Khonkham, Jamjuree Jongruamklang, Karat Srimuang and Ubonwan Bunkaew (3:53.08)  
Shot: Nochanat Rattana (13.16m)  
Discus: Apichaya Chanli (43.80m)  
Javelin: Natta Nachan (43.35m)

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE



The Queen Mary (from left): Road, league-organizer Steen, Joy, Queen Mary proprietor Steen (another one) and Anders. Other key players not pictured here include Billy, Mick, Halvor, Pong and Ronnie.

PATONG: Queen Mary, who had already clinched their second consecutive Patong Darts League title, finished off their impressive season with an 8-1 home win over Dogs Bollocks in the last week of play and hosted the league party at their place on May 20.

At the captain's meeting held at Queen Mary on May 12, the league welcomed the Celtic Bar, run by Liam 154, into the league as the 11th team. This means teams will have an occasional bye week when players will have to resort to other forms of low-season entertainment.

In a major development, the point system was changed in order to make every game count – as if they didn't already with beer on the line. From now on, 10 points will be available (six in singles, three in doubles and one in the beer leg) for each match.

In other news, Valhalla will now play at Hilltop. It remains to be seen how the high altitude venue will affect performance or how many post-match accidents there will be with players trying to move back to sea level after play.

If possible, each home team should send an email with details of the games to the secretary the day after play, with a CC going to darts@phuketgazette.net

At the very least, captains of all home teams are required to SMS the secretary the day after each match.

The new league starts on June 3.

**Final standings:** 1. Queen Mary (48 points); 2. Piccadilly (40); 3. Offshore (31); 4. Market Bar (25); 5. Sick Buffalo (25); 6. Dogs Bollocks (24); 7. Shakers (23); 8. Beach House (23); 9. Valhalla (19); 10. Simply Red (12).

## Turtle rescue fun run

PHUKET: The Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation will hold its third annual Turtle Fun Run and Educational Day at Pru Jeh Son Lake in Mai Khao on June 1.

Registration opens at 7 am, with participants welcome to rock up and pay up on the day of the race.

The registrations fees are 200 baht for adults in the seven-kilometer pro race, 100 baht for adults in the 3.5km amateur race and 50 baht for all children. The pros will set off on the

7km course at 8:15 am, followed by the amateurs at 8:20 am.

After the morning's races, there will be a Turtle Fun Run Rally quiz trail, with puzzles related to the environment placed every 350 meters around the lake, with prizes, medals and trophies can be won.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation.

To enter call 081-8936001 or email: info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com

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# Swimmers take on Flying Fish at BIS

KOH KAEW: Five hundred swimmers from around the region aged 18 and under splashed down at British International School on May 24 and 25 to take part in the BIS Flying Fish Tawan Cruises Challenge Phuket 2008.

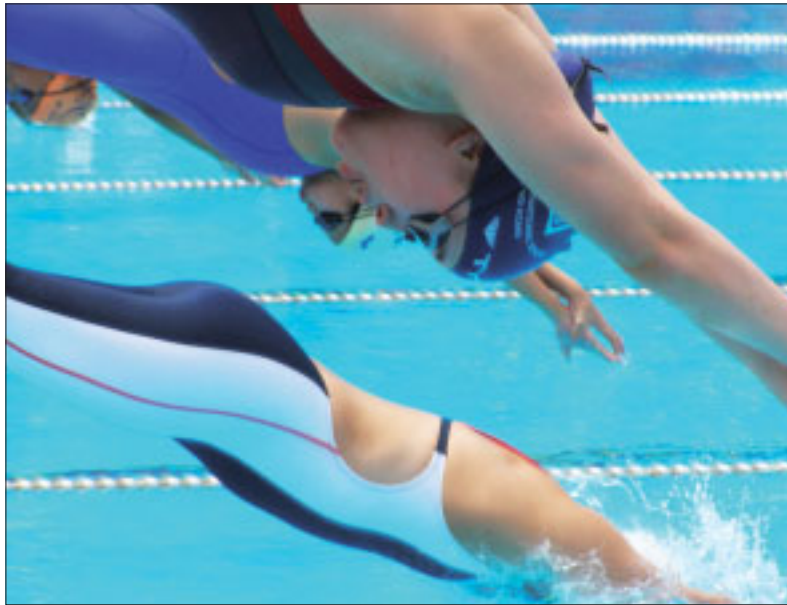
Competition was divided into five age categories each for boys' and girls' divisions.

About 120 races were swum over the two days, in disciplines from 50-meter sprints up to 200m individual medley races.

Winners in the youngest class were Jeremy Hodgson of Prem Tinsulanonda International School, with 64 points overall, and Natasha Ong Min Em of Singapore Island Country Club, with 62 points overall.

Jerome Feng Qing came first for the boys in the 10-year-old's category with a score of 51 points, while Erin Kwong Yie Chong of Cempaka Swimming Club won the same category for the girls with an overall score of 60 points.

In the division for 12 year olds, Lukas Ming-Menkhoff of Aquatic Performance Swim Club



About 50 junior swimmers from around the region took part in an international swimming gala at British International School.

came first for the boys with 55 points, while Teerada Tachasonthichai of Phuket Country Home swam her way to the top position with 55 points.

Local swimmers dominated the 14-year-old's category, with Chanasorn Limkum from Phuket Country Home scoring 62 points overall and BIS Flying Fish

Swimming Club's female contestant in the same category, Bianca Goetz, scoring 60 points.

In the over-14's category, Ferdinand Frigillana of San Beda Colleges scored 61 points in the boy's class and Virada Audampongpisal from Chalermprakiat Sport Training Center scored 62 in her class.



## Kicking it for chairty

THALANG: Players from the Singapore Cricket Club (SCC) and the Hong Kong Football Club (HKFC) pose with boys from the Football Youth Home (FYH) orphanage after playing a recent memorial-charity match at the orphanage in Thalang.

The match was held as a memorial for FYH founder Henrik Lorenz, who passed away last year.

The SCC raised a donation of 328,000 baht from Singapore for the FYH and about 20 pairs of football boots and balls were presented to the boys by both teams.

## ACYC YACHTING

AO CHALONG: Although Roger Harris's *Simone* crossed the finish line 13 minutes ahead of *Minx*, the latter won the Racing class on corrected time in Race 5 of the ImageAsia Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2008 on May 25.

A diminished fleet took to the bay for the race as many ACYC regulars have left Phuket to take part in the Koh Samui International Regatta. One obvious omission was Ben Copely's *Katsu*, which has won three out of the four races.

John Fenn on *The Four Winds* won the Cruising class, with Ket Mangklaseranee and his crew on *Cinders* placing second and Roger Diggleman and crew on *Nerida* finishing third.

But the real battle was in the Multihull class. Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi* won by five minutes on corrected time ahead of Bob Brindley's *X-Catriot*. Matt McGrath's *Typhoon* finished third.

The next ACYC regatta will be on June 15. All are welcome to join. For more information call Tony Knight at 081-747007.



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## Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

## Rainy season rush for pump station



**DODGE THE PYLONS:** The construction work has narrowed the clogged Yaowarat Rd even further.

**PHUKET CITY:** With the monsoon season here, work on a 10-million-baht pump station to relieve flooding in Samkong is almost two months behind schedule and the project contractor is being fined almost 10,000 baht for each day the project remains unfinished past its scheduled completion date of April 1, 2008.

The pump station is located along Klong Bangyai, by the Samkong Bridge on Yaowarat Rd, near Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Klong Bangyai originates in hills near Bang Wad Dam in Kathu and empties into Phuket Bay at Saphan Hin on the far side of Phuket City.

When completed, the 9,984,500-baht pumphouse will comprise two pumps, each with a maximum flow rate of 0.7 cubic meters per second.

Mongkol Songkao, direc-

tor of Phuket City Municipality's Public Works Department, told the *Gazette* the main reason for the delay is the difficult access to the project site. The pumphouse is located beside a narrow alley bordered on one side by buildings and on the other by a large retaining wall running alongside the canal.

The onset of heavy monsoon season rains and traffic congestion in the area have also slowed progress, he said.

Work on the project began on October 5, 2007. Already 60 days behind schedule, project contractor Natthapong Tractor Co Ltd currently faces about 600,000 baht in fines, assessed at a rate of 1% of the total project contract amount, or 9,984.50 baht, daily.

The fines will continue to mount as the project is unlikely to be completed until mid-August, K. Mongkol said.



The project will have 59 detached homes priced at 3.4 million or less.

## Mid-range housing project 50% sold

**THALANG:** Phuket Park Co Ltd, under the Baan Rommai Chai Lay Co Ltd group, is developing a 14-rai housing estate at Baan Lipon in tambon Srisoonthorn, Thalang.

Work on 130-million-baht project started last month. Once completed, the development will feature 59 detached homes, 38 three-bedroom houses and 21 two-bedroom houses, on plots averaging 240 square meters each. Prices for the units range from 2.4 million baht to 3.4 million baht.

Chaiyasit Huadsiri, managing director of Phuket Park Co Ltd, told the *Gazette* that the project is scheduled for completion by the end of next year.

"We are currently building two show units, which will be finished by the end of next month. However, since our homes went on the market last month, we have already sold about 50% of the project. We expect construction of those units already sold to be

finished and ready for transfer of ownership to the buyers by the end of this year," said K. Chaiyasit.

K. Chaiyasit explained that Phuket Park's main attraction for buyers was that it offered more facilities for residents than developments that only offer what is required by law.

"Roads within the estate will be 12 meters wide, plus there will be a clubhouse and communal swimming pool. Other developments in the same price range usually don't offer these, he added.

"From our experience in the property market, we have seen that with medium-priced housing projects like this, the project owners offer just the minimum required by law, such as roads being 8m wide – and no clubhouse or swimming pool.

"For us, giving residents wider roads helps solve problems with parking. Many people prefer to park their cars outside the

house even though they have a parking space of their own on their property.

"Our other strong point is design. Our houses are designed in contemporary style, with spacious living areas. Our three-bedroom models have 130sqm of usable area, with the 19sqm master bedroom featuring a 6sqm en-suite bathroom.

"We offer designs for comfortable living with functionality in mind throughout the house, at the same price as other projects," he said.

"We have seen that the business growth rate in Phuket is very high and so is the migrant population coming to work here. We have seen that almost all people who come to Phuket don't want to move anywhere else; they are looking for permanent homes.

"Compared with other kinds of developments in the property market, these houses are easy to sell out and still in demand now," K. Chaiyasit added.

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## Home of the Week

## Patong

# Patong villa offers the village life

**T**his three-bedroom villa in Nakatani Village, a small hillside community in Patong, comes fully furnished and is surrounded by a mature garden filled with tropical flowers and palm trees.

Spread over two stories on 380 square meters of land, the villa features modern Thai designs, with all three bedrooms located on the ground floor – each with a marble lined en-suite bathroom.

The master bedroom is located next to the villa's side entrance and close to a large laundry room and store.

The lower-level flooring and stairs are predominantly polished hardwood, while the upper story features mostly tiled flooring.

The fully equipped Western-style kitchen and open-plan dining-and-living area is on the second story, which leads onto a balcony commanding green-blue views of natural surroundings and the Andaman Sea.

The home can be accessed directly from the carport, which has room for two cars and also features storage space behind sliding wood panels.



The home is ready to move into, with a comprehensive range of amenities, including an on-site water well with a water-filtration system and 2,000-liter emergency water storage, plus a septic tank in the small landscaped garden.

The home is powered with 3-phase electricity.

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are installed inside the house in the gated Nakatani Village community.

The villa is on the market freehold for 11.9 million baht with Chanote title deed.

For more information contact Patrick Lusted by calling 076-288908 or by Email: [patrick@siamrealestate.com](mailto:patrick@siamrealestate.com)



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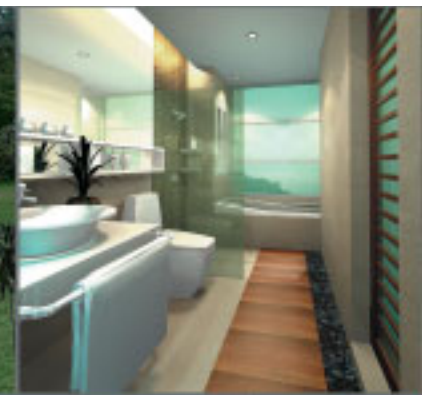
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## Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

# Making room for the kids

**T**he bright and bold hand-painted watercolor designs on the cabinets, chests of drawers, toy boxes, benches, desks and lamps at Karibi Discount Shop are fine pieces of kid-friendly furniture that are perfect for decorating little people's rooms.

Shop owner Alain Giral brought his discount decor store to Phuket about a year and a half ago, stocking it with indoor and outdoor Caribbean-style furniture from Indonesia.

It's hard to miss the store on Chao Fa West Rd. It is bursting with bright colors and unique designs. Not only is the shop full of kids furniture, but adults will also find a thing or two to brighten up their home with cheap-yet-sturdy designs.

Alain originally set up shop in Patong, but moved to Chalong just over six months ago. "After four months in Patong, I realized that Chalong was a better location for the kids' market that the designs are aimed at," he said.

"The idea for the shop came about from my love of wooden furniture and the colorful Caribbean style, but I source the items in Indonesia and go there every month to restock," he added.

The fun furniture, which includes shelves shaped like up-turned boats and benches shaped and painted to resemble friendly-faced animals is an inexpensive way to keep kids entertained indoors. "Kids see these things and they just know the items have been made specially for them," said Alain with a smile.

Parents will be pleased to know that they will not have to fork out for fancy furniture, with items ranging from as little as 129 baht to about 7,000 baht. The largest kids' furniture item at the store is a bright-green cabinet priced at 6,990 baht. The attractive, wavy design is enough to



ABOVE: Alain Giral and K. Yuyi at their Karibi store.

LEFT and BELOW: Bright, colorful and safe for little fingers, this wooden furniture is perfect for a child's bedroom.

encourage any kid to keep his or her room tidy, simply because they'll love playing with the cabinet so much.

For more mature homemakers, the shop also has a range of interesting furniture and decor items, such as benches, dressers, bamboo sofas, fountains and fun flooring for swimming pools and bathrooms.

Alain warns that the kids' furniture is mainly for indoor use as the watercolors will fade in the

sun, but he can also perform touch-up work on faded furniture to bring it back to life.

*Karibi Teak Shop is located on Chao Fa West Rd, next to Soi Yodsane 1 – the road leading to the Mingmongkol Buddha image. Open daily except Sundays from 9 am to 6 pm. Call Alain at 081-3826326 (English or French) or Khun Yuyi at 081-4164224 (Thai). Website: [www.karibi.net](http://www.karibi.net)*

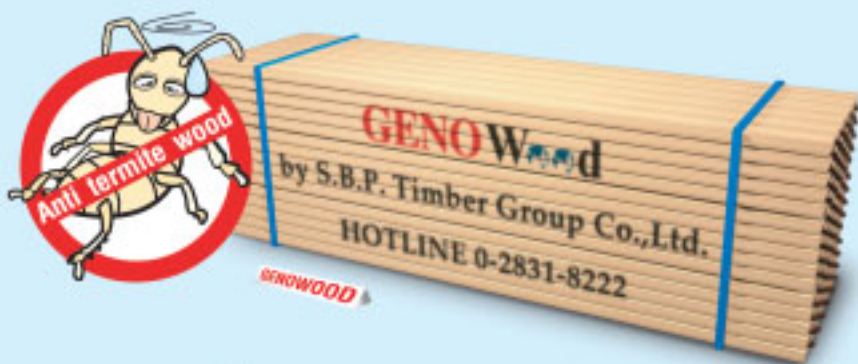


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# Demand base for high-end condos still expanding

PHUKET: According to the latest study by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), Phuket's high-end and luxury condominium market has experienced strong sales during the 2008 tourism high season.

Whilst buyers from UK, US and the Scandinavian nations continue to generate most demand, the demand base has been expanded by increased interest of buyers from Russian, the Middle Eastern and Asian countries.

The study focused on the sale of condominiums between 92,000 baht and 128,000 baht per square meter between November 2007 and March 2008.

The study showed that the supply of high-end and luxury condos increased by 13% in terms of the number of units being marketed to just over 700 for the high season.

Projects being marketed within the high-end and luxury segment are typically small in scale relative to the broader market, with an average of 38 units per development or phase. Individual projects offer as few as 12 and as many as 100 units under master plans.

Of the marketed units, about 56% had been sold by the end of the season, with overseas buyers generating most purchases.

Dan Tantisunthorn, Head of Research at JLL in Thailand, said, "While traditionally the bulk of these foreigners would be British, American or Scandinavian nationals, affluent individuals from China, Russia, India, Korea and the Middle Eastern countries are representing a growing source of demand. This trend is reflective of the growth in the number of tourists from these markets."

About 73% of the units sold were located in Phuket's west, well above the proportion that the

area accounted for in terms of supply (about 63%). During the same period, prices per square meter in this area rose by 5.8% on average compared with before the high season.

The east side of the island showed further longer-term potential as a high-end and luxury location for the island and the average price there rose the most, by more than 20%.

Beyond location and price, the study provided an analysis of several key factors that attract demand for Phuket's high-end condos:

- Although virtually every condominium in Phuket's marketed high-end and luxury segment offers sea views, given the lack of developable sites, only 51% of the units are in beachfront projects. The average sales rate for beachfront units is roughly 58%, slightly above the average of 56%.

- Whilst some projects will provide estimated yield, only 11% of the units in this segment are sold with a guaranteed yield. Furthermore, a guaranteed yield has not necessarily translated into strong sales, as less than 18% of the units guaranteeing a yield had been sold.

- More than 63% of the units offered by developers committed to engaging international property management firms had been sold. These units also commanded a 4.4% premium on price per square meter over the market average.

"Outlook for Phuket's high-end and luxury condominium market remains promising. The growing reputation of Phuket as one of the world's top resort destinations will continue to attract buyers from around the world looking for a holiday or retirement home overseas.



Construction of the Montrakira condo development continues in Patong, where condo sales are enjoying a surge in sales.

## Condo surge sky high in Patong

Looking at condominium market absorption rates for the past 12 months, along with the number of new projects in the pipeline in Phuket, there are some fundamental concerns regarding the possibility of oversupply.

There has been a marked slowdown in overall sales while a considerable number of new projects are on the drawing boards.

Looking at the various projects dotted around the island, there are currently more than 1,500 condominium units under development in Patong alone. The second most densely developing area is Kathu, including parts of the bypass road and the areas next to Central Festival Phuket and the Tesco-Lotus mall.

Most of the new building developments in Phuket are condominiums, which are being offered freehold, with a large num-

ber of Bangkok-based developers now entering the fray.

During Phuket's recent boom years, Patong lagged behind in terms of the products on offer, with early developments aimed at the low-cost condo market, along with a few high-end villas and freestanding properties in fringe areas. But now developers are now working on higher-caliber projects, such as the Bay Cliff, Patong Harbour and The Crest.

The current sweet spot in the market is in the 3-to-6-million-baht condo range, which is where most sales are being generated. The projects that are selling fastest are units of 40 square meters to 60sqm, with a high number of Thais buying on speculation.

The shift from leasehold sales to condos is aided by the ease with which Thai buyers can obtain bank financing, leading to a market that is decreasingly dominated by foreign buyers.

Land prices in commercial areas, such as Patong, continue to rise, where premium sites are selling for upwards of 10 million baht.

Tourism in Patong has received a boost from more than 1,000 new hotel rooms, thanks to chains such as Millennium, Mercure and Ibis.

High-end Patong products, such as Blueprint's luxury apart-

ments, have set the bar for residential projects and forthcoming mixed-use projects, such as in Emerald Bay and Kalim.

Large-scale development is already underway along the new north-south road currently under construction in between Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and Nanai Rd. This road is destined to become a major north-south traffic artery. To speed up the flow of traffic, tunnel access from Kathu may become a reality.

With Patong having 33,000 hotel rooms and attracting regular visitors from across half the island, it's difficult to understand why Patong is not the government's choice for the location of a convention center.

However, although Patong is bursting at the seams with new projects, there is still inadequate parking, poor traffic management, inefficient power infrastructure and an inability to control public-transport operators.

Patong, which remains an integral part of Phuket's tourism economy, should be zoned as a part of the island dedicated to high-rise developments, which would allow the incorporation of efficient services and allow the redevelopment of many low-end shophouses.

With all this in mind, the surge in condos is definitely worth keeping an eye on.



### 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.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### SAIYUAN HOUSE FOR SALE



2-story house with additional living space in the attic. Sea view, 640sqm. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, car park. Nice garden, big swimming pool. A few minutes to Nai Ham Beach. Tel: 084-8475700, 087-898-7642. Email: morn\_48@yahoo.com

### KOH SAMUI SEAVIEW LAND

Hillside Seaview at Koh Samui. Size: 3,200sqm, or 2 rai. Chanote. Tel: 02-2771992, 083-6113020. Fax: 02-9610072. Email: pharawee@yahoo.com For further details, please visit: www.LoveSamui.com

**LUXURY PROPERTIES** for sale and rent in Phuket, Phang Nga. For details see: www.janepropertyphuket.com

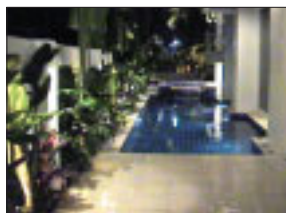
### POOL VILLA

in Bangtao. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big livingroom. Tel: 084-8516121, 087-8933183.

### SPACIOUS NEW VILLA

New European-style villa in quiet area in Rawai. Quality building, large living area and huge terrace, 3 bedrooms with aircon, 3 bathrooms (en suite), 1 separate guest toilet, Western kitchen, laundry, garage, wall and gate, tropical garden, True TV, 650sqm plot, Chanote title. Price: 9.5 million baht. Call Paula at 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

### THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for sale (B27.5 million) or rent. The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents! Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

### ABSOLUTE WATERFRONT

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for fractional ownership of 2 of Phuket's finest Villas. 80 meters of waterfront, land plots over 2 rai. Each 4-bedroom villa has a 20 meter swimming pool, a fully-loaded pool sala, games room, wine room and walk-in freezers. All bedrooms are en suite and kitchens are Italian design with Viking Appliances. These villas will be finished to the highest international standards of quality. Both contain more than 1,200sqm of indoor/outdoor living space. No brokers. Only savvy investors who appreciate the finer things in life need reply. Leave your contact details and I will be in touch. Email: mlvphuket@mac.com

### CHEAP LAND

4884sqm, filled flat land. 2.5km from airport road. Laguna turnoff in Tosai area. Chanote, electricity, water, paved road around land. 1.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-2734212.

### LAND FOR SALE

Chok Thip Villa, Chalong. 81sqm. Chanote, water and electricity. Call or mail for details. Tel: 084-8448589. Email: stafsulaiman@yahoo.com

### LAND IN AO NANG

4 rai in Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

### GOLF VILLA 8.7 MILLION BAHT



Loch Palm, Kathu. Modern style. Fully furnished. 3 en-suite bedrooms, Jacuzzi, TV, Wi-Fi and landscaped garden. Tel: 089-8961265. Email: seeyaagain@gmail.com

### BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket Airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents! Contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

### SEAVIEW LAND PLOT - YAMU BAY

Type of Property: Chanote title, for long-term lease with possible freehold ownership. Price: 15.08 million baht.

Area: 2 rai, 3 ngan, 60 wah (4,640sqm).

Wonderful sea view at 6m elevation

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20 minutes to Phuket Airport, BIS, Central. Tel: +853-66-827017. Email: deparis@macau.ctm.net

### KOH SAMUI LAND FOR SALE

2 rai with one house, six bungalows and 10 row houses. Ideal for rentals. Near beach. Chanote title. Asking price: 30 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

### LAND FOR SALE

10-minute drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote, 80 rai. Road and utilities access. Suitable for hotel or residential projects. 300m from beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 7 project. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 19 sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd, opposite Villa California. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

### NEW HOTEL FOR SALE



Nanai Rd, Patong Beach, sea view, 384sqm. 50 rooms, swimming pool. Under construction. Nearly finished. Asking price: 230 million baht. Sale by owner. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

### HOUSE IN AO NANG



Krabi. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carport, one year old, near the sea, hill views. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8502499.

### VILLA IN BANGJO

10 minutes to Laguna, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. 13 million baht. Tel: 081-8976998 (english) 089-6995136 (Thai).

### THE HEIGHTS PHUKET

Unit C-8, 195sqm, 1 story, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Beautiful pool at your doorstep. 21 million baht (or best offer). Tel: 081-6144799.

### BRAND-NEW CONDO

Great location near Tesco and Big C. Pool, gym, fully furnished with washer, dryer, fridge, aircon, TV, etc. 45sqm corner unit with 2 balconies. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

### FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condominium in Rawai, 250m from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

### KRABI LAND

10 rai, 20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote title. 600,000 baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

### URGENT REPOSSESSION SALE

New property in Rawai. Approx 350sqm of living space, plus swimming pool. Could be used as 3-bedroom house, two 2-bedroom houses or even four 1-bedroom suites. Includes Thai limited company if required. Some finance may be available. 7 million baht ono. Contact Dave. Tel: 084-0639223, 084-6722725 (Scandinavian).

7 lovely luxury Townhouses 228 m<sup>2</sup> building in tropical garden, also sundeck/garden on top floor. Shade sail and private Jacuzzi, 20m. pool, many extras (European kitchen) 5 mins to beach. From 10.9 M baht to 11.9 M baht.

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Call: +49 (0)6190 918290, +49 (0)171 4558888

### BANG WAD DAM, NICE PLOT



Nice plot overlooking natural lagoon behind Bang Wad Dam. Approx 26 rai, sloped land, access road, water and electricity. Good for residential project. 2.5 million baht per rai (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### PARICHART VILLAGE



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircon, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. In Chalong area. For sale 4 million baht or long-term rent, must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679 or tasuwan@hotmail.com. No agents!

### NEW POOL-VILLA, RAWAI

400sqm. 3-4 bedrooms. 300m from Rawai Pier. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

### INEXPENSIVE LAND

0.5-rai Chanote lots near Mission Hills golf course and airport. 10 minutes to Yacht Haven. 1.25 million baht, not negotiable. Contact at Tel: 086-9421930.

### BANG TAO LAND

4 rai, 1 ngan, 18 sq wah in Baan Don at 2.2 million baht per rai. Contact Bruno. Tel: 080-7193785.

### LAND: 13 RAI

20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Between hills with river. 1 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

### PROPERTY CREDIT WANTED?

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### PANORAMIC SEAVIEW LAND

Panoramic sea view. Chanote plots from 1 to 8.3 rai. Best Chalong location. 300m from new 9-hole golf course. Wicht area. Tel: 081-8913740.

### PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Ao Bang Tao. Very good location for business. Price: 18 million baht. No agents! Contact at Tel: 086-9442065, or 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

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### MODERN BUILDING IN NAIYANG

Amazing property is 4 rai, 44 rooms, 8 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, Jacuzzi, air-conditioned, fully furnished, 7 minutes (4.5 km) from Phuket International Airport. Price: 38 million baht.



For full details contact Tel: 087-6899679.  
Email: png.phuket@gmail.com



# Property Gazette

## PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai, Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents! Please contact at email: allservices29@gmail.com

## KHAO KHAD, AO MAKHAM



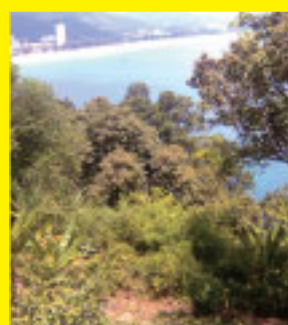
Chanote. 16 rai with panoramic view near Ao Makham, towards Cape Panwa. Wide road access directly to the site. 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

## KARON SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



Located between Centara Karon Resort and Secret Cliff Resort. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Very good location for business (hotel & resort). Asking price 250 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093 or email: a.pueng@gmail.com

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076-271 544**



## FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDO

Luxury, fully furnished, one bedroom, ground floor, pool-side condo. Located at the end of a quiet street in the heart of Patong. Within easy walking distance of restaurants, pubs, clubs, beach and Jungceylon shopping center. 65sqm. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 087-8879070.

## ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in North Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, pool. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

## TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sq wah. Located near Khao Khad viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

**PROPERTY: 540SQM**  
300m to Yanui Beach, Rawai/ Yanui. Tel: 084-8406775.

## SURIN BEACH LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht.  
996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-mins walk to Surin Beach.  
Tel: 081-8687676.

## SUPER POOL VILLAS



4 unique, 3-bedroom homes available in a tranquil part of Chalong. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7862869. Email: info@tharadonestate.com

## PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

On the main road to Cherng Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

## PATONG GUESTHOUSE

Located in Paradise Complex, Patong Beach. Furnished, 8 rooms, 4 floors. Available for sale freehold. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 076-290393, 086-588-8383. Email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

## TOWNHOUSE

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Western kitchen, pool, furnished, Chalong. 6.7 million baht. Tel: 089-6468374, 086-5742815.

## HILLSIDE LAND PATONG



Beautiful view over Patong town, bay and sea. Nearly 5 rai of tropical forest, 5 minutes to the north end of Patong Beach, very quiet area. Asking 9 million baht per rai. Tel: 085-6523533 (Eng), 085-7952533(Thai).

## RAWAIYA SUITES FROM B3.5M

Rawaiya Suites comprises luxury, fully furnished, 65-sqm 1-bedroom units. 70% finished. To rent out next high season. Prices from B3.5m. Tel: 076-245966, 085-7842004. Email: hakan@tharadonestate.com For further details, visit our website at: [www.tharadonestate.com](http://www.tharadonestate.com)

## TROPICAL POOL VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

## 10.5 RAI KOH YAO

On main road, 2 mins from pier, electricity, water. Ideal for business. 10 million baht. No brokers. Tel: 087-8821959.

## SUPERB EXTENDED HOUSE



1km from Heroines Monument, 147sq wah. Nice area, room for swimming pool. Large sala and many extras. European kitchen. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, utility room, fully furnished. Top quality, must be viewed. 7.2 million baht inclusive. Tel: 087-9785804.

## POOL VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms, pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar power, hot water, sala, BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate. Tropical garden set on 1,600sqm of land with more than 400sqm of living area. Price: 25 million baht. Special rate for short-term rental. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

## ½RAI IN NAI HARN

Best location, ready to build on. Residential area. Chanote. 4.1 million baht. No brokers. Tel: 087-8821959.

## SEAVIEW POOLHOUSE

in Rawai: 11 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062. Website: [www.phuketdir.com/poolseahouse](http://www.phuketdir.com/poolseahouse)

## NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING

for sale. 3 stories near Loch Palm Golf Club. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 084-3081853, 087-279-9500.

## SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



3 rai, 3 ngan near Blue Canyon and Mission Hills golf clubs. 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-6123110.

## LAND AND HOUSES

- House on Thalang Rd (Old Phuket Town area).  
- House on Soi Soon-Utit, Yaowarat Rd.  
- Land at Koh Sireh: 1 rai, 1 ngan, 66sq wah.  
Contact K. Joojee for info. Tel: 081-3979809, 081-970-0121.

## LAND IN RAWAI

and Nai Ham. Many small and big plots, special. 1772sqm. Sea view, 5.9 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 085-7955383.

## LAND IN NAI HARN

with Chanote, fully developed, 40m above sea level, 1,250sqm, top view, construction permit. Tel: 087-2980200. Email: [rwberger00@hotmail.com](mailto:rwberger00@hotmail.com)

## PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please contact us. If you are a real-estate developer or owner you may list your properties with us. Contact K. Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-719-2903. Website: [www.phuketproperties.com](http://www.phuketproperties.com)

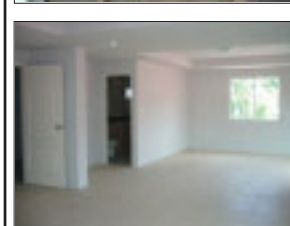
## SEAVIEW SPA VILLA

Patong, large, fully furnished, private, pool, garden, spa, waterfall. Tel: 089-5908233.

## B180,000 FOR YOU

if you find me a buyer for my shophouse/house. See [www.katahouseforsale.com](http://www.katahouseforsale.com) Tel: 087-8907561 (Thai) or 080-522136.

## NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach

\* 4 stories  
\* 8 apartments on floor 2, 3, 4  
\* Chanote title  
\* Electricity, water  
\* 2 minutes to the beach  
Asking price: 52 million baht.  
Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

## KAMALA HOUSE

Excellent investment: house on large plot. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 parking spaces, separate maid's house, 120sqm living area. Land: 1,450sqm, Hill view, peaceful location. 5-min drive to the beach. Architectural plans for full refurbishment. Price: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 076-385709, 081-252-7758. Email: [gloverpete@hotmail.com](mailto:gloverpete@hotmail.com)

## DETACHED HOUSE

in Patong area. Fully furnished home with swimming pool, Jacuzzi, aircon and automatic gate. Tel: 081-5366732. Email: [shoppingspeedy@hotmail.com](mailto:shoppingspeedy@hotmail.com)

## LAST PLOT BYPASS RD

11 rai next to Leelavadee Resort Project. 16 million baht per rai. Email for details. Agencies are welcome. Email: [ek\\_phuket@hotmail.com](mailto:ek_phuket@hotmail.com)

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# Property Gazette

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## CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

This immaculate 2-bedroom home on an excellent estate is priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

## 10 RAI IN RAWAI

in the heart of Rawai for villa project or can be split into 1-rai plots. Very quiet and attractive area. Tel: 085-7852035.

## LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 0.5 rai up to 5.5 rai. Good road & electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Prices from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

## 2 TOWNHOUSES

Thai-style in Bangjo. 1 corner unit: 1.7 million baht. 1 center unit: 1.5 million baht. Buy both at 3 million baht. Contact Ya. Tel: 087-3863388. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com

## POOL VILLA

in Bangtao. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Sat TV, ADSL, big livingroom, 2 parking spaces. For sale at 5.8 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121, 087-8933183. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phukethome.ws>

## KAMALA SEAVIEW LAND

6 rai with Chanote. Can be divided. All with good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply. Priced from 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

## SMALL PLOT

1,832sqm in Palai, Chalong. 5.2 million baht. Chanote, good road. Tel: 089-7298365.

## LUXURY PROPERTY CHALONG



on more than 1 rai, situated in a secure and high standard estate in Chalong. 600sqm of living area built with high standard materials. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, double living room, office, home cinema, large European kitchen, maid's room. Contact: (Joe) 087-8173019, (Tew) 083-1036578. Website: [www.oriental-realestate.com](http://www.oriental-realestate.com)

## 1 RAI IN RAWAI

Ready to build on, very quiet and attractive area, concrete road. Chanote. 8.9 million baht. Tel: 085-7852035.

## DESIRABLE HOME

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## HARMONY HOMES

4 unique executive townhomes at the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway of Phuket Country Club. From 17 million baht. Tel: 081-958-3571. Email: sweetiebee2000@yahoo.com

## SEA VIEW IN KAMALA



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## HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



4 Bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. Price: 2.95 million baht. Call for more info. Tel: 080-0300439.

## VILLA IN KATHU

New villa with 2 floors. Land area 300sqm. Fully furnished, big wood-built kitchen. Air conditioning in every room. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Call Joe: 087-8173019 or Tew: 083-1036578. Website: [www.oriental-realestate.com](http://www.oriental-realestate.com)

## THAI-STYLE HOME

near Laguna. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room and kitchen. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

## KAMALA LAND

located on Kamala Hill. spectacular waterfall view. 2-0-09 rai. 20 million baht. Tel: 089-6485979.

## SEA VIEW IN KAMALA

Small plots, 1 rai. Very good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply with Chanote. Priced from 7.5 million per rai. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim@kamalaparadise.com

## NEW KATHU TOWNHOUSE

New 2-story, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse in Phuket. Golden view, close to markets, Big C, Central etc. Lock-up gates with car space and security at project entrance. Great location. Some furniture included. A bargain at 1.8 million baht. No hagglers. Tel: 080-7197147. Email: pmoney@hotmail.com

## BANG TAO LAND

Nearly 2 rai with Chanote title at Ao Bang Tao. Very good location for business. Price: 16 million baht. Tel: 086-9442064, 087-689-9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com



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## Chalong House Lake View

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Price: 6.5 million baht

Tel: 087-2709093 Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

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in Khao Lak, Phang Nga. 400 rai. 4 million baht per rai. Chanote. Separate plots at 6 million baht per rai. Urgent sale! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayan@yahoo.com

## PATONG BEACH CONDO

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**KHAO LAK INVESTMENT** property. Land beside Sofitel Magic Lagoon Khao Lak. 5.5 rai (66mx136m), Chanote. 40 million baht total. Call Krit. Tel: 081-9804641.

## KRABI, NEAR AO NANG

New, luxury pool-villa. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, European kitchen, 7.25 million baht. Tel: 084-3224044. Email: info@siamsol.com For details visit: [www.siamsol.com](http://www.siamsol.com)

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

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### SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE

for long-term rent. Fully furnished, 1 bedroom + security, peace & greenery in luxury development south of Phuket City. Seeking quiet tenant. Patio, Fagor kitchen, ADSL. 13,500 baht/month. Email for photos. Email: [juliettoland@gmail.com](mailto:juliettoland@gmail.com)

### 4 BUNGALOWS FOR RENT - NAI HARN

2-bedroom bungalows for rent on private land. Phone, ADSL, 1 or 2 aircons, carport. Tel: 087-9223242. Email: [patongman123@hotmail.com](mailto:patongman123@hotmail.com)

**HOUSE WITH SEAVIEW: 15,000 BAHT**  
2 bedrooms, furnished, balcony. Only 150m to the beach. Call or mail for more info. Tel: 087-2810458. Email: [mike@sailinasia.com](mailto:mike@sailinasia.com)

**BUILDING NEAR MAKRO**  
with large parking lot. Tel: 081-8929208. Email: [samphuket@hotmail.com](mailto:samphuket@hotmail.com)

**BL APARTMENT**  
New, in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

### NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



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### NICE HOUSE



800m from Heroines Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, nice garden at corner. Fully fitted kitchen, 2 TVs with cable TV installed, 3 aircons, telephone line with ADSL. 21,000 baht/month for 2-year contract or 23,000 baht/month for 1-year contract. Tel: 081-8512280. Email: [dennis.mo@hotmail.com](mailto:dennis.mo@hotmail.com)

### RAWAI RENTAL: BAAN SUAN POOL



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. From 9,000 baht/month. 300m from Rawai Pier. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: [chotip07@yahoo.com](mailto:chotip07@yahoo.com)

### HOUSE FOR RENT



at Chalong in Land and Houses Park. New single house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 240sqm. Tel: 081-5697068. Email: [sirio@tisco.co.th](mailto:sirio@tisco.co.th)

**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
3 bedrooms, aircon, ADSL, cable TV, furnished. Heroines Monument area. 18,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-2778461. Email: [brunuviv@hotmail.com](mailto:brunuviv@hotmail.com)

**KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS**  
Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool & gardening service. Monthly rental: 75,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. Email: [suchada\\_villas@hotmail.com](mailto:suchada_villas@hotmail.com) For details, visit: [www.phuket-island-homes.com](http://www.phuket-island-homes.com)

**PATONG BEACH CONDOTEL**  
Patong Beach Condotel. Nice apartment, 56sqm. 7th floor, 1 bedroom, kitchen, living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-8913740.

**PALAI GREEN**  
2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, fully furnished, free cable TV, ADSL Internet. Near Chalong. 12,000 baht/month. For more information call K. Nee. Tel: 081-8924311.

**FOR RENT, RAWAI**  
2-bedroom house, safe area, aircon, cable TV, Internet, furnished, nice walled garden, 18,000 baht in low season. Tel: 085-7873016.

**NEW CHALONG HOME**  
2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

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### HOUSE IN KATHU



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**1-BEDROOM APARTMENT**  
Patong 1-bedroom apartment for rent off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd. Long term only. Tel: 081-8914381. Email: [patongshakers@hotmail.com](mailto:patongshakers@hotmail.com)

**2-BEDROOM HOUSE, LONG LEASE**  
2 aircon rooms, kitchen, furnished, cable TV. 1 year: 70,000 baht/month; 6 months: 40,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-7512813. Email: [ampm\\_net@hotmail.com](mailto:ampm_net@hotmail.com)

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for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, 2 kitchens: European and Thai style. Aircon, cable TV, washing machine, walled garden, 24-hour security, furniture. 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-739-3220, 087-2667191.

**NEW HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE**  
300m from Heroines Monument. Rent: 25,000 baht/month. Sale: 3.7 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

**GUESTHOUSE, KATA**  
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The Ritz-Carlton

**ONLINE JOB APPLICATION**  
 HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B  
[www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm](http://www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm)

**Admin & Account Officer**

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in accounting or related fields
- English communication skill is an advantage
- Proficient in Microsoft applications, Quickbooks program
- Be responsible for maintaining effective accounting system, monitor voucher payment, taxation, accounts payable (AP) and accounts receivable (AR) cost control and knowledge of accounting programs

Please send a letter of application and updated resume, references, expected salary and recent photo to: Works.Com (International) Co., Ltd.

393/7-8 Moo1 Cherngtalay Thalang Phuket 83110  
 Website: [www.works-international.com](http://www.works-international.com)  
 Email: [ruthaisaechouw@gmail.com](mailto:ruthaisaechouw@gmail.com), Tel: 076-271728-9

**MOM TRI'S BOATHOUSE**

The Boathouse will open a new restaurant on 1 November

**"Mom Tri's Boathouse Regatta at Royal Phuket Marina"**

Additional staff wanted from 15 September

**F&B Department**

- Waiter 4 positions
- Bar Captain 1 position

**Kitchen Department**

- Cook (Thai & European) 2 positions
- Bakery 1 position
- Steward & Cleaner 1 position

**Qualifications**

- Good command of English
- Male or Female 21 to 28 years
- Minimum 2 years' experience
- Vocational or higher in related fields

Apply in person with CV  
**Mom Tri's Boathouse**  
 Kata Beach - Phuket 83100  
 Tel: 076 330 015 Fax 076 330 561  
 E-mail: [sales@boathousephuket.com](mailto:sales@boathousephuket.com)

**PARADISE GROUP**  
 Developer • Property Management • Architectural • Interior Design • Entertainment Company  
 The Paradise Group, located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket, is seeking qualified and energetic people to fulfill the positions below:

**HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER**

- Bachelor's degree or higher in HRM or general management
- Good knowledge of labor law, aggressive, good attitude and positive thinking
- At least 5 years' experience in Human Resources
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Responsible for all Human Resource functions
- Oversee employee contracts and labor law matters
- Co-ordinate with factory in Human Resource matters

**ACCOUNTANT**

- Bachelor's degree in accounting or qualified accountant
- Min. 3 years' experience in accounting or property management
- Responsible for establishing & maintaining an effective accounting system, monitoring payment vouchers, taxation, accounts payable (AP) and accounts receivable (AR) and knowledge of QuickBooks 2006 Program
- Fair in both written & spoken English

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or e-mail to:

**PARADISE GROUP**  
 The Plaza Surin 5/50 Moo 3, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket  
 Fax: +66 76 271242 Email: [hr@paradisephuket.com](mailto:hr@paradisephuket.com)

**SPEECH, LANGUAGE THERAPIST**  
 Regular 1-1 sessions required with a 4/5-year-old English child with delayed speech. Specialist experience essential. Email: [mark\\_higson@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_higson@hotmail.com)

**HOUSE, CATS, PROPERTY SITTER**  
 Near Cherng Talay, July 21 - August 12. Good pay for responsible person. Care for home and cats, supervise property worker. Please contact for details. Tel: 084-8424581. Email: [info@phukethorserescue.com](mailto:info@phukethorserescue.com)

**SITE BUILDING SUPERVISOR**  
 Development and construction company seeks foreigner to fill position of site building supervisor. Minimal experience required. Tel: 086-0626210. Email: [patrick@oceanic-global.com](mailto:patrick@oceanic-global.com)

**GOOD COMMISSION**  
 for Thai or foreigner with good English, computer skills and 2-3 years' experience in the property industry. Tel: 087-3877182.

**GUESTHOUSE MANAGER**  
 Manager needed for guesthouse and restaurant in Patong. Must have experience and speak good English. Start at 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9325175, 081-8278442. Email: [wojkdowbengt@hotmail.com](mailto:wojkdowbengt@hotmail.com)

**MASSAGE AND SPA**  
 We are looking for a manager, cashier and massage lady. Must be service-minded. Please contact K. Pui for more information. Tel: 085-7859239.

**5-Star Resort Hotel Spa in Phuket seeks:**

**SPA MANAGER**

- Background in Hospitality / Spa
- Possess Supervisory Skills
- Sales Oriented

Email Resume & Expected Pay to:  
**SpaCare Thailand Co. Ltd**  
 Email: [spocare@singnet.com.sg](mailto:spocare@singnet.com.sg)

**SALES EXECUTIVE**  
 Established real estate agency is seeking motivated individuals for the position of Sales Executive. Applicants should be fluent in English and Thai and have good computer skills. Excellent salary plus commission. Driving license essential. Tel: 076-527565. Fax: 076-527564. Apply to [cv@phuketocseanvillas.com](mailto:cv@phuketocseanvillas.com)

**RESTAURANT STAFF**  
 for Black and White 24/7, Kathu. Contact K. Nat (Thai). Tel: 086-9432976.

**PART-TIME VACANCY**  
 Sunset Plaza is a property development in Karon. Requirements:

- Thai or foreign nationality
- Excellent English, especially writing skills
- Basic computer knowledge: email, etc
- Preferably experienced in real-estate

Contact Ms Nathalie. Tel: 085-1111155. Email: [alexanderkbh@gmail.com](mailto:alexanderkbh@gmail.com)



# Island Job Mart



## PHUKET OFFICE VACANCY

### Marketing Manager

#### Requirements:

- Male/Female, up to 35 years of age.
- A degree in marketing, business or tourism
- At least 5 years' working experience in related industry, preferably tourism.
- Good written and oral communication skills in both English and Thai.
- Mature, self-driven, possesses smart business skills.
- Computer literate.
- Mobile and able to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Good networking contact with government departments and agencies and the tourism/travel trade in the market area.
- Pleasant personality with good interpersonal and presentation skills.
- Thai national.

### Marketing Executive

#### Requirements:

- Male/Female, up to 30 years of age.
- A diploma in marketing, business or tourism.
- At least 3 years' working experience in related industry, preferably tourism.
- Good written and oral communication skills in both English and Thai.
- Mature, self-driven, possesses smart business skills.
- Computer literate.
- Mobile and able to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Good networking contact with government departments and agencies and the tourism/travel trade in the market area.
- Pleasant personality with good interpersonal and presentation skills.
- Thai national.

Interested candidates can write in with full resume and recent passport-sized photograph (not returnable) to:

**Director, Tourism Malaysia, Phuket Office**  
**183/81 Phang Nga Road, A. Muang, Phuket 83000**  
**Tel: 076-220192-3 Fax: 076-220196**  
**Email: tm\_hkt@phuketinternet.co.th**

## British International School, Phuket

### Publications and Web Designer

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related fields
- 2-3 years experience in web/graphic designer
- Excellent knowledge of Computer Graphics Applications
- Experience in using Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, HTML, CSS, Macromedia Flash and DreamWeaver
- Experience in developing system
- Ability to communicate in English
- Good Communication and Presentation skills
- Able to work in team and independently

### Personnel Officer

- Responsible for taking care of long-term visas for foreign teachers and administration work.
- Thai nationality.
- Bachelor's degree in Human Resource management, Social management or related fields.
- Good command both written and spoken English.
- Good personality, human relations and service minded person.
- Computer literate; MS Office, Excel and Word.
- Experience in related work is more preferable.

### Business Development Officer

- Thai Nationality-Bachelor's degree in either business, administration, Hotels or related fields.
- Good command of written and spoken English, along with computer literacy.
- Advanced Public Relation Skills

Please send a short letter of application, CV, recent photograph and email/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: patcharakorn@bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)  
 59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand  
 Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 www.bcis.ac.th

### ENGLISH-SPEAKING

lady for morning and afternoon help. Must have own car or motorbike. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

### CALL CENTER OPERATOR

Requirements: Good command of spoken and written English. Computer skills. Able to work in shifts. Tel: 076-257020. Fax: 076-257008. Email: info@easylinkphuket.com

### ENGLISH TEACHER REQUIRED

Seeking an English teacher with experience. Native speaker preferred. For more info contact K. Joojee at Tel: 081-3979809, 081-970-0121. Send CV by email: joojee88@yahoo.com

### JAPANESE GUEST RELATIONS

Marketing/tour leader required by resort. Degree in tourism or marketing required. Accommodation, basic salary plus performance bonus offered. Please email resumé, photo and date you can start work. Email: bob@elephant-hills.com

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

Thai female for pre-school class. Must speak English well. Tel: 076-282232, 084-3088110. Email: paryallen@aol.com

### CLUB ASIA FITNESS

Phuket's leading fitness center requires sales staff, fitness instructor and personal trainer. Tel: 076-354027, 089-1265671. Fax: 076-233384. For further details, please see our website at: www.clubasia-phuket.com

### RESERVATIONS STAFF

Diethelm Travel is looking for highly qualified and service-minded operations staff. Good command of English and computer skills are required. Experience in tourism is a plus. Thai citizens only. Tel: 081-892-7714. Email: max.t@th.diethelmtravel.com

### CHARTER MANAGER

Elite Yachting is looking for an English- & German-speaking foreigner to lead the charter sales & administration department with an enthusiastic Thai team. Your core responsibilities are contact with clients by email, phone and direct, issuing charter contracts and invoices as well as arranging all administration. Sailing experience is not a must. Tel: 076-273476, 081-9786086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: jurg@phuket-yachts.com

### SALES STAFF WANTED

English speaker. Experience in sales would be an advantage. We offer excellent benefits and commissions. Contact for more information. Call K. Kuno at 081-9685963, or email us at: salesteam@bayproject.com see or visit our website at www.bayproject.com

### Employment Wanted

### RELIABLE, HARD WORKING

Thai female, age 36, experienced in management, administration and sales for the past 8 years. Good knowledge in speaking and understanding English. I am easy-going and confident. Tel: 089-4742515. Email: tjularat@hotmail.com

### SUCCESSFUL HOTELIER

Seeking mid-level to executive management position. Previous 250-room American hotel GM will guarantee you a profitable low season and a super high season. Tel: 085-7932477. Email: garyteets@yahoo.com

## Phuket Gazette

**The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:**

### Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang  
 Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

### NIGHTSHIFT FRONT OFFICER

8,000 baht salary, age 22+, female, good education record. Tel: 076-261940, 081-296-3413. Fax: 076-261944. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

### HOTEL STAFF

Patong hotel needs 1 receptionist with good English skills. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-8921621.

### NURSERY ASSISTANT

Female Thai national required Mon-Fri 8:30 am-4 pm. Enthusiasm and a love of children needed! 7,000 baht/month. 4 weeks paid holiday per year + Thai national holidays. Phone for interview. Tel: 089-9711813. Email: info@abc-nurseryphuket.com

### MARKETING POSITION

Looking for keen hotel marketing manager. Freelance or full time. Tel: 076-239839, 081-2963413. Fax: 076-239838. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

### PROPERTY CARE SERVICES

Electronic Security Sales Executive required. Thai nationals, degree in a related field, 2 or more years' sales experience. Please contact for more information Tel: 076-376557, 081-9586879. Fax: 076-376560. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

**Looking for a job?**

**Looking for a better quality candidate?**

**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)!**



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### SONY-ERICSSON K850I

5MP camera, UMTS, quad-band, email. Black/green, perfect condition (as new), warranty. Original, complete with box and receipt. Comes with free Bluetooth head-phone. Fixed price: 11,500 baht. Tel: 087-3892160. Email: jrm.dlrm@gmail.com

### SAMSUNG LCD TV

32-inch screen, about one year old. 17,000 baht. Call or email for more info. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

### MATTRESSES FOR SALE

25 hotel mattresses, good condition. 1,500 baht each. Tel: 081-9684978.

### PRIVATE SALE

Gurios paintings, stereo, antique oriental carpets. Call Heyno. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-1453483. Email: heinogeick@yahoo.com.sg

### MULTIGYM

Large, four stations, excellent condition. Moving, so must sell quickly. All offers considered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2752808. Email: lwa\_liz@hotmail.com

### WATER DISPENSER

For both cold and warm water. Sale includes 2 five-gallon bottles. 1,000 baht. Tel: 076-323459, 089-7291113. Email: richard\_melen@hotmail.com

### SIERRA WIRELESS AIRCARD

4,000 baht, call after 2pm. Comes with CD software. Not for Vista; XP is OK. Tel: 076-296351, 081-0862772. Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

### MONGOOSE

Rockdile, 21-speed, 1 month old: 7,000 baht. Cold-drink fridge, 2ft x 5ft: 4,000 baht. Compaq desktop computer: 8,000 baht. Tel: 084-628-8450.

### OFFICE FURNITURE

Armchairs, chairs, desks, computer tables n all for sale at just half of their new price. Also have an aircon unit for sale. Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 076-346004, 087-2642598. Fax: 076-346004. Email: georgeslancry@hotmail.com

### LIKE-NEW 9-BALL POOL TABLE

Size: 4ix8i. Slate top, new felt, new set of balls, all accessories. Delivery & installation included. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-823-4627, 084-2901645. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

## Bulletins

### RED CORRECTION FILTER

Sea & Sea 4-inch (10cm) red correction filter in good condition. Free for someone who can use it. Email: info@warmwaterdivers.com

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Mission Hospital  
Phuket City  
Wed and Sun 7 pm  
Bangkok Hospital Phuket  
Phuket City  
Fri 7 pm  
Patong Hospital Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun  
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm  
Chalong Health  
Clinic-near Chalong Circle  
Tues 1 pm  
For Phuket info (English)  
call 081-9564031,  
081-8912895  
Scandinavian speaking Group  
Wat Karon School-Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 pm  
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)  
087-2795636 (Nor)  
086-7458910 (Swe)  
For info on other Thailand  
AA meetings inquire  
at Tel: 02-2318300  
(for Thai language press 3)  
www.aathailand.org or  
email info@aathailand.org  
phuketaa@yahoo.com

### SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors n small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860. Email: carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.amulphy@piwc.info).

### FORMING ARTISTS' COMMUNITY

International artist living in Phuket wishing to organize local artists and people interested in art to share work and ideas to better the community and each of us individually. Tel: 076-381937, 087-0716063. Fax: 076-381937. Email: tbokich@tbokich.com

### LORNE SAXBERG 2 YEARS ON

Lorne Saxberg will be remembered in Koh Kai waters where he accidentally drowned on May 6, 2006. Very thankful to all the kind people of Phuket for their love & support. Tel: 087-276-1545. Email: brianmattu@gmail.com

## Business Opportunities

### BARGAIN BAR FOR SALE

Nanai Rd. League pool table, 6-month-old 42i plasma TV, music system, DVD and large pizza oven. 500,000 baht. Tel: 083-6491300.

### SHOP SPACE

on Soi Tan 3. Rent 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-177-9097, 085-7949687.

### STOP BAR FOR RENT/SALE

Newly set up in Soi Sea Dragon. Probably the most beautiful bar in Patong.

- 2 units.
- Top location near Soi Bangla.
- 12 small rooms.
- Top audio/video equipment (Bose, Behringer etc).
- Running as a go-go or open bar is possible.

Fully equipped. Contact for information. Tel: 084-848-3495 (K. Osi in German), 089-5903968 (K. Holger in English). Email: stop-bar@holgervolp.com Photos at www.holgervolp.com

### BAMBOO VILLAGE BAR

for sale. Excellent location on main road, Rawai. 3 rooms with aircon. Kitchen, seats 50, fully equipped. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2846911.

### BAKERYAND RESTAURANT

for sale. Please visit www.bakeryforsale.info

### SPORT FISHING COMPANY

for sale. Info by Email: huuwi@hotmail.com

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Privately-owned hotel land with palm and rubber trees. Tel: 084-8485704, 086-9477455.

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE/RENT

New, nicely-decorated restaurant, situated in Phuket City center. Fully equipped and ready to service customers. Partnership can be considered. Tel: 087-3839310. Email: pvi0026@hotmail.com

### BARS, GUESTHOUSE

Bangla, Nanai. Many business opportunities at www.janepropertyphuket.com

### BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with bookshelves. Quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact to K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

### SALON & SPA

for lease or rent with all equipment included. In the basement of Fantasia in Phuket City. Tel: 086-5930086.

### ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Please contact via email: a.pueng@gmail.com

### PHI PHI

13-bedroom guesthouse for sale. Tel: 081-7475293.

### BAR ON NANAI RD

Bar with large kitchen, pool table, fully equipped. Monthly rent only 7,000 baht. Priced for quick sale at 560,000 baht. Please contact Nat. Tel: 089-6514279. Email: m\_saundersuk@hotmail.com

### PATONG GUESTHOUSE

and bar/restaurant for sale. 18 rooms, long-term lease, close to beach and Bangla Rd. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 080-6971744.

### ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain, 4-story shophouse with Chanote. There is a fully equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Tel: 081-8915602.

### MASSAGE SALON

for sale in Patong. Brand-new. 120sqm. Great potential. Great deal. Contact Alex. Tel: 081-4954761.

### SEEK NANAI RD BUSINESS

We are looking for a suitable space to start our business on Nanai Rd, Patong. Minimum 50sqm is needed. Low rent. Tel: 080-5843619. Email: nanairoad@gmail.com

### BUSINESS PARTNER

Looking for business partner. New restaurant in Nanai, Patong. Tel: 086-9757336.

### THAI COMPANY FOR SALE

Includes 4-bedroom luxury house and plot in the heritage development in Kathu. 16 million baht for all. Contact David. Tel: 081-8157170. Email: kawahigashi@yahoo.com

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

#### Julapan Stationery

Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Tel: 076-282254

#### Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe

Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

Tel: 076-282403

#### K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

#### Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

#### Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

#### 41 Minimart

Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

#### Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314

#### Property Information Center [PIC]

2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

**Live in Patong?**  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**Taurus Travel**

**Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Kai (076-344321-2)**

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Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

**The Gazette is always on top in Google!**



# Tout, Trader & Trupet

## NIGHTCLUB IN KATA CENTER



### KATA NIGHT BAZAAR 2.5 MILLION BAHT

- The only nightclub in Kata-Karon and Chalong area. No competition!
  - 3-story (mezzanine/balcony included), stock room, kitchen.
  - Disco is located in a government zoning area.
  - Top-brand sound, lighting, effects and visual equipment and systems, new with 2-year warranties.
  - Have government licence.
  - All materials, equipment, furniture, air conditioning and coolers are new with warranties.
  - 3rd floor has 4 newly-furnished rooms with cable TV and air conditioning.
  - 2 rooms with balcony and gardens/city view (Kata).
  - 2 rooms without balcony and sea view.
- Tel: 087-6899679. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

## RESTAURANT-BAR

Kata-Karon, Taina Rd. 40 seats, 2 private rooms, ADSL Internet. 15,000 baht monthly rent. Tel: 087-8925870.

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Located at Nai Ham car park, 40 seats inside and outside. Good business for past 4 years. Comes with flat. Tel: 087-2980200. Email: rrvberger00@hotmail.com

## SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

in Patong. Must see. Great location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

## BAR FOR SALE

Bangla road area. Priced for quick sale at 1.2 million baht. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

## GUESTHOUSE B1.45 MILLION

Good lease, excellent condition. Prime retail space of 1,375sqm. Central Patong. Tel: 086-1588752.

## PHI PHI ISLAND

Ground level: open. 2nd floor: 6-room guesthouse. 3rd floor: 2 apartments with large sun-deck. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-1108282. Email: clyvers@aol.com

## RESTAURANT & BAR FOR LEASE

Directly opposite Patong Beach. Fantastic location. Fabulous sea views. 14 million baht for this business. Call Simon at Andaman Business brokerage. Tel: 084-3047700.

## BAR AVAILABLE ON BANGLA RD

Prime location, frontage. 8.5 million baht. Fixed price! Call Simon at Andaman Business brokerage. Tel: 084-3047700.

## FISH AND CHIP RESTAURANT & BAR

Business for lease in Patong. Great returns & low costs. Just 1.5 million baht. Call Simon at Andaman Business Brokerage. Tel: 084-3047700.

## HOTEL, PATONG

Hotel for sale, Patong. 19 luxurious rooms (ensuite), duplex penthouse, lift, swimming pool, sea views. Needs refurbishment. Total cost: 49 million baht. Call Simon at Andaman Business brokerage. Tel: 084-3047700.

## TAILOR SHOP AT JUNGCEYLON

A well-established tailor shop at Jungceylon, Patong, is for sale. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-3287376. Email: sohailno shad@hotmail.com

## THAI KARAOKE

Popular, high-class venue. Everything included. Best location, open 2 years. 750,000 baht. Tel: 084-8436400.

## BAR FOR SALE - NANAI RD

Bar with large kitchen, pool table, fully equipped and ready to run. Monthly rent only 7,000 baht. Price: 650,000 baht. Please contact Mark. Tel: 087-3822302. Email: m\_saundersuk@hotmail.com

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE

in Rawai, excellent location. 6 months old, teakwood furniture, fully equipped kitchen. 3+ 3-year lease with low rent. Over 1 million baht of assets. Urgent sale: only 1 million baht, including Co Ltd and rent paid until November 2008. Tel: 084-0603477. Email: attivitaphuket@hotmail.com

## MASSAGE SALON FOR SALE

in Saiyuan Rd. Includes new equipment, many repeat customers. 390,000 baht. 3 Thai massage beds, 2 oil massage beds, 2 foot massage chairs. Contact K. Bee. Tel: 089-5939105.

## RESTAURANT

Urgent. Rawai, long-term lease. Fully equipped. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 085-8843610.

## PATONG BAR FOR LEASE

3-year contract, only 800,000 baht. With sound system plus equipment. Tel: 081-8936848.

## Business Products & Services

### WEBSITE, LOGO, BUSINESS CARDS

Stylish designs at great prices! Tel: 089-2350969. Email: sales@lfr-asia.com Website: http://www.lfr-asia.com

### OSTEOPATH (UK)

Garnett Symonds DO. HMD. Tel: 081-6072343. www.garnettsymonds.com

### JEAB'S JUMPING CASTLES

8 models.

For children's parties. Please contact for more information.

Tel: 081-8939742. www.phuketjumpingcastles.com

### TOURS IN PHUKET

Plan 2 cultural and jungle tours. Full-day trips with English-speaking guide. Entrance fees, return journey, transfers, set Thai meal and drinks included. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-6911955. Email: plan2phuket@gmail.com

### VISA & LEGAL SERVICES



Company registration 2,229 baht; 1-year visa 7,900 baht; retirement visa 7,900 baht; work permit 7,900 baht; UK & US visa 19,999 baht. No more visa runs, get a 1-year visa for only 7,900 baht. Establish your Thai company today to buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht. Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's largest legal service network. Always low prices by our licensed Thai lawyers.

Please contact for more information.

Tel: 076-290376  
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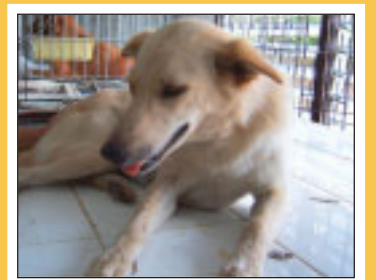
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